

FAMILY NEWS

F I F T H A V E N U E M E M O R I A L U N I T E D C H U R C H

SPECIAL SERVICES

- Good Friday
10am—April 14
- Easter Sunday
10am—April 16
- Camp Sunday
April 30
- Confirmation
Sunday—May 14
- Mother's Day
Brunch—May 14

#3 CUBS, BEAVERS, SCOUTS

Are selling Garden Mulch as a fund raiser:

Contact: Dwight Kurtz at 952-0405 to order

Price: \$4.00 per bag or 3 bags for \$10.00.

Money is used for equipment, badges and to off-set camping costs.

#3 Cubs, Beavers and Scouts and their leaders extend a very heartfelt "Thank You" to FAM for the \$300 donation for 2006.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY BY LEROY ANGLE

A year ago when we first introduced small group ministry to the congregation with a leadership group, I had great expectations that groups would sprout up all over the congregation like spring flowers. This has not happened.

However, we have made a start. In addition to the Bible Study, U.C.W. and other groups that are part of the regular administration and programs of the congregation, three groups have been formed:

A labyrinth group led by Maureen Pidwerbesky, Keith and Penny Drysdale and Pat Owens has been formed. They hope to begin a new group after Easter. Anyone interested are invited to speak to one of the leaders.

Carolyn Boylan initiated a four week group on Native Spiritual-

ity which was very well received.

And I have initiated a group



Labyrinth Small Group

entitled "Speaking The Lost Language of God" by Gregg Braden. All these groups, though small have been well appreciated by those attending.

Small group ministry is designed to help people develop their spiritual lives in directions they feel that they need or desire to go. All that is needed

are a few people with a common goal and someone willing to take leadership. Leading a small group is not a difficult task as a suggested group agenda is available. It is expected that each group meeting include a time of Bible study and prayer, as well as specific program content related to the interests of the participants.

Now that we are looking forward to the fall and the beginning of a new ministry, any new initiatives regarding Small Group Ministry will include our new minister's involvement. In the meantime, I want to express my gratitude to those who have taken the initiative to begin small group ministry.

JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE

As an Interim Minister one of my most important assignments is to assure an orderly succession to a new pastoral relationship. I have been very impressed with the caliber of work that has been undertaken by your Joint Search Committee.

As I have traveled across the

Conference I have heard from others how impressed they were with the Joint Needs Assessment Report for our Church. They found it substantial, honest, engaging and intriguing. The JNAC built upon decisions taken during the current Interim Ministry Period. As a downtown minis-

try, Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church will seek to emphasize building partnerships in arts and culture, and partnerships in social outreach. The JNAC identified four additional critical works areas: Executive Leadership, Worship, Pastoral Care, and Family Ministry.

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The Joint Search Committee was conscientious and faithful in applying the JNAC report to their task. On Sunday, April 2 the congrega-



Reverend Gary Goran

tion met and approved motions to call the Reverend Gary W. Goran as Lead Minister for this pastoral charge. I wish him well as he completes his time at Grace United Church in Weyburn, Saskatchewan and prepares for his move here. Gary's ministry has taken him from Manitoba to Vancouver Island. Although I have had only the briefest prior acquaintance with Gary, I am confident the JSC has chosen well and that together you will succeed in the renewal of this important downtown church.

The JSC will continue its work, seeking the call or appointment of an ordained, diaconal or lay pastoral

minister to fill a half time position. I will certainly stay watchful for people who might be appropriate for a part time appointment here.

My immediate plans are unclear—although an early trip to a travel agent is going to help me finalize dates for a visit to my son and daughter-in-law in Seoul, Korea. After that I hope to find a ministry appointment that will permit me to stay involved with a local church somewhere in the Calgary area.

Jim Hillson

HELLO FROM YOUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Things have been busy in 2006 so far with the promise of many more great fellowship events to come!

Ash Wednesday pancake supper was a huge success with a record number of people enjoying the pancakes prepared by Gord MacKinnon! The CL committee would like to say thanks to all who lent a helping hand.

The donations of fellowship goodies are always needed and greatly appreciated!

FAM's CL committee is busy planning the Easter Sunday Brunch, a family camping weekend in June (in cooperation with our Board Chairman Gary Christensen) as well as other special celebrations! There will be lots of help needed - you can see any of

the committee members to volunteer! Watch for more details in the near future.

Your Congregational Life Committee are Kim MacKinnon, Kim Pedersen, Kay Shillington, Sharon Hunter, Laurina Krauss & Cheryl Stock. Hoppy Easter!



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN BY SHARON HUNTER

We have had a very exciting time since Christmas.

We hosted "The Hat Centennial Tea" on March 11/06. It was a grand time, good fun and fellowship, as we celebrated Medicine Hat's 100th birthday. We were privileged to have local dignitaries to greet and pour tea, all in uniform or special dress. Our ladies and gentlemen were dressed in period costumes and all wore "Hats"

We even made some money!! Bake table \$740.55. Tickets \$592.00, White Elephants \$227.59. Our memorabilia table went over very well. In February many U.C.W members helped Memorial Salem Unit with their annual Kuchen bake. It was a LONG fun filled, busy day. We baked and sold 290 Kuchen. The profit went into U.C.W General funds.

U.C.W purchased 30 chairs

for Wesley Hall.

U.C.W. recently purchased a 18 ft. fridge for the downstairs kitchen. This kitchen is mainly used by South East Alberta Visitation Group for Community Kitchens to help teach families how to plan meals and cook them. On May 6/06 we will host a Presbyterial Enrichment Day for South Alberta. We are having a planning meeting April 12 at 1.30 p.m.

in the Memorial Salem Room to finalize details. All U.C.W members welcome. Some U.C.W members will be helping with FAM Fair June 9 & 10. This semi annual event includes rummage and garage sale, bake table, silent auction and food court. This is not a U.C.W project but we all help as we are able.

MUSIC MINISTRY: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

On Sunday, March 5, Gary Christensen, Chairperson of the Church Board announced to the congregation that Adele Armstrong will be retiring as our organist and choir director at the end of May. He expressed thoughts we all shared as he thanked Adele for her years of leadership and wished her well for the future.

As an Interim Minister I had the privilege of coming to Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church under the strong, vital and enriching music program of Adele Armstrong. I join all of you in wishing her well as she moves to a new phase of her life. As the minister who had the opportunity to work with her during these past three years, I am very grateful for her creativity, energy and insight. Adele and I have been through a lot together, and I know we both have a very strong respect for each as people and as worship leaders.

The Church Board has wisely determined that Adele's retirement presents an opportunity for a searching review of our music ministry. This review will take some time, perhaps a year or even longer. The review process will be directed by a Task Group appointed by our Visioning Committee. Maintaining vital worship and continuing to support our choir will be a high priority during the interim period. The process will include open communication with the congregation throughout the process. We look forward to building from strength to strength so that a refreshed and renewed music ministry continues to nourish the worship of our congregation.

Obviously the process will occur in stages, allowing for the active participation of your new Lead Minister.

The work of the Music Ministry Task Group will include:

1. Serving as a Search and Selection Committee, seeking and receiving proposals or applications from qualified applicants who offer themselves as Interim Music Staff; and
2. Recommending a chosen applicant or applicants to the Ministry and Personnel Committee together with a draft position description and terms of employment, and
3. Surveying the worship music programs of other churches to become familiar with how various musical styles and staffing options are being used in different places; and
4. Working with music staff and ministers to try and test various programs and styles in our congregation; and
5. To generally oversee the worship music program of the church, working creatively with the ministers and worship committee to assure that the music ministry supports the overall goal of worship renewal among us;
6. To assure continuing leadership and direction for the choir so that the choir has a continuing place in the process of worship renewal among us; and
7. To identify congregational and community resources that might support the renewal of worship and worship music among us; and
8. To maintain an open communication process with the congregation, the choir, the worship committee, the music ministry staff, and the ministers, and
9. To report to the Church Board regularly and to bring forward to the Board recommendations for the future direction and staffing for music ministry in our church.

The Task Group will include a member of Visioning Committee, a member of Choir, a member of the Worship Committee, the Lead Minister and one or two members at large from the congregation.

Jim Hillson

WE'RE ON THE WEB
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FAM News

STAINED GLASS WINDOW FUND

In the Christmas newsletter we reported that an extensive amount of repair and restoration was needed for the stained glass windows and the storm windows. At that time we appealed for donations from the prosperity cheques we received from the province of Alberta. To date we have received a total of \$19,826.84 of the \$60,000.00 needed. We are 1/3 of the way there and we thank everyone for their donations so far. We welcome your suggestions as to how we might keep up the interest in this project.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church is now in the fourth year of having a Community Kitchen operating out of the downstairs kitchen.

The Community Kitchen offers the opportunity for homemakers to experience practical shopping habits in order to prepare very economical and nutritious meals.

This program, now under the direction of Mrs. Kathleen Lisoway and Chelsea Gaede, has seen a gradual increase in the number of families participating. Cooking sessions are once a month, in February - 10 families participated and in March - 9 families. Hopefully this interest will continue.

A planning session before each cooking date decides on 4-5 items to be made and taken home - 2 main dish items, a soup, and a cookie or muffin. Also new recipes

are attempted - for example the kuchen did not resemble kuchen but it tasted good. Special items are always planned for Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day etc. A great deal is accomplished in 3 hours - usually 9am to 12 noon, as well as having a bit of fun. Usually the amount of food taken home is expected to provide for a least 2 meals for the family and perhaps even a third or fourth meal.

This whole program was started only because of an Endowment Fund donated to the Outreach Committee by Mr. & Mrs. Jim White. Payments are received yearly and provided the basic 'set-up' of groceries and now cover the monthly cost of supplies for the cooking sessions as well as paying for a baby-sitter who takes care of the children while the mothers are cooking.

Dr. & Mrs. Ken Blair provided all the cooking utensils, pots and pans etc. as requested at the start-up.

The United Church Women have provided repairs to refrigerators and recently purchased a NEW large refrigerator.

The leaders and participants in this program express their sincere appreciation for the facility and the on-going help it is providing to many families. Thank You!

If anyone is interested in taking part, or in learning more about the program, please phone BRIDGES at 526-7473 or call in at 477 - 3 Street S.E.