



inCONTACT

with Alberta and Northwest Conference

January 2012

Beautiful Bench Honours Alma Carter's Gift of Music

The Mewassin United Church congregation recognized Alma Carter's commitment, of playing the organ and piano for church services, weddings, baptisms, funerals and Christmas Concerts.

Alma was present whether it was raining, blowing snow, -30°C, the roads were muddy or icy for 50 years.

The Congregation presented Alma with a log Garden Bench, crafted by Andrew Demera. The bench is placed at the church, with a beautiful view of the North Saskatchewan River valley.

The plaque on the bench reads: "May all who sit in this place of Serenity Know the Comfort and Joy, that Alma Carter has given to this church, playing the piano and organ for 50 years. Our Heartfelt Thanks, The Mewassin Congregation."

Submitted by Erin White

Editor's note: Mewassin congregation is just west of Edmonton, Alberta, in the Stony Plain pastoral charge.



In this issue

President's Ponderings2
125 Years2
Camrose United Church Anniversary.....3
Robert Terrill Rundle4

Saskatchewan Youth Visit Edmonton.....4
What does Remembrance Day mean to you? ...5
New Blog5
Northern Light6

Art and Music Blend6
Money Matters? Money Matters! Workshop ...7
United Church Administrators' Meetings8

President's Ponderings

As prairie people in specific and possibly as Canadians in general we have a never ending fascination with and, indeed, a relationship with the weather. Generally the first thing we do when we arise is look out the window to ascertain what is current. Then we switch on the weather channel in an attempt to find out what's coming. Often we are upset, or simply delight in the conversation, when the weather forecaster is wrong. In rural areas we plan our days and weeks according to the season. Winter is a time for community, for sports, for relaxation, and for the occasional "snow day" where all activity comes to a halt and we curl up in the warmth and security of home for a day. Winter is also a time of challenge, surprise, risk, and possibility. Storms can come up unexpectedly out of nowhere leaving people stranded on roadways and in neighbours' homes hoping that others will find them and help them through.



Sally Boyle

a window through which we might view the world or the community around us. Occasionally a prophet comes forward to suggest what the future might hold and how we might expect things to unfold if we continue on the path we are currently on. Sometimes we view that prophet with the same disbelief as we view the weather forecaster.

We have seasons of great activity and seasons of deep reflection. And occasionally we are in such turmoil within our own church that we feel as if we are about to lose our way, get hung up on a drift or tossed about in tornado-like wind. The church is also the place which is our "storm home". We are baptized.

It is our home. Our family. Our community. Our safe place. It is the place to which we might turn when life is in tumult, when we have lost our way or are in danger of doing so.

It seems to me that our dilemma comes when we are both the "safe place" and the "storm". We are called to hold these two in a tension which ensures that our controversies can be dealt with in safety and that our need for safety does not ever outweigh our desire to do justice. It is not a "simple" calling but it is a faithful one.

— Sally Boyle

President of Alberta/Northwest Conference

When I was a child in school we each had a storm home. It was the place to which we went if the bus could not take us home.

We were assured of warmth and safety, people who would look after us, a hot meal and a snugly bed. I have been aware this winter of how the church is both "the weather" and the "storm home". The church functions in seasons. The church often gives us

125 Years

Rundle Memorial United Church Banff members peruse old scrapbooks and photo albums after the potluck dinner celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Church in June.

www.rundleunited.ca

— Breda Hamill



Camrose United Church Recognizes Members on its 86th Anniversary

On Sunday, November 13 Camrose United Church celebrated its 86th year in Camrose.

The United Church of Canada came about in a union of the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational church; and it was November 15, 1925 when services were held for the first time in the basement of what is now the Camrose United Church.

After Sunday's 10:00 am service the congregation shared a huge pot-luck dinner in the Christian Education Hall. Cake and beverages were supplied.

To enhance the anniversary, The ConneXions Committee which consists of Joyce Lohner, Joyce Steiger, Margaret Wallace and chairperson Buffy da Silva recognized members of Camrose United Church who have contributed much to the church.

Buffy affirmed, "It's important to honour the services these individuals make to our congregation."

This year's honourees were Mary Pattie-Fellner, Jean Martens, and Bob and Doreen Walline.

Mary Pattie-Fellner has been a member for over thirty years. She sings soprano in the choir and is a member of the Pastoral Care Committee. She gives up much of her free time visiting members of our congregation who are confined to the hospital and the Louise Jensen Long Term Care facility.

Mary remarked, "I appreciate and thank everyone for the recognition."

Jean Martens has been a member of the Board of Trustees, the kitchen supervisory team, the knitting group, and the United Church Women (UCW). In addition, she works at the United Church's annual pie event, the Sale-a-bration, and the Christmas Tea and Bake Sale.

Doreen Walline is a very active life member and treasurer of the UCW; she sings in the choir and has worked in Sunday School. As well, she has been a Presbytery representative, member of the Official Board, member of the Pastoral Care Committee, and a helper at Martha's Table.

Bob Walline has worked hard on the Property Committee and has been conscientious in helping to keep the physical church up to modern standards. He has spent countless hours working on the landscaping and maintenance of the church grounds. He also assists at Sunday services by operating the PA system.

ConneXions' member Joyce Lohner pointed out, "This is an important historical record of those who have served the church above and beyond the call of duty. These honourees are now mentors for our young people and new members to the congregation."

— Alex Oliver
Member of Editorial Board



Jean Martens, Bob Walline, Doreen Walline, and Mary Pattie-Fellner hold their congratulatory cake just before it is cut up and distributed to the crowd.

Robert Terrill Rundle

Rundle School. Rundle Park. Rundle subdivision. Mount Rundle. The name is splashed across our contemporary landscape, but few know the story of this remarkable Englishman who lived here over 160 years ago. Robert Terrill Rundle was born in Mylor, England in 1811, the third son of Robert Rundle and Grace Carvosso. Raised as an Anglican, the young Rundle converted to Methodism through the influence of his maternal grandfather, William Carvosso, a well-known Methodist lay preacher and his uncle, the Reverend Benjamin Carvosso, a respected Methodist minister with missionary experience in Australia.

While Rundle was coming of age in England, on the other side of the Atlantic the fur trade was proceeding in earnest. In 1840 Governor George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company requested three Methodist missionaries for Canada's west, and Rundle was among those to answer the call. On March 8, 1840, with only a few months of theological training, he was ordained in London. He set sail for his new post a week later.

After three months stationed at Norway House, Rundle travelled west, witnessing the terror of prairie fires, the vastness of the plains, and the herds of bison which still roamed the land. Upon arriving at Fort Edmonton on October 18, 1840, he recorded in his journal: "Agreeably surprised at the appearance of Edmonton; finest fort I have seen in the country."

For the next eight years Rundle spent his winters at Fort Edmonton, Lesser Slave Lake and Fort Assiniboine, holding services, teaching the children of traders, and according to Chief Factor Rowand, gossiping too much with the clerks. During the warmer months, Rundle travelled extensively, ministering to First Nations peoples in their own communities. He is credited as the first Christian missionary to make regular visits to First Nations encampments, the first missionary to work in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and the first to venture into Blackfoot territory. During these long trips he performed services, baptisms and marriages, and made lasting friendships with many Métis, Assiniboine and Cree, including the venerable Maskepetoon.

On July 26, 1847 Rundle was thrown from his horse and badly fractured his wrist, which failed to properly heal. Plagued by the injury Rundle returned to England for medical treatment the following summer where he remained until his death in 1896. Although his stay in Canada was cut short by the accident, Rundle's legacy remains.

— Tim O`Grady

Saskatchewan Youth Visit Edmonton

A busload of youth and their chaperones from McClure United in Saskatoon visited Edmonton in mid-November. They organized donations at the Bissell Centre on the Saturday morning, and also served a lunch at Boyle Street Community Centre that same day. Of course, they went to the West Edmonton Mall and water park, and also laser tag. The group camped out at Knox-Metropolitan United Church where they met with the youth on Saturday night. They joyfully led the Knox-Met congregation in learning a new song at Sunday worship.

— Camille Kamphuis and
Liz Goddard



Youth from McClure United, Saskatoon relax during their visit to Edmonton.
Photo credit: Liz Goddard

What does Remembrance Day mean to you?

That was the question that Warren Mack, Music Director/Organist, at Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Edmonton asked his choir members early in October. Out of that discussion came the idea to ask members of the congregation the same question, but what would be the best way to do so?

Warren was searching for some idea of what Remembrance Day meant to people of diverse backgrounds and different ages. He introduced the idea to the congregation at a Sunday morning service and asked them to record their ideas on clipboards that he circulated. At the end of the service he had several pages of information. The challenge now was to compose an anthem that did justice to those ideas.

During the weeks that followed the choir was introduced to the developing anthem as *We Will Not Forget: A Litany of Remembrance* took shape. The music was written for cello and organ; the mournful, solitary sound of the cello introduced each verse. Warren represented the major concepts suggested by members of the congregation in the lyrics which he set in the style of an Anglican chant.

The lines included the traditional acknowledgement of the military contribution: Those who lost their lives in our defence, those we honour, and pledge always to remember; the recognition of those who continue to contribute at different levels: Healers and all aid givers, all these we thank; empathise with those who continue

to be affected in other ways: The persecuted, oppressed, and those who live in terror. With these we lament. Each verse concluded with the tolling of a lone bell and the words: We will remember them being sung by members of the choir and congregation.

The result was a respectful, yet vibrant arrangement of lyrics and music for two instruments, choir and congregation that represented a 21st Century view of Remembrance Day.

We Will Not Forget: A Litany of Remembrance, words and music by Warren Mack, is available by contacting Knox Metropolitan United Church knoxmet@telusplanet.net or 780-439-4320.

— Submitted by Helen Madill

New Blog Adds Colour and Freshness to In Contact

The Editorial Board has often wished to share the colour and variety of photos that are sent to us. Now, with our new blog at <http://incontactunitedchurch.blogspot.com>, we happily do that! The blog features colour photos and short captions in a large font. "Our blog has a quick turnaround and allows us to share the vibrancy and variety of the work, life and fun of the church." Editor Liz Webster Goddard explained. The blog is free. Liz has volunteered her time to set it up and maintain it. The blog supplements the print version of *In Contact*. "We are calling for photos with short captions from individuals and groups around the conference." Send your photos with captions to incontactphoto@gmail.com for consideration. And please share our address with your friends. So far, our farthest visitors are from Japan and Ireland.

— Liz Webster Goddard
Editor of *In Contact*



Editorial Board Chair Gerry Dyck and Editor Liz Webster Goddard hone their computer skills. Photo and garlic by Alex Oliver!

Northern Light

“Let’s decide things by consensus”

When northerners travel in the south (anywhere south of sixty) we often spend some of our time doing one of two things — explaining to people that the north is not that different from other places in Canada, and paradoxically, explaining just how different things are in the north. The reason for this seeming paradox revolves around some stereotypes. It seems that many Canadians have preconceived notions of what the north is like, and in many cases, especially if those notions are formed without having visited or spent time in the north, they are wrong. There are, however, many things about life in the north that are quite different.

One of the differences is something that you might think would be near and dear to the hearts of many United Church folk, namely the fact that in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, governance is done by consensus.

We don’t have political parties. Members of the legislative assembly are elected in ridings, just like they would be in the south, but they do not have party affiliation.

Once the election is over, the elected members of the legislature vote for a speaker and then for a premier from among the members who have indicated their interest in holding one of those positions. Finally the MLAs vote for the people who will form the cabinet. Once the cabinet is named, the premier has the responsibility for assigning portfolios. The premier and newly elected cabinet ministers form the government and the remaining regular members are the loyal opposition. When people hear about this form of government, especially in church circles there is usually a pleased reaction.

It sounds like a little bit of heaven to those who are turned off by the adversarial nature of our national and other provincial and territorial legislatures.

However, like everything there is some good and bad to the way government happens in NT and NU. There is much appreciation for the desire to make decisions by consensus, but the one thing that seems to be lacking in our system is that there is no overall strategy

for the territory. That’s what a political party can bring to the process. When we have an election (as we did in October) the contest is fought on local issues, and rightly or wrongly every candidate is elected on her or his own merits, and not because of a vision that a party might have for the territory as a whole.

Overall, however, I like the fact that we have a consensus system. I think it demonstrates outside-the-box kind of thinking, a kind of thinking that often defines a northern way, and might I be so bold to add, a kind of thinking that very often describes the presence of God in scripture story and life story. When God is involved it is difficult to say, “We’ve never done it that way before”. Is consensus government a little bit of heaven? Maybe that’s going a bit too far, but I like to think that God is smiling at the attempt to try something different, and the desire for a little more co-operation and a little less conflict.

— Peter Chynoweth
Past President
Alberta/Northwest Conference

Art and Music Blend

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church in Edmonton, Alberta recently hosted the CD launch for Carolyn McDade’s new CD . Part of that project included “All Beings Confluence” — an interactive community based effort directly inspired by the recording project itself. In “All Beings Confluence” any Being of the universe is painted or sewn onto long rectangular sheer fabrics. The panels are then hung to completely fill large areas in such a way that we never see a single Being without seeing others through or next to it. It is an amazing sight.

“We want to inspire the creation of more and more panels everywhere. We envision “All Beings Confluence” continuing to grow and move out to any number of places.” Carolyn explained.

To find out more email fenella.temmerman@gmail.com. To view these panels in colour, visit our blog at <http://incontactunitedchurch.blogspot.com>.



— Jo Nicholas

Money Matters? Money Matters! Workshop

Camrose United Church successful stewardship workshop “Money Matters? Money Matters!” had high-profile facilitators.

From left to right — **Rev. Brenda Watt** from Crossfield United Church, Alberta and **Rev. John Pentland** (missing from photo) of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary led workshops on what ministers can do and ways to educate youth about money and their faith.

Patricia Bourque, Regional Resource Person from Edmonton — Stewardship Education

Kathryn Hofley, United Church of Canada Prairie Region Financial Development Officer — guided opening and closing sessions on money matters; and

Doug Flanders, Director of Major and Planned Gifts from Toronto — spoke on appeals to the congregations and how to say “Thanks.”

Jim Anderson, Chairperson of the Camrose United Church Legacy Gift Committee. For a similar workshop for your congregation, contact the Conference office.



— Alex Oliver

A Card in the Mail

The joy of finding a card in the mail
Painstakingly stamped and layered.
Punched and inked, embossed with dots
If I'm lucky, amazingly brayered!

It brings a message I'd hoped to get —
I'm thought of, cared for, free.
Yes, 'way beyond my mailbox
There's someone loving me.

— Elizabeth Webster Goddard ©

Correction

Our September 2011 article noted the work of the Rev. Fong “Dicknans”. His family name was spelled in several different ways in archival sources. Our writer, Tim O'Grady chose the spelling that appeared most frequently. We have since been informed that his family name was “Dickman” and we thank our readers for that information. We thank Tim for his research and contribution to In Contact.

— Ed.



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Our mission is to promote the ministry of church office administration. Together we will renew our spirit through personal development, professional affirmation, and mutual support.

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Jan 17/12. Highlands United Church 11305 – 64 Street.
Jacquie Breitreitz (contact)

Feb 21/21. Strathearn United Church 8510 – 95 Ave. Rena Spiess

Mar 20/12. Trinity United Church 8810 Meadowlark Road. Andrea Kardos

April 2012. Taylor College will be hosting another symposium. Details to follow.

May 15/12. Avonmore United Church 7909 – 82 Ave. Melanie Bell/
Margrit Burger

Jun /12. First United — Wetaskiwin. Jenny King. Retreat



We are looking for stories from all over the conference. Have we heard from your congregation yet? We will send you our Guidelines for Submissions or you can read them at www.anwconf.com. Our e-mail is incontactphoto@gmail.com

Around Our Conference

Upcoming Events

March 5 – 9, 2012. Returning to Spirit Workshop (aboriginal). Residential School Reconciliation process. Star of the North, St. Albert. kjackson@anwconf.org to register. www.returningtospirit.org for information.

March 5 – 9, 2012. Returning to Spirit Workshop (non-aboriginal). Residential School Reconciliation process. Providence Centre, Edmonton. kjackson@anwconf.org to register. www.returningtospirit.org for information.

April 6. Good Friday.

April 12 – 14, 2012. Kananaskis Stewardship Event
“Word and the World – Rooted in Faith, Living our Hope”
Theme Speaker: Ched Myers. Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries: bcm-net.org
More details on <http://www.anwconf.com/public/upcomingevents.htm>.
To register: Kathy Jackson, Alberta and Northwest Conference,
9911 – 48 Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 5V6.

April 28th. Secretary networking at Olds United Church, 4810 – 50 Street, Olds, at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Lil at 556-3052.

June 22nd and 23rd, 2012 — Knox United Church in Calgary is hosting a workshop featuring Brian Swimme entitled “The Role of the Human within the Earth Community”. For more information please go to http://fore.research.yale.edu/files/Swimme_poster.jpg. To register please contact Don Smith at 403-281-7065 or donsmith@nucleus.com or go to <http://www.knoxcentre.ca> to register online.

July 23 – 27, 2012. The United Church Women celebrate their 50th Anniversary in 2012! A national gathering, “Our Tapestry of Love”, will be held in Ancaster, ON. For info Email ucw50@hotmail.ca or phone 1-519-621-2184.

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