

BIOGRAPHIES

ORDINANDS

YOUNGJIN PARK



Growing up in a small town near Seoul, South Korea, I was a small boy who enjoyed the time and people of the Sunday School in the Church. As my family moved to Seoul, I moved to a Presbyterian Church in the city because my father wanted to settle in the Presbyterian altogether. I made the Church my home with many friends and was full of enjoyment in the youth group once again. My mother introduced a Bible study group that led me to a new faith group later. I spent lots of time there learning biblical instructions and volunteering for the ministry. One day I felt it was the time to change my life. I made my first step toward studying English in Canada in 2014 and moved to Saskatoon to study theology at St. Andrew's College in 2015. During the academic course in Saskatoon, the outstanding faculty at the college gave me the privilege to study theology about social justice and the tradition of the United Church. The volunteering time in local churches helped me learn about the culture of Canada and the ministry of the United Church, which made me feel like returning home to Presbyterian Church. The opportunity to volunteer for the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at U of S and the Saskatoon Food Bank became a precious time for learning the practical ministry for the wider Church. Moving to a town in the Southeast of the province in 2020, the Church approved me to practice the ministry in the faith community and grow in leadership to serve the people of God in my Supervised Ministry Education. Now I am glad to work for the people of God in the United Church.

AURORA ESPENANT



Hello Living Skies! I am a 24-year-old, newly ordained minister who has passions for rural ministry, youth ministry, and social justice initiatives. I also got married over the summer, so life has been full of exciting and significant changes for me lately! I am very blessed to currently be serving the community of Outlook as the minister of St. Andrew's United Church. I love utilizing my musical talents in ministry; leading drumming circles and teaching my congregation new hymns. I also have a passion for preaching on the Old Testament, which I have come to learn is not the norm. Lastly, I have recently started serving on the Prairie Candidacy Board. It is important to me that I am active not only in the local community that I serve, but also in the wider church.

My hopes for the future are that my love for the church will continue to be contagious, and that I will write a book. Living Skies Region is very close to my heart, as my love for both the church and ministry was seeded in Saskatoon. I look forward to crossing paths with many of you in the coming years. My blessings to all navigating what it means to be the church in these challenging times.

KENT MOHN



Everything seemed pretty normal when we got married. Somehow since then though, Lindsay and I turned into a...ministry couple?

I grew up in Regina, where my family was very active at Rosemont United Church. Through my young adult years, I was fortunate to experience the leadership of many caring & faith-filled people in ministry with young people at Rosemont, wider church activities, and camping ministries. They taught me to embrace the doubt, the challenge, and the spiritual wonder of faith.

After university, their leadership examples led to a Staff Associate/DLM role with McClure United Church in Saskatoon for ten wonderful years.

After twelve interesting years in residential construction consulting, I followed Lindsay into vocational ordained ministry and studies at St. Andrew's College. Cue the perfect time for our kids Emmett and Maggie-Rae to burst onto the scene, so now we'll just have to figure out what it means to be a ministry family, right?

I'm honoured to be in ministry with the people of Knox United Church in Saskatoon and to have been ordained in Living Skies Regional Council. I am infinitely grateful for the wisdom, grace and example provided by the countless colleagues, friends, family, and mentors in my life. Thank you all for walking with (and sometimes carrying) me on this journey of faith.

BEING RECOGNISED

JAMES (Jim) WOLFF



Born in 1945 in rural Saskatchewan, first eight years of schooling in one-room country schools. University of Saskatchewan College of Education 1962 to 1968, initially in the two-year program, then two years of teaching, then two years to complete B.Ed. and a Post-Grad Diploma in Ed Psych. Worked as a school counselor and teacher in the public system in Saskatchewan and Alberta 1968 to 1993, then two years with Grande Prairie Regional College before moving into on-reserve native education as teacher, counselor, school administrator and system administrator in Alberta and Saskatchewan until retirement in 2008.

I began a conscious spiritual quest in my mid-thirties and was baptized in 1988. Entered Licenced Lay Worship Leader program from retirement in Meadow Lake, then discernment in Grace United Church, Meadow Lake, with the recommendation for DLM stream. I came to Wolseley: St. James United in September 2019, after having completed the first Learning Circle without a SME placement.

I am a father of children ranging in age from 13 to 60, a grandfather and a great grandfather. My ministry and the new arc that my life has taken has certainly had an impact on my adult children and my extended family of nieces and nephews.

RETIREES' BIOGRAPHIES

ANDREW APPLEDORE



Andrew was born and raised in Victoria, Australia. He left school at the age of 16 to work on the family wheat farm. In the 1980s Andrew and his brother diversified their farm and began producing ultrafine merino wool. They soon achieved international recognition with two world records. Wool from their farm was highly sought after by fashion houses in Milan and Tokyo. A line of men's suits carried the farm's name of Kadinia. In 1987 Andrew and his brother were presented with a citizenship award for their contribution to the Australian wool industry.

While working on the farm Andrew began studying for his Bachelor of Arts degree by correspondence from Deakin University. He was also a member of Victorian Young Farmers Association serving terms as District and Regional President and State Vice President.

Andrew attended a small rural Uniting Church at Brim East where he was a lay preacher and lay pastoral visitor within the parish. In 1990 he became a candidate for ordained ministry with the Uniting Church in Australia and moved to Melbourne to begin theological education at the United Faculty of Theology at Melbourne University. Andrew was ordained in 1994 and settled in Robinvale, in North Western Victoria, where he was minister to five congregations, including a Tongan congregation.

Robinvale is the traditional homeland of the Latji Latji First Nations. After the Second World War, a soldier settlement was established in the area where returned soldiers were given land to develop vineyards. Robinvale later became home to many Italian, Greek, Vietnamese and Pacific Islander immigrants. Living in such a culturally diverse community offered many unique ministry opportunities. In 1998 the Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress and the Victorian Synod of the UCA appointed Andrew to the new position of Community Development Minister. Working in partnership with Aboriginal Elders, Andrew worked in 5 Aboriginal communities in the area as well as liaising with Uniting Churches within the Presbytery.

Toward the end of 2001, Andrew moved to Melbourne as he discerned the next chapter of his life. During this time, he worked as a chaplain at a Uniting Church Aged Care facility and supply minister at The Church of All Nations in Carlton, Melbourne.

In 2002 Andrew moved to Canada and began working at St Paul's United Church in Saskatoon with a focus on children, youth and Christian Education. In 2006 Andrew was formally admitted to the order of ministry in the UCC and continued ministry at St Paul's until June 2009. Andrew then accepted a call to Dundurn/Hanley Pastoral Charge where he was able to return to his rural ministry roots.

For the past 28 years, Andrew has had a very rich and varied ministry. He also served the wider church in many capacities. Firstly, in the UCA where he was a member of various Synod and Presbytery committees. In the UCC, he served on the Conference Interview Board, Internship Committee, Chair of NSHCC and was a member of the ICM Board serving as chair for 2 years. Andrew is looking forward to retirement and spending winters somewhere warm!

JAN COFFEY-OLSON



I started life in an ordinary way for a child of the late baby boom. I was born in Edmonton and lived in the same house with my family throughout my childhood. In fact, that was my permanent address until I was settled in my first manse and began being a responsible adult. During the Edmonton years, I was part of church groups, community activities, and school activities. I was aimed toward University and maybe even a math-based career since I enjoyed math but I also talked about archaeology or being a librarian or teacher. I attended Highlands United Church where I later became a member and Candidate. If there was any frustration, it was seeing my groups and schools shrink because it was the end of the baby boom, and the grief of the adults somehow made it feel like our fault,

Just before my last year of high school, there was a crack in my normal life. It was the summer of '75 and I was enrolled in a French immersion program at the Banff Centre of the Arts. I was having a great time being away from home, and all the fun of youth in the mountains (in French). However, that is not the key event. One Sunday morning, a few friends and I wandered down to the United Church. The service was being led by a female student minister. I clearly remember watching her while my mind did its usual Sunday morning wander. In the midst of those wanders I was thinking, "Hmm, women can be ministers." Then I heard my own voice saying, "And I am going to be a minister." It was so real that I immediately looked around, but apparently, I had used my inside head voice. What a relief and yet. . .

I went back to my normal life and tried to keep that experience a secret. Everyone, including myself, was expecting me to go to University. I was exploring the University of Alberta, but that secret kept popping up. Then I received a brochure that included information about a program called Winter Session at Naramata Centre. With fear and trembling and before I told my folks, I applied. They supported me, as usual, and instead of University, I attended Winter Session in Naramata. Finally, I was able to tell people my secret and found out how to go about becoming a United Church minister.

When I returned to Edmonton, my secret became public and I was well-supported. My home church was glad to sponsor me as their candidate. I enrolled in the University of Alberta in Education because teaching was my second choice of career and I felt I had much to learn in stepping forward as a leader. I graduated in 1981 and went straight into Theology at Vancouver School of Theology. That was the beginning of a new trend of the early baby boomers choosing ministry as a second career. Throughout most of my ministry career, the trend has continued, often leaving me as one of the younger ministers. It didn't seem so strange when I was 25 but now in my 60s . . .

In 1985 I was settled in the Morrin Pastoral Charge just north of Drumheller (Transfer for most Alberta and NW candidates was a formality). I spent 6 years there including one exchange year in Kawerau Presbyterian Church in New Zealand. In 1991, I moved to Rosetown, Saskatchewan for a new experience in team ministry and found new skills in my chosen career. In 1995, I met and married my husband, Steve, and in 1999, we had a son. I knew I would probably only get this one chance at parenting and so was excited to resign and be at home with him. Two years later, I was asked to come back into ministry in Rosetown for a couple of years as part time support for the Intentional Interim Minister. Much as I was glad to be back with people I love, ministry did not seem the right fit. I chose to be retained on the ministry rolls indefinitely until I knew what would be next.

Soon I was asked to do pulpit supply at several rural pastoral charges in our Presbytery and that felt like a good fit. Another door opened in 2005 when I learned that as teachers were retiring, there were openings in Education and especially in subbing. I applied to get my Saskatchewan Teaching Certificate and started a new journey. I continued to lead worship in the rural pastoral charges several Sundays a month. In about 2009, I got a full-time teaching position at Rosetown Central High School with the Independent Ed. Class and loved it. In total, I taught for just over 13 years. Interestingly, I had also been in full time ministry for just over 13 years. In 2020 I chose to retire at the end of the school year. Then Covid hit. The hardest part of that retirement was not being able to have a party to say good-bye to my class.

Steve has also retired and so we have begun a new phase of our lives. In the fall of 2021, I applied for my church pension, which makes me retired in the United Church, too. We have loved being able to choose how to fill our time even with covid restrictions. I picked up a bit of pulpit supply and a bit of subbing, but my biggest goal in retirement has been to focus on my writing. I have several novels done in at least a draft format, although nothing ready to pitch for publishing. I guess I should have retired earlier to keep up with myself as I churned out another couple of drafts, while revising others. I have a short story chosen to be published this spring, so at least I am making progress. We also have 3 grandchildren to enjoy as much as possible. Who knows what doors will open next? Perhaps it starts with me having submitted my nomination papers for the local municipal bi-election today?

BONNIE MORTON



I am the eldest of 5 children (5 minutes older than my twin). I grew up, most of my young life, on a farm near Gananoque Ontario. Our family did not have much money, but we did have pride, community spirit, and lots of love. So, as children we did not realize we were poor, or that most of Mom and Dad's efforts and money went into the farm that provided us our existence.

I left home at 20 years old with very little education, but lots of hope for my future. Life and reality set in quickly. I had a son, who was born with Muscular Dystrophy, but we wouldn't find this out for a number of years. I was married twice, and was living in Silvan Lake, Alberta when I fled my second marriage due to violence and fear for my son's safety. I am happy to say I am happily married for the third and last time, to a very loving and supportive man, Kevin Carr.

I arrived in Regina in 1981, not knowing anyone. But, due to the generosity and caring of others I was provided a safe place for my son and I to live, and food to nourish our hunger. I was afforded the opportunity to work at the Husky House even though my cooking skills were very much lacking. I learned quickly, which was good for the truckers, and those who ate there, how to cook.

Due to my son's medical needs I had to go on Welfare, and wasn't able to work. I went back to get my basic education, starting at grade 5, and in 7½ years I received a Bachelor of Human Justice. While in the upgrading program I had the opportunity to do some voluntary advocacy out of a politician's constituency office, and I also met Rev. Bob Gay, at a school event. Bob called me December 1987 (my first semester in university), just before Christmas, and asked me to work with him. I started right after Christmas. Due to a hiring glitch, I didn't pay into pension and therefore IT ONLY APPEARS that I have worked for Saskatchewan Conference, now, Living Skies Region for 25 years, but it's been 34!

I was blessed those many years ago to be invited into this ministry. Little did I know the opportunities this blessing would afford. For 34 years I advocated for and with people living in poverty, and with others, to call for and sometimes achieving progressive social policy changes. I had the opportunity to work with two dynamic men, Rev. Bob Gay and Rev. Peter Gilmer, who taught me what ministry is all about, and what God calls us to. I have had the opportunity to educate, advocate, protest when needed (and that was fun), and preach what God calls us all to. I may be retired, but I believe I am, as we all are, **“Still Called To Make A Difference”**. Even though we are not meeting in person, Blessings to all! I will see many of you again.

VICKI OBEDKOFF



Hard to believe but I have been in United Church of Canada ministry for almost 50 years! As songwriter James Keelaghan puts it: Better a good run, than a bad stand!

I started as a community worker with First United Church in Vancouver '73-76, did my M.Div at Chicago Theological Seminary, interned at Naramata Centre, and settled in '82 at Third Avenue, North Battleford, teaming with our beloved Jack Carr. Then 30 years in Toronto: 5 years on the ministry team of Bloor Street United Church while doing a Ph.d in social ethics; 10 wonderful years with St. James in Etobicoke; then Downsview UC, Trinity-St. Paul's UC, and back west to St. Thomas Wesley in Saskatoon, where both the congregation and I have completed our ministries.

Social justice, spirituality, and the fine people and communities of the UCC have kept me going in ministry. So has contra dancing...my band and I had a great dance ministry in Toronto churches.

Over the years I have enjoyed "side gigs" in chaplaincy, teaching Humanities at the former Humber College, and facilitating.

Climate justice (nuclear waste issues and renewable energy (ICUCEC), UNJPPI (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel), and Truth and Reconciliation will keep me learning and busy. I am looking forward to spending more time with my beloved nieces and nephews and friends across the country!

DIANE ROBINSON



I was born in Prince George, British Columbia, the youngest of three children. My growing up years were deeply influenced by my church-and-community-involved parents, but also by the many hours I spent at church (my second home) in a variety of church activities.

Music has been one of my life's saving - and life-giving - graces. In addition to growing up in a musical family, I took 9 1/2 years of piano lessons; and, over the years, have sung in many choirs (university, community and church), as well as accompanying many soloists, musicians and choirs.

I began my post-secondary education (1976) at the University of Alberta (Edmonton) in the Faculty of Education, with the end-goal of becoming a secondary English teacher. When life happened (I got married and had my first-of-two children), I dropped out of university just one year shy of getting my degree. When that marriage ended, I applied to Simon Fraser University (Burnaby) to their Distance Education Teacher's Diploma Program. Following the successful completion of the diploma's requirements, I was awarded my BC Teaching Certificate in 1991. I substitute taught K - 12 for 5 years.

When a second marriage didn't work out (a long story!), the intentional interim minister at our church (who, bless him, assisted me in returning to the land of the living following the end of that marriage) asked me one day: "Diane, have you ever thought of going into the ministry?" I responded, "No". And the rest, as they say, is history.

I began my theological studies at Vancouver School of Theology in 2003. During that first grueling year, I met a wonderful man (Ken) who - a year later - became my husband. While Ken completed his Lay Pastoral Minister-in-Training Program in Ashcroft, B.C., I found pulpit supply jobs.

When I read, in an Observer article (2005), that a new ministry-based distance-education (ordination) program (MBOP) was getting underway at United Theological College (Montreal), I applied and was accepted. My ministry-training site was St. Paul's United Church in Princeton, BC.

In 2008, after 3 years in the Program, my MBOP colleagues and myself were informed by the college that the UC of C was terminating the Program; and that we students could - if we wished - complete our degree at Atlantic School of Theology (Halifax) in their Summer Distance-MDiv Program.

In 2011 - after 8 years and 3 colleges located across the country - I graduated from AST with my Masters of Divinity degree! That same year (2011) I was ordained by BC Conference at their annual meeting.

In 2008, my husband, Ken and I moved from BC to Saskatchewan. Since coming to Saskatchewan I've had the pleasure of serving Radville Pastoral Charge (my 2nd ministry-training site) from 2009 - 2013; and St. James United Church in Regina, from 2014 - 2022.

Inarguably, my life's road has been long, with many a winding turn that has led me into many unexpected (and, at times, difficult) places. However, I am grateful that it has been a journey, which has led to my life's purpose and calling!

MILES RUSSELL



I was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and grew up at Strasbourg, Saskatchewan, where my family farmed. I was always part of the United Church, being brought to church in a baby carriage when I was young (I pre-date strollers). I felt a strong sense of call to ministry when I was a kid and it only grew as I moved into teen age years.

I went to St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon for my formal theological education. As part of the process to ministry I did an 11 month internship with the people of Lang-Milestone Pastoral Charge. After internship I postponed my return to St. Andrew's for one year and worked for "The Alliance of Youth and the Elderly" in Saskatoon. It was an early form of Home Care. I was a Home Helper.

1983 was a big year. I convocated from St. Andrew's College. I was ordained at the end of May in St. Andrew's United Church in Moose Jaw by Saskatchewan Conference. I was settled effective July 1, 1983 at Preeceville-Sturgis United Church Pastoral Charge north of Yorkton. On July 8, I married Anna Jean Van Der Koot. My first day of work was a funeral, my second day was a meeting of the Official Board to talk about the challenges and issues facing the Charge, my 6th day of work was a wedding with a wedding party of 16 (if I remember correctly), and then I had my first Sunday Service. Life never slowed down from that time until now, 39 years later!!

During my time at Preeceville-Sturgis, I have worked with the church in worship, helped lead youth groups and programs, took part in other events such as a 30 year community church play (comedies) that travelled to each of the three main communities on the charge, Preeceville, Sturgis and Stenen... We have had two major church building projects; one for Grace in Sturgis, and one for Trinity in Preeceville. I took supervision training and together we hosted 5 internships for individuals who went on to become United Church ministers and I was able to support neighbouring Pastoral Charges with 4 other internships.

I served in Pastoral Relations and Division of Mission work for many years, as well as other committees or tasks in the wider church. I took my turn as Chairperson of Presbytery and was President of Saskatchewan Conference from 2009—2010.

Locally I was also able to serve in many community organizations and tasks in all three of our main communities.

I will begin retirement taking time for rest, increased time for my family, and extensive travel, (our son Joel and his wife Amy and our grandchild Elliot live in London, England and our son William and his partner Spencer live in Halifax). I will also enjoy the ability to plan things at the last minute, rather than a year ahead!

I have been so blessed to be a minister. And I am so grateful to all who have surrounded me with love and care, during my ministry, not least of which is my wife Anna. And for all these gifts of love and life, I give humble thanks to God.

LAURA SUNDBERG



My call to ministry began in my high school graduating year with a “conversion” experience – after 9 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at Trinity North Bay! I was part of a youth choir, and we sang “Pass It On”. I felt overwhelmingly loved by God. It was a profound Spirit moment in which I claimed my young adult faith. My intentional journey in the Spirit, and as a follower of Jesus, had begun.

The journey led me to many unconventional places. I was in and out of the charismatic movement, IVCF (Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship) and the SCM (Student Christian Movement). My faith shifted as I encountered the Jesus of justice and peace. I worked for the SCM and Project Peacemakers in Winnipeg in the 1980’s.

My call to ministry in the church was awakened during the years that I attended Young Winnipeg (1982 - 1987). That congregation and Peter Williams gave me opportunities to explore my gifts and to learn and grow in the areas of faith, social justice, and ministry with children.

I joined the staff team at Westminster Winnipeg (1987 - 1989) as a Staff Associate in Christian Education. That experience, combined with a theological students tour to China, and my Discernment Process, made it clear that this journey was taking a more formalized direction. It was the call of the Spirit and the United Church Pension and Benefits Plan!

I headed off to Emmanuel College (1989 - 1993) and served as a student minister in C.E. at Forest Grove Toronto (1991 - 1993). There were summer internships: rural ministry in Clinton, Ont.; a CPE Unit at St. Michaels Hospital in Toronto. I was ordained in Winnipeg in 1993 on my way to Saskatchewan. My settlement charge was the Wolseley - Sintaluta Pastoral Charge (1993 – 1998) followed by a call to St. James Regina (1999 – 2021). At St. James I spent many of my 22 years in team ministry. I participated in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program for Palestine and Israel in 2004 and became an adoptive parent.

That Spirit moment in 1974 was a long time ago. I am grateful to everyone who supported and challenged me over the years. I am grateful to Darwin Dopson and my daughter Pam for their love. There were amazing times, and incredibly painful times when I didn’t think that I would make it through the losses. My parents died before I was 30. My first marriage ended in 2000. I made it through because of Love passed on to me. I hope that I was able to pass that Love on in some small way to others.

The journey continues. I await the Spirit’s call.

GAYLE WENSLEY

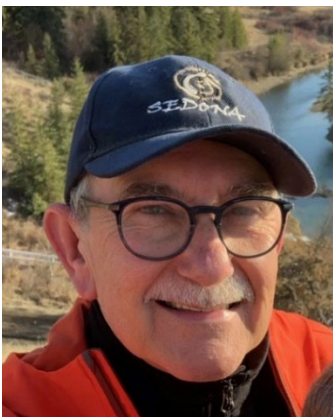


I place 50% of the blame of becoming a lay minister on my husband who wished to have our baby baptized; and the other 50% of the blame on my sister who firmly stated that if we were to have children baptized, we needed to also attend church. So, I began attending church, had three children baptized that year and another baby baptized two years later and have never looked back. I was hooked on church and soon became fully immersed in all the comings and goings of church as well as Presbytery and eventually Conference (as those two groups were called back then).

It was in 2004 that I volunteered to lead a service and then another and then another, and enjoyed every minute. That year when I attended Conference, I was told that I had been “called” and that I should go back to my congregation and ask that I do a year of discernment, which I did. It was discerned that I go into the Lay Pastoral Ministry stream of ministry which I was recognized for at Conference in 2009. Since 2005, I served the congregations of Borden and Speers part-time up to 2016, at which time I began to serve the congregation of Battleford as well to become a full-time minister of three pastoral charges. To say I put many miles on my vehicle is an understatement. My home church of Borden closed in June of 2021 which I will admit took some of the wind out of my sails. With much deliberation, I determined that I would retire in June of 2022.

My travels afforded me many hours of enjoyment and many interesting sights. One morning on my way to Speers church, due to time of day, month and year, due to position of the sun in the sky, due to the fact that I was 10 minutes later than usual, I witnessed an interesting phenomenon. Along both sides of the highway, just before my turnoff to Speers, what appeared to be lights lit up on both sides of the highway looking very much like a runway for an airplane. Just before I turned off, the last light winked out. Having been asked, encouraged, cajoled, poked and prodded to think of things theologically during my training, and indeed, having to think theologically every week for church service, I wondered what to make of this. It came to me that these lights (which were really only the sun reflecting off of the highway signs) could be thought of as the people who lit my path all along my life and especially my church life, who lit my way with their support, their encouragement and their love, who allowed me to let my light shine. To these people I owe much and cannot thank enough.

BRIAN WALTON



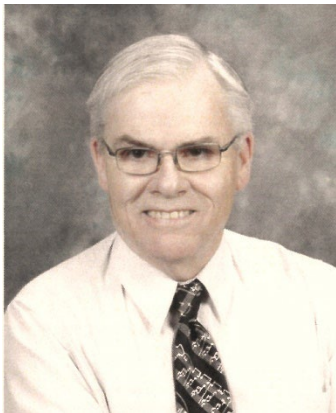
When I was six years old, I had an intimate experience of God in my life – more intuitive than logical. In Grade 8 I met a friend who introduced me to the community of St. Andrew’s Church in Regina. At St. Andrew’s my faith expanded to include a social/community dimension with other people who sought to walk in God’s way. All of this eventually led me to a ministry vocation and enrolment at St. Andrew’s College. At St. Andrew’s College I learned to add an intellectual foundation to my intuitive and church experience of the Holy. I am so grateful for all who accompanied me on this beginning journey.

After ordination I was tutored in the practicalities of ministry in the Pheasant Creek Larger Parish (centered in Balcarres). I returned

to Saskatoon to be welcomed by the people of Mount Royal-Emmanuel Churches. My first foray into chaplaincy work was as the co-ordinating chaplain for the North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy. This introduced me to Clinical Pastoral Education which in turn led to an STM degree in pastoral counselling. In 1989 I was called to St. Martin's Church in Saskatoon where my experience of ministry found its greatest fulfilment. After 15 years I returned to chaplaincy work, this time as the Spiritual Care Educator (CPE) at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. I retired from that work in 2017 followed by temporary calls to St. Martin's and McClure churches in Saskatoon.

All of these communities of faith helped me evolve an understanding of God as the Source of Love who inspires and empowers act of love in the world. I have been blessed to have this love shown to me by so many people over the years. I have been supported for 47 years by my partner Victoria who has challenged, shaped, and expanded my knowledge of God. If I could list only three mentors, they would be Rev. Bill Armitage (St. Andrew's Regina); Dr. Bill Nelson (Lutheran Theological Seminary) and Dr. Don Misener (CPE); however; I have learned from and travelled alongside so many inspiring people of faith. Thanks be to God!

DARYL WOODS



Daryl was born in Rossland B.C. and spent the early years of his life in the Southern Interior of B.C. along with 5 brothers and 1 sister. His father Gordon entered the ministry later in life and they first moved to Saskatchewan in 1967. They returned to B.C. for one year and returned to Saskatchewan in 1969 and it has been home for Daryl ever since. He graduated from High School in Grenfell and began his 41-year career in ministry in 1981 with the Cutarm Larger Parish. While working part-time in Lanigan he attended St. Andrew's College full-time and was ordained by Saskatchewan Conference at Swift Current in 1990. After ordination he served at Coteau Hills, Lanigan, St. Andrew's Yorkton and is retiring from Grace-Westminster United Church, Saskatoon where he has served for the last 21 years.

Daryl has been active in all courts of The United Church of Canada. He has convened divisions at the Presbytery level, served twice as chairperson of Presbytery and many years on the Executive of Presbyteries, been involved with Divisions of the Conference and served as Convenor of the Internship Committee of Saskatchewan Conference. He attended his first General Council in Toronto in August, 2000 and found it to be a rewarding experience so was also privileged to attend in Cornerbrook in 2015. He currently serves on the Living Skies Regional Council Property Commission.

Daryl is married to Nola and they have two daughters Tara and Alison who have also enjoyed the support and fellowship of former Saskatchewan Conference through the Children at Conference program and later with Youth and Young Adult activities in the Conference and General Council. Daryl & Nola have 5 wonderful grandchildren and get to spend lots of time with them.

Daryl enjoys skiing, camping, reading and spending time with family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie Kent

1951 – 2021



There is lot to miss about Marjorie Kent. Sadly, it won't all fit in this space. I believe two things about her are important to highlight here. She was a woman who found joy in everything and worked tirelessly to create joy for all around her.

Also, she loved sticky notes.

I suppose it's no surprise then that when her daughters were cleaning out her office in the days after Marj's death they found a sticky note with an apt reminder.

It read, "We pray that when we are gone, people will miss us because our kindness is lost."

There are many reasons we miss Marj. A newfound kindness and joy void tops that list.

Rev. Marjorie Kent of Lumsden, SK died on July 8, 2021 at the age of 69 years. Predeceased by her father, Grant Hoggarth and brother Lyle Hoggarth, Marj is survived by her mother, Doreen Hoggarth; her husband and life partner of almost 50 years, David Kent; her son Fletcher Kent and his wife Shauna Young-Kent; daughters Leanne and Amy Kent, and Amy's spouse Kenny Spasoff, who was like a son. Marj adored her six grandchildren; Matthew and Victoria Kent, Linden and Luke Spasoff, and Ari and Bekah Jacobson. Her grandkids adored Marj, too. Marj is also survived by her brother, Earle (Jan) Hoggarth, sister-in-law Mel Johnson and nephews Cameron and Nolan (Laura) Hoggarth.

Marj was born in 1951 to Grant and Doreen Hoggarth. Her family moved around the prairies until they settled in Grenfell when Marj was young.

She sang in the United Church choir and joined CGIT. She also met Dave. The two fell in love and went to university.

Marj went to the University of Manitoba and the University of Alberta where she received her Bachelor of Physiotherapy degree. She practiced for a few years but left the profession when her first child was born. She and Dave raised Fletcher, Leanne and Amy. As they did, Marj remained active in the United Church.

When the kids were older, Marj was called to ministry. She returned to university and received her Master of Divinity from St. Andrew's College at the University of Saskatchewan. Since then, Marj has served congregations in Strasbourg, Bulyea, Sifton, Regina (Rosemont United) and Lumsden (St. Andrew's United Church) and also served the wider church including as a member of the St. Andrew's College board.

All listed here and so many others who knew Marj either professionally, personally or both undoubtedly have their own stories about how she created joy and relished in it.

Every Sunday, children raced to the front of the church during children's time to see who could sit next to Marj. She beamed and made sure every one of them could get close.

Her grandkids remember cuddling with Marj around the campfire and having Grandma get down on the floor to play endless games of mini sticks.

She just wanted to make the world a better place for everyone she loved.

And she did.

Arrangements were entrusted to Speers Funeral Services. Their staff and Marj's long-time friend Lorne Palmer have earned her deep respect for the work they do. In our loss, we understand why.

Dawna Lisa Schrag

October 23, 1979 – July 11, 2021



Dawna Lisa Schrag of Regina, Saskatchewan and formerly of Eastend, Saskatchewan died on Sunday, July 11, 2021 at her home in Regina.

She was born on October 23, 1979 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. On May 3, 1982 she came to live with Ken and Eleanor Schrag and was adopted by them on May 2, 1983. She received her education in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Herbert, Saskatchewan, Wilkie, Saskatchewan and Eastend. She married Wayne Topp at Eastend United Church on July 27, 1996.

She was predeceased by her birth mother Viola Osborne.

Dawna is survived by daughter Victoria Topp of Medicine Hat, Alberta and grandchildren Toby Layborne and Taytum Erickson, daughter Raven Sky Scott; son Dominique Sage Gagnon; parents Kenneth and Eleanor Schrag of Eastend; brother Jeremy Schrag of Eastend; sister Kristel Grant (Carry) of Eastend, nephew Gabriel Grant and niece Eleanor Grant; brother Kevin Schrag of Regina; sister Heidi Volasko (Simon) of Bolton, Ontario; and sister Amber Connor of Hamiota, Manitoba as well as by several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Dawna has been a "free spirit" seemingly always on the move and looking for something better. While a teen she was diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD) and hyperactivity which accounted for her restlessness. She lived most of her life in Regina and became addicted to drugs trying to handle her FASD. She had a difficult life before her passing. As a youth she enjoyed dance and music. When she felt better she also displayed a quiet sense of humor. After losing a leg because of illness, she issued a challenge to Kristel (having MS) to a "chariot race" with her wheelchair. Dawna also enjoyed reading and nearly always carried a book with her.

Funeral Services were held from Eastend United Church in Eastend on Thursday, July 22, 2021 with Connie Sykes officiating. Pianist was Shelley Morvik. Interment took place at Riverside Cemetery at Eastend. Pallbearers were Jeremy Schrag, Kevin Schrag, Heidi Volasko, Amber Conner, Gabriel Grant and Eleanor Grant. Binkley's Funeral Service of Shaunavon (www.Binkleys.com) was in charge of the arrangements.

Samuel “Gordon” Jardine

December 11, 1934 – August 22, 2021



Samuel “Gordon” Jardine late of Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan died peacefully on Sunday August 22, 2021. Gordon is survived by his wife of 65 years Hazel; his children Bonnie (Hugh McLellan), Ted, John (Jacinto Elais), Donna (Gabriela Salazar), and Naomi (Doug Hadders); his grandchildren Stephen (Mizcha Fourie) McLellan, Kate (Calvin) Grant, and Marshall Jardine, and his great-grandchildren Rosalyn & Justin Grant.

Born in Spearhill, Manitoba, Gordon was the fifth of seven children born to Donald Jardine and Jean Mason Jardine. He attended a one room school house up to age 16 then left home to finish high school and attend university in Winnipeg. He started study as a physicist but soon discovered that his calling was the ministry. He became ordained as a United Church minister in 1956 and served charges in Beardmore, Ontario, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Winnipeg, Manitoba and Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan before he retired.

Gordon was a beautiful soul, fascinated by so many things in life, he loved to sit outside and immerse himself in nature – he’d say “oh, beautiful beautiful” while watching a sunset, and he made little wooden houses with doorways for the gopher holes in the yard.

He was a gifted carpenter and made so many beautiful pieces of furniture. Gordon could fix anything and his workshop was a sight to behold.

Passionate about social issues Gordon worked hard to stand up for those who were oppressed, fostering inclusivity and connection between all people. Through his work as a minister he helped people through all of life’s joys, traumas and griefs.

He had a wonderful warm sense of humour – he was Hazel’s biggest fan, boy she could make him laugh. He leaves us the legacy of his gentle wisdom, compassion and thoughtfulness, his creativity, his love of whimsy, and his appreciation for all the small glorious moments in life. While we miss him terribly, we know he will always be near us with his support and love.

“We all love you dad, more than words can say.

Arrangements were entrusted to Speers Funeral Services.

Laura Jean Thomson

1942 - 2021



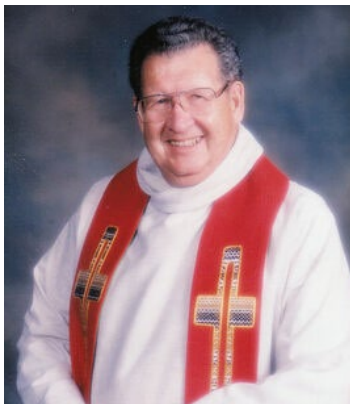
Laura Jean Thomson passed away peacefully Wednesday, September 15, 2021 in the Regina Pasqua Hospital. Laura was born in 1942 to Harvey and Jean Fairgray in Cabri, SK. She attended Unionville Elementary School in the Hazlet area until the age of ten when she moved to Pennant, SK where she completed high school. Her love of learning and caring nature led her to become a registered nurse, completing her degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 1963. Following university Laura was married to Don Thomson and worked both as a nurse and farmer in the Swift Current area. She was proud to be a farmer and cared for her crops with the same passion as her patients. Her nursing career was varied and ranged from clinical to administrative positions, finally finishing at the Swift Current Care Home where she enjoyed caring for the elderly. She was compassionate and caring to everyone, a trait that led to her unofficial position of town nurse in Pennant.

Laura was a lifelong member of The United Church of Canada and was actively involved locally, provincially and nationally in the church. Her volunteer positions over decades were numerous and included serving as the President of Saskatchewan Conference. Her dedication to her church and faith led to her being awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by St. Andrews College in 2016. Laura enjoyed life. Optimistic, courageous, tenacious, she never met a problem she thought unsolvable. She always remained alert for an opportunity to play bridge and cultivated many friendships through card playing. She enjoyed large crowds of people and socializing. She was a fantastic cook and Sundays often involved a day of work in the kitchen to host family and friends for dinner and her outstanding pies.

She was predeceased by her parents Harvey Fairgray and Jean Fairgray/Craig and by her step-father Merlin Craig. Laura is survived by her sons Pat (Penny), Ken (Erika) and Chris (Tania); six cherished grandchildren; sister Norma (Roy) and aunt Merle; as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. Arrangements were entrusted to Regina Funeral Home.

Don Milne

December 21, 1933 – December 3, 2021



Donald Roy Milne was born on December 21, 1933 on the family farm in the Nut Lake District near Kelvington, Saskatchewan. He began his schooling at the Nut Lake Country School, then following his mother's untimely death the family moved to Kelvington. Don moved to Saskatoon for Grade 12 and lived with his brother Alec and his sister-in-law Myrtle. While in Saskatoon he attended and graduated from Bedford Road Collegiate. It was during his Grade 12 year that he received the call to ministry. As a young man, he had apprenticed with the Kelvington butcher. He learned new skills which he used when he moved to Saskatoon. He found work as a butcher at the 11th Street West Safeway. He worked at that job for one year before he went on to become a full-time student at the University of Saskatchewan. He thrived as a student and earned his B.A., then

began his studies at St. Andrews College, and he was ordained in the Spring of 1959. He was settled into his first charge serving Semans, Raymore, Punnichy and Tate, and then in 1962 he was called to First United in North Battleford, SK. In 1964 he was called to serve at Grace United Church in Meadow Lake, plus Dorintosh United Church. Northern Saskatchewan was where Don found the love of the outdoors, including camping and especially fishing.

In 1969, Westview United Church in Yorkton called him and the family moved again. He served that congregation for 30 years, and he served the wider Yorkton community as well. He was elected Chairman of the School Board. He was a Rotarian and a founding Board Member for SIGN - The Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours. He became the Yorkton Legion Padre plus the Civil Chaplain for CFS Whitespruce. He was also an Addictions Counsellor at Whitespruce Youth Drug Treatment Center. For many years he coordinated the Band Boosters Booth during the annual Yorkton Exhibition, plus he acted as Chairman of Yorkton's United Way. Wherever Don went he was a friend to many.

Don and Sylvia were married at Fife Lake, SK in 1956. Don and Sylvia have three children: Cheryl (Ken), Dale (Eleanor), and Doug (Moira). Don passed away peacefully on the morning of December 3rd, 2021. He was 18 days short of his 88th birthday. He was predeceased by his mother Florence in 1945, and his father James in 1981; his brother Alex and sister-in-law Myrtle; sister Ruth and brother-in-law George Forrister; brother Dick and sister-in-law Thelma; brother Bob and sisters-in-law Irene and Laurine. Don is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Sylvia Milne; also survived by three children plus their families, including 13 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Also, his sister Alice (Wilf) Rodenberg.

The funeral took place on Saturday, December 18, 2022 at Westview United Church, Yorkton.

Diane Schmidt

1957 – 2021



The passing of Diane Schmidt (nee Scowen), of Mildren, Sask. occurred on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, Sask. at the age of 64 years. Diane was a beloved member of the Mildren Community, as a teacher, a licensed lay worship leader of The United Church of Canada and a volunteer.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Evan; her family: Andrea (Marc) Zimmer and their family, Hudson and Eden; Lyndon (Megan) Schmidt and their family, Lennon, Lincoln and Mila; and Travis (Danielle) Schmidt and their family, Everly and Ezra; two sisters, Janet (Marvin) Skalicky and Patty Mooney (Doug McMyn); three sisters-in-law, Judy Scowen, Heather (Ken) Tuck and Val Schmidt (Larry Turner); her mother-in-law, Lenora Schmidt; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Jack and Bunny Scowen; brother, Richard Scowen; and by her father-in-law, Harvey Schmidt.

Arrangements were in care of the Outlook Funeral Chapel.

Shelby Kinrade



Shelby Catherine Kinrade (Wiebe), late of Weyburn, SK died suddenly but peacefully on January 13, 2022 at the Weyburn Special Care Home.

She was predeceased by her parents, Kathleen and Jacob Wiebe; her brother Kelly Wiebe; husband Gordon and her daughter Dorrie.

Shelby is survived by her daughter Amy (Mark) Kenway; grandchildren Chance (great grandson Landyn), Bailey (great-granddaughter Paisley), Abigail, Kinsey and Zoe; her son Scott (Margaret) Kinrade, and her children and grandchild Miranda [Hazel] and Allison; grandchildren Myriah Mills (great-granddaughter Ivy), and Owen; grandsons, Jaden, Harley and Rylan Kinrade-Malbeuf.

Shelby served several congregations in southern Saskatchewan.

Mary Sutton



Our mom, Mary Rosalie Sutton, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 25, 2022 with her family by her side. She has now been reunited with her late husbands, Rev. Ronald Sutton and Keith Elliott; parents Katherine and Robert Dunlop; brother Bob Dunlop; and stepson Keith Sutton. The family is grateful to all of the staff of units 4A and 3A at the Pasqua Hospital. The medical care she received was professional, compassionate, and inspiring to observe. Mom raised a large, diverse, spirited and loving blended family. She encouraged us to pursue our passions such as music, dance, sports, education, and handcrafts to the best of our abilities.

Compassion for others, as well as service to the community, was instilled in us from a young age. Mary leaves to cherish her memory her 5 daughters Bonnie (Mike), Cathy, Joy, Colleen and Leah (Jason); 4 sons David (Lori), Douglas, Paul (Donna) and Ivan; 14 grandchildren; and 24 great- grandchildren. Mom also had many warm and loving relationships with friends of all ages, adding to the size of her family.

Arrangements were entrusted to Regina Funeral Home.

Jack Carr**February 9, 1938 – May 11, 2022**

Rev. Jack Carr passed away of cancer on May 11, 2022 at St. Paul's Hospital Palliative Care Unit. Jack was born February 9, 1938, in Nipawin to Addie and Letha Carr of Whitefox. When Jack was ten years old, his family moved to Prince George, BC. After completion of grade 12, he entered the Union School of Theology in Vancouver, becoming ordained in 1968. His first posting was to Speers, SK, in the Maymont Larger Parish. While in Speers, he met and married Louise Cunningham in 1974. Jack and Louise transferred to Third Avenue United Church in North Battleford in 1973. There they enjoyed a thriving congregation until his final move to Mayfair United Church in Saskatoon in 1986. This move presented many challenges, including the building of a beautiful new church to replace the original church which was burned down

by vandals. Jack and Louise took part in many activities at Mayfair, including choir and congregational gatherings. Jack's quiet manner and efficient organizational skills made him popular on church committees. He and Louise enjoyed attending the symphony and live theatre, as well as world-wide travel. Jack was known for his calm demeanor and matter-of-fact manner, which always put people at ease, and made him a popular choice for both weddings and funerals. Jack is survived by his wife, Louise, sister Carol Jones, brothers Lewis (Jennette) and Bill, sister-in-law Eva Carr and Louise's sister, Lorna, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and many close friends. He was predeceased by his parents, sisters Peggy Lidster, Joyce Carr, Anne Wiita and brother Bob. The Memorial Service was held at Mayfair United Church (Saskatoon) on Friday, May 20, 2022. Arrangements entrusted to Derryl Hildebrandt, Park Funeral Home.

Congregations/Pastoral Charges that have ceased worshipping

Balcarres Pastoral Charge

Penzance of the Craik Pastoral Charge

Robert Hill Mission part of the Hudson Bay Larger Parish

Lashburn: St. James United Church

Saskatoon: St. Thomas Wesley United Church

Shellbrook-Leask: Knox United Church

Tompkins Pastoral Charge

Wiseton United Church of the Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge