

August, 2023

# NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp 2023 took place at St. Andrew's the week of Aug. 21-24. Just over a dozen children took part along with numerous volunteers!

Highlights of the week included parachute games, crafting, visiting seniors at Spruce Terrace, and some fantastic snacks!

**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who made our Summer Camp possible and to Reverend Barbara for making it happen!

**BY INVESTING IN ONE CHILD, YOU CAN TRANSFORM AN ENTIRE FAMILY, AND EVEN GENERATIONS TO COME.**

SOME PURSUE HAPPINESS  
OTHERS CREATE IT.



## LACOMBE HISTORY QUIZ...



- 1) Who is considered Lacombe's first resident?
- 2) What business did he start in Lacombe?
- 3) Where was this business located?
- 4) Where was he originally from?
- 5) Whom did he marry?

Answers in next month's newsletter. If you have an interest in local history, and want to share it, call Doug at 403 782-1860.

# CELEBRATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

AMBITION IS ENTHUSIASM WITH A PURPOSE.  
FRANK TYGER

The summer has once again flown by! I used to think of summer as something of a sabbath time for the church, when programs take a break and we have time to enjoy the short but glorious green and growing time! But it seems that there is always something going on, and this summer has been special in a couple of ways.

**Celebrations:** I'm sure I will miss some important things here, but I need to mention and celebrate again all the work that has gone on in and around our building this summer. Wow! The green team, in the spring, encouraged us to commit to an 80% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the commitment of the larger United Church. **That's a very ambitious target!** But the Green Team and our property people have got right on it, with necessary repairs happening, replacement of old lights with more efficient LED's, electrical work, ductwork to bring HVAC units on line, and especially a significant upgrade to our insulation and windows. Wow! I have seen a lot of Gary MacDonald, Bob King, Greg Pallister, Dennis Ethier, Jurjan Dunnewind, Lynn Kempt, and I'm sure I'm missing a host of others who have pitched in. I'll be very interested to see what kind of progress we have made on our commitment, so quickly. **Thank you all!**

Outside the building you also might have noticed the pollinator garden - another project of the Green Team - and what I'm almost taking for granted, the absolutely amazing flower bed and lawn care provided by Hans and Norm. Looking good! Our summer camp for kids wound up last week, and again I am amazed and grateful for the quality of the team of leaders that brought this experience to life. Games, crafts, snacks, a bit of music, worship and spiritual formation... The four days of camp covered "The Gifts of our Faith": wonder, gratitude, service, and reflection. It was a smaller group of kids this time - just over a dozen - but some strong leadership is developing there (as well as in our youth/young adults - thanks Brielle and Tristan!). It's a wonderful group, and thanks to Barbara for coordinating the program. It was a blessing to us all, I think!

I can't say enough how fortunate I feel to be involved with St. Andrew's! After almost two and a half years the bloom has not come off the rose! The talent and leadership that is here, the many ways people are involved in church and community, the grace and welcome of this church, the quality of the staff I get to work with...Thanks to all of you for being such wonderful people, coming together to be such a wonderful church! As summer moves towards fall (and I hope it's a slow move...) I also consider some of the opportunities for the fall. Just as church life is always full of grace, in this day it also seems there is always plenty of challenge!

WONDER  
GRATITUDE  
SERVICE  
REFLECTION

KEEP PLANTING SEEDS YOU  
NEVER KNOW WHAT MAY TAKE  
ROOT  
(ECCLESIASTES 11:6)



## CELEBRATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.  
St. Francis of Assisi

We appear to be in a time of leadership transition. There are quite a number of vacancies in our board and committee/team structure. I have sometimes been reluctant to ask people to serve in the structure of the church, but I'm not that reluctant here at St. Andrew's! At this church our teams have been effective, community-building, and leadership-developing. These teams have been the backbone of this church's strength, I think.

A number of factors (ministerial transitions, COVID) have put us in a time of transition, though. Long-time leaders are taking a much-deserved break, and new leaders have not yet stepped up.

So... might you be one of our new leaders? I feel a definite buzz in the air, these days – I think the Spirit is working in and around us. We have the opportunity to move in some new directions, and, yes, to let go of some things that are no longer working for us. If you feel any kind of an attraction to the idea of shaping the church of the future, I'd like to talk with you about it! No arm-twisting involved! And if you are brand-new to all of this, I especially want to talk with you. Call the church or e-mail!

One last opportunity to mention. It has been a joy to see a number of new folks coming to share our worship on Sunday mornings. It has been some time, though, since we've had any kind of a small group experience to help you newer folks to make some deeper connections in this community. So this fall is it! We're calling it "Fresh Start in Faith" and it's a group for folks who would like to make some connections in this church, as well as a group for people looking for confirmation or baptism as adults, or possibly for membership at St. Andrew's. I also, every few years, like to renew my grounding in the basics of faith, and this is a group for that, too. Again, if this interests you, please give the church a call! We'll sign you up or answer your questions.

Church life – like life in general, I think – is quite the roller-coaster these days! But St. Andrew's is full of vitality and I am excited for what this year will bring. There are lots of ways to connect and be involved; keep an eye out for what draws you!

Grace and peace,  
Dave



**MESSY CHURCH COMING UP  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 5 PM  
CELEBRATING THE 5 SENSES!**

**CHANGE IS AN EVENT, BUT A  
TRANSITION IS THE PROCESS THAT  
YOU GO THROUGH IN RESPONSE TO  
THE CHANGE.  
WILLIAM BRIDGES**



## CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK & GUATEMALA

For many years, St. Andrew's through the Friends of Guatemala group has supported FRATERNIDAD, a Christian women's organization in Guatemala.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is also now supporting FRATERNIDAD, on a three year commitment that started in May 2023.

It is an agriculture and livelihoods project in 4 municipalities in Quetzaltenango. Food insecurity issues are persistent in these areas. The land is of poor quality, and harvests have been inadequate to meet the food needs for families.

To help, assistance will be provided to 20 groups of women to promote sustainable agricultural techniques, livestock improvement and more sustainable forestry practices.

The project aims to work with 400 indigenous female farmers and their households (3,200 individuals).

By supporting your local growing project - Central Alberta Foodgrains Project - disadvantaged people in Guatemala and throughout the world benefit.

If you have any questions, or want more information, please call Doug Maas at 403-318-5733.



Brew a cup of tea or pour a glass of your favourite drink, and snuggle in with a good book. Starting Sept. 21, 2023 and ending in June 2025, these (mostly) monthly book club sessions will feature fiction, non-fiction and poetry written by (mostly) Canadian authors. There will be bold ideas. There will be daring connections. There will be content you can dig your teeth into. And guaranteed, there will be laughter. Because the Mod is like that. For more info check out... <https://catalog.churchx.ca/catalog?pagename=UILx>

## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange shirt day is coming up! The Red Deer Native Friendship Centre has some shirts for sale. The design on them is from the winner of a student contest that they run each year in the schools.

An official 2023 orange shirt can be ordered from the Orange Shirt Society. The design this year is by a grade 10 student, Charliss Santis, from Ponoka!

More information can be found online at: <https://orangeshirtday.org/merchandise/>

