

## Brechin Church History

2005 saw a step forward in our relationship with Trinity and St. Andrew's congregations, by joining together in worship on Good Friday and in celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada. We continue to worship together at one of the three churches each Good Friday.

2006 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brechin United Church. This was marked with many special celebrations. A social event was held each month and four former ministers came throughout the year to preach at Sunday worship. This commemoration of our history did much to enhance the collegiality of our congregation, and many former members attended worship.

In 2007 we raised funds to re-roof the church and ended the year with a surplus. We also exceeded our Mission and Service contribution goal by over \$4000. Locally we worked with Community Kitchens, Community Gardens, Food Share and Loaves and Fishes to support a Food Security Policy for Nanaimo. In the summer we began shared worship with Trinity United – worshipping together at Brechin in July and Trinity in August. We continued this for the next seven summers.

In the Spring of 2008 we became a satellite distribution depot for the Loaves and Fishes food bank. This was a first in distributing food away from the central depot on Farquhar Street. Since that time, six more neighbourhood distribution depots have been established. The response of Brechin Church both in contributing to Loaves and Fishes and volunteering at the depots has been enthusiastic and heart-warming.

2010 saw the departure of the Rev. John van Omme who answered a call to a church in Kingsville, Ontario. Brechin then embarked on a two year interim process led by the Rev. Randy Antle. It was a time of transition and hard work, where we developed our core values and discerned what the future of Brechin would be. At the end of this time we decided that we would follow a process of redevelopment and this continues to be a work in progress.

When Rev. Randy Antle completed his 2 year appointment, the Rev. Anne Manikel filled in until we called the Rev. Sally Bullas in the spring of 2013. Sally and her husband John have been warmly welcomed into the Brechin fold.

Ever looking for new opportunities, the congregation of Brechin Church overwhelmingly voted that we become an Affirming Church. This wonderful commitment to diversity will be celebrated September 27, 2015.