



The Vine



STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Church Council Happenings

This year has started off with a busy and varied calendar for our Council. The search for a new minister is ongoing and once again we have some promising candidates. There have been two interviews in the last week. We should be thankful of the work that Eileen has done finding pulpit supply and lining up services in the meantime. We have also contracted The Reverend Paul Mullen on a part time basis until someone permanent can be found.

Our various committees have been busy arranging games nights, organizing concerts, fundraisers, and pastoral care for those who need it. These are much needed activities and help to support and maintain connections within our church family and the community.

Our annual meeting was held March 17, and was preceded by a pot luck lunch. The various committees have managed to fill any positions that were vacant and I'd like to thank all who volunteer their time, not only on the committees but in any facet of the Church because it makes for a more vibrant church life for us all.

Russ D.
Council Chair

STEWARDSHIP Report

We often speak of generosity as the sharing of your time, talents, and treasures. Last fall our congregation demonstrated its generosity with giving of funds. Then since Rev. Pamela Scott has retired, we have seen the sharing of our time and talents. Giving cleans the heart and helps you get closer to God. You get so much back in return. Generosity is not just a nice character trait that people have. It is right at the heart of what our faith is all about. C. S. Lewis defined Christianity as "a kind of giving". God has poured out his generosity to you in Jesus (John 3:16), "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." You are called to respond in faith and generosity to others. The key to the fullness of the blessing is generosity – (Psalm 37:21) "the righteous give generously". Generosity is a way of living. Sometimes generosity requires us to move out of our comfort zone and try something new. Until you try you never know what blessing wait for you.

Submitted by Laura J.





Guatemala Mission

Thank you for the continuous support of the Guatemala Mission. The funds we pledge to the Women in Solidarity organization, Rosa, and the LPN students, enable graduates to return to their communities as health advocates.

We recently received a letter from Rosa:

I share with you the good news for the people of Guatemala, that this new government is a light of hope, that the new Cabinet is being assembled with people who are experts in what they are charged to do. An example is that among the various Ministers and Vice Ministers are very capable women with much knowledge about the offices they now occupy, as well Authorities and Mayors who represent the people. We know this will be a costly process that President Arevalo faces with our state being so co-opted with corruption.

Women in Solidarity is a non for-profit civil entity with a political agenda made up of diverse women. Already we have meetings with the men and women who are part of the SEEDS part, with the Vice

President, male and female Deputies, the private secretary of the President, to share with them the AGENDA OF WOMEN in this new administration.

In the clinic we continue to offer gynecological services, as well as making medical trips in which the LPN students offer their services. Thanks for you help we continue with the LPN program.

We also have a new clinic in Chimaltwenango, in one of the communities near by, where we offer medical assistance to indigenous women, the majority being Quekchi. Some of our LPN graduates work there. The clinic is located in one room of the house of one of our LPNs. All of these medical trips offer gynecological services.

I share with you we have had past moments so difficult that we were at the point of closing the Women in Solidarity office and clinic. This is when the light of mercy shined through with your contribution so we could continue moving forward. We have been supporting the LPN training program along with the Maria and the Franciscan Community for at least 15 years. So all of you are part of the growth of Women in Solidarity. Rosa is so grateful for your support and solidarity. She has not forgotten you.

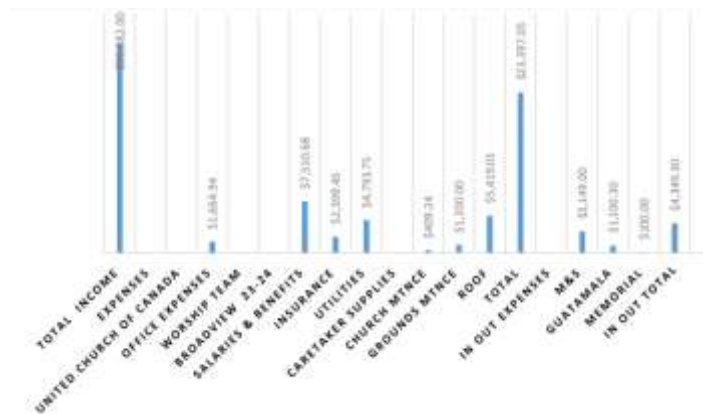
Submitted by Linda D.

Finances for Jan 1-March 31/24

STEWARDSHIP REPORT TO March 31 2024			
	Local	M&S	Monthly
			Budget
Budgeted	15,319.42	1,500.00	16,819.42
Received	12,867.00	1,018.00	13,885.00
(Shortfall)/ Surplus	(2,452.42)	(482.00)	(2,934.42)

YEAR TO DATE STEWARDSHIP REPORT			
	Local	M&S	Total
			Budget
Budgeted	45,958.25	4,500.00	50,458.25
Received	30,582.00	3,149.00	33,731.00
(Shortfall)/ Surplus	(15,376.25)	(1,351.00)	(16,727.25)

This chart is based on the amount that was budgeted with a full time minister.



UCW News

Have you started your Spring Cleaning? Please don't forget to bring all your Vintage and Treasure items to the church for the upcoming sale. Your items can be left by the back shed or in the church under the coat rack. "Sorters and Pricers" will be needed from Monday to Thursday, April 21 – 24th. Mark those dates on your calendars. The sale is Friday and Saturday that week and help will be needed there too. Volunteering is good for the soul.

News from the Foothills United Church Women (former Foothills Presbyterial) Annual Meeting and Get-Together on Saturday, April 6th at Camp Chestermere.

Strathmore United Church UCW was well represented with 14 ladies in attendance. In total there were approximately 25 ladies in all. Several were from Calgary. We gathered at 9:30 am and were treated to 2 keynote speakers – Rev. Treena Duncan from Vancouver and Rev. Dr. Karen Medland from Calgary. They were very inspirational and generally were trying to get us excited again about our work in the church. The talks gave us a history of the role of women in the United Church and how that has evolved. There were some questions and some story sharing about how volunteering has changed throughout history (mostly recent history). The fact that fewer of our younger people are volunteering in the church and the community at large. It was noted that more than 50% of our United Church Clergy are now women.

After lunch was enjoyed by all there was a short business meeting then we got into Discussion and Decision time. "Do We Want to continue under a new name or Close our UCW structures?" After much discussion at the tables among the ladies it was generally decided that we continue our alliances with other areas of the Southern Half of Alberta under the name of Chinook Winds United Church Women. All districts from Red Deer, Coronation, Calgary and farther South to include Medicine Hat and Lethbridge will be invited to join if they so wish. An executive would need to be put in place and we would continue to have a relationship with all these United Church Women groups. There would then be two Regions in the Province – Northern Spirit for the Northern Half and Chinook Winds for the Southern Half and now known as Regions instead of Presbyterials.

It was suggested that we have another get-together in the Spring of 2025 at Strathmore United Church and all groups who indicated they would like to be part of this organization would be invited to form a "Working Group" with the election of an executive.

There was a Memorial Service lead by Barbara Davison to recognize all the ladies who had passed away in the past year. A rose was presented for each lady. The 3 ladies who passed away from Strathmore United Church were Janet Bollinger, Florence Morton and Robin Wenzel. This was followed by a Communion and Closing Service done by Rev. Medland.

Closing Activities consisted of the results of the Silent Auction (whose funds will be going to the Student Bursary Fund) and some relaxing crafts which consisted of some adult coloring book time. A fun time was had by all participants.

Submitted by Arlene

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



Hugs and prayers to our former minister and friend Murray Etty and family on the passing of his sister Marilyn who resided in England.

Property Team News

The SUC Property Team has accepted the quote from Prairie Home Roofing & Exteriors for the repair of the North-east roof valley repair on December 26, 2023. The repairs were completed March 14, and the invoice was for \$5,554.49. That is for a complete removal and repair of the roof valley and to repair and fit the eaves troughing to stop the overflow. They completed the roof repair, with a new vent stack boot and eavestrough were adjusted, resealed and new splash guard applied. They said we will need to apply 2 more drains to accommodate the roof volume of water in heavy rains to help assist draining all the way to the east end down pipe. We will look at adding them later this year. The office window is in progress for repair now that the church has received the credit cards, we can put down a deposit and have the window ordered and installed as soon as it comes in. We have looked into changing the banner closet so that the banners will be more accessible and easier to handle. We will need to budget for the wheelchair accessible sidewalk approaches one at the north side and one on the east side coming from the parking lot. We also need to realign the parking curb blocks and replace the broken one if needed as well as moving them further to the north so there is more room for driving vehicles between the church and parked cars. This spring showed that the gravel has disappeared and on the west side parking lot the ground is very soft so we will also need to do some ground packing and adding more gravel to the whole parking lot. We have to look at getting the trees trimmed and the dead ones removed in the church yard this spring. Thank you, Susan, and helpers, for doing an excellent job with the sidewalk cleaning this winter. Hopefully we are done with the snow.

Chair of Property Team,
Don J.

VOLUNTEER EXPO 2024
hosted by
The Vault Cultural Collective
in Partnership with
**Strathmore Municipal Library
FCSS and Strathmore Lions**

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

Please Join Us
April 17th 2024
4:00 - 7:00 PM
**Strathmore Travelodge
Heritage Ballroom
(350 Ridge Road)**

 For more information
Visit - thevaultonline.ca



EVERY MOMENT MATTERS
National Volunteer Week
April 14-20, 2024
#NVW2024 #EveryMomentMatters




Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team welcomes any ideas you might offer that will help bring us together in an informal setting. To date we have hosted a couple of mid-week Lunch Out events, games night, and a coffee party for church members in the lodge. With your help we are trying to keep in touch with those in hospital or ill at home. Cards are also sent to individuals on behalf of the congregation.

If you have creative suggestions that will keep us connected beyond Sunday worship, please contact Donald Ledene, Linda Freeman, Anne Godsmann, Eileen McMorris, or Jo Wilson.

ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS
The Charms—Denis & Megan



Opening Act 7 PM— Melissa Matheson and The Locals

May 4, 2024— 7:00 pm
 Adult - \$35.00
 Youth - \$10.00 - 17 and under

Tickets can be purchased at the Vault Cultural Collective or online at www.smoreuc.com. Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.




Next Arts on 817
 May 4th, 7:00
 The Charms—Denis Dufrene's and Megan Konschuh. The Opening act is Melissa Matheson and the Locals (Erin Gregory and Mike Smith)

Soup & Bun Sundays: To continue or not continue that is the question!!

With the rising cost of food, the busyness and aging of our congregation it is not as easy to get helpers to make soup, set up, and clean up on the day. To continue we **need** a Coordinator to make sure all these jobs are filled to ensure it happens. Maybe we could change things up, Soup and Bun every 3 months, or not at all, attend any-one of the activities, and events organized by other groups in the church. There is always coffee after church every Sunday. There is a sheet in the narthex to say yah or nay or offer any suggestions. I you wish to continue and coordinate this event or have any suggestions please Contact Eileen M. or Linda D.

There will be Soup & Bun on the April 21/24 so Rev. Mullen and his wife can attend.

ONE

- One tree can start a forest
 - One smile can begin a friendship
 - One hand can lift a soul
 - One word can frame a goal
 - One candle can wipe out darkness
 - One laugh can conquer gloom
 - One hope can raise your spirits
 - One touch can show you care
 - One life can make the difference
- BE THAT ONE TODAY**

FOOD at the Treasure Sale

Do you love to bake? How about contributing a baked item to the bake sale that is part of the Treasure Sale. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated!

Also, if you are looking for a quick lunch, stop in at the Treasure sale, April 26 or 27th and enjoy a warm bowl of chili or hamburger soup. Then check out the bake table for dessert or find something special to take home! All funds raised will be donated to the local church fund.

Strathmore United Church
VINTAGE & TREASURES SALE



Collectables:
 Ornaments, China, Antiques,
 Jewelry, Crystal and More

plus Bake Sale and Quilting Table

Friday April 26 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday April 27 10 AM - 4 PM

Quality Donations Welcome Until April 20

Strathmore United Church 410 - 4 Ave

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

STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH

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 Alberta T1P 1B4
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 Website: www.smoreuc.com
 E-mail: Office
 smoreuc@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:
 The office is open 9—12
 Wednesdays and Thursday
 mornings.



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!!
- ◆ April 21—Soup & Bun after church
- ◆ May 4/24 -Next Arts on 817 concert at 7 PM The Charms— Denis Dufresne's & Megan Konschuh . Opening act Melissa Matheson & the Locals



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



Ongoing Events



- * Quilting group—Wednesdays 10 am meet in the basement until the end of June. Bring a lunch.
- * Book Club—1st Tuesday of the Month 1 pm in the Church Library
- * Agape Group—Meet Second Tuesday 7:30 pm in the church Library.
- * Council Meet—4th Tuesday of the Month.
- * Mary Martha UCW Group—Meets 3rd Thursday Contact Peggy
- * Property Team Meet—3rd Saturday at 10
- * Last Sunday of the month there is old time music before the service at 10 am.
- * 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.