

Dates, Dates, & More Dates:

Sept 3 – Youth Choir (Grades 6 and up) @7pm

Sept 4 – Children’s Choir (ECS –Grade 6) @6pm
Strummers @6:15pm
Adult Choir @7:15pm

Sept 6 – Adult Choir Advance: Contact Pam for further information
Youth Group (Grades 7-12) @ 6:30

Sept 7 – Sunday Youth Group @ 10am
Sunday School Registration and Activities @ 10am
Nursery @ 10am

Sept 8 – Bridge Club @12:45pm
Worship Committee @ 6:15pm
Orchestra @7pm

Sept 9 – Quilting Group @ 9am
Faith Formation @ 6:30pm
Drumming Circle @ 7pm

Sept 12 – Junior Youth Group (Grades 5-6) @ 7pm

Sept 14 – Children & Youth Choirs Workshop after
worship. Contact Erin or Barb for more
information.

Sept 15 – United Church Women (UCW) @7pm

Sept 16 – Pastoral Care Committee @ 10am

Oct 18 – Movie Night: join us for the movie UP! at
7pm

Children’s Program

Each Sunday of July and August there will be a
children’s program during worship. Why not
bring the kids – we’d love to see you!



Summer Music Camps

August 11-15 Ukulele

August 25-27

Ages 8-12 - Musical Theatre

Ages 5-8 Fun with Music

Ages 3-4 Music for Preschoolers

For more information please visit:
www.stthomasunited.ca

July – August 2014

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ST. THOMAS TIMES



Living out our full Christian potential with:
Open Hands;
Open Hearts; and
Open Minds

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Being new to this ministry staff – HELLO! My name is Tracy Robertson and I’m a Diaconal Minister with the United Church and have been in ministry for about 14 years. I grew up in Balzac, AB on a farm where my dad was the hired hand. I am one of two children to my parents who are both immigrants from Germany. In fact, my sister and I went to Kindergarten because we didn’t know a word of English! I’m married to Todd (22 years in August) and have two children: Kurt (19) and Evangeline (16). My favourite TV shows include Sopranos, Walking Dead, Breaking Bad, Downton Abbey, Orange Is the New Black, True Detective, Criminal Minds, and reality cooking shows (Hell’s Kitchen, MasterChef, etc. although they’ve run their course and are getting plain annoying now...). I love TV movies. I also do a lot of biking, kayaking, walking/hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

I wanted to be a minister at age 18, but took the long way via Administrative Assistant at the National Bank of Canada/Financial for 15 years. I volunteered at Balzac



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United Church my entire life and then began working in the church as a Youth Minister (eventually as a paid employee - what a concept!) and Youth Coordinator for the 20+ rural churches around Calgary called Foothills Presbytery. I was in team ministry at Woodcliff United Church for almost seven years and, most recently, was the Chaplain at the Calgary Young Offender Centre for the last three years.

I am so excited to be working with you all this next year as your supply minister. You have all been so kind to me and, by the way, I love your sense of humour (a little warped and dark, just like mine!). My focus will be on Pastoral Care, Faith Formation, and Mission & Outreach. My passions include social justice, youth, and bridging the gap between the church and those on the margins and those at risk.

For the summer, I'll be doing lots of visits (call me, maybe!), preparing for Sunday School in the fall (including police checks, curriculum training, etc.....fun stuff!), leading a few of the services (prepare yourselves!), ordering resources for small groups (you're gonna love it), and getting accustomed to all things new. **Attention Kids:** please keep coming to church this summer - there will be a children's program of some sort every Sunday (games, videos, crafts, etc.). For the most part, I'll lead them and on those Sundays where I'm busy with the service, I'll need some help (July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24 - any youth around and interested? Hint, hint...).

I attended the Festival of Homiletics in May and here are some links to articles about that event. It was great. This year's Festival was featured in the **New York Times** and **TIME magazine!** Bob asked me to talk about a book I enjoyed reading and I have a confession - it won't be a great, thoughtful, theological book. The last book I read, which I loved and was pretty much 'fluff', was *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon. I also enjoyed the recent article on Melissa McCarthy in Rolling Stones magazine.

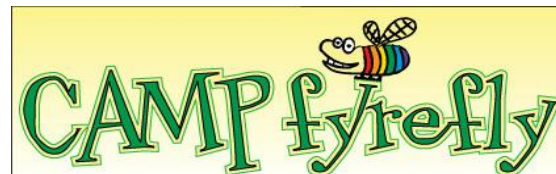
I'm looking forward to the summer with you all, and am excited about what the next year may bring.



[Inn From The Cold: Clare's Thank You](#)



Our next Inn is Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31 at St. David's United Church. It is the Labour Day long weekend so we are always challenged with getting enough volunteers. There are many different volunteer opportunities with varying time commitments. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or for more information contact Hope Cochrane at hopeco@gmail.com or call 403-374-2563.



Canada's only National Leadership Retreat for Sexual & Gender Minority Youth!

On Friday, July 11 we are making lunch and dinner for the campers at Camp Fyrefly and we are looking for your help. Camp Fyrefly is a camp for sexual and gender minority youth and is located in Cochrane. If you are interested in coming out for fellowship, cooking and fun, please contact Karen Kavanagh at karenkavanagh80@gmail.com or 403-286-8073.



During the months of July and August we are pleased to have various people helping with worship. Here's a look at who is doing what and when:

July 13 - Tension and Presence

Kari Orosz and Hilda MacDonald with Rev. Tracy Preaching and Worship Hosts: Jan & Barry Mingo

July 20 - Searched, Known, Named

Kari Orosz with Rev. Bob Preaching with Worship Host: Jeff McLean

July 27 - Hard Promises

Kari Orosz with Rev. Tracy Preaching and Worship Host: Cathy Rivard

August 3 - Deepened Relationship

Pauline & Dennis Watson with Rev. Bob Preaching and Worship Host: Hope Cochrane

August 10 - Broken Relationships

Jessica He with Rev. Tracy Preaching and Worship Host: Diane Paley

August 17 - Offering Forgiveness

Kloria Wen with Rev. Bob Preaching and Worship Host: Linda Miller

August 24 - Take Action

Elizabeth Griffiths with Rev. Tracy Preaching and Worship Host: Linda Miller

August 31 - Here I Am

Barb Tetzlaff with Rev. Bob Preaching and Worship Host: Heather & Dick Worton