

Sundre United Church

June Newsletter



Greetings Friends!

I imagine some of you read the article that was in our county newspaper on May 13, entitled “United Church mulls changes.” It was written by columnist Frank Dabbs, and reflected a rather misleading bit of information about what the United Church is up to in these changing times. The church is indeed in a process of discernment around how we continue to serve the world given the current realities of economics, an aging demographic and decreasing membership. The article Dabbs wrote, however, made it sound like we’re making plans to close our doors. I did write a letter to the editor of the Mountain View Gazette, in hopes that I might be able to shed some light on this matter, but it did not get published. I offer it below, and invite you to share it with friends and neighbours.

Dear Mr. Singleton:

I must express my sadness that someone who claims to be a researcher would write such a commentary without doing the research required to verify the statements made. The United Church is alive and well. Yes we are considering changes. What major denomination in our country isn’t? The reality is, all aspects of life in Canada are changing, and the church needs to be responsive to a changing society.

To quote a recent document produced by the Comprehensive Review Task Group of the United Church of Canada, “It is time to seek new ways of serving God and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our changing world.” (Fishing From The Other Side: Seeking the Wisdom of Presbyteries,

Unionization of clergy is not under consideration by our denominational body. As Mr. Dabbs himself noted, elimination of presbyteries and conferences is indeed under consideration, however Dabbs neglects to point out that another model of governance is being proposed that will continue to do the work of those two governance bodies in new and different ways. All of this, it is important to note, is in the proposal stage. No decisions have yet been made.

Mr. Dabbs also compares the proposed actions of The United Church of Canada to actions taken in the corporate world. I am happy to say that we are not a corporation, but a church denomination, so such a comparison is misleading at best. There is a great deal of visioning work being done to look at how to repurpose some of the properties of the United Church, so that they will continue to be places of mission and ministry.

The United Church of Canada has indeed opened it's doors. This is because we believe that all people are beloved children of God, equally deserving of opportunities to serve, to be served, and to receive the gift of God's love and grace. I for one am proud of my church and its open doors.

Other denominations in our country are in various places on the journey of welcoming and acceptance of diversity. We, as the United Church, are in a position to offer support and experience to our neighbours as they discern their future in this regard.

Just recently this paper carried an article that covered the new shared ministry arrangement between Sundre and Olds United Churches. That piece was written very positively, and conveyed very well the energy and enthusiasm of two congregations working together to serve God in this area in new ways. We are just one example of a national church – formed by an act of parliament – that is indeed alive and well, and seeking new ways to live as disciples of Christ.

Sincerely,

Rev. Tammy Allan



What's new?

February 20, 2014 – Olds and Sundre United churches signed a Memorandum of Agreement for a Shared Ministry trial until December 31, 2014. Evaluations will occur in June and October.

March 9, 2014 – Beginning of Shared Ministry with Olds United – welcome to Rev Tammy Allan

March 13, 2014 – Welcome to Kathy Taylor, Office Administrator. The office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

New Treasurer: Pat Toone

Thanks to Deb Ellithorpe for her 10 years of assisting with bookkeeping functions for the Board and 7 years as Office Administrator.

Joint Ministry and Personnel Committee meets monthly to review the workload and hours of the Minister and the Office Administrators. This committee has initiated purchasing of a comprehensive financial program and multi-use data base called Powerchurch for each church. Each of the Administrators is inputting information into the program and training will commence on June 3. Sundre M & P members are Joyce Wicks and Cate Campkin.

Joint Worship and Christian Life committee meets monthly to plan worship services with Tammy. Tammy creates the service for both churches and our Office Administrator prints this onto our Bulletins plus she adds pertinent announcements.

Sundre Worship committee members are Cheri Jahnke and Jean Dickman.

New phoning committee members are Pat Anderson, Karen Young, Julie Sandilands, Gwen Regehr and Jean Dickman who phone individuals on the contact list. Please notify the Church Office (638-4428) of any new phone numbers, addresses and e-mail address.

Membership committee consists of Marilyn Davis, Deb Ellithorpe and Verity Pickering. Rev Tammy Allan is offering membership classes soon. This is an opportunity to learn more about the United Church denomination and to explore deeper faith issues. Now is also the time to request a transfer of your membership from your former church to Sundre United.

Dishwasher – new Bosch - under the counter model donated by Deb Ellithorpe with appreciation. After functions, dirty dishes may be placed in the dishwasher and they will be washed during Office hours for supervision of operation.

Grief Recovery Method – Bev Hallett, Registered Social Worker – Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Learn how to move beyond loss through divorce, death, major financial changes, moving away ,etc.

Contact Bev at 638-4515

Camp Kasota East donations are gratefully collected for the month of May

Some Sundre members have enjoyed sharing time at Olds United special events: April 25 – Spuds, splits and auction and May 1, UCW fashion show from Craig’s Fashions.

Watch for updates ongoing on the Web site: www.sundreunited.ca

What’s Planned – 3 month service plan (Post on your fridge)

June 1 – **10:00am** - Christian Motorcycle Association -Bring Pot Luck for 8 – 10 servings.

June 8 – 1:30pm- Pentecost Sunday – Youth focus

June 15- 1:30pm - Father’s Day (take Dad out for brunch prior to church!)



June 22- 1:30pm (Sundre Rodeo – western wear optional)
June 29- 1:30pm - Canada Day long weekend
July 6 - 10:00am - hosting Olds, Didsbury and Bowden - Community Choir
July 13 – 1:30pm
July 20 –10:00am - hosted by Olds United (no church service at Sundre)
July 27 – 1:30pm – Pulpit Supply (Tammy on vacation)
August 3-1:30pm –Pulpit Supply (Tammy on vacation)

*First evaluation of the Shared ministry is occurring immediately. Forms are being distributed at church or request to fill one in by contacting Joyce Wicks at 638-3962

The Church Board will be evaluating the model according to financial givings: increase of Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) and general givings; attendance at services and special events and overall volunteering to support the Vision and Mission of Sundre United.

Financial standings from January 1 – March 30, 2014: Revenues - \$14850, Expenditures - \$15,678

Net: (-\$829)almost balanced budget due to decreased costs of Pulpit Supply and shared ministry costs in March.

One year ago - March 31, 2013, the net deficit was (-\$10,925)

Ladies' coffee gatherings at Foothills Lodge: Wednesdays – 2:00pm– June 11, July 9 and August 13.

Help Wanted:

1. Sparks, Brownies and Guides desperately need volunteer leaders to continue meeting in the fall. Please call Jenna Grant to offer your assistance for this valuable program – 638-5777
2. Four (4) volunteers to prepare an ice cream size container of chili for Camp Kasota East fundraiser at the Red Deer Western Exhibition. Call Etta to offer help: 638-8276
3. Volunteers for Special Events, Property & Maintenance Committee and Board Chair.
4. Pastoral Care requests – Please call Kathy at church 638-4428 to notify of anyone being in hospital, ill at home, shut-in, surgery or any pastoral care concern.

Having trouble adapting to a 1:30pm service – here's some suggestions:

Sleep in, enjoy leisurely breakfast, catch up on some reading, have some reflective time and plan the coming week, go out for brunch, stay overnight in the city after a Saturday night concert, write cards to family, friends, shut-ins, do the farm chores, prepare supper in the crock pot & invite someone to supper, go golfing or do some gardening in the morning, go camping on Friday and return at noon on Sunday, have an early lunch and squeeze in a nap, bring your weekend quests to church with you – so many possibilities for Sunday morning.

After service, enjoy fellowship with others, attend a community function, visit someone in the Hospital, Lodge, or other shut-ins, and invite someone for supper. **Vision: Believing-Caring -Sharing**

