



The Vine



STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Pamela's Open House



Minister Musings

We are celebrating the beginning of the Christian Year: the first Sunday of Advent is the first day of the year. It's a time of new beginnings. It's a time to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God with us.

It is also time to reflect on the past 11 years that I have served as your minister. When I arrived in September of 2012, I did not know a soul. It was a new beginning—a new town, a new calling, a new-to-me house; everything new. It takes me some time to settle, but this is my home. I like that you can be anywhere in town in 10 minutes. I like that most services are offered here. I like the people.

It has been an interesting and challenging 11 years. In seminary they spoke of the isolation of being in ministry. They were correct. They also spoke of the joy of serving a community. They were correct again. Certainly nothing in seminary prepares you for a pandemic. It both brings people together and creates divides at the same time. 1 Thesalonians 5: 16-17 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." My knees

are a bit more worn from praying, especially during the pandemic.

Currently, I have no plans to move. I will be taking three months off, a sabbatical of sorts. My last extended time away was 2017, and I'm due for another extended time away. This time I will mark off one item on my bucket list. I have always wanted to attend an opera at the Met in New York City, and this January I will do just that. On the way home I shall stop in Ontario to visit friends. There are plans to spend some time at the west coast visiting friends as well. In April I will start working part time, 17 hours a week, offering Pastoral Care at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for the last 11 years.

May God continue to bless you and keep you.

May God's light continue to shine upon you, and give you peace.

Rev. Pamela Scott





Advent marks a new year in the church calendar and a new beginning. In January we will have a new beginning also. At the end of December Rev. Pamela Scott will be leaving her role as our minister. On behalf of Church Council I would like to thank Pamela for everything she has done for us, and especially the help and guidance given to council. We wish Pamela the very best in her semi-retirement.

Phil / Council Chair

Finances for January to Nov 28/23

STEWARDSHIP REPORT TO Nov 30 2023

	Local	M&S	Monthly
			Budget
Budgeted	14,262.15	1,500.00	15,762.15
Received	14,515.00	2,233.00	16,748.00
(Shortfall)/ Surplus	252.85	733.00	985.85

YEAR TO DATE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

	Local	M&S	Total
			Budget
Budgeted	156,883.65	16,500.00	173,383.65
Received	140,238.58	15,415.00	155,653.58
(Shortfall)/ Surplus	(16,645.07)	(1,085.00)	(17,730.07)

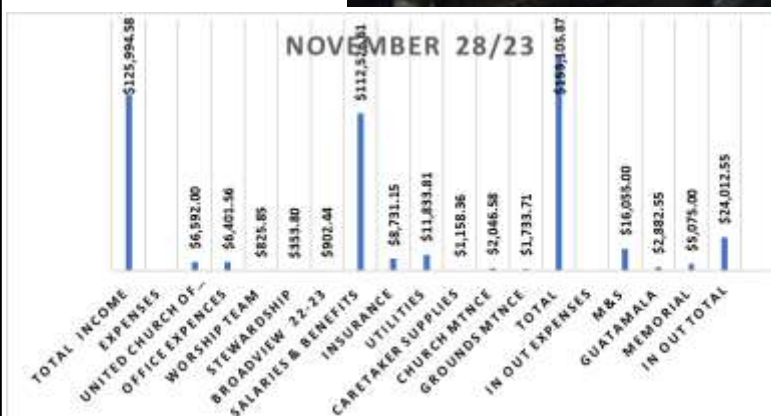
Including Beat the Budget 9,224 plus 5,000 Matching

Income
Local fund 82% of budget received

Expenses
Region 100% of budget spent
Total Administration 74% of budget spent
Total Program and Leade 78% of budget spent
Total Salaries, Honorariu 92% of budget spent
Total Property Expense 55% of budget spent
Overall Local Expense 89% of budget spent

M&S 86% of budget received

92% of year completed



UCW News

As another year draws to a close the UCW held its AGM on November 14 to go over all that has happened in the past year and to designate some of the monies that have been raised at the Vintage and Treasure Sale in the Spring and the Thrift Sale in the Fall. We also had our election of officers.

The election of officers returned Lynne Fair as President, Sandy Lukacs continues as Chairperson Elect and Anne Godsman remains on as Treasurer. Arlene Wahl will be the new Secretary as Sharon White has retired after 39 years of faithful service. She shared that she had stayed on in that capacity as she was so afraid that if she didn't she might end up as President. She was honored at the end of the meeting with a gift of appreciation.

The 2024 Proposed Budget was reviewed item by item. Some were raised and some remained the same. This item is posted in the Fellowship Room along with the Minutes of our meeting on the UCW Bulletin Board.

Thank you to all the ladies of the church who remain faithful in their support of the UCW. Our Purpose goes like this "To Unite women of the community of Faith, for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service."

A wonderful pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all and the meeting adjourned at around 3:00 pm.



60th
Anniver-
sary Cele-
brations
and More



Baptisms: December 3rd

Liam John Drummond, son of Julia
and Cam Drummond.

Caleb Jessie Kelly, son of Melody
Ludlam and Jacob Kelly.



Beat the Budget is a SUCCESS!!!

At the beginning of
September, we
launched a fundraiser
called "Beat the

Budget". The goal was to raise \$10,000 by receiving \$5,000 in donations from the congregation. These funds would be matched using the interest from an existing GIC. Everyone who donated had a chance to win two tickets to an Arts on 817 concert as an incentive. The goal was met and surpassed by Sept. 24. At the Sept Council meeting, we discussed how to proceed. It was decided that we would continue the fundraiser but any future donations would not be matched. Some people of the congregation came up with some creative ideas for raising money. Some of these included selling homemade trifle, crab-apple jelly, handmade dishcloths and farm fresh honey. On Oct. 29, we had a party to celebrate the meeting and surpassing of our goal. The party was complete with noisemakers, sparklers and a cake. On Nov. 5, we drew for the Arts on 817 tickets. It was a very successful fundraiser to help support the Local fund. We raised \$9,224 from the congregation plus the \$5,000 of interest money totaling \$14,224. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the generous people of our congregation. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Janzen



FYI: As a minister, one coming from a city, I tend to be more 'private' than one might be coming from a small town. Part of that is safety. I have a friend from seminary that has had her house burgled twice, each time on a Sunday morning, when it was known she would be at work. She has moved to a new neighbourhood and has been ok since then. This is why I didn't want my address for the open house broadcast on YouTube; something to keep in mind for the safety of your new clergy.

ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS: La Fiammata One Piano Four Hands



OPENING ACT AT 7



"A Potpourri of Piano Chamber Music" featuring students from the Carolyn Steeves Piano Studio

March 9, 2024 - 7:00 pm

Adult - \$35.00

Youth - \$10.00 - 17 and under

Upcoming Concerts

The Charms—Denis & Megan May 4, 2024

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.



Thank you to everyone that attended the Buzz Brass concert with the opening act of "All of the other Reindeer" featuring local voice students of Lorelee Laycroft. It was an amazing night! Everyone left with pep in their step and filled with the Christmas spirit. Thank You



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

Our Advent series this year is titled: *Angels Among Us*.

What does an angel look like?

That question has been asked countless times for thousands of years. The answer, of course, is always different.

Does the angel have human features? Is it male or female or beyond the binary? Is the angel winged? With a beard? Young in features or older? Is the angel terrifying in some way or does it have a welcoming countenance?

What does an angel look like? Do you have a painting or sculpture or piece of art that particularly rings "true" for you?

It's very possible angels are all around us. Even now.



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

STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH

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rev.pamela.scott@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!!
- ♦ Church calendars are available - \$8.00
- ♦ Dec 17—Potluck to celebrate Rev. Pamela Scotts retirement.
- ♦ Dec 31—Decommissioning Service followed by light lunch and sweets.
- ♦ Annual Reports will be due early in the new year! Put your thinking caps on.
- ♦ Don't forget the last Sunday of the month there is old time music before church at 10 am followed by soup and a bun after church.
- ♦ Next Arts on 817 concert at 7 PM *La Fiammata*—March 9/24 Opening Act "A Potpourri of Piano Chamber Music" Featuring students from the Carolyn Steeves Piano Studio

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



may you know
 the comfort & joy
 of God's
 presence this
 Christmas
 season & always!

Ongoing Events



- * All groups will be taking a break for the Christmas, see you in January
- * 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 watch for where and when. No meetings July and August
- * 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 church at 10 am followed by soup and a bun after church.
- * 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.