

Between the Aisles

A Robertson-Wesley United Church Quarterly

FALL



September Start-Up

Sept 10, 2017: Get Blessed - the Blessing of the backpacks and briefcases!

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.

Kids' Church and Youth Group begins Sept 10, 2017

Fall start up begins with registration on Sept 10 with programming for Children ages 2 – Grade 6 and youth Grades 7-12.

The first youth group event of the year is Sept 16, 2017 with our season opener: games and sundaes from 7-10 pm. Your friends are welcome to join us.

Sept 24, 2017: Ribbon Cutting and Free BBQ at Noon

MLA David Shepherd will be joining us for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of our new elevator at Robertson-Wesley United Church which was made possible because of the provincial CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program) Grant that we received.

Join us for a free BBQ in celebration where we will be serving smokies and lemonade to the community.



Welcome

I don't know about you, but while we think of January 1st as the start of the New Year, as a child, I was more likely to put the beginning of September as an unofficial start to the year rolling around. And yes, that probably had to do with going back to school.

But in a lot of ways, I think a lot of our institutions work this way. We see the summer months as our "down time", a chance to travel, spend more time with family and such. There's a reason a lot of vacations are planned for the summer. And after that break, when the autumn comes along, the sense of regularity in our everyday lives start to emerge again.

This sense of start-up and re-engaging is reflected in this issue of *Between the Aisles*. In these pages, you will find information on many of the programs that the church has to offer in the upcoming months. These include: the registration and re-starting of Kids' Church, the various programs you can take part in as part of the Spirited Arts Movement and the various types of worship services we have here at Robertson-Wesley. Of course, there's also the sense of renewal with our new elevator, which should hopefully make things easier for many members of the congregation.

As well, there are articles about what the Mission and Outreach Pod is up to, what Rev. Karen will be doing on her sabbatical and a little background on Rev. Leigh. We also have some historical perspective on the Reformation, given that it is its 500th anniversary, not to mention a brief outline of the music program's Canada 150 tour.

In addition, there are a couple of interesting pieces, one about our new display board and how it relates to the church's mission, and the other about some interesting scientific evidence supporting the idea of the crossing of the Red Sea by Moses and the people of Israel.

And last, but definitely not least, a thank you for the new baby grand piano we have been gifted with. In terms of "thank you", I would also like to extend my thanks to Nancy, Maria, Janet, Tammy-Jo, and Tanya for all their hard work on this and previous newsletters. On a personal note, I'd like to thank all the members of the congregation for their kind condolences with the passing of my father this past spring. Your kind thoughts helped a lot during a difficult time.

Hope the coming autumn finds you all well.

Marilee Stephens

Rev. Karen Bridges goes on Sabbatical

August 1—October 31, 2017

#sabbatical

In The United Church of Canada ministers are eligible to go on a three-month Sabbatical after working in a congregation for 5 years. As this is my 7th year here at Robertson-Wesley, it is time to engage a spiritual practice of Sabbath. The term sabbatical actually is derived from the biblical word Sabbath which serves an ancient human need to build periods of rest and rejuvenation into a lifetime. A sabbatical is simply getting an extended leave from work to pursue a break from one's regular duties.

During the month of August, I will be spending my time reading, and doing some creative dramatic writing which I don't usually have space or energy to do. I hope to have some dramatic pieces to share in worship when I'm back, and perhaps a play for the theatre (I have a play that is 1/3 done; it would be nice to finish it.)

In September I plan to unplug from the world. I will be heading to Botswana, and South Africa to go on Safari. I will commune with nature, while living a very simple life. I'm looking forward to seeing the animals in their own habitat while looking up at the stars at night in all their abundance. I will take lots of pictures, and I will not have my phone with me... (I may have a mild addiction).

Upon returning in October I will spend my time exploring and applying for different grants that the church might be eligible for so that we can continue to grow and explore new ministries here at Robertson-Wesley.

A time of Sabbath is really an opportunity to make space for God to move in my life. In order to make space, I will need to let go of a few things that keep me busy, and instead I will also spend my time being present to the simple rituals of life: like a proper cup of tea, reading a book, playing the guitar and singing, a run in the river valley, a round of golf with my father, the preparation of food! (I never have time for this one.) It will be strange to not be around all of you, day in and day out, but know that I will look forward to returning to you all, spiritually full and ready to continue what God is calling us to do.

Rev. Karen Bridges

Deadline for the
Winter edition submissions: **Nov 5, 2017**
Distribution: **Nov 25, 2017**

Meet Rev. Leigh Sinclair – Our new Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Part 1.

Anyone who has been lucky enough to join us in the last couple of months will have noticed that we have a new and lively member of our church staff. Reverend Leigh Sinclair has been hired to take over the Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development ministry, replacing Rev. Jim Allan.

Rev. Sinclair (who I'll be calling Rev. Leigh) was born and raised in Edmonton, on the south side. She obtained her B.A. at the University of Alberta, in Religious Studies, concentrating on World and Aboriginal religions. From there, she went on to receive her Master of Divinity from St. Andrews College in Saskatoon. This degree is quite interesting, as it is half academic and half practical in orientation. As a result, Rev. Leigh spent half of her degree doing an internship in Wawanesa, Manitoba, while doing classes online. Wawanesa is located west of Winnipeg, relatively close to the Saskatchewan border. While doing her internship, she was involved in a team ministry, with her Supervisor being what she terms a "Farmer" Theologian, as in someone who is very real and present in their ministry.

While there, Rev. Leigh faced one of her first interesting challenges, as one of the churches she was working in was burnt by an arsonist (who was eventually caught). This was one of the first challenges she has faced in having a congregation dealing with a traumatic event.

Once she had been ordained, Rev. Leigh then worked in her Settlement Charge, at Spiritwood in Saskatchewan. Spiritwood is located amongst several First Nation reserves. Unfortunately, another tragedy occurred while she was working there, as two RCMP officers (one aboriginal, one not) were shot and killed there in 2006. Rev. Leigh again had to help a community deal with a tragedy, which was another learning experience for her. During her time at Spiritwood, she also started a Master in Sacred Theology at St. Andrews, which is an academic degree. Her thesis concentrated on the idea of Providence, as it relates to rural and community development.

While Rev. Leigh started this degree during her time in Spiritwood, she finished it while in Slave Lake. And, once again, she was there for another community tragedy, this time the wildfires that occurred there in 2011. As before, Rev. Leigh stepped forward to help the community deal with various traumas that occurred as a result of the massive loss of property and the evacuation efforts. She worked very hard to determine where and how her congregants were doing.

After her time in Slave Lake, Rev. Leigh moved to Quebec City, where for 1 year, she worked in both an urban (80% commitment) church and a rural (20% commitment) church. While the churches she worked in were English, she took the opportunity to live in a French neighbourhood, and thus get a chance to learn and explore that part of Canadian culture.

In the fall of 2016, she moved back to the Edmonton region, and worked part-time in congregations in both Hinton and Redwater (switching between the two communities week-by-week). She then started at Robertson-Wesley as of March 1st, 2017....

Next newsletter, what she hopes she can bring to R-W and a bit of insight into her personal life.

Marilee J. Stephens

Has anyone seen the baby grand piano in Memorial Hall? It is a gift from a former member, Dr. Tom Noseworthy,



who attended this church with his family in the 1990's, before they moved away from Edmonton. He and his wife Dr. Avril Fitzgerald have fond memories of Robertson - Wesley.

Thank you, Tom and Avril, for this wonderful gift. It will be truly treasured and played with great love.

Nancy Heule

Messy Wednesdays

Starting on **September 27, 2017**, in Memorial Hall on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5pm – 7pm**, families with children gather for dinner, activities and discussion. The families gather to eat a meal together at no cost to the family, which is served around 5:45pm. We have a couple of volunteers who do the cooking for us, so it is night off for parents! This is part of our outreach ministry and a way to welcome all families to gather together for a time of fellowship. There are activities for the children before and after dinner, and adults take the opportunity to engage in conversation during the evening. Don't worry if you can't make it right at 5pm.

Families are invited to help with clean up and children's activities. Grandparents are welcome to join us! This is a wonderful way to get to know other families in the church and the neighbourhood. It is a messy and fun time for all!



Celebrating Canada's 150th through music and story:

A plethora of worship experiences at Robertson-Wesley on Sundays!

Prayer Services

The Spiritual Pod is excited to host three worship experiences this fall to help us all experience different forms of prayer. They will be 30 minute services, held the third Sundays of each month at 9 AM in the Chapel. Each service we will learn about a way of engaging in prayer and then experience it together.

Dates: September 17, October 15, November 19

Time and Place: 9:00-9:30 am in the Chapel

These services will join the early morning communion Worship held every month (the last Sunday of the month, 9 am, in the chapel) and our weekly 10 am guided Meditation worship in Room 11 (downstairs) along with monthly SoulOUTING and Koinonia worship experiences to broaden our Sunday experiences. Keep your eyes out for the start of a

Contemplative Spirited Arts Practices to be added in November! (And that is only Sunday! We have learning and worship experiences throughout the week too!

Pastoral Visiting Workshop

We are excited to host an interactive workshop to enhance and recognize the ways we care for and listen to one another in our church community. We invite you to come explore "pastoral visiting", which is what we call listening from our faith perspective. No matter your church or care experience, you are invited!

Pastoral visiting is already being given by many persons at Robertson-Wesley in formal and informal ways. Some of our current visitors will facilitate our small group discussions about material that will be presented by Rev Leigh. In 2017 this will be offered in the setting of a weekend retreat held here at Robertson-Wesley (in Memorial Hall).

"Pastoral conversation ...is a deep human encounter in which people are willing to put their own faith and doubt, their own hope and despair, their own light and darkness at the disposal of others who want to find a way through their confusion and touch the solid core of life." (Howard Stone)

We hope that you will come and enhance your skills of good listening and explore what differs when we visit for the church from our fellowship conversations (and the importance of both). We will cover how to pray with others, ask good questions as well as the reporting, referring and self-care desired in visiting.

Friday, November 3 from 7-9 PM (potluck of desserts)
and **Saturday, November 4**, (Beginning with a provided lunch at noon and going to 4:30 PM)

In June, the Robertson-Wesley Ringers, the United Voices of Edmonton (Robertson-Wesley Choir and the United on Whyte Choir), and Cree singer/songwriter Karen Donaldson-Shepherd launched a 5-concert, 4-day tour of the Edmonton region, thanks to the generous assistance of the Community Fund for Canada's 150th through the Edmonton Community Foundation.

We performed in Fort Saskatchewan (First United), Seba Beach (Senior's Centre), Beaumont (St. Vital Parish), Morinville (Morinville United), and here at home (Robertson-Wesley). We were able to bring the four music groups together and celebrate our various cultures. These included indigenous cultures with the addition of Karen Donaldson-Shepherd, and several of our own choristers who have indigenous roots, as well as those of us who have cultural roots from other parts of Canada, and many other parts of the world. We sang and rang pieces by composers from all over Canada. Karen was generous in her storytelling about her songs and about her culture, and created an awareness of what celebrating Canada's 150th means to her.

We were hosted with such warm hospitality, using space and having meals catered by the local communities where we shared our music. It was a wonderful treat to bring our gifts to them, instead of people in the surrounding communities having to make their way to Edmonton. The concerts were as inclusive as we could make them, for all ages, and included secular and sacred music.

The tour received abundant publicity in local papers – the Pembina Post, Beaumont News, and St. Albert Gazette.

If you want more information and photos of the tour, check out the small web site created by one of our ringers.

<https://sites.google.com/site/rwucmusictour/home>

Tammy-Jo Mortensen



The Reformation and Our Heritage

In the 1500s, most of Europe was part of the Holy Roman Empire. Ruled by a combination of church and state, pope and emperor, the common people seldom participated in decision-making although they were expected to protect the land and its inhabitants, should war be declared.

The Black Death, which had taken the lives of up to one-third of the European population in the mid-1300's, continued to influence the thinking of men and women. Guilt for having survived was perpetuated for decades, and there were many opportunities in the Roman Catholic tradition to remember the dead, whether through prayer or mass. It was also believed that the dead immediately went to Purgatory, where they were trapped in limbo until they were fit for heaven. Prayers and special masses were customary ways of expediting the move to heaven.

When the Roman Catholic church in the 11th and 12th centuries attempted to re-claim those parts of the world that were now under Islamic control, the pope at the time, trying to win back followers, introduced Papal Indulgences as a way of cancelling sins and permitting the dead to exit Purgatory more quickly. By the 16th century, Indulgences could be purchased from the clergy and were available in all Roman Catholic parishes.

Martin Luther, a German theologian, disgusted with Indulgences being used to line the pockets of various clergy, nailed a document to the doors of his church in Wittenberg in the year 1517. Known as the 95 Theses, the list noted the ways in which Indulgences were being used and it also offered suggestions about how the church could change its practices. Luther was not interested in leaving the church; he was one of a long line of reformers who wished only to make changes. Nevertheless, he was discredited and considered to be a heretic by the church hierarchy. But Luther's 95 Theses had legs because the recently invented printing press allowed for rapid duplication of the document. By the next year, the Theses had been translated from Latin into German and distributed widely.

Encouraged by Luther's stand, a few years later large numbers of people took to the roads of Germany in the Peasants' Revolt. Although Luther had inspired the uprising, he chose to take the side of the powerful nobles. A canny move indeed, because his concerns were adopted by the middle class who had the power to force change on the church.

Although Luther was only one of many who sought to reform the Roman Catholic church, his legacy is widespread. He envisioned Christianity to be "the priesthood of all believers,"



rather than a system that saw only priests, monks and nuns as worthy of holiness. Spiritual disciplines, once performed only by those who had taken holy orders, became widespread amongst the populace.

In keeping with the "priesthood of all believers." Luther promoted the dissolution of monasteries. He is also credited with making marriage a civil matter. He felt that a happy domestic life was preferable to celibacy. He, himself, married a

former nun, with whom he had six children. No doubt because of first-hand observation, he reportedly said that "a woman washing diapers is holier than a monk at prayer."

He emphasized the Word, now available to all who could read. Prior to the invention of the printing press, some clerics had not read the Bible. In fact, many of them were unfamiliar with Scripture. In England for example, in an area that included 311 clergy, only 168 knew the Ten Commandments and many didn't know where the Lord's Prayer originated. *Sola Scriptura*, scripture alone, became the rallying cry for many of Luther's followers and for the reformers to come. As a result, several of the trappings and traditions practiced by the medieval church were discarded. He also reduced the number of sacraments from seven to two, because in the Gospels, Jesus is associated only with the Last Supper and with Baptism.

Although Luther is credited with having kick-started the Protestant Reformation, neither the word Protestant nor the word Reformation began with him. The term Reformation was first used by those German princes who, in 1526, opposed the changes favoured by Luther. By then each individual state could choose which brand of Christianity to practice. Three years later, when the right to choose was overturned, many people protested, and thereafter were called Protestants.

Luther was the first of several Christian reformers in the sixteenth century to ignite interest in the Roman Catholic church and its need for change. Europe in the next two centuries would be filled with unrest and seemingly endless wars. As we moderns look back five hundred years, we recognize the debt we owe to those who came before us. We can't imagine a church in which we relied on others to control access to the sacred. We endorse the secularization of marriage, the priesthood of all believers, and the centrality of Scripture.

Nancy Heule



Spirited Arts Movement

Artful Responses

Artful Responses is a year-long series of one-time, art-based workshops dedicated to community building within our current political climate. We will explore pottery, paint, voice work, and more. Artful Responses will allow people to reflect on current injustices within our society. In these trying times, nourishing our soul is important to continue to be engaged in the world and news feeds. Artful Responses will take place from **7-9 PM**, guest artists to be announced.

Oct 20, 2017 - Dis/harmonies #3 - the popular dis/harmonies will continue! Participants are encouraged to come explore and express their natural voices in a variety of ways! Sessions include breath work, learning to listen and project the voice.

Nov 17, 2017 - Speak our Words Workshop - explore poetry in a variety of forms! Guest poet co-facilitator to be announced.

Dec 15, 2017 - Don't Shop Til You'll drop - Dance: December is filled with busy times often buying gifts for family and friends. "Don't Shop Til You'll Drop" is a guided experience to get you into your body, dancing, moving and warming up! Guaranteed to be fun and free (in all senses of the word).

Artistic Justice Workshops; First Workshop: Sept 26, 2017 7-9PM

"GENDERED? JUST HUMAN?"

Is your spirit gendered? The Spirited Arts Movement will conduct a year-long series of our expressions of gender and its relationship with our humanity and spirit through art. It will feature a series of workshops working with a variety of art forms. "GENDERED? JUST HUMAN?" will feature workshops open and targeted to all genders, exploring how we define MASCULINE/FEMININE and using stereotypically gendered art forms as well as visual art, movement, photography, film and more. "GENDERED? JUST HUMAN?" will culminate in a final multidisciplinary event showcasing the artwork created throughout the year.

Creative Self-Care Workshops

Laura David Foster is offering three "creative self-care" workshops in 2017/18 fall/winter/spring. The first workshop in the series will be on **Saturday, November 18th, 10:30am-2:30pm.**

REMEMBERING SELF

November is a month for remembering... But as this season gets busy we can often forget self. Instead we need to be intentional in remembering self. While self-care is known to be an ethical issue for healthcare professionals; it is equally important for all caregivers - and for all of us - to prioritize our own health and wellness.

In this workshop, we will explore mindful creative arts practices, as ways to manage stress and find greater self-compassion.

Art Studio

Facilitated by Laura David Foster

Mondays, 7:00–8:30 pm

Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm



The studio is a place for people to explore art and connect with each other in an informal creative environment. Each time we have various arts media and processes to explore. People are welcome to drop in any time and try out these different art-making processes. Some people like to work on their own ongoing projects, and this is encouraged as well. The studio's purpose is to bring people together, to enjoy art, and be in community. We are all creative and the studio community nurtures creativity, authenticity, and friendship... and it's just a fun place to hang out!

Regular attendance is not required but registration via email is recommended to stay informed with studio developments. For example, this fall we have expanded our program times, and we're looking at new possibilities like exhibiting our art.

Please join us on Monday nights, (except holidays) Tuesday afternoons and after the Robertson-Wesley Community dinners.

For more information, please contact Laura at spiritedartstudio@rwuc.org

Spiritual Arts Movement continued

Contemplative Practices

Are you seeking an escape from the world, an oasis in your crazy life? Are you seeking some quiet? Are you seeking time for yourself or inspiration? Then we invite you to engage in **contemplative practices** at Robertson-Wesley United Church in Memorial Hall. When you enter Memorial Hall you will find pockets of inspiration that will clear your mind, open your heart, and bring your spirit into connection with the sacred and the world. Throughout Memorial Hall there will be different spaces with different contemplative practices that invite you to meditate, and/or pray, while engaging in some artistic exercises. Drop by anytime between the hours of **7-8:30 PM** on the designated Sundays. Stay for as long as you would like. This is a self-directed program with instructions throughout the room to give you some guidance on your journey. This coming program year we will have 7 Sunday evenings, each with a different theme. Invite your friends, family and neighbours to enter this oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

Nov 12, 2017 - Remembrance – remember loved one,
remembering our companions and pets,
remembering those who came before.

Jan 7, 2018 - Seeking purpose and meaning – a time of discernment

Feb 4, 2018 - Broken relationships, broken dreams – a path to healing

Mar 18, 2018 - Caring for the caregivers – a night to recharge, to fill up your cup

Apr 29, 2018 - Earth Day Healing Creation – caring for the earth and all creation

May 6, 2018 - The World Vigil – holding the world in thoughts and prayer

June 17, 2018 - Thanksgiving and Gratitude – a night to celebrate and give thanks for our blessings



Dabbling in Archaeology & Science: Shows the veracity of Moses crossing the Red Sea in the Gulf of Aquaba.

Want to reach some unbelieving relatives or friends?

Red Sea Crossing found with Artifacts on Sea Floor!

About four years ago, while trolling on the internet I discovered that the Israelite's crossing of the Red Sea had been discovered. The location was not in the Gulf of Suez but in the other arm of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aquaba. Actual relics of Pharaoh's army of chariots were discovered on the sea floor, encrusted with coral. Even one of the Pharaoh's chariot wheels was found still laying on the sea floor. The reason that it could be attributed to him was that the wheel spokes were gilded in gold. Coral does not grow on gold!

Surprisingly, technology has discovered other evidence of the Israelite's crossing of the Arabian Peninsula! During the Gulf war with Saddam Hussein, he had buried his tanks under sand. But the US military using NASA satellites used infra-red imaging which can delineate a half degree temperature difference on the ground. The sand above the tanks would be a different temperature from the surrounding sand. Well the photos showed a line running from Northern Egypt to the Gulf of Aquaba. What could make this line show up on the infra-red photographs? Some astute scientists concluded that this must be due to the million or so Israelites treading across the Arabian peninsula. The trek of the Israelite's had ground the sand into powder which retained more heat than the surrounding sand! Thus, this temperature differential showed up on the infra-red photos as a line and this line coincided with the location where the pharaoh's relics were found in the bottom of the Red-Sea.

This can all be viewed on Youtube.com. Just type in Red-Sea Crossing Israel or for the infra-red photos add "infra-red Photos" "Red-Sea crossing". The videos by either Jonathan Gray or Ron Wyatt are the best as they are the actual archaeologists who made the discovery. Here is a direct link:

<https://youtu.be/Nsa7ebyUVD4>

<https://youtu.be/ZbBXZSjd0Tk> Part 1 of 6 10 minutes.

Continued next page..



...Dabbling in Archaeology & Science continued from page 7
Interesting Observations from WWII planes found in Greenland;

In 1944 the Americans flew four P-38 planes to Greenland but left them there for unknown reasons. Anyways some avid flying buffs wanted them. So, with permission and with ground penetrating radar, they were able to locate them below the ice. How deep? Some 260 feet! Before the year 2000, they embarked on a salvage project. They did this by going through the ice with a borehole made with hot water to bring them up piece by piece. Now according to secular scientists, artifacts at that level should be 80,000 years old! These were only 50 years old. Each year covered these planes with almost 5 feet of ice. So, secular scientists' methods of evaluating the age of the ice sheets can't be valid.

<https://youtu.be/DsglWAcPwX0> 4 minutes
<https://youtu.be/kryBXCdMrSE> 38 minutes

David Ferdinand Begin

Do you have an experience you would like to share with the congregation?

Between the Aisles accepts unsolicited submissions from members for each quarterly issue. Submissions can be emailed to: rwucnews@gmail.com

The Sun and its planets – a metaphor to our mission, vision and ministry!

This autumn, our display window outside Memorial Hall is a visual representation of how we live out our **mission**. It shows how we support, vision and execute our “Why” here at Robertson-Wesley. Our mission statement describes why we exist, work, wonder, serve and worship together:

Trusting in the promise of Jesus that “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them,” we come together at Robertson-Wesley United Church to worship God, to share each other’s joys and sorrows, to learn and grow in faith, to use God’s gifts wisely, and to lead active Christian lives of service among our neighbours here and in the global community.

This worship and the activities of sharing, learning and serving are **supported** by both staff and elected leaders. In particular, the Board is responsible for the governance of the church while seeking to empower all of the people in and around the church to live out the vision. Our staff work as a group of equals each with their own areas of concentration.

Our anthem as a Christian community is a song of **vision** (and is the source of the opening words each Sunday in “Embracing the Spirit”).

- Robertson-Wesley United Church is a community walking in the Spirit of Christ:
- the spirit of friendship where an open hand is offered to everyone;
- the spirit of prayer where we reflect, sing and create beauty together;
- the spirit of caring where we support each other, our community, and our world;
- the spirit of justice as we ask hard questions and defend those who need a voice;
- the spirit of wisdom where people are encouraged to learn together and to seek their own spiritual answers;
- the spirit of belonging where everyone is welcomed regardless of ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or ability;
- the spirit of joy where we play together as a family.

Our **vision** is where we look when making decisions and doing both short and long range planning. We need both time and people to listen for and describe the vision, as well as groups and committees to make decisions about how to enact that vision in every day activity. We have groups that help you **listen** for the Spirit in conversations (with people like YOUR) and in prayer, and connect with the folks who live in this community for wisdom as well. They are the PODS. We have three foci for this ministry: discernment and envisioning, spiritual formation and mission and outreach.

Our **ministry** is how we live out this vision that proclaims our mission. We are rich in groups, individuals, committees and partners who help us live this out in so many diverse ways!



Photo by Jim Triscott

Look at all the brown, black and green moons circling the planets of our visions! Some activities take place outside our doors and many within. All of them help us on our ministry’s endeavours to be: to be a caring community, a place of learning and growing, to reach out to our community locally and to the world globally, and to be a place of worship (where art in so many forms help us celebrate God!).

The Mission and Outreach Pod

Invites you to join us

for the viewing of

BRIDGEWALKERS

An award-winning film by

One River Productions (2014)

As our relationship to earth travels down a dangerous path it has become clear that we cannot sustain the stress of our modern ways. On a quest to restore balance Tribal leaders from around the world gather in Greenland, Canada, and throughout the Americas, sharing ancient prophecies and their deep connections to our Beloved Earth.

Date: Monday, October 23, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Place: Club Room at

Robertson-Wesley United Church



Treaty 6

Mission and Outreach Pod

Two gatherings have been held this past spring, which focused on ideas to assist us in furthering the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Specifically, the recommendations we are focusing on are:

The Calls to Action pertaining to the Churches are 58-61.

58. We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to occur within one year of the issuing of this Report and to be delivered by the Pope in Canada.

59. "We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary."

60. We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.

61. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for:

- i. Community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects.
- ii. Community-controlled culture- and language revitalization projects.
- iii. Community-controlled education and relationship building projects.
- iv. Regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth to discuss Indigenous spirituality, self-determination, and reconciliation.

Those people attending the gatherings identified education regarding Indigenous peoples as the most important immediate step. Some thoughts generated by people attending, on becoming engaged and learning about Indigenous peoples and their culture follows:

Acknowledging the territory in worship

United Church of Canada has issued a guide to help congregations and bodies of the church to incorporate into their gatherings.

Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the people who have traditionally called it home for thousands of years is a way to continue to live out the church's apology to the First Peoples of North America. The acknowledgement supports our call to others to pay respect to indigenous people. It is also one way the church can work toward right relations—by repudiating the doctrine of discovery that assumed the land was empty when European explorers, traders, and settlers first came.

This suggestion will be taken to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Please see the Treaties map posted on the bulletin board (also available at: www.mediaindigena.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/treaties.png -- public domain)

Hosting Events

In June, 2017, the Mission and Outreach pod hosted a blanket exercise in conjunction with our common ground series.

The Bulletin Board in Memorial Hall

A bulletin board has been established at the far East side of the Memorial Hall, entitled, *Truth and Reconciliation*. Items of interest, education, and upcoming events will be posted in this spot.

Table Talks

A table dedicated to discussion after worship of resources and items of interest will be set up by the bulletin board.

Library

We hope to add helpful resources to the Robertson-Wesley library. Some current reading is:

The Comeback, John Ralston Saul (2014) "We are all treaty people."

God is Red, Vine Deloria Jr (2003) A native view of religion.

Embers, Richard Wagamese (2016) One Ojibway's meditations.

Wenjack, Joseph Boyden (2016) An Ojibway boy runs away from residential school.

Truth First, New Trail, U of A Alumni magazine (Spring 2017)

The Earth's Blanket, Nancy J. Turner (2005) Traditional teachings for sustainable living.

Nancy Heule is hosting a discussion of the book **Sept 23 from 9:30 to 11:30** in the Club Room. The contents of this book compliment the documentary film discussed in "Film Viewing", below.

Film Viewing

We will be presenting *Bridgewalkers*, an award-winning documentary by One River Productions (2014) on **October 23, 7 to 9 pm**, in the Club Room.

As our relationship to earth travels down a dangerous path, it has become clear that we cannot sustain the stress of our modern ways. On a quest to restore balance Tribal leaders from around the world gather in Greenland, Canada, and throughout the Americas, sharing ancient prophecies and their deep connections to our Beloved Earth.

Notifications of Community Events

The two contacts below keep current listings of all the opportunities for learning about indigenous people and their culture.

Paula Kirman E-mail list / social media coordinator for Moving Forward with Reconciliation calltoaction@uccedm.org

Ivy Lalonde Indigenous Students' Success Support, Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research, Athabasca University from September through June, on the third Friday of each month, from 12 noon to 1 pm, Ivy hosts "Bannock and a Movie" Contact Ivy for more information: ivyl@athabascau.ca

Volunteer Opportunities

The national gathering of elders, entitled "Coming Home, Voices of Elders", is going to be held at the Edmonton Expo Centre, **September 11 to 14**. The forum will focus on climate change, reconciliation, revitalization of culture and language. 623 First Nation groups of Canada, as well as Métis and Inuit groups of Canada, will come together so that elders can take their rightful place as advisors, teachers, and leaders. To register to attend this gathering or for opportunities to volunteer, contact ngekanata.com.

Richard Wagamese in his book of meditations, entitled, *Embers*, says:

What's needed are eyes that focus with the soul.

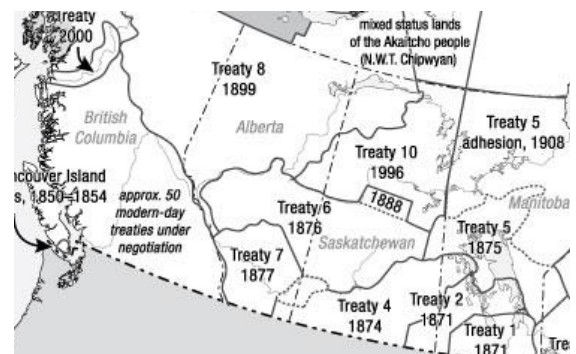
What's needed are spirits open to everything.

What's needed are the beliefs that wonder is the glue of the universe and the desire to seek more of it.

Be filled with wonder.

May we all be filled with wonder on this journey. I know I am.

G. Dawn Allan, Coordinator



Fall Harvest

K X H B T C R C G L R T F J S
 U O C G S E V A E L U P T N Y
 H I M Y Y A H A P W U J I A D
 O R T M B J L B P R K K W S S
 Q C R V U V P C Y P P D M F D
 I I O M C A W S F M L A V A Q
 Z I I R C L E H U M F E C L L
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 D N X A T V K C U X C N U E T
 S B M T N B A I J Q I I M T R
 S C A R E C R O W W R C E X E
 C Z F Z D D F M Z R K F W N E
 R I T T J H Q Y E K R U T S S
 E A K E X K K L M T A X Y O R

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