

# Yellowknife United Church Newsletter

## Spring 2018

### Listen...God is blogging?

One of the responsibilities I have with Alberta and Northwest Conference is to chair the In Contact Editorial Board. In case you don't know about In Contact, it is a printed insert that appears in The United Church Observer five times a year. It is intended as a conference newsletter, detailing items of interest from congregations, presbyteries and conference committees. Like all print publications in this day and age, In Contact is challenged by the many new ways that have developed for information sharing and communication for wide and diverse audiences and smaller communities as well. The Conference did a revamp of its website a few years ago and the advantages of getting an article or news item published as soon as it is written make the longer timelines and layout requirements of a print publication even more challenging to produce. Authors and article writers seem to be more interested in the immediacy and spread of something that will be read tomorrow instead of next month.

I recently attended a meeting of conference people at which we had a very interesting discussion around the challenge of having people respond to urgent and important messages. In this case, these messages were of fairly critical concern to ministers and their ability to continue to be recognized as being in good standing as United Church clergy. Our discussion centred on the myriad of email messages, letters, tweets, Facebook posts, blogs, newsletters, advertising, subscriptions, online periodicals, many of which have the word urgent or important attached to them. How do we determine with this plethora of ways of receiving news and information whether it's important to us or just important in the mind and heart of the sender, or both.

We have similar questions about this newsletter. We have multiple ways to send out news, starting of course with the time honoured tradition of printing announcements that get stuffed into the bulletin for Sunday morning worship.

And so the question arises, "What is the most effective way to share news and announcements regarding the mission and ministry of Yellowknife United Church?"

A significant part of the mission of the church throughout its history has been one of communication. It's no surprise that Church Reformation has some connection with the development of the printing press. Suddenly the Bible, for example, was available to everyone and not just educated clergy.

We are going through a massive shift in the way communication happens. And of course it behooves the church to be a part of this. We can hardly claim to be an organization which claims gospel as a reason for being without also having a part to play in how that gospel (good news) is shared.

So whither this newsletter? Is it the best way to share news of Yellowknife United Church? Are there other, more accessible, ways of spreading the news? Time will tell, but it's not just time.

Communication is an important aspect of the faithful journey and there is responsibility to share stories of faith and mission in ways that are effective, compelling, and inviting. We spend a lot of time in our journey asking how to discern God's call. Along with that we should probably take some time to determine what platforms God is using to make that call. Newsletter, Blog, Facebook post or share, tweet or retweet, Google groups message, online newspaper, journal or magazine, email message, snail mail letter, telephone call, does anyone use telegrams anymore, and what about faxes, or one on one, face to face conversations on the street or in our homes?

Listen, God is calling...

Can we hear through the din of ringtones, notification alerts, information overload, social media sabbaths, radio, podcast or silent contemplation?

I wonder...

Peter Chynoweth

## Community Life and Membership Committee Activities

The Community Life and Membership Committee (CLAM) has the enjoyable task of organizing events and activities for Yellowknife United Church.

Here's what we have organized so far this year:

### Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This annual community supper was held on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Close to 100 pancake lovers dined on regular and potato pancakes and sausages while visiting with new and old friends in the auditorium at Northern United Place.

### Family Bowling Night

The bowling alley was buzzing on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> when we gathered at Kingpin for an evening of fun. Bowlers went back to NUP for ice cream sundaes afterwards. This year's King and Queen of the Lanes are: Peter Workman and Andrea Harrison.

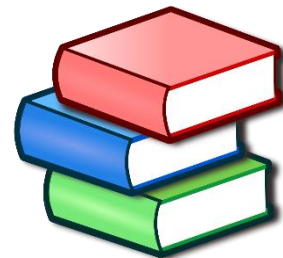


### Student Care Packages

Each semester, CLAM sends a wee care package to our young adults who are attending post-secondary school. We try to time the arrival of the packages with the end of the semester when students are busy with finals and papers – and maybe in need of an encouraging word to get them through to the end. The packages include a Tim's card and a letter written by a member of CLAM. This semester's letter was written by Peter Chynoweth. CLAM sent 11 packages this time around.

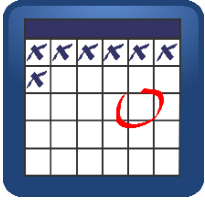
## Book Club

The Book Club has had a wonderful year; we have read all manner of interesting and thought-provoking books. Membership in Book Club is flexible, you can attend just once or every month depending on your availability and interest. We usually meet the first Sunday of each month after church at Javaroma – exceptions are noted in the bulletin.



Our May book will be *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh. And in June we will be reading a book by and meeting with one of the authors that will be in town for the NorthWords Writers Festival. Stay tuned for more details on who that might be.

Book Club is organized by the Christian Development Committee. For more information contact Barb Paquin at 873-4314.



# \*\* Save The Date \*\*

## **Yellowknife United Church Annual Meeting Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

YKUC has two annual meetings in the calendar year. The financial meeting is held early in the new year.

This meeting is the annual general meeting where we report on the work and ministry of the church in the past year and consider the year to come.

The meeting will be held after worship. Lunch will be served.

### **Special Guest Coming to YKUC**

Alberta and Northwest Conference President Dr. Kathy Yamashita will be visiting Yellowknife United Church on the weekend of JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>

She will be preaching at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service.

Plans are underway for a gathering to meet Kathy on an informal basis.

Stay tuned!

### **Annual Garage Sale May 5, 2018**

Time to start thinking about spring-cleaning? Remember those unwanted, unused, un-needed items could be another person's treasure. Yellowknife United Church will be holding our annual garage sale on Saturday, May 5. It's a great opportunity to weed out items you no longer need and has the added benefit of helping the church. It is one of our major fundraisers for the year. In 2017 we raised \$1800, which was used for local church operations. So please start now to collect your items and we hope you will mark May 4 (evening set-up) and May 5 (morning sale) on your calendar. With your help this year's sale can be even better.

If you would like more information or to sign up to help, please call Marg Henderson at 873-4428 or [margh@theedge.ca](mailto:margh@theedge.ca).



## **YELLOWKNIFE UNITED CHURCH**

### **GARAGE SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018**

**NORTHERN UNITED PLACE**

**8:30 – 11 a.m.**

**COME EARLY – DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED  
GET YOUR PICK OF ALL THE NEAT  
THINGS**

### **Spring Clean-up**

The City of Yellowknife annual spring clean-up will take place from May 19-25. Our church has submitted an application to clean two areas again this year. More details will be forthcoming once we know what our areas will be.

Mark the week on your calendar so you don't miss this opportunity to raise funds for youth programming in our church while beautifying our city.



## Our New Office Administrator

If you've been by the Church office in the last month, you likely got a friendly smile and greeting from our new Office Administrator. We'd like to welcome Beckey Dunham to Yellowknife United Church. Beckey is a relative newcomer to Yellowknife, and is originally from Elk Point, Alberta.

Beckey says her favourite part of the job is "the friendly, welcoming people" she has met.

If you get a chance, please stop by the office and say hello.

Margaret Melhorn, M&P Committee

## Peter has confirmed that he is retiring this year- what is the process to get a new Minister?

The process begins with Presbytery establishing a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC). The purpose of the committee is to create a snapshot of our church—the faith community and resources—in order to make a recommendation for what future ministry leadership our church needs to live out God's mission in the world. The responsibility to conduct a needs assessment belongs jointly to the local congregation and Northern Lights Presbytery.

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee has already been established. Representatives of Yellowknife United Church are Janice Daly, Arlene Cliffe-Phillips, Greg Short, Lorne Gushue, Marg Henderson, and Margaret Melhorn. Representatives from Presbytery are Arlene Henetiuk from Manning and Rev. Bev Brazier from Whitehorse.

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee must;

- (a) study the ministry personnel needs of Yellowknife United Church;
- (b) gather information about ministry personnel needs in a way that is open and allows for the congregation to participate;
- (c) analyze the information gathered;
- (d) prepare a report that includes the following information:
  - (i) a profile of the community;
  - (ii) a description of the ministry of the church;
  - (iii) the resources (financial, physical, and human) available to the church, including a manse report;
  - (iv) the minister's position description;
  - (v) the skills and knowledge required of the minister; and
  - (vi) the terms that may be offered to implement any recommendations.

The JNAC submits their report for review and approval by the Official Board. The report is then submitted to the congregation for approval. Once the JNAC report is approved by the congregation then it goes to Presbytery for their approval.

Once the JNAC report is approved a separate Joint Search Committee (JSC) is established. The JSC is tasked with finding a minister based on the JNAC report. The JSC work is strictly confidential and when they have found a suitable candidate they will present the person's name to a congregational meeting.





Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter and special thanks to Melanie Dumont who takes everything and puts it into its final form.