

Pastoral & Spiritual Care

A Newsletter from Pastoral & Spiritual Care • Calgary Presbytery • The United Church of Canada

New Training Partnership



**Kenn Balzer (APCA) and
Chris Elford (RMC) sign the
Memorandum of Agreement
establishing the Centre for
Pastoral Care Education**

CENTRE FOR PASTORAL CARE EDUCATION

Training in the Basic Arts of Pastoral Care is now a cooperative affair. Under the umbrella of the Alberta Pastoral Care Association several faith groups, including the United Church in Calgary, have joined together to create the Centre for Pastoral Care Education.

This is an exciting opportunity to work together in an area of common interest and at the same time to benefit from the sharing of expertise and resources.

Rocky Mountain College will provide the space for the Centre and APCA will identify speakers for the training programs offered at the Centre.

Check out page 3 for information on the Centre and on the upcoming Basic Arts of Pastoral Care Course.



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Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

With guest speaker **Alvin Law**

Mark June 5th from 11:30 to 1:30 on your calendars. This is the date of the annual celebration of our pastoral care volunteers and we are excited to welcome Alvin Law as our guest speaker. Alvin's story illustrates how love, care, faith, hard work and courage can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Over 13,000 babies around the world were deformed in the early 1960's because of a morning sickness drug, Thalidomide. Alvin Law was born without arms after his birth mother, thinking it was completely safe, used just a couple of the tiny pills and their lives were forever altered.

Yet, what may have become a tragic life-story did not turn out that way. Today, Alvin is not only a completely independent, remarkably successful professional speaker, but proof that out of nothing can arise one of the most inspiring stories you will ever witness.

Faced with no hope in their minds, Alvin's birth family courageously gave him up for adoption, hoping and praying that someone else may be more prepared for the welfare of this pitiful newborn. Their prayers were answered.



Hilda Law was a fifty-five year old foster mother, who, along with her husband, Jack, took in neglected and abused children, loved and encouraged them back from their hopelessness and through social service programs, sent them to couples yearning for adoptions. They were truly special people.

Not only did Hilda nurse him back to health, but her intuition said lurking inside this impossible scenario was hope. Through the Law's faith, dedication and infinite belief, little Alvin learned to use his feet for hands.

In 1988 Alvin fulfilled a long-time dream and created AJL

Communications Ltd. His career as a full-time professional speaker was born.

Since 1976, Alvin has played a direct role in raising over \$150,000,000 for charity. Alvin often says, he always knew angels existed. In 1991, he met one and in 1993, he married Darlene. In 1995, his son Vance came to live with them, and in 2000, they moved to Calgary, Alberta, where they now reside with Jazper, Ray and Dexter the dogs and Trixie, the cat.

Excerpted from
www.alvinlaw.com

Basic Arts of Pastoral Care



APCA is finalizing the curriculum for the first Basic Arts of Pastoral Care training course at the new Centre for Pastoral Care Education. Details about cost will be posted on the Pastoral and Spiritual Care website (www.pastoralcareunited.ca) once they are available.

There will be three four-hour sessions on Saturday mornings beginning February 25th, 2012. All sessions will be at Rocky Mountain College, 4039 Brentwood Road NW. There is parking onsite and the college is a short walk from the Brentwood LRT station.

February 25, 2012

What is Pastoral Care? - Michael Soentgerath, Catholic Diocese
Pastoral Listening - Jean Morris, Bethany Care

March 3, 2012

Pastoral Visiting - Kenn Balzer, Carewest
Grief and Loss - to be confirmed

March 10, 2012

Religious Practice - John Griffith & Ron Semenov, Breathing Life into Ministry
Administration - Mark Lobitz, Lutheran Hospital Ministries

The purpose of the Centre is to provide training in order to equip people for service in pastoral care.

The Centre will offer classes and seminars to assist volunteers and professionals who provide pastoral care in congregations, hospitals, care facilities, hospice and other contexts of ministry in developing their skills and understanding for the vital roles they fill.

One of the key goals of the Centre is to provide basic training to volunteers so that they can be effective in providing pastoral care. The Centre intends to offer a program that is recognized by Alberta Health so that volunteers will be qualified to serve within institutions as well as within facilities and homes of their local parishes and congregations (www.rockymc.edu).



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If Facebook were a country it would be the world's third largest.

Check out this video — there are some interesting facts about social media and the world in which we provide care

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SuNx0UrnEo
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The Canadian Institute for Health Education estimates there are more than 2 million unpaid caregivers in Canada.

This CBC podcast of “White Coat Black Art” talks about caregiving and some innovative programs—especially the Direct Client Funding Program of the Saskatoon Health Region.

www.cbc.ca/video/news/audioplayer.html?clipid=2168791139

Famous Last Words

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Helping Congregations
Help Others



Life is Simple. It is Humans Who Make it Hard

If a dog was the teacher you would learn stuff like:

- *When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.*
- *Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.*
- *Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.*
- *When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.*
- *Let others know when they have invaded your territory.*
- *Take naps.*
- *Stretch before rising.*
- *Run, romp, and play daily.*
- *Thrive on attention and let people touch you.*
- *Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.*
- *On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.*
- *On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.*
- *When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.*
- *No matter how often you are scolded, don't buy in to the guilt thing and pout . . . Run right back and make friends.*
- *Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.*
- *If what you need lies buried, dig until you find it.*
- *Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.*
- *When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.*

