



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird

Organist and Choir Director: Robert Don

February 1, 2009

4th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

THE APPROACH

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Awareness Meditation

Words of Gathering:

This is the day which God has made;
a day for us to rejoice and be glad.

With delight we rejoice in your faithful love.

**We rejoice and sing to you, God,
Earthmaker, Lifegiver, Eternal Lover.**

Allow the holiness and mystery of this hour
to infuse you with light and wonder.

**With yearning hearts and open minds
we celebrate this day, and every day, with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Hymn: 242, Let All Things Now Living

Prayer of Humility (together)

God of incredible grace and love, we thank you that you welcome us simply as we are. We need not make any excuses for who we are because we are beautiful in your eyes. Help us, our God, to see that same beauty you see, in ourselves, and in our neighbours... (continue to pray as you choose...)

Assurance of Love

Hymn: 639, One More Step Along the World I Go

Children's Time

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 p. 174

God will raise up a prophet after Moses.

Mark 1: 21-28 p. 35

A man with an unclean spirit is healed in Capernaum.

Reader: This is the Word of God as it is written
in our Christian scripture.

**All: The written word of God is enlightened
by the living Word of God that is within us.**

Anthem: Like a River of Tears

- *John Oldham and Ron Klusmeier*

(Anthem is #98 in More Voices)

Like a river of tears your love pours upon us;

Like a sunshine of blessing your grace will sustain us;

Like a starstudded sky your spirit shines o'er us,

Renewing our spirits with courage and faith.

(Reproduced with permission from United Church Publishing House and Wood Lake Publishing Inc.)

Sermon

THE RESPONSE

Hymn: 633, Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Minute for Mission: "Gung Hay Fat Choi"

Offering and Prayer of Dedication:

Our God, the wonder of you is your continual outpouring of love upon us, through all time and forever. The security of your love frees us to live and to give. Use us and these gifts to bring wholeness to the world. Amen

Prayers of and for the People and the prayer from Jesus
(paraphrase p. 916 VU)

Hymn: 647, Travel On, Travel On

Benediction and Blessing

Choral Amen

Postlude

† † †

The Life and Work of the Congregation February 1, 2009

Welcome! We are glad you came! **Visitors** are asked to sign our guest book in the vestibule. **All are invited** to the auditorium following the service for refreshments and visiting.

Bethel United Church Council wishes to recognize Bev Andres for her 19 years of loyal, dedicated service as the church's secretary. A luncheon in her honour will be held after church **today**. Please plan to attend to give her your best wishes.

Coffee (regular and decaf.) and juice are being served in the narthex each morning before the service. This is an opportunity to socialize prior to the Sunday worship services and is one way congregations are engaging in the **Emerging Spirit Campaign**.

This morning:

Head Usher: Jim Reid

Ushers and Greeters: Kathy Bazin, Marilyn Sagi,
Armand and Barbara Bourassa

Reader: Karen Winmill

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Charles Andres and daughters Debbie and Elaine and families celebrating Bev's retirement.

Church Office Secretary: Bernice Braaten has been engaged as secretary for Bethel and joined Bev. in the office on January 27th.

Hearing Assist Headsets: All batteries for the two types of headsets have been refurbished. People are welcome, and are encouraged, to use them. If you use a headset and you do not receive good, quality sound from it, please inform the Head Usher.

Norm will be in his office for part of the day Tuesday to Friday most weeks. Feel free to drop in if you see his car parked in its spot. In an effort to be more easily accessible, Norm will for sure be in his office Tuesday evenings 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Thursday mornings 9:00 – noon. Again, feel free to drop in or call during these times.

A martial arts group will be meeting in the gymnasium this evening. Please stay for a few minutes after coffee time, if you can, and help put away the tables and chairs. Thank you.

U.C.W. General Meeting will be held, Thursday, February 5th at 1:30 p.m., followed by Unit Meetings.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Sat, Feb. 7 at 9:00 (Social Hall)

The 'January Book Discussion' – Awareness by Anthony DeMello, **9:15-10:15, will continue until February 15th**. Books (\$20) will be available for those planning to participate. (3 books left) You are welcome to join in. Please speak to Norm or to Barb Martin.

To help prevent the spread of colds and flu-like illnesses, please remember to use the **hand sanitizer** that is provided on the table in the narthex and on the table at coffee time.

A reminder from the Worship Committee: Perfumes, after-shave lotions and other kinds of scents can cause real difficulty for those who have allergies. Let us try to keep this in mind as we come together for worship.

The Christmas Tree by the Lectern has been a 'mitten tree'. Thank you to everyone who donated hats, scarves, mitts, socks. This week the items will be taken to the Inner City Ministry.

'Finding Stillness in a Hectic Life'

We all have the same 24 hours each day which often does not seem to be enough. But what can we give up? How do we make room for stillness? Where is the balance in life? This four-session seminar helps us to answer these questions and reduce the stress of everyday living through an examination of life values and priorities, and by introducing the practice of Centring Prayer. **Discussion on this topic will be held Tuesdays, February 3rd – 24th, 7:15 p.m. at Bethel in the Upper Room. No charge.**

Meals on Wheels: Volunteers are needed to continue delivering meals. The sign-up calendar is on the literature table. Bethel's coordinator is Shirley McKay (374-4883).

Greeter and Lift Operator: Please see the sign-up sheet on the coffee table.

'Dessert & Discussion': 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:15 p.m., at Tastebuds, 1624 Lorne Avenue.

Congregational Annual General Meeting next Sunday, February 8th, 2009.

Immediately following the morning worship service.

Everyone is invited to join in a potluck sandwich lunch followed by the meeting.

(Please bring sandwiches, cookies or squares.)

The meeting is expected to last from about noon to 2:00.

At the meeting, officers will be elected and a budget set for the coming year.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Check out Bethel's website for general information about our church, our service and news and events. The site address is: www.bethelsaskatoon.com or go to the WonderCafe site and do a church search using either the church name or postal code. **Any information for our website** must be forwarded through the church office. Information from a source, other than the church office, will not be posted.

AN EVENING OF SONG: The St. Andrew's College Alumni/ae Association proudly presents a recital featuring Donna Slusar, soprano, Brenda Nightingale, piano, with guest, Terry Sturge, cello, on **Tuesday, February 10, @ 7:30 pm** at Grace Westminister United Church. Tickets - \$15 or \$10 from the Bethel Church Office or at the door. All proceeds to go to support the College.

Looking for PIANISTS!

Oliver Lodge is recruiting pianists to play for Sunday morning interdenominational worship services from 10:30-11:00. The goal is to recruit 6 volunteers and schedule everyone on a 6 week rotation. Please contact Kristen Smith, Director of Recreation and Volunteer Services, at 382-4111 ext. 33 for more information.

Other Church and Community events:

• **Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre**, 601 Taylor Street West, (telephone 242-1916) is offering the following events:

-**Women in Ministry: Lives Taken, Blessed, Broken & Shared**, Sunday, February 15 to Tuesday, February 17th.

-**'Lenten Retreat: Encountering Jesus Christ'**,
March 27-29;

-**'Hope for the Future of Humanity'** April 13-16;

-**Women's Retreat, Meet the "Mother of the Canadian Church"**, May 29-31.

website: www.queenshouse.org

• **A Call to Awe and Wonder**: Unfolding the Sacred Mystery of the Universe. **Meewasin Valley United Church** invites you to take time away from the city and the pace of life to renew your mind and spirit ... an intentional time to learn, celebrate and reflect upon the mystery of creation. **MVUC** is hosting a congregational winter retreat at Ancient Spirals Retreat Centre **February 6-8, 2009**. A workshop-only option is available to folks who would prefer this. Workshop facilitation is offered by Judy Schachtel. Judy has her masters in Culture and Spirituality. She is a gifted leader and speaker who shares her passion, wisdom and life learnings in a gentle manner. Retreat opportunities will include listening and learning, music, dance, artistic representation, videos, conversation, prayer and meditative walking. Call 931-4006 for more details.

• **St. Thomas Wesley United Church** Annual Old Fashioned Bean Supper and Silent Auction, **Saturday, Feb. 7** at 4:30-6:00 p.m.

• **McClure United Church Dinner Theatre** Proudly Presents It's A Scream!! A HORRORbly Funny Comedy By David De Boy **March 4-7**, 4025 Taylor St. E. Saskatoon Telephone 373-1753 Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Is Renewable Do-Able? Can renewable energy meet our needs? A panel discussion will be held **Tuesday, February 24th**: (two times) **2:00 p.m.**, Room 241, (Neatby-Timlin Theatre), Arts Building, U. of S., and at **7:00 p.m.**, Frances Morrison Library Auditorium, 311 – 23rd St. E. (see poster)

See posters on bulletin board next to the Church Office.

Meetings and events this week:

Monday:

-Bethel Art Group, 9:30 (Upper Room)

-Cubs, 7:00

Tuesday:

-Staff Meeting, 9:30

-Beavers, 6:30

-"Finding Stillness in a Hectic Life", 7:15 p.m.-see announcement p.5.

Wednesday:

-Bible Study, 10:00 (Gym) (Come at 9:30 for coffee, if you wish).

-Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

-Scouts, 7:00

Thursday:

-U.C.W. General /Unit Meetings – 1:30 (Gym)

Saturday:

-Men's Fellowship Breakfast – 9:00 a.m. (Social Hall)

Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 8:

Isaiah 40:28-31

Matthew 14:22-33

Stewardship Seconds 2009 - February 1st:

Great are the works of the Lord. As stewards of God's creation, we delight in them.

LIVING THE HOPE
Learning Event for Congregations

Friday, March 13, 2009: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. and
Saturday, March 14, 2009: 9:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. (lunch
provided)

St. Martin's United Church
2617 Clarence Avenue S.
Saskatoon

Living the Hope is an Emerging Spirit learning opportunity for congregational teams to probe deeply into the generational issues facing the church today. **Living the Hope** will also focus on three areas which have emerged as critical to the work of nurturing welcoming congregations which are faithful, relevant, and vital: Re-imagining Sunday Morning, Building Connections in Community, and The Practice of Leadership.

Living the Hope events are designed for congregational teams, which include a paid, accountable staff person plus other key lay leaders.

Cost: \$300 for a team of 6, additional team members \$40; individuals \$75.

Please speak to Norm if you are interested in attending with him. Bethel will pay the registration cost for any who wish to go. Any donations toward the registration cost would also be appreciated.

To register and for more information see www.emergingspirit.ca or phone 1-800-268-3781, ext.4035.

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