

# What's New at Knox?

March 2017

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

## A Tour of Knox

If you are new or relatively new at Knox and want to take a tour of the historic building, Chuck Curry will be hosting one on March 12 following the worship service. We will talk about the congregation's history, the stained glass windows, the century-old kitchen, the architecture and much more. Please let him know that you are interested at [chuckcurry40@gmail.com](mailto:chuckcurry40@gmail.com)

## Trustees News

At the end of January, the Trustees of Knox submitted grant applications to both the City of Calgary and the Province of Alberta for financial assistance in the restoration of the stone façade of the bell tower and outer historic church walls. With the success of these applications the Trustees may proceed with the hiring of a masonry consultant to develop the scope of work and assist in the bidding process for the work. If all goes well, restoration work will commence early in 2018.

## Healing Ministry Workshop Wind-Up

Knox Healing Ministry's workshop on Science and Healing took place on Saturday, February 25, and was a big success! We had 50 enthusiastic participants who were treated to a mind expanding and understandable presentation by Elke Nowicki, and an opportunity to give and receive healing sessions.

Our group worked diligently to make it happen. The vision was Sharon's from the start and she held it to its fruition. Doreen insisted that we have healthy food and was assisted in that by our caterer, Cyndi Alvaro, and Ellen and Gladys who made muffins and gluten-free options. We want to thank Adelaida's daughters, Alyanna, and Wynnona, and son, Alec. Their cheerful willingness to help was uplifting.

A special thank you is due to Sue Forsyth for all her help, in more ways than we can mention.

## The Next 40 Days



### Lent has started

If you were in church last Sunday you got a brochure entitled *The Next 40 Days*. This year Knox's Lenten practice is: Praying with our neighbours. During Lent we hope to challenge some of these assumptions by opening ourselves to pray with our neighbours – particularly those of other faiths.

What about Lenten fasting? Lent is a traditional time of fasting and prayer in the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. One practice with which many of us are familiar is the notion of "giving up something for Lent."

Lenten practices are not designed to make you suffer! Rather they are designed to sharpen your attention to the Word and voice of God.

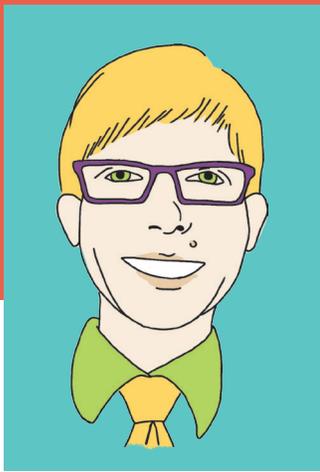


## Affirm 10th Anniversary Celebration

May 13 @ 7:30 pm

In May it will be the 10th anniversary of Knox becoming an Affirming Congregation for LGBTQ persons. We will be holding a dance celebration open to everyone! All ages welcome. Dress up in costume or come as yourself! If you can help Chuck organize or would like to volunteer at the the dance, please contact him at [chuckcurry40@gmail.com](mailto:chuckcurry40@gmail.com).

There will also be a film showing by Fairy Tales, and a presentation by Kevin Allen from the Calgary Gay History Project. Details are still in the works.



# A Message From Dave

## And away we go!

**On January 29, we held our annual congregational meeting and, in a very positive atmosphere, launched some significant new initiatives.**

## Risk and challenge

We passed this year's budget with a deficit of over \$100,000! This deficit is a reflection of a few significant factors: the Inn from the Cold is no longer using our hall space on a nightly basis as an overflow shelter (in the current climate, it is no longer needed). Our congregational offering income still reflects the slow decline felt across our denomination. And our budget reflects the decision, taken two years ago now, to staff for growth and renewal rather than for continued decline. Solid work by our finance people, by lay leaders, and Kay de la Ronde in her continued work with the Inn from the Cold have reduced the deficit significantly from what it might have been! But these numbers are, of course, not sustainable and remind us of the need for new initiatives, new ministry partnerships, new growth.

## The Next 1100 Days

At this meeting, the congregation unanimously passed the four basic initiatives in the Next 1100 Days proposal. They are:

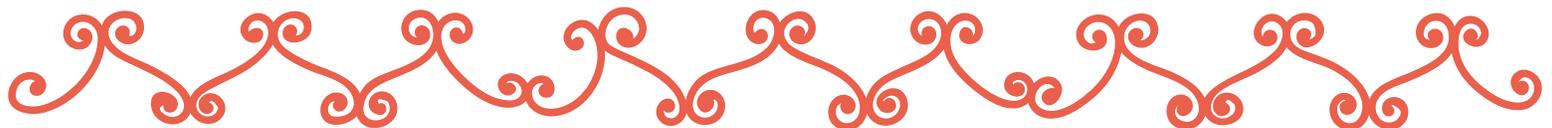
**Develop a relational leadership structure. This is an effort to build community, and also to invite new leaders (and new leadership styles) into Knox. This is already working in the Justice commission and with children's ministry.**

**Become a post-colonial church. This is an effort to set aside our assumptions of privilege, and our automatic support of the status quo establishment. We will learn to address issues of racism and justice by seeking to learn from and partner with other religious groups, neighbours, and First Nations, and learn to be honest and intentional about our own healing and transformation.**

**Create a mission-driven vision for our 1960 building. With the Inn from the Cold likely moving out of the picture, we need to find ways to use our 1960 building in ways that generate income for us, but which also open new opportunities for mission work. We are currently in conversation with Woods Homes for a significant partnership, and other possibilities are also being discussed.**

**Launch a new community ministry in our historic building. Current thinking has us opening a coffee shop in the back of the sanctuary, a full-service café in the theatre below, and a co-working space in the Parlour. Each of these (while significant ministries of re-connection in themselves) offers us new opportunities to minister to the downtown community in ways not possible at present.**

The next 1100 days are now counting down: in three years or so we hope to have a vibrant, active church community in the centre of a community of partner-ministries, operating out of our buildings. The vision will take shape as it unfolds, as partners are found and opportunities present themselves. Decisions will be made at each stage – no “blank cheques” were issued at this congregational meeting! But the stage is set for Knox to become a very exciting church indeed, in the not too distant future. Three cheers for Knox's courage and leadership!



# A Message From Greg



## Abundant Community

We've been talking a lot about vision at Knox. Our vision, called The Next 1100 Days, is shaping the church we become in the next three years (2016-2019). Going forward, making connections for the common good will become the core of our congregational identity and consequently draw a growing proportion of Knox's time, energy, and financial resources. It will supplement more traditional understandings of worship with a biblical image of worship as offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to others (Romans 12:1,2) rather than merely offering prayers, hymns, anthems, sermons, etc.

At the core of every vision is people. We need ministers, church staff, and church and community members who are focused on, and gifted and equipped for, making connections for the common good. In *The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods*, John McKnight and Peter Block argue that the resources every community needs already exist in that community. The key is recognizing the inherent potential of our communities and to that end we're going to start polling people at church and in the wider community to see what they can bring to the mix in the next 1100 days. As a result of our town hall, annual meeting, promotional brochure, and connections being made as we work on vision initiatives, people are already coming forward. It's exciting to see how abundant our community really is ... and we're just getting started.

## Music

*This spring, we have an exciting range of musical guests who will be taking part in Knox Sunday services. We welcome:*

**March 19**

**The University of Lethbridge Choirs  
(Mixed choir & Women's choir), under the  
direction of Dr. Janet Youngdahl.**

The choirs will be participating in the Alberta ChoralFest on the weekend of March 17/18/19. On Sunday morning, the choir will share their music with the congregation. Music includes: a chorus from J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 207; "Faith is a Bird" by Elizabeth Alexander; and "Famine Song" by Vida.

**May 7**

Western Canada High School Choirs, under the direction of Sheryl Reinhardt, will be bringing their high-spirited energy and music to our Sunday service. They will also join forces with our own Knox Choir to sing "United in Song" by Paul Halley.



**May 14**

Knox celebrates its 10th Anniversary of being an Affirming Congregation. We will be welcoming One Voice Chorus, directed by Jane Perry; and The Barbarellas, directed by Cora Castle. If you would like to be a part of a special Knox LGBTQ choir, formed for this special occasion, please talk to Chellan Hoffman (music director), or Chuck Currie.

**Date announcement coming soon...**

The Drumming Troupe from University of Calgary's Campus Ministry will be visiting Knox this spring. Get ready to participate in a drumming circle, too!



# What's New at Knox?

## Meetups

Please join us for Happy Hour on  
Wednesday, March 15 & Friday, March 24

It's a great opportunity for us to get to know each other and connect on a social level without any agenda or specific topics.

Details will follow on [Meetup.com](#) (search for Knox United & Neighbours) and on our Facebook site as well as on the events page of the Church website ([knoxunited.ab.ca/events](#)).

Please connect with Sam and/or David Teja with any questions or concerns you may have:  
[samdavenewyork@gmail.com](mailto:samdavenewyork@gmail.com)

Look forward to seeing you there!

## White Privilege

### Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack

Peggy McIntosh

This recent handout at the Right Relations meeting lists many ways white people are privileged in our North American society. Peggy writes: I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group. I decided to try to work on myself at least in identifying some of the daily effects of white privilege in my life. I have chosen those conditions that I think in my case attach to skin-colour privilege than to class, religion, ethnic status, or geographic location, though of course all these other factors are intricately intertwined. (Others) ... cannot count on these conditions.

For the full text of this provocative article, visit [deanza.edu/faculty/lewisjulie/](#)  
See the link to White Privilege under Student Resources.

## Contributor's Corner

Heading into March, we do find ourselves behind target for contributions (pledges and ad-hoc donations)

**YTD Contributions: \$197, 069 (-13%)**  
**Participation rate: 92%**

As we gain momentum for the initiatives coming in the next 1100 days, please consider pledging your financial contribution for 2017 by completing a pledge form.

Forms can be found in the stewardship packages at the 6th Ave entrance, or by asking one of the ushers. If you have questions about how much to pledge, a good guideline is 10% of your annual household income, but please feel free to reach out to Greg or Dave to have a deeper conversation.

If you have already submitted your pledge form, please accept our gratitude for your membership. If you have yet to submit a pledge form or are contemplating your financial contribution for 2017, please don't hesitate to reach out.

And, remember, it's never too late to donate!

Thank you again!

## Mission Fair

On April 30, there will be a Mission Fair after church. Come and meet the local agencies that the Knox Mission and Outreach Group supports through your donations.

## Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published Sunday, April 2, with a submission deadline of Sunday, March 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.

