

# What's New at Knox?

September 2016

 **Knox**  
United Church  
506 4th Street SW  
Calgary AB T2P 1S7  
knoxunited.ab.ca

## Calgary Pride Parade

September 4 @ 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Join the Calgary Presbytery in the Calgary Pride Parade. Or just come out to watch the parade after church. The parade route and other information about Pride Week is on their website: [calgarypride.ca](http://calgarypride.ca)

## Late Breaking News!

### Richard Wagamese



Author and activist Richard Wagamese has had to cancel the Oct 14-16 weekend event due to a health matter. Our prayers are with him. Please stay tuned for more information.

## Healing Ministry at Knox

Did you know that we have changed our name? We are now *Healing Ministry at Knox*. This is to bring together the two strands of our history: the Healing Touch Program, the energetic healing process developed by American nurse, Janet Mentgen, and the Christian-centred Healing Pathway, transplanted and nourished at Naramata.

To bring clarity to who we are and what we do we have formulated a mission statement:

**Following the example of Jesus, our mission is to provide healing through the "laying on of hands", to bring harmony to the body, mind, and spirit, for ourselves and others.**

An image that encapsulates our purpose was put into words by a beloved elder, Gladys Lane: receiving a healing session is like "being inside a prayer". We invite you to come and join us in healing prayer. In September we will be available by appointment before and after church on Sundays, as time and numbers allow. Contact the church office by phone 403-269-8382, or email [kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca](mailto:kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca)

More information is available in our excellent new brochure in the rack now.

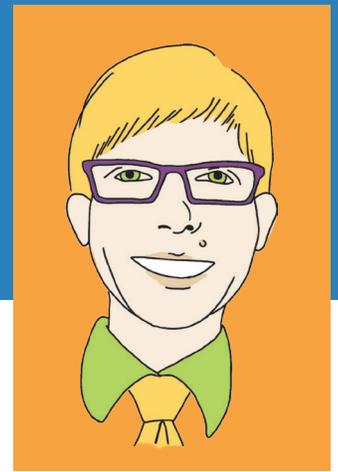
## Justice Initiatives

The Justice Initiatives is one of the working groups of the Community Life and Justice Commission. In previous years it served as an umbrella group, from which many issues developed into their own working group. Now it is one of ten working groups in the commission, and meets irregularly. Most of its members are involved with other groups and are active in several ways at Knox.

We have been invited to work with Ujamaa Grandmas, and Sue Forsyth and Sharon Montgomery met with two representatives from that group on Monday August 15. They will be hanging banner bombs at Tompkins Park, in honour of the tenth anniversary of Ujamaa Grandmas. That group exists to support grandmothers in Africa who are raising children orphaned through AIDS. They frequently meet at Woodcliff United, and concentrate on raising awareness and funds. You can see their celebration on September 15, at Tompkins Park, 17th Avenue and 8th St. SW. The display of yarn bombs will be on view for two months, so check it out. Each yarn bomb is created by a Calgary member, and has a card attached to explain what the yarn bomb represents.

Ujamaa Grandmas wish to use the trees in the Knox garden for a similar display during the spring of 2017. Dates have not yet been selected, but Sue and Sharon expressed support from Knox CL&J commission for this work. If you wish to find out more about this project, google them, or google yarn bombs. Better yet, visit the display at Tompkins Park. Let's celebrate what is happening throughout Calgary, and throughout mission work across the globe.

# A Message From Dave



**I simply cannot believe that we are headed into September already. Where did the summer go?**

Actually, I know exactly where the summer went. I have been doing some very intentional preparation for this coming year – soul-preparation, preparing my workplace and organizational system, preparing to embark on what promises to be a real adventure. Greg and I have been talking about mission, values, a vision for Knox. We've been taking a year of listening and talking with folks both in and outside of Knox, a year of research and reflection, and we are beginning now to gain some clarity on where we believe we are called to lead Knox.

Greg and I were hired a little over a year ago, with a mandate to take Knox in something of a new direction. Revitalize, connect Knox with the downtown community, bring us into the public eye, get us back in the conversation – these are some of the things that were part of the discussions with the search committee. Knox has been an important presence in Calgary – through Knox Centre, through its work in Affirming ministry (even before there was really a name for it), through its music, just to name a few ways. Greg and I were hired not so much to bring back the “good old days,” but to turn the church and its strengths and character towards the future.

This is not an easy move to make. Within my lifetime the ground beneath us has shifted radically. When I was born, United Churches were being built one per week in Canada. All you had to do was put up a church, open the doors, and bang! 400 kids in the Sunday school. But today, the United Church is closing a church a week. In the Environics report for this church,

containing demographic information for our “catchment area,” the most-approved value is listed as “sexual permissiveness” and the value to which our community has the most aversion is “religiosity.” The tide has turned against the church as we know it.

However, the pressure that decline has placed on the church has resulted in some very fine, very important reflection. We are discovering ourselves again, rediscovering our mission, our identity, the values that shape us – and some of the ways in which we have left the path of faithfulness over the past few generations (and indeed, for centuries).

As Christendom (the unholy alliance between European political power and culture, and the Church) collapses, we are learning of our need to repent. We are learning that our colonial assumptions led us into such disasters as the Residential School system. We are learning that mission is not us (the healthy and good) reaching out and “helping” the poor and needy. Mission is what God does, to enliven and transform and reconcile all of us.

If there is one central conviction I bring from this year of listening and learning, it is this: the church of the future must learn to be “post-colonial.” We must shed our assumptions that we are “the good guys,” who are helping the poor and outcast to become good like us. We must enter mission both as those who are being transformed by God's grace, and as those who are partners in mission, with the poor, with those of other faiths and none. Humility and listening must become our watchwords, as we pay attention to what God is doing both in and around us. I believe you will see these dynamics in the ideas and directions about which we will talk in the next



weeks, and in the proposals which will take shape through this next year.

I am incredibly excited about this coming year. After walking in the wilderness of church decline and crisis for my entire ministry, it feels like a path is beginning to open in front of me. I so much appreciate working with Greg Glatz, because he brings a set of skills and learnings and vision to this project (not to mention passion and dogged persistence!) that is probably unique in Canada, and which serves our time perfectly. Yes, I'm a little scared too! In order to enter our future we will need to stick our neck out!

But... that's what you hired us to do. What we have been hearing, more than anything, this past year, is “let's get on with it.” It's exciting, it's scary, it's challenging, it's hard... and I think we're ready.

*Dave Holmes*

**Now on the Knox blog:**

## Dave Holmes' Sabbath Series

If you missed any of Dave's sermons this summer, or would like to read them again, they are all now on the Knox blog.  
[knoxunited.ab.ca/blog](http://knoxunited.ab.ca/blog)

# Knox Music



**Music Director:**  
**Chellan Hoffman**

## Music Projects on the Go

*Knox's newest concert series:*

### Musical Chairs

**Friday lunch hours in the Labyrinth**

Music brings people together. As a listener, music soothes and energizes the soul; as a performer, music focuses the mind, pushes limits and encourages collaboration. With that in mind, Knox has introduced a new music program this summer called "Musical Chairs." This series invites workers in the downtown core to release their 'inner musician' by performing solo or in a group, in the Labyrinth Room of Knox United Church. Musical Chairs will happen Fridays at lunch, 12:10-12:45 pm. Check Knox's website for dates.

Our pilot project on July 22 was a great success! An I.T. guy, an accountant, a software programmer and project manager got together to play music ranging from Bach to Rock, with instruments including a viola, harpsichord, piano, and bass guitar. The room was packed with their co-workers and friends, and the energy was electric!

All you musicians with 'day jobs' - please consider playing in our Friday lunch hour concerts and spread the word!

*Free concerts in the Knox Labyrinth:*

### Circle of Friends

**First Sunday of the Month at 1 pm**

Amateur and professional musicians from Calgary continue to provide interesting and thoughtful performances in the sunlit space of our Labyrinth Room. To date we have enjoyed early music singers, flutes, harpsichord, classical guitars and piano.

Circle of Friends provides an opportunity for professionals, teachers, students and amateurs to perform in public for others, often as an introduction to the community. The performances also give the audience the pleasure of enjoying fine music on a Sunday afternoon.

## The Welsh are Coming to Knox!

**Sunday, September 4**

The North American Festival of Wales convention is being held in Calgary from September 1 to 4. Knox United will be a venue for some events including hundreds of voices joining together to sing Welsh hymns on the evening of Saturday September 3, and an unforgettable church service in the Welsh tradition on Sunday September 4.

**Please visit the website for detailed schedule information:**  
[calgarywelshsociety.com](http://calgarywelshsociety.com)

## Knox Church Choir

Knox Church Choir rehearses every Thursday, starting September 8 at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room upstairs.

Please contact Chellan if you'd like to join the choir.  
[choffman@knoxunited.ab.ca](mailto:choffman@knoxunited.ab.ca)

The Knox Choir provides music for Sunday worship and works with other churches to provide outreach to communities in Calgary.

### Upcoming Event

Sunday, September 18  
Chapel Service @ 2 pm  
Knox Choir sings at Bethany Care Centre, 5th Floor Link.

Officiant: Brenda Arndt

## Volunteers Required

The Music Committee has assumed responsibility for the formal hosting of the North American Festival of Wales. We will gladly accept help in hosting the events of Saturday evening as well as Sunday afternoon and evening. If you would like to be an usher for one or other of these events, please contact either Sue (office) or Ralph Dilworth.

# Other News

## Church Management Commission

### Update on Drains

In previous editions I have provided details about the ancient sewer drains at Knox. While you might think this is an underground topic would not be of any interest to our readers, you would be wrong. Something that we never thought about has suddenly become an essential discussion. Our future depends on solving these problems. Here is why; Recently we have been spending around \$1000 monthly to keep them running. Our toilets have insufficient water flow for the drains. We now have more people using our buildings.

Our goal this summer is to map the building and grounds for all drain locations. We are going to re-line the external pipes for a longer life. Finally, we are replacing all of the basement toilets with higher water flow models.

On Wednesday, July 20, Ron Johnson, a Church Management Commissioner researched the best toilet for us, and he was on hand to supervise the installations of the new Toto toilets in the basement level washrooms that have increased water flow and stronger flushing action.

Much of the drain work has not been budgeted, so if you are able to help out with an extra donation this summer toward solving these problems, it would be appreciated.

### Praise for the Knox Garden

Ralph Dilworth has taken on the care of the garden this year with some help from Craig our weekend caretaker. Ralph has done the plantings, weeding, and trimming, and Craig mows the lawn. It has looked fabulous all season. Thanks Ralph and Craig!

### Talk Back

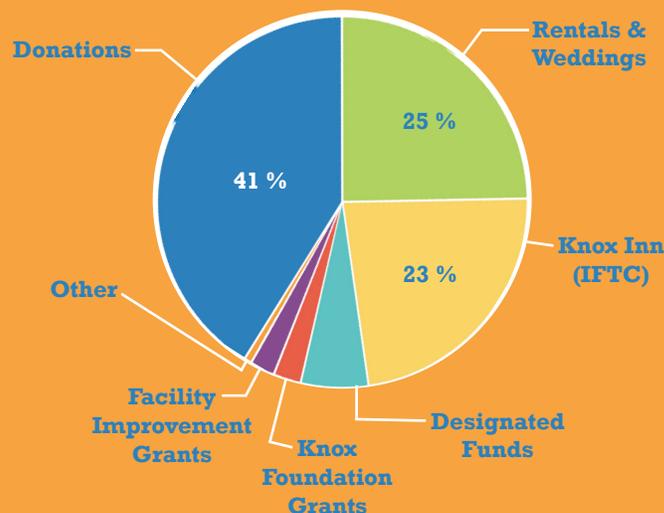
If you have any suggestions or comments about Church Management including Administration, Caretaking, Garden, Finance and Stewardship please send us an email to [kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca](mailto:kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca)

## Did You Know?

Knox has been an LGBTQ Affirming congregation for 10 years! We will be celebrating our anniversary in May 2017. Stay tuned for details.

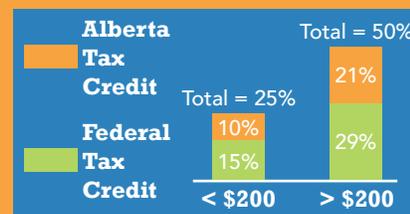
## Contributor's Corner

How we financially support our ministries in 2016  
(2016 Operating Budget)



Note how important rental/wedding and Knox Inn cost recoveries have become - now exceeding donations by 16%. Without a Knox Inn partnership we'd need to find additional support to sustain current ministries. Your regular donations to our ministries are so important... and so appreciated.

Charitable donation tax credit rates for 2016



Your donations to Knox cost less than you might think. After tax credits, your cost can be as low as 50% of the donation amount.

## Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published October 2, with a submission deadline of September 26. If you'd like something to be included in that edition, please get in touch with Marlene Hielema, in person or through the Knox office.