

SPECIAL SERVICES

- October 2nd—10 am
Communion
- October 9th— 10 am
Thanksgiving Service
- November 6th— 10 am
Remembrance Sunday
- November 27th— 10 am
1st Sunday of Advent
Communion
- December 24th—
Christmas Eve
Worship at 6 & 8pm
- December 25th—
No Worship service

Our Church office will be closed
from December 26th to Janu-
ary 1st.

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FAM News

SEPTEMBER 2005

Manna & Mercy

The Bible is a big book—about a thousand pages. It took about a thousand years to write. There is history and poetry. There are songs and legends and prayers. And in spite of all of this complexity, there is a strong and unifying vision that underlies it all.

Christianity could not have survived 2,000 years and spread all around the world without the Bible. It is incredible to realize that well educated Christians are increasingly illiterate when it comes to the Bible. Every church must face the challenge of helping Christians recover biblical knowledge.

I invite you to come aboard for a voyage back in time—a

voyage to discover afresh the unifying theme and vision that makes the Bible one great book. *Manna and Mercy* is a perfect resource for everyone



who has felt ill at ease in Bible study.

In a very few weeks the sweep of biblical history will

become clear to you. You will have a blue print that will enable you to read any book of the Bible and appreciate how it fits into the great sweeping drama. You will be better able to answer the questions your children ask and enter more confidently into discussions with friends from other churches.

Guided by the *Manna and Mercy* study book you will read the bible for yourself. This course is offered Sunday mornings, 8:30 to 9:30 am, and repeated again on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 to 10:45 am. One of these two times are sure to work for you. Call the church office today and let us know you are coming.

by Jim Hillson

Joint Needs Assessment

"Sitting here in Limbo, waiting for the tide to turn..."

Well, FAM is moving faster than the classic reggae song. No more waiting. The tide is definitely turning as we move from Jim's interim ministry towards permanent ministerial staff.

The JNAC has the task of preparing background information about the congregation and a job description for our next minister(s). Fortunately, much of the necessary data has already been gathered during the interim ministry.

Before the end of September, your JNAC representatives will have prepared summaries of our community con-

text, congregational organization and resources, and ministerial needs. Following the requirements of the United Church, we will then prepare a job description and terms of employment for future minister(s).

We plan to bring a report to the congregation for information shortly after Thanksgiving. There will be a chance for discussion after Sunday service before the report goes to the Board for approval in late October. The JNAC will then be discharged, and the Board will request South Alberta Presbytery to declare a ministerial vacancy at FAM. A Joint Search Committee will be

formed to find and select permanent ministerial staff.

We welcome your input! Please bring ideas and questions about FAM's future ministry and ministers to members of the JNAC, who were appointed at our congregational meeting last June. We are: David Gue (chair), Ken Blair, Carolyn Boylan, Brenda Colley, Kim MacKinnon, and Henriette Schwentafsky. Presbytery representatives are Rev. Frank Lewis and Dave Rogers, both from Southminster United Church in Lethbridge.

"Sitting here in Limbo... But I know that my faith will lead me on." (Jimmy Cliff)

by David Gue

Making the Most of the Time Available by Rev. Jim Hillson

I hope you are very proud of yourselves for all that you have accomplished in a very short space of time. Two years ago we were just getting to know each other. Now we are able to look back together with much satisfaction.

With systematic and deliberate intent we looked backward into the history of this congregation. As we looked back we found a great deal to celebrate. Many remarkable ministers gave leadership to Fifth Avenue and Memorial Salem Churches. With courage and vision these two churches came together—bringing strength to strength—to forge a new vision

for ministry in the 21st Century. The process was not without its growing pains. But the fundamentals are sound and the building blocks are in place for a viable and sustainable United Church ministry in the centre of our city.

Next year new ministers will come among you. They will bring their own sense of the possibilities for 21st century urban ministry. In the United Church our best ministers thrive on challenge provided that they have tools to work with and people who will support the shared adventure of it all. This fall the Presby-

tery and your representatives are in the process of creating ministry profiles which will appeal to the very best and most skilled ministers of our church. They have graciously allowed me a generous amount of input to their process.

There is much more that I will be handing over to the ministers who will come here next year. You will be looking to them to give shape and form to the vision you have declared here.

You have set downtown social ministry as a clear obligation of a downtown church. The shape of the ministry pro-

gram is still to be defined. Partners to work alongside us in that ministry are still to be identified.

You have set arts and culture as one of the defining characteristics of this downtown ministry—using both our own historic building and partnering with local arts and culture organizations. The Esplanade will revitalize arts and culture in our city. The soul of the City still belongs to the faith communities.

You will want your new ministers to shape Sunday worship in a way that challenges and affirms your faith. You will want your

new ministers to love you, especially in times of celebration and sorrow. Those things will always be central to the work of pastoral ministry.

But you will also need more. You will ask your ministers to forge new links with the urban core of this city so that the work of God thrives here. We used to ask, What can we do to get more people to come to church? Now we ask, What can we do to take the work of God out into the heart of the city.

We have just a few months

left together—you and I. We will take one more look at the building blocks we have put in place during our time together. We will test them and make sure that they are all solid. One or two more building blocks are still to be added and mortared into place. But most of all we have earned and we deserve to enjoy these months together. The best years of Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church are still ahead for you. This year will be only the beginning. The best is still to come.

*“Together we
forge a new
vision for
ministry in the
21st Century.”*



Outreach & Evangelism

During the summer the work of the Outreach and Evangelism committee continued with planning for the upcoming Anniversary Homecoming and Old Time Dinner and Dance.

The Community Kitchen continued to make nutritious meals for the participants.

We are looking for knitters and people who crochet to make squares and blankets for the “Blankets for Canada” program. We have lots of yarn available in the boxes above the coat racks. Please select the yarn you want to use. The blankets are always needed at the Phoenix Safe House where

they are given to those coming for help.

Hope you will be joining us to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada at the Homecoming and Old-Time Dinner and Dance on September 23. See you there!

Phyllis Netolitzky

Coming Attractions



Labyrinth Workshop

September 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with Pat Owens as the facilitator. This will be an excellent introduction to the labyrinth, so come and find out more about it. Please call the office ahead of time to register. There will be no fee for this workshop.

Turkey Supper

Sunday, October 2. Tickets on sale at the church office until September 28. Adults \$10.00, Children \$5.00. Food donations, food cookers and workers are also needed.

Fall Rummage/Garage Sale

Friday, October 21, 3-7pm and Saturday, October 22, 9am –2pm. Donations can be dropped off starting Monday, October 17th. Small items and clothing only please.

Gifts and Goodies Gala

Saturday, November 5, 2005 10:00am—3:00pm. Come and enjoy an event for the whole family. Bake Sale, crafts, mini trade fair, collectible table, and refreshments. Cost \$1.00.

Carols & Candles 2005

December 6 & 7. The Kodaly Songsters, The Saamis Teens, The Adele Armstrong Singers present their Christmas 2005 Concert.

Walking the Labyrinth

by Penny Drysdale

Looking for some quiet time to slow down from the many things that demand your attention everyday? Why not come to Wesley Hall to walk the Labyrinth? It is a spiritual tool for prayer and meditation. Walking the path provides an opportunity for quiet reflection and opening oneself to God.

The FAM labyrinth was completed in August and dedicated on Sunday, September 11th for use by the congregation and by the community. It is a replica of the one in Chartres Cathedral near Paris, France. We hope that it will be a valuable addition to the spiritual life of

our church.

Times for walking the Labyrinth are: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. As well, you may come in to walk it whenever the church office is open; we suggest that you call the office to check the availability as there are times when the hall is in use for other functions. A number of people may walk at the same time. If others are walking when you arrive, please remain quiet and enter the labyrinth when you are ready. Bro-

chures are available at the church with more information and the library has two excellent resources.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who spent over 120 hours on their knees working on this project: Noel Maughan, Sharon Hunter, Marina Gilchrist, Lauren Maughan, Keith and Penny Drysdale.



You Save, We Gather

Stamps—for the Leprosy Mission, through the Canadian Bible Society

Campbell Soup labels—for local area schools.

Canadian Tire Money—used for purchasing supplies.

Co-op Till Tapes—1% of total tapes collected is donated back to the church for local use.



Wool—donations of wool are collected and used for making blankets for the Phoenix Safe House.

Marked collection boxes are above

the coat racks across from the church office. We appreciate all of your contributions.

Buy a Chair Fund

A new floor deserves new chairs. Wesley Hall is looking so fresh and bright that we thought it worthwhile going the rest of the way and retiring old hard chairs. A new padded and upholstered



chair has been chosen. The only thing left is to find the money to pay for them. You can help. The "Buy a Chair Fund" needs \$50.00 for each new chair.

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Small Group Ministry

Most people around our church are aware of “small groups” such as U.C.W. units, choir, and Board committees which are primarily program focused, and only secondarily focused on the spiritual needs of their members.

What makes small group ministry different from other structures can be summed up simply: *small groups form to serve the interests of people whereas committees form to serve the interests of the church.* Small groups are distinct because they emphasize the spiritual life of the participants. They always include **prayer**, a time for **community building** or checking in, and a time for thinking about how to use their activity to **serve in God’s name.**

The small group ministry fair

in the spring introduced this concept.

Leadership training is recommended so that you have a better sense of what makes a small group work well. We believe the development of a diverse small group ministry is vital to the re-



newal of our congregational life, and encourage your participation.

Groups Meeting:

Facilitator’s Group -
Week of Oct. 17 - Nov. 21

Essentials of Christian Faith
Week of Oct. 17 - Nov. 21

Days and times to be arranged to accommodate participants.

Manna & Mercy
Sunday Mornings, 8:30 am
Beginning September 25
Tuesday Mornings, 9:30 am
Beginning September 20