

KNOX UNITED

United in Sharing God's Love & Justice, Affirmed in a Community of Diversity

Annual Report 2017

Mission Statement: As a faith community we are committed to sharing God's love and grace and to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, study, work, action and fellowship.

As the people of Knox United Church we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where we accept and welcome all into the life and ministry of the Knox family: persons of any age, colour, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, social or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and freedom for all of God's people.

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SKC Youth, along with about 35 from Knox, join in the Pride Parade. It is the largest Pride event ever in Brandon.



Children, youth, and adults join in worship on Transfiguration Sunday. One of the SKC Youth dramas during the year.



Our Knox Choir sings an anthem on Holy Humour Sunday. They raised \$3,050 at their Spring Concert.



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Agenda for the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting
February 4, 2018

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Knox Mission Statement
4. Moments of Remembrance
5. Omni Motion
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - b. Voting Rights of Members and Adherents
 - c. Minutes of Last Congregational Meeting
7. Introduction of Council
8. Ministry Reports – Questions and Answers
9. Business Arising
10. Mission and Service Fund
11. Review of the 2017 Financial Report (not audited at this time)
12. Budget 2018
13. New Business
14. Adjournment
15. Commissioning and Blessing

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms 2017

August 27, 2017 Anthony Xavier Gutiérrez Pérez, son of Jose Antonio Gutiérrez Lam and Mayumi Pérez Cala

August 27, 2017 Wilhelm Stephey Miller Harms, son of Craig Miller and Patricia Harms

Marriages 2017

July 22, 2017 Darren Wayne Maksymic and Theresa Louise Slack

August 18, 2017 Sean Leonard Jennings and Jasmine Christian McKinnon

September 30, 2017 Rebekah May Jessie Roberts and Estike Kruger

Deaths 2017

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>	<u>Name</u>
April 5, 2017	April 11, 2017	Jonathan Ray Smoke
February 11, 2017	June 5, 2017	Bernice Carole Woytusko
June 1, 2017	June 6, 2017	Russell Edgar Roney
July 7, 2017	July 13, 2017	James Edward Stanley
August 3, 2017	August 11, 2017	Joleen Carol Saville
September 10, 2017	September 16, 2017	Donna Carol Hillis
November 28, 2017	N/A	Elizabeth Carol Chambers
December 27, 2017	January 3, 2018	Darryl Edward Darling

Knox United Church Council

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Miller

CHAIR: Vivian Mitchell

VICE CHAIR: Sharon Christmas

SECRETARY: Sharon McIntosh

TREASURER: Irene Bromley

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL: Coleen Wall, Deb Carnegie, Margaret Whetter, Elaine Rust, Laurie Crowe, Les Kelly

WORSHIP: Diane Shepherd, Meg Carrington, Pat Cavanagh, Peggy Barrows, Michael Briol, Phyllis Digby, Cheryl Morton, Bernie Whetter, Cheryl Doull, Craig Miller

PROPERTY: Roger Bright, Wayne Galloway, Tony Wall, Robert Campbell, Steve Derendy, Brian Manns, Barry Bromley, Orval Henderson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP: David Barrows, Shirley Armstrong, Norma Lowe, Ida Hallatt, Linda Schrader, Lynn Cupples

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Leanne Sprung, Marilyn Van Wallegghem, Judy Olmstead, Jill Hannah-Kayes, Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette, Cindy Briol, Craig Miller

OUTREACH: Wayne Digby, Debby Dandy, Maureen Cobb, Susie McPherson-Derendy, Kim Bright, Lorraine Pompana, Gerald Whetter, Craig Miller

GREEN TEAM: Wayne Clayton, Ken Wojnarski, Orval Henderson, Wayne Digby, Craig Miller

STEWARDSHIP: Alan Moulin, Vern Gilbertson, Duncan Waddell, David Paul

AFFIRM COMMITTEE: Laura Crookshanks, Lynne Manns, Kathleen Richards, Sharyn Hayter, Shawna Munro

TRUSTEES: Wayne Clayton, Bernice Nerbas, Doug Crookshanks, Craig Miller

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES: Art Godfrey, Susie McPherson-Derendy

Chairperson's Report

This is my final Annual Report. It seems such a short time, but it's nearly four years, since I became Council Chair. It has been a rewarding journey for me. Now I'd like you to look back over 2017 and bask in your accomplishments before having to turn your thoughts to the work of the coming year. It's a time for me to say "Thank You" for jobs well done.

Again, a special "Thank You" goes to our staff, Craig, Sharon, Charles, Bernie, Jane, and Antoinette. They continue to make our jobs so much easier.

Another "Thank You" goes to all members of Council who served during the past year. I will miss working with all of you.

Again this year I want to extend the congregation's appreciation to our members who are part of Refuge Brandon. They have continued to work to help "our" refugee family experience their new life in Brandon. We appreciate your dedication and the time you have given. Thank you.

2017 has been a year of successful fundraising, good food and good fellowship. Pleasant companions make the work seem so much lighter. Thank you to all volunteers for their parts in making this another great year.

May 2018 be another rewarding year for Knox.

Respectfully submitted
Vivian Mitchell
Council Chair

Annual Report by Rev. Craig S. Miller

Minister's Report

And Jesus responded to Nicodemus, 'The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes.' John 3:8a

During the fall we had a lot of positive response to our *Losing My Religion* worship series and our *Rebirthing of God* small group study. As a Christian community we are seeking to get a handle on where the Spirit, where the wind is bringing new life and new energy.

We affirmed that we don't have to leave behind our distinctive Christian identity in order to foster peace and respond to the current crisis in religions around the world. But what does it mean to lose your religion?

Wilfred Cantwell Smith in his book from 1962, *The Meaning and End of Religion*, distinguished between the modern term, "religious" and *religio*, its Latin root. Religion (the modernist form) is often about propositions, certainty, and exclusion (us versus them). *Religio*, on the other hand, appreciates mystery, seeks after truth and harmony with others, and longs for the holy. It is immersive and subjectively oriented, not primarily doctrinal and objectively oriented. (Diana Butler Bass, pp. 96-97)

People intuit that religion as an ideology or institution is bankrupt and has already, in some significant ways, failed. The world cannot afford much of what has been promoted as religion over the past three centuries. People are searching for something new. That something new, as Smith said, is actually something quite old: faith, the profoundly personal response "to the terror and splendor and living concern of God." (Smith)

Diana Butler Bass references Smith's work in her book, *Christianity After Religion*, and states: "*Religio* is never satisfied with old answers, codified dogmas, institutionalized practices, or invested power. *Religio* invites every generation to experience God—to return to the basic questions of believing, behaving, and belonging—and explore each anew with an open heart." (p. 99)

Does that sound good to you? Count me in as one of the spiritual *and* religious—in the sense of *religio*. I desire to seek after the mystery, to cast aside old notions of the wall between the sacred and profane, and to do so without rejecting Christian community and the institution, still hoping to reinvigorate the institution from the inside out. I long for sacred encounters on walks along the Assiniboine, but I also long for deeper experiences in church.

Whatever new expressions come out of this incredible revolutionary time of change and awakening, filled with conflict, despair, hope and new life, I trust that as sisters and brothers in faith we will create a new and deeper life for our community.

As we celebrate our calling I want to briefly highlight some notable moments from 2017.

Spirit Kids' Club Youth - I worked closely with Antoinette to provide dramas that our youth were able to offer at multiple worship services. One of the most memorable was our Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week. Our youth reengaged with assisting set-up on brunch Sundays, walked to raise funds for Samaritan House, and attended Conference and National UCC events. We had a great time with face painting in preparation for the Brandon Pride Parade.

Interfaith Encounters - Members of Knox engaged on multiple fronts to support interfaith understanding and cooperation in our community. The gathering at the Islamic Cultural Centre following the shootings in Quebec and the session at Brandon University affirmed our commitment to diversity and living together in peace. We offered space for Hindu workshops and gatherings, Pentecostal prayer groups, and Indigenous spiritual practices.

Affirming Ministry - As a result of our work together I was asked to serve as a diversity mentor at Neelin High School and had the opportunity to present at a school assembly.

Faith Formation - A variety of opportunities were provided during the year, through the support of our committees, including events and groups that focused upon: spirituality, sustainability, inclusive parenting, interfaith relations, emergent theology, biblical study, reconciliation, and justice initiatives.

Stewardship - For the sixth year in a row we have a budget surplus. Thank you! With many newcomers in our midst, church givings grew by \$8,000 and we exceeded our Mission and Service goal by \$5,370 for a total contribution of \$35,370. Wow! Participants also gave generously through Knox to Samaritan House, the Safe and Warm Shelter, the Climate Fund at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Refuge Brandon, Christmas Cheer, and Disaster appeals through UCC partners.

Reconciliation - The Brandon Indian Residential School Mobile Learning Centre was relocated to Knox after Central decided they were no longer able to offer space. I gave presentations for a roundtable meeting with survivors from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and representatives from our Federal and Provincial governments. I was also invited to present at the Third Age Learning Cooperative, Neelin High School, and the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Youth Conference.

Our Westman Sharing Circle gathered on a monthly basis during the year and over 60 different people in Brandon participated. Thanks to Susie McPherson-Derendy and Debby Dandy for this very important work.

Ceremonies - I conducted ten funerals, five related to Knox and five for other UCC congregations. I officiated at three weddings, and two baptisms.

Worship - I worked diligently to provide worship experiences that engaged our senses, were spiritually and biblically rich, engaged all generations (a real growing edge for us still), and led us on a journey through the liturgical season.

Wider Church - In June I completed a one-year term as chair of the presbytery. I'm also currently serving on the executive of the Conference of MNWO and on the young adult and youth committee. I continue to serve as a spiritual care associate at the health centre. I prepared and organized worship for our conference annual meeting. I serve as a member of the residential school learning centre task group.

It is a privilege to partner with you in ministry and to join with you in creating sacred space where we can explore a deeper connection with G_d and one another.

My sincere thanks to the staff here at Knox for their support and ministry.

Grace and Peace,
Craig

Chaplain's Report to Knox United Church

Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

Again I write to keep you informed about the work that I am privileged to do as one of the Chaplains, or Spiritual Care staff, at the Brandon Regional Health Centre. This work is recognized by the United Church as a valid ministry, although I work for Prairie Mountain Health – and, in effect, the Manitobans whose tax dollars pay my salary.

In 2017, my work as a Spiritual Care Provider saw me involved with patients, residents or clients (who might be hospital staff, or patient family members, among others) on some 834 occasions. I spent 776 hours in direct service or provision of care to clients, and 1338 hours being on call or available to come into the hospital in case of urgent or emergent need for Spiritual Care Services or Support. That's nearly 56 days, or almost 2 months out of 12 that I lived with the pager on my hip or at my bedside. No wonder I refer to it as my "electric leash!"

I was part of only one wedding this year, for one of our nurses (Andrea Degg) who married in August at Clear Lake. It was great to be part of their day, especially as I had previously provided funeral services for her grandmother. This was a much happier occasion!

I was also presiding at 15 funerals in 2017: for Nancy Gibson, Derwyn Smith, Joyce Barnes, Wally Gregory, Anne Chapman, Carol Parker, Kim Sharratt, Sherman Myrah, Lois Bullion, Brenda Klippenstine, Fon Ting Deong, Chris Beeston, Doris Steadman, Cecelia Venne, and Jake Faas.

Some of these names will be familiar to Knox, including Anne Chapman and Sherman Myrah. Anne was active in congregations including Brandon Hills, Trinity and Central United, and I consider her one of the saints of our time. Harold Kuipers and Karen Kempe provided music for her service, which was held in May. Sherman Myrah was Lainey Kuiper's grandfather, laid to rest at the farm near Rivers in July.

In addition to my usual role as congregant and part-time guitar player at Knox, I was also leading worship here once in May, and once in the Hartney/Lauder congregation, in January of 2017. The increased hours of weekend call have made it difficult to commit to more Sunday pulpit supply for me in the fall, but that's okay, as I enjoy being part of the congregation, and occasional chorister and member of the Knox Knoisemakers.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Ball

Knox Music Team Report

2017 Music Team Report

The Knox Music Team continues to fire strongly at all levels. We have excellent and consistent leadership from Jane on the keyboards, a multitude of lively instrumentation in our rhythm section, and an energetic and dedicated group of singers. It has been said by several respected musicians in the Brandon community “Knox has the best church choir in the city!” Our music presentations continue to receive accolades for our technical skill and blend, and our ability to convey meaningful messages in our Christian worship context.

We are very pleased that four new members have joined our ranks this year. What is also exciting is that they are all under 50! Yet in the same breath, we are so grateful for the dedication of a few of our members who, at the other side of the age spectrum, provide us with a solid base of dedication and experience.

It is a rewarding experience to work with Rev. Craig as we put together the worship series season by season. Theme based worship implies a specific focus making music selection difficult on one aspect but easy on another. With digital technology, finding music has become easier. We can search for titles by using key words or phrases, listen to the options, place the order on line, and print the scores instantly.

This year, the music team presented a successful Spring concert with selections based on “Family” themes. We enjoyed performances from family groups and an “Edna Knock” sing-a-long of familiar family songs. The spring concert is our only fundraiser of the year. Thank you for the support from the Knox congregation and friends; we contributed \$3,048.00 to Knox’s general fund.

The beauty of theme based rather than lectionary based worship, is that it nudges us to stretch out our search for suitable music materials. As such, we have reached out into the pop and folk culture which are full of meaningful and spiritual messages and for those of us who have ears to hear, call us to go out beyond the walls of the church to do the work that Christ asks us to do.

Respectfully submitted
Bernie Whetter
Choral Director

Worship Committee Report

Committee: Peggy Barrows, Pat Cavanagh, Michael Briol, Phyllis Digby, Cheryl Morton, Meg Carrington, Cheryl Doull, Diane Shepherd, Bernie Whetter

Rev. Craig Miller chaired any meetings held in the first part of the year but Diane Shepherd took on that job starting in September.

- The sacrament of communion, by intinction, was served on five Sundays. Worship prepared the sacraments and coordinated servers.
- In August we had Baptism services with 2 people baptised.
- *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, during Lent, *Bless to Me*, during September into October, and *G_d Bless Us Everyone* during Advent, were the themes of the three worship series that Craig presented this year.
- We enjoyed Holy Humour Sunday on April 23rd, thanks to Adrienne Hiebert for the tickle trunk of items to lighten up the day.
- We went to Central United for the Good Friday service and also in August for a summer service.
- We joined with Trinity for a service at the beginning of July to celebrate Canada Day.
- We also affirmed our welcome of the LGBTQ community with a service in June on Pride Sunday.
- Shrove Tuesday was pancake day, with a supper of pancakes served followed by an Ash Wednesday service. This was well received and we would like to repeat in 2018.
- Craig continues to provide worship at the personal care homes, Valleyview, Hillcrest and Dinsdale.
- Thank you to Phyllis Digby for coordinating scripture readers, Peggy Barrows for communion servers, Meg Carrington and Diane Shepherd for preparing communion sacraments. Thank you to Elaine Rust for coordinating ushers and greeters as needed and keeping our candle remembrance table tidy and to Cheryl Doull for taking over this responsibility when Elaine stepped down.
- Thank you to the choir, to Bernie Whetter and Jane Skinner for all the music you provide, and the extra work for a Spring Concert and Christmas Cantata. We also thank all the others who provide music support throughout the year.
- Roger Bright and Doug Crookshanks do a great job of looking after the sound system so all can enjoy the messages being presented.
- A special thank you to Peggy Wojnarski for creating the banner for the front of the sanctuary, lots of work and a special skill.

Respectfully Submitted
The Worship Committee

Affirm Committee Report

Committee: Sharyn Hayter, Lynne Manns, Shawna Munro, Kathleen Richards & Laura Crookshanks

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

- “Raising Children in an Inclusive Community” presentations given on Feb. 7 and April 8. Interesting discussion followed.
- Many Knox members attended the Islamic Centre on Feb. 4 after the murders in Quebec.
- Several Knox members attended a Muslim information session on March 24 at Brandon University.
- Four members of the Affirm Committee assisted Knox United Church, Russell on May 7 as they seek to become an Affirming Ministry. We attended worship and led a workshop following worship.
- Knox participated in Brandon Pride celebrations by marching in the Pride March and staffing a Knox table on Saturday, June 17 at Stanley Park. A Pride Worship Service was held at Knox on June 18 in conjunction with Brandon Pride activities.
- Affirming Anniversary Service of Celebration to mark the anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry was held on October 29.
- “Diversity Lunch” at Sabor Latino restaurant on November 12, attended by about 26 people.
- Knox hosted the Trans Day of Remembrance Service and luncheon on November 21. This was organized in conjunction with SERC and PFLAG. Also, an evening candlelight vigil was held outside Knox on 18th Street.
- Knox provides safe space for the Parents, Friends and Family of Trans* Folks Support Group to meet.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Crookshanks

Christian Education Committee Report

Committee: Leanne Sprung (Chair), Judy Olmstead (Junior), Jill Hannah-Kayes (Substitute, Junior Group), Cindy Briol (Wigglin' Worship Room), Marilyn Van Walleggem (Adult Ed), Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette (Youth Director), Reverend Craig Miller. The Sunday School Superintendent position is vacant.

Spirit Kids' Club

Three groups of Spirit Kids' Club are offered each Sunday following the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum; Wigglin' Worship Room (infant – preschool), Junior (5 or 6 – 9), Intermediate/Senior (10+), dependent on activities and numbers.

The Intermediate/Senior group has enjoyed participation in worship through drama presentations and readings and music contributions. In addition, monthly lunches with Reverend Craig and Youth Director Antoinette provide opportunity for relationship building and spiritual connection. Regular youth events have been held and include; baking and bake sale after Sunday worship (raised \$271 to send to Gifts With Vision and purchase/collect mitts to donate to the Brandon Bear Clan; the Escape Room team building, as well as cooking and eating together. The Youth Room was reclaimed and is being equipped for youth activities and for Sunday mornings.

For the fourth year, Easter Sunday was a one-room event with all groups gathering together for a variety of crafts, snacks and learning stations, organized and led by the Youth Group. There was lots of great energy and the children had fun. Central United hosted Vacation Bible School in August. Some Knox children attended. Spirit Kids' Club runs from the Sunday after the September long weekend to early June and culminated in a Teacher Appreciation during worship on June 4, 2017.

One youth attended Gibimishkaadimin. Gibimishkaadimin is a five-year pilot project in the United Church engaging Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in collaborative and experiential learning through an Indigenous lens. Four youth and Antoinette participated in The Coldest Night Walk with the Knox delegation. Youth also assist with the set up and clean up of the monthly brunches and the Taste of Christmas dinner.

Two youth attended Rendezvous, our national gathering that took place in Montreal. Active promotion of Presbytery, Conference and national youth opportunities resulted in four youth attending the Zeebu event in February and two youth attending ALF in Selkirk in October.

New tables and chairs were purchased for the Wigglin' Worship Room and the Junior Classroom. A new "7 sacred teachings" rug was donated for the Knox sharing circles. There is a curriculum for children and this presents a good opportunity to do some teaching with Spirit Kids' Club classes.

The part time (five hours per week), youth director position continues to build community and connection within the youth at Knox, and is responsible for Sunday morning classes, participation in worship and additional youth events and activities.

Adult Education

Spring Study (4 Sessions)

Imaging the Word: Visual Arts Informing our Journey Through Lent & Easter - You don't need to have a background in the visual arts or art history. You don't even need to have visited a museum during your lifetime. You do need to be open to seeing in new ways and being open to experiential ways of learning. All ages were welcome. Sessions: Light Interrelates Stories of Moses and Jesus; Birth, Death, and Rebirth Through Pietas; "Sleeping and Resting Still" Through Jesus' Agony and Resurrection; Resurrection in Michelangelo's Art and Our Expectations

Fall Book Study (6 sessions)

The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings
This book study explored how Celtic spirituality and contemporary thinkers are influencing the emerging community of Christ. Author John Philip Newell, formerly warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, calls for a rebirth of Christianity in response to the seismic shifts in the Church and contemporary Western cultures. He proposes eight ways that Christians and seekers can be attentive to the struggle for rebirth. Using the island of Iona as an imaginative setting for this spiritual undertaking, he mines the wisdom of those who have provided prophetic leadership in these ways. His book inspires hope that, through reconnection, faith can be renewed and enlivened personally and collectively.

Respectfully submitted,
Leanne Sprung, Chair

Ministry & Personnel Committee Report

Committee: Coleen Wall, Deb Carnegie, Marg Whetter, Elaine Rust, Les Kelly, Laurie Crowe.

We continue to meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the chapel.

We continue to be blessed with competent & dedicated staff with Rev. Craig Miller, Sharon McIntosh Office Manager, Charles Ingram Custodian, Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette Youth Director part-time, Bernie Whetter Choral Director, & Jane Skinner Church Organist.

On June 5th we had a gathering with staff and partners at Deb Carnegie's home. Ministry & Personnel supplied the meal to show appreciation for the time staff give to the church.

The United Church of Canada is moving the ministers payroll to a new compensation model. All churches have to complete this move where housing & the salary will be one wage based on location for the housing market and years of service. We are moving to this model effective January 2018 payroll. Craig & Sharon have been a big help to get the paperwork in place and I appreciate their knowledge and help.

It is the policy of the UCC that every Pastoral Charge provides a paid sabbatical of at least three (3) months to those in paid accountable ministry who have completed at least five (5) years of service in one call or appointment. During this time the minister receives the regular salary & benefits. Sabbatical is study, rest, spiritual retreat, and prayer. The goal is for ministers to return to their congregations revitalized in their spirit.

The process:

- Ministry Personnel completes 5 years of service to one pastoral charge.
- Ministry Personnel develops a Sabbatical Plan and timeline and provides the congregation one year's notice which Craig has done.
- Ministry Personnel has dialogue with pastoral charge M & P committee about the nature & process.
- Pastoral Charge board or council approves sabbatical.
- Pastoral Charge notifies presbytery of the planned sabbatical 6 months in advance.
- Pastoral Charge makes arrangements for leadership during the time of the sabbatical.
- Pastoral Charge continue all salary & benefits for the duration of the sabbatical.
- Ministry Personnel provides a report to the Pastoral Charge about their sabbatical afterwards.
- Ministry Personnel remains in Pastoral Charge for at least one year following the sabbatical.
- The committee recommended Craig's plan to the Council and the sabbatical was approved for the period of June - August 2018. We are working to provide some coverage during this time.

We have completed all our annual reviews of all staff.

At this time, I close with many thanks to our staff and thank you to our committee members for their commitment. If congregation members have any questions please direct them to myself or any of the other committee members.

Blessings
Coleen Wall
Chair of M & P

Stewardship Committee Report

Committee: Alan Moulin, Vern Gilbertson, Duncan Waddell, David Paul

- A Time & Talent Auction and Potluck Supper were held on March 18, 2017. Entertainment was provided by the Ukulele group and the church choir. Both a silent and conventional auction were held. This event was very successful, raising over \$5,000. Following the success of this event, another is planned for March 24, 2018.
- Pledge Forms and a Time & Talent Survey were distributed in October 2017. A summary of the results will be made available once completed and reviewed by the Stewardship Committee.
- “Minutes for Stewardship” were presented in October and December of 2017.
- The Stewardship Committee reviews the current budget on an ongoing basis.
- The Stewardship Committee reviews and makes recommendations to Council regarding the proposed budget for the new year, prior to presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- The Stewardship Committee recommends expenditures of the memorial fund.
- New members will be required in the coming year to replace some committee members who have worked on Stewardship since 2012 and 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Stewardship Committee

Congregational Care and Membership Committee Report

Committee: David Barrows, Shirley Armstrong, Norma Lowe, Ida Hallatt, Linda Schrader, Lynn Cupples

The committee is responsible for a variety of activities that involve pastoral care, social events, and general oversight of the care of the congregation. Several subcommittees are appointed to look after the following:

Pew Registers

Kitchen Care

Sunday Morning Coffee

Friendly Visitors

Mailing Cards

Knitting Circle

Funeral Luncheons

The following is some of the work done by the committee.

Funeral Luncheons has 3 teams that alternate looking after lunches for funerals. The teams are (1) Marguerite Campbell and Diane Shepherd, (2) Arlene Hamilton and Iona Godfrey, and (3) Shirley Armstrong and Bernice Nerbas. The office coordinates asking one of the teams when a family requests refreshments after a funeral.

A Taste of the Holidays is an event coordinated by Sharon Christmas, Irene Bromley, Marguerite Campbell, Barb Caryk and Shirley Armstrong. It is a wonderful time of fellowship to usher in the Christmas season. Many from the congregation join in to help in putting the meal together, serving and cleaning up. It is an opportunity for the congregation to work together and to enjoy a good meal. It is also an opportunity to serve many who are not part of the Knox family.

Spring and fall luncheons are coordinated by Sharon Christmas. Many volunteers are needed to prepare for each of these luncheons and, like the Taste of the Holidays, it is a time to enjoy ourselves. It is also a way that Knox reaches out into the community to share our food and talents with all who come.

Sunday Brunch is held after worship the first Sunday of each month from September to May. Sharon Christmas and a group of eager helpers put together the meal and provide a wonderful aroma to tempt the congregation to go upstairs and enjoy a time of food and fellowship. Students from Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College are always welcomed as guests of the congregation.

This year there were 2 newcomers' luncheons, one in the spring and one in the fall. At each of these about 15 newcomers attended, learned some things about Knox and had an opportunity to know the others who were there. There is already a list of more newcomers who will be invited to attend another luncheon in the spring. This is a sign that the Knox family continues to grow.

Friendly Visitors are Shirley Armstrong, Lynn Cupples, Jane Gilbertson, Norma Lowe and David Barrows. This is a very active group who visit in homes, seniors' residences, care homes and hospital. These are in addition to visits from the ministry staff and are meant to be a caring presence to those who are shut in.

Sunday Coffee Time, coordinated by Lynn Cupples and Laura Crookshanks, is an opportunity for visiting and community building. With the new coffee makers, the preparation and clean up are easier but there is always a need to have volunteers to help. This is an important part of Sunday mornings as it brings people together before and after worship.

Cards are sent to those who experience significant milestones or a major transition in their life. Christmas greetings are also sent to those who might be in need of some extra Christmas cheer. For some time now, Norma Lowe has coordinated the card sending but she indicated she would like to be finished at the end of 2017. A new person will be appointed to take over this position at the beginning of 2018.

The Knox Membership Roll is checked periodically to make sure that it is accurate and up-to-date.

Submitted by,
David Barrows for Congregational Care and Membership Committee

Pew Register Report

There were 160 visitors recorded, and there were others as not everyone signs the register. Our visitors came from the Netherlands, Jamaica, North Carolina, Africa and many areas in Canada. We had a few visitors who had attended Knox in the past who stopped in for a visit.

Every week brings comments on the service and/or the music, and these comments are passed on in each area.

If a newcomer or visitor provides an address or contact information, a card of welcome is sent to them.

Please continue to use the comment section to pass on comments and information, to let us know if you have changes to your address, need offering envelopes, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Armstrong

Spring and Fall Luncheons

In May and October of every year, Knox has a spring and fall lunch. These are fundraisers for the church. We advertise to the larger community as well as within our church. In spring we have a variety of salads, sandwiches and desserts, and in the fall we have a variety of soups, sandwiches and desserts. All items are homemade!! We would like to thank all those who donate food and/or work at these lunches. We could not do these without your help.

In 2017, we made \$1,360.00 which went to the operating fund at Knox.

Tentative dates have already been booked for 2018 (May 16 and October 24).

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas

Brunch Bunch

From September through and including May, we “The Brunch Bunch” cook hashbrowns, scrambled eggs, sausages, ham and toast for the members of the congregation and invited guests. We sometimes surprise everyone and serve pancakes and sausages just to keep it interesting. The first Sunday of most months is set aside for this time of fellowship in our auditorium. We keep the cost low so everyone can join us in getting to know each other better.

We thank the Brunch Bunch for their dedicated service: Barry and Irene Bromley, Rene and Sharon Christmas, Bob Campbell, Barb Caryk, Bernice Hemmingway, Shirley Armstrong, Lynne Cupples and Nancy McPherson. Thanks to Charles who sets up the tables and chairs for us on Sundays, and also to the youth who come and help periodically. WE DO HAVE FUN IN THE KITCHEN!!!!

Thanks also goes to the many volunteers who stay after brunch to help clean up. It allows the kitchen crew to eat and relax with an extra cup of coffee!

The April 2018 brunch will be a special one. As of April 8, the Brunch Bunch have been cooking and serving brunch for 20 years. Come out and celebrate this special occasion with us!

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas

Outreach Committee Report

Committee: Wayne Digby, Debby Dandy, Susie McPherson-Derendy, Maureen Cobb, Kim Bright, Lorraine Pompana, Gerald Whetter, Craig Miller

The Outreach Ministry Coordinator and Team is responsible for developing and maintaining individual and congregational social justice projects within the community (local, national, and international).

The Outreach Committee was involved in many activities over the past year. Following we have highlighted a number of these initiatives:

- Sisters in Spirit Walk: This walk was held in Brandon on October 4, and numerous members of Knox took part in the commissioning of the Teepee structure at City Hall, and the walk following.
- Safe and Warm Shelter: The shelter continues to operate out of Samaritan House in Brandon. Between 10 and 20 individuals are housed each night. Thea Dennis, Executive Director, made a presentation to Knox at a brown bag lunch last fall and shared the mission and activities of Samaritan House.
- Mission and Service: The Minute for Mission was utilized each Sunday where possible to increase awareness of the M&S work carried out by the wider church and the importance of Knox support. A number of videos were shown and have been well received. A great big thank-you and congratulations goes out to Knox. The M&S Goal set for 2017 was \$30,000 and we well surpassed this Goal with contributions of \$34,615. This amount does not include amounts given for special appeals.
- Sobeys Gift Cards: This fundraiser for Knox outreach initiatives sold \$30,500 with a profit of \$2,020. These funds have enabled Knox to provide important support to programs such as the 7 St. Access Centre Benevolent Fund and the Safe and Warm Program.
- Sharing Circle: The Sharing Circle, which continues to meet on a monthly basis, is a regular opportunity for neighbours to share thoughts, ideas, and reflections as we move to a future as a community living in understanding, equality, and respect.
- Kairos: The Winds of Change campaign is taking place across the country, with workshops related to the importance of making the inclusion of accurate Aboriginal history mandatory in schools. Petitions are going to the provincial governments and those signed at Knox will be included in the presentation in the Manitoba Legislature in the New Year. A group from Cambrian Agassiz Kairos met with the Minister of Education in August of 2017 to share the concerns of the membership about this issue. There is hope that the hiring of Jamie Wilson (previous Treaty Commissioner of MB) as an Assistant Deputy Minister with the Department of Education will provide the direction for our government in moving forward.

Kairos is also leading an initiative to share "The Blanket Exercise" across the country. This experiential learning tool helps develop understanding of the true history of Canada and its First People. It is very powerful and requests for the sessions are rapidly increasing. Local community members are trained to deliver the training and Susie McPherson-Derendy has capably provided Elder services and leadership. A regional group of facilitators responds to all requests. Any interest in offering this training can be directed to Susie McPherson-Derendy or Debby Dandy.

- Brandon University Aboriginal Students Graduation Pow Wow: Knox people assisted by helping prepare and serve food for this event.
- Brandon Residential School Mobile Learning Centre at Residential School Gathering: A number of Knox people attended and assisted Barb Jardine in transporting the display to the site of the gathering and putting it up. Many people viewed the display.
- Cathy Mattes – Presentation on Contemporary Indigenous Art: There was good attendance for Cathy's presentation in which she talked and showed slides about reclaiming culture through art. Her Thesis focuses on culture and healing through art and art & reconciliation.
- UNDRIP and Bill C 262: Outreach Committee provided information and called on Knox Congregational members to add their voices in support of Bill C 262 by writing our local MP.

Submitted by
Wayne Digby

Refuge Brandon

Committee: Joe Ball, Abdul Banuga, Sylvia Barr, Laurie Block, Kim Bright, Wayne and Edy Clayton, Karen Elves, Debra Gray, Mary Gunson, Orval Henderson, Johanna Leseho, Brian and Lynne Manns, Lynn Nicol, Rae Smith, Brent White, and Margaret and Gerald Whetter

Many of the members of the Refuge Brandon committee are connected in a multitude of ways with some of the government sponsored refugee families who are now in Brandon. Some of the relationships are to be friends, to provide transportation, to teach English, to help with grocery purchases, and to illustrate household maintenance including something as simple as getting rid of ice on the walkway and determining what a Blue bin's use is. Those who have the time get more involved. We don't want to see our committee members get burned out though.

We are doing what we can to facilitate Abraham Tekla's clearance as a refugee to come to Canada from a camp in Netanya, Israel. He is from Eritrea and is the nephew of a friend of Joe Ball. So we are concentrating our efforts here in a case of "hurry up and wait".

Many, but not all of the recent arrivals to Brandon are followers of the Muslim faith. Some of us who have lived in countries where other religions are prominent have experienced being very accepted by followers of Islam as well as those of other religions. We wish to return the favor.

The Syrian family we know the best are Damran, Alia and their 4 children. We are happy they seem to have made a really successful adjustment to Canadian life. Some current needs include helping some of the kids with reading. Damran is pleased with his job in construction with a firm refurbishing buildings in the downtown core of Brandon. They will have been here two years in March 2018.

When we were collecting donated furniture, we were given free use of a large storage unit by the Niverville owners of West Side Storage at the west end of Victoria Ave. This was a big boost to us and we are very grateful to them!

If there are any of you who want to be involved with any of the more recent arrivals then let us know.

Submitted by,
Gerald Whetter

Green Team Report

Committee: Wayne Digby, Orval Henderson, Les Kelly, Craig Miller, Ken Wojnarski, and Wayne Clayton

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

In 2017, Susan Roddy, one of our committee members, passed away. Susan was passionate about environmental issues and encouraged us to strive to make a difference.

The Knox Green Team has been involved in the following during 2017:

- Hosted the Knox Green Team Speaker Series
 - Justin Phillips - Solar Energy Information Session Nov 7/17 –Approx. 60 in attendance.
 - Curt Hull -- Climate Change Connections Nov 29/17 – Approx. 85 in attendance.
 - The Green Team have been encouraged by the response to the Speaker Series from Knox people and those outside of Knox (a number that do not attend Knox - -some as far away as Franklin, Deleau & Minto). There seems to be significant interest in these types of events. More are being planned for 2018-2019 and if anyone has suggestions of potential speakers we would appreciate hearing.
 - The Green Team appreciates the financial support for the ongoing series as most costs have been covered by donations at the events.
 - Watch for details of an electric vehicle information session planned for June 2, 2018.
- The Green Team appreciates that Knox members donated \$1,392.00 in 2017 to the Climate Change Fund with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
- Celebrated the People's Climate Action Sunday, September 17, with the UCC and congregations across North America.
- Brandon Environment Committee
 - A Green Team representative attends regular meetings, and is involved in discussions and relays information back to the Knox Green Team.
- Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association (ManSEA)
 - Green Team members are active participants in ManSEA.
- Distributed information on the Province of Manitoba's "Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, an important step in Manitoba's response to climate change. <http://www.gov.mb.ca/climateandgreenplan/index.html> Active engagement was encouraged in responding to the request for comments.
- The Green Team attempted to have a representative at each Knox Council meeting.

Submitted by Wayne Clayton
on behalf of the Knox Green Team

Property Committee Report

Committee: Roger Bright, Wayne Galloway, Tony Wall, Robert Campbell, Steve Derendy, Brian Manns, Barry Bromley, Orval Henderson

- The snow blower was given major service, as issues arose with it after some of the major snow earlier in January.
- A Green Compost Cart was ordered from the City to enhance our “Green Footprint”.
- A significant donation was received to enable Kitchen Renovation – Phase 2 to be accomplished this year. This involved replacement and reconfiguration of the central island and replacement of the kitchen flooring. Special thanks to Sharon Christmas for her assistance and direction in this project. Removal of the old island was completed by a Property Committee work bee.
- Summer projects included:
 - Flower bed watering and maintenance (special thanks to Jane & Vern Gilbertson, Duncan Waddell, Norm Brown, Sylvia Roberts and others for this).
 - Replacement of stained ceiling tiles in the Chapel, hall and Library area.
 - Replacement of light fixture in the women’s washroom.
 - Repair and painting of the interior corner wall by 17th St Entrance.
 - Repainting of the north-east fire-exit door.
- New chairs and tables were purchased for the Wigglin’ Worship Room, Spirit Kids Club (Club Room) and kids table in the Sanctuary.
- Fall yard cleanup was completed with assistance from Bob Campbell, Orville Henderson, Wayne Clayton, Duncan Waddell .
- An A.E.D (Defibrillator) was purchased. It is installed in the Narthex on the north wall between the elevator and coat rack. Sharon Christmas is arranging for operational instruction sessions.
- Additional microphones and a microphone stand were purchased to accommodate and support an increase in multi participant worship oratory presentations, and enhance the worship experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Bright, Property Chair

Trustees Report

Trustees: Bernice Nerbas, Doug Crookshanks, Wayne Clayton, Craig Miller

The primary mandate of the Trustees is to be responsible for any legal matters related to church property at the discretion and direction of the Council and members of Knox United Church, Brandon. The current trustees are Bernice Nerbas, Doug Crookshanks, Craig Miller and Wayne Clayton. As per the UCC Manual – the Minister is automatically a member of the Trustees.

The Trustees meet annually with our insurance broker, Western Financial Group, to discuss our policy. A review was conducted of our present insurance with a comparison to a policy offered by The United Church as UCC Protect. After review and discussion with our broker a decision was made to stay with Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Currently, the insurance policy for Knox includes:

Replacement cost on the building - \$4,553,342

Contents Insurance - \$431,305

Total coverage is \$4,984,647 with building and contents

This is an increase of about 3% from last year

General liability \$3,000,000

General policy aggregate on the liability \$10,000,000

This means no single liability claim can exceed \$3,000,000, and the total amount paid out on all liability claims for the year cannot exceed \$10,000,000.

There is a separate Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy (CHAD) that covers church members, adherents and volunteers participating in church sponsored activities.

Cost for this is \$125.00/year

Total cost for insurance -- \$6,989.76

Other matters discussed with our insurance broker and legal counsel where needed included:

- Further correspondence from the City regarding the request by the City to sign an Agreement and Release on Parking Area located within the 17th St right of way. The City was asking Knox to accept liability for the parking area that is on City property. After continued discussion with our legal counsel and insurance broker there has been no change in the signage or acceptance of liability.
- Events held by Knox where alcohol was served. We were advised that this could be handled on a case by case basis as to the requirement for any additional insurance.
- Would we face liability issues if we were responsible for having arranged a ride for congregation members - the answer is "No". It was recommended that anyone driving passengers should have at least 5 million liability insurance.
- Would there be additional liability requirements for the pickle ball group? We were advised there was no concern from the insurer.

A trustee attended most meetings of Council.

Submitted on behalf of the Trustees by Wayne Clayton

Assiniboine Presbytery Report

Representatives: Susie McPherson-Derendy, Marilyn Van Walleggem (Jan-May), Art Godfrey (May-Dec)

Since becoming one of the Presbytery Representatives for Knox, I have attended three meetings:

- Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario annual meeting in Portage la Prairie on May 26-27, 2017.
- Assiniboine Presbytery Meeting in Minnedosa on September 23, 2017.
- Assiniboine Presbytery Meeting in Trinity United Church in Brandon on November 17-18, 2017.

Being a new representative, I am learning the ins and outs of being a representative. I have not joined a committee to date but have attended two meetings of the pastoral relations committee as an observer.

As the church governing structure will be changing effective January 1, 2019, part of the presbytery meetings was spent on learning about the new structure and planning for same. The remaining portion of the meetings was to conduct business and listen to reports of the various committees.

If you have any questions concerning the presbytery business, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Art Godfrey

Inbetweeners

InBetweeners are a fun filled group of women who have been meeting monthly for almost 30 years. We get together the fourth Tuesday of the month except July and August. We welcome new women to come out and join us, the more the merrier. Some of our activities in 2017 were:

A number of guest speakers: Sharon McIntosh (Knox Office Manager), Leanne Sprung (Chair of Christian Education at Knox), Donna Kormillo (took us on a trip to Italy), Diane Shepherd (took us on a trip to New Zealand), Linda Seitz (lives with a blind husband and wrote a story called "Mrs. Magoo's Storybook"), Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette (Youth Director at Knox) and Curt Hull (Climate Change – Part II).

Our ladies also catered to a number of inhouse meals and a couple out of the church. Some of these were: Presbytery luncheon and Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in February, luncheon for retired teachers at Shriners Club and snack breaks, lunch and supper for the Genealogy Society workshop in April, operated a canteen at a quilt show at First Baptist Church in October, and provided lunch after the Transgender Memorial Service in November.

We also had two potluck gatherings: in June at the home of Donna Pearen, and a Christmas Party potluck at Hobbs Manor on December 15.

Last year in the annual report, we had finished and paid for Stage 1 of our kitchen renovations. We hoped at that time we could move on to the second and third stage in the next couple of years. We are very happy to report we have completed both of these stages this year. A new island and new flooring were done in the fall of 2017 to complete the kitchen renovations. A generous donation of 5,000.00 from Wayne Galloway, \$2,000.00 left over from Stage 1 renovations, and \$3,000.00 donated from the InBetweeners helped complete the project. A huge thank you to Wayne for his generous support and the InBetweeners who work very hard at catering to donate their part. We have a bit more to pay the church which will happen in 2018. Also, a huge thank you to Roger Bright (Property committee) and his many helpers who quickly dismantled the old island and disposed of it. A lot of people worked hand in hand to see this project was completed. What great volunteers we have!!!

In October of 2018, we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary together. It will be an exciting time for us!

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas

Java Jabbers

All women are invited to join us every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the food court of the Shoppers Mall. We have an extended table by A & W – you can't miss the long table of talking women. The subjects are varied: health issues, recipes, how to fix the world, holidays, kids and husbands, etc. We laugh a lot, drink coffee and sometimes stay for lunch as well. You always learn something new!!

Submitted by:
Sharon Christmas



Rummage Rats' Annual Report

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
May Rummage Sale	2,574.91	1,817.70	2,052.35	2,337.55
May Silent Auction	-	821.50	511.00	447.00
October Rummage Sale	2,972.80	2,426.25	2,745.95	2,539.05
October Silent Auction	<u>480.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total for the year	<u>6,027.71</u>	<u>5,065.45</u>	<u>5,309.30</u>	<u>5,323.60</u>

The October Rummage Sale was the largest we have had so far. As usual, suitable items were also picked out by our Christmas Cheer committee. All unsold items were packed up and Moms Without Borders came and loaded it into trucks and hauled it all away for their next Garage Sale. They made the cleanup so much faster and easier. We've had a good year, worked hard, been successful, and enjoyed the fellowship along the way.

The next Rummage Sale is slated for May 5th, 2018. This date avoids the Mothers' Day and the May Long weekends. We will be looking for items for the Silent Auction in May, so please keep us in mind. The Fall Sale is tentatively set for October 20th, 2018. Please mark your calendars.

Norm Brown and
Vivian Mitchell for
Rummage Rats

Christmas Cheer

Committee: Betty Sumner, Shirley Armstrong, Phyllis Digby, Lynne Cupples, Lynne Manns, Audrey Waddell.

Christmas Cheer Hampers were filled and delivered on December 19, 2017 to twenty Brandon families (34 adults and 73 children). Family names are provided by the Brandon Westman Christmas Cheer Registry, and the generous White Gift Sunday donations of non-perishable food items, toys, and monetary contributions went towards the preparation of the hampers. Each hamper provided the family with the necessities of a Christmas dinner, and every adult and child received a wrapped gift. Thank you to the congregation and friends of Knox United Church for once again supporting this cause. Thanks also to the planners, the gift buyers and wrappers, the knitters and sewers, the hamper packers, the drivers and delivery people, and to our custodian who set up the tables ahead of time in the Narthex, and removed them later. Thank you to Canada Safeway and Kuipers Family Bakery who continue with their generosity. Thank you, everyone.

Submitted by:
Lynne Manns

More Users of Knox

- Brandon Nursery School
- Canadian United Pentecostal Church – Brandon (Formerly International Pentecostal United Latin Church – Brandon)
- Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Inc. (BAPS Inc.)
- Drumming Circle
- Girl Guides, Brownies, Sparks, Pathfinders
- Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
- Japan Karate
- TOPS #2152
- La Leche League
- Al Anon
- 7 Ages Productions
- Brandon Community Orchestra
- Prairie Blend Men's Choir
- Honduran Pavilion - Winterfest
- Brandon Festival of the Arts
- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities
- MS Society – Music Therapy Program
- South West Branch, Manitoba Genealogical Society
Margaret E. Goodman Memorial Library
- Manitoba Genealogical Society (conference; workshop)
- Brandon Community Options
- Westman Immigrant Services
- City of Brandon
- The Counselling Centre
- S.E.R.C.
- ManSEA
- Women's Resource Centre
- North Gujarat Group
- Amber Morgan/Jennifer O'Leary Vendor Sale
- AJ Music (Aislynn Johnson)
- Don McKibben Yoga
- The Art of Living – Happiness Program (Parul Davra)
- Roads to Rhythm Music (Courtney Kjalgaard)
- Mindfulness Based Stress Relief Reduction
- Medieval Re-enactment Group
- Brandon University School of Music (various programs/groups)
- Brandon Rotary Club/Strathclair Theatre Chorus (concert)
- Women in Harmony (concert)
- Various other community/school groups for concerts, classes and other events
- Birthdays, Weddings, Family Reunions, Showers, etc.