



connections

May 2014 | Monthly Newsletter of Mill Woods United Church

Going Deeper

by Rev. Ian Kellogg

I am enjoying "The Big Question" group that Tim Janewski has organized this spring. We have two more discussions scheduled -- one on prayer on Wed April 30 and one on Christian identify in a secular society on May 7. If you want to participate, let Tim know and he will send you the suggested readings; or show up at the church lounge at 7:15 pm -- being careful not to disturb the end of yoga at 7 pm.

Small groups like this are a key part of the faith journey for many of us. While Sunday worship and outreach projects form the core of our ministry, some of us also want something more.

Going deep doesn't just refer to reading challenging books or studying the Bible. It can also mean the cultivation of spiritual disciplines such as meditation, and sharing feelings or

memories. In the past few months, I have heard from several of you about the 9 am contemplative Sunday service of 10 years ago. So now, my intuition is to try and combine contemplative worship with study, discussion, or sharing.

The idea would be to gather on a Wednesday or Sunday evening to walk the labyrinth, sing Taize chants, or experience guided meditation, and also have time for discussion or sharing within that worship. What do you think? If this idea interests you, if you have ideas on how to craft small-group worship, or if you have topics to propose for discussion or sharing, please get in touch with me. I hope that on either the evening of Wed Sept 10 or Sun Sept 14, we might have a first such gathering and then see where it takes us.

Ian

The folks working on Facing the Future want you to

Join In, Reach Out, Make a Difference!

When we look for where our potential is, we see five distinct areas:

- ◆ Growth within our congregation - both numbers and level of involvement
- ◆ Attracting others to join us in programs that make a difference
- ◆ Finding partnerships with other United Churches in Edmonton
- ◆ Reaching out to our community to identify needs and partnership possibilities
- ◆ Finding new ways to share the 'Good News' with future generations.

How is it going?

Sometimes great stuff comes to us at the most opportune time. We want to tell you about "14% in 14 congregations in 2014". Our minister, Ian, and our Council Stewardship promoter, Nancy Siever, found out about a program offered by the National Church. This was a Webinar program that ran once a week for four weeks. Nancy submitted an application. We were one of 14 congregations from across Canada who were chosen to participate.

Out of this work came our slogan: "Join In, Reach Out, Make a Difference!" When we talk to our people, we learn that community and outreach are the top reasons they choose to be part of our congregation. We value the supportive relationships that can grow amongst us. Hence the "join in". We contribute our time and dollars to support many ways to "reach out". We know we "make a difference" and we feel good about it all. Our goal for 2014 is to grow involvement on Sunday morning, in our existing activities, in new programs if there is interest. Our financial goal is to return to the level we were at in 2012.

Work is being done Presbytery wide called 'Neighbors Together'. Folks from our Council and the FTF team have joined folks from other congregations to look for ways to partner. The last meeting of this group was at our church on April 23.

When we go out into the community around us, just think of what we might find - youth programming to include other faith based and the YUY group Tim has coming in, seniors groups, immigrants. There are lots of ways for us to better utilize our building and combine resources to be more relevant here in Mill Woods.

The really tough task is finding new ways to be the church beyond 2014. The April issue of the United Church Observer has an article that succinctly describes the challenge. It is called "Generation iPad" found on page 41. The web address is www.ucobserver.org/opinion/2014/04/reality_check.

The FTF team are Nancy Siever, Randy Round, Carla Janzen, Tim Janewski, Laine Pickle and Linda Paddon. Linda, Laine and Tim joined Ian Kellogg and Wayne Dooley for the 14% in 2014 program. Each one of is eager to hear your ideas.



May 2014 Worship

Easter refers to more than one Sunday each spring. It is a season of eight weeks that runs from Holy Saturday (April 19 this year) to Pentecost (June 8 this year). During this season, we celebrate new life, reflect on the mystery of resurrection, and rededicate our hearts and minds to new life in our families and communities.

The Gospel readings in the seven Sundays of Easter are about post-Easter appearances by Jesus or teachings from Jesus' long speech to his friends on the night of his betrayal. Worship will focus on these readings and help us search for new shoots of life sprouting up at Mill Woods United this spring.



HOW CAN I HELP?

The Food/Clothing Banks continue to operate on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

In March we provided 3948 kgs. of food to 100 families. This is the highest number we have had since June of last year so you can see that not all Albertans are enjoying the “Alberta Advantage” and we need to do everything we can to support them.

To that end, I would like to encourage everyone to participate in our “Diaper Drive” by purchasing 1 (or more) packages of disposable diapers of any size. We will keep them in the Clothing Bank room for those families who request diapers from the Food Bank but don’t receive them for one reason or another. This has happened a number of times recently and we all know that when you have a baby with no diapers crises happen all the time.

Also, with the changing seasons, we are in need of good, clean clothes for the whole family, particularly children. We have a very small – but efficient – room in the loft so please do not send winter or out of season items which we can’t use. We will appreciate them much more next fall.

“Thank You” to the 29 Food/Clothing Bank volunteers who continue to make sure all of our clients are treated with courtesy and the respect they deserve. *Kathy Poechman*

MAKE TAX TIME PAY

We are now at the 1/3 mark in this year’s MTTP program. To this point, we have processed 64 returns. The average income is \$ 17,806.00 and the average refund is \$ 447.00.

Clients are continuing to receive a warm welcome when they phone to make an appointment and when they come in to get their taxes done. The volunteers are providing such a needed service. It shows when the clients leave, they are so grateful and appreciative.

It is a pleasure to work with such a great group of people.

Most clients want to learn about the benefits which are available to them. This continues to be an added service of high quality.

I can’t thank you enough.....

Nancy Appleby,
MTTP Coordinator, 2014

18 Years and Counting

Hi everyone

1996

Does anyone remember 1996? I do.

It was the first time I asked the congregation of Mill Woods United Church for their generosity and support in helping with the supply of 100 loaves of sandwiches and enough fruit, vegetables, desserts, pickles and cheese to feed 250 hungry people, many of whom are homeless.

We serve this lunch for the Inner City Pastoral Ministry at the Bissell Centre. Inner City Pastoral Ministry is the same Ministry that organized the prayer shawls for the Truth and Reconciliation event and also the annual Good Friday Way of the Cross event downtown.

I wish I could say our help is not needed, but it seems

there is still a long line hoping to receive a fresh and healthy lunch prepared by caring people.

So once again I ask for your support in the preparation and serving of this lunch. We do require a group of 18 people willing to help serve, minimum age of 16. If you have never participated with the serving experience and the meeting of the community of our downtown core, it is indeed quite an experience. Please contact me if you are willing to help serve.

Please bring food to the kitchen in the basement of the church on Saturday May 17 between 2 and 4pm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Grabinsky
ldgrabin@telusplanet.net or 780 463 2676



Get behind our diaper drive!
Drop-off your donations of disposable diapers
(any size) at the church until May 4th



Live Theatre Fundraiser

**Mill Woods United Church has
partnered with**

Shadow Theatre

for a presentation of

“Mistakes Were Made”

A play by Craig Wright

Thursday, May 15

7:30 pm

(doors open 6:45)

Varscona Theatre

(10329 – 83 Avenue)


Tickets \$30/person

Available from

Mill Woods United Church office – 780 463 2202

Off-Broadway producer Felix Artifex has landed the chance of a lifetime. He's won the rights to stage a gargantuan epic about the French Revolution. And he has one night to make it all work. Welcome to a world of demanding actors, volatile playwrights, pretentious directors, desperate deadlines and disappointing coffee. Welcome to the chaos and absurdity that is the life of a minor league theatre producer. Welcome to the most hellish and hilarious night in the life of Felix Artifex.

All funds raised help support the life and work of Mill Woods United Church



Mill Woods United Church
invites you to our 2nd

Spring Craft Market

Saturday, May 10th, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

15 Grand Meadow Crescent
(east of 66th Street on 38th Avenue)

Inside Vendors

Hand-made Specialty Craft Items

Plant Sale v Plant Gift Cards

Food Concession

Admission by donation

Door Prizes



Mill Woods United Church

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7 pm Choir	2 Office Closed	3 9 am-1 pm SDA
4 10:30 am Worship Noon-1:30 pm Confirmation Class	5	6 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7-9 pm Tai Chi	7 4-5 pm Little Green Thumbs 5:30-7 pm Yoga 7:15 pm The Big Question	8 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7 pm Choir	9	10 Spring Craft Market
11 10:30 am Worship Noon-1:30 pm Confirmation Class	12	13 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7-9 pm Council Mtg 7-9 pm Tai Chi	14 4-5 pm Little Green Thumbs 5:30-7 pm Yoga	15 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7:30 pm Live Theatre Fund- raiser @ Varscona	16	17 9 am-1 pm SDA 2 - 4 pm receiv- ing food for ICPM
18 10:30 am Worship ICPM Lunch @ Bissell	19	20 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7-9 pm Worship Mtg 7-9 pm Tai Chi	21 4-5 pm Little Green Thumbs 5:30-7 pm Yoga	22 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7 pm Choir	23	24 9 am-1 pm SDA
25 10:30 am Worship Noon - AGM 12:30-2 pm Confirmation Class	26	27 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7-9 pm Tai Chi	28 4-5 pm Little Green Thumbs 5:30-7 pm Yoga	29 5:30-6:30 pm Food & Clothing Bank 7 pm Choir	30	31 9 am-1 pm SDA 6-10 pm Youth Understanding Youth

Mill Woods United Church

15 Grand Meadow Crescent NW, Edmonton, AB T6L 1A3

780 463 2202

mwuc1@telus.net

www.millwoodsunited.org



“ . . . Find out where joy resides, and give it a voice far beyond singing. For to miss the joy is to miss all.”

- Robert Louis Stevenson



Church Council

- Chairperson - Paul Verdin (780 490 1688)
- Chair Elect - Tim Janewski (780 637 3458)
- Finance - Randy Round (780 462 1922)
- Member-at-Large - Laine Pickle (780 461 9202)
- Minister - Ian Kellogg (780 463 2202)
- M & P - Brian Hudson (780 436 3878)
- Presbytery Rep - Lesley Verdin (780 490 1688)
- Recorder - Elfrieda Penner (780 463 0238)
- Stewardship - Nancy Siever (780 463 4222)
- Worship - Celia Conway (780 642 1157)

If you have any questions, concerns, kudos or comments please feel free to contact a Council member.

