



Keeping In Touch With You – Spring 2010

McKillop United Church Newsletter

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A Pastoral Conversation

(A Song Bird overhearing Cathy and Trevor)

Cathy: It is so wonderful to notice the new signs of life each day as I walk to work. I just noticed the green shoot on a rose bush today!

Trevor: *You are right, Cathy – it always seems that nothing is happening during the winter and all of a sudden new life appears.*

Cathy: Even though I couldn't wait for February to be over this year, I realize there is a lot happening during the winter – I know it's there, but I can't see it.

Trevor: *That's sort of like McKillop in a way. Lots of things happening and it is hard to know what the new life will look like.*

Cathy: Yes, like the twenty-four people who gathered for the marriage preparation weekend, and our decision to become an 'Affirming Congregation' at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February.

Trevor: *And all the new technology which allows people to access the sermon on line and reach out to non-church people.*

Cathy: Don't forget the Mission Trip to Glide Memorial Church just after Easter. I'm excited about the energy the trip will bring to all of McKillop.

Trevor: *I guess, like the seasons, we have been experiencing change.*

Cathy: Even though we all hope for new growth like spring, we approach it differently.

Trevor: *It is like a seed germinating in the cold spring ground – it uses all of its energy to produce a new shoot.*

Cathy: When you talk about the seed, it reminds me of the theme we've been focusing on as we prepare for Easter: "Opening ourselves to transformation". I wonder how each of us are opening ourselves to new experiences, ideas, relationships, ways of being?

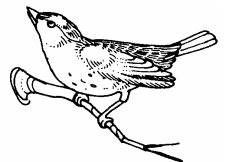
Trevor: *And I wonder how we as a church are opening to new ways of being, too? One way is the '2020' Group you and I are excited about – it is exploring what might be the next steps for McKillop.*

Cathy: We don't find the Resurrection in our own lives or our church's life without looking for it.

Trevor: *And sometimes that is not always easy or comfortable, because like the disciples of Jesus, we may want to run from the empty tomb in fear of the unknown.*

Cathy: Part of living into the unknown, which is both exciting and daunting, is working together towards our common vision.

Trevor: *Maybe McKillop's journey this Easter and beyond is this task of dreaming, exploring and communicating our hopes and dreams.*



Dates to Remember...

- Apr 1 Maundy Thursday
Worship & Potluck 6:00 pm
- Apr 2 Good Friday Worship 10:00 am
- Apr 3 Easter Labyrinth Meditation 7:00 pm
- Apr 4 Easter "Sunrise"
Worship (Contemporary) 8:00 am
Breakfast & Kids' Easter Hunt
8:30 – 9:30 am
Easter Worship (Traditional) 10:00 am
- Apr 10 UCW Coffee Party
- Apr 25 Combined Worship & Lunch 10:30 am
- May 2 CGIT Grad at the 10:00 am service
- May 8 "Over 80" Worship and Tea
- May 9 Mothers' Day Brunch at 12:30 pm
- May 16 Affirm Celebration Service 7:00 pm
- May 29 ECM Golf Tournament
- June 5 McKillop Neighbourhood Flea Market
- June 6 Outdoor Worship/Picnic 11:30 am
- June 13 All-United Church Worship at Southminster United Church 10:30 am (no worship at McKillop that Sunday)
- June 20 last 11:30 am worship service until fall.

McKillop UCW



Coffee Party
 Saturday, April 10
 10 am – Noon \$5
 featuring a display of 'Cookie Jars'.



Affirming Congregation: At the Annual Congregational meeting, members of McKillop voted to become an affirming congregation. To be affirming means that we are stating that this congregation is welcoming of **all** people. For some of us, this has always been the way. For others, there was a need to make such a statement. Now, we are challenged and blessed to worship, work, and live this vision.

Service of Celebration:
Sunday, May 16 at 7:00 pm
 Everyone is invited to join together
 as we celebrate becoming an
 Affirming Congregation

“Over 80” Tea

Do you know anyone who's 80 years old or older? We'd like to hear from you so we can invite them to our tea.



Saturday, May 8th
Worship & Communion
1:30 pm
Tea at 2:00 pm

Please contact the church office (403-328-2703) if you know of anyone who is over 80, or if you are yourself!

BRUNCH! Yummm! A group of men are again hosting a Mother's Day Brunch for



everyone on **Sunday, May 9th** after 'Catch the Spirit' (12:30 pm). Bring your Mom, bring yourself, bring your appetite! Watch for more details soon.

Want to transfer your church membership to McKillop? Give the office a call at 328-2703. Confirmation and recognition of new members will be on April 18th.

The Ecumenical Campus Ministry
 (at the University of Lethbridge
 and Lethbridge College)
 is sponsoring the



2010

**Mixed Shotgun SCRAMBLE
 FUN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

on
 Saturday, May 29th at the
 Land-O-Lakes Golf & Country Club

18 holes, cart & dinner \$100
 9 holes, cart & dinner \$75
 Dinner only \$36

Registration forms are posted on the church bulletin board. Deadline is May 21st. Donations for silent auction or prizes are also welcome, or people can donate cash. Receipts can be requested for donations over \$10. Contact John McIntyre (403-380-4685) for more information.

PICNIC



Church Picnic is on June 6th with worship starting at 11:30 am. Keep an eye out for location and keep your fingers crossed for good weather.... We're due!

Sunday, June 13 10:30 AM

All United Churches in Lethbridge and area are once again gathering at Southminster for a huge celebration of the 85th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Rev. Lorne Calvert, Principal of St. Andrew's College (Saskatoon) and former premier of Saskatchewan will be preaching, there will be a massed choir, and lots of great music.



Continuing Adult Programs

Adult Programs still in progress:

- Inner Quest Book Study
- Thursday Evening Book Study

Why don't you come & try these programs:

Lectionary Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. (no Bible Study on Wednesday, April 7th)

Tea & Talk is on the 1st Friday of each month in June, July & August from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Casual conversation to keep in touch.

Walk the Labyrinth Join us for a special Easter Labyrinth Walk & Meditation on Holy Saturday (April 3) at 7:00 pm.

UCW meet every month. There are different groups that usually meet the 1st week of the month. The next General UCW meeting is on March 31 at 2:00 pm.

Healing Pathways to help you through difficult times. Call into the office for an appointment (Wed. evenings at 7 & 8 pm; daytime as requested).

Yoga Gentle stretches to promote well-being of body, mind & spirit. Wear loose clothing and bring a mat. Runs for 8 weeks beginning Wed., April 14 at 2 pm. \$15 for the entire session, or \$3 drop-in charge.



McKillop offers **TAXI RIDES** to people who are unable to drive or car-pool with others to

Sunday worship. We ask for a nominal donation of \$2 per trip (\$4 round trip). **If you want a ride, please call 5th Avenue Taxi at 403-381-1111 by 9:00 am Sunday morning.** They'll advise you what time you will be picked up. Return trips leave McKillop at 11:20 am. For more info, call the McKillop office.

The Annual House Tour is coming up in August. Cheryl Meheden (Pollmuller) is looking for two people to help her organize it this year. Call the office if you could help out with this fun & worthwhile event!

A Tip of the to:

- ❖ UCW who cover costs of the taxi service for people needing rides to church.
- ❖ Ron Hoar who chaired Church Council for three years.
- ❖ All our volunteers at the Foodbank and Soup Kitchen.
- ❖ Joyce Whitelaw who was treasurer of Christian Development for Adults for many years.
- ❖ Usher Co-ordinators: Ginger Erickson, Jerri Bolton, Steve & Marilyn Gillies, Nat Kozub, Dennis & Alice Darby, Jerry & Lily Rogers.
- ❖ Everybody who contributed to our Christmas Eve Services: Conley Family, Jim McNally, Barry Willis, Cal Tiefenbach, Jackson Tiefenbach, Marilyn Sinclair, Darrell Croft and the Catch the Music Team, Serena and Emery Visser, Mark Sayers, Marilyn Davies, Gillies Family, Connor West, Ken Rogers, Michelle MacMillan, Tammy Bolstad, Brian and Jill Tyson, and Barb Hamm.
- ❖ Everyone who makes worship successful – ushers, greeters, sound technicians, projectionists, videographers, and all the music folk!!!!
- ❖ Ken Mills, Dennis Darby, Ron Hoar and Keith Duff who worked to get the roof renovation done & paid for.

Just a reminder: If you or a family member is admitted to hospital, **PLEASE ask for your name to be put on the pastoral care/clergy visiting list.** This is the only way we know who's in hospital. Our pastoral care visitors and clergy ONLY have access to the United Church list.

Summer Services will be combined with First United Church. We will worship at First United (502 – 13 Street N.) during the month of July and at McKillop in August. We hope you can join us at 10:30 am. Why not bring your summer visitors?





Treasurer's Report - Kathy Carlson

As of February, we at McKillop are in a deficit of about \$8,500. This is, strangely, good news. Our current deficit is less than it was for the same time last year, and we are now at full staffing. Our givings are up about \$5,000 from last year. At the same time, your generosity also included donations of \$3,120 to World Development & Relief's Haitian Appeal. Thank you.

However, our deficit remains and has the potential to keep growing with the quieter summer months coming. So, we strongly encourage each member to consider this when it is time to give. We also remind people that the possibility of going on PAR (if you aren't already there), can help us by providing stability for the quieter times in the church.

McKillop strives to provide vibrant, active programs to help develop the spiritual lives of members and seekers from baptism (and before) to pastoral care (and beyond). Your continuing generosity will keep these activities nourished and growing.

M&P reports a time of "farewell" and "welcome" in the area of staffing and committee! Farewell from Ministry & Personnel to Mark Sayers, long-time chair of the Committee. A huge thank you to Mark for all his work on this committee and particularly for his careful care of "the box" – the records associated with M&P over the years. Mark's level head, his sense of humour and his compassion have been greatly valued by all.

And Farewell from the whole congregation to Rebekah Eckhart, who last year stepped into the Youth Worker's position during Ruth's maternity leave. Rebekah moved smoothly from helping to fill the gap during the year before Trevor arrived, preaching monthly, to filling in with McKillop young people, helping them grow in faith and community.

Finally, a welcome back to Ruth Gangur-Powell, returning after her maternity leave. We all look forward to seeing Ruth's smiling face at worship and with our young people.

TECHNOLOGY

McKillop has a great generosity of giving and people stepping up to loan their professional help. We have some of the best technology now in Alberta Northwest Conference because of the spontaneous financial generosity of some people in the congregation. When many in the congregation noticed that Trevor does not produce a full preaching manuscript because of his preaching style, it was suggested that the church audio record the sermons and produce podcasts for distribution. However, this is what happened:

- *Five people spontaneously gave ~\$17,000 when they heard we were thinking about new technology.*
- *We have purchased a new projector, a new computer to record the services, a new video camera, new lights, and cabling to connect everything.*
- *Jim McNally, Larry Conley, and many other people stepped up to create the best system to improve our worship experience and to record the services.*
- *Matthew Conley and Judy Martz gave our website a makeover so we could view sermons online.*
- *We are still working on upgrading the sound quality at the 11:30 AM service and improving the video projection quality for both services.*

The video recordings of the sermons can be found on our website at www.mckillopuned.ca. We have loaded sermons from February 21st and have had 14,878 viewer minutes or approximately 992 people view different sermons. The new technology has also been used for the movies during Cracking Open Lent. The technology will also be available to record funerals and weddings, too.

If you would like to help with the technology in the worship service by being a videographer or projectionist, please contact the Church Office or Trevor.



McKillop McKids Under Construction

Sunday School: a great place to be for kids of all ages!

Learning, laughing, games, crafts, and more... each week the children of McKillop gather downstairs with our dedicated team of teachers. Thanks to Michele Montgomery, Lisa Landry, Marianne Stevens, Laurie Gibson, Zoe Roelofsen, Karen Gay, Dana Sargent, Gwen McMillan, Tammy Bostad, and Carolyn Stevenson for all their work. Thanks also to Lauren Wright who looks after the nursery at 10:00 & 11:30.

This year we've done units on:
Sept. Exploring with Peter and Cornelius
Oct Who Likes Prophets Anyway?
Nov. Giving Thanks
Jan. Outward Bound: Mission & Outreach
Feb. Life in Palestine in Jesus' Days
March Hospitality

And we are looking forward to:
April The body of Christ
May A Big Birthday
(the birth of the Church)

A reminder to Parents: Your child/ren will not be released from Sunday School until you come and pick them up. While McKillop is as safe a place as we can make it, this is an open building and we encourage you to keep an eye on your child/ren.

EASTER SERVICES

**Apr 1 Maundy Thurs. Worship
& Potluck 6:00 pm**
Apr 2 Good Friday Worship 10:00 am
Apr 3 Easter Labyrinth Meditation 7:00 pm
**Apr 4 Easter "Sunrise"
Worship (Contemporary) 8:00 am
Breakfast & Kids' Easter Hunt
8:30 – 9:30 am
Easter Worship (Traditional) 10:00 am**

A 'think tank/ visioning group' named 2020 has started meeting at McKillop to help us think about what we need to be doing in 2010 so we are proactive and ready for the year 2020 with 20/20 sight and vision. It is composed of folks who are from both services and with a range of experience in the church community. The group is using the Alban Institute book by Alice Mann called "Raising the Roof: The Pastoral-to-Program Size Transition". McKillop UC has probably been going through this transition for a number of years and particularly after the congregation decided 12 years ago to create the Catch the Spirit service.



Characteristics of a Pastoral Size Church

- A Pastoral-size church has an average attendance upper attendance around 150.
- Clergy time is largely taken up maintaining a direct pastoral relationship with members, coordinating work of a small leadership circle – leading small group programs such as Bible Study or Book Studies.
- Members recognize each other's faces, know most people's names and will notice if someone new is present at worship.

Characteristics of a Program Church

- A Program-size church has an average upper attendance of around 300.
- Known in the community for the quality and variety of programs for children, youth, couples, seniors and other interest groups.
- The clergies' crucial role is to recruit, equip, and inspire a small circle of key program leaders – lay and ordained, paid and unpaid and to work as a team.
- Members do not recognize everybody and find care and community in the various small groups they join.
- Pastoral care is shared by laity, and clergy are involved more in crisis care.

At McKillop, we have an average worship attendance on Sunday between 200-300 people. The '2020' Group is collecting the following data at the moment:
1) Demographics of the community and church,
2) A Values Survey of the Church, 3) Sunday Morning Parking Analysis, 4) Worship Space Analysis,
5) Building Use Analysis, and 6) Clergy Time Analysis to help us better understand ourselves and report to Church Council.

South Alberta Presbytery

A number of McKillop people are involved in South Alberta Presbytery. Cathy is the chair until June 2011 and Trevor is on the Division of Communication (all clergy are expected to attend meetings and be involved in a division). Our current reps are Harold Schroeder, Ed Bardock, and Doreen Bardock. Barry Willis and Mark Sayers are Members at Large.

And McKillop people have helped in other ways: Harold Schroeder was on the Joint Needs Committee at First and continues on with their Search Committee; Kathleen Clements was part of the Joint Needs Committee at Southminister; Mark Sayers is the Pastoral Charge supervisor at Fort Macleod-Granum.

A Message about Thankful Giving

Each year we begin the February Outreach campaign wondering how members of the congregation will respond. We try and think of new ways to tap into the spirit and energy of the congregation that will reach out beyond the walls of McKillop, and make a difference in someone's life. There's always a bit of uncertainty. Are we asking for too much? What if people don't respond? What impact will the recession have on giving?

But each year, you surpass all expectations! This year, local givings for February were \$24,498, which enables us to put aside \$3,749 to respond to individuals and families in Lethbridge and Southern Alberta.

- The program is also important in helping McKillop get off to a good start financially, which enables us to provide worship, music, and a home for a wide variety of groups, from scouts to quilters.

We are also thrilled to see an increasing number of individuals and families giving through PAR (direct debit banking). *If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay for insurance, cable TV, or a mortgage, then you understand the PAR principle. PAR, or Pre-Authorized Remittance, is a "direct debit" program that allows people to support their church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. Whether your contributions are big or small, direct*

debiting allows you to intentionally plan and honour your financial commitment to McKillop. It also helps maintain giving levels during the summer, when churches tend to fall behind in meeting their budget.

In order to meet our budget, we need \$327,937 in total local offering this year, which is \$27,328 each month. In March 2009, we had 126 PAR contributors giving \$10,562 locally each month. Today, we have 136 PAR contributors giving 11,989 locally each month. **If you would like to go on PAR, fill out a form and bring it to the office along with a void cheque.**

We hope you'll have a great spring and summer, filled with camping, beaches, and family gatherings, but we invite you to keep up with your level of giving, so we will be able to meet the needs of a vibrant, growing congregation.

We value your continued support, and marvel at your passion for mission and helping those in need.

Terry Vogt

(On behalf of the Stewardship Committee - Alice Kostelansky, Larry Conley, Marlene McIntyre, Nora Besler, Tim Parsons)

Canyon Church Camp

Canyon Church Camp is a co-ed camp open to children 6 – 18 years of age, regardless of religious denomination. We offer Bible study, crafts, active games, water play and plenty of hiking in a Christian community in the rugged wilderness of Waterton Lakes National Park.

Name of Camp	Dates	Ages
Intro Camp	July 4 - 6	6 – 10 yrs
Junior I	July 4 - 9	6 – 10 yrs
Junior II	July 11 -16	9 – 11 yrs
Junior III	July 18 - 23	11 – 13 yrs
Junior IV	Aug 1 - 6	13 – 15 yrs
Intermediate I	Aug 8 - 13	14 – 16 yrs
Intermediate II	Aug 15 - 20	15 – 18 yrs

Registration forms can be picked up from the church council bulletin board in the long hallway.

Celebrations

Dennis & Dianne King celebrated their 40th Anniversary on December 20, 2009

Sig Balfour celebrated his 90th birthday recently.

Colin & Brenda Ford celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary

Happy Birthday to Sonja Wiebe who turned 90 on March 28, 2010.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to everyone!



Weddings

Pamela Evans & Shawna Roncalio August 8, 2009

Kevin Parenteau & Alicia Nikkel November 28, 2009

Calvin Scott & Leah Cimolai December 31, 2009

Evert Van Schothorst & Katherine Langville February 20, 2010

Births

Dave & Serena Visser added a baby girl to their family – Emery Susana, born on Dec. 10, 2010. Proud grandparents are Lew & Lynne Dennis.

Proud grandparents Barbara & Mitch Hamm welcomed Gallagher James, son of Angela & James Varley, on Nov. 8/09.

Lu Bevan has a new granddaughter – Sierra June Motycka, born on Feb 10/10

If you have an exciting event (baptism, significant milestone anniversary or birthday) that has happened in your family, please let us know in the office.

Help us keep our church directory up-to-date. If you have moved or changed your phone number or email address, please let us know.

403-328-2703 judy@mckillopuned.ca

Baptisms

The following children were welcomed into the Christian church and McKillop's 'circle of ministry' through the sacrament of baptism in November/09 & March/10

Gracee Valgardson

Maisy Valgardson

Dani Span

Cooper Norsworthy

Gavyn Szentes



Sympathies

Our sympathy goes out to those who have experienced loss in our midst the last few months... (Funeral and Memorial services that took place with McKillop clergy)

Marjorie Hudson – November 12, 2009

Mack Crumley – November 24, 2009

Gertrude Bates – November 25, 2009

Edith Van Den Hengel – December 18, 2009

Stewart Christie – January 1, 2010

Harold Kirchner – January 16, 2010

Stephen Mitchell – January 26, 2010

Margaret McKay – January 26, 2010

Hugo Bexte – February 13, 2010

We also extend our sympathy to the following families on the loss of a loved one outside of McKillop in the last few months...

Dorothy Wells

Joyce Crumley

Mary & Hugh McLean

Margaret Roe

Lisa & Darcy Neher

Family of Joyce Gorrie

Lorne & Donna Karl

Allen & Bev Hosack

Eileen & Harcourt Hobbs

Gail & Neil Foster

Diane & Phil Hewko

Doug & Liz Millar

Keith & Lillian Bennett

Judy & Ron Noss

Glenys MacDonald

Family of Walter Kirkman

Don't miss the humongous:

McKillop Neighborhood Flea Market

Saturday, June 5th, 8 a.m. to Noon



Treasures, Toys, Household Items,
Something for Everyone!

- We gratefully accept donations of quality, clean, used items to sell at our flea market to raise money for the many worthwhile programs run out of McKillop United Church.

RENT YOUR OWN TABLE FOR ONLY \$10

- NEW THIS YEAR! – a limited number of tables available to rent for only \$10 to sell your own "garage sale" items or to promote your small business.
- To arrange to book a table or to donate items please contact the church office.
(Deadline to book a table is *May 17th, 2010* – Book early before they're all gone!)



GLIDE MISSION TRIP – WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are sending 21 McKillop people (5 Youth and 16 Adults) from April 5-11 to volunteer at Glide Memorial Church. The Glide Church has a comprehensive program to enable San Francisco's poor and marginalized. We will be volunteering at the Free Meals program that serves 3 meals a day to 700-900 people at each meal.

WHY SUPPORT A MISSION TRIP AS A CHURCH? Mission trips help us to do practical hands on ministry in a national and global context. It opens adults and youth to the world, to new experiences beyond our local context and to being part of change and hope in other people's lives. The major cost of the mission trip is airfare. The group will be staying in a youth hostel (\$30/person/night), cooking their own meals, eating Glide meals, and volunteering long hours. A mission trip is not a vacation.

WHAT DO WE GET FROM A MISSION TRIP AS A CHURCH? When we support a mission trip financially as a church, we get to claim it as our ministry. Mission trips bring back renewed vitality for ministry – new ideas from cross-fertilization – we grow spiritually as we share in the experience and excitement.



"Hands-on mission projects change the lives of volunteers and even when a small percentage of the church membership immerse themselves in significant mission and service, the texture of church life changes – tolerances increases, youth programs evolve, ministries become focused on changing lives and making a difference for the purpose of the Spirit."

-Bishop Robert Schnase

Become a "shareholder" of the mission trip and you will be invited to an amazing shareholder evening with dinner, dessert and a presentation about the trip. Shares are available anywhere from \$20 (Nickel) to \$1,000 (Platinum). For more information, call the church office or mail donations to McKillop United Church, 2329 – 15 Ave. S. T1K 0X5