



In  
*everything*  
give thanks  
-1 Thess 5:18

# *Between the Aisles*

**FALL 2016**

A Robertson-Wesley United Church Quarterly



## WELCOME

Hello Everyone,

It's Fall, and along with Fall comes change. Perhaps it's a new school or a new job. In our case, here at Robertson-Wesley, we are losing a minister. Jim Allan, who has faithfully served this congregation for ten years, is retiring. His departing gift to us is found within the pages of this issue of *Between the Aisles*. It is a beautiful "taking leave."

We also bid farewell to Glen Warren who is moving to Ontario. Glen sang in the church choir and was the newsletter's first layout person. It was he who suggested the newsletter's distinctive name, *Between the Aisles*. We wish Glen and his partner James Ravenscroft all the best in their new home.

Shauna Konelsky has graciously offered to replace Glen on our newsletter committee. Thank you Shauna, and welcome to *Between the Aisles*!

All of us involved with the newsletter welcome Letters to the Editor and other submissions of interest to the church community, so don't hesitate to send us something!

Until next time,

## KOINONIA

### KOINONIA WORSHIP

A friendly group that meets for potluck supper, followed by worship, usually the 4th Sunday evening. The worship services are planned and conducted by members of the group in a less formal, more casual style. Themes are varied and can include anything from examining our faith through group discussion, discovering what is meant by 'holy ground,' to Sunday Sundaes Sing! Come give us a try! Check for the announcement in the Sunday bulletin. We look forward to seeing you – you're sure to get a warm welcome!!

Joann Cooke

## FALL 2016

## Learning Opportunities

***When you are through Learning you are Through!***

**Fall 2016 Scripture Reflections** continue on Tuesdays at noon with Rev. Karen Bridges.

### The Good Shepherd:

*A Theological Journey of One Thousand Years* is one of the best books about the Bible that I have ever read. The author Kenneth Bailey was described by Christianity Today as "the scholar who made Jesus Middle Eastern again." Readers of his many books would heartily agree.

This Fall **Bailey's DVD series** based on *The Good Shepherd* will be offered on Monday evenings November 7, 14, 21 and 28 (7 to 9 PM) in Room 11. Register in Memorial Hall for this exciting learning opportunity.

Robertson-Wesley's next **Book Buddies'** selection is *Earth's Blanket* by Nancy Turner, whose area of expertise is ethnobotany, the study of plants and their cultural significance. She has spent a lifetime learning about the cultivation of plants by indigenous peoples. Her book will expand your view of the land and you might even change your mind about how we care for the earth.

*Violence Divine* is Dominic Crossan's **new DVD series**. Based on his book of the same name, the series will be shown at R-W early in the new year. *Violence Divine* promises to be an exciting study with plenty of opportunities for discussion. See the next issue of *Between the Aisles* for more information.

Nancy Heule



## *BUD SQUAIR HONORED*

The following was excerpted from a speech given by Sean Moir, past president of Edmonton and District Historical Society (EHDS) at the Society's Annual General Meeting, April 2016, when Bud Squair received its Award of Merit.

On occasion the EDHS presents individuals or entities with an award of merit. They are given for service to the Society and the community stemming from actions that result in the preservation, interpretation and dissemination of knowledge and information about Edmonton's history and heritage.

Over the years, this organization has been remarkably lucky to have loyal members and volunteers.

Tonight, we honour one such individual.

Robert Charles (Bud) Squair was born in Burnaby, and raised in Victoria and Vancouver. Bud joined the RCMP at age 18 and trained in Regina and Rockcliffe, Ontario. He was posted to Edmonton where he served for about 3 years before purchasing his discharge to avoid being transferred. He took a job with Waterous Diesel and, again, facing another transfer out of Edmonton in 1955, left Waterous and joined the family business, Blanchett Neon, where he worked for 39 years, finishing up as President.

Throughout his working life and retirement, he and his wife Betty have contributed to our community by putting in countless hours volunteering for various heritage and civic agencies, including EDHS. Bud served on the Board of EDHS for about 10 years as Director, VP, President, and Past President. Often he represented the EDHS on the Provincial body, attending HAS Council meetings.

Determined that no one missed out on our Society's happenings, Bud spent countless hours delivering newsletters to various locations around Edmonton, including seniors' residences.

He did likewise with the annual Doors Open/Historic Festival Guides. Bud was instrumental in the development of the History Centre (now at Ft. Sask). During its formative years, he donated many items to the program. He regularly attended program events, provided sage advice on issues facing the organization, and volunteered to work numerous casinos. And, of course, many will know him as our very own toast master.

Bud also served on the Edmonton Historical Board, which focuses on the preservation of the community's built heritage. And at the end of April, he will be winding up a six year stint on the City of Edmonton Naming Committee, responsible for researching and proposing appropriate names for Edmonton areas, parks, landmarks, roadways and so forth.

Bud and Betty have always encouraged people to donate, as they do themselves, to institutions such as the Royal Alberta Museum, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and the City of Edmonton Archives. This kind of consistent and persistent advocacy in the name of heritage preservation is priceless.

As my Board colleague, Linda Collier, so aptly put it, "If a person could use one word to describe a willing volunteer, that word would be 'Bud'."



## GLADYS HANRATTY

GLADYS HANRATTY 1914-2009:

There is a beautiful bright yellow planter with bright yellow flowers (there will be blue gladiolas too!) sitting on the steps of Robertson-Wesley United Church at the sanctuary entrance. This planter honoring Gladys Hanratty will welcome members of the Robertson-Wesley United Church where Gladys attended and catered events for years. The planter was donated by Soroptimist International Edmonton (SIE), of which Gladys was a life member. Founded in 1921 in Oakland, California, Soroptimist International (SI) is a worldwide volunteer service organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. The organization seeks equality, peace, and international goodwill for women. Gladys was a life member of SI and worked tirelessly on SI projects. One of the ideas to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the charter of SIEdmonton was to honour some of the early club members and their two life members, one of which is Gladys. They decided that because at least four of the early and long term members were named Gladys, and that they were all very interested in gardening, that it would be appropriate to plant a gladiola garden in their honour.

They purchased 80 Gladiola bulbs and some planters in Soroptimist colors of blue and yellow.

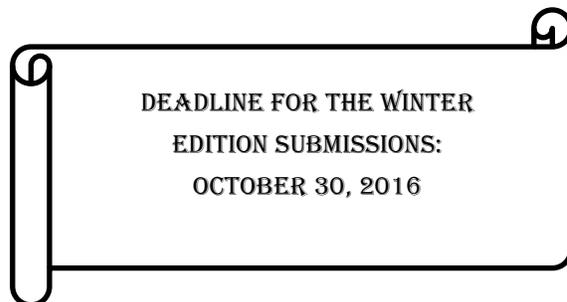
These have been placed in several public locations throughout Edmonton, including Robertson-Wesley United Church, with an explanation of our Soroptimist History in Edmonton and the member or members they are honouring.

The intent is to refresh the planters each spring and develop a permanent story board and signage to accompany each of them.

Gladys was very special. Edmonton's pioneer caterer, Gladys established the House of Hanratty. Imagine a sit down dinner for 2000 including the Queen! A life member of SIEdmonton, and many other societies including the Opera Guild, Gladys was the 1997 recipient of the SIA WCR Francis Wagner Award, and received the YWCA Woman of Distinction and Chatelaine Award. Leonard and I are honored to have been chosen to accept this beautifully bright and sunny planter created by Jayne Carre of SIEdmonton to honour the life of Gladys Hanratty.

To learn more about Soroptimist International and Soroptimist International Edmonton, visit [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org) or [www.siedmonton.org](http://www.siedmonton.org)

Lorna Davidchuk





SAGE presents Louis Berlinguette  
with Transportation Award for 2016

SAGE, the Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton, wisely chose R-W's Louis Berlinguette as the winner of the "Transportation Award," in one of the ten areas where they honour Edmonton seniors yearly.

Louis, who joined Robertson-Wesley in 1971, has worked tirelessly to help our church and its members as well as those in the Edmonton community. As a member of the Property Committee, he oversees the yard clean up in spring and fall. He also orchestrated the painting of our 52 windows (four times that number when you include both sides of the storm and interior windows.) Originally using his beloved blue Suburban, and now his trusty long-box truck, Louis frequently heeds Brad's call to take R-W junk to the dump or recyclables to the bottle depot or Eco-station. Using his famous Mr. Fix-it skills, he paints church walls where needed and also responds to individual member needs, moving furniture or fixing lawn mowers. When the Koinonia group went to Rundle's Mission for a weekend, Louis built a sled especially for Evelyn Beveridge so that she could fully experience winter fun by being pulled behind the truck. Needless-to-say, the rest of group also took advantage of the trip across the lake on winter ice--for many years.

In the community, Louis continues his helpfulness, taking pop bottles to the Recycle plant to support school fund-raising or cleaning twelve neighbours' sidewalks with his snow blower during especially bad winter storms. He has cleaned neighbor's gutters, cut their lawns or dug their gardens, pruned their trees, and even stopped to fix a sprung watering system when the home owners were away and water was pouring down the street. For many years he went to Camp He Ho Ha and assisted when people with special needs wanted to fish. Recently, he's started an informal taxi service taking friends and neighbours to the airport so they don't need to pay taxi fares.

## Growing Up

It's much taller now!

I mean taller than the pictures shown, at least 12 feet tall, its tendrils intertwined with the branches of my ornamental crab. Poking through the leaves of the tree and vines are bright red patches -- a profusion of scarlet runner flowers. It's fabulous.

It all started last spring with an article about building a bean teepee, by Nancy Heule in *Between the Aisles* (Summer 2015, page 11).

We made one: a bunch of bamboo stakes stuck in the ground in the shape of a teepee with scarlet runner beans planted around it. They grew and grew and grew ... around and around and around, in a big lump, more like a red and green igloo than a teepee. We knew where the opening was supposed to be but we couldn't get in through the tangle of three or four layers of vines.

We did, however, enjoy its beauty and its beans, some of which we dried in anticipation of "doing better next year."

Well, this year we did get a bit smarter. First we bought the longest bamboo poles we could find. Then, with the help of a tall neighbour lad, we built the frame, planted last year's seeds, talked to them, watered, and prayed. Guess what? They grew and grew and grew ... up and up and up.

The old rubber car mats inside over the dirt make this teepee a perfect, almost secret, hiding place for my granddaughters Layla and Winchester. You could make one, too. Just see us for bean seeds in the fall!

Janet M Clark





## FAREWELL

I find it hard to say good-bye, but I have always been grateful for a way that makes it easier: a parting blessing. We give each other something of ourselves as we part. I give you my blessing, and I ask you for your blessing. And these are the most important parting gifts of all.

I bless this staff team that has been such a blessing to me. Tammy-Jo with her generosity of spirit as well as artistic creativity; Brad who is as friendly and caring as he is masterful, and dedicated to this beautiful building; Tanya who has just the right balance of friendly involvement with people and management competence in the complexity of church life; and Karen who brings her exciting, creative vision for the future of the church and genuine commitment to collegial leadership.

Since my wife, Dawn, and I will continue to live in Westmount, we will continue to have some involvement with Robertson-Wesley. However, it is also important that I step aside from the ministry role. To that end, I have informed the Board, Ministry and Personnel Committee, and staff that my future involvement with Robertson-Wesley will have the following limitations: I will not assume any leadership role; I will not be involved in weddings or funerals; and I will not be attending worship at R-W for my first year of retirement. While these are dictates of professional integrity, in a way, they are also a blessing for Robertson-Wesley's future ministry.

This is the part where I would ramble on for pages about the ministry adventures I have had at Robertson-Wesley, the hopes and dreams I have for the future of this congregation, and the tremendous excitement and energy in this present moment. Instead, let me offer this simple blessing to all of my friends in Christ:



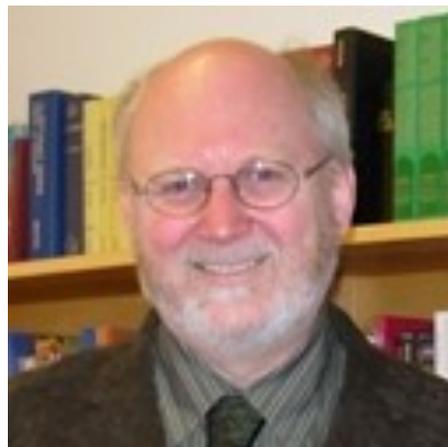


*May you be blessed by your past:  
neither burdened with regret  
nor bound by past glory,  
but freely drawing on the strength of your heritage  
as the roots from which to grow into your future.  
May you be blessed by your future:  
neither overwhelmed by demands  
nor bound by limitations,  
but discerning the leading of the Spirit  
and trusting the Sacred to empower your mission.  
May you be blessed by your present:  
neither pretending to be what you are not  
nor aloof with pride,  
but embracing one another as friends in Christ,  
affirming the gift of each blessed soul,  
and celebrating the joyous Spirit in your midst.*

I thank you, friends, for ten blessed years.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Allan.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Get Blessed:

The Blessing of the Backpack, Briefcases & Pets! Sept 11, 2016 will be a day of feasting and blessing. Robertson-Wesley United Church invites the Oliver and surrounding community to join us for worship at 10:30 AM to have your backpacks and briefcases blessed for the coming school/program year. AND/OR join us at 11:30 AM when we will gather on the church lawn for a Pet Blessing and a Hotdog BBQ. Come to one or both of the blessings. Please note that your pets are welcome in the church during worship, as long as they are on leash, or in a carrier of some sort. This day will feature lots of water, fun, and food!

**Kids' Church and Youth Group** Fall start up begins with registration on Sept 4 with some all-age activities to start the year off right. Sept 11 we will join the whole family worship. It is a wonderful way to reconnect with your friends from church. The first youth group event of the year is Sept 17 with our season opener, games and sundaes. Your friends are welcome to join us.

Fri. Oct. 28 – **Spooky Organ Recital** – 11:00 pm  
Come to a late, late night concert featuring the pipe organ at Robertson-Wesley and its organist, Tammy-Jo Mortensen, for some Halloween Weekend spooky organ music. Enjoy the mysterious atmosphere and treats! Tickets available at the church starting in September and at the door.  
\$15 adults

### TOWN HALL DANCE

October 22, 2016

6:00-9:00pm Robertson-Wesley Memorial Hall  
When was the last time you tangoed with your toddler? Got down with your grandma?

Macarena'd with a minister?

Let's get together and  
DANCE!

Open to all. Musical selections for all ages.  
The reason? To have fun and get happy as a community!

Beer and wine, concession treats, and root beer floats available.

**Get down!**



### Robertson-Wesley United Church

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