



Newsletter

May, June, July, August, September 2014

Olds United Church

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Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan

Council Chairperson: Joyce Quaife Treasurer: Peter Choropita

Musician: Marian Hilton

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon; Friday afternoon 1-4 p.m.

Greetings friends!

I imagine some of you read the article that was in our county newspaper on May 13, entitled "United Church mulls changes." It was written by columnist Frank Dabbs, and reflected a rather misleading bit of information about what the United Church is up to in these changing times. The church is indeed in a process of discernment around how we continue to serve the world given the current realities of economics, an aging demographic and decreasing membership. The article Dabbs wrote, however, made it sound like we're making plans to close our doors. I did write a letter to the editor of the Mountain View Gazette, in hopes that I might be able to shed some light on this matter, but it did not get published. I offer it below, and invite you to share it with friends and neighbours.

Dear Mr. Singleton,

I must express my sadness that someone who claims to be a researcher would write such a commentary without doing the research required to verify the statements made. The United Church is alive and well. Yes we are considering changes. What major denomination in our country isn't? The reality is, all aspects of life in Canada are changing, and the church needs to be responsive to a changing society.

To quote a recent document produced by the Comprehensive Review Task Group of the United Church of Canada, "It is time to seek new ways of serving God and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our changing world." (Fishing From The Other Side: Seeking the Wisdom of Presbyteries, Districts, The Consistoire, and The Synod. United Church of Canada, Feb. 6, 2014)

Unionization of clergy is not under consideration by our denominational body. As Mr. Dabbs himself noted, elimination of presbyteries and conferences is indeed under consideration, however Dabbs neglects to point out that another model of governance is being proposed that will continue to do the work of those two governance bodies in new and different ways. All of this, it is important to note, is in the proposal stage. No decisions have yet been made.

Mr. Dabbs also compares the proposed actions of The United Church of Canada to actions taken in the corporate world. I am happy to say that we are not a corporation, but a church denomination, so such a comparison is misleading at best. There is a great deal of visioning work being done to look at how to repurpose some of the properties of the United Church, so that they will continue to be places of mission and ministry.

The United Church of Canada has indeed opened its doors. This is because we believe that all people are beloved children of God, equally deserving of opportunities to serve, to be served, and to receive the gift of God's love and grace. I for one am proud of my church and its open doors.

Other denominations in our country are in various places on the journey of welcoming and acceptance of diversity. We, as the United Church, are in a position to offer support and experience to our neighbours as they discern their future in this regard.

Just recently this paper carried an article that covered the new shared ministry arrangement between Sundre and Olds United Churches. That piece was written very positively, and conveyed very well the energy and enthusiasm of two congregations working together to serve God in this area in new ways. We are just one example of a national church – formed by an act of parliament – that is indeed alive and well, and seeking new ways to live as disciples of Christ.



*Sincerely,
Rev. Tammy Allan
Olds and Sundre United Churches*

May and June Worship Services

June 1, 10:00 Worship & Communion
June 8, 10:00 a.m. Worship followed by Church picnic at Brian & Addy Johnson's home
June 15, 10:00 a.m. Worship
June 22, 10:00 a.m. Worship
June 29, 10:00 a.m. Worship

Joint summer worship schedule

July 6, 10:00 a.m. Host: Sundre United
July 13, 10:00 a.m. Olds United
July 20, 10:00 a.m. Host: Olds United
July 27 10:00 a.m. Olds United

August 3, 10:00 a.m. Olds United
Aug. 10, 10:00 a.m. Host: Knox United Didsbury
August 17, 10:00 a.m. Olds United
Aug. 24, 10:00 a.m. Host: Bowden United
August 31, 10:00 a.m. Olds United



On Sunday where we have joint worship in the summer, designated offerings (envelopes) will be given to the home church; loose offerings will be kept by the host church.

Fall Worship Services

September 7, 10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

September 14, 10:00 a.m. Worship

September 21, 10:00 a.m. Worship

September 28, 10:00 a.m. Worship

Olds United Church *A Family of Faith - Spiritually Motivated - Welcoming and Caring* **120th Anniversary Celebrations** **1894 – 2014**

November 1 Saturday

11:30 am – 1:30 pm ----- ❖ UCW 'Soup's On'

November 9 Sunday

10:00 am – 11:00 am----- ❖ Sunday Service

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm ----- ❖ Open House

3:00 pm ----- ❖ Old Time Hymn Sing

November 14 Friday

5:30 pm ----- ❖ Anniversary Dinner

9:00 am – 6:00 pm ----- ❖ Historic United Church Display at Mountain View Museum

November 16 Sunday

10:00 am ----- ❖ Celebration Church Service and Communion, coffee & muffins to follow

November 4 – 27

Historic United Church Display* at the Mountain View Museum with oral history interview video, featuring **Alvina Hawthorne** and **Marianne Becker**.

Mountain View Museum 5038 - 50 Street Olds, 403.556.8464

Open Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Information and tickets for 'Soup's On' and the Anniversary Dinner will be available at Olds United Church, 4810 50 Street, Olds

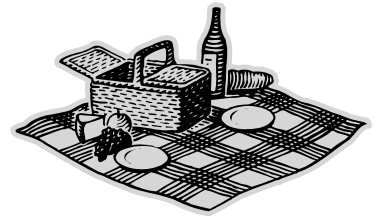
403.556.3052

www.oldsunited.ca



****We are seeking historical artifacts, photos and documents for the museum display and for a photo wall at the church. If you have something, please contact Mary Hays(403.556.2818) by June 30.***

June 8 is the church picnic following the morning worship service. It will be held at Brian & Addy Johnson's home. A sign up sheet will be posted for salads and desserts. Meat will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair. Contact the church for directions to the Johnson's.



Everything you wanted to know about the United Church but were afraid to ask...

Considering becoming a member, either by Profession of Faith (Confirmation) or by adult baptism? Please contact Tammy in the church office.

**SUNDRE UNITED CHURCH and OLDS UNITED CHURCH
SHARED MINISTRY**

We want to hear from you!

Background:

Sundre and Olds' churches were unable to financially support a full time minister and both Church Councils proposed that we enter into Shared Ministry. On Feb. 2, 2014, at Special Congregational Meetings on Olds and Sundre, the motion was passed to enter into the shared ministry agreement: Sundre United Church - 25% and Olds United Church - 75% for the trial period of March 1 – December 31, 2014. *We want to hear from you!* It is time for our first evaluation. We will do a full review in October. Upon evaluation and completion of the trial period, we have 3 options:

- Extend the trial with amendments to the Memorandum of Agreement
- Terminate the Memorandum of Agreement
- Create a two point charge with Olds and Sundre.

Evaluation Questionnaire:

1. The evaluation questionnaire will be given to each committee, each committee member will be asked to fill it out and return it by **June 11** for the church council meeting on June 17.
2. If you are not on a committee and would like to fill out the evaluation, please get your copy from the church office.

RETURN COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES BY JUNE 11
TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR TO BOB KING.

Information? Joyce Quaife 403.556.3802

Bob King 403.556.3646

Mary Hays 403.556.2818