

Mission Statement

St. Andrew's United Church strives to be a caring, Christian community which nurtures love of God and neighbor through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service.

Vision

Inspired by the Spirit of Christ, St. Andrew's United Church is to be an inviting, welcoming, and engaging Community of faith.

Values

- Affirming
- Caring
- Engaging
- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Humour
- Music

Outcomes

St. Andrew's encourages freedom of worship. The true strength of our congregation is the hospitality and passion in caring for one another in the way Jesus commanded us to do.

We seek justice for all –giving a voice to others so that they may be heard.

At St. Andrew's we seek and promote respect in creation. We find beauty in this life and the ever after.

This heritage building is a warm, inviting place for all who wish to gather for worship and community activities.

It is a ministry to the whole community.

Contents

AGENDA	4
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes.....	6
ST. ANDREW’S HOLY MANNERS.....	10
Committee List 2019.....	11
Organizational Chart	12
Message from your Board Chair	13
2019 Financial Report	15
Transition Team Report	16
Ministers’ Reports.....	17
Reverend Sarah Fanning	17
Reverend Barbara Lieurance.....	19
Committee Reports.....	21
Ministry and Personnel (M & P) Committee.....	21
Circles of Care & Congregational Life 2019.....	23
Christian Development Committee	24
MESSY CHURCH.....	26
KASOTA EAST CAMP,.....	28
Property committee.....	30
Outreach	33
Lacombe & District Volunteer Link	33
LiRR - Being Good Relations Circle, Yearly Report 2019.....	34
CENTRAL ALBERTA FOODGRAINS PROJECT	36
Healing Pathway Group	37
Friends of Guatemala (aka FRoGs).....	38
Lacombe Community Refugee Effort.....	39
Affirm St. Andrew’s	40
UCW	42
UCW Central.....	42
UCW Unit 2.....	43
UCW, Unit #1.....	44
LEGACY FUND.....	45
Church Statistics for 2019	46

Notes/Questions:

-

AGENDA

St. Andrews's United Church, Lacombe, AB

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – January 26, 2020

(Please submit all motions for this meeting to the secretary so that the correct wording is used for the minutes)

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Welcome**
- 3. Voting**
 - a. Motion: All present, members and adherents included, have the right to vote except on specific motions as indicated before hand.
- 4. Holy Manners**
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Motion to approve January 26, 2020 Agenda
- 6. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Motion to approve January 27, 2019 Minutes
- 7. Business Arising from January 27, 2019 Minutes**
 - a. Recap of two special congregational meetings
- 8. Review of the 2019 Annual Reports**
 - a. Motion to receive all reports for information
- 9. New Business**
 - a. Membership Policy
 - b. Stewardship committee
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Internal examiner
 - e. 2020 Budget
 - f. Legacy Fund Proposals – disbursement of interest & 50% of donations
 - i. Motion to approve Congregation portion (40%)
 - ii. Motion to approve Community (30%) and International portion (30%)
 - iii. Membership of legacy fund
 - g. Fee Schedule
- 10. Elections**
 - a. Presentation of committees and vacancies.

- b. Nominations from the floor for vacancies. 3 positions – Chair, Vice Chair and Christian Development Representative.
- c. Trustees for 2019: Board Chairperson, Regional Representative, Chairperson of Finance, Chairperson of Property
- d. Volunteer Link Representative – Doug Maas
- e. Motion to destroy ballots (if required)

11. For Information

- a. Members of the M&P Team (appointed by Board): Barry Brower, Sandra Smith-Bernatsky, Jim Dixon
- b. KEC Champion: Madeline Hendrickson

12. Announcements & Courtesies

13. Closing

14. Adjournment

(Please submit all motions for this meeting to the secretary so that the correct wording is used for the minutes)

**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe AB.**

Sunday, January 27, 2019

St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe, AB.

St. Andrew's United Church Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 27, 2019 following a soup luncheon offered by the Outreach Team. There were 53 in attendance. See list attached. Jane Wilkinson took the minutes.

Opening Prayer – Marco Ste-Marie, Nancy Colton and Barbara Lieurance lead us in the opening prayer.

Welcome – Karen Yakimishyn – there were three documents for the meeting: Annual Reports, Annual Financial Report, and 2019 Budget.

Voting

A1/2019 Motion to approve that all present, adherents, and members be given the right to vote (members only vote on this motion). (Ko Bruning, Teri Lynn Amundson. Carried)

Report to the Board – Karen Yakimishyn read her report to the Board.

Approval of Agenda

Two changes to the agenda – we will need to vote in Hans Haefliger as the Financial Committee Rep and remove Madeline Hendrickson as Camp Kasota Rep.

A2/2019 Motion to approve January 27, 2019 Agenda with the two revisions above. (Sandy MacDonald, Ko Bruning. Carried)

Approval of Minutes

A3/2019 Motion to approve January 28, 2018 minutes. (Pat Crozier, Tilly Meyer. Carried)

Business Arising from January 28, 2018 minutes – None

Review of the 2018 Annual Reports

A4/2019 Motion to receive all reports for information. (Donnie Tafts, Sandra Smith-Bernatsky. Carried.)

Financial Report for 2018 discussion – Ko Bruning presented.

There was a deficit last year of \$64,833. Discussion on expenses and contributions for 2018.

New Business

- a. New Organization of the United Church of Canada – Nancy Colton spoke to the report in the Annual Reports for 2018.
- b. 2019 Budget. The investment income and rental figures were accidentally switched. Should read \$3300 for investment income, and \$16,000 for rental income. Although contributions were lower in 2018 307,718, the projected income shows a similar number for 2019 (\$312,000)

Discussion – Byron Mickelson. Most errors in the reporting were made earlier in the year before the present bookkeeper began. Lack of training for the new bookkeeper likely played a part as well.

Edwin Woodrow thanked Byron Mickelson for all of his hard work and dedication to auditing and assisting with the finances.

Bob Settle reported that the church has done historically well.

Lawrence Hrycan reminded us that our Vision, Mission and Philosophy is what we are all about.

A5/2019 Motion – To defer a decision on the 2019 budget until March 24, when the new budget can be presented to the congregation – (Donnie Tafts, Tilly Meyer. Carried.)

A6/2019 Motion – That the budget presented on March 24 be a balanced budget. Discussion – by balanced budget it was meant that there would be no deficit. –(Doris Thesenvitz, Tilly Meyer). One opposed. Carried

A7/2019 Motion – To use the existing 2019 budget in the interim. (Tilly Meyer, Pat Crozier. Two opposed. Carried.)

Legacy Fund

A8/2019 Motion – To designate the \$440 Congregational portion to purchasing an under the sink water heater for the kitchen. (Doug Maas, Tilly Meyer, Carried).

A9/2019 Motion – To designate the \$330 Lacombe community portion to the FCSS Benevolent Fund. (Doug Maas, Geke Bruning. Carried)

A10/2019 Motion – To designate the \$330 World Community portion to Mission and Service. (Bob Settle, Doug Maas, Carried.)

Election

- a. Committees and vacancies as outlined in the Annual Report – need to make the following changes.
 - Add Shelley May Lloyd to the worship committee
 - Remove Rhonda Easton from Congregational LifeL and add Barbara Lieurance
 - Add Regional Representative Rick Lawrence

- b. Nominations from the floor

A11/2019 Motion to re-appoint Jurjan Dunnewind as Property Team rep. Marg Woodrow, Dayton Thesenvitz.

A12/2019 Motion to appoint Sherrill Moore as Outreach Rep. Howard Woodrow...Declined.

A13/2019 Motion to appoint Doug Maas as Outreach Rep. Rhona Thacker.....Declined.

Outreach position remains open.

A14/2019 Motion to appoint Hans Haefliger as Finance Rep. Ko Bruning, Tilly Meyer. Carried.

A15/2019 Motion to re-appoint Teri Lynn Amundson as Christian Development rep. Pat Crozier, Tilly Meyer. Carried

A16/2019 Motion to appoint Karen Yakimishyn to a second term as Chair. Darryl Langille, Tilly Meyer. Carried. Accepted

c.A17/2019 Motion to appoint Trustees – Karen Yakimishyn, Hans Haefliger, Jurjan Dunnewind, Rick Lawrence –(Darryl Langille, Donnie Tafts second. Carried.)

d.A18/2019 Motion to re-appoint Doug Maas as Volunteer Link rep. Bob Settle, Geke Bruning second. Carried. Accepted

e.A19/2019 Motion to re-appoint Byron Mickelson as Internal Auditor. Donna Pierson.....Howard Woodrow second.

2019 Board

Chair - Karen Yakimishyn

Worship - Jane Wilkinson

Property – Jurjan Dunnewind

Congregational Life – Tilly Meyer

Christian Development – Teri Lynn Amundson

Outreach – Vacant

Regional Rep. – Rick Lawrence

Finance – Hans Haefliger

M & P - Barry Brouwer

UCW - Rhona Thacker

The next board meeting will be one week earlier – February 5, 2019

For Information

Members of the M & P Team (appointed by the Board): Barry Brouwer, Dennis Ethier, Sandra Smith-Bernatsky, Winnie Settle, Christy Wyse, Lawrence Hrycan.

Kasota East Camp Representative: Angela Wymann-Richter

Announcements and Courtesies

- a. Howard Woodrow thanked the Board and all the volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment to St. Andrew's.
- b. Karen thanked those that organized the soup luncheon and all those who have supported her this year.

Closing Prayer – Marco Ste-Marie, Barbara Lieurance, Karen Yakimishyn

Adjournment 3:00 p.m.

ST. ANDREW'S HOLY MANNERS¹

We acknowledge that we come together as brothers and sisters in the One Body of Christ. When we remember that Christ is in our midst, and within each of us, it is easier to behave —with compassion, openness and love with honest dialogue and healthy boundaries.

Confidentiality: What's said in the group stays in the group unless there is full agreement and permission to share a piece of information. There may be things shared or learned that might help a broader audience. If so, obtain consensus for ways this information might be shared without violating the safety or privacy of any group member.

Respect one another: "Disagree without being disagreeable." Acknowledge the other person's point of view. Avoid hurtful comments or tone of voice. We can disagree and still remain friends.

Truly Listen: Sometimes the hardest thing to do is simply listen to a person without already thinking of what you are going to say back before they even finish. Confirm that you heard correctly before responding.

Be more committed to relationships than to "winning" or being "right." Stay open in your sharing and receiving. It is hard to have true dialogue with people whose whole goal is to prove their point or win their agenda.

When tension and misunderstanding arise, taking a break to cool down, asking or receiving forgiveness may all be appropriate strategies.

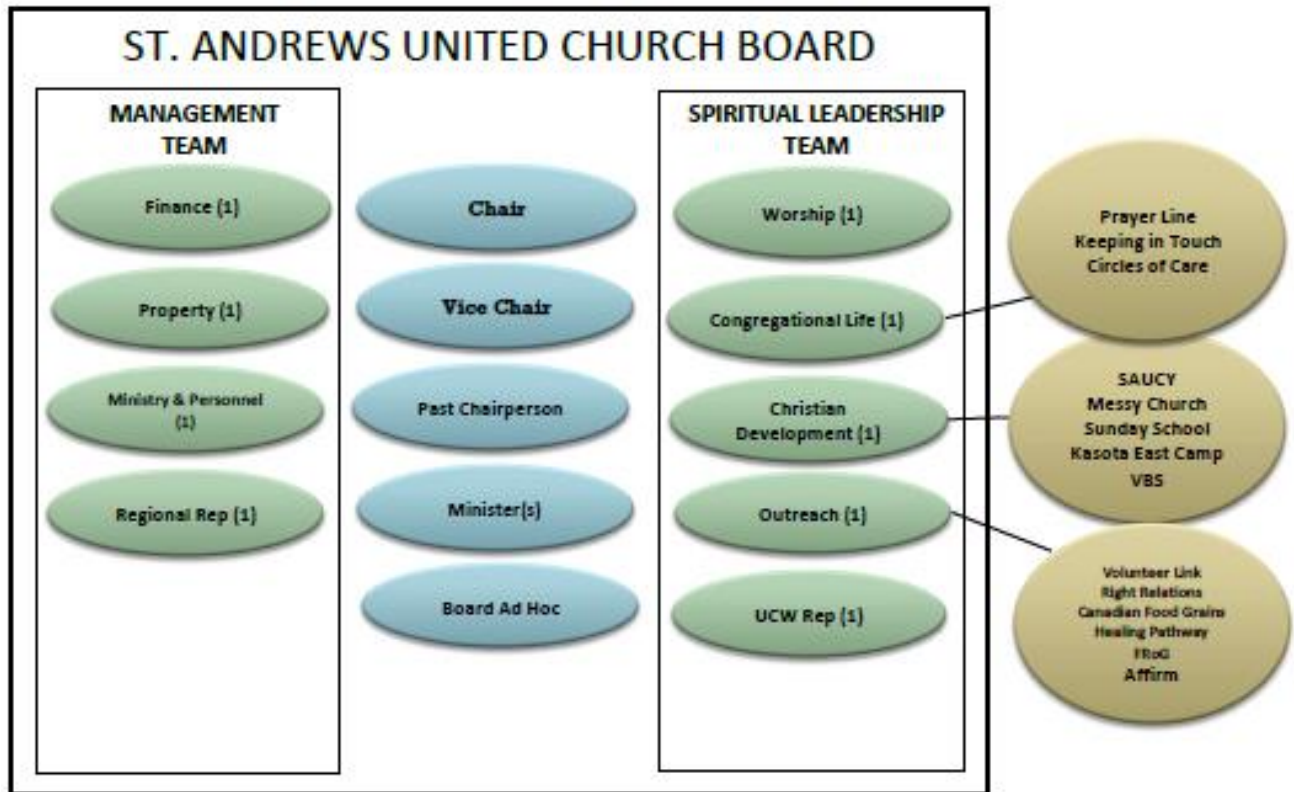
Hurtful or personal attack is not acceptable under any circumstances. When destructive behavior is discovered, support and help should be offered as appropriate. A person who persists in not honoring the Holy Manners agreement needs to be asked, with grace, to leave the group.

¹ [http://www.ccn.org/Justice Commission/Holy Manners for group process 8-14.pdf](http://www.ccn.org/Justice_Commission/Holy_Manners_for_group_process_8-14.pdf)

Committee List 2019

	Board Rep (Year elected/Term)	Team Members
Chairperson	Karen Yakimishyn (2018/2)	
Vice Chairperson	Monique Mickelson (2019/1)	
Past Chairperson	Vacant	
Minister(s)	Rev. Sarah Fanning	Rev. Barbara Lieurance
Office Staff	Barry Brouwer (2016/4)	
Management Team		
Regional Rep (1)	Lawrence Hrycan	N/A
Finance (1)	Hans Haefliger (2019/1)	Byron Mickelson, Linda Hupplescheuser
Property (1)	Jurjan Dunnewind (2016/4)	
Ministry & Personnel (1)	Barry Brouwer (2016/4)	Vacant - Building staff Sandra Smith-Bernatsky (2015/5) - Barbara Christie Wyse (2017/3) - Office Staff
Spiritual Leadership Team		
UCW Rep (1)	Rhona Thacker (2018/2)	
Outreach (1)	Doug Maas (2019/1)	Bob Settle Sherill O'Muir Tom Crozier Donnie Tafts
Christian Development (1)	Teri Lynn Amundson (2011/8)	Alida Burnard, Dustin Butterfield, Sherri O'Muir, Henk Kassies Annerie Dunnewind
Congregational Life (1)	Tilly Meyer (2017/3)	Doris Thesenvitz Tilly Meyer
Worship (1)	Jane Wilkinson (2017/3)	Pat Crozier, Shelley May Lloyd, Jane Wilkinson, Rev. Sarah Fanning

Organizational Chart



Message from your Board Chair

It has been a very reflective year for St. Andrew's. Much has happened and we see ourselves on a path that was not truly anticipated a year ago. Through the Intentional Interim Ministry that we find ourselves in at this time, we have been challenged to find our own personal why. Why church and why St. Andrew's?

My why began as tradition. It was part of my new start with a new family with strong ties to the church. Over time it has become much more to me than that. After these two years of chairing the board, the one thing that I am clearer than ever about, is my why today. It has evolved to be less about tradition and more about unconditional love for all. At St. Andrew's I have a community that I share a perspective of faith with and feel that I belong on my own merit.

My wish for all of you is that through this time of transition and reflection you can all rediscover or redefine your why. And most of all I hope that your why can be found within the community at St. Andrew's.

Thank you for the tremendous support that I have received and for the opportunity you have given me to give back to this community of faith.

The path forward will need to be respectful of the why's and will need to be a community that can sustain the ever-present changes that we see in our society.

Sincerely yours,
Karen Yakimishyn
Board Chair

Update regarding the painting of the steps

When we became an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada back in 2012, it was hoped that the work that was done through our discernment period, leading up to this congregational decision, would be taken on by our various groups and committees within the congregation.

However, there were several instances during 2019 that led our Affirm committee to reengage in this work. They brought a motion to the Board in June of 2019, asking for the Board support to paint a temporary rainbow on the steps leading to the church, to be done in time for Central Alberta Pride Week in August of 2019.

This rainbow was in keeping with the broader objectives behind being an Affirming Ministry, of living out this core value in a way that is Public, Intentional and Explicit (P.I.E.) and is a widely used approach to demonstrating PIE throughout the United Church community.

The paint was donated to us by Absolute Custom Designs in Lacombe. It is an interior latex paint by PARA Paints which was intended to fade over time.

The decision by the Board to support this welcoming statement has resulted in conversations within the church that presented many different perspectives on how we should publicly show our inclusivity.

The board has heard those concerns, particularly ones about safety and the impact on our historical building status. We have contacted Occupational Health and Safety and the Alberta Safety Council for input. We were provided with some suggestion to minimize the visual impact and informed us that as there was an alternative entrance this is not an OHS issue. It was also determined that there was no impact on our status as a historical building as the painting was not on the actual structure.

Discussion regarding ways that we can be public about who we are will be part of the discussions through the transition team conversations as we continue to build our community of faith profile in anticipation of calling a new minister.

As well the board will be revisiting the painted steps in the spring. As the paint fades, we will be working with the Affirm committee to look at alternatives to that can fulfill our commitment to be public about our inclusiveness

The Board of St. Andrew's

2019 Financial Report

2019 was a tumultuous year for St. Andrew's United Church. Our financial highlights for 2019 started with a budget in January 2019 being rejected by the congregation. At the 2019 AGM a recommendation was made for a budget review committee to be created with the intention of developing a revised budget which would be presented to the congregation in March 2019. The revised budget was passed with the provision that there would be a September congregation meeting to review and discuss the financial results to that date. Shortly after the March congregational meeting both ministers resigned with an end date of June 30, 2019. Our Intentional Interim Minister joined our Community of Faith on July 1, 2019 with a two-year commitment. All of this activity in the first half of 2019 had a big impact on our financial results with the overall effect of a reduction in wage expenses and many committees cutting back on their spending.

Some of the financial highlights from 2019 are:

- St. Andrew's posted a net income of \$26,235 for 2019. While we fell short in our projected income the reduction in wages and a general 'tightening of belts' more than offset the revenue shortfall. As well, our income was bolstered by a \$4,079.25 donation from UCW #2 for the purchase of the chair storage room in the auditorium. This is a departure from past UCW funded capital building improvements when they just occurred without being recorded in the accounting records.
- In 2019 there were various fundraising events in support of the church.

○ Mexican Fiesta	\$1,830.00
○ Garage Sale	1,333.55
○ Pie Sale	617.35
○ Cornwell Concert	1,125.10
○ Shrove Tuesday	<u>1,068.46</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$5,974.46</u>
- In accordance with Canada Revenue Agency and United Church of Canada policy regarding churches and non-profit organizations we are now recording materially valued building improvements into the Balance Sheet of St. Andrew's. As such, in 2019 two such purchases were made and recorded:

○ Chair storage room	\$ 3,982.13
○ New vinyl flooring	<u>31,164.07</u>
	<u>\$35,146.20</u>

 - This is a departure from past accounting practices however one that we must adhere to.
- All expenses were reasonable and in line with the amended 2019 budget.

Respectfully submitted by the Finance Committee – January 17, 2020

Transition Team Report

January 2020

Our responsibility as the transition team is to lead our community of faith through this time of transition. Our team has grown since we first formed in June and we now feel we have a better representation of the congregation. Any questions or concerns that arise through this process can be discussed with anyone of our members.

The roles of the team can be summarized as the following:

To the governing body: provide information, clarification, and recommendations.

To the intentional interim minister: give interpretation, insight, accompaniment, and support

To the community of faith: offer leadership that challenges, reassures, encourages risk, and assists with making the necessary changes to move on in its ministry.

Over the past few months we have been exploring the culture and dynamics of our community of faith through conversations with committees and fireside chats with the congregation. We will continue this exploration over the next few months as we work towards developing a community of faith profile.

Opportunity to provide input in the final Community of Profile will occur in the late fall with the intent to finalize it by January 2021. The Profile will serve as a critical piece of finding the right fit for our next minister.

We would like to thank all of those who have been engaged in our process. Your participation and willingness to share your stories and perspectives makes this a very rewarding task. The passion and commitment that the people of St. Andrew's have for this community is one of the greatest strengths we have.

Thank you from the Transition team

Ko Bruning

Doug Maas

Tom Waddell

Monique Mickelson

Karen Yakimishyn

Pat Crozier

Sarah Fanning

Bob Settle

Ministers' Reports

Reverend Sarah Fanning

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12, ESV)

These words by Paul are less familiar to us than the words about love that come before and after them from 1 Corinthians 13. Yet they are the words that I chose as the reading at our covenanting service in October of 2019, for they convey the sense of what I believe my role is with St. Andrew's United Church as your Intentional Interim Minister (IIM). My goal as your IIM is to work with you, asking questions and holding up a mirror to help us see ourselves as a community of faith, and help us discern together what God is calling us to do.

As a congregation, you set some goals for this interim period, mainly around identity, communication, and fostering change. Some of the highlights of the work we have done together in the last six months are:

- Getting to know our Board members, as well as the members of the Transition Team, and helping to provide resources, education, and support to them about what Intentional Interim Ministry is, as well as what our hopes and goals are for our time together in the next 18 months. Thank you to those who have served on our Board over the last while whose term is done, thank you to those who are continuing in their role, and thank you to those who will be joining. Your gifts and your service to our community of faith are greatly appreciated!
- Meeting with each of the congregational committees to talk about roles and responsibilities.
- Helping the board navigate through some of the positive and negative feedback around the painting of the steps.
- Fireside Chats focussed on helping us connect with one another, hear one another's stories, and begin to understand why this community of faith is important to us, and why we feel connected to it.
- Sermon series on the parables in Luke, focussed on finding ourselves in the stories.
- Advent candle-lighting series based on Mr. Rogers' Neighbourhood and the themes of welcome and being neighbours.
- I had the privilege of presiding at nine funerals, not only for people connected with our congregation, but also for our wider community (two of these funerals were in Olds, covering for their minister while she was on sabbatical, and one was in Innisfail while they were without a minister). Funerals are one of the many ways that this congregation lives out its mission of being a caring community to families in times of need.
- Working with Barbara to provide pastoral care to those in need. Much of my pastoral care time has been spent with funeral families, as well as a few families in crisis. I am greatly appreciative of Barbara's time and energy that she gives to our seniors, and how this role enables me to focus on my role as your IIM.

Looking ahead to our time together in 2020, the Transition Team will be hosting a number of Friday Fun Nights to continue to help foster connections with one another, and with our wider community. There is a book study planned for Lent (March 2020), as well as a sermon series based on the Mr. Rogers' Movie, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood*. We will continue to work on our goals around mission and ministry, as well as finding healthier ways to communicate and deal with conflict. It is hoped that by summer of 2020, the Transition Team will have a better glimpse in the mirror of who we are as a community of faith, so that in the fall of 2020, we can begin to prepare a profile which will be used when you search for your next minister.

Blessings,

Rev. Sarah

Reverend Barbara Lieurance

*“What does God require from us but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6: 8 NRSV, adapted)*

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude, for in the midst of severe challenges and change I witness amazing strength and generosity in the spirit of abiding faith-filled friendship.

I want to especially thank my ministry teammate Sarah, who graciously supports and encourages me in my own ministry (we laugh a lot together too), and the dedicated members of the Circles of Care/ Congregational Life team. I appreciate, as well, all the help from Jane and Byron in the office. Furthermore, I want to express my respect and gratefulness to Karen, our St. Andrew’s board chair, and all the other board members.

I celebrate that St. Andrew’s is connected with many whom we may not see on a Sunday morning. We, indeed, “draw the circle wide” as one of our hymn’s sings (*More Voices 145*), by staying in touch with people via personal visit, phone call, postcard and or e-mail.

And I know the Circles of Care/Congregational Life team members are not the only one who reach out, you, dear reader, may just have seen someone last Thursday over a cup of tea.

So, my BIG thank you goes out to all of you who offer caring and compassionate support to others, “walking humbly with our God”.

All our work at St. Andrew’s – including pastoral care – is sustained through prayer. It seems fitting, therefore, to share the following prayer with you, written by a friend of mine.

It is an acrostic prayer. The first letter of each line is part of the phrase:
PASTORAL CARE.

Prepare a way within us, O God, a way that is open a way with doors swinging
wide so that we may let

your love and call to caring enter our hearts and guide our walking.

As we consider the call to community, let us remember that we are your

Servants

Taking the gifts and skills and abilities that you have given us in

Orders to make justice, love, and peace a part of the way we are

Required to live

As your people.

Live within us, and let us create a space for your

Compassion, care,

And love to enter our hearts and lives such that we are ever

Ready to be the people you would have us be,

Ever guided to be caring connectors, loving messengers, and hopeful prophets of

your presence among us. Amen. (Written by Peter Chynoweth. *Gathering*,
Lent/Easter 2020, page 73. Used with permission.)

May we approach the new year with God's grace, ready to face the future,
whatever it may hold.

With gratitude for our shared ministry, *Barbara*

Committee Reports

Ministry and Personnel (M & P) Committee

The M & P Committee of St. Andrew's is a committee of trust and confidentiality that provides support, assessment of and consultation with all ministry personnel and non-ministry staff of the church. Comprised of individuals from the congregation appointed to 3 year terms, the committee provides a liaison between and among the congregation and the ministers and other staff of St. Andrew's. As an advisory body, the committee makes recommendations to the church board on ministry and personnel matters. The M & P Committee is represented in the Church Board.

Our membership for 2019 was: Christy Wyse, Sandra Smith, Jim Dixon (replacing Dennis Ethier), Rick Lawrence (replacing Lawrence Hrycan), Winnie Settle, and Barry Brouwer. As of July 1, Winnie and Rick resigned, as their representation of Pastor Marco and Rev. Nancy was no longer required. Christy Wyse has completed her term, and is leaving the team, resulting in a vacant position to be filled, beginning in 2020.

Ministry Staff – Rev. Marco St. Marie and Rev. Nancy Colton both resigned from their ministry roles, in the springtime. St. Andrew's has now hired Rev. Sarah Fanning for a two year term as an Intentional Interim Pastor. Sarah is not represented by M & P, but is accountable to the board through the Transition Team.

Barbara Lieurance continued in her Pastoral Care role for the equivalent of 1 day per week (20% of fulltime).

Office Staff – Sonia Smith submitted her resignation in February. Byron Mickelson volunteered to perform the book-keeping role and the reporting of financial information to the Finance Committee and the rest of the board. Byron's effort in this respect is very much appreciated, and the restructuring of the financial reports has made them easier to understand. Byron is stepping back from this unpaid role at the end of 2019. Jane Wilkinson continues in the position of office administrator, and no decision has been made on how to proceed without Byron.

Building Custodial & Grounds Keeping – The Janitorial (cleaning) contract for 2019 was renewed with Amy Mueller. We appreciate the dedication and professionalism Amy (and her helpers) bring to this role. The Grounds Keeping and Custodial contracts were extended for 2019; the grounds keeping contract is with Enviromasters, and a security/custodial contract is with Lee Heindal and Diane Hayduk. We are planning to renew all of these contracts for 2020.

Staff Liaison - Individual committee members endeavor to maintain regular and open communication with individual members of the Church staff, and these liaisons include:

Committee Member	Staff Position
Vacant	Office Administrator – Jane Wilkinson
Jim Dixon	Building, Custodial and Grounds Keeping Staff Ministry Position (20%) – Barbara Lieurance, Leanne Oslund, Nicole Bartolay
Sandra Smith Barry Brouwer	Honorary Associate Minister – Rev. Bob Settle M & P Chair

Members of the Congregation wanting to comment regarding an individual staff member or position are encouraged to contact these Committee Members.

Submitted by Barry Brouwer, Chair

Circles of Care & Congregational Life 2019

CIRCLES of CARE & CONGREGATION LIFE worked together in 2019 in bimonthly meeting with the ministers of St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe Alberta for a time of motivation, inspiration learning, discussion and planning for activities for fellowship and caring for one and another in the congregation and the wider Lacombe community.

SENIOR CHURCH SERVICES are held several times a year on Mondays, at 9:30 am - Royal Oaks, 10:15 am - Lodge, 11:00 am Long term care Lacombe Hospital. Many St Andrews church members join in one or two of these joyful services of devotion and hymn singing. They are able to meet and greet the seniors, the appreciations from the seniors come with smiles and it will warm your heart. Church Bulletins are delivered to some of seniors to keep them engaged in St. Andrew's United Church.

WHEELCHAIR for church use has been borrowed in 2018 from Lending Cupboard in Red Deer. The wheelchair has been used and is very appreciated for those who need it. Doris Thesenvitz has taken care of this. A Church member has graciously donated money for the wheelchair and it has been purchased and now belongs to St. Andrew's.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is a time for hospitality and community engagement. Connecting together is an important time of service in the church, face to face over the coffee cup is experiencing closeness with new and old relationships. It gives a great time to welcome newcomers and visitors, and of sharing your own personal concerns with others. Congregational Life has been dedicated in scheduling this coffee time every Sunday after Church services. Sometimes the coffee scheduling is a challenge to fill, so offers of Sunday coffee service is always appreciated.

MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAY is celebrated with Cakes every May and June.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES are acknowledged with a card, cake or flowers. Congregational life and Circles of Care relies on the congregation to let them know of any of these celebrations.

SOUP SUNDAY was held 1st Sunday in Nov with Gardeners making many delicious pots of a variety of soups.

COOKIES & CAROLING was held Nov. 21th, 6:30 to 8:30 hot chocolate and cookies to decorate were given out, plus 7:00 to 8:00 pm we held a Christmas Caroling sing-a-long.

Christian Development Committee

The Christian Development Committee is an energetic and enthusiastic committee whose purpose is to *support and nurture faith-based learning for young and old*. We support a variety of programs and are always looking for ways to expand our faith focus within the church.

Members: Teri Lynn Amundson, Alida Burnard, Dustin Butterfield, Annerie Dunnewind, Henk Kassies, and Sherri O’Muir



Christian development supports adult learning initiatives provided by the minister, confirmation classes, Sunday School, Nursery, VBS, Youth group, Messy Church, the church library and Thursday morning mom’s group.

This year, the CD committee also took on organizing a very successful church garage sale and bake sale along with the Annual Kasota East Flower Fundraiser. Amazing support of this event by volunteers, those who donated and those who attended resulted in a profit of \$1689 which was donated back into the church’s general fund.

Also new this year, CD hosted a free Easter Egg Hunt. The event ran from 10-12 and was such a great success, we are planning on making it an annual event.



Sunday School classes run from September to the end of May for pre-schoolers to high schoolers and use the “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum. We run a special music/movie Sunday the first Sunday of each month and over the past year have completed special projects.

to be added to the group.

SAUCY, St. Andrew’s United Church Youth, is open to youth in grades 4- 12, regardless of religious affiliation or lack thereof. Leadership is provided by Tom Samaroden and Teri Lynn Amundson. Events are typically advertised on Facebook. Contact Tom or Teri Lynn if you would like

Mom’s Group is open to all; however, we primarily see moms that have preschool aged children. We regularly have 7 moms attend with their kiddos, with 18 moms that have attended mom’s group within the year. Within our



group we had 6 new babies born in the 2019 year. We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month from 9:30-11, with fellowship, snacks and lots of baby cuddles.

The report for Messy Church, a subgroup of the Christian Development committee, can be found later in this document.



We are

blessed at St. Andrew's to have an energetic, creative and dedicated group of volunteers who strive to make the St. Andrew's experience welcoming, enlightening and open. One of our kingdom goals was to recognize and cheer on volunteerism in our church, each month we pick a person(s)

or group to recognize, we handwrite them a thank you note and deliver it. We wish to thank those individuals who have stepped forward to help in leadership of the Nursery, Sunday School, Family and Youth programs, as well as Adult education. Without the support of these volunteers, many of the programs under our umbrella would not function. If any of these areas are of interest to you and you would like to more information or to volunteer, please contact the C.D. committee or the church office.



MESSY CHURCH

We are excited! December saw the 58th Messy Church program offered! Our fourth Messy Christmas Eve service was held this year.

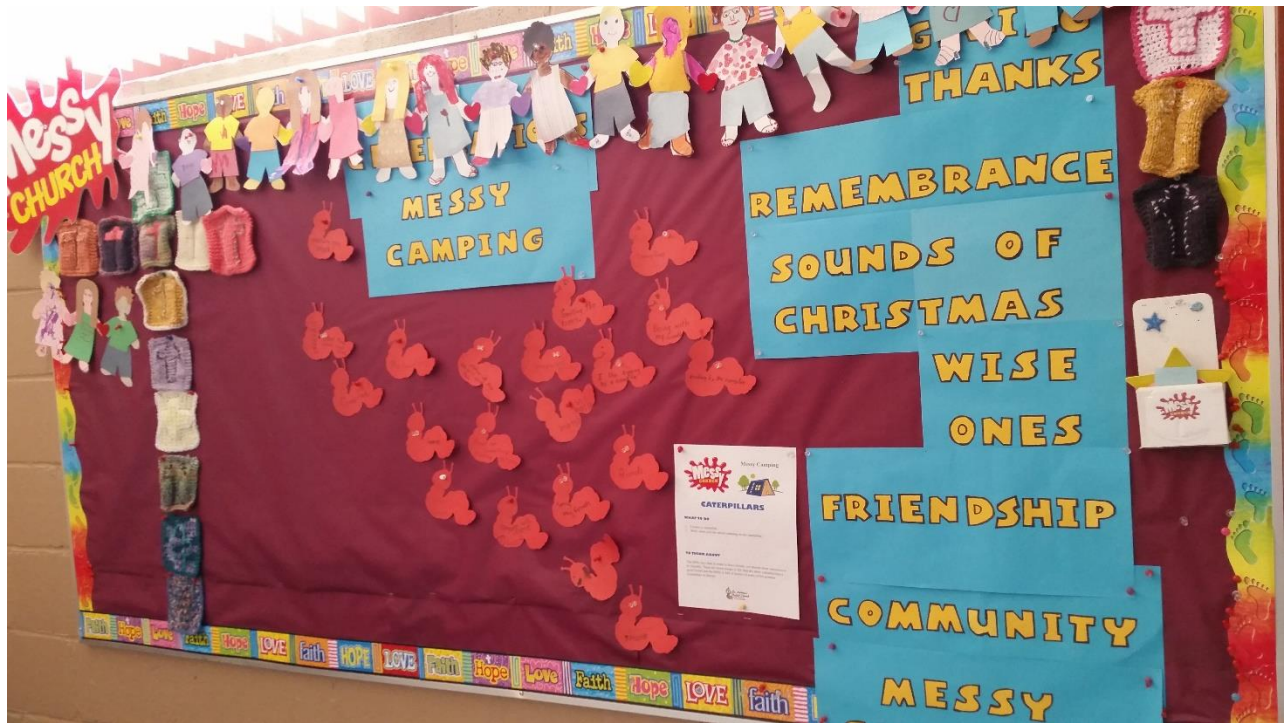
Here is a listing of the Themes for the 2019 year.

January	Wiseones	Home by another way
February	Friendship	Luke 6:31, Colossians 3:12-14, Proverbs 15:12
March	Community	Proverbs 15:22, Colossians 3:12-14, Peter 4:8-11
April	Messy Communion	
May	Messy Camping	
September	Sharing	Loaves and Fishes story
October	Thanksgiving	Paul's letter to Colossians
November	Remembrance	Mathew 5:9
December	Kindness	Luke 6:35, Micah 6:8, Galatians 5:22
December 24	Messy Christmas Eve Service - Stable building, storytelling and carols	



The Messy Church Ministry has been in existence since October of 2013. As many activities do at St. Andrew's, it relies heavily on volunteers. In addition to many adult volunteers, 18 different youth from St. Andrew's and the community have contributed their time this year. Families who participate have told us that they appreciate the youth involvement with their children.

This ministry runs from 5 to 7 p.m. the first Friday of each month. The participants are greeted and welcomed at the door, and then directed to the prayer station and the bulletin board. From 5 to 6 p.m. everyone becomes involved with arts, crafts, and activities geared towards the monthly theme. At 6 p.m. we all move into the Sanctuary where the minister or a facilitator ties everything together in a lesson. This ministry is blessed in that a minister is involved, unlike some other Messy programs. We sing 2 or 3 songs, grace is said, and then we move back to the auditorium for a meal and fellowship.



Volunteers are always welcome, whether it be assisting with a craft, a story, a game, a song, or with the food in the kitchen. Including our food preparation planning individuals, there are currently 16 people on the planning committee. Everyone is welcome to come and simply see what the buzz is all about. We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2020!

KASOTA EAST CAMP,
Report to St. Andrew's United Church, 2020

New Board Structure

In May, 2019 at the Special General Meeting, several important motions were passed. The name will remain as "Red Deer Presbytery Camps Society --operating as Kasota East Camp" which is the historical name for KEC. The Board will now be made up of 6 - 8 members: 4 Executive, and up to 4 members at large.

Our programming will continue to reflect our United Church theology through the hiring process. Our charitable status with Canada Revenue, and our Bylaws ensure that we will remain a United Church ministry.

The Board for 2020 is:

Chair: Shari Hanson, Vice Chair: Jim Watson, Treasurer: David Martin, Secretary: (vacant), and the following Directors-at-Large: Mandy Alcide, Rev. Nancy Nourse, and Amity Sponholtz. There is one vacant Director-at-Large position.

Some positions that were voluntary have been re-organized and will now receive payment for their work: The Director of Summer Programming and the Director of Camp Operations replace the Executive Director. Megan Anderson will be responsible for Summer Programming and Angela Wyman Richter will be responsible for: Registrations, and Rental Agent. The Property Steward, Bookkeeper and Cleaner will be paid as set out by their contracts which are still being developed. These are year-round positions.

The **new Bylaws** have been submitted to Service Alberta for approval and implementation and to Chinook Winds Region

Camp registration was the highest ever for: Family Camp--111 campers, K2--49 (tied with 2017), and K7 at 76 campers. We need 2 more cabins (approximately \$48-49,000 each) since we had to turn campers away for K4, K5 & K7. Many times staff had to sleep on cots instead of bunks, which is not very restful or practical in the long term. Campership sponsored 55 campers this year. This year we will be capping camperships for each camp and offering alternatives to the parents if that camp is at capacity.

Rentals have also gone well. May, June, September, October continue to be very popular and Angela is booking into 2021.

Promotions Committee raised \$3,600 from the Spring Flower Fundraiser with 7 congregations taking part. Poinsettia sales were \$1,542.50 with 4 congregations taking part and 2 others participating with them. Cow Patti Theatre raised \$6,436.00, our most successful events. The Crafty Ladies Retreats in Feb and October have raised approximately \$4,000.00 each year.

Promotions and fundraising will continue to be important since Camper Fees now only cover approximately 40% of the cost. In order to be competitive and accessible, more money will need to come from other sources of fundraising. (Ask me about using the term "Revenue")

Financial Report and Budget: First of all, after many years of dedicated service Charlie Ball is stepping down as Treasurer, Bookkeeper and Financial Wizard for Kasota to take on other duties. Our new Treasurer is David Martin. Our bookkeeper is Jen Nesbit.

I will have a fresh copy of the Budget available, the highlights are that we are still able to pay the bills and do some ongoing maintenance. We may need a new boiler for the washhouse (\$5-6,000.00). There was \$12,000 in one-time expenses. As stated above camper fees only cover +/- 40% of our needed revenue. The fees also only cover +/- 40% of the cost of running the camp. For 2020 we anticipate \$325,000 in revenue and \$337,700 in costs which equals a deficit of \$12,700. These calculations do not include the \$100,000 donation from Blackfalds United when the church was sold. The KEC Board will be doing some serious consideration about how to best use these funds over the long term, i.e. best stewardship practices. Congregations who have supported Kasota in the past continue to do so. Chinook Region made a grant (similar to what Presbytery did in the past).

We will continue to encourage the efforts of the Camp Champs to promote Kasota and fundraising for the camp. One very helpful way is PAR which can be set up through your local congregation. Even \$10 a month through PAR for 12 months can add up to \$120 per year. If 100 families took part---WOW!

Overall, we have had a good year at Kasota and we look forward to 2020.

Once again, many thanks to the folks at St. Andrew's United for your support and prayers.

Respectfully submitted:

Madeline Hendrickson, "Camp Champ"

Property committee

After a productive year I would like to thank everyone that has helped with all the projects that were done. It's always great to see how everything gets done with the help of so many different people.

This past year there were a few big projects again.

-The east and south wall of the sanctuary were to be replaced with new brick. The bricklayers were behind with all the catching up they had to do after winter that they delayed our project to a point that they couldn't finish it due to the temperature dropping below zero. We had the option of tarping in the walls so they could work through the winter but that would have been too costly. We decided to postpone the project until next spring.

-In the back of the auditorium there was a room built to store all the chairs and some tables. There are new chair racks and there were some chairs added to the fleet. This was a great idea from the UCW Unit 2 that took care of this project.

-The auditorium got all new LED lights. The old fixtures needed to be replaced, some of the coating on the wiring was starting to strip off. This could have easily caused a fire if we were to leave it as is. The LED fixtures will also take a lot less power to run compared to the big old lights that were in there.

-The new floor got installed in the auditorium, the stage, both staircases, upstairs hallway, copy room and upstairs bathroom. It sure is nice to see the old green tile gone, lots of tiles were chipping off and it wasn't a level surface anymore. This new floor is seamless and is durable. It has a 10-year warranty on any product failure as well. A big thank you to UCW Unit 2 that picked the colour and donated the money for the project and to all the people that helped moving furniture and cleaning up after install.

-All 8 furnaces got a good cleaning this fall. After the new floor install and a few years of not cleaning the ductwork it was time to get everything free from dust. All filters were replaced, and the furnaces had a check over to make sure they keep running this winter.

-The stage in the sanctuary got a nice new handrail to assist people that have difficulty getting up on the stage.

-The daycare downstairs got an exhaust fan installed in the bathroom to meet the code they must follow.

-And of course, there were lots of smaller projects that were done along with all the regular maintenance.

Thanks once again for everyone's help!!!

Submitted by Jurjan Dunnewind, chair.

Worship Committee 2019 Annual Report

“Sometimes God brings times of transition to create transformation.” Lynn Cowell

“Transitions in life can offer opportunities for [discovery](#).” Robbie Shell

This year has been a time of change and transition, in the re-structuring of the United Church of Canada and locally in our own Community of Faith at St Andrews. In the spring we said goodbye to Rev. Nancy Colton and Rev. Marco Ste. Marie and we wish them many blessings at their new churches. In July we welcomed Rev. Sarah Fanning as our Community of Faith decided to enter into a two year period of Intentional Interim Ministry. A Covenanting service with Sarah was held on October 27th.

Our committee numbers are few but we wish to express our gratitude to the people who help coordinate those who come forward to participate in our worship services, ushering, serving communion, reading scripture, and sharing their gifts of music. A shout-out to Dean and Bryant on A-V, Carol Cornwell for gathering music, Sarina King for setting up the usher schedule, Peggy DeForge for her creativity and coming up with our decorating ideas. Big thank you to Leanne Oslund, our creative and compassionate choir director and our main pianist, Nicole Bartolay, who always astounds us with the music she can create from that piano. Other pianists who have filled in when Nicole is away are Darryl Langille, Carol Cornwell and Ken Oliphant, Mary Lou Wilson.

Projects we’ve been working on or have completed are: having a handrail built for the steps at the front of sanctuary, updating the Worship booklet, updating and replacing the AV equipment, bringing in special music, trying different themes for decorating, purchasing more hymn books and exploring new ways to serve communion. We’ve had a tough challenge trying to complete a book study and getting a ladder and railing put in our large storage room which we’re hoping to complete this year.

We organize Memorial Easter lilies and mums, prepare goodie bags for Easter and Christmas Eve services, purchase poinsettias from the Outsiders 4H Club fundraiser and have the piano tuned yearly. Easter and Christmas seasons always involve extra planning for us. Along with all this we have our usual jobs of preparing communion monthly, decorating for the seasons, cleaning up and maintaining the prayground (alongside CD), cleaning up and organizing books in the pews, and communicating with other committees.

As one of our goals, Worship has worked together with the ministers to have special services in connection with groups and committees at St Andrews. Throughout the year we have services focussing on Healing Pathway, LIRR, Affirm, Stewardship, Camp Kasota, etc. We’ve had groups like Frogs, Foodgrains Banks and Outreach do a complete service. Our youth (thanks Lawrence) put together an excellent service! We’re fortunate to have committees like Outreach who

bring in informative speakers for some Sunday services. As we set our goals shortly, we plan to ask these groups again (and maybe ask a few more), as we know how well received these special services are and how people look forward to them.

Our church family is in a transition phase that will create a beautiful transformation and our Worship Team is excited and eager to be on this path with you.

Faithfully submitted by your Worship Committee, Jane Wilkinson, Shelley-May Lloyd, Pat Crozier.

Outreach

Lacombe & District Volunteer Link

“Thank you to all the St. Andrew’s volunteers and to our Church co-ordinators Madeline Hendrickson and Winnie Chesney Settle that assist with Volunteer Link.

Volunteer Link is a registered Canadian charitable organization that is a partnership of 8 local churches including St. Andrew’s.

Our volunteers assist those in the community, primarily seniors, requiring rides to medical appointments as far away as Calgary , visiting and completion of temporary tasks. In 2019, we provided 907 hours of volunteer work. In 2018, the number was 800 hours. There is no fee for the services we provide to our clients.

We have a strong affiliation with Lacombe FCSS, and any excess funds we have in a given year, we donate to the Lacombe FCSS Benevolent Fund.

Our office co-ordinator is Sheila Chapman and she works on a regular part-time basis from St. Cyprian’s Anglican Church in Lacombe.

We rely on our funding from grant(s) and also donations from private individuals. As we are a registered charity, we are able to provide charitable tax receipts.

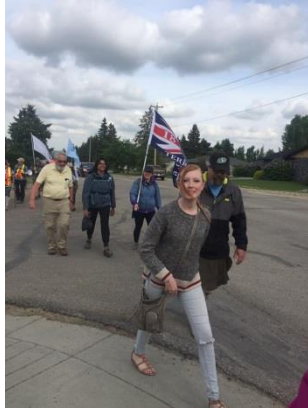
As the number of volunteer hours we contribute increases, we require more drivers and others to visit seniors in their homes. Please consider volunteering for this wonderful organization. You will find the experience very rewarding.”

Respectfully submitted by Doug Maas - St. Andrew’s Volunteer Link representative

LiRR - Being Good Relations Circle, Yearly Report 2019

Treaty Acknowledgement: *We acknowledge that St Andrews United Church resides on land of "Treaty 6". We respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the indigenous peoples with whom the land treaty was signed.*

- Meeting of the "Living into Right Relation" standing committee was held in Saddle Lake in April where Tilly and Don attended. It was agreed with all committee members that the group would stay together under the new Regions, Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit.
- Name "Living into Right Relation" changed to "Being Good Relations Circle"
- Attended the Pow Wow's in Sylvan Lake, Red Deer and Saddle Lake Tilly & Don.
- In May we walked with in the group "Walk for Common Ground' From Maskwacis to Ponoka, Bob & Winnie Settle, Dieulita Datus, Tilly Meyer and Don Fraser.
- St. Andrew's United, Hosted in Lacombe a supper at Burman Collage for the walkers of "Walk for Common Ground" May 2019.
- Bob Settle did service at St. Andrew's for Indigenous day.
- Attended the Saddle Lake United Church in June with Rev Robert Wright by Tilly and Don.
- June 2019, Don got honoured at Terrace Ridge School, Lacombe for helping the Grade 4/5 handcraft and paint Indigenous hand drums and doing a teaching on Metis fiddling.
- "Going Forward in Good Relation" event from Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds "Being Good Relations Circle" formerly known as LiRR was held in St. Albert, Oct 25-27 2019. Dr. Pat Makokis and Dr. Davina Roussel were speakers on "We are All Treaty People". Honoured guests, United Church Student Ministers, Tony and John Snow, Elder Charles Wood, Rev Robert Wright and Sara Stratton from United Church Head Office. Event attended by Tilly Meyer and Don Fraser representing St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe.



“Walking for Common Ground”

CENTRAL ALBERTA FOODGRAINS PROJECT

“The 24th year for the Central Alberta Foodgrains Project was a very challenging one, as it was for all Central Alberta farmers. The 70 acre wheat crop was seeded on May 18th and then due to poor harvest conditions, was not harvested until October 30.

After all crop proceeds and cash donations were received and expenses paid, we were able to send \$41,000 to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg to help with feeding the hungry in the world.

Thank you to all the farmers that helped us produce our crop, and all others that helped in areas such as soil testing, soil preparation, seeding/fertilizing, spraying, trucking and of course, our cash donors and local agri-businesses that donated inputs. This year we were blessed to receive a \$25,000 donation from the Blackfalds United Church from the sale of its building. Some of these funds have been forwarded to Winnipeg and some held in reserve to assist with future crop input expenses and any land rent.

We also received a \$1500 donation from Whitehorse United Church from a reusable produce bag fundraiser it held in the spring of 2019.

2020 is a special year for us, as it is the 25th anniversary for our growing project. We have already secured approximately 140 acres of land to utilize west of Blackfalds at the Woodynook and Aspelund Roads corner. We are one of over 30 growing projects in Alberta and over 200 in Canada. The Canadian Government continues to match funds raised at a rate of 4 to 1.

We will be holding a special celebration dinner in early April for our 25 years. Watch The Morning Messenger for full details in the winter months.

St. Andrew’s has always been an important part of our growing project. Church members have donated land, time, fuel and machinery and cash to the success of our 24 years to date. Last year, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank assisted over 800,000 people in 36 countries, so the need is still huge and we are confident that St. Andrew’s support will continue to be forthcoming.”

Respectfully submitted by Doug Maas - Committee Member, Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project

Healing Pathway Group

The Healing Pathway Ministry team at St. Andrew's offers free healing sessions on the first and third Monday of each month, September through June. Healing sessions are by appointment at 7:15 pm and 8:00 pm; we are able to accommodate up to five people in each time slot. These sessions are open to anyone from the congregation or the community at large. Contact information is included in the Sunday Morning Messenger as well as on the church's website under Ministries: Healing Pathway. Information about the Healing Pathway ministry is provided via brochures available at the back of the sanctuary, a poster in the auditorium and on the church's website.

The Healing Pathway group at St. Andrew's is a dynamic group with eleven members. Group members offer a blessing to the lead minister each Sunday prior to the service. On Communion Sundays, two members of the Healing Pathway offer blessings to the congregation during the communion service. In the past year, the group conducted an in-house workshop related to energy healing; a member attended the gathering of Healing Pathway Instructors from across Canada; the group participated in a Meditation session; and the members focused on practicing the many energy healing techniques the Healing Pathway offers to others.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Ayer

Friends of Guatemala (aka FROGs) - 2019 in Review

First of all, Friends of Guatemala would like to say a big *Thank You* to the congregation of St. Andrew's for your support of our fundraising, and for the generous donations that have been made through offerings and the church office.

Great news from Rosario . . . Clinica Maya has built a new three story clinic, so is now able to help more women and their families with their health needs. This is an organization that we have supported for many years with funds and friendship. Rosario came to visit Lacombe several years ago, and we visit her clinic during our trips to Guatemala.

Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas has reported that the food security project in El Rincon, San Martin in Guatemala has begun, and is going well. Our contributions to this project help with purchasing supplies like seeds and structures, such as chicken coops, as well the services of an agronomist to help with educating and training. This is a project that helps the community learn how to grow food for their own consumption as well as to sell. The goal is that this community project will be self-sustaining in three years.

Last April the Friends of Guatemala hosted a wonderful concert by Gospel 792, a local band that performs country gospel music.

Valdy returned to St. Andrew's on November 23 for a sold-out concert as a fundraiser for Guatemala. He still puts on a great show, and is such a friendly and personable fellow. 😊

We are hoping to have someone come and speak to us this year about Fundacion de Antropologia Forense de Guatemala, and the work she does there through this organization.

The trip to Guatemala did not happen last year, but we are hoping to do it this year. The dates would be first two weeks of either July or November. If you, or someone you know, are interested in joining this trip please contact Donna Pierson at 403-350-7109. The trip is coordinated through CEDEPCA in Guatemala, which will include visits to El Rincon and Toj Alic, as well as long-time friend Rosario with Clinica Maya, among other places and organizations. There is also an option to add on an excursion to Tikal for those who would like to visit these Ancient Mayan Ruins. This trip is an immersive learning experience, an opportunity to learn about the people of Guatemala, to meet and talk with them, and see what life is like for them. It will help raise awareness of the situations in Guatemala. You will be changed by this experience.

If you would like to be a part of *Friends of Guatemala*, or would like to learn more about Guatemala and what we do, or the upcoming travel plans you can talk with Linda Hueppelsheuser or Donna Pierson, or any member of this committee. Also, check out our *new information brochure*, many thanks to Peggy!

Submitted by Donna Pierson

Lacombe Community Refugee Effort

Annual Report

St. Andrews United Church donated half of the 2018 Christmas Eve donations to the Lacombe Community Refugee Effort. That was a welcome boost to our funds. Thank you to all who support with money, materials and encouragement. Together we have made a difference.

Our core committee continued to meet intermittently and stayed in touch through email and phone. We have added one new member and welcome anyone who would like to become more involved.

The Al Omar family met a huge challenge last summer when Bashar had so much pain and illness that he couldn't work. There were many medical appointments and diagnoses include rheumatoid arthritis. His employer provided some disability insurance while tests and medications tried to improve the symptoms. Now Bashar is heading for more English classes. That will be the first step so he can consider training for a less physical job.

Mid summer we finally got word that Khadija and her children were listed for flights, but it took until November 19th. By then the unrest in Lebanon had resulted in massive protests, blocked roads and the closure of their banks. We worried and passed messages until we knew they were safely in the air. They had to stay overnight in Toronto and there was a support group there who made sure they were fed, transported and put up in a hotel. The next afternoon they arrived at Edmonton airport and a bus load of friends, family and committee members met them there.

Generous people here in Lacombe had been donating furniture, housewares and clothing for a couple of years. On December 15 Khadija signed a lease (co-signed by our committee) on a lovely tri-plex with a bedroom for each of them. All the donated items were moved in and it is a comfortable home.

Mohammed and Marwa started school in December. Khadija had to wait for level one English classes which start late January.

Lacombe Community Refugee Effort will support Khadija's family for one year financially and will stay involved beyond that to the degree that she is comfortable with. Last year we started a file for an Eritrean man trying to bring his twin brother. While our legwork did help, John found an Eritrean community here to take over the file and now his brother is here in Alberta. We have started our next file in hopes of bringing Bashar's younger brother, his wife and their young children from Lebanon. Hopefully, the process will be faster this time.

I can be contacted at: marleneironside@gmail.com or by phone: 403-350-1753

Affirm St. Andrew's

Our Vision:

A church and community that embodies God's unconditional love by welcoming all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, social circumstance, ability or age.

Our Mission:

Affirm St. Andrew's is a diverse group of people who are committed to providing support and leadership as we move towards our vision.

Affirm St. Andrew's committee work focuses on making sure that all who enter our church feel welcome and genuinely included in this community. It is important to our committee that no person be marginalized for any reason. We dream of a diverse church where differences are celebrated and cherished. Every individual is important to our congregation and all are valued and offered a sense of God's unconditional love.

This June, with new members and renewed enthusiasm, Affirm St. Andrew's began to meet regularly again. One of our main objectives for the committee was that we need to be more vocal about our affirming status and our complete welcome of all people. Our affirming status needs to be more visible and obvious to newcomers to Lacombe and area as well as our community of faith. All are welcome including but not limited to our LGBTQ friends and community members. We need to reinforce for our most vulnerable church attendees that St. Andrew's is a safe and secure place for all to worship.

In keeping with our broader objective and the national, Affirm United, perspective that affirming churches should be **P**ublic, **I**ntentional and **E**xplicit (P.I.E.) we undertook a few projects. We sent two of our members to the Affirm United Annual Conference which took place in July and are committed to educating our community of faith about what was learned there. We took part in the Red Deer Westerner Days Parade by joining the Pride Float. We painted a rainbow of welcome on the front steps of the church during central Alberta Pride week and we held a vigil for the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Other projects we undertook were to place the wheelchair ramp back in the sanctuary and reinstate our large print bulletins to reinforce our attitude of inclusivity. Many of our committee members attended an event at Hillhurst entitled "Does Church Matter" exploring why people attend church and how those reasons have changed over time. We also helped organize and participated in our service to celebrate becoming affirming and recognize that it has been 50 years since the decriminalization of homosexuality.

Our committee maintains a bulletin board in the auditorium. As well, we continue to maintain brochures for the pews and try to ensure that all feel welcome. We recognize special national and international days and maintain a presence on St. Andrew's Facebook page. We are

committed to providing books and resources for members of our congregation and those seeking support.

It was 8 years ago that members of St. Andrew's voted to become an affirming congregation. Through that process, we at St. Andrew's have found a clearer sense of who we are. We aim to be inclusive, supportive and accepting of all.

And all means all.

We thank all of you who have helped to move us toward our vision and look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Mickelson

UCW

UCW PURPOSE: To unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

UCW Central

There are two units which make up our Central UCW. For our meetings, we meet as our individual groups first and then come together as a whole. Unit 2 takes responsibility for the fall meeting and Unit 1 for the spring meeting.

We held our annual ‘Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale’ on Sunday November 17 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Proceeds from the free-will offering go towards purchasing the coffee and supplies for the kitchen. As well, some is used to supply wool for the prayer shawls.

This year marks the end of Red Deer Presbyterial. Many churches within the Presbytery (newly formed Chinook Winds) are unable to field UCW groups. It was felt, at this time that it would be better left up to the individual churches whether they had ladies groups. A motion to disband was passed at our annual meeting in May at Gaetz United Church in Red Deer. Chinook Winds still has a ‘Women’s component’ which any UCW groups will now fall under. In October, a Fall Gathering was held at Camp Kasota to formalize the dissolution. It was a lovely time to reminisce and have one last meeting and social time.

Rhona Thacker has been our UCW Rep on the Board this past year and we would like to thank her for keeping the lines of communication open between the Board and ourselves.

We would like to invite anyone who might be interested in joining one of our units to contact the Church office for further information. As well, we would like to encourage younger members who might be interested in forming their own unit to contact existing UCW members for information and/or assistance.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Hrycan

UCW Unit 2

Our Unit consists of 18 active members.

Regular activities included baking for the 'Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale' in November as well as hosting the event. We continue to provide coffee and cookies the first Sunday of each month. Several of our members delivered for Meals on Wheels during the month of August. Our Unit continues to help with Blood Donor clinics.

In 2019, we provided lunches for 7 funerals, and 2 anniversary teas. Along with Unit 1, we provided soup, coffee and muffins for the Red Deer Presbyterial final Fall Gathering in October.

Bolze's Handyman Services was contracted to build a chair storage area for us. This was completed in March. As well, we ordered 36 more folding chairs for use in the hall.

We were able to donate an additional \$10,000 to the Property Committee to go towards the new flooring for the auditorium. This, in addition to the \$20,000 already donated, helped to complete the project.

Our donations included the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the amount for one camper for Camp Kasota, Fill a Fridge, Santa's Anonymous, Mission and Service and the Lacombe Food Bank. Rather than simply give money to the Food Bank, it was decided that food items would be purchased. Two members undertook this project and, when done, had purchased an amazing 160.5 lbs of food. Great shopping! A number of our members assisted Unit 1 with food for their Mexican Fiesta evening.

As a fundraiser for the General Fund, we decided to offer up pie on a coffee Sunday. Individual slices were available as well as some whole pies. This netted \$567.35.

In January, we cleaned the kitchen from top to bottom. From July until December we were responsible for making sure the kitchen was stocked with supplies. This ensures the cupboards are full for coffee Sundays.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Hrycan

UCW, Unit #1

It was decided at our meeting in September that we would remain to be known as UCW Unit #1 after the disbanding of the United Church Presbyterial.

Some of the members of our Unit meet weekly at Kavaccino`s for coffee on Thursday morning. We share the joy of many new grandchildren during the year as well as mourn the loss of loved ones and family members. We especially remember Lynn Millar at the loss of her husband Fred.

We gathered to celebrate Canada Day, Labour Day as well as held our Christmas party at the church, which was well attended.

On the third Sunday of each month we provide Birthday cake for anyone celebrating a birthday within that month as well as doing the coffee and fellowship on that date. Our Unit provides fair trade coffee for the church to use.

We went on our annual retreat to Banff last June staying with our gracious host, Dorts Stafford. We are planning a retreat this spring to Deer Valley Meadows from April 3-5. All are welcome to join us, contact any unit member if interested.

We made 120 fruitcakes this year to sell at the Christmas Tea and Sale. The money made from these cakes was donated to the M & S fund, the Junior High School breakfast club, Camp Kasota and the benevolent fund.

The past year we hosted a Mexican Fiesta to raise money for the church. It was well received and everyone enjoyed the taco`s and piñatas.

Submitted by Sue Bergen

LEGACY FUND

“The Legacy Fund was established as a savings fund for St. Andrew’s in 2006.

The balance as of Dec. 31, 2019 is \$63,382. There have been no significant contributions to the Fund in the last 3 years.

Each year, all income earned on the Fund plus 50% of any new contributions are eligible for use by St. Andrew’s on this basis: 40% Congregational use, 30% Local Community use and 30% World At Large use.

A donor may request that his/her principal contribution be totally left in the Fund.

At the Annual General Meeting, the Congregation votes as to how the funds will be used. Funds cannot be used for administrative purposes. This year \$400 is available for congregational use. \$300.00 is available for Local Community use and \$300 for World At Large use.

In November each year, a notice is placed in The Morning Messenger as to what amount is likely available for distribution at the following AGM. Congregational members/adherents make suggestions to The Legacy Fund Committee as to how the congregational portion may be used. Outreach Team advises as to how the other two distributions may be utilized.

There are many ways to contribute to the Fund, such as cash donations (tax receipt provided by the Church), bequests in wills, purchase of annuities , donations of investments such as stocks that receive preferred tax treatment.

If you have any questions, please email Doug Maas at dgmaas52@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Maas - Chair of The Legacy Fund

Church Statistics for 2019

Marriages (2)

Tanner Erickson/Sydney Ganson

Anthony Sanderson/Haleigh Packer

Funerals (18)

Rosa Winslow
Helen Bergen
Patricia Clark
Colleen Jacob
Cheryl Penney
Olga Avery

Ella Huss
Jean Bruns
Johannes Steenveld
Kenneth Atsinger
Anna Jones
Rita Elliott

Bert Elliot
Myrtle Pallister
Margaret Sheets
Alma Kamlah
John Avery
Marjorie Marshall

Baptisms (11)

Isaac Paris
Adilee Verburg
Brie Schmidt
Dieulita Datus

Reid Paris
Eowyn Verburg
Gunnar Schmidt
Marlene Ayer

Mairi Paris
Eva Beauclair
Lexi Schmidt

Membership (6)

Carla Rolland
Terry Lynn Williams

Richard Lawrence
Bill Atkinson

Garren Hanley
Lilly Atkinson

Average Weekly Attendance in 2019 = 91