

KNOX UNITED

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

Annual Report 2018

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.

451 18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 5A9 - knoxchurch@wcgwave.ca - 204.727.6975
www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca - craigatknox@wcgwave.ca



Celebrating 30 years of the Brunch Club at Knox on Holy Humour Sunday



Spirit Kids' Club Easter Celebration - "Love Comes to Life!"



Our Affirm Committee hosted the Iridesce Living Apology Project in May

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Agenda for the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting
February 10, 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
6. Introduction of Council
7. Visioning & Strategic Planning – Part I
8. Ministry Reports – Questions and Answers
9. Business Arising
10. Visioning & Strategic Planning – Part II
11. Mission and Service Fund
12. Review of the 2018 Financial Report (not audited at this time)
 - a. Bequest
 - b. Refuge Brandon
13. Operating Budget 2019
 - a. New Assessment Model
 - b. Investments/Planned Giving
14. New Business
15. Adjournment
16. Commissioning and Blessing

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms 2018

January 7, 2018	Seren Ella Tucker, daughter of James Raymond Tucker and Catherine Lynn Mattes
April 22, 2018	Houston Blacksmith, son of Angelo Blacksmith and Tiffany Kennedy
June 24, 2018	Erin Leigh Cornett, daughter of Murray Cumming and Lori Hunt
June 24, 2018	Ella Marie Cornett, daughter of Justin Cornett and Erin Cornett
June 24, 2018	Arthur Edward Malazdrewicz, son of Graham Edward Malazdrewicz and Andrea Marie Fahlman
July 8, 2018	Sybil-Anne Turnbull Wallace, daughter of Keyvan Wallace and Jocelyn Turnbull
December 23, 2018	Thomas Michael Skinner, son of Brett Skinner and Katie Skinner

Marriages 2018

February 24, 2018	Andrew Donald Strahl and Julie Beth Ramos
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Deaths 2018

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>	<u>Name</u>
January 1, 2018		Deborah Lynn Wright-Nantel
January 17, 2018	January 22, 2018	William Robert Watt
January 16, 2018	February 2, 2018	Erle Floyd Duncan
April 7, 2018	April 13, 2018	Jean Niles
March 25, 2018	April 16, 2018	Dorothy Cathelene Gillies
April 13, 2018	April 18, 2018	William Roger Lowe
March 12, 2018	May 12, 2018	Corinne Manson
November 12, 2017	May 18, 2018	Rosa Margaret Lernowicz
August 11, 2018		William Burgess
September 20, 2018		Barbara Elaine Hart
November 7, 2018	November 14, 2018	Gertrude Emily "Kit" Burch

Knox United Church Council

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Miller

CHAIR: Sharon Christmas

VICE CHAIR: (vacant)

SECRETARY: Sharon McIntosh

TREASURER: Irene Bromley (January-June), A/Treasurer: Sharon McIntosh (July-December)

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, Cheryl Doull

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP: David Barrows, Shirley Armstrong, Jill Hannah-Kayes, Ida Hallatt, Linda Schrader, Lynn Cupples

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Leanne Sprung, Marilyn Van Walleghem, Mel Doyle, Judy Olmstead, Jill Hannah-Kayes, Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette

OUTREACH: Wayne Digby, Debby Dandy, Maureen Cobb, Susie McPherson-Derendy, Lorraine Pompana, Gerald Whetter, Madelyn Robinson

GREEN TEAM: Wayne Clayton, Ken Wojnarski, Orval Henderson, Wayne Digby, Les Kelly, Madelyn Robinson, Quentin Robinson

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

AFFIRM COMMITTEE: Laura Crookshanks, Lynne Manns, Kathleen Richards, Sharyn Hayter, Shawna Munro, Deirdre Taylor-John

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

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES: Art Godfrey, Susie McPherson-Derendy

Chairperson's Report

I never thought I would be Chair of Council, but I found myself in this position at the first Council meeting in September of 2018, wondering how did I get here? With the help of a group of seasoned committee chairs, the secretary and the minister, I think everything went well! Thanks to Art Godfrey for being acting chair in October and November as I was out west at the time. I now have two more council meetings under my belt and feel more confident as the chair. The next hurdle – the ACM!!

Knox United Church is a super busy place. All the committees work very hard at providing the congregation with pertinent information about our church, our community and the wide world. In starting this new year. I thought we would start off at a slower pace, but when looking at the calendar until May, I quickly realized we are full steam ahead. It is truly wonderful that Knox has so many hard working, committed volunteers on our committees. We thank you for your loyal dedication.

We need to thank our hard-working staff. Without your caring and dedicated touch, Knox would not function so smoothly. The time and effort you put into your work is very much appreciated by us all.

“Knoxonians” are also very dedicated to our church. We thank every one of you for volunteering throughout the year. It makes Knox a great place to worship, to share food together, to laugh, to cry and a chance to be part of a bigger family.

What will 2019 bring us? We will be looking towards the future of Knox by having discussion/visioning times so all can express their hopes and dreams of what our future will look like. We hope you participate in some or all of these opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Christmas
Chair of Council

Annual Report by Rev. Craig S. Miller

Minister's Report

*To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)
There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
And a time to every purpose, under Heaven
— Pete Seeger in Turn! Turn! Turn!*

This fall we studied The Four Paths of Creation Spirituality during our series: Sacred Earth, Sacred Work. These four paths, four areas of spiritual questing and adventure, resonated for many of our folks in the congregation. Matthew Fox named these paths in his work on Creation Spirituality almost forty years ago in response to the ecological and spiritual crisis he perceived to be present in the church and western society.

Fox described a path of awe, delight, and amazement; a path of mystery suffering and letting go; a path of birth, creativity, and passion; and lastly, a path of justice, healing, transformation, and celebration.

We can also think about the four paths as four commandments. The first is: Thou shalt fall in love at least three times a day. The second commandment is: Thou shalt dare the dark. The third is: Do not be reluctant to give birth. The last commandment is from Luke's version of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: Be you compassionate as your loving Creator is compassionate.

Four paths. Four ways of being on this Earth. A re-visioning of our religious heritage in order to more fully engage in life and honour our connection with Creation and Creator. One more step along the world we go. Let's make sure we walk together!

Here are a few highlights from our journey together during this past year.

Worship - I've been working with Worship Design Studio to create theme-based services over the past two years and the Good Friday service we hosted with Trinity and Central was a highlight. It's been great to have the full support of our music ministry and the Worship Committee in implementing this EPIC style of worship: Experiential, Participatory, Image (Metaphor) Driven, and Community Focused. And who didn't love our creation dances during worship in the fall?

Communication - I continue to provide content for our Facebook page and email announcements. I revised the template for our newsletter this past year. We continue to look for new and creative ways to tell our story.

Affirming Ministry - We coordinated and hosted the Iridesce Project Living Apology Project for the Presbytery and Knox.

Christian Education and Faith Formation - The Living the Questions series drew significant interest and input regarding new theological thought for a new day. The group study continues in February. I've also worked closely with the Green Team to provide multiple opportunities during the year and did the background work for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank I-Care workshop. We continue to have success with our intergenerational gathering thanks to the coordination of Leanne Sprung and Antoinette Gravel-Oulette.

Reconciliation - I was invited to provide a presentation on Decolonization and Local Initiatives at Neelin High School in the spring. The presentation was part of a day of events at the school for a cross section of students and the work was highlighted at the Creating a New Legacy Conference this past fall. I continue to work with a team that makes the Brandon Indian Residential School Mobile Learning Centre available to the community.

Ceremonies - I conducted twelve funerals, three related to Knox and nine for the wider community. I officiated at one wedding and three baptisms.

Interfaith Encounters - I participated in multiple interfaith events and ceremonies including with our Islamic, Hindu, and Indigenous sisters and brothers.

Wider Church - My time serving on the Executive of the Conference of MNWO and on the Executive of the Assiniboine Presbytery came to an end in December with the transition to Region 5. I continue to serve on the Young Adult and Youth committee and served as a chaplain for the ALF youth retreat in October. I continue to serve as a spiritual care associate at the health centre. I serve as a member of the residential school learning centre task group.

Visioning/Planning - With the support of the Council I actively participated in the sessions offered by Central this past year to discuss the future of UCC congregations in the Westman region. We identified the need to have some additional guided conversation with the community here at Knox which will continue into the new year and hopefully provide some focus for our ministry over the next 3-5 years.

Sabbatical - The time granted for a sabbatical this past summer was a real gift. Thanks to the Ministry and Personnel Committee and particularly Coleen Wall for making this possible.

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

Dear friends in Christ,

As 2018 draws towards a close, I wanted again to take some time to report on the ministry that is part of my work at BRHC. For those who like the raw numbers, this year I presided at 16 funerals, and at two weddings. One of these was for a young man whom I confirmed, when in ministry in Neepawa. The other involved a family I met through my work at the hospital. Having buried two of her grandparents, it was great to be part of the celebration of her wedding with a large and loving family.

There are other numbers, too: 1828 hrs on call (evenings and weekends), 919 visits with patients, families or out-patient clients, and 893.25hrs spent directly with people providing spiritual care support.

The ministry situations are as diverse as the community we serve through the hospital. I might in any one week be meeting with a Palliative patient and their spouse at home, or leading a Spirituality group at the Centre for Adult Psychiatry. I could be in the ICU as the physician and family meet for a difficult conversation, or talking with a patient requesting Medical Assistance in Dying. And sometimes, I get to bear witness to the miraculous, when patients walk away from what might have been, and into a future that will hold blessing for them and for those who love them.

In addition to the time providing direct client care, I'm also on the RHA's Critical Incident Stress Management Team, supporting health care staff who are dealing with distressing situations in the workplace. I'm involved in our Advanced Care Planning processes, and the new COPD System of Care which takes a focused approach to patients dealing with end-stage lung disease.

Most days, I'm grateful for the opportunities that the work affords me to walk alongside and provide care in situations that are stressful and challenging for patients and families. I continue to find the work meaningful and rewarding, by the grace of G-d and with the support of my colleagues, which include the other Spiritual Care Staff, as well as the Spiritual Care Associates (Craig Miller and Doug Neufeld among them).

Knox continues to be an important part of my life, and I appreciate the roles I get to play there. I often say to patients and families who ask if "I have a Church, also" that at Knox, "I'm just one of the guitar players." The community and fellowship here are a real blessing to me.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe

Knox Music Team Report

What amazes me in my years of choral involvement is the dedication of the participants. Choirs meet on a regular basis usually to prepare for concerts or series of presentations. This describes a church choir except that a church choir prepares for weekly presentations plus concerts plus other functions as requested. Calculating the hours of volunteer time: Knox choir meets weekly for 1.5 hours every Thursday and comes 1 hour early every Sunday (2.5 hours weekly); we provide weekly music presentations September through June (40 weeks annually); twice a year we prepare for our spring concert and carol service 1 hour for 8 weeks (16 hours annually); that sums up to $(2.5 \times 40) + 16 = 116$ hours per participant per year; collectively, there are an average of 20 members (a low of 15 to a high of 25). Totaling that up $116 \times 20 = 2320$ volunteer hours annually. This doesn't count the time that a few of our "keeners" practice at home, nor does it count the time we spend in the church service or performing the concert. We just do that because we love to. Added to this is the commitment from our rhythm combo, Knoyse. Because numbers are smaller, we do not always have weekly rehearsals. On average 3×1 hour rehearsals monthly $\times 9$ months \times an average of 6 members (high of 10 and low of 4) = 162 volunteer hours annually. **The grand total of volunteer hours from the Knox music makers is about 2500 hours annually!** But then, this is what makes the church work. As we look around our church and our community, there are hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours put in by individuals and groups and we, and those we serve, are richer for it. This is what we are called to do.

The 2018 worship year was divided into 5 series of themed worship. In sequence, these services incorporated insightful collections of poems, prayers, stories, reflections and music that drew us in to greater understanding and call to Christian action.

Epiphany – Known and Called

Lent – Let Justice Roll

Easter – Dare to Dance Again

Fall – Sacred Earth, Sacred Work

Advent and Christmas – Calm and Bright

"The Four Elements" was the theme for our spring concert – Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water. Music scores from our library plus several new selections were woven into the theme. This is a fun concert as we mix it up with sacred, pop, folk, and classical tunes along with the favourite Knox sing-a-long. This year we contributed \$3250 to the Knox General fund.

Jane Skinner, organist and pianist, and I, choral director, are paid to perform our duties for Knox Church. We are grateful to Craig Miller for his gentle guidance and creative direction. We appreciate the support and counsel given to us by the Ministry and Personnel committee. A special thank you goes to Mindy Campbell who, from the keyboard, coordinates and directs the music for Knoyse.

All of us who are involved in Knox music worship are extremely appreciative of the love, support and encouragement that we receive from the congregants of Knox. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted

Bernie Whetter, Choral Director

Worship Committee Report

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

- Communion, by intinction, was served 6 times this past year. We shared Communion at Central United on August 5, 2018 in a joint service.
- Reverend Craig went on sabbatical from May 27, 2018 to September 9, 2018. Worship services were held with various worship leaders as arranged by the M&P Committee.
- We performed 7 baptisms throughout the year.
- July 1, 2018 was the outdoor service at Trinity United and August 5, 2018 was the service at Central United.
- Reverend Craig presented five worship themes this year, Known and Called, Let Justice Roll, Dare to Dance Again, Sacred Earth - Sacred Work, and Calm and Bright. These series are based on work with Worship Design Studio.
- We began the Lenten series with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday followed by an Ash Wednesday service.
- The Good Friday Service was a joint service with the other two United Churches; we shared an Agape meal in the hall and finished with communion in the Sanctuary.
- Knox also provides worship on various Sundays at Valleyview, Hillcrest and Dinsdale Personal Care Homes. Thank you to those who helped with services while Craig was on sabbatical.
- We decided to try out battery operated candles on the prayer table. That seems to be going well. We will look for another alternative in the future to be more cognizant of our carbon footprint.
- Thank you to everyone who provides assistance throughout the church year to make our services run smoothly.

Respectfully submitted
Diane Shepherd
Worship Committee

Affirm Committee Report

Committee: Laura Crookshanks, Sharyn Hayter, Lynne Manns, Shawna Munro (leaving committee), Kathleen Richard, Deirdre Taylor-John

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

- Alzheimer lunch: March 22 presentation and discussion re becoming a dementia friendly environment.
- May 17 Human Rights Day “Fighting the Phobias”: committee members attended and had Knox display table.
- Knox participated in Brandon Pride celebrations by marching in the Pride March and staffing a Knox table on Saturday, June 16 at Stanley Park. A Pride Worship Service was held at Knox on June 17 in conjunction with Brandon Pride activities.
- One of our Committee attended a community discussion evening hosted by Boissevain United Church Affirm Committee “Coming Out in a Small Town” on October 18.
- Along with Julie Hutton of Minnedosa United Church, one of our Committee assisted Knox United Church, Russell on November 4 as they seek to become an Affirming Ministry. We led worship followed by a workshop.
- Affirming Anniversary Service of Celebration to mark the anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry was held on November 18. Committee members participated in the service. Children and youth made decorations and participated in service.
- Knox hosted the Trans Day of Remembrance Service and luncheon on November 20. This was organized in conjunction with SERC and PFLAG. Also, an evening candlelight vigil was held outside Knox on 18th Street.
- Initial meeting with Trinity United Church chair of Affirm Committee November 19.
- 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 or help out at an event, 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), Mel Doyle (Wigglin' Worship Room), Marilyn Van Wallegghem (Adult Ed), Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette (Youth Director). The Sunday School Superintendent position is vacant.

Spirit Kid's Club

Four groups of Spirit Kid's Club are offered each Sunday, following the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum; Wigglin' Worship Room (infant – preschool), Junior (K – Grade 2), Intermediate (Grade 3 – 6), Senior (Grade 7 +), dependent on activities and numbers.

The 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 continues to be a great meeting space for the youth.

For the fifth 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 Teachers and 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 Kid's Club runs from the Sunday after the September long weekend to early June. Two intergenerational events coordinated by CE and InBetweeners were a great way to build community while having fun; skating, games and supper at the Kemnay Recreation Centre in March saw 55 people, young and old, enjoying time together; and the 'Sensing the Season' event on November 25, 2018 was a great way to bring families together and prepare for Advent. 45 people participated in lunch, crafts, a 'cake walk' (similar to musical chairs) and games.

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. 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 October.

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

This past fall, Craig facilitated the Living the Questions study group. The study provided a context where participants pursued their questions about religion and spirituality, learned from conversations in the Emerging Church, and were introduced to some of the leading voices in contemporary theological study. Seven sessions were offered and there was great participation. The LTQ series continues with 14 more sessions this year. It is open to youth and adults.

Submitted by,
Leanne Sprung

Ministry & Personnel Committee Report

Ministry & Personnel Report

Members: Coleen Wall (Chair and Pulpit Supply Coordinator), Deb Carnegie (Secretary, and Liaison to Choir Director and Youth Director), Marg Whetter (Liaison to Organist), Elaine Rust (Liaison to Office Manager and Caretaker), Les Kelly (Liaison to Minister), and Laurie Crowe (helps with the financial parts).

2018 was a busy year for the M&P Committee. A housekeeping thing we would like to let everyone know about is if anyone has any bouquets and concerns regarding any of our staff, we ask that you put in in writing and bring it to the attention of the liaison for the member please. We have a wonderful complement of staff here at Knox and they work hard, but they don't know if something is right or wrong unless you let us know so we can have that discussion with them.

We completed all staff reviews at the end of December/beginning of January. As most are aware, there are many changes going on in the United Church. As of January 2019, we no longer have Presbytery; we are in Regions which meant changes for all pastoral charges and I am sure for Ministers' meeting, etc., and secretary contacts, etc.

Craig has been with us 5+ years, so he was eligible for his 3-month sabbatical. This was new for our church and from January till May, we spent time making sure all i's were dotted and t's were crossed. Craig was gone the last week in May for continuing education, then June, July and August were his sabbatical time. Thank you to everyone who stepped up and helped make sure the Knox ship ran a straight course while he was gone, covering Sunday services, picking up on visiting and any other jobs I wasn't aware you did while he was away. We hired Quentin Robinson for 5 hours/week during June, July and August to coordinate pastoral care during Craig's sabbatical. Being a retired minister, he knew the ropes of the church, and we thank him for taking on that job during the summer time.

I would like to thank those I call upon to help with pulpit supply for Craig's time away every 5th Sunday, vacations and his continuing education time. We are truly a blessed community of faith with many capable leaders of worship.

All staff and partners were invited to go out after church for an appreciation luncheon at the Victoria Inn.

Most of our committee members attended a Ministry & Personnel training session in April held at Trinity United here in Brandon. We learned lots of things and enjoyed that opportunity. This gives us a chance to meet other Ministry & Personnel members from other churches and share information.

Blessings,

Coleen Wall
Chair, Ministry & Personnel

Stewardship Committee Report

Committee: Alan Moulin, Chair (2012 to present), Vern Gilbertson (2013 to present), Duncan Waddell (2013 to present), David Paul (2016 to present), Vivian Mitchell (2018 to present)

- A Time & Talent potluck dinner and auction was held in March. This event was extremely successful, promoting fun and fellowship, and raising almost \$4,500 which was put towards the operating funds for the church.
- The annual pledge and talent campaign was conducted by Stewardship from September 2018 to November 2018. Contributions to the church have remained at approximately the same level as in 2017, and income met expenditures.
- The committee decided not to hold a Time & Talent evening in 2019, but will instead hold a dinner based on a musical theme (Music through the Ages from the 30s to the 90s and beyond) on April 6, 2019. The dinner will commence at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium with hors d'oeuvres. Each served course will be interspersed with live music from a different era. We will be pre-selling tickets for \$40.00 per person. We plan to raise \$4,000 from this event.

As committee chair, I wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank Verne, Duncan and David for their contributions to the committee. Viviane Mitchell also contributed to organization of the time and talent auction. In 2018 the congregation and the committee significantly increased contributions to the church through the time and talent auction. Furthermore, the committee members, through the auctions and other activities, also promoted fellowship and service to our church community. I would also like to thank the choir, various entertainment groups such as the Ukulele Club, Joe Ball and Cec Foster for their participation in the event. We all had fun.

Submitted by,
Alan Moulin

Congregational Care and Membership Committee Report

Committee: David Barrows, Shirley Armstrong, Ida Hallatt, Linda Shrader, Lynn Cupples, Jill Hannah-Kayes

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 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 (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 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 was one newcomers lunch held in November. About 15 newcomers attended, learned some things about Knox and had an opportunity to know the others who were there. We continue to monitor newcomers and will plan for another newcomers gathering at a suitable time. New faces are regularly seen in worship. This is a sign that the Knox family continues to grow.

Friendly Visitors are Shirley Armstrong, Lynn Cupples, Jane Gilbertson, 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 coffeemakers 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.

This year it was time for a new photo directory of the congregation. Coleen Wall and Laura Crookshanks coordinated this. Photos were taken in the fall and the new directory will be available sometime in the new year.

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. At the beginning of the year Jill Hannah-Kayes took on the role of sending cards.

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 190 visitors recorded for 2018. Many came from other communities in Manitoba, and others from farther away. We had visitors from the Maritimes, Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. We also had visitors from the Netherlands and the U.S.A. We have had a number of international (and other) students from Brandon University. On a recent Sunday, we had a visit from Claire and Richard (Arcand) from Quebec. They lived in Brandon for a few years and were involved in church activities.

Baptisms, Easter and Christmas brought family members home for a visit.

If visitors provide an address, a card is sent to them thanking them for choosing to visit Knox United.

Those who are new to Knox are given some information about the church.

Comments are passed on to Craig or Bernie (music). Other comments (change of address, requests for offering envelopes, etc.) are passed on to the church office.

Submitted by,
Shirley Armstrong

Spring and Fall Luncheons

The spring and fall luncheons at Knox are fundraisers with proceeds going to the operating fund at Knox. In 2018 we made \$1,347.50

Thank you to all who so willingly volunteer to work and or donate food. In the spring we have a variety of sandwiches and salads and in the fall we serve a variety of sandwiches and soups. Our dessert table is always full of delicious homemade treats for both luncheons.

We look forward to another year of fellowship and good food. Tentative dates will be booked for May and October. Look for further details closer to those months.

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas

Brunch Bunch

From September through and including May, an aromatic brunch is being cooked in our kitchen by a very dedicated group of workers. We usually serve brunch on the first Sunday of the month but are very flexible on changing this date when needed!

A huge thank you goes out to our brunch bunch workers. They are: Irene and Barry Bromley, Bob Campbell, Sharon and Rene Christmas, Barb Caryk, Shirley Armstrong, Lynn Cupples, Bernice Hemingway and Nancy McPherson. Thanks to Charles who comes and helps set up Sunday mornings.

We celebrated our 20th year anniversary in April 2018. In 1998 it started out as a two month experiment and we are now into our 21st year of experimenting!!

We also want to thank those who stay after brunch to help clean up! The kitchen crew appreciates being able to eat and sit back with an extra cup of coffee.

If you feel you would like to be a part of the Brunch Bunch either in the preparation side or the clean up side, please let one of us know. We are getting "older" and an extra hand or two is always welcome. It is also exciting to be a part of an experiment.

Brunch is a time for fellowship. We keep the cost as low as possible; we have never raised our price and hope not to as long as we break even with expenses. We do forward our excess money to Knox's operating fund.

Hope you can join us for good food and fellowship in 2019!

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas

Outreach Committee Report

Committee members: Wayne Digby (Chair), Maureen Cobb, Debby Dandy, Susie McPherson-Derendy, Lorraine Pompana, Madelyn Robinson, Gerald Whetter

- Kairos: Knox has continued to support KAIROS campaigns and take advantage of resources that they provide. Knox signed postcards going to the Senate, urging them to pass Bill 262 which will ensure that Canada acts in respect of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous people.
- Sharing Circles: Knox has hosted monthly sharing circles for the last two years. They offer a chance for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in conversation about our shared history and experiences, and to build relationship. From 6 to 30 individuals have attended the circles, and much has been gained in creating understanding, respect, and friendship.
- Safe and Warm Shelter: It was great news to hear that an anonymous donor had made it possible for the Shelter to open early this year, when weather was so cold. Knox made a donation of \$3,735.00 to the Safe and Warm Shelter. Members of the Knox Congregation volunteer at both Samaritan House and Helping Hands, assisting in these community ministries.
- Support to incarcerated people at BCI: We are exploring ways that Knox and other faith communities can support individuals leaving Brandon Correctional Institute and re-integrating into the Brandon community. An open information event will occur in the New Year to learn about supports that individual's need, and how we could help. Ideas will be shared with the congregation following the event.
- Palestine Peace Box: As a means of continuing to inform/educate Knox Congregation and work towards a just peace in Israel and Palestine, the Outreach Committee again purchased and sold the Palestine Peace Box (Zatoun). Zatoun olive oil and other products (soap, herbs) are sold as a means of advocating for economic justice for Palestinians and supporting Palestinian livelihoods. The proceeds are used to directly benefit Palestinian farmers and children living in occupied Palestine and to create awareness for peace in Palestine.
- 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 2018 was \$35,000. The amount donated was \$38,519.88 which include Mission & Service, World Development & Relief and any special appeals throughout the year.
- Grow a Row Stew Supper: Outreach committee invited families to grow a row of vegetables in the summer and then donate them to Knox during the beginning of September. With the help of Sharon Christmas and the InBetweeners, a community supper of stew, biscuits and desserts was held on Tuesday, September 11th in the auditorium.
- Fair Trade Faith Community: Ever wondered how you can help the lives of small farmers around the world? More than 1.6 million farmers and workers in producer

organizations get better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade through Fairtrade Canada. Fairtrade supports small scale farmers and workers who are marginalized from trade in a variety of ways. What does this mean? It means the children of Fairtrade farmers get to attend school. It means communities involved can choose to dig wells, build homes, health care centres, improve sanitation, expand their markets, and have more control over their futures and the environment where they work and live.

The Outreach Committee is exploring the idea of becoming a Fairtrade Faith Community. If you have any thoughts or concerns or want to help out, please talk to Madelyn Robinson. This is another way to seek justice here at Knox United Church.

- Outreach Planning: We reviewed the PATH planning document that we had prepared three plus years ago in which we had laid out a number of Goals for Knox in strengthening our Relationships with Indigenous Peoples. While Knox has moved ahead with a number of initiatives in strengthening our understanding and relationships a number of elements of the Plan depended on being able to bring on a part time Ministry person to focus on this area of Knox Ministry. We were not able to fulfill this part of the Plan due to the need for a long-term Financial Sustainability Plan. Outreach is committed to continuing to develop opportunities for strengthening our relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- Other Future Plans: It was highlighted during the Edge Workshop that there is a critical need on the weekends for someplace for the homeless and addicted population to go. The Meth crisis is worsening resulting in more people in this situation. Outreach is suggesting that Knox could play a role in helping to address this need. There is a need for us to better understand and respond to the needs of the Homeless and addicted population. We need to better understand where the gaps are. 7th St. Access Centre, Samaritan House, Helping Hands, Friendship Centre and AFM are some of the organizations/agencies that are “on the ground”. There is a need to gather information by meeting with these agencies and then go to other congregations such as Trinity and Central to determine if there are opportunities to work together in addressing these needs. A number of members of Outreach have volunteered to be part of a small group that will decide who to meet with, who would do it, etc. They will involve Antoinette and others in the Congregation who are interested in assisting.

Submitted by
Wayne Digby

Refuge Brandon

There are quite a few families from Syria and one from Eritrea and another from South Sudan where our group and others from Knox are involved. Some people are highly connected to these families and as a result are good friends.

In early December there was a lovely pot luck supper held at Knox for newcomer families that we helped organize at the request of Damran and Alia, one of the first Syrian families to come to Brandon. It was attended by over 100. All the visiting and some singing by four young Syrian girls was lovely.

We met as a group fairly often but not regularly. One item that is challenging is our effort to do what we can to make it possible for a young fellow from Eritrea (refugee) who is in Israel to come to Canada. So far, his application has not been approved. We are waiting to see what the outcome will be.

This fall we have been blessed with a very generous donation that we hope to use creatively and hope to bring another family here that we sponsor ourselves. The others have all been Government sponsored.

We are able to make this happen because of some very dedicated people. Thanks to all of them.

Submitted by,
Gerald Whetter, Chair of Refuge Brandon

Green Team Report

Committee: Wayne Clayton, Madeline Robinson, Wayne Digby, Orval Henderson, Les Kelly, Ken Wojnarski, Quentin Robinson

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 has been involved in the following during 2018:

- Hosted the Knox Green Team Speaker Series and events which included
 - June 2 Electric Vehicle Information Session at the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum Canteen at Brandon Municipal Airport
 - Sept 9 – Sunday Service on environmental concerns
 - Nov 3 “I Care” Campaign - CFG Bank with Carol Thiessen
 - Nov 4 - Sunday Worship Service with Carol Thiessen
 - Nov 13 – Carbon Sequestration information session with – Drs. Alan Moulin & Taras Lychuk from the Brandon Research Centre
 - Nov 25 – Recycling information session with Madeline as part of the Sunday Service
 - 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. The Green Team has over 100 individuals on our email contact list that have provided their contact information to receive updates on future 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
- The Green Team was supported by those that attended the events. \$200.24 was collected over and above expenses for the events.
- The Green Team also appreciates that Knox members donated \$1,870.00 in 2018 to the Climate Fund with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
- A Green Team representative attends regular meetings of the Brandon Environment Committee and is involved in discussions and relays information back to the Knox Green Team
- Green Team members are active participants in the Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association (ManSEA)
- 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

- Defective door hardware on bathroom door by kitchen replaced.
- Defective mini blinds replaced in Lounge.
- Office Shredder replaced.
- Spring yard clean-up completed with thanks to Bob Campbell, Wayne Clayton, Barry Bromley, Orville Henderson, and Duncan Waddell.
- Deteriorating retaining wall for west-side Flower bed (outside Nursery School window) replaced with Stack-stone wall.
- Flower bed watering and maintenance (special thanks to Jane & Vern Gilbertson Duncan Waddell, Norm Brown, Sylvia Roberts, and others for this).
- Counter sinks in Kitchen resealed.
- Fall yard clean-up - with thanks to Wayne Clayton, Duncan Waddell and Tony Wall
- Repairs made to under-stage storage bays for tables and chairs to address flooring damage from wheel movement of heavy (loaded) table/chair carts.
- Snow removal contract initiated with Whetter Landscaping.
- New Tables and Chairs for Auditorium ordered and received.
- Sanctuary video projector out for repair to rectify light level issue. When returned will be utilized as secondary unit for presentations in Auditorium, Lounge, and other areas.
- New projector ordered for Sanctuary to provide higher light intensity/improved, sharper image and contrast.
- Closers on Auditorium doors opposite Lounge replaced.
- Defective 18th St. Door security pins replaced.

Respectfully submitted
Roger Bright
Property Chair

Trustees Report

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 UC 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 - \$4,644,409

Contents Insurance - -\$439,931

Total coverage is \$5,084,340 with building and contents

This is an increase of 2% 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 member, adherents and volunteers participating in church sponsored activities. Cost for this is \$125.00/year

Total cost for insurance -- \$7,451

The Trustees were consulted in relation to the bequest from the Margaret Eggleton Estate. Correspondence with the legal firm involved was required prior to the disbursement from the estate. Funds have now been received from the estate and were dealt with by council. They were placed in the Knox Planned Giving Fund that had been set up a number of years ago. The Planned Giving Fund Committee is to report to the Annual General Meeting.

A trustee attended most meetings of Council.

Submitted on behalf of the Trustees
By Wayne Clayton

Assiniboine Presbytery Report

Since Presbytery is disbanding December 31, 2018, this will be the final annual report for Presbytery. Knox will now be a member of Region 5 which will have a name chosen before our annual meeting. We will be allowed to have two representatives for the region which will be chosen at our annual meeting.

I attended the following meetings during 2018:

1. Assiniboine Presbytery meeting at Central United Church, Brandon, on February 9-10.
2. Assiniboine Presbytery meeting in Shoal Lake on April 21.
3. Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Annual Meeting at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg on May 24-26.
4. Assiniboine Presbytery during the conference on May 26.
5. Assiniboine Presbytery meeting in Reston on September 18.
6. Final Presbytery meeting at Knox United Church, Brandon, on November 16-17.

The meetings contained the regular business items and discussions about the closing of the Presbytery and what follows in the new structure beginning January 1, 2019.

With the new structure comes a new funding model. Congregations will contribute proportionally to the costs of the broader church, based on their revenue. Regions will receive equal share for their regional work.

Previously a portion of Mission & Service funds were used to fund the governance and administration work done by General Council as well as grants to Conferences. Now, all Mission & Service funds will be used for mission work (which can include Regions).

Thank you for the opportunity of being your Presbytery Representative.

Submitted by,
Art Godfrey

Inbetweeners

We are a women's group that meet the fourth Tuesday of the month (except July and August) in the lounge of our church at 7:00 p.m. We have been a group for little more than 30 years now, about 40 in number. New members are always welcome!

Some interesting topics in 2018 were:

January – we carpoled to Shilo and visited the Anne Frank traveling display, and stopped for lunch at the Shilo Country Club.

February – Wendy Blondeau, a certified reflexologist, was our guest.

March – Cheryl Doull, one of our members, spoke on the work she and her husband had been involved with called "Mexico Mission."

April – Debra Carnegie spoke and gave a presentation on her trip to Africa.

May – No meeting.

June – potluck supper at the country home of Donna Pearen. We also joined the other women from Central and Trinity United Churches at an informal afternoon at Trinity. It's our turn to host in 2019.

September – Pizza Party (in lieu of a day at Clear Lake because of bad weather). We shared our summer experiences and trips.

October – Audrey Waddell, one of our members, taught a craft – making pumpkins out of a sweater. We also had a practice for our 30th Anniversary celebration.

October 28 – The InBetweeners conducted the morning worship service in celebration of our 30th Anniversary. Following the service, the women and their spouses or significant other joined together for lunch. It was a great celebration!!

November – Maureen Cobb gave us a tour of the Christmas Cheer headquarters, and then back to the church for a meeting, secret pal reveals, etc., and treats.

December – Christmas supper potluck hosted at the Crocus Gardens common room.

Our kitchen renovations are paid off. We are now earning money to go towards the purchase of new tables and chairs. We will be giving a large donation shortly. Some of the catering jobs were: Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Retired Teachers noon luncheon, family fun day at Kemnay, Genealogy workshop and supper, IREDESC workshop, David and Peggy Barrows 50th Anniversary tea and family supper, supper for a choral group from Winnipeg, EDGE workshop, Trans Day of Remembrance service, supper for musicians re CANZONA, and a hot turkey noon dinner for Indigenous people attending ACC. A HUGE thank you to all those who helped make these meals delicious. We worked hard for these new tables and chairs.

2019 so far looks a little quieter for our group. We will take time to enjoy the meetings and each other's friendship even more.

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas

Java Jabbers

On most Tuesday mornings around 10:30 a.m., you will find a talkative group of women in the Shoppers Mall Food Court. We are the Java Jabbers of Knox. All women are invited to join us, grab a coffee from one of the venues and add your thoughts to everyone's conversation. The subjects are varied. We share recipes, health information, child and grandchildren triumphs and tribulations, holiday destinations and a joke or two. Movies and good books to read are also frequently discussed. We are a lighthearted group sometimes numbering as many as 20 or more women. The information you leave with can be very interesting!! Please join us in 2019!

Submitted by,
Sharon Christmas



Rummage Rats' Annual Report

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
May Rummage Sale	2,594.05	2,574.91	1,817.70	2,052.35
May Silent Auction	--		821.50	511.00
October Rummage Sale	3972.35	2,972.80	2,426.25	2,745.95
October Silent Auction (incl. in rummage)		<u>480.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total for the year	<u>6,566.40</u>	<u>6,027.71</u>	<u>5,065.45</u>	<u>5,309.30</u>

The October rummage sale was the largest we have had to date. As usual, suitable items were also picked out by our Christmas Cheer committee. All unsold items were packed up, and the Adult-Teen Challenge Super Thrift Store came and loaded it into trucks and hauled it all away for their store.

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 4th, 2019. This date avoids the Mothers' Day and the May Long weekends. The fall sale is tentatively set for October 26th, 2019. Please mark your calendars.

Submitted by,
Vivian Mitchell

Christmas Cheer

THANK YOU for helping make the Knox Christmas Cheer Campaign 2018 a huge success!

Once again this year the Knox Christmas Cheer initiative was a huge success. The need continues to grow, and YES once again, the Knox family stepped up. Just before Christmas, Knox provided Christmas Hampers to 22 families, including gifts to 80 children. Last year we gave Christmas hampers and gifts to 73 children and 20 families.

It truly was a congregational effort. Thank you for each of the White Gift Sunday contributions of non-perishable food, toys and gifts, and monetary donations. It all helped. We used the financial contributions to purchase the additional food and gifts needed to fill the hampers. Again this year, with your generous donations combined with some careful shopping over the fall by key committee members, there was enough for all. Plus, as in past years, there is small surplus ready to kick start next year's Christmas Cheer campaign.

A special thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort to receive and sort donations, to sort and wrap toys and then to pack and deliver hampers! Over 15 people and vehicles descended upon Knox at 11:30 on Dec. 18 to help deliver hampers! It was a moment of well-organized chaos, and of true caring. As well, a specific thank you to Caretaker Charles for setting up the tables in the Narthex and then dismantling them later.

Afterwards team members shared highlights that made their involvement especially meaningful:

- "One thing that stays in my mind is the sense of purpose and accomplishment that the knitters got from producing the beautiful hats and mitts and sweaters we gave to the children. A wonderful way to fill some spare time!" Thank you to all who knitted and crocheted.
- "One of my favorite moments was when two individuals came separately to deliver the hampers, and ended up teaming-up when one of the individuals realized how bountiful the delivery boxes were, 'more hands would make lighter work'."

Each year, Knox's Christmas Hamper effort also gets quiet, willing support from the wider community including Kuiper's Family Bakery and Safeway/Sobeys. This year was no different and again we say Thank you. The delivery men from Safeway deserve special mention. Organizing and delivering those two truckloads of groceries to Knox first thing in the morning is no easy feat.

Thank you to all involved for contributing to the Christmas Joy for these 22 families.

The Knox Christmas Cheer Team:

Nancy DeRoo

Audrey Waddell

Sydney Wright

Madelyn Robinson

Phyllis Digby

Lynn Cupples

Betty Kelly

Kirsten Ardron

Lynne Manns

Cheryl Doull

More Users of Knox

- Brandon Nursery School
- Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Inc. (BAPS Inc.)
- Drumming Circle
- Pathfinders (part of Girl Guide Organization)
- Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
- Japan Karate
- TOPS #2152
- AI Anon
- 7 Ages Productions
- Brandon Community Orchestra
- Prairie Blend Men's Choir
- Brandon Festival of the Arts
- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities
- South West Branch, Manitoba Genealogical Society
Margaret E. Goodman Memorial Library
- Manitoba Genealogical Society (conference; workshops)
- 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
- Women in Harmony (concert)
- Westman Physical Literacy
- Norway House Cree Nation
- Canadian Chamber Choir
- RANA (Hindu) Group
- Manitoba 4-H Council
- Mainline Band (Grenfell) sleepover
- Jocelyn Lawlor Vendor Sale
- Hispanic Association of Manitoba
- BSD/Kairos (Blanket Exercise Training)
- International Auction
- Little Warriors (Prevent It)
- Brandon Ministerial "Praise"
- Konektis (choral group concert)
- Brandon University School of Music (various programs/groups)
- Neelin Choir/Crocus Plains Choir & Jazz Group/Harrison Choir
- Various other community/school groups for recitals, concerts, classes and other events
- Birthdays, Weddings, Family Reunions, Showers, etc.