
Subject:

FW: Winter 2024 Newsletter

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To: Les Woolsey <les.g.woolsey@gmail.com>

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Common Grace

Stories from the Peltz family's ministry life Winter 2024

Season's Greetings!





Shoshanna, Aliyah, and me visiting the Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal during a September vacation.

A number of Curve Lake Christian Assembly members and me, eating after the Truth and Reconciliation Day walk.

Christmas season is upon us again and, with it, I've been reflecting lots on the past year. It's been quite the year! It's been busier than usual, thanks to the extra work I took on as the Interim ED of Kawartha Youth for Christ. It's also been a heavy year, with quite a few deaths in and around our church. I've grown a lot, and so has my family. In the process, we've celebrated a number of major milestones. The past six months, in particular, feel like they have gone by in a blur of noteworthy events, work trips, and personally meaningful moments. Despite the rush, and accompanying roller coaster of emotions, I'm grateful to know that one thing remains the same: the love of God, manifest in Jesus Christ, available to us through the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate this time of year. During one of my first ministry transitions, God taught me that "you are my son first and my servant second." This continues to be a life-giving lesson in busy seasons like this. It keeps me grounded when the work threatens to take over, and it gives me permission to slow down and reflect when the need and opportunity arise. I'm looking forward to some of that this Christmas, and hope that you, too, get to enjoy many reminders of God's love in this season.

A Fun, Seasonal Opportunity

This winter I have an unusual opportunity: to keep riding my bike! I was accepted into the "Winter Wheels" program at BIKE, a Peterborough cycling co-op. They gave me studded tires, lights, and a six-month membership. This lets me access tools and

lessons so I can ride safely and maintain my bike. I thought this was a *cool* chance to keep active and leave the truck home with Shoshanna more often. It also provides a fun fundraising opportunity to help with my salary and ministry expenses! On December 23rd, I'm committing to ride 10 km for every \$1000 I can raise between now and then, up to a maximum of 65 km. This would take me from my house to Lindsay and back along the Trans Canada Trail. For context, I've never done longer than 50 km in a day, winter riding aside! If you're worried that I won't make it, perhaps you can hope that I only raise the \$4,000 required to take me to and from Omemee! If you're interested in partnering with me and giving me an opportunity to test my winter riding skills this Christmas, you can use [this link](#) to make an online donation or send an e-transfer to donate@youthunlimitedkaw.com with my name and your full name and mailing address in the e-transfer comment box. Ask for other giving means!



*Me with my bike, sporting newly-installed studded tires,
outside of the Bridge Youth Centre.*

A Heavy Season



Dana and me, presenting at a fundraiser concert for Haliburton Youth Unlimited.

Lucas, Eli, Budd, and Nancy after we spent the morning chopping and stacking wood together at Nancy and Budd's.

The past 6 months have been my busiest stretch in quite a few years. The only comparable time I can recall is when I was pastoring Auburn Bible Chapel during a particularly chaotic season of ministry. My baseline is busier, of course, since I'm holding down three jobs at once (pastor of CLCA, chaplain at Trent, KYFC Interim ED). But, on top of that, three things have coincided to make me even busier.

The first is that Peterborough Youth Unlimited, one of our KYFC's Satellite ministries, is also transitioning from one primary leader to another. We hired Katie Gibbs as their new Director, but this is a lengthy process, in part because Katie needs to fundraise a full-time salary. To ensure that she was able to focus on this, I have been managing the team's day-to-day affairs, with some

help from other KYFC staff. I've actually quite enjoyed the chance to get to know the team a little better, but I'm also aware that they aren't getting everything they need from me since my hours are stretched thin, so I'm excited for Katie to take over the reins in the near future!

Alongside this, after my good friend, Pam, passed away in May, there have been a number of other deaths in and around our church community. Since I sent out my June newsletter, Micah Telford, Donna Whetung, Mikey Jacobs, Jim Hoskins, Rick Foster, and Michael Kenny have all passed away. Every one of these is either a CLCA congregant or one of their family members. A handful of friends and YFC staff have also lost loved ones. Although I did not officiate all of these funerals, I did my best to at least attend and support those who were affected. I, too, have been grieving. I still miss Pam, who I shared about in my last newsletter. I also miss Donna. Like Pam, she was one of the first people to welcome me to Curve Lake and someone I always looked forward to talking with. She was particularly good at recalling and sharing details about Curve Lake's history. You are missed, Donna, by myself and our little community.

Finally, alongside the funerals and extra managerial responsibilities, I have been traveling a lot more than usual. Between fundraisers and planning meetings in Bancroft, Haliburton, and Fenelon Falls, and one-off trips to teach at churches, camps, and schools, I have found myself driving multiple hours a day multiple times a week most weeks. I like that this allows me time to listen to podcasts and audiobooks. It also gives me some time for prayer and reflection, which is important in a season of grief. As long as I have reception I can even use the time to chat with people on the phone. However, it makes it hard to get administrative work done, which I have more of because of my extra leadership responsibilities!

None of this takes away from the wonderful things I always enjoy about my work. I've had many rich ministry conversations, maintained traditions like staffing a table at the Pow Wow, taught lots at CLCA and Trent, and helped out with some practical needs along the way. Shoshanna, Aliyah, and I also enjoyed a week's vacation in Montreal in September, which was a particular blessing since it was postponed due to a funeral, and then we thought it might have to be cancelled due to another funeral. I cherish all of these moments, even if they're squeezed in a little more than I like. That said, I'm definitely looking forward to a bit of rest over the Christmas break!



Donna, during a Bible study at George and Beth's house.

The Heart to Heart Christmas Jamboree, which included a prayer and song for our departed loved ones.

A Celebratory Season





Aliyah celebrating the fact that she has outgrown her need for a scoliosis brace.

Aliyah celebrating the completion of her Lifesaving Society Bronze Star.

In the midst of a heavy ministry season, my family is always a bright spot. This fall we've been celebrating a lot of big milestones for Aliyah! She turned 13 on September 13th. Then, in October, she found out that she no longer needed to wear a scoliosis brace, which has been a defining feature of our family life over the past five years. Finally, just this past week she completed her Bronze Star course at the YMCA, which makes her qualified to perform some limited lifesaving activities and is the first step towards her becoming a lifeguard. Shoshanna and I are so proud of this wonderful young lady!

We also continue to enjoy Danielle and Gerrit's company now that they live in the same townhouse complex as us. It's also nice that we're able to trade off animal care, with them looking after our cats when we're out of town and us returning the favour when they're gone. One prayer

request on the family front is that Gerrit, who is a computer programmer, was let go during a company restructuring and is currently searching for a job.



My work is made possible by generous individuals and organizations. Thank you to everyone who partners with me and provides the financial, emotional, and spiritual support my family and I need! For more information on my ministry, including how to donate, you can email me at benkpeltz@gmail.com or visit benpeltz.ca/support. My work, and all donations towards it, are managed by Kawartha Youth For Christ. For more information on them, visit yfc.ca/kawartha.



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