

1925-2025  
**100<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



2024

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER

## WELCOME TO OUR *Monthly Newsletter*

TEEPEES ARE ERECTED AT THE 31ST GENERAL COUNCIL  
BEFORE THE APOLOGY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, 1986.  
PHOTO: UCC/ WOLF KUTNAHORSKY.



### A New Relationship with the Indigenous Church

When the General Council meets on October 19th this year, it will receive the results of the remit to support the formation of an autonomous Indigenous organization within The United Church of Canada. Remits are the process by which the church considers denomination-shaping matters. Every regional council and every pastoral charge had the right to vote. The remit passed by a significant majority.

When The United Church of Canada was formed in 1925, Indigenous peoples had no voice in the decision. They were also stolen away from their families and communities to attend United Church residential "schools" until 1969. Parents and children resisted these schools. And over the last 100 years, Indigenous peoples within the church consistently fought for self-determination. This includes the Aboriginal consultations of the 1980s, the demand for an Apology for colonization and for residential schools, the creation of governance structures such as the All Native Circle Conference and the Aboriginal Ministries Council, and the Calls to the Church which have brought us to where we are now. Continued on page 3.

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## Talk, talk, talk!



There's a whole lotta talking going on this fall! And some of it is about... drag shows?

I know. Some – and maybe more than some – might think this is a far cry from the mission of the church! And in one sense it is. But I think it is important for us to talk about this, and very briefly, here are my reasons:

- » First, it is a chance for us to deepen our affirming ministry. During our recent “vision” focus groups, it was notable to me that the youngest, and the newest members of St. Andrews all named our Affirming ministry as one of the prime reasons they are involved at this church. This resonates with what I'm hearing as I talk to people, especially the newer folks. I believe that our Affirming ministry is our biggest “church growth” strength right now – so it makes sense to me to grow that strength. The conversation about the drag shows and our ministry is the most important part of that, for me. It almost doesn't matter what we decide in the end.
- » Second, it will give us practice in having difficult conversations in a way that builds up our community instead of dividing it. For me, this is an essential skill. We know there's disagreement here; if we can discuss this in a respectful, caring, and curious way, if we can do this in a spirit of discernment, then I'm relatively sure we'll feel good about whatever decision we make.



We'll be stronger as a community. And we'll be much more able to manage the next disagreement in a healthy way, too. Negotiating this kind of a challenge is what builds a healthy community. We are healthy, and we are becoming healthy, and so I'm sure we can do this!

- » Third, at the same time as we're having this conversation about drag shows and how best to care for the LGBTQ+ community, we are also having a conversation about our mission, vision, and values. For me, this is a really good combination. The conversation about the drag shows will help the vision and values conversation to be practical and specific, and the vision and values conversations will ground the drag show consideration in what's most important for us. Each will enhance the other.

It is often a leader's job to push a congregation into uncomfortable places (with care, and in appropriate ways, of course), because that's where growth happens. I trust this is one of those times! And I trust too, that once we get into this, we'll find it's not so uncomfortable after all. In fact, let's bring our sense of humour with us, and have some fun. By the time we get to the decision phase, I hope we'll know a lot more, and feel more solid as a community, and have a pretty good idea of where God might be leading us.

Reverend Dave Holmes



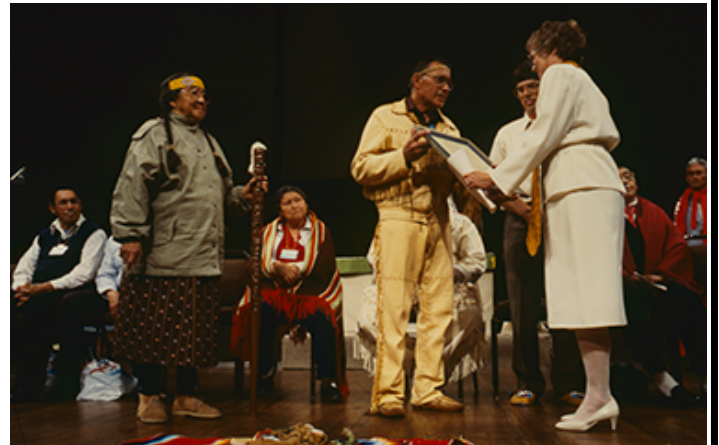
## Indigenous Church History Continued...

Our church's crest is the visual marker of who we are and what we believe. Created in 1925, and renewed in the years since, it contains two phrases reminding us that we have come together out of diversity and that we remain together as relatives. The Latin words "Ut Omnes Unum Sint" mean "that all may be one," and the Kanien'kéha (Mohawk language) words "Akwé Nia Tetewá:neren," mean "All My Relations."

32ND GENERAL COUNCIL - CONSTITUTION AND COVENANTING SERVICE OF ALL NATIVE CIRCLE CONFERENCE, 1988. PHOTO: UCC/ WOLF KUTNAHORSKY.



ANNE SQUIRE PRESENTING MURRAY WHETUNG WITH A FRAMED COPY OF THE 1986 APOLOGY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DURING THE SERVICE OF CONSTITUTION OF ANCC AND COVENANTING AT THE 32ND GENERAL COUNCIL, 1988. PHOTO: UCC/ WOLF KUTNAHORSKY.



HONOURABLE GUESTS, EVENT ORGANIZERS, AND UCC STAFF GATHER AT THE CAIRN TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLOGY TO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES AND OUR COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION. PHOTO: KELLY BUEHLER.





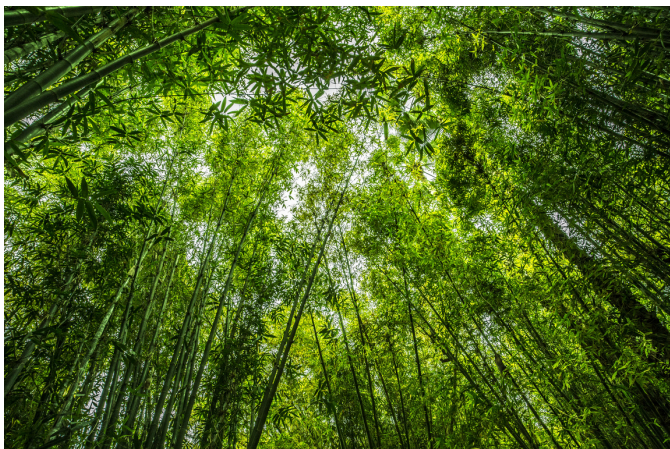
Each person, group or organization working toward a different world may seem powerless and insignificant but all of them can add to a force that is irresistible.



David Suzuki

## Project Forest!

The Green Team is planning to plant 100 trees to honour this celebration in 2025. We are working in conjunction with the Town of Lacombe who have agreed to plant, water and care for the trees after they are planted. We are also working with a tree specialist who will recommend trees that will survive and thrive in our region.



**Greening Together**

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH LACOMBE

Why plant trees? Trees are powerful. Trees reduce air pollution by drawing in CO2 and releasing oxygen making the air we breathe healthier. They muffle sound reducing noise pollution. They prevent flooding by decreasing stormwater runoff. They support biodiversity-insects, birds and animals. They provide food, building supplies and fuel. Spending time in nature for us as humans is beneficial for physical and mental health.

We will be applying for grants to support Project Forest to cover some of the costs. We are also hoping that congregants, community members and local organizations will support this effort by donating money to purchase a tree.

The location of the tree planting is yet to be determined. We are listening to advice from professionals and seeking an area in Lacombe where soil conditions are appropriate. We are also considering planting the trees in stages in case of water shortages.

We hope that Project Forest will be a legacy for all to visit and enjoy now and in future years. It is our hope for the future.

Doris Thesenvitz

## Messy Church

We have started a new Messy Church year. This program is successful because of the volunteers. The Messy Church planning takes place in a number of different ways.

### »» **Planning and Organizing**

The planning team gets together once or twice before each Messy Church. This is how the themes are chosen, the crafts planned, suggestions for scripture, and the music. Because we are all busy people, and we don't always have time to make all the meetings, the more people involved, the better.

### »» **Crafts**

Each month, crafts are built around the themes. Craft ideas come from personal experiences, the internet, and magazines and books. Sometimes people are needed to help cut out or glue things together ahead of time. This can be done at home. We always need and, could use more people to assist with crafts.

### »» **Food**

There are currently 3 individuals who help with the meals for each Messy Church. This committee comes to the church about 4 p.m. on a Messy Church afternoon to organize the meal. The planning for this committee is usually by email or phone. They have not (but could if they wished) attended the planning meetings. If this is an area of interest, we can always use the help.

### »» **Music**

If you have some interest or talent in this area, we are always looking. Sing, play the piano, guitar, banjo, accordion, or any other instrument - you are welcome to join. We usually try to get together once to practice before each Messy Church.



### »» **Posters and Advertising**

Advertising goes out on Facebook and through the PowerPoint that is shown on Sunday morning. One person does the PowerPoint. Another person changes the big sign outside the church for each Messy Church. Another person is responsible for the signs on the bulletin board showing the themes for each month. And one person does all the signs for the stations that take place during Messy Church. If you like letting people know about events, this might be something that interests you.

### »» **Theology**

The theology part of the afternoon is discussed at the planning meetings. The scripture reading is chosen with the help of the ministers. The bulletin board, prayer station, crafts, and music are planned around the theme and scripture. The sanctuary part of the theology is handled by the two ministers of St. Andrew's.

### »» **Messy Afternoon**

Messy Church is held on the first Friday of the month. It runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is when adults and teens assist with the actual program. This involves 10 to 14 volunteers to make the program run smoothly. Please let someone know if you are interested in helping. We would like the program to continue for a long time since we feel it has real value.

## Property

In no particular order:

- » 1. The exterior work on the renovation project has now been completed...stucco work on metal doors, painting of much of the stucco plus all the metal and wooden doors, and the replacement of the remaining wire mesh (hopefully the birds will find a new home next year).

A huge thankyou to the Green Team for initiating the idea, to Greg Pallister for leading this entire project, to Bob King and Dennis Ethier for their many hours and to numerous others who pitched in their time and expertise.

- » 2. Vic Bergen and his daughters were very pleased with all of the wonderful work done up at the office level ...spearheaded by Jill Hair and ably assisted by Bob, Dennis, Doug Maas and Hans Haefliger...with the kind donation the family had made in memory of Sue.

- » 3. Jill has been busy doing a whole lot of interior painting etc. Her sense of decorating has made the place a warmer home for everybody and we appreciate that she has gone well above and beyond on many occasions in this past year.



- » 4. Thanks to Bob, Dennis, Lawrence and Jill the work on the auditorium is now completed.
- » 5. We are indebted to Norm Start for his dedication to maintaining the lawn, to Hans for all the wonderful work with plants and shrubs, to the ladies who established the butterfly garden and to the dedicated group who have watered and weeded so conscientiously all season. Collectively these folks have made the grounds of St. Andrew's something we can all be proud of.
- » 6. Thankyou to the ladies of the UCW for their kind donation to the plumbing needs in the kitchen and elsewhere...with a particular thankyou to Sue Hrycan for her leadership.

### Financial Highlights

	Income	Expenses
May	\$28266	\$23305
June	\$18467	\$21304
July	\$16354	\$23670
Year to date	\$149363	\$176637

This is a congregation of doers who do not worry about recognition. So many have simply pitched in whenever asked and been totally supportive at every turn. Well done!

Gary Macdonald



## Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project

After having to postpone the harvest on September 28, the Foodgrains Project has scheduled Saturday, October 5th as its next potential harvest date.

Everyone is welcome to have a pizza lunch and watch the harvest at Noon on that date. Please bring a lawn chair.

To reach the field of swathed canola, please drive east of Lacombe on Highway 12 to the Prentiss Road and turn right. Proceed south approximately 2 miles to Township Road 40-2 and then turn right for 1/2 mile.

We will be watching the weather carefully leading up to October 5, and you can reach Doug Maas at: 403-318-5733 for updates and more information.

## Coming Up...



Our Fresh Start In Faith group begins this Thursday Oct. 3, 7 PM in the youthroom.

### Central Alberta Cluster Gathering Oct. 5, 2024

Community Building Event at Sunnybrook United Church in Red Deer

**Chili Cook-Off for Lunch! Get ready for a fun & friendly chili cook-off!**

Bring your church's best chili entry and compete for a chance to win a Swell prize and, of course, bragging rights! Salads & buns will be provided.



#### Schedule:

9:30 Coffee & Mingle

10:30 Worship

11:00 Community Building & Conversation

12:00 Lunch, Chili Cook-Off, Voting

Central Alberta Cluster Gathering Oct. 5 beginning at 9:30 AM at Sunnybrook United Church.

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to Rilla & Harley Hand as they celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Oct. 3, 2024

Wishing Rilla & Harley Hand a very Happy 70th Anniversary on Oct. 3!



Healing Pathway is offering sessions on the first and third Monday of each month. Please contact Marlene: 403-782-4327 or Pat: 403-598-9310.

## Coming Up...



**Vision Quest 2024**  
**SIGN UP FOR FOCUS GROUPS!**

**Purpose Sessions:**  
Tues. Oct. 8 @ 7 PM & Thurs. Oct. 10 @ 10 AM

**Neighbours Sessions:**  
Mon. Nov. 4 @ 7 PM & Tues. Nov. 5 @ 19 AM

There's still time to sign-up for our Focus Groups! Please contact the office for more info.



**Healing Pathway**

Sessions will be offered on the first and third Monday of the month.  
Please contact Marlene: 403-782-4327 or Pat: 403-598-9310

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**LACOMBE**  
PRIDE SOCIETY  
DRAG  
SHOW

Our panel discussion regarding rental space for regular drag shows will be held on Sunday, Oct. 6 following the service. A light lunch will be provided by Affirm, please have your question cards filled in by the end of the service!



Become a trained volunteer!

THE BROOM TREE  
Cafe

Broom Tree Sisters Program: Become a trained volunteer and offer weekly support to women in need. Please contact Alissa Morrison via the office for more info!



The Monday morning walking group has resumed its saunters in Lacombe and area.

All are welcome to this time of nurturing social, spiritual and physical wellness in nature.

Please contact the office if you'd like more information!

Our Monday Morning Walking Group has started back up! Please contact the office for more info.



**ST. ANDREW'S**  
**SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL**  
**TEAM**

For weekly Sunday School updates, please send your email info to the office!