

West Plains News

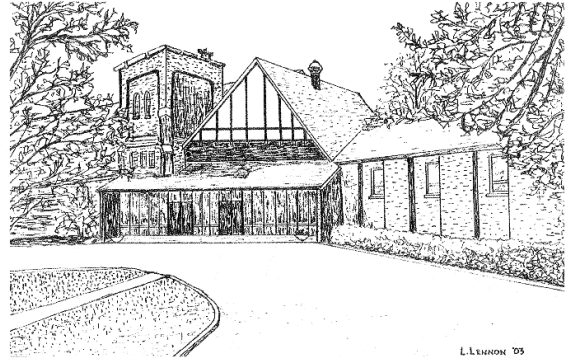
May 2012

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Minister's Message

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE!

“the Spirit helps us in our weakness” -

Romans 8:26

Remember the words of Kermit the frog, “it isn’t easy being green”. Now that we have gotten used to instant meals, big box store packaging, and the convenience of disposable paper goods, it is no longer easy for us to remember to keep our earth green!

The colour for the day of Pentecost is red (symbolizing the “fire” of the spirit!) but the season that follows it is the green liturgical colour. It lasts for close to half the year!

For the “green” Christians of the early church, life being green wasn’t easy either. We will read about their experiences throughout this Pentecost season from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The early church had to work hard to be community; they were under persecution and experienced growing pains trying to hold themselves together.

I share with you a story about the circle of life and our interdependence: On a slow day in a little Greek village, a tourist stops at a local hotel and leaves a \$100 bill on the desk, and tells the hotel owner that he wants to check out some of the rooms in order to pick one to spend the night. The owner gives him some keys and as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the \$100 and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the road to pay his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the \$100 and jumps in his car to pay his bill to the supplier of feed. The manager at the farmer’s co-op takes the \$100 note and runs out to pay his bill at the taverna. The owner of the pub crosses the street to pay the \$100 he owes to the baker. The baker has just gotten married and spent his wedding night at the hotel so he rushes off to the hotel proprietor with the \$100 to pay that bill. The hotel owner then places the \$100 bill back on the counter so the traveller will not suspect anything. At that moment the tourist comes back downstairs to the desk, states that he has changed his mind about staying in the town, pockets the money, and leaves town. No one earned anything. No one produced anything. But now the whole village is out of debt and looking forward to the future with optimism! It's quite the intriguing story but with a powerful message - we are all connected, mutually interdependent, and so it is with all creation.

As we embrace this new season, this “green” season of Pentecost, let us remember our interdependence in our relationships and with creation. Let us hear the encouragement to the early church and be inspired to think about new ways to live as God’s people.

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loves us.” Ephesians 5: 1-2

(Rev) Joyce Pearce



Upcoming Worship!

SUNDAY, MAY 13: 10:30 a.m.

Mother's Day (also known as Christian Family Sunday) with our special Men's Choir who have provided music on Mother's Day for several years!

SUNDAY, MAY 20: 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Wayne Irwin leading worship - Rev. Joyce Pearce on vacation from May 15 - May 20

SUNDAY, MAY 27: 10:30 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday - Holy Communion

Workshop on Prayer 12 - 1 pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 3: 10:30 a.m.

Stewardship Preacher: Don Smith from Smith's Funeral Homes

SUNDAY, JUNE 10: 10:30 a.m.

Congregational Picnic at Hidden Valley Park - follow the signs to our location. We will have a special "live" PET BLESSING: Bring your pets to have them blessed!

SUNDAY, JUNE 17: 10:30 a.m.

Father's Day Worship Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 24: 10:30 a.m.

Last regular worship service with our music director, Lianne Tan, and our choir before our summer schedule begins

SUMMER WORSHIP: Join us each Sunday in the summer at the same time, 10:30 am, for a time to praise God and be renewed for living.

We invite you to join us for worship – bring a friend/neighbour to West Plains!

Baptisms!



Sunday, March 25, 2012

- Adrianna Marie McLeod

Sunday, May 6, 2012 - Elsie Diane Ruth

We welcome inquiries about baptism at West Plains and have a magazine about baptism in the church office for anyone who is interested!



In Memoriam

Our thoughts are with all who are coping with the loss of a loved one. We never forget those who have touched our hearts with love and who have inspired us to live our best lives.

Ministry & Personnel

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!! Rev. Joyce has been with us for 10 years as of May 1st. We thank you for your leadership, words of wisdom, and your influence on West Plains for the last 10 years.

Pulpit Supply

May 20 th	Rev. Wayne Irwin
June 3 rd	Guest Speaker – Don Smith
July 8 th	Rev. Margot Feyerer
Aug. 5 th	Rev. Bob Johnson
Aug. 12 th	Rev. Bob Johnson
Aug. 26 th	Rev. Margot Feyerer
Sept. 2 nd	Rev. David Walker

UCW 50th Anniversary



Come join the celebration at Redeemer College from July 23 – 27.

Attend one or more of the following six plenary sessions:

- A. Monday July 23: 7:30 - 9:00 pm Opening ceremony, Parade of banners Building Theme/
community, Worship
- B. Tuesday July 24: 8:20 am - Noon Worship and Theme time, Rev. Lorna McQueen, Rev. Jennie
Stephens
- C. Wednesday July 25: 7:30 - 9:15 pm Entertainment, Rev. Barrie Bain, Sweet Refrain Folk Choir,
Vespers
- D. Thursday July 26: 9:30 a.m. - Noon
Bible Study, Rev. Heather McLean. National UCW National President Betty Turcott, Ecumenical
discussion
- E. Thursday July 26: 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Overseas Partners, Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega, Matanzas, Cuba, Rosa Gonzales, Weavers of Hope Group,
Matanzas, Cuba
- F. Thursday July 26 : 8:00 pm
Hear United Church Moderator
Mardi Tindal

Tickets: \$10.00 for each plenary session, tickets available at door. **NO MEALS INCLUDED** with the sessions.

Attend the Banquet and hear Moderator Mardi Tindal, Thursday July 26 at 6:00 pm. Tickets for Banquet/Moderator \$40.00. Advance purchase and payment required. Order from Amy Hill amy_hill2@hotmail.com or contact your Presbyterial UCW President.

Pies, Books & Treasures Galore

**Saturday, May 12th
from 10 AM – 12 Noon**

Bake a Pie (or two) or Buy a Pie.
Bring your Books to be sold
or come and buy some Books.
Mini Garage Sale.
call Marj Wilson 905 522 2569



CARE FOR OUR EARTH

At West Plains we are making efforts to "green" our church and make it energy efficient. We have completed an Energy Audit and the report is available for you to read - ask Rev. Joyce about it! If you have ideas of how to improve our greening effort and reduce our footprint on God's earth please let Joyce know. Let us remember that this earth is God's, given for our enjoyment but not for our destruction - we are especially mindful of this since we, at West Plains, live in "God's garden" and can see every day out our back windows just how beautiful creation is and how important it is to take care of it.

Kidz Club

We cherish our wonderful children and their teachers at West Plains! The Children's Garden will be planted on Sunday, May 27th - all donations of plants and tools for that day are appreciated!

Musical Musings

Another Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday is upon us, and that means the wonderful group of men and boys singing at our May 13th worship service. M.O.W.P (Men of West Plains) is an annual tradition which has steadily grown in number and in strength over the years. Thanks guys! We love hearing you sing!

The singing sound of our congregation at West Plains has definitely grown stronger. I can hear "more voices united" in singing each Sunday. Well done! It is fun to accompany robust singing, as our expressions of faith through song can bring us a smile and uplift our spirits.

The Choir at West Plains has been working hard at making beautiful music. Our male section is definitely stronger, getting more unified in sound and working out a balance of tone, volume and voice range. Our soprano section has benefited from new members who have added not only their voices, but their wonderful uplifting spirits and smiles. Our alto section has held its own – currently, the 3 altos continue to provide much inner harmony which makes our sound richer. If you are an alto in the congregation, we would love to have you join us – come any Thursday at 7:15 pm to try out a choir rehearsal...we are very welcoming!

The Choir will continue to be a key participant in the annual **Great Fall Hymn Sing** at St. Luke's Anglican this fall. The date is **Sunday, Nov. 6th at 3 pm**. This event is a fun, ecumenical experience as we sing anthems and hymns with at least two other local church choirs. It is also an opportunity for our Choir to sell tickets and raise some funds to attend workshops,

buy choir gowns, hold socials, etc. We hope you will mark this date and plan to join us.

Come and Hear the ChoirFest!



A new venture this fall is just shaping up for the Choir. John Fleischmann (in our tenor/bass section) is organizing a **ChoirFest** on behalf of the Canadian Male Orpheus Choir. This event aims to unite about 8 local choirs – from barbershop to mixed choirs to church choirs – for a shared concert cabaret style. That means enjoying food and drinks while listening to each other perform a 10-minute set. Of course, the world-renowned Canadian Male Orpheus Choir would be a highlight of the evening's programme. John has invited our West Plains Choir to participate and we have signed up enthusiastically. This will be an opportunity for the Choir to try a different kind of "ecumenism"! Lots of guests are invited and welcome to come and enjoy this event, to be held at the Burlington Convention Centre on Burloak Drive, on **Thursday, October 25th** at 7:30 pm. Tickets for guests are \$15 before May 30th, and \$20 after that (no tickets will be sold at the door). Refreshments are included, and there will be a cash bar. The more guests, the more fun to be had by all! If you would like to sign up for a ticket, please speak with any choir member, or with Choir President Lois Lennon.

Happy Spring and Happy Singing!

Lianne Tan,
Music Director



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Calling all knitters on every second Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Or knit at home if you prefer and we'll provide the yarn.

This month we delivered 18 Prayer Shawls to Cama Woodlands and Park Manor.

Congratulations!



Saturday March 31

- Michelle Wenzel & Adam Pontefract

We are blessed with our weddings here at West Plains.

United Church Remit

This year the United Church of Canada is undertaking a remit regarding the official doctrine of the church. Each congregation has an opportunity to vote "yes" or "no" to making changes in wording to the Basis of Union statement of theology. A workshop has been held and our Unified Board has voted to accept the additions of 3 doctrinal statements to the United Church of Canada's doctrine in the Basis of Union. Please see Rev. Joyce if you would like to know more about this!

Faith Formation

A Taize service, held at West Plains on Maundy Thursday was well attended and so enjoyed by all who came. Our beautiful sanctuary was candle lit and serene with the music which is part of the service. Truly a success and a wonderful first effort.



The committee has chosen "The Secret Daughter" by Shilipi S Gowda for our next book discussion. A very good read, telling something of the author's homeland and its customs, as well as offering an engaging story. The date to be announced, so do watch the bulletin!

We have chosen "Snow Flower and The Secret Fan" by Lisa See to follow, sometime through the summer, possibly with the movie aired in 2011 as an adjunct.

Reverend Joyce presented information on A Week of Guided Prayer held at Appleby United Church April 22nd to 28th. That was attended and enjoyed by Lynn Watson, who will share something of that experience during a prayer workshop planned for May 27th from 12 noon to 1 pm. Available resources has available a DVD called The Natural Way of Prayer which we will present and discuss.

Our thanks as ever to Reverend Joyce for her willingness to venture into new ideas that help us move forward.

Respectfully, Lynn Watson

Property



Your property committee has been busy since the last newsletter. The renovations to the upstairs washroom and church office are completed. Thanks to Peter and Marilyn Fox and others for their hard work. Arrangements have been made for lawn cutting and fertilizing, and quotes are being obtained for painting the outside areas of the church as well as replacing some brickwork at the back of the building.

Once again the “Property Committee Easter Sunday Breakfast” was well attended. Thanks especially to Judie, Peter and Brian for organizing this event along with the help of the rest of the property committee.

Work will be continuing on the drainage problem on the north side of the building. Additional down spouts were installed last year and this summer the rest of the work should be completed.

“The Aldershot Players” have finished their spring theatre run and each weekend was well attended. Once again Property assisted with parking and table and chair setup and take down for the dinner part of the theatre.

Have a great summer and remember we are always looking for new members.

Murray Biggley

Happy 10th Anniversary!

2002 was a very good year! Both Catherine Floyd (our secretary) and Rev Joyce came to West Plains that year. Catherine in January and Rev. Joyce in May. We are so very fortunate to have enjoyed working with and reaping the benefits of their talent over these past 10 years.

We look forward to another lengthy period of being together with these charming ladies!

Sincerely,
Your Unified Board Members.

The Hearing Devices

For some time there has been discussion about the need for hearing devices in the Sanctuary to enable all members of our church family to fully enjoy the service on Sunday mornings.

Today, we now have sixteen wireless devices available for our congregation's use. It is with gratitude that I post this summation in the Newsletter, and would like to thank the United Church Women at West Plains for their generous donation of \$3000.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the congregation of West Plains for increasing the Hearing Device fund to approximately \$5300 in such a short time and allowing us to complete the final payment.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Buxton.

Youth

Spring brings with it many things name a few. It is the time of year as it is typically in March, April readers and pourers of coffee.

For me, personally, spring is the wonder how it is that I have winter months. "Where did all of "What are these adapters for? If I how did I get thirty mini bottles of hand sanitizer? I do not even remember buying hand sanitizer in the first place."



- warmer weather, flowers and baby animals to when the Youth are most active in Sunday services, and May that we serve as ushers, greeters, lay

time of year when I open up my hall closet and managed to accumulate so much junk over the these electrical cords come from?" I ask myself, throw them away, am I going to regret it later? And

time of year when I open up my hall closet and managed to accumulate so much junk over the these electrical cords come from?" I ask myself, throw them away, am I going to regret it later? And

Sometimes, when going through the various drawers in the tower, we have been struck by similar thoughts. Do we really still need to keep the 1998 Summer Ikea catalogue? If we toss it into the recycling bin, are we suddenly going to find that there was an important reason for keeping it as long as we did? Sometimes, the nostalgia can be overwhelming. Deciding what should stay and what should go in the simplest of situations can be nerve wracking enough, forget about the much larger changes the world often throws our way.

Change can be an incredible thing – life affirming and invigorating, but it can also be very scary. This year will see two more youth group members off to various post-secondary institutions. It is an exciting time in their lives. It is a new beginning. The door is wide open and their future is waiting for them. So now we wish them luck on their journey and do our best to offer sage advice (without sounding pushy of course) that they will be able to take with them and maybe even actually use.

To our high school graduates: Laura Mifflin and Bruce Robertson - this is your spring. May your lives, just like the season, transition into something beautiful - full of warmth, vibrant colours and endless possibilities. Thank you for all of your contributions over the years. Your presence in our lives has been a gift.

And in the slightly altered words of Edna St. Vincent Millay, remember:

*The world is [yours]: blue hill, still silver lake,
Broad field, bright flower, and the long
white road,
A gateless garden, and an open path:
[Your] feet to follow, and [your] heart to hold.*

Nominating Committee

Your Nominating Committee is active all year long seeking the right gifts for the positions available on our committees and boards. If you have a suggestion for someone new as an Officer or Committee Member please see Joyce Pearce, Peter Fox, Dodie Goruick or Keith Buxton who are active members until November, 2012.

West Plains History

Check out the hallway bulletin board for some updated and interesting history about our church - thank you to Ray Mifflin!

The Green Audit

On Jan. 24, 2012 three of the Board Members toured our building with a representative from Faith and the Common Good , which is a network of religious communities who understand the earth as a sacred gift. Their “Greening Sacred Spaces” program is set up to assist churches to create a more energy efficient place to worship, to save dollars, and to educate members of the congregation about ecological issues. The idea ultimately is for faith communities to protect our planet earth by reducing greenhouse gases.

Our recent unusual weather patterns may well be a sign of change to our planet as the earth’s average temperature climbs, threatening the health and safety of all living beings.

There are 5 copies of the Green Audit Report ready to be circulated from the office. Pick up a copy and read the details of Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Kitchen/Washrooms, Air Quality and Property at West Plains. Our cost for the audit was \$500.00 and we are required to spend \$250.00 on

energy saving projects this year. To date motion sensor lighting has been installed in the five washrooms.



Westenders

New members are always welcome! Come and join us for bridge or euchre on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 and includes tea or coffee and a snack. Join us!

The United Church Observer - May 2012

Check out the article in the newest Observer magazine, "The 7 Deadly Sins - as you have never seen them before!" It is worth the read!

Mission & Service/ Outreach Update

Thanks to our M&S enthusiasts Lois Lennon, Margo Gaine, Val Sadler and Daryll Fitzner who enlightened us this Spring about the Four Homes of Mercy, Wesley Urban Ministries, the Leprosy Mission Canada and Active Burlington. Thanks to you members and friends of West Plains United Church who gave so generously to these groups.

The Easter Food Drive was such a tremendous success for the families, seniors and youth in the Wesley community. The Benevolent offerings were \$557 to the Leprosy Mission, \$607.45 to Active Burlington and \$205 to West Plains United Church.

Many thanks to the UCW of West Plains for the \$375 installment towards our \$13,000 goal for 2012.

Be a volunteer, support the M & S of the United Church with your talent, time, treasure or passion.

Daryll Fitzner,
M & S Committee Secretary



UCW Spring Fling Luncheon

All the women of West Plains are invited to gather for a wonderful spring luncheon on Thursday, June 7th. We will be going to Cafe Troy, car pooling from the church at

12 noon. The cost is \$25. and includes your main course with salad, dessert, tea, coffee, taxes and tip.

Please sign the list in the hallway if you would like to go so we can reserve the right number of seats! Don't miss this special outing.

Out for Lunch

"Out for Lunch" is a new community venture sponsored by the four Aldershot churches. Jointly they will be serving lunch at St. Matthew's Anglican Church every Monday for a 3 month trial period beginning on May 7 from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Any seniors in the area who would like a free lunch and social time are invited to attend.

How to Live Life Well

Sleep as much as you need.
Read books that you enjoy.
Play with simple things.
Seek support when you need it.
Get serious through challenges.
Forget about crash diets.
Show caring for others.
Get angry once in a while.
Take pride in your appearance.
Seek God every day.
Above all, be happy, and enjoy life!

Church Picnic 2012!

Join us at Hidden Valley Park (just watch for the signs) on Sunday, June 10th. This year we will have a Pet Blessing Service so feel free to bring your pets for a wonderful time together! If you would like to help organize the picnic this year please speak to Rev. Joyce!

Inspirational Message

If God had a refrigerator,
your picture be on it.
If God had a wallet,
your photo would be in it.
God sends you flowers every spring.
God sends you a sunrise every morning.
Whenever you want to talk, God listens.
God can live anywhere in the universe,
but God chose ... your heart.
Face it, friend -
God is crazy about you!
God didn't promise days without pain,
laughter with sorrow,
sun without rain,
but God did promise strength for the day,
comfort for the tears,
and light for the way.
