

NORTHMINSTER NEWS

June 2010

Upcoming Events

Sunday School BBQ—June 13th
Last Day of Sunday School classes—June 13th
Kamp Kasota Weekend—September 10th to 12th
Sunday School Registration—September 19th



Summer Services

Once again we will be sharing our summer services with Wild Rose United



Wild Rose United Church 10:00 AM

June 27th

Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:30, Worship at 10:00

July 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Northminster United Church 10:30 AM

August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Sunday School

Please join us for our annual Sunday School picnic on June 13th following the service (about 12:00). This year, we are opening the picnic up to anyone in the community who would like to attend.

North Central Resources is helping us with this, and we are very grateful for their assistance. The picnic will be held at Winston Heights Community Association, 520 27th Ave. N.E. Hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts, and drinks will be provided.

Astro-Jump and games for children. Please bring your own lawn chairs.



Minister's Message

Becoming a Member?

In his insightful article, *Evangelism for a New Day*, Rev. Dr. Ian T. Price of the United Church of Australia identifies three reasons why evangelizing is more difficult than ever.

- *First is the hostility of the audience. Many people feel that Christians care less about them than they do about their prospective enlistment as members of the church.*
- *The second reason is that the agendas of many people's lives are very different to those of Christians and the church. Issues like the complexity of family life, social and ethical issues, political dilemmas, and coping with the pressures of life are often perceived as secondary to the organizational interests of leaders in congregations.*
- *The third problem is the church's language. The way we talk about salvation, eternal life, the person and work of Jesus, and the being of God reflects a pre-scientific world view that many people find impossible to grasp and rightly so!*

Dr. Price then goes on to point out how a church can move forward by addressing four crucial issues.

The first is to understand that the most crucial issue for people interested in exploring the faith is belonging. Long before people think about the content of the Good News and the faith they ask the question, "Can I belong here?" This question involves concerns about safety, unconditional acceptance, open community and hospitality. If I cannot really belong, then I will not engage with you about life, faith, or anything else. This is called narrative engagement. Does my story have a place within the story of this community? If so, I will then take the next step to explore how my story connects with the story – the story of faith.

Dr. Price then goes on to suggest that, after **belonging** has been addressed, a congregation that wishes to grow needs to go on to address **believing**, **behaving** and **becoming**.

As Dr. Keith Howard of the Emerging Spirit Program points out, this is the opposite of the usual practice in The United Church of Canada. Most "full" members of the United Church were "confirmed", that is upon reaching "the age of discretion" (as the Constitution (The Manual) says in section 5.8.1) and after being taught what to believe in a "confirmation class", they became "full" members upon making "a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him". The United Church tradition is **behaving** (usually by being raised in the church), **believing** (confirmation class), and then **belonging** (full membership).

Just about every United Church congregations now finds they have many people in the congregation who, to use Dr. Price's expression, feel their story has a place in the story of the congregation. They belong and are active and important in the life of the congregation without being "full members".

This situation may cause hurt feelings when a congregation hires a new minister. The constitution (The Manual) only allows "full members" to serve on the Search Committee, and only "full members" may vote to approve that Committee's recommendation. This can leave "belongers" feeling like they are suddenly and unfairly being pushed aside in favor of "members".

It can also create problems for the Search Process. Often "belongers" are newer to the congregation and are more committed to finding a minister who will help others to "belong". "Full members" are often long time participants and more committed to finding a minister who will preserve the identity of the congregation.

Fortunately United Church practice and The Manual allow congregations to creatively bring together "belongers" and "members". The "Needs" part of the search should include a representative cross-section of the congregation, "members" and "belongers". A "Search" Committee can include corresponding members who will represent the needs of "belongers" and will bring experience and wisdom to the interviewing and decision process.

Those who "belong" can also help by becoming "full members". This might seem like an unnecessary extra step, since they already "belong" to the congregation. But as Dr. Price's article points out the next step in the process is "believing and joining the church is an excellent opportunity to explore belief. The Manual states that a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to him is required. In other words, there must be a declaration of believe in Jesus and to follow Jesus' teachings, but what must be believed and what is taught is left largely undefined. By becoming a "full member", one who "belongs" is given the opportunity to name what he or she believes, and thus moves forward on a journey to becoming more and more a part of God's new creation.

Rev. John Snyder



Administration

In the last newsletter I reported largely on the budget for 2010. The Churchill Family Care Society still continue to fund utility cost which escalate over the base year prior to their contract. Payroll costs are up consistent with the approved budget for 2009. As indicated in the budget, it is a tight year financially and the line of credit at First Calgary is already drawn so we are unable to rely on that availability. Your Board needs a strong response to the Summer Offering Program to meet its financial obligations. Please make an extra contribution if at all possible.

Easter envelopes were dedicated to Northminster's Youth and to Mission & Service. A total of \$747 was received with \$500 going to the Northminster Youth and \$247 going to Mission and Service. This is down 30% from last year. Your support is gratefully acknowledged.

Directional signs indicating the location of Northminster United Church have been arranged with the city. Signs will be installed on Edmonton Trail and on 4th Street by the city at a cost of \$897.79. Monies for this project have been designated from the Commemorative Fund. We do not expect the signs to be in place until the end of June.

A new photocopier has been obtained and installed with funds from the Daag Estate. The new copier will add new efficiencies and include a direct interface with the office computer.

I refer each of you to the report by Ted Carter covering other work done on the premises so far in 2010. I also make reference to the report on the PAR program which is so important to this church. The Transition Committee has included an increase in PAR contributors as one of the objectives for the coming months.

A new contract is being finalized with The Churchill Family Care Society covering the next 3 years. The contract includes escalation clauses and several new minor provisions. This new contract has been approved by the Trustees, Presbytery and the Board of Northminster. Churchill's support has been excellent and we thank them for that.

Again, this year, we are thanking Dawn Wickerson for taking on the project of planting flowers around the church. You were asked for financial contributions to assist with this project.

For the balance of the year and especially over the summer months please focus your financial support on the continued successful operations of this church. Northminster has been a leader in providing outreach in this community and in order to continue this success we require your dedication. Accordingly, ensure your givings are received by the church, join the PAR program if you can't always be in attendance, contribute to the summer offering program and support each of our projects. Thank you for your support!!

Clarence Glessing
Chair, Administration Committee

PAR Pre-Authorized Remittance

Whether you are at church or not Northminster has on-going commitments every week that need your offering. Your financial commitment is important for our church to do its work. That is why it is beneficial if you use the PAR (Pre – Authorized Remittance to fulfill your commitment to Northminster United Church.

WHAT IS PAR (Pre –Authorized Remittance)

PAR is a direct-debit program that allows you to support our church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. The United Church administers the program and once a month all PAR giving's are debited from givers accounts and then the total is electronically transferred to our church accounts. Being a Par contributor allows the church to be able to budget more effectively. It has been proven that having a majority of congregation members on PAR provides a more stable financial position for the finance team to work with.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Decide the amount of your monthly offering (Local, M&S Others)
- Fill in the Authorization Form and attach a sample cheque from your account marked Sample or Void
- Give both to our Treasurer or the Office
- Your amount of giving's will be with drawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month

ADVANTAGES FOR YOU TO BE ON PAR

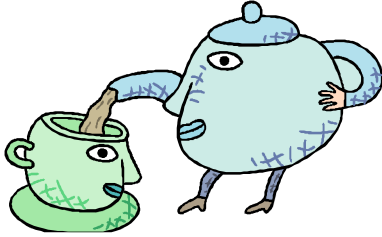
- Regular support of your church in the amount you choose
- Continuous support of your church when you are away
- Avoidance of “catch- up periods

ADVANTAGE FOR OUR CONGREGATION

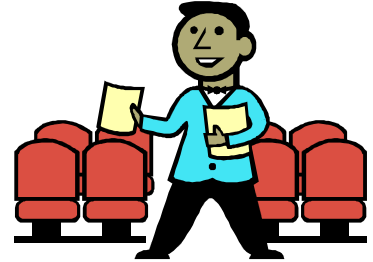
- Regular, dependable flow of contributions
- Reduction of paper work and bookkeeping
- Reductions in bank overdrafts
- Cost savings in the cost of envelopes
- Allows the church to budget more effectively each month

We would ask you to give your serious and prayerful thoughts to becoming involved with the PAR Program within Northminster United Church. If you wish a PAR Form or have any further questions or concerns please contact Ted Carter or the church office

Volunteers Needed!



Ushers
People to serve Communion
Sound System help
Update the Centre Street sign
Take a turn at serving coffee
Spares for tellers



Mission and Outreach

Thanks to everyone for their generous donations to "Baby Month". Again, it has been such a success and what a lot of very lovely things have been put in the pack n plays. Neighborlink will be so grateful to receive all the wonderful baby things that have been donated.

You are a wonderful bunch of people with big hearts and you continue to make a difference in our community.

Blessings from Ernie Abbott, Shirley Dallman, Joanne Heibert and Lorie Haydu

Transitional Committee Update

The Transitional Committee met with members of the Joint Needs Assessment committee on Sunday, May 16. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Transitional report and 5 year plan.

The Committees wanted to ensure a smooth transition and clear understanding of the intent of the report and 5 year plan. The Transition Committee along with the Unified Board are committed to the 5 year plan and will continue to provide oversight of the plan and leadership for the congregation as we move forward.

The JNAC will communicate with members of the Transition Committee, as needed, as they complete the final report for Presbytery which will be asking for permission to begin the Search process.

JNAC will provide updates to the congregation as to their progress leading up to a congregational meeting which will be called to address the final report.

Transitional Committee

**The NEW Small Group Ministry Leadership Program:
“Become the Leader You Seek!”**

Coming to Northminster, Fall of 2010

Small Groups bring people together as a community to feed and nurture their mind, heart, and spirit. A Small Group gathering is like a mini-retreat in the midst of hectic lives; a time to feel supported, valued, and replenished.

Learn about Small Group Ministry and how you may be called to this area of leadership by participating in six, 2 hour sessions (once a week for 6 weeks). We will learn about and model how Small Group members create a community, covenant with each other, explore meaningful spiritual practices, and discover new information on group dynamics. We will also seek inner wisdom and guidance from each other on our own distinctive leadership gifts and callings. The interactive learning format and plentiful resource material will be useful in all areas of your life.

To determine if this program is right for you or you want to find out more about Small Group Ministry, Northminster Transitional Committee will be planning an information session, most likely after church on Sunday in late September or early October, led by Sidney Courtice. We will inform you of the date and time in September.

As part of Northminster's 5 year plan, we want to encourage development and participation of Small Groups within our church community. It is felt that the fellowship and spiritual nurturing that occurs within small groups is something that many of our members' desire and this program will assist us in getting started.

The 6 session program will be led by Sidney Craig Courtice who has over 15 years experience facilitating a variety of community-building programs for corporations, not-for-profit organizations, and faith communities. She holds a Master's degree in Continuing Education, is a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)[®] Master Practitioner, a Certified Gallup Strengths Performance Coach and MBTI[®] Step III[™] Coach, and a trained LifeKeys facilitator. Contact Sidney directly for more information at 403-289-5003 or at scourtice@learningrenewal.com.

Submitted by the Transitional Committee

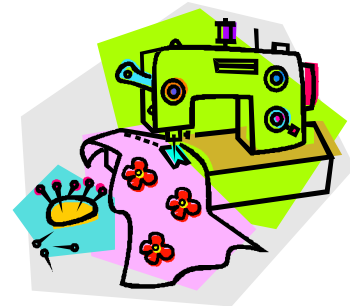
Thanks

TO MY NORTHMINSTER FAMILY: Words cannot express my sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude for all the cards and well wishes I've received over the past few months. It's been wonderful receiving them. Knowing that I've been held in prayer has made such a difference to my recovery; it has really kicked my "get well spirit" into high gear. Mel and I and our children, Tara and Mark, are very thankful for all the support. It has meant so much – THANK YOU ALL! Love, Sharon

Craft Fair—November 13, 2010

As summer approaches, it is time to think ahead to fall and think about what can be done ahead of time to prepare for our annual craft fair. We are only successful when everyone contributes goods and time. Can you knit or crochet while enjoying the summer? How about joining a friend and crafting on a rainy day? While making preserves can you make a few extra jars of jam, jelly, pickles or relish for our kitchen shop? We will need lots of Christmas crafts, angels, sewing, toys, woodworking and anything else that is hand crafted. Of course, there will be a table with pies, buns, bread, muffins, squares, and cookies by the dozen.

Mark your calendar to help on Friday evening, November 12th and on Saturday, November 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Claire Goodson at 403-285-1417 or Mary Glessing at 403-274-8581.



This newsletter is published by Northminster United Church

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Northminster News is published three times a year by the Unified Board and issues a one page newsletter outlining the Christmas services in December. It is available at no charge from the church, by mail or by email.

The next newsletter will be released the end of October detailing the Christmas Services.

If you have a submission that you would like to see in the newsletter, please send it to Leanne Demerais at ldemerais@diversebenefits.ca.