



Every congregation comes up with pearls ... ideas that might sound simple at first, but can often grow into grandeur. Have you got a "Bright Idea"? Send it to our [Corresponding Secretary](#) and we'll share them with our members!

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Single Parent Suppers - The Carstairs-Bancroft United Church offers a totally free meal (no thought, no preparation, no cooking, no money, no cleanup) for single parents and their children. They arrive, are welcomed, and eat. Volunteers and guests mingle - the volunteers get dessert too! Then the adult guests stay and chat about whatever they like in another room while volunteers entertain the children and clean up. It's simple and greatly appreciated by those who attend. Volunteers have fun too!

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It's time to get messy! That's what they tell us at St Andrews United Church in Lacombe. Their Messy Church program is a way of "being church" for families. Everyone comes in with their messy lives and their messy families and can see what a Christian life is all about. It involves fun, creativity, hospitality and celebration. Re-creation and recreation are so closely tied together, and Messy Church is all about meeting God in a safe space of play. A "Bright Idea" where people can come in and observe what goes on in a church.

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Gaetz Memorial has a Synergy Worship Band! Directed by Greg Wheeler of the Red Deer Royals, all instrumentalists and all ages are welcome to join this group. Musicians regularly practice after Sunday morning worship and prepare pieces to be performed at 4 or 5 services throughout the year. A variety of music, from sacred to swing and rock is played. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings after Worship.

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St. Paul's United in Trochu has a "Blessings Box" at the start of the Sunday morning service. Congregants can share a blessing from the previous week and make a donation to the box. For example, "Joe" shared that he was blessed to have his grandchildren visit for the weekend. These donations are sent to the UCC Mission & Service Fund.