

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2016



**Summer Services June 19th to September 11th
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.**

**Open A.A. Meetings Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., July & August
Special Fun Activities for Children, & Gatherings for Peace, TBA**

**Waterton United Church, Box 94, Waterton Park, Alberta
T0K 2M0; phone 403 859 2242. Year-Round Rentals.**

www.watertonunitedchurch.com

Secretary's email: caroluanne@gmail.com

*If you have received this letter by regular mail & have an email address, please help us to update our mailing list. Please let us know if you do **not** wish to remain on the list.
Comments are welcome.*

2016 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

****note: some changes may occur; other choirs & guest musicians are most welcome to join us!****

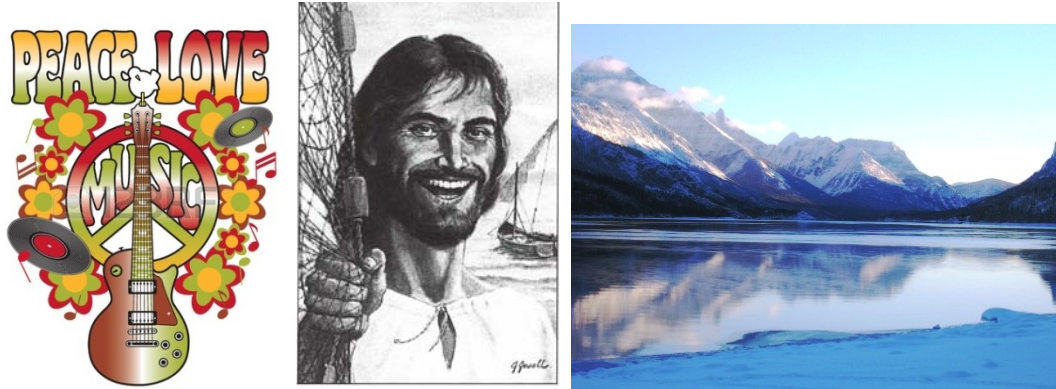
MAY 22nd,	MR. BRYAN HUSTON , Certified lay leader, from Southminster U.C.
JUNE 19th	REV. DR. RANDY CROZMAN , Orchard Valley United Church, Nova Scotia, (Waterton UC Divinity Student, mid 70s)
JUNE 26th	MRS. LISA WAITES , CHAPLAIN, Medicine Hat College, from Redcliff
JULY 3rd	REV. BEV DIDUCK , Balgonie United Church, Saskatchewan
JULY 10 th	REV. PAULINE BELL , Lethbridge
JULY 17th	MRS. MARIE BARR , LPM, Ogema/Bengough/Pangman Pastoral Charge, Saskatchewan (formerly of Cardston)
JULY 24 th	REV. JOYCE SASSE , Pincher Creek (with members from Springridge Mennonite Church)
JULY 31 st	REV. DR. CULLENE BRYANT , Victoria
AUGUST 7 th	REV. NANCY NOURSE , Northminster U.C., Calgary
AUGUST 14 th	MR. DARRELL REINE , LPM, Westminster United Church, Regina
AUGUST 21st	PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA , Lethbridge
AUGUST 28 th	DR. ED BARDOCK , Pastoral Charge Supervisor and Lay Leader, With Milk River Choir
SEPTEMBER 4 th	REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL , Lethbridge, with McKillop Choir
SEPTEMBER 11 th	MRS. MARY YVONNE HOHM , Lay Leader, Lethbridge

CONCERT

JULY 16th. 7:30 p.m. Dale Ketcheson, and guests, classical and flamenco guitar **and** intricate **jazz jam**. This is Dale's 14th annual Waterton U.C. Concert! **Tickets are \$10 at the door; \$5 for students (College & University) * Refreshments.** Please check web-site, Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of other concerts, possibly t.b.a.



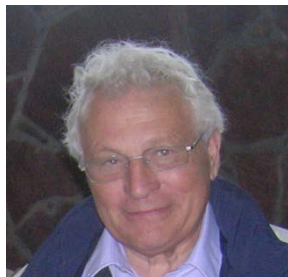
NEW SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED THIS SUMMER: There will be fun events for kids, and a series of evenings focusing on Peace, via music, art, poetry, and discussion. Posters will be on our Facebook page, the web-site (watertonunitedchurch.com), and via posters around town.



Where Have All The Flowers Gone?*Universal Soldier*Give Peace a Chance*Let It Begin With Me

A BIG THANK-YOU to all the Guest Choirs and Musicians. Your Melodies and Harmonies inspire us! **And a toast of deep appreciation is hereby extended to all accompanists!**

MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR



Dr. Ed Bardock, Lethbridge, (Lead clergy on August 28th with the Milk River Choir.)

It has been my privilege to work with a very diligent Council and group of volunteers who are dedicated to keeping a United Church presence in the Park. An effective stewardship program is in place and there is an excellent group of volunteers who make arrangements for guest clergy, ensure that refreshments are available for church services and who provide proper maintenance and care of the property throughout the year. This year the annual Christmas service, with more than eighty present, celebrated not only their efforts during the year but the completion of a major kitchen renovation that highlighted their work and passion for this idyllic little church nestled in the Rockies

All of this good fortune and success, however, like so much of what affects our lives, is not so much a presence as it is an absence....an absence of pain, of the tragedies that haunt so much of

the world today and from which we have, in large measure, been spared. With the recent economic turmoil many are battling unemployment, we still have widespread poverty, homelessness and we are striving to make amends to our native population. But, even here, we maintain a network of social services of which we can be proud and we enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world.

The refugee crisis, on such a massive scale and affecting so many countries drove home to us in 2015 the reality of our good fortune nudged our conscience as a nation. Though we live thousands of miles away our lives were touched in a very dramatic way by the suffering and desperation of the people of those stricken areas highlighted by the pictures of a small boy washed up on an isolated beach. We have responded, not only with good will and sympathy, but with financial aid and unsurpassed donations for their relief and aid. If we can retain that collective commitment to aid in resolving the injustice and suffering, Canadians will remain among the most respected and influential countries of the world.

This year tragedy struck much closer to home with the Fort McMurray fire. But right across Canada, the spirit of good will, compassion, opening homes to help families left stranded without even personal effects, and generous financial support highlight that same Canadian spirit! We are so fortunate as a collective nation to pull together in times of tragedy. Indeed, for those of us in the United Church family we truly can feel the truth of our Creed “We are not alone” as we see a nation bound together by the same ideals regardless of where we live in this land.

As we continue on our journey into the rest of the year, it truly is an occasion to reflect on the blessings we take for granted: a high standard of living, a free country and people whose generous response to distress marked them as being truly compassionate. Good news for us all at a time when we can do with good news.

In Faith, Dr. Ed Bardock

2015 -2016 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

(Executive: Chair person - Barb Clay, Vice-Chair, Lynn Cameron-Thorpe, Secretary Carol Watt, Treasurer Janice Smith. Presbytery Reps, Dave & Barb Colbeck, Property leaders, Dave Colbeck & Doug Miller, Stewardship, Lou Niven, Anne Miller.)

			
Lil Evanoff	Carol Watt	Aynsley Baker	Lynn CameronThorpe

			
Doug Miller	Anne Miller	Carol Cruickshank	Lou Niven
			
Janice Smith	Mary Yvonne Hohm	Barb Clay	Barb Colbeck
			
Bob Clay	Dave Colbeck	Ben Hofer	Phil Ruppel
			<p>Do you want to join us? We are a welcoming team!</p>
Lauren Baker	Diane Rossetti	Dr. Ed Bardock	

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! Just let us know if you are interested!

AND SPECIAL THANKS to....

*** Jim Barlischen for reviewing the books; ***Janice Smith for keeping meticulous financial records;*** Phil Ruppel for quality grounds-keeping;***Doug Miller, Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Rob and Roddy Watt for repair and care of the building; *** Diane Rossetti for on-going assistance with web-site & facebook page management; ***Lil Evanoff, Concert Pioneer and Hostess Extraordinaire;***Lauren Baker for co-ordinating the property upgrades;***Lou Niven, for organizing the new Host/Hostess Scheduling, co-ordinating our beautiful new Honour Wall, and with Carol Watt, playing piano and/or organ;*** Aynsley Baker for outreach and new children's times;*** Bev Tilson, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Cathy Millar, Bob Clay & Bernie Weninger, for pitching in when it comes time to clean and decorate ;*** Dave Colbeck& Doug Miller for co-chairing the Property Committee; ***Doug and Anne Miller for joining so freely in the regular work of treasury and building stewardship; *** Christy Gustavison & Ted Harrity 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!**



can help in any way.

We extend love and prayers for peaceful healing to all those struggling with serious illness or loss in whatever form that may be. 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

Ms. Ella McColl, Mrs. Gert Talbot and Rev. Bill Milberry, long-time supporters of Waterton UC, have passed on this year. We miss them, as we do all the Friends of Waterton who have gone on before. Their legacy inspires and energizes us!

OUR FIRST HONOUR WALL IS NEARING COMPLETION....



Our special 2011 anniversary project, a WALL OF HONOUR celebrating **FRIENDS OF WATERTON, PAST AND PRESENT**, is almost full. We are aware that Waterton is loved by many, many people. Knowing this, we have installed a Friendship Wall. (Each plaque = approx. 2 inches by 5 inches, with black lettering on a gold background costs \$100. 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, please email Lou Niven at mary3niven@gmail.com or phone 403-628-2036 or 403 627 7963.

We are also building a “Treasure Album” which will be kept on a table below the Wall. 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 in alphabetical order, although the plaques on the Wall cannot be alphabetical.) 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 (on front page). We look forward to building this Album and send thanks to those of you who have already done this!

Weddings, meetings, occasional workshops, retreats and youth group sleep-overs 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!

FEE SCHEDULE

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. (fee changes may occur...)

Workshops:	\$150/day or \$75/half-day
Weddings/Raincheck Weddings:	\$250
Youth group retreats:	\$100/day, including sleeping over...
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. Dr. Ed Bardock has played a vital role in advocating for this annual funding for Waterton UC. **All donations received are greatly appreciated and very important in the life and work of the church!**

REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE:

- "HISTORY OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH"
This book was compiled some 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. ... (cost is \$18 plus mailing costs if needed.)
 - OUR PERPETUAL CALENDAR: Through the seasons in Waterton....photos were 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. Alex is now compiling C.D.s with additional favourite sermons... current email - dralexlawson@shaw.ca / ph.250 383 1880.
 - CDs of original music by Musician and Chaplain Lisa Waites \$15
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Highlights of 2015-early 2016

*****GUEST CLERGY**** 2015 was the 14th 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 came in early. We have a simple, transparent system in place: dates are recorded as the requests come in. **Special thanks are extended at time of this writing (May, 2016) 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 email soon!**

"MAY LONG" OPENING SERVICE,

For **the fourth year** in a row, we were pleased to have Bryan Huston return to lead our Sunday morning service on the May Long Week-end. A warm welcoming fellowship followed...

YOGA CLASSES, did not run in 2015, but are planned for this fall.

YOUTH GROUPS gathered to focus on outdoor winter activities several times. Many enthusiastic comments were reported about these rental activities.

2015 UPGRADING PROJECTS COMPLETED: The exterior frames of the cathedral window were prepped and painted; we installed a gentle sidewalk ramp access from the street, and ultimately up-dated the kitchen. Extra meetings, estimates, committee work and considerable time, effort and funding were needed. *Many gifted people pitched in, to whom we will be forever grateful!*

JULY 26TH, 2015, WAS A RED LETTER DAY. We hosted a happy gathering as we recognized **Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson as Minister Emeritus for Waterton United Church.** Alex's regular Sunday service was enriched with music and a presentation, followed by a gay and festive pot-luck luncheon. There was time for stories and visiting. Folks who couldn't attend sent tributes and memories. Congratulations Alex! We are honoured to be able to do this for you after your years of dedicated leadership and inspiration for Waterton United Church.

Pictured below: Hostess Lil Evanoff greets Lynn and Gordon Lowe; Sheena Lawson prepares her solo with a smile; Alex begins his service: *“I will lift up my eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, Who made Heaven and Earth....”*



Representatives of the Waterton Council present Alex with his Minister Emeritus certificate (L- R: Doug Miller, Lil Evanoff, Alex, Carol Watt, Barb Clay, Janice Smith, Lynn Cameron-Thorp.)



Dr. Ed Bardock, Supervising minister, Presbytery Chair, and church mentor, congratulates Alex.



Festivities continue. All photos courtesy of Cathy Lockerby, whose artistry has given us a quality record of the day.



Alex's family winds up the afternoon, singing "Flower of Scotland".

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND GATHERING: We offer thanks to Rev. James Grunden of Southminster United Church for taking the lead, also thanks to an entire bus load of Lethbridge folks who arrived with bells on, carrying casseroles in great abundance! Thanks also to everyone else who made it a priority. The exquisite, timeless story, enriched with music, candlelight, and abiding love, overflowed the sanctuary and lifted our hearts as we journeyed home.

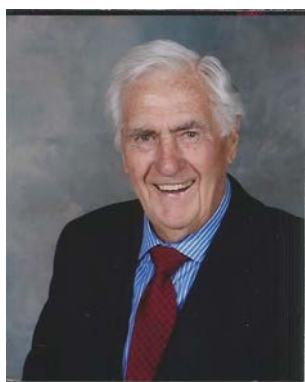
* Below, **The Southminster U.C. Chancel Choir**, Photo by Jack and Wendy Sherman





Lauren Baker, Major Kitchen Project Co-ordinator, with appreciation gift; the new kitchen and appliances, and the pot luck table prepared... Photos by Barb & Dave Colbeck, December 19th, 2015.

Message from Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, Minister Emeritus



An elderly minister said to a young ordained, “Remember that every time you look out on a congregation, there is someone there with a broken heart.” The longer I am in the ministry, the more I know that to be an accurate statement.

I note that St. Stephen’s College now offers courses on Psychotherapy and Spirituality. It was back forty years ago, in the early seventies, when I was minister of Minto United Church, Moose Jaw, that I combined Spirituality with psychotherapy because it made all the sense in the world to combine two disciplines with similar goals. The goal of the Christian is redemption: freedom from the chains of the past to liberation in Christ. The goal of

Psychotherapy is freedom from Adapted Behaviour: decisions made in childhood which become the beliefs we live by today.

Of course, the psychotherapy and spirituality we use must be compatible. The Calvinistic /Augustinian belief in the inherent corruption of humans, “in sin did your mother conceive you”, is in conflict with the belief that all creation is good and we are born in the image of God. And an authoritarian minister, “spare the rod and spoil the child”, will hardly embrace an egalitarian psychology practicing respect, “Do unto others....” especially to our children.

My theology of choice is Celtic Spirituality with its belief in the goodness of God’s creation and those who inhabit it, and the psychotherapy I use is Transactional Analysis which believes that we are born OK, and the ideal life position is; I’m OK -You’re OK.

Adapted behaviour is rife in the Old Testament where God is portrayed as the omnipotent one who rewards and punishes, blesses and curses, and people decide ways to please God by temple sacrifice and the keeping of the law.

Authoritarian parents who punish will produce children who live life endeavoring to please them and others. Parents who raise their children with unconditional love and no punishment or reward, allow consequences arising out of their children's behaviour to discipline them. I have never seen redemption in the presence of judgment, but what new life I have witnessed in the presence of grace!

Most people attending our services have been brought up by parents who were never trained to parent in New Testament ways and are experiencing not only broken hearts, but depression, anxiety, guilt, abandonment, failure, and low self-esteem, the products of Adapted behavior. The training of ministers in psychotherapy is an endeavor to equip ministers to help people deal with their issues in the warm, accepting fellowship of the congregation. It is imperative that when folks enter our church they hear a gospel of unconditional love and experience a ministry of caring.

I know of no better tool for use by Clergy and Lay persons than the theory, skills and philosophy of Transactional Analysis undergirded by the devotion and lovingkindness of Celtic Spirituality.

Dr. Alex Lawson

Alex is recognized by I.T.A.A. as a Pioneer of T.A. in Canada.

(Note. I do not like to use the word, 'psychotherapy'. It suggests that people who come to us for support are mentally ill. I don't think that. In all my years as a minister I have never referred one person to a Psychiatrist. I, and our Lay counsellors, helped them deal with whatever the issue was.)

For discussion or clarification contact. Alex dralexlawson@gmail.com.

2016: MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY

(The schedule may have occasional unavoidable changes...)



MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Licensed Lay Worship Leader from Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, will lead the "Opening Service" on May 22nd at 11:30. His delight with the Park is reflected here, with Mount Vimy guarding the trail....For the newsletter he has written:

In 2001 I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Certificate Program offered by St. Stephen's College and since that time I have enjoyed providing pulpit supply to a number of United Churches in Southern Alberta.

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 we all are embraced in the purity of worship as people respond to the “open doors, open minds, and open hearts” of this place.

I have been fortunate to spend time in every season at the family cottage in Waterton. As life cycles along, Barbara and I now look forward to happily chaotic summers exploring the wonders of the Park with our six grand children. The legacy that we foster is a deep appreciation for this beautiful place.

Appreciation and blessing are one and the same. We sometimes say, “let’s bless the food now,” or “Bless you,” or “may this house be blessed.” Actually, we have no power to make anything more Holy than it already is. *Everything is already completely blessed*, and all the prayers in the world could not make it more blessed. We certainly could not imbue a loaf of bread or a person with more God than already lives within them. What we can do however, is to *see*, or appreciate the God-infused blessedness in the person or object, guaranteed by the Light that lights the world.

JUNE 19th, REV. RANDY CROZMAN, from Orchard Valley United Church, Nova Scotia. As a Divinity student, Rev. Randy led services in the combined Waterton & Fishburn-Marr Pastoral Charge in the mid 70s. He is the first from our history of that time to return as guest clergy, and we are honoured to welcome him “home” to Waterton.



The mind boggling fire in and around Fort McMurray is happening as I write this article. Memories include: standing at the top of Niagara Falls, watching millions of liters of water crash to the river below, crashing into the waves on a ferry from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland during a sea storm, forty three degree weather in Burkina Faso, as I walked through a growing project in the Sahara Desert, the almost surrealism of the Grand Canyon and

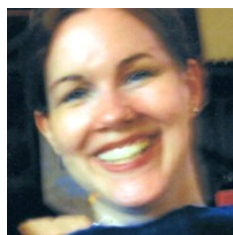
Bryce Canyon, Utah, and then the incredible memory of walking across the town of Waterton and hearing the rockslides in the mountains behind me, wondering if I should be afraid!

All of this is to say that pastoral representation of God, in the Christ who carries the lamb in his arms, on Shepherd Sunday, is not the only aspect of the Divine Creator that instills awe and wonder. Such incredible experiences of creation, as listed above, serve to stop us in our tracks! Here, as we experience nature at its greatest power and magnificence, we are made aware of a design and force far beyond anything that we could imagine or create. We are confronted with God . . . God the Almighty, whose ‘plan’ stretches far before anything we can even hope to describe, never mind comprehend.

So . . . we come to the time and place of simply falling to our knees and in prayer acknowledging: You are the “I am”. Ours is simply to adore, give thanks, acknowledge, and seek strength in the presence of the Awesome.

May you who read this article and experience Waterton Lakes National Park and community, this summer, find God in the majesty of creation!

JUNE 26th: LISA WAITES, CHAPLAIN and Divinity Student....
Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat.



April 11th, 2016

Dear Waterton United Church Family and Guests,

Spring has sprung! The arrival of this season seems to signal new chores demanding completion, right alongside the new growth outside our windows. As we prepare the church building for another season of ministry to our church

family and friends, let us also prepare our hearts and minds to receive God’s love, and to share that love in the community around us.

It is always a great pleasure to visit Waterton National Park, and to serve your congregation by providing weekend supply among you. My family also enjoys your gracious hospitality and the abundance of natural beauty surrounding the church. Our trip to Waterton is definitely one of the highlights of our summer.

As I write this note, I am in the midst of another busy semester as the ecumenical Christian Chaplain at Medicine Hat College. Students of many different ages and backgrounds can find support from the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry in the areas of advocacy, Christian programming, hospitality, and pastoral care. Whether I am assisting students with exam stress or exploring the “big questions” of life with them, serving up free soup lunches for students in need, or participating in a Bible study class, my real job description is to be the hands and feet of Christ among the college community. I seek to serve and honour everyone who comes through the door, regardless of their circumstances or faith background. My prayer for Waterton United Church this year is that each of you will experience renewal and rejuvenation in the presence of the Holy One.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in 2016, whether you are regular congregants or occasional guests. By the time I visit your lovely church in June, I will have graduated from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies with my doctoral degree. Over the past 3½ years of full-time study at IWS, I have had the privilege of learning and applying the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of Christian worship in the context of congregational ministry. The mix of academic and practical skills that I have gained through my studies at IWS has positively impacted the MHECM Chaplaincy, my company, Servant Song Music and Ministry, and the congregations that I serve as a supply preacher. In other exciting news, after a year of discernment and an initial interview with the ANW Conference, I have been formally accepted as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry with the South Alberta Presbytery. I am looking forward to working on the remaining steps to fulfill Testamur and complete the Candidacy process.

I remain your servant and your sister in Christ,

Chaplain Lisa Waites chaplainmhc@gmail.com

JULY 3rd REV. BEV DIDUCK, Balgonie U.C., Saskatchewan.



Waterton: !!

I lift up my eyes to the hills... the opening line of the well-known *Psalms* 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 5th in the beauty of the majestic mountains - although I hope it is much warmer this year!



JULY 10th , REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge

Reflection:

A wise one offers this story.

One sunny day, a wonderful cruiser sped down the lake. Inside, the passengers gloried in the sun, the wave spray, the bounce of the boat on the waves. Much later, they conversed about their day and wondered what another day would hold.

The same sunny day, an old fellow put into a river with his old flat-bottomed rowboat. As he wandered about the shallow bays, he noticed the wonders of the day and the antics of children playing near the shore. From his vantage point, sitting backward to row, he could see where he had been and what was going on near him.

This story, offered in a Richard Rohr writing, points out to us, the need to include time to move more slowly, to observe who and what is near us, and to look backward too.

Life is filled with wonderful exciting events that can and do capture our full attention and keep us looking forward to the next moment.

Life offers, too, moments in which we can choose times to look back and to reflect upon what has been. It is in the intentional choosing to be reflective that we find the perspective that becomes wisdom.

We can note, that the story tells us that life is for living with zest, that priorities can change over time, and that one must be intentional and choose how to blend vigorous living with times of quietude and reflection.

Whether one is young - in the energetic years - or older - in the slowing down years - at either end and all through our life span, the call is the same. Our Creator, living in and around us, calls each of us to times of works and of contemplation. The call comes steadily throughout our life time; we are never done listening for God's latest message or insight for us.

When we have opportunities like the one offered by Waterton United Church we have a choice to make. We can choose to give ourselves the same gift as the fellow in the rowboat found. We too, can take time to be a place conducive to being present in the moment. We could spend time in Waterton -- both in the church and the community and then be open to the message or insight that will be ours.

In fact, I would say that we should give ourselves that gift -- time in a place that helps us be open to a new perspective that leads to wisdom.

I am so pleased to have this opportunity --- both to share my ideas with you and to personally spend time in a place under heaven that I find special. Waterton National Park, Waterton community, Waterton United Church ---- all offer me a place to find and hear the voice of the Holy One. What will you choose?



JULY 17th , MRS. MARIE BARR, Designated Lay Minister (D.LM) serving Ogema/Bengough/Pangman Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan, (and previously a long-serving member of Cardston United Church).

“ 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 in mid July as we once again thank God and explore where that gratitude can take us.

JULY 24th, REV/ JOYCE SASSE

is a retired United Church Minister who resides in Pincher Creek and does community development work and writing about rural communities and the rural church. Her weekly *Country Preacher’s Notes (Blog)* and *Canadian Rural Church Network Newsletter* can be seen at the following

<http://circle-m.ca/blog> & <http://www.circle-m.ca/crcn>

Something to Think About -

When considering how churches are being called to action by *The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, the following comments and questions may be helpful.

What does “reconciliation” mean?

Justice Murray Sinclair’s definition of “Reconciliation”: (www.trc.ca/websites/reconciliation)

“For seven generations Aboriginal children were told their lives were not as good as the non-Aboriginals of this country. Their languages and cultures were irrelevant ... their people and their ancestors were heathens and pagans ... uncivilized ... they needed to give up that way of life and come to a different way of living ... Furthermore, white children were taught the same thing...”

* Do you agree / disagree with Sinclair’s comment that Aboriginals have been victimized by past government policies?

*Have “white children” been affected by these same policies? Can we consider ourselves to be victims?

*Why should we discuss these issues?

John Ralston Saul speaks about the remarkable resurgence of Aboriginal peoples, not only in terms of numbers, but to positions of increasing power, creativity and influence. He says the ways in which our society responds to this opportunity is the greatest issue of our time, the one for which we will be remembered and judged by history.

Do you agree / disagree?

What makes the Aboriginal culture so resilient?

How might Aboriginals refer to their history in the future?

Can contact with Aboriginal people enrich the lives of non-Aboriginal people? How?



In your congregation would it be appropriate to indicate that the territory on which you are meeting is “In the Traditional Territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy”?

If you were to join with Aboriginals in “*A Time For Reconciliation*” consider the following:
Would the agenda include a time for Aboriginals to discuss something about their sacrifice, pain and waiting, before proceeding with the discussion?
Would non-Aboriginal participants be more anxious to move on to naming “solutions” and expect a mood of celebration?

Re: (Waterton Summer Service) Theme: A Journey Toward Good Relationships

In response to Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission calling Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Southern Alberta to action, where do we begin?

The Question “*A Journey Toward Good Relationships*” will be addressed at Waterton United Church on Sunday, July 24, 2016 (10:30 am) through sharing fellowship and spiritual reflection.

Our spiritual reflection time will be followed by a Pot-Luck Fellowship Picnic. Organizers for this day include:

Rev. Joyce Sasse (United Church), Tany Warkentin (Springridge Mennonite Church)
Archdeacon Sidney Black (Anglican: Piikani and Kainai) and their respective communities.

Everyone is invited!



JULY 31st, REV. DR. CULLENE BRYANT, Victoria

How fortunate I am to spend some time in Waterton Park this summer. What a rush it has been to organize the flights, or perhaps for you to prepare your motor home for the journey, or figure out the bus schedule. We leave behind our busy lives: the five o’clock rush of traffic and our appointments and deadlines. We enter a place of rest. In the quiet we become more sensitive to Nature’s voices: the trill of a bird, whisper of wind and the crunch of leaves underfoot. We may reflect on our life’s journey and take a new path or rejoice in our relationships with loved ones, past and present. As we peel back the layers of silence we discover a rich texture to our lives.

The discipline of honouring silence is an ancient tradition in the Christian faith. In the fourth century Christianity gained acceptance and became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Many Christians fled the corruption, politics and trappings of Rome in order to live a simple life in the desert. They believed that the greatest enemies of the inner journey were hurry, crowds and noise. In solitude, they sought a deeper awareness of the divine presence.

So it may be for us in Waterton Park. When we come to this sacred place to worship we open our ears and our hearts to the voice of God. We allow silence to speak its wisdom. The Psalmist said, *I have stilled and quieted my soul.* (Psalm 131:2) In the peace and beauty of this place may we too feel God’s presence in our hearts and lives.

**AUGUST 7th, Rev. Nancy Nourse,
Northminster United Church, Calgary**

Mountains have a special place in the Bible. People like Moses climbed mountains to receive messages from God. And at the end of his life’s journey, Moses looked out from the top of a mountain for



one last view as he reflected on all that had happened. In Psalm 121, the writer looked to the mountains longingly for help. Centuries later, Jesus retreated up a mountain away from the crowds to pray. And during his transfiguration, it was on a mountain that some of the disciples witnessed God's light and voice surrounding Jesus.

The mountains have a significant place in our lives, too. After a long hike up a rugged trail or a drive up a windy road, the view from the top can be breath-taking, and it's a place many of us love to reflect. There are even times when we have our mountain-top experiences, in which we see life in a new way, or gain a new perspective on something, or even experience a significant revelation we didn't see coming. We don't always climb that mountain; moreover there are seasons where we feel quite low in life, but we raise our eyes in prayer, looking to the tops of the mountains and beyond –for divine inspiration, encouragement, and strength.

Waterton is a place of great beauty that draws us in. This summer, some will be returning who have come for generations with their families and who see this place as their heart's home. Others will come to Waterton for the very first time. May this year be a gift for all who experience the mountains here this summer – that we may know the blessings of God's light and strength, and that when we long for direction, we will receive guidance from the Holy One. May our time in the mountains of Waterton be opportunity for reflection, recreation, and re-creation.

AUGUST 14th : MR. DARRELL REINE, DLM from Westminster



United in Regina (This pic shows my wife Karen, Carol Watt, and Lil Evanoff, enjoying the downtown ambience after church last summer.)

A year ago at this time, I had arrived in Cuernavaca, Mexico during my third week of sabbatical. I learned a lot in the two weeks I was there. Many issues of injustices and poverty were in abundance and my guide told me many stories of the plight of the Mexican

people. After that I attended a course in Montreal through the Centre for Christian Studies with two final papers to write before mid-summer. I ended my time of sabbatical with a week in Waterton, which became a much needed rest.

Waterton has become a second home for us, my partner Karen and Dog, Bella. A few years back I almost didn't want to come but after spending the week there, I was drawn back into the beautiful peace that comes within the park and within oneself. Each time we leave the park, there is a period of silence in the car, a few tears shed and as we look back to the mountains disappearing from our sight, we start to anticipate next year and our return home.

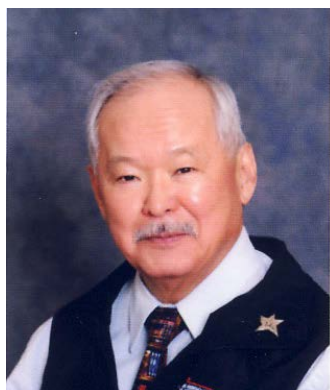
There is great insight to why people feel welcomed to Waterton and more precisely to why people are welcomed lovingly to the United Church. For a small group of people with great determination and love of the church, they make every effort for not only the people who may come through the doors on Sunday morning, but the groups who use the space and a great deal of work put into the comfort of their guest ministers. It is almost like going home to Grandma's, the love and anticipation of your arrival is filled with hospitality and grace. So, thank you, to all the volunteers who make this so.

As our United Church goes through this transitional period of time, I wonder about places like Waterton United Church which depends a bit on the generosity of many across the church who

donate to the Mission and Service Fund. It is the support of many which sustains places like the United Church in Waterton and many various ministries across our church. And as our structures change, the diminishing amounts of money on the offering plates becomes an old but yet new realistic for us. My hope is that we can remember places like Waterton United Church and the valued ministry they offer.

As I wrestle with this week's gospel, John 13: 31-35, I am reminded of two things. The commandment to love one another, and secondly, we celebrate Earth Sunday and the care of creation this week. And so, the last few lines of my sermon will be something along the lines of, "love one another enough to care what we are doing in the world, not just to ourselves, but to our brothers and sisters, the land, and all of creation. And if I was preaching that sermon in Waterton, it would include this sacred place that many of us call and are called to, home."

May it be so! --Darrell Reine



AUGUST 21st , PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA,: Pastor George is retired in Lethbridge, most recently from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge,

REFLECTION Over the years, many people have asked this question: "Is going to church necessary?" Now in recent years, the question is "Is church necessary?" Of course, we know that church attendance and indeed, church membership, is declining. In recent years, we in The United Church of Canada have been closing church buildings; members have been attending other churches or simply stopped attending. Some have also been exploring other religious groups and see what they have to offer.

I read an interesting article in one of the American Christian journals not too long ago. In a 2013 survey by the Barna Group, over 3,000 American adults were asked what they thought about going to church. About 30 % of Americans said attending church is very important (lower percentage in our country). About 40 % were ambivalent about attending church, and 30 % said attending church is not important at all. Those who were ambivalent about attending church gave two top reasons for their ambivalence: "I find God elsewhere" (40 %) and it is not "personally relevant" (35 %).

Millennials who are opting out of church cite the following three factors with equal weight in their decision: the moral failures of church leaders, hypocrisy, and the church's irrelevance. 20 % of Millennials say that "God is missing" from church and 10 % sense that doubt is prohibited. Also, when asked to list "What made your faith grow?", the church did not even make the top ten.

Now I find these survey results – albeit American but similar results can be found in our country – startling. We have the presence of a church building right here in Waterton Park and we have loyal members and supporters. So what makes church special? Why should we be a part of a church? Maybe we would save time, effort and money by being a Christian on our own. Then again, can we be a Christian by ourselves in isolation?

Perhaps this is a good time to wonder and to ponder on the necessity of church.

AUGUST 28th , DR. ED BARDOCK, PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR, LAY LEADER, With the MILK RIVER CHOIR. (Please see his message on page 3.)



SEPTEMBER 4TH: REV.DR. AUSTIN FENNEL Lethbridge. with the McKillop U.C. Choir

WAYS TO SUPPORT WATERTON UNITED CHURCH

1. Consider a financial donation.
2. Plan to attend a church service sometime during the summer.
3. Bring a friend(s) with you.
4. Put a notice in your church bulletin about the summer services at Waterton United Church.
5. Donate a couple of pounds of coffee for "AFTER-CHURCH-COFFEE-HOUR".
6. Nominate a person(s) for the church's Honour Wall
7. Send a card of encouragement to one of the worship leaders listed elsewhere in this newsletter.
8. Read and pass along to someone the article about Waterton United Church appearing in the May issue of the *United Church Observer*.
9. Send a card of thanks to the Board of Waterton United Church for their continuing effort to keep the church open and functioning.
10. Offer a prayer asking for God's blessing on Waterton United Church.

SEPTEMBER 11th, MRS. MARY YVONNE HOHM, Lay Leader, Lethbridge



Church and Sunday School have been part of my life for as long as I can remember – first as a toddler, through Sunday School to church choir. My first memories are reciting a poem for a Christmas Concert. Poetry and literature were part of my growing up, including the poetry of the Psalms and the wording of the King James Version. All this was added when as a Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, I asked to fill in as Pulpit Supply when the Co-operative Pastoral Charge was formed about 1968. This contained nine churches and two Ordained Ministers. Although the need for ministers was filled in the early '70s, I continued to help out as

Pulpit Supply when needed in Southern Alberta. This experience has helped to broaden my faith and knowledge of the scriptures.

I have two favourite poems which always come into my mind; Here are a few lines of each:

YOU, By Edgar Guest
*You are the fellow that has to decide
 Whether you'll do it or toss it aside.
 You are the fellow who makes up your mind
 Whether you'll lead or linger behind.
 Whether you'll try for the goal that's afar
 Or just be contented to stay where you are.
 Take it or leave it. Here's something to do!
 Just think it over ---it's all up to you!*

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN, by Robert Frost
*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood
 And sorry I could not travel both
 And be one traveller; long I stood
 And looked down one as far as I could.
 To where it bent in the undergrowth.
 Then took the other; as just as fair
 And having perhaps the better claim,
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear;*

.....
*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
 I took the one less travelled by
 And that has made all the difference.*

Since our family first came to Waterton in 1939, purchasing a cabin in 1955, and selling in 2014, Waterton United Church congregation has continued to be part of my family's life, and hopefully will continue to be part of my church family. ---Mary Yvonne Hohm

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

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. **The Observer** is also an ideal gift for “non-church” friends who may have questions of faith on their minds. **Subscribe@ucobserver.org** or write to 478 Huron St., Toronto, Ont. M5R 2R3.

Two book reviews from the May 2016 Observer are quoted here, fyi.

“*Mixed Blessings: Indigenous Encounters with Christianity in Canada*, by Tolly Bradford and Chelsea Horton (UBC Press). While acknowledging the damage of colonialism, including the trauma of residential schools, *Mixed Blessings* illuminates our understanding of the relationship between indigenous people and Christianity in Canada. With an unbiased historical account, (the authors) analyze the complex ways the two have and will continue to interact from the early 1600s to the present day.”

“*The More of Less: Finding the Life You Want Under Everything You Own*, by Joshua Becker (Penguin Random House, Canada) *The More of Less* explores the modern inclination toward consumerism and the desire for more. (The author), a leading voice in the simplicity movement and founder of the website *Becoming Minimalist*, explains that passion for “things” never brings true happiness, but rather leads us astray from our God-given passions; a streamlined life provides for more than it takes away.”



THE UNITED CHURCH CREST UP-DATED: In 2012, the United Church Crest, which has contained symbols for the founding denominations of the United Church of Canada since 1925, was up-dated in a tribute to aboriginal Canadians. The traditional colours of the aboriginal medicine wheel, yellow, black, red and white, were incorporated, as were the Mohawk words for “All my relations:” *Akwe nia’ tetewa : neren*. Aboriginal members of the U.C. General Council chose the Mohawk phrase as representative of them all. A long, spontaneous standing ovation followed the passing of the motion. May the sensitive, vital work of truth and reconciliation continue to build bridges of wisdom and faithful partnerships.

The Comprehensive review is a vital work in progress. At the last General Council in Newfoundland, various key topics were discussed, and since then a series of **Remits** have taken shape around them. Over the next year Presbyteries and/or Pastoral Charges will be discussing and ultimately voting yay or nay about each one. An example is the question of moving the church structure from a four court to a three court system, and just how that is best put in place. (Conferences and Presbyteries would be combined across the country in some way to be determined.) We look forward to being part of this re-organization as the United Church of Canada moves faithfully and prayerfully into the future.

Building and Maintaining Mission and Service Programs:

*"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.)

SBNR: The Spiritual but Not Religious: Have you heard of these folks? More and more people identify in this way. The advice of one Observer writer is to: engage with these people, and welcome them into community with the grace and love of Jesus Christ,... and listen!

Have you heard of **Eckhart Tolle T.V..?** Eckhart is an academic and theological scholar who recommends learning how to live in the present moment. Quoting from the teachings of Jesus and of the Buddha and many other writers, he clarifies the common links between them, and helps countless people free themselves from anxiety and worry. By focusing totally on one's breathing for a few minutes, or the beauty of a tree, a flower or a sunset, beginners can start to acquire this freeing balance and tranquility. Try it, you might like it! He has written two books, *The Power of Now* and *A New Earth*, but to watch him in person is to be able to appreciate his delightful combination of wisdom, compassion, faith, humility, and humour.

MESSAGE FROM THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL:

We SO appreciate people at all levels of the United Church of Canada for the on-going support and encouragement consistently offered to this "faith family", and the countless visitors who pass through and find sanctuary. Heartfelt thanks are extended to all who have supported so generously in our goal of maintaining our finances as we undertook several up-grading projects. *Each one of you is a blessing in this little church.* May we continue to offer sanctuary and solace to all who enter in, and to those who cherish memories of having done so. ***"What does the Lord require of us, but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?"*** (Micah VI: 8). ***"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 . ***Be Still, and Know That I Am God!.....(Psalm 46:10, King James Version)***



Sofa & Vimy Reflection

