



ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

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Our 2023 Garage Sale was another success bringing in \$3125.00 which will be allocated to our Green Team! More on page 9!

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Reverend Dave

It is wonderful to be heading into summer again, with green all around! For some reason, I also think of summer as a time to slow down (obviously, I'm not a farmer), as if a change in season, or circumstances around me, is sufficient to change my somewhat frantic over-activity.

I've been trying to "take stock" lately, get my bearings again. Here at St. Andrew's, we're involved in some pretty important stuff! Certainly, I think the core of our spirituality is important! To know God's love, in a time when there is so much encouragement to think of ourselves as lacking, hungry, inadequate... Learning to love God and one another is critical in a time of such deep division in our society. But we're also involved in truth and reconciliation, environmental activism (starting with ourselves), support for LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized people, awareness and support of the poor in Guatemala, and so many other key ministries in both justice and community. I'm proud of this church in so many ways; we truly make a difference in this world, both near and far.

But I also notice something about myself in all of this. Maybe it's just me, and if so, never mind all this! But I am once again feeling a bit scattered. Things are dropping out of my memory. I'm running from task to task, event to event, and I'm losing my sense of purpose and inner peace (well, some of it). That doesn't feel right.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

**"WEARY?
BURDENED?"**

**"...MY
YOKE IS
EASY,
AND MY
BURDEN
IS LIGHT."**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Reverend Dave

Second, I'm going to try to renew my Sabbath practice. I don't think God intends for us to live "over the red line." If life or ministry is depleting us over time, I think there's something wrong. Good work, I think, rises out of rest, feels healthy, includes joy. I might be tired going to bed, but I think we should be beginning refreshed. So let there be rest! Let there be rest time that is as protected as our busy time.

Finally, looking towards the fall, I have been feeling the need for a group for newcomers, for people seeking baptism or membership, or folks looking for renewal in the basics of faith and practice. I know that over the past couple of years there have been several new people come to St. Andrew's (ourselves among them!) and I look for a group to establish some deeper relationships, and to explore what church community and the practice of faith could be in our time. This kind of group has often been the highlight of ministry for me. If you're interested, let me (or Jana in the office) know. This would be for newcomers, prospective members, and also established folks who want to look again at the foundations of faith and church.

Blessings of spring and summer to you and yours!

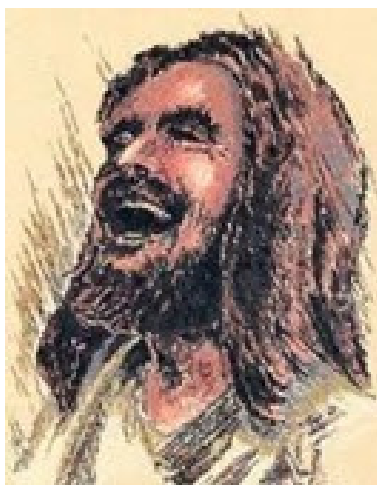
Dave



**"LET THERE
BE REST
TIME THAT
IS AS
PROTECTED
AS OUR
BUSY TIME."**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Reverend Barbara



-Willis Wheatley, 1973

A little more than five decades ago, the United Church commissioned the Canadian artist, Willis Wheatley, to do four drawings of Jesus. Wheatley sketched the image in about 1973. It was originally titled, "Christ, Liberator." It was one of four portraits Wheatley created of Jesus. The others showed his more serious sides.

Jesus laughs out loud; a full belly laugh we can almost hear. We can imagine Jesus having great fun with his friends.

How about inviting the laughing Jesus into our homes? How about delighting in some silliness around the dinner table, having the fork talk to the spoon, making funny faces or sharing a knock, knock joke:

Knock, Knock
Who's there?
Cow says.
Cow says who?
No, a cow says mooooo!

God's gift of laughter can lighten our days. God's gift of laughter can draw us closer together.

Barbara

**"A SMILE
STARTS ON
THE LIPS, BUT
A GOOD
LAUGH
BURSTS
FORTH FROM
THE SOUL
AND
OVERFLOWS,
AND BUBBLES
ALL AROUND."
-CAROLYN
BIRMINGHAM**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Pollinator Garden



**"ULTIMATELY,
THE ONLY
WEALTH THAT
CAN SUSTAIN ANY
COMMUNITY,
ECONOMY OR
NATION IS
DERIVED FROM
THE
PHOTOSYNTHETIC
PROCESS – GREEN
PLANTS GROWING
ON REGENERATING
SOIL."
-ALLAN
SAVORY**

St. Andrew's pollinator garden is taking shape quickly!

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

M&P Team

Meet Your M&P Team

As your Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Team, we wanted to take a moment to give you a quick overview of the work we do, and let you know how you can help us with that work.

The M&P Team at St. Andrews United Church serves three key roles:

A consultative and supportive role:

- Being caring and supportive toward ministry personnel and lay employees, and consulting with ministry personnel, lay employees and the community of faith when appropriate.
- Providing resources and support for staff and the community of faith with respect to any issue affecting staff in our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees.

A healthy relationships role – Overseeing the relationships of the ministry personnel and lay employees with members of the community of faith through the following activities.

- Staff appreciation activities.
- Ensuring ministry are aware of sabbatical leaves and that they take vacation each year.
- Overseeing relationships of staff with each other and to the congregation.
- Helping to build, nurture and maintain healthy and trusting relationships between staff and the community of faith for the good of all.

A supervisory role:

- Monitoring, reviewing and celebrating the effectiveness of staff in relation to the community of faith's mission.
- Helping ensure a climate where constructive feedback is offered in a positive way.
- Communicating to the board on staff working conditions, making recommendations regarding salary and compensation, and considering ways we can help foster the development of our staff.

**"I AM WHO I
AM TODAY
BECAUSE OF
THE CHOICES
I MADE
YESTERDAY".
-ELEANOR
ROOSEVELT**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

M&P Team

How Issues Can Be Raised in a Respectful Way

If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, which includes ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared with the team through signed correspondence that is presented to any of our team members listed below.

By submitting any praise or concerns in writing, it makes it easier for the team to review those concerns together as a team and ensures we have an accurate summary of your praise or concerns for review and consideration.

Any issues brought forward will be considered confidentially by the M&P Team, who will then recommend action as appropriate.

By directing any concerns confidentially to the M&P Team and allowing them to respectfully consider and address matters as appropriate, we can hopefully help prevent any concerns from becoming topics of gossip which can be harmful to maintaining healthy relationships in our church. Directing any concerns through the M&P Team also helps us prevent a climate where staff may feel they have 'many bosses' which can have a counter productive impact on healthy relationships.

We are Thankful for our Staff

St. Andrew's United Church is extremely blessed with staff who are very committed to their work and we are truly thankful for the work they do in our community of faith.

Presently serving on the M&P Team are:

Barry Brouwer - Chair

Karen Yakimishyn – Representative for Jana Figursky and Shannon Epp

Ron Gish – Representative for Reverend Dave Holmes

Sandra Smith - Representative for Reverend Barbara Lieurance, Reverend Bob Settle, Leanne Oslund and Nicole Bartolay

Jim Dixon – Representative for our janitorial and custodial staff, Jill Hair and Diane Hayduk

**"MINISTRY
IS NOT A
JOB OR
SUNDAY
ROUTINE,
IT'S A
PRIVILEGE
TO BE
CHOSEN
AND USED
BY JESUS."**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project

Our 85 acres of canola was seeded in mid May and thank you to the farmers that did all the field work, agri-businesses that donated some of the inputs, and our cash donors that helped cover the cost of the remaining inputs and AFSC crop insurance.

This year our field is located on the southern edge of Bentley by the Bentley Cemetery.

We are so grateful to all those that have helped us since 1996. We have grown a crop in many different parts of Lacombe County and have always received outstanding support.

This is the 40th anniversary for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and since 1983 we have provided assistance in 90 countries. Along with emergency food assistance, we assist with long term solutions to hunger through our conservation agricultural projects.

If you wish to make a cash donation and receive a charitable tax receipt, or for more information on the Foodgrains Bank, please call Doug at 403-782-1860.

Mission and Service Fund

One of the United Nations sustainable development goals is gender equality. This goal was created in 2015 and is one of 17 UN development goals.

The United Church Mission and Service Fund (M & S) is assisting with the achievement of this goal. Working with its partners around the world, M & S provides assistance for projects that help women participate in business and girls attend school.

In 2021, M & S provided funding for a local organization in Guatemala to assist in developing leadership skills for Ixil and Mam women, and skills to enhance agricultural production.

Donations to the Mission and Service Fund can be made through your regular offerings, by cheque and online.

If you want more information on the work of the Mission and Service Fund, please contact Doug at 403-782-1860.

**"THE
PURPOSE OF
HUMAN LIFE
IS TO SERVE,
AND TO
SHOW
COMPASSION
AND THE
WILL TO
HELP
OTHERS."
-ALBERT
SCHWEITZER**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Garage Sale 2023

Wow what an amazing week!

Did you know this church has little mystery elves? Ya they would just show up after I had locked up for the day. When I came back in the morning more work would be done. The work that was done this week was phenomenal, but more importantly there was so much laughter and fun this week so thank you!

I want to say how overwhelmed with gratitude I've been over the past week. I want to truly thank each and every one of you for all the amazing work that was put in. From the donations, to setting up tables, to making meals and baking, to childcare and helping price and organize. We had over 70 people help out at one point or another throughout the garage sale week. Thank you! You all made this possible. I love garage sale week; it is high up there on my list of favourite church events. So, thank you all for making this week spectacular.

Many people have been asking me "well what did we get, how much did we get?"

Well, we got:

Fabulous donations

We got Lots of laughs.

Great food

New ideas

We got new connections within our church community.

Wonderful baking

We got:

Lots of laughs

New friendships

We got Great deals.

And we got A great week filled with hard work and wonderful laughter and new friends.

But finally, I'm happy to announce we got \$3125.00, this money will be allocated to the environmental team in our church for their many projects to help make our church greener and more environment friendly.



**"THERE ARE
RARE PEOPLE
WHO WILL SHOW
UP AT THE
RIGHT TIME,
HELP YOU
THROUGH THE
HARD TIMES
AND STAY INTO
YOUR BEST
TIMES...
THOSE ARE
THE KEEPERS."
-NAUSICAN
TWILA**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Property Team

Update re energy audit:

In response to the invitation emailed to all recipients of the newsletter, 10 good folks met May 23rd with an additional 3 indicating they could not attend due to other situations.

It was a collaborative productive meeting thanks to all those present. We now refer to ourselves as "Property Team" rather than " Property Committee" ..of which we have never really had one.....and welcome others to join us in what could become a large scale proposition.

Outcomes:

1. We agreed to try to have quotes on selected topics by June 1st at which time we would meet again (7:00 pm at the Church) to determine what we want to submit to the Board at their June 6th meeting.

We very much appreciate Greg Pallister and Dennis Ethier for stepping up in a big way in regard to this.

2. Topics selected:

- combo of roof, flashing, eavestroughs
- combo of all of the old windows (with the exception of the big auditorium windows)/doors (with the exception of the main entry doors and the narthex doors which were new a few years ago). Of interest: we have discovered that the stain glass windows already have a storm window setup on them so they are not the big heatloss sources we had assumed.
- insulation in the ceilings of the entire place (narthex,sanctuary,connector,auditorium)

**"THE BEST
INVESTMENT
ON "EARTH"
IS EARTH."
-LOUIS
GLICKMAN**



ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Property Team

3. We agreed to delay calling in the service people to look at the HVAC system (2 big units sit on the flat portion of the roof above the addition to the choir loft) installed 2001ish..which were shut off shortly after installation as they apparently were noisy and caused vibration.

These units were designed to heat/ventilate/air condition the sanctuary and what is now the Loving to Learn preschool. Bob King has kindly indicated that he would be willing to oversee this project once he is feeling better ..he is now down to one remaining week of radiation treatments....and has a lot of experience with HVAC units so is the logical choice to fulfill this role from our perspective.

4. We realize that there are a number of smaller tasks ..which will collectively add up to significant energy savings...that we can handle inhouse and we anticipate no shortage of willing hands pitching in before snow flies. We will attend to these once we get beyond the quote business with the assorted contractors.

5. We appreciate that changing a number of light fixtures can result in significant savings but chose to cross this bridge at a later date as it does not necessarily entail quotes.

6. We are placing the topic of heating on the back burner for now although it will eventually have to be considered.

7. We agreed that we encourage the Board in its intent to proceed with a visioning process in the fall. Anticipated building usage will obviously be one aspect of that process.



**"WE SHAPE
OUR
BUILDINGS;
THEREAFTER,
OUR
BUILDINGS
SHAPE US."
-WINSTON
CHURCHILL**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Coffee Time



We are looking for individuals or groups who can help out with coffee time on the second or fourth Sundays of each month.

The sign up sheet is hanging between the windows looking into the kitchen from the hall!

Grads!



If you have a graduate to celebrate or know of one, please let the office know!

office@unitedchurchlacombe.ca

