

What's New at Knox?

April 2017

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

Affirm Anniversary

Join us for these events while we celebrate ten years as an affirming congregation!

Friday, May 12

The Fairy Tales Queer Film Festival will be screening a film (TBA) at our location.

Saturday, May 13

In the evening, we will be holding an all-ages dance at Knox. Dress up in costume or come as yourself! If you would like to volunteer contact Chuck at chuckcurry40@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 14 @ 10:30 am

Morning service with musical guests, One Voice Chorus and the Barbarellas, with a special Knox LGBTQ choir. (Contact Chellan if you would like to be part of the choir).

Sunday, May 14 @ 1:00 pm

Calgary Gay History Project's Kevin Allen will give a presentation about the LGBTQ community and religion, with a focus on the history of the United Church, Metropolitan Community Church, Dignity, Integrity and other LGBTQ religious groups.

Look for posters confirming the details! See you there!

Knox Events

As the weather starts to warm up, so do the number of Spring concerts at Knox! We're heading into a busy part of our season and we welcome your help with ushering. No experience needed and you get to hear some fabulous music. For instance??? How about a double header Sunday, April 9th? First up is the Calgary Bach Society Choir for a 3:00 concert of motets by Bach and the sublime Durufle Requiem. Then after a quick turnaround comes Cantaré Children's Choir with a program of music and readings to mark the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge.

Other upcoming concerts:

April 25 @ 7:00

St. Mary's High School

April 29 @ 7:30

The Festival Chorus performs
The Passion According to St. John by Bach

May 7 @ 2:00

Calgary Girls Choir Spring Concert

May 8 @ 8:00

Bow Valley Chorus performs Mozart's Requiem

Contact Jill at events@knoxunited.ab.ca if you can help.

Church Management Commission

Work & Clean Invite

Saturday, April 22

The Commission will be holding a work/clean up day on April 22 from 9:00 – 4:30. Coffee will be on and lunch will be provided. We hope many people will come to Knox to help. Here is what we want to do:

Clean up and remove old storage items from the tower and the basement. A garbage bin will be rented for disposal

Do some paint touch-ups in the hallways and public rooms

Paint the hallway outside the sanctuary and labyrinth room

Clean woodwork in the narthex

Change to LED lighting and clean globes in public rooms (not the sanctuary)

Woodwork and cabinetry repairs

Please bring your own bucket, if you want to work on the cleaning detail, and bring tools if you can repair things.

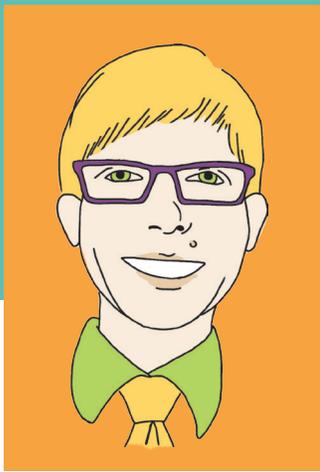
For questions and suggestions see, email or call Chuck Curry; E: chuckcurry40@gmail.com , C: 403-270-0742.

Book Review: The Comeback

by: John Ralston Saul

Reviewed by Kathy Huene

John Ralston Saul is a highly respected Canadian author. In his book *The Comeback* he discusses the traditional rights of the aboriginal people under the treaties signed with the government of Canada. These rights, which have been recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, have given aboriginal people a new relationship with the rest of Canada. The relationship has always been complicated and has often been ignored. John Ralston Saul makes some proposals addressing long-standing issues regarding administration, housing, sanitation, and education. He also includes some statements by native leaders both current and historical. It is neither a long nor difficult book to read and provides a basis for understanding the present reality. "Who are the treaty people? We are all the treaty people"



A Message From Dave

Interfaith harmony prize for Calgary!

I must say that there are many exciting things happening in and around Knox these days – so many that I am honestly struggling to keep up! But instead of telling you about what’s happening here at Knox, let me tell you this month about something that is happening around us.

The newly-minted Calgary Interfaith Council (an umbrella organization for interfaith and multifait work here in Calgary) has won a major international award for the Calgary events of UN Interfaith Harmony Week 2017. You can find out a bit more by looking up www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com – it is a UN program originated and sponsored by the Kingdom of Jordan. For us in Calgary it has provided a public platform for action and reflection on the strange notion that religions which proclaim love for neighbour can actually get along with each other, and work together as partners. The week included celebrations, dinners, tours of various places of worship, and culminated in the “Building Sacred Bridges” concerts, one of which was held here at Knox.

In a time of increased division and suspicion between religions, this is good news for Calgary. It’s also very much related to what is happening here at Knox for the next 1100 days (now more like 1050 days). A big part of our efforts at decolonization is to learn to see those of other religions as partners in mission, rather than competitors or antagonists. We want to learn to see the grace of God, active in our neighbours of different or no faith; we want to learn to see how others are already engaged in God’s mission of reconciliation, reconnecting people to each other, to God, to the creation, and to their own best selves.

So what happened in World Interfaith Harmony Week is intimately connected to our Lenten series, for instance, as we

learn to pray with our neighbours. It is intimately connected to the work we are doing to support the Healing Lodge that William Bellegarde is leading, and the efforts at reconciliation and right relations with First Nations both in the United Church and the Metro Alliance for the Common Good. It’s part of our work to build networks like MACG and the Interfaith Council.

So congratulations Calgary – especially all those who made the Interfaith Harmony events possible! And may God continue to bless all our efforts at reconnection and reconciliation.



Music News



April 9

Palm Sunday

April 13

Good Friday

April 16

Easter Services

EquiKnox band, organ, piano, choir, soloists and the Drumming Troupe from the University of Calgary's Campus Ministries will all be part of the music during Holy Week.

Services will feature music from the blues, spiritual, classical, global and choral music traditions.



A Message From Greg



The historic building at Knox presents a valuable and unique combination of assets.

Working in partnership with members of the community, local businesses, and non-profits orgs and funding agencies, an extra-institutional religious group of Knox and community stakeholders can create place-making initiatives in the historic building that solve the value innovation equation. Social-enterprises around the themes of eating together and working together could include the following:

Entrez!: a take away coffee/espresso bar in the narthex, open to the street (weekdays)

Sanctuary Café: tables, chairs, and pews (uniquely configured), available in part(s) of the sanctuary for people to read, write, meet, etc.; also used for book launches, workshops, presentations (weekdays and weekends)

Bell Tower Community Café: a full-service restaurant and bakery with seating available in the theatre (weekdays/weekends)

Parlex: a co-working space in the parlour (weekdays/weekends)

These social enterprises would focus on the creation of bridging social capital. Bridging social capital is the momentum and resources generated by making connections for the

common good. A focus on the creation of bridging social capital does not preclude the possibility of profit, but is a commitment to what economist John Kay calls obliquity. An oblique approach believes that using the historic space primarily for the purposes of generating cash flow money is not the best way to generate cash flow. Instead, organic and sustainable growth is achieved by building connections for the common good, which then will attract interest, support, funding, etc.

In 2016 and 2017, Greg has toured social enterprises across Canada, exploring what they define as their critical success factors and major risk factors. In June 2017, a team from Knox will be traveling to London (UK) to explore several church-based social enterprises, including The Sanctuary Café at St. James' Church, which has served as our core inspiration.



Meetups

Dinner & a Show

Friday, April 7

Our own Alexis Leew will be starring in "Screwtape" at Cochrane's Vision Theatre in Cochrane, AB. Alexis' mother, Shirley, has graciously offered a catered, casual chili supper prior to the show at her home in Cochrane before the show. Check out Meetup.com (Knox & Neighbours) or reach out to Sam Teja or Alexis Leew for details!

Together Over Coffee

Thursday, April 13 @ 3:00 - 5:00 pm

A casual, agenda-less time where we get together and get to know one another. Check out Meetup.com (Knox & Neighbours) or reach out to Sam or David Teja for details!

Happy Hour

Wednesday, April 26 @ 5:00 pm

Get-together Happy Hour on Wednesday, April 26th, at 5:00pm. Details to come on Meetup.com (Knox & Neighbours) or reach out to Sam or David Teja.

Mission Fair

On Sunday April 30, Knox will host a Mission Fair in the gym at coffeetime after the service. Agencies supported through your donations to the Outreach Fund (Mission and Outreach 60/40 respectively) will be in attendance to share information about the work they do in Calgary to support those in need of emotional, financial and spiritual sustenance. Please come and talk to the representatives of the agencies that your Outreach Fund has supported.

The agencies receiving our disbursement are the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, Calgary Alpha House Society, CUPS, Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank, United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry, Kerby Rotary House, Horizon Housing, Distress Centre, The Doorway, and The Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary.

Other News

Metro Alliance for the Common Good

It has been a busy few months for those participating in the Metro Alliance for the Common Good (MACG). Two Research Action Teams (RATS) are up and running: one focusing on issues facing Seniors in Calgary; the other focusing on Truth and Reconciliation with indigenous peoples. In March, four people from Knox attended a one-day workshop on Leadership for Public Life at B'nai Tikvah. We learned about organizing ourselves and others from leaders such as Derek Cook of the Poverty Institute. Derek will speak at Knox on Palm Sunday.

The Seniors Team has been conducting research visits to select groups and conducting listening campaigns. Ellen Lang is our representative on this team. To date the team has met with Bethany Care Center; Age Friendly Calgary; Hillhurst Sunny Side Community Association, and Carya. Upon completing these research visits and examining the long list of issues facing seniors, a decision was taken to conduct some additional listening campaigns to help us more clearly identify a narrow list of pressing issues facing seniors. A listening campaign was held at Knox on March 19th, following the worship service. Knox seniors were asked what key issues were affecting them. The team will now look at the findings of the listening campaigns. The ultimate goal is to define a single, significant, winnable issue we can address and then begin a campaign to solve this problem.

The Truth & Reconciliation Team has been holding monthly meetings at the Unitarian Church. Susan Wood and Edgar Ayala are Knox reps on the team. At these meetings we compare notes on our research/listening meetings, exchange knowledge we have gained from readings, and listen and learn from our indigenous members. Research visits have been held with Suncor's indigenous relations department, with the Creation Lodge, and with representatives of indigenous people at the University of Calgary. At our March meeting, William Bellegarde graciously shared indigenous spirituality with us in story, song and ceremony.

Our work is only beginning, but we look forward to expanding our membership, gaining knowledge of the real, concrete needs of the people in Calgary, naming achievable goals, and taking action.

Susan Wood, Ellen Lang

Contributors Corner

Knox United financial operations reporting has been upgraded! Now on Quickbooks, we'll be offering monthly reporting at the Council Meetings starting in May (for April's data).

Our budget will be approved this month and we expect our 2016 audit to be complete and ready to present to the congregation later this month too!

Year to date Knox has a budget deficit of \$10,000. Yikes! While a small deficit was expected, it is still serious, and we need to be mindful of expenditures and donations. A great way to ensure that we meet the obligations in our budget and support our missional values is for our members (you!) is to offer a pledge of your contributions for 2017 so that we have a better idea of the contribution dollars that will fund Knox for the rest of the year. There are Stewardship Packages at the 6th ave entrance, or simply ask Sue Forsyth or Sam & David Teja for details.

We realize that when the collection plate is not passed, some may not feel comfortable to donate at the Contemplation Tables, but we usually have an usher passing the plate during this period as well.

For those that have already pledged your contributions for 2017 and for all of you that have chosen to support the Church's mission financially, thank you! Your contributions are essential to our mission and so appreciated.

Thank you all for donating to the Knox ministries.

Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published May 7, with a submission deadline of April 30. 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.

Greg and Dave's sermons are now on the Knox website.
knoxunited.ab.ca/sermons