

***THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!***

## **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2014**

---



**Summer Services June 15<sup>TH</sup> – Sept. 14<sup>TH</sup>  
Sunday Morning Service 10:30 AM  
Saturday Evening Family Movie 7:00 p.m. or Concert 7:30 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](http://www.watertonunitedchurch.com)**

**Secretary's email: [caroluanne@gmail.com](mailto:caroluanne@gmail.com)**

**(If you have received this letter by regular mail and have an email address, please help us  
update our mailing list. Comments are welcomed.)**

**2014 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE**

- MAY 18:** MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Licensed Lay Worship Leader, Southminster, Lethbridge
- JUNE 15:** Dr. ED BARDOCK, Educator, Lay leader & Pastoral Charge Supervisor
- JUNE 22 & 29:** REV.DR. ALEX LAWSON, Victoria, B.C.
- JULY 7 & 13:** MRS. MARIE BARR, L.P.M. (Lay Pastoral Minister) Cabri U.C., Saskatchewan
- JULY 20:** REV. BEV DIDUCK, Saskatchewan
- JULY 27:** DARRELL REINE, L.P.M., AND MRS. KAREN REINE, Regina, Saskatchewan
- AUGUST 3:** PASTOR GEORGE TAKASHIMA, Lethbridge
- AUGUST 10:** REV. STUART JACKSON and Mrs. Kathy Jackson, Edmonton
- AUGUST 17:** REV. RUTH PRESTON SCHILK, from Southminster, Lethbridge with Southminster Chancel Choir
- AUGUST 24:** REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster U.C., Calgary
- AUGUST 31:** REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge, with McKILLOP U.C. CHOIR
- SEPTEMBER 7:** REV. JOYCE SASSE, Pincher Creek
- SEPTEMBER 14:** MRS. LISA WAITES, Chaplain & Divinity Student, Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat.

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

.....

\*\*\*

**OPEN A.A. MEETINGS, THURSDAYS AT 7:30 P.M.**

\*\*\*

## CONCERTS AND EVENTS

### JUNE CONCERTS

(AS PART OF THE WATERTON WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL)

Tickets are \$10.00 AT THE DOOR! \*\$5.00 for students (College/University). Refreshments.

**JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday @ 7:30 p.m.** Lori Williams-Freeman and Seamas Skelly, a.k.a. “O’Reely” return for their 10th summer concert. With vocal harmonies, guitar, violin, accordion and magical keyboard, they offer their gifts of sweet Celtic music.

**JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.** Dale Ketcheson, (classical and flamenco guitar) and Billy McCarroll, (upright bass) will be joined by jazz soloist, Sheena Lawson and, new this year, percussionist Joe Porter. They round out their eclectic program with an intricate jazz jam. This is Dale’s 12<sup>th</sup> Waterton U.C. Concert. He says that this year’s program has music from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>, AT 7:30 p.m.** you are invited to the third annual **CHURCH CEILIDH (CAYLEE) a.k.a. MINI CELTIC FESTIVAL**... Stellar vocal harmonies, guitars, accordion, fiddle, magical keyboard, laughter and unique musicians’ jam. For anyone who enjoys Irish-Scots Music!



The Musicians take a wee break during intermission at an August Ceilidh....

Left to right, Dale Ketcheson, Lori Williams-Freeman, Hannah Lawson-Doberstein, Sheena Lawson and Seamas Skelly.

### SATURDAY NIGHT FAMILY MOVIES 7 p.m.

In July & August, we offer the newest possible movies on DVD. The movies are free, no popcorn, donations are welcome. Bringing a cushion is probably a good idea! **Watch for posters around town....** This summer’s movies include “Epic”, “Nut Job”, “Frozen”, “One Big Hapa Family”, “The Lego Movie”, and others.

## MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR

*Dr. Ed Bardock, Lethbridge*









The Board has been very diligent, working as a team, in handling the financial operations of the Waterton Church through an effective Stewardship campaign, establishing an Honor Wall to raise funds, planning concerts, advertising the church facilities for weddings and functions, fulfilling requirements for grants from the United Church Mission and Support Fund, and using volunteer labour to curtail expenditures. The Board holds meetings throughout the year to ensure that the visiting ministers and guest speakers are arranged well in advance of the summer schedule of summer services and that arrangements for maintenance and repairs to the church are carried forward. The Board has a great group of Property Maintenance volunteers for those tasks. Volunteer members also arrange for coffee and refreshments to be available for church visitors and members.









Another major effort of the Board and Volunteers has been the upkeep and upgrading of the facilities. This past year a new computer and equipment were purchased for maintaining church records, a new phone and answering machine were purchased, new carpeting was installed in the sanctuary and new lino tile in the kitchen and suite areas. The National Church assisted in the financing of these needed upgrades. As a result of these efforts and the work of so many volunteers, the Waterton United Church is in excellent shape and solid maintenance has been a strong priority of the Board.

In Faith,

Dr. Ed Bardock, Pastoral Charge Supervisor

### 2013 -2014 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

			
<b>Lil Evanoff</b>	<b>Carol Watt</b>	<b>Aynsley Baker</b>	<b>Lynn Cameron Thorpe</b>
			
<b>Janice Smith</b>	<b>Mary Yvonne Hohm</b>	<b>Barb Clay</b>	<b>Barb Colbeck</b>

			
<b>Bob Clay</b>	<b>Dave Colbeck</b>	<b>Ben Hofer</b>	<b>Phil Ruppel</b>
			
<b>Lauren Baker</b>	<b>Diane Rossetti</b>	<b>Dr. Ed Bardock</b>	<b>Lou Niven</b>



**Carol Cruickshank**



**Doug Miller**



**Anne Miller**

Would you like to join our Council? 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....**

**\*\*\* Jim 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, Concert Pioneer and Hostess Extraordinaire\*\*\*Lauren Baker for fitting in the church treasury work & remaining on Council post -Treasury position; \*\*\*Lou Niven, for organizing the new Host/Hostess Scheduling, co-ordinating our beautiful new Honour Wall, 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; \*\*\*Doug and Anne Miller for joining so freely in the regular work of treasury and building stewardship; \*\*\* Christy Gustavison & Ted Harranty for their 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!**

## To Whom It May Concern

*The Waterton United Church is honoured to host a*

### ***MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JASON SLOVACK ON JULY 1st at 2 p.m.***

*Jason grew up in Waterton, where his father, Ken Slovack, was a manager for National Parks. Rev. Aldeen McKay will lead the service for the family. Family members hope that many memories will be shared. Jason was 45; he passed away in March 2014. He had been residing in Invermere. All friends are invited by the family to join in this celebration of his life.*

---



**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 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.**

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

Community use is welcome. Please note that the church is **available year-round.**

## OUR NEW HONOUR WALL IS THREE QUARTERS FULL!



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.) 47 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](mailto:mlniven@toughcountry.net) or phone 403-628-2036.

.....

We are also building a “Treasure Album” which will be kept on a table below the plaques....The album is intended to hold a record of bios/photos/memories, of the friends of the Waterton UC. The pages in the album will be able to be in alphabetical order, as the Wall cannot. If you have purchased one or more plaques, please send a page for each plaque at your earliest convenience, by email, or by regular mail to the Church address (see cover). We look forward to building this Album!

.....

## 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.

.....

## **REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE: Check out:**

- **"HISTORY OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH" 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 plus mailing costs if needed.
  - **OUR PERPETUAL CALENDAR:** Through the seasons in Waterton, photos donated by Council Members, \$10 ... works well for records, birthdays, recorded memories...
  - **"TWISTS, TURNS AND TRAVELS IN MY WALK WITH GOD",** by Rev. James Tyler \$15
  - **"IN THE DRY WOODS" and "LLAMAS IN THE SNOW"** by Rev. Dr. Cullene Bryant, \$15
  - **"LIGHT A PENNY CANDLE"** by Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, a collection of Alex's favorite Christmas and Easter sermons. \$17. A CD of more favorite sermons is under way. Alex's email: [dralexlawson@shaw.ca](mailto:dralexlawson@shaw.ca); phone 250-383-1880.
  - **CDs of original music by Musician and Chaplain Lisa Waites \$15**
- 

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 -- EARLY 2014**

**GUEST CLERGY:** 2013 was the 12<sup>th</sup> 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, 2014) 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... IF YOU ARE INTERESTED ... CALL OR E-MAIL SOON!**

### **"MAY LONG" OPENING SERVICE, MAY 18, 2014, 10:30 A.M.**

For the third year in a row, we are pleased to have Bryan Huston return to lead our Sunday morning service on the May Long Week-end. As always, all faiths are very welcome. Refreshments and visiting will follow.

### **COMMUNITY MEET AND GREET:**



**September 15<sup>th</sup>, on the occasion of the birth of several new Watertonians in 2013!**

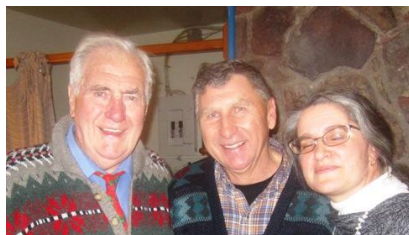
### **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW PARTICIPATION FALL 2013:**



As you may be aware, in 2012, the United Church of Canada initiated a thorough, thoughtful review, with the goal of moving forward faithfully into the future. Every Pastoral Charge was invited to give feedback. Well over 1/3 did so. A nucleus from our Council met to brainstorm and prepare our response (which included feedback from other members who couldn't attend). Then, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, we spoke with our assigned liaison person in Calgary by teleconference. **If anyone is interested in reading the notes from our meetings, please let us know.**

Subsequent feedback from the Moderator states that the number of pastoral charges which are considering closing or amalgamating in the near future is balanced by the number which are thriving with innovative, inspiring ways of worship and outreach. Both groups comprise about 25% of those responding. Thus there is hope, and an evolving vision of how we will go forward. There is also gained experience in supporting those who are facing closure of beloved sacred spaces. One anecdote about amalgamation stated that five small churches had gone through this process with the surprising results that their new joint congregation was greater in numbers than the original totals. We pray for peace and guidance.

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson was in southern Alberta over the time of our Christmas service, and returned to lead this event which he pioneered 20-odd years ago. As always, the timeless story, our heritage, and the candle lighting warmed the hearts of all who gathered.



**Above: Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, Ben Hofer & Lisa Lenz-Hofer Georgia, Theo & Page Murphy; Barb Colbeck & Lauren Baker all reflect Christmas Candlelight Happiness.**



**A pot-luck feast with much joy and laughter completes the evening....**

**2014: MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY**  
(Schedule may have occasional unavoidable changes...)



**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>: BRYAN HUSTON, Opening Service May Long Week-end**

In 2007 I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader certificate program offered by St. Stephen's College and since that time it has been my inspiration and joy to provide pulpit supply in a number of United Churches in Southern Alberta.

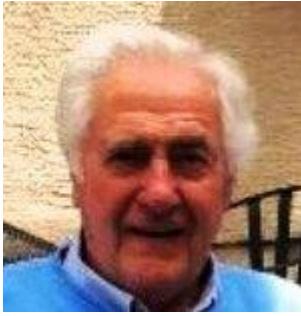
My childhood saw my family camping in windy Waterton as my Dad had a band that regularly raised the rafters of the old Dance Hall. I like to say I 'married a cottage', and for more than fifty years I have been fortunate to spend time in every season at the family cottage here. As life cycles along, Barbara and I now look forward to happily chaotic summers exploring the wonders of the Park with our six grandchildren.

This small and vital church is a sanctuary within the magnificent natural sanctuary that is Waterton National Park. Like the Park itself, the United Church of Canada welcomes all people, regardless of faith tradition. The Divine, felt in this special place, embraces all. I appreciate how a different congregation forms each week, as people respond to the "open doors, open minds, and open hearts" of this place. All are embraced in the purity of worship. The congregation changes from week to week, and I enjoy each new community that forms, gathered together by the call to worship. As Jesus promised "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them" [Matthew 18:20]. We gather as one to worship.

"We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life. We can grow in wisdom and compassion. We can recognize all people as kin. We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse, But as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter."

From: UCC Song of Faith, 2006

**JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> DR. ED BARDOCK** will open our regular summer season. He is a retired Educator, lay leader and long-time advocate and United Church worker, particularly in the area of Finance at all levels of the United Church of Canada. We deeply appreciate his years of support and advocacy for Waterton, and recently his assumption of the role of Pastoral Supervisor. Please note his message and photo on page 3.



**JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> REV.DR. ALEX LAWSON, Victoria**  
**“The extraordinary in the ordinary.”**

I once met a saint. Yes, a real flesh and blood saint. I met her the first day I went to my Mission Field in Arundel, in the Highlands of Argenteuil County, some seventy miles north of Montreal. Her name was Aunt Edie and she had an immediate impact on me as she had on anyone who entered the orbit of her hospitality. Aunt Edie had the ability to see the extraordinary in the ordinary. It is lovely to meet someone who accepts us just as we are but how wonderful to meet someone who sees more in us than we see in ourselves, someone who brings out the extraordinary in us. No wonder we called the first baby born in that old manse in that century, Heather Margaret Edith, after her. Aunt Edie didn't have any casual acquaintances. Anyone who met her, no matter how briefly, left with the feeling of being special. Aunt Edie's life had not been without hardship. I remember the sadness in her eyes when she told me about that awful night when illness struck her little family. One night she had a sickly child and two healthy ones and come morning only the sickly one was fighting for his life. The two healthy ones died.

Sometimes on my way home from University I would pass an old man with a long stick herding his cattle. He had a back problem and he was bent over so badly that he walked with his face parallel to the ground. We didn't exchange any pleasantries, he wasn't that kind of man and folks said his mind was as crooked as his body. I can visualize his house with its tall stone chimney sitting in its own yard a bit back from the road. One day the house caught fire, the old man got out and was clear of the fire and out in the yard but the chimney fell and when they found him the chimney was straddling his body. Some put a superstitious interpretation on it while others had no sympathy for him. When I mentioned the fire to Aunt Edie she said the man's name and said "I knew him when he was a boy. We were in the same class then. He was a fun-loving lad you know", and she went on to recall some of his escapades. He emerged as a different man when seen through Aunt Edie's eyes. Aunt Edie had that way of seeing the extraordinary in the commonplace.

When she was near death and in a coma I sat all alone by her bed and told her the many ways I loved her. When it was time to go I watched her face and one eyelid moved slightly. I like to think that she heard me. In fact. I'm sure she did.

Have you noticed that Jesus had the ability to see the extraordinary in the ordinary? He was an itinerant preacher with no power, or office or status yet he had a remarkable effect on all whom he encountered. Those he met on his travels were never the same. He redeemed them.

May your visit to Waterton Church help you become aware of your extraordinary self, claim it, and go forth to live it. -----Alex

***JULY 20<sup>th</sup>*; REV. BEV DIDUCK**



**Waterton!**

I lift up my eyes to the hills... the opening line of the well-known Psalm 121.

My first experience of Waterton was when I went to the United Church Camp as a teen; later I worked there for a summer as camp co-manager - director. My experiences and the people I met at camp were formative in my life.

I remember the first camp of the year. We had "Christmas in July", with carols and turkey supper.

I look forward to leading worship July 6 in the beauty of the majestic mountains - although I hope it is much warmer this year!



**JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, MRS. MARIE BARR, Designated Lay Minister (D.L.M.) from Cabri U.C. in Saskatchewan**

“We cannot keep from singing!”

*“Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery, of living things, diverse and interdependent, of complex patterns of growth and evolution, of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls, we sing of God the creator, the maker and Source of all that is.” From A Song of Faith*

When I read our statement of faith called “A Song of Faith” and particularly the words above, I am reminded of Waterton Lakes National Park and all the gifts we receive from a visit to this jewel of nature.

It is a place of renewal and rebirth. A place of quiet and contemplation. A place where Sabbath can happen. A place where one has time to be one with all creation.

God is Holy Mystery and when we look at the place we are in we cannot doubt that Holy Mystery is at work in this place. As much as we like to explain everything and know everything,

We cannot explain everything that we see here. We must accept that, as partners in creation, we must do our best to keep this place as it is, protected from development and people who would turn our little corner of this universe into just another exploited place. We give thanks for those who have worked long and hard to maintain Waterton as the ‘untouched’ place it remains. So remember as you walk the paths and climb the mountains that we are here by God’s grace and we need to help with the task of keeping this as untouchable as it is now.

Working here for three summers, was a joy and a privilege for which I will always be grateful. Not only did I enjoy it, I was paid for that privilege. As a paid-accountable minister within the United Church of Canada, I count my time in Waterton as a definite perk of that work. I hope to see you in the congregation during the middle weeks in July as we once again thank God and explore where that gratitude can take us.

*“We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. We sing of a church singing to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.” From A Song of Faith/*

## DARRELL REINE, DLM (July 27<sup>th</sup>) serving with the people of Westminster United Church in Regina, Saskatchewan



O Summer Word of God,  
Come! Come with your transforming breath.  
Breathe on us until we are ripe with life.  
Fire us to light for the world.  
Nourish us with your healing rays.  
O Come!  
O Source of Growth and Light,  
Come! Come encourage us to stretch toward light.  
Warm us with your abiding presence.  
Challenge our lethargic spirits.  
Walk with us into the deep, green forests. O Come!

**Words from the Circle of Life by Joyce Rupp & Macrina**

### Widerkehr

These words beacon us into the summer. They are words of transformation, healing and challenge. They are also words of hope.

We as the people who come to Waterton National Park each year wait anxiously for summer to come, so we know our time is coming soon to visit the beautiful landscape where both prairie and mountain meet. Summer draws us to this place where our spirits are transformed not only by the beauty and activity of this sacred land, but by those who we meet and see each year. I come because of the community I find within the church and also the community found in the park.

This is a place of sabbatical. It is a place of rest, of learning, a place of challenges as we hike through the mountains or walk the many paths. It is a place of renewal. For a few years I wondered why I was going, something in me just wanted to stay home. But by the time I arrived, I sensed a call to be here, and I didn't want to go home when my time was done. It often leaves us sad for a few hours on our journey back to Saskatchewan. We keep looking back as we travel home immersed in fond memories and the joy of our experience.

So to those who make this possible in the church and in the park, I say, Thank you! And may this summer be a time of stretching towards the Light. -----Darrell and Karen



### **AUGUST 3<sup>rd</sup>, PASTOR GEORGE TAKASHIMA. Pastor George retired last year from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge.**

Waterton Park is just a magnificent place to visit. The mountains, the lake(s), the natural surroundings of trees and rock, the animals and the birds that call this home.....what can one say but to be in awe! "This is God's wondrous world...." "For the beauty of the earth...." et al attest to the fact that this is indeed God's creation.

Something else came across my mind. Genesis 1 reads, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." No matter what we heard about anything else, we could be certain of this one truth: God was in the beginning and created the heavens and the earth. 13

Much has happened over the centuries that makes us realize we can no longer take for granted the factual nature of the opening two chapters of The Book of Genesis. Discussions about the "Big Bang" and evolution has made some of us rethink what once was never questioned.

At a study session that I was at many years ago, I recall the following comment made by our study leader. He said that when we look at the Bible, the question we should be asking is "Why?" and not "How?" He said that why God created the heavens and the earth is the important aspect: the how is of less importance to our faith. That makes sense, doesn't it?

That question "Why?" in itself may have many answers, but one thing is clear: whatever was in God's mind at the time of creation, God was satisfied in creation's making. God looked at the work and was very pleased.

As we look at that same world today, we know that much of what we see must displease God. We have not looked after our natural resources with care. We have abused nature in sundry ways. Greed has dominated how we care for our planet earth. We also see inequity in the amount of those resources used by the

various peoples of the world. When some of us have enough and to spare, others have little or nothing. There is something drastically wrong with this scenario. As someone once said, there is nothing wrong with God's bounty; there is much that is wrong with the way our resources are distributed.

God was satisfied with the work of creation. You and I are called to be creators with God. Are we satisfied with what we have done in our lives?



**REV. STUART & KATHY JACKSON, AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>** from Chalmers-Castle Downs UC, Edmonton. Kathy is a key employee in the Alberta and Northwest Conference Office in Edmonton.

**“To Live With Respect in Creation”**

In the beginning... the human universe was limited to the extent of our vision. We could see as far as the horizon, so that was how big our world was. And God was beyond, just over the horizon, -- the Great Mystery.

One day, some brave soul wondered what was beyond the horizon. So we climbed out of our valley, and found that there was life beyond the hills. Over the centuries, other brave souls have ventured beyond our horizon, and taught us that our universe was bigger than we had imagined.

Today, early in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we not only know that Earth is but one of several planets that revolve around the sun, but that the Milky Way has millions of other suns, and that the Milky Way is but one of billions of galaxies.

Our universe, and our understanding of God, needs to grow to include worlds on the other side of the horizon, – a horizon which keeps moving farther and farther away.

Feeling the mist from the base of Cameron Falls, or breathing in the fresh air at the top of the Bear's Hump, or kneeling to marvel at the delicate beauty of a Mariposa Lily or Lady's Slipper, we can be reminded of the creative wisdom of God.

The God who shaped the world and the heavens and the galaxies is the same God who came near to us in manger and cross and empty grave; – in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The God who created the vastness of the universe is the same God who lives and moves among us as the Holy Spirit, moving our spirits to compassion and caring and community.

The God who created the universe is the same God who loves each of us intimately and personally and unconditionally, the same God whose love is made known to us through the human faces of loving family, friends and neighbours.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” [John 3:16-17]*

## **AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>: REV. RUTH PRESTON-SCHILK, SOUTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH with the SOUTHMINSTER CHANCEL CHOIR.**



Once upon a time there was born to Ontario sheep farmers with deep United Church roots – a very shy girl who wondered what she would be when she grew up. Over the years, she considered being a veterinarian, a forest ranger, a farmer, or a minister. One by one, she stroked the possibilities from her list. In the meantime, she had earned a Diploma in Agriculture (Agri-Business) from the University of Guelph, ventured into the world of Mennonites by attending Swift Current Bible Institute in Saskatchewan, volunteered for two and a half years with Mennonite Central Committee at a Girls' Group Home in London, ON, met and married a dashing young man who was studying for ministry in the Mennonite church, and began studying for her BA through the University of Waterloo.

Seeking direction from God, on a silent retreat she unearthed the call to ministry that she had long ago buried. "I don't know how this is going to happen, but *you* do God," she said – and hung on for the ride.

Her husband began pastoring and eventually the good Mennonite congregation wondered, "Why doesn't Ruth join our church?" Her internal struggle was this: to join the Mennonite church seemed like dis-owning the denomination that had nurtured her faith. Once again the Holy Spirit provided clarity: "You *can't* disown your roots. It's like rings on a tree. You can't take them away; you can only add on!" With gratitude to God, she became a Mennonite, entered the world of parenthood, completed her BA, earned her MDiv from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN, and was called to pastor Lethbridge Mennonite Church.

Trading the Great Lakes for the foothills and mountains, she and her husband and their children settled into life in Lethbridge. Twelve years flew by and ready for a rest, she resigned as pastor of Lethbridge Mennonite Church in Oct., 2010.

Volunteering, working part-time in retail, supply-preaching in local churches, and teaching Sunday School at Springridge Mennonite Church (near Pincher Creek where her husband is pastor) was steady fare for an interlude of two years.

A new venture began at Southminster United Church (Lethbridge) in January, 2013 where the not-so-shy and the no-longer-young Ruth has felt warmly welcomed for short-term ministry. On a half-time basis, she provides preaching and worship-leading as well as pastoral care.

Ruth now realizes with gratitude that life lived in both the United Church and Mennonite traditions are gifts, "polarities that make a continuum, not opposites in tension" (to borrow a description from Eugene Peterson).

This summer, as we worship at Waterton United Church and beyond, may we be blessed by God as we experience the variety of gifts in the body of Christ.

–warmly submitted by Rev. Ruth Preston Schilk

## **AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United Church, Calgary**

REFLECTION – "The Breath of God"

As I write this reflection for the newsletter, it is May and I have Pentecost on the brain – thinking about what we will incorporate into that worship service here at Northminster. As I consider the breath and wind of the Spirit, I am also looking forward to our family's annual visit to what is usually windy Waterton!

The Holy Spirit as a way of understanding God has been part of humanity since the beginning of time. So why is the Spirit so special at the time of Pentecost? What is different about it this time? Perhaps because it's post resurrection. Jesus had died and then rose to new life. The disciples have emerged through their grieving with a new understanding of the Spirit of God. It moved them in a way they had never felt before.



So maybe the Spirit hadn't changed. But the disciples had! As a result, their relationship to the world, to God, and to each other changed. They looked at life around them and saw that it was to be infused with Christian grace and love. So, in the end, everything had changed; everything was "new"!

Let's not think that this was only a past event. At Pentecost, something was set in motion that is still reverberating today. Pentecost started on that specific day when the gifts of the Spirit were poured out on the disciples, and the Holy Spirit has not stopped being poured out ever since. In many ways and places we feel the Spirit of God at work in our midst—gentle as a morning breeze or destructive as a gale force wind. But as it was at work in the disciples, so too is God's Spirit at work in our lives.

Let us give God thanks that we are offered the opportunity and the privilege to let the Spirit flow through our minds, our hands, and our hearts. It is especially in places like Waterton, where we have time and space to refresh ourselves that the Spirit has extra opportunity to infiltrate our stale and busy lives. Praise God for the world, for creation, and for us being transformed by the Breath of God.



**AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>: REV.DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge.  
with the McKillop U.C. Choir**

### **HISTORY OF THE MCKILLOP SENIOR CHOIR**

McKillop United Church in Lethbridge was officially recognized exactly 60 years ago, in May of 1954. The first musical director was Joan (Rylands) Croskery and she immediately organized the McKillop Choir. The choir sang its first anthem, "Who is on the Lord's Side," in September of 1954. In its 60 years the choir has had several short-term directors and nine who served for longer periods: Joan Croskery (4), Albert Rodnunski (5) Frank Ward (4), Henk van Egteren (17), Sandra Brunelle (9), and our current leader, Ken Rogers, who has been with us for 17 years. Full-time organists have included Marian Train (3), Dixie Botterill (4), Jack Langford (2), Myrna Greene (11) and Marilyn Sinclair, who is in her 32<sup>nd</sup> year with us. Our longest serving member (Ken Mills) has been singing with us for 57 years.

In addition to leading worship every Sunday from September through June each year and occasionally joining with our Handbell choir and Joyful Noise junior choir, in its long history the choir has performed several times on the old CJOC television show, in the Kiwanis music festival, at the Rotary Christmas Carol festival, and at the Salvation Army's "Coffee and Carols" services. We have put on concerts, recitals, and cantatas, performed at ecumenical services with the 24<sup>th</sup> Street choirs and with other United Church choirs at special events. An offshoot of the senior choir, the Concordia Singers, under the direction of Henk van Egteren, sang at various churches and nursing homes for approximately 12 years. One of the choir's favorite activities is singing at a summer service in the Waterton United Church, always followed by a pot-luck picnic.

In the 70s we raised the choir social fees from 10 cents to 25 cents, where they remain today! We have always been a fun-loving bunch and cherish our time singing together, our leaders, our members and our parties.





## SEPT. 7<sup>th</sup> Rev. Joyce Sasse Retired in Pincher Creek



The “**Rural Church Movement**” is active and growing across Canada and around the world. I’m proud to be a participant. We work in a context that is inter-denominational and inter-disciplinary.

In 2005 we formed the *Canadian Rural Church Network*. It is an organization of “persons who have a passion for enhancing the quality of life in rural communities”. Our newsletters are posted at [www.canadianruralchurch.net](http://www.canadianruralchurch.net). In 2009 *Circle-M (Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry)* came into existence. It is an off-shoot of the Saskatoon Theological Union (Lutheran, Anglican and United Church

Seminaries). Circle-M now grants degrees in *Rural Ministry and Community Development*. Through research on rural community ministry, conferences, training programs and on-line resource materials it reaches across Western Canada. ([www.circle-m.ca](http://www.circle-m.ca)) and works with our Eastern Canadian counterparts.

Seeds for the Rural Church Movement were sprouted when interested persons from a number of countries were invited by the Arthur Rank Centre to meet in England in 1994. Since that time the *International Rural Churches Association* has met every four years. In July 2014 the IRCA meeting will be held in Malawi, Africa.

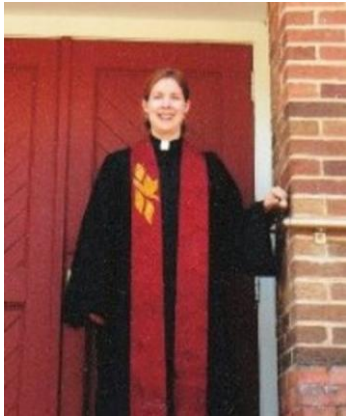
A recent example of work being done is a project called “*Church and Community Crisis Response Training*”. Two Webinars held in May 2014, plus outreach into the communities participating, is intended to help ready volunteers in small rural areas so they can be part of their local

Emergency Services Organization. Their work is to tend to the “people-needs” (victims and care-givers) when a crisis occurs.

Participation in this kind of work fulfils a passion for rural (and small church) ministry I have tried to fulfill for more than 50 years.

## SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> LISA WAITES, CHAPLAIN and Divinity Student.... Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat.

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](http://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.

## THE CHURCH AT LARGE

\*\*\*\*\*In the most **recent communication from our Moderator**, Right Reverend Gary Paterson uses the story of Jesus' advice to the disciples to "fish on the other side" as metaphor for the future direction of the United Church...that is, to look at new ways of structure and operation, "to explore preliminary possibilities for change in our church." Again, all pastoral charges are encouraged to offer thoughtful feed-back regarding the first reports coming out of the Comprehensive Review. See [www.united-future.ca](http://www.united-future.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*With many other partners, representatives from the United Church have travelled across the country over the last many months in the quest for **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** for First Nations Peoples who were separated from their families to be educated in Residential Schools. Some very painful stories, an unintentional part of the history, have been shared, and importantly, heard. The rich heritage of the native healing circles has much to offer to the world at large....

\*\*\*\*\*Every Pastoral Charge has been asked to increase awareness about **MISSION AND SERVICE**.

### **Mission and Service Goal-setting and Covenant**

Our "Each one, Ask One" campaign and resources are designed to help:

1. **To increase the number of givers for M&S and**
2. **To increase M&S giving in the congregation generally.**

Please raise up the church's M&S programs and those who support them in your prayers. People across this country and around the globe are praying, preaching, teaching, caring, healing, and creating because of your support and that of the people in your congregation. Thank you for inviting people to express their compassion, build community, and offer hope by giving to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. Thank you!" (Excerpts from the Stewardship Office of the M&S Department of the United Church of Canada, Easter Message to all pastoral charges.)

\*\*\*\*\*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](mailto:subscribe@ucobserver.org) or write to 478 Huron Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2R3

## MESSAGE FROM WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

*We appreciate many people at all levels of the United Church of Canada for their on-going support and encouragement of this "faith family" and for the countless visitors who pass through and find sanctuary. Heartfelt thanks are extended to all who have supported so generously in our goal to replenish our finances after our major flooring upgrade last year. Each one of you is a blessing in the life of this little church. May we continue to offer sanctuary and inspiration to all who enter in, and those who cherish memories of doing so.*

***"May the God of Hope fill you with the joy and peace in believing!" Romans 15:13***

***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**