

WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter for the 2014-2015 year. We hope you will find this newsletter interesting and informative. If you or your group have information you wish to share in future publications, please feel free to email the information to Anna Marie Hancock at annah@telusplanet.net and I will find the appropriate place for it.

Now, sit back, relax and enjoy our first newsletter.

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"We're having a Fresh Start!"
by Rev. Chelsea Masterman

It is a phrase we have been using a lot lately. As the newest member of the ministry team here at Westminster, I thought I might share some of what this phrase means to me:

1. It means the program that South Alberta Presbytery is walking members of the board and staff through, as we all learn to work together in what we hope will be a life-giving and creative way. It covers things like entering a new system, transitions, conflict management, exploring our histories and values.

2. It means I am in my first pastoral charge as an ordained minister, and look forward to learning and growing with you all.

3. It means that there are people in this congregation who are open to changing and growing together. I also imagine there are people who wish things could finally just stabilize a bit. At our first Fresh Start session, we learned that a congregation is in transition from the moment a minister announces their departure, to 12-18 months after the new minister(s) arrive. Westminster has been in a long period of transition and it would make sense that some (if not all!) of the folks here are ready for stability. The workshop also reminded us that God who has created and is creating works in transition times to create new things – and good things. Staying in the transition takes endurance, but also offers the reward of realizing a “new normal.”

4. A Fresh Start means that as together we seek to find that new normal, we trust that our God who makes all things new is working in and through us to bring life and nourishment to our community and to our spirits.

For those of you I have not yet met, I look forward to meeting you. A bit about me: I grew up in High River, did my undergrad in Lethbridge, went to seminary at Vancouver School of Theology and Pacific School of Religion in California, did my internship at Cole Harbour Woodside, Nova Scotia, and currently live on a farm outside Irvine, with my horse and gecko, a menagerie of other animals and occasionally 2 roommates. I

am in the chorus of Fiddler on the Roof with Medicine Hat Musical Theatre... and you can also spot me as Grandma Tzeitel in Tevye's Dream! For those of you I have already met, I look forward to continuing to get to know you.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Chelsea Masterman

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Speeding Along...

by Rev. Jan Stevenson

There I was, drifting off into dreamland, when I recalled it was about time to think of something to write for our newsletter. I did not bounce up and grab a keyboard. Instead, I snuggled deeper under blankets and heard a flat, monotonous voice describing the racetrack.

Here she comes. *Board of Elders*. Pulling ahead full of enthusiasm after a summer of Stampede Parade, Bison & bannock meal, evening tour of Medalta, and Back to the Future potluck complete with (Brrr!) ice challenge and Swirls ice cream.. Keeping a steady pace, front and centre.

On the inside, *Property* is lunging forward silently, installing new chair lift. Whoever would have thought it would require so much advance preparation? But *Property* is on top of things: keep an eye out for her, she may well sneak into the lead in a few months time.

On the outside, pressing to get closer to center, *Christian Development* is

struggling to regain her place on the track. She has suffered some difficulties with change of jockey and trainers, but is adapting gradually.

Newcomer on the track is *Pastoral Care*, offspring of *Hospital Visitors* and *Visitation & Membership*. She is finding her stride and fast absorbing the role of *Congregational Life* as well. Watch for her seeking new recruits on the cheering and helping team for our fall supper.

Finance and Stewardship is one of those quiet surprises. According to stable scuttlebutt a clear and precise budget for next year is on the horizon.

Music and Worship forges on week by week, a faithful contender in the race. Did you see the stylish and colourful decorations for Pentecost and Creation seasons adorning her mane? She's busy now training for a Christmas cantata.

Ministry and Personnel is another standby. She has been busy incorporating—and training-- a whole new support team. So far things are looking good.

Mission and Outreach is lagging behind, slowly recuperating from the loss of beloved long-time jockey Marilyn. But if you watch she'll be surging ahead by sponsoring Mission Interpretation speaker Rev. Catherine Christie. This may be the beginning of something terrific.

All ready now for a Fresh Start! The starter is in place. Ready, set, go! We're

off! " Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us!" (Hebrews 12:1)

No surprise here. After all that running and cheering, I woke up exhausted!

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Fall Happenings

- ***Friday, October 17 : 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary "Great Plains Concert"***
- Come and hear Canadian singers Darrell and Saskia, who will be performing a variety of Canadian Music with Celtic, bluegrass, country and gospel flavours. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at the office Tuesday through Friday from 9 am - noon, or 1 pm - 4 pm. They will also be available for purchase during coffee time on Sundays.

- ***Sunday October 19: Congregational Consultation, 11:45am-1:45pm.*** The recently raised question of moving the choir room to the nursery and the nursery to the currently underused youth room has proven to be no simple question. It's rich with history and how people feel valued as part of the congregation. Come and share your thoughts and feelings about the matter as we seek to explore possible solutions. The consultation will be held in workshop format. Childcare will be available.

- ***Sunday October 26: All-Ages Pumpkin Carving Party during coffee hour.*** This is a great opportunity to do some intergenerational mingling, and get a cute (or fierce!) jack-o-lantern too. Take one home for yourself, or help someone else carve theirs! Pumpkins will be provided; a donation of \$2 per pumpkin is requested to assist with costs of supplies. However, if money is an issue for you please consider your presence at the event donation enough! The more people who participate, the better off we all are for it.

- ***Friday, November 7: War Exhibit Tour 10:00 am***
BJ Maddaford will be leading a tour of the Esplanade War Exhibit. If you are interested in attending, please contact BJ or Cheryl in the office.

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Save The Date

- ***Saturday, November 1: Fall Supper***
- ***Saturday, November 22: Poinsettia Tea***
- ***Sunday December 7: Sunday School Pageant***
- ***Sunday December 14: Senior Choir Cantata***

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Can You Help?

- **The Christian Development Committee is currently in need of committee members.** The CD Committee is responsible for everything from Sunday School to Bible Study, Christian education workshops and programs for people of all ages, confirmation classes, leadership development, Cradle Roll and our relationship with the theological colleges and summer camps. If you have an interest in how we develop and grow in our understanding of faith and want to help Westminster grow in Christian development, please talk to Lynnette Burry, committee chair, or Rev. Chelsea, clergy rep to the committee.

The Board is currently in need of a Recording Secretary. If you are interested, please contact Pat Marshall or the office.

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Rev. Jan's Comments:

*Welcome to **Barnabas' Corner** — a way to express our appreciation for the many invisible helpers that keep the church going. Each committee/group is encouraged to name their heroes in subsequent newsletters by emailing Anna Marie Hancock.*

***Holy Humour** — There are tons of "church-y" jokes out there. Laughter is good for the soul. Everyone is welcome to send in their favourites.*

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**Please send feedback about this newsletter to Pat Marshall pmepmarsh77@gmail.com with regards to content, format, frequency; we want to know if it meets your needs.

***Deadline for items for the Winter newsletter is November 26th for a publication date of December 5th. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Let's Keep In Touch! - Like us on Facebook, check our website at <http://www.westminsteruc.com/> and send Cheryl (reception@westminsteruc.com) your email address.