

WESTMINSTER CHIMES

A NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH, 3025 13TH AVE., REGINA; 306-757-6444

Mother's Day Tea and Bake Sale

Saturday, May 12 is the date of our Mother's Day Tea and Bake Sale. Join us in the Fellowship Hall between the hours of 2:00 to 4:00 pm for a traditional tea (served in our beautiful bone china cups and saucers), fancy sandwiches, dainties and pickles. There will be a table of home baking, a boutique and a book table. Admission is by donation. We invite you to come and bring your friends and family.



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Sunday School Coordinator Update

Welcome to Sunday School 2018

It's been an absolute joy and privilege to work with the youth of Westminster United Church. They are intelligent and thoughtful children that make my job incredibly easy. When I asked the youth what they thought Sunday School was they said crafts, games, food, and discussion. The crafts and discussion are all generally focused on providing relevant context to the stories we read in the bible in the hope of passing on the lessons that the bible has to teach.

One recent event in Sunday School is that we made a new sign with pictures and words that the students associated with Sunday School. The hope is to have all the names of the kids on it. Another recent occurrence was the camp Sunday. While the congregation was fortunate enough to hear about the activities that happen at LBC, the kids and I were having our own session of camp songs and activities around and improvised campfire. A class favourite was "There's a Hole in My Bucket."

There are also some upcoming plans that the congregation should know about. At some point in May there will be a cupcake sale that the Sunday School will run. In addition to this, there some plans for the youth to go on a walk during Sunday School and do a litter pickup now that the weather has turned around. There will be announcements with regard to both these things in early May.

Many thanks for this opportunity,

Kathleen Houston

A Photo Finish



Many folks had the opportunity to have their photos taken for the Pictorial Directory. But we missed some folks and some had to cancel their session. On May 15, we will have another opportunity to take pictures. Please contact Darrell as soon as possible to book a session. You can call 306-757-6444 or email da.reine@sasktel.net to book a time.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

A very dedicated group of women have been gathering for a number of years now to make prayer shawls. If they don't have a shawl on the go they bring other projects that they were working on at the time. We are looking at breaking soon for the summer, as people are busier with families, yard work, traveling and more BUT when we resume in the fall we would certainly welcome some new members to the group. You do not have to be a fabulous knitter, not as fast as a knitting machine. It's a great time of fellowship! The Prayer Shawl Group meets on Thursday mornings at the church from 9:30 - 11:30, or whatever portion fits your schedule.

THE MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry & Personnel (M & P) Committee acts under the guidelines of "The Manual" of the United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We can provide resources and support for the staff and for the congregation. Materials are posted on the bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall.

If members of the congregation have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the M & P Committee, who will recommend action.

Westminster United Church is blessed with staff who are committed to their work. We are most thankful for this work in our congregation.

Presently serving on the committee are: Linda Dodd (convener), Elaine Andreas, Graham Bradley, Marilyn Hadwen, Craig Smith and Terry Wood.

(Adapted from: "Ministry & Personnel Committees: Policy, Procedures, Practices")

Cathedral Village Arts Festival May 26

Friends, once again WUC is participating in the festival on the Saturday of the week of the Festival. Throughout the week WUC will also be a venue for many concerts in the sanctuary. On the Saturday, we will have live entertainment in the sanctuary, the Saskatchewan Network of Art Collecting in the gym and multi-purpose room and because most of the Outreach Task Group is going to be away, Connaught Community School will be hosting the pancake breakfast in the hall.

Since Darrell will be away, Carol Olson and Joylene Campbell are helping to plan and coordinate our day. Volunteers will be needed to:

- host in the Narthex
- host in the booth outside of the church

Please consider being part of this lively and exciting day in the Cathedral neighbourhood by volunteering. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex.

News from the Outreach Task Group

Reconciliation- First Steps on the Journey

The Mohawk words "Akwe Nia'Tetewa:neren" (in English, "All My Relations") were added to The United Church of Canada's crest in 2012, recognizing that we are all connected to each other and all of creation. Over the next year the Outreach Task Group will be looking for ways that we as a congregation can learn more about the work of relationship building with Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Our initial activities include: -

Indian Horse- Let's go to a movie! Based on the novel by Canadian writer Richard Wagamese, this movie centres on Saul Indian Horse, a First Nations boy who survives the residential school system and grows up to become a star hockey player. It follows Saul on his journey to self-awareness and self-acceptance. After we have seen the movie, we will chat about what we have learned following worship on June 3.

The Education of Augie Merasty- copies of this slim autobiographical book will be available to borrow at the church through the Regina Public Library's Book Club service in early September. Our "book club" will convene following church on September 28.



Westminster World Market- Our 4th market will be on June 9 from 10am - 2pm! New folks are planning to participate from Mauritius and Haiti. Our last market on March 24 featured two new countries (Nepal and the Philippines). Vendors at 28 tables sold food and crafts from places as diverse as Brazil and Pakistan. We were featured on both CTV and Global News. More than \$750 was raised through donations at the door for our Refugee Fund.

If you would like to volunteer for this event please contact Sheila Dowling (306-525-3683) or Barbara Wickstrom (306- 7571792).

If you are interested in any (or all) of our projects, please join us!

Sheila Dowling

Westminster Outreach Task Group

Saturday Soup

After taking the summer off Saturday Soup got back into full swing last September. Since then we have served hearty bowls of soup once a month to approximately 50 people each time. We also serve cold meat, cheese and great desserts made by Jean Thomas. On occasion we have had Halloween and Easter treats.

In December we gave each guest a mug with a package of tea and hot chocolate, Christmas candy and a pair of new socks. That was followed in February with a pair of new underwear. The guests greatly appreciate all the gifts, the effort put into make their meal a great lunch time and they tell us we make the best soup, which always helps to flatter the cooks.

We have a great crew that come to help faithfully with the chopping, stirring, serving and joking with the guests. The congregation has been very supportive of our many appeals. The carrots, onions, pasta, cheese and buns have helped keep costs down and we were overwhelmed with your generosity of socks and underwear.

We will be back in the fall to continue this valuable ministry but we will be missing our dessert maker, Jean Thomas, who has decided to retire. Thanks Jean for two years of sweets!

Marilyn Hadwen



Rummage Sales and Westminster United Church - Elaine Andreas

I have been attending Westminster United Church for fifteen plus years, and over this time have watched, twice a year, as massive amounts of goods came in as donations to be sold at either the spring or fall sale. Traditionally, these sales have been organized by the Anniversary Unit, and as a member of that group, I am now involved in organizing these sales.



There have been a few changes over the years, - we no longer accept large pieces of furniture, clothing or sports/exercise equipment. But, by and large, the same routine has been followed; goods came in from time to time and were stored in our 'Rummage Room', and then on the Friday of the sale weekend, an army of volunteers moved the 'stuff' out of storage and into the Fellowship Hall, where another group unpacked, sorted, displayed and priced the articles. The sale didn't begin until Saturday morning and by one o'clock it was over!

This year, because of questions raised by some of the Friday volunteers about the short 'selling' time, we took a risk and opened the doors on Friday from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. We had huge crowds on Friday and took in over \$1900.00! There was some disappointment by the shoppers because we had opted not to sell baking on Friday evening, but it was a very successful evening. On Saturday, however, our crowds were much smaller than usual, so the selling, even of the baking, was slower. And the Coffee Bar had fewer customers, but we still took in over \$1600.00. The profit from the two days was about \$1100.00 more than last year's spring sale, so it was well worth the risk we had taken!

Now the question is, do we continue with the two selling periods or go back to one? Certainly, from a financial point of view, it would seem that we should continue with the Friday sale. But if we do, will the donations of goods continue at the current level so that the tables are not too depleted for the Saturday sale? And, would we have enough baking donated to fill the 'bake table' on Friday as well as on Saturday? And what about volunteers? Many worked Friday morning, and then again at both Friday and Saturday sales, which some found to be very tiring. Are there additional helpers out there?

The Anniversary Unit has asked those who participated to provide feedback, and indeed, we would welcome all comments or suggestions. These are excellent fundraisers, and they will continue, but we want to them to be GREAT!

Lumsden Beach Camp (LBC) New

1) Summer registration is open! Several sessions are already full or nearly full. We would love to have a sellout this summer, so help us by promoting this wonderful camp!

2) We are still searching for a Cook for the summer. Need a self-esteem boost? The most popular person at camp is the Cook. Ideally, we are looking for someone for the entire summer, but if you or someone you know would be available for a week or two that could work really nice. The full posting can be found on our website - www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com

3) We have some fun programming this spring that folks in your congregation may be interested in.

a) Day Camps - May 18 & June 15. We bus campers from Knox-Met in Regina out to the camp for a day full of fun and exploration. Cost is \$45 and this includes lunch and transport.



b) Take Your Grandparent to Camp Day - June 16. LBC staff will lead you and your grandparent through all sorts of camp activities, including canoeing, swimming, archery, art, hikes and more! The activities are most appropriate for children 3 years and older.



5) Banana Sprint - May 6 at 1PM in Wascana Park. The Banana Sprint is similar to other fun runs, except participants will be issued a banana at the beginning of the 3.5 KM course and encouraged to eat their banana in a banana split at the end. There will also be a few camp-themed challenges along the way.

Great for families, work pals, camp lovers...anyone can have a great time in the park supporting Lumsden Beach Camp. Funds raised through the Banana Sprint will go directly towards essential building and site improvements.

Thank you for supporting your United Church Summer Camp! We are incredibly grateful to be a part of the vibrant Wascana Presbytery community. Contact Vicki at 306-539-7772 or info@lumsdenbeachcamp.com if you have any questions about the camp, have a good idea for us, or just to say "hi".

What's Happening!

May 6 - Congregational Thank you Lunch

May 12 - Mother's Day Tea

May 13 - Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday

May 20 - Pentecost Sunday

May 26 - Cathedral Village Arts Festival

May 27 - Conference Annual Meeting - Darrell is away - Lay led service

June 3 - Gospel Sunday

June 9 - World Market

June 17 - Father's Day

June 24 - possible Blanket exercise

July 1 - Pulpit supply - Jan Temple Jones

July 8 or 15 - Communion

July 22 - Pulpit supply - Jan Temple Jones

July 29 - Pulpit Supply - Jan Temple Jones

August 5 - Pulpit Supply - Ken Powers

Weddings, Baptisms, Sympathy

In recent months, we have, through baptism, formally welcomed into the Christian family:

- Katherine Lily Marie Boudreault
- Kate Aria Reeder
- Lillian Denise Hunt

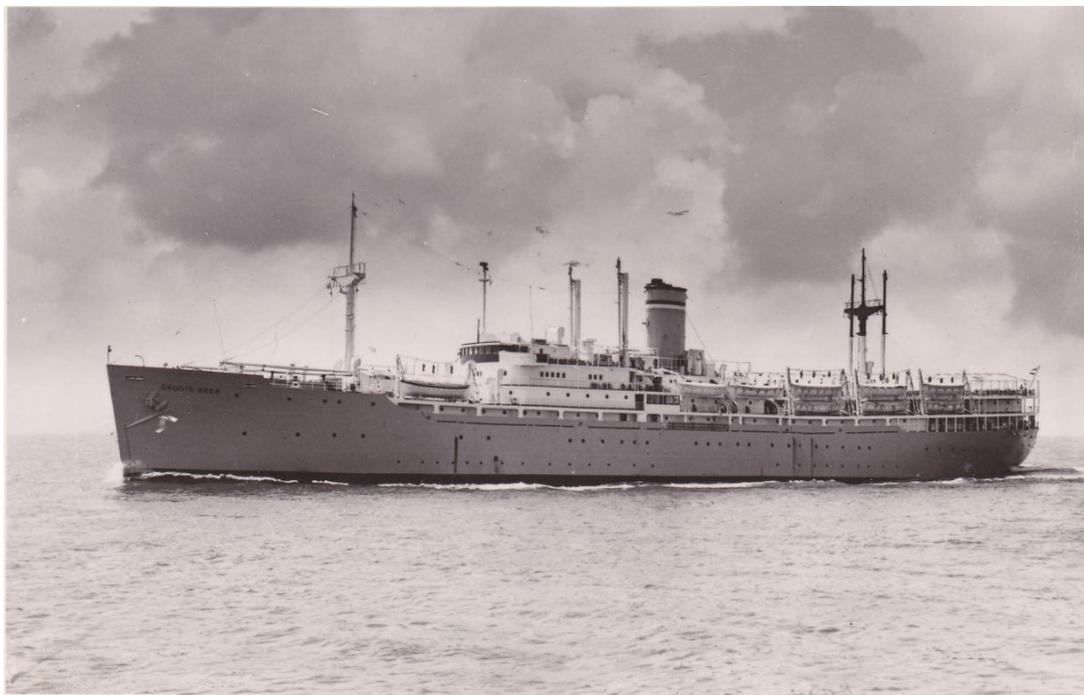
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Our congratulations go out to:  
Tyler Derow & Kristina Tice December 31  
Curtis Berriault & Sarah Henley  
February 17

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We hold in prayer the families whose loved ones we have conducted funerals for:
Charles Bell Margaret Goldstone
Morley McKechnie Kenneth McConnell
Margaret Rowley Phil Russell
Rosemarie Strother-Stewart





SS Groote Beer

Sixty-five years ago.

The SS Groote Beer played an important role in our lives. We set our wedding date when we knew its departure date and it transported us to Canada to an unknown future.

We, Johanna and Dirk Hoogeveen were married in Dirk's hometown Bleiswijk on the 18th of February 1953. As a newly married couple we immigrated on the SS Groote Beer to Canada. As we had no children we were accommodated in adjacent dormitories, one for women and one for men, each accommodating 54 persons.

The ship departed from Rotterdam at 4:30 pm on Thursday the 19th of March and we entered Pier 21 in Halifax at 6:00 pm on Saturday the 28th of March.

We continued by CN immigrant train departing Pier 21 at 1:00 am on Sunday the 29th of March and arrived at Union Station in Regina at 8:15 am on Wednesday the 1st of April.

We had travelled 9508 km, 5248 km by ship and 4260 km by train. The journey lasted 304 hours or just over 12 days and 13 nights.

Dirk found a job on the 1st of April and on Sunday the 5th of April we moved into rooms at 3026-13th Ave, right across from Westminster United Church. We attended WUC regularly starting on the third Sunday of that month.

The RCMP did not have its own chapel then and on Sunday morning two troops of Mounties, in red uniform, would come marching down 13th Ave and the Roman Catholic troop would enter the Cathedral and the Protestant troop would enter Westminster United Church, where they occupied two or three middle front rows. Not only would they give colour to the full church, but they also would add a male choir to the singing. We would sit on the back balcony then.



Dirk and Johanna
Hoogeveen on
their 65th Wedding
Anniversary

The Bully In The Building – Bullying Workshop

Westminster had the role of hosting this workshop in March with the Anniversary Unit catering lunch and snacks. Three people from WUC attended: Graham Bradley, Marilyn Hadwen and Darrell Reine.

It was a workshop for M&P Committee members, Pastoral Charge Governance Leaders, and Ministry Personnel. The Workshop Description: Most people would believe that in the Church we must love all people, regardless of their personality type. In reality, our strength is quickly drained when we encounter relationships that are tough and involve a bullying dynamic. Is there a way to manage these relationships well? What does love for our neighbour look like when we encounter actions that constitute bullying? What example has Jesus set for us in this regard? This workshop addressed these themes with candour and grace. Included: an overview of the new UCC Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy, July 2017. The Workshop Facilitator was Betty Pries, who is a highly regarded Conflict, Change, and Leadership Specialist with more than 20 years' experience coaching, mediating, training, and consulting.

Spring has finally sprung!

Spring has finally sprung in Regina and area. As the grass pokes out of the dry ground, the leaves bud out from dead looking branches, the birds return to nest, you can sense this new growth, this time of arrival, this resurrection of Mother Earth in our part of the world. If you are fortunate like me to live near some water, in my case a storm channel, you may have ducks or geese that come back each year to nest.

From Nancy Wood, Shaman's Circle: *Listen! In the earth, the seeds are stirring and making noise, like the birds whose song has been silenced by winter. Now the snow is being devoured by sun, our leader, and in the branches, the persistence of our prayers is bringing the birds to life.*

The earth is awaking and like this awaking, so should be our weary souls after this long winter. We travelled through the dirge of Lent and came alive with the Resurrection story bringing us into a time of new life, hope and courage.

In the heart's springtime, the inner self awakens. Seeds of growth, hidden in the midst of winter's bleakness, germinate and sprout. That which has been longed for and greatly is desired is gradually brought forth and heralded with gladness. Visions, dreams, and yearning for the future unfold. The gray moods, the frozen love, the sorrow and grief, the overwhelming angst, the dread and depression, all this slowly slips away as trust and enthusiasm rejuvenate the wintered spirit. Like the springtime land, so the inner land is thawed and re-energized. A sense of loving and being loved warms the interior places that we cold and dormant in the wintertime. (Joyce Rupp)



Like the earth, I hope we continue to thrive as we have been. Westminster has seen an increase in Sunday attendance, in events and we have new people being part of the ministry here. This excites me! As the Church grapples with the changing dynamics of society and one by one, congregations are closing, Westminster is sprouting new leaves.

Together, let us continue this trend so that we can continue to welcome, care for and reach out into the world as Christ called us to. With open hearts and arms, we can be a blessing to those in our midst and those out beyond the doors of the church.

May you delight in the spring and continue to know that God walks with you on this journey!

Darrell

Report from Council - From the Eyes of the Chair

When I was asked to submit a report from Council for this newsletter it was suggested that I could write about the highlights of what Council has been doing for the past few months. I thought about that for a bit and half-jokingly responded that there were NO highlights. Council's work over the past few months has been fairly hum drum, dealing with the day-to-day affairs of Westminster with no big things that stood out - in my mind at least.

So that's my report - business as usual, same again - same again, no news is good news!
HaHa

Then I reflected a bit more on what I had jokingly said. And two more notions came to mind:

First I thought, no news really IS good news. This means that things are going along fairly well at Westminster. If Council has no fusses, controversies or big issues to deal with then it seems to me that there probably aren't any - at this time at least - and that IS good news. Overall, Westminster is a happy, stable, productive, faith filled, hope driven congregation of good souls. It doesn't get much better than that! To tweak the Gershwin brother's words 'We got starlight, we got sweet dreams, we got each other. Who could ask for anything more?'

Secondly I thought, it's not really true that its been all day-to-day and there are no highlights to report. Here are a couple:

We have two sexual abuse officers here at Westminster. They are Arlee Deschene and Susan Graham. Maybe you didn't know we have sexual abuse officers - to me, not knowing this could be an indication of good things. I sincerely hope, and I know Arlee and Susan hope, that the need to call upon them in their roles of sexual abuse officers never, ever arises at Westminster.

Nevertheless, Arlee and Susan recently attended a workshop in Saskatoon to better understand their roles and what they would need to do in the event they were called upon in that role. The official position of the United Church of Canada, and by extension Westminster, is: *We will not tolerate and will seek to eradicate any behaviour by our members, lay and ministry, adherents or employees that constitutes sexual misconduct or child abuse.*

On behalf of Council I would like to thank Arlee and Susan for taking on the role of sexual abuse officers, and for taking some of their personal time and trouble to attend this workshop in Saskatoon. And I would like to re-emphasize my hope that we never have cause to call upon them in that role. But I am very thankful that we have a process and people who understand it and could follow it - God forbid, should we need to.

Another piece of good news is that Council recently had the pleasure to nominate Kathy Tice as Chair of the Worship Committee. Worship Committee is responsible, through collaborative

work with the minister and staff, to ensure services and sacraments are planned, prepared and delivered so that they are meaningful and appropriate in the context of the theology and practise of the United Church of Canada. And although the Worship Committee has been without a formal Chair for a couple of years, Bev McDougald has graciously and capably fulfilled that role on an acting basis - and on behalf of Council I would like to thank Bev for all she has done and continues to do on Worship Committee and in many other ways around Westminster.

Along with Bev, Darline Artemchuk, Velda Back, Doug Bradford and Jordana Buchan have served many years on Worship Committee. Their faith filled dedication, along with our minister and staff has ensured our worship experiences are the best we can humanly achieve. And Council, and I am sure all of us, look forward to the ways that we will benefit from the life experiences, faith background and humble willingness to serve that Kathy Tice and two other newly nominated members to Worship Committee - Audrey Forrest and Clark Schaufele - bring.

To sum up and thinking back to my initial jokingly made comment that there isn't much to report - what I have reported seems to prove the benefit of taking time and standing back from the forest. In this case stepping back from what looks like every other day at Westminster and realizing there are a lot of small things that make the whole picture. A forest is made of many trees - our Westminster forest has many deeply rooted, strong trees!

Thank You

Dan Hunt

