



SUNSET UNITED CHURCH

2009

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ADVENT SCRIPT

Kathy's Christmas Ponderings...

There is an old Swedish Prayer that goes like this:

**Fear less, hope more;
Eat less, chew more;
Whine less, breathe more;
Talk less, say more;
Hate less, love more;
And all good things are yours.**

(taken from: *A forgiving heart*, edited by Lyn Klug, ©2003, p. 54)

One of the things that I like about that prayer is that it reminds us that we have choices – even when everything is caving in around us, we have choices – will we whine or will we breathe? Will we fear, or will we hope? When we find ourselves in situations of conflict, will we talk and talk and talk, or will we pause and find the words that really need to be said? Will we be consumed by our rage and our hate or will we dig down deep to find the heart that still has the capacity to love? The Christmas season is full of many occasions where we need to look at our choices. Maybe this is the year where we opt to order in a meal instead of spending way too many hours preparing a feast for our family. Maybe this is the year where we take the time to prepare a feast of all the favorites for our family or friends. Maybe this is the year where we opt to set a limit on how many gifts we purchase, or on how much we will actually spend on gifts. Maybe this is the year where we choose to go for a walk rather than go to the mall. Maybe this is the year where we think of someone we haven't seen for a long time and pick up the phone to be in touch again. Maybe this is the year where we think of who we can invite to eat with us who may not otherwise have anyone to share a meal with. What is it that you will do this season that will be truly life-giving for you or for your family? If you could cast aside all the regular obligations and things that happen because You Should do them, what is it that you would do to soothe your soul or to make your heart sing? My hope and my prayer for this Christmas season is that we can clear our eyes and calm our minds to truly experience the words of the angels: "Don't be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people." Where will the joy be for you this season? Where will the joy be for us as a

community of faith? And how will that joy make a difference in how we make our choices and how we speak about the Christmas season with one another? May God grace us with the courage to walk into this season with open hearts and open arms – a community of faithful believers!



Christmas Quiet

This is your invitation to join Kathy for some quiet, oasis time in the midst of what can be a very chaotic season. We will meet on four Tuesdays: **Nov. 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15**, in the library in Bright Hall, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. It is not a study group. It is not a discussion group. It is an opportunity for each of us to listen to some music, interspersed with some short readings, and to let our hearts wander where they will. There is something very wonderful that happens when we sit in community, but are not asked to make small talk or to explain whatever it is that is happening in our lives. We can simply sit together, feel the support surrounding us, and allow our busy minds to slow down so that we can enjoy the moment. If you would like more information about these evenings, please speak to Kathy. Come for one, come for all four, come for part, come for the whole evening – and know that you will be welcome!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Hello and (oh my goodness) Merry Christmas from members of your Worship Committee. It is hard to believe Advent and Christmas is next on the worship agenda, not only because the year has gone so quickly but mindfully it is hard to reconcile this beautiful weather and Christmas. In regards to worship, following is the calendar for the next few weeks:



First Sunday in Advent, November 29th we will celebrate communion and receive new members by transfer and by confirmation

Second Sunday in Advent, December 6th will be White Gift Sunday and led primarily by our Sunday School. Your gift can be wrapped in white paper or placed in an envelope, and will be donated to Rainbow Youth which is a ministry of outreach to families in the North End of Regina

Third Sunday in Advent, December 13th is led by our Choir and will consist of uplifting music and readings to stir the heart

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 20th will be a traditional advent service

December 21st at 7:00 p.m. will be our Blue Christmas/Longest night service. It is held on the longest night of the year (21st of December) to recognize that the night can

sometimes feel very long when your heart is heavy with loss. This service is a chance for anyone who is grieving or struggling with issues of loss, to come together to sing, to pray, and to light a candle of remembrance. This will help all of us enter into the Christmas season, feeling a little lighter, knowing we have companions and support on the journey.

In consultation with Sunday school families and the Board Christmas Eve Services have changed times this year. The early service will be at **4:30 p.m.** and will be an engaging re-telling of the Christmas story, involving and engaging all ages. The later, reflective candle-lighting service will be at **9:00 p.m.** and will include a celebration of communion. In the New Year, we will once again assess the times Christmas Eve Services are offered. Your thoughts are always welcome and can be provided to any of the Worship committee members.



Wishing you Peace and Christmas Blessings

SUC Worship Committee

Shirley Hill, Sharon Frei, Pam Olson, Jason Vogelsang, Perry Erhardt, Tricia Gerhard, Susan Black and Beth Williams

Stewardship Campaign 2010

Living abundantly

We have named our stewardship campaign for 2010 ***Living Abundantly*** – so chosen to acknowledge the many blessings and gifts we know. Stewardship allows us to express our gratitude for this abundance, and to serve in the many ways described above. As we raise awareness through this campaign, we ask you once again to put faith into action and to make a pledge. We have also added a new element to this year's campaign: the establishment of a "target for giving" for many regulars in our faith community. Without apology or awkwardness, we share the financial needs of church and directly ask our members to consider giving a predictable sum each year and for all year long.

What is the challenge?

In the past our church has had a pattern of facing a budget shortfall every year. This year is no exception, as our Finance Committee currently reports a projected deficit of approx. \$14,000. We would like to change this pattern for future years.

How can our church predict its finances more effectively?

To tackle this challenge, we have set two goals for 2010.

- 1.) Increased financial support

We have set a financial pledge target for the faithful of our congregation: \$1500 per year per household. This was calculated by dividing our 2010 budget needs (approx. \$300,000) by the numbers of households who contribute financially (approx. 200).

For some of us, this target is easy to reach; for others it may be more challenging or not possible. We cannot know your financial circumstances, but we encourage you to share what you can. There is no right or wrong amount; only an honest and sincere contribution is important.

- 2) Increased numbers of pledges – whether weekly, monthly or one-time – more predictability would help us.

Pledges provide our Finance Committee with more accurate information. If you pledge already, thank you. If you do not, please consider pledging. Note that if you need to change your pledge throughout the year, a phone call to our Envelope Steward is all that is required.

Stewardship packages will be delivered to each household during the week of Nov 8th, 2009. Included in the package is the Pledge Form, a self-addressed return envelope and information about the nature of financial and other support our church requires. As in past years, this information is intended to raise awareness of the financial requirements of Sunset United in order to offer our ministry. You may notice some revised materials that we hope will help newcomers and others who are not often participants in our community feel welcome and better informed about the work of Sunset. We would welcome receiving your pledge from you by November 22, 2009.

We thank you for your regular contributions that help us to offer ministry. Together we can continue to seek the fulfilment of our church mission, “living out Christ’s message within and beyond Sunset.”

Respectfully submitted by

Marina Jeffery and Brenda Scarfe - Co-chairs of the 2010 Stewardship Campaign

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP



This fall our group decided to meet at the church because less homes were available. An added bonus is we often have a staff member joining us for coffee. We are studying Joyce Meyer's Ministry study 'Be Anxious for Nothing' which is helping us let go and let God. Our format is different with no homework and those attending can observe or take part. Joyce Meyer may be seen on Vision TV at 9:00 a.m. week days.

Later Russell is doing a four week study with us, a continuation of the study he did last winter about 'Living the Question' which we look forward to. Our prayers for people, our church and situations are a very important part of our time together. It is a privilege to pray.

We continue to enjoy our group. We welcome new members when we meet Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Dorene Mentiplay

PROPERTY / LANDSCAPING / DECORATING REPORT

We got thru the Summer with cool weather and rain and all of this did help to make the grounds look great for most of the time. With the help of those that volunteered their time with weeding, planting, staking trees, bug control and watering, we were very pleased with the landscaping --- it looked great. We THANK YOU for all your help. We now have a very attractive Bike Rack installed thru the generosity of the former C.G.I.T. Groups.

Now, onto the next season --- WINTER --- and the problems that it brings along. The main concerns are the shoveling of snow (whenever that happens) and also the ice that builds up at the East Entrance. We are very anxious to install an electric de-icer above the East Entrance so we will never have to cope with that expression "Go Break A Leg!". In the meantime, salt is the only solution and it does cause damage to the concrete. We plan to post a calendar of the Winter months and are very hopeful that some able bodied men (and strong young guys) in our congregation will take on a week at a time of their convenience and do some snow shoveling activities. You just never know when you put your name down --- it may not snow, but on the other hand --- we could have lots of snow. This chore has fallen on the same few people for a lot of years and we are hopeful that we get some help with this in the coming months. PLEASE HELP OUT WHEN YOU CAN !



Another item in the plans are to convert one of the existing Bathrooms into a Unisex Bathroom with a lock on the door so that members of our congregation will have privacy when it is needed.

Respectfully Submitted by.....Doreen Killoh for Keith Schneider
Property/Landscaping/Decorating



Sunset Ladies Fellowship
Mini Christmas Boutique featuring:
"Christmas Dainty Trays"
December 12, 2009
1 to 4 pm

We invite the congregation to donate items for the craft & bake tables or to come out and enjoy coffee or tea with a sweet. Items may be dropped off Thursday & Friday mornings.

If you have any questions phone 586-0211 or 584-2972.

Sunset Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship invite all women in the congregation to attend their **Christmas Potluck Supper on December 14, at 5:30 pm at the Church.** Bring a Potluck dish and enjoy an evening of fellowship and some surprise entertainment
Our Christmas donation will be made to the Carmichael Outreach Ministry.



Community Services Committee Salutes our Sunset United Church Volunteers.



Habitat for Humanity Regina is dedicated to eliminating sub-standard housing by building homes in partnership with the community, for working families in need.

In 2009 two more Habitat for Humanity families' dreams of homeownership is closer to reality thanks in part to the volunteer work of our Sunset teams. Through our work with HFH we help build simple, decent and affordable houses because we believe that homeownership provides a long-term solution to breaking the cycle of poverty. Volunteering for Habitat in Regina is a deeply, completely rewarding privilege - everybody deserves a safe, affordable place to call home.

Our 2009 team members included Karen & Peter Wotherspoon, Bob & Dian Brown, Ed Borisinkoff, Brian Stubbings, Garnet Park, Jim Wyatt and Kathy Buitenhuis. Also much gratitude to our lunch providers who gave us that much needed sustenance to get our jobs done - Bob & Jean Cameron, Eva Kesslering, Glendine Gray & Donna Ward.



October 24th @ 1415 Athol St. building the back yard fence. Great job!



Hauling sand @ 1002 Rae St. on Nov. 7th to build the walk ways. We loved our red wheel barrow!



WHITE GIFTS

Sunday, December 6 is White Gift Sunday. This is an opportunity for us to bring personal care items, things for infants and children and things to help prepare for colder weather to be donated to Rainbow Youth Centre. They will use these items to make Christmas stocking/gift packages for those who attend their program.

Your donation of the following **new items** is greatly appreciated:

Youth

- Deodorant (male & female)
- Shampoo (500-710 ml)
- Body Wash (500-710ml)
- Scented body spray (male and female)

Infant and Children

- Baby Shampoo
- Building Blocks
- Puzzles (0-5 yrs)
- Stuffed animals (12" or smaller, brand new)
- Crayons
- Colouring books
- Candy (leftover Halloween candy welcome)



Help to keep warm items

- Toques (infant/toddler)
- Mittens (infant/toddler)
- Socks (infant/toddler)

Gift cards to Wal-Mart, or Zellers are also welcome - this enables Rainbow Youth to purchase items they are short of.

Please contact Shari Powers (949-3791) or Russell if you have any questions.

The annual Rainbow Youth Christmas Dinner will be December 16. Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of areas. Shifts start at 4:00p.m. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the church.

Explorers

Did you know that our Explorer group (grades 4-6) which meets weekly on Thursdays, is 8 children this year?! We have been having fun getting to know each other, playing games and learning what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus. We have spent time learning about Moses and the Ten Commandments, Friends, Values, and some of the Parables, using Godly Play. It is a dynamic group and we celebrate the vibrancy and energy of these young people who are a significant part of our community. I'd like to thank the parents who help with snack and assist me each session. More young people are always welcome to join.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

TGIF – grade 6-8 group

The kickoff of this year's TGIF has gone just swimmingly. Like tradition, the season started off with a delicious pot luck and plenty of fun games. Since then, our group has gone to Sheldon's production of The Wedding Singer, had a Halloween party, had an evening of longboarding (skateboard), made pot-luck and engaged in exploring the issue of Temptation with our parents, watched a movie or two and played some nice ultimate frisbee, just to name a few. This is the third year that this general group has been together at TGIF and it shows. Lindsay and I definitely notice the personal growth, since we both have led TGIF three years in a row. And we continue to have fun! To these kids, it's much more than a group of people to chill with on a Friday night. It's a place free of judgement; a place where you can go all out in a crazy drama game and feel completely cool with it. Thank God It's Friday? Thank God It's Fun!

Submitted by Jamie Orr, on behalf of the rest of the TGIF Team:

Stephanie Boyle, Josee Dumont, and Chris White.

Upcoming CE Events:



Advent Pot-Luck – November 30, 6pm. An opportunity to enjoy a meal as a family, with friends, or make new ones. We will share a meal, hear the story of the Holy Family through Godly Play, and the children (and those young at heart) will decorate cookies for their dessert. RSVP if you can by November 25 (to give us a sense of numbers for cookies & decorations). Feel free to just come even if you didn't RSVP!



The Annual Hot Diggety Dog Birthday Lunch – January 17. Join us after church for a hot dog lunch and birthday cake and catch up with those who share your birthday month! (a vegetarian option will be provided)



Celebrate the Hearts of our Church! February 14 will be a special service celebrating our Christian Education programs. Youth who have been taking our Faith Exploration program will also Affirm their Faith that Sunday. Come celebrate with our learning, all ages together!

Advance Notice, mark your calendars! Shrove Tuesday is February 16 when we will have our annual Pancake supper, sponsored by our young people.



Family Based Youth Ministry – February 20, at 6pm we will have another gathering of adults and youth together to explore issues of life and faith, beginning with a pot-luck meal. Parents and youth are invited to come together. If parents aren't available, youth can bring an adult friend or just come on their own. This program was found very valuable by those who attended in the fall and is intended to grow meaningful relationships between youth and adult Christians. Watch for forthcoming notices.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

