

# KNOX UNITED

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

## Annual Report 2019

**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@wcqwave.ca](mailto:knoxchurch@wcqwave.ca) - 204.727.6975  
[www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca](http://www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca) - [craigatknox@wcqwave.ca](mailto:craigatknox@wcqwave.ca)



**PIE Day — Public,  
Intentional, &  
Explicit Affirming  
Ministry**



**Spirit Kids' Club  
Easter Celebration —  
Ripples of New  
Beginnings**



**Feeding Families —  
Outreach Initiative  
for Samaritan House**

## Table of Contents

Agenda for the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting.....	3
Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths .....	4
Knox United Church Council .....	5
Chairperson's Report .....	6
Annual Report by Rev. Craig S. Miller.....	7
Chaplain's Report to Knox United Church (Rev. Joe Ball) .....	9
Knox Music Team Report.....	10
Worship Committee Report.....	11
Affirm Committee Report.....	12
Christian Education Committee Report .....	14
Ministry & Personnel Committee Report .....	16
Stewardship Committee Report .....	17
Congregational Care & Membership Committee Report .....	10
Pew Register Report .....	21
Spring & Fall Luncheons .....	21
Brunch Bunch.....	22
Outreach Committee Report .....	22
Refuge Brandon Report .....	26
Green Team Report .....	27
Property Committee Report.....	28
Trustees Report .....	30
Planned Giving Committee Report.....	32
Inbetweeners.....	33
Java Jabbers.....	34
Indoor Garage Sale Report .....	35
Christmas Cheer .....	36
More Users of Knox.....	37

**Agenda for the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**February 9, 2020**

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. Committee Reports – Questions and Answers
8. Business Arising
  - a. Approval of Revised Constitution
9. Mission and Service Fund
10. Review of the 2019 Financial Report (not audited at this time)
13. Operating Budget 2020
14. New Business
15. Adjournment
16. Commissioning and Blessing

## **Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths**

### **Baptisms 2019**

March 31, 2019 Sophia Betty-Rose Rivera, daughter of Roberto Rivera and May Hupe

December 1, 2019 Lennox Khloe Calcut, daughter of Clint Calcut and Jaclyn Higgins

### **Marriages 2019**

May 11, 2019 Jonathon W. Naturkach and Kendra M. Carnegie

### **Deaths 2019**

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>	<u>Name</u>
March 14, 2019	March 19, 2019	George Wayne Galloway
June 25, 2019		Jack Donnelly
June 30, 2019		Jim Gibb
July 13, 2019		Al Plowman
August 20, 2019		John Hilton Webber (Jack) Graham
September 8, 2019	September 13, 2019	Robert Bruce McNee
September 18, 2019		Bea Caldwell
October 15, 2019		Douglas Powne

## **Knox United Church Council**

**MINISTER:** Rev. Craig Miller

**CHAIR:** Sharon Christmas

**VICE CHAIR:** Debby Dandy

**SECRETARY:** Sharon McIntosh

**TREASURER:** Shelley Tataryn

**MINISTRY & PERSONNEL:** **Coleen Wall**, Deb Carnegie, Margaret Whetter, Art Godfrey, Laurie Crowe, Les Kelly

**WORSHIP:** **Diane Shepherd**, Meg Carrington, Pat Cavanagh, Peggy Barrows, Phyllis Digby, Cheryl Doull

**PROPERTY:** **Roger Bright**, 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**, Mel Doyle, Jill Hannah-Kayes, Madelyn Robinson, Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette, Craig Miller

**OUTREACH:** **Wayne Digby**, Debby Dandy, Maureen Cobb, Susie McPherson-Derendy, Lorraine Pompana, Gerald Whetter, Lydia Glawson. Craig Miller

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

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

**AFFIRM COMMITTEE:** **Laura Crookshanks**, Lynne Manns, Kathleen Richards, Sharyn Hayter, Mel Doyle, Deirdre Taylor-John

**TRUSTEES:** Wayne Clayton, Norman Brown, Doug Crookshanks, Craig Miller

## Chairperson's Report

As a child, my Mom often said how fast time was flying by. I now know exactly what she meant by that statement. It is hard to believe that 2019 has come and gone. I think things went well for Council this past year. A lot of new policies and procedures were addressed, with some still pending for 2020.

We are a very busy church. Kudos to the committees for working so hard to provide the congregation with pertinent information about our own church, The United Church of Canada, our community in Brandon and the wider world.

We appreciate the hard working committed volunteers that keep us so "busy" at Knox. We are so fortunate to have a very loyal dedicated group of men and women working for the betterment of our church and our community.

Our hard working staff deserve a HUGE thank you as well. Your caring touch and dedication to your jobs keeps us running smoothly. You are very much appreciated.

We are very fortunate to have such a great place to worship, share meals together, openly share our hopes and dreams of what Knox is or could be, to laugh and/or cry together and feel a part of our bigger church family. Rene and I feel very blessed to have been a part of Knox for over 47 years.

We approach 2020 knowing we will have another busy year ahead of us. We are up for the challenge. Every year brings us a few surprises, it seems, and God always gives us the strength to see them through. We are hopeful it will be another rewarding year for Knox.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Christmas  
Chair of Council

## Annual Report by Rev. Craig S. Miller

At our Visioning Day in November 2018 our facilitator asked how many participants considered themselves to be risk takers. A majority raised their hand which surprised a few of us, maybe because we think of church folk as more conservative and inherently risk averse.

When I offered a reflection entitled “Risking it All” during our worship series on creativity in January I had more requests for copies than any other sermon from the year. So it seems that many of us are willing to at least consider taking some risks on behalf of the beloved community and certainly Knox has a history in this regard.

Creativity requires a leap into the unknown! It requires risk, the risk of mixing unknown conditions in order to see “newness” emerge. And when we dare to dream G\_d’s dream and hover over that dream to discern what we specifically are being called to do, then we are always called to take a risk. Risking is not so much the next step in the process as it often requires a leap of faith.

We spent some time in 2019 seeking to gather information from our community to assist us in responding to these changing times in the larger culture and communities of faith. The “Let’s Talk” sessions provided some important insights for our ministry and I refer you to that report that was emailed to the congregation in May. We hosted a community roundtable in November. Nineteen participants from fourteen organizations — plus five table hosts from Knox — joined us.

We learned that:

- Knox is considered a valued partner in the community.
- Service providers see need for year-round shelter. We may want to consider this a focus of our local giving.
- There is interest in a Service Centre Hub beyond what 7th Street offers.
- There is interest in the faith community offering opportunities for the community to learn about the religious diversity that exists in Brandon.
- TRC calls to actions were named repeatedly in conversations. Need to address racism in creative ways.
- Participants perceive a need for another community kitchen and identified need for meals on the weekend - possible social enterprise.
- Childcare remains a significant need in Brandon as well as affordable housing.

The next step is to put a small group of people together that are invested in Knox and willing to give some time to assist us in reviewing this information and producing some concrete recommendations for a strategic plan that can be approved by the Council and implemented by the congregation.

My ministry during the year was focused on empowering our community to live out our mission and vision values. Highlights from the year included:

- The quality of our worship life together speaks for itself. Series offered during the year: Drawn In: Living the Creative Life with God (Season of Epiphany); Keeping Company with Jesus: Unforced Rhythms of Grace (Lent); Draw the Circle Wide (Easter season); The Potter’s House: Journeying with Jeremiah

(Season of Creation); One Prayer to Live by: Thank You (Ordinary Time); Let Heaven and Nature Sing (Advent)

- Small group studies including *Living the Questions* and *Grateful* were very well received.
- Working with our Sharing Circle for Reconciliation is very satisfying. This ministry continues once a month with leadership from Susie McPherson - Derendy. Susie was ordained at our Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting and presented with a stole in the four colours of the medicine wheel.
- Brown bag sessions on Racial Justice, the John Howard Society, 7th Street Access, and the Brandon Bear Clan Patrol provided education and created opportunities for us to connect with initiatives in the community.
- We hosted a showing of the documentary *Truly and Humbly*. The documentary traces the memories of Canada's first apology to Indigenous people by any Canadian institution. Made in 1986 by the United Church of Canada at its General Council meeting in Sudbury, Ontario, the first apology is more than a piece of church history and a turning point for Indigenous people.
- We raised over \$1k for Samaritan House at the Coldest Night of the Year walk.
- Intergenerational events including Kemnay Family Day, Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras; Summer pool party; and our "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" Advent event.
- Hosting PRIDE in the Park at Knox with a visit from our UCCan Moderator, Richard Bott.
- Our Interfaith Prayer Service during Climate Strike Week in September was well attended and featured in the Brandon Sun. The service and climate strike action made were noted in the UCC section of Broadview magazine.
- As a result of several members of the Green Team and others from Knox participating in the Fridays for Future Climate Strikes at Knox, we've been asked to partner with the BU student organization Enactus.
- Working with LGBTQIA young adults (SERC now identifies us as an ally for their clients interested in faith and sexuality)
- *The Power of Partnership* community roundtable was hosted by Knox.
- Our work on right relationship was featured in a thesis by Joan Garbut who works at BU but is in the Doctor of Education program at the University of Calgary. The title is: *Walking Alongside: Poetic Inquiry into Allies of Indigenous Peoples in Canada*.

There is much to celebrate in our life together and this report captures a good chunk of our ministry. We continue to join in acts of Love and Justice and to discern G\_d's dream for the world. May we continue to take risks together as we follow in the way of Jesus.

It is a privilege to partner with you in ministry and to join with you in creating sacred spaces 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 2019 From Joe**

Grace and Peace to you, beloved in Christ Jesus.

I am always grateful for the fellowship that is Knox, and for the opportunity to worship among you while serving in Chaplaincy at the Brandon Hospital. Working as a Spiritual Care Provider, Knox is a place that feeds my spirit and grounds me in the gospel that is the foundation of what I do to earn my daily bread.

As a United Church minister in ministry outside the United Church, I value the opportunity to 'report' on my work, and through my reporting, to be accountable to our denomination for my pastoral practice. In some ways, my work can be reported as data. So, for example, in 2019 I presided at 3 weddings, at 13 funerals (and one brief burial office). I spent 887 hours delivering Pastoral Care to patients, families, and staff within Prairie Mountain Health, and those hours entailed 934 visits.

In addition, I was available on-call for a further 1421 hours, which is evenings and weekends. Which is why, occasionally, I put down my guitar and slip away from our Sunday services. When you see that, you'll know that my hip was buzzing, and the hospital was calling me to respond to some need.

It is always a privilege to serve, particularly so in ministry. People, whether patients, families, or staff at the hospital, are gracious in extending their trust. It is that grace in them that enables me to do the work that I do. Occasionally, I get fired by them too! But for the most part, people are gracious and kind, willing to accept my poor gifts of time spent by their side.

For that, I remain profoundly grateful, and give thanks to G-d.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Ball

## Knox Music Team Report

It was another great year of music. Knox United is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of musicians who love to voluntarily share their talents week after week. These people are blessed with the gift of music and it is their calling and privilege to share it with others. It is a wonderful sight to see the chancel filled side to side with music leaders (we'll even include Craig).

During the year, Craig creatively constructed themed worship series. These themes are a delight for the music team as it makes music selection so much easier and gives us a greater opportunity to offer relevant messages in our song. Each series includes about 5 Sundays and each Sunday pinpoints a different aspect of the theme.

Epiphany: Drawn In – Living the Creative Life with God

Lent: Keeping Company with Jesus: Unforced Rhythms of Grace

Easter Season: Draw the Circle Wide

Season of Creation (Early Fall): The Potter's House – A Journey with Jeremiah

Ordinary Time (Late Fall): One Prayer to Live by: Thank you

Advent/Christmas: Let Heaven and Nature Sing

Our spring concert was another smashing success both musically and financially. We offered our music and you offered your donations. Entitled "Celestial Sounds", we featured songs about angels, stars, sun and moon, the sky and planets. Our audience was treated to a buffet of sight and sound as we incorporated some visual effects thanks to our projection capabilities. We contributed \$2,749 to the Knox general fund. Thank you to our fans!

In June, Knoyse provided all the music for the new Prairie to Pine conference of The United church. Thanks to Mindy Campbell for organizing all of the music and keeping the group on schedule. Many of the Knox Choir come out for the joint choir.

During our Advent and Christmas series, Heaven and Nature Sing, we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the favourite carol Joy to the World (composed by English writer Isaac Watts in 1719 based on Psalm 98, 96:11–12 and Genesis 3:17–18). Our songs for the season illustrated JOY. O what fun it was to laugh and sing! We hope you noticed that we did smile during some of the joyful presentations.

Our member number stays consistent. We have new members join in while others take a recess. That's the way we like to operate. We are also pleased to have friends join us for our big moments too. The Choir stepped outside the comfort of our home church as we joined with our Trinity United Church friends for their annual joint Canada Day service. The Choir and Knoyse also added to the festivities at the Samaritan House Christmas Party.

On behalf of Jane, Mindy and Knoyse, and the Knox Singers, I would like to thank the Knox congregation for the support and praises you so generously pass along to us. You are our rock!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bernie Whetter, Choral Director

## Worship Committee Report

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

- Communion, by intinction, was served 5 times this past year.
- We baptized two new members .
- The Good Friday service was held at Trinity United. On June 16, 2019 the community was invited to attend worship at the Prairie to Pine Regional meeting where Susan McPherson-Derendy was ordained. Thanks to Peggy Wojrnarski and Peggy Barrows for designing and creating a stole for Susie. Trinity United hosted an outdoor service on June 30, 2019. Knox hosted Trinity and Central on the first Sunday of August.
- Worship Series offered during the year included: Drawn In: Living the Creative Life with God (Season of Epiphany); Keeping Company with Jesus: Unforced Rhythms of Grace (Lent); Draw the Circle Wide (Easter season); The Potter's House: Journeying with Jeremiah — the many pieces of pottery were admired by all — (Season of Creation); One Prayer to Live by: Thank You (Ordinary Time); Let Heaven and Nature Sing (Advent)
- Members of the committee assisted with the Mardi Gras and Shrove Tuesday celebration in preparation for Lent.
- Knox also provides worship on various Sundays at Valleyview, Hillcrest, Fairview and Dinsdale (Tuesday evening) Personal Care Homes. Thank you to those who helped with services while Craig was on study leave and holidays.
- The Worship Committee helps with enhancing the sanctuary to coincide with the seasons. We are hoping to create some new banners with the assistance of the many creative people in our congregation.
- 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, Mel Doyle, Sharyn Hayter, Lynne Manns, Kathleen Richard, Deirdre Taylor-John

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

- Organized a diversity discussion evening entitled “Little Mosque on the Prairie?” on January 26 to learn about the Muslim faith and Islamophobia in Brandon with Dr. Emma Varley and her partner Wadood presenting. We enjoyed some tasty appetizers made by one of the Syrian newcomers to Brandon. It was an interesting evening with good attendance.
- A member of our committee attended Justice Network meetings in February and April. This resulted in the formation of an Affirm Justice Cluster with leadership from Knox Brandon, Knox Russell, Minnedosa and Virden United Churches.
- Organized “Racial Justice & the United Church: Continuing the Conversation” sessions on February 21 (16 present) & April 11 (12 present)
- “PIE” (Public, Intentional and Explicit) celebration held on March 14. This is an initiative of Affirm United. Representatives of various groups and organizations in Brandon that offer support to the LGBTTTQ community shared information about their services. The presentations were followed by visiting and pie!
- Knox participated in Brandon Pride celebrations by marching in the Pride March and staffing a Knox table on Saturday, June 15 at Knox Church (alternate location due to rain). A Pride Worship Service was held at Knox on June 9 in conjunction with Brandon Pride activities.
- A member of our committee attended the Affirming Celebrations of Knox United Church, Russell and Silverton United Churches on October 28 as they celebrated becoming Affirming Ministries.
- We have been offering support to Trinity as they engage in an affirming process. A member of our committee led worship at Trinity United Church on May 5.
- All day Affirm Workshop was held at Knox October 19. This was organized by the Affirm Justice Cluster (a partnership of Knox Brandon, Knox Russell, Minnedosa and Virden United Churches). 21 people attended from 8 different congregations in southern Manitoba, feedback was positive and an emailing list will be maintained to build connections amongst churches.
- Affirming Anniversary Service of Celebration to mark the anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry was held on October 27. Committee members participated in the service.

- Knox hosted the Trans Day of Remembrance Service and luncheon on November 20 as well as an evening candlelight vigil held outside Knox on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, followed by coffee and a time of fellowship This was organized in conjunction with SERC and PFLAG.
- 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), Jill Hannah-Kayes (Substitute teacher, Junior Group), Mel Doyle (Junior Group), Madelyn Robinson (Wigglin' Worship Room), Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette (Youth Director), Reverend Craig Miller. The Sunday School Superintendent position is vacant.

### **Spirit Kid's Club**

Three 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 5), Intermediate and Senior (Grade 6 +), dependent on activities and numbers. Spirit Kid's Club runs from the Sunday after the September long weekend to early June. For the sixth 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. Palm Sunday also featured a multi-age classroom with the Stations of the Cross providing a chance for the children and youth to learn actively about Jesus' last days.

All groups were intentional about teaching the children and youth The Lord's Prayer, and congregation member Tara Leach created a visual interpretation of the prayer. Spirit Kid's Club led the Sunday morning service on June 2 with involvement by all children and youth present. Knox Chair Sharon Christmas, presented bibles to all families and youth members.

Central United hosted Vacation Bible School in August with three Knox SKC children attending.

Four intergenerational events, coordinated by CE and supported by InBetweeners were a great way to build community while having fun;

1. skating, games and supper at the Kemnay Recreation Centre in March saw 55 people, young and old, enjoying time together;
2. swimming and pizza at the Kinsmen Pool early August was a great way for children, youth, parents and elders to get to know one another through play and visiting;
3. a small group visited the Pumpkin Patch near Oak Lake in September enjoying the hay bale play structure, the haunted house and the horse drawn wagon ride;
4. The 'Let Heaven and Nature Sing' Advent event on December 8, 2019, brought families together and to prepare for Advent. Forty people participated in lunch, a singsong led by Madelyn and Quentin Robinson, three craft stations led by parents, and a 'cake walk' (similar to musical chairs) led by Sharon Christmas.

### **Youth**

Our youth contingent is small but mighty in spirit. Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette serves as our youth director, designated at five hours per week. Antoinette 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.

Antoinette was on medical leave from September - December and during this time our youth participated in worship and assisted with SKC. Highlights for the year included:

- Participating in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk
- ALF and Zeebu Regional Retreats
- Poster making and participation in Brandon Pride events
- Camping at Rock Lake
- Game nights in February and April

The Spirit Kid's Club Stats as reported to United Church of Canada:

- Under 3 yrs - 10
  - 3-5 yr olds - 8
  - 6-11 yr olds - 8
  - 12-17 yr olds - 8
- Average weekly attendance: 50% of totals

### **Adult Education**

Rev. Craig facilitated part two of the *Living the Questions* series, with seven sessions from February to April. In the fall we hosted a small group series focused on the work of Diana Butler Bass and her book: *Grateful*, which was also the focus of our worship series for October and November.

Submitted by,  
Leanne Sprung

## Ministry & Personnel Committee Report

Members of the Ministry & Personnel Committee

Coleen Wall- Chair, Pulpit Supply Co-Ordinator, liaison to Charles Ingram Caretaker

Deb Carnegie- Secretary for committee, Liaison to Bernie Whetter Choir Director &

Antoinette Gravel-Oullette Youth Director

Marg Whetter- Liaison to Jane Skinner Organist

Elaine Rust was Liaison to Sharon McIntosh & Charles Ingram till June 2019

Les Kelly- Liaison to Rev Craig Miller

Laurie Crowe- Financial Assistant

Art Godfrey- Liaison to Sharon McIntosh, joined the committee in June 2019

We are truly blessed with a great compliment of staff in our church. They work like a well oiled machine. Thank you to them for their dedication to their jobs and jobs well done. I don't think we say that enough. So when you see our staff anytime, don't forget to Thank them!

### 2019 Highlights

- 2019 Started with Peggy & David Barrows completing mandatory Boundary training so they could continue to be called on to assist with Ministerial duties such as Pulpit Supply.
- United Church of Canada yearly recommends a salary increase for all Ministers. Here at Knox, M & P recommended and it was passed at the annual meeting that this increase be applied to all staff.
- M & P yearly want to recognize and thank our Staff. This year we went out for supper with all but two and had a good visit.
- It was brought to our attention Knox should have an Emergency Response Plan. Coleen Wall, Sharon Christmas, and Roger Bright are working on that in consultation with Brian Kayes.
- Charles completed his yearly WHMIS renewal
- Rev Craig is allotted 3 weeks study leave yearly between July 1st & June 30th as well as his well deserved vacation time. He is always conscious of taking this time, if possible, during not as busy times for the church. This spring Craig used 3 weeks of 2018 Study Leave and 2 weeks of his 3 weeks for 2019. This is a time of learning and rejuvenation
- Staff Annual reviews were completed.

I would like to thank this committee for all the work and support they give that makes my job easier. Thank you to Elaine for your years on the M & P committee; we truly do appreciate your dedication and hope you're enjoying some changes in volunteerism.

Submitted by,  
Coleen Wall, Chair



## 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), James Cornett (2018 to present).

- Pledge drive September to November 2019

Approximately 200 pledge forms were distributed (mostly by e-mail).

The number of pledge cards received in 2019 was 50. There was a decrease of approximately \$2,000 in pledged church revenue compared to the 2018 year.

On an annual basis, the total dollar amounts pledged to date are \$63,952 for general funds, and \$20,250 for Mission & Service, and \$2,208 for other (pro-rated as necessary to provide annual figure).

13 respondents indicated an overall increase over previous years.

- PAR Summary as at December 18, 2019

Number of People on PAR: 83

Monthly PAR:

	General	\$6,892.36
	Mission & Services (incl. WD&R)	2,365.77
	Other (Building/Spec Outreach Res.)	<u>306.60</u>
Total Gross monthly PAR:		\$9,564.73
Less service charges		<u>49.00</u>
Total Net monthly PAR:		<u><u>\$9,515.73</u></u>

NOTE: 2 more have since signed up for PAR.

- Stewardship event

The stewardship event held April 2019 was successful raising \$5,429.79. The theme of music over the ages was well received, with a great meal prepared by Stephen Mitchell and ACC students. Thanks to the Stewardship Committee and Sharon Christmas for their hard work on this project. We look forward to a new Stewardship Event in April or May, 2020.

- The stewardship committee asks for 2 volunteers to participate in the committee, to give some of our longstanding committee members a change and new opportunities.
- Growing the congregation is a priority with Stewardship, and a need for new directions on revenue sources, new perspectives on pre-school day care and on how attract young families to Knox.

- Fiscal 2019 started with a balanced budget, but ended with a deficit.
- We thank the congregation for their support of stewardship events and activities, and look forward to 2020.

As committee chair, I wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank Vern, Duncan, David, and Jim for their contributions to the committee. Viviane Mitchell also contributed to organization of the stewardship event. In 2019 the congregation and the committee significantly increased contributions to the church through the event. 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 Elvis (Bernie Whetter), choir, and Sharon Christmas 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.

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 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 reach significant milestones, experience illness or the loss of a loved one. Christmas greetings are also sent to those who might be in need of some extra Christmas cheer. For two years, Jill Hannah-Kayes has looked after sending these cards. She is giving up this job and the committee is looking for someone to take on this role. Starting this year, Shirley Armstrong has been sending cards to people one year after a wedding, baptism or funeral to remind people Knox remembers them and these major events in their lives.

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 many visitors over the past year. Many were from other communities in Manitoba, but we also had visitors from B.C., P.E.I., London England, and the Netherlands. Some of our visitors have continued to stay with Knox and are getting involved with Knox activities.

On Canada Day, our church attended services at Trinity and enjoyed a picnic lunch afterwards. Later in the summer, we had visitors from Trinity and Central join us for a Sunday at Knox as their churches were not open due to holidays. It is nice to share and get to know our neighbours!

We have had a number of new folks coming to Knox over the past year. If an address is added on the register, a card is sent to welcome them. We understand that some folks may prefer to contact the office about church activities and leave their contact information to receive e-mails, newsletters, etc.

There is a space for comments and many folks like to use this to comment on the music, sermon, change of address, need envelopes, etc. All of this information is passed on to Craig, Bernie or the 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 2019 we made \$1,783.95.

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**

Who are the “Brunch Bunch”? They are a group of very dedicated volunteers who gather once a month from September to May to cook a delicious brunch for the congregation. We try to keep the first Sunday of the month for brunch BUT we have to be flexible on changing this date when needed!

We thank those who stay in the kitchen on brunch days and “slave” over a hot stove, set tables, crack eggs and try to decide when is the time to start the toast. For many years we have worked together and become a small kitchen family. The dedicated workers are: Irene and Barry Bromley, Bob Campbell, Barb Caryk, Shirley Armstrong, Lynn Cupples, Bernice Hemingway, Nancy McPherson, and Rene and Sharon Christmas. We have been very lucky to have two youth help from time to time – Bailey and Emma Bromley. They are a great addition to our family!! If you would like to join our “kitchen family” please let one of us know; we’ll take you under our wing.

The folks who stay and help with the clean up after brunch deserve a HUGE thank you. These people allow the kitchen crew to eat and enjoy an extra coffee. We appreciate you soooooo much!

We hope you join us for a time of fellowship and sharing in the food with your fellow “Knoxonians” in 2020.

Submitted by,  
Sharon Christmas

## Outreach Committee Report

**Committee members:** Wayne Digby (Chair), Lydia Glawson, Maureen Cobb, Debby Coombs-Dandy, Susie McPherson, Craig Miller, Lorraine Pompana, Madelyn Robinson, Gerald Whetter

- **Support to incarcerated people leaving BCI** - Linda Johnston, Community and Institutional Programs Coordinator at the John Howard Society presented at a brown bag lunch at Knox in November. She explained how individuals leaving the Brandon Correctional Institute often have no personal supplies to get started in a new living situation. The support services in the community require details like an address, can't start until after an orientation is scheduled, or require references, etc. This means that men are required to find shelter as best they can, and make do without the items which would facilitate a positive interface with the community. Outreach intends to work with John Howard in the New Year to prepare backpacks for men leaving BCI, which would contain hygiene items, information about accessing resources, basic clothing items. We will also partner with John Howard in 2020 to host the annual art show of work done by inmates.
- **KAIROS** - Knox continues to use resources from Kairos in worship and to inform about current social justice issues. The KAIROS blanket exercise is an excellent tool which has become valued to schools, churches and community organizations. Members of Outreach have worked with Susie McPherson - Derendy to deliver numerous sessions. In May 2019, 25 individuals from rural school divisions, Brandon University, Assiniboine Community College and John Howard received facilitator training to increase the participation in exercises. Over 500 people have participated in training in Westman in 2019.
- **Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry** - Knox sponsored Debby Dandy — we also received funds from the UCC — to attend the *DUIM* weeklong conference at the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in May. This experience with members of Indigenous ministries in northern Canada, and faith leaders from other cultures was amazing. Conversations and learning about culture, the influence of dominant cultures on others, and distribution of power in our communities was a powerful experience. Learning how to build inclusion into ministry and community was very relevant to the work done at Knox to be an inclusive space occupied by people who are open to understanding the cultures, traditions and practices of others.
- **Samaritan House Work Bees** - John Jackson, Director of Samaritan House indicated that they needed volunteers who would prepare bags of flour, sugar and rice to distribute in the weekly hampers. This seemed like a good opportunity for us to initiate a tri church project with Trinity and Central. Knox held the first work bee on May 15th with an excellent turnout with people from all three churches. Outreach appreciated the many donations of flour, sugar and rice by Knox members. Trinity held a work bee on September 18th and Central on October 16th. Plans are to continue doing work bees in 2020.
- **Benevolent Fund for 7th Street Access** – The committee hosted a brown bag lunch event in the spring with service navigator Chris Blaikie. The presentation was

very well received and Chris returned to share the information at a worship service. As a result over \$330 was raised to support the Benevolent Fund.

In order to have funds available to support the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Access Centre Benevolent Fund a bulk order of Sobeys/Safeway cards has been purchased and will be available at the office during week day hours. The discount we receive of 5% will allow us to provide this support to 7th St Access. As a result of sales in December we were able to make a \$500 contribution to the Fund.

- **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.

The committee also hosted an event in October where Berrigan Miller Harms presented information about her trip with a UCC young adult peacemaking pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine in August.

- **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 for 2019 was set at \$40,000.00 at our annual meeting, and the total contributions were \$38,353.74 which include Mission & Service, World Development & Relief and any special appeals throughout the year.

- **Fair Trade Faith Group** - Your Outreach Committee is pursuing becoming a Fair Trade Faith Group. When we are designated a Fair Trade Faith Group it means we support fairer conditions and better prices for people in the Global South who grow and make our products; whether it's the coffee we drink, the cocoa in our chocolate, or the cotton in our t-shirts.

It's a market-based system that uses consumer support to influence international trade practices, and is a powerful tool for change. When you buy fair trade products, farmers and workers have much more power to create a better life for themselves and their communities, and enjoy sustainable livelihoods.

Soon you will be able to order and pickup Fair Trade products here at Knox United Church.

- **Sharing Circles** - Knox has hosted monthly sharing circles for the last three 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.



- **Documentary on UCC 1986 Apology to First Nations** - We hosted a showing of the documentary Truly and Humbly. The film traces the memories of Canada's first apology to Indigenous people by any Canadian institution. The apology, made in 1986 by the United Church of Canada at its General Council meeting in Sudbury, Ontario, is more than a piece of church history and a turning point for Indigenous people. There was time for conversation in small groups following the viewing.
- **Community Roundtable** - The first Power of Partnership Roundtable was organized by the Outreach Committee. Orval Henderson and Craig Miller developed the format, questions, and process based on recommendations from EDGE. Nineteen participants from fourteen organizations — plus five table hosts from Knox — joined us. Organizations represented included: Brandon Friendship Centre, Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Centre, Aurora Project, Smart Recovery, Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, Bahai Community, Brandon Police Service, Refuge Brandon, John Howard Society, Family Visions Inc., Youth For Christ, Community Health and Housing Association, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, Samaritan House Ministries

Participants mentioned how much they value meeting with fellow service providers and community organizations. While this happens fairly consistently when working on specific projects the gatherings are not always inclusive of the whole community. We had replies from ten individuals who wanted to participate but were not available on that Thursday.

We learned that:

- Knox is considered a valued partner in the community.
- Service providers see need for year-round shelter. We may want to consider this a focus of our local giving.
- There is interest in a Service Centre Hub beyond what 7th Street offers.
- There is interest in the faith community offering opportunities for the community to learn about the religious diversity that exists in Brandon.
- TRC calls to actions were named repeatedly in conversations. Need to address racism in creative ways.
- Participants perceive a need for another community kitchen and identified need for meals on the weekend - possible social enterprise.
- Childcare remains a significant need in Brandon as well as affordable housing.

Submitted by,  
Wayne Digby

## Refuge Brandon

Our group of about 20 people continued to meet fairly regularly with varying numbers attending any given meeting. We seem to take our turns at being away and yet usually still have time to contribute. Thanks to exceptional donations in the past we were able to sponsor a family of four and one individual. The year started out with us asking the Knox Council to consider supporting our application to the United Church of Canada's National Refugee Program run by Advisor, Khwaka Kukubo in Toronto. We got that support to request both a family of four and a single male individual.

The family of Iman, Fatimah, Arif (son) 4, and Ummu (daughter) 2, came from Penang, Malaysia although they originated in Rakhine State in Myanmar years ago and arrived here in mid-May via Kuala Lumpur. They came from a refugee camp in Penang after spending time in Bangladesh when they first left their home in Myanmar. We have found that they were denied access to education in both Bangladesh and also in Malaysia because they are Rohingya. Iman and Fatimah are both taking English classes at Westman Immigrant Services 4 days per week. Driving Fatima from their residence in Alaska Bay off 26<sup>th</sup> St has been a steady commitment for a lot of people from our group taking her to and from classes. They are going through all the culture shock adjusting to our lifestyle. Iman is still riding his bike under winter conditions and says he hasn't had it slip out from under him very often. Twice, perhaps. A credit to him to continue this. He says he doesn't want to have to wait for a bus and would sooner pedal.

However there are no other Rohingya families here in Brandon whereas there are about 6 families in Winnipeg and Fatima speaks to the women there regularly. So they have indicated to us that they would like to move there. Trying to make this happen takes time and coordination because of many things. We are in a year long apartment lease and we are responsible for their family finances until the middle of May. We need to fulfill our commitment to the Government of Canada because we are in a blended program. People in our group are doing their best to make this happen in the right way.

Abraham Tekla born in 1991 in Eritrea had spent a few years in a refugee camp in Israel. We have been able to help him get to Canada and he arrived in June of 2019. He has the advantage of being very fluent in English and so he already has a job at Maple Leaf. He has relatives living in Brandon and so is able to make the cultural adjustment more easily.

Iman, Fatima and children and also Abraham show us their appreciation for what we are doing so that is satisfying in itself! We now realize how much time must have been put in by groups that sponsored the Vietnamese boat people years ago.

Submitted by,  
Gerald Whetter for Refuge Brandon members

## Green Team Report

Committee: Madeline Robinson, Wayne Digby, Orval Henderson, Les Kelly, Craig Miller, Ken Wojnarski, Quentin Robinson 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 as well as the wider community.

The Knox Green Team has been involved in the following during 2019:

- Hosted the Knox Green Team Speaker Series and events which included
  - “Home Grown Conservation” with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
  - “Insulation/retrofitting your home” with Kevin Hiebert, Hope Switzer
  - “Backyard Conservation” with Bernie Whetter
- 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 2019-2020 and if anyone has suggestions of potential speakers, we would appreciate hearing.
- We are also reaching out to the other United Churches and inviting them to be part of our events.
- The Green Team appreciates the financial support for the ongoing series as most costs have been covered by donations at the events.
- Madelyn has been giving recycling presentations on behalf of the Knox Green Team in various places in the community to educate the public on recycling. These have been very well received.
- Green Team members have also been involved in the Climate Strike Days at Knox.
- A Green Team survey was conducted this fall to explore areas of interest for future events.
- 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

- New tables and chairs for Auditorium received and labeled. Adjustments made to storage trolleys to accommodate the new items.
- Winter Festival Pavilion event went well – no issues. Thanks to Sharon Christmas & Colleen Wall, Linda Schrader & Deb Carnegie, Doug & Laura Crookshanks, Art & Iona Godfrey and Maureen & Jim Cobb for acting as Knox hosts.
- New Sanctuary video projector has been installed – thanks to assistance from Wayne Clayton, Doug Crookshanks, Brian Manns, Duncan Waddell and Art Godfrey.
- Heat line pump for Babyfold radiator replaced and leak in radiator line in lower Women's washroom repaired.
- Heat line pump for one of the lines in the sanctuary replaced due to malfunction.
- Toilet replaced in washroom by office due to ongoing issues.
- Cabinet for Sanctuary Coffee Station acquired and refurbished for use.
- Main hot water heater in Furnace Room developed leak and has been replaced. Old unit was installed in 2010 – about par for water heater tanks in Brandon.
- Replacement tables and chairs for Sunday School received. Some of the old round Sunday School tables, small wooden chairs, metal and blue/yellow plastic chairs sold – funds received credited to Building/Memorial Reserves to off-set new purchases.
- Back-up emergency power-pack for elevator died and was replaced. Elevator Service technician said it lasted considerably longer than normal.
- South-East exterior water line repaired, due to rupture from freezing, and tap replaced.
- Flower-beds given annual Spring clean-out and new plants planted thanks to Norm Brown, Vern Gilbertson, Cec Foster, Duncan Waddell and Wayne Digby.
- Low hanging tree branches by Knox sign trimmed back.
- Large window blind for west window in Lounge repaired, and stained ceiling tile painted.
- Kitchen smoke detector installed.

- Auditorium floor refinished - with thanks to Joe Ball, Wayne Clayton, Brian Manns, Duncan Waddell, and Jim Cobb, Roger Winger and Francis Cancade.
- Stage front and auditorium coat/chair rack refinished.
- Basement washrooms repainted.
- Communion Table and Bulletin Table tops refinished.
- Exterior railings by 17<sup>th</sup> St Entrance restrained.
- Outdated and surplus paint products taken to hazardous waste depot at City Landfill.
- East and West entrance stairwells repainted, along with the East & West Entrance areas and Narthex, as well as most interior painted doors and frames.
- Flower bed watering and maintenance (special thanks Duncan Waddell, Norm Brown, Sylvia Roberts, Jim & Maureen Cobb, Deborah Carnegie and Linda Schrader, Jim and Rosemary Cornett, Leanne Sprung and Jonathan Sloane, Madelyn Robinson, Peggy and David Barrows, Debby and Garth Dandy, others for this).
- Rainy weather in late Summer and early Fall necessitated water removal from Crawl Space entrance room (Shop-vac) and pumping water build-up in Crawl Space pit.
- Barry Bromley took the bike rack damaged in Spring to rebuild it.
- Replacement window for Nursery School installed and interior ledge area repaired and painted. Damaged brick area insulated and covered as early cold weather meant brickwork repairs were not able to be completed this Fall.
- New snow-blower purchased as old unit had a number of operational issues. Caretaker feels it is a big improvement over the old one – much easier to use/less physical man-handling to maneuver. Old unit sold for \$250 – funds deposited into Building Reserve Fund to help offset cost of new unit.
- Office photo-copier updated to newer unit with lower cost contract.
- Working on identifying root causes of and resolving issues with sanctuary video system.

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 Norman Brown, Doug Crookshanks, Craig Miller and Wayne Clayton. As per the UCC Manual, the Minister is automatically a member of the Trustees.

### Insurance for Knox

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 - \$4,783,741

Contents -\$439,931 – same as last two years

Total coverage is \$5,223,672 with building and contents

Increase of 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 member, adherents and volunteers participating in church sponsored activities. Cost for this is \$125.00/year

**Total cost for insurance - \$8,553 an increase of \$1,102 or 14.8 %**

### Other areas where trustees were/will be involved

- Trustees were consulted regarding suggested changes to the Knox Constitution
- Worked with our insurance broker on clarification of liability insurance with Scouts Canada and Knox
- The Trustees will be conducting an inventory of all of Knox contents over the next few months. They may be asking for assistance from the various groups that use the church

- Pending the outcome of the 2020 Knox AGM, there may be an Archives Committee struck which will be accountable to the Trustees. Those interested should talk to one of the Trustees or the nominating committee
- A trustee attended most meetings of Council

Submitted on behalf of the Trustees  
By Wayne Clayton

## **Planned Giving Committee Report**

The Planned Giving Committee was formed in the spring of 2019. While general parameters for the Committee had been established some years earlier, the actual formation did not occur until Knox received a substantial donation that was of an undesignated nature---for the purpose of carrying out the mission and ongoing services provided by Knox but not tied to a specific purpose.

The Planned Giving Committee met 4 times since its formation, twice as a Committee and twice with Knox Council, with the purpose of such meetings being to more clearly identify the role of the Committee within the Knox structure. Out of these meetings came an updated Policy and Procedures that were approved by Council on November 19, 2019.

The Planned Giving Committee is now at the point of considering any proposals that may be made for expenditure of a portion of the undesignated donation. However, in keeping with the recently-approved Policy and Procedures, we are awaiting the outcome of the currently-underway Visioning process and upcoming report, which will determine the criteria for proposals that may be made by members of Knox.

Further work by the Committee in 2020 will also focus on communicating to the congregation the existence and purpose of the Planned Giving Fund as a means of ensuring that Knox continues to grow its activities in the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Bromley  
Doug Crookshanks  
Brian Manns



## Inbetweeners

We are a group of friends that meet the fourth Tuesday of the month from September through June. We have approximately 40 ladies on our list now, and normally have 20-25 in attendance for our monthly meetings. New members are always welcome!!

This is a brief look at what we did in 2019:

- January – Ellen and Giselle from Brandon Bear Clan were our guests.
- February – sponsored a morning coffee party for “The Coldest Night of the Year” walk. Debbie Dandy was involved in this walk and spoke briefly at the coffee party. \$147.00 collected by a free will offering was given to the walk.
- March – guest speaker was Danielle Hubbard. She is the coordinator of programming and outreach for the Brandon Public Library.
- April – we gathered at Ten Thousand Villages on Rosser Avenue. The focus was Fair Trade teas and coffees.
- May – no meeting.
- June – potluck supper Donna Pearen’s beautiful country home. A real treat! We also went to Riverview Curling Club and learned how to play Floor Shuffleboard.
- September – Day at Clear Lake. Hurray!! We made it this year. It was a bit cool but no rain or snow.
- October – guest speaker was Wendy Peterson from the Aurora Project.
- November and December – 9 ladies volunteered to work at Christmas Cheer. A noon potluck Christmas Party was held at the Brandon Avenue apartment complex. We put together 38 Christmas bags for the Bear Clan to give out to their clients over the Christmas season.

Some of our other accomplishments over the year were:

- Gave \$4,000.00 to help pay for the new tables and chairs.
- Supported the Family Fun Day at Kemnay.
- Catered to the Genealogy Heritage Dinner.
- Assisted with the Stewardship fundraiser.
- Supported four youth to attend Rock Lake Camp.
- Sent money to support Neechi Camp at Sandy Sauleaux Spiritual Centre.
- Catered to Byron and Arlene Hamilton’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tea.
- Coordinated the Tri-Church ladies afternoon held at Knox.
- Ran the canteen at a quilt show at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church.
- Served lunch at the Trans Day of Remembrance service.
- Sponsored the cake walk at the Intergenerational Advent Event.

As you can see, we are a busy group. We also coordinate funeral lunches and help the Outreach Committee in some of their projects.

We thank Iona Godfrey for being our Treasurer. She keeps detailed records for us.

What will 2020 look like? Busy and interesting, I’m sure.

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 2020!

Submitted by,  
Sharon Christmas

## Indoor Garage Sale Report

Norman Brown who was chairperson of Rummage Rats retired. Thanks, Norm, for your wonderful leadership. Cecil Foster agreed to take over the position on condition the name be changed to Knox Indoor Garage Sale. We held a spring and fall sale and the total money raised was the largest raised ever.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
May Rummage Sale	2,386.20	2,594.05
May Silent Auction	465.00	---
October Rummage Sale	3,193.25	3,972.80
October Silent Auction	<u>780.00</u>	<u>          </u> *
 Total for the year	 <u>\$6,824.45</u>	 <u>\$6,566.40</u>

\*(incl. in 2017 rummage total)

Our sales for 2019 were the largest ever. We advertised for more inventory for the fall sale and as a result we had the largest amount of inventory ever. In addition to the funds raised on the fall sale we donated \$300.00 worth the goods to such as Aurora Project, Refugee families, Elspeth Reed, Sunday School, MCC, Bear Clan Patrol and Aud. Theatre. Plans have been made to hold the 2020 sales on May 2, 2020 and October 3, 2020. Please mark your calendar and if possible, plan to help. The sales are a lot of work and we need more members of the congregation to come out and help.

The goods donated are accumulated on the stage in the Auditorium and on the Thursday before the sale we have to unpack the boxes and place inventory on the tables. On Friday goods are sorted and priced. Saturday is sale date and we need sales clerks, cashiers, helpers to carry goods for customers, and when the sale ends, items left have to be boxed up. We are fortunate that Adult and Teen Challenge will pick up all the left over goods.

The Garage Sale Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items and helped with the sales.

Submitted by  
Vern Gilbertson  
Treasurer of sales

## Christmas Cheer

THANK YOU for helping make the Knox Christmas Cheer Campaign 2019 a huge success!

Back on December 8<sup>th</sup> Craig called our attention to some the joyful refrains and traditions that make the Advent and Christmas seasons so meaningful. Once again, this year the Knox Christmas Cheer initiative was a meaningful and joy filled tradition. The need in this community continues to grow, and YES once again with a wealth of experience, planning, caring and JOY, the Knox family stepped up. Just before Christmas, Knox provided Christmas Hampers to 22 families, including gifts to over 75 children.

It truly was a congregational effort. We say Thank you for each of the White Gift Sunday contributions of non-perishable food, toys and gifts, and for the monetary donations. We say thank you for the knitted toques for each child, the mitts for each Mom and the socks for every Dad. We say thank you for the financial contributions used to purchase the additional food and gifts needed to fill the hampers. We cannot stress enough how essential your support is to this annual Knox effort.

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! As Lynne Manns noted, 'The deliveries were done by 14 individuals/twosomes. A couple of little hiccups ... nothing serious and deliveries were successfully completed in short order.'

Afterwards team members shared highlights that made their involvement especially meaningful. We got heart felt and emotional thank-you's from all the recipients, first when we called to arrange the delivery and then on the day. One young Mom, with tears in her eyes, told us "You have no idea how much this means." Another was working hard to finish a term paper for her university course.

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. And then they were just as cheerful when they came back yet again to deliver the missed items.

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

The Knox Christmas Cheer Team

*Nancy DeRoo*

*Kirsten Ardron*

*Lynn Cupples*

*Syndy Wright*

*Cheryl Doull*

*Phyllis Digby*

*Audrey Waddell*

*Lynne Manns*

*Betty Kelly*

*Madelyn Robinson*

## More Users of Knox

- Brandon Nursery School
- Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Inc. (BAPS Inc.)
- Westman Dharma
- Drumming Circle
- Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
- Japan Karate
- Mauritius Cultural Association (Westman Multicultural Festival)
- TOPS #2152
- Al Anon
- Crystal Meth Anonymous
- Adult Children of Alcoholics
- 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)
- Roads to Rhythm Music (Courtney Kjalgaard Lindenberg)
- Kadampa Meditation Group
- Mindfulness Based Stress Relief Reduction
- Women in Harmony (concert)
- Westman Physical Literacy
- RANA (Hindu) Group
- International Auction
- Das Femmes (concert)
- Konektis (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.