



SUNSET UNITED CHURCH

FALL 2010

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Ministry Team: Russell Mitchell-Walker & Kathy Platt



Fall Reflection

Summer is often a time of rest, renewal and recreation, enjoying warmer weather, and recharging our batteries for another busy season. I hope that your summer has been all of that for you and more! A few weeks ago, I told a story about a family whose children learned that together they are strong, as long as they work together and stand together, and are not divided amongst themselves. It is the same in community. As we work together, understand each other's needs and support one another, we become stronger and more solid as a community. Being involved in the community, developing our faith, sharing our stories, offering our gifts and talents, is an important part of being strong together. As we move into a new season, you will find a number of opportunities here at Sunset for you to consider becoming involved in to nurture yourself, your family, or offer your time and talent. You will notice that Sunday school is being planned a little differently with teachers being recruited from all parents. This is in the hope that if more people can be involved it will enable a smaller commitment from each person. There are a number of new and returning initiatives we are offering, including: Family Ministry evenings for parents with children, a writing evening in October, a children's program on some school days off, Family based Youth Ministry, TGIF, Explorers, a study on our statements of faith: Words of Faith, and adult and youth membership programs, a puppet program for the grades 4-8 Sunday school class and more! Some of these opportunities will require volunteer support for them to come to fruition. You are invited to explore these pages and see where you feel called to participate. May what we offer this fall nourish your soul, build relationship, and continue to build a solid community. - Russell Mitchell-Walker

Sunday School 2010-11

This year as we seek to address the ongoing challenge of finding enough volunteer teachers and helpers for Sunday school, we are recruiting each of the parents to teach or assist on two or three Sundays each term (Fall/Xmas and Winter/spring). Others are welcome to volunteer also. Just let Jayne Strinholm or myself know. We will continue to use Godly Play, as part of our curriculum. Godly Play is an imaginative way of telling the Bible stories using materials and wondering questions to engage the children. This year,

Godly Play lessons will be spread out throughout the year, to add variety to the learning experience. We will have a Godly Play & Seasons of the Spirit orientation session for all parents/teachers, and anyone interested on September 12, after church. Bring your own bag lunch. This is also the first Sunday of our Sunday school program. We are also involving others from the congregation to take a session. If you have a gift or skill you would like to share with the children, please let us know.

We are also trying something new with the grade 4-8 class. We have had a puppet theatre here and it is time to use it! Each week the class will work on a bible story that the Sunday School will be learning about in the future. The class will prepare and practice the story and then present it to the younger children in their introduction/story time at the beginning of the Sunday school lesson. We hope this will engage the older children and develop some leadership/teaching skills as well. If you are interested in helping with this class please let Russell or Jayne Strinholm know.

Sunday School 2010 Program Plan:

September 12 - Godly Play Lesson: Circle of the Church Year

September 19 - Regular SS

September 26 - Regular SS

October 3 - Godly Play Lesson: The Good Shepherd and Worldwide Communion (Children will go into Sunday school early, then participate in Communion)

October 10 - Thanksgiving, Children will prepare and offer the prayers of the people

October 17 - Regular SS; Gr. 4-8 Present Puppet Play of story

October 24 - Godly Play Lesson: The Creation

October 31 - Halloween Multi Generational Worship

November 7 - Spirituality of Painting - Linda Young

November 14 - Regular SS

November 21 - Children's Sunday, Multi-generational worship

If you wish to contact our coordinator Jayne Strinholm, to volunteer for with questions, her number is 584-0651.

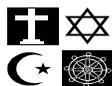
FALL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Join with other youth for Faith Exploration.

Something new – a weekend retreat. We will have a session on September 21 at 7pm to decide what we might like to do this year. Any youth grade 8 and up are welcome.

We will discuss the possibility of going away for a weekend to do most of our programming and experience God's creation together. Participants are encouraged to volunteer at Rainbow Youth Centre to serve on the 4th Tuesday each month, and visit other faith traditions as arrangements can be made (weekend times). For more info, or to register, contact Russell at Sunset United

Church: 586-3613; sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net



Family Based Youth Ministry
For youth (grades 7 and up) and parents together
(or grandparents, or adult friends)
Come learn more about each other and grow in our faith
The most important thing for youth
is to build meaningful relationships with other adults.
This year we will be exploring The Parables.
If your teen or parent can't/won't come, come anyway
(bring another Youth or adult!)
September 26, 7pm – "Lost" RSVP to Russell



TGIF CONTINUES!
For grades 6-9, every other Friday
Starting Friday September 17, 6:30pm
Contact Russell for more information.

facebook

Join our Facebook group: Sunset Youth! Keep up
to date on activities, make suggestions,
discuss issues.
If you 'friend' Russell Mitchell-Walker-Sunset,
he'll invite you to the group. Youth only!



A 30 hour fast*
For youth grades 7 & up
★FAST: TO ABSTAIN FROM EATING ALL FOODS
Friday October 1 to Saturday Oct. 2 (overnight)
At Wesley United Church 3913 Hillsdale Street
Eat Lunch on Friday before 11 a.m. and nothing but juice and water after that.
See posters in the church, check out the Facebook event on our Sunset Youth page or
talk to Russell for more information.

CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY MINISTRY

Parents, do you wonder how to nurture children's faith?
Do you feel uncertain of how to provide opportunities to talk about faith?

This year we will be offering evenings of Family Ministry,
Opportunities for children and parents to come together
Explore issues of faith and learn ways
to share our faith at home.

Our first evening will be **Tuesday, Oct 04 6:00 – 8:00 pm**
Pot-luck supper at 6pm followed by program



Families with children ages 3-grade 6 are welcome.
Let Russell know if you can attend or if you are interested in helping.



**DAY'S OFF SCHOOL?
WANT SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN TO DO?
A new fun with faith, day program
for school age children
on some of those Fridays off.
Proposed dates: November 5 and December 3.**

**Volunteers needed for lunch and program assistance.
Contact Russell if you are interested or can help.**

**Explorers, grades 4-6 after school
Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. starting September 9.
Contact Russell or the office for registration**



RAINBOW YOUTH CENTRE

We are working to expand our partnership with Rainbow Youth, which works with youth in the North Central Neighbourhood of Regina. We welcome adults as well as youth to prepare and serve supper on The last Tuesday of every month. They are looking for volunteers September 7 – (4 – 6 pm) to help with their picnic. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for the activities we are involved in, including the monthly serving of supper. Check it out and offer your time and services!



ADULT PROGRAMS

OUR WORDS OF FAITH

A three week study to explore our statements of faith developed over the United Church's history. We will examine the three statements of faith (1940, 1968 & 2006) This is an opportunity to see and understand how the church has expressed what it believes over the years. Tuesdays: November 2, 23, & 30.

Leaning into Advent and Christmas: Writing New Psalms for our Times

Tuesday, October 12, 2010: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

At Sunset United Church we seek to provide many ways to worship, study and share our individual and collective stories as they overlap with the stories of our faith through the Christian Calendar. Each festival season offers images, stories and themes to help us on our own spiritual journey. This workshop will provide an opportunity to glimpse at a number of themes and scriptures that explore the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Together we will reflect on the places where our lives and our congregational journey intersect with "Hope," "Peace," "Joy,"

"Love," and "Christ's birth." Workshop leader, Ray McGinnis will gently lead us from conversation and reflection to put pen to paper as we create some new psalms, spiritual poems and journal entries that speak freshly to our lives this year. No previous writing experience is necessary. Older children, youth and adults are all welcome to join, play with words and discover how God's Spirit is speaking to and through us.

Ray McGinnis is author of *Writing the Sacred*, published by Wood Lake Publishing Inc., now in its' third printing. Ray has taught writing workshops across North America to 10,000 participants since 1999. He attends Canadian Memorial United Church and lives in Vancouver, BC. His website is www.writetotheheart.com

What does the United Church believe?
Adult Membership classes – offered by Kathy Platt

You are invited to come and join with me in 4 evenings of conversation about what the United Church believes...or at least my "take" on what the United Church believes! The evenings will be focused on having open discussions that will deepen our understanding about the United Church of Canada, as well as enabling us to further articulate our own beliefs. I don't lead these evenings as an "expert", but rather as someone who loves to have conversations that lead us to explore our own faith and to build community with those with whom we worship. Please speak to me if you would like to come and join in these conversations, where church membership may be an option, but where there is no obligation or expectation that you will necessarily take that step. The first evening will be Tuesday, September 21, and we will set the rest of the dates at that meeting. If the 21st will not work for you, speak to me and we will see what can be worked out.

Sunset Church Fundraising Committee

The members of the Fundraising Committee in 2010 are as follows:
Linda Young, Dave Marshall, Beth Williams, Lorne Boyle, Maureen Park, Susan Black, (Dave and Doris Wilson) and Marilyn Bzdell.

We held a Turkey Supper March 18/10 that was attended by approximately 120 people and brought in just over \$1000.

We are planning on having our Guess Who is Coming to Dinner in September, watch for posters and sign up sheets to either Host or enjoy a marvellous meal out hosted by one of your congregation members!!!

We have booked a fall fundraising supper on Thursday October 28th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, we will be changing up the menu.

The Committee needs a chairperson to co-ordinate meetings and solicit interest in future fund raising events.

Our Fundraising committee could use a few more members to help out with planning and coming in with some fresh new ideas.

Many thanks to the committee members for their work in 2010 and also to the Sunset Church congregation who supported these events.

Submitted by Marilyn Bzdell

The Community Services Committee

invites you to attend:

BUILDING BRIDGES:

Treaty Days

at Fort Qu'Appelle

"Everything I've seen and experienced here over these past few days is completely opposite to the images and stories I hear day after day on the media."

~ Participant from last year's program

Friday, September 17 (6 pm supper)

to Sunday, September 19 (1 pm)

Calling Lakes Centre

Join us for a weekend of new sights, sounds, smells & tastes as we visit the Treaty Four Celebrations, hear the stories of First Nations people young & old, and consider our place as "treaty people" living in Canada. Designed for non-Aboriginal people, "**Building Bridges**" weaves together history with the chance to take part in a ceremony, learn about the different powwow dances, and cook bannock over a fire. Open to all ages, and to all levels of understanding and awareness about First Nations people.

Cost (includes meals & lodging): \$255. Inquire about group, family & commuter rates. Increases after September 3.

Calling Lakes Centre provides welcoming sacred space for all who gather. We are located on the north shore of Echo Lake, 2 km from Fort Qu'Appelle. Contact us at: register@callinglakes.ca www.callinglakes.ca **306-332-5691**



SUNSET LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Greetings from the Sunset Ladies Fellowship. We will again have a busy fall.

Our meetings begin on September 13th with Pat Foley speaking on "Thought Patterns for High Performance." The remainder of our meetings for the year are October 4, November 8 and December 13th. All meetings with the exception of the December meeting are at 1:30 pm in Faith Hall at the Church. The December meeting is a Potluck Supper at the church at 5:30 pm. We invite all women of the congregation to come out and participate.

Our Fund Raising Activity this fall are:

1. Sale of Crafts at the Victoria Square Mall on October 8 & 9.
2. Our Coffee Party and Bake Sale on October 14 from 1 to 4 pm.
3. Our Mini Boutique December 11th from 1 to 4 pm.

We look forward to the continued great support from the Sunset Congregation as we help to fund projects at Sunset and in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessie Carlson/Joan Johnston

MENS GROUP

*The Men's Group meets together as a ministry of men in fellowship to discuss issues of a theological or social nature. A potluck supper is followed by a time of informal discussion usually with a guest speaker.

A warm invitation is extended to all men of any age to come to one or all the suppers and the program afterwards and enjoy the fellowship together. It is an enriching experience. We meet together on the third Thursday of each month except July, August and December.

Our first meeting will be on Thursday, September 16th, when the guest speaker will be Scott Yule, who has participated in a polio vaccination in Africa. All men are invited to attend the supper at 6:00 p.m. and to hear Mr. Yule's presentation which will commence at 7:00 p.m. For further information please contact me at 584-9379. Newcomers are always welcome.

Iain Mentiplay, Coordinator

THE BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP

*Are you aware that nowhere in the Bible does it say that prayer has a life-span. Just imagine how many prayers could be out there waiting to be answered.

Our group had three prayer meetings this summer, one in May hosted by Dorene Mentiplay, one in June hosted by Susie Ross and one in August hosted by Jessie Carlson. Now we look forward to a new study in September, which will be a study of the Women of the Bible or Steven Ministries. Remember you are welcome and new members enhance our group.

The Bible Study & Prayer Group

Community Service Committee – Increasing Our Mission and Service Profile

Many of you are aware that this year our church initiated a new process for raising M&S funds. Formerly, all of our M&S givings (approximately 10% of our total) were taken from the congregation's general givings. However, in a measure designed to assist with keeping our budget balanced our church's current initiative outlined that for 2010, ½ of the M&S's \$22 000 objective be taken from congregational givings and ½ be funded through special appeals including education throughout 2010. In the early spring the Community Service Committee agreed to assist with both the education and the organization of the special appeals of the M&S this year, with the intent of reviewing our role in this process in the fall. To date, our committee has increased the M&S profile by increasing the number of Minute for Missions shared during our services. There have been a total of four months of special collections to date, which has raised approximately \$1 400 for M&S. The youth groups of our congregation have also contributed to M&S fundraising by contributing approximately \$600 through a hot dog lunch and pancake supper. The Community Service Committee is proud of the efforts that they have put forth to assist the church in achieving their M&S fundraising goal and welcomes any other groups or individuals within Sunset to assist in fundraising and contribute towards this new procedure. Our committee members, like all members of Sunset, value the important work accomplished by Mission and Service and hope to see our support of this organization remain strong.



An Evening with Sauti Moja

A few years ago, Sunset United Church made a decision to support an organization called Sauti Moja, through sponsoring a child mother - a young woman who had become pregnant through sexual assault, and was shunned by the community. This is an all too common occurrence in Africa, and one of the projects of Sauti Moja is to work to support these young moms and their children so they can finish school in another community, where they are free from abuse and able to pursue a promising future.

Tim Wright is the founding Director of Sauti Moja; he is an agriculturalist from Saskatchewan, was a United Church missionary, lived in Regina, and worked internationally for 15 years with various church, government and non-government agencies. Tim will be in Regina the week of September 7, and will be preaching about his ministry at Sunset on September 12. We are also hosting an evening for our members and those from other congregations to learn about this organization and the ministries it offers. This informational evening is Thursday September 9, at 7pm at Sunset.

Sauti Moja is a Canadian charity that focuses on improved lives for indigenous people in Africa, especially the women and children living under the most-difficult conditions. We work closely with groups and communities, like the pastoral Maasai of Tanzania and Kenya, to provide new opportunities for marginalized individuals and families. Through our professional and financial assistance we cooperate with communities to renew hope and ensure a secure future. Sauti Moja also seeks to raise awareness of factors contributing to global injustice, and to facilitate change that leads to an equitable and healthy global community. For more information see their website www.sautimoja.org

Sights to search: On reading the 2009 Annual Report from the United Church of Canada, I learned that there are many websites that tell us about all the different things our church is involved in.

www.united-church.ca followed by:

- **/partners/global_sharing**
- **/gettinginvolved/events/worship matters**
- **/renewal/buildings**
- **/tvmm/youtube**
- **/exploring/camping**
- **/partners/global**
- **/communications/news/response**
- **/allages/adults**
- **/donate/howto/planned**

www.ucobserver.org

www.wondercafe.ca

www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada

Our church is similar to many: it has a great host of committees working behind the scenes helping to keep things running smoothly, with little recognition!

Our Moderator, Mardi Tindal, expressed her belief that “God is calling us to the abundance that is possible when we gather as community and listen deeply to spirit, to Creator, and to one another” We feel that our Stewardship Campaign was successful last year because our co-chairs, Marina Jeffery & Brenda Scarfe got us thinking along these lines of Abundance. We look forward to another great year and thank them for their leadership, as well as all the other hard working Committee members!

We also thank Kathy & Russell for their leadership. /Jim Wyatt, Board Chair