



# inCONTACT

with Alberta and Northwest Conference

September 2011

## Celebration of Ministry

The Alberta/Northwest Conference Celebration of Ministry was held at Heritage Amphitheatre in Hawrelak Park, Edmonton on a beautiful day in May. This event featured the ordination of five new ministers, the admission of two ministers from other denominations and recognition of those retiring and the saints who have gone before.

Choirs from Robertson-Wesley United Church and Knox-Metropolitan United Church (Warren Mack, Director) were accompanied by the Trinity United Church Worship Band. Nancy Chegus served as Music Director.

A liturgical team from Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Grande Prairie and Edmonton designed the liturgy which focused on the human story in the abundance of creation. The service delighted the eye, the ear and the soul — music, colour, drums, bright fabrics and the story of the raven, all set in the rich green of the North Saskatchewan river valley.



*Dale Breikreutz, Karen Bridges, Henriette Kelker, Neal Palmer and Krystal Sheremeta wait to be ordained.*



*Banners of coloured fabric symbolized the diversity of creation.*



*Peter Chynoweth listens as Marie Lund opens the service with traditional music.*



*Creating crafts of celebration.*

*Photo credits:  
Ken Hutchinson*

### In this issue

|  |   |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| President's Pen . . . . .                        | 2 | Camrose United Church Cleans Up . . . . .          | 4 | Edmonton's Chinese United Church . . . . .          | 7 |
| Living into Right Relations . . . . .            | 2 | Bike Season Blessings . . . . .                    | 5 | Synergy Band Adds Special Note to Worship . . . . . | 7 |
| Support for and Thanks from Slave Lake . . . . . | 3 | Soaring Spirits in Coronation Presbytery . . . . . | 5 | 101 years of service . . . . .                      | 8 |
| St. David's Friendship Club . . . . .            | 3 | New History Writer . . . . .                       | 6 |   |   |
| Guatemalan Tradition . . . . .                   | 4 | Bow Island's Shawl Ministry . . . . .              | 6 |   |   |

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## President's Pen

Two years ago the delegates to Alberta and Northwest Conference elected me as their president-elect and therefore the person to take over the Presidency at this time. Only a few of you would have been at that meeting... so it seems appropriate that I would give you a brief introduction to myself.

I was ordained 35 years ago and have spent my entire ministry in the west... the majority in Saskatchewan. I followed a Call to ANW Conference five years ago and have been grateful ever since that I did just that.

My soul is deeply rooted in prairie soil. I have often said that I received my roots from my dad, a quintessential prairie farmer, and my wings from my mom, a very fine musician who played with the local dance band on Saturday night and then was up to play for church on Sunday morning. I learned the importance of the seasons... renewal, growth, productivity, regeneration. I learned of the mutual dependency between humans and the animals and the earth which sustains us. In fact, I often thought that the animals would fare far better without us than we would without them. And I learned of the importance of faith and community; of trust and humility; of risk and caution. Life is about mutual relationship and balance and a faith that goodness surrounds us.



Sally Boyle

In our next year together I want to continue exploring what it means for us to be in mutual relationship in our various ministries. Who are we as “the people of God” and how do we engage the cycle of life in order to sustain Life.

I have developed a definition of ministry for myself and share it with you as a foundation for some of our upcoming conversations. It is as follows:

**Ministry is the art of creating a sacred and, therefore, safe space wherein people are invited and encouraged to explore Mystery and Awe and Wonder.**

Over the next number of months I also want to share with you some of the biblical metaphors which have inspired or guided me throughout my journey. I look forward to a Life Giving time together.

I invite you to engage in conversation with me on the President's Blog which can be found by going to the Alberta and Northwest Conference website and clicking on the link. It is my sincere hope that we may find some sacred space on line as well as in our personal encounters.

— Sally Boyle  
President of Alberta/Northwest Conference

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## Living into Right Relations in Yellowhead Presbytery

**Living into right relations** (LIRR) is a priority for Yellowhead Presbytery. In January, home group members participated in the 3rd annual Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) event in St. Paul along with Pat Makokis, Executive Director of Blue Quills College. Cecile Fausak, advisor to the ANW Living into Right Relations home group, was the guest speaker. The audience included several school staff and elected councillors. The group toured the former Blue Quills residential school, a first time event for many. Eyes were opened to a different perspective of the colonial history in Canada and positive follow-up events include the use of

the Blanket Exercise with Ashmont teachers during their Professional Development Day.

In February, about 30 Yellowhead Presbyters and 20 guests, most of whom were First Nations or Métis, gathered at St. David's United Church in Leduc. Wilson Bearhead, a former chief of Paul First Nation on Lake Wabamun and his wife Charlene, an educator working with Paul band, and a group of youth including their son and daughter Seneca Crowe were key participants in the planning and leadership of the day. Wilson is currently an Elder working with Native Counselling Services of

Alberta. After lunch of bannock and stew, about 30 people engaged in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise while others observed. This 'eye-opening' review outlined how the Indian Act, broken promises, and European activity have caused so much damage to indigenous independence, culture, and livelihoods.

Charles Wood from Saddle Lake and Cecile Fausak teamed up to speak in the “Wisdom's Well” series sponsored by St. Stephen's College. They discussed their topic “Miyo wicehtotan: Let us Live in Peace” with small but enthusiastic groups at Symons Valley UC in Calgary, Sunnybrook UC in

*cont'd on page 8*

## Support for and Thanks from Slave Lake

The United Church is and will remain a strong presence in Slave Lake, Alberta, through the ministry of St. Peter's Ecumenical Church. Please join us in expressing our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to the whole community of Slave Lake following the wildfire that has devastated this community of 7000.

In the words of Leigh Sinclair, Pastor at St. Peter's: "Our United Church family in Slave Lake, Alberta, who do ministry with Anglicans, Lutherans and many other Christians, send their thanks for all the prayers, love and support descending on them." (May).

You may send cards, donations or letters of support for the Congregation to 508 – 7 Street Southeast, Slave Lake, Alberta, T0G 2A0. Cheques should be made payable to "St. Peter's Ecumenical Church".

— ANW Conference



## Fourth Annual Chancellor's Gala "Building Up, Reaching Out"

Friday, September 30, 2011  
The Sutton Place Hotel  
10235 – 101 Street, Edmonton

Reception: 6:00 pm  
Dinner: 7:00 pm  
Black Tie Optional

Tickets: \$250 or \$2500/10 Person Table  
(\$175 tax receipt per ticket)

Deadline for tickets: September 15, 2011

Live and Silent Auctions

Dance to the C-Jam Big Band

Support endowments, education, and facility enhancement!

For tickets or information:

Phone: 780-439-7311

Toll Free: 1-800-661-4956

Email: [ststephn@ualberta.ca](mailto:ststephn@ualberta.ca)

[www.ualberta.ca/St.Stephens](http://www.ualberta.ca/St.Stephens)

## St. David's Friendship Club Celebrates 50 Years of Success

Did those four couples who met with our new minister, Rev. Jack Colclough, in the fall of 1961 to discuss forming a Couples' Club ever imagine the success this club would enjoy for 50 years to come? Fortunately, Jack was in complete agreement, and so we had a beginning.

Gladys and Don McKinnon were elected as Presidents, Joyce and Jerry Stephenson as Vice-Presidents, and Ginny and Jack Beaton as Secretary-Treasurer. Don and Gladys are still an important and active couple in our club to this day, serving as Honourary Presidents for this Golden Anniversary event.

The club's purpose was to encourage fellowship within a Christian atmosphere, and the motto soon became Fun, Friendship and Food. An affordable evening out for couples who often had young families, the

group meets ten times a year. The Couples'/Friendship Club size has stabilized at 100 – 115 members.

Our renaming as the Friendship Club clarifies that the club is open to everyone. We have several members who continue their involvement even though they have moved to other churches!

The ongoing success of the club can be attributed to

**It has been said that God has given us memories so that we could have roses in December, and we're sure that we all have "gardens full of roses".**

its structure and the quality of programs. To spread responsibilities and the workload in planning, the entire club membership is divided into four groups. Each group is responsible for two meetings in the year, with the executive planning January and September. Each year

a new executive, including group leaders, is formed, and new groups are set by simply picking names out of a hat — a democratic way of splitting talents and workload evenly. We get to know and work with new people, and this encourages friendship.

It has been an incredible and memorable journey through the years, with an outstanding variety of programs. The Club has been a real family to those who have been ill, or suffered loss, or in any kind of difficulty. We have laughed, and mourned, and found a closeness and support that has come from working and playing together 10 months of every year for 50 years. As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we share the hope and belief that our club will thrive for 50 more years.

— Louise Taylor,  
Theo Garrick, Bob Liddle  
St. David's, Calgary

# Springbank United Church Celebrates Easter with a Guatemalan Tradition

Two families from Springbank United Church observed Semana Santa (Easter Week) 2010 in Antigua, Guatemala as part of a voluntour with Hearts and Hands Foundation. We had completed our week of building stoves in the highlands and spent our second week learning about Guatemalan culture. We had managed to score a couple of spots on the steps of the cathedral only about an hour before the Semana Santa procession was due to pass. Incense, the drone of the bands and a sense of excitement mixed with solemnity filled the air.

Hundreds of years of tradition are played out in the streets of Antigua, Guatemala during Semana Santa. Guatemalans celebrate Easter by holding processions (parades) depicting Easter week and the passion story. Huge wooden platforms — (floats) weighing up to 3 tons, are carried through the city on the shoulders of up to 80 men at one time.

Lining the streets, families and businesses create beautiful carpets or Alfrombras. These carpets are made of dyed sawdust and range from eight to eighty or more feet in

length. Generations of families and friends gather together to create these carpets to beautify the path the procession will take. Often up to 12 or more hours are spent on making these carpets, so that the procession may walk over them. To the people of Guatemala, this signifies the sacrifice that Christ made for the people of the world.

As Easter approached this year, I reflected on our Guatemala Easter experience. Maybe we could make an Alfrombras for our congregation! With the help of the other voluntour family and some ingenuity (where do you find coloured sawdust in Calgary?), we produced the carpet shown. We did not have a procession walk through it as they do in Guatemala. We had the carpet on display for three weeks and some are already talking about the design we will use for our carpet next Easter.

For a longer version of this story, visit [www.anwconf.com](http://www.anwconf.com) and click on In Contact.

— Linda McLean  
Springbank United, Calgary



*Laying the base*



*In the process...*



*Finished carpet*

## Camrose United Church Cleans Up

Camrose United Church Social Concerns Committee assisted the city of Camrose on May 1 by cleaning up the area along Mirror Lake and Jubilee Park. City of Camrose Parks director Chris Clarkson praised the group by saying, "The Camrose United Church

parishioners have been great volunteer partners with the City of Camrose by assisting with a variety of beautification projects. Assistance again this spring with cleaning up our parks system has been a great help toward the spring clean-up process."

— Alex Oliver  
Member of Editorial Board



*The human chain of Joy-Ann Murphy, Talia Dewalt, Davis Dewalt, and Carol Rawson secure Ted Rawson as he pulls a plastic bottle from Stoney Creek.  
Photo credit: Alex Oliver*

# Bike Season Blessings



The 2011 riding season for Medicine Hat and area began with the Annual Blessing of the Bikes held the first Sunday in May. This is the third year that the service has been held at Gordon Memorial United Church in Redcliff.

The day started with breakfast, then a run to Taber meeting up with Lethbridge riders. After a hot Timmy's with the other riders, the bikers headed out for the Hays maze, one of the only roads in the area where you get to lean into a

few curves. Everyone continued safely into Redcliff to the church, meeting up with even more riders who had come to attend the service.

Reverend Blaine conducted the motorcycle themed service, and then a senior member from the organizing motorcycle club, Ken Forbes, read the names of riders that had passed on over the last year. The Lethbridge chapter lost two riders this spring to an accident and our heartfelt condolences went out to them. Their names will be added to a memorial at the church. After the service Reverend Blaine said a blessing for of the each bikes gathered in the front of the church and their riders. Following the Blessings, the church offered a hot lunch to the riders for a nominal fee.

The service is open to all riders including The United Motorcycle Club International, the Blue Knights, the Red Knights, The Widow's Sons, the HOG Chapter, the Desert Dolls, Canadian Army Veterans, Christian Bikers, Riders United, Canadian Motorcycle Cruisers, Lone Wolves, the Falcons, This year, approximately 50 bikers attended.

— Blaine Schaufele

## Upcoming Event

**Oct. 20 – 21.** Banff Men's Conference. Here I Am — The Courage to be Known in Community, Facilitators: David Hatfield & Chris Giffen <http://banffmen.org/>

# Soaring Spirits in Coronation Presbytery

Some 60 women from Coronation Presbytery enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship and worship at the Annual Women's Event at Camrose United Church in June. The theme was "Soaring Spirits". This event rotates through the Presbytery.

Mary Ann Pastuck led us in worship throughout the day. We were given the opportunity to try drumming and hand bell ringing with Camrose music director Darryl Dewalt and his wife, Joy Ann.

The morning worship included the memorial service for the women who died this past year. Each represented by a white rose, their names were recorded in our Memorial Book by Doris Hirsch of Camrose. Marilyn Thomas and Marilyn Penfound led this part of the service.

After a wonderful lunch and book browsing, the two Marylins gave us an update on what has been happening in the wider church; including the Child Wellbeing Initiative. After more singing we had a laughing good time with Florence Bohlen who led us in Laughter Yoga. No after-lunch drowsiness there!

Story telling is an important part of a day of gathering. Doris Hirsch led us into a time of table discussion groups where laughter continued to ring out. Our closing worship included hand bell ringing, singing, drumming and communion.

All and all, a very satisfying uplifting day. Thanks to the planning committee and Camrose United Church Women.

— Marilyn Penfold



*Coronation United Church ladies fill the room with unrestricted laughter and uninhibited animation during their Laughter Yoga session.*  
Photo credit: Alex Oliver

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## New History Writer — Tim O'Grady



*Tim O'Grady*

We welcome our new history writer, Tim O'Grady, who introduces himself thusly:

"I have a BA in History from Mount Allison University (2005) and an MA in Public History from the University of Western Ontario (2010). I have worked in the field heritage planning for a consulting company as well as the City of Edmonton, during which time I research a number of churches throughout Alberta. I am currently employed as an archivist for the City of Edmonton.

I have served as archivist for McDougall United Church since 2007 and am on the Board of Directors for the Alberta and Northwest Conference Historical Society.

My interests in history include built history and how the past is presented to and interpreted for the public. Although I do not have a particular time period I specialize in, the majority of my professional work has dealt with Alberta in the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

— *Tim O'Grady*  
Edmonton

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## Bow Island's St. Andrew's United Church Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry of St. Andrew's United Church in Bow Island, Alberta, had its beginning in 2005 with Rev. Sandra McMillan.

Originally our members who knit and crochet prayer shawls were church members as were those who were gifted with a shawl. Since inception ladies from other churches have joined us and we have expanded our outreach into the whole community. We give our shawls to bereaved families, ill and hospitalized people and seniors celebrating very special birthdays. We also recognize congregational Baptisms and grade 12 graduands with the gift of a shawl.

To date, we have completed 726 shawls and given 590 shawls, each with our love and prayers. With our shawls we include a handmade card and a crystal bead cross.

In December we make scarves, hats, mittens and slippers which are displayed on a tree as they are completed. They are then included in Christmas hampers for the community.

Our church funds this ministry and we also accept donations of yarn and money to purchase supplies. We keep a scrapbook of cards and letters from those who have received a shawl and are grateful for the comfort and solace enjoyed from them.

About three times a year the newly completed shawls are displayed and presented to the congregation at which time Pastor Sheila McLeod blesses them.

— *Mary Fleming*

Bow Island, population 1900, is located in southeast Alberta. It serves a large rural area and is the Bean Capital of Western Canada.



*St. Andrew's Prayer Shawl Ministry members (l to r): Mary Fleming, Thelma Boyd, Star Byam, Doris Campbell, Shirley Crosthwaite, Ella Nelson, Velma Kienxle, Louise Wutzke.*

# Edmonton's Chinese United Church

The Chinese United Church in Edmonton is one of only 13 Chinese United Churches in Canada. It began in 1930 when Reverend Fong Dicknanas arrived in Edmonton and began ministering to the roughly 400 Chinese living in the city. Born in Canton, China, Mr. Dicknanas immigrated to Canada in 1885. After working nine years in a Vancouver shop he began missionary work among the Chinese community in Nanaimo. Rev. Dicknanas was ordained in 1923 and served in several churches in British Columbia before moving to Edmonton.

Although the third Chinese minister to operate in Edmonton (he was preceded by Mah Sung and C. P. Leung), it was Rev. Dicknanas who established the first official church. Securing the use of a residence at 10156 – 96 Street near the heart of Edmonton's original Chinatown in 1933, Rev. Dicknanas served the local community. When he retired in 1941, Rev. Dicknanas had become a prominent and well respected figure in the city.

In 1947 the Federal government lifted the restrictive Chinese Immigration Act. As a result, Edmonton's Chinese population grew for the first time since the Act was passed in 1923. Reflecting this new immigration policy, the United Church purchased the building at 10156 and the lot to the south for the congregation. Increasing membership led to the construction of a new building in 1952 adjoining the original church. The new structure served as the church, and the original provided affordable housing to seniors.

The congregation continued to grow, from 25 adult members in 1953 to 80 in 1964. This increase was credited by then minister Rev. Chow Ling to the influx of Christians from Hong Kong. By the mid-1960s the church and manse had been paid off, but the church still received funding from the Home Mission Board of the Alberta Conference.

By the 1970s much of the Chinese population in Edmonton had dispersed to other parts of the city, leaving mostly elderly Chinese who spoke little English in the vicinity of the Chinese United Church. To address the isolation felt by many of the nearby residents, Rev. Joseph Mung initiated several outreach programs, including Chinese film nights, a home visit program, a help line, a drop-in centre and library, and art classes taught by a Chinese artist.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chinatown in Edmonton. Since the establishment of the Chinese United Church it has served an important role in the lives of many Edmontonians. Today the church continues serving the needs of its downtown community: operating from a modern building at the original location on 96 Street, it holds weekly services and continues to offer a variety of outreach activities contributing to the religious, cultural and social life of its congregants.

— Tim O'Grady, Edmonton

## Synergy Band Adds Special Note to Worship

The Synergy Band, led by Greg Wheeler, participates in worship monthly at Gaetz Memorial United Church in Red Deer. This photo was taken at the last service of their interim minister, the Rev. James Strachan. In Contact would like to hear of other churches that use bands in their worship.

— Gerry Dyck  
Chair, Editorial Board



Photo credit: Bert Lougheed

# 101 years of service

Macklin Grace United Church Women (UCW) celebrated their 101<sup>st</sup> year of service in the church on May 31, 2011. The women of Grace congregation, guests from Provost UCW, and women from Evesham congregation enjoyed a delicious meal at the Macklin Lakeview Golf Course. Although the minutes for their first 10 years are not available, records from 1921 meeting show that the women were celebrating 11 years of service in the Macklin Methodist congregation.



*Macklin, Saskatchewan is five km east of the Alberta/Saskatchewan border and is part of ANW Conference.*

*"Living Into Right..." cont'd from page 2*

Red Deer, and Southminister-Steinhauer in Edmonton.

Yellowhead Presbytery watched the film "We Are" at its April meeting, in the company of two of its makers, teens Seneca Crowe and Avery Rudnisky. In the film, teenagers from various ethnic backgrounds visit commemorative sites to explore how discriminatory policies including Japanese and Ukrainian internment, Indian

residential schools, and the Chinese head tax impacted their grandparents in Alberta. The UC Healing Fund helped finance this film which is available on Youtube, <http://www.wearefilm.net>. The Justice and Reconciliation Fund is supporting a sequel involving the teenagers' parents and families.

— Patricia Robertson  
*Chair of the LIRR Ad Hoc Committee*

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Editorial Chairperson:  
Geraldine Dyck

 **inCONTACT**

Editor: Liz Goddard  
780-436-3801

c/o ANW Conference  
9911 – 48 Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T6E 5V6

Guidelines for Submission  
available at [www.anwconf.org](http://www.anwconf.org)  
or by email or mail. Maximum  
submissions of 400 words.  
[incontactphoto@gmail.com](mailto:incontactphoto@gmail.com)

**Deadlines for next Issues:**

**The 20<sup>th</sup> of September  
and November**

## Around Our Conference

### Upcoming Events

**September 24. 10:30 a.m.** Secretary's Networking at Gaetz Memorial United Church, 4758 Ross Street, Red Deer, Call Linda at 403-347-2244

**September 26 – 30.** Living into Right Relations (LIRR). Two Returning to Spirit workshops, Part 1 (Aboriginal) at Star of the North in St. Albert and Part 2 (ecumenical non-Aboriginal clergy and lay persons) at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. Visit <http://www.returningtospirit.org/> to learn more about Returning to Spirit then experience this transformative process first hand. Space is limited.

**September 30 – October 23.** Linnea Good's UnderQualified Disciple Tour. A high-energy tour across the high prairie. For more details, visit [www.linneagood.com](http://www.linneagood.com).

**October 11 – 13.** Annual Meeting of Ethnic Ministry, ANW Conference — Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 119 Street, Edmonton. Guest speaker/workshop leader: Rev. Maki Fushii, Communities in Mission, General Council, Toronto. All are invited to "Come Closer and Connect". Details from [kjackson@anwconf.com](mailto:kjackson@anwconf.com) at Conference Office.

**October 14 and 16.** The Friendship Club (formerly Couples' Club) at St. David's United in Calgary 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We invite all our Club alumni and past ministers to a Banquet on Friday, Oct. 14 with guest speakers Rev. Dr. Stan Errett and Darrel Janz, choral singers, and a special history presentation. Sunday morning Oct. 16 — Rev. Peggy McDonagh leads Friendship-themed worship followed by a lunch hosted by the Friendship Club. For Banquet tickets or info: Beatties at 403-241-3678 or e-mail [earl.beattie@yahoo.com](mailto:earl.beattie@yahoo.com).