

The conditions they had to endure were harsh, hot and dangerous. Christians would of course set up camp in the desert as they journeyed on their way, and they were welcome to drink of the natural water resources that were nearby, but they could not camp directly in its vicinity or in any way exploit the water for use beyond the immediate needs of the day. One such place we visited was a traditional pilgrim rest stop along the "Pilgrim's Way." It was a harsh and desolate place of rest for weary pilgrims. They would stop and make camp there because it was located a mile away from a desert oasis where they could go to drink and be refreshed. The oasis is still there, unchanged as God intended, providing life giving water for all who would journey through.

Respect for the land, both its danger, the diversity of life, its gifts and its fragility is a lesson we all do well to remember in this era of human consumption and exploitation of natural resources.

Genesis 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and "keep" it. To keep it is to care for it. In the same way that God calls us to "keep" the garden, we find his blessing to "keep" us in Numbers 6:24 "The Lord bless you and keep you." In the way God keeps us, we are to keep the earth." In the same way that God cares for us, we are to care for the earth and her gifts.



Caption: A desert oasis – long considered a gift of God for the provision of all life traveling through the desert. Early pilgrims to the Holy Land camping a mile away would drink of its water and return to their camps, thus leaving the oasis unspoiled just as they found it.

Yet another story about water and how it translates into a dialogue with God comes from the ancient City of David. Located right next the Temple Mount, it was a small city, roughly the size of the Medicine Hat flats.

In ancient times, outsiders were not permitted to enter the city gates, lest they learn "the secret" which was the location of their water source. If an enemy knew the location of the water supply, the city would be vulnerable to attack.

Women's work in ancient Israel included managing the water supply, and that meant fetching enough for their daily needs from the source. In the City of David, the water supply was deep underground and every day the women would have to travel down steep and slippery rock inclines into the pitch black narrow caverns to retrieve it. Some parts of the tunnel were so narrow that they would have to turn sideways in order to navigate. Once the water was acquired they would then have to make the journey back up without spilling any of the precious commodity.

To alleviate their blindness, the women would hike up their skirts and tuck them into their waist. They would then take oil lamps, (which were small and about the size of a child's fist) and tie them to their feet to see their way. Because of concerns around modesty, no men were ever allowed into the tunnel.

When our group went into the tunnel, we had the benefit of electric light, stairs at the steepest points, and railings. Even then it required careful navigation. Many of the women in our group, including myself, felt a deep sense of awe and solidarity for these ancient and brave women who were charged with this arduous daily task. We wondered at the conversations and the secrets they would have shared amongst themselves in this place free of social convention and the watchful eyes of men. But it was in the gentle words of the psalmist who seemed to understand their experience, that we were most moved for he saw in their example, metaphor about God's guidance when we are unsure of our way and perhaps even afraid.

Psalm 119:105

*Thy word is a **lamp unto my feet**, and a light unto my path (KJV)*



Caption

The ancient City of David. The tunnel that women would travel down into every day to collect water.

Sunday June 21st we will be having a picnic lunch at the church along with a short worship service and a slide show presentation of the pilgrimage.

Note: There will be another pilgrimage taking place in mid-October. The fall program will be two weeks instead of the traditional three and will not include the trip to the Sinai.

Maureen Schlinker

Maureen and her family, 4 brothers and 2 sisters, homesteaded in Medicine Lodge Valley in the Cypress Hills. She was born Dec. 2, 1926. The only church in the area at that time was St. Margarets Anglican Church built in approx. 1908. Her brother Jack was the first baby baptized there by Rev. Morrow. Over the years several family members were buried in the churchyard including her grandfather Hezekiah in 1932 as well as two uncles and two aunts.

The Eagle Butte post office was located in her cousins house. The first school was built around 1930, it burnt down twice, the stained glass windows were saved and the school moved into the church but the pews and altar had to be moved to St. Barnabas church to make room for the children. Maureen's mother was a teacher so the children were home schooled by her. Her dad bought a house in Medicine Hat for his wife and children to live during the school year and then go back to the ranch in the summer. Maureen attended Elizabeth Street School for grade one through nine and continued at St. Theresa Academy until grade 12 where she boarded with the nuns. Graduating in 1945 with many fond memories of the heat and the rules at school such as wearing cotton stockings, no bare feet allowed, sleeves down to your wrists so the boys weren't distracted.

Maureen married Martin Schlinker on her birthday in 1947. He was overseas during the war helping liberate Holland. They later had three children Brian, Brenda and Mark. In 1968 when the children went to school she returned to work outside the home starting at Big M Motors for 7 years and then went on to Medicine Hat School District for 16 years. Starting at Crescent Heights High School then on to Crestwood School and finally closer to her Medicine Hat home on the hill - Medicine Hat High School. She officially retired completely in 1986.

For twenty years "Geritol City" at Elkwater was a favourite summer retreat. They and many friends enjoyed the 19th hole at the golf course at the park.

They have 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. During the last 35 years they have enjoyed golfing and traveling, including a trip to Holland in 1995.

Wishing you both continued good health and savour those memories as you make a few more.

Submitted by Linda Stickel



SCHLINKER, Martin & Maureen



Grandma's Apron

One of the ladies read this at the ACW Conference in Fort Macleod and it brought back many special memories of both my Grandmother and my Mother. I hope you will enjoy this as much as I did. I don't think kids know what an apron is used for any more.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

Continued on the following page

Wanda Feeney

Medicine Hat, 1948, Wanda Feeney arrived in Medicine Hat to finish her high school education at Alexandra Composite School which is known today as Alexandra Junior High School. After her graduation Wanda was employed by W.F. Woolworth. After her children grew up she was employed by Medicine Hat High School as a teacher aide for special needs for almost twenty years.



Wanda met her late husband at a friend's wedding. As a point of interest Robert is the grandson of the second person to sign up for the Northwest Mounted Police. Wanda and Robert had three wonderful children: Robert L. Wendy and Michael. Both Robert and Michael got married to Sue and Della respectively. Sue and Della are completely welcome additions to the family. Wanda couldn't dream of having better daughters in law and loves them both so very much. Further down the family tree Wanda is a proud grandmother of five and great grandmother of two.

Wanda has two great passions in her life; growing flowers and travelling the world and learning its history. In the garden she has had her fair share of success and failure, but never a negative experience, mostly growing perennials. One of her crowning achievements is a 21" (diameter) sunflower which stood 10.8' tall, and had a head that weighed 8.5 pounds.

In her travels she has stepped on the soil of many countries all across the world, immersing herself in the deep history and rich cultures. Never able to find a dull moment during her trips she finds enjoyment in learning about new cultures and being able to visit the historical sights across the world. She believes that every country has something significant to offer to the history of the world. One of her most sobering moments was when she visited Vimy Ridge. Looking at the memorial and seeing the names of all the soldiers gave her a better understanding and a clearer picture of the truth of what had happened and on how grand a scale. After a long life of travelling her suitcase will finally get a rest as she puts it into retirement . . . maybe.



Submitted by Andrew Hobson

Grandma's Apron con't

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes. Share this to those who would know, and love, the story about Grandma's aprons. Or it can be a good history lesson for those that have no idea how the apron played a part in our lives.

REMEMBER:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron. But Love !!

Palm Sunday 2009, we began our service in the hall. In the picture below we are setting out on a parade around the block waving our palm branches. We returned to the church to complete our time of worship.



Congregational Corner
 The box is coming! The Communications Committee is going to put a box in the back of the Church. Please put your comments or submissions to the Newsletter.



Thanks for getting the stains out of the carpet at the back of the Church.

The recent Morning Prayer services were a welcomed change.

INCOME

- 1. Pledges 15,548.40
- 15. Campus Care 1,503.00
- 2. Open 158.20
- 3. Investment Income 3,920.38
- 8. Altar Guild Donations 2,000.00
- Donation Receive From
 - A.C.W. 1,000.00
 - Little Green Box 211.73
 - Perogy Supper 605.81
 - Ronda' Travel Fund 2,700.00

TOTAL INCOME 27,647.52

EXPENSES

- Uncategorized 0.00
- 1. Double A 16,246.31
- 11. GST 653.10
- 12. Grounds 195.00
- 15. Maintenance 510.07
- 2. Apportionment 1,667.10
- 3. Utilities 2,341.71
- 6. Altar Guild 121.48
- 7. Building Fund Expense 8,560.00
- 7. Office Supplies 155.78
- 8. Altar Guild Donations
 (expense) 200.00
- 9. Social 10.98
- Campus Care Expense 2,040.75
- Green Box Expense 50.00
- Insurance 1,635.00
- Ronda's Travel Fund Expense
 2,700.00
- Subscriptions 20.00
- Telephone 644.53

TOTAL EXPENSES 37,751.81

OVERALL TOTAL -10,104.29

Bank Balance as of May 26, 2009
 \$13,222.24