

What's New at Knox?

November 2016

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

Advent Decorating

Friday Nov 25th @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm

It's November already, which means that Advent is soon upon us. Let's make Knox festive for all those who come here during the Advent season. This year, November 25th will be the busy day when we can gather to share a meal, maybe make an ornament or two, and then we'll decorate. We will end the evening with carol singing in the sanctuary.

Our trusty Office Manager, Sue Forsyth, will have things all ready for us so that small teams can focus on making different areas of the building and exterior sparkle! This family friendly event is for all ages. A hot meal will be provided. If you are able, bring a dessert to share, if not, please just come along and join us. Everyone is welcome.



Knox Events

Looking for a way to connect and contribute to the life of the Knox community, spend time with friends, both within and beyond the congregation and hear some great music? Come usher with us, and bring your buddies! Everyone is welcome. Last month we embraced several first-time ushers from beyond the Knox family. The duties are essential but not difficult and there are always those more experienced around to lend a hand to newbies. Doors open usually an hour before the concert, so ushers need to be here about a half an hour before that. Please contact me at events@knoxunited.ab.ca

We're still looking for help for the following concerts:

Sunday Nov 20 @ 3:00
Calgary Bach Society "Divine Hymns"

Saturday to Monday, Nov 26-28 @ 7:00
Calgary CarolFest

Saturday Dec 3 @ 8:00
Festival Chorus "Christmas in Paris"



Annual Christmas Bake Sale

Sunday Dec 4

This is another stewardship moment. We encourage everyone to prepare some fresh baked goodies for the sale. Jams and Jellies are also wanted. Please bring your donations to the gym in the morning before the worship service. The sale is after church; come to buy! Gluten free baking are also wanted.

Church Management Commission

Communications

Since the last meeting a Communications ad hoc group of Chuck, James Wear, Dave Holmes and Steph Reynolds met to discuss internal and external communications and marketing at Knox. Some of the ideas were:

Sanctuary Interior: Design banners to hang on the front sanctuary columns. These will bring colour and through imagery convey our current messages of our ministry at Knox.

Outside: New tower banners to be designed by Steph with imagery reflecting Knox ministry.

If anyone has ideas for promoting Knox please contact the Church Management Commission through the Knox office at 403-269-8382

Tower Roof

The CMC has let a small contract (\$5,500) to Lynnwood Roofing to repair the tower roof, which has some areas that need repairs to prevent rainwater leaking into the rear balcony. The repairs should be completed by early November.

After the approval by Council to move forward with inspections of the stone façade of the tower, I.B. Jensen Masonry used a 125 ft. (39M) lift to examine and remove, if necessary, stones that were in danger of falling. The intervention work was completed on Thursday, October 21. A complete report from the company will be used for grant application for restoration work in 2017.



Stewardship 2017

Sam and David Teja, Kathryn MacGregor and Keith Bacon with Dave Holmes designed the stewardship package. The launch day was Sunday, October 30, and the campaign runs until November 20. In our 1100 days of renewal at Knox we hope everyone participates to make a financial commitment to Knox in 2017.

A Message From Greg



On Sunday, Oct. 16, I attended three worship services in Paris. I was in the city on study leave, in search of vibrant, indigenous, contemporary expressions of worship in a country noted for its official secularism (laïcité). Only 4.5% of people in France attend church regularly, but Paris is one of the most creative cities in the world. If any place can reinvent worship for the 21st-century, it's the City of Light.

My first stop was the 9:00 a.m. service at the American Cathedral in Paris, where costs to keep the church doors open run around €3,000 per day. The service was attended by a dozen people gathered in the quire. An interview with a helpful docent after the service suggested that the church had seen its best days in the late 1800s when the cousin of financier J.P. Morgan served as rector of the cathedral! (Another spurt of growth occurred after WWII when a number of American GIs remained in France to marry French partners.) Today, the church is casting far and wide to find for financial support. A recent newsletter entry (Spring 2016) from their Dean and Rector appeals to ... friends who appreciate this outpost of the Episcopal Church in France, friends who feel that it is their Cathedral in

Europe, friends who have been touched or supported or transformed here at some point in their lives. And we look to those who care enough to leave a legacy of support, to remember us in their wills. And, finally, we are working to be more and more creative in our use of our space, leaving plenty for our own needs and the needs of those who cannot pay, but also offering space for concerts, fashion shows, films, corporate meetings – all of which can help support us.

The midday international mass at Notre-Dame de Paris was next on my tour of Sunday services. The service was attended by a couple hundred (mostly) elderly visitors and pilgrims while tourists strolled the ambulatories and surrounding chapels. The enchanting. It was a timeless service, yet one that appeared past its time as far as Parisians were concerned.

My final stop of the day was Eglise Paris Métropole, which has several campuses in the city. I attended the 2:00 p.m. service at their new République campus in Théâtre Déjazet. I expected the most from this church and first signs were encouraging: as I arrived, the theatre was filling up with a couple hundred worshippers, most of them in their 20s and 30s. However, as the worship began, it became obvious that the music and preaching was borrowed entirely from American and U.K. churches and simply translated into French.

This wasn't the worship of the people, for the people and by the people I had anticipated.

There are some strong parallels between France and Canada. As Joel Thiessen has documented so persuasively in *The Meaning of Sunday*, church attendance in Canada has also been falling over the past 50 years and is not likely to recover. Canada has been moving into what social philosopher Charles Taylor calls a secular age. Yet, although the future of institutional religion is bleak, there is agreement that interest in spirituality and extra-institutional expressions of religion is growing.

The other half of my study leave occurred in London, where I encountered a maverick vicar who is capitalizing on the spiritual-but-not-religious trend. Approximately 3,500 people walk through the doors of his church every week—in a country where only 1.4% of the population attend Anglican services on a typical Sunday morning. I'll say more about the church, and the genius behind it, in my next newsletter report.



Introduction to Meditation Series

Through the Worship and Spiritual Development Commission, we are offering a 5 week Introduction to Meditation series. Classes will be held weekly starting Monday, January 9th in the Labyrinth during the noon hour. The classes will be open to all those who are interested in exploring this ancient tradition that has great value for us today. Meditation is a practice of many faith traditions, including Christianity, and we will explore some of those practices. The classes will explore different kinds of meditation including silent, still, moving and spoken. Classes will include both a short informational portion

and a meditation practice. And no, you won't have to sit cross legged on the floor, or even on the floor at all, unless you want to and are comfortable doing so. Registration for the series is through the Knox Office. A small number of scholarships will be available for those for whom the fee would present a hardship. Your instructor for this series is Margaret Miyagishima, an experienced workshop facilitator, coach, and yoga and meditation practitioner. If you have questions, please contact Margaret at margaret@mdmci.com or 403-264-7887.

Music Update

There are many special Knox services and concert series events coming up between now and the end of the year. You can find any additional events on the Knox Events Calendar: knoxunited.ab.ca/events



Circle of Friends

Concert Series

Admission by donation
Sunday Nov 6 @ 1:30 PM

(note new time)

The White Cliffs of Dover: A Tribute to Winston Churchill and the War Years featuring award-winning baritone, Michael Hope; accompanied by Chel-lan Hoffman on piano & pipe organ

Calgary Carol Festival @ Knox

3 evenings of Christmas songs by Calgary choirs

Saturday Nov 26 @ 7:00 PM

Carol singing & songs of Christmastide featuring 10+ Calgary choirs

Sunday Nov 27 @ 7:00 PM

Knox Choir sings tonight, with 10+ other fantastic choirs!

Monday Nov 28 @ 7:00 PM

Carol singing & songs of Christmastide featuring 10+ Calgary choirs

Knox Services

Advent

Sunday Nov 27 @ 10:30 am

Music by EquiKnox Band and Soulstice Singers

Sunday Dec 4 @ 10:30 am

Music by Knox Choir

Sunday Dec 11 @ 10:30 am

Music by Knox Choir

Sunday Dec 18 @ 10:30 am

Lessons & Carols with Knox Choir, EquiKnox Band and Soulstice Singers

Circle of Friends

Concert Series

Admission charge
Sunday Dec 4 @ 1:30 PM

(note new time)

The Flute Club of Calgary, under the direction of Lucie Jones. Guest artist: John Reid playing jazz sax

Blue Christmas Service

The Longest Night

Wednesday Dec 21 @ 7:00 pm

In the Labyrinth Room
Music by EquiKnox Band

Knox Services

Christmas Eve

Saturday Dec 24 @ 6:30 pm

Carol singing with Foothills Brass Quintet, Organ and Knox Choir

Saturday Dec 24 @ 7:00 pm

Family service, featuring EquiKnox Band

Saturday Dec 24 @ 10:30 pm

Carol singing with Foothills Brass Quintet, Organ and Knox Choir

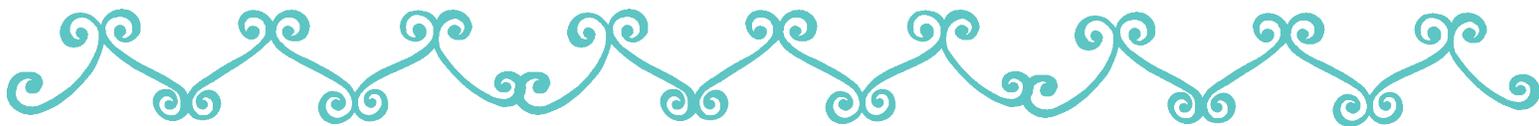
Saturday Dec 24 @ 11:00 pm

Candlelight service featuring Knox Choir

Christmas Day

Sunday Dec 25 @ 10:30 am

Music by members of Knox Choir



Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published December 4, with a submission deadline of November 28. 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.

Community Life and Justice Commission

Twelve members of the Community Life and Justice Commission met on Sunday Oct 30, to be updated on requirements for the yearly vision plans for 2017. Representatives of nine working groups attended. 2017 will be an exciting year! Stay tuned for more news about MACG meetings, the ten-year anniversary of Knox becoming an Affirming congregation, initiatives where we host not-for-profit groups, and lots more!

The MACG discernment meeting on October 13 chose two areas to concentrate on: Reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people, and Decreasing Isolation for Seniors and others in our community. Join us for informal discussion after church to find out more, and learn how to get involved. Talk to anyone you wish!

Other News

Presbytery Update

Knox United Church is one of twenty eight churches that make up the Calgary Presbytery. Our presence is represented by lay delegates Janice Aiken and Michael White, and ministers Rev. Dr. Greg Glatz and Rev. Dr. David Holmes. Presbytery held its annual Learning Day on Saturday, October 22, at Parkdale United Church. It was a fun, stimulating and sacred time. A variety of workshops were held, including a workshop giving information on the remits that will be held over the next few years. (A remit is a vote that gives permission to change the Basis of Union). Another workshop provided information, which can also be found on the website www.gc42.ca, on the voting process that the United Church of Canada will be experiencing throughout the next few years. There are a variety of upcoming remits including changing our council from a 4-council structure to a 3-council structure.

There are four Commissions in Presbytery, each one responsible for a different aspect of the mission and work of the

church. Janice Aiken is a member of the Congregational Support Commission and Michael White is a member of the Local and Global Outreach Commission.

The Personnel Support Commission is responsible for supporting the pastoral relationship of a congregation and its ministry personnel. Two members of this Commission – a lay delegate and a minister, were part of the Knox JNAC and Search Committees as we called our two new ministers.

The Planning and Administration Commission is responsible for the budget matters of the presbytery as it seeks to provide financial support for its ministry.

The Congregational Support Commission is responsible for 'pastoral oversight': the care and development of individual congregations. In this past year the commission has organized all of the churches into teams of three – each one to be visited by the other 2 churches over a three year period to give support and

encouragement to one another. Knox has been teamed with Northminister United and Chinese United. In addition, the commission has been offering the FRESH START PROGRAM to individual congregations - a series of workshops that help congregations deal with such issues as: a change in ministers, and the challenge of conflict.

The Local and Global Outreach Commission supports, through justice work and dollars, projects that are both local and global. To that end, this commission gave a grant to the Habitat for Humanity Organization in Calgary. Knox has been thanked by this commission for contributing its Thanksgiving Sunday Morning Offering to help with this grant. The commission has also been involved in organizing through the year 2015/16, a series of workshops that presbytery will experience in order to become an Affirming Presbytery.

– Janice & Michael



Contributor's Corner



Save the Date Saturday Feb 25

Knox Healing Ministry will present a workshop on the theme Science and Healing from 9 am to 4 pm, including:

A presentation on the physics of energy healing by Elke Nowicki, a Healing Touch certified instructor, and high school science teacher

Lunch

Healing sessions offered by your Healing Ministry team

Stay tuned for more information

We are in the midst of the Knox 2017 Stewardship Campaign. By now you should have received your stewardship package. If not, please contact the church office. This is your invitation to "lean in" and become more involved in the connections God is building through the work at Knox.

The most important thing you'll find in the package is a pamphlet titled The Next 1100 Days. It describes, briefly, our vision for the next three years. Knox is at a very exciting transition point. We are becoming a vibrant, post-colonial church, connected to downtown Calgary, working in partnership with people and organizations all around us. The Next 1100 Days is what we're asking you to "lean into."

To assist with budget planning for the coming year, we're asking everyone who pledges to submit their pledge forms to church by November 20, 2016.

Thank you for being part of the Knox community. Please consider this package prayerfully. We move forward together as a church as each of us makes a decision to step forward in faith.