

September 05

Maybe it's a rainy day sort of thing to do. In these last summer days, I've found myself immersed in the photo albums of Southminster-Steinhauer United Church. I've been combing through the pages challenging myself to identify younger versions of so many of you. I've been reading faces for expressions of delight, surprise and wonder. In this photo history are glimpses of our family life: milestone moments, parties for all occasions, gatherings to honour the tide that brings someone to us and the tide that takes them from us, baptisms, confirmations, anniversaries, dramatic presentations, annual meetings, special meals, projects great and small. I am in awe of all that has gone before in the thirty-eight years that this community of faith has been gathering to share life and work in south Edmonton. I am amazed at the creativity and resilience of this community through all the changes and chances of life.



I am mindful of the many who have shaped our vision and given it voice and witness over the decades. I am humbled to be a part of this gifted and spirited community of faith. This is the particular time of the year when I look for the tide of autumn to return our summer travelers and to bring new faces and families to our circle. It is a time when we begin to journey together again. With newcomers and long-timers, young and older, we step into the experiences which will fill the pages of the next album. There are opportunities for our faith to grow, for friendships to be forged, for justice to be done, for losses to be shared, for grief to be supported, for love to be cherished and life to be celebrated.

Autumn invites us into its abundance. With gratitude for all that has been, with commitment for all that is yet possible; we step into the fresh pages of the fall album to be the church: 'to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil'. It is the road well-traveled and it is the path none of us have ever been on before. Let us make the road together.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Steeves'.

Nancy Steeves