

Monthly Information

Camrose United Church
2003 May

This *Monthly Information* sheet is something new. The Board Restructuring Committee felt that, whether we change the structure of the Board or not, we need better communication from the Committees and the Board to the congregation; hence this monthly publication, which will contain information from the committees who manage the life and work of our congregation and from the Board.

It is quite different from our quarterly Newsletter in that it will be much shorter—perhaps only one or two pages; four at the most—and it will include a much narrower range of content. So it is our intention that the two will complement each other. Another difference is that the Newsletter is delivered to our whole membership, whereas the *Monthly Information* will only be made available for people to pick up. (Only this first issue will be distributed with the worship bulletins.) Copies will be available throughout the month for people to pick up at any time and back issues will be available through the church office.

By the way, the name, *Monthly Information*, is only a working title to start with. We are intending to come up with a more distinctive and colourful name eventually. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along to Jim Allan.

The information is not intended to be comprehensive, routine reports. Instead, the committees have been asked to submit information about upcoming events, new developments, interesting insights, etc. Consequently, not every committee will submit material every month. But the hope is that from month to month it will include everything that a person needs to know in order to be well-informed about the management and direction of the congregation's life and work.

Communications and Media

The deadline for the Summer Newsletter submissions is May 23 and the release date is June 15.

Finance

- Good News: revenue in excess of expenditures for the month of April was \$2,291.62. Year to date revenues (Jan – Apr) are close to last year – only \$2,000.
- However, we still have a large operating deficit from last year and for the first 3 months of 2003 to turn around (\$42,000).
- The statements have a new format that splits our the various funds, i.e. General operations, Organ fund, Memorial fund, Benevolent fund, and Manse fund.

Membership

- Plans are under way for the annual Grad Luncheon (June 8, after worship). We have identified 17 from our Church Family List to invite.
- Trisha Dawn Pearce has been received by reaffirmation as of April 22, 2003.
- We are developing a process for reviewing and updating our Church Family List.

Volunteer Development

The first stage of a three-stage process for the development and ongoing cultivation of volunteerism in our congregation is under way. This first step will include: (1) assembling a complete list of positions, offices, committees, teams that require volunteer commitment; (2) writing brief descriptions of each; (3) gathering the names of all the people who currently serve in each position; (4) entering all this information our membership database; (5) establishing an ongoing procedure for keeping it up to date. This information database will provide a foundation for further volunteer development.

Trustees

Did you know? The Board of Trustees is a group of elected individuals having legal title to church property, who hold that property in Trust for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. The Board of Trustees acts according to lawful orders and directions from the Church Board. One of their principal responsibilities is to maintain adequate insurance on church property.

Fellowship

- Our recently formed Fellowship Committee has decided to give themselves a more meaningful and interesting name. Their recommendation is *ConneXions*, with the X in the middle denoting “Christ-centred.”
- We plan to set up a table on the first Sunday in June at the front of the coffee hall with pertinent information displayed. Hopefully, this will encourage people, especially newcomers, to stop and talk and enable connections to be made within the congregation.
- Plans are in process for the Barbeque to be held (September 7) to launch the Fall Sunday School Sessions.

Board Restructuring

After preview presentations at the April and May Board meetings, members of the Church Board will receive copies of the Board Restructuring Proposal on May 25. They are asked to study the proposal carefully, perhaps discuss it with others, and come to the June meeting (June 19) prepared to discuss and vote on a motion to adopt the proposal. If the proposal is adopted, it will then be presented for adoption by the congregation at a special congregational meeting in September or October.

Worship

- May 25. Can These Bones Live?, Part 2: Linking With Our History.
- Jun 1. Guest speaker on Habitat for Humanity (Social Concerns committee leading worship with Mary Ann and Jim away at Conference).
- Jun 8. Communion. Theme: the environment (or, belated Earth Day).
- Jun 15. Can These Bones Live?, Part 3: Linking With Our Context.
- Jun 22. Can These Bones Live?, Part 4: Linking With the Spirit.

For more details about the five-part series, *Can These Bones Live?*, pick up a copy of the purple series leaflet in the narthex.