

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2013



**Summer Service June 16TH – Sept. 8TH
Sunday Morning Service 10:30 AM
Saturday Evening Family Movie or Concert 7:00 p.m.**

**Waterton United Church PO Box 94 (108 Clematis Ave.)
Waterton Park, AB, T0K 2M0
Year Round Ph/ Rentals (403) 859-2242
www.watertonunitedchurch.com**

2013 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

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| JUNE 16 TH | REV. ALDEEN MCKAY, Japanese United Church, Lethbridge |
| JUNE 23 TH | REV. JOYCE SASSE, Pincher Creek |
| JUNE 30 TH | PASTOR GEORGE TAKASHIMA, with CARDSTON U.C. CHOIR |
| JULY 7 TH | MRS. MARIE BARR, L.P.M. (Lay Pastoral Minister) Cabri U.C., Saskatchewan |
| JULY 14 TH & 21 ST | REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON, Victoria, B.C. |
| JULY 28 TH | DARRELL REINE, L.P.M., AND MRS. KAREN REINE, Regina, Saskatchewan |
| AUGUST 4 TH | MRS. LISA WAITES, Redcliffe, & Medicine Hat University/College CHAPLAIN |
| AUGUST 11 TH | REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster U.C., Calgary |
| AUGUST 18 TH | MRS. JOY ANNE MURPHY & MR. DARRELL DEWALT, MUSIC LEADERS from Canmore United Church, new this year, SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICE |
| AUGUST 25 TH | DR. ED BARDOCK, Lethbridge & MILK RIVER U.C. CHOIR |
| SEPTEMBER 1 ST | REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge, with McKILLOP U.C. CHOIR |
| SEPTEMBER 8 TH | BRYAN HUSTON, LICENCED LAY LEADER FROM SOUTHMINSTER UNITED, LETHBRIDGE |

THURSDAYS AT 7:30: OPEN A.A. MEETINGS

TUESDAY MORNING TODDLER MUSIC HOUR: Contact
Aynsley Baker , aynsleycbaker@mac.com

YOGA, WEDNESDAYS, 5 – 6:30PM. DROP –INS WELCOME

JUNE CONCERTS, AS PART OF THE WATERTON WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Tickets are \$10.00 at the door;\$5.00 for students (College/University)with refreshments.





JUNE 15TH , Saturday@ 7:30 p.m .Lori Williams-Freeman and Seamas Skelly, (together the dynamic Irish duo “O’Reely”) **return for their NINTH summer concert.** With vocals and harmonies, guitar, violin, accordion and magical keyboard, they offer their gifts of sweet Celtic music.

JUNE 22ND , 7:30 p.m. Dale Ketcheson, (classical and flamenco guitar) **and Billy McCarroll,** (upright bass) will be joined this year by **exquisite soloist, Sheena Lawson.** They round out their eclectic program with an intricate **jazz jam.** **This is Dale’s 11TH h Waterton U.C. Concert.**

SATURDAY NIGHT FAMILY MOVIES 7 p.m. This was a new program tried last summer, and we are encouraged to run this again. We will do our best to show the newest possible movies on DVD. The movies are free, no pop corn, donations welcome, and bringing a cushion is probably a good idea! Watch for posters around town....

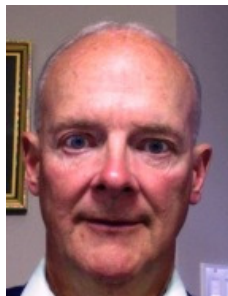
2012 -2013 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

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|  |  |  |  |
| Lil Evanoff | Carol Watt | Aynsley Baker | Lynn CameronThorpe |
|  |  |  |  |
| Janice Smith | Mary Yvonne Hohm | Barb Clay | Barb Colbeck |
|  |  |  |  |
| Bob Clay | Dave Colbeck | Ben Hofer | Phil Ruppel |

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|  |  |  |  |
| Lauren Baker | Diane Rossetti | Dr. Ed Bardock | Lou Niven |



Carol Cruickshank



Doug Miller

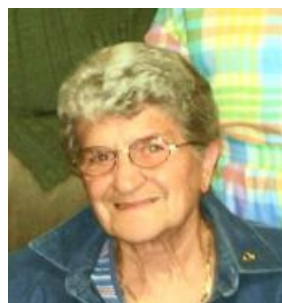


Anne Miller

We welcome Anne and Doug Miller to our Council this year. Would you like to join? We have a very informal structure, fewer than 5 meetings a year. Some do not attend meetings, but contribute time and talents in various areas. Each one is precious and valued for time and wisdom so freely given!

AND SPECIAL THANKS to....

***** Ed Barlishen for reviewing the books; *** Phil Ruppel for meticulous grounds-keeping;***Bob Clay, Ben Hofer, Rob and Roddy Watt for repair and care of the building, *** Diane Rossetti for on-going work creating quality posters & newsletter assistance *** ***Lil Evanoff, Immediate Past Chairperson and Hostess Extraordinaire***Lauren Baker for fitting in the church treasury work; ***Lou Niven, for organizing the new Host/Hostess Scheduling, co-ordinating our beautiful new Honour Wall 50th Anniversary project, and with Peter Portlock, & Carol Watt, playing piano and/or organ*** Aynsley Baker for helping with the bookings and outreach*** Bev Tilson, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Barb Andreason, Joyce Kotkas & Bernie Weninger, for pitching in when it comes time to clean and decorate *** Dave Colbeck for assuming the position of Chair of the Property Committee; *** Christy Gustavison & Ted Harrity for their new interest and support, and to all others too numerous to mention, for your generous gifts of time, counsel, and financial support.... You know who you are!**



A SPECIAL THANKS TO ELLA MCCOLL for her years as Treasurer through the 90s and into the new millennium. Hats off to you Ella, you are a valued member of this faith family!



WE EXTEND LOVE AND PRAYER FOR PEACEFUL HEALING TO ALL THOSE STUGGLING WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS OR LOSS IN WHATEVER FORM. MAY YOU NOT FEEL ALONE AS YOU WALK IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW. In the timeless words of Psalm 139: 10 -11: *"If I take the wings of the morning, and follow to the uttermost parts of the earth, still Thou art with me."* Please let us know if we can help in any way.

FLOORING UPGRADE, MARCH & APRIL, 2013

A DREAM COME TRUE: After envisioning for several years how we might replace the aging carpet in the suite and the sanctuary, we saw sudden and efficient progress and completion of the project in March and early April. We held several work bees and are pleased to begin the new active season with this major improvement. Deepest appreciation to all team players, especially Ed Bardock and Westwind Interiors of Pincher Creek. **See below for a series of images from the work bees.** Chaos reigned temporarily; hard work & sheer focus were needed as the contents of the sanctuary and suite was shifted back and forth during the work bees.



The participants of Work Bee Number 3 for the Flooring Upgrade, after refreshments.....Standing: Diane Rossetti, Carol Watt, Bernie Weninger, Cathy Millar, Lou Niven. Seated: Bob & Barb Clay, Rob Watt. Although not available at picture time, Roddy Watt & Marty Pedersen provided the youthful strength and energy needed to get the job done.



Photo of new Honour Wall, June, 2013.

We are delighted with our special 2011 anniversary project, a new WALL OF HONOUR celebrating FRIENDS OF WATERTON, PAST AND PRESENT. We know that Waterton is beloved by many, many people. With this in mind, we have installed a wall of names (on plaques,\$100 each.) 40 plaques have been purchased and installed to date. The wall is in the new foyer. (Each plaque = approx. 2 inches by 5 inches, with black lettering on a gold background. One or two names can be on one plaque, or e.g “The John Doe Family”).

If you know of someone you wish to honour,or wish to purchase a plaque for yourself, email Lou Niven at mlniven@toughcountry.net or phone 403 628 2036.

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HONOUR WALL DEDICATION SERVICE On September 9th, Rev. Alex Lawson led a time of remembering and honouring our pioneers and friends of many years, whose names are now on the Honour Wall. A pot luck gala followed, with appreciation for Alex and all the Lawson family. A new era begins as Alex and Joy move to Victoria.

Weddings, meetings, occasional workshops and retreats are all part of the life of the church.

Community use is welcome. **We are happy to be available year-round.** We can't guarantee fair weather outside, but inside, there is sanctuary!

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS. YOUR MELODIES AND HARMONIES LIFT OUR HEARTS!. A toast of deep appreciation to all accompanists!

Message From Brent Woodard, Neighbouring Supervising Minister



Often when we are travelling we say "It's great to get away." Years ago a wise friend of mine said "I don't have to get away, because I like where I am." Since then, I often ask myself; "Am I happy being where I am?" I think it is important to be able to say "yes" to this question, for we should all, of course, ideally, be happy where we are.

One way to understand "being happy where we are," is in the environment we are in. Wherever we spend most of our days, hopefully, is a good and sustainable place to be.

The other way to understand "being happy where we are," is being in alignment with or in acceptance of the present moment of wherever we find ourselves, for that is how life is at that moment.

So even if it is raining, or our feet are sore from walking, or we are driving down a highway on a long trip, it is a good sign if we can be "happy where we are." That way, when we get away, even to a place as beautiful as Waterton National Park, it isn't because we are not happy where we are. We are happy there and we are happy here. It reminds me of Paul's words to the Philippians: "I have learned to be content in all circumstances."

FEE SCHEDULE

Our little church has become popular for weddings, retreats and other spiritual get togethers. Increased demand for our space, and the high cost of operating in a National Park has caused us to offer a fee schedule for the various uses of the church. (changes may occur...)

-Workshops: \$150/day or \$75/half-day

-Weddings/Raincheck Weddings: \$250/regardless of size

-Youth group retreats: \$75.00/week-end

-Spiritual Retreats : \$20.00/night/per person.

FINANCIAL HEALTH: We continue to manage to balance our modest budget, thanks to the help of generous supporters and the Mission Support Grant from the United Church at large. Dr. Ed Bardock has played a vital role in ensuring this annual funding for Waterton UC. **ANY DONATIONS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED, AND VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.** We are indeed, the church for the community. Our mandate is about “the open doors of Jesus Christ”. With respect for people of all faith traditions, our work goes forward.

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REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE: Check out:

- **"HISTORY OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH"** was compiled so ably a few years ago by JIM GEORGE. This is a loose leaf binder “work in progress”. If you have stories to share we would be very pleased to add them. For example, Ruth Attwell’s memories were added during the Anniversary celebrations in 2011. \$18.00 plus mailing costs if needed.
 - **OUR PERPETUAL CALENDAR:** Through the seasons in Waterton, photos donated by Council Members, \$10.00...works well for records, birthdays, recorded memories...
 - **"TWISTS, TURNS AND TRAVELS IN MY WALK WITH GOD"**, by Rev. James Tyler;
 - **"IN THE DRY WOODS"** and **"LLAMAS IN THE SNOW"** by Rev. Dr. Cullene Bryant, \$15.00
 - **“LIGHT A PENNY CANDLE”** by Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, a newly published collection of Alex’s favorite Christmas and Easter sermons. \$17.00
 - **CDs of original music by Musician and Chaplain Lisa Waites \$15.00**
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Highlights of 2012-early 2013

*****GUEST CLERGY**** 2012 was the 11th summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each took a week or two to lead for us. The bookings come in early. We have a simple, transparent system in place: dates are recorded as the requests come in. **Special thanks is extended at time of this writing (May, 2013) to everyone who contributed last summer.** Each year sees some changes, some new leaders, several returning. **We appreciate the contribution that has been made by each guest clergy**, whether they are returning in a specific season or not. **NEXT YEAR’S BOOKINGS ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS... TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: CALL OR E-MAIL SOON!**



*****COMMUNITY BABY**

SHOWER/QUILTING BEES: These fun events come up every so often, as new babies with Waterton roots arrive. In 2012, grandchildren in the Becker and Tilson families were celebrated!

*****”MAY LONG” OPENING SERVICE**

For the second year in a row, Bryan Huston ably led our Sunday morning service on the May Long Week-end. We have shifted our spring/pre-Easter service to this Sunday and are encouraged with the results. This year Bryan spoke about Pentacost, the symbolic meanings and how it translates into living daily with love

and compassion.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Mary Yvonne Hohm, Regional Lay leader and long time Waterton Council Member, took the lead for this treasured event. The origins of Christmas symbols were explored as Catriona Gustavison unwrapped exquisite gifts and added them to the altar. Wonderful feasting and fellowship followed.

2013 MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY **(Schedule may have occasional unavoidable changes....)**



Rev. Aldeen McKay, S. A. Japanese United Church, June 16th

With the full view of mountain grandeur, people have been able to worship at Waterton United for over 50 years. I had the privilege of leading worship there for the whole summer of 1979. On my last Sunday, I asked a lady from Lethbridge to sing a special request of mine. I can tell you, there were many tears as we listened to the words, “Who made the mountain, who made the tree...Somebody bigger than you and I.”

One can't help but feel God's Presence amidst the beauty one can find when visiting this little jewel of the Rockies. With walking paths, serene lakes, flowing waterfalls, and majestic mountains, may it be a time of renewal and blessing for you. Add to this, a visit to Waterton United at 10:30 a.m. any summer Sunday to complete a truly rewarding experience.

I am privileged to open Waterton United's summer worship services this year. Please join our congregation from S. A. Japanese United Church, Lethbridge, and myself there, on June 16th.



Rev. Joyce Sasse (June 23rd)

Back to Beginnings –“It took Jesus a thousand years to die.” That's the opening line in “Saving Paradise”, a most profound book about the history of Christianity. Rita Brock and Rebecca Parker have always been disturbed by the question “Did the Father require the death of his Son to save the world?”

They examined sacred places of worship in the ancient Middle East and found that the art of the first century often depicted an Eden-like garden. They examined the Old Testament to find the Hebrews constantly yearned to regain entry to Eden / Paradise.

They saw in the sanctuary art and the words of the Gospel's depictions of love and healing. Is Jesus the one who leads us back into the Garden? For those who are believers, can they understand salvation because they now experience healing, courage and restored love? Can their lives, consequently, be places of illumination? Can we focus on the resurrection without getting enmeshed in the violence of the passion and crucifixion? Where did those images of violent death come from?

There is much here that can help us grow in understanding our faith.

Joyce Sasse (403-627-5659) www.canadianruralchurch.net



Pastor George Takashima (June 30th): Pastor George has recently retired from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge,

REFLECTION FOR WATERTON NEWSLETTER

One of the most well-known and most beloved psalms is The Shepherd's Psalm. For me, it is very soothing and comforting. There are several versions of this psalm - Psalm 23 - the Wycliffite Version, the Metrical Version, the version of George Herbert, the version of Joseph Addison, the version of Tate and Brady, a version by Isaac Watts, et al. Allow me to share with the readers one version of The Shepherd's Psalm. It is a mountaineer's version which was written in the year that the top of Mount Everest was reached.

My Guide is the Lord: he will not let me wander.
Through the deep rivers he holds firm my feet.
Up steep rock ridges his route will never falter.
He gives me courage in my time of need.
For all my journey, his Book is my route guide.
Life's storms and thunder hold no fears with him.
His holding hands give strength and consolation.
In weather's worst, his hut will take me in.
There will he treat my bruises, ease my stiffness.
His cup will comfort, and his food content.
Surely his guidance and his guard shall take me
safe through my climbing days till Journey's End.

This was written by a Christopher Johnson (N.Z.) in 1953.



Mrs. Marie Barr, Designated Lay Minister from Cabri U.C. Saskatchewan, July 7th

"Unto the hills around do I lift up, my longing eyes."

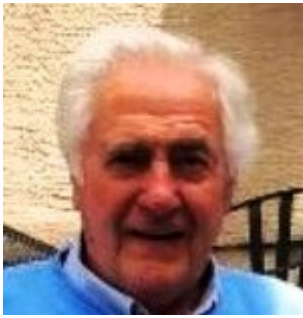
As I drive into the Waterton area I am once again amazed by the scenery that we have been given to enjoy. The beauty and serenity work on my soul and give me instant peace as I drive into the valley.

Each year I am given the privilege of preaching in one of the most beautiful settings on earth. I give thanks for the people who count this church to be an essential part of the life in the park. This small group of dedicated people make it possible for the rest of us to enjoy services backdropped by the mountains in all their splendour. Who could question God's existence in such a place? Who, but God, could create such a masterpiece?

It is my hope you will be able to join us as we praise the Maker. We extend a warm welcome to all those who are visiting this jewel of a place and invite you to return to the Peace Park often.

As always I am looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones as we give thanks for this wonderful part of Creation.

Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, July 14th & 21st:



Faith to Live By...

Four kids were swimming where the Qu' Appelle River exits Round Lake and goes over the control gates. (I often walked there while my kids played but I would never let them swim there – it was far too treacherous.)

The kids got into difficulties. The oldest boy got out, then returned to save his sister, but Jimmy and his cousin were swept away. The fathers arrived and caught the girl but Jimmy was not found for a week. When I visited the farm the Aunt asked me to explain to her daughter why God had

saved her but not Jimmy. As gently as I could I said if she believed that then she was the one to explain it for I didn't believe God acted this way. Later, the mother said to me, "Why does everyone say it was the will of God, except you.?" As long as she was blaming God she was avoiding forgiving the one she was really blaming.

Muriel James (*Born to Win*) called me on Easter morning. She and Ernie had been swimming and a rip tide swept them out to sea. There were sharks in the area. She was helpless but thought, "Is this how it ends? I wasn't prepared but this will be another adventure." The life guards saved her. They were camping by the lake and early in the morning her three year old went out of the tent. They found him in the lake, drowned. Later, she told me, she was so mad she phoned her husband to come home to look after the other children for she was smashing things in the house. I would have smashed the aquarium, but for the mess the water would make. I asked who she was mad at. God, because twice the little boy had fallen into the swimming pool and there was always someone there to pull him out but this time he had let him drown,

When his son was leaving for the war zone his father prayed with him. The lad said, "Don't pray for me to be saved while other lose their lives. Pray that I will be adequate." When the ship was torpedoed he gave away his life jacket and went down with the ship. He wasn't saved, but he certainly was adequate.

When WW2 broke out Herbert Marshall, later of Hollywood fame, was manning a ship that sailed around the coast of the UK. They were bombed, were attacked by torpedo boats, and daily they sailed in mine- infested waters. They were issued life jackets which were bulky and awkward. He wore his day and night. As the weeks passed they became filthy and smelly with oil and dirt. When they pulled into port he took his off and threw it into the harbour, and watched it sink. God is not a good babysitter. If you leave a small child unattended and harm befalls him they will put you in jail. If you say you left him with God they will put you in Ponoka.

A man neglected his spring spraying. Later he was walking through the fields with hands upstretched praying to God in the hope that God would control the infestation.

Ross once came to me. "I see you have some baptisms this morning. We are studying baptism and I wondered if I could bring a class in before you begin. Don't put water in the font. I will discuss it, and then suggest we pray for God to send down water. I thought, "I don't want anything to do with this..." but he said you will have the water above me in the pulpit and I will say. "God sent down the water, then the kids will say, "No, he gave you the water", and we will discuss how we don't pray for God to do what is our responsibility. I said." I will get them water". I went to the kitchen and got the largest jug the UCW had. An enormous thing, and I filled it right to the brim and carried it tilted back. When Ross put up his hands he already had the congregation in stitches over his antics. When I lowered the brimming jug into his upstretched hands he tipped it and the water came cascading down over his glasses and suit, and the more he tried to level it the more that water came down. I was hiding behind the pulpit but in full view of the choir. When, the

following Sunday I explained to the congregation that despite what people were saying, I did not pour water on Ross. The Choir boo-ed me. There's always a first. ...
Fosdick once wrote. "Religion has no greater enemy than superstition, and superstition has no greater enemy than science." Science was ever the handmaid of religion.
Send this on to ten people in the next ten minutes and a miracle will happen in your life...!!!!!!!!!!!!!! O Dear!!!! Vignettes of faith and superstition....
Alex Lawson.

AND WHEN HE FELL

*And when he fell
crash reverberated through the forest
echoed all around
mourning settled*

*a great
and cries
but when the dust of
there was laughter in the air,
his life was full,
his joy complete*

*his work was done.
The place he filled was once a clearing
where all alone he stood
now surrounded by his family
supported on all sides
and understanding*

*but
he was
by their love
their laughter and their zeal.*

*And when in the way of all things
his day to sunset had run,
not be greater
bosom*

*his joy could
for they held him in their
and his happiness was complete*

*In the years they had all outgrown him
in compassion and in love
he ever stood for
loved*

*and all
and all that he had
he saw in them
and it gladdened his overflowing heart.*

*Many had come to him for shelter
the storms of life were wild
into wholeness*

*when
and he loved them
and they blessed him in*

return

*And now he saw his children,
who believed as he himself,
acts of compassion*

*perform their
and so his song went on
echoing down the valleys
and across these prairies wide.*

*How could he not be proud,
could he not be fulfilled
the God who was his guide and strength
also leading them.
is no greater legacy than this.*

*how
for
was
There*

And when he fell his joy was great. Alex Lawson (Used With Permission).

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NOTE: Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson has published a collection of Christmas and Easter sermons, entitled “To Light A Penny Candle”. If you would like to place an order, call Alex at 778 265 4281 or email alexlawson@shaw.ca

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Darrell & Karen Reine

Designated Lay Minister from Regina, SK (July 29th)



Make a Joyful Noise all the Earth! We will certainly be making a joyful noise when spring finally hits in Saskatchewan. We have broken snowfall records and in April we have been breaking 85 year old cold temperatures. Then I look on the Environment Canada site and see Waterton Park is warmer than here in Regina and my heart is ready to go there sooner than later. I look forward to being part of the Waterton line-up of very privileged people who are able to come and preside at worship and offer our skills and gifts. Waterton has this special gift of

drawing people in and soaking us with the sacredness that is found in those mountains. It is such a gift.

As the United Church works through the Comprehensive Review, my hope is that there is still a place for places like Waterton in our church. It is not a place that hands out clothing or food (well, except on Sunday morning), nor is it faith based medical organization. Waterton though, is an outreach ministry to those who come to the park to work, to visit and take part in the many activities and it offers an inclusive worship service and evening program. I hope those who visit there and are a part of Waterton remember to speak to their review teams about the importance of Waterton United Church.

So as we converge on Waterton this year, let us make a joyful noise, let us worship our God with gladness and let us go to this place with a song!

Darrell Reine

DLM & President of Saskatchewan Conference, Regina.

**Lisa Waites, Musician, and Chaplain, Ecumenical Campus Ministry,
Medicine Hat. August 4th**



As many of you already know, my name is Chaplain Lisa Waites, and I'm the face of the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus ministry, providing Chaplaincy services to the students, staff and faculty of the Medicine Hat College. My role on campus is to provide a friendly listening ear to all those in need, to give pastoral care and spiritual guidance from a Christian perspective, to extend hospitality, to alleviate suffering and promote a holistic model of health on campus, to provide connections to the wider community, to offer spiritual formation and worship opportunities as requested, and most importantly, to be the prayerful hands and feet of Jesus. I am delighted to be serving in this ministry role, and our high number of counseling appointments this year (averaging 20 per week) has shown the extreme need for ecumenical Chaplaincy services in Medicine Hat. Although I love the United Church of Canada, my heart is deeply ecumenical, and so Chaplaincy is a terrific vocational fit for me. Please pray for the developing work of the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry

as we prayerfully prepare for the next term of ministry on campus. God has blessed and increased our efforts, and we want to be faithful stewards of the young adults who have come to us with their spiritual questions.

2013 has also seen the completion of my new CD, titled "When I Fall". This album offers ten vulnerable and transparent worship songs exploring God's faithfulness to us in seasons of loss, pain, heartache and grief. It may sound somewhat depressing, but it's actually an album filled with the hope of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of God expressed in brokenness. Produced and released by the US record label the Tate Music Group, it was released in early April, and has already attracted over 150,000 global listeners. You can listen to the title track or view a video for free at YouTube or at www.reverbnation.com/lisawaites and I sincerely hope that the music will bless and encourage you. I'll have some copies with me when I lead worship in Waterton in early August, and the cost is only \$15.00. Lastly, I took the plunge in January and began my doctoral degree at the Institute for Worship Studies in Jacksonville, Florida. It was a lovely location to escape the bitter Alberta cold and snow, but I was so busy in the classroom and the library that I only got to the beach once. With seven more courses and a dissertation still to complete, I'll have plenty of time to dream of taking study breaks in beautiful Northern Florida. I am looking forward to learning more about Christian theology through the lens of the liturgy. I pray that you will find yourselves drawing nearer to God and to one another as the body of Christ this season. Waterton United Church is a beautifully diverse, creative group of people who hail from many different places, but who share a common vision of vibrant, eclectic Christian worship. May God be glorified in and through you as you sing and share the grace and peace of Christ among the wider community, for this time, in this place.

Blessings, Chaplain Lisa Waites, Summer 2013 (Note Lisa's pic in her new alb!)

Rev. Nancy Nourse,
Northminster United Church, Calgary, August 11th

Acts 2 (select verses) - The Holy Spirit Comes

1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages... about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. 14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! What you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days,' *God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. 18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.'*

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals and to prayer.



43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

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August 18: Darryl Dewalt, Joy-Anne Murphy and family. Special All Music Service!

Music is a path to the divine. When people sing, their whole body resonates, and the intent of the text can be felt as well as heard and thought. When worshipers sing together, the interaction of voices, sounds and texts is multiplied exponentially. Worship is so often tied together by the binding threads of corporate and solo musical offerings: hymns, anthems, preludes, postludes.



The Murphy-Dewalt family is a family of musicians: Darryl Dewalt (Minister of Music at Camrose United), Joy-Anne Murphy (singer, teacher & choir director) and their children Talia and Davis. We'll be joined by good friends Chris and Rosanna Hohm and their three children, and look forward to bringing you a message of faith through music.



Dr. Ed Bardock, Lethbridge, August 25th and the Milk River U.C. Choir

THE POWER OF FAITH

For my wife and I, our Christian faith is the foundation on which our marriage, our family and our lives have been built. It surely is our most important asset for, without it, the world somehow would be a meaningless place not only devoid of direction but without a compass of moral principles that give us all a road map to meet the challenges of life.

Faith, however, is not passive and entirely private; rather, it is an active ingredient of our daily lives. As such, it gives us something to hang on to in even the worst of situations we encounter in our careers and personal lives. A few years ago when I underwent a number of serious operations, it was my Christian faith and the deep and abiding strength of my wife holding out her own equally unshakeable faith, that gave me the will to remain steady, whatever the odds, and gave me hope. That hope was like the birds outside my hospital window that somehow sensed the dawn and greeted me every morning by starting to sing while it was still dark.

Uncertainty in the face of uncontrollable forces that come at us in our daily lives is often frightening for we can cry out in anxiety- ridden confusion or we can be sustained by that vital living faith that gives us the will and strength to move forward with hope. In other words, we can

live with that faith strengthening us, or we can die, literally , spiritually or both. Faith fills the gap when we are confused and uncertain of our choices; gives all of us the willingness to take risks when the odds are against us; and gives even the critically ill and those facing tragic family circumstances the will to move forward. In Hebrews 11:1, we read “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” But, for each one of us it is a gift that is offered and it is one’s decision to choose.



Rev. Dr. Austin Fennell, Lethbridge, September 1st and the McKillop U.C. Choir

WILL YOU USE YOUR IMAGINATION?

The leadership of the Waterton United Church is to be much commended and thanked for keeping the church supplied with people to conduct Sunday Services through the summer each year. To be sure, there are many ready enough to use the suite for accommodation when we they want a holiday in the park, but they

need to be scheduled. Thank you members of the Board for your long standing commitments. The United Church members appreciate your efforts.

How shall we address the challenge of attendance? Sometimes there is a good "turn-out" - sometimes not. Advertising in the park is severely restricted. Should we create teams of current and past attendees who will commit themselves to inviting people to join us on Sunday? Or should we try to find a youth minister/worker for the summer months to reach out to the young people who live and work in the park during the summer (\$1500 per month)? Or should we ask and schedule congregations in our presbytery to commit themselves to send a number to the church on a specific Sunday assigned to them, and invite them to be the "sponsoring congregation" for that Sunday? For example,, Cardston could take on the first Sunday of July; Cowley, the last Sunday of July; South minister - the 1st Sunday of August' McKillop the first Sunday of Sept.. In this last proposal, the designated congregation would come with a number of people (10? 15? 25?) to attend the service, provide a light lunch, greet others attending the service, maybe be the the choir for the day :).

All we need is some imagination to address this challenge!!!!. Austin Fennell



Bryan Huston September 8th *Last regular Sunday for the summer season.*

In 2007 I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader certificate program offered by St. Stephen’s College. Since that time I have been pleased to provide pulpit supply and to lead worship in a number of United Churches in Southern Alberta. Over the last fifty years, I have been fortunate to spend time in Waterton, at the family cottage, in every season.

Barbara and I look forward to every summer when we can explore the wonders of the Park with our five, soon to be six grandchildren.

There is a Celtic saying that heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in the thin places that distance is even smaller. For many, Waterton is a thin place. In such a place the veil that separates heaven and earth is lifted and one is able to glimpse the glory of God. A contemporary poet Sharlande Sledge gives this description.

*‘Thin places,’ the Celts call this space, both seen and unseen,
where the door between the world and the next is cracked open for a moment
and the light is not all on the other side. God shaped space. Holy.*

It is no wonder that thin places are most often associated with wild landscapes like Waterton. We return from thin places refreshed and renewed. We are graced with a new awareness of the thin places in all of life.



A Special Extra Fund-Raising Appeal: Please note that any donations which you may be able to give will be very welcome as we go forward with our new up-dated flooring. Tax receipts are issued early in January each year.

These mature rams, mellow in the morning light, bring to mind the verse “...and they shall safely graze”...

Are you wondering about the Wonder Café?...It’s a way of connecting with people, by internet and other means, exploring life’s big questions, and being made welcome and aware that we encourage open discussion about moral questions, different faith traditions, and individual faith journeys...You might check out....www.wondercafe.ca for animated discussion of timely topics.... Have you considered subscribing to the United Church OBSERVER? It is the oldest, continuously published magazine in North America, and a lively way to be in touch with the United Church of Canada, from sea to sea to sea. subscribe@ucobserver.org or write to 478 Huron Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2R3

A MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Since beginning his time as Moderator last fall, Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson has not only been leading the National church, but has also been working with a group of dedicated individuals, now called the “Comprehensive Review”. For the next 2 and

½ years, their mandate is to face the coming changes and explore new ways of being church, within our vibrant and inclusive faith tradition. The review will be based on consultation with local congregations across the country.

Gary writes frequently and eloquently, his leadership is sensitive, perceptive and respectful. On April 22nd he shared the following experience & discovery.

THE GARDEN REMAINS

For the last two weeks I have been sitting by my mother's side in the palliative care ward at Victoria General Hospital as she journeyed to the end of her time...which finally happened on Friday. However, earlier last week, when Tim was keeping watch, I decided to visit my parents' former home—a bungalow in Victoria, a block from the ocean, looking out over the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the place where they had finally settled in 1973 when my father left the army. Not the house I grew up in, but where my own children had come to know and love their grandparents—a home filled with memories of beach adventures, card games, books, and puzzles; of cookies and elegant teacups and saucers; of a garden filled with the smell of sweet peas and roses; of the bird bath and feeder, always alive with wings.

Four years ago, my parents sold this house and moved to a seniors' independent living complex. Now, there was a new house on their property, looking strangely modern, filled with strangers. As I slowly drove down the old street (more of a one-block lane than a street), a child left the neighborhood playground, crossed the road, and headed toward this new house; a young man was watching her carefully. I stopped, rolled down the window, and asked, "Is that your home? Is she your daughter?" "Yes," he replied.

And so began a brief conversation, with me sharing that my mother, who had lived there for 35 years, was now dying. I told him how much my daughters had loved visiting their grandparents. He told me that his two little children loved the neighborhood—that's why they were there, to raise a family. I asked about the garden in the backyard where my mother had created her joy. "Did you save the garden?" "Yes," he said.

He told me that he and his wife were both architects. After purchasing my parents' home, but before doing anything else, they and their kids had camped out in the backyard for a few days in order, he said, "to get a feel for the land, the movement of sun from the morning to evening, to understand what might be possible to create in this space." Only then did they start dreaming and planning how to build their home, figuring out how to incorporate elements of what was already there. They needed a different house, for in truth, my parents' bungalow was small, old, and plain. But they kept the backyard pretty much as it had been. The garden remained; a pond was added (which my parents had often thought about doing but never got around to) because of the poor drainage in the back corner; the rose bushes out front had been carefully dug up and moved to the back; the garage had been designed so as to not disturb the apple trees.

So...the old house had changed, but parts of the old were treasured and incorporated, and a new home was filled once again with the laughter of children and sweet garden smells. It was a good moment.

Change is always part of our living. Yes, there is the inevitable sadness of loss and goodbye; but there is also a pleasure in discovering how what emerges incorporates and reshapes elements of the past, so as to bring forth a new way that is full of life. Maybe I am too “churched”, but it felt to me like a metaphor for what our United Church is experiencing—the old house will be torn down, but only after a thoughtful “comprehensive review,” not losing everything, but redesigning so as to rediscover beauty and recreate a home where the next generation can thrive. That is my hope and my prayer.

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We appreciate many people at all levels of the United Church of Canada for their ongoing support and encouragement for this “faith family” and for the countless visitors who pass through and find sanctuary. God Bless Us, One & All! !.....And,

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You, the Lord Make His Face to Shine Upon You,, and Be Gracious Unto You, the Lord lift up His Countenance Upon You, and Give You Peace.”The Aaronic Blessing, Numbers VI, 24 – 26



Sofa & Vimy Reflection May 2013