

News@Knox

February 2023

WELCOME NOTE FROM OUR MINISTER



“We now stand at a crucial time in the life of the church, and the history of Canada, when we can see the journey through. For more than thirty years, the United Church and Indigenous peoples have been on a journey towards mutuality, respect and equity. Towards reconciliation. Towards justice.” United Church of Canada

In my four-ish months of being at Knox, I have been inspired and awed by the community and your dedication to one another and to ministry on the corner of 4th Street and 6th Avenue. In this short time, I have seen you step up to new volunteer positions, engage in a successful stewardship campaign, host thousands of people during the month of December, gather for study and worship and care for one another in many different ways.



One of the places people are engaging is through our website and social media. Roman Sizer has taken the lead in our communications and is rebuilding our on-line presence. In the month of December we had over 2000 unique visitors to our website, 15,000 in 2022! And, “Christmas Eve” was what people searched the most on our website. I want to thank the many, many of you who volunteered your time on Christmas Eve – over 800 people attended in person and another 267 watched on-line.

One of the themes that has emerged in conversations and through the work of the Mission and Vision Team has been a commitment to the ongoing work of truth and reconciliation. This is important work and work we must do as individuals and as a greater community. The United Church continues to focus on this journey of mutuality, respect and equity.

Knox Sanctuary for our 11pm Christmas Eve Service

During Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) we will focus on the theme of truth and reconciliation. This is a traditional Lenten theme – the work of reconciliation between God and humans, and so it makes sense to work on reconciliation with one another during this time. We are planning different ways to step into the ongoing work – I invite you to look at how you might engage. Some of the work might feel uncomfortable, but it is in uncomfortableness and authenticity that we grow in new ways and journey together towards a more just world.

Peace,

Sheena

KNOX FAMILY NEWS

GET TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

This month, your newsletter team sat down with Betty Norman Bray (co-Chair) and Lisa MacKay (Secretary) of the newly elected Knox Governing Body. Next month, Dennis Ruf (co-Chair) and Janet Zarka (Treasurer) will join us for a similar conversation.



Lisa McKay



Betty Norman Bray

NT: Betty, Lisa, thank you so much for making time to be with us today. And, thank you for stepping up to these important leadership positions. The whole Knox congregation is grateful, and excited to see how the establishment of a Governing Body will continue and lead our successful rebuilding in 2023.

We know you both have a long history with Knox UCC. Can you share with us some of the highlights of your personal "Knox story" and how you came to know and love the community here?

BNB: I was married at Knox in 1990 and attended but didn't formally join until 1999. I love the Sanctuary. The space, the organ, the pews - they are all the reason Knox brings me spiritual peace.

I served on M&P as both member and chair from the mid 2000s until 2008. I then spent almost 10 years talking to anyone at Knox who might know of a volunteer position for me and had no response until James Wear suggested he and I become a Trustee in 2017. At the Congregational meeting where James and I were voted on as new trustees, Aldo Marchese raised a very important issue - how were these candidates selected?

From this question, Opportunity Knox was born and working with Diane Trimming on it has been a highlight of my time at Knox since 2018. I have enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people at Knox as they stepped up to help move us forward. This has fundamentally strengthened my faith and commitment.

I also had the great privilege of joining the Strategic Community Partnership's team, chaired by Kay De La Ronde, in 2019.

LM: My story is much briefer: I think it was 2017, or thereabouts, when I first attended some services at Knox. Shortly after, I became a member. I found the congregation very welcoming and felt a sense of peace at Knox. As I think is true of many people, my attendance at Knox was interrupted by the pandemic. It was a real delight when Kay reached out and invited me back and to take up this position.

NT: We are all so grateful to you for volunteering to take on these important leadership positions. Can you please speak a little bit about your reasons for stepping up and/or how you were approached to volunteer?

BNB: I was approached by Kay De La Ronde and by Diane Trimming about serving on the Governing Body in November 2022, and lastly by Dennis Ruf, who suggested we be co-chairs. I agreed to the 1-year term because it seemed to be a wonderful chance to work with Dennis, Sheena, Lisa MacKay and Janet Zatka, to help build and support the Congregation of Knox.

LM: I also received a call from Kay De La Ronde in November 2022, asking if she could put my name forward to Opportunity Knox for the role of the Secretary of the new Governing Council. She updated me on what had happened lately at Knox. I then met over Zoom for an interview with Opportunity Knox, who put my name forward as a nominee for the position.

I think the main reason I volunteered for the role is that I understand the importance of contributing to the Knox community. I know a great challenge lies ahead, but there is such a feeling of hope and I would like to be a part of the rebuilding. I am hoping my experience can help me contribute to Knox.

NT: We know that Knox is moving forward on so many fronts right now. What are your personal priorities for Knox for the next few months? What do you hope to have achieved or set in motion by, say, Easter or, maybe, by next summer?

BNB: My personal goal is that the governing body is transparent in what we do. I want to ensure that the Congregation is informed every step of the way, and that we foster a sense of hope, and optimism for Knox's future.

LM: Transparency is the key for me too. I hope to ensure that the minutes of the Governing Body reach the Congregation in a timely manner to provide transparency.

NT: And what can I and our readers do to help you deliver these new Knox songs?

BNB: Come to church with an open heart, volunteer, ask questions, share ideas. Be the words of our new songs.

We are likely to make mistakes as all humans do, so please forgive us and help us in a positive direction.

LM: I can't say it better than Betty just did! I whole-heartedly agree with all of that.

NT: That's very helpful. I'm sure we all want to be sure you continue to have time and energy for a full life outside of Knox, as well as for your duties on our behalf. And, speaking of life outside Knox, can you share a little bit with us about your other passions or pass-times?

BNB: I work as a 'casual/relief' speech language pathologist on the stroke unit at the Carewest Fanning Centre and absolutely love my time there with patients.

I am a lifelong supporter of women's education, mentoring dozens of student speech language pathologists throughout my career and I belong to PEO, (Philanthropic Educational Organization) which raises money for women's education and provides scholarships, grants and loans.

Of course my family is very important, my husband Ron is a mostly retired geologist and we have a business, Alpine Sausage, that he is closely involved with. Together we are a blended family of 3 adult children, Janeen, Brett and Rebecca, and 3 grandchildren, Jackson, Lola and Ellie.

I love to read, attend the Calgary Philharmonic, and am a fiend about having a daily walk.

LM: Good question. That makes me realize I have been too involved in work lately and need to get working on more leisure hobbies and activities!

I am part of a book club right now and am hoping to get back to organizing the restaurant club at my condo building. I enjoy watching hockey and football.

NT: Betty, Lisa - Thank you so much for your time today. I really feel like we have learnt a lot from your thoughts and answers. Before we go, there's just time for the quickfire round..

NT Question	Answer - Betty	Answer – Lisa
Cat person or Dog person?	Dog, but I don't have one.	Dog
Morning Lark or Night Owl?	Night owl	Night Owl
Coffee or Tea?	Tea!!	Coffee
Summer or Winter?	Spring, the season of hope and the loveliest flowers.	Summer
Sunrise or Sunset?	Sunsets	Sunrise
Chocolate or Vanilla?	Definitely chocolate!	Chocolate
Texting or Talking?	Talking	Talking
Cake or Pie?	Cake	Pie
Jump from a plane or Climb a mountain?	Climb a mountain, but realistically view the top from a helicopter.	Mountain - if it is a safe one
Polka dots or Stripes?	I actually have neither in my wardrobe.	Polka Dots

Submitted by Betty Norman Bray, Lisa McKay, Karen Harrison

JOIN THE FAMILY – MEMBERSHIP

We were delighted to welcome Kathryn MacGregor as a new member of Knox UCC in December 2022. Kathryn moved to Calgary from Windsor ON in the fall of 2015 and started attending Knox with her husband Keith Bacon. Kathryn is an avid lawn bowler and has been the Chair of Bowls Canada Boulingrin for 3 years. She also curls in the winter and enjoys gardening.

Reverend Sheena welcomes all adherents (and complete newbies) who want to explore membership of our Knox UCC family. Please contact her for a conversation if you are interested at strotterdennis@kxcalgary.com.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to share that Gordon (“Gord”) Cummings Swann, faithful member and contributor to Knox died on 5th January 2023, just a few weeks shy of his 100th birthday. He was able to return home from residential care before his passing. He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Margaret, and their three daughters, who are with their mother at this time. A moving obituary was published in the Calgary Herald on January 12th and can be found here: <https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/gordon-swann-1086968133>

Also in January 2023, we lost long-term Knox member and friend of many of us, Elaine Stewart. Elaine’s funeral will be held in February. All are welcome to pay their respects and share their stories and memories of Elaine.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking a **Chair for the Finance Committee**. Before Christmas, when this was called the Finance “Working Group”, this work was shared by David Westwick, who now has a formal position with the Knox

Foundation, and Jo-Anne Willmet, who will be focusing on our Stewardship efforts going forward. Responsibilities include convening and chairing Committee meetings, liaising with the Treasurer and Committee members between meetings and preparing a monthly Finance Committee update for the Knox newsletter. Additional volunteers to serve as members of the Committee are also welcomed.

We are also seeking a **Chair for the Property Committee**. The Building team has done a fantastic job helping keep our facilities running well, and taking care of urgent repairs, ably supported by Sue as Office & Facility Manager and by M&P's successful hire of a second caretaker in November. However, as we rebuild governance at Knox, we need to rebuild the Property Committee. We are asking for volunteers to serve on the Committee and for a Chair to convene and lead meetings and oversee this important area.

Both the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Property Committee will also sit on the Governing Body.

A short application form for all Committee positions is available from Sue at the office, or please reach out directly to Betty Norman Bray or Diane Trimming of Opportunity Knox.

Volunteer hosts, greeters, ushers enable our events and concerts and are always needed. Most rental agreements we host require that we supply ushers. As a result, we always need volunteers. We can't do it without you!

Please support Knox in this important way. Please go to the Knox website (www.kxcalgary.com) and sign up for the events and the positions of your choosing. Thank you.

CAROLFEST 2022 – AN EXAMPLE OF THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERING AT KNOX



Knox Sanctuary – full to the rafters on the Sunday evening of CarolFest 2022 (November 27th)

As I hope you are aware, Knox has been partnering with the Calgary Food Bank to stage “CarolFest” in our Sanctuary at the start of Advent. A joyful weekend of community and music, featuring community choirs from across the city, CarolFest gives our town an annual opportunity to come together, sing and raise money for those among us struggling with food insecurity.

After the restrictions of the pandemic, CarolFest 2022 was in many ways our “Big Reopening”:

- to our city community, of whom several THOUSAND passed through our doors over 4 nights;
- to our community partners. 25 choirs of all ages and from many communities participated, from the Calgary Zhi-Yin Choir to Yodlerclub Heimattreu Calgary, from the 200+ singers of Cool Choir to the a cappella quartet of Here Comes Treble, and so many others, including many youth and school groups
- and, even, to ourselves. CarolFest was the largest mobilization of the Knox community in several years (of which, more below).

Led by Arthur Barbosa (a Knox adherent and the seasoned CarolFest organizer) and Chellan Hoffman, the planning committee of Dennis Ruf, Murray Songer, Sue Forsyth and Karen Harrison started work in mid-September. Huge thanks to them for making sure our largest community partnership event was once again a resounding success.

Despite uncertainty that ongoing covid anxiety would diminish the event, CarolFest 2022 was bigger and better than ever before:

- We added an extra night: “Instrumental Sounds of Christmas”. The evening opened with Foothills Brass Quintet (including our own Rosalee Morrison), where all five members graciously donated 30 minutes of fantastic seasonal music to start the show. Our Knox ReBell Ringers (Steve Miller, David Westwick, Pat Place, Janet Zarka, Wayne Hubbard, Chris and Rosalee Morrison) rang out some familiar carols. Knox members Pat Place and David Westwick offered up some beautiful voice and mandolin duets. Between brass, bells, strings, and sing-alongs (with Chellan on organ), the new first night format raised the roof!
- We opened our snack bar and offered our guests coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and other delights. Huge thanks to the service crew of Roman Sizer, Carey Barrett and Karen Harrison – ably led by Sue on the till. More thanks to Murray, Roman and Steve Miller who collectively enabled our touchless/tap payment system. Almost \$800 was raised for Knox with a particular run on “After Eight” hot chocolate, which, I can vouch, definitely took off the winter chill.
- Our choir, bolstered with a few guest singers corralled from the community by Chellan (and also guest appearances by my daughters), hosted Sunday night.
- Calgary Food Bank raised 1,350 pounds of food (that is over 0.6 metric tonnes!) and \$8,061.20 in cash donations.

On logistics, Murray tessellated, shepherded, herded, and crowbarred hundreds of singers and their families between the entrances, rehearsal rooms and the stage (and back again), defying the constant threat of chaos with efficiency, precision and great good humour.

On the doors, Gord (4th street) and Gerald Love (Sanctuary), together with the Calgary Food Bank crews, handled thousands of visitors (and donations) with charm and welcome. We also thank our volunteer Emcees, who kept the crowds entertained and informed and led the sing-a-longs.

I am sure I have forgotten some of the many people who helped us to deliver this extraordinary act of joy and service. So many people lent their hands, feet and shoulders to the event. Thank you to everyone who participated.

And those of you who attended can attest to the fabulous atmosphere as our building, bursting with people, burst also with song, community and gift-giving/fund raising.

Wow! What we can achieve when we come together with the right partners and put our resources – our fabulous spaces, our incredible music and our incredible, generous people – at the service of our Downtown community! Nothing like this is possible without all our amazing volunteers.

THANK YOU!

Sheena

VOLUNTEERING AT KNOX - TESTIMONIAL

My name is Carey Barrett. I'm the guy you might see in the balcony on Sundays, managing the cameras for the live-streaming of our services.

In the first of what is intended to be a series of reflections, I have been asked to give some thoughts on volunteering at Knox.



The first thing I want to say is that I volunteer at Knox because I value the community you have shared with me. My wife and I have been coming to Knox since we moved back to Calgary in March 2022. It's been 30 years since I lived here and Knox has provided us with an anchor in the city – another building block to add to nearby family and old friends.

Streaming the weekly services is a way for me to give back to the Knox community, and a way I get to exercise and grow my skills in videography. At its core, I volunteer because I enjoy it. It can be hard getting out of bed EVERY (almost every) Sunday, so to arrive an hour before the service to set up. There is obligation and service involved to taking on a volunteer commitment. But, it is also rewarding. There is deep truth in the observation that “in giving, you shall receive”. By being part of the “machine” that brings the services to life every

week, I get to know people, to rely on and be relied on by them, to be part of a team. It's a good feeling.

As we live close by, we also help out on other occasions. Especially during Advent, as an usher, coffee-slinger, fire marshal, I had the most Christmas I have ever had! From the buzzing, bursting Sanctuary through CarolFest, to the soaring music of the Cantare concert, to the candle-lit intimacy of Blue Christmas, I participated. I was treated to experiences hundreds of others had paid to see. I facilitated their experience and shared some of the Knox hospitality with them. And, I had fun.

I strongly recommend volunteering at Knox, either regularly for a specific, recurring task or from time to time, to help Knox earn rentals from events (which you get to enjoy for free). It's a way to help others, help Knox and build your own well-being. You should try it.

I also want to take this opportunity to let everyone know that we welcome feedback for the weekly livestreaming. We want to know that you, our audience, are getting the best experience we can give you. Please let us know what works and what doesn't, either by leaving a comment, or by email, or by talking to us the next time you attend in person. Thank you.

Submitted by Carey Barrett

GOVERNANCE

UPDATE FROM THE KNOX COMMISSION/GOVERNING BODY

New Years' greetings from the Knox Commission/Governing Body. This is the first of monthly meeting updates, provided in the Newsletter, by the Commission/Governing Body.

The Commission/Governing Body has met twice (December 12, 2022, and January 19, 2022,) since the addition of the new members, Betty Norman Bray (Co-Chair), Dennis Ruf (Co-Chair), Janet Zarka (Treasurer) and Lisa McKay (Secretary).

Appreciation is extended to Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis, for organizing a Commissioning Service, installing the new governance leaders, tentatively set for the February 12, 2023 worship service.

Rev. Tom Melvin, Rev. Bob Mutlow, and Rev. Roslyn Campbell, continue to lead the Commission/Governing Body through this early rebuilding period.

The Commission/Governing Body has discussed Knox staff salaries, reviewed financial reports, and reviewed the Mission and Service funds. Important positions to be filled, have been identified as Finance/Stewardship Chair, and Property Chair. Please contact Opportunity Knox if you are interested in either of these roles.

The Knox Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the service, on February 26, 2023. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting. Preparations have begun for the Knox United Church Annual Report.

The Commission/Governing Body recognized Janet Zarka for the extensive amount of time, and excellent work she has contributed to the Knox financial reports, since her short time as Knox Commission Treasurer.

For more details about the Knox Commission/Governing Body activities and work, please review the meeting minutes, which will be posted soon, on the website, [Knox United Church Calgary \(kxcalgary.com\)](https://www.kxcalgary.com).

We are pleased to be working together as a Commission/Governing Body and will do our best to keep the congregation involved and informed. We appreciate all the volunteers who have stepped up and made a difference. The ongoing support of the congregation while we rebuild is both encouraging and much appreciated.

Submitted by the Knox Commission/Governing Body: Rev. Tom Melvin, Rev. Bob Mutlow, Rev. Roslyn Campbell, Betty Norman Bray, Dennis Ruf, Janet Zarka, Lisa McKay and Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE MISSION & VISION WORKING GROUP

After months of mindful and prayerful discussion, the Mission & Vision Working Group presented its draft of the proposed new Knox values and associated initiatives for 2023-2025 to the Congregational Meeting on November 27th. We requested your thoughts and reactions so that the work might be tested and finalized.

We received some valuable comments and met together again in December and January to consider your input and revise our recommendations. The final statements of values and the 2023-2025 initiatives will be presented to the Congregational Meeting on February 26th, 2023 for approval. After that, the value statements will appear on our website and elsewhere.

In some ways, they're "just" a set of words. But, our Statement of Values is so much more than that. It is what we tell the world about who we are and what we stand for. It will be our guide as we go about selecting programmes and initiatives and making sacred connections over the next few years.

Some of the 2023-2025 initiatives are already under way. By approving them on February 26th, the Knox community will be telling our Governing Body that this is where we want to focus our energies. These initiatives don't cost a lot of money, but they do require volunteer time. They won't work without broad support from the Knox community.

We really want you to have your say.

We are holding a consultation at 11:45 am on Sunday February 12th 2023. This will be the last opportunity to discuss the proposals before the Congregational Meeting. Please:

- Attend the consultation on February 12th
- Drop by the office to pick up a copy of the latest draft
- Contact Doug Chandler (dchandler1@shaw.ca), or any of the Mission & Vision Working Group members for a copy of the latest draft or to provide comments or arrange a telephone or Zoom conversation.

The Mission & Vision Working Group members are (in alphabetical order): Bob Benner, Doug Chandler, Chuck Curry, Kay de la Ronde, Karen Harrison, Reverend Tom Melvin, Holly Smith, Reverend Sheena Trotter-Dennis, Tony Vander Vliet, Gerrit Voordouw, Susan Wood.

Submitted by Doug Chandler and Karen Harrison

PROPOSAL TO THE FEBRUARY 26th, 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR KNOX UNITED CHURCH

At the upcoming AGM on February 26th 2023, there will be a proposal asking the Congregation to consider bringing the work of the Knox Trustees under the rules of The United Church of Canada.

WHY: Currently, the Knox Trustees perform their functions under two pieces of legislation. For the historical building, which encompasses the sanctuary, the Trustees do their work under the Trustee Act of Alberta. For the annex which houses the main office, meeting rooms, gym, and other areas, the Trustees do their work under the trust sections of The United Church of Canada Act of Canada.

The reasons for these two modes of operating are found in the history of Knox's development:

- The Knox church property as it was in 1925 (the time of church union) consisted of what is known as "the historic building". Knox was a Presbyterian congregation that chose to become part of the new United Church. In Alberta, Presbyterian congregations entering the new United Church were given the option of following the new rules for trustees in The United Church of Canada Act, or of remaining under the rules of the Trustees Act of Alberta. The Knox congregation did not choose to follow the new United Church of Canada Act. Instead, the trust matters relating to the historic property remain to this day under the Trustee Act of Alberta. One cannot blame them. At the time, the United Church of Canada Act was new with no history.
- In the 1950s, Knox acquired new land and developed it, in the 1960s, into what is now known as "the Annex". This property, purchased after Church Union, comes under the Trust rules found in The United Church of Canada Act. Thus, the Trustees have to act under two sets of rules.

WHY CHANGE NOW: In April 2022 the Alberta Legislature passed a new Trustee Act which will become law in the near future. This Act is significantly different from the former act. One of the changes will have a particular impact on current and future Trustees, including Trustees of Knox. Under the new Act, Trustees who have special training or experience such as a lawyer, an accountant, a financial advisor, will be held to a higher standard than the average person.

As yet, we don't know how this law will be applied. Will Trustees with special training and experience be held personally responsible for errors when the congregation has given direction to the Trustees? The reality is, we just don't know what courts will do in applying this new law. We do know how Trustees are treated under The United Church of Canada Act. It is, and, for the foreseeable future will be, unchanged. We have 98 years of history and precedents to rely upon.

If you have questions about this proposal or wish to make comments about it before the Annual Meeting, please contact Roslyn at roslyn.c@shaw.ca.

Submitted by Roslyn Campbell for the Commission/Governing Body

CHECK-IN FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Over December, the Stewardship Campaign earnings were transferred to the Treasurer in preparation for the 2023 Budget. We would like to thank Reverend Sheena for her tremendous generosity in preparing thank you notes to those involved in giving to the Campaign, and to Chuck and Sue for their help in distributing these notes. The campaign donations have been essential to enable us to contribute to the Knox 2023 budget year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Willment

UPDATE FROM THE MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. We have a total of four members. This month, Barry Rust resigned as planned, and was thanked for his help through the transition period. Helen MacRae has joined us and has already been given a project. The M&P Committee now comprises Norman Fenton (Chair), Dennis Ruf (also the co-Chair of our Governing Body), Maggie Bolger and Helen MacRae.

It seems like a long time ago, but on 8 December there was a pleasant pre-Christmas / end-of-year get-together for a meal with the committee members and the employees. From the committee's point of view and comments from employees, it was a success.

You will recall that Stephen Wallace was hired as a fulltime caretaker in November. He is on probation until February. His addition is appreciated by many, but especially by our long-term caretaker, Jampa Tseten. Jampa had been holding down the fort as a one-man show for many months, for which we are very grateful. Having Stephen to share the load is a blessing for Jampa, for our building, which is now getting much more of the care it deserves and for our rental partners, to whom we can now guarantee better access and more effective service.

Alexis Kroon has renewed her book-keeping contract with us, with the contract to run until 31 January 2023.

Lastly (but not least), Roman Sizer is now a contracted employee as our Social Media Manager / IT person, as of November. He had been helping out in this role before the contract was signed and had already proven his worth. Those of you who follow us online will agree, I'm sure. And, I encourage those of you not yet following us on Instagram or Facebook to follow us there. You will be delighted.

From a quality of employee performance point-of-view, as well as in actuality, the Christmas gatherings were phenomenal. This was due to a lot of volunteer effort, but also to the excellent contributions and commitment of the minister, organist, facility manager, social media manager and caretakers, all of whom went above and beyond to prove to Calgary that Knox is back! We thank them all.

The Committee continues to meet with one employee per month to help keep the ship sailing well.

Submitted by Norman Fenton

KNOX COMMUNITY LIFE

UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING TEAM



November and December were very busy at Knox, with decorating for Christmas, many community concerts, and worship services. The staff were working overtime to keep up with furniture-moving, concert-staging set ups, food sales, a bake sale, and, of course, cleaning. The weather did not cooperate, so the floors were tracked with snow, or muddy water. The most common sighting of the caretakers was to see them mopping floors. We sincerely thank them for keeping the church so clean in such demanding circumstances. On Christmas Eve, the floors positively shone from the buffing. Knox looked great!

As the team prepares the 2023 budget, we are keeping it as lean as possible. There are no “nice to have” items, only “have to have” items proposed for this year.

Since Knox re-opened in March, we have been working hard to bring back our members and adherents and they ARE slowly returning. We have also worked hard to attract new visitors. This is essential, but

more people also leads to more work around the place. Many at Knox have stepped up to fill vacancies. Some are filling roles that they never have filled before. Steve Miller and Carey Barrett come to mind for the expertise in video and sound production for the services and the UTube broadcast. Steve also worked diligently with the concert renters to provide them with the highest quality sound production. In the process he has transformed the sound system with digital technology and very much improved the system sound quality. All the while he was occasionally singing in the choir.

As noted above, 2023 is a “have to have” financial year, and the draft 2023 budget projects a cost of about \$208,000 for managing the building (caretaker salaries, insurance, energy costs, water and sewer as major costs). That said, we still wish for a few things that would help in ministry and also show some of our unique architectural features. For instance...

- Donations to the re-lighting for the front memorial window, \$2,500
- Donations to the repairs of the exterior re-lighting of the east windows of the sanctuary, \$10,000
- Donations for the purchase of a wireless microphone for the sanctuary sound system, \$600
- Video projectors (2) for the sanctuary, \$3,500
- Banners for the exterior of the church, \$5,000

If any of these “Nice To Have” items are within your ability to help, please call the church main office at 403 269 8382, or email to sforsyth@kxcalgary.com

Thank you very much.

Submitted by Chuck Curry

WHAT DOES RECONCILIATION MEAN TO ME?

With the start of Lent later this month, we move into our 40 days of Truth and Reconciliation. Reverend Sheena asked some of the Knox members who have already given their commitment to this initiative to speak their truth about why Reconciliation is such an important principle for them as part of Knox’s 2023 renewed values. In this edition, **Holly Smith** shares her thoughts:

“I find it easier to start by thinking about what reconciliation does NOT mean to me:

- *For me, reconciliation is NOT about feeling guilty, although there is much in our shared history to be ashamed of;*
- *Reconciliation is not about blame, although there is plenty of “blame” to go around, and anger, and denial and hurt;*
- *Reconciliation is NOT a checkbox to be “ticked off” as “done”. Good relationships are always works in progress;*
- *Most importantly, reconciliation is not someone else’s responsibility. As part of the UCC, as an affirming congregation, as Christians, each one of us is called to right relations. If not us, then who? If not now, then when?*

If I now try to take a stab at what reconciliation DOES look like for me, in my own life and as a member of Knox, some key actions and obligations come to mind:

- *learning Indigenous History and how to honour Treaties, particularly Treaty 7, in which we are all participants;*
- *taking responsibility for my own actions. For example, by never telling a racist joke or letting it be okay for someone else to tell one;*
- *appreciating and understanding the traditions of Indigenous people, such as smudging, sweat lodges, the Sun Dance, how they support and affirm their way of life and how such understanding can deepen and enrich my own;*
- *valuing and appreciating Mother Earth more intentionally; learning to walk a little more gently on and in her, not to overconsume or be wasteful with the resources that she provides us.*

In 2012, and again in 2014, the United Church of Canada apologized for the harm they have caused to Indigenous people. Our Knox Congregation prayed and participated as a community in those apologies, as you can see from the materials framed outside the Sanctuary. Both of these steps toward reconciliation happened a decade ago. Now it is up to me, as an individual, as part of our faith community, to follow through: to give those apologies shape and form in the life of our Congregation, and in my own life. There are many paths to the top of a mountain. The Indigenous one is a beautiful and very spiritual path, one which I would like to learn more about..

I believe that the Knox community can help to heal the harm that was created by the Indian Act and by the residential schools. As a faith community, we should listen and understand what it is that the Indigenous community wants from us. Then we should do what we can to walk their journey towards healing a lifetime of hurts and injustice.”

Submitted by Holly Smith

Susan Wood also offers the following:

RECONCILIATION

Below, is an edited and shortened version of a piece I put together in memory of William Bellegarde, one of the leaders of the Reconciliation Research Action Team of the Calgary Alliance, who died quite suddenly and far too soon in 2018. Many Knox people will remember William’s visits to Knox and his sweet but sardonic humour concerning our attachment to our building.

Memories of Standing Stone (William Bellegarde)

(The Reconciliation Research Action Team - Meeting of May 20, 2018)

from *Water Is Life: A Poem For Standing Rock* (2016) - Demian DineYazhi

... upon leaving he hands me his business card / says we should keep in touch

I rarely run into other Indigenous people in my neighborhood so I take this as an affirmation:

WATER IS MEDICINE
A CONTINUAL CEREMONY
IT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

colonizers can't seem to grasp this reality
indigenous resistance isn't protest or disruption or civil unrest
indigenous resistance is ceremony
and maybe that's what terrifies them

Myles: "William's Creation Lodge stories from Cree and Métis people, showed me a different way of seeing and being in this world. The bottom line to me is that our First Nations must be the first pillars of governance in Canada. This means we recognize that we are all treaty people, and the supreme treaty is the Two Row Wampum."

Susan: "William led one of our meetings in ceremony, song and story. Afterwards, he looked around the circle at each of us, and said, 'You're all so stiff. Just look at yourselves! Relax! This isn't church, you know.'" He also said, 'When I was young, I was a real hellion.' I think that William was a holy man, not in spite of his past, but because of it."

Richard: "When I think of William, I am struck by his openness and his hospitality to every one of us, despite our ignorance, our silliness, our many gaffes."

Marilou: "What I remember most about him was his gentleness with all people."

Mike: "William showed us that we belong to the land, in the same way as the rocks and rivers and trees and other animals belong to it. We need to embrace the land, live in and with it."

Ryan: "Then, after he found out that I was a Lutheran minister, he wouldn't speak to me for weeks. Eventually, we did get things sorted out. I found out that William had been, in his younger days, a really bad dude. He had a tumultuous childhood - had been in a residential school, with all that implies. Out of all that turmoil came healing. He wanted to pass that on to others. I'm happy to say that I did speak with him the day before he died, and he told me, 'I'm ready to go to the next world, because I've met Creator.'"

CALGARY ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD - FEBRUARY 2023 UPDATE

The Mission of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is:

- To create a broad-based organization that is as diverse as Calgary, building relationships among organizations and people from community, ethnic, non-profit, labour and religious groups;
- To be a school for public life by strengthening our member organizations and their leaders; and
- To use the principles and techniques of community organizing to effectively address the real issues facing Calgarians.

Foundations for Community Organizing

Why We Organize - *Renée Kirby, Organizer*

Everyone has their own definition of organizing. For me, organizing is the process of identifying issues, convincing people they can actually do something about it and energizing them to take action.

We meet people face-to-face and build relationships that create the capacity in a community for leadership development, citizen-led action and strong relationships across the lines that often divide our communities.

Sometimes that's awkward. We're working to build enduring relationships across the diversity of our city, develop leaders who can strengthen their own communities, and create that shared, collective power to have an impact on the most pressing issues our city is facing.

In February we're getting together for our "Foundations for Community Organizing" training. This is an introductory walk through the various organizing tenets of the Industrial Areas Foundation, and creating a base of knowledge and shared understandings to do the above work.

We act on big problems by breaking them down into specific issues that can be addressed. We listen to what is needed, find like-minded people to work with us for change, and engage and develop leaders who can help us achieve our goals.

This training provides content based on the philosophy and practices developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), which builds on lessons from over 70 years of organizing experience. It assists organizers where they live—in their communities. The training provides a foundation for organizers to learn about what community organizing is and why to use a community organizing approach in their work.

Please consider RSVP'ing to join us on the week of February 20th for our "Foundations for Community Organizing" training.

Foundations for Community Organizing will be held on Zoom this year on February 20, 21, 22, 23, from 6:15 pm – 9 pm. It is a good investment of your time and talent to further develop your community-building skills. To register for this event, go to: www.calgarycommongood.org/event

Research Action Team Meetings:

- **Mental Health Research Action Team:** February 6th at 7:00 PM
- **Reconciliation Research Action Team:** February 14th at 7:30 pm

For further information, or to attend one of these meetings, which may be held on ZOOM, contact Susan Wood, or email info@calgarycommongood.org, or phone 403-993-7123. Please specify that you are a member/adherent of Knox United Church.

If you want further information, or want to help with organizing an Alliance team at Knox, contact Susan at susanwood125@outlook.com

Submitted by Susan Wood

BOOK CLUB UPDATE



The book club will reconvene in February. We will be reading "The Torah: An Introduction for Christians and Jews" by Rabbi David J Zucker PhD Bcc.

The book review on Amazon says in part: *"David Zucker has written a unique book that introduces the Torah in a chapter-by-chapter format, and then documents how the Torah was understood, both by the early Church, and by Jews in the parallel period of Rabbinic teachings in the Talmud and Midrash. This approach, with gender neutral language throughout, makes for a superb educational format for a group interfaith study of the Torah; for individual study by Christians or Jews, or any other interested reader. Throughout the text, the author clearly demonstrates how the same body of scriptural writings can be subject to such widely divergent interpretations and be the focus of so much controversy throughout the ages."*

We plan to attempt a hybrid meeting (online + in person at Knox) weekly, starting in the week of February 6th. Before Christmas, the Book Club met on Tuesdays at 7pm. Time and day for this book will be set once the group of interested people has been identified. Please contact Karen Harrison on nuzashto@yahoo.co.uk. The book can be purchased from Abebooks.com or Thriftbooks.com. There are also a couple of used copies still available from the office.

Submitted by Karen Harrison

THE COLOURS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR



Our Sanctuary is always beautifully dressed with banners and runners marking the different seasons of the Church year. We wanted to better understand the symbolism and rhythm of the changes we see throughout the year. This article is the result. We hope you find it as interesting and informative as we found doing the research.

A Bit of History

The use of colours to mark the liturgical seasons has been a common practice in the Western church since about the fourth century CE. At first, usages varied considerably but in the 12th Century, Pope Innocent III standardised practice, settling on five colours: Violet, White, Black, Red and Green.

The Lutheran and Anglican churches that emerged from the Reformation retained the traditional colours, but they disappeared entirely (along with most other ritual) from the worship of the Reformed churches. During the 20th century, the ecumenical “Liturgical Movement” prompted the rediscovery of ancient Christian ritual, including the traditional colours of the Western church. To these some churches have added Blue and Gold, colours that were used in some Western rites before the standardisation of the 12th century. The UCC has also added Orange, for the Season of Creation, first celebrated in 2009.

The Symbolism of Colour in the Church

The colours express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year:

- **Violet** is the ancient royal colour and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with victory and repentance from sin.
- **White** and **Gold** symbolize the brightness of day.
- **Black** is the traditional colour of mourning in some cultures.
- **Red** evokes the colour of blood, and therefore is the colour of martyrs and of Christ’s death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire and is the colour of the Holy Spirit.
- **Green** is the colour of growth.
- **Blue** is the colour of the sky and honours Mary.
- **Orange** is the colour of harvest. It represents fruitfulness, the conquering of sin and the strength and transition of autumn

The Liturgical Seasons – an Introduction

Advent is the first season of the Church year. It is a time of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas). It looks forward to the future reign of Christ.

The colour of Advent is usually Violet, associated both with the sovereignty of Christ and with penitence.

Deep Blue is also used to distinguish the season from Lent, as we do at Knox. As the colour of the night sky, Blue symbolizes Christ, who is called the “Dayspring”, or source of day. As the colour associated with Mary, Blue also reminds us that during Advent the church waits with Mary for the birth of Jesus.

The Twelve Days of Christmas (culminating in the feast of the Epiphany) invite the church to reflect on the Incarnation (or embodiment) of God as a human being. In Christ, God enters human history and identifies fully with the human condition.

The traditional colours of the Christmas season are White or Gold, symbolizing joy in the light of day.

The season following Epiphany continues the theme established on Epiphany Day, namely, the spread of the Good News of Christ from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The season explores the mission of the church in the world, a theme that continues in **the Season after Pentecost**. Both seasons are called the “Time of the Church.”

The traditional liturgical colour for both seasons, Green, is the colour of growth.

The traditions of **Lent** are derived from the season’s origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or “catechumens,” for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. “Conversion”, literally the “turning around” or reorientation of our lives towards God, is the theme of Lent.

The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are often placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. This is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life’s fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil. Most of this time of preparation is symbolized by the colour Violet, though the season is bracketed by the mourning Black of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

As an alternative to Violet, some churches have begun to use brown, beige or grey (the colours of rough unbleached cloth like burlap) to reflect the season’s mood of penitence and simplicity. The sombre colours are a reminder of the unbleached “sackcloth” worn by mourners and penitents in the Jewish tradition.

During **Holy Week**, the congregation follows the footsteps of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem (Palm/Passion Sunday) through the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) to his death on the Cross (Good Friday).

Red, the colour of blood and therefore of martyrs, is the traditional colour for **Palm/Passion Sunday** and the next three days of Holy Week.

On **Maundy Thursday**, White or Gold symbolizes the church’s rejoicing in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. At the end of the Maundy Thursday celebration, the mood changes abruptly. All decorations are removed and the Holy Table is stripped bare. The church becomes as empty as a tomb.

On **Good Friday**, either Black or Red is customary, although some churches use no colour at all. The Red of Holy Week is sometimes a deeper-, more blood-, red than the brighter scarlet colour associated with the fire of Pentecost.

The season from Easter to Pentecost is also called the Great Fifty Days, a tradition inspired by the Jewish season of fifty days between Passover and Shavuot—the feast celebrating the giving of the Torah to Moses.

The liturgical colour for this season is celebratory White or Gold. When the season ends, on Pentecost Sunday, White is replaced with Red. This colour represents fire, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, which overpowered the barriers of culture and race on the first Pentecost day. The first Sunday after Pentecost celebrates the Trinity. The colour again is White or Gold.

The Season after Pentecost is longest season of the liturgical year. It is a continuation of the “Time of the Church” that began on the Sunday after Epiphany. It explores the mission of the church and uses the colour of Green, symbolizing growth. The United Church of Canada has designated five Sundays in September and October (that is, within the traditional Season after Pentecost) as **the Season of Creation**.

In the Season of Creation, we acknowledge that God comes to be seen, known and experienced in the midst of all of creation, not only within human history. The theme is our deep and rightful connection with nature and

we look at our wrongful domination and exploitation of it and each other. We reflect on our abuse of God's trust in us and pledge to reform our ways.

The colour of the Season of Creation is Orange, reflecting change and fruitfulness, and harnessing the positive psychological qualities of Orange – sociability, confidence and cheerfulness.

The Use of Colours and Fabrics at Knox



We follow the United Church liturgical colours calendar. However, 2022 was the first time we used the colour Orange for the Season of Creation. When the idea was brought to Knox a few years ago, we decided to stay with Green. As a result, for 2022 we jerry-rigged the table runners with some unfinished orange fabric. As we rebuild, we can hope to have proper table runners for the communion table and antependium in future.

Almost all the antependiums and communion table runners we use in Knox are at least fifty years. They were made by a Toronto firm and have served us supremely well.

We do have a few table runners which are unique to Knox. The white table runner was woven by Jimmy Whitson back in the 80's or late 70's. He also wove a green one which went missing about ten years ago. It was replaced with a green runner made in India. The Christmas runner was

made by Stephen Estes and matches the Christmas banners which he also made. The colours in it are based on the original colours used for Christmas here and are unique to Knox.

On the sides of the chancel arch, you will see two banners designed by Steph Reynolds and created by Sandy Hand. It shows the Bow River running from the mountains on the left side and then flowing through Calgary on the right side. The tablecloths on the candle tables were designed and made by Ellen Lang for each season. Ellen also created a rainbow flag tablecloth which is used on days like Pride Sunday. We also have a black cloth for the communion table, which Bob Benner found and it is put on the communion table for Good Friday every year. The cross is also draped in a black fabric. Most people never see it, unless we have a Tridium service.

An interesting thing that most people don't know is that we have two very large white communion tablecloths. They are about three metres long. On them is embroidered "Do this in remembrance of me" in gold thread. It is rumoured that it was embroidered by the same person who worked on Queen Elizabeth's wedding dress. We have two of them. One is in rather poor repair. We haven't used them in quite a few years. This is because our communion table is too small. We once had a table overlay which would fit over the table to extend it. Unfortunately, at the moment, no one is sure where the overlay is.

It should also be noted that the minister dresses in the same colours. They usually have a stole for each season of the church. Some of them have unique designs and some are designed for specific occasions such as communion, or Pride Sunday. It should also be noted that the colours can change for specific days in the church year during the week. Usually, we just change them for Sunday, unless we have a service on a weekday.

As mentioned before, we do follow the United Church liturgical calendar. If you go into most Christian churches, in any part of the world, they will be displaying the same colours as we do. There may be different symbols on them, but we are united with them in our observance of the seasons in the Church year.

External Sources:

https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship_liturgies_liturgical-colors/ and
https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/worship-ideas_creation_liturgical.pdf

Submitted by Bob Benner and Karen Harrison

LINKS

Follow Knox on Social Media:

Check out our refreshed website at www.kxcalgary.com

Follow us on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxYYC>

Follow us on Instagram at <https://instagram.com/knoxunitedcalgary>

Follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/KnoxYYC

For any further information on anything in this newsletter, please contact Sue in the Office at sforsyth@kxcalgary.com

CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 th 10:30 Sunday worship 11:45 Finance Committee & Budget Planning meeting	30 th	31 st	1 st Start of Black History Month 12:30 In the Bleak Mid- Winter?	2 nd 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	3 rd	4 th
5 th 10:30 Sunday Worship (Communion Service) 11:45 Potluck Congregation lunch	6 th	7 th	8 th 12:30 In the Bleak Mid- Winter?	9 th 19:30 Choir Practice	10 th	11 th
12 th 10:30 Sunday Worship – Commissioning Service for Governing Body members 11:45 Mission & Vision Congregational discussion	13 th	14 th	15 th National Flag Day 12:30 Wednesday gathering	16 th 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	17 th	18 th
19 th 10:30 Sunday Worship	20 th Family Day	21 st	22 nd Start of Lent TBD Ash Wednesday Service	23 rd Deadline - Submissions for March newsletter 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	24 th	25 th
26 th 10:30 Sunday Worship 11:45 Congregational General Meeting	27 th	28 th	1 st 12:30 Wednesday gathering	2 nd 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	3 rd	4 th

We plan a series of Truth and Reconciliation events throughout Lent. Details of times and places will be included into the Sunday bulletins, in social media and on our website. Please look out for them.

The time and day for the resumption of the weekly Book Club will also be set after a quorum is reached. Please see the bulletin for details.