As I write, we are preparing for a carol sing in the chapel tonight to kick off the Christmas season. A lot has gone on over the course of the semester and there is more to be excited about in 2017 for Maritime Christian College (MCC).

I committed to visit our supporting churches when I spoke at graduation in May, and I have enjoyed my visits to: South Lake Christian Church CWF, Leonardville Church of Christ, Lord’s Cove Church of Christ, Fredericton Christian Church, Burt’s Corner Christian Church, Murray Harbour Church of Christ, South Range Christian Church, Central Christian Church, Central Street Christian Church, Montague Church of Christ, Sherwood Church of Christ, Halifax Christian Church, and Cornwall Christian Church. It is wonderful to hear the concern, passion and enthusiasm congregations still have for our ministry after all these years. Thank you for this. Know that we are taking your comments and concerns to heart and we appreciate your feedback. The congregations I have visited have been so warm and welcoming, and for the ones I’ve not been to yet, I will be visiting you in the New Year.

In the last Messenger, I stated we are looking for 100 new givers to donate $1,000 per year in our FRIENDS program, or current FRIENDS to increase their contribution by $1,000. We have seen several respond and ask that you consider becoming one of these 100 people to help us reach our goal. This will help us balance our financial situation while allowing us to move into a new season of ministry in Christian higher education. You’ll read more about this on the next page.

This first semester in the role of President has been a steep learning curve for me, to say the least. When students hit a wall, I always encourage them to seek guidance from those who have more wisdom, knowledge and experience. As I encounter new tasks and new situations I too am benefiting from the counsel of supporters, colleagues and many in my network who have served for years in Christian higher education. As we press forward in the ministry of MCC I ask that you pray without ceasing that we may do our part to advance the Kingdom.

May God bless you, your family and the congregation you worship with.
At this point in the history of Maritime Christian College (MCC) there is a need for change, a new paradigm shift in how we deliver higher education to students. Over the past decades we have worked to conform to a standard paradigm for delivering degrees like other colleges and universities. But in a time such as now, the world is online. Schools across the world are beginning to leverage technology to offer their educational products in a number of ways. Schools that do not follow suit will no longer exist. This is not only true for higher education, but also for other industries like books, music, magazines, and newspapers. They must adapt or go under. It is time to position MCC for the next 50 years of growth.

MCC will continue to confer degrees. Our mandate is to train people for ministry as we “Develop Christian Leaders Who Transform Their World.” To do this effectively going forward, we are changing the way we offer our programs. This is necessary not only to reach and recruit the next generation of Christian leaders, but to provide them with a full scope of Christian ministry with academics and experiential learning.

A key part of this new delivery management system will be Church Partnerships. With the use of technology and gifted leaders and teachers in our network we want to bring our education products closer to our students and supporting churches. The new system will give more students the ability to complete most of their credit hours without leaving their province—if they desire. This will create new possibilities for mature students who are not able to relocate for education. Students will also be on-site in Churches more often for experiential learning.

Resource sharing is another exciting element we hope to see as a result of the new system. It can be hard for churches to keep in touch. We want to create a system that will allow MCC to funnel resources to and from our churches. This allows all our churches to bless one another in their strengths.

Finally, a crucial part of this new system will be introducing our students to strong practices for Church Planting. As we endeavour to teach and train people for ministry in our supporting churches we are also praying for God to enable new church plants; we need more faith communities to reach the lost and advance the Kingdom! We plan to include both academic and experiential elements of church planting in this new system.

I ask that you pray for us as we work, research, seek guidance, and pray for God’s leading and blessing. This is your school and we plan to continue to provide a quality higher education for ministry in the Maritimes with a broader reach than ever before.

What this does mean?
- More online presence
- More church involvement
- More non-traditional students
- Classes will still be offered on campus
- MAS, BAs, diplomas or certificates will still be conferred
- No plans to sell the building

One life influencing another. Another name for this is discipleship. It is the method Jesus used to prepare his witnesses. Twelve men, three years, and daily life ground out on the pavements and roads of Israel.

In a passing remark, Richard Jones, Chairman of the Board, observed how many Burtt’s Corner Christian Church connections there were at the Inauguration of Ben Foreman, the 7th President of Maritime Christian College. Five men were present and all were influenced by the believers in Burtt’s Corner.

WHO WERE THE PEOPLE WHO INFLUENCED YOU?

Richard Jones: Hattie Armstrong, and Morris MacCabe.
Murray Spencer: Graham and Celinda Crandall.
Dan Foreman: Graham and Celinda Crandall, and Murray Spencer.
Darrell Haines: Bobby Jones, Pam Gilbert, Debra Jones, Graham and Celinda Crandall, Murray Spencer, Dan and Ben Foreman, and Clarence White; really the whole congregation.

Graham Crandall: Shirley Crandall (Mother), Jen Burtt (Grandmother), Dr. David & Margaret Eubanks (JBC President), Dr. Gerry Mattingly (JBC Professor), Rev. Norman Trafton (Wesleyan Preacher), Merle Zimmerman (Preacher & Past President at MCC), Celinda Crandall (my wife of 30+ years), and my church elders.

Ben Foreman: Graham and Celinda Crandall, and Murray Spencer.

HOW WERE THEY AN INFLUENCE WITHIN YOUR LIFE?

Richard: Hattie had a very strong faith. She was very instrumental with my younger sister and I growing up because my mom and dad worked. When we came home from school my grandmother was our caregiver. We had a person we could talk to about Jesus.

Burtis Crouse was a fun loving guy. He was a hockey referee. He was a good referee, very fair, didn’t raise his voice. He would call penalties just as much on the home team. He had a sense of joy.

As I got into my teenage years the church had a lot of influence. We had a really active youth group. Then Morris MacCabe came along and he was very oriented toward families and youth. There were also strong elders like Sheldon MacLean. He was an incredibly gentle spirit and a great bass singer. He would talk to us younger guys. It takes a church community to raise people from very young to adulthood.

Graham: My mother, Shirley Crandall, and grandmother, Jen Burtt, set the tone for my faith through their love, sacrifice, and encouragement: they lived it at home.

Dr. David Eubanks, former president of Johnson University, Tennessee, and his wife, Margaret, provided counsel, love, example, and encouragement to me personally while I was a student and later to my family as well.

Dr. Jerry Mattingly, a Johnson University professor who was very learned yet demonstrated great humility, was a friend, a counsellor, and a great encourager who always had a crack about Canadian weather.

Rev. Norman Trafton, a Wesleyan preacher with over 70 years in ministry at the time of his death, served as a fill-in preacher at our church in Burtt’s Corner and was a key factor in my decision to undertake a preaching ministry there in my home congregation. He crossed denominational lines to help our church, and showed a beautiful spirit in serving as associate minister during a few years of my ministry.
Merle Zimmerman, retired maritime preacher and past president of MCC, served as a mentor to me in the early years of my ministry. His love and encouragement will not be forgotten.

Celinda Crandall, my wife of 30+ years, was a tireless worker in our church who truly demonstrated “the pursuit of excellence.” Her example and love gave me the boost I needed many times.

The Elders of our congregation, a number of men both younger and older, worked with me over the years and provided friendship, wisdom, and encouragement. Their caring, humility, and sacrifice were always appreciated.

Richard: We would go to youth events, and be billeted. Bayview Christian Camp in New Brunswick. The commitment I needed to be baptized happened at camp.

Murray: Rachel, a Christian, would come around during the rough times, and never once in her entire life looked at me with judgmental eyes, or said anything. She showed me a Christian can be a real person, and have fun and enjoy things, and still follow Christ.

I was really questioning things at this point, and I was done with it. I said, Sunday morning we’re going to church. Rachel drove me by this sign: Baptist, Booze and the Bible. I told her, ‘I gotta go to that one.’ Everything the guy said cut through me. I dropped to my knees. I can’t run, and I can’t fight no more. I’m done. The next day I went to Graham’s door and asked about Maritime Christian College.

MCC was a huge stepping stone. If I had not gone to MCC after I had dropped to my knees, I think I would have fell back right where I was. I got away from everything. It put me in a safe community to learn.

Matt McGonnell shared a piece of candy with me. He wouldn’t share with anybody. He and Francine always saw I had something to eat.

Ben: Murray was my youth pastor. We invaded his space at every opportunity and he invited us for coffee, running errands and just about anything else. While I was in high school one thing that stuck out to me was the “Prayer Power Hour” we had during the summer months at 6am. This was a gathering for any youth who were interested in having a scripture and prayer time early on Thursday mornings. It was low in attendance and high in impact. Murray just invested time in us at seemingly every opportunity and would put responsibility on us when we were ready. We had to be able to follow first though. I believe you cannot be a good leader until you know how to follow, in part, because of how I was mentored. I try to do the same thing with the guys I mentor now.

Graham: Having served in the same congregation for nearly 25 years, I can truly say that I benefited greatly from all the believers. Their love, expressed in words and deeds, blessed my family and me.

The common theme, through all these various sources of influence, is that of encouragement. Encouragers are an incredible blessing!!
Geoffrey Conley (’72)
1948 - 2016

Geoffrey Leigh Conley died on November 2 at the Saint John Regional Hospital. For nine years the bully in his body had been cancer.

Geoff was born on September 12, 1948 into the family of Desmond and Virginia (Hurley) Conley, soon to be one of 6 siblings.

Post Secondary schooling was at the Lady Dunn Trade School and Maritime Christian College from where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Bible in May of 1972. Ordination into the Christian ministry followed in the spring of 1973. His preaching ministry was 28 years in Montague, PEI and 8 years in Fredericton, NB.

Survived by cherished brothers and sisters; Garfield (Gary) and his wife Jane; Dana; Maureen; David (Bimbo) and his wife Wendy; Belinda and her husband Robert Thorne. Cherished nieces and nephews; Drew and his wife Mireille and their children Sophia and Kate; Stephanie and her husband Shane Borthwick and their children Rowan and Reese; Craig and his wife Sarah and daughter Isla; Heidi and her husband Darren Higgins; Christa and Robert Ferguson and their children Luc and Lacy.

Wayne (’68) & Carolyn Lambert
celebrated 48 years of marriage,
October 5 and also 48 years of ministry.
God is good!

Patricia Domingo (’13) & Joshua Brenneman were married on July 24, 2014 in Milton, ON.

Robbie (’10) & Valerie (Osborne) (’09) Sevilla
Baby Boy
Milton Atticus Bright Sevilla
September 6, 2016
8lbs and 11oz

John (’07) & Rebecca (Hankinson) (’07) Stevenson
Baby Boy
Alden Douglas Stevenson
September 16, 2016
8lbs and 6oz

Ben (’06) & Jacquelyn Foreman
Baby Boy
Turner John Foreman
October 6, 2016
7 lbs 13 oz
In Loving Memory
June 1, 2016 ~ November 30, 2016

In Memory of: By:

HATTIE ARMSTRONG Sandra Crouse
Burtt’s Corner, NB Hollis & Donna Grant

GEOFFREY CONLEY Garfield & Jane Conley
Leonardville, NB Fredericton Christian Church
Donald & Mary Hickox Leonardville Church of Christ
Merle & Audrey Zimmerman

BURTIS M. CROUSE
Burtt’s Corner, NB

RAYMOND HAINES Hilda Haines
Douglas, NB

RAYMOND LIVINGSTONE Adeline Livingstone
Stratford, PE

JAMES (JIMMY) LORD Donald & Mary Hickox
Deer Island, NB

SHIRLEY MACGREGOR Neil & Shirley Macdonald
Montague, PE Sharon MacLean
Margaret Smith

CHERYL MARSHALL Murray & Shirley Marshall
South Range, NS

LETA MCCLUSKEY Paula Crouse
Pickering, ON Ronald Henderson
Vivian Wright

JEANNE T. MULLEN Bruce and Debbie Hankinson
Weymouth, NS

GARTH PUGH Hollis & Donna Grant
Burtt’s Corner, NB

DAVID GORDON SIMMS Fred and Linda Andrews
Cornwall, PE

ZELDA SMITH Donald & Mary Hickox
Deer Island, NB

LOLA STEEVES Friends of Nauwigewauk
Quispamsis, NB Christian Church

Please Note:
Memorial gift donations will be published in the Maritime Messenger and a card sent to the next of kin if the name and address are included with your donation.

In Honor of donations will be recognized with a card sent to the honoree if the name and address are included with your donation.
K.T. Norris Lectures presents

Jesus’ Resurrection Narratives

March 7-10, 2017

Sherwood Church of Christ
9 Lilac Ave, Charlottetown, PE

Morning Sessions 9:30am - 12pm
Evening Sessions 7:30 - 9pm

For more information: www.mccpei.com or 902-628-8887
No registration required, free will offering