

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



**SERVICES ALL SUMMER LONG
10:00 AM AT WILD ROSE UNITED CHURCH**



BOARD UPDATE

We are saying farewell to our friend and family minister, Pat Shier, as she leaves our ministry staff at Wild Rose United Church. We will hold her in our hearts, as she will be dearly missed. Kim Holmes-Younger is also transitioning on her spiritual journey and will be leaving the Youth Ministry position. With these two significant changes and with the many thrilling new opportunities that have been presenting themselves to our church community, it is an opportune time to re-think the direction in which we are heading as a congregation. As such, we are planning to hold sessions to strategically plan, and we would like to welcome and invite all the members of the congregation to provide their thoughts, concerns, hopes and aspirations for new and exciting changes in our own spiritual direction as a church community. We will have information sessions to share our ideas, retreat-type sessions and – because we are losing two of our ministry staff – we will need to have a mini-Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC). Please look in the various communications for updates. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact any of the board members or members of staff.

Warm blessings,
Dora Di Lullo-Patten
Chair, Wild Rose United Church

FROM GEOFFREY'S DESK

It gives me pause and not a little sadness to be writing this newsletter article by myself. Given that this will be Pat Shier's last newsletter before she moves on to other pursuits at the end of June she will offer her own separate reflections in this edition of the newsletter. Please join us on June 18, which will be Pat's last worship service; we will have an opportunity during this service to honour and to thank her.

During that same June 18 service, we will recognize and celebrate important changes for Kim Holmes-Younger. Kim will finish up in her role as Youth Minister. She is being called in new directions as she undertakes formal ministry studies. Although she will stay on as Communications Coordinator we can expect to see her less in coming months.

As we journeyed across the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost, I thought about how we might live as an "Easter people." Members of First Congregational Church Los Angeles wrote seven principles of faith that their minister, Rev. Dr. R. Scott Colgazier, shared in a sermon entitled "Easter? It's Up to You!" I found these inspirational and I wanted to share them with you:

1. We believe the gospel of Christ calls us to speak to our times, as it did to all our Christian ancestors.
2. We affirm that God's love shines equally on all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, or religion.
3. We affirm all creation is God's handiwork, and that we are called to respect, protect, and nurture it; not exploit it.
4. We embrace the diversity of our city and nation, and seek respect for women, immigrants, different nationalities, minority groups, the poor, and the disadvantaged in our society.
5. We resist those who use hate, anger, and intimidation to divide us, and who use speech, disinformation, and actions to demean others.
6. We resolve to make our church a safe place for all people of good will and to welcome them with dignity, respect, and compassion.
7. We commit ourselves to make our church a vibrant place for ideas, a faith informed by reason, experience, scholarship, and scientific knowledge.

From a worship perspective, it's been a rich and full spring season. Carle Duguid has organized visits and concerts from Barry Luft and Common Cup. Doris Daley, an award-winning cowboy poet who entertains and delights at venues all across Western Canada and the U.S.A. (<http://www.dorisdaley.com/>) will be our special special guest at the Stampede Breakfast service on June 25. Invite your friends and families! (Be sure to note revised time for both the breakfast and service on that morning: breakfast at 9, service at 11.)

My news: I am part of the worship band at the Alberta Northwest Conference (ANWC) Mid-Triennium weekend and celebration of Ministry in Olds May 26-28. Pat leads the service on that day, on a theme connected with Aboriginal Sunday (normally commemorated in June). I will be away on study leave between June 10-16, visiting sites in the U.K. associated with John, Susanna, and Charles Wesley.





Geoffrey's Message Continued...

On other fronts, the church is experiencing an exciting time of new possibilities. We are full of energy and ideas. In the office, we have welcomed with open arms Jane Wittstock, who has settled in nicely as a capable, friendly office administrator. Jane is coordinating the hiring of a summer student, to be paid for by a federal government grant.

Barbara Grant has begun to work in her capacity of Spiritual Health Practitioner. This will be a year-long position. We are very pleased to welcome her in this role. Barbara brings to Wild Rose a wealth of practical experience and deep wisdom.

We are also pleased to welcome Rev. Wayne Lewry as an associate minister here at Wild Rose after he retires this June from a distinguished 26-year career at Central United. In July, Wayne will be starting a Saturday night wellness and recovery service, based on 12-step concepts. He will offer two services during the summer, on July 15 and August 19. Then on September 9 he will be leading a regular Saturday night program, complete with music. Wayne's son, David (RSW), a well-respected figure in recovery circles in Calgary, will be offering his own recovery program during the summer months. This program is called "Pathways to Freedom," and it has been offered before to many different Calgary groups, including the Calgary Police Service. The program will be offered three times during the summer months. Check the online calendar for details.

Another exciting development: we have been approved as a Learning Site, which will enable us to be partnered this fall with a ministry student in the ordination stream of United Church ministry. At the time of writing, we are waiting for a partnership. We expect to hear who will be joining us at the end of June. We also will have another student working with us this year. Mona Smart, one of our congregation members and a student in the diaconal stream of United Church ministry, will be rejoining us in the fall from the United Arab Emirates; she will be devoting her energies to a year of social-justice initiatives with us.

New community partnerships are also in the picture. Specifically, we have begun an exciting pilot project with the Calgary Foothills Primary Care Network (CFPCN). We expect that two new hires from the PCN will start in June to provide community health-care from offices located in this church. To our knowledge, this is the first such partnership in Alberta. Stay tuned for more news about this exciting development.

What about worship during the summer? We will be worshipping here at Wild Rose again all summer (looks as though this will be a permanent change from our former shared summer ministry with Northminster). Summer worship services will be offered at the regular time of 10:00 am throughout the summer. We will focus on the insights we can gain from the natural world, and also look at how Jesus' parables can help us with everyday challenges in our own lives. Services tend to be relaxed and low-key during the summer, offering you reminders of how much we have to be thankful for, and how we can support each other when times are challenging. The online calendar will provide details of weekly services.

Our summer holiday plans are shaping up. Geoffrey will take summer holidays between July 9 and 23; Jane will take holidays between July 31 and August 8; Barbara will take hers between August 13 and 28 and Kim will be away from August 20-31. Wayne will be in by appointment, and of course will be starting the Saturday night worship services during the summer, as mentioned. Summers are a good time to drop in at the church: we would love to see you here for a chat, a coffee or tea, or perhaps a walk.

Happy summer to all. Happy trails, and grand new adventures for Pat and for Kim.

COMMON CUP COMPANY FAREWELL CONCERT

Wild Rose United Church is pleased to sponsor Common Cup Company in Concert on Saturday, June 10th at 7:00 pm in their farewell tour of Alberta.

The Common Cup Company is a musical group featuring songwriters Gordon Light & Ian Macdonald, composers of popular hymns Draw The Circle Wide, She Flies On! (She Comes Sailing On The Wind), River Run Deep (River Running In You & Me), Joy Comes With The Dawn and many other published titles.

Their musical ministry began in 1979 when Light (an Anglican Priest and later Bishop), met Ian Macdonald and Jim Uhrich (both United Church Ministers) while serving neighbouring churches in Winnipeg, Canada. Bob Wallace joined the group in 1982, his voice strengthening and enriching the group's sound.

In the following decades this original quartet wrote, performed, & recorded together despite living in different corners of the country. Scott McDonald & Richard Betts joined the lineup in 1998, adding Bass & Drums and giving the Common Cup a contemporary sound. The addition of respected United Church musician Lloyd Maclean (piano / accordion) brought Common Cup new inspiration. This will be your last chance to hear Common Cup live. Hear the stories – sing the songs! Songs of Life and Faith - its their farewell concert tour!

Tickets are \$20 – available by etransfer at finance@wildroseunited.ca (send a separate email to the same address with your security question answer), by Paypal by going to www.wildroseunited.ca and clicking on Calendars and Events.

For more information contact Wild Rose United Church at 403-277-5576, Carle Duguid at 403-477-0997 or email at carle.duguid@gmail.com

WILD ROSE ANNUAL STAMPEDE BREAKFAST JUNE 25 AT 9:00 AM

SERVICE TO FOLLOW AT 11:00 AM
FEATURING COWBOY POET DORIS DALEY

DON'T FORGET TO DRESS WESTERN!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summer is nearly upon us again and with it come all the weekend and vacation activities that result in reduced attendance. Unfortunately, the cost of financing the church operations does not reduce significantly during this time period. Please help us ensure that we don't need to seek alternative financing over the summer by continuing to ensure that your contributions reach the church office. Either drop in periodically, provide post dated cheques, or enroll in the PAR program to have your contributions automatically withdrawn from your bank on the 20th of each month. This is your spiritual home and it needs regular financial support from all of us.



FROM PAT

What is next? That is a question I have been asked in many different ways this spring. Let me try to answer: I firmly believe a minister should be where they feel God has called them, and I have been feeling called out of ministry for several months. With much prayer and introspection, I feel I am being led away from Wild Rose and Family Ministry to start something new, something different, something unknown. I will be stepping away from ministry to create space for discerning my next step. I will take some time to refresh and reconnect, to care for my brother, to finish my last two classes of a BA in Development Studies, and to determine where I feel called to next. I know it will be helping people, and I suspect it will be rewarding work outside of the church.

Thank you for the three years I have spent getting to know you, caring for you, and working with you. I have grown from being part of Wild Rose, and though leading Family Time was something new and scary for me, I have greatly enjoyed the creativity it allowed. I appreciate the supportive congregation, and staff that work well together. You are a compassionate congregation who accepts and loves children for who they are, and that is a gift to families.

What is next for Wild Rose? There will be a Joint Needs Assessment. A Joint Needs Assessment involves a team of volunteers from the congregation and two representatives from Calgary Presbytery who take months to learn about Wild Rose, what makes it unique in its ministry, its strengths and weaknesses. A JNAC is a time when you should think deeply about who you are as a church community, where your gifts and passion for ministry lie, what the real constraints are; from that the JNAC Committee suggests what Wild Rose needs for staffing and the skills they will need to help you live to your potential as a church community. A JNAC is a journey of introspection, when you listen to where the Spirit is calling you and then determine what is next.



FROM KIM

Leaving home is never easy. I first left home when I was 17, moving to Jasper to become a chamber maid, I wanted freedom and I was keen for a new experience. I soon realized I was not ready to leave home and my move only lasted three days. I begged my parents to come and get me and they did. I left home many times after this moving to Red Deer, Calgary, Kingston, Vermillion and then back to Calgary. Each time I had to say good-bye to friends, colleagues and my physical home. I have had a long journey at Wild Rose almost 7 years. I am ready to move to a different chapter of my life and I am ready to share my gifts and talents with a new congregation. I am so thankful to each and everyone of you that contributed to my journey. Your encouragement, your kindness and your love has made me who I am today.

What's next? I will be attending Vancouver School of Theology taking my Master in Divinity with the goal of becoming an ordained minister. I am blessed that they have a distance program so I can stay in Calgary. I am also thankful for today's technology that allows me to sit right in the classroom along with the other students and share the same learning experience they do. I will be staying on at Wild Rose 10 hours a week as the Communications Coordinator and attending weekly staff meetings (so you might still see me around). As for Sunday mornings, I have an opportunity to utilize my gifts in a church just outside of Calgary, I will update you as things become more formal.



SPIRITUAL HEALTH AND DIRECTION

BARBARA GRANT

Barbara's Bio

For most of my life, I worked as a teacher and a high school principal. I received my Bachelor of Education from University of Toronto and my Masters of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in the field of adult education. I am a certified teacher in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. In 1993, I established a learning centre and employment centre to educate and train immigrants for the Calgary work place. Employment and Immigration and Alberta Human Resources and Employment generously sponsored that program. I retired from teaching in 2006 and worked as a sessional in the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary.

After my retirement from teaching, I felt called to ministry. First, I went to Naramata to study in the Pacific Jubilee Program to become a spiritual director and during that period began to work in Campus Ministry at the University of Calgary. The United and the Presbyterian Churches contracted me to work under a grant from the St. Andrews Foundation.

At that time, I discerned that Chaplaincy was my ministry. More recently the term, chaplain, has been altered to Spiritual Health Practitioner (SHP). The intention of spiritual health is to accompany others by concentrating principally but not entirely on spiritual practices. Each person has a particular worldview and meaningful life concerns. The practice consists of awakening contextual and ultimate meaning in life. Effective spiritual health has therapeutic outcomes. Spiritual health practitioners provide a non-anxious presence and seek to promote health and wellness while appreciating that the human condition has multiple complexities including challenges, crises, illness, suffering, pain and grief. As a consequence, an effective intervention may facilitate symptoms of spiritual distress towards acceptance, inclusion and transcendence so that healing can take place.

In order to become a certified SHP, I entered the Master of Theological Studies in the Spiritual Care option at St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta. I am approaching the end of that process. I have chosen 1000 hours in congregational spiritual health at Wild Rose United Church to complete my requirements for certification. I look forward to meeting each of you over the course of the next few months as we work together to provide a healthy spiritual environment in which to learn and grow together in community and in faith.

Spiritual Health

The intention of spiritual health is to support others by concentrating principally but not entirely on their spiritual practices. Each person has a particular worldview and meaningful life concerns. The practice assists in finding contextual and ultimate meaning in life. Spiritual health occurs in a wide variety of institutional settings in keeping with the practitioner's professional setting.

Effective spiritual health has therapeutic outcomes. Spiritual health practitioners provide a therapeutic presence and seek to promote spiritual health and wellness while appreciating that the human condition has multiple complexities including challenges, crises, illness, suffering, pain and grief. As a consequence, an effective intervention may facilitate symptoms of spiritual distress towards acceptance, transcendence, and inclusion so that healing can take place. Brian Swimme and Mary Tucker in their book, *Journey of the Universe*, write "what is needed is courage to live amidst the ambiguities of this moment without drawing back into fear and the compulsion to influence the outcome." This more than any other statement typifies the worldview of a spiritual health practitioner. Typically spiritual health is based on acceptance and listening in a meaningful dialogue that can be as little as one session or as many sessions as is deemed necessary to facilitate health and wellness.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction is a branch of Spiritual Health that specifically evokes divine presence while accompanying an individual on their spiritual journey. It is an ancient spiritual practice. It uses scripture, poetry and prose in conjunction with centering prayer and spontaneous prayer to facilitate the path to spiritual awakening and renewal. Typically spiritual direction has a minimum of 6 sessions.

WELLNESS AND RECOVERY

WAYNE AND DAVID LEWRY



David Lewry Bio

As a social worker, I have worked in many areas of the human services field since 1998.

My introduction to social work came as program director of Inn From The Cold Society; a family homeless shelter in Calgary, Alberta. Working in the downtown core office providing intake and sheltering services around the city, I was responsible for intake evaluation, program management, and triage for both families

and individuals seeking food, shelter, and support both during their stay and once they moved into housing.

I was often asked to represent families, family members, and children as an advocate during both criminal and family court proceedings. I remained an advocate for families while they worked with child and family services as required.

During my time as a social worker, I have worked with the severely intoxicated, providing overnight care in a wet facility. The main purpose of the facility was to ensure all persons received food, shelter, and compassionate supervision while being severely intoxicated.

I have also worked as an addictions counsellor in a treatment facility providing daily guidance for individuals attempting to abstain from alcohol, drugs and compulsive negative behaviours. I regularly spoke to small, medium, and large crowds regarding recovery from addiction.

I developed a counselling and group treatment program called "A Pathway to Freedom". I presently work as a contract social worker providing counselling, group treatment seminars, funeral services, and regular public speaking regarding recovery from alcohol, drug, and behavioural dependency.

I developed and studied interviewing skills in University and in the field working as a social worker. I also worked at skill development while moonlighting as a loss prevention investigator and as a Special Constable with Calgary Transit.



Pastor Wayne Lewry Bio

Wayne Lewry began his ministry in 1966 with Youth for Christ in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. He spent many years focusing the message of God's unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness on young people searching for meaning in their lives. This took him to prisons, auditoriums, concerts, nightclubs, and schools; anywhere he could share his message of hope and transformation.

Wayne began his ministry at Central United Church in Calgary on July 1, 1991. He brought his unique blending of gifts and experiences in ministry to Central. His entire ministry of 50 years has been spent in Evangelism, Outreach and Church Planting. He became involved in 12 Step Recovery. Soon one 12-step group became many support and recovery groups along with a Sunday Evening alternative service called "Celebrate Life Recovery". He has initiated a "Grief support Ministry" which continues to bring many new families in to the Church.

Wayne has had the joy of working in Outreach / Recovery Ministry with his son David, who is a Social Worker, for the past 5 years.

Wayne is retiring from Central on June 30 after 26 years of service. He is excited about becoming a Honourary Associate Pastor at Wild Rose United Church, working with his good friend Geoffrey and the wonderful staff in Recovery / Grief Ministry.

"To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss ... Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives."

Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 89.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR JANE WITTSTOCK



I was born and raised in Manitoba. As a child we lived in small towns, then in Winnipeg through my university days. My parents still live there. During my university years, over 4 summers, I had the unique opportunity to be the cook for 2 Fisheries and Oceans research projects in the Arctic and in northern Manitoba. After university I moved to Calgary to do a Dietetic Internship at the Calgary General Hospital and then worked there for about 10 years.

I grew up in the United Church and became a member at Pleasant Heights in the 80's until a move took us to New Orleans in the mid 90's. Returning to Calgary in the late 90's we joined St. Thomas United Church in Hawkwood. I started volunteering in the office there and eventually took on the office job until a move took us to Houston and Kuwait. During both of our US residences we were part of

the United Methodist Church and felt quite at home there. Upon returning to Canada I lived in Golden, BC, working in the office at the local IGA and was a volunteer and a director at the Golden Food Bank.

I have three wonderful children, all young adults now pursuing their dreams.

I love to travel, hike, cross-country ski, quilt, and read, not necessarily in this order and sometimes combining them! Highlights include a family trip to France where I discovered Canada's war contributions, a trip to Iran where I learned about ancient Persia, participating in the Kuwait International Quilt Show, hiking at Lake O'Hara, and a cross-country ski trip to Skoki.

I am really excited about being a part of the Wild Rose team and helping the congregation and staff to achieve their goals.

OUTREACH CONNECTION – LIFE, LOVE AND SHARING

Outreach has had a very busy year. Many of our congregation have volunteered their time to support our refugee family in a wide variety of ways; we continue to provide monthly breakfast bags to Crescent Heights School students; the Lydia Quilters have been given 2 sewing machines to help with the quilt making for fundraising for SAS; the Sunday Pre-Service coffee hosts have continued to provide a hot cup of tea or coffee to all those in need; plans are in place for organizing the float for the Pride Parade; and the produce give-away is going through some new changes; and finally, we will be offering ESL classes to students without funding.

Prairie Rose Syrian Refugee Project

We are pleased to say that our family has settled very well. The family's financial, health, documentation, housing and educational needs have been met and any problems are dealt with immediately by our awesome volunteers. Initially Dalal and Zohir, the parents of our family, did not get into ESL classes. As a result we created a program with 20 volunteers who tutored them every day in the mornings and in the afternoons. Fortunately, at the end of January Zohir was accepted into part time classes, every morning and then a month later Dalal was accepted as well. They continue to have some extra volunteer ESL tutoring two days a week. The children Omar and Marah are in school and their learning is also coming along well. This past week Zohir got his driver's license, which is a good skill for employment. For now, the focus is on learning English for everyone. The family continues to learn about Calgary and Canadian life through a variety of activities and they are forming friendships through their schools, activities and the mosque as well as growing their friendship with individuals within our group. A big thank you to all who have helped with all their volunteering and continue to do so.

ESL for refugees

The Outreach committee will be offering ESL classes for students who are not able to attend courses due to changes in the Federal funding program in September. Those interested in volunteering please contact Dora at doradilullo@gmail.com.

Produce Give-Away

We are going to a new format for the Produce Give-Aways. Please stay tuned for changes coming in September. Volunteers will be needed.

Pride Parade

Mark your calendars for September 3 from 12:00-1:30. All are welcome to come and walk with us to show our support for our Affirm ministry.

Crescent Heights High School

We continue to provide CHHS with monthly breakfast bags thanks to the efforts of our team. They are very much appreciated. We have also secured \$1,000 for bus passes for September and other miscellaneous items for students in need.