

Celebrating Our Community Partners: SouthWest Communities Resource Centre

Oak Park Church of Christ is blessed to have a good number of agency partners who help us widen our reach and touch the lives of more people in our community. Over the next few issues of the Park Bench, we will celebrate these partnerships and highlight how each one adds value to the work our church does.

We will begin in this issue by highlighting one of our longest standing community partners, the SouthWest Communities Resource Centre. Located in the Co-op mall, the 'SWCRC' provides resources, referrals, education, and prevention programs for vulnerable residents living in the SW quadrant of the city. For many who are having a hard time financially or struggling to get connected in the community, the SWCRC provides a convenient and friendly hub to find out about available resources and how to access them.

By using a comprehensive intake process, the SWCRC is able to pinpoint a family's most pressing needs and direct them to appropriate sources of help. Some might find the help they need through one of the 'in house'

programs offered by the SWCRC, while others are referred to different agencies where their needs can be more adequately met. On occasion some of these families or individuals are referred to Oak Park where we can pray with them and look for creative ways within our means to help them.



For Oak Park Church, the SWCRC has been a very valuable and instrumental partner in helping us network with other agencies in our surrounding community. Because of this we have been able to participate in numerous outreach opportunities over the years, including the Community Christmas party we hosted last December as well as the Neighbour Day event held in our parking lot last June.

For the last ten years or so, Marylou Breig has been our main contact person at the SWCRC. Marylou's experience as a social worker combined with her gentle caring spirit have made her an absolute pleasure to work with. She will (cont'd on page 3)



Join us for the Alpha Course

**Sundays from
4:30 to 7pm
Begins January 26th**

**Invite a friend and
Sign up at the
Information Centre**





FAMILY DAY

at Priddis Pond

17th Feb 2020
Noon to 4pm

Sign up at the
Information Centre



(cont'd from page 1) be sadly missed by all of the staff at Oak Park as she moves on this November to help her husband with his business. Nonetheless, we know that God has a lot more in store for our partnership with this agency. So, with our eyes fixed on him and our minds focussed on his mission, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the SWCRC as we work with Marylou's replacement, Brianna, and all of the other wonderful staff there.

By Pastor Martin

Exciting Staffing Change at Oak Park

Happy New Year to our church family! 2020 is off to a good start and we have many exciting things planned including our 75th Anniversary celebration in the fall of this year.

We also have a change on our staff team to let you know about as Dawn Driediger (aka Mrs D) is transitioning out of one of her many roles here at Oak Park. Starting this month, Sara Egely will be adding KidsPark to her existing role, making her our Family Ministries Pastor. Dawn remains on staff continuing as Office Administrator alongside her other pastoral roles, including our Bridge of Hope ministry.

Dawn has been working with our children for almost 10 years, 8 of those as the Children's Pastor, and she has loved every minute of her time with the kids. In fact, she loves teaching kids about Jesus so much, that even though she has been struggling with fibromyalgia for a couple of years and the physical demands of leading this growing, vibrant, and important ministry has been difficult, she plans to continue to teach occasionally in KidsPark as a volunteer, and to be a staff support for Sara and the entire KidsPark team.



We continue to work on the details of this transition and will have a more complete picture for you by our AGM in March. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding these changes please do not hesitate to talk to Dawn, Sara, or Lane.



Eat Well. Spend Less.



Oak Park
CHURCH OF CHRIST

2020

**Any one can order one or more
Good Food Boxes.**

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

LARGE	40 lbs	\$35.00
MEDIUM	30 lbs	\$30.00
SMALL	20 lbs	\$25.00

ORDER BY

January 13

February 3

March 9

April 13

May 4

June 1

September 7

September 28

October 26

November 30

DELIVERY DATE

January 22

February 12

March 18

April 22

May 13

June 10

September 16

October 7

November 4

December 9

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email office@oakpark.ca



Oak Park - Tsuut'ina Bridge of Hope

Upcoming luncheon dates:

February 10, March 16 & April 20

We would be thrilled to have you participate in this ministry! You can help by donating a pot of hearty soup, assisting with set-up and/or clean-up, and having lunch at a table to visit with some of our guests.





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Intro to the Park.

New to Oak Park?

Join us for lunch, meet our
Pastors, and find out more
about our Church.

Sunday, February 23 at Noon
in the Church Sanctuary
Children welcome.

Please sign up at the Information Centre



Pine Lake Christian Camp Update

Answered prayers for Pine Lake Christian Camp! We are excited to announce that Oak Park's own Freek and Jessie van den Beukel will be the new Camp Managers. They will start their position April 1st and will be moving to the camp along with their 3 young sons, Benjamin (5), Reece (3) and Caspar (1).

Freek says, "For both Jessie and I our lives and faith have been enormously impacted by the Christian youth camps that we attended. For me growing up in the Netherlands, I went to various Christian camps and festivals that laid the foundation for my faith, and Jessie has been part of the Pine Lake camps since she was a little girl, both as visitor, councillor and speaker. We met at Bibleschool in Germany in 2003, and I moved to Calgary in 2005. We're both artists, and I'm a carpenter by trade.

Being in a position to be able to help make this encounter with God happen for youth today is a huge privilege to us as we see how it shaped our lives, and the lives of many around us. As a family we're excited to take good care of the camp and the site, and make sure it's physically in the best shape it can be."

We thank everyone for their prayers for this young family as they prepare to take on this responsibility and move to the camp location.

**The Oak Park Church Senior's Ministry
Presents Deanna Storfie as:**



**Corrie
ten Boom**

**Monday, February 24th
Senior's Luncheon**

Please sign up at the Information Centre

A tall stack of golden-brown pancakes on a white plate.

Shrove Tuesday
Church Family Pancake Dinner
Tuesday, February 25 @ 5:30 pm

The logo for Oak Park Church of Christ, featuring a stylized star above the text "oak park" and "CHURCH OF CHRIST" in smaller letters below.

Young Adults Night!

At Marcus Tocher's house!

Games!

Fire!

Food!

Saturday, February 29
7:00 pm

Talk to Marcus for
location details.

Back By Popular Demand . . .

Plant Fundraiser!



Orders Due by February 17

Proceeds will go to the Senior High Short-Term
Missions Fund for a future trip.

Long Range Planning Committee Report

Long Range Planning is wrapping up an extensive consultation process of proposed building enhancements with several groups and ministries at Oak Park, including:

- Elders
- Board
- Staff
- Finance Team
- Care of the Family
- Care of the Neighborhood
- And more . . .

The goal of the building enhancements, of course, will be to improve our ministry capabilities throughout Oak Park, and we're excited to hear the feedback from folks that what they've been looking to achieve in their ministries will be met with these enhancements.

The next step now is to introduce these upgrades, and their ministry impacts, in detail to the congregation at large. This will be done at the church service on Sunday, March 8, with a Q&A session for those interested in more details after the service that day.

Please join us on March 8 for exciting news and a look at what the future holds for Oak Park and her many ministries.

Doug Walker, Chairman
Long Range Planning

Coldest Night of the Year

On February 22nd, 2020 a team from Oak Park Church will do a 5km walk to support Streetlight and their care for homeless youth living on the streets in Calgary. We'd love to have you join us. Please speak to Paul or Mary Davis or phone us at 403 931 3852 or email us at davispault@gmail.com.





oak park
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, March 29th
11:45am

Coming soon to Oak Park...

m radicalmentoring

Men's mentoring. For more information contact Rob Beingessner.

"Radical mentoring gave me the tools I needed to step up to my responsibility to demonstrate how a father loves his children, how a husband loves his wife, and how a family worships God."

-Ray Snyder, Lead Mentor, The Church at LifePark

HELP WANTED

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CONNECTIONS TEAM

DO YOU ENJOY MAKING PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME?

Would you like to serve in a ministry that helps people get connected here at Oak Park? Then we need you! Greeters are needed to join our Connections Team for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided.

Please contact Shirley Hiebert at colepit@telus.net if you are interested!

NEEDED: DRUMMERS FOR THE WORSHIP MINISTRY

If you have a heart for worship ministry and are a drummer we would love for you to participate on our worship team.

Please contact Shelley at shelley@oakpark.ca if you are interested!



Your Giving Matters!

January Financial Update



What a response! While we are eager to begin looking at 2020 and the new and expanded ministry opportunities that God continues to open for our congregation, we also need to stop and take time to say "THANK YOU!" for your overwhelming response to our need at the end of 2019. We projected a deficit budget of \$7,500 despite setting a giving target that was very bold in comparison to our 2018 numbers and then on top of that we overspent in some areas that weren't all in our control... and still, we finished the year with about a \$3,000 surplus. We need to celebrate, while still keeping our eye to 2020 and what God is calling us to do in the next year. Thank you for giving generously and sacrificially.

Get Connected

If you would like to be included in any of these, please contact the church office:

- phone directory
- prayer chain
- eNews



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST