



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Monthly Beacon

Volume 1 Issue 8 September 2021

REFLECTIONS

Hello, St. Andrew's!

Here we are, stuck in a fourth wave of COVID, and in the midst of restrictions again – not to mention a health care crisis, in which some of you may be also stuck. For all of you who may have had important medical procedures deferred, and for any suffering with COVID, my heart goes out to you. Here at church we had hoped to be resuming many in-person events and programs, but alas, we are still not able to do that. It has certainly felt to me like that has sucked energy out of the church! But my respect and gratitude go out to all our groups and committees who are remaining patient, once again finding creative ways to keep connected and to keep being church as we pivot yet again.

We are trying to make good use of this time when in-person “normal” is not possible. I am continuing to try to meet people, both from the church and in the community – and I’m continuing to enjoy myself and to be very impressed with the folks I’m meeting! What a strong church this is! I am also working with several committees to try to lay some foundations and develop some strategies, so that we can be ready to move when circumstances allow. We continue to be in a time of great change for the church (even apart from the pandemic) and a pause in normal activity will, I hope, allow us to discern a wise path forward.

Finally, thanks to all of you for a very warm welcome to Lacombe. The welcome package and words on September 12 was unexpected and very much appreciated by both Karen and I. It was a warm hug from a fine community of faith!

Hang in there, friends – God’s grace will carry us through these times, and is always at work through and underneath all that is happening, though we may see only a glimpse of it at the time. As ever, I’m glad to be sharing this moment with you. Dave

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St Andrew's United Church

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Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1J6
403-782-3148

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
9 am-1 pm

BOARD CHAIR GREETING

Welcome to Jana Figursky, our new Office Co-Ordinator. You can read about Jana in the write up in this newsletter.

The office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You will need to ring the bell to enter, wear a mask, and sign the book letting us know you are in the building. This is not just because of COVID, but it also lets the fire dept. know if people are in the building in case of emergency. Masks are available.

Mask Update

As the numbers in Alberta continue to creep higher, I thought a reminder of our church Covid policy would be helpful. St. Andrew's policy regarding Covid follows the guidelines and recommendations of Chinook Winds Region.

Masks are mandatory at any service or committee meeting. Please continue to social distance. We will adjust the pews as necessary.

Just because you are vaccinated does not mean that you can't get COVID. We could be asymptomatic but still pass it on to those vaccinated or unvaccinated.

I know we are all tired of this pandemic. But ... it's not going away just yet. Many of us are in the "upper age bracket," may have young grandchildren or elderly parents. This may mean that we are travelling to other cities or provinces to visit.

I encourage you to follow these basic requests: get vaccinated, wear masks, and social distance. It really is going to be the way we beat this.

Live streaming is here to stay. If you are unable to attend, you can type in YouTube, *St. Andrew's United Church Lacombe*, and you should get the current and previous services. If you do not type in Lacombe, you will get St. Andrew's churches from all over Canada! Tilly Meyer continues to stream the services to Facebook for those who use it.

On Thursday, September 30, LiRR will be ringing the bells at St. Andrew's at 7 p.m. for the National Truth and Reconciliation Day. The church will also be open for people to go inside and light a candle and spend a few minutes in reflection.

Board members Doug Maas and Lawrence Hrycan manned the table at the Active Living Fair on September 8, for St. Andrew's and Volunteer Link. Reverend Dave and Reverend Barbara also made their presence known throughout the afternoon.

I hope to see many of you at JJ Collette this Sunday.

As always, take care. Feel free to call or email me on anything that you wish to talk about.

Lawrence Hrycan Email: lhrycan@shaw.ca Telephone: 403-782-4076

FINANCE

General Fund to August 31, 2021

Greetings to our St Andrew's church family from the finance committee!

Some updates you may be interested in: with the help of our friends at Servus, St Andrew's has been able to access the full \$60,000 grant monies from the federal government. The program allows us to have the funds until December 2022 and then only \$40,000 must be repaid. We were also able to access a provincial re-launch grant of \$5,000 which covered most of the costs of the live-streaming technology now in use.

You may not know, but St Andrew's is allowed as a registered charity to channel donor funds to worthwhile community groups that do not have their own charitable status. In this capacity, we have received donations for the Lacombe Refugee Effort, Food Bank, Camp Kasota, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Legacy Fund, and FRoG. These have all been paid out to the designated recipients. We have also forwarded to Mission and Service (National United Church) over \$17,000 that has accumulated.

Our annual CRA charitable report has been submitted and accepted as well as the annual statistical report to the national church. We have just submitted a GST return (charitable organizations are allowed a 50% return of GST spent) for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 which should refund \$3,400 to us.

We continue to search for ways to improve the financial situation for our church family, so if you have any ideas, please share them with the appropriate folks. We always appreciate helpful input! If you have questions, please feel free to ask us.

On behalf of the finance committee: Hans Haefliger, Henk Kassies, Linda Hueppelsheuser

General Fund to August 31,2021

	August 31	Year to Date
Revenue	\$17,324	\$132,154
Expenses	\$13,745	\$158,402
Expenses	\$3,579	(\$26,248)

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL



New Face in the Office

We are very excited to introduce our new coordinator, Jana Figursky, who started with us on Sept 22. Jana comes to us with a strong skill set in office administration including past work experience as the church secretary for Trinity Lutheran. For those of you involved in the music scene in Lacombe you may have crossed paths

with her or one of her talented daughters. Jana has past affiliation with the United Church in Saskatchewan and sees this work as her stewardship contribution to the church.

Over the next few weeks our office volunteers will be slowly easing Jana into the job so bare with us as we work through this transition.

Welcome Jana!

St. Andrew's Registrar

Marg Woodrow has been appointed by the Board to act as the Church Registrar for memberships. Any updates, changes or, if you want to review your personal information, please contact her directly. She can be reached at 403-885-4244 or by email at mapaw42@gmail.com

WORSHIP

Worship is still looking for scripture readers. Contact Pat Crozier at tpcrozier@shaw.ca or 403-598-9310.

We are also looking for individuals who would be interested in reading/telling stories during the children's time during Sunday morning worship. Contact Shelley-May at sm.lloyd@telus.net or 403-782-5966

We have an older 26 inch flat screen TV that is in need of a home. It was the monitor for the choir and we are on the hunt for something more compatible with our sound system. Contact Shelley-May at sm.lloyd@telus.net or 403-782-

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



On Sunday, September 12, the congregation presented Dave and Karen with a full basket of goodies. This held many items for their home as well as good wishes from all.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Margaret Jane Armstrong 1950 -2021

Margaret was born in Olds, Alberta. During her childhood she was a member of WIGC – Women's Institute Girls and 4H where she was able to hone her public speaking skills. After graduation, she attended Olds College, completing a reception/secretarial certificate. In June of 1971, Margaret and Pat were married. They began their life together in Edmonton where Philip (born 1974) and Jill (born 1977) were born. Pat then found steady work in Blackfalds so the family relocated to Lacombe in 1979. Over the years there were many changes, both of her children married and there were 5 grandchildren between them. Margaret lost the love of her life in 2016 after a brief battle with cancer. Margaret was diagnosed with MS early in her life but was able to live a normal life for many years. Though Margaret faced over half of her life fighting a relentless disease, she never complained. She always had a smile on her face and a cheerful spirit. We are all deeply saddened, but at the same time feel great relief knowing that her suffering is finally over and the earthly restraints of her body are no longer.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Church Family



Darren and Shelley-May Lloyd have a new granddaughter named Kennedy from Lisa/Mike.

**St. Andrew's United Church,
a caring community**

Anyone knowing of a milestone birthday (90, 95, & 100) and anniversaries (50, 60 & 70), please let us know as we would like to recognize them.

Congregational Life:
Tilly Meyer 403-782-9887



Hello

Brian and Shelagh McClelland – called to let St. Andrew's know they have been thinking about us. Brian and Shelagh were long time residents of Lacombe, both teachers in Wolf Creek. Shelagh was also a Diaconal Minister and performed many funerals, weddings and supply pulpit work for us. They now live in Calgary, closer to their children and grandchildren.

OUTREACH

Food Bank

Just a reminder that the local Food Bank is open and serving our community during this pandemic. We, as a congregation, donate non perishable food items and dry goods such as toilet paper and paper towels, to help keep the shelves stocked. You can bring donations to the church any time, and leave them in the baskets at each entry. Each month, the donations are taken to the Food Bank, weighed and acknowledged as coming from St Andrew's. This is one way that we, as a Christian congregation, can show the love of Christ to those who are in need at this time.



On a beautiful Saturday afternoon (September 25), we raised \$115,000 from the Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project east of Lacombe. This money will be matched on a 4 to 1 basis by the Canadian Government to help feed the world's hungry. It took 14 combines only one hour to harvest the 120 acres of canola. Thank you all the individuals and businesses that supported us in 2021. We look forward to Year 27 in 2022.

OUTREACH

Truth and Reconciliation service

September 26, 2021

Don Fraser Spoke about smudging and then performed a **Smudge** for the congregation.

Annika vanCampen read the Smudge Prayer.



Drumming Circle played hand drums and sang.

Our guests from Ontario; Georgian Bay Metis Council were Sandy James (Fraser) and Crystal Berriault. From St. Andrew's; Winnie Chesney Settle, Tilly Meyer, Annika vanCampen and Don Fraser.

Song sung was **Wildflower: Mother's singing to their Children for protection.**

UCW



Friends of Darlene Crawford want to remember her with a commemorative bench at the JJ Collett Natural Area. UCW Unit Two and Silver Willow Trefoil Unit of Girl Guides have purchased a bench at the intersection of Trails 4 and 5 overlooking a hillside meadow and the forest beyond. A plaque for the bench is being designed and will soon be installed.

Darlene used to walk often at JJ Collett with UCW and Girl Guide friends. She loved it there, and it is close to her home. When you walk at the Natural Area, look for her bench, sit on it and enjoy the peace, the beauty, and treasured memories of Darlene.

In the photo are Dianna MacLeod, Wendy Jeynes, Val Redston. Seated is Josee Crawford, Darlene's granddaughter.

The Fruitcake Ladies (aka UCW Unit 1) purchased this bench and presented it to Vic Bergen in memory of Sue. It now resides at a special memorial corner on the trails that Vic and Sue worked hard to clear at their acreage. Sue had created this spot in memory of her Mom and sister. We miss her very much. Sue was a long time member of our group and always showed up with a smile on her face and a positive outlook.



The HUNT is On!

Sunday, Oct 3

@ JJ Collett from 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.



Join us at JJ Collett anytime from 1:30—3pm on Sunday, October 3rd for a scavenger hunt!

While strolling through the JJ Collett Natural Area, please find the following items. Feel free to check off each discovered item OR take a picture and e-mail them to office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca

Please do not pick or collect any of these items. Leave the landscape as it exists.

If you see a moose, do NOT approach it! Moose are not on this list. 😊

Please feel free to print the list. Copies will also be available Sunday at church and from the host/hostess at the main gate during the event.

The List:

- ◇ Spruce cone
- ◇ Duck
- ◇ Sign post for Trail 8
- ◇ Red leaf
- ◇ Squirrel
- ◇ Sign to campground
- ◇ Mountain ash leaf
- ◇ Yellow leaf
- ◇ Boardwalk
- ◇ Hawk
- ◇ Green leaf
- ◇ Spider web
- ◇ Sign post for Trail 3
- ◇ Beaver dam
- ◇ Gazebo on Trail 6
- ◇ Poplar tree
- ◇ Picture of your group
- ◇ Bench (in memory of Darlene Crawford), on Trail 4, north of the junction with Trail 5 and south of the junction with Trail
- ◇ Picture of your group
- ◇ Something that brings you peace
- ◇ Something that reminds you God is with Us
- ◇ Reverend Dave in a black hat

NOTE: Rev. Dave will be strolling the trails between **1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

We look forward to seeing you out and enjoying the beautiful fall weather we have been blessed with!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Truth and Reconciliation Day

We will be ringing the bells at 7:00 p.m.

Candle lighting from 6:30 to 8:00 in the Church Sanctuary.

The Church will be open for anyone who wishes to light a candle and spend a few minutes of reflection.

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

ST. Andrew's strives to be a caring Christian community which nurtures love of God and neighbour through worship, teaching, fellowship and service.

Website <http://>

www.lacombeunitedchurch.ca/

Email office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca

Check us out on Facebook

[St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe, Alberta](#)

Check us out on Youtube

[St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe](#)

