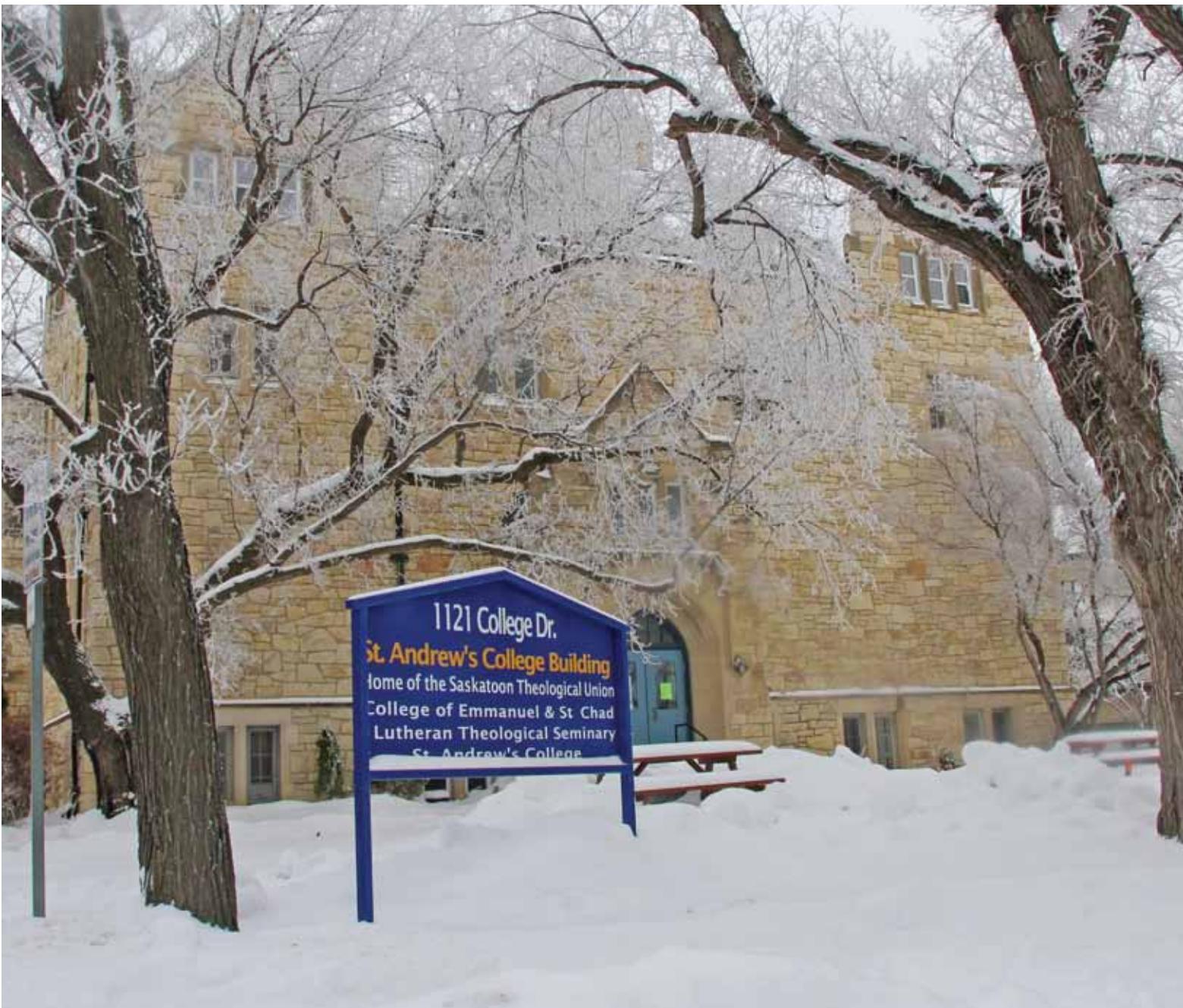


St. Andrew's College

CONTACT

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Looking ahead to a sustainable future

By Doug Neufeld
Board Chair

I roll back the calendar a year and as I reflect on 2019, the position we were in, and the work before the college in our quest to thrive into the future, with all the variables that we tried to anticipate, we had no clue we would be facing our current challenges. I'm quite certain that most everyone can relate to these thoughts and how their lives have been impacted by the events of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, but that doesn't make it any easier for the college.



It's been no secret, and I addressed it in the spring issue of Contact, that we identified in a shrinking church and with key financial resources diminishing, the college wasn't sustainable into the future on our current trajectory. We have

been putting great time, effort, and resources into developing a new strategic plan that will hopefully make us sustainable and allow the college to thrive in the future. This has not been an insignificant task, but one we felt we were making significant progress on.

Then COVID-19 arrives and the goal posts get pushed into the next postal code. Immediately, the college had to re-prioritize and did an amazing job of getting the appropriate protocols in place as well as coming up with solutions to enable students to complete the term. It was a great example of how nimble the college can be and a demonstration of how savvy our team is with technology — I'm aware of educational institutions that have struggled in this transition.

Virtual gatherings for college boards and committees

Orientation sessions were held for all board and committee members Oct. 6 and Oct. 9 over Zoom, with about 30 people attending each session.

Topics covered in the orientation included an academic update, college governance, financial and physical assets of the college, ATS orientation, United Church update, and a review of the college's harassment and conflict of interest policies.

The virtual gatherings were a way for new board and committee members to get acquainted with the leadership of the college community.



The college has done a very good job of controlling what it can control but has suffered greatly from what it can't control, most specifically lost revenues. We've maintained enrollment but tuition is a small source of our income. We've lost significant income from sources such as parking and the residence rooms. Some of our donors have been financially compromised or they're focusing first on sustaining their home church, which reduces gifts to St. Andrew's. Our most significant loss is the University of Saskatchewan choosing not to renew its space in the college, leaving almost 18,000 square feet of rental space vacant that is currently very difficult to fill. All totaled, this has us at an unanticipated deficit of more than half a million dollars. Although the team is doing everything it can to recover from these pitfalls, we find ourselves in a precarious situation.

In the process of developing our strategic plan, we have identified many great opportunities to help move the college into a sustainable future, but first we need to survive the pandemic. These objectives are not exclusive and efforts to combat these challenges will be interconnected. Ultimately, when these objectives are reduced to their most fundamental purpose, they are designed to put the college in a revenue-positive position so it can exist to develop the church's next leaders.

With this in mind, we appeal to our extended community to consider supporting St. Andrew's financially in this most challenging time. The pandemic has introduced strain and uncertainty into everyone's lives, but if you can find a way to share a part of your God-given abundance with the college, we would so appreciate your generosity.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Cor 9:8)

COVID-19 response

St. Andrew's College continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by following all Government of Saskatchewan guidelines.

As of Sept. 8, the college re-opened to the public and office hours returned to normal. Access to the building is limited to one entrance and masks are required in all public areas. Visitors also need to sign in when entering the building to allow for contact tracing.

As of Nov. 6, 2020, the Library Reading Room was closed to the public. Patrons are welcome to arrange for pickup or drop off of library materials ahead of their visit by calling 306-966-8983 or emailing stulibrary@usask.ca. Library staff are available for reference requests and assistance by phone or email.

All classes during the fall and winter semesters will be offered online.

New opportunities during challenging times

By Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal, St. Andrew's College

Dear friends of the
St. Andrew's College Community,

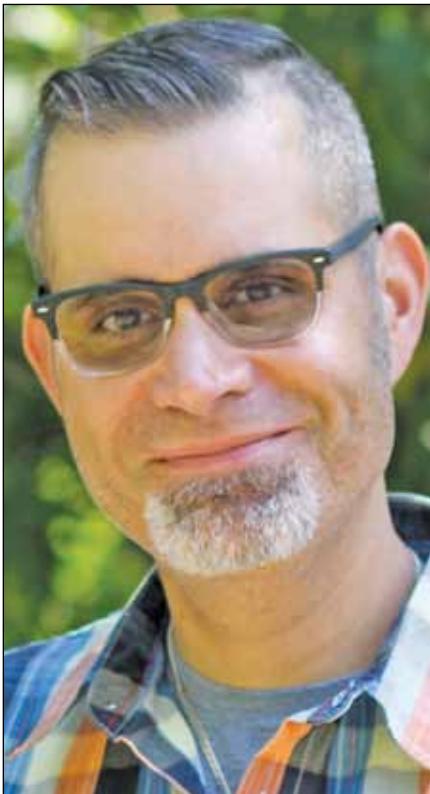
The last time we connected, friends, Easter was upon us. We were trying to understand how the pandemic was and would affect us. Six months later, as the land begins its fallow time, leaves change and trees slumber, the world continues to change. Traditions, long held, are swept aside to protect one another. Ways of being and practices of ritual are finding new lives, while there is also lament for what seems lost. To imply these are easy times, friends, would be disingenuous.

Like the college's traditional partners, from congregations to our denomination, we are facing unexpected challenges as we find our rock, our foundation, roughly shaken. As relationships with some partners appear uncertain, there is hope in new beginnings upon the horizon. There is always hope. Kin in Christ: the Easter moment is ever before us, especially in the midst of change's constant disruption. The challenge is to keep our eyes up and our ears alert, even as temptation whispers to stay put, hunker down, and wait it out.

As you read this musing in the fall edition of *Contact*, my initial tone and tenor may seem troubling, perhaps even challenging. I could have chosen otherwise, but my experience of our Christian call is not only to be resilient in life's unfolding, but to be honest. In our ancient millennial journey this is called Lament.

Lament, naming worries and hurts, anger and frustration, is important. Lament, witnessing others worries and hurts, anger and frustration, is what it means to be community. Lest you think that is the end of the story, let me remind us that lament, in our ancient scriptures, is grounded and concluded with gratitude and thanksgiving. Two key components, I have found, embolden Christ's disciples to be compassion in the world and companions with those who suffer.

In these challenging times, in which I know many of us are hurting, let me



share that the college is arriving at the end of 18 months of missional discernment. As we prepare to bring the strategic plan to the Board of Regents, there are amazing things happening that auger promise. Even in the midst of these challenging times, as you will read from Shawn Sanford Beck, the college has taken a bold step by introducing a new role to St. Andrew's team: a Recruitment Officer.

In secular parlance, Shawn will be head hunting, scout watching, and personnel recruiting. In the language of our Christian journey, he will be evangelising, discerning, raising up and commissioning. This role will allow the college to do something new for not only St. Andrew's, but also our denomination. We are about to actively seek those beyond our church walls. Shawn will be sharing Christ's call of liberation — a message that may resonate, but may be unknown. We are taking Christ's call to new leaders waiting to be and bear the Good News. We are inviting people into an unexpected Light-bearing journey, in which the burden is not ours alone, but which we share lightly with one another.

In the pandemic's midst, there are amazing things happening. Let me just highlight one. With our partners in the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU), St. Thomas More College, and Horizon College and Seminary, we have established various teams preparing for the strategic plan. These teams will explore the many substantive opportunities that have come into focus over the last year and a half. From resource sharing, curricular alignment and celebrating the STU library. Over the course of the summer, the library now houses and fully integrates the libraries of St. Andrew's, the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad and the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

As well, the faculty's commitment to respond to students' needs and to offer remote teaching have been nimble, responsive and caring! As the college has been able to pivot to offer the program remotely, we also celebrate that our enrollment has remained steady, which is heartening and hopeful. Such response and commitments anchor us in these times of disruption.

Let me conclude this conversation of sombre hope by sharing one excerpt from a draft covenant that is now helping shape conversation within the STU. I am grateful that last year, as each college surveyed you, our communities, for feedback about what the union meant, this covenant was shaped. The following articulation of the STU's mission, seems to me, a bulwark of possibility and hope in the midst of acknowledging these are uncertain times in which, together, we bear Christ's call of Unconditional Love as a celebration of Creator's diversity:

"The Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) is committed to participating in God's transformative work in the world, sharing the good news of God's love. Inspired by the Anglican, Lutheran, and United Church heritages that we sustain, we prepare leaders to serve in lay, ordained, scholarly, and teaching roles in Northern, Western, and Pacific Canada and beyond."

(Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis regularly shares his musings on his blog at: adeaconsmusing.ca)

Sanford Beck joins college as recruitment officer

By Shawn Sanford Beck
College Recruitment Officer

Greetings, my friends in Christ. I am honoured and full of joy to be taking on the new position of recruitment officer for the college. When I began my journey of formal theological education here at St. Andrew's some 25 years ago, I could not have imagined that I would end up once again in these hallowed halls, promoting the college to the larger community and searching high and low for potential students to invite into the adventure that is theological learning. It is a blessing to be back!

Those who know me will vouch for the fact that I'm a theological addict. I love nothing more than delving deep into the mysteries of Christology and eschatology, history and biblical study, ethics and pastoralia. My passion and abiding curiosity for the depths of the Spirit have propelled me over the years through various roles within the Saskatoon Theological Union: student (St. Andrew's and Emmanuel & St. Chad), online instructor, sessional lecturer, chaplain, dean of chapel, and various and sundry other positions.

More recently, I had the privilege of developing and leading various ministry training programs within the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon, as well. The theological fire-in-the-belly that I live with gives me a certain evangelical fervour when it comes to encouraging others to embrace the sweet disciplines of theology. That flame is the particular gift I bring to the challenging task of recruitment.

So what does a recruitment officer actually do? You may want to have a look at the college's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/StAndrewsSaskatoon](https://www.youtube.com/StAndrewsSaskatoon) where I speak a bit about my own hopes for the position. In brief, I would describe my role as threefold: ambassador for the college, champion of theological education, and evangelist for the Kin-dom of God in the midst of a broken-beloved world.

In more concrete terms, much of my work will revolve around building and deepening relationships with United Church communities of faith, regional councils, and other ecclesial bodies who have responsibility for identifying leaders



Shawn Sanford Beck hopes to establish a culture of recruitment

“What might you contribute toward this invitational culture of recruitment? There are many different ways to be involved, but my most straightforward ‘ask’ from you would be this: give me names! Who are the people in your world, young or old, ‘churched’ or not, who might benefit from the study of theology? These might be folks discerning a call to paid-accountable ministry, or those who are heart-deep in the work of the church already; they may also be family, friends, or neighbours involved in various forms of work and leadership outside the church, or seekers on the quest for meaning, purpose, and Spirit in life. Keep your eyes peeled ... you know who these people are (maybe even including yourself!) I would love to get in contact with them to have a conversation about what St. Andrew’s can offer them, and what they might offer to the college community and to the Spirit’s work in Her world.”

in their midst. In conversation with those “recruitment sources,” I will then reach out directly to the potential students who have been identified, and invite them to consider pursuing their vocational training at St. Andrew’s College. We are also planning to expand our traditional “catchment area” beyond the church, into new communities who might be interested in some of the gifts of theological education the college has to offer. Social

activists, spiritual-but-not-religious seekers, and professionals of various stripes are some of the folks I am planning on connecting with along the way.

All of this feels very exciting, and I am eager to sink my teeth into the work. But it is also important to remember that recruitment is the job of more than one person. Everyone in the college community has a role to play in creating a culture of recruitment, where the evangelical invitation to Wisdom’s House (Proverbs 9:1) is a natural and immediate gesture of hospitality toward all who desire a place at the table of theological education and spiritual formation.

So what might you contribute toward this invitational culture of recruitment? There are many different ways to be involved, but my most straightforward “ask” from you would be this: give me names! Who are the people in your world, young or old, “churched” or not, who might benefit from the study of theology? These might be folks discerning a call to paid-accountable ministry, or those who are heart-deep in the work of the church already; they may also be family, friends, or neighbours involved in various forms of work and leadership outside the church, or seekers on the quest for meaning, purpose, and Spirit in life. Keep your eyes peeled ... you know who these people are (maybe even including yourself!) I would love to get in contact with them to have a conversation about what St. Andrew’s can offer them, and what they might offer to the college community and to the Spirit’s work in Her world.

Our *Song of Faith* reminds us “to embody God’s love in the world, the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers. In grateful response to God’s abundant love, we bear in mind our integral connection to the earth and one another; we participate in God’s work of healing and mending creation.” As I prepare to take on the mantle of recruitment officer for the college, I give thanks to God for leading me to this place. And I pray (and ask your prayers) that this work will bear witness to the larger, deeper, and ever-more mysterious mission of God unfolding in the wonderful world around us. Thanks be to God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Baker, Sasse will receive honorary degrees

On the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee, the Academic Committee of St. Andrew's College has selected Brenda Baker of Saskatoon, SK, and Joyce Sasse of Pincher Creek, AB, to receive Doctors of Divinity *honoris causa* degrees at the College's Spring convocation in May 2021.

St. Andrew's College Convocation recognizing graduates from 2020 and 2021 is scheduled to be held Friday, May 7, 7 p.m., at Knox United Church in Saskatoon. Convocation will be part of a larger event of the Saskatoon Theological Union, as we join with our partners the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad (Anglican) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary. This event will be held only if COVID-19 restrictions allow for large gatherings.

Brenda Baker

Brenda Baker is an award-winning writer, performer, and recording artist from Saskatoon. Her unique creative life spans 40 years and includes earning a BFA in visual art, becoming a songwriter for adults, children's entertainer, and a writer of short stories and a young adult novel.

In 2005 Brenda founded *Kids of Note*, a choir for children of all abilities who love to sing. Brenda has also been involved in bringing artists together to support Station 20 West, a community centre in an underserved area of Saskatoon; raising money in support of refugees and global causes; and has recently conceived and chaired the Contemplative Arts Festival held at Grosvenor Park United Church in Saskatoon.

As stated in her nomination:

"It is both Brenda's theology and spirituality which helps her create space for wondrous projects to happen. Her relationship to Grosvenor Park United Church community is the place where much of her art is shared and thrives. She has constantly and consistently volunteered within the church structure and created projects where none existed before."

Joyce Sasse

Joyce Sasse is a retired ordained minister in The United Church of Canada from Pincher Creek, AB. She was ordained in 1965 and earned her



Brenda Baker is a Saskatoon writer, performer, and recording artist



Joyce Sasse is a retired minister from Pincher Creek, AB

Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1968 and her Master of Divinity degree in 1987.

She served congregations in Langham, SK, Rosthern, SK, and Morse/Chaplin, SK, until she began working overseas with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) from

1967-72 as Community Development Worker at the YMCA and as Chaplin/English teacher at Saigwong Boy's High School, Chongju.

After returning to Canada, Joyce served as executive director of the Saskatoon YWCA. In 1974, she served as Saddle Bag Minister with the small communities of Lake Valley, Tuxford, Keeler and Marquis, SK. She then served in Tugaske, SK, before moving to Alberta, first to Rockyford and then to Pincher Creek.

After retirement in 1996, she dedicated herself to writing, speaking, teaching, and leading workshops in support of rural ministry across Canada. Joyce was involved in the Canadian Rural Church Network and was integral in the establishment of the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLE M).

As was stated in her nomination:

"From her first summer placement as a lay person in 1958 until now, she has been deeply immersed in rural culture and community, not only as a minister practitioner in several parishes but also as a way finder, a scholar and teacher."

Remaining distantly connected

Examining the role of technology in today's worship spaces

By Cheri Uthe

Coffee over Zoom. FaceTime with Grandma. Seeing your counsellor through video chat. Without the digital spaces that we have at our fingertips today, I often wonder how much more isolated we would feel if the pandemic had materialized even just 10 or 15 years ago.

Our ability to connect using our smartphones, laptops, and the internet has the potential to lessen our feelings of loneliness and isolation. One thing is for certain; we've all had to adapt as congregants, worship leaders, and churches. I've had the pleasure of working with various faith communities while they improvise and adapt in order to continue fostering spiritual connection in the world, at a time when we need it more than ever.

Online Worship: My business offerings before the pandemic included producing video tributes for memorial services, which resulted in establishing connections and relationships with funeral homes and places of worship in Saskatoon. Back in the spring, my home church stopped having in-person services and knew that going online was something they needed to do temporarily, or so they thought. When asked if there was a way I could help, I went to work researching live-streaming platforms, programs and equipment. We've been doing live online services every week since! Like us, some churches go "live" but many record the message and/or other aspects of the service and upload for their congregations to watch anytime. The benefits of sharing online are many. Churches can reach a wider



Cheri Uthe says the COVID-19 pandemic has seen faith communities improvise and adapt in order to continue fostering spiritual connection

audience, viewers can watch at a time that's convenient and worshipping in your pyjamas is pretty sweet (or so I've heard!).

Live Streaming: Before long I was pivoting my business to offer live streaming for funerals. Although families had required this occasionally in the past, with gathering sizes limited, it soon became a popular request. Of course, we all want to physically be in the space with our loved ones when we lose someone. Nothing can replace the warm embraces and comfort of that closeness. But left with little choice, this option can allow those who cannot travel or those who are vulnerable, to participate by watching from their living rooms and to, hopefully, get a sense of "being together." Recently, we had someone watching from Brazil. Another from Australia. It is truly amazing. The world has never been so small!

Fundraising: With large gatherings being restricted, organizations are now looking for different ways to reach their audiences. The St. Andrew's College #NoGalaGala was a creative way to take something that was traditionally in-person and go online. I was delighted

to be a part of this project, and there are talks of more to come! You can get quite imaginative when doing a fundraiser or an event that allows for post-production editing—the possibilities are endless. It almost makes up for not being able to get together for a party.

The Future: Things may never go back to the way they were exactly, but when it is once again safe to gather in-person, I think we can look forward to the possibility of things being even better. Imagine taking all the creativity and innovation that has been born out of necessity, desperation and possibly boredom during this pandemic, and coupling it with the power and energy of the social collective. My rose-coloured vision is we take the best of both worlds, and the result is a hybrid that allows us to reach the people who need us wherever they choose to be in the world—in their homes, in the pews or in a coffee shop. In the meantime, from behind the camera, stay safe everyone!

Cheri is owner/operator of Faith Productions in Saskatoon offering video creation, web design, social media services and live-stream. www.faithproductions.ca

Joining together as a theological community

**Rev. Dr. Iain Luke, Principal
The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad**

I am grateful for the opportunity to write a brief introduction and greeting for this edition of *Contact*. There are more thank-yous to say, though, right off the top. On behalf of Emmanuel & St. Chad (ESC), I want to say thanks to the St. Andrew's College community for welcoming us into your home so openly and generously. And thanks to divine Providence, too, for bringing the three STU colleges together in such a timely and energizing way!

St. Andrew's has featured in my mental landscape for most of my life. As a young person, I belonged to a United-Anglican shared ministry in Porcupine Plain, with an ongoing link to both denominations' colleges in Saskatoon. I even lived and ate in residence for about a week, as part of a USask program for Grade 12 students. Coming to work here, though, has been a truly unexpected blessing.

I was deeply grateful to St. Andrew's leadership for the initial invitation to consider moving here once we learned we would have to move from our most recent home at LTS. Over the last year, that first seed of grace has grown into something chosen and affirmed by all three colleges, as we commit to discern how God is calling us to act in concert in fresh ways.

The initial fruit of that harvest is the



Rev. Dr. Iain Luke

draft of a STU covenant, which puts into words our appreciation for the collaboration we enjoyed over the last 50 years, and then asks how we can carry that gift into the future. That process affirms that it is good for United, Anglican, and Lutheran communities to be visible in the work we do together, as each one represents a kind of wisdom we all need. But it also requires us to think more deeply about how we may be more perfectly one, in our work and worship, and in equipping the church to share in the mission of God.

ESC has a particular ambition, to make sure that unfolding story never

loses touch with the faithful witness of disciples in remote and rural parts of northern and western Canada. Our current focus is a new program of ministry training and theological education, to be delivered by local (diocesan) schools, in partnership with us and with each other. That project has us asking new questions about what we can learn from people who put their faith to work where they live, and that means embracing a renewed role for the academy as the asker of meaningful questions, more than the supplier of answers.

It is a delight to be under the same roof with others who ask the same kinds of questions, in courses for lay and ordained ministries, as well as in advanced studies and research into contextual and practical theology. It is even more exciting to think together about how we can apply those lessons in our own STU setting, as a faith outpost in a secular learning community.

So, when I say "thank you," it is not simply for office space and a lease agreement. It is for the chance to worship together in ways that explore the strange new world of doing church on Zoom; it is for the kind of mutuality that has pulled each of our colleges through challenging times, and will continue to do so; it is for the willingness to open a new chapter in the story of what it means to be a union of theological colleges. More than any of that, it is gratitude for your shared delight in exploring God's grace and God's call, together.

ReJUNEvation will return in online format for 2021

By Sandra Beardsall

We are pleased to announce that there will indeed be a ReJUNEvation Conference in mid-June 2021. It will occur in online formats, rather than in-person, but we promise to bring you the essence of ReJUNEvation—stimulating presentations, engaging conversations, imaginative worship and music. And, of course, a few laughs.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, who was to speak at last year's ReJUNEvation, will join us under the hopeful theme of "Looking for Ecumenical Movement with Fresh Eyes." He will offer examples of things that seem to be leading to new life and impetus for a renewed ecumenical movement – an "ecumenical spring" – especially in the Canadian context,



Sharman

including the call to healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the urgency of interfaith dialogue, ecclesial demographic shifts and the growth of the Church in the global south, and the emergence of post-colonial forms of discipleship. As usual, there will be a course to take for credit or audit in conjunction with the conference: HA 391 – Interchurch and Interfaith Relations in Canada.

Watch the St. Andrew's College website and Facebook page and your email inbox for the details as they develop. We look forward to welcoming you, virtually, to the college next June!



St. Andrew's College Strategic Plan

Early in November, the St. Andrew's College Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees. The final plan represents an inclusive and collaborative effort of dozens of members of the St. Andrew's Community including the faculty and the staff, students, the board, committee members, alumni, Church and community members, the Saskatchewan Theological Union, other partners and experts in the area of theological education.

In the midst of this important work, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. As a result, there were new considerations and challenges to integrate into the plan. The final strategic priorities and associated initiatives provide a detailed roadmap toward a thriving and vibrant future for St. Andrew's College. The detailed action steps associated with the priorities and plans will be developed and implemented through collaborative efforts by faculty, staff, the board, committees and various ad hoc teams.

Many thanks to all who dedicated your time, effort, and commitment to this work.



A Road Map to our Future



Six Strategic Priorities with Key Initiatives

Initiatives and some actions have been identified for each of the strategic priorities. All will be sequenced with detailed action plans based on prioritization, resources, and timing requirements. Detailed plans need to be adaptable and flexible. A progress dashboard will be used to monitor progress.

1. Financial Sustainability: Achieve long term financial sustainability as a thriving theological school

- Manage/prioritize toward a balanced budget addressing revenue losses/increased expenses and efficiencies enhancement
- Develop and implement donor development/fundraising and donor outreach plans
- Increase student enrollment
- Coordinate and share identified resources/costs with partners
- Continue to assess and address the theological and socio-cultural landscape to ensure relevancy and sustainability through collaborative processes



2. Engagement and Excellence: Engage students through academic excellence, theological expertise, leadership, and ministry preparation

- Continue and demonstrate a college-wide student-focused approach for Canadian and international students
- Continue to assess curriculum/delivery to ensure flexibility and growth to address student/prospective student, church, community needs and interests
- Plan, enhance and deliver collaborative STU ecumenical offerings
- Enhance and expand integrated non-degree, lay ministry and leadership development
- Closely link academic programming and community life to recruiting role and promotional plans
- Enhance teaching capacity and capabilities to develop programs that engage and prepare students



3. Partnerships: Cultivate and leverage collaborative learning partnerships

- Identify, assess, and jointly develop a comprehensive plan for/with partners in support of SAC mission
- Position a high-value, well-resourced, easy access library meeting ATS requirements
- Establish process to continue/grow international enrollments
- Engage alumni and other stakeholders in specific activities that provide support and resources for strategy execution



4. Visibility and Recruitment: Develop and execute plans to promote St. Andrew's College and recruit/retain students

- Clearly identify and describe SAC degrees, offerings, programming, culture and core values
- Establish a new integrated recruitment position, plan and goals
- Conduct market research, develop marketing plan, brand identity and promise



5. Creativity and Experimentation: Embrace and demonstrate a pioneering and resourceful mindset

- Define, establish goals, processes and provide tools that encourage the SAC community to demonstrate a pioneering and resourceful "mindset"
- Assess and develop a forward-thinking technology plan, upgrades, support
- Integrate/demonstrate a concern and caring for the environment
- Cost effectively/creatively manage facility, operations, leases
- Continually assess, understand, adapt and create programming to meet the needs of congregations/ministries
- Encourage innovative faculty research and opportunities to understand and address the dynamic changes in the Church, congregations, ministries and our community



6. Culture: Foster a justice driven, student-focused culture of collaboration, leadership, research, and innovation

- Enhance communication processes by utilizing existing and establish new processes that support transparency, collaboration, assessment, planning, academic research, and experimentation
- Establish a SAC strategy implementation team to ensure strategy execution, to serve as liaison to internal teams and to support governance and partnerships
- Define the desired SAC culture, core values, justice-driven meaning, creation care, and necessary processes, practices to demonstrate
- Implement a progress dashboard and associated processes



Updates from St. Andrew's College faculty

Christine Mitchell

Christine Mitchell has been working in a number of areas since the beginning of the pandemic. Her last “normal” activity before pandemic restrictions was actually an accreditation evaluation visit March 9-12, and the day after she returned was the day everything started shutting down.

She has been involved in a number of accreditation-related activities over the past few months: working with the rest of the ATS Board of Commissioners to

prepare the final version of the redeveloped standards of accreditation for recommendation to the membership; doing the normal June Board of Commissioners meeting by Zoom rather than in person; serving as one of the Committee on Reference and Counsel for the ATS Biennial meeting at the end of June (also on Zoom); and working on the first accrediting reader panel of the new ATS biennium.

Along with this work, she stepped up to offer a six-week, three-credit course on the Pentateuch in June and July. This meant putting much of the course into Blackboard, to be done by students on their own time, along with twice-weekly one-hour sessions on Zoom for student presentations and discussions. This course was not originally scheduled, and she did the work to put it online in about three weeks.

One new project she's involved in is with a group known as the “BRANE Collective.” This large group of scholars of the Bible and Ancient Near East is working to de-centralize institutional power in scholarship by creating open-access opportunities for presentation, networking, and publishing in ways that privilege early career scholars, women, and minoritized scholars. Check out their events by searching for “BRANE collective”!

This fall, she was responsible for the Entry Colloquium for the Doctor of Ministry program, as the STU

welcomed the fifth DMin cohort. She has been offering this colloquium for every cohort since the program began. Her other teaching this fall and winter includes BA 110, PA 384, and the DMin capstone course in which students present the first draft of their projects. She is also working with a DMin student on his project, a ThM student on his thesis, and two MDiv students during their Ministry Residencies.

are led by each of the colleges and are attended by everyone, including alumni and other guests from time to time. Our chapel services attendance is at an all time high! I look forward to seeing everyone, being together, and praying together. It is an ongoing pleasure to work with Dr. Ann Salmon from LTS and Dr. Trish McCarthy from ESC.

On the academic side, I am pleased to share the news that my book is out. It is titled: *Liberation, (De)Coloniality, and Liturgical Practices: Flipping the Song Bird* (Palgrave Macmillan).

With two colleagues, I completed an article for *International Journal of Practical Theology* on disentangling liberationist and decolonial approaches to thinking about practical theology called “Liberation Theologies, Decolonial Thinking, & Practical Theologies: Odd Combinations?”

Two other recent publications are: “Postcolonial and Decolonial Perspectives on Hymnody” available on the *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology* <https://hymnology.hymnsam.co.uk> and a chapter entitled: ‘Is Catholicity Viable? Building an Intercultural-Interfaith Praxis’ for the book *According to All: Catholicity in Postcolonial Perspectives*, edited by Stephen Burns and Bryan Cones with Lexington Press (forthcoming).

Like all of you, I'm missing the social and career opportunities to get together. The Canadian Theological Society meeting has been postponed to next year. The annual conference for the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada (for which I'm secretary) was digital this year. We received lots of positive feedback and because of the ongoing state of affairs, we've decided to stick with the online format for next year as well. It gives us a chance to fine tune our chops and move towards a hybrid format in the future.

Other meetings or conferences have been postponed or moved to a digital format.

I do grieve the chance to be together. At the same time, I celebrate the ingenious ways we are all figuring out how to continue to nourish ourselves and our communities. I pray you find respite, peace, beauty, and community in the coming months.

Becca Whitla

As I write this update, I pray you are all managing to find glimmers of hope and beauty in your daily living. These are hard times and we are learning how to adjust. For example, our teaching at St. Andrew's is being done via Zoom this year.

At first I found it really difficult to get a sense of the classroom. But human resiliency and adaptability are amazing. We are creating communities of learning! I look forward to seeing my students each week. The barrier of the screen melts away as we dive into our commitment to learning together. This fall, I'm teaching Intro to Worship and a new course called “Emerging Perspectives on Liturgy and Practical Theology,” a course for ThM, DMin and advanced MDiv students.

Chapel has been shifted to a Zoom format, as well. This year, our sisters and brothers in faith from Emmanuel & St. Chad and the Lutheran Theological Seminary have moved into the same building.

Since the Saskatoon Theological Union is under one roof, the chapel deans, in consultation with our communities, decided last year we would share our worship services with each other. Of course, we haven't been able to do that in person yet, but we join together each Tuesday and Thursday at 11:40 a.m. via Zoom.

About once a month, we have an ecumenical STU service. The other services



Updates from St. Andrew's College faculty

Sandra Beardsall

Summer and early fall are usually busy times for me, travelling to annual meetings of academic societies in North America and elsewhere in the world. This year, I was pleased that instead of cancelling their meetings, the organizations I participate in moved into online formats, mostly Zoom meetings. The



Canadian Society of Church History, and several ecumenical gatherings met in ways that facilitated wider participation than we have ever had before. Like everyone, we missed the casual conversations over meals

and between sessions, but we also—like many congregations—learned a valuable lesson, in the midst of the global suffering that is the pandemic, about how to make our scholarly communities more accessible and welcoming.

The national Anglican-United Church of Canada Dialogue group, of which I was a part, completed the work of this “iteration” of the dialogue, which met 2017-2020, with a report to our two churches. The General Council Executive will be considering how to shape the ACC-UCC relationship in future in ways that will encourage and coordinate shared life between the churches, respond to emerging needs, and support practical efforts in common Anglican-United ministry and mission. In tough times, we need one another more, not less!

I am pleased that we will be offering a ReJUNEvation conference in mid-June 2021. It will be in online formats but

will still feature the Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman and the theme of “Looking for Ecumenical Movement with Fresh Eyes.” While the plans are still underway, we promise an experience that will provide the sense of community and friendship alongside imaginative and intellectually stimulating conversation.

Lynn Caldwell

I have been involved in leading a visioning process with the Board, Director, and Essential Voices staff members of Integrated Community Ministries (ICM) in Saskatoon. ICM is a ministry of The United Church of Canada, serving core community neighbourhoods of Saskatoon. Their new director, Chantalle Morrow-Fesciuc, has been in the position full time since the beginning of September; as well as transitioning into new leadership, a key priority for ICM right now

is strategizing about the huge impacts of COVID-19 for individuals, neighbourhoods, and households in the community. St. Andrew's and ICM have many long connections; in my own work this has particularly been through student placements for Integration Seminar.

In early October, I participated in my first meeting as a member of the Research and Data Advisory Committee of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), and am very excited about my involvement in this work as an opportunity to both learn about and contribute to the directions taken in ATS research



on topics of special interest to theological educators and institutions.

I had applied to participate in a symposium about anti-racism in theological education, through the Wabash Centre for Teaching and Learning in Theological Education. Unfortunately, the application wasn't successful, but the process of applying has itself been somewhat of a catalyst in our continued work to develop anti-racist and anti-oppressive education and action in the College. I also continue to serve on an Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression advisory group of the University of Saskatchewan.

I had been anticipating a time of travel in Manitoba in the late spring, to attend a Regional Council meeting on behalf of the College and had planned to extend my time in Manitoba including a hope to visit colleagues at the Sandy Saul- teaux Spiritual Centre. Being unable to make that trip is one of the losses due to the current restrictions.

A significant challenge in my own work right now, both in terms of teaching and other collaborations, is facilitating options for the community engagement aspects of some of our programming including the Integration Seminar course and Learning Circle 3 – which normally involve students spending time as volunteers or visitors in communities and social agencies.

I am very much appreciating the opportunity this term to have the research assistance of Sunil Kumar, a current ThM graduate student, as I work on a community-based offering of one of our upper level Church and Society courses called “On Justice.” Sunil is assisting in gathering potential readings and other resources to adapt the course for such an offering.

#NoGalaGala virtual fundraiser supports the work of St. Andrew's College

The #NoGalaGala, St. Andrew's College's first online fundraising initiative, launched Sept. 29.

This new initiative features a conversation between Principal Richard Manley-Tannis and St. Andrew's musician-in-residence Tannis Schmidt and her original compositions.

You are invited to purchase a ticket, which will allow you to watch the #NoGalaGala whenever and as often as you want, whether with friends, family, or your faith community, until the spring of 2021.

Visit the “Donate Now” page at standrews.ca and select #NoGalaGala.



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Welcome to the home of the Saskatoon Theological Union at St. Andrew's College Building

New signs highlighting the St. Andrew's College building as the centre of theological education on the USask campus have been installed around the college's exterior

Renovations, maintenance efforts a sign of the times for college

By Carolina Castro
Building Manager

The last few months brought many renovations to the building.

During the summer, LED lighting was installed in six offices, three new radiators were installed, 52 windows were replaced, the audio-visual equipment was installed in Room 322, and the four new exterior signs have been replaced.

Work continues to be done restoring the walls in the tunnels due to water seepage.

Antonio Rossi, our maintenance staff person, has renovated two more residence rooms and replaced flooring in the former Dean's suite, Office 125, and Room 111.

The four exterior signs have been replaced.

The college has created a building plan under COVID-19 restrictions to have a safe working environment for residents, staff, faculty, tenants and visitors, following the guidelines of the Saskatchewan government. Our custodians Silvia and Mauricio keep working hard to make sure that all the cleaning and sanitizing is done to the standard required by the guidelines.

Terry and Craig are working on maintaining the heating system. Unfortunately, the steam boiler was leaking and major work was required.

A big thank you to Jake Buhler, St. Andrew's gardener, for his hard work over the last few years in transforming the college's grounds.

Alum News

Jane Doull (MDiv, 1994)

I have retired after 26 years of ordained ministry, the last 10 in St. Andrews, N.B., which is in cooperative ministry with St. James, a small rural charge near St. Stephen, N.B. I am doing half-time, retired supply while the search committee does its work.

This is a progressive, inclusive faith community with excellent support and resourceful lay leadership and participation. Despite COVID-19, the congregation is about to welcome seven new members. St. Andrews is a beautiful, interesting small town abundant in amenities. It will be a wonderful full-time opportunity for the right person!

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Take a course with us!

St. Andrew's College program students and occasional (non-program) students are also eligible to enroll in courses offered by College of Emmanuel & St. Chad and Lutheran Theological Seminary. For additional Winter and Spring courses and a full list of planned offerings for the 2020-21 academic year, including ESC and LTS courses, please see the St. Andrew's College website.

All courses \$225.00/credit, plus a \$34 Populi fee. Non-program students register as an occasional student by contacting the Registrar: standrews.registrar@usask.ca

ON-SITE INTENSIVE COURSES

BE 368: Gospel of Matthew

Jan. 6-10, 2020 (A. Wright)

This 3-credit course is a study of the life and times of Jesus as described in the Gospel of Matthew. Students will carefully read Matthew's Gospel and gain an appreciation for how the Gospel was crafted in light of its Jewish and Graeco-Roman context. Students will also be asked to consider a number of Jesus' teachings in light of contemporary culture and learn new ways of incorporating the content of the Gospel into ministry and culture. Prerequisites: *Intro to Christian Scriptures* course, or permission of the instructor.

HA/SA 382: Learning Circle II: United Church History, Theology and Polity

March 16-24, 2020 (D. Schweitzer)

This 4-credit course explores the history, theology and ethos of the United Church through an overview of where the United Church has been and the journey to where it is now. Students will gain an enriched understanding of how the United Church was formed, the journey it has traveled to the present, how it is organized and how its polity functions. Prerequisites: HA/HL 111/112, SA113, their equivalents or permission of the instructor. This course can be audited (half cost).

HA 391: Sharing Life Ecumenically: Learning Each Other's Faith Practices

June 15-19, 2020 (S. Beardsall)

Graduate level 3-credit course in conjunction with ReJUNEvation 2020. Course descriptions & details in development. Prerequisites: An introductory course in Christian History or instructor's permission. A limited number of spaces will be available for those wishing to audit the course (half cost).

ONLINE COURSES

Listed dates/times are for potential Zoom meetings during the semester, dependent on individual instructors and courses. Syllabi available in December. Contact the Registrar with questions.

BA 110: Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures

Jan. – April 2020 (C. Mitchell)

This 3-credit course is a study of the whole Jewish Bible from the perspective of its formation as a canon of scripture in postexilic Judaism.

SA 214 online: Christology

Jan. – April 2020 (D. Schweitzer)

Beginning from the historical Jesus and drawing on contemporary critical Christologies, this course follows the development of faith in Jesus as the Christ and examines different ways of understanding his saving significance in different contexts. The goal is to equip students to develop and articulate their own Christology in a way that is authentic to the Christian tradition, their own experience, the experiences of others with whom they are in dialogue and the needs of communities to which the students belong. 3-credit course. Prerequisite: *Intro to Christian Theology*, or permission of the instructor.

PA 160: Introduction to Christian Education

Jan. – April 2020 (B. Whitla)

This 3-credit course introduces students to the basics of Christian education from a number of vantage points: concepts, purposes, contexts, subjects, and process, as well as methods. It aims to strengthen the understanding of Christian faith as a journey of life-long learning influenced by differences in age, faith development, and culture, among other things. The course draws on a variety of approaches and techniques to reflect upon, analyze and address the implications of teaching and learning in different educational ministry settings. Students are encouraged to envision future directions of the teaching ministry in congregational settings along with their pastoral vocation as teacher.

To register, or for more course information, contact St. Andrew's College Registrar

Greg Torwalt 306-966-5244 standrews.registrar@usask.ca

Online resource aims to foster biblical scholarship

By Christine Mitchell
Professor of Hebrew Scriptures

For this installment of “From a Faculty Bookshelf,” I’d like to talk about something that’s not on a real, physical bookshelf. Instead, this resource can be found online. It’s a website called *Bible Odyssey* (www.bibleodyssey.org) published by the Society of Biblical Literature.

The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) is the largest professional society of biblical and ancient studies scholars in the world. I have been a member since the mid-1990s, and I’ve given many papers at conferences and participated in working groups and an editorial board. The SBL’s mission is to “foster biblical scholarship,” and one way it brings that scholarship to a wide public audience is through the *Bible Odyssey* website.

Bible Odyssey has many valuable resources. Along with articles about people from Abigail to Zipporah, there are articles about places like Alexandria and Sinai, and about well-known passages such as the Binding of Isaac (Gen 22:1-19) and the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). In a section called “Bible Basics,” you can read longer essays on topics such as “Did the authors of the canonical gospels know each other?” and “How was the Bible written and transmitted?” There are links to the New Revised Standard Version, King James Version, and the New Jewish Publication Society Tanakh, so you can do searches of biblical texts. A glossary and access to the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* give you places to do quick checks on names or terms.

The site is lavishly illustrated. Every article has at least one illustration, with an emphasis on modern contemporary illustrations and artwork from around the world. There are also maps and interactive timelines. Articles have links to related articles on the site as well as to images, videos, and other media on the site. There’s a robust search function to help you navigate the site.

Finally, there are audio and video clips of scholars talking about a variety of issues in biblical texts and biblical scholarship. I’ve used these clips in teaching—to give students a break from hearing from me all the time! Clips are always accompanied by transcripts, ensuring better access to the



The online resource *Bible Odyssey* is published by the Society of Biblical Literature

material. One of the things I appreciate is the effort to ensure that videos include a range of scholars: women and racialized scholars in particular, although there are still many white men (the demographics of biblical scholars are overwhelmingly white and male).

Dozens of SBL members have contributed to *Bible Odyssey*—I, myself, am the author of the article on the Queen of Sheba. New entries are being published all the time. Each entry is peer-reviewed before being published. I recommend the site to students as a place to get up-to-date and reputable scholarship that’s written for a public audience. Readers of *Contact* can use the site to discover new things about the Bible, or for resources for study or preaching, or to recommend to congregation members who have questions about the Bible. It’s an amazing resource, and it’s completely free!

Friends We Shall Miss

William (Bill) Adamson (BD 1953), of Kelowna, BC, passed away on July 11, 2020. Bill graduated from St. Andrew’s College and was ordained in 1951. He was pleased to have variety in his service: five years as a rural pastor at Esterhazy; five years as a suburban pastor at Broadway, Regina; three and a half years at Naramata Educational Centre in the Okanagan; five and a half years at the National Office of the United Church (Leadership Development) in Toronto and 20 years on the faculty of St. Andrew’s College, the last seven and a half as President. Bill loved the church

on the Prairies and helped initiate the internship program for ministers in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba when he was the Chair of Christian Ministry. He was a tireless supporter of the church and church education and received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from St. Stephen’s College in 1993.

James (Jim) Hillson (Grad 1967), of Medicine Hat, AB, passed away on August 29, 2020. Jim graduated from St. Andrew’s College in 1967 and was ordained the same year. His work was chiefly in Calgary, where he was the

first minister of Robert McClure United Church; in Medicine Hat at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church; as well as Trail, B.C., and Vancouver.

Ronald Evans (BD 1964), of Saskatoon, SK, passed away on October 1, 2020. Ron graduated from St. Andrew’s College in 1961 and received his Bachelor of Divinity in 1964. He served in Rocanville, SK, before furthering his education at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. He served as the Director of Pastoral Services at Royal University Hospital for 19 years.

Contact

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Library consolidation complete; many new resources available

By Katelyn Haskell
Library Technician

Greetings friends!

What a wild summer/fall we've had in the library! The last time I submitted my article for *Contact* we were preparing to move the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) Library into St. Andrew's. Needless to say, the move has been completed, three library collections (St. Andrew's, Emmanuel & St. Chad, Lutheran Theological Seminary) have been interfiled, and I have a new co-worker in the library! Welcome to Leif Steiestol, library technician from Lutheran Theological Seminary.



The library move went off without a hitch, thanks to the skill, care, and hard work of the wonderful employees of Ray's Moving and Storage in Saskatoon. They were so efficient that the physical move of the LTS library wrapped up two weeks earlier than planned. Once the books were moved into the library we had two eager library assistants hired for the summer to interfile the books from the three collections – Sarah Wiwchar and Dana Bergsma. In a little over a month's time, they managed to get 90,000+ books put in order – how's that for efficiency?

All of the work is definitely not done. There is still weeding, organizing, re-labeling, and shifting that needs to be completed. However, the books are in order and we can find what we are looking

for and that's the name of the game in the library business.

By the time September came around, we were preparing for a very different academic year. We re-opened to the public with a new name, Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) Library. Our library orientations took place over Zoom (with great attendance), and we had to place some restrictions on visits to the physical library. Our stacks are closed for browsing, and books must be gathered by library staff. Almost every day we mail books to students across the country!

Even with 90,000 physical books, it's still difficult to provide adequate library resources and services to our distance students. We began looking into other electronic library resources and came across a co-operative called the Digital Theological Library (DTL). The DTL is an online library with extensive access to databases, eBooks, eJournals, full text peer-reviewed articles, subject guides and more. The coverage is very comprehensive (across denominations) and over half of the eBooks in the DTL have been published in the last 25 years. A membership to this online library has substantially boosted resource access for all of our students and faculty across the STU and Horizon College & Seminary. We are very excited to have joined this co-operative and think that this will be a game changer for our colleges. Access to this database is restricted to current students and faculty; however, if you would like to access this database, you may visit the STU Library and a staff member will happily log you in.

As always, email or call if you have questions or would like to check out books!

Pandemic puts brakes on dinner plans

While there are still limits on gathering sizes due to COVID-19, fundraising dinner plans are on hold.

We hope to begin planning for events once restrictions are eased. Please watch our website and Facebook page for more information.