



wild rose  
united church

# Spring 2016 Newsletter



A woman prays on a hill with wooden crosses after a procession celebrating Palm Sunday in the town of Oshmiany, 88 miles northwest of Minsk, Belarus, April 1.  
Vasily Fedosenko / Reuters

## EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday—Friday March 25 at 10:00 am\*

Easter Sunday Services—Sunday March 27

Sunrise Service 7:30 am

Regular Service 10:00 am

\*Held at Wild Rose United Church

## Outreach Committee Update

Outreach continues to donate approximately 150 breakfast bags to Crescent Heights High School on a monthly basis.

We will not be hosting the International Women's Day of Prayer this year. Outreach members are dedicating their efforts to the Syrian Refugee committee. Please see insert.

**Speaker:** At 11:30 on Feb. 21 at Wild Rose United Church, Sam Nammoura from the Syrian Refugee Support group will speak about settling refugees in Calgary and answer some of our questions. Sam has been helpful to us and to many churches arranging sponsorship who are arranging sponsorship. As well, they have a warehouse in NE Calgary dedicated to acquiring and distributing furniture, clothing, strollers, bikes etc. They have a very good web site [www.ysyr.ca](http://www.ysyr.ca). Sam has heartwarming and heartbreaking stories to tell. It will

## Easter Alleluia Project



Help us to celebrate the Risen Christ by offering your personal Easter Alleluia in memory of a loved one or in honour of a celebration in your life.

Easter flowers may be **sponsored** for \$15.00 each and will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service on March 27, 2015. The potted flowers will then be delivered to our more homebound members after the service. A list of those people honoured by your remembrances will be printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

We also take this Easter time to reach out to our former youth group members whose lives, busy with studies or career obligations, have taken them away from regular church attendance. Again this year, we are sending them our blessings along with a Tim Horton's gift card.

Your support of this project allows us to hold these members of our community in the circle of our celebrations, even in their absence. Thank you! The order forms will be available in the Sunday weekly bulletin or email [office@wildroseunited.ca](mailto:office@wildroseunited.ca)  
The deadline for submission is Sunday March 20, 2015. Thank you for your support!

The Pastoral Care Committee

## From the Minsters' Desk

This year during Lent, we are inviting people to “Stir things up.” When we make an omelette, or when we stir a pot of paint, new possibilities occur. Our own lives can be like that too: we get into a familiar pattern, nothing stirs; when we break an egg to make an omelette, or when we combine colours in a new way, the outcome is very different than when we leave the eggs in a bowl or when we leave the covers on the paint cans.



The Bible is full of images of God moving into people's souls, stirring them to new actions. We might think of Psalm 107:25 where we read: “[God] spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves.”

There is great energy and potential in a cracked egg. It provides sustenance for us and can be used creatively to be enjoyed alone or in combination with other ingredients. A stirred egg can provide the supportive framework that connects other ingredients, for example, shape in meatballs. When we stir eggs enough to incorporate air, they become leavening to lift and uphold staples like buns or fanciful cakes. For us, eggs can be a symbol of our potential to be one connected community that supports each other and with the ability to expand to new heights. It is time to be stirred by our faith and marvel at the new creation.

For our Mardi Gras celebration we have created a banner with the phrase “Stir Things up for Lent” traced in balloon letters. People used paint and hand prints, symbolizing “this is me, being stirred up. A trace of me.” Instead of rolling up the banner and putting it away during Lent we will put it on display as a reminder of how we can be stirred into a new creation.



Beyond Lent, into the Easter season this spring, we think of the marvelous community that we are in the process of creating. May we all continue to be stirred and grow in faith and wisdom.

Pat and Geoffrey, team ministers

## Meet Our New Office Administrator/Building Manager

It is our great pleasure to announce that we have a new Office Administrator/Building Manager – Paula Peterson. Paula was unanimously chosen by the M & P Committee after we received 97 applications for the position.

Paula's first day of work will be Tuesday February 16.

Carla McLean M&P Committee Chair



# Mystery Mates



Make a new friend from a different generation. Become a Mystery Mate... a **Secret Pal**.

## You've got mail.

It is rare to get snail mail these days unless it is junk mail. So switch things up and use paper, not Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat... and become a pen pal with a purpose. As a Mystery Mate... you are invited to build intrigue and a relationship as a pen pal / cartoon pal / drawing pal / scribbling pal with ANOTHER member of the Wild Rose United Church Community...

....someone you may not know or know well, someone from a different generation!

Sign-up clipboards will be available during worship and you can call or email Pat to let her know you would like to be part of the fun. She will match you with someone else and give you both "mystery" names so you can spend the spring getting acquainted...without revealing your REAL identity. You will use your code name and the code name of your mystery mate to use till our "reveal luncheon" in late May. We plan to pair adults with children or youth.

Mailboxes: A display of mailboxes will be outside the church office by the end of February for you to deliver your correspondence and look for return mail using your mystery name. Envelopes, paper, pens and crayons will be available at the mailboxes, but feel free to use what you have at home.



# Kids' Zone Update

Each week The Kids' Zone offers engaging, interactive opportunities for children to explore the same focus as the worship message. In February there are two Sundays when children will remain in worship: the Family Day weekend and when the Youth Group leads worship on February 21. We continue with some favourite Bible stories that tell us more about the amazing leader who stirred up the crowds when he befriended Zacchaeus, said the Prodigal Son should be welcomed home, and brought Lazarus back to life. It is no surprise then that he was welcomed by a celebration on what we call Palm Sunday.

Merlita will be leaving her Kids' Zone children's worker position later this month. She has been a compassionate and patient leader and we will miss her. Caryn and Pat will continue leading children's programs and Wild Rose will be advertising for additional staffing to support children's ministry.



# Prairie Rose Refugee Project

## What is the Prairie Rose Refugee Project?

We are a merger of Wild Rose United Church and some people from Prairie Sky Cohousing, joined by other interested people, who will work together to bring a Syrian refugee family to Calgary. Our vision is to welcome a Syrian Family by providing assistance, guidance and support in order to enable them to become independent Canadian citizens.

## Our guiding principles are:

*Kindness, respect, trust in how we treat each other  
Open and clear communication  
Clearly defined roles and responsibilities  
Confidentiality  
Considering the needs of the family ahead of our needs  
We will assume good intentions*



## How you can people help:

There are a number of ways in which people can participate, volunteer or provide assistance:

### Financial Donations

- Cheque payable to Wild Rose United Church
- Paypal
- E-Transfer to [finance@wildroseunited.ca](mailto:finance@wildroseunited.ca). You will be required to create a password to be send under separate email **OR** use password **pswrRefug33**
- Gifts in Kind **\*\*to be determined\*\***

### Working group

The Sponsorship Committee is divided into working groups, each guided by leaders. There are opportunities to engage with one of the working groups, doing research and assisting in making decisions. Being part of a working group will require you to be on Basecamp and may involve meetings. Working groups that may need your help include: Housing and Stocking; Health Care and Child Care; Education and Employment; Community Integration; and Arrival and Documentation.

### Volunteering

Volunteer opportunities are many and varied and we welcome your help. All working groups will need help pre-arrival and post-arrival of the family. We can provide a list of volunteer opportunities known, to date, and these will continually be updated as needs arise. Please send your name, phone number and email address to Kathleen at: [pswrrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:pswrrefugees@gmail.com) so that the list can be sent to you. If there is something different that we haven't

considered that you would like to do, please let us know and we will try to accommodate your request. Our goal is to coordinate your interests and those of the working groups.



The Prairie Rose Refugee Project has chosen to use **Basecamp** as its primary means of communication for the operating this project. Basecamp is a computer program that pulls people together. Every team needs a way to divvy up work, hash things out quickly, make big announcements, keep discussions on-topic, store and organize key files and documents, lay out deadlines, and have regular check-ins to make sure everything's all right. Anyone who is interested in being on our Basecamp is welcome to join. Simply send your name and email to: [pswrrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:pswrrefugees@gmail.com)

**For more information please contact Joan, Dora, Mona or Kathleen at [pswrrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:pswrrefugee@gmail.com). Thank you for your interest in the Prairie Rose Refugee Project.**

## Prairie Rose Refugee Project: Volunteer Opportunities

### **Community Integration and Employment**

- Teach grocery shopping
- Teach public library skills

### **Education**

- Teaching English in home
- Interpreters

### **Finance**

- Monetary Donations

### **Childcare**

- Childcare when parents are at appointments
- Make up “dental kit”, “cold weather kit” “cold/flu kit”
- Child care – before and after school, lunch times
- Daytime childcare
- Driving children to activities
- Peer volunteers for activities

### **Healthcare**

- Drivers for doctor/dentist appointments
- Assistance filling out forms
- Assistance finding health care providers
- Experience in counselling PTSD

### **Housing and Set-up**

- Research internet and cable TV
- Help set up household
- Cleaning
- Pick up and delivery of household items

### **Volunteers**

- Confirm volunteers for tasks (phoning)

### **Welcome and Documentation**

- Pick up from airport
- Drive to appointments upon arrival

**Contact: Kathleen Hartwell: [pswrrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:pswrrefugees@gmail.com)**

**We need your name, phone, email and when you might be available (days, evenings, weekends)**

