



The Vine



STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Strathmore United Church would like to welcome Rev. Maria Szabone Berces as our incoming minister as of July 1, 2024. Her first service will be July 7 and she will be available throughout the summer. We look forward to working together and getting to know her.

Humour
You come from dust, you return to dust!
That's why I don't dust, it could be someone I know!

Pass the Salt

**By Rev. Paul Mullen (Ret.),
Strathmore United Church**

Often people dismiss the Bible as an irrelevant artifact of history of no useful application to today's fast paced, hi-tech world. I think that might indicate that they haven't spent much time reading or reflecting on the stories within it.

For example, in the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark we read of a very busy Jesus leading an action-packed life. Even though it is only the first chapter about Jesus' life we can learn something about living life and relating to people.

What we can discover is a Jesus who doesn't go about lecturing people about how to get into heaven. He had a different approach to both God and people. Jesus saw people as people, not sinners. He saw through whatever fears, defenses to their humanity. He was able to talk to demons because he addressed them in the same manner as he taught, one to one, person to person. Not with dogma, not with threats, not with drama.

Jesus acted in this caring respectful way even though, according to Mark, was a very busy guy! We also learn that he balanced busyness with retreat. After a presumably spiritually traumatic baptism, he undertook 40 days of recovery in the wilderness, discerning the meaning of his call from God. He also moderated his stress by having time with companions over food, bread, and wine. At the end of an exhausting day and evening, he took an early walk alone for solitary morning prayer. Jesus knew he was on a long, difficult, dan-

gerous journey. His disciples had a better idea. They wanted him to stay near the hometown and settle down. They knew there were many sick, wounded, and possessed people there. There was a real possibility of a career as a local healer, with all the comforts of town life instead of the road ahead. They didn't ask if they were there yet but acted as if they thought they were. Jesus knew a road trip was needed to dispel their notions of comfortable faith life.

So, what can this say to churches and followers of Christ today? We aren't there yet. We will always be tempted to settle down and be comfortable in our faith, our churches, our convictions.

Yet we have a message, the kingdom of God is at hand, close enough to touch, close enough to engage, close enough to plug into. Close enough to live as if it were already here.

We have the invitation and opportunity to unplug from the idols of the world, a little each day. We have the invitation and opportunity to plug into God's great, inclusive, non-violent healing mission to the whole fearful and fractured, God-loved planet. We have the assurance that whether we accept the invitation or not, we are not alone.

Look around within and outside the church. Don't look for sinners, look for hurting, desperate people and treat them with the respect they deserve as children of God. God is with us. Thanks be to God!

Strathmore United Church wish to thank all Pulpit Supply and Lay People that have helped with services over the past 6 months.



Stewardship—Submitted by Laura J.

Treasure that Lasts Forever

Every human grows up in a world filled with desires and needs. We learn from an early age that we prefer comfort over discomfort. We discover that it is easier to have plenty than it is to have little.

Material possessions can certainly create comfort in our lives—the new cars, the bigger houses, or the latest phones. It's easy to think that having more will make you happier, too.

But nothing you can buy will last forever.

Everything that we collect here on earth has an expiration date. Cars break down. Houses crumble. New phones become obsolete—really quickly. In the long run, we really have no control over the things of this world.

Jesus invites us to a different way of life when He tells us to focus on storing up treasures in heaven, where things do not deteriorate or disappear. Rather than focusing on piling up earthly things, He calls us to focus on heavenly things that will last eternally.

Everything we own was actually given to us by God's grace.

We can break the habit of amassing treasure on earth by seeing all of our material possessions as something given by God for us to share with others. We can also shift our priorities toward making an eternal impact in people's lives by sharing the hope of Jesus with them.

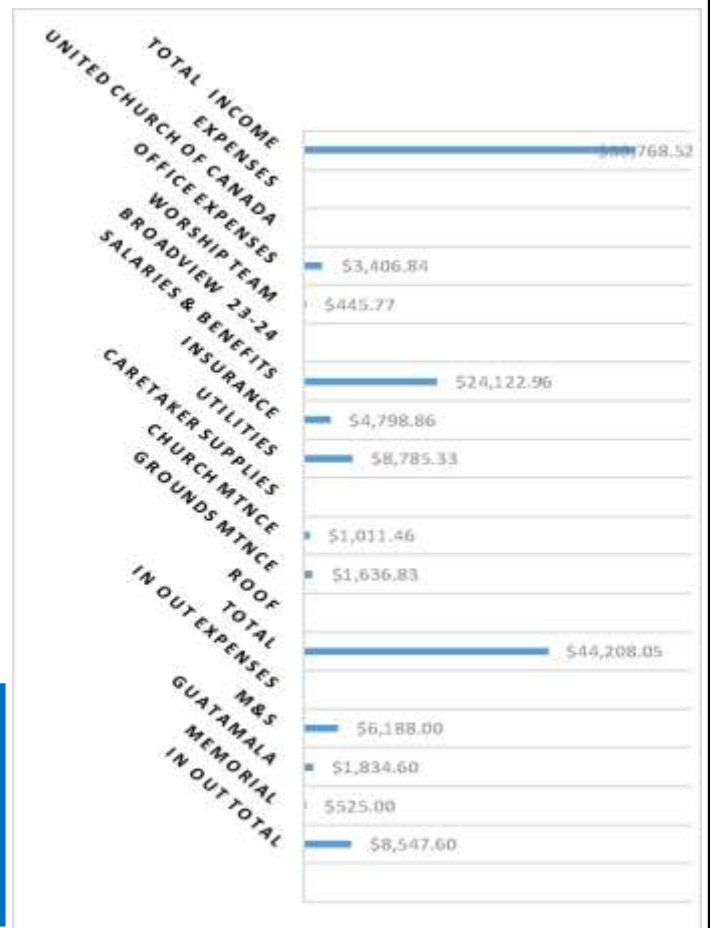
What small steps can you take today to begin to shift your focus from earthly treasure to heavenly treasure? What has God given you that you can share with others to make a difference in their life as well? Take some time to pray to God about these things.

Gentle Reminder:
 If you have a complement, concern, or complaint can you please make sure that you put it in writing, and sign the note so that it can be addressed and you can be contacted with results. Thank You

Finances for Jan 1-June 26, 24

STEWARDSHIP REPORT TO June 26, 2024			
	Local	M&S	Monthly
			Budget
Budgeted	15,319.42	1,500.00	16,819.42
Received	8,242.79	1,108.00	9,350.79
(Shortfall)/ Surplus	(7,076.63)	(392.00)	(7,468.63)
YEAR TO DATE STEWARDSHIP REPORT			
	Local	M&S	Total
			Budget
Budgeted	91,916.50	9,000.00	100,916.50
Received	59,768.52	6,188.00	65,956.52
(Shortfall)/ Surplus	(32,147.98)	(2,812.00)	(34,959.98)

The above chart is based on the amount that was budgeted with a full time minister, below are actual Numbers





Deaths

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Sandy Lukacs and Irene Appleyard longtime members of our church!

Property Team News

The property team have had 3 meeting since the last new letter. These are what we have completed or have discussed at the meetings.

1. Office window is still in the process of being repaired.
2. Fire alarm system is being looked at for possible upgrading.
3. The entrance door we will be putting another magnetic door stopper in.
4. We did a tree removal of the trees on the east side of the of church and yard clean up.
5. We straightened the parking blocks and graded the parking lot and putting the gravel back from winter snow removal.
6. Banner closet still to complete.
7. Are repairing the leaking taps in the kitchen.
8. We had a discussion for a partition wall in the SW corner room in basement.
9. Wheelchair accessible sidewalk approaches are being costed out and we will get them installed.

Submitted by, Don J

Heavenly Humour

At \$100 bill and a \$1 bill were having a conversation with each other. The \$100 bill was talking about all the wonderful places it had been, the expensive restaurants, the fancy hotels, the expensive handbags it had purchased and many more things too. When the \$100 bill finished, it asked the \$1 bill where it had been and the \$1 bill replied, " to church."



Graduation marks the end of an era, but it is an opportunity to enter a phase of exciting and awesome new ventures, an opportunity to meet many diverse people and mentors.

2024 graduated from high school two fine young people that are part of our Strathmore United Church community: Courtney Ledene, granddaughter of Gerry and Donaldda Ledene, and Hayden Johnson.



Pastoral Care Team

Thanks to all those who came out to lunch at the Strathmore Golf Course on June 26th. We enjoyed our lunch on the patio along with a good deal of visiting! Keep an eye out for another outing sometime this summer.

Enjoy the warmth of summer, the blue skies and colorful gardens!

If you are aware of anyone who would appreciate a visit, please let us know. Please email or phone Donaldda. gledene1@telus.net or ph 403-934-5871.



Arts on 817

The Arts on 817 Team are lining up the 7th concert series for Arts on 817. Tickets will be on sale soon! They will be available through the church web site, at The Vault, and by calling Donaldda at 403-934-5871.



Looking forward to seeing everyone back for the first fall concert! Have a great Summer!

Vision Statement
Strathmore United Church lives out our faith through worship, music, fellowship and outreach.

STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH

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Office Hours

The church office is closed for the summer. Susan will still be reading emails weekly as well as checking the answering machine, but the office will not be physically open.



If you have questions, concerns or wish to contribute to The Vine please contact Karen W. at 403-934-3579 or email at ckwilkie@shaw.ca

Upcoming Events



- ◆ Although we are no longer required to wear masks, feel free to if you wish. Please remember if you are not feeling well to please stay home as COVID and the flu is definitely in the air!!
- ◆ June 30/24—Farewell potluck lunch for Rev. Paul Mullen
- ◆ July 7th—New Minister begins—Welcome Rev. Maria Szabone Berces
- ◆ Ushers, greeters and coffee makers needed for the summer, sign up on the pillar at the back of the church.
- ◆ If you need to book the church please contact the church office to avoid double booking.



Our Mission Statement

Strathmore United Church is a community of faith, striving to make a difference for Christ.

- ◆ If you wish to sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or to receive envelopes, please contact Susan in the church office—403-934-3025 or Karen— 403-934-3579



Our own Laura and Arts granddaughter Amanda performing in

“The Games Afoot”



Ongoing Events



- * Quilting group—Will meet again in September
- * Book Club—Sept 9, 2024—1:30 in the church library.
- * Agape Group—Meet Sept 10, 2024 7:30 pm in the church Library.
- * Council Meet—Next meeting August 27/24 7:00
- * Property Team Meet—3rd Saturday at 10
- * The Mary Martha UCW group meet from September to June. All women of the congregation are welcome. Contact Peggy at 403 934 3197 for information and location
- * Food Bank—Donations are gratefully accepted in the bin in the foyer.
- * Ongoing Bottle drive—There is a bag in the foyer to put all refundable beverage containers. All proceeds are given to the Guatemala Project.