

Dear friends and family,

What is your favorite season? There are things about each season that I love (yes, even winter! 😊), but something that I especially love about fall is the return of routine after a busy and fun summer. All three of our boys are now in full-time school! Bennett is in grade 6, Thomas is in grade 4, and Theo is in grade 1. We are fully into the “big kid years” and enjoying all the fun that comes with this stage.

I suddenly find my days a lot quieter, and yet somehow, just as busy! Most of September involved a lot of preparation for the start-up of Stepping Stones. Stepping Stones Red Deer has been running for over four years now, but in some ways, every September feels like we are “starting from scratch.” Just a few weeks before our intended start date, we were once again looking for a new location for our Thursday morning meetings, as well as a new team of volunteers to walk alongside the program.

I sometimes joke that I am allergic to uncertainty. I love routine, and I sometimes struggle with the need to be flexible and adaptable. If I had it MY way, everything about this ministry would run precisely, and starting up in the fall would be smooth sailing. But I have to ask myself, if that was the case, would I then be trying to rely on my own strength and capabilities instead of surrendering everything to God? Time and time again, He abundantly provides. He knows just what I need and what the ministry needs.

Sure enough, He provided a wonderful church community that has wholeheartedly welcomed Stepping Stones into their space. He is providing people who are interested in volunteering. And most of all, He is working in the lives of young moms and their kids. This fall, we have ten regular attendees. Some have a growing faith and are eager to follow Jesus more closely. Some are just starting to explore Christianity and are very open to hearing the gospel. A couple of them have expressed that they just don’t really buy into “all this Jesus stuff,” and yet they continue to come back, week after week! God is moving!

I go back to Matthew 6:25-34 so often in my Bible reading. This passage is jam packed with truth and beauty that can soothe any “allergic to uncertainty” person’s soul. It reads, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

I have a request for you: as you consider your year-end giving, would you partner with God's work of hope and wholeness in the lives of the young families in Red Deer by giving a one-time financial gift? I welcome you to scan the following QR code, or you can visit [cayu.ca/give](https://cayu.ca/give) and find my name in the drop-down menu. I am so incredibly grateful for your financial and prayer partnership!

With gratitude,



**Vanessa Mutch**

Stepping Stones | Red Deer

