



SUNSET UNITED CHURCH Fall 2012

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Ministers: All of Us! With Kathy Platt



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Kathy's Reflection

One of the quotes that I am going to use for my mantra this fall is: *Would I enjoy my life, be more delighted, if I paused and smiled in going here and there?* There is no doubt that it is a busy pace most weeks around here – I feel like I am scrambling a wee little bit. However, I am doing my utmost best to smile as I scramble – and I think it does make a difference – try it for yourself, and let me know how it works for you!

Did you know that since April, we have had 8 baptisms, and that there are at least 2 more coming in the near future? That is very, very good news for all of us. It is very hard not to smile when you are holding a wee babe in your arms. What I often say to parents who are looking towards baptism is that the baptism actually changes very little for the actual baby, but it is one of those visible holy moments that always will touch the hearts of the community gathered around the baptism. It is an opportunity for all of us to give thanks for the miracle of life and for the gift of this particular child. And it gives us the opportunity to pause and smile a bit.

This past Sunday, our Sunday School co-ordinators (Lana Orban and Colleen King) took the kids outside with sidewalk chalk. They traced the bodies of the kids right there on the sidewalk, and then sang together: *"I am amazing, I am filled with power, and I love God – like crazy!"* Now whenever anyone walks up the sidewalk towards the front door of our building, they are welcomed by color and by art and by the words that celebrate God's creation. And it gives us the opportunity to pause and smile a bit.

We are a community in transition, no doubt about it. You know the saying, "it takes a whole village to raise a child"? It also takes a whole community to "raise a faithful community". I have had several people ask me

how I am going to manage on my own. The way I am going to manage is to be intentional at finding ways to draw out the ministry of all of you. We have people offering to be more involved in worship leadership when I can't be here, we have people offering to lead in book studies and adult education opportunities, we have people offering to organize family events and fundraising concerts. And as we all step forward and get involved in the myriad of opportunities presented in our community life, my guess is that it will give us occasion to pause and smile a bit!

Next time you are able to join us on a Sunday morning for worship, take a moment to look around and see the community gathered together – then pause for a moment – give thanks – and allow yourself to smile at the sheer joy of sitting in the circle once again.

Blessed be,
Kathy



Join us for...
A Sunflower Siesta

*Enjoy a mid-day break
from the
bustle of the busy world...*

A noon luncheon for
women and men alike!
With elegant sandwiches, delightful desserts
and the sounds of
Jeannie McKillop to entertain you and
re-energize your soul!

Where: Sunset United Church, 177 Sunset Drive When:
noon -- Friday, October 12th

Tickets: \$14, must be pre-purchased by
Tuesday, October 9th

*Available at the Sunset United Church Office
during regular office hours, after Sunday
worship or by calling 586-5427 (Sharon);
TABLES CAN BE RESERVED

*Door prizes that include... a bouquet of
beautiful blooms, a pampering package &
sumptuous sweet treats

Joint Needs Assessment Survey

The Joint Need Assessment Committee (JNAC) has prepared a short survey to quantify your opinions about the needs of our church – A paper version of the survey has been included with your Script.

You can take the survey online by going to
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SUNSET-UNITED-CHURCH-SURVEY>.
The validation code you enter to access the survey is **jnac 2012**.

Please complete the survey (*and return to the Church Office*) by October 15, 2012.



A Bicycle with Two Canes Strapped to the Back: Lessons in Faith

By

Scott A. Thompson and Diether Peschken

It was a still cool in late March. Bits of snow remained stockpiled in occasional curbed corners, although the city streets were largely clear. Air was chilled but not icy. I (Scott) decided to ride my bike to church. As usual, my route took about twenty minutes, meandering through Regina's picturesque Cathedral neighbourhood, onto the winding Devonian Park pedestrian/cyclist pathways, and finally along few roads to arrive at church. The ride was hushed and contemplative in the way that a Sunday morning drive should be. As I parked outside the church, I noticed another bicycle in cheerful green, already locked to the bright red circular rack—with a cane strapped onto its back pannier.

I paused at the incongruity—a cane, a walking aid; and a bike, a 'free-wheeling' rider. Then, I went inside. I listened to the sermon; I sang hymns; I passed the peace.

As I emerged to cycle home, I began to unlock my bike from the large, metallic-ringed rack. At that time I noticed another congregant, Diether coming out the side door; he was walking with a cane. Rather unceremoniously and with routine, Diether proceeded to affix this second cane to the back pannier and then disengage his bicycle from the rack. There were now two canes strapped to the back of his green bicycle. Intrigued, I asked him about it.

Thankfully, God offers insight everywhere—not just on mountain-tops (and mercifully so, for elevation is rare here on the prairies!). God was about to offer me a lesson in Faith. I knew that

Diether had had a back operation a few months ago. Although the procedure was a success, he was currently in rehabilitation. Presently, however, Diether remarked that he required a hip replacement. As a result, walking was difficult. Walking could be complicated. Alternatively, cycling was easy; cycling could be safe. As with many things in life, it was the in-between and what-if stages that proved challenging. What-if Diether fell while getting on his bike or while dismounting? What-if he drove over some glass, sharp rock, or nail and a tire were suddenly punctured? What-if Diether were far from home at those times, what then?



Diether's faith example inspired a special Sunday Service, a Blessing of the Bikes held on June 24. Scott (right), penned and performed a song, entitled "Faith is a Bicycle with Two Canes Strapped to the Back". Diether (left) at the service with his bike, and of course, the canes.

What then? Faith. A faith simple enough to include canes along for the ride. If anything did happen, Diether remarked, he could walk to the nearest person for help, or even ambulate home with these walking sticks, not effortlessly, but he could do so. I paused, and

sat with those thoughts for several days. Diether did not petition God to confer the abilities of his youth. He was not expecting the care-free lilt of a twenty-year-old bike-rider happily yet lazily enamoured with scenery, nor was he insisting upon having the athletic prowess and proficiencies of a Tour de France racer. Simply, he rode his bike. Faith is not asking the Creator for a cosmic re-ordering or time re-shuffling.

At the same time, I pondered, recently recovering from a back operation or requiring a hip replacement may be obstacles enough to prevent me from cycling—though certainly not for Diether: he rode as a man of his eighty-one years, as a man of his age and ability. Again, simply, he rode his bike.

Defining faith is a tricky business, indeed; but for me, Diether calmly illustrates at least part of what a mature faith is. Diether rides his bike—not as an act of faith, but as faith itself—not *as* pedagogy, instruction, or lesson; his example *is* pedagogical, *is* instructive, *is* a lesson in Faith. Faith need not be grand to be profound; indeed it can be the size of a mustard seed or a nanobyte. As Diether and I met to discuss this article, we wondered if Faith *as* action is at least part of what Jesus was conveying in the famous passages in James 2, 14-19. “So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is itself a lifeless thing” (A Letter of James, 2, 17). We do what we need to and can do in order to participate in community, in order to move the sprockets of life forward. The rest, as they say, is a matter of faith.

Indeed, there are many reasons why (I) Diether ride a bike, perhaps there are more faith lessons than Scott has identified. Riding in 2012 gives me warm and fuzzy feelings because I believe I am choosing a greener form of transportation. I create virtually no greenhouse gases, since I use no gasoline. Our fossil-fuel energy-use may be likened to a drug

addiction: as long as there is a demand there will be a supply. This supply could result in huge tailing ponds and oil spills. Some have claimed that if we had to pay for the pollution created by such energy production, gasoline would cost at least \$ 10/L. It makes green sense to cycle as I am able.

Growing up in wartime and post-war Germany, a bicycle was THE means of transportation. Though we had streetcars, they cost money and so relatively few could access. Biking also helps me to stay fit. It sustains my recovery and prepares me for the next surgical procedure, to replace my hip. But first and most of all, I enjoy cycling. Perhaps in the ‘olden’ days, some would have frowned on me riding my bike to church. On Sundays one was not supposed to have any fun, (i.e. no card games, no movies, no sports and..... no cycling). Above all else, cycling is fun!

As a post-script, Diether’s faith example inspired a special Sunday Service, a *Blessing of the Bikes* held on June 24, 2012 at Sunset United. Scott penned and performed a song, entitled “Faith is a Bicycle with Two Canes Strapped to the Back.” As a congregation, we drove our bikes into the sanctuary—new bikes, old bikes, mountain bikes, street bikes, racer bikes, hybrid bikes; bikes with panniers, bikes with child trailers, bikes with streamers, bikes with bells, and yes....a bicycle with two canes. Our ministers, Kathy Platt and Russell Mitchell-Walker blessed them all.

Brief Bios

Dr. Scott A. Thompson and Diether Peschken are members of Sunset United Church in Regina, Saskatchewan. Scott is a professor of Inclusive Education at the University of Regina. Diether Peschken is a retired research scientist for Agriculture Canada. Both reside in Regina though in different neighbourhoods. More than once Scott has begun his Sunday cycle to church only to run into (not literally) Diether as he too, cycles to church.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 – June 30, 2012

Collections	\$107,355
Mortgage Fund	<u>4,919</u>
Total Collections	\$112,274
Other Revenue	<u>13,139</u>

Total Operating Revenue \$125,413



1. The approved operating budget for 2012 totals \$263,850 (excludes voluntary M & S). This level of expenditures would require additional revenue of \$138,437 in the last six months of the year to balance revenue and expenditures.
2. Total revenue in the last six months of 2011 was \$133,072.
3. It is difficult to predict actual expenditures for 2012. Actual expenditures will be influenced by:
 - Anticipated reduced expenditures in the last three and one-half months due to Russell's resignation effective September 10, 2012. Current costs for salary and the housing allowance for one ministerial position are about \$4,850 per month.
 - The extent to which Sunset may incur Minister supply costs in the last three and one-half months.
 - Occurrence of unbudgeted expenditures (e.g. any unanticipated equipment repair/replacement etc.).
 - The extent to which fundraising efforts will meet the \$15,000 cost for the shingle replacement. (Note: There is no provision in the approved budget for the shingle replacement).

ANALYSIS:

1. If all other costs stay within budget, and the special fund-raising campaign raises sufficient funds to pay for the roof costs, the savings realized as a result of Russell's move should enable us to achieve an operating surplus in the range of \$10,000 in 2012.

MISSIONS & SERVICE FUND:

1. As of June 30, 2012 we had \$2,130 in voluntary Mission and Service Fund contributions.
2. Additional contributions of \$8,920 are therefore needed to meet the 2012 voluntary M & S contribution target of \$11,050.

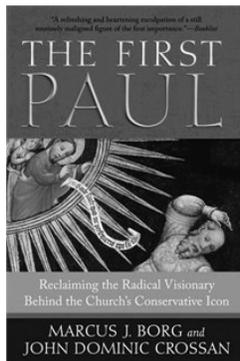
George Peters, Finance Committee Chair
September 20, 2012

Walk n' Talk Book Club
Sunset United Church
Coordinated by Scott Thompson

What is a Walk n Talk Book Club?

It is a way to combine two keen interests of mine and hopefully yours---walking in nature and talking about God! Having read several books over the last few years and would like converse as a group (or several small walking groups) on some important issues I feel as people of faith. I have selected two books, and I am hoping that we can have meaningful walking conversations, (even if you only have time to read the Table of Contents!).

Walk n' Talk Wascana Trails



When: Saturday, **October 6 at 830AM** (Thanksgiving weekend)

Meet at: Sunset United Church; we will carpool to Wascana Trails

Book: *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church's Conservative Icon*

by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan; Harper Collins (e-books) 2009

(See [http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/First-Paul-Reclaiming-Radical-Visionary-Marcus-J-Borg/9780061430732-](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/First-Paul-Reclaiming-Radical-Visionary-Marcus-J-Borg/9780061430732-item.html?ikwid=the+first+paul%3a+reclaiming+the+radical+visionary+behind+the+church%e2%80%99s+conservative+icon&ikwsec=Home)

[item.html?ikwid=the+first+paul%3a+reclaiming+the+radical+visionary+behind+the+church%e2%80%99s+conservative+icon&ikwsec=Home](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/First-Paul-Reclaiming-Radical-Visionary-Marcus-J-Borg/9780061430732-item.html?ikwid=the+first+paul%3a+reclaiming+the+radical+visionary+behind+the+church%e2%80%99s+conservative+icon&ikwsec=Home)) Or go to

<http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/home/search> and put in the search words "The First Paul" Cost: eBook **\$11.99**; Paperback **\$14.43**

Cost: eBook \$11.99; Paperback \$14.43

There are two copies in the Saskatchewan Public Library system, but you will have to order them into the Regina Public Library.

I have purchased a paperback copy for the church which I will leave in our library, so there will be at least one here that you may access.

Where: Wascana trails are a lovely set of interconnected hiking and mountain biking trails. They are located 8 km northwest of Regina, Saskatchewan in a deep ravine carrying a tributary of the Qu'Appelle River. (See <http://www.cbc.ca/player/Embedded-Only/ID/2254805753/>, and see also <http://www.trailpeak.com/trail-Wascana-Trails-Provincial-Recreation-Site-near-Regina-SK-2717>)

Directions: • Take Highway #11 North out of Regina

- Watch for Condie Nature Refuge sign and Flowing Springs/ Deer Valley golf signs at next left
- Turn left (West) at intersection (roughly a 10 minute drive on this road)
- Follow this paved road across the tracks until it starts to curve to the right
- **Continue to drive straight (still going West) onto the grid road** where there will be a Wascana Trails sign!



- Follow the grid across the bridge and up the curvy hill
- At the T intersection, turn left (South)
- Go about a kilometre and turn left into the parking lot.

Trail Hiking Difficulty: Moderate. *It is not exactly a “walk in the park”, but it is not overly difficult.* There are plenty of hills. We will not have a set route per se; we will follow each-other in small groups. I anticipate our walk n talk to take 1.5-2 hours (depending upon how inspired our conversations are!) Please email Scott.Thompson@uregina.ca or call me (522-3375) to confirm so that I may coordinate the number of cars needed.

Some notes & questions on “*The First Paul*”:

1. *Paul: Appealing or Appalling?* (p. 4). Borg & Crossan claim that Paul (or writings attributed to Paul) has been used to support slavery, the denigration of women, and prejudice against GLBT communities (p. 9). Given Borg & Crossan’s perspective and arguments, how do you imagine we might re-claim or re-imagine Paul in life-affirming, spirit-affirming ways?
2. I am deeply interested in the notion of Paul’s ‘conversion’ (from Saul to Paul). Borg & Crossan, 2009, p. 19: “So decisive was this experience that it divided Paul’s life into two parts, the pre-Damascus Paul and the post-Damascus Paul. Commonly called his conversion experience” (p. 19). Are there differences between ‘conversion’ and/or ‘being saved’ and/or ‘walking with God’ and/or ‘developing a relationship with Jesus’ or ‘nurturing a spiritual path’? Are we all talking about the same thing?
3. Still on this ‘conversion,’ one thing that continues to be of interest to me about Paul’s conversion is the intensity of his conversion experience, given his previous behaviour towards (what would later be known as) Christians. He used to persecute Christians. Is his conversion at least implicated with some remorse? Is it at least partly absolution? (Acts 7: 57-59; Acts 8:1) “And Saul approved of their killing him.” [Stephen]...”But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison” Acts 8:3. If so, what does this tell us about the nature of his conversion?
4. Borg and Crossan (2009, p.5-6) make claim that Paul has influenced the church throughout the ages, and note particularly his writings as they impacted St. Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Wesley. “What Luther experienced as joyful liberation from anxiety became the source of deep anxiety.” (for Calvin & Wesley) (p.9). I.e. abolition of requirements to be with God vs. what you believed (faith) to be with God. Therefore, what you believe; i.e. your ‘thoughts’ may always be suspect and not good enough. How do you think Paul’s writings have been of particular import in the protestant church?
5. Borg and Crossan (2009, p.9) report that scholarship over the last two centuries suggests that there are *actually three* Pauls in the Bible: writings that most agree were written by him (The seven genuine letters Romans 1 and 2, Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Phillipians, and Philemon); (*radical Paul*) writings that were NOT written by him (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) *reactionary Paul* and those that experts are unsure of (Ephesians, Colossians and 2 Thessalonians). *Conservative Paul*. How has the *Radical Paul*, Borg & Crossan’s central thesis, influenced your views on Christianity? On your spiritual journey? What have you learned from the Radical Paul?
6. Borg and Crossan claim that Paul was a Jewish Christ mystic. That is that....
 - one lives in union (one-ness with God) or one lives in communion two-ness but deep connection with God - experience is visceral or ecstatic in some way (p. 17)
 - illumination: literally light or see the light, etc. to the mystical experience, but also there is a sense that one sees the world clearer, sharper, etc. more HD, more detail

2. Walk n' Talk: Douglas Park Hill

When: Saturday November 10, 2012 at 830AM

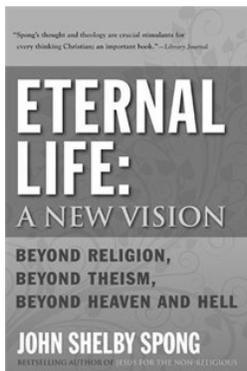
Meet at: Douglas Park Hill Parking Lot

Directions: in our Wascana Park in Regina at the Douglas Park Hill (Assiniboine Ave East and McDonald St).

Walk n Talk Book: *Eternal Life: A New Vision—Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell*

by John Shelby Spong; Harper Collins (e-books) 2009

(see <http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/Eternal-Life-A-New-Vision-John-S-Spong/9780060778422-item.html?ikwid=john+spong&ikwsec=Home>)



Or go to <http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/home/search> and put in the search words “Eternal Life: A New Vision” Cost: eBook **\$9.99**; Paperback price **\$12.91**.

There are two copies in the Regina Public Library system; there are several more in the Saskatchewan Library System. I have purchased a paperback copy for the church which I will leave in our library, so there will be at least one here that you may access.

Trail Hiking Difficulty: Easy to moderate. (*Not as challenging as Wascana trails*). Again, it is a hill. We will not have a set route per se, we will follow each-other in small groups. I anticipate our walk n talk to take 1-1.5 hours.

Please email Scott.Thompson@uregina.ca or call me (522-3375) to confirm so that I have an idea of how many people there may be.

Stay tuned for notes & questions re: *Eternal Life*

Hope you can join us for our Walk n' Talk Book Club!

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: With the changes in our ministerial staff and to keep our communication needs up to date, you will see changes to the content & format on our website shortly... so keep checking back!
www.sunsetunited.ca



Would you like to receive *The Script* by email?

Would you like to receive email updates from the church?

Please pass this information along to the church office so we can update our files and get you on “the list”- thanks!



You are invited.....

Tuesday, October 9th: 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Workshop Rotation Model for Sunday School

Deborah Vitt is the minister at Selkirk United Church in Manitoba. She has been asked to come and introduce us to the *Workshop Rotation Model* for Sunday School. They have been using this particular curriculum in Selkirk for several years now, and it has been very well received by the families in their congregation. This model teaches major Bible stories and concepts through multi-media workshops (art, drama, computer, architecture, music...) with the focus being creative repetition of the same story. The Rotation Model recognizes and harnesses a child's God-given thirst and enjoyment for multi-modal learning. Deborah is an educator at heart – her love of learning is very contagious. She has a great sense of humor – the evening promises to be lively and engaging. This workshop will be an inspiration for us all to take seriously our baptismal promise to do all that we can to support the spiritual nourishment of our children and young families. Your attendance shows your support of the Sunday School – it does not necessarily commit you to teaching! Please join us to learn, to laugh, and to get to know more about how we can grow in our faith together. Please speak to Kathy if you would like more information about the evening.

Kathy is going to offer some evenings that explore membership in

the United Church of Canada. She has had one request, and it will be a whole lot more fun if it is more than just Kathy and one person! These sessions are for anyone who wants to join the conversation about how the United Church came to be the church it is, including discussion on our faith, our reading of the Bible, how it is we make decisions in the church, what is our connection to the national church, and whatever else arises out of the wisdom of the people who are gathered! These evenings offer an opportunity for great discussion - for those who have been coming to church for a long time, for those who have been church hopping and want to settle somewhere, for those who have no idea what the United Church is really all about - please - think about it and join us for enriching and heart-felt conversation! Our first session will be on Tuesday, October 16th, at 7:00 p.m. We will choose dates that work for everyone's schedule after that - likely 4 or 5 sessions in total. I look forward to hearing from you!



A plea for pics...

Debbie Menz is cataloguing a pictorial history of church events and needs any pics you have ... fundraising endeavours, dances,

picnics, committees at work and play! Please provide by disc or memory stick. Any questions can be directed to Debbie by email - debbielou_ca@yahoo.ca

Thank you to those who stopped by to pick weeds, water plants, chase down ants and show some general TLC to the yard this summer at Sunset!



Save the date: December 1, 2012
Jeffery Straker will be singing us into
the advent season at Sunset United Church @ 7pm



Singer-songwriter-pianist Jeffery Straker tours 100+ shows a year across Canada, has recorded for CBC Radio's Canada Live, and has had a top 10 music video on Much More Music. You also might have heard him in regular rotation on Regina's My92 FM. He recently performed his sold-out orchestral debut with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and took his folk-pop-cabaret music on tour in Ghana Africa in Feb 2012. He's performed at national showcase events including Canadian Music Week, Breakout West, JunoFest and Prairie Scene with Canadian Musician Magazine saying "Very much an artist to watch". The Chicago Free Press has said, "Rufus Wainwright, as well as k.d. lang are among the Canadians making essential and beautiful music. Add the name Jeffery Straker to that list".

He is the son of a church organist mother and an auctioneer father and was a student of the Royal Conservatory of Music receiving his licentiate diploma in piano performance when he was just 19. He is connected to Beethoven himself through only 6 degrees of teacher-student lineage (visit his website for the full story).

Straker has already completed his next recording slated for release in fall 2012. For the project he used one of Glenn Gould's famed grand pianos at the CBC studios in Toronto, and worked with Danny Michel as producer.

Watch for more information coming out very soon~ This evening of song with Jeffery Straker will kick start your heart and stir your soul into the spirit of Christmas so gather your family & friends and plan now for December 1!

Donate your time to
Lumsden Beach Camp



Lumsden Beach Camp is a sacred space that has enriched the lives of many Saskatchewan youth. Lumsden Beach Camp was created by faith filled people who had a vision. This bold vision, blessed by God, became reality in 1905 on the shores of Last Mountain Lake. Today, over 100 years later, our camping ministry continues.

Lumsden Beach Camp is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the board and various committees. The gifts of your time & talents are so appreciated.

Please contact Tanya Cameron (Vice Chair) for more information.
585-3244
rcameron@sasktel.net