

KNOX UNITED

Annual Report 2025

Vision Statement

Knox is a progressive Christian community that seeks to walk fully in the path of Jesus while recognizing the wisdom inherent in our world's wisdom traditions.

Our community of faith puts the UNITY in community!

We are United:

In our love for God, one another, and our neighbours,
recognizing that justice is what love looks like in public;

In our desire to honour personal, cultural, and religious diversity;

In our celebration of spiritual experiences that stimulate heart and mind;

In our practice of spiritual disciplines and opening ourselves to the leading of the Spirit;

In our commitment to Mission and Service in the UCC and beyond;

In our dedication to living in right relationship with Indigenous Peoples on Turtle Island;

In our reverence for the Earth and its systems;

In our celebration of innovation as we are open to creative transformation and led by the Spirit;

In our pursuit of equity in our relationship with Canada's racialized (diverse) peoples.

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Christmas Eve
Pageant



Spring Choir
Concert



Orange Shirt
Day

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Agenda for the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting February 1, 2026, Part 1

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Knox Vision Statement
4. Moments of Remembrance
5. Approval of Agenda, Minutes of Last Congregational Meeting, and Voting Rights of Members and Adherents.
 Omni motion:
 That the agenda be approved as written, that all present have the right to vote at this meeting, and that the minutes of the May 5, 2025 Congregational Meeting be approved as distributed.
6. Introduction of Council
7. Committee Reports – Questions and Answers
8. Mission and Service Fund
 Motion: Betty Kelly
 That the M&S goal for Knox United Church be set at \$43,000 for 2026.
9. Review of the 2025 Financial Report (not reviewed externally at this time)
13. Operating Budget 2026
10. New Business
 - a. Updates to the Knox Constitution
 - b. Prairie to Pine Annual Meeting Commissioners
14. Adjournment
15. Blessing

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms 2025

August 3, 2025 Willim James Skinner, child of Brett and Katie Skinner

Marriages 2025

None

Deaths 2025

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>	<u>Name</u>
November 4, 2024	May 4, 2025	Melvin Donald McLean
November 10, 2024	July 25, 2025	George Warden Jackson
July 27, 2025	July 31, 2025	Donna Claire Stokes
September 5, 2025	September 23, 2025	Marjorie May Rice
October 20, 2025	October 27, 2025	Robert Stewart Andrew Tait
October 20, 2025	November 7, 2025	Eric Michael Sefton

Knox United Church Council

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Miller

CHAIR: Debby Dandy

VICE CHAIR: Vacant

SECRETARY: Kendra Carnegie

TREASURER: Shelley Tataryn (Jan-April), John Tataryn (May-Dec)

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL: Coleen Wall, Jim Lewthwaite, Art Godfrey, Karen Turnbull, Laurie Crowe, Sandy Jasper

WORSHIP: Diane Shepherd, Pat Cavanagh, Deb Carnegie, Sheila Marion, Cheryl Doull, Rosemary Cornett

PROPERTY: Brian Kayes (Jan-May), Robert Brown (April-Dec), Brian Manns, Ed Turnbull, Duncan Waddell, Jim Cobb

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP: Deb Carnegie, Ida Hallatt, Lynn Cupples, Janet Olmsted-Wood, Norma Lowe, Bill Spanjer, Mary Gunson, Sharon Christmas

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette, Katheryne Lumgair, Jill Hannah-Kayes, Madelyn Robinson, Julia Schettler, Brittany Schettler, Jennifer Braun, Myrna Haslen

OUTREACH: Betty Kelly, Debby Dandy, Lydia Glawson, Madelyn Robinson, Elaine Gibson

GREEN TEAM: Madelyn Robinson, Quentin Robinson, Ken Wojnarski, Wayne Clayton, Rob Brown

STEWARDSHIP: Alan Moulin, Duncan Waddell, Katheryne Lumgair, Janet Braun, Bev Towler

AFFIRM COMMITTEE: Laura Crookshanks, Lynne Manns, Gail Shepherd-Clark, Judy Dandridge, Steve Derendy, Ron Evancio, Myrna Haslen, Sharon Pedlow, Kerri-Lynne Sanderson

TRUSTEES: Doug Crookshanks, Gerald Whetter, Art Godfrey

Chairperson's Report

Knox has completed a year with a healthy budget and impressive reports of work well done from our committees. We have continued to offer various organizations and groups the use of space for their work. Those groups that relate to goals established in our strategic plan do not pay for their use of space. Some community groups, which are not profit oriented, make a payment as they can afford for the use of space (example, Scouts). Others follow the formal rental policy established in Knox Policy for outside groups. Balancing all these groups and rental times can be a hairpulling experience, and Kendra Carnegie, our Office Administrator, manages the calendar with incredible patience and skill. Our contribution to our community of a place to meet, have fun, do business, offer education, make plans, etc. is one we value.

We welcomed two new Council members when John Tataryn took over as treasurer, and Robert Brown as chair of the Property committee. They filled the big shoes of Shelley Tataryn and Brian Kayes, and we are grateful for their contributions.

Over the last year two groups have come together to talk about the future of Knox. Will we need a building? What uses would our building fulfill? Who will we be as a church? If we don't have a building in the future, what is the impact on the social capital that we have earned in offering safe space to the community? We have much to think about over the next number of years, as statistics from the UCC clearly show that our church attendance will be drastically reduced across the country. It is a time to dream - about *who* we might become and *what* we might become as we continue to do the work we are called to do in making room for those who need a place to find community.

We are fortunate that Craig is actively involved in General Council and is familiar with all the resources that will be available to us over the coming months as churches consider their future. As well, we are fortunate to have him to guide us through this time of pending change.

We are thankful for the generosity of Knox folk who have contributed to our operational and Mission in Service budget lines. We met our M&S goal and finished the year with a \$10,000 surplus. Congratulations!

Thanks to all for the faithful support of our community of Knox.

Debby Dandy, Chair

Annual Report by Rev. Craig Miller

The General Council adopted new call and vision statements at the end of 2021 to guide us as we seek to become the Beloved Community, which I use again this year to report on our ministry together.

Deep Spirituality – Bold Discipleship – Daring Justice

Vision – The UCC's vision reflects what the church aspires to be over a 10-year span. Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.

My ministry with you included:

Deep Spirituality

- Facilitating the Lenten Study published by the UCC, Something Sacred: Reflections on Music and Faith. We offered this small-group study on a weekday in the mid-afternoon and had great participation and discussion.
- Facilitating the latest anti-racism series with content from the UCC in November. We called it “I Am a Changemaker.” We watched short videos featuring folks from across the church reflecting on experiences of racism.
- Planning and leading the following series for our Sunday gatherings: 6 Stone Jars: The Economy of Jesus (Epiphany) Open Hearts, Open Hands (Lent), A New Creed and the 100th Anniversary of the UCC (Easter), Married to Awe (Season of Creation), and What Child is This? (Advent/Christmas).
- Working with Spirit Kids’ Club on Wednesdays and providing opportunities for intergenerational stations during Transfiguration Sunday and on the Sunday before Advent.
- Sharing my story, “The Only Way Out is Through: Dealing with the Demon Shame at the 100 Men 100 Drums gathering and attending gatherings in Brandon offered by Indigenous knowledge keepers.
- Providing spiritual direction for members of our community.
- Working and studying with Wild Earth Seminary beginning in September.
- Leading two ‘Blue Christmas’ services for Memories Chapel and Brockie Donovan.
- Celebrating a renewal of vows service with the Braun family, a highlight of the year for me!

Bold Discipleship

- Attending General Council 45 in Calgary and working with local commissioners to interpret the work of the Council.

- Serving as a Spiritual Care Associate at the Brandon Regional Health Centre.
- Working closely with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and offering assistance and counselling for dealing with fundamentalist Christian family members, and providing letters of support to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- Sharing our story with multiple news outlets over the year, including the CBC radio program, Now or Never. Supporting our Affirm United work through initiatives and events, including PIE Day, Trans Day of Visibility, Pride Week, and the Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- Providing mentorship for a new admission to the UCC, the Rev. Elijah Mwandila
- Working with the Future With Hope planning group and our chair, Debby Dandy
- Curating social media posts on the Facebook page (with Leanne Sprung and Madelyn Robinson) and managing our YouTube channel.
- Providing material for our email newsletter and website.
- Serving as a member-at-large on the Executive of the Prairie to Pine Region and as the supervisor for the Hartney Lauder Pastoral Charge.
- Facilitating the Assiniboine Ministry Personnel Network.
- Providing planning and leadership resources with the Council and committees.
- Walking with the Brandon Bear Clan.

Daring Justice

- Hosting a day-long workshop focused on reconciliation work with ministry personnel in the Prairie to Pine Region.
- Highlighting justice initiatives and opportunities during our weekly gatherings.
- Working with the Brandon Indian Residential School Cemeteries Project.
- Serving on the Truth and Reconciliation Week planning and implementation committee.
- Working with multiple communities to assist them in hosting the Brandon Indian Residential School Mobile Learning Centre.
- Connecting with service providers and neighbours through volunteer work with the Brandon Bear Clan.
- Participating as I am able with community initiatives and events, including Take Back the Night, Sisters in Spirit Walk, Orange Shirt Day, Teach-Ins at Brandon University, Street Stories, Sustainable Brandon, and Pride events.

We are very fortunate to have an incredibly talented staff with Kendra, Charles, Bernie, Jane, Brittany, Antoinette, and Hailey! They make a great team, and I never have to worry that we're not on the same page.

As I have said many times throughout the year, I am in awe of your generosity, creativity, perseverance, wisdom, and willingness to take risks and dream new dreams. It's an honour and a privilege to serve with you.

With a Grateful Heart, Craig

Chaplain's Report to Knox 2025 From Joe Ball

Dear Friends in Christ,

The past year felt like a busy one, with some staffing transitions in the Spiritual Care Dep't, continued pressures on the Spiritual Care Associates (mainly due to health issues), and for myself, an abundance of opportunities to come alongside patients and families in times of crisis. Ministry in this context is always a privilege, and I am profoundly grateful for the trust of the patients, their families, and the staff on the Health Care Team who have allowed me to do this work.

Some of the raw data: This year, I completed just over a thousand 'visits', and spent 858 hours in direct service delivery to patients, outpatients, families, and staff. I was also available after hours on call for a further 1930 hours - which is a bit less than last year, but still more than would be ideal, given that a full-time job is reckoned to be about 2000 hrs/yr.

Among the 'visits' were 16 funerals, and 2 weddings for staff (or family members of staff) at the hospital. Our dep't has continued to be quite involved in delivering Spiritual Care Services to patients and families exploring Medical Assistance in Dying, and I was part of that journey with 17 patients in 2025.

This led to an invitation in the fall to travel to Portage la Prairie, to speak with a gathering of United Church lay folks about Pastoral Care in Palliative situations, including those pursuing an Assisted Death. It was an intense day of workshops, and I recall being both emotionally and physically exhausted, to the point where I found it difficult to stay awake on the drive home.

In May, Craig led a United Church Clergy retreat at Knox and the former Brandon Indian Residential School Site. This day, devoted to Truth and Reconciliation, was less draining but not less challenging as we seek a way to renew our relationship with Indigenous peoples in the Church - and in the country.

The balance of challenge and reward in the work of ministry is constant, and although it often takes me alongside the difficult moments of grief and loss, I am sustained by the support of friends and family. The community here at Knox is a big part of that circle, as you sustain my faith and encourage my faithfulness in the work. It helps immensely to have Craig and until December, Doug Neufeld from Trinity as part of the team of Spiritual Care Associates. "Many are called," Jesus tells us, and I for one am grateful for each and every one who is willing to answer that call with skilled pastoral hands, in support of our patients and families in times of crisis.

Gratefully submitted,

Joe Ball, Spiritual Care Dep't, BRHC

Knox Music Team Report

I continue to be heartened by the commitment and quality that the members of the Knox Choir generously offer year after year, week after week. New members continue to join our ranks. Our weekly rehearsals are times for learning and refining our music repertoire, enjoying each other's company, sharing stories, and much laughter.

Following themes designed by Rev. Craig is a meaningful, although sometimes challenging experience. Our extensive library and unlimited online resources provides good opportunity to select anthems closely aligned with themes.

We presented a joyful spring concert "Friends", following our tradition of pulling together a collection of songs all with a single focus- this year, friends. The repertoire was a little lighter than what we have tackled in years past, and as a result, more fun if you were to ask any choir member. Our guest was our dearest friend Edna Knock. At 97 years old, she graced the keyboard as capably as she ever did. Her son, David Knock, also enhanced several songs with his harmonica.

The music team also took part in the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary celebration at Knox. What a great evening it was, filled with memories, reflection, laughter, and live theatre!

On the second Sunday of advent the choir presented a Christmas carol service. The Christmas message is given chorally. We were delighted to have Prairie Blend join us on the chancel and thrilled with the opportunity to form a mass choir.

Christmas Eve is the time when we want to be with family. This means some members are travelling away while others are coming home. As such, we don't always know who will be in the choir on Christmas Eve. But when the time comes, I always find myself adding more chairs to the chancel to accommodate everyone. The "Christmas Eve Choir" is an exciting time with voices, bells, chimes, organ, and piano joining in to celebrate the birth of Christ.

This year, we welcomed instrumentalists to offer their talents. Megan Mossop, Kieran Perreault on flute, Jonathon Penner on cello, Nora Wilson on trombone, and Donna Lowe on piano.

Thank you to Madelyn and Quentin Robinson for their leadership with Knoyse every second Sunday and to Jane Skinner for her 33 years at the keyboards.

Making meaningful music with and for the family of faith at Knox United is a most rewarding task. Thank you for all the support we receive.

Respectfully submitted, Bernie Whetter

Worship Committee Report

Members: Diane Shepherd(Chair), Cheryl Doull, Pat Cavanagh, Sheila Marion, Deb Carnegie, Rosemary Cornett and Rev. Craig Miller.

When we have Communion services, we will continue, for the coming year, to use the glasses and have the servers wear gloves to minimize contact.

This committee decorated the sanctuary for Thanksgiving with produce and autumn wreaths. We were able to take produce to Samaritan House for distribution.

A cross and a wreath were placed at the front of the sanctuary for our Remembrance Day service on November 9, 2025.

The Sunday before Advent, the Worship Committee worked with the Christian Education Committee and put on the pre-advent event. Worship Committee had a table set up with cookie decorating and provided coffee, tea, and juice.

The Sanctuary was decorated by the Committee on November 27, 2025. Thank you to Dave Shepherd for changing out the banners.

It was decided that during Christmas Eve service we would “pass the plate” during the service. Thank you to Janet and Jennifer Braun, Allan and Yolande Ranson for taking on that job. The Olatunbosun family handed out candles at the beginning of the service this year.

I want to thank Jennifer Braun for helping with scripture readers, she is unable to continue, and Michael Briol is now taking on that responsibility.

Thank you to Bernie Whetter for the additions to the Chancel during the worship year. The plants are always appreciated.

Respectfully submitted

Diane Shepherd, Chairperson

Affirm Committee Report

This past year, the following activities were carried out within the Knox Congregation and in the broader community:

- “PIE Day” (Public, Intentional and Explicit): Once again, we teamed with Trinity United Church to host an in-person event on March 15th. The featured speaker was Flora Hex, a local drag queen who gave a very informative presentation on the history of drag, followed by a performance with another drag queen. Attendance was just over 100. All donations went to SERC Brandon to assist with programming for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.
- Trans Day of Visibility: Knox was the host venue for this celebration of trans, non-binary, and gender diverse folks on March 28th. The TDoV Committee greatly appreciated the support from Knox, both in terms of the venue and attendance from Knox members.
- Brandon Pride celebrations: Many members from Knox participated in the Pride March on June 14th and volunteered at the Knox table at Pride in the Park. As in previous years, we had handouts at our table at Pride in the Park, which enhanced the interaction with attendees.
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- Members of the Affirm Committee attended the SERC 90th Anniversary luncheon at the Riverbank Discovery Centre on February 27th.
-
- On March 24th, Han Van De Woestyne, SERC staff member, presented a workshop on “How to be an Active Ally”, with 22 people in attendance. Knox Affirm Committee invited Trinity & Forrest churches.
-
- The Affirm Committee participated in the neighbourhood barbecue on September 9th with a display table. It was a good opportunity to interact with those who attended and share meaningful conversations.
- Knox continues to partner with SERC, PFLAG, and Brandon Pride to plan the annual Trans Day of Remembrance Service. Knox hosted the in-person and livestreamed Trans Day of Remembrance Service at noon on November 20th, as well as the evening candlelight vigil. Attendance at the noon hour service was the largest it has been since before covid. The evening vigil was also well attended.
- This past year, we have continued to work in partnership with other United Churches to plan and host events. We have named ourselves the “Assiniboine Affirm Cluster,” which now includes Knox, Trinity, Forrest, and Brookdale United Churches. This committee has engaged in major planning for an event to be held on May 23rd this year. Dr. James Makokis of the Canadian Speakers Bureau will be our speaker on the topic of “Decolonizing Sexuality and Gender Identity”. We have secured funding from outside sources and have developed support from many community groups, both within Brandon and the surrounding area, including Indigenous groups.

- Knox still receives some negative comments from others in the community about our affirming work. It is clear that there continues to be more work to do in ensuring our community is inclusive and respects diversity. Many in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and their families and friends, still experience hateful messages in person and especially online. We need to continue our efforts to be public, intentional, and explicit in our support for inclusivity. As a result of some negative messaging, Knox received a letter of support from Carmen Landsdowne, Moderator of the United Church. Her closing comment to us was, “Your allyship is a symbol of hope and solidarity. You are doing God’s work of breaking down barriers and building an inclusive community. Find strength in that and know that we see you and share in the burden and the work you are doing.” Our committee greatly appreciates the support from our Knox family - many people attend and have helped out at specific events. We are thankful for the support and guidance that Craig Miller provides our committee. We are always open to new members joining us!

Membership: Judy Dandridge, Steve Derendy, Ron Evancio, Myrna Haslen, Lynne Manns, Gail Shepherd-Clark, Sharon Pedlow, Kerri-Lynne Sanderson and Laura Crookshanks.

If there are events/discussion ideas that you would like to see addressed, or you would like to join our Committee or help out at an event, please contact one of us or the Church Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Crookshanks

Christian Education Committee Report

1. Introduction

The CE Committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the year, primarily online, with in-person planning sessions scheduled as needed. The committee focused on strengthening programming for children, youth, and adults, with particular attention to consistency, volunteer sustainability, and meaningful faith-based engagement.

Monthly meetings and planning sessions supported ongoing evaluation, communication, and program adaptation. A dedicated fall planning session was held to establish yearly priorities, themes, and scheduling.

2. Adult Education and Faith Formation

*Lenten Study - **Something Sacred: Reflections on Music and Faith***

A Lenten study led by Rev. Craig ran from March 11 to April 22, meeting Tuesdays at 2:00 PM in the Chapel. The group explored how music shapes faith, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Participation averaged approximately 15 people, with strong engagement and meaningful discussion.

The study included curated weekly playlists and the use of devotional materials. Ten books were preordered for participants, with additional copies made available through UCRD.

Broadview Discussion Group

The Broadview Discussion Group continued to meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Chapel, fostering thoughtful and reflective conversations on current events and faith topics. Attendance averaged around eight participants ■ileciteurn0file5L38-L40

The group paused meetings in May and June due to seasonal scheduling challenges, with plans to resume in September ■ileciteurn0file6L9-L11

3. Spirit Kids Club (SKC) - Sunday Programming

Grades 3-7

Sunday morning has shifted in September to Julie taking care of K-6 grades and Brittnay grades 7-12.

Sunday programming for younger children focused on faith formation through themed learning, service activities, and hands-on engagement. Themes included Lent, the Six Stone Jars curriculum, and the 100th anniversary of the United Church. Average attendance ranged from 3-5 children weekly.

Children participated in activities such as Lent journaling, learning about gratitude, homelessness awareness, and service-oriented projects such as donating mitts to unhoused community members.

Grades 8-12

Older youth programming focused on deeper engagement with worship themes, leadership development, and creative expression. Weekly attendance ranged between 4-8 youth.

Youth were involved in decorating for special events such as PIE Day and contributed content for worship services, including skits and presentations connected to the 100th anniversary of the United Church.

4. Weekday Youth Programming (Hailey)

Grades 3-8

Weekly youth activities continued on alternating Wednesdays and Fridays. Attendance typically ranged from 8-15 participants, and social media was used effectively to promote events and increase engagement.

Notable activities included: - Games nights and themed events - Community clean-up efforts - Educational and cultural learning nights - Science and creative workshops - Park outings and outdoor exploration

Several events were adapted or postponed due to volunteer availability and illness, highlighting the need for continued volunteer recruitment and support.

5. Special Events and Community Engagement

Youth and SKC participants were actively involved in special events throughout the year, including:

- Attendance at Wheat Kings hockey games
- Cookie decorating and outreach for unhoused community members
- Brandon University Observatory visit
- ALF Retreat in Virden (2 leaders and 5 youth participation)

For example, four adults and nine youth attended a Wheat Kings game on March 21.

Youth also helped decorate cookies during spring break to distribute to those experiencing homelessness.

6. Volunteer Coordination and Safety Policies

Volunteer sustainability was a major focus throughout the year. The committee emphasized: - The importance of having at least two adults present with children (“rule of two”) - Maintaining proper record checks for volunteers - Creating clear sign-in and sign-out procedures - Improving communication with parents

Volunteer burnout was identified as an ongoing concern, with strategies proposed such as rotating responsibilities and reassessing volunteer structures seasonally. The committee also reviewed transportation policies and insurance restrictions, clarifying that rides must be privately arranged and not organized through the church.

7. Facilities and Resource Development

The committee worked on improving the clubroom space, including decluttering, reorganizing, and creating a wishlist for needed items such as a smart TV, HDMI cable, and microwave.

Donations were received, and plans were made to continue renovations with volunteer support.

8. Governance and Leadership Updates

Leadership changes occurred during the year, including the resignation of the SKC Superintendent. Brittany continues to steward Sunday mornings with grades 7-12, Julie has been the main person taking on grades k-6 Hailey has continued to do the weekly events with Craig assisting on Wednesdays to bring in a faith component. Grades 3-8 and Antoinette is continuing to provide events for youth grades 9 and up to and including young adults.

The committee continued meeting monthly and maintained consistent planning and communication.

9. Looking Ahead

Key priorities for the upcoming year include: - Finalizing a sustainable volunteer model - Continuing faith-based creative programming - Expanding service-learning opportunities - Strengthening youth leadership development - Completing clubroom renovations

10. Conclusion

The CE Committee is grateful for the dedication of its volunteers, leaders, and participants. This year demonstrated the resilience, creativity, and commitment of the community. Despite challenges related to scheduling, volunteer capacity, and attendance fluctuations, the committee continued to provide meaningful spiritual formation and safe, engaging programming for children, youth, and adults.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Education Committee
Committee Chair Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette

Members: Rev. C. Miller, Leanne Spring, Madelyn Robinson, Jennifer Braun, Myrna Haslen, Julia Schettler, Brittnay Schettler, Kathyne Kungair, Jill Hannah-Kayes, Hailey Noto

Please note that Jill Hannah-Kayes resigned from the CE as of November 2025 and continues to provide snacks for Sunday mornings.

Ministry & Personnel Committee Report

Blessings to all of the Knox congregation.

Writing this annual report, I feel I can copy & paste 2024's.

We are so gifted with the staff we have:

Minister Rev Craig, providing leadership to many folks in our church, to our community of Brandon, within the P2P region, & UCC General Council.

Office Administrator Kendra does a wonderful job running this ship, juggling the duties required of her. PowerPoints on Sundays & more, rentals, meeting the public, offering her assistance & more.

Caretaker Charles has been doing other duties, attending the door on Sundays to allow everyone in without waiting, a side job of his position as an event host for rentals of over 100 persons.

Youth Director Antoinette, meeting with the older youth of the church, not necessarily on Sundays but during times that are a best fit for them to meet.

Children's Coordinators Hailey & Brittany are settling in nicely, in their own roles, showing great leadership & mentorship to the middle years' youth.

M & P try to hold monthly meetings from January to June, September to December. 2025 we missed February when most are taking their well-deserved vacations, & April was a busy month for extra activities.

On behalf of the M & P committee, thank you to our Staff!

Thank you, our Congregation, supporting the Staff & our Committee & the church people & building!

Respectfully Submitted

Coleen Wall
Chairperson, M & P Committee

Stewardship Committee Report

Committee: Alan Moulin, Chair (2012 to present), Duncan Waddell (2013 to present), Janet Braun (2023 to present), Katheryne Lumgair (2021 to present), Bev Towler (2025 to present)

Stewardship supported the Knox congregation in 2025 with respect to fellowship and fundraising. Our committee members provided input to council related to the committee's mandate. Membership in the Stewardship Committee changed, as David Paul and Vivianne Mitchell resigned from the committee in 2025, while Bev Towler joined.

The past year was quite successful; information regarding finances was summarized and distributed to the congregation in Knox Connections. The most recent report in the new format, as of December 2025, follows. Our committee trusts that this meets the congregation's expectations for updated financial information in Knox Connections.

- Year-to-date giving: Total church giving reached \$167,010, only \$620 under the 2025 budget of \$167,630, due to a very strong month of December. Other donations exceeded the budget by more than \$17,000, contributing to a combined total of \$185,066 against a goal of \$168,630.
- Strong fundraising and rental income: Fundraising events raised over \$26,600, surpassing the \$22,150 budget, including Stewardship events exceeding their \$6,000 target. Rental income was slightly below budget at \$41,118, with the budgeted total being \$42,400.
- Expenses remain under budget: Total expenses were \$241,379 compared to a 2025 budget of \$255,655, with significant savings in property expenses (\$27,173 actual vs. \$38,297 budget). The church met its UCC Assessment of \$9,791.
- Due to a very strong month of December, we ended 2025 with a surplus for the year of \$12,767. We had budgeted for a 2025 deficit of \$21,485, so we finished more than \$34,000 better than budgeted. Deficit improving and year-end outlook positive.

Church donations in 2025 increased from those in 2024. The number of pledges returned to Knox for the fall 2024 campaign was low. Our committee will review the year-end financial report for 2025 and previous years, to further assess seasonal variability in church giving. A new computerized email format for the pledge and PAR contributions will be distributed in early 2026. New ideas for church giving were developed and shared with council in the context of financial planning. The committee recognizes the significance of bequests and annuities to the church in 2025, and the importance of planned giving. Proposed committee activities in 2026 will be provided in a separate report, as this is the annual report for 2025.

Our committee actively assesses stewardship in our church, and solicits new ideas, strategies and plans for fundraising from the congregation. Please share your ideas and opportunities for stewardship with our committee members.

Submitted by,
Alan Moulin

Congregational Care and Membership Committee Report

Committee Members: Deb Carnegie - Chair / Visitor
Lynn Cupples - Secretary / Visitor
Janet Olmstead-Wood - Membership Roll
Sharon Christmas - Coffee / Brunches / Kitchen Events
Bill Spanjer - cards / Xmas card connection
Ida Hallett - Visitor
Mary Gunson - Visitor
Norma Lowe - Visitor

Highlights of the 2025 Year include:

The Committee met 7 times: in Jan / Feb / April / May / Sept / Oct and December.

Members of the Committee participated in Prairie to Pine Educational sessions twice:

- in March, a Zoom session was hosted regarding engagement and support in providing pastoral care
- in September, three members attended a session on MAID hosted in Portage la Prairie with guest speaker Joe Ball
- Shelley Tataryn / Janet Olmstead-Woods / Deb Carnegie

Many of our tasks include ongoing obligations:

- Visitation Cards are left at PCH sites of visitation - these are in the process of reformatting
 - Roll membership occurs each February
 - Funeral prices are reviewed and tweaked annually
 - Coffee before and after church is supported by the Inbetweeners and volunteers are always required to assist in prep/cleanup
 - Criminal Records Checks are maintained, and all new members are required to complete this process - we welcomed Mary Gunson to our committee this year
 - A Newcomers Brunch is upcoming
 - Luncheons will be held at each of the Assisted Living sites this Spring and are in the planning process
 - Approx. 100 cards were mailed out this year, c/o Bill Spanjer. All milestone birthdays, age 90 and older, are recognized - if you are aware of a congregant with a milestone birthday approaching, please advise Bill.
- We also attempt to stay connected to long-term congregants that have relocated - approx. 10 Christmas cards are mailed to this demographic each December.
- Approx. 30 folks are visited each month in person and or by phone - our focus is in maintaining a linkage to Knox and reducing isolation - if you have a concern for a congregant that may require support or assistance, please advise one of our committee members.
- Rides for folks to attend and participate in Knox functions are provided in an ongoing manner

- Ongoing efforts of engagement strategies have been explored: we have hosted two games afternoons and one supper outing
- Members of the committee provide ongoing support and assistance to the various committees of Knox and are actively engaged with Kitchen duties for funerals/brunches and the many festive occasions hosted in Knox.

Respectfully Submitted by: Deb Carnegie

Spring and Fall Luncheons

The Spring Luncheon in 2025 was held on Wednesday, June 4th.

We offered a variety of salads, bunwiches, cheese, pickles, homemade desserts, hot and cold beverages. Our profit was \$857.00.

The Fall Luncheon in 2025 was held on Thursday, October 23rd. The turnout was very good, we sold out of food just after 12 Noon. We will be better prepared next fall!! We offered a variety of soups, bunwiches, cheese, pickles, homemade desserts, hot and cold beverages. Our profit was \$1,278.00. All profits from the lunches are directed to the operating fund of the church.

A big thanks to all the volunteers who make these 2 fundraisers successful.

Sharon Christmas, Co-ordinator

Brunch Bunch

Since 1998, Brunch has been offered on specific Sundays after the worship service. Sometimes the menu varies a bit, but all food is made fresh that morning. A thank you goes out to the kitchen staff who gather at 9:30 AM in the kitchen to cook, set tables etc. We have kept the cost as low as possible: \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12 and preschoolers are free. This is not meant to be a "fundraiser" but a time of fellowship for the congregation. We do give the profits (sometimes small) to the church after expenses are met.

In order to keep up with the Brunches, we need some new helpers in the kitchen. If interested, let Sharon know, and we can put you to work.

The kitchen staff very much appreciates the volunteer clean-up crew who stay to do the dishes etc. A very valuable part of this event.

Sharon Christmas, Co-ordinator

Outreach Committee Report

Outreach Committee: Debby Dandy, Elaine Gibson, Lydia Glawson, Betty Kelly, Madelyn Robinson, Craig Miller:

The Knox Constitution tells us that 'the Outreach Committee is responsible for developing and maintaining individual and congregational social justice projects within the community (local, national and international)'. This report provides a summary of the Outreach activities and community outreach over the past year. This work is one of the ways Knox United Church lives out its faith in the wider community.

In June 2025 with great appreciation for her time with Outreach, we were sad to say good bye to Lydia Glawson as a member of Outreach. Lydia's input and involvement will definitely be missed. Anyone interested in being more involved with Outreach work is asked to speak to one of the Committee members and then to the Nominating committee. New voices and perspectives are welcome as we continue to do this work in and with the community.

Support to incarcerated people leaving Brandon Correctional Institute – Debby Dandy

Outreach has continued to support the John Howard Society with donations of Dignity Packs – backpacks loaded with the necessities of personal care. These are provided to men leaving jail who have no support system in place in the community, and likely will depend on the Safe and Warm Shelter for a place to sleep. They will not have the resources to purchase all the personal care items needed. Members of the congregation have kindly donated many items to include in the dignity packs. This is an ongoing project and donations are always welcome.

KAIROS – Debby Dandy

KAIROS has been prioritizing a campaign to increase awareness of the debt crisis in the Global South which has impacted the ability to mitigate climate change. Many poor countries carry large debts, secured to maintain services but often negotiated by corrupt political leaders. The cost of servicing these debts utilizes depletes the finances available to deal with the impacts of climate change in those countries. These impacts have a very direct effect on citizens who cannot grow food, deal with rising waters, and drought and other impacts. Canada has loans, with debilitating interest, in place with many of these countries. Members of Knox community of faith learned of this crisis, and signed an international petition launched by KAIROS to urge the Government of Canada to forgive loans to these countries facing critical climate change.

Blanket Exercises: Debby Dandy & Susie McPherson-Derendy

Blanket exercises continued to be offered over the past year. Elder Susie McPherson Derendy and facilitator Debby Dandy conducted community Blanket Exercises for the Community Wellness Collaborative out of Elsbeth Reid Family Resource Center; Assiniboine College; Brandon University; and many community and church groups. Kairos Canada, on recommendations from the Indigenous Circle of Kairos, has transferred responsibility for the delivery of the exercise to indigenous businesses and organizations around the country. In Westman, the Community Health & Wellness Centre, a program of the Brandon Friendship Centre, has been licensed to become the

point of delivery. Requests for the exercise will be managed through the CHWC, but Susie or Debby can be contacted directly.

The Exercise remains an important tool in sharing the common history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada and building understanding of what reconciliation means for each of us.

Truth and Reconciliation: Craig Miller

As a faith community, we remain committed to fulfilling our obligations to the TRC recommendations and the Calls to Action.

BIRS Mobile Learning Centre

In March, Rev. Craig Miller was invited by Chief Vince Tacan of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to share resources from the Brandon Indian Residential School Mobile Learning Centre and provide a presentation to a team from the Indigenous Services Canada office in Winnipeg. The meeting took place in Sioux Valley, and the learning centre was on display from mid-March through the end of April. Knox serves as the Keeper for the BIRS Learning Centre (Call to Action 59).

We worked with the Canupawakpa Dakota Nation to provide the BIRSLC for their Orange Shirt Day celebrations in Virden, Manitoba, on September 26th.

The BIRSMLC was also on display at the Discovery Centre for TRC week, with Knox providing the setup and take-down of the exhibit. This continues to be a powerful exhibit.

Brandon Indian Residential School Cemeteries Project

At the start of August, the God's Lake research team, led by Clyde Okema, visited the former BIRS site and cemetery grounds for the first time. The mobile learning centre was set up in the auditorium at Knox, where we hosted the team along with elders from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation for lunch. The research team is working with Katherine Nichols and Brandon Photographics to develop and display some of the photos from the BIRS learning centre for an exhibit in God's Lake.

Prairie to Pine Region Reconciliation Education Event Hosted by Knox

Knox was invited by the Prairie to Pine Region Committee on Ministry Personnel Support to host the gathering for active ministry personnel on May 7. The committee expressed a desire to learn more about the work at the residential school site and to hear from our partners (Call to Action 60). Rev. Craig collaborated with Eugene Ross (Wipazoka Wakpa Oyate Elder, Keeper of the Lodge), Katherine Nichols (Lead Investigator for the BIRS Cemetery Project), Sam Jackson (Dakota Oyate Pow Wow Dancer/Instructor), and Madelyn and Quentin Robinson to create content for the day, which included spiritual renewal, land-based learning, and exploration of reconciliation initiatives. The InBetweeners graciously provided coffee and tea breaks, as well as lunch.

National Indigenous Day:

With National Indigenous Day on June 21st, there were several community events that Knox folks attended:

- Street Stories 2: 1:00 – 4:00 at WMCA An afternoon of reflection on action research on chronic homelessness and stories shared by Indigenous knowledge keepers and storytellers experiencing homelessness in Brandon.
- National Indigenous Peoples' Day, June 21 at Riverbank Discovery Centre: Again this year Knox volunteers helped out at the food tent. Many Knox folks also enjoyed the program at the main stage & visited the exhibits.
- Pawakan Macbeth, a Cree Takeover: June 22 @ the WMCA . A community telling of the Macbeth theme inspired by and presented by Indigenous youth.

Mission & Service Fund:

Again in 2025, Knox continued its long history of generosity to its various Outreach ministries, both at home and abroad, primarily through the Mission & Service Fund. This fund, together with Knox's givings to Samaritan House Safe and Warm, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Christmas Cheer, SHIFT, Brandon Bear Clan and other appeals is a testament to the ongoing commitment the Knox United Church congregation has to our neighbour/partners in need. The 2025 donations to M & S exceeded the target. We are reminded that in the economy of Jesus, we are blessed with abundance. And the People say AMEN!

M & S Recommendation for 2026: Stewardship and Outreach have made a joint recommendation to maintain the M&S target at \$43,000 for 2026, and again we say thank you!

Anti-Racist Work:

I AM A CHANGEMAKER: ANTI-RACISM WORK IN CHURCH & SOCIETY

Each Wednesday in November Outreach hosted a series of discussions using the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-racism resources from the National United Church of Canada. On average 13 – 14 people joined the Outreach Committee and Rev. Craig as we listened to and learned from stories across the United Church. The Video stories included: *Accent is not a wall — it's a home. Where are you from? Subtle and not-so-subtle anti-Asian racism. Being in right relations. From exodus to hope: why we leave and what soccer is teaching us. My hair, my rage. Who I am.*

We offered a hybrid format and invitations were sent to the Assiniboine Cluster mailing list and to the ministers in SW Assiniboine.

Note that these study sessions fit well with the demographic changes we heard about in the General Council reports from Craig and Doug & Donna Neufeld. The United Church of Canada will become more inter-racial & multi-cultural in the years to come.

Sustainable Brandon: Madelyn Robinson

Sustainable Brandon grew out of the work from the Kairos-Love of Creation initiative. This work led directly to the wider community initiative of Sustainable Brandon that is sustained by both the Green Team and Outreach here at Knox Church. There is often overlap in environmental justice work, which benefits our community of faith with consistent messaging from Outreach and the Green Team. This overlap continues to be lived out with various projects.

Sustainable Brandon continues to keep track of what is happening with the Class IV Wetland SW of Brandon in the interest of seeing it protected. We continue to organize along with other organizations throughout Brandon, the Earth Day activities and will do so again in 2026. We participated in the public meetings regarding the new Transit plans, had a Global Day of Action for the Climate, participated in the Commuter Challenge and Arbor Day, and had a very successful Repair Café Workshop on Mending.

The grant received from the Climate Action Team to Sustainable Brandon has resulted in a solar array at the Riverbank Discovery Centre on the Interpretive Building. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will happen during Earth Week this spring where there will be an opportunity for the public to learn more about how this solar project is collecting energy and saving the RBDC money.

Refuge Brandon: Madelyn Robinson

Refuge Brandon is currently working to help a young woman from Somalia, hoping to bring a brother and a sister to Canada. They have been living in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya since 2008. We are helping her get the documents in order and will help support them for 12 months if/when they arrive in Canada. We are still waiting to hear about the status of her application. As the number of refugees grows due to war and the climate crisis, it is heartening to live in a country that is willing to offer sanctuary to those affected.

Fair Trade Committee: Madelyn Robinson

The Fair-Trade committee was not as active as hoped, throughout 2025. We order every month for the Knox Koffee Klub from Level Ground Trading Co. out of BC. We welcomed Les Kelly as a new member along with Deanna Ginn and Madelyn Robinson. We hope to once again begin do educational events in our church and community.

Samaritan House, Safe & Warm Shelter & Bear Clan: Maureen Cobb

Even though Maureen stepped away from the Outreach Committee in 2023, she and Jim still deliver the Knox donations to Samaritan House on a regular basis. Thanks to the continued generosity of Knox people, they have been able to deliver a full bin of food to Samaritan House on a regular basis. We extend a warm thank you to Maureen and Jim for cheerfully continuing with this piece of outreach ministry.

As well, the Safe & Warm Shelter and Bear Clan both appreciate the supplies of winter gear that we are able to provide during the winter season. The Bear Clan tub has been full regularly since it was set out in November. The hot chocolate, toiletries such as lip salves and hand cream, and warm mitts and socks are especially appreciated.

The Knox Neighbourhood BBQ happened on Tuesday, Sept. 9 with over 120 people attending. Of these over 60 came from the wider community. New this year were 4 info resource tables. We heard many folks saying thank you for offering this neighbourhood event. The weather cooperated & it was a SUCCESS! We say thanks to all the Knox volunteers who helped out that day, as well as special thanks to Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and the Inbetweeners for their financial support.

The Community Street BBQ fits into Knox's strategic plan and is related to Critical Area 1, Community Engagement. With three years of piloting the BBQ, it has become an effective way of Knox United Church actively being 'in the community'. Plans are underway for the Knox Neighbourhood Street BBQ to happen again in 2026, again likely in early September as the post-secondary students return to the neighbourhood.

In closing: Knox Brandon continues to be well respected throughout the community and across the P2P region for all parts of its social justice work. The work of the Outreach Committee is truly a team effort, and each member deserves recognition and thanks for sharing their passion and their unflagging energy. Once again, in the words of our past Moderator, *We are indeed better together!*

Respectfully submitted by
Betty Kelly, Chair Knox Outreach Committee

KAIROS Report

The Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Kairos group has disbanded effective 2026. This followed a gradual loss of members.

KAIROS nationally continues to reorganize after moving to independent incorporation rather than under the United Church of Canada. Kairos monthly newsletters and campaigns continue.

The primary campaign this past year was to advocate for the government to eliminate interest on loans made to the global south. These countries are significantly impacted by emissions from fossil fuels in the global north. Climate mitigation has created financial strain in the south due to land loss due to higher water levels, increased temperature, and species changes. A church service was dedicated to this concern, and Knox members joined in signing a national petition to the government of Canada to address the debt crisis by reducing interest or forgiving loans altogether.

Information can be found at kairoscanada.org

Submitted by Debby Dandy

Green Team Report

Committee: *Quentin Robinson, Madelyn Robinson (co-chairs), Ken Wojnarski, Wayne Clayton, Rob Brown, and Craig Miller*

The Knox Green Team is responsible for encouraging and supporting individuals to become involved in greening initiatives in our Knox faith community as well as the wider community.

The Knox Green Team activities in 2025:

- Just A Green Minute: Information on the Climate Crisis sent out in the email news most weeks.
- Just A Green Worship Minute: Information presented to the congregation twice a month on how to live more sustainably.
- Climate Strike-the last Friday of every month
- Over the summer, the Green Team mentored Jayden Schettler as Climate Motivator. He was hired through the United Church of Canada and worked on a couple JAGM's and helped up at the Pollinator Garden at Eleanor Kidd Park.
- In partnership with Sustainable Brandon
- Green Team members are active participants in the Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association (ManSEA) and the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) and Sustainable Brandon
- The Green Team has a representative at each Knox Council meeting
- Green Team has two representatives on the Environment and Climate Change Committee of Council for the City.

Submitted by Madelyn Robinson
on behalf of the Knox Green Team

Property Committee Report

No major projects were undertaken in the 2nd half of 2025 since I took over as Property Chair. General maintenance was completed as necessary.

Two areas of concern that were identified are the floor in the Auditorium as well as continued issues with leaks from the roof. These are both set as actionable items for 2026 with work being undertaken to receive quotes on replacing the Auditorium floor.

Robert Brown

Trustees Report

Knox Trustees membership consisted of Gerald Whetter, Art Godfrey, and Doug Crookshanks in 2025. Trustees' main focus during 2025 was that of insurance for Knox, which was due for renewal on June 1/25. A meeting was held with Western Financial Group staff in May to review current valuations and upcoming premium increases. At that time, the question was raised by Western staff as to whether the existing line on overland flooding was needed, given that the deductible on that item is \$50,000 and given that Knox is not on low land that is susceptible to such flooding. As a result of that discussion, it was proposed to Council that the premium on that line be removed, saving Knox \$358 annually.

For the insurance year 2025/26, valuations and premiums are as follows:

Building valuation: \$5,330,000---an increase of \$348,712 or 7%

Contents valuation: \$496,000---an increase of \$32,000 or 6%

Annual premium: \$10,409---an increase of \$522 or 5.2%

It was recommended to Council that the premium be paid in one lump sum, as has been the case in past years.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Crookshanks
Art Godfrey,
Gerald Whetter

Planned Giving Committee Report

The Planned Giving Committee did not meet in 2025 given that there were no requests made for money from the fund nor were there any contributions to the fund that had to be discussed. However, the expenditure from the fund which was previously approved--that expenditure being for funding of the Youth Animator---continued during 2025. Fund details during 2025 are as follows:

Balance at the beginning of 2025: \$115,511.01

Interest allocated to the Fund in 2025: \$3,717.04

Year end 2025 balance: \$114,199.18

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Bromley
Brian Manns
Doug Crookshanks

InBetweeners

InBetweeners are a group of women who gather together for fellowship and fundraising for our group. We use this money to support our church, the community and world causes. We have approximately 35-40 ladies on our email list.

Some highlights in 2025:

- supplied hot and cold beverages and cookies for the Strathclair Choir during intermission at their concert in January.
- invited Trevor Crook from Westman Centennial Auditorium, assistant manager. He spoke about the path he took to being in Brandon and his musical career.
- catered to the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.
- made a decision to financially sponsor the coffee/tea served on Sundays before and after church.
- morning coffee and a hot lunch was served at the Child Nutrition Workshop (from Wpg.) held in the auditorium.
- went to "Shanks" golf and restaurant. We ate lunch but the golfing did not work out due to time restraints.
- invited Ross Robinson, the executive director of the John Howard "Food Rescue" program to speak at a meeting.
- catered to the Genealogy Society Awards supper
- provided morning coffee and muffins along with lunch to the Prairie to Pine gathering held in May at the church.
- \$100.00 given to the Gardening Club at Knox.
- Potluck supper at the country home of Donna Pearen.
- \$300,00 was given to the Knox Neighbourhood BBQ in support of food expenses.
- lunch was provided after the service for the Transgender Day of Remembrance held in November. The cost of the luncheon has always been donated by our group.
- 24 ladies attended our Christmas Luncheon held at Komfort Kitchen. We like to support a local business when we can. Boxed food items such as cereal, baby formula, cake mixes etc. was donated by the ladies and given to Samaritan House. 10 large bags of groceries were delivered, and the people at Samaritan House were very appreciative.

Unfortunately, our annual gathering at Clear Lake had to be cancelled this year due to unforeseen circumstances. We will look forward to getting together this coming fall in 2026.

Thanks to our Treasurer, Iona Godfrey, and to Nancy Strahl our second signing officer for our bank account. Thanks also to Diane Shepherd for caretaking our email list of members. If you would like to join our group and get the emails please contact us, we would love to have new members.

Sharon Christmas, Coordinator

Java Jabbers

Java - coffee/tea or?

Jabbers - intelligent conversation solving many world problems!!!

All women are invited to come out on Wednesday mornings, 10:30 AM in the Shoppers Mall Food Court, we sit close to the A & W. It would be great to see some new faces mixed into our "old" faces.

Sharon Christmas

Indoor Garage Sale Report

The indoor garage sale held in October was a huge success! We received an overwhelming amount of donations and were incredibly grateful for the Knox community members who came out to help organize and set up - we truly couldn't have done it without the extra hands and support for such a treasure-filled sale.

Our spring sale is scheduled for April 18th. Please note that due to a rental in the Knox auditorium, we will not be able to accept donations on the stage until April 12th.

Once again, we will be reaching out to our many amazing volunteers who help make this sale such a success.

We are also looking for a garage sale coordinator, as the April 18th sale will be the final one led by Cec Foster and Norman Brown. Thank you both for your many years of commitment and dedication to the Knox indoor garage sale - your time, care, and leadership have meant so much to this community!

Submitted by Kendra Carnegie, Office Administrator

Christmas Cheer

Knox's Christmas Cheer initiative happened without any hitches again this year. On Dec. 17th, Knox provided Christmas Hampers to 22 families, including gifts for 77 children. During our phone calls and then during delivery, families tell us that these hampers mean a lot. They say Thank You to Knox! One little fellow's eyes got bigger and bigger as the grocery boxes, and then the presents came through the door.

We all know how groceries have continued to get more expensive. That was obvious with the cost of the groceries for the hampers. But that also means the hampers were even more important for the families receiving them. This year, the hamper expenses were up about 12%, and your contributions were also up! The donations more than covered costs. YES! There is enough left to set aside a reserve for next year's startup. Again, it's predicted that grocery costs will continue to increase. Given everyone's support, the Knox Christmas Cheer team has decided to take on an additional 3 families and organize hampers for 25 families next year. A HUGE THANK YOU for your generosity!

Also, special thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort to knit, to find and sort the presents, to wrap gifts, to organize the grocery order, to pack the hampers, or to deliver the Knox Christmas hampers! Over 35 volunteers played a part somewhere in the process. It's an amazing, well-coordinated effort from start to finish, and as the saying goes - '*many hands - make light work*'. The knitters are already hard at work again on these winter evenings

The weather cooperated, and despite some freezing rain, the deliveries went smoothly. Thankfully, the main snow event held off till a bit later. Again, our special thanks to Charles for setting up the tables in the narthex, ready for the packing team to put the hampers together. He also deals with the large stack of boxes heading for the recycling tubs. Thank you as well to Safeway/Sobeys. The delivery team from Safeway arrived as always, well before 9:00 with the first load of groceries. 22 hampers mean a lot of groceries to organize and then deliver first thing in the morning.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to share Christmas joy with these 22 families, and their children. *We are all one family.*

The Knox Christmas Cheer Team

The Knox Christmas Cheer Team for 2025

*Nancy DeRoo
Audrey Waddell
Lynne Manns
Cheryl Doull
Laura Murray
Judy Seafoot*

*Kirsten Ardon
Lynn Cupples
Gail Sheperd-Clark
Vonnie Coates
Betty Kelly*

More Users of Knox

- Brandon Nursery School
- Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
- Japan Karate
- Al Anon
- Brandon Community Orchestra
- South West Branch, Manitoba Genealogical Society
Margaret E. Goodman Memorial Library
- Manitoba Choral Association
- Roads to Rhythm Music (Courtney Lindenberg)
- SERC (Sexuality Education Resource Centre)
- Kathy Sheppard Piano School (student recital)
- Konektis Choir
- Pickleball
- Manitoba Possible
- HAMI (Hispanic Association of MB)
- SPCG Brandon (Hindu Community)
- Brandon University
- Coldest Night of the Year (Samaritan House)
- Women In Harmony
- St Amant
- 4-H Manitoba
- Westman Filipino Community
- Climate Action Team
- MECCA Productions
- Child Nutrition Council
- Malayalee Association
- Holding Hope Brandon
- Sustainable Brandon
- HSS (Hindu Swyansevak Sangh)
- Punjabi Cultural Association
- Little Ballers Basketball Program
- The Counseling Centre
- RANA (Brandon Rajput Samaj)
- Global Immersion Gospel Church
- Various one-time private events