

## What Oak Park Means to Me

Doris and I started our journey together in Charlottetown PEI in 1973 at Central Christian Church. We moved to Edmonton in 1977 and found a church there, King Edward Park Church of Christ. Then moved to Calgary in 1984 arriving at Park Hill after recommendation from Ron Fraser. This church, the people, the location, the building, and the leadership, all based on the scripture and teachings of the Bible. This is the place we came to after moving from Edmonton as a young family with two children, Mark and Jillian. This is the place we can serve, worship and praise our God. In order to grow spiritually there is need to study, discuss, be taught and serve the Christian message.

Over the past 35 years from Park Hill to Oak Park we were able to immerse ourselves in this church community. There are bountiful opportunities to serve the Lord in this church. Over the years we have served as Sunday school teachers as our children grew, mission committee members and chairperson, deacon, elder, board member and chairperson. We've participated in numerous short term missions, seniors' programs, child care,



men's and women's ministry, soundboard and lighting for the music committee, and maintenance including lawn care and snow shoveling.

But best of all we grew spiritually thanks to the pastors, elders, leaders and members, all people who understand the need to feed and care for God's people. We have met and been inspired by so many fellow Christians, some who we only met once or twice, others who became long-term friends. We have attended other churches in our travels on vacation, work or missions, and found that there is a welcoming kinship. But it is true that coming home is the best feeling we can have.

Oak Park is home. It was home when we were raising our kids and even welcoming our youngest, Danielle, for the first time to our church family. It was home when we were able to serve in leadership. It was home when our children were involved (cont'd on pg. 3)

Series Starts December 1

# Luke's Christmas Album

  
oak park  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Family-Friendly Service  
11pm Candlelight Service

(cont'd from pg. 1) in the church's youth programs. It was home when we became empty nesters as our children were married and started their own families. It is home now as we are living in our senior moments. Looking back we can say it was good to be part of this church family. Looking ahead it can only get better as we see our church family expanding in Christian learning and fellowship. We believe in today's society serving our God and living as examples will be an inspiration to our eight grandchildren and community as an important legacy. It is a joy to call Oak Park Church home.

By Ken and Doris MacKinnon

## October 28th Seniors Ministry Luncheon Review

When I turned 55, I knew I qualified to be part of Oak Park Senior's Luncheons. But I lived in denial and didn't start attending until I was 66! I was the loser! Bi-monthly luncheons are the center piece of Oak Park's Seniors Ministry. Its effectiveness as an outreach and encouragement ministry was proven again on October 28<sup>th</sup>. About 80 of us gathered for a delicious roast beef dinner, highlighted by an entertaining talk on "Time" complete with "Beat the Clock!" by Pastor cum game-show-host Lane Scruggs. ("How many needles can you thread in 60 seconds?") It was the first time seven attendees had ever been to Oak Park, guests of regulars.

The Oak Park Seniors Ministry has enjoyed sustained success for many years. Since 2013 it has been spear headed by Doris MacKinnon, whose vision is for a safe place for food, fellowship and enjoyment for seniors. It started with 35 attendees, with a high of 118. Ticket cost is voluntary, made possible by Doris' team of volunteers who prepare and serve, decorate, and line up enjoyable entertainment. Current volunteers include Sharon Armstrong, Jayne Barnett, Terri Flegel, Sheila Krippel, Dawn Matthews-Nichols, Linda Best, Brenda Stapleton, Heather Parkinson and Jayne Walker. It is not just their hard work, but also their warmth and grace that is part of the experience. Of course the entire congregation helps when they set up tables and prepare our worship area. And the staff do a lot of the cleanup and other support.

Feedback and attendance demonstrates that Senior's Luncheon is a bi-monthly highlight. For some it's the only regular social outing. For others it's the comfort food, or the connection, or the opportunity to "forget my aches and pains and have a good laugh." For all, as Lane reminded us, growing older is not about being pressured by time or living in denial! It is about being thankful for the time, each moment that is a sheer gift, to bless our Father in Heaven, and enjoy Him and others as we gather.

By Dr. Ron Fraser



## Oak Park - Tsuut'ina Bridge of Hope

Upcoming luncheon dates:

**November 18, December 16 & January 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.

## 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



## *Christmas Decorating Party*

Helpers needed to  
decorate the church  
for Christmas!

All are welcome  
Wednesday November 27th  
9am-12pm at the church

# Pine Lake Men's Retreat

The last weekend of September certainly dealt us some cold weather. But that didn't deter the thirty or so men who attended the Pine Lake Men's Retreat from having great time. By now, anyone attending Pine Lake Christian Camp is used



to having a top-notch experience when Cal and Wanda Jackson are taking care of the details - and this retreat was no exception.

Friday evening began with a substantial supper followed by a heartfelt message from our guest speaker, Peter Eason. Peter told us how he had struggled many years ago with the call to be a Salvation Army officer and how more recently, the Lord had led him to become a chaplain to his local RCMP establishment. Throughout

the weekend, Peter's messages were down to earth and relevant to the lives of the men present. In addition, being a 'guy's guy' helped Peter fit in with the rest of the men as he joined in the activities with the same boyish exuberance as everyone else.

It's never easy to get the right mix of activity and rest time when planning a men's retreat, but this one had it just about right. Ample time to kick back left the men with plenty of energy and enthusiasm when it came to participating in the games. While there was archery, slingshots and axe-throwing to be had, the highlight was undoubtedly the Saturday afternoon shooting of the giant nerf guns we had made the night before. Mercifully no one was injured during this activity, although at one point, and to the delight of all the other men, Pastor Lane's brother Kelly narrowly missed a nerf ball to the head as he tried to hit it like a baseball! (Please don't tell his wife)

Much more could be written about the weekend but suffice to say, this was not your average church men's retreat. Consequently, a big thank you goes out to Cal Jackson and Matt Egely for getting the programming just right, Wanda Jackson for her outstanding meals, Les Howell for taking us deep into worship, Peter Eason for being real with us, and to all the men who made this weekend something to remember.



By Pastor Martin

A vibrant red poster featuring a large, colorful paint splatter in shades of green, orange, and blue. The text 'MESSY CHRISTMAS' is written in a white, dripping paint font across the top of the splatter. Below it, the event details are listed in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the 'KidsPark' logo is displayed on a green banner, accompanied by a small green acorn illustration.

# MESSY CHRISTMAS

Saturday, Dec 21st  
1.00 – 4.00 pm  
Age: 3–12 years

**KidsPark**

Sign up at the Information Centre before December 16th

A poster for a Christmas performance set against a dark, rustic wooden background. A white rectangular sign is centered, with the event title in a green, handwritten-style font. Below the title, the date and time are written in a red, sans-serif font. The scene is decorated with a string of white berries, a red Christmas bauble, and a pair of red and white striped socks.

## KidsPark Christmas Performance

Join Us Sunday,  
December 22 at 10:00 am



*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:

<b>LARGE</b>	40 lbs	\$35.00
<b>MEDIUM</b>	30 lbs	\$30.00
<b>SMALL</b>	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](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)

# Oak Park Missions Update

## Streetlight Ministries



Streetlight has a new Director named Carissa Lawton. On November 3rd she visited Oak Park Church to tell us about her ministry caring for youth living on the streets of Calgary. At the moment preparation is being made for their big Christmas party.

The party will take place in December and everyone receives a backpack full of basic essentials and a few treats. If you would like to care for homeless youth in this way, please consider getting some friends together and filling a backpack. Information brochures are in the foyer or call Mary Davis at 403-931-3852 if you have any questions. Completed backpacks need to be returned to the church by **Sunday December 1st**.

Coming up in **February 2020** will be the **Coldest Night of the Year** fundraiser for Streetlight.



## Terri Scruggs with Wycliffe Bible Translators



Exciting News - This is a Canadian Bible Translation Project.

I was able to visit the Cree translation teams earlier this year. A couple of translators have had to leave because of health issues — their own or that of other family members. So the work has slowed down but continues in the Oji-Cree area and for the Naskapi team.

The translator training workshop in April in Guelph was well attended. The training followed three tracks:

- Track 1 was ongoing technical training
- Track 2 dealt with translating a 30-book series of Bible stories
- Track 3 was about Oral Bible Storying - learning to tell a Bible story by heart

# Please be a Blessing

at our christmas party for low-income and new-to-Canada families on December 15th

Your help would be appreciated with the following:

- ♥ Baking Cookies or Dessert Squares
- ♥ Sorting and Wrapping Gifts
- ♥ Making Beverages and Plating Cookies
- ♥ Helping with Crafts
- ♥ Supervising Games

Please let Pastor Martin Know where you can help - Thank you

## SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WELCOMING BACK...

The Biegel Family!  
December 2nd  
12pm

## Long Range Planning Committee Report

First a refresher – after putting Long Range Planning on hold during our recent ministry transition, we decided enough time had passed and enough things changed at Oak Park to update our ministry consultation to ensure the prior draft building modifications were still fully relevant.

Over the past year the LRPC consulted with the staff, Board, Elders and ministries. From that consultation, several adjustments or upgrades to the prior plans were proposed. Major decisions included deferring any sanctuary expansion for the foreseeable future and focusing more on how our church and community ministries could be enhanced with various building improvements.

That feedback was presented to our architect late last spring and LRPC worked with the architect over the summer to incorporate that ministry feedback into the renovation drawings.

At the last LRPC meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> we reviewed the architect's updated drawings and decided they are sufficiently developed to check back with the above church groups to ensure their requested ministry needs have been captured.

Over the next few weeks the LRPC will hold follow up meetings with the staff, Board, Elders and the major ministries at Oak Park.

We've also received some cost estimates and are building financial models to determine how to financially manage the building upgrades.

Once we've completed circling back to the above groups and are confident the proposed plans capture our key ministry needs, we'll broaden the communication on those plans with the rest of the congregation – likely in the New Year.

Doug Walker, Chairman  
Long Range Planning

## An Update From...



Pine Lake Christian Camp Association is searching for a new, on-site facility manager for its 32 acres of waterfront property located 40 km south of Red Deer on the west side of Pine Lake. This is a full time position and includes housing accomodation on site.

The Camp Facility Manager is directly responsible for the upkeep of the property and equipment and assists the Camp Board and the Camp Director with the day to day operations and planning including the oversight of camp rentals.

Those with appropriate skills, an aptitude for site maintenance, and a desire to serve God through the ministry of Christian camping can send their information and/or request for more information to Lyn Wood, Camp Director, at [lyndad7@gmail.com](mailto:lyndad7@gmail.com).

A winter-themed poster for Snow Camp. It features a stylized landscape with green hills, evergreen trees, and a yellow sun. In the top left, there is a logo with a campfire and the words "SNOW CAMP" in a blue-outlined box. The text "DEC 28 - 31" and "GRADES 7-12" is displayed in green. The price "\$125" is shown in large green font, with "(BEFORE NOV 15)" in smaller green text below it. Below the price, it says "with speaker emanuel burnstad" in green. At the bottom, it states "LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE REGISTER AT PINELAKECHRISTIANCAMP.COM" in green.

**SNOW CAMP**

**DEC 28 - 31**  
**GRADES 7-12**

**\$125**  
(BEFORE NOV 15)

with speaker  
emanuel burnstad

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE REGISTER AT [PINELAKECHRISTIANCAMP.COM](http://PINELAKECHRISTIANCAMP.COM)



## Women's Ministry

Join our FaceBook group:  
*Oak Park Women's Ministry*



**Get Connected**

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

- phone directory
- prayer chain
- eNews

## Your Giving Matters!

### November Financial Update



Our congregational financial update in October from our treasurer (Tom Barnett) was a good-news/bad-news scenario. After prayerfully feeling called to set a bold donation target that was 10% higher than last year's giving, we are thrilled to say we continue to be on track to meet or exceed that target. Unfortunately, our expenses have been higher than predicted this year with increased utilities, building supplies, and staffing costs being the primary areas over budget. We have six weeks remaining in the calendar year to try and close the gap and finish the year in the black. Thank you for stepping up and for your generosity through a tough year. Please continue to pray for Oak Park's faithful use of the gifts that are given.



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.

11263 Oakfield Drive SW  
Calgary, AB T2W 4M2

Phone: 403.251.5150

Email: [office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)

[www.oakpark.ca](http://www.oakpark.ca)



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CHURCH OF CHRIST