

# What's New at Knox?

February 2017

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

## Come usher with us!

When you join our volunteer team you get to work with engaging and positive people and hear some inspiring concerts.

Highlights this month include the Alberta Children's Choir February 4th and Building Sacred Bridges, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, February 11th.

For details please contact Jill.  
[events@knoxunited.ab.ca](mailto:events@knoxunited.ab.ca)

## Affirming News

Things are moving along with the Affirm anniversary in May. The anniversary church service will be May 14. A dance is being organized for May, we have partnered with the Fairy Tales Film Festival who will be using Knox as a venue, and Kevin Allen, of the Calgary Gay History Project has just agreed to make a presentation at Knox. Details are forthcoming. If you'd like to become involved in the Affirm working group, please speak with Bob Benner.

## Healing Ministry

Our workshop with the theme Science and Healing has stimulated a lot of interest. We anticipate having a total turnout of 50. There is still space for members of the Knox Congregation, but you will have to act fairly quickly.

The details: It will be held in the parlour and lower theatre at Knox on February 25, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Speaker: Elke Nowicki, a physics instructor, and Healing Touch practitioner. She will give her presentation in the morning, followed by lunch. In the afternoon healing sessions will be offered.

The cost for the day is \$25.00 Scholarships are available on request when registering. To register phone (403-269-8382) or email Knox office - [kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca](mailto:kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca)



AFFECTION	GIFT	H U C H O C O L A T E S X A D M I R E R F D F
BEAU	HEARTS	E G T L S F O U R T E E N T H D D E U H U A N
ADMIRER	HEARTTHROB	A G D O E T Y L V R K C S N I I A S T E Z H G
BLUSHING	HUG	R A L V C R C N M A W I R X U P R O Q A S Y E
BOW AND ARROW	KISS	T B O E R U A O L E K P E F O U L R V R P Y Y
CARD	LOVEBIRDS	S O V S E E R I B H S A W R U C I K I T I S T
CARNATION	LOVESICK	R W E I T L N T E T W S O I G K N P Y T L E I
CHOCOLATES	MARRY	O A B C A O A C N E E S L E F I G A F H U V N
COMMUNITY	PARTY	M N I K D V T E I E X I F N E B F R Q R T O U
CUPID	PASSION	A D R O M E I F M W K O P D B D P T E O J D M
EMBRACE	PINK	N A D Y I D O F E S N N Y S R G O Y T B J Q M
DATE	POEM	C R S W R R N A B S I Z R H U B E A U R E Y O
DARLING	ROMANCE	E R I X E A K O D V P Q R I A E M B R A C E C
DOVES	ROSE	S O J Z R C E V H U G X A P R S S I K Y K U V
BE MINE	SAINT VALENTINE	A W G N I H S U L B H D M M Y B E T A D G F B
FEBRUARY	SECRET ADMIRER	C C N E E N I T N E L A V T N I A S S B Q S I
FLOWERS	SWEETHEART	
FOURTEENTH	TRUE LOVE	
FRIENDSHIP	TULIPS	



# A Message From Dave

## Countdown: the next 1100 days

With the arrival of 2017 comes a year or more of challenge for Knox. At our annual meeting – January 29, pretty much coinciding with the release of this newsletter – we’ll be asked to approve the mission and basic initiatives that make up The Next 1100 Days proposal.

The Next 1100 Days is a plan to take Knox from a pattern of slow decline into a pattern of growth, from a largely ignored institution to a vibrant part of the downtown community, from a “silo” to the centre of a network of missional partners. The ideas have grown out of the history and strengths of Knox, conversations with our neighbours, research, the accumulated learning of Greg and I, and, we trust, the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*Here, once again, are the essentials:*

### The Mission:

Our mission at Knox is to be involved in God’s mission, God’s work in the world. We understand that work to be the work of reconciliation, of reconnection. God is reconnecting people to God, reconnecting people to each other, reconnecting people to their own best selves, and reconnecting people to God’s world.

### Four Initiatives:

The Next 1100 Days is all about working towards four key objectives, that we hope will change the form of the church (to open missional opportunities) and the essence of the church (as we seek renewed integrity and faithfulness in a new generation).

#### 1 Build a relational structure:

find, and nurture, a new generation of leaders at Knox. We will work to develop people and relationships first, and structures second – using the skills of community organizing we are learning through MACG, the Metro Alliance for the Common Good.

#### 2 Become a post-colonial church:

This is a learning initiative – to learn to see others as gifted participants in God’s mission, and to learn to see ourselves as those needing and experiencing transformation in Christ.

#### 3 Develop missional partners in the use of our church hall:

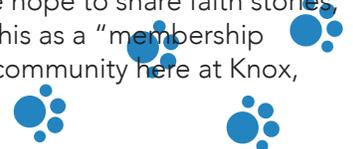
This is much more than a rental – we are looking for partners to use our church hall space such that missional opportunities are multiplied (and which result in some significant rental income for Knox).

**4 Launch new community ministries in our historic building:** Our historic building is a beautiful and well-kept asset; we hope to make it a place of reconnection for the downtown community in innovative ways. We envision a coffee shop in the narthex and back of the sanctuary, a co-working space in the parlour, and a full-service cafe in the theatre. Missionally important in themselves, these initiatives will also open many opportunities for new forms of ministry.

There are many questions still to answer: feedback from the Town Hall is only beginning to be processed. The ideas will be refined, practical matters will be addressed, new possibilities will open up, no doubt, along the way. But for me this is the most exciting plan for church renewal I have ever seen. Our adventure will require some nerve, a lot of wisdom (which probably means some argument), and perhaps most of all, teamwork.

I am also excited about our February group (Next Steps/Steps into Belonging). It’s primarily designed for those who are new or newish to Knox (though established folks are also welcome). Sam and Dave have been wonderful about opening places for social connection; this group is an attempt to open space for a more spiritual connection. We hope to share faith stories, get to know one another, and reflect a bit on the basics of faith and mission. If you’d like to use this as a “membership class,” that works, too! But we hope this group will leave all of us feeling more grounded in the community here at Knox, and more deeply connected with God and our faith journeys. More details on the next page!

– Dave



# Music Update

## Musical Notes in Ottawa

The Knox choir, together with its sister choir at Scarboro, is going to Ottawa to sing on Parliament Hill and at the National Arts Centre for Canada Day, 2017. The 150th birthday of modern-day Canada (a "Canada" existed before 1867, but we seem to have forgotten that) is something to celebrate. Many have said that we need more "Canadas" in today's world.

In any case, the Excursions Committee is helping organize this trip, along with our friend Wade Wiley-Ross from Scarboro. And we now have a good idea of what we are going to sing. Our music includes J'appartiens (by France Levasseur-Ouimet, a Franco-Albertan and retired professor from the Faculté St Jean of Edmonton), In Flanders Fields, Prayer for Peace, We Rise Again, United in Song (by Paul Haley) and Hymn to Freedom (by Oscar Peterson).

As we ready ourselves for this exciting adventure, you might just hear some of these pieces at our Sunday service. Just one more reason to keep coming!!

– *Ralph Dilmorth*

## Building Sacred Bridges

### February 11 & 12

Two unforgettable musical experiences featuring the talents of singers and musicians of different faiths from across Calgary. Each concert is a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta.

The first concert is at Knox on February 11, at 7pm. The second concert is February 12, at 7pm, at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1325 Glenmore Trail SW.

Knox Choir is part of the "United in Song" choirs (made up of 3 other United Church choirs). They'll be singing on both nights.

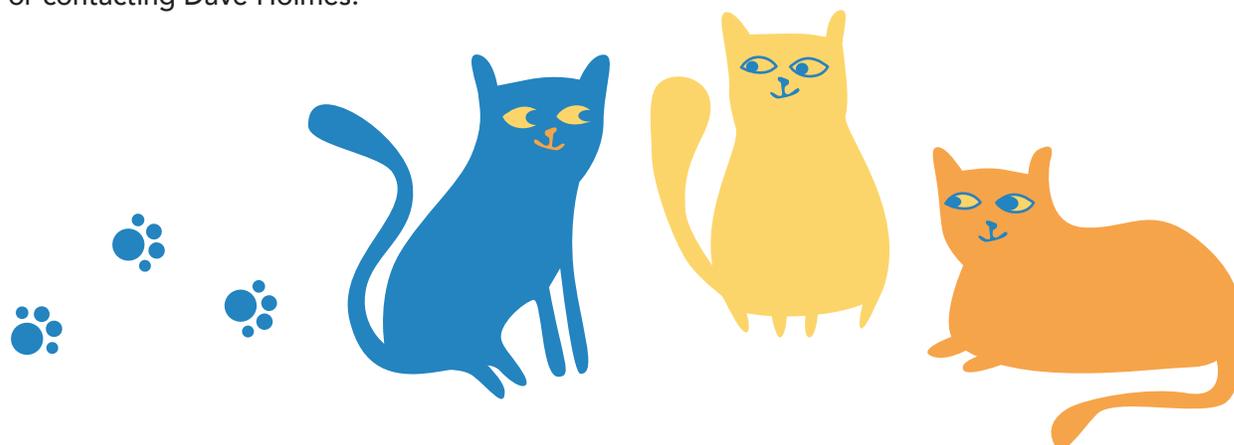
There is no charge for tickets to these concerts, but attendees are invited to make a generous donation. Suggested minimum donation \$20 per seat. (Tax Receipt will be provided for donations over \$20)

For more information visit the Habitat for Humanity website: [habitatsouthernab.ca/news-story/3591/](http://habitatsouthernab.ca/news-story/3591/)

## Steps into Belonging

Would you like to get more involved here at Knox? Would you like to explore your faith journey a bit, with a group of supportive people around you? For five Monday evenings starting February 6 we will gather a group to share faith stories, have a look at beliefs, Bible, mission, spiritual practice, and church membership. We'll gather around some refreshments, and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. This group can function as a "membership class" but there will be no pressure that way! Leaders are Dave Holmes, Greg Glatz and Janice Aicken.

This is particularly designed for those new to Knox, but others are also welcome! Sign up by calling the church office or contacting Dave Holmes.



# Other News

## Reflections on Aboriginal Issues

by Sharon Montgomery

This is the name of the working group I have been most involved with, at least as part of the Justice and Community Life commission. Why? Does it matter to anyone else at Knox? I know it does, because over the past 2 years when I've told others my interests, the response has been "me too!" There is interest in Aboriginals. Is that what we call them now? When I was a child growing up in a small fishing village on BC's west coast, we called the darker-skinned classmates Indians. The other ethnic group in our town was Japanese. My elementary school had only eight classes. I knew everyone. Steveston was a good place to grow up, there in the south west corner of Lulu Island (now part of Richmond, and part of greater Vancouver).

Names and designations change. Indians were later called natives, then first nations, then aboriginals and then indigenous. Does it matter? An elder told his audience at the Dutton Theater on Friday Jan 20, that these were names that white society assigned to his people. He also emphasized that new research into DNA of Native Americans found that his people are descendants of Aztecs, not from those tribes who crossed the Bering Strait. The history books are wrong. Again.

The history books continue to be written. When I read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report last year, I went through many emotions: guilt, embarrassment, anger, grief, sadness, despair, and overwhelming hopelessness. How could there ever be reconciliation between those who were taken from their families and placed in residential schools? Why didn't the government fund the schools adequately so that children were fed and clothed and taught humanely? Why weren't the children allowed to speak their own language? Assimilation was the goal. The legislators assumed that European culture was superior. As a teenager I believed I was lucky to be white and Protestant,

with a good work ethic. Our laws and traditions are European, and don't reflect the culture of the first inhabitants of North America. Europeans value land, ownership, education and money, to mention the most obvious. The laws of the land reflect the values of the dominant culture. Thousands of children were taken from their families and placed in the child welfare system in the years following the closure of the schools. Why? Were the children at risk? If so, why? At risk of what? Why? What else could be done?

When I was a teenager, I read from Lao Tze: "The measure of a civilization is not to be measured by its military might, nor its economic power, nor even the arts and literature it produces. The true measure of a civilization is shown by the kind of husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, its people become."

Let us get to know each other. We are just people, trying to live as best we can, and trying to fulfil personal responsibilities. Let us see others as human beings, trying their best as husbands and wives, mothers and fathers. There's that duality again! How about spouses? Parents? Better words. Not divisive.

I continue to learn, through reading, listening, networking, praying, and thinking. I am old and the world is changing around me. I can deal with change. I've done it before. I will listen to that other person who tells me about being a spouse, or a parent. My mind will adjust as I meet those who don't fit my stereotypes. I can re-think colonialism. I can even learn to be patient! Or at least remind myself that patience is a worthy goal. Reconciliation is a long journey. Respecting and honouring those different from us will take a few generations. What matters is stopping, knowing where we stand, and turning in a new direction.



### Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published March 5, with a submission deadline of February 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 - [kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca](mailto:kuoffice@knoxunited.ab.ca)

### Annual Reports

Links to pdf versions of the Knox 2016 Annual Report and Greg's expanded annual report, are on the front page of the Knox website. [knoxunited.ab.ca](http://knoxunited.ab.ca)