

# News @ Knox

November 2022



## A Welcome from the Knox Newsletter Team



It seems to your newsletter team that November is a month when we consider profoundly the concept of service. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day, when we honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, their families and their beliefs. Knox lost many. Our social media feeds will be highlighting some of the Knox Heroes of WW1 and WW2 throughout the first part of the month. With war still active, and not only in Ukraine, we are reminded that such sacrifices have not ended, and pray for peace.

November sees the main part of our Stewardship campaign for 2022/23, with “Stewardship Moments” in our Sunday services, (kicked off brilliantly by Jo-Anne and her umbrella hat on October 23), and, of course, the Appreciation Luncheon (more info inside!). Stewardship is a very different kind of service, but one that still requires commitment and a degree of sacrifice – if only of money and time.

The Stewardship Committee, led by Jo-Anne Wilment and chaired by Commissioner Rev. Bob Mutlow, committed many hours of service to Knox to prepare the Stewardship campaign. We are very grateful to everyone involved. We pray for a strong outcome to ensure Knox can thrive in 2023 and return to serving the many communities of Downtown Calgary with our historical commitment and joy.

The theme of the Stewardship campaign is “Knox sings a new song”, a phrase that perfectly reflects our current opportunity to once again reimagine our heritage of music and service in the face of current need. And so, we end this welcome note with the lyrics from a hymn that is both a prayer and, perhaps, a roadmap for the future of Knox.

Sing a New Church Into Being  
Summoned by the God who made us  
Rich in our diversity,  
Gathered in the name of Jesus,  
Richer still in unity.

### *Refrain:*

*Let us bring the gifts that differ  
And, in splendid, varied ways,  
Sing a new church into being,  
One of faith and love and praise.*

Trust the goodness of creation;  
Trust the Spirit strong within.  
Dare to dream the vision promised  
Sprung from seed of what has been: **Refrain**

Bring the hopes of every nation;  
Bring the art of every race.  
Weave a song of peace and justice:  
Let it sound through time and space: **Refrain**

Draw together at one table  
All the human family;  
Shape a circle ever wider  
And a people ever free: **Refrain.**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB Sung to the tune of “Nettleton”: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing © 1991 Sisters of St. Benedict. Published by OCP Productions. (Oregon Catholic Press)



# KNOX FAMILY NEWS



## IN MEMORIUM

### Robert Laidlaw

We are very sad to share news of the death of Robert (“Bob”) Laidlaw. He died peacefully on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022, aged 93. Together with his wife Esther, Bob was a longtime member of Knox. During his long association with our Knox family, Bob served as a member of the Official Board and also as a Trustee.

A Celebration service for Bob’s life was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Memorial tributes were requested for The Calgary Stampede Foundation and can be made here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/4426/donation>.

A beautiful obituary to Bob was published in the Calgary Herald. You can read it here: <https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/robert-laidlaw-1086455428>

### Gillian Ranson

Gillian Ranson died on July 24<sup>th</sup> 2022. Her daughter, Caroline, shared the sad news and extended an open invitation to the Knox family to attend the Celebration Service for Gillian’s life, which took place of October 29<sup>th</sup> (Details were printed in the October 16<sup>th</sup> Weekly Bulletin).

The family have set up a digital Memorial Board to welcome and share memories and pictures of Gillian from those who knew and loved her. You can find it here: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/nyqdOXJ5>

## GREEN SHOOTS

We are delighted to inform you that funds have been found to support the appointment of a second caretaker to help Jampa care for our wonderful Knox building. Pre-covid, we had 2 ½ caretaking staff, so this is a major step forward in our regrowth.

The new caretaker will enhance the amount and quality of hospitality we can give to our communities and provide greater support for renters and their events. Sue will be doing interviews in early November, with the right person starting as soon as possible.

We are deeply grateful to the Foundation for their part in supporting us through this season of deficit spending.

And, another praise! Following the launch of the Stewardship Campaign at the end of October, funds have been found to support the appointment of a part-time Social Media & IT consultant. Going forward, we will have a professional committed to:

- supporting our outward-facing digital communications,
- digital trouble-shooting for Sue in the office and helping us work smarter for the Congregation and for our partners,
- the performance of our IT infrastructure, to keep costs down and connectivity up.

We are sure that you have seen the astonishing blossoming of our social media activity and the refresh of our website over the last several months. You will see from Steve’s article elsewhere in this newsletter what has been achieved in the IT space over the same period. The position is an important part of the re-growth of our outreach and service.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers still needed & interested parties always welcome!



We continue to welcome volunteers for:

- the **Mission & Visioning Working Group**
- the **Finance & Stewardship Working Group**
- the **Governance Working Group**.

You will find update reports from each of these Groups later in this newsletter. Please reach out to the Chairs/Convenors through the contact details provided in their updates.

We also continue to look for a **Treasurer**. Please contact Sue in the office if you are interested in this essential position.

## Concert ushers

With the concert season gearing up, we are putting out an “all hands” call for volunteers to help marshal at events. We urgently need the income these events provide, and to deliver to our patrons we require support at the doors, providing information & directions, helping less-able guests and so on.

If you can help, even for just one event, please let Sue know by phoning 403–269-8382 or emailing [sforsyth@kxcalgary.com](mailto:sforsyth@kxcalgary.com).

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



## MORE ABOUT KNOX GOVERNANCE



### GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The recovery at Knox United Church is continuing with the Stewardship campaign, the Visioning and Mission work and now with the addition of developing a business plan for the congregation. All of this work is important as Knox seeks to establish stability and sustainability for the future of the congregation. A critical next step for Knox is to establish a working Governing Body to work with the Commission.

Once established and functioning within the governance guidelines of the United Church and those to be established by the Knox congregation, the new Governing Body will take over fully the administration of the congregation. The ultimate goal is for the Commission to be disbanded, its job done.

The role of the Governing Body for any congregation is to manage, support and provide accountability for all aspects of the life of the congregation. The Governance Working Group began to develop a list of the essential ministries that would fall under the administration of the Governing Body and a list of necessary actions it would have to take in order to be effective.

The calls on the time of volunteers at Knox have been extensive during October, as noted above. Although great work was being done on other matters, many volunteers are filling multiple roles for the congregation. There wasn't enough volunteer bandwidth to push the work of the Governance Working Group forward during the month. The Governance working group has not met since September. We continue to welcome new volunteers who can commit time to forwarding this important work stream.

Submitted by Roslyn Campbell



## FINANCIAL AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



### **Financial Matters**

The Working Group's time this month was spent exclusively on the Stewardship Campaign as we had to complete this for October 23, 2022. This was completed and Stewardship Packages were handed out/mailed on Oct 23/24, 2022.

There was no financial information provided for September in time for discussion at the Financial/Stewardship Team meeting held on October 16, 2022 so this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Stewardship Matters**

The Stewardship Team's work took precedence over other financial matters as we completed working on the 2022-2023 Campaign set to run from Oct.23—Nov. 20, 2022. This year's theme, "*Knox Sings a New Song*" represents our belief in and the strength of the Knox Community as we go forward. The energy, time and love which continues to be expressed at Knox is amazing and is captured in this year's Stewardship Package.

The Stewardship Package was distributed or mailed to each Congregation member on October 23/24, 2022. Knox invites all to consider gifts, donations and pledges to Knox for 2023 to support day-to-day operations, staff, ministry and musical functions at Knox Church over the next year.

Unlike past Campaigns, setting the "tone" and goals for this year's Campaign was considered critical and much discussed by the Stewardship team. The process of discernment was lengthy and the results have been summarized by the Team in the Knox Backgrounder included with this year's Package. We concluded that, in facing the current financial realities, Knox must live within its means. This means Knox must function as a fiscally-responsible, transparent and stable financial entity. Historically, this is the "Knox Way". It is this goal that will enable Knox to address the spiritual and community outreach focus for the Congregation and the Calgary downtown community. Going through our discernment process, we felt this was critical and pray that you do as well.

Your gifts, committed through the stewardship pledge forms, are very much appreciated. We realize that each gives as they are able. It is through giving each of us has an opportunity to offer hope, trust and prayer as Knox goes forward. We thank each of the Congregation in advance for giving attention to the 2022/23 Knox Stewardship Campaign.

### **Our Appreciation Luncheon**

The Stewardship Team also felt the need for us, as a congregation, to show our appreciation to those who have given their time and talents to Knox Church over the years. This has not been done enough recently because of COVID and internal challenges faced by Knox. These issues are now behind us and we wish to formally thank them for their years of service to Knox Church. We also have members whom we would like to welcome back after a lengthy leave, and new friends we are very fortunate to welcome into our Knox community. To mark this occasion, "Chef Chuck Curry" and his Dining Team will be hosting a sit-down luncheon dinner for all who can attend. The cost is being assumed by two generous donations from congregation members who wish to support this luncheon and the coming together it represents. As a result, there will be no charge to come and participate in this wonderful event to be held on November 20, 2022 after Church in the downstairs Parlour. More information is provided in the Stewardship Package. We ask you sign-up to attend after Church or by phoning Sue in the Knox Office at 403-269-8382.

## **Book Your Calendar**

There are two meetings which you are invited to attend over the next six weeks.

- On Sunday, November 27, 2022 a Knox Congregational meeting will take place with more information related to Knox finances.
- On Sunday, December 4, 2022, the Knox Foundation AGM will be held.

Please plan to attend if you are able.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo-Anne Willment & David Westwick, Stewardship/Financial Team  
Rev. Bob Mutlow, Chinook Winds Region Commission

## **MISSION & VISIONING TEAM UPDATE**

The Team has been meeting almost weekly since the middle of September.

The Team is seeking to discern what God is calling Knox to be and to do. We believe the vision is what we are and who we are to be and that the mission is how we live into that vision of who we are. Between meetings, the Team has attempted listening sessions to hear from others their thoughts, discover their passion and energy, and to get a sense of who Knox is from the perspective of others. The Team also engages in soul-searching, dreaming and prayer as we seek wisdom and insight through the Spirit. We have also looked at other faith communities and other resources to help guide and inspire us.

The Team sees that Knox is a place, or could be a place, of community, of belonging, of learning, of Worship, of music, of spirituality, of reconciliation, of discipleship, of justice, of joint outreach with community partners and of witness. The building is also important to the Team. The work that has happened and could happen in and from this historic site is often discussed.

For Knox to move forward with renewed energy and passion, a strong sense of who we are and what we do is of great importance. We hope to have something available for the entire community to consider soon.

Submitted Tom Melvin

## **MINISTRY & PERSONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The M&PC is meeting at least monthly for the time being, as we are just getting our feet wet the ocean of personnel and volunteer relationships. Emails are flying daily.

We are three: Baggie Bolger, Dennis Ruf and Norman Fenton. Although there are only three employees, there seems to be enough work for a lot more, and that in itself is a challenge. Fewer congregants also means more volunteer work per capita – another challenge.

In association with Sue Forsyth, the committee is in the process of hiring another caretaker. Along with more cleaning and rent-related work, there is also much to be done with respect to rentals and media (website, control of emails, media output) – and at present these depend entirely on volunteers. We are attempting to keep close contact with our employees to work out any problems early in their occurrence. For the future, we are looking at ways to efficiently integrate facilities needs with volunteer efforts.

On a seasonal note, there is a plan to have an employee appreciation evening in December.

Submitted by  
Norm Fenton, Maggie Bolger, Dennis Ruf.

# **KNOX COMMUNITY LIFE**

## **YOUR FACILITY GROUP WORKING FOR YOU..**

### **Knox is successful in a Provincial Grant Application**

In October Knox received notice that it has been successful in its application for an Alberta Security Infrastructure Program (ASIP) grant. The grant, in the amount of \$24,216, was awarded to us for the following: A new garden light; a wrought iron fence with finials along the west wall of the church to protect the basement windows; an upgrade to the internal security system and a camera surveillance for the 4th St. entrance and the main floor hallway.

As reported last month, a group of Knox staff and volunteers attended a weekend workshop in July to learn how to audit the property in daytime and at night, and how to identify areas of problem and/or danger from a safety and security perspective. After this work, we made the determination that the above features, for which the grant has been awarded, are the best way to secure the inside and outside of the 4th St. entrance, light the dark garden at night, and protect our historic building.

We want to get started immediately on the infrastructure changes to protect Knox buildings and provide safe areas around Knox for the community and for our staff and members.

Submitted by Chuck Curry

### **UPDATE FROM THE IT & SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP**

This is my final update from the IT & Social Media Working Group. I have stepped down from the Team and my position. I will continue to provide ad hoc support until new resources can be put in place. A proposal is currently before the M&P Committee to hire a part-time professional as the Knox IT & Social Media consultant.

The work on the Internal Network Systems of Knox has been completed. A document has been collated with all relevant information and is being held in the safe in the Church Office. This will enable the next IT person to continue the work going forward.

We have also set up a new Square POS system that is linked to the church bank account and looks to be ready to work. This will enable payments and donations to be made at events without the use of cash. We will trial it at the Silent Movie night on October 28<sup>th</sup> and, all being well, it will then be available whenever needed.

On the streaming front, the new PTZ camera enabled by a generous specific donation by two long-time members, is going to work very well indeed. It has already been used for services

Many thanks to Frank Lam, who has joined the Audio/Video volunteer team. He is documenting the entire live stream process to make doing it easier for a novice, which we hope will encourage even more volunteers to step up. We have a very capable young man (Tenzin) doing sound and he is also doing very well. As soon as he has completed his orientation and is confident with our existing equipment, we will transition to the new sound mixer, completing the first step of our AV upgrade. In the meantime, I will be working on the AV workstation to create an efficient station for streaming activities in the Sanctuary.

We have already had an expression of interest from a rental client for use of the new AV equipment. This is a good sign that it will represent both an attraction to renters and a potential new revenue source. I strongly recommend that if we do end up renting AV services, that we ensure it is manned by our own team (or insist



that the renter employs a professional) to avoid damage to our new investments.

Turning to Software, Roman, Sue and myself are exploring the options of moving to Google Docs/Sheet (a “cloud” solution) for certain administration documents to enable collaborative working and knowledge sharing. Roman and Sue are also investigating new software options to support volunteering and scheduling.

The online giving links have been repaired and now working correctly. We also have finally regained control over our master Microsoft account.

We have re-activated our Knox UCC Zoom account. Please speak to Sue if you want to arrange any virtual meetings through this subscription.

On the Social Media side, you will have seen that we have established new Facebook and Instagram pages for Knox. This was the only way to regain control over our feeds due to the loss of access and password protections during the challenges of earlier this year. The current links are:

- Follow us on FB at <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxYYC>
- Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/KnoxYYC](http://www.twitter.com/KnoxYYC)
- Follow us on IG at [www.instagram.com/knoxunitedcalgary](http://www.instagram.com/knoxunitedcalgary)

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

Submitted by Steve Miller

## CALGARY ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

### Issues Facing Calgary

#### (3) Reconciliation:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission unveiled a history that is not simply about misguided and abusive attempts to assimilate indigenous peoples. It also revealed a colonial legacy that continues to this day, making itself known in inequities in education, child welfare, violence against women, and violation of treaty and nation-to-nation rights in the face of resource extraction on indigenous lands. The path towards reconciliation is also the path towards justice. We, the settlers on this land, are the ones who must work at reconciliation, not the people who daily suffer from our injustice.

That being said, it is not all doom and gloom. If we want to remedy the scourge of poverty, we would do well to listen to those who suffer it. If we want to stop climate change, look for knowledge from those who have lived here long before we came. We may come to the, admittedly late, conclusion that there is a better way.

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, in conjunction with other community partners has had a few victories, a few continuing problems, and some progress in moving forward Truth and Reconciliation. In the early days, we partnered with the Indigenous Meeting Place Society to lobby for an appropriate city site for a meeting place for all indigenous people living in the city. Although City Council seemed to support us, various roadblocks and financial priorities intervened. The present Council and Mayor Jyoti Gondek want the project moved forward. In 2021, the campaign to change the name of Langevin School succeeded, and the school has been renamed Riverside School. We partnered with indigenous leaders to create healing tipis that will be gifted to indigenous organizations in the city.

In response to the call to “wrestle with the truth of colonization” we worked with affiliates from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Canada to create working sessions on the topic. The process is now being used by IAF affiliates to understand the history, and to find a positive and respectful way forward. Presently, the Indigenous-led Research and Action Group is continuing its campaign to have police appoint an Indigenous Liaison Officer in each Police District. We are facing ongoing resistance to this from the Calgary Police Service, but we will continue to

work towards this concrete act of reconciliation.

The history of colonization is a wound that strikes at the very heart of this land. We can begin to heal this wound by:

1. Building relationships among communities
2. Truth-telling
3. Taking action to address the ongoing legacy of colonialism

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 7 PM-9 PM at Temple B'nai Tikvah (900 47 Ave SW) **2022 Action Assembly** – City Budget, Calgary Police, and Mental Health. Join us to speak up about the needs of our community. It is important to have Knox United represented at this meeting. If you can possibly attend, please do. If you attend Knox, please register as a representative of our church. Learn more and register at [www.calgarycommongood/events](http://www.calgarycommongood/events)

#### **Research Action Team Meetings:**

**City Budget Team:** November 2nd at 1:30 PM

**Mental Health Research Action Team:** November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

**Reconciliation Research Action Team:** November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

For further information, or to attend one of these meetings, which may be held on ZOOM, contact Debi Andrus, 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 Debi or Susan through the Knox Office.

Submitted by Susan Wood

### **KNOX MEMORIAL WINDOW**

This prominent stained-glass window was erected to the memory of the men of Knox Church who fell during the First World War (1914-1918). Of the two hundred and eighty-eight Knox members and adherents who voluntarily enlisted in the war effort, fifty-three men did not return home. The names of these men are listed on a memorial tablet on the west Sanctuary wall.

This window was executed by the Pittsburgh Glass Company in Minneapolis, USA, and it was unveiled here at Knox on January 2, 1921. Only the purest quality of glass was used. Consummate skill and artistry was required to place the 9,982 pieces into one harmonious whole. Each piece of glass was handled at least seven times for different operations including cutting, painting, baking, and glazing.

The window portrays the suffering of humanity looking up from a strife-torn world to Christ, the Hope of Mankind (in the centre panel). Christ is the central figure (see figure 1). One hand holds the Banner of Triumph over Death, and the other hand is raised in benediction.

His inner garment is white, cream and gold signifying Purity (see figure 3). His outer mantle is a soft blending of pink, crimson and lavender symbolizing His Passion and Death. On the scroll floating around Him is the inscription "I am the Resurrection." Rays of light extend from Him in white and cream terminating in deep green and blue further away.

Other figures in the same tier as Christ consist of angels and cherubs singing praises or in devotional poses.

Below the angels are knights clad in armour representing glorified spirits and typifying the following virtues:



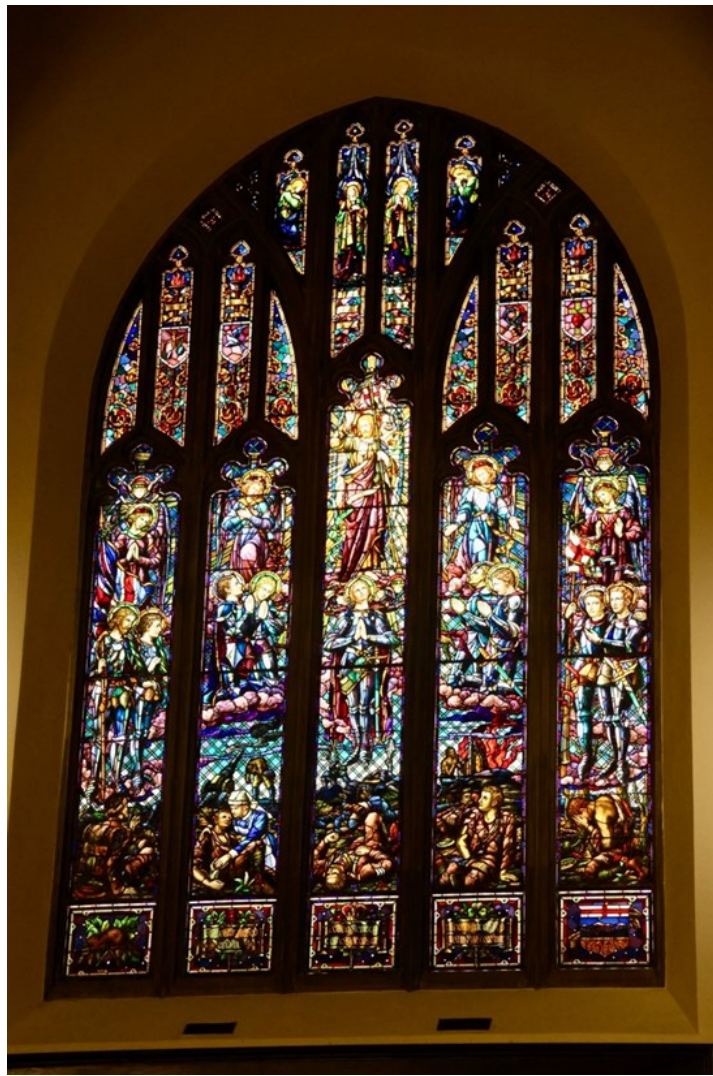


Figure 1: The Knox Memorial Window



Figure 2: The Horrors of War

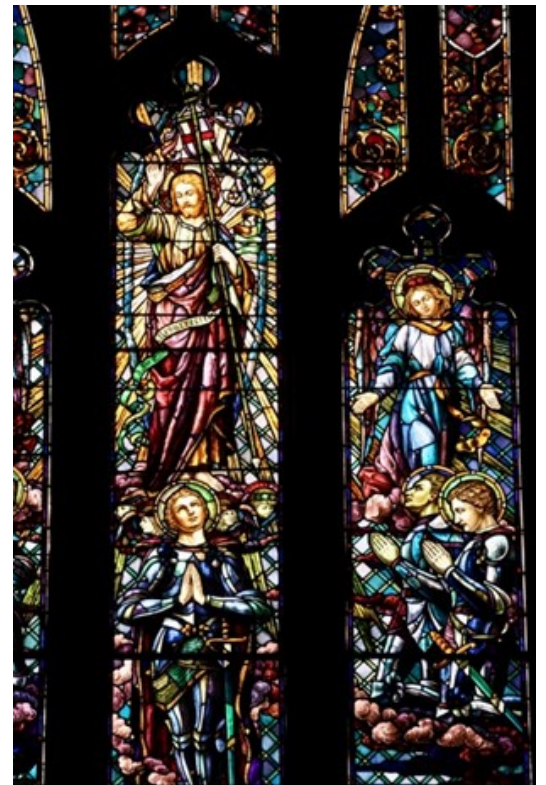


Figure 3: The Figure of Christ

From left to right: Fidelity, bearing the Union Jack crowned with laurels; Nobility; Honour; Humility; Devotion (this is the central figure); Patience; Sincerity; Brotherly Love and Charity carrying the Red Cross Banner.

Below the knights are figures representing the horrors of war (see figure 2).

From left to right:

- A wounded Canadian soldier beholding the heavenly vision
- A Canadian soldier dying in the arms of one of our heroic nurses. His expression denotes resignation and faith. There is a smoking cannon in the background.
- Next is a dying soldier looking directly above to the welcoming Christ. In the background are wounded, dying, and dead soldiers.
- The next figure is a soldier whose soul is now awakening and seeing the light. A burning village church is portrayed in the background.
- The last figure on the right is bowed down in shame and penitence.

Angels are located above the main panel. Scrolls below them have the following inscriptions that are very difficult to see from a distance:

“The armies in Heaven followed Him”

“He hath prepared for them a city”

Five decorative bases are located along the bottom of the window.

From left to right:

- The beaver and maple leaf for Canada
- The English rose
- The rose and thistle with the Crown of Britannia above
- The shamrock and thistle
- The shield of Alberta

Across these lower bases of the window is the following inscription:





“To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of the Heroes of Knox church who fell in the Great War”.

The beauty and significance of this window will always remain unique to Knox because the design, upon request, was destroyed after the window's completion.

Submitted by Dennis Ruf

A bigger selection of photos of the Knox Memorial Window will be posted to our Instagram and FaceBook pages throughout November as part of our “Lest we forget” social media meditations.

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 <sup>st</sup> All Saints' Day	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal (Labyrinth Room)	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Worship Service, including Stewardship witness	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal (Labyrinth Room)	11 <sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day 	12 <sup>th</sup>
13 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Worship Service, including Stewardship witness	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup> National Philanthropy Day	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal (Labyrinth Room)	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
20 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Worship Service,  Friendship Luncheon *	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Deadline for submissions to the November newsletter	24 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 Choir Rehearsal (Labyrinth Room)	25 <sup>th</sup> 19:00 Calgary Carol Festival at Knox 	26 <sup>th</sup> 19:00 Calgary Carol Festival at Knox 
27 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 Worship Service  19:00 Calgary Carol Festival at Knox	28 <sup>th</sup> 19:00 Calgary Carol Festival at Knox 	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>			

\*November 20<sup>th</sup> is also National Child Day and Holodomor Memorial Day, marking the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-3 under Stalin's leadership of the USSR in which an estimated 3.9m Ukrainians perished. You can learn more about the Holodomor here: <https://holodomor.ca/resource/holodomor-basic-facts/>

Please send submissions for the December newsletter to Sue at [office@kxcalgary.com](mailto:office@kxcalgary.com).  
The deadline for submissions is November 25<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on all of the above, please contact Sue.

