

News @ Knox

September 2022



A Welcome from the Knox Newsletter Team



Welcome Back!

Welcome back from your summer travels.
Welcome back after two years of pandemic.
Welcome back to Knox.

On September 1st 2022, we entered “the Season of Creation”, a new season added to the life of the United Church of Canada for the first time this year. Fall 2022 is all about new beginnings for the UCC. Here at Knox, we are looking forward to leaving the difficult past behind and stepping into a new era together as a community.

We must acknowledge the hurt and loss of the last few years. As people in the world, we all lived the trauma of COVID. As people of Knox, we also had pain and trauma within our community. This will not be forgotten and should not be. There are powerful lessons for all of us. Some lessons were captured by the Chinook Winds’ report (which is available from the office) and executed through the implementation of its recommendations. Some lessons are being placed at the centre of the work of rebirth to come. Some lessons will come clear only as we work together to renew our church and each other.

We choose to honour all the experiences of the last years. We choose to emerge stronger and wiser. In acknowledging the hardships of the past, we seek compassion for each other and ourselves. We reflect with humility on that most difficult line in the Lord’s Prayer:

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”.

As we move into the Fall, the time of harvest and of Thanksgiving, we hope to come together to break bread, renew our relationships and to rebuild our beloved church.

But time is short! We are seeking volunteers for a raft of working groups to reimagine the vision and mission of Knox, to work on securing our finances, to improve our communications and digital capabilities, to restart our outreach and community programmes. There is so much for us to do to bring the joy of Knox back to ourselves, our neighbours and the city.

This newsletter is full of information and ways you can get involved. All are welcome!

Welcome back! We missed you.



FALL WORSHIP AT KNOX



The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12

Listen to the Voice of creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022



This year's theme for the Season of Creation 2022 is "*Listen to the Voice of Creation.*" The Season of Creation "kicks-off" Fall, as a time of new beginnings. Orange is the liturgical color for this new season in church life that runs from September 1 to October 4th. The planners invite us to pay attention to the "voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change, the voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land, the voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. **It is the voice of the earth.**

The **Burning Bush** is the symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. The prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice. The fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we followed in faith. In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

The Season of Creation Opening Event launched on Thursday, September 1st in Rome led by Pope Francis, which you can watch on YouTube. The Season of Creation wraps up on the Saint's Day honoring St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th whose **Canticle of the Sun** includes the verse, "*Praised be my Lord for our sister, Mother Earth, which sustains and keeps us/And brings forth diverse fruits with grass and flowers bright.*" This is your invitation to go online to the Season of Creation 2022 – to take your place "listening to the voice of the earth" and in the Words of our United Church Creed, "to live with respect in Creation."

By *Rev. Bob Mutlow*



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers still needed & interested parties always welcome!



MISSION & VISIONING TEAM

What: First meeting of the Mission & Visioning Team

When: Wednesday September 14th

Where: Knox Church Sanctuary

A little more information

Informing everything we do, a critical part of Knox's rebirth is to determine the nature and expression of our Mission in Downtown Calgary (and beyond), our purpose for our members, our adherents and our community in widening circles of impact and service.

After several years of robust discussion and disagreement, it is time to re-set the conversation. We must come together prayerfully to examine our strengths and weaknesses and the needs of those around us. Knox was and

should be a powerful presence in the city and we wish to determine how best to express our beliefs and God's love into the future.

Every member of the congregation is welcome to contribute and participate. There are no "right" or "wrong" suggestions or views. The only requirement is a sincere interest in the wellbeing of Knox and a willingness to engage in open and exploratory conversations to determine our spiritual and community priorities going forward.

The initial meeting will be a general introduction and a call for first thoughts, convened by Tom Melvin, the Chair of the Knox Commission.

Attendance at the initial meeting in no way creates an obligation to be part of the ongoing work. However, we are asking for members and adherents willing to come together as a working group over the next several months to sign up and accept roles and tasks to shape the future spiritual focus of Knox's rebirth.

GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

What: First meeting of the Governance Working Group

When: Sunday September 18th (12 noon, following the worship service)

Where: Knox Church Sanctuary

A little more information

Governance is the oversight and control of our community, our resources, the things we decide to do (and not to do) and how those decisions are presented and approved.

Knox is currently under the temporary governance of the Commission, appointed by Chinook Winds' Region, following the recommendations of the Investigators' report (copy available from the church office). There is more information on the Commission and its role elsewhere in this newsletter. All other committees and commissions have been suspended.

As we enter the Season of Creation and return together after the Summer, we need to design and agree upon a new governance structure to oversee and nourish Knox's rebirth.

Every member of the congregation is welcome to contribute and participate. There are no "right" or "wrong" suggestions or views. The only requirement is a sincere interest in the wellbeing of Knox and a willingness to engage in open and exploratory conversations to determine how we will manage ourselves and our resources in future.

The initial meeting will be a general introduction and a call for first thoughts, convened by Roslyn Campbell, one of our Commissioners.

Attendance at the initial meeting in no way creates an obligation to be part of the ongoing work. However, we are asking for members and adherents willing to come together as a working group over the next several months to sign up and accept roles and tasks to realise this crucial part of the Knox renaissance.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUPS –

The Finance & Stewardship Working Group had its initial session in August. A big "Thank You" to Jo-Anne Willment who has stepped up to be the Convener of this Working Group. Hands-on volunteers are needed. Please contact Jo-Anne on willment@ucalgary.ca to get involved.

A Stewardship Taskforce was established, with Chuck Curry as a key member. Plans are under way for a Fall Stewardship Campaign, on which much of the future of Knox depends. Your Financial Pledges for 2023 are a key Jeremiah "Field-Buying Moment" to ensure the future of Knox!

Volunteers are needed to help design the campaign, prepare the materials and help with the admin and mailing. Contact the church office on office@kxcalgary.com to help!



Knox Family News

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

At Knox, we mourn the passing and celebrate the lives of our brothers and sisters in faith:

Curt Ansell	January 1, 2020
Gwen Gillespie	February 6, 2020
Doreen Orman	March 15, 2020
Doreen Guse	July 14, 2020
Jeanne Thorton	August 11, 2020
Helen Reynolds	January 16, 2021
Donna Schadt	March 01, 2021
Fay Winning	April 9, 2021
Frank McKitrick	August 9, 2021
Dennis Mcknight	August 20, 2021
Ed Peterson	January 26, 2022
Ernest Strocher	February 8, 2022
Beulah Tutt	May 11, 2022

PRAYER

We did not want you to leave us so soon, but we are glad you are at peace now, glad that you are in our God's loving care and always will be.

Loving God, bless each family member and friend. Bless every good memory. Bless the stories remembered, the challenging and good times shared. Enable us to support and cherish each other as we feel our loss keenly and grieve these deaths in the deepest places of mind and spirit.

Take us from bitterness or fear. Be with us as we celebrate these lives. Be with us in the unbidden memories that arise and the "what could have been" thoughts that come to us.

For these brothers and sisters, the rich and varied experiences of life are over and peace forever is their reality. For us, life with its joys and struggles goes on, but we too look for your peace that passes understanding. We believe, we absolutely believe, that you will grant us that peace. Amen

The Prayer above is adapted from a Prayer by David Sparks and Sheila Noyes, among the online worship resources of the UCC

NEW FAMILY AND FRIENDS

On Sunday September 25th, 2022, our Service, led by the Reverent Tom Melvin will include the Reception of New Members into our Knox Family. If you would like to become a voting Member of Knox United Church, please contact the Church office on office@kxcalgary.com

As we strive for rebirth at Knox, the Reception of New Members is a sign of hope and affirmation for the future.

An overview of Knox Governance

MEET THE KNOX COMMISSION

Season of Creation – Jeremiah Beginnings for Knox

Knox Commission is about new beginnings, it is a Jeremiah moment. The prophet Jeremiah, when things got really bad in Israel, when the land was under siege, when the people were being carried off into exile and slavery, went out and bought a field as a sign of hope. Jeremiah was convinced that there would be a homecoming for God's people. Knox Commission set-up by Chinook Winds Region of our United Church is committed to Jeremiah moments – finding and creating signs of hope.

Rev. Bob Mutlow

MEET OUR COMMISSIONERS

The Commission has three members, who are volunteers appointed by the Regional Council:



Tom



Bob



Roslyn

REVEREND TOM MELVIN (CHAIRMAN)

Rev. Tom Melvin is a retired minister who has served the United Church of Canada since 1992. Before that, he was ordained in the United Methodist Church where he served prior to moving to Canada. He has served faith communities in Calgary, has been a commissioner to General Council, and has served the church in various capacities. He is married to Joanne and has one son, Baussman. Tom is passionate about social justice, inclusion, and the proclamation of the Gospel or Good News. He is an avid hiker, skier, and photographer. He enjoys birding, night skies, and being out and about in nature.

Tom can be contacted on Tommelvin@Shaw.ca.

REVEREND BOB MUTLOW

Bob was ordained as a 23-year-old in 1971, beginning ministry at Cut Knife, Saskatchewan. He moved to Unity, Saskatchewan when he married his wife, Katie in 1973, where their two children, Sean and Natasha, were born. In 1979, the family moved to Winnipeg to serve Silver Heights United, where they thrived until 1988, when, amid all the fever around the Calgary Olympics, Bob was appointed pastor of Woodcliff United. After Woodcliff, Bob served as a supply minister at Red Deer Lake United for nearly four years and then moved to McDougall United to do part-time pastoral care. Bob retired in 2016. On retirement, Bob became an Honorary Associate at McDougall and has chaired the Outreach & Social Justice Ministry ever since. Bob and Katie also feel fortunate to have led a number of Pastor-led travel tours over the years. Bob says "Volunteering on the Knox Commission has taken on a life bigger than any of the three of us imagined but it has also been life-giving".

Bob can be contacted on Rwmutlow@Shaw.ca or at 587-890-1721

REVEREND ROSLYN CAMPBELL

Roslyn was born and raised on Cape Breton Island. She has spent the last 43 years as an ordained minister in The United Church of Canada. In that time she served four pastoral charges. The last one was nine years at St. Thomas United here in Calgary. During those 43 years Roslyn also obtained a law degree and served the United Church in the former Montreal and Ottawa conference in personnel work and in the former Hamilton conference as executive minister. Roslyn retired in 2011. She enjoys singing in the St. Thomas adult choir, traveling, dog sitting for family and friends (see photo), cooking and eating, and loves a good story and good humour.

The photo shows Roslyn with Chiqui (pronounced "Cheeky"), the Boston Terrier for whom Roslyn frequently dog-sits.

Roslyn's can be contacted on Roslyn.c@Shaw.ca.

THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES & WORK SO FAR

The Knox Commission is the current governing body of Knox UCC. All other committees and groupings were disbanded as part of implementing the Chinook Winds Review recommendations for the renewal of Knox UCC. The Commission is intended to be an interim body, facilitating the development of new governance and direction for Knox UCC and making sure that day-to-day decisions continue to be made while the work of rebuilding is done.

The Commission has been at work since it was appointed by the Chinook Winds Region of the United Church of Canada in May. Its purpose is to help support the Knox United Faith Community in charting a new path forward.

Since our appointment, we have approved:

- a possible contractual/rental relationship with the Calgary Musicians' Association,
- a key lead for the Knox Finance and Stewardship Team,
- a Team to work on IT, Communication, and live broadcast of Knox services on YouTube, and
- to gather together a Mission and Visioning Team.

The Finance and Stewardship Team is underway. The first meeting of the Mission and Visioning Team is September 14 at 10:00am (see also Volunteer Opportunities).

The Commission is also hopeful of securing a three-quarter time ministerial appoint to begin in October 2022, subject to the success of the work of the Finance and Stewardship Team. Discussions and conversations are happening on many levels. Please hold this process in your prayers and consider how you can help to financially support this vital appointment.

The Commission and Chinook Winds Region feel that consistent pastoral/ministerial leadership is vital for Knox to have stability, energy, and support for moving forward.

If any of you have any questions, thoughts, comments, or concerns, please be in touch with the Chair of the Commission, Reverend Tom Melvin at Tommelvin@Shaw.ca.



DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK

Each Commission Member has taken on the task of organising first gatherings to move Knox into a new, sustainable future:

- Tom Melvin will oversee the **Mission & Visioning Team**,
- Roslyn Campbell will oversee the **Governance Working Group**, Roslyn was a Conference Executive Secretary and before that, a lawyer. She brings great gifts to initiate a discussion of what Knox governance should look like moving into a new future.
- Bob Mutlow will oversee the **Finance & Stewardship Working Group**. Bob led a “kick-off” information session on Tuesday, August 16th. Fourteen people met in the Knox Board Room to talk about hopes and dreams to move Knox forward. It was at this meeting that the Stewardship taskforce and the IT taskforce were approved.

An IT & Social Media Taskforce, with Steve Miller stepping up as Convener, supported by Carey Barrett and Roman Sizer. The team will document and overhaul our IT systems, support the office digital needs and start to breathe life into our social media presence.

Please contact Steve if you can lend your technical skills on Steve@pipework.ca.

Part of the work of the IT & Social Media Taskforce will be to secure the livestreaming capability at Knox, for our own use and as an extra service for community events bookings. An extraordinary “Thank You” to a Knox couple who stepped up at our “Kick-Off” information night, and in a Jeremiah moment gave \$6,000.00 to buy needed new equipment to allow for livestreaming to continue at Knox.

The new equipment will make it much easier for new volunteers to help. If you would like to help with the livestreaming at services or events once the new equipment is installed and tested, please contact the Church Office on office@kxcalgary.com. We hope to establish a rota of volunteers so that the burden of this service can be more evenly shared



MEET THE KNOX TRUSTEES



As we gather together again for a busy fall season in 2022 we are not only just returning from a summer break we are also gathering after two years of a COVID pandemic and the internal challenges that the Knox community has faced over this period of time.

Much has changed during this time and I know that many of you might have questions about the Trustees and their work and I want to use this newsletter to answer perhaps some of the questions/concerns you might have.

I hope the following will be helpful and informative.

What is a Trustee?

A Trustee is a member of Knox UCC who has been appointed to the position by a vote via a “Motion” at a congregational AGM (Annual General Meeting). The Trustees are elected for a term of four years and may be re-elected for a subsequent term of four years.

What are the Trustees’ Duties and Responsibilities?

To hold all Knox United Church and Knox Church properties and funds, in lieu of property, in trust for the congregation. (Note: There are two deeds for the Knox property. Knox Hall (annex), built in 1960, is held by the Trustees under the name of Knox United Church and the historical building (built in 1912) for which the Trustees, on behalf of the congregation, hold the title of the building.

- To hold and manage funds from the sale of the density rights (air rights) over the historical building as directed by the congregation.
- To have an ex-officio representative on the Board as a non-voting member.
- To ensure appropriate insurance policies are in place , based on inventory conducted at least every 10 years or as advised by the insurance company.
- To adhere to the guidelines set out in the Congregational Board of Trustees Handbook of the United Church of Canada.
- To report to the congregation once a year or as required.

How are Trustees chosen and what do they do?

This is a volunteer position and if a member of the congregation wishes to serve on the Board of Trustees they can submit their names to the “Opportunity Knox” team who will interview them to see if background and expertise is compatible with the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Trustee Job Description. The Opportunity Knox team will present the qualified candidates to the congregation at an AGM in the form of a “Motion” for congregational approval

How do Trustees communicate with the Church and how do we speak to them?

The Board of Trustees provides an “Annual Report” to the Knox Church office for inclusion in the Annual General Meeting documents that are made available to the congregation prior to the AGM scheduled meeting date. Church members can always contact the members of the Board of Trustees by calling the church office and request that a Trustee contact them.

Who are the current Trustees?

Charles Curry, Keith Bacon, Betty Norman Bray, Sol Candel, Jim Smith, David Westwick, Jo-Anne Willment and Roslyn Campbell of the Chinook Winds Commission.

By Keith Bacon



MEET THE KNOX FOUNDATION

Knox Foundation is an independent registered Canadian charity (137406039 RR0001) founded in 1987 by the members of Knox United Church (KUC). KUC is the only beneficiary of Knox Foundation.

At the end of August 2021, it had a value of just over \$1 million. 98% of the Knox Foundation's assets are being managed by the Calgary Foundation.

The Knox Foundation's fiscal year ends on August 31 and its Annual General Meeting is held each November. Directors are elected by Church members at the AGM.

The mandate of the Knox Foundation is to receive, manage and grow funds from endowments. Income or other capital from these funds are used to support the ongoing ministry of KUC and for the maintenance of the historical building, Casavant organ, and the memorial garden.

The Foundation provides sustaining income annually to KUC as well as needed funding for large capital projects at the Church. Most recently the Foundation has donated supplementary funds to develop the lower level of the Annex and for stone restoration work on the Bell Tower at Knox. The Foundation also funds the "Coffee, Cookies and Conversation" coffee served on Sundays.

The Foundation has donated over \$579,000 to KUC since 1991.

In early 2022 the KUC Leadership Team requested an unrestricted disbursement of \$72,000 to help pay part of the Church's large operating deficit. The directors of the Foundation agreed to this request with conditions. Payment would be made in quarterly instalments of \$18,000. The first instalment was paid immediately. The second instalment of \$18,000 was paid when the KUC Congregation approved the 2022 Budget. A third instalment will be paid when the Leadership of KUC provides a sustainable long term financial plan. A fourth instalment will be paid in the 4th Quarter of 2022 if KUC still requires the funds.

The Foundation currently has 7 directors.

Vi Smith has been a member of KUC for 20 plus years and has served as a Director of the Knox Foundation for 6 years. Vi's professional background is in nursing, nursing education & nursing administration. Vi currently holds the position of Chair with the Education Standards Advisory Committee for the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta.

David Westwick has been a member of KUC since 2000 and joined the choir that same year. He has been a Knox Foundation Director since November 2021. David is a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Software Engineering at the University of Calgary, serving as Department Head as well as Associate Dean in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Doug Chandler is a second-generation member of KUC. He has been a director of the Knox Foundation since 2021. Doug has volunteered in a variety of roles at KUC and elsewhere in the United Church of Canada, including as a member of the Audit Committee of the United Church of Canada Foundation. Doug has worked as an actuary for over 40 years.

Verna Yee has been a member of KUC since 2002 and a Director of the Knox Foundation for 14 years. She served as Treasurer and investment coordinator along with Bob Stewart prior to the funds being managed by the Calgary Foundation. Verna was a member of the Knox Choir, a volunteer with Inn from the Cold and served as an usher at KUC. Verna worked as a geologist in the oil and gas industry for 30 years.

Dennis Ruf has been an adherent and member of KUC for over 25 years. He has been a Director of the Knox Foundation for three years. Dennis has served for many years as a Knox counter. He also served on the Mission and Outreach and Music committees. Dennis has been a high school and adult education teacher for 45 years.

Murray Songer has been an adherent and member of KUC for over 25 years. He has served on the Ministry & Personnel Committee and been a Director of the Knox Foundation for four years. Murray has had a long career in the service industry and was the operations manager for Humpty's Family Restaurants.

Andrew Fox has been a member of KUC since 2002 and a Director of the Knox Foundation for 14 years. He is currently the chair of the Foundation. Andrew also served on the Church Management Commission, the Strategic Community Partnership Team and most recently on the KUC Council. Andrew worked as a geologist in the oil and gas industry for 29 years.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Foundation, please contact one of the directors or the Knox Office.

By Andrew Fox



MEET OPPORTUNITY KNOX



You may be familiar with the name **Opportunity Knox**. For about three years, Opportunity Knox (OK) has been associated with messages announcing the availability of volunteer leadership positions at Knox, and the invitation to those interested to offer their services. Diane Trimming and Betty Norman Bray are currently the Opportunity Knox team. The OK team has been especially busy as our church reorganizes with new roles, and we are pleased to provide an overview of what we do and how we do it.

How Did Opportunity Knox Get Started?

During a congregational meeting in 2018, a question was raised as to how volunteer positions at Knox were being filled. The 2018 leadership team then followed up by creating the Opportunity Knox process. The Opportunity Knox volunteer positions were advertised, two of us went through application and interviews, were approved by Council and have served ever since.

What We Do?

The primary role of Opportunity Knox is to ensure there is an open and transparent process for filling vacant volunteer leadership positions. We strive to provide applicants with knowledge of the position and to match skills and interests with available opportunities. The positions most likely to fall under the OK mandate are those requiring congregational approval, such as Council/Board members, Trustees and occasionally Committee Chairs. Lately we have also been assisting the Commission by advertising for participation in Working Groups.

How Does It Work?

One of the Ministers/Commissioners identifies an opening and contacts the Opportunity Knox team. We familiarize ourselves with the appropriate position description. We advertise the position in bulletins, online and during Sunday services. Interested individuals call or email the Knox office for an application and complete it. Once the application is received, we contact the applicant and arrange a meeting. We prepare a list of discussion items for the meeting. After the meeting we write a meeting summary and recommendations. We present the summary and recommendations to the Minister/Board/Commissioner who make the final decision. When required, we present candidates for approval at a congregational meeting.

What Have We Accomplished?

In the past few months, the Opportunity Knox team has:

- Advertised for, interviewed, and recommended 3 new Trustees.
- Advertised and interviewed for a Volunteer Coordinator.
- Advertised for and interviewed for the Chair of Ministry and Personnel.
- Advertised for members of four Working Groups, collected names and passed on contact information to the Commissioners.

What Should I Do if Interested in a Position?

It's easy. Sue in the Knox office will provide you with an application form and a Position Description if one exists. You return the form to Sue who forwards it to us. Depending on the position, we will either contact you for an interview or pass your name on to the commissioners. We will also do our best to be available during coffee on Sundays if you would like to chat more.

Why Do We Enjoy Our Opportunity Knox Involvement?

It has been such a pleasure to meet the interesting and very capable individuals who choose to attend Knox and volunteer their time. The response after Sunday announcements has been encouraging. Thank you! Your amazing experiences, commitment, skills, and talents will be vital as we face the future challenges of our beloved church.

By the Opportunity Knox Team



Knox Community Life



INFORMATION/COMPUTER SERVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA AT KNOX

At the Finance & Stewardship meeting of August 14th, 2022, a work group was established to look into church computer services as well as the role of social media in establishing Knox United Church's place on the Internet. We are a small team working to do what we can using the resources the church already has.

Our mandates are:

- Identify the computer resources we have in place and document them so that any future rentals of space can know what we can provide.
- Ensure that our existing social media presence is current.
- Be ready to provide accurate information to support future ideas and projects that need computer services and an Internet presence.
- Put into place volunteers that can support the computer service needs of the church on a consistent and reliable basis going forward.

Members of our work group have volunteered to provide content for Knox's Social Media platforms so that our existing accounts can be brought back to life. This is an important task and is necessary to ensure that we have an Internet presence throughout the Fall, while plans for the future are developed.

Knox must determine how best to present itself to the world over the Internet and that is something that will take time to develop. The Information/Computer Services and Social Media Work Group will be making sure the resources are in place to make those choices happen.

Presently we are using the YouTube Live platform to stream the Sunday service. We plan to add Zoom so that those people who require that platform can join us on line.

We owe much to the volunteers who have provided time and talent to Knox United Church.

Keith Bacon is principally responsible for the extensive network wiring at Knox. The future of the church will likely depend upon rental of unused space and the network infrastructure is already in place to support that because of Keith's investment of time, materials and expertise.

Tim Bell has provided IT support for the computers running at Knox for many years. Tim is not in a position to provide support anymore.

All of the network equipment was provided by the late Larry Boychuk and his company 'New Spirit Information Services'.

While the building is wired for very high speed service, the equipment providing us Internet access is only capable of 10% of the possible speed. This is a workable situation at this time. However, it is a bottleneck to our moving forward and will have to be addressed if we are to support expectations of concert rentals and such.

The systems of the church are presently working well, and will continue to provide YouTube Live and Internet services. We plan on making better use of these resources in the near future. In the next newsletter, I will describe some of the possibilities for audio and video at Knox.

By Steve Miller

A NEWBIE AT KNOX

My husband and I moved to Calgary in March. He is a native Albertan, who went to high school in Calgary, returning home after 30 years. I am a wanderer, originally British, finally choosing a home.

As part of making Calgary my home, I wanted a church.

I am still new in my faith. I was baptized in 2019 (as an Anglican). The beginning of that moment stretches back over 30 years to Indonesia, where, living and working with observant Muslim colleagues, I first saw religion integrated into a "modern", educated life. Later, I was befriended by missionaries in Bulgaria, serving the poorest of that country and the alienated Roma community. We still do Bible studies together. Something in the mysticism of the Orthodox church has always spoken to me. Then, in Miami, I was embraced and inspired by the open and affirming community of the Coral Gables United Church of Christ. I learned about social justice, liberation theology and Christian activism. All over the world, I have found friendship, purpose and service as part of a congregation.

Of course, I "church shopped". We live downtown, so I joined services at the Church of the Redeemer (much too formal for me) and at the Central UCC (much too Informal for me). Then I walked into Knox. The place was almost empty. The pastor was only visiting. The choir was 5 people. Knox was struggling.

And it was wonderful. They sang. WE sang.

The sermon was about a current issue. I lit a candle in a Eucharist of Light (like in Russia, lighting yellow tapers of prayers or praise). After the service, I shared coffee and thoughtful conversation. I came home and said "I've found my peeps." I simply knew that Knox was where I was supposed to be.

That was in April.

Since then, I have joined the choir and remembered how much I had missed communal singing: the joy of contributing my can-barely-hold-a-tune voice and hearing something wonderful rise; the teamwork; being part of something live and beautiful. Sometimes on a Sunday I cannot sing the words because I am smiling unstopably. Or, I mumble, because I have to close my eyes and offer the music as a prayer. No one judges or complains.

I have joined the roster of Readers. It is a privilege to speak Scripture and an important service, if nerve-wracking.

I have started to help out “backstage”, doing little admin jobs. I have not yet secured paid work, so I have time during the week. The church organization is super-understaffed.

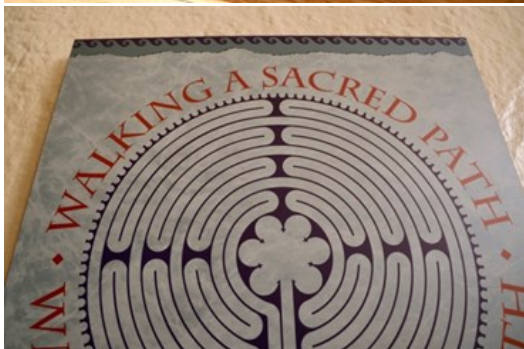
My husband, Carey, is a Secular Humanist (the modern term for “Atheist”). He too has found an outlet for his talents at Knox. He supports the live streaming of services and has joined the IT and social media task forces.

There is a feeling when you are where you should be: not always easy or pleasant, but certain and rewarding. That is how I know that Knox is right for me.

By Karen Harrison

KNOX SCAVENGER HUNT

These photos were taken at Knox this week. Do you know what (and where) they are?



September Highlights

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
4 th 10:30 Service with Rev. Dr. Karen Med- land	5 th Labour Day Start of #BibleTweet game on our social media	6 th	7 th	8 th International Literacy Day 19:30 Choir Re- hearsal	9 th	10 th
11 th 10:30 Service with Rev. Tom Melvin	12 th	13 th	14 th 10:00 Initial Meeting of Knox Mission, Vision & Values Working Group	15 th 19:30 Choir Re- hearsal <i>Tentative: Meeting of Fi- nancial & Stew- ardship Working Group (TBC)</i>	16 th	17 th National Hunting, Trap- ping and Fishing Heritage Day
18 th 10:30 Prayer Service for the Season of Creation with Rev. Bob Mut- low 12:00 Initial Meeting of Knox Governance Working Group led by Rev. Roslyn Camp- bell	19 th	20 th	21 st International Day of Peace	22 nd 19:30 Choir Re- hearsal	23 rd 14:30 Deadline for submissions for the October newsletter	24 th
25 th Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day 10:30 Reception Service for new members with Rev. Tom Melvin	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th 19:30 Choir Re- hearsal	30 th Wear an Orange shirt day to re- member & hon- our indigenous children taken from their homes	31 st

More information on Wear an Orange Shirt Day is available at <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/honour-children-who-attended-residential-schools>

Please send submissions for the October newsletter to Sue at office@kxcalgary.com

For more information on all of the above, please contact Sue at office@kxcalgary.com

