



## St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

### views from the pews

*How it all began . . .*

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

I had the pleasure of meeting two parishioners that I have seen often but never been formally introduced. As they chatted the stories came flooding out. I heard two good friends reminiscing about the early days of St. Stephens. It was wonderful to hear their experiences. I have made two new friends.

*Memories by Pauline Sachkiw and Stephanie Sakundiak*

Not unlike the men, women wanted a parish that integrated English into the Ukrainian culture as many did not speak or understand Ukrainian. We got together to support our church and community. Our first big fundraiser was the Chinook Bazar. Our standards were high from how we dressed (Ukrainian attire) to the quality and presentation of our food. We served a plate of perogies, cabbage rolls, sausage and mushroom gravy for \$1.50. The booth opened at 10 AM and we were sold out by noon with a profit of \$2,542. We were pumped! This fund raiser continued for the next 4-5 years making over \$10,000 in our last year.

What we discovered was *the talent and organizational skills* of our women. We worked without the ovens and freezers you see in our professional kitchen today. Working around the seasoned cooks, the younger women learned valuable lessons. We had no babysitters so we brought our children with us. We started catering to earn money for our church. Father Greschuk was our priest and he loved the activity and our energy. He would do anything to support us. When it was discovered that women were leaving early saying they were tired, only to go home and watch their favorite soap opera, Father brought in a TV so we could watch and keep working.

What fun we had! Thinking back, these were the humble beginnings of our current UCWLC.

I welcome YOUR stories, so please contact me: [laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca](mailto:laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca) or cell: 403-614-5581

- 
- ❖ **Save the dates:** June 1 – June 3, 2018 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Commemorative Events** – details coming soon!
  - ❖ Please don't forget to sign up for this year's **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Edition of the St. Stephen's **photo directory**.
  - ❖ **Recipe Collections** for the 50th Anniversary Cookbook - please send as many as you wish. Deadline April 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information contact Trish Popel at [50anivcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:50anivcookbook@gmail.com) or 403-835-3077.