

What's New at Knox?

November 2018

 **Knox**
United Church
506 4th Street SW
Calgary AB T2P 1S7
www.kxcalgary.com

Church Management Commission

Update on the Stone Restoration of the Tower

Whereas the contract for the restoration was to be completed by mid October, we have extended the contract to November 24th. The particularly bad weather at the beginning of October meant that the masonry company had to wrap the scaffolding with insulated tarps and heat the area so that the mortar would not freeze. This extra cost will not be borne by Knox. Most of the repairs and patches of the stone are completed, but the four carvings are not yet complete. On October 23rd Keith Bacon and Chuck Curry visited the stone yard to watch the stone carver carve one of the "Rose" motifs that will be at the top of the tower. It is shown here. Remember that this restoration project is being 50% funded by the Province and the City of Calgary. Looking ahead - in 2019 we will be restoring the masonry on the west side of the tower. We already have funding from the City toward this,

and the Trustees have applied for a 100K grant from the Province for the west side as well.



One of two carved roses to be reset at the upper portion of the tower

Update on the Narthex Door Restorations

The last pair of doors will be installed by the end of October. If you look carefully at the inner swinging doors you will notice that we have added weather stripping for a thermal barrier. We hope this will keep the Narthex warmer in winter. This project was the principle

capital expenditure fore the CMC on the 2018 budget.

The Sanctuary Cafe and Sanctuary Rentals

As most of you know, the Knox sanctuary is highly regarded as a space for concerts and weddings, and these rentals bring in significant revenue for church operations and our ministry (up to 100K per year). And Sanctuary Coffee is also an important social enterprise pilot to help people make connections and we hope some extra revenue. As you might have noticed lately, they do not operate at the same time. The CMC wants to give kudos to our church office and facility manager, Sue Forsyth, and Greg Glatz for cooperating in ways that allow re-setting the cafe for concerts and yet support the Cafe with minimal disruption. We are learning how these two very different functions in the sanctuary can work when we communicate and work together.

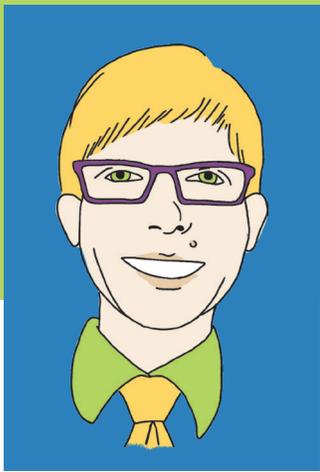
Healing Ministry

There are studies which show that Bio-energy work has a gentle and profound impact on our physical beings: maintaining and improving health. Strangely enough it also assists with decision making or calming the mind when it is racing. We have our own evidence that this is true from the number of those coming to us for healing sessions. In October when we counted, the total came to over 100 for 2018. The majority of these bio-energy sessions were given by our apprentices. Hence, we are deeply grateful for your support in helping our students progress to the next level in Healing Touch Program. We were approached by another

apprentice outside of Knox to join our Team. If she/he follows through we will have four apprentices here at Knox. Each apprentice must have 100 documented sessions. We still need your support. If it has been over 6 months since your last treatment, how about booking 1-5 sessions with one of our apprentices.

Consider taking a class and learn more about energy healing while feeling you were at a spa over the weekend.

Our time to honour one of our own: Did you know that our long-time Sharon Montgomery was one of the "Finalists in International Book Awards, Children's Spiritual Category". Consider buying a book from Sharon and learn about our Invisible Bodies, our energy bodies.



A Message From Dave

Reconciliation & Post-Colonialism

October 28 marks the 20th anniversary of the United Church's apology to Indigenous peoples in Canada for our involvement in the Residential Schools. Check out the text of this apology, delivered by Bill Phipps on the church's behalf – it's hanging in the hallway outside the sanctuary. I believe this apology marks a key moment in what may be our era's most important reformation movement.

When the United Church apologized for its involvement in the residential schools, we were acknowledging that we have participated – willingly – in a profound wrong. If you have heard the survivor stories from the residential schools, you will know what I mean. Children as young as five or six years old were taken from their families (I heard a story this week in which an elder recounted what it was like to be in a community without children – without laughter, the sounds of play. Can you imagine having your children taken away, against your will, to a place you knew would be abusive?), to a place where they would be punished for speaking the only language they knew, where physical and sexual abuse was rampant, where their identity as indigenous people would be purposely taken from them.

This was not an isolated "mistake". The residential schools were part of a systematic national program of assimilation, land transfer, and racism. I am purposely using strong language

here; even a small amount of research will, I think, bear this language out. And though the residential schools are all closed, the system persists – in laws such as the Indian Act, in practices such as the inadequate pipeline consultations, in the differences between the way our justice system treats whites and non-whites.

Acknowledging that we have done wrong is hard – particularly when the wrong is so significant. But acknowledging wrongdoing also opens us to healing, to new life, to the possibility of righting wrongs.

Here at Knox, with the 1100 Days and our second initiative of seeking to be a post-colonial church, we have begun in earnest to examine some very important questions: what is it in our attitudes and our theology that allowed our church to enter into a program like the Residential Schools? Where have we left the Way of Jesus and followed instead the dictates of empire, power, wealth and privilege? In the answers to these questions I believe we will find both challenge and freedom. It will be hard to leave our familiar ways behind – but a new and enlivening faithfulness is waiting for us! This process of finding a post-Colonial Christianity may well renew our life as a church, and even help our society to deal with issues around consumerism and climate change. Yes, I think it's that big!

In late October, we held our first session with the Elders in our "Elder-led Trust-building and Reconciliation Project". There were five indigenous elders with

us this time (there are several more elders involved, and 18 church leaders from a variety of denominations). We told stories, shared our hopes for these sessions, and began to talk about specific goals and methods.

The distinctive aspect of this program is that the leadership is in the hands of the elders/knowledge keepers. I was given good reason to be grateful for that! I experienced the elders' leadership as a very fruitful combination between spiritual guide and leadership coach. They are always grounded, always patient, always gracious and aware of the Spirit; at the same time they are skilful managers of group dynamics, and well-versed in tools for organizing, goal-setting, and motivation.

It seems clear that we all want to do more than talk in this program – that we want this process to be the beginning of some real actions. Beyond guilt and blaming, beyond anger or defensiveness, honouring our differences but even more honouring our shared humanity, we hope to begin to chart a shared path forward into right relations.

Participants from Knox are Sharon Montgomery, Christina Conroy (who also represents Ambrose University) and myself. We'll keep you posted – and as the process proceeds, we will hopefully engage the whole congregation in the conversation and next steps.

Grace, peace, love, Dave

Other News

• • • • Our Legacy-Opportunity Knocks • • • •

I very recently attended an event at the former Riverside United Church. This gave me pause to reflect on Knox United Church. At this moment in time we are a viable functioning Christian Community but as I look around the Sunday morning congregation I notice we are predominantly of the "winter generation". The "summer and fall generations" are few in number and so I ask myself, "Who will take our place when we are gone?" *What will our legacy be?*

Opportunity is knocking loudly at our door. We are in a unique position to be stewards of the past (the preservation and continuation of the 10:30 worship service), while simultaneously heralding the future (offering a new, innovative, explorative look at Christianity). We are in this precious and unusual position because we have TWO very competent, dedicated, forward-thinking ministers, both of whom are working diligently to steer the Titanic away from the Iceberg. It is incumbent on us to give them our commitment, energy, moral, and financial support, rather than being an "inward-looking congregation".

How do we do this?

1. Rejoice!!! As a congregation, we do not have to choose one path, but are being offered both/and. Those of us who cherish, find value and meaning, and are comfortable with the traditional style of practicing the Christian faith are able to continue this format. Those curious about, and wishing to expand their understanding of Christianity, are encouraged to attend an alternative service. My feet will be in both the Traditional and the Transition ponds and I am incredibly grateful that I do not have to choose one over the other.

2. Open our hearts and minds to the fact that a non-colonial, non-traditional, novel approach to the Christian faith is critical to engaging the "spring and summer generations".

3. Place our full support behind "opening up" this beautiful church to the wider community, rather than seeing it as "ours", to be preserved for our Sunday morning worship only. We are averaging 110-130 people a Sunday. We are not utilizing the many pews currently set aside for Sunday worship. Let us share our space with the Sanctuary Café, recognizing that God is in the connections, and connections are the heart of the Christian faith.

4. Begin to see the Sanctuary Café as a social enterprise rather than a commercial enterprise, utilizing church space to solve the problem of social isolation while simultaneously generating revenue to sustain the mission of connecting people to each other, to God, and to their own true selves.

5. Have faith that by living out a Christian faith, beyond Sunday morning worship, the generations behind us will see us actively practicing an inclusive, relational, non-judgemental, transformative, and in service to others faith, and thereby, be inspired to engage in and financially support the church.

6. Support and cherish the diverse, extraordinary talents of our ministers by recognizing them as individuals utilizing their talents in their unique manner, to fulfill God's mission.

What will our legacy be? A well preserved historic building or a well preserved historic building full of people actively engaged in the Christian faith.

• • • • Knox Events • • • •

Cantaré Childrens Choir is one of our longest-standing and most regular musical partners during the concert season. This year they're doing an extra concert to mark **Remembrance Day**.

In the summer of 2017 Catherine Glaser-Climie and a group of her older choristers toured the battlefields of France and Belgium looking up the graves of Calgary soldiers who had made the ultimate

sacrifice. Many of those soldiers had been members at Knox.

Now during the afternoon of **November 10th**, these students will pay tribute to the men and women of the military with a concert titled **For the Fallen**. It promises to be a moving one hour of music and readings. To help usher at this concert please contact Jill at events@knoxunited.ca

Other Upcoming Concerts Include:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 @ 3:00

CALGARY BACH SOCIETY CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ 7:00

ELBOYA SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT

SATURDAY-MONDAY, DECEMBER 1-3 @ 7:00

CALGARY CAROLFEST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 7:00

WESTERN CANADA HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT

Other News

Contributor's Corner

Donations

Budgeted

September 31 Envelope Offerings: \$185,103
91.4% of YTD Budget (\$202,500)

In this month's update I wanted to spend a bit of time talking about our new café operation. On one hand, I feel like we are constantly discussing the topic. And on the other, I'm often surprised about how many misconceptions there are about the café. I wanted to take a bit of time this month to break down how much we've spent on the café, where the money has come from, and a few other observations that I have made.

In 2018 we've spent a total of \$45,549 on café furniture, equipment, and installation costs; the amount approved in the budget by the congregation was \$105,000. The largest individual expense was, not surprisingly, the gorgeous new furniture in the café area the cost of which is currently \$25,431.

The money to cover these costs have come from a variety of congregant and community supporters. One generous congregant made a gift of \$10,000 for the café, another gifted the cost of the espresso machine, and many have gifted their time along the way. Additionally, we've received a \$5000 'Embracing the Spirit' innovation grant from the United Church Foundation. In total, we've received around \$37,000 in donations/grants in support of the café.

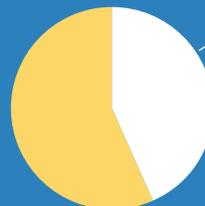
Our café is currently in the pilot phase with the café team and the church

Sanctuary Coffee Spotlight

THE CONGREGATION APPROVED

\$105,000

TO GO TOWARDS SETTING UP THE CAFÉ



\$45,549 SPENT

43%

OF THE APPROVED BUDGET
HAS BEEN USED

\$10,000
DONATED

+

**ESPRESSO
MACHINE**
DONATED

+

\$5,000
GRANT

+

SO MUCH MORE
GENEROSITY

= \$37,000
DONATIONS & GRANTS

management commission collaborating on how to get the café ready for AHS and 'up and running.' I know that everyone is in agreement that everyone thinks the café is a great idea and loves the idea of making the sanctuary more open to the public. However, the café is now open and it is bringing more people into our building and there have been a variety of objections raised.

One of the primary objections being that there is a lack of a business plan. *There is a business plan.* It has been shared and input has been invited multiple times.

Another of the concerns raised is that opening the sanctuary will increase some of our operating costs (electricity, janitorial, heating, etc.) *That is absolutely accurate.* However, that was a consideration that's been considered. Honestly, I think it's irrelevant. Anything we do as a congregation that increases the use of the building will increase our operating costs. And if we aren't actively trying to open our building to more people, we're running a museum and minimizing the impact we can make in the community.

The café is designed to be a social enterprise. That means that it is designed to cover the cost of its operations while reinvesting its profits into the other Knox ministries. That is **VERY** different than a *non-profit* or *for-profit* enterprise.

In October myself and Greg designed some reporting to track our monthly incomes and expenses on a day-by-day basis so we can monitor our costs, trends, and capitalize on what's successful. The café has been and will continue to be a 'test and learn' process. Anyone who expected it to be perfect from day one didn't have a reasonable expectation of how running a business.

If you haven't been down yet I'd encourage you to come for a visit and display your support. It's great coffee in a beautiful space and our café manager and volunteers are doing a wonderful job. Now that the doors are open I hope everyone will be constructive, supportive, and help us to be successful and serve the community.

Thanks!

— Josh Gordon