

What Oak Park Means to Me

What does OakPark mean to us? Wow, what a loaded question! We discovered the Church of Christ about 29 years ago in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. I came from a Baptist background and Bryan came from a non-Christian upbringing. Having no Baptist church near, I went to the Church of Christ and was met with overwhelming acceptance. When we discovered that we would be moving to Calgary, we were told about another church, which we sought out. At first, we received a warm welcome but soon found it wasn't the right church for us. It was quite a while before we decided to look for another church. This time it was Bryan who went to Oak Park, and he came home with excitement and insisted that I check it out too. I grudgingly relented to go and ever since then it has felt like home.

We have slowly started to get involved and missing a Sunday is always a disappointment. Bryan has decided that he wants to be involved with Kids Park this fall, I can't begin to say what a surprise that was, but I think the kids will take to him quite quickly, seeing that he is just a big kid at heart! We miss Richard Taylor so much, and I

need my Sunday hug from Bob Bowles, or there's just something missing. We slowly started to get to know everyone at Oak Park; in fact, we still meet new people who have been here forever! We are grateful for our elders, church board and pastors and we lift them up in prayer every day.



We cherish the sermons from Lane, Martin, Ron and so many others and look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday. Not to mention the fantastic potlucks, why don't we have more of these? We have our usual spot in the sanctuary, only because it's the first seat I can walk to before I feel like I'm going to fall over! You'd probably recognize the back of our heads, before our faces! We have a FANTASTIC worship team led by Shelley, with so many amazing singers in our congregation, worship time is the best, even if you only sit and listen to the beautiful music they make. I have made dancing in a chair an art form! Well sort of.

We are grateful to God for bringing us here and helping us settle in. We look forward to (cont'd on page 3)



START
SOMETHING
NEW THIS
FALL!

join us this Sunday for church!

Back to Church Sunday - September 15th

Series Starts September 15th

STRESS
[LESS]

(cont'd from page 1) many more years here, watching it change and grow. So, what does Oak Park mean to us? Family, Acceptance, Friendship, and Home.

By Bryan and Laura Galbraith

Summer Fun at Pine Lake Christian Camp

This summer was my first time at Rookie Camp. I stayed in Beaver Lodge and I liked my cabin a lot. I slept on a top bunk, and my Dad slept on the bunk under me. Hunter, Noah and Dan were my counsellors, and there were 6 kids in my cabin counting me and Richard from our church. I liked that my dad and Mrs. D were the Deans. My sisters and my mom got to go too, because my dad was Deaning. My two favorite things were Candy Crush and Predator Prey – these were outdoor games with a lot of running. I also liked Jug and Jog, Belly Flop Baseball and the slip and slide. Beaver Lodge won cabin cleanup once. I liked chapel/worship. I liked the station time, when we got to go canoeing, do crafts, archery (that was my first time!), and games. I liked using the basketball nets. I liked all the food, especially the breakfast sandwiches. I really liked Tuck, when I got to choose a juice box and candy every day. I also liked listening to the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe audiobook during quiet time. I loved the pillow fight with the whole camp on the last night. I've memorized the whole camp verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." I loved camp; I want to go again next year!!!

By Hudson Scruggs



Pastor Lane makes a big splash at Rookie Camp





Oak Park - Tsuut'ina Bridge of Hope



Upcoming luncheon dates:

September 16, October 21 & November 18

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.



Eat Well. Spend Less.



**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	DELIVERY DATE
September 16	September 25
October 21	October 30
November 25	December 4

Dates for 2020 will be posted in November

Intern Spotlight

My name is Marcus Tocher and I will be interning at Oak Park this year. I am 24 years old. I came to Alberta Bible College in 2015 and this year I am going into my 5th and final year at ABC in the Bachelor of Theology program. My favourite movies are Captain America Civil War and Avengers Infinity War and pretty well every other Marvel movie. I also love Minions. My favourite board games are Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride and many others. My girlfriend Tamzen will be participating with Oak Park as well. Tamzen studied at ABC for two years in the Bridge Program and is now in her second year at the University of Calgary.



Save Your Empties! Bottle Drive Fundraiser



Drop your cans and bottles at the church,
Proceeds go to Youth Short Term Missions Fund

Youth Honduras Missions Trip



Oak Park, we did it! This August our Senior High Mission Trip Team was blessed to have the opportunity to serve in Honduras. We could not have done it without your prayers, love and support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make this trip a reality. As most of you know, our team was rerouted from Haiti to Honduras due to

continued instability in Haiti. It was quickly apparent to our team that God had a plan for us in Honduras. We joined with two other teams from the USA and our team meshed with the others almost instantly. It was incredible to see God at work in us and through us.

What did we learn about God during our trip? We learned that God has a plan and that His plan is better than any human plan we could come up with. We learned that God doesn't care about our socio-economic condition, His love and grace are extended to all people equally. He doesn't care about what skills we possess. What He does care about is the condition of our hearts and our willingness to serve in whatever way He sees fit.

What are some of our trip highlights? Some of our favourite moments were getting to play soccer with the children wherever we went because in those

moments it didn't matter if you spoke the language - we were still making connections. Our favourite day was going out to the girl's home at Omoa. On that day we did a couple of service projects and then had a chance to get to spend some time getting to know the girls. We also got to witness a baptism that day as one of our American team members made the decision to take





that step in her faith journey. We enjoyed the opportunity to worship with our Honduran and American brothers and sisters. We had a moment of spontaneous worship one day following a work project and it was incredible to hear everyone worshipping God in unity in their own tongue.

We return from Honduras changed. It was a privilege to be able to go and serve alongside the Hondurans. It was apparent to us from the moment that we arrived that God is at work in Honduras and that he called us there according to his plan. We brought the Hondurans encouragement and received encouragement ourselves. An experience like this puts your life into perspective and we are reminded that Honduras is not the only mission field. We have returned from our trip determined to remain on a mission seeking what God has in store for us next and willing to partner with him in whatever that may be.



CALLING ALL SAINTS

An Afternoon of Prayer

"The prayer of a righteous person
is powerful and effective."

—James 5:16

Saturday Sept. 14th
From 4pm-5:30pm

Hunting for the Heart of God



Mens' Retreat
September 27-19

Jeremiah 29:13
Peter Eason - Speaker

pinelakechristiancamp.com

Stress Less in a Life Group

It seems everyone I talk to lately is carrying more stress than they would like. If it's not relational or workload stress, then it's financial worries or health concerns that occupy too much of their thought life and emotional energy. Some may even experience distress or severe anxiety because the weight of it all begins to overwhelm their ability to cope. There's no doubt about it is there, life in the 21st century can be just plain stressful. The insidious thing about stress is that it can cause us to retreat inside our minds and isolate ourselves from others. "After all, who wants to hear about my troubles when everyone has enough of their own?"

But what if there was somewhere we could take our stress? A safe place of acceptance where we can talk about our lives without judgement? Thankfully there is. In fact, the Bible tells us there are two such places. Firstly, *1 Peter 5:7* tells us that God invites us to bring all of our worries and anxieties to him, where we will find that his care for us is mightier than any of the cares we carry. Secondly, *Galatians 6:2* says that the 'law' of Christ (that is His love) is fulfilled when we share and help carry one another's burdens.

A great way to do both of these things (along with many other good things) is to join a Life Group this fall as we go through the 'Stress Less' sermon series. Talk to Pastor Martin to find a Life Group that is right for you or start a new one by gathering some friends together. By doing life together, we can all begin to stress a little less.

By Pastor Martin



WHERE GOD'S WORD - MEETS YOUR LIFE - FACE TO FACE

Long Range Planning Committee Report

By way of introduction to new folks at Oak Park, and a refresher for the rest of us, the Long Range Planning Committee conducted extensive consultation across Oak Park last spring to update feedback and insights on future building modifications. Groups and ministries consulted included: the Staff, the Elders, the Board, Care of the Family, Neighborhood Outreach, Building Facility, Finance, Governance, and the Congregation through open houses.

Over the course of the summer the LRPC worked with our architect, Kelly Seminoff, of Parker Seminoff (specialists in church buildings), to incorporate that feedback into updated plans for future church renovations. The staff and LRP committee are excited about how these plans are taking shape, especially for how they will enhance the many ministries at Oak Park, and we'll be sharing them with the congregation later this fall.

The next step is for Kelly Seminoff to draft preliminary cost estimates, by phase, for these potential renovations. Once we've received those cost estimates we'll work on financial models to determine how the renovations could be funded and/or financed. That will be part of the update to the congregation this fall as well.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please feel free to approach anyone on the Long Range Planning Committee. Your LRP Committee members are:

- Pastor Lane Scruggs – representing the Staff
- George Graffunder – representing the Elders
- Rob Beingessner – representing the Board
- Tom Barnett – Financial Modelling
- Doug Walker – Chairman

Doug Walker, Chairman
Long Rang Planning

Bags Needed!

The Free Clothing Rack Ministry is in need of bags, plastic or cloth, of various sizes for people to take clothes home in. If you have any to donate please give them to Doris MacKinnon or drop them off at one of the church offices.

Youth Group Fall Kick Off!
Grades 7-12

Water Wars

Friday, September 13
7 pm - 9 pm



OAK PARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Youth Group Retreat

September 20 - 22
Cost \$30 per person

HEALTHY LUNCHES
Beyond Sandwiches
 with Heather Parkinson

Saturday, September 21st
 9am - Noon
 \$5 includes lunch
 Please sign up at Information Centre

oak park
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Women's Ministry



Oak Park
 Coming
 Events

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!

September Financial Update



When we sat together as a congregation early this year at our AGM we made a bold commitment – we are endeavoring to grow our giving by 10% in 2019. That, of

course, was not a blind or irrational commitment. It was done with the counsel of our Admin and Elders Boards and out of a lot of prayerful wrestling with what God was inviting us into. I am happy to report that we are officially 2/3 of the way through the calendar year and we are very nearly tracking with that goal that God has called us to. Please continue to give generously, joyfully, and sacrificially as we move into the fall. Thank You! -Pastor Lane

Monday Next **Food Bank Event:**
Sept 23

Please have all your donations (non-perishable and financial) to us by Sunday, September 15



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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