



# The Fish Rapper

## Beaverlodge United Church

October 2023

### Note from the Editor



Is it just me, or has this year seemed to have come and go very, very quickly? I remember older members of my family

talking about how the years seemed to go faster as they got older. I scoffed at them, being young and foolish. Now I wish I'd listened a bit better!

We are well into the fall season. We enjoy the changing colours and the crisp bite to the morning air. But there are all those "getting ready for winter" chores to be done. Field work, the garden, making sure the furnace filter is changed, there are a myriad of things to be done.

We know the leaves will fall and then the season will change to winter, and we snuggle in for some rest.

I was thinking this morning of how our church seems to be entering the fall of its life. If you want to talk colours, there are a lot more grey heads in the congregation! There are fewer of us in the pews on any given Sunday. Like the leaves on the trees, we are falling away. Like the trees, we need renewing to bring us back to life. The survival of any organism or human organization is its active growth. Our decreasing membership is active, but it is aged, and our growth is limited by the reduced energy of our members. We are in need.

We need the vibrancy of youth, new ideas, support to encourage life in our branches, in our reaching out to provide support for those in our community who need us.

How do we get those things? It starts with people in the pews, because if you are there, you can see what is happening every week. You can become involved in small or big ways. You may have ideas that others may not have considered. You can provide nourishment so we can be revived.

Beaverlodge United Church has been a part of the community for a very long time. It would be wonderful to see that continue.

### A Letter from The Board Chairperson



#### The Future of Our Church

Churches in Canada have seen a steady decline in attendance over the last two generations and ours is no different. We have during this time been able to make do by cutting expenses and using fundraisers to replace lost envelope givings. This came to a head during COVID when churches were shuttered and then when churches were allowed to open again many congregants didn't return to the pews.

Today our expenses surpass our revenues by a ratio of 2:1. We keep the doors open only because those who came before us were such good stewards and had put away a "rainy day" fund. But that money will run out within a year.

The Board has looked at alternatives to further reduce expenses. Our property committee maintains the building very efficiently, making sure small problems don't become big ones. We don't however have funds for any major repairs such as roof replacement which is past its life expectancy. Our building is an important part of our community of faith as it provides a place to meet but also a place to share our talents and resources. We are looking at transferring the Halcourt Church to a society, so we are no longer responsible for its

maintenance or liability insurance. We have met with other area churches who are experiencing the same decline in attendance to see if sharing ministry personnel is viable.

Beaverlodge United Church was established in 1910. We were the first church in the area meeting at Rutabaga Johnson's farm. We feel we can still fill a need and are here to continue making a difference in the community. Our community of faith offers a place where we can learn and worship together to increase our understanding of God's mission for us. But we need people. We have many United Church adherents in the area, and we would like you to come back. A church is a community. We can rebuild one member at a time. Ask someone you know who you used to go to church with, maybe as a child, and come back to join us. We still meet at 11:15 and coffee is still served afterwards!

We also need a continuous source of funds. The most efficient way to contribute is by PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). Your donation is transferred from your bank account monthly so that if you miss a Sunday or no longer use cheques, we can still receive your donation. If you choose not to come to church but would still like to contribute to its ongoing operation PAR is a great way to do so. To enroll in PAR please call Lorraine Cage at 780-354-2379. If you prefer, we also have e-transfer set up via [envelope.steward@gmail.com](mailto:envelope.steward@gmail.com)

Beaverlodge United Church has been an important part of the community for 113 years working out of its current building on the corner of 10 Street (main street) and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Geoff Walker Way) since 1964. I want to see it continue and I hope you do too. Please join us for worship and fellowship this Sunday. Our current minister is Rev. Dr. Dorcas Muketha who would also like to meet you. She brings a wealth of theological knowledge and is compassionate, kind, and approachable. She has brought new perspectives and ideas to our worship.

See you in the pews!  
Brent Cage, Chair



## Notes from Dr Dorcas Kanana Muketha Kaberia

In June/July Dr Kanana, Theo and Eli made the long journey home to visit their family. Joining them for a brief time were Brent, Jason, Jamie and Jaxson Cage.

From speaking with Brent, it was the trip of a lifetime. Here are a few highlights from Dorcas. We are planning to have an event where the Cage family can share their experiences with us. It was thrilling to meet family and friends after a year and a half. Isaac and the entire family's shock to see how much the boys grew up was unfathomable. Theo's rite of passage from childhood into adulthood was a great deal of three weeks of seclusion too hard for me to process. However, we had a wonderful celebration with neighbors, friends, and family.

The Cage family had exciting moments and diverse experiences of Kenyan culture, family setup, and Meru wedding context. So rich and fascinating cultural practices especially in the Coastal region of Kenya Mombasa-Diani Beach (Jason's favorite locality) and Maasai Mara Safari. Surprisingly, every single minute was accounted for and was pleasurable. It was like a marathon, so much to see and visit yet not enough time for all of it. How time flew! We visited Isaac's and my parents at night because we could not find time during the day.

Everywhere Brent Cage was introduced as representing the Pastoral Charge won the United Church of Canada an exceptional reputation.



Left to right: Jason, Jaimie, Jaxson, Brent Cage, Eli, Theo and Dr Dorcas Kanana at Theo's celebration and the Launch of the Agape Hope Foundation for less fortunate children.



Maasai Mara-  
Maasai village life and culture  
(Behind is the Manyatta for tourist attraction)

As some suggest, we need to plan for both a community potluck and a slide presentation because there is a lot more to see. How about that?

As the year speeds by, our church year is getting busy, busy, busy! Check out the calendar to see all the things we have happening from now until Christmas. We would love to have you join us for one or more as you can.

<b>October – December 2023 Calendar</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event/Service</b>
<b>October 18 Wednesday 7 Pm BUC Sanctuary</b>	<b>Halcourt Church Meeting</b> To discuss potentially setting up a historical society to care for Halcourt Church
<b>October 21 9 AM Church kitchen</b>	<b>Pie Making</b> Fruit pies to be assembled for Roast Beef Dinner
<b>October 29</b>	Memorial Hymn Sing
<b>November 4 Saturday 10-12 PM Beaverlodge Community Centre</b>	<b>Peeling Party</b> Prepping all the vegetables for Roast Beef Dinner
<b>November 5 5-7PM Beaverlodge Community Centre</b>	<b>Roast Beef Dinner Bessie Watson 780 538 3546</b> Call if you can provide Coconut, Banana Cream pies
<b>December 3 7 PM St Marys</b>	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
<b>December 21 7 PM</b>	Blue Christmas Service
<b>December 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm</b>	NO MORNING SERVICE Evening Service with Communion

**Find us on Facebook!**

Search for “Beaverlodge United Church” and you’ll find us. Be sure to “Like” us so that you get notifications of upcoming events. And invite your friends to join as well!

**We’re on the internet**

Google “Beaverlodge United Church” to find our home page and you’ll find lots of information as well as each Sunday’s bulletin and announcements.

**Ways to Give**

Our church is working to make giving easier for all. Even in these difficult times, the work of the church goes on. We must continue to maintain our buildings and provide salaries for our employees.

Donations can be mailed to:

Beaverlodge United Church  
Box 387  
Beaverlodge, AB  
T0H 0C0

**OR**

Dropped off at the church office on Thursday or Fridays between 10-2

**OR**

Etransfer-  
envelope.steward@gmail.com

**OR**

CanadaHelps.org  
Search for Beaverlodge United Church

**Beaverlodge United Church**  
**Box 387**  
**Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0**

**Street Address:** 403 10<sup>th</sup> Street Beaverlodge, AB

**Website:** <http://www.beaverlodgeuc.ca>

**Email:** [bwhpastoralcharge@gmail.com](mailto:bwhpastoralcharge@gmail.com)

**Church office** – Neva Hanson – 780-354-2016

**Office hours:** Thursdays and Fridays

from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Board Chair** – Brent Cage – 403-988-4067

**Closing Thoughts**

We are in a time of great change. Change is never easy or comfortable, but it is necessary for growth. May we as a church community flourish through these changes surrounded by the support you continue to shower on us. Thank you for continuing to support the people and the programs of Beaverlodge United Church. We appreciate each and every one of you and the gifts you bring us.

God’s blessing upon you all.

Cathy Given  
Editor