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## SUNSET UNITED CHURCH

## FALL 2011

177 Sunset Drive, S4S 6Y7; Tel. (306)586-3613; Fax. (306)586-3099

Email: [sunsetunited.office@sasktel.net](mailto:sunsetunited.office@sasktel.net)

[www.sunsetunited.ca](http://www.sunsetunited.ca)

Ministry Team: Russell Mitchell-Walker & Kathy Platt

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### *Fall Reflection – Kathy Platt*

Martin Luther King Jr. offered these words: *“Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”* And: *“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.”* This next season of the church is going to be a challenging one for a wide variety of reasons. The Board will be discerning how to ask us to dig a little deeper so that we can both balance our own budget, and reach our pledge to the Mission and Service Fund of the national church. Added to our own local costs, the cries of the vulnerable from all around the world are getting louder – it is hard to ignore the pictures of the children from Somalia. Where and how we choose to spend our money is a constant dilemma. We live in a crazy world that can spend billions on the weddings of the rich and famous, and yet can’t provide enough affordable housing to enable people to find shelter off of the city streets. As part of my sabbatical this fall I am going to be spending a month with Tim Wright and Sauti Moja – a Canadian Charity located in Kenya and Tanzania. I will be seeing first-hand the realities of the drought and witnessing the strength of the Spirit that enables the most vulnerable to keep on walking, even in the face of intense struggles. I wonder how we, here in the city of Regina, can make sense of this world that pulls at both our pocket-books and our heart-strings? How do we not feel so overwhelmed that we feel frozen, or consumed by guilt? Part of it is just to take that first step – we can’t possibly know how the little that we do will affect the rest of the world – often it is more a leap of faith than walking a well laid out path. Am I nervous about taking this rather giant step of going to Africa? You bet I am! However, as Tim has reminded me often, it is not about the “project” of Sauti Moja – it is about looking into the eyes of those who have lived in very difficult circumstances and discovering what it is that enables them not to be defeated by the drought, or the oppression, or the poverty. It is about building relationship and discovering what I can learn about living fully in whatever situation we find ourselves. It is about trusting that God is at work in new and amazing ways in the most vulnerable areas of our world. And it is about coming back here to share all those stories so that we can all gain a better perspective about what is and what is not possible in our own realities.

A quote by Tommy Douglas: “*Courage my friends, it’s never too late to build a better world.*” As you begin to sort out what your priorities will be for this fall, I hope you consider what small step you could take to build a better world – perhaps it is to visit a neighbour who is ill or shut-in; perhaps it is to learn to knit a prayer shawl; perhaps it is offer to serve supper at the outreach centre (Rainbow Youth); perhaps it is the learn the name of at least one child in our Sunday School. You don’t have to take on the whole of the world – you don’t have to give to every organization that is appealing for your finances – but I strongly encourage you to try to do one small thing that works towards improving the quality of life for someone in this world. I look forward to hearing the stories of the ways in which you are engaged in the work of building a better world. Our creed says: “We are called to be the Church”...I hope and I pray that we will have the courage to step forward and truly be the Church that we are called to be – one small step at a time.

## FALL YOUTH PROGRAMS GENERATION FAITH

A Family Based Youth Ministry program for youth and young adults (grades 7 and up) with their parents (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.

If your teen or parent can’t/won’t come, come anyway (bring another youth or adult!) This year we will start with the Gospel According to the Simpsons!

First Session Monday, September 26, 7pm – RSVP to Russell.



### TGIF CONTINUES

For Grades 6-8, Every other  
Friday

Starting Friday September 16,  
6:30 PM

Contact Russell Mitchell-Walker  
at 586-3613 or  
[sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net](mailto:sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net)

**facebook**

**Youth, keep up on activities for you at Sunset on Facebook! Share videos, make suggestions, discuss issues. ‘Friend’ Russell Mitchell-Walker-Sunset, he’ll keep you posted on activities.**

### Family Dance!

Get ready to put your dancing shoes on - we're having another family dance!! We will give you more details in the next few weeks - the band has just confirmed so now we need to work on the where and the why. We are hoping that we can make it a fundraiser for Sauti Moja, but we are still working on that idea. But mark your calendars....

**SQUEEZE OF SCOTCH,  
FRIDAY, SEPT 30TH,  
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.!**



**Rendezvous 2011  
Go Big and Go Home!**

*This Summer the United Church of Canada held a national event for youth, young adults and their leaders. This event made a huge impact on the over 500 participants which the church will be experiencing over the next few years.*



You may want to check out video highlights on YouTube, just Google "YouTube Rendezvous 2011" or the United Church Observer Rendezvous Blog at: [www.ucobserver.org/rendezvous/](http://www.ucobserver.org/rendezvous/)

*Growing Peace Within*

*On October 23, UCC member Larissa Kanhai (daughter of Moses and Cintra) will be reflecting on her experience of an Exposure Tour to learn about peace and conflict in Colombia. She did this in May of 2010 with Youth For Peace, a United Church of Canada initiative, while pregnant and preparing for motherhood again. To hear about Peace initiatives in Colombia and what that means for Sunset's congregation and the United Church of Canada, please join us for worship on October 23rd, followed by a more in depth Discussion Circle for any who wish to stay.*



**CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**Sunday School Kick-off !**

**Sunday September 18 we will launch our Sunday School program with fun and enthusiasm!**



**Come dressed in your favourite team regalia or colours (e.g. green and white!) We will rally for the children and youth of our community in the first part of worship and celebrate with a tailgate party BBQ after church. Bring a salad, cupcakes or other dessert!**

**Registration forms for children will be available.**

Sunday School



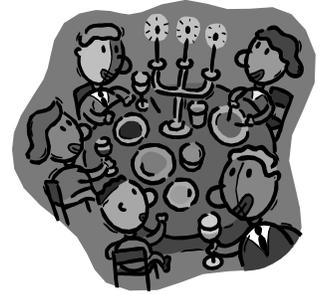
it's for life!

## 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 continue to offer 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  
Saturday October 22, 5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Pot-luck supper at 5pm followed by program**



Families and their children ages 3-grade 6 are welcome.  
Younger youth are welcome to come and participate or assist.  
Let Russell know if you can attend or if you are interested in helping.



**SCHOOL'S OFF, CHURCH IS ON!  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN  
A new fun with faith, day program  
for school age children  
on some of those Fridays off.**

**Fall Date: December 2.  
Volunteers needed for lunch and  
program assistance, in order for  
this program to be offered.  
*Contact Russell if you are  
interested or can help.***

**Explorers  
Grades 4-6 after school Thursdays,  
4-5:30 p.m. starting September 15.  
These children have fun!!!!  
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 at 4pm. On October 25 they have also arranged to serve dinner later so we can come help to accommodate work schedules. Volunteering starts at 5:15 pm. 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!**

## **BAPTISM**

**We are planning to offer the Sacrament of Baptism Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9. If you have been thinking about arranging for your child to be baptized, please contact Kathy Platt through the church office, 586-3613.**



## **SUMMER AT SUNSET**

Thanks so much to those wonderful folk who are busy here at Sunset while the rest of us are taking a break -

### **THE GARAGE SALE**

Our Ladies Fellowship group once again undertook the mammoth job of putting on this sale. Many days of arranging and pricing were followed by a 3 day sale. The ladies raised over \$3000!! This is particularly amazing because most of the items were sold for between \$0.10 and \$1.00. Congratulations to all involved, especially to Merle McLachlan.

### **BEV HUI**

Bev has been our interim Office Coordinator for the past 4 months. We are so grateful to her! It must be noted that she volunteered for one task that was definitely "above and beyond". She spent two days cleaning the stove and oven in the kitchen. Please feel free to drop by and admire her work.

**BOB MCLEOD**

Thanks to Bob, who spent a number of days at the church, repairing lights and replacing bulbs.

**THE WEEDING ANGELS**

Thanks to all who have helped with the weeding of the church grounds, and also to the folk who have cut the grass.

**INTRODUCING MARCI !!!**

Marci Brisbane is our new Office Coordinator. Her hours will be as follows -

Tuesday and Wednesday - 9am to 1pm

Thursday and Friday - 9am to 3pm

Please drop in, introduce yourself and welcome Marci to Sunset.

ALL THE BEST TO KATHY AS SHE GOES ON SABBATICAL!

We wish Kathy safe travels, and many opportunities for refreshment and learning. We will look forward to her return, and to hearing all about her experiences.

**SUNSET LADIES FELLOWSHIP  
COFFEE PARTY AND BAKE SALE**

*to be held*

*at*

*Sunset United Church*

*on*

*October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*1 p.m. to 5 p.m.*

*Come and enjoy coffee with friends  
Baking and Preserves.*



**Sunset Ladies Fellowship Fall Meetings**

- 1) September 12<sup>th</sup>:  
Speaker: Cyndy Doxtater  
Topic: "Where Comfort is Always in Style"
- 2) October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Speaker to be announced.
- 3) November 14<sup>th</sup>: Business Meeting.



**Special Events:**

- 1) Christmas Potluck November 28 at 5:30 p.m.
- 2) Mini Christmas Boutique and Sale of Dainty Trays December 10th.

We will be accepting donations of crafts and will be phoning you for donations of slices for the trays.

*For Information contact: Joan 586-5737 or Jessie 586-0211*

# BIG SALE

## Sunset United Church Children's Used Clothing & Toy Sale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> 1-3



Come check out gently used kids items such as jackets, snowsuits, boots, shoes, and clothing newborn to size 12. We also have books, DVD's, toys, and games. Many name brands such as Gymboree, GAP, Old Navy, Osh Kosh, Mexx, and Children's Place.

Baby items usually include cribs, car seats, exersaucers, high chairs, play pens, monitors, carriers, bedding, diaper bags, toys and much more. This is the perfect event for you if you are expecting your 1st baby!

Our sale has gently used, quality items. We make every attempt to turn away stained, broken and outdated items so that you are not looking through junk! You will be surprised at what you will find!

Bring a laundry basket (sounds silly but you will be glad you did) and happy shopping!

**Volunteers Needed!!!!** Please contact Karen at [kkostron@accesscomm.ca](mailto:kkostron@accesscomm.ca)

If you are able to help out before, during or after the sale. Work 2 shifts and you will be invited to the Pre-Buy, where you will have the great opportunity to shop before the sale opens to the public. We are always short during the clean up shift from 3-5 so please consider helping us if you are able. Many hands make light work!



### Habitat for Humanity:

Four willing workers came out on August 17th. At the last minute the site was changed, so instead of "finishing work" our brave volunteers took on installing the initial flooring on top of the bare joists at the new site!! Hard work in the HOT sun! A big thanks to Kathy B., Janice D., Marlin B. & Jim W.  
Thanks again to Jean C. & Eva K. who took lunch one day in July!

Christmas Pageant  
**CALLING ALL ACTORS!**



Please come and join Brian, Corinne and Shirley for a Christmas pageant. We will be rehearsing on Sunday afternoons beginning mid-Sept to be ready for the performance on December 11th. This opportunity is for children of all ages. We are also looking for adults for a chorus. Please see us at church on Sunday morning or call 584-1274 for more info.

**We will be having a guest preacher on Sunday, September 18th.** She is doing a bit of a tour on behalf of the national church to share her experiences with the accompaniment program in Palestine and Israel. Here is a brief introduction to her - we hope you will come and hear what she has to share with us...

Sherry Ann Chapman from Alberta and Northwest Conference, The United Church of Canada, is an Ecumenical Accompanier in the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel ([www.eappi.org](http://www.eappi.org)). Sherry Ann served in occupied East Jerusalem for a three-month appointment as part of the EAPPI's Group 38, December 2010 through March 2011.

Sherry Ann is a member of Southminster-Steinhauer United Church in Edmonton and one of the congregation's Earth Charter Vision Keepers. She contributes to the congregation's life and work in various ways, including serving on its board. With a Ph.D. in Human Ecology and a master's degree in Museum Studies, Sherry Ann has experience with the research world and with community-education practice. She is Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning) of the Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families (CUP) and is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. She is responsible for leading capacity-building activities particularly in terms of community-based research and evaluation. Sherry Ann's many and varied interests include dance and learning American Sign Language; she is part of the Edmonton International Folk Dancers and the Edmonton singing circle, Earth Sing.



***Don't Just Stand There***  
***Join, Walk, or Sponsor to support HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and research.***  
***Join our ALL AGES Sunset United Church Team.***  
***Registration forms and Sponsor sheets are available at the office.***  
***SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2011***  
***Walk leaves from 2735 5<sup>th</sup> Ave***  
***Registration: 12:30, we can leave after worship***  
***Let Russell know if you are joining!***

## **Christian Education**

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer, it's hard to believe that school is starting already! The Christian Education committee is ready to start off a great new year of Sunday School, Explorers, TGIF, School's day off program and the Family Ministry program. I am very excited to welcome Heather Nelson and Colleen King as our new Sunday School coordinators!

We will be implementing some changes this year to the Sunday School program as we would like to use the skills of all our parents and anyone else who would like to help out and lighten the load! Some dates to keep in mind are Sept 18<sup>th</sup> as the Sunday School Kick-off and School's Day Off program Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you or anyone you know have a child in grades 4-6 and would be interested in our Explorers program, please let Russell know.

~Shari Powers, Christian Education co-chair



Despite what the banners tell us just after Christmas, we all know that the real new year begins more or less right now, in September, as we pick back up our real lives after a summer of escape. Hopefully, we've all taken advantage of the sun, warmth and long days and now return to jobs, school, church and community work with renewed energy and fresh enthusiasm. Welcome back.

Life at Sunset is going to be a little different this year. Kathy Platt will be leaving on a Sabbatical for three months, starting in early October, a time for her to learn, reflect and grow. Meanwhile, we should ensure we're trying to do the same thing back here. We'll miss Kathy and everything she brings to Sunset, but she'll be back soon enough and her absence, in fact, gives us opportunities to be involved and engaged in different ways around here as we support Russell and each other in carrying on.

**Christian Education and youth.** We have two new "Co-ordinators" for the Sunday School: thank you, Colleen King and Heather Nelson. Sunday School is a vital part of a vibrant church and we all need to think about whether and how we can help out. You don't need to be a parent, or ever have been one, though it helps if you like kids or, at least, are not afraid of them. It's a task that can be as large or small as you have time, energy or inclination to give to it. We need people to help out with introducing the lesson, helping with the craft activities and general supervising. Those who have done it love doing it, but we can't continue to rely on the same few people year after year. Think about it.

**There are also opportunities to be involved with the children in the very popular Explorers program, which meets Thursday afternoons after school for about an hour and a half.** We need volunteers to help out with the snack and general support to the leaders and other parent volunteer. The Schools Day Out Program (December 2) can always use some help. There will be a couple of multi-generational worship services as well (November 6 and December 11).

**More opportunities.** There is nothing more comfortable than sitting in church and having the worship service unfold around you. But, once in a while, wouldn't we all like to be more active participants? Nod your heads. Kathy and Russell are willing to help people or teams of people who would like to learn about what's involved in preparing a worship service – planning the theme, preparing the readings, composing the prayers, laying out the bulletin and, finally, participating in the service itself. For example, the Prayer of the People is part of every service. We've fallen out of the practice of having a member of the congregation involved in the preparation and delivery of that prayer. Perhaps we ought to take that up again. You'll hear more about this, and how you can be

involved, in coming weeks. If you know now that this is something you'd be interested in helping with, let us know.

**Worship.** A lot of work and planning has already been done pursuant to our focus on learning and growing at Sunset. We have a number of special Sunday mornings lined up. Leslie Harrison, from Winnipeg, will be our guest in late November and will deliver a reflection on new and innovative ways of "being Church" in today's culture. We'll also host John Pentland from Hillhurst United Church in Calgary, who will describe that congregation's journey to becoming a vital, progressive and important presence in that city, a church with a very ambitious, robust and successful program for children and youth. Larissa Kanhai will share with us her experiences in Columbia. Scott Thompson and Ross Macnab will do a condensed version of their tribute to the United Church's "Song of Faith". We'll also have a musical production, a choir service and a 100 Mile Lunch, not all at the same time. Our complete schedule for October to January will be posted on the website and on our bulletin board by mid-September.

Submitted by the Sabbatical Planning Committee: Beth Williams, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Nancy Edwards, Shari Power, Kelly Warden, Ross Macnab, Beth Miller

## **Community Service Committee News**

### **Update on our Sauti Moja Sponsorship**

We are in our third and final year of providing sponsorship to Sophia, a young mother pursuing further education through Sauti Moja. While it was initially hoped that Sophia would be able to use this sponsorship opportunity to complete high school, this proved to be too difficult for her, despite ongoing support from both the school and the Sauti Moja personnel. Given this reality, the decision was made last spring to transfer Sophia to a vocational type of program and she has been receiving training in a tailoring and garment making program since last May. We are grateful for Sauti Moja's ability to be responsive to the diverse learning capacities of their recipients, and that there were other opportunities available to Sophia to assist her in becoming a financially independent young lady.

~Leslie Erhardt, on behalf of the Community Service Committee

## **Bible Study and Prayer Group**

The Bible Study and Prayer group will meet at 9:30, Thursday, Sept 1st at the church to begin our new year. We will continue to study women in the Bible.

Each session is complete so we welcome new members to join us for one session or as often as they can.

We begin with the study and then move into prayer time. Should someone in the congregation have a prayer request please phone the church office or call 721-1502.

~Submitted by Susie Ross

**Remember the Spring Script and the anticipation of our hiking retreat?** Well, now we want to invite you to an evening of seeing and hearing about the hike that actually did happen. On Tuesday, **October 4, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.** we will show you our pictures, and tell you some stories, from both the 2010 and 2011 "holy hikes", plus we will give you a preview of what we are planning as the possible 2012 hiking retreat. Whether you come along on this "virtual" hike through our pictures, or whether you are considering coming along on our actual hike next year (likely sometime in the second week of August), we hope you will join us for an evening of pictures and conversation. If you have any questions, please speak to Kathy, or Daniel Dumont, or Ross Macnab, or Janet McMurtry.

