



Between the Aisles

A Robertson-Wesley United Church Quarterly

AUTUMN

Acts 7:33

Then the Lord said to them,
‘Take off the sandals from your
feet, for the place where you are
standing is holy ground’

Greetings Everyone,

The summer, where did it go? We wish we could say that about the smoke!

Mind you, we are all grateful that we don't have fires and floods to contend with.

What we now have to do is embrace the fall and its many opportunities, some of which are included in this issue of *Between the Aisles*. The reader will also find "reports" about past happenings such as General Council, as well as information about more local activities.

As always, The editorial staff welcome submissions to this publication.

Enjoy Autumn 2018!

Janet Clark and Nancy Heule

Women's Weekend 2018



Women's Weekend is fast approaching!

We are all busy people, but sometimes we need to make time to reconnect with our spiritual nature. So often we forget that each person's faith is important and adds dimension to the whole; so we invite you to come and show us your faith flavour and spice up the bland every day that is on offer in our modern lives.

We look forward to seeing you at Strawberry Creek on the weekend of September 14-16, 2018!

TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY 31, 2018

Low cashflow continued to be an issue in July, which is expected during summer months. Current cashflow is adequate to meet operational needs.

Donations are \$44,000 YTD short compared to this year's budget. We had planned for moderate growth in the 2018 budget, but so far, this has not happened. We are \$12,965 YTD short compared to last year's actual number, so we haven't been keeping pace with last year either. Fundraising is also \$2,275 short of 2017. Property Income is \$3,100 ahead of budget and \$6,900 ahead of 2017.

Expenses are running at \$9,800 under budget. Property is \$7,300 under budget, but this is due to the timing of capital projects during the year, which will be completed in the fall. Administration is now on budget due to a decrease in computer services expense, which has offset unbudgeted advertising costs of \$2,450.

Overall, RWUC is running \$29,750 short of budget for 2018. I anticipate this deficit to increase over the summer, firstly because of the cyclical nature of donations (although we budgeted with this in mind - donations are low compared to 2017) and property expenses will increase as capital projects are completed.

There has been some recovery of early year losses on our fund investments, which totalled \$1,693,980 at the end of July. However, this is still down \$21,000 from December 31, 2017. Investment Income for the year is \$41,950.

Donna Chmielewski
Treasurer

Did you know that Robertson-Wesley is a business incubator? Well, it is! The Alberta Yarn Project is a workers' co-operative of three young women whose mission is to make Alberta-produced yarn available and accessible. The origin of this lovely enterprise is a delightful story of synchronicity and serendipity. And it is all thanks to Robertson-Wesley's Spiritual Arts Collective program that was started a few years ago by Karen Bridges and Casey Edmunds. This was an umbrella structure with many collectives, each with its own guest artist, gathering within its shelter. One of these groups came together around their shared love of knitting with Mary Sullivan Holdgrafer as their mentor. They named their group "CommuKNITy." And they embarked on a yarn bombing project.

One afternoon CommuKNITy was meeting at Café Tiramisu. Margie Davidson, a member of this collective, asked her daughter, Anna, to come that afternoon since she too was a knitter. By chance, Kalea Turner-Beckman (a pillar of the choir as Don Milne would have said) decided to drop in as well. She was working on her master's in "Communication for Development" at the University of Malmo, Sweden and her thesis topic was yarn bombing. She came to do some research on why yarn bombing is important to the group and why they find it a fulfilling experience.

Mary Sullivan Holdgrafer asked Kalea what her future plans were. Kalea said she might want to do something with knitting, perhaps open a yarn store that could be run as a workers' co-op. Anna Davidson said that she lived in a co-op and, in fact, had just come back from visiting co-op businesses in Milwaukee. She was especially enthusiastic about a hugely successful co-op bar she had learned about and was very interested in beer. Could a yarn store be somehow linked to beer? And so the idea of "Craft and Draught" was born: pop-up events in local spaces and businesses to sell beer and showcase Alberta yarns. This enabled Kalea and Anna to get to know their clientele and vice versa. Out of the Spiritual Arts Collective, two young women with a shared interest in co-operatives, knitting, locally produced yarn, and beer found each other and started the Alberta Yarn Project.

Of course, the hard work was about to begin. How do you go about finding locally produced yarn? Knitting stores worldwide all carry the same brands. Just as craft beer and locally produced food are growing in popularity while raising awareness about health and sustainability, Kalea and Anna wanted to do the same for yarn. There are a lot of sheep in Alberta but not many buyers for the wool. Some farmers simply burn their wool in the field since there is no market for it.

Eventually, Anna and Kalea came to work with Custom Woolen Mills in Carstairs. This is a working museum, using machinery dating back to the days of the industrial revolution. Maddy, who runs this operation, shared Anna and Kalea's interest in natural dyes and local materials. While attending local craft fairs, our two entrepreneurs met Alliston, a hand spinner. Alliston is the daughter-in-law of Jim and Noreen Findlay, members of the R-W congregation. Three people are needed to incorporate a co-operative and she was a natural fit; the Alberta Yarn Project was up and running.

This United Church connection is important and, in fact, is part of a trend that is being noticed by the church. Many young people who grew up in the United Church but who no longer attend, nevertheless, are still strongly influenced by United Church values. The Alberta Yarn Project was awarded a Project Accelerator Grant by the City of Edmonton to help them get started. They are now developing their own yarns by contacting local farmers who run small, well managed operations and buy their fleeces. These fleeces are processed by Custom Woolen Mills.

The Alberta Yarn Project dyes the wool. Kalea is experimenting with natural dyes made from invasive weeds and kitchen scraps! Her beautiful sweaters and scarves announce Kalea's success. In addition to producing yarns, Kalea and Anna also design knitting patterns which are available on their website: www.albertayarnproject.com and at their store on Whyte Avenue: #203 10816A 82 Ave., part of the Northern Light Theatre office. Ring the buzzer to get in. They are open Thursday evenings from 5-8pm and Saturdays from 11am-4pm.

Currently, there is a movement in the knitting world which emphasizes natural fibres, local production, breed specific yarn and natural dyes. The Alberta Yarn Project is the first organization in Alberta to do this. And it all started at Robertson-Wesley.



Mission and Outreach Pod

Social Action

In his newsletter for The Center for Action and Contemplation, Father Richard Rohr, Founder, writes a daily meditation on weekly themes. The theme for the week of July 22-27, 2018, was Eucharist. In a summary of one of the daily meditations, Rohr writes:

The Eucharistic meal is meant to be a microcosmic event, summarizing at one table what is true in the whole macrocosm: We are one, we are equal in dignity, we all eat of the same divine food, and Jesus is still and always "eating with sinners" just as he did when on earth. (Richard Rohr with John Bookser Feister, Jesus' Plan for a New World: The Sermon on the Mount.)

(St. Anthony Messenger Press:1996)

Over the spring and summer, there have been many ways to fulfil this broader view of sharing the bounty of the Eucharist with our community.

Community Dinner and **Magic Pantry** volunteers continue to provide wholesome delicious meals and bag lunches to an ever increasing number of our neighbours. This service continues over the summer.

The ICPM (**Inner City Pastoral Ministry**) Service and Lunch at Bissell was held on July 22, 2018. Volunteers met on Saturday to prepare the sandwiches, and attended service on Sunday to serve close to 300 people.

Operation Friendship Seniors Society is an organization that provides three meals per day to senior residents of the inner city. On the third Friday in June, July, August, and September, volunteers provide sweets/desserts and serve a dinner at noon to over 140 people. Our volunteers find the most rewarding part of this opportunity to be working with the Society's staff.

A huge thank you to the volunteers, bakers, and others who continue to contribute to these programs. Your compassionate service is sincerely appreciated.

Social Justice

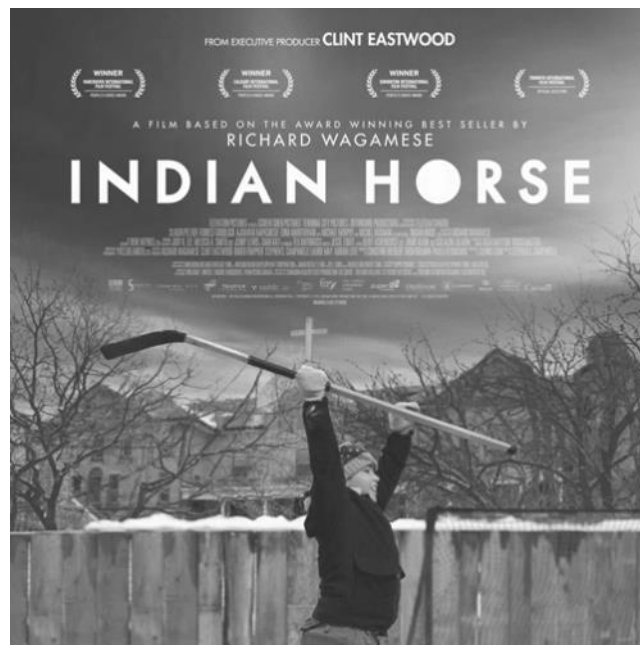
Kairos Canada

The **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (UNDRIP) Bill C-262 becomes law this fall. It sets out a legislative framework requiring the federal government to collaborate with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples in developing a national action plan to fully implement UNDRIP in Canada. Please encourage your Member of Parliament to support the bill.

Further information is available on the Kairos Canada website: www.kairoscanada.org. Look for From Reconciliation to Reckoning, August 1, 2018, that outlines the history of reconciliation or lack thereof in the thirty-six years since the UNDRIP project was conceived.

Living into Reconciliation

August 9, 2018, is **International Day of the World's Indigenous People**



Robertson-Wesley will host a Viewing of the movie Indian Horse, followed by discussion with Elder, Evelyn Day

Save the date: Monday, September 17, 2018, Room 11, 6-9 PM. Refreshments will be served.

This movie is based on the book of the same title by Richard Wagamese (2012). It tells the story of a seven year old boy, Saul Indian Horse, who is taken from his Ojibway family and incarcerated in a Catholic residential school. Set in Ontario in the late 1950's, this tale is one of survival, highlighting the indomitable spirit of an Indigenous boy to overcome aggressive assimilation policies and racism. The movie has been given a rating of 78% by critics, and a score of 92% by audiences.

Please join us for this unique opportunity to be in the presence of Elder Evelyn Day and to hear first hand from a person who has lived the experience depicted in this movie.

I'll end with a quote from Richard Wagamese's last book, Embers, One Ojibway's Meditation (2016):

Keep what's true in front of you.

Dawn Allan

readings each week?

Robertson-Wesley United Church uses a schedule of Scripture readings called a lectionary. In the last four years we have been using one called the *Narrative Lectionary*, a newly developed scheduling of reading through the Bible, Sunday by Sunday, from Luther Seminary in Minneapolis. Next Autumn we will return to using the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL) guide.

While traditions vary from denomination to denomination, most mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic churches follow the RCL, a scheduling of readings that takes three years of Sundays to complete. It seeks to unite the Christian Church worldwide and to have each congregation cover as much of the Bible as possible. It does so by choosing four readings for each Sunday, allowing the worship team at a given church to focus on one, two or perhaps the theme coming out of all four (some weeks they are related directly, other weeks not so much). This allows for flexibility, unity, and planning guidance. However, it can thin out the readings as we read only a short portion of each in a given week and each of the four comes from different part of the Bible: Hebrew Scriptures, Psalms, Christian Scriptures and a Gospel reading.

In the *Narrative Lectionary (NL)*, one reading and one Psalm are chosen for each week and the reading is often lengthy. It schedules the journey through the Bible into four years and also gives each liturgical season one part of the Bible to dive into (instead of seeking commonality over four parts of the Scriptures). In the Fall we looked at one story or more from the Hebrew Scriptures. From Advent through Easter we explored one Gospel account in particular, and the Spring would see us turn to the letters and other writing in the Christian Scriptures. The summer months would be suggested readings only, allowing a worship team to pick readings according to thematic work they are doing. While resources in hymnals and other books were fewer, and we were not always on the same topic as our neighbours, we found it exciting to delve deeper and more substantially into each story week by week.

We are glad for the experience in the *Narrative Lectionary*, and now return to a three-year cycle of readings. To follow along you can look at the back of a Voices United hymn book (pages 998-1012). However, we will not read four readings every Sunday morning, as per traditional use of the RCL. We learned the power of deeper diving and hope that choosing one or two per Sunday from the choices provided will allow us to use the gifts of both lectionaries.

Are you wondering why the Worship committee does not just choose week by week? It takes a long time to organize a lectionary, to ensure balance of the Biblical stories and connections with the other aspects of worship, such as Christmas and Easter. Also, we would be tempted to use our favorite stories and miss out on the variety of our Biblical Scriptures.

Leigh Sinclair

SMOKE

I am burning essence

Broken

Box overtuned

True as a loud bang

Concussive

Stoned face culture

Without words (we are) wiser

Offenses met with laughter

Loving without borders

Restless wander, wonder

Passions tramping

Around those who bury alive

These migrant hearts

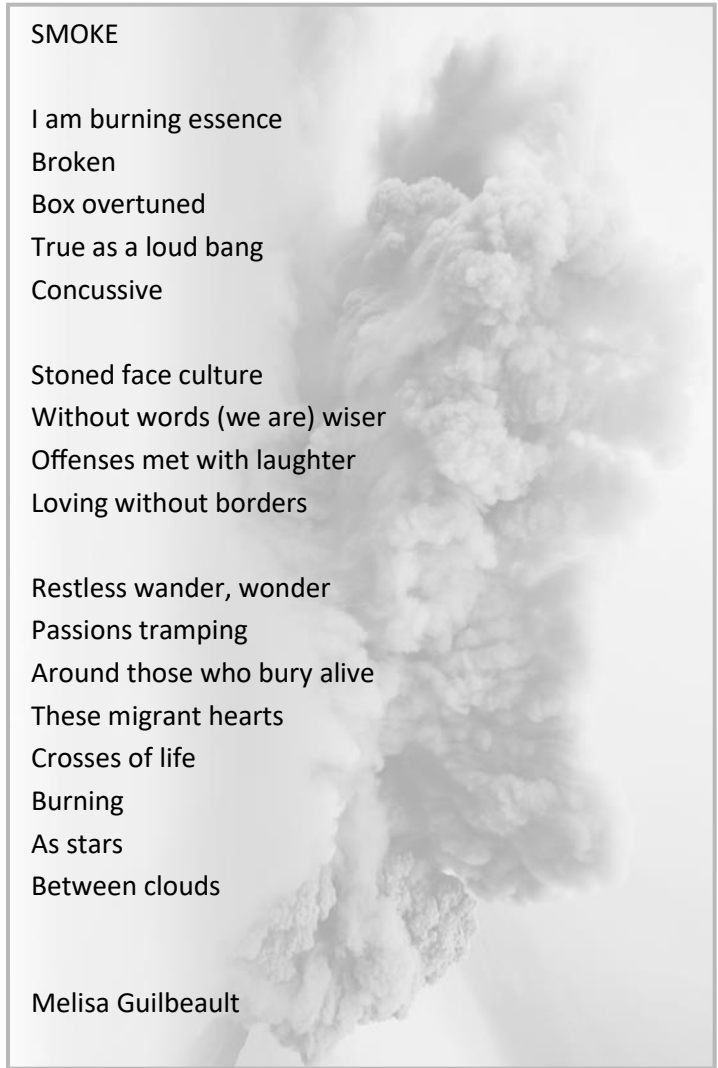
Crosses of life

Burning

As stars

Between clouds


Melisa Guilbeault



September Theme:

Holy Pieces!

As a Christian community we share a common life where all these pieces of faith come together and we can practice being the children of God we are created to be! We do this using the wisdom gathered over the centuries of faith tradition (in Scriptures and song), the wisdom gathered locally over the decades (in our church's Mission, Anthem, and Statement of Inclusion and Welcome) and the wisdom that arises in our daily living together (how we want to behave (Holy Manners) and how we set boundaries together (such as a new anti-bullying policy)). Are you willing to be a vital piece of this family bringing it to wholeness?



GOD ON TAP

Held at The Nook Café on 10153 97 St
God on Tap is a gathering of people who would like to engage in conversation about who God is, how God is working in the world and in our lives. We have opened the group up this year to all adults ages 18 years and up.

This is a great way to explore faith with others over a beverage of your choice (beer, wine, coffee, pop.) Come meet some new friends! You are also welcome to invite your friends. This is an open space for people with no faith, and those with an inquiring mind, and those who wish to deepen their understanding of faith. Join Us: Monday Sept 10 at 7:00 - 8:30 PM

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Come get your picture taken for the R-W Photo Directory. **Next photo sessions are Sunday, Oct. 14 & 21.** Anyone who feels a part of R-W is invited to have their photo included in our directory. No photos to purchase, as they are done by one of our in-house volunteer photographers, Hal Thiessen.



AFTER #METOO

Creative Space for Change with Men

In the fall of 2017, Social Media platforms blew up with women posting one thing: #metoo. In mass numbers, women were declaring that they had experienced sexual assault at some point in their lives. Since that time, many men have been outed in communities as perpetrators or are stepping up as allies. But what about the confusing in-between? Men are reflecting upon their own behavior and large concepts such as Rape Culture and consent.

The "After Me Too" circle is a facilitated space for men to process #metoo and help each other understand what has happened, how this has changed and impacted daily lives and actions, what past personal actions have been, and how to move beyond personal stories into societal action. Let's create a way to move forward that holds complexity and compassion.

Supported by Robertson-Wesley's Spirited Arts Movement, the participants in the circle will be invited to use art-making to create safety and unpack the complexities of gender dynamics in modern society. Working together to shape the groups direction.

WE'RE BEING FILMED!

We have been invited to be part of a new, faith based documentary series called "House of God", and we said YES! "House of God" explores the lives of Priests, Rabbis, Imams, Pastors, and worshippers, as it highlights the love and passion they have for God and for their place of worship. Each episode visits two places of worship in Alberta, explores their histories, and takes a look at the contemporary life of various communities that make up the tapestry of multiculturalism in Alberta. We are excited to share our faith and our beautiful church with the 7 million households in Canada! The show airs at 5 PM on Saturdays and 10 pm on Sundays on YES-TV

HOUSE of GOD





Italian Dinner

Bring your friends and family to Robertson-Wesley for great food and great company. The monies raised from this dinner are used within the community. October 20th at 5:00pm

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month let us dive into a feast of body and mind! We will provide a main course to enjoy along with a potluck of your salads and desserts and as we partake we will learn about one aspect of our Bible and how it relates to our lives today. third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm

MESSY WEDNESDAYS

Families with children gather to eat a meal together at no cost to the family, there are activities for the children before and after dinner and adults take the opportunity to engage in conversation during the evening. 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! at 5:45 pm in Memorial Hall

**OCT 10, 24 | NOV 14, 28 | JAN 9, 23
FEB 13, 27 | MAR 13, 27**

ART SALE Robertson-Wesley will hold its annual ART SALE on **September 29, 2018**. We are collecting all Art! Paintings, woodwork, pottery, etc.. If you have art, we can pick it up anytime and store it. Please contact Sheila Carr-Stewart or Pat Stewart at 780-481-0056. **BOOK, CD, & DVD DONATIONS** are welcome and appreciated. These will be sold in Room 11 during our the Art Sale.

Contemplative Practices *Seeking an escape from the world? A time of quiet reflection?*

Are you seeking a space where you can reflect, recharge, and ground yourself? Are you seeking an escape from the world, the noise, and people? Then join us for Contemplative Practices at Robertson Wesley United in Memorial Hall. This is a drop-in program with no membership required, and open to everyone. You will be invited into a space where various exploration stations with printed instruction will be set up, so that your time is self-lead. Invite your friend or neighbor, and come for as long as you'd like in the hours listed.

Sept 30/18 | 7-8:30 PM Nov 5/18 | 12-1 PM Dec 5/18 | 7-8:30 PM Jan 7/19 | 7-8:30 AM Mar 10/19 | 7-8:30 PM Apr 20/19 | 7-8:30 PM

GET BLESSED

September 9, 2018 The blessing of the backpacks & 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 brief cases blessed for the coming school/program year.



KIDS' CHURCH AND YOUTH GROUP

Our fall schedule begins on Sept 9 with registration for programming for children ages 2 – Grade 6 and youth Grade 7-12. The first youth group event of the year is Sept 8, 2018 with our season opener from 7-10 pm. Your friends are welcome to join us.

The Chemistry of Worship

On



Sundays, and other times in the year, we gather in groups of two or more to worship God. How do staff and lay leaders go about planning a worship experience at Robertson-Wesley (R-W)?

Our display window this summer showed a science laboratory as a metaphor for the many ingredients that are added to the discernment, discussions and research of worship that then are combined with the Holy Spirit. Sunday morning experiences begin when, once a year, Tammy-Jo, Leigh and Karen look at the Scriptures (chosen by our Lectionary) and rituals of Christian traditions that will come up in the following program year. We add in the feedback we have heard throughout the past year and begin making our broad strokes of themes. We prayerfully reflect on these and begin to add the many musical, practical and people resources we have at R-W. For example, which Sundays will the Bell choirs join us to add their ministry? Which Sundays will be focused on Communion or all-ages experiences?

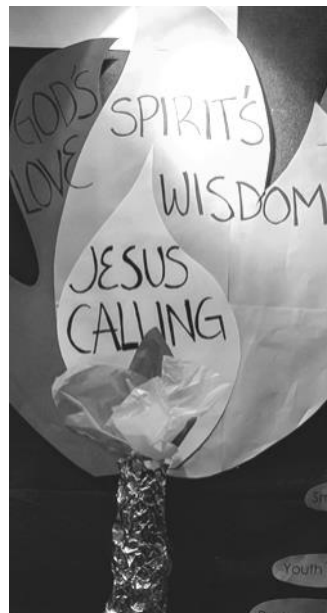
From there, the three of us begin to add specifics of each "season" of the year. These include such times of year as "startup" September, the weeks leading to Christmas (Advent), Mother's Day and Pentecost. We listen to and add in the ideas, questions and news items that have been raised in classes, choirs, outreach and pastoral care at RW.

We also explore how to have a diversity of music; each Sunday we love to have a song that those who cannot read can sing along to as well as one familiar hymn and one that we are all in the midst of learning. We ensure we can explore R-W's mission such as *Stewardship*

and sacred rituals such as communion and Ash Wednesday.

Each week, we meet again to formalize the upcoming Sunday. No plan ever stays the same as its broad strokes because congregational life well, happens! A sermon can be inspired after a visit with a shut-in, an anthem idea can come in the midst of prayer and the Prayers of the People are built up throughout the week prior by the staff hearing about *your* lives, including a late Saturday night phone call.

Each Sunday, the Holy Spirit adds surprises of serendipity as well. The soloist who has been rehearsing for weeks sings "Motherless Child" to a man whose mother has passed away two days earlier. The sermon focuses on a novel that a teenager in our congregation just started reading. A toddler learns to walk in the chapel, an elder gets to sing a song they learned as a child, and the minister trips on her Alb...all part of the Holy Spirit ensuring that we remember that both long term planning and these instants of inspiration are part of this amazing worshipping community Christ creates among us.



Thanks be to God!
Leigh Sinclair

THOUGHT-PROVOKING???

Subsistence is a white word that hardly begins to describe a complex lifestyle. In fact, to some, subsistence even suggests poverty or bare survival. That couldn't be farther from the truth. To Alaskan natives, subsistence is much, much more than putting food on the table. It is an interrelated web of people, land, water, wildlife and the spirit. Living in harmony with the land is perhaps a much more meaningful description of this lifestyle than subsistence.

Walter R. Borneman, 2003.*

These words were part of an exhibit in an Indigenous museum in Alaska that I visited a few weeks ago. I was really struck by the message, and I immediately thought of my grandmother. Her home was full of home-made objects: furniture built by my carpenter grandfather, cloth goods embroidered by her hand, floor rugs that she had hooked herself and, in the pantry, jars and jars of preserves made from her garden produce and her berry patch. Then there was her knitting...scarves, socks, sweaters, mitts. Outdoors lived the goat whose milk was enjoyed by many. Outside too were the hens, all known as "good layers." In fact, from time to time, one of them wound up on Sunday's dinner table. My grandmother was not especially well-educated but she possessed numerous skills that are now relegated to "experts."

And what about the word "subsistence"? Where did that come from? The prefix, sub, is what fools us into thinking that something is inferior, like the word "substandard". Ah, back to the word's Latin origins. According to The Oxford English Dictionary, the word means substantial, real or independent existence. Like a subfloor in a building, without which we could not stand.

Submitted by Nancy Heule

*Used with permission of Walter Borneman, 2018



HER HANDS

Her hands speak volumes to me.

Though they are now gnarled by arthritis and the thin, parchment-like skin is covered with age spots, they still grip my hands in a strong and warm greeting.

Over the past 92 years these hands have, among other things, turned skipping rope with great aplomb, collected seashells on her beloved Atlantic coast beaches, clamped tightly over her ears startled by the sound of the first Model T chugging through her village. They have scoured the heavy twill overalls on a scrub board for the fishermen in her family, mended rough wool work socks, and knitted myriads of sweaters and mittens.

They have sensuously caressed a fine husband and soothed crying babies with their soft, nurturing, touch. Conversely, they have spanked her disobedient children but then gently cooed "I'm sure that hurt me more than it hurt you, my child."

These hands have professionally crafted the finest homemade buns in the world, Not one of us who have tried have been able to master that magic touch. For, the dough sticks, falls apart, or just ends up being a blob in the pan.

The "green thumb" part of those hands has planted, watered, and weeded beautiful gardens. Her musical sense has been satisfied as her fingers flowed confidently over the keys of the church organ.

Her hands have washed and waxed floors hundreds of times. They have written volumes of letters, contentedly keeping in touch with friends from childhood and all family members.

The way I see it, when those hands clapped with pleasure, pride, and enthusiasm at the dozens of festivals, school concerts, and church programs that her family was involved in, they may have performed their best and most precious function.

Now her aged hands are nurturing great-grandchildren with an even gentler touch than she had with her own children and grandchildren. I know they are clasped in prayer more often in these closing years, as she has so much time to think about and pray for her expanding family. .

....The history of these precious hands tell of a strong, well-balanced, independent, nurturing woman of faith: my mother.

Shirley Campbell-Pearse

Musical Happenings at Robertson-Wesley!

Be prepared for musical fun, entertainment, learning opportunities and moments of serenity this fall and winter at Robertson-Wesley!

September 21/18, 8 PM

The first concert of the season, sponsored by the Robertson-Wesley Music Society will be pianist Mark Damish. From Northbrook, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, Mark is an amazing jack of all trades. He was the mayor; he is also a lawyer and accountant, and has business degrees. While doing all that, over the last 40+ years, he has also toured the world, playing recitals to benefit various charities, especially peace organizations, raising over \$1 million, while paying his own way to see the world. He has performed in 40 countries. His program will feature a variety of repertoire (likely including Copland, Gershwin and Chopin.) Held in the R-W Sanctuary, the concert will be a pay-what-you-can event, with the proceeds going toward the R-W Music Society funds for equipment, future travel, spring concerts and so on.

October 27/18, 9 PM

Be prepared to be entertained and experience the return of the Halloween Spooky Organ Concert! This ghoulish event featuring several performers, some seasonal favourites, and some sweet treats is not for the faint of heart. Admission \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids who can stay up that late!

November 10, 8 PM

In the past, Tammy-Jo has organized a "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" program for kids, but how about a pipe organ event just for adults? Pedals, Pipes and Pinot? This "Everything You Wanted to Know about the Organ but were Afraid to Ask" session will feature a personal close-up demo of the fine R-W organ and its components and inner workings, accompanied by a little wine and cheese. We will finish with a performance of "The King of Instruments" by William Albright with Timothy Anderson, narrator and Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organist. The limited number of tickets are \$50 each. The funds raised will go toward the organ upgrade project that was described in the last newsletter. A portion of this ticket cost will likely be eligible for a tax receipt.

December 6,13, and 20/18 at noon

A noon-hour concert series on these Thursdays sponsored by the Robertson-Wesley Music Society.

December 8/18 at noon

The Robertson-Wesley Music Society and the BALM Society co-host a Sing-Along *Messiah*, a fun afternoon read-through of Handel's *Messiah* with soloists and accompanying instruments.

December 9/18 at 4 PM

Our annual tradition of *Lessons and Carols* will take place at 4 pm on Sunday, December 9.

During the fall and winter, you will undoubtedly hear the rich sounds of the R-W handbells. Although the dates haven't been decided yet, both the Nova Bells and R-W Ringers will play several times in worship and in community events.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn, make a joyful noise before God.

Tammy-Jo Mortensen,

Music Director

Creating Safe Spaces Training

Do you help out or lead activities here at Robertson-Wesley United Church? In all our programs and ministries we endeavour to be an inclusive and welcoming place for all people. Come and receive training on techniques of speaking and interacting with people that reduce our own and others' fear and anxieties and help us continue to be an accepting community.

Wednesday, October 3, 6:30-9:30pm, Memorial Hall

We will have a time of getting to know each other and a review of our Statement of Inclusion. We will have a keynote speaker help us learn how better to use empathy and active listening to build support systems with others. We also will **tour** the building to see its first aid and safety features!

The Who: All are invited to take part. Please consider attending this event if you are in a leadership role, an usher, fellowship time host, Kids' Church, Food Bank, Magic Pantry, youth leaders and Community Dinner volunteer, pastoral visitor, fundraiser organizer, and anyone else interested in learning!

Alberta and Northwest Conference United Church Women AGM

Five of us, Lorna Berlinguette, Ruth Anna Elson, Maxine Baker, Margery Wright and I attended the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference United Church Women on April 12 - 14 in Calgary. The theme was Reconcile and Make New--an allusion, of course, to the Truth and Reconciliation Mission but also a very real experience for me and, I suspect, the others, as each of us discovered new insights, more self-awareness, and as retreats are supposed to offer--renewed peace and energy.

The meeting started with this statement:

"We wish to acknowledge that we are meeting on the lands of the peoples of Treaty No. 7 and that we are all treaty people. We wish to honour the history of the place where we are meeting, and to work together for reconciliation."

With that in mind, I wish to say:

"We here, today, are on the lands of the people of Treaty No. 6 and, hereby, honour that history and all those who live in these lands now."

And I add that I think we could add a new item to our future agendas by acknowledging Treaty No. 6. (Google "Treaty Protocols" for many appropriate variations.)

Along with the usual events that happen at an AGM (reports, budgets, decisions, discussions about the future of ANWC and the church, etc.), we experienced many informative and personally meaningful activities on our theme of Reconcile and Make New.

The Blanket Exercise, as most do, took us through the history of the effects of colonization on indigenous peoples--mainly loss of traditional lands and the deaths of people through various diseases they had no immune system to handle. That it was very engaging, informative, and moving is an understatement.

In another presentation, in a reference to the Indian Act of 1867, was the catch phrase of the period following, including the residential school program--"Kill the Indian in the Child." I did not know that the last residential school closed as late as 1996 in Saskatchewan. Of course, we are all aware of various continuing crises: death from poor sanitation (water, housing), TB, and suicide, to name but a few.

The question remains: why can't we do more about correcting these wrongs? Some answers emerged--topics for further discussions, I suspect. And each of these answers raised more questions; for example, Where are we individually and as a country on our Government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' 94 Resolutions?



Art "Will You?" by Indigenous artist, Jasmin Roberts

One thing we did do was respond to a pre-conference request to offer items to help women who have fled abusive relationships and arrived at the Awo Taan Healing Lodge, a 32 bed, full service emergency shelter that provides services to women from all cultures. "Awo Taan" means "shield" in the Blackfoot language. A representative from the shelter explained their programs and accepted our donations of basic and useful household items.

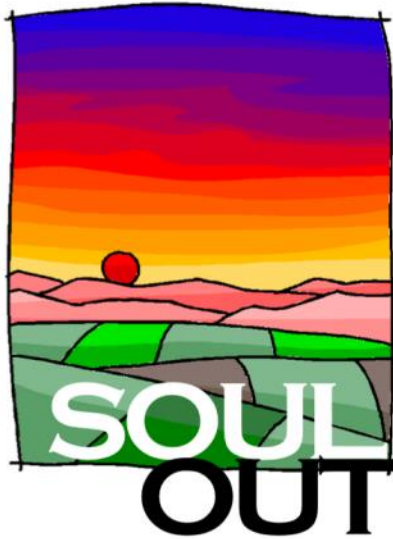
We witnessed a very dramatic musical performance (students from a local school, graduates from a dramatic arts program, and Elders) who aptly captured the theme of the conference. Entitled NEW BLOOD, it took us from the pre-history of Indigenous tribes through colonization to the present day in an instructive, engaging and overwhelming experience.

We also learned about the Right Relations Agreement and its seven Tenets: Love, Respect, Humility, Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, and Truth=Reconciliation. In closing, I have to highlight a constant theme of the conference. I will call it, as the Indigenous peoples did, Gifts from the Creator for Man's use: for example, sage, cedar, stones, bark, other herbs, and sweet grass, the smudging ceremony, and most importantly, the care of and concern for Mother Earth. In our meetings we will explore more of that soon, I hope.

Thank you.

Submitted by Janet M Clark

Past Chair, Robertson Wesley United Church UCW



A safe place where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons can explore the sacred and connect with each other.

The second Sunday of each month at 7:00 PM

Hosted by Robertson-Wesley United church

Deadline for the Winter Edition submissions:

November 4, 2018

Distribution: **November 25, 2018**

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Between the Aisles is published on Treaty Six territory in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Baked Oatmeal

Attention Parents! It's back to school time! Why not make this easy recipe the night before, and serve it for breakfast the next few days. It can be reheated as needed.

Baked Oatmeal *

- 2 cups/7 oz/200 g rolled oats
- 1/2 cup/2 oz/60 g walnut pieces, toasted and chopped
- 1/3 cup/2 oz/60 g natural cane sugar or maple syrup, plus more for serving
- 1 teaspoon aluminum-free baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- Scant 1/2 teaspoon fine-grain sea salt
- 2 cups/475 ml milk
- 1 large egg
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 ripe bananas, cut into 1/2-inch/1 cm pieces 1 1/2 cups/6.5 oz/185g berries or chopped fruit (saskatoons, rhubarb, apples etc)

Preheat the oven to 375°F/190°C with a rack in the top third of the oven. Generously butter the inside of an 8-inch/20cm square baking dish.

In a bowl, mix together the oats, half the walnuts, the sugar, if using, the baking powder, cinnamon, and salt.

In another bowl, whisk together the maple syrup, if using, the milk, egg, half of the butter, and the vanilla.

Arrange the bananas in a single layer in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle two-thirds of the berries over the top. Cover the fruit with the oat mixture. Slowly drizzle the milk mixture over the oats. Gently give the baking dish a couple thwacks on the countertop to make sure the milk moves through the oats. Scatter the remaining berries and remaining walnuts across the top.

Bake for 35 to 45 minutes, until the top is nicely golden and the oat mixture has set. Remove from the oven and let cool for a few minutes. Drizzle the remaining melted butter on the top and serve. Sprinkle with a bit more sugar or drizzle with maple syrup if you want it a bit sweeter.

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