

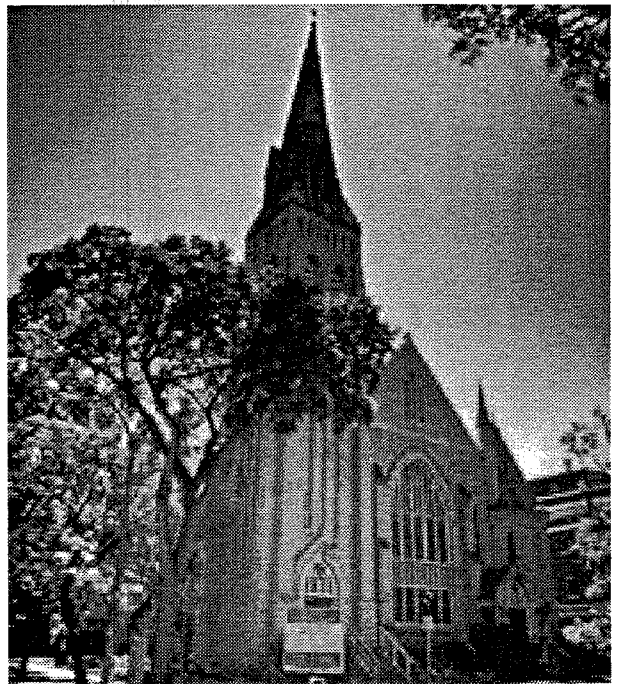
AugustZine

The Zine of Augustine United Church, June 2010

Celebrating a Proud History

A hockey arena in Toronto was a fitting, Canadian-style birthplace of a church that has paralleled national sentiment and values from the day of its inauguration. As Canada has evolved, so has the United Church. As the United Church has evolved, so has Canada. It is difficult to know who has influenced whom, but both country and church have shared mutual dreams of unity and peacemaking, women's rights to vote, to work outside the home and be granted reproductive choice, Aboriginal self-government in the state and the church, refusal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, apologies for abuse in residential schools and in parishes, ecological concern, and inter-cultural awareness. Issues of social justice have been dear to the identity and heart of the United Church from its birth. But social justice has not been the only marker of United Church identity.

The United Church birthed a mix of Congregational values of local autonomy, Presbyterian commitment to education and order, and Methodist passion for personal devotion and social justice. The Union Churches preceded this national union with their own local mergers of Presbyterian and Methodist churches, demonstrating the prairie pride in cooperative movements. These four groups were later joined by the Evangelical United Brethren in 1968. We came close to a union with the Anglicans in the 1970s, resulting in the widely-detested Red Hymnal, which neither denomination seemed to appreciate. If a greater effort was made to include more hymns beloved to both communions, would music have been the final mover of hearts and mind to a united communion? Traditional and contemporary music has, after all, continued to play a significant role in the



Augustine United Church

evolving ethos of the United Church. It has certainly been important for the ongoing ministry of Augustine.

Augustine United Church began as a Presbyterian Church in 1887. Their first minister was Dr. Andrew Browning Baird, who had just moved to Winnipeg to teach church history at Manitoba College (predecessor of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Winnipeg). In 1925, it was one of the Presbyterian Churches which chose to join the union of the United Church.

Over the years, the congregation has lived out the

passion of its United Church identity through involvement with a number of community and wider-church initiatives. Women sewed clothing for the Red Cross in World War I. The church became the relief centre for the Red River flood in 1950, and it began to sponsor refugee families from as early as 1956. Augustine was the residence and headquarters for a Student Christian Movement summer work camp in 1960 and 1961. Meals were served from Augustine's basement kitchen for the hordes of youth hitchhiking across Canada who heeded Trudeau's call to see the country in the face of diminishing employment opportunities.

Augustine has been an internship site for many students, including the former moderator, the Very Rev. Stan MacKay. It has forged good working relationships with area churches and, together with Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, St. Luke's Anglican Church and Trinity Baptist, built and managed Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments, offering low-cost housing to seniors. In later years, it redeveloped some of its own space to offer rental space for non-profit organizations.

In 1995, Augustine became the first Affirming Congregation in the United Church and it continues to sup-

News from Nova Scotia

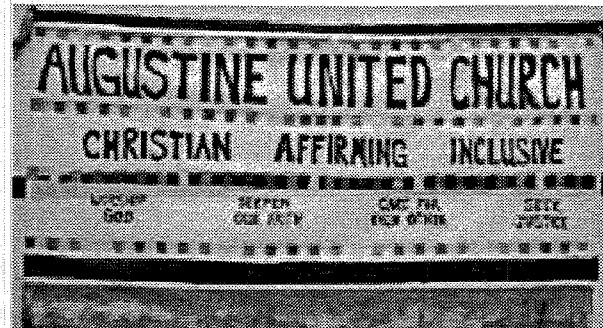
Alison Etter served Augustine as part of an internship in her studies for ministry from September 2009 to May 2010, when she began work in Nova Scotia. She sent this update.

Dear Augustine friends,

Greetings from Baddeck, Nova Scotia! I've arrived safely in my new home, right beside the Bras D'Or Lakes. It rains a lot here, but the beauty makes up for it. I can see the water right from my living room window.

Greenwood United Church, where I'm now serving, is a one-point charge, but it supplies a smaller two-point charge, which means I'm responsible for worship at three separate churches, two per Sunday. Greenwood is about the size of Augustine, but the other two congregations are much smaller. St. Andrew's, Baddeck Forks, only has about eight people worshipping on a Sunday. I like that I don't have to worry about a sound system.

Baddeck village has about 900 people, but has lots of services including a hospital with twelve beds, a



The new Augustine banner, which will be carried by members of the church in the annual Pride Day march.

port lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and two-spirited people in all aspects of its life and ministry. To this end, it marches every year in the Pride Parade.

As we march in this year's parade on June 6, we have every reason to be proud of our heritage and thankful for God's continued blessings. As members of the United Church of Canada and as members of Augustine United Church, we give thanks for our beloved church and its faithful voice of justice.

- Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd



Co-op, post office, pharmacy and library, and lots of wonderful restaurants. As the summer approaches, we're seeing more and more tourists and visitors around town. So far none of them have turned up in church. I hope everyone at Augustine is doing well. I often think of you!

Alison

Celebrating the people at Augustine

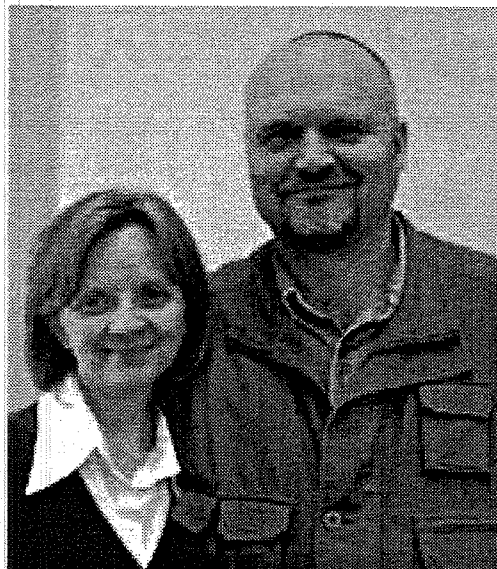
It has been a time of celebration for current and former members of Augustine United. Two Augustinians have recently become United church ministers, and another is the new Rainbow minister for the United church, working with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and two-spirited communities.

Jordan Cantwell, who served at Augustine before moving to Saskatoon to study for ministry was ordained at the annual meeting of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario held in Killarney, May 27-30. Jordan completed her degree at St. Andrews College in Saskatoon and is now serving the congregations in the Delisle pastoral charge in Saskatchewan.

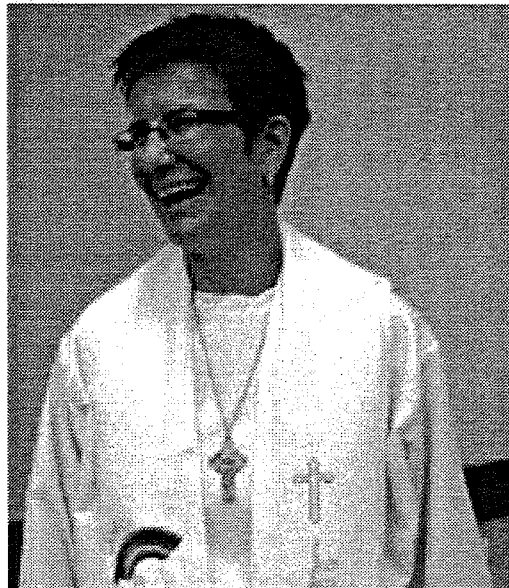
It has also been a time of celebration for Alice Szemok, who serves the Oak Table ministry, a community ministry based out of Augustine. Originally ordained in the Hungarian Reformed Church, she was admitted to ministry in the United Church at the Conference meeting.

Patrick Woodbeck, who has served Augustine as a Sunday school teacher, on the social justice committee and other ways, is also the new Rainbow minister for the United Church. He has also been accepted as a candidate for ordained ministry in the United Church and will begin studying in the fall 2011. And he married his partner Doug Gauthier in a ceremony at Augustine in May.

Congratulations Jordan, Alice and Patrick!



Alice Szemok (above, left) with her husband Geza. Doug Gauthier (below, left) and Patrick Woodbeck (below, right), and Jordan Cantwell (below), celebrated milestones over the past few months.



Pop-folk musician coming to Augustine

Canadian pop-folk musician Jeff Straker has been compared to k.d. lang and Rufus Wainwright by the Chicago Free Press. He's played the stage at the Winnipeg Pride festival. He's had a Top 10 video on Much More Music. He was a national finalist in the Canadian Radiostar Songwriting Competition and as a top 20 finalist in the global 2009 Unisong Competition.

And now the Saskatchewan-raised performer, who recently launched his first full-length CD "Step Right Up," is coming to Augustine United church. Straker will perform a fund raising concert for Augustine on Sunday, September 26 at 7 p.m. at the church.

Tickets will be available through the church office. Come check out one of Canada's best new voices and support Augustine's continued good works in the community.



Augustine in the summer

At the church: If you're not at the cottage, beach or the folk festival, come join us for worship at Augustine this summer. There are Sunday morning services and other opportunities to participate in the life and work of Augustine. Services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30 throughout the summer. They're a bit shorter than usual, with no anthem, as the choir takes a well-deserved rest after another successful year. There is also no Sunday School (last day is June 20), but there will be pictures and puzzles for children to work on in the Phoenix Room during regular worship. Regular services resume in the fall on September 7. The first choir practice is September 9 for the service on September 12. New members are always welcome.

After church: The annual congregational barbecue will be held Sunday, June 27th after service, with the second part of the Annual General Meeting to follow. The barbecue lunch will be provided, but donations are welcome. Please contact the church office for more information.

In the community: Augustine is participating in the Osborne Village Market. Every week Augustine will have a table at the market, located in the courtyard in front of the Gas Station theatre. The market runs 4-8 p.m. on Thursdays, starting July 1 and Augustine will be there with information, baked goods and community partners at the table. Contact the church office if you'd like to participate, or drop by the table and say hello!

Please join us for any or all of these events. For more information on these or other upcoming events, services or celebrations, check out the church web site at www.augustineunitedchurch.org.

The *AugustZine* is published by Augustine United Church. Writing for this issue by: Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, Alison Etter and N.J. Renwick, photographs by Charlie McDougall, R.J. Morgan and Charissa Buhler. The next issue of *AugustZine* will be published in September. If you have ideas or would like to write an article, please contact augustzine@mts.net. Augustine United Church is located at 444 River Ave., Winnipeg, MB, and can be contacted at (204) 284-2250, augustine.uc@mts.net or on-line at www.augustineunitedchurch.org.