

# News@Knox

March 2023

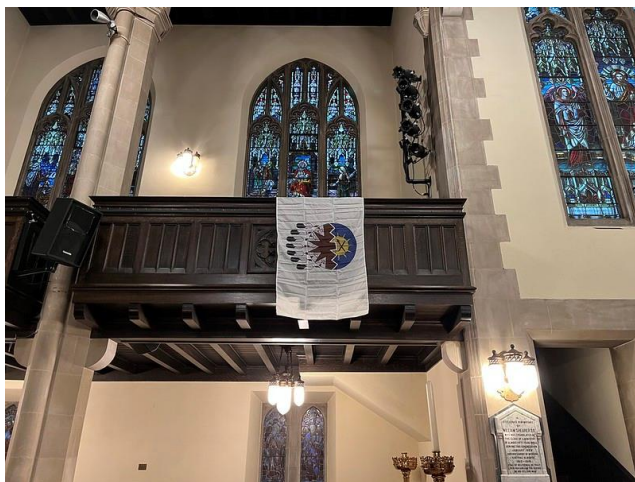
## WELCOME NOTE FROM OUR MINISTER

Friends -

This year our theme for Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) is “**40 Days of Truth and Reconciliation: Living into our Commitments.**” We chose this theme for a few reasons. The traditional observance of Lent is a time of reconciliation and introspection. Christians use the time to focus on the ways they might connect more with God in their lives. Sometimes this means giving up things and sometimes it means taking on things. I thought that we could use this time to be intentional about living into the commitments made by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Church of Canada and our own Congregation. It might mean giving up some ways that keep us from living into these commitments, or giving up some biases we have, or giving up some ways of doing things. And, it might mean taking on some new projects, new partnerships, or new ways of thinking and being.

This work is challenging and lifelong. We won't be able to “finish” our work at the end of Lent. Rather, Easter Sunday (the end of Lent) will be a time of resurrection and new life as we live into new ways of truth and reconciliation.

During Lent, our Reconciliation team has organized several ways to participate and to learn. They are already planning more events in the months ahead. I hope you will step into this even if it means stepping outside your comfort zone.



You may have noticed a new flag in our sanctuary. The Treaty 7 flag is here to remind us that we live, work, play and worship on Treaty 7 land. Much like our pride flag, the Treaty 7 flag is in front of us to be a symbol of our commitment and the work ahead.

Throughout Lent, we invite you to add to our prayer ribbons. There will be a basket of ribbons available in the sanctuary and in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Please feel free to add a prayer or an intention for the work of truth and reconciliation. You can tie the ribbon on the fence outside as a public prayer.

Finally, I invite you to two special events during Lent.

- **First**, Rev. Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead for the Chinook Winds Region, will lead a Blanket Exercise on March 4 from 1- 3 pm in the Sanctuary. The Blanket Exercise is a faith-based cultural awareness tool that presents information about the Residential School Experience in Canada and its impacts on Indigenous communities. This Regional Blanket Exercise is focused on Treaty 7 history and experiences.
- **Second**, we have the opportunity to step into the Maundy Thursday story with a dinner at Stoney Nakoda (**Mni Thni**) on **Thursday, April 6**. We are invited to join our Iyarhe Nakoda relations in this

observance and expression of faith on our journey toward reconciliation. All are invited to join in the observance and feast. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The event takes place in the Morley Gym from 5-7 pm. If you would like to carpool, we will meet up at Knox at 3:45 pm. I hope many of us can join in this event.

In ministry together,

Sheena

## **KNOX FAMILY NEWS**

### **GET TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS**

The members of our new Governing Body were commissioned by Rev. Sheena during our worship service on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. This article is part of our ongoing series to meet our new leadership team. This month, your newsletter team sat down with Dennis Ruf (co-Chair) of the newly elected Knox Governing Body.



*NT: Dennis, thank you for making time for us today.*

DR: It's my pleasure. Thank you for asking me.

*NT: I know you 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?*

DR: I was church-shopping during the '80's and attended several Christmas Eve services at Knox during that time. I couldn't help but be impressed by the beauty of the sanctuary, the inspiring music, and the uplifting messages. I eventually decided to attend a regular mid-year service and was shocked to discover that the Christmas Eve crowds did not exist. However, what did remain was a smaller community of accepting, open-minded, brilliant, warm, and friendly people, great music, and inspiring messages from the pulpit ... meeting my ideals for a church home.

*NT: I think many of us think Knox is a very special place, but not everyone steps up to provide leadership. Thank you. Can you please speak a little bit about your reasons for stepping up and/or how you were approached to volunteered?*

DR: I volunteered for this position only after many others, whom I felt were more qualified, turned it down. A burning need obviously existed, so I decided I would step out of my comfort zone and help as best I could to assist the church in moving forward.

*NT: I would venture that this is a characteristically modest answer. You saw a need, and you stepped forward. We are all so grateful to you that you did.*

*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, the summer?*

DR: One of my over-arching goals is to keep the governing council's decision-making as transparent as possible. I believe it is important that people are kept informed and aware of important issues. A regular newsletter is certainly one way to help make this happen. Also, because a major debt has accumulated during

the past few years, another priority is to develop a feasible, well-thought-out plan to deal with it. This is essential for the long-term sustainability of this church.

*NT: I am sure I speak for many when I say that those principles resonate with many in the Congregation. What can I and our readers do to help you deliver, (may I call them?) these new Knox songs and sacred connections?*

DR: We all need to be respectful and patient with each other. Many of us are newbies in our roles. We will need prayers, understanding, support, and patience from the congregation as we all work to move the church forward into a new era. None of us, especially those of us on the Council, do or should presume to have all the answers. We all need to be open to others' ideas, and with much thought, empathy, prayerfulness, cooperation, and compromise, as a supportive, unified group we will move forward together.

*NT: That's clear and constructive advice – a description of a sound and healthy way forward. Thank you.*

*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 passtimes?*

DR: On a more personal level, my greatest enjoyment comes from music, art, architecture, travel, theatre, and simply doing my part to evoke happiness in others. As a product of small-town Saskatchewan, I grew up relishing the time that I'd be able to escape that confinement and travel the world! As a result, I travelled extensively during my early years of freedom. My planned working career as an architect was sidetracked, and instead, I've spent much of my life as a multi-faceted teacher, but my initial passions remain constant.

*NT: 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 quick-fire round...*

NT Question	Council Member Answer
Cat person or Dog person?	Dog
Morning Lark or Night Owl?	Situation dependent
Coffee or Tea?	Could live happily without both
Summer or Winter?	Summer
Sunrise or Sunset?	Sunset
Chocolate or Vanilla?	Vanilla
Texting or Talking?	Situation dependent
Cake or Pie?	Pie: peach or apple
Jump from a plane or Climb a mountain?	Done both. Prefer mountain
Polka dots or Stripes?	Never polka dots!

*NT: Now I am very intrigued! You can't just drop in that you have jumped from a 'plane and not share that story!! But, sadly, our time is up. I am sure many members of the Congregation will be asking you about that when they see you. None of these interviews has ended on a cliffhanger before! Dennis Ruf, community leader and dare devil, thank you for a fascinating talk.*

Submitted by Dennis Ruf and Karen Harrison

## JOIN THE FAMILY – MEMBERSHIP

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](mailto:strotterdennis@kxcalgary.com).

## 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.

The Chair of the Finance Committee and will 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](http://www.kxcalgary.com)) and sign up for the events and the positions of your choosing. Thank you.

We are also in need of a **Contributing Editor for our newsletter**. Karen Harrison, who has done this work until now, moved to BC a few weeks ago to take up full time work there. She feels that the editor needs to be an active and present member of the community, which she can no longer be. She would very much like to collaborate with anyone willing to take over her role on the newsletter team to support the transition its creation. Please contact Karen directly on [nuzashto@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nuzashto@yahoo.co.uk), or speak to Sue at the office.

## GOVERNANCE

### UPDATE FROM THE KNOX COMMISSION/GOVERNING BODY

The Knox Commission met February 7, 2023. Once approved, the minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Knox website, Knox United Church Calgary ([kxcalgary.com](http://kxcalgary.com)).

**The Commissioning Service for the Knox Commission members**, was held during the February 12 2023 worship service. Thank you to Rev. Sheena Trotter-Denis for organizing it, and the congregation for their support and participation.

The Commission has been very busy preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting, which was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, after this newsletter went to press, with much focus on finances. There have been meetings with the Calgary Foundation, Knox Foundation, Knox Trustees, the Finance and Stewardship Committee (formerly the F&S working group), and with our Auditor, in preparation and planning.

During the February 7th Commission meeting, the concept and structure of governance was explained:

- The Knox Governing Body is overseen by the Knox Commission.
- The Knox Commissioners are Rev. Tom Melvin, Rev. Bob Mutlow and Reb. Roslyn Campbell.

- Governing Body members include the Governing Body Officers (chair, secretary and Treasurer), plus the chairs of all our functional oversight committees.
- Current office holders are Betty Norman Bray (Co-Chair), Dennis Ruf (Co-Chair), Janet Zatkan (Treasurer), Lisa McKay (Secretary), Norm Fenton (M&P Chair) Chuck Curry (Knox Trustee Chair.), Murray Songer (Property Chair). The Finance and Stewardship Chair will also be member of the governing body. The name of the Knox Commission/Governing Body will be referred to as the Knox Commission.

The Commission would like to thank Kay De La Ronde, who is spending much time and effort searching for grant opportunities and community partnerships for Knox United Church.

Submitted by the Knox Commission: Rev. Tom Melvin, Rev. Bob Mutlow, Rev. Roslyn Campbell, Betty Norman Bray, Dennis Ruf, Janet Zatkan, Norman Fenton, Chuck Curry and Lisa McKay.

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE MISSION & VISION WORKING GROUP**

After months of mindful and prayerful discussion, the Mission & Vision Working Group held its final consultation meeting on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. The final draft of the proposed new Knox values and associated initiatives for 2023-2025 was approved by the Congregational Meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

It is with great delight that we print below the approved statement:

### **VALUES**

- As part of the United Church of Canada in a largely secular society, we recognize the need to respond to the spiritual hunger of our time. Our understanding of God is rooted in the Bible and the evolution of Christian theology, but we recognize and value the opportunity to improve our understanding through new language and ideas from other theological traditions.
- We are an Affirming Church. We believe that all people are created in the image of God. We welcome the ministry and participation of all persons regardless of age, gender identity, health, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, religious or ethnic background or economic circumstance.
- Knox is a place and a community to learn and practice skills to serve others – to be the hands and feet of Christ.
- As a church, we are complicit in injustice and yet we are still called to witness the love and justice of the liberating, healing Christ. We strive towards right relations.
- We value music as the language of the soul. It inspires, enlivens and calms us.
- Our historic church building will be a safe place all people can enter to calm their spirits, rediscover hope and inspiration, and be welcomed and affirmed as they are.
- We want to offer our resources to our community. This includes promoting and supporting the work of others for a particular cause with skills, passion and resources that exceed ours.

### **INITIATIVES FOR 2023-2025**

- We will rebuild our presence as a church in downtown Calgary by opening the sanctuary and labyrinth during business hours as a refuge from the world outside. We will train volunteer hosts in hospitality, personal safety, emergency mental health, and our values.
- We will build our capacity for lay leadership to increase worship opportunities, e.g. Wednesday worship (planning, music, praying, speaking, facilitating)
- We will rebuild pastoral care for our community. We will create new opportunities and new ways to meet, build relationships, and stay in touch.
- We will improve our internet-based engagement with our community and the public within and beyond Calgary. Social media and [www.kxcalgary.com](http://www.kxcalgary.com) can offer a wealth of information about our church and its activities and can provide many opportunities to connect.
- We will participate with the United Church of Canada, the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good and others on the road to reconciliation with our indigenous neighbours. We will listen and learn about their stories, perspectives and needs.
- We will seek out partners who share our values to serve downtown Calgary.

We also agreed upon a “catchphrase”, a shorthand to capture the behaviours and approach we wish to model going forward:

*Making Sacred Connections  
through hospitality  
through right relations  
through music  
through partnerships  
through exploring faith*

The Values & Approved Initiatives will be a permanent feature of our website and available for everyone who visits us online or in person. They stand as a statement of the priorities and an expression of the faith of us, as a Congregation. They are a commitment to ourselves and to our neighbours as we strive toward sacred connections in all we do.

The Mission & Vision Working Group is now disbanded. We are deeply thankful to its members for their work: Bob Benner, Doug Chandler, Chuck Curry, Kay de la Ronde, Karen Harrison, our Commissioner, Reverend Tom Melvin, Holly Smith, Reverend Sheena Trotter-Dennis, Tony Vander Vliet, Gerrit Voordouw, Susan Wood.



## **KNOX COMMUNITY LIFE**

### **UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING TEAM**

We are pleased, this month, to give you an update on the upgrade to our Property Surveillance & Security systems.

As we already reported, this project started in August 2022, when a group of Knox staff and volunteers attended a weekend security workshop. We attended with the purpose of understanding the needs for improvement of our Security System and the potential benefits of also adding a surveillance system. Our participation in this workshop made Knox eligible to apply for a Provincial Grant for funding in the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program (ASIP).

We did apply and we were successful for funding of four projects:

- 1) purchase of a new security system;
- 2) installation of one camera for surveillance at the 4th St entrance;
- 3) installation of a light in the garden; and
- 4) installation of a security fence along the western façade of the sanctuary.

The cost of these four projects totals \$24,216. The whole amount will be paid for by the Provincial ASIP grant which we were awarded.

We are very happy to report that the security system, the surveillance camera, and the fencing along the west wall of the Sanctuary are now completed. Please take time to walk around and take a look the next time you are at church. The garden lamppost will be installed after the Spring thaw.

#### **What's Next...**

As you will recall from last month's newsletter, this winter has been very hard on our plumbing. Necessary plumbing repairs in the Narthex were completed on February 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, bringing the Narthex men's washroom back into service. The problems with the leaking drain in

*The new railings on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.*

the Vestry washroom have not been addressed, so that washroom remains closed until funds for the repairs are identified.

We met with our boiler maintenance contractor, Cordell Bourque, on February 6<sup>th</sup> to set a schedule for required maintenance on the hot water radiation heating, most of which will be done by the end of February.

There are 2 other projects that are important for managing our energy and water consumption, specifically:

- 1) two new operation valves have to be installed; and
- 2) an exhaust fan in the women's washroom by the parlour needs repairs.

In our current financial situation, there are not adequate funds for these repairs. As a result, our operating costs remain unnecessarily high. If it is within your ability to help, please call the church main office at 403 269 8382, or email to [sforsyth@kxcalgary.com](mailto: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.

[Karen Harrison](#) offers these poems, arising from interactions with Indigenous friends of Knox. Her inspiration came from a sermon from visiting minister & Chinook Winds Regional Officer, Reverend Tony Snow and a concert in our Labyrinth Room by award-winning composer, Beverley McKiver, which was hosted by Chellan Hoffman in September 2022.

### **Genesis: Definition**

I am being taught:  
the First Nations say,  
"We are the Land".  
I wonder, why  
it must be said, how  
we have forgotten?

Dirt, dust, earth, clay:  
so many stories –  
or the same one with different words;  
so many Creators –  
or the same one with different names;  
in Greece, in Babylon, in Eden,  
on Turtle Island...  
So many places –  
or the same one with different stars.

So many handfuls of dirt,  
of dust, of earth, of clay –  
all of one substance with each other.  
And breath,  
or spark, or flame, or soul  
given, shared, bestowed,  
ignited.

## **Covenant**

Whatever else the Bible is,  
it is the story  
of a covenant written on the heart,  
incised upon each generation.  
Its links made and broken,  
broken and reformed,  
a timeless, endless chain  
tethering this God to this people  
and them to Him.  
Forged, fashioned, woven,  
cut, corroded, worn through,  
patched, renewed.  
A necklace, a shackle,  
chain mail,  
a cloth of gold,  
the circlet of a crown of thorns,  
a sundering, a coming together,  
diastole, systole,  
the hammer on the anvil,  
a heartbeat,  
a return.  
Always, a return.

## **CALGARY ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD - MARCH 2023 UPDATE**

### **Partner Organizations with the Calgary Alliance: Part One Calgary Climate Hub**

**Vision: Calgary is a leader on climate action.**

**Mission: We educate and empower Calgarians to become active climate citizens.**

The Calgary Climate Hub is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization that unites a diverse group of Calgarians committed to working together to support meaningful local action on climate change. We represent a variety of communities, industries, cultures and causes. We believe that a broad and diverse range of Calgarians and organizations need to be engaged on the climate crisis to develop impactful solutions that fit our unique political and economic circumstances.

We are part of the [Climate Reality Project Canada](#)'s national network of [climate hubs](#).

We operate on a hub-and-spokes organizational model, with an elected board who looks after the money and governance. Volunteer teams, or "Nodes" take on specific tasks such as communications, supporting our website, or running campaigns. Our Central Node is a monthly meeting of Node leaders to coordinate activities. A small team of contractors supports our volunteer program, administration, the Community Climate Conversations and A Climate of Change web series.

The Calgary Climate Hub is a member of [The Climate Reality Project Canada](#) and the [Calgary Alliance for the Common Good](#), and receives grant support from [Calgary Foundation](#) and the [Alberta Ecotrust Foundation](#).

For further information about the Climate Hub, search their website for past projects and 'wins', ways to get involved, and how to become a member at [calgaryclimatehub.ca](#)



## Updates/Events from Members

- **Calgary Interfaith Council** presents the **Get Neighbouring Workshop** – animating the 2023 Interfaith Council theme: **From Strangers to Neighbours**. To make this workshop more accessible, the Interfaith Council has decided to hold this workshop on Zoom – date to be announced. Cost is \$35.00. Workshop facilitators are special guest Howard Lawrence, coordinator of Abundant Community Edmonton, Neighbourhood Services, City of Edmonton, and the Calgary Interfaith Council Team. **Register at** [calgaryinterfaithcouncil.ca](http://calgaryinterfaithcouncil.ca)
- **Calgary Climate Hub presents: Navigating the Green Economy, a Networking Symposium**. This is your chance to meet and mingle with leaders from across the spectrum of the green economy. **March 16 at 7:00 pm** at the Alberta Wilderness Association Event space, 455 12 St. NW, Contact Daniel at [admin@calgaryclimatehub.ca](mailto:admin@calgaryclimatehub.ca). **For further information and to RSVP, go to** [calgaryclimatehub.ca](http://calgaryclimatehub.ca)

### Research Action Team Meetings:

- **Mental Health Research Action Team:** Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- **Reconciliation Research Action Team:** Tuesday, March 14 at 7:30 pm
- For further information, or to attend one of these meetings, which may be held on ZOOM, contact Debi Andrus, Susan Wood, or email [info@calgarycommongood.org](mailto: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](mailto:susanwood125@outlook.com) or Debi Andrus through the Knox Office.

Submitted by Susan Wood

## A PIECE OF HISTORY – THE SILVER PATEN & CHALICE DEDICATED TO A HERO OF KNOX

Under the leadership of Rev. Sheena, the first Sunday of every month has become Communion Sunday (followed - in 2023 - with our new tradition of a Pot-Luck Lunch in the Library/Labyrinth). Whilst clearing the table on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Bob Benner paused to share an inscription on a piece of our silverware. It reads as follows:

*"This paten and chalice dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Pilot Officer Douglas W.W. Morris RAF who lost his life in air operations May 21, 1940 and all his comrades who gave their lives in the cause of freedom"*

The text is written on the paten, which is the technical term for the plate that holds the Communion bread. It sparked a conversation about sacrifice, and the idea that we should do a short article for the newsletter.

Knox UCC sent many of its members and adherents to serve in both World War One and World War Two. Many never returned. You can scroll back through our social media feed to November 2022 to read some of their stories, see some of their faces and learn some of the ways in which our current building reflects the impact of both wars on our congregation.

We also direct you to Dennis Ruf's excellent article on the Sanctuary's Memorial Window in the November newsletter. It is our primary monument for those lost in the so-called "Great War" of 1914 – 1918.

Our primary monument to those who served in World War II is our bells. There is a plaque on 4<sup>th</sup> Street that reads: "The Tower bells in this church are dedicated to the Glory of God & in grateful recognition of the sacrifice & service of the men & women from Knox UCC serving in the Armed Forces World War II 1939-1945". You will also find a plaque in the Sanctuary which says: "This tablet & the Memorial Chimes are erected in



grateful memory of the men of this congregation who gave their lives in defence of our liberties in World War II." The tablet lists 32 names. It ends with the legend "Steadfast unto Death."

Pilot Officer Douglas William West Morris (serial number 41048) was one of those men. His plane, a Vickers Wellington (designated IC R3152) was a twin engine, long range medium bomber. This aircraft was a mainstay of Bomber Command during the first half of the war and

was used mainly as a night bomber.

At 21:15 on May 21<sup>st</sup> 1940, Douglas and his crew took off from RAF Marham with 19 other planes, ten from his own squadron (the 115) and ten from the 38<sup>th</sup> squadron, with whom they shared the airfield.

The 115<sup>th</sup> had flown bombing missions throughout World War I. Originally founded in Yorkshire in December 1917, they joined the Independent Air Force in France at the end of August 1918, where they served to great effect. The squadron returned to England in March 1919 and was disbanded on 18 October 1919 after the end of hostilities. With dark clouds returning to Europe, the 115<sup>th</sup> was reformed on 15 June 1937, from the "B" Flight of the 38<sup>th</sup> squadron. They began flying Wellington's in March 1939 and spent the next year on "temporary loan" to RAF Coastal Command, "gardening for victory" (mine-laying). In April 1940, the 115<sup>th</sup> gained the distinction of making the RAF's first bombing raid of the war on a mainland target, the enemy-held Norwegian airfield of Stavanger Airport.

So, how did an Alberta boy end up as a pilot in East Anglia? During the Second World War, the Royal Canadian Airforce was a major contributor to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and was involved in operations in Britain, Europe, the north Atlantic, North Africa, southern Asia, and with home defence. By the end of the war, the RCAF had become the fourth largest allied air force. In fact, during World War II, the Royal Canadian Air Force was headquartered in 20-23 Lincolns Inn Fields, London, England.

Often referred to as simply "The Plan", the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was a massive, joint military aircrew training program created by the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand during World War II.



"The Plan" was responsible for training almost half of the aircrews who served on the Allied side in the War (excluding the US crews). The agreement called for the training of nearly 50,000 aircrew each year, for as long as necessary: 22,000 aircrew from Great Britain, 13,000 from Canada, 11,000 from Australia and 3,300 from New Zealand.

Under the agreement, air crews received elementary training in various Commonwealth countries before travelling to Canada for advanced courses. Canada was chosen as the primary location for "The Plan". It had ideal weather, wide-open spaces suitable for flight and navigation training (sometimes on a large scale), ample supplies of fuel, available industrial facilities for the production of trainer aircraft, parts and supplies. Canada was also not threatened by the Luftwaffe or Japanese fighter aircraft. Finally, Canada also offered relative proximity to both the European and Pacific theatres. 131,533 Allied pilots and aircrew were trained in Canada, 72,835 of which were Canadian. Like Douglas, they joined the war effort

wherever they were needed.

The 20 planes from RAF Marham that took off that night, joined up with another 12 aircraft from RAF Honington. Their targets were enemy communications and infrastructure in the GUISE-CAMBRAI-HIRSON area of Northern France. IC R3152's specific objective was to bomb enemy positions in the Dinat-Meuse bulge. IC R3152 crashed near Le Havre for reasons unknown. All on board were killed.



Douglas's Wellington carried a crew of 6 men:

- Leading Airman, Harold George Griffin – Wireless Operator, 31 years' old, from Devon, England;
- Aircraftman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Thomas Kennedy – Wireless Operator, 25 years' old, from Perthshire, Scotland, husband of Kathleen Mary;
- Sergeant Francis Alfred George Lowe – Observer, 19 years' old, from London, England;
- Pilot Officer Douglas William West Morris – Pilot, 23 years' old, from Calgary, husband of Ethel Linda Elizabeth;
- Aircraftman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Allen Robinson – Radio Operator, 18 years' old, from Yorkshire, England;
- Sergeant Francis Williams – Pilot, 24 years' old, from Cardiff, Wales.

All are buried in Ste. Marie Military Cemetery in Le Harve. Douglas lies in Division 64, Plot 6, Row N, Grave 7. His fellow crew members lie nearby in the same division.

So who was he, [Pilot Officer Douglas William West Morris](#)? He was the elder son of Doctor Samuel Cunard West and Mary Isabel Morris, of Calgary. His parents married in 1915 and Douglas was born a little over a year later. His brother, Donald Rupert Cunard, was 8 years' his junior. The family lived at in Peace River, Northern Lights No. 2 when Douglas was born and then in Calgary at 2310 Morrison Street.

Douglas left Calgary to join the Royal Air Force in the Fall of 1938, aged 21.

He married an English girl, Ethel Linda Elizabeth Griffin in February 1940. She hailed from King's Lynn in Norfolk, close to his base at RAF Marham.

His parents were initially informed by telegram that he was missing, before being informed of his death on May 30<sup>th</sup> 1940.

His memorial service was held at Knox at 2pm on Wednesday. It was conducted by Rev. Dr W.G. Wilson. Rev. Erskine Pow, of Springbank gave the memorial address.

Dr Samuel Morris, Douglas's father, died in 1947 in Calgary, aged 66. His mother died in Edmonton in 1987, aged 95. They are buried together in Calgary's Union Cemetery. His brother, Donald died in 2006, aged 81, in Quebec. Donald lived a full life as a husband, father of five and grandfather of eight. Donald graduated as an electrical engineer from McGill university in 1947. During his career, he worked for a time in Lynmouth, England, which, despite its name, is not in fact close to King's Lynn, where his brother served.

Submitted by Karen Harrison and Bob Benner

## LINKS

Follow Knox on Social Media:

Check out our refreshed website at [www.kxcalgary.com](http://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](http://www.Twitter.com/KnoxYYC)

For any further information on anything in this newsletter, please contact Sue in the Office at [sforsyth@kxcalgary.com](mailto:sforsyth@kxcalgary.com)

## CALENDAR – MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Sunday Worship  11:45 Congregational General Meeting	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> 12:30 Wednesday gathering	2 <sup>nd</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> 13:00 – 15:00 Blanket Exercise in the Sanctuary led by Rev. Tony Snow
5 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Sunday Worship (Communion Service)  11:45 Potluck Congregation lunch	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> International Woman's Day  12:30 Wednesday gathering	9 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 Choir Practice	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
12 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Sunday Worship National Affirming/PIE (Public Intentional Explicit) Join us as we celebrate National Affirming Day in worship. Bring pie to share!	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> National Affirming/PIE (Public Intentional Explicit) Day 12:00 - 1:00 pm We will be celebrating National Affirming Day with PIE! Come join us in the Knox Garden to hand out pie to pedestrians walking by. Wear rainbow colours!	15 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 Martin Orchestra & Chorale in the Sanctuary  12:30 Wednesday gathering	16 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
19 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Sunday Worship Affirming Coffee Library, 11:45 am LGBTQ2IA+ and Allies are invited for a time of community. Coffee and treats will be served.	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22 <sup>nd</sup> 12:30 Wednesday gathering	23 <sup>rd</sup> Deadline - Submissions for April newsletter  19:30 Choir Rehearsal	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
26 <sup>th</sup> Purple Day 10:30 Sunday Worship	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> 12:30 Wednesday gathering	30 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal	31 <sup>st</sup>	