



St. Andrew's United Church

October 2023



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CENTRAL ALBERTA FOODGRAINS PROJECT

Our 85 acres of canola was harvested on Thanksgiving Saturday by Bentley. Nine combines finished the harvest in less than 2 hours and the crop was delivered to Richardson Pioneer east of Lacombe. We raised \$81,000 from the excellent crop and also received some cash donations as well. One hundred people watched the harvest while enjoying pizza, coffee, and donuts. All funds raised will be sent to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg to help hungry people in the world.

We are looking for land in Lacombe County for next year, our 29th year. If you have land available, please call Doug Maas at 403-318-5733.



St. Andrew's United Church

CONFLICT SKILLS

On October 14, about 20 of us gathered at the church with Dora Dang, a mediator from Calgary (and one of the United Church's designated conflict facilitators) for what turned out to be a workshop on conflict skills and theory. The intent was to build trust among the leaders in the church, experience some healing around past conflicts, and build skills so that when we encounter conflict in the future, we can manage it with less stress and more skill.

We're still processing what happened (there was a lot of information!) but here's one tidbit from the first part of the session.

Conflicts usually involve *positions* (this is the outcome I want) and *interests* (these are the reasons I want that outcome). It is normal and natural for a conflict to focus on the positions, as we argue to get what we want. But positions are normally where there is the sharpest conflict: often the positions are opposite and mutually exclusive. In the case of the rainbow on the steps and walk of the church, the positions seemed simple: leave the rainbow on, clean the rainbow off. To conduct a conflict around positions often results in winners and losers.

If we are able to focus instead on our interests – the reasons why we take the positions we take – we usually find a much more complex situation. Interests can be many and varied, having to do with concerns, hopes, expectations, assumptions, perceptions, beliefs, fears, values, and needs.

In the rainbow sidewalk conflict, some of the interests were around walking safety, the importance of affirming ministry, being public and intentional, fears around vandalism, discomfort with community criticism, concerns about congregational communication and agency, and so forth. People with opposite positions might actually share common interests. And discussion around interests often becomes more personal, deeper, and less combative. A discussion around interests might also lead to more creative positions that may satisfy the interests of both sides.

Taking Rabbi Mark's categories, arguing not for the sake of heaven (arguing to win) is often around positions. Arguing for the sake of heaven (arguing to find the best way forward) often happens around interests, and can even enable us to draw closer to one another in the midst of a conflict.

Dora Dang gave us a pretty good "toolbox" for addressing conflict – thanks to her and to all of you who came out. I hope this tidbit will prove useful!

Dave



Ponoka Community Theatre presents



The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2 PM

PONOKA UNITED CHURCH
5020 - 52 Avenue, Ponoka

All tickets \$20
available online at kfatheatre.com
and at the church office, 9 am - 1 pm,
Tuesday to Friday 403 783-4081



St. Andrew's United Church



Greg Pallister



Bob King

FRUITCAKES

The Fruitcake Ladies were hard at work this past weekend. Fruitcakes are selling for \$18. Please contact the office if you'd like to purchase any!





St. Andrew's United Church

FRIENDS OF GUATEMALA - UPDATE

Recent events in Guatemala - election of a new government and peaceful demonstrations - have disrupted life. But the people of Guatemala are standing strong.

Camino Seguro - Safe Passage temporarily closed the school and pivoted to distance learning, a system perfected during Covid times. They have now finished the school year, and staff are planning for academic and health evaluations and graduation ceremonies, as well as orientation for preschool graduates rising up to elementary school and grade 9 graduates enrolling in Oportunidades. Follow the link below for more information about Safe Passage. <https://www.safepassage.org/>

Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Maya is an organization of Christian women that promotes sustainable development to community groups in rural areas, promoting capacity building in theological, health, family nutrition, environmental and productive activities to improve the quality of life of families.

<https://www.fraternidadmaya.com/>



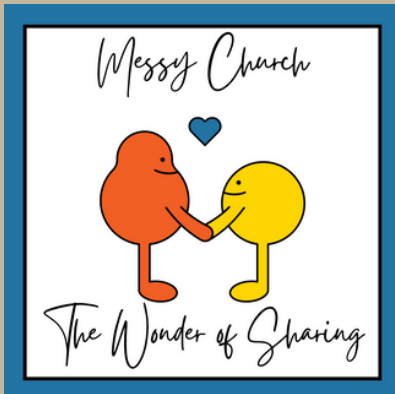
CEDEPCA, a Christian education institute, is standing firm in solidarity with the new government, and is asking their partners around the world to pray for Guatemalans, and for peace and democracy. This is the organization that has coordinated our trips to Guatemala in the past. <https://cedepca.org/en/>

If you would like to join this committee, or would just like to know more about Guatemala and what we do, please talk with myself or any one of our committee. Watch for our upcoming concert fundraiser in the new year. If you would like to make a donation to any of these organizations in Guatemala you can do so through these links, or by donating to St. Andrew's and marking it for Guatemala. In this way you also get a tax receipt.

Donna Pierson

MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church, "The Wonder of Sharing" will be held Friday, November 3 at 5 PM. We hope you can join us!



Window replacement & stucco preparation





St. Andrew's United Church

PROPERTY UPDATE

As of Oct 19th:

- ✓ Goodman Roofing have completed their efforts on the flat roof.
- ✓ The HVAC units now seem to be working well. One unit needed a new motor.
- ✓ Office bathroom windows have been replaced so the pigeons and flies can no longer enter.
- ✓ Most of the windows in the auditorium have been replaced.
- ✓ Stucco folks have applied the scratch coat and are letting it cure in this nice weather.
- ✓ Most of the ceiling insulation has been completed.
- ✓ The sanctuary led track lights are now installed, wiring problems addressed.
- ✓ We are wrapping up the "low hanging fruit " items that we can do ourselves.

To do list:

- Awaiting the Edmonton people to do the repairs to the tile roof.
- Complete the insulation of the attics.
- Auditorium interior items:
 - a) Framing interior walls (that are exposed to the exterior)
 - b) Insulating and vapor barrier
 - c) Dry walling
 - d) Painting
 - e) Installation of the new insulated steel doors (both north at laneway and at SW entrance)
 - f) Installation of the new transom window above the doors to the laneway.
- Preschool:
 - a) Install the new insulated steel exterior door
- Replacing all the outdated thermostatswhich should save us \$ pretty quickly.....and relocating the narthex thermostat into the sanctuary basement.
- Painting all of the exterior stucco (old and new) a matching colour. This will be a spring job.



Reshingling around the steeple



Lynn Kempt & Gary Macdonald



St. Andrew's United Church

GOING GREEN

Oh what a party! Our congregation celebrated on October 22nd with food, fun, and facts!

The potluck food table was laden with delicious choices – thank you everyone who contributed! About 60 people enjoyed the meal, along with some conversation about personal actions being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Afterward we heard from members of the Green Team, the Property Team, and others who have helped us move forward in making St Andrew's greener, with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint by 80% by 2030.

So much has already been done, with some of the projects still ongoing. Repairs have been made to the building – the roof, the gutters, more insulation has been blown into the ceilings, all lights – 116 in total – replaced with LED bulbs, new triple-pane windows installed, new insulated steel doors coming this week, and the HVAC system has been activated! Framing in the auditorium has already happened and soon the insulation and drywall will be added. All this under the watchful eye and able participation of Gary MacDonald, Property Committee Chairman.

We learned about financing, including a \$30,000 grant from Faithful Footprints and generous monetary memorial donations from Hans Haefliger in memory of Isabel, from Vic Bergen in memory of Sue, and a generous donation of time and expertise from Greg Pallister in memory of his mother and grandmother. Greg thanked Doug Will, who has helped with choosing and coordinating contractors.

A video was shown, with Bob King explaining the work in progress. Bob has been involved with this every step of the way and knows every nook and cranny in the building. The Playschool teacher, Kasha Levie, spoke about how the new heating and lighting have enhanced the environment for her students and staff. Barry Brouwer spoke about monitoring the usage and savings in fuel and electricity costs as we go forward. Rev Dave introduced the formation of a Visioning Committee to look into increasing the use of the building by the community, in hopes of increasing our occupancy which now stands at 20%.

We all learned a lot. And a wonderful feeling of community and striving for a common goal and being successful, permeated the group. We **can** do this! And we **ARE** doing this!



Dave Holmes & Cecile Fausak



Kasha Levie, Preschool Operator



St. Andrew's United Church

As participants get ready for the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai Nov 30-Dec.12, the Green Team invites us at home to learn together about climate change issues too at two upcoming webinars:

Churches' Advocacy on Loss and Damage Due to Climate Change

Tuesday, November 14 - St. Andrew's United Church parlour
Potluck supper at 5:00. Virtual watch party begins at 5:30 pm MT till 7pm

If you want to watch from home, you can register here: [Register Now!](#)

Understanding the role of churches in fighting for communities who are losing their homes, livelihoods and culture to climate change. This 90-minute event will include a panel and group discussion. Panelists include Indigenous peoples, youth, voices from the Global South, and climate activists from the church. Join us and learn how you can support next steps. Organized by ACT Alliance, KAIROS Canada, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and For the Love of Creation.



Faithful Responses to Eco-anxiety

Thursday, November 30 at 11am - 12:30 MT - St. Andrew's United Church parlour
Bring your bag lunch. Stay for conversation if you wish.

Forest fires, floods, droughts, severe storms, deforestation, pollution. Across Canada, and the world, people face the terrible impacts of ecological destruction and the climate crisis. Specific impacts can vary widely by season and region. Some communities are more vulnerable than others. No matter how different people are impacted by environmental destruction or the climate crisis, these experiences can cause high levels of anxiety for everyone. How can we cope, body, mind and spirit? What are faithful responses to eco-anxiety?

Join the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll and Rev. Konnie Vissers on Thursday, November 30, 2023 and explore some of these questions.

This event is organized by [The Presbyterian Church in Canada](#) and in support of For the Love of Creation. Registration to open soon if you would like to watch from home! Stay tuned to the [FLC Events Page](#)



St. Andrew's United Church

COMING UP...

Remembrance Sunday
Nov. 5, 2023 - 10:30 AM
You are invited to come join us
and light a candle for anyone
you have lost.

Worship Brainstorm
SESSION
Mon. Nov. 13, 7 PM

Lift Someone
Into the
Light

23 NOV
5:30 - 7:30 PM

23 NOV
5:30 - 7:30 PM

FILL AN ORNAMENT TO HONOUR
A SPECIAL PERSON IN YOUR LIFE!
HOT CHOCOLATE | FREE OF CHARGE