

Carstairs Bancroft United Church

Annual Report

2018

*Can you guess where this picture was taken? Answer on back page*

Carstairs Bancroft United Church

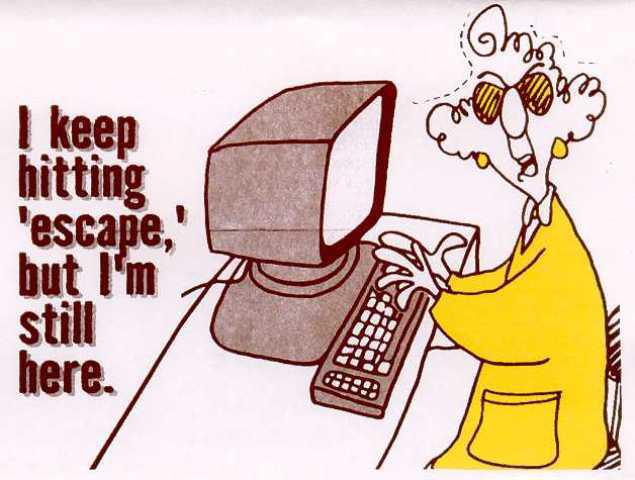
2018 Annual Report

***MINISTER’S REPORT***

Mark 12: 28b “… Which commandment is the first of all?”

As is so very much United Church, each time I wrote an Annual Report, I began with a question. For 2015, I addressed the question often asked of me: “How are things going?” as I had only arrived a few months ago to Alberta and Carstairs Bancroft United. For 2016, “Are you settling in?” - as we had finally celebrated our covenanting service after one year together and I had moved to Didsbury to live. For 2017, What does it mean to you to be a part of The United church of Canada?” – as we face many dramatic changes within our denomination that will affect most people in unknown ways into our future, but seeks even more faithful service from our ministry personnel very soon.

So now, for this 2018 annual report … things have changed again. Things are going as one imagines they must as I face self-imposed retirement. My decision to retire is largely due to health issues that prevent me from being the minister I want and need to be as our wider church makes dramatic changes and as our local church faces the usual questions of where do we go from here. It is becoming more and more apparent that we are all aging, and in most cases aging very well, but what we have been able to do for so many years may not be possible much longer.



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It was never my wish to retire so soon but, as many of you know, things happen that are not anticipated, or, even if they are anticipated, they inevitably come too soon.

What then do I write about this past year? In many ways, this year was like many others. **Worship** has been a rock and a light for me throughout my ministry and this past year has been no exception. The music, the fellowship, the deep Spirit-filled questions and moments of prayer, the able and gracious volunteers, the special gifts of our young people, the acknowledging of the presence of God in our midst together, our liturgical practises and sacraments all bring calm to my soul.

A few brave souls participated in a **Lenten Study** and, later, an **Advent Study** this past year. As is often the case, we begin slowly, but by the end of the scheduled weeks, we have finally reached a place that touches the deeper questions and concerns of our faith and living. I often wish we could fast-forward to the last weeks of a study rather than struggle to get to the meat of our issues. But life is not like that, nor likely should it be. We need to do the work and see it through to draw closer to each other and to our God. I think I can say the same for our **Coffee and Conversation** times together. I have found our latest sessions to be most challenging with our very different perspectives and life experiences. And then, intermixed with the challenges, are the times of wonderfully spirit-filled offerings that bring us to a closer awareness of who we are and whose we are as people of God. The coffee is always great – when it is actually coffee😊.



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What did we do that was *different* this year? We had a demonstration of our new **AED machine** – that instrument that may someday save a life and is ready and waiting should we need it in our entryway. Single Parent Suppers became **Home Alone Mondays**, welcoming seniors as well as any parent home alone with children. We fixed **The Roof** over the choir room once and for all!! Our research and discussion of ways we can improve the worship experience **(Hearing Loops)** for those of us with diminishing hearing continues full throttle. Thank you to Peggy Moody for the nudge and very much to Don Speers for his determination and time on this subject. Our **janitor changed** a generation. Patti Burton handed over her duties to her daughter, Amanda (Mandy). We here at Carstairs led our ‘*Cluster*’ **Good Friday** service and **Blue Christmas** service with our partner churches from Olds, Sundre and Didsbury. ‘Clusters’ are born out of a desire to keep in touch with our neighbouring churches and ministry personnel now that we do not have a Presbytery or a Conference that brought us together regularly in the past. Of course, the new name doesn’t remove the fact that ‘clustering’ has been happening for …., well, ever.

A big change for us has been that most of our **children** who attend **Sunday School** have turned 11 or 12 or 13. They are very busy with many activities and church now has less pull except on special occasions. We miss them but are delighted when they are able to join us. We didn’t have **VBS** this past year … another sign of our struggles to continue what has given many new-life, learning and enjoyment in the past.

Personally, I took a Study Leave to **Naramata** and I was thrilled to finally see and experience this wonderful place. The fact that I suffered heat exhaustion getting there did not in any way diminish the healing and delightful week I spent there. Perhaps it IS time to get air conditioning in my car!



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The biggest change for us all, but for some of you more intimately, is the **death of loved ones**. It is a strange phenomenon that we know we will all die, and yet, it is a hard thing to accept when it happens. We are constantly faced with change regardless of our decisions. God is our rock and so are the faithful people we are blessed to share quality time with in family, church and community throughout our lives.

While reflecting on my experience here at Carstairs Bancroft I came up with a statement of faith or vision of who you are. It is my understanding. You may well have another. “*Loved by God, following the way of Jesus, welcoming all, living in community, reaching out into the world.”* That is my experience of you. As always, I can’t say enough thanks to God and to you all for the opportunities I have had here in Carstairs Bancroft and Alberta. We have been, are and always will be …

In God’s Ministry Together; Following the Way of Jesus; Blessed with the Holy Spirit’s Guidance.

Beth

**In Memory**

Edna Kathleen Cunningham (Joyce) January 20, 2018

William (Bill) C. Ritchie March 27, 2018

Larry D. Bishop July 11, 2018

Trevor T. Moody July 19, 2018

Lois M. Roberts September 9, 2018

Joan M. Sutton October 16, 2018

**Red Deer Presbytery Report, 2018**

This will be the last report from Presbytery as it no longer exists. We, Carstairs Bancroft United Church are now part of the Chinook Winds Region #3; a result of the structural changes voted at General Council in the summer for the United Church of Canada.

The Regional office is now situated in Okotoks in the United Church.

At the last Presbytery meeting held in November, ends were tied up to transition into the new Regional office; and saying goodbye to some of the representatives as they move into the northern region.

One of the biggest impacts of this re-structure for our church is the new assessment levied on us. It will mean paying more to the General Council Office to meet expenses.

Being your Presbytery Rep. has been quite an education for me to learn the inside workings of our United Church of Canada at the Presbytery level, and some exposure to the Conference level. Now these don’t exist. Another education will be needed to work with the new structure at the Regional level.

Sincerely Submitted,

Doreen Bills

***CARSTAIRS BANCROFT UNITED CHURCH BOARD***

The following is a recap of what happened at our board meetings during 2018.

**JANUARY 9, 2018**

1. People who are interested in attending Kasota East Camp this summer are encouraged to register early.

2. A cheque for $1000.00 was gratefully received from the UCW to be used for general use in the church.

3. Our M&S donations exceeded $17000.00.

4. A cheque for $500.00 was sent to the Mountain View Food Bank.

5. The proposed budget was discussed and approved. It will be taken to the congregation at the annual meeting.

6. The annual meeting was set for February 25, 2018.

**MARCH 13, 2018**

1. Four new board members were welcomed and thanked for volunteering their time – Gerry Good, Mary Jane Davies, Linda Neumiller and Deb Marsh.

2. Ruth Roedler was appointed to be the secretary.

3. The Emergency Defibrillator has been installed.

4. It was decided to switch accounts from Direct Energy to a local provider.

5. The leaking roof on the north side of the choir room is a current problem.

6. Pam Barker volunteered to be our church representative on the board of Kasota East Camp.

7. The rental of our facilities to the Lutheran church was discussed.

8. The M&S goal for 2018 was set at $15000.00.

9. The current trustees (Bob Peel, Dale Roedler, Bob Green, Don Robertson) were put onto the land title for the church, and were also given signing authority on the two accounts at the ATB.

**MAY 15, 2018**

1. The electric and gas accounts have been moved to Enmax.

2. The rental to the Lutheran church did not happen.

3. The new roof design for the choir room was presented.

4. A pie auction will be held after church on May 27, 2018 to raise money for the campership fund within our church.

5. A letter was received from the Town of Carstairs informing us about the summer construction to take place around the church.

6. Our Heritage Service will be held on June 10, 2018 at the Carstairs Heritage Centre.

7. Coffee money from the first calendar quarter will be sent to the Foodgrains Bank. The second quarter will go to the Mountain View Food Bank. The third one will go to the School Breakfast Programs. The fourth quarter goes to Kasota East Camp General Funds.

8. It was decided that the church would pay for one camp for each child from the congregation who wish to attend Kasota East Camp this summer. The family must have paid the registration fee of $30.00 plus GST, on their own.

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

1. The roof over the choir room has been repaired.

2. Twelve copies of More Voices have been purchased and are available for the congregation to use.

3. Chris Whittaker will be asked to create a new Advent Wreath to be paid for from the Memorial Fund.

4. The turkey supper will be on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

5. Reel theology will be starting again in October.

6.A special monthly insert will be put in the bulletin to keep the congregation up to date on special funds (furnace, roof, etc).

7. An abuse policy for our church was created. We need to present it to our insurance provider.

8. People authorized to work with vulnerable persons need to obtain a police check and provide annual certification stating no reported incidents in the past year.

9. The carpet on the outside front steps has been repaired.

10. The oldest furnace has been checked and is still in reasonable shape.

11. Red Deer Presbytery no longer exists. We are now a part of Region 3.

12. A letter was sent to Parent Link to request that they no longer plan activities at the church on Thursdays and Fridays.

13. Single Parent Suppers are now called Home Alone Mondays and seniors will be welcome to attend.

**NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

1. The trustees need to have regular meetings and keep minutes of them.

2. A thank you cheque was given to Sid Keim for his help in keeping the back of the church snow free.

3. The turkey supper made around $5000.00.

4. A cheque for $400.00 from the UCW was received for M&S.

5. A cheque for $1000.00 was received from the UCW for general church use.

6. A discussion was held about the Hearing Loops system.

7, There will be two services on Christmas Eve.

8. Presbytery has announced that manse funds will be moved to the care of congregations for their own use.

9. A letter was received from Rev. Beth Brehaut announcing her retirement as of June 30, 2019.

10. Doreen will contact Tammy Allen to see how we are to proceed re hiring a new minister.

11. Ruth Roedler will be the new M&S Liaison for the congregation.

Respectfully submitted

*Ruth Roedler*

*Secretary*

*Carstairs Bancroft United Church Board*

**CARSTAIRS BANCROFT UNITED CHURCH**

**Financial Report for the year Jan 1st to December 31st, 2018**

Operating Expenses

Through your generous support we ended the year with funds to cover all expenses and we returned $2166 to savings!

Outreach

In outreach we surpassed our goal to donate $15,000 Mission & Service/World Development and Relief fund. We raised $16,002- $400 to M &S from the UCW, $11,297 to M & S from the congregation and $4305 to WDR from the congregation.

Weekly envelope donations to Camp Kasota East totaled $1050 for the year.

From our coffee fund we donated $500 to each of four registered charities- the Canadian Food Grains Bank, the Mountain View Food Bank, the Chinook Ridge Breakfast Program (for both Hugh Sutherland and Carstairs Elementary Schools) and Camp Kasota East.

Designated Funds:

As of December 31st the Memorial Fund has a balance of $2608 and the Stove and Furnace Fund has a balance of $3993

**Regular envelope contributions or monthly electronic transfers through the** PAR program help us meet our operating costs. There are new creative ways through estate planning to leave a legacy and help us meet future obligations. If you have any questions please contact Bob Peel or Bruce Ing

Thank you! *Submitted by Bob Peel, Treasurer*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ENVELOPE and NON-ENVELOPE STATISTICS** | | | | |  |  |
| YEAR |  | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Dollars |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1--50 |  | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 51--100 |  | 3 | 6 | 1 | 8 |  |
| 101--200 |  | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 201--300 |  | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 301--500 |  | 12 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 11 |
| 501--700 |  | 3 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| 701--1000 |  | 7 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| 1001--1500 | | 11 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 11 |
| 1501--2000 | | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 2001--2500 | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 2501--3000 | | 6 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| 3001-3500 | | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 3501-4000 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 4001-5000 | | 1 |  | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 5001-6000 | | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 6001-7000 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 7001-8000 | | 0 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 8001-9000 | | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| 9001-11000 | |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 11000-12000 | |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Contributors to M&S | | 33 | 43 | 41 | 36 | 39 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PAR Receipts | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 17 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Envelope Receipts |  | 68 | 68 | 65 | 60 | 51 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Receipts | | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Receipts | | 78 | 81 | 77 | 80 | 69 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Respectfully submitted,*  *Bruce Ing, Envelope Steward.* | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***SUNDAY SCHOOL***

The children who are present for Sunday services take part in the beginning portion of our church service. After the Children’s Time in the service we continue to go to the hall to take part in our various activities. Our numbers vary quite a bit during the year but we do appreciate it whenever there are children present. We plan from September to May. There is no organized Sunday School in July and August.

We continue to do various Bible stories with crafts, games, songs and drama to accompany that particular story. We did our regular Palm Sunday processional.

We have continued to assist the branches by taking the fifth Sunday of the month duties for them.

For Christmas Eve, we did have seven children in attendance and we did a different type of pageant. Thanks to Bob and Jean Green for helping us out.

We are facing the problem of very few children attending regularly. We are prepared with lesson material to do whenever some are in attendance.

Due to several circumstances, there was no Vacation Bible School this summer.

Your children are a pleasure to work with!

*Respectfully submitted Rhonda and Ruth Roedler*

**CARSTAIRS/BANCROFT UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

***UCW Purpose:*** *The purpose of the United Church women is to unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church, and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ, in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.*

UCW holds seven business meetings a year at the church. Meetings begin with repeating the UCW purpose and a short devotion led by a member.

**Officers for 2018**

Co-chairs: Olga Terning, Ruth Roedler

Secretary: Ruth Good

Christian Development: Ruth Roedler

Treasurer: Joyce Ing

Chilli Making: Jean Eggen

Program: Ruth Roedler

Social convenor: Joyce Ing, Shirley Robb with helpers Carole Molnar and Ella Bishop

Cards: Marnie Holmes.

Hospital and Lodge visits: Olga Terning and Joyce Ing



**Highlights**

January: election of officers

February: lunch at Center Street Restaurant before the meeting

March: Doreen Bills shared pictures from her recent trip to Africa

April: We made Chilli in the morning before the meeting

May: Show and tell of some art work from our home

June: Visit to the garden of Mary Jane Davies followed by lunch at PaSu Farm.



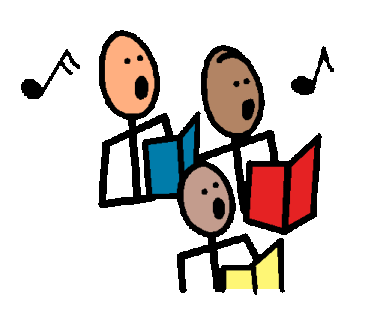
[This Photo](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Winterbourne_Botanic_Garden.JPG) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

September: Joan Young spoke to us about the Bahai faith.

October: Raymonde from Blooms by Bloy told us how to select and care for cut flowers, then showed us how to make a Thanksgiving center piece.

November: Budget meeting

December: Annual Congregation Christmas party with carol singing, entertainment by Jan Walls and the Harmony Cats trio, and lighting of the Advent candles, followed by Christmas snacks.



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A special highlight of this year was Anita Wood and Nadine Maffit were awarded life memberships to UCW for being members for 50 years.

**We support**

Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter: --Gifts and cash given at the annual UCW Christmas party are taken to the women’s shelter in Red Deer -

Calgary Drop-In Center: - In April and October we prepare and deliver about 70 gallons of chilli to the Drop-In center.

Kasota East Camp: - Proceeds from the Pie social held at coffee time one Sunday in May and from the Lenten calendar are donated for camp development.



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We are very grateful to the congregation for donating and buying pies, gift and cash donations at the Christmas party, and cash and labor donations for chilli.

**Catering** - We served lunch at three funerals. In April we served the Birthday Tea at the Chinook Winds Lodge. In May we served lunch and coffee time snacks at the Mother’s Day of Pampering, a special day of learning and fun for mothers, presented by FCSS. We helped serve refreshments at Olga Terning’s 80th birthday party in October.

*Submitted by Ruth Good*

**THE OBSERVER**

**THE OBSERVER**  is celebrating its 190th Anniversary Year and it is the oldest continuously published magazine in North America.

The roots go back to 1829 to the founding of the **CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN** and a young editor named Egerton Ryerson. In 1925, when the United Church of Canada was formed, the publications of the three founding denominations – Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians were amalgamated into one and called **THE OUTLOOK.** The name changed to **THE OBSERVER** in 1939.

The format of the magazine has changed over the years and is presently evolving to meet present day challenges.

This year, an innovative partnership with the **Reader’s Digest** and the **Observer** magazines ,resulted in a collaboration of a feature. They pooled their resources enabling Sally Armstrong, a Canadian journalist, and photographer Peter Bregg to travel to the Middle East to report on the story of the daring rescue of Syria’s White Helmets. Such a venture has been documented on TV and published in **The Observer January 2019 issue** magazine.

The internship program has proved most beneficial to all concerned. The interns bring fresh insight and inspiration and keeps the magazine innovating and relevant.

A few comments from our Carstairs Bancroft readership regarding this magazine:

**Informative, timely , improving, fascinating, professional evolving, captivating, great magazine, revelation, thought provoking , worthwhile, educational**

This magazine has won international acclaim for journalistic excellence and garnered more awards for writing than any other religious publication.

Presently, we have 31 subscribers in our congregation who receive this monthly publication with its emphasis on **FAITH, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING.**

If you wish to subscribe to this monthly magazine or renew your subscription, please contact Joyce Ing, your **OBSERVER representative.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Joyce Ing* **( See** [www.ucobserver.org](http://www.ucobserver.org) **for online information).**

**CHOIR REPORT**

The choir provides leadership and support for worship by previewing the hymns each week, and if the tunes are unfamiliar, learning them at practice so as to be able to support the singing.

We have had very loyal attendance at our practices this year. Positive feedback from the congregation about our presence and our singing is much appreciated and keeps us trying to improve. We have built a repertoire of anthems over the years that lets us contribute one a couple of times each month from September to June.

The membership this year has been: Olga Terning, Shirley Robb, Ev Robertson, Agnes Buchanan, Leslie Morasch, Ella Bishop, Ruth Good, Ruth Roedler, Rhonda Roedler, Shelley Robertson and Beth Brehaut. We have a whole empty pew and would love to fill it should anyone like to join us. Some men’s voices would be particularly welcome.

Our accompanist is Lynn Martens who brings not just her musical ability but a bubbling sense of good fun that adds a great deal to the enjoyment of our practices. She also brings her medical skills and takes out stitches on request!

Our practice night remains on Wednesdays and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

*Don and Ev Robertson, co-Directors*

**CARSTAIRS BANCROFT UNITED CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND**

In 2018 there were donations made in memory of Helen Roedler, Judy Campbell, Bill Ritchie, Trevor Moody, Gene McKay, Lois Roberts, Larry Bishop and Howard Usher.

The Fund received 15 donations for a total of $660.00 which was deposited to the account. Receipts and Thank You notes were sent to all donors.

Thank You to all who donated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Molnar

**PROPERTY REPORT**

 This was the year of the furnaces.  We had several problems with them.  We no sooner had the furnace inspected and cleared by ATCO when we needed to replace some major parts.  Dale Roedler was able to supply the necessary parts and we had them installed.  Shortly after this, the new furnaces failed to supply any heat.  It appeared that the thermostat was the problem.  It was replaced and it seems to have cleared the problem.

               We also tackled the continuing problem of ice buildup on the roof above the choir room.  A second roof was designed and installed by Murray Marsh, his crew of Glen Eggen, Bob Peel, Dale Roedler, John Willams and Bruce Ing.  With all that help the cost only came to about $3700.00.

The carpet for the front entrance has been replaced.

This is the end of the maintenance report.

*Don Speers*

**BRAND NEW WEBSITE**

As some of you are aware we have taken the old website and refurbished it. We had a very kind offer by Peggy Moody’s son in-law Adam Abram who has a web design company, to modernize our site. Since Adam lives in Vancouver there were many phone calls and emails back and forth to get the job completed. Plus, Adam did a great deal to teach me how to use the site.

The site can be reached by entering **carstairsunitedchurch.ca**. You will find that the site has some new sections i.e. Calendar & News. These also appear in brief on the home page (1st page to open). More detail information is on the individual pages. If you have items that you want added to the site please contact Kathleen Johnston [jkjohnston@vcs-inter.net](mailto:jkjohnston@vcs-inter.net) or myself at [d.speers@gmail.com](mailto:d.speers@gmail.com)

*Respectfully submitted Don Speers*

**MEN’S PANCAKE SUPPER**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

**HELPERS:** Glenn Eggen, Bob Green, Chane Bush, Dale Roedler, Don Speers, Les Markham, Don Robertson, Murray Marsh, Bob Peel, Chris Whittaker, Bruce Ing

**ATTENDANCE:** 59

**EXPENSES:** $200

**CAMP KASOTA DONATION:** $241

Many thanks to the men for this social evening. Great service and food!

*Respectfully submitted, Bruce Ing*

THE END

*The picture is of the walkways in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg*