

PEOPLE OF FAITH : Ralph and Margaret Stadnichuk



Almost 18 years ago (2000s) after visiting several churches in Fernie, we decided that Christ Church was the one we found that was close to our Christian beliefs. Our friends Marg and Elmer Wilhelm were already worshipping here. We found the Priest and congregation very friendly and welcoming.

Things We Remember

- We remember that when the Lutheran Church sponsored a Vietnamese family, Christ Church offered the rectory for them to live in (it was vacant at the time as the parish was in between priests).
- Also, before the Lutherans had their own church, they used Christ Church to worship in.
- In the 1980s Rev'd Garwood Russell and Pastor Kobernik shared services during Holy Week back and forth between Trinity Lutheran and Christ Church. These services were open to everyone in the community. The Ministerial Association was very strong at this time with combined services being held once a month.

We have been thankful that on our journey of faith we were led to Christ Church.

(Submitted by Ralph and Margaret)

Additional Information

- For many years Ralph has cared for the gardens around the rectory and the southern wall of the church while Evelyn McKinnon has planted and tended the front bed of the church on 4th Ave. Ralph remembers digging out the entire garden on the southern side wall to get rid of the "Bishop's Curse" and then replanting the iris, lilies, hollyhocks, etc.
- During Rev'd Trevor Freeman's incumbency (2011-14) Margaret and Ralph hosted a "Give a Man a Fish" workshop on gardening at their home. Ralph provided stories and tips to those interested in knowing more about gardening while Margaret provided tea, coffee and... what else, she asks, but zucchini loaf!
- Ralph has also been involved in building projects, both major and minor, at the church -- from the renovation of the kitchen and installation of the lift to arranging for one of the church furnaces to be fixed when it went out on the day of the Lessons and Carols service (2016) to replacing the bathroom floors in 2018. Currently he is the lead on the church's Stewardship of our Facilities mission priority.

(Additional Information collected by Catherine Ripley, 5 August 2018)