

# Monthly Information

**Camrose United Church**  
**2004 May**

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## ***Monthly Information***

This Monthly Information sheet is now to be distributed directly to the committees in order to ensure that it is functioning as an effective medium of communication among committee members. As in the past, copies will also be available for anyone else who would like to keep up with the work of the Committees, Council, etc.

We encourage all of the Committees to use the *Monthly Information* to communicate their work to the other Cttes and to other members of the congregation who wish to keep up with the inner workings of the church.

## ***Committee Boxes***

The *Monthly Information* sheets will be placed each month in the committee boxes (located in the hallway between Jim's office and the Parlour). We would ask that you please check these regularly and take whatever is in your box so that others will know that you have received it. (This note was included in the Monthly Info last month, but those who don't know about their Committee Boxes didn't pick up their Monthly Info's, so they still don't know about them. Realizing the fatal circularity of this approach, we will mail a copy directly to each Committee Chair this month.)

## ***Church Council***

The mandate review in May with the Stewardship Ctte went well. (See *Stewardship*, below) The schedule has been changed for June, when we will meet again with the Finance Ctte, because this area is undergoing some important development. The review with Christian Development will be moved to a later date, possibly during the summer.

Carol Breikreutz has resigned from the Council for personal reasons; and her resignation was accepted with sincere regret. We have begun considering who to nominate to fill the vacancy and intend to call a Special Congregational meeting early in the Fall for this purpose. This is an elected position, therefore any member of the congregation may make a nomination and the nominee must be a full member of the congregation.

In our visioning study of Donna Sinclair and Christopher White's *Jacob's Blessings*, we reflected on the Biblical story of Eli and Samuel and thought about how the church today might learn to listen more deeply to what God is saying to us.

## ***Volunteer Coordination***

We have seven vacancies remaining among our committee membership. Of particular concern is the Stewardship committee. Two out of the four positions on this ctte are vacant. This is an urgent matter, because a great deal of work is left to be done, not only to complete the present visitation, but to continue the long-range development that is needed in order to reach our full potential, financially.

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## ***Stewardship***

The visitation campaign is nearing the completion of the visits with those who wish to have a visit. The experience of the visiting has been very positive, with enthusiastic, receptive and appreciative responses from most, a sense that this is long over-due, and generous increases in givings. Impressive numbers of people have decided to make a pledge when they understood how helpful this is for financial planning, and a sizeable number have begun using the Preauthorized Remittance (PAR) method of giving.

An impressive increase in givings has been achieved, however it appears that it will take more than one year for the congregation to reach its full financial potential. Therefore planning is required to manage a declining budget shortfall for a limited period of time.

## ***Finance***

In order to establish a close working relationship with the Finance Ctte, Jim Andreassen, as a member of the Council, met with the Finance Ctte, and, as indicated above, the Finance Ctte will be meeting with the Council again in June.

## ***Worship Schedule***

May 23.

May 30. Pentecost

Jun 6. Outreach theme. (Ministers at the regional event)

Jun 13. Communion. (Grad luncheon following)

Jun 20. Baptism.

## ***Youth at Church***

Six of our youth attended the Conference Junior Youth Rally, held at St. David's United Church in Calgary and the University of Calgary.

## ***Membership***

Plans are under way for the next stage of configuring our membership database to contain the information necessary to better keep our members sorted out according to the diversity of needs and relationship with the congregation. This will enable us to provide the kind of listings required by various groups and committees, custom tailored to the particular needs of each.

## ***Visitation***

The Visitation Committee is going through a list of inactive members supplied by the Stewardship Committee, with a view to choosing some to make contact with.

The Ctte is looking at the possibility of a regular telephone outreach to the whole congregation, active as well as inactive members. It would mean finding a small committee to oversee the project and recruiting at least fifty volunteers who would call an assigned list of members three or four times each year. To get a sense of whether this would be both valuable and feasible, the Visitation Committee would like to meet with the Membership Ctte and the Communications and Media Ctte.