

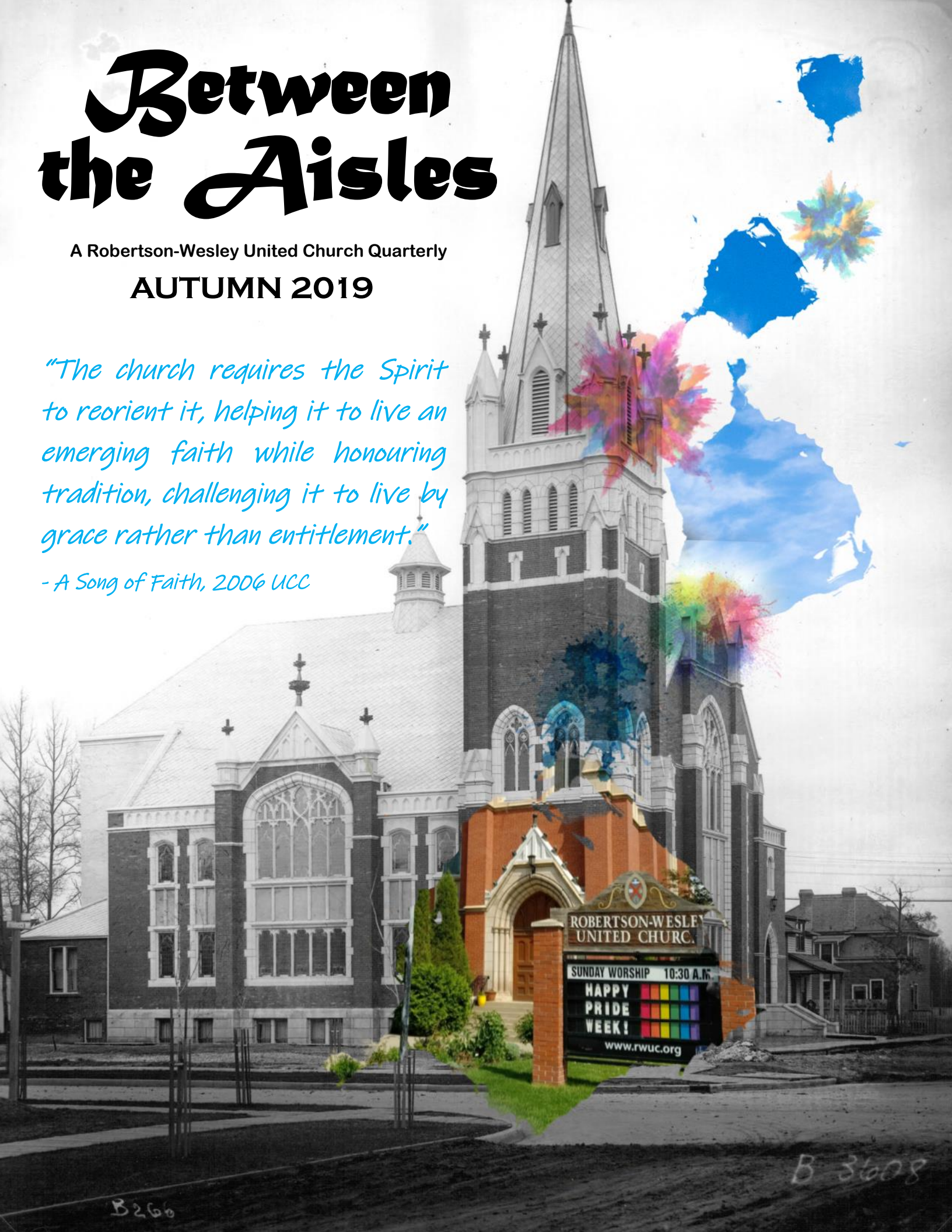
Between the Aisles

A Robertson-Wesley United Church Quarterly

AUTUMN 2019

"The church requires the Spirit to reorient it, helping it to live an emerging faith while honouring tradition, challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement."

- A Song of Faith, 2006 UCC



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Editors' Greeting

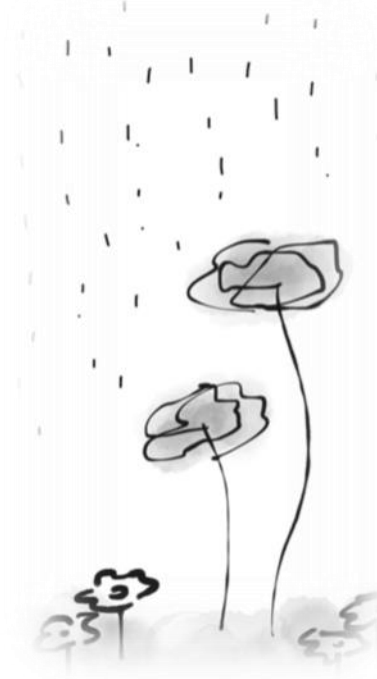
It has been quite the summer, hasn't it? Rivulets of water everywhere and a poor harvest of garden produce, but thankfully no smoke in the air.

This Fall, R-W can look forward to a new kitchen to feed the body and new learning opportunities and activities to feed mind and soul.

Between the Aisles now offers two new columns. The first, Church Family Happenings, features information and activities about members that take place beyond the walls of the church. Who's Who, the second new column, gives readers a peek into the lives of our church friends.

The R-W newsletters always strive to be reflective, personal, and informative. Enjoy!

Janet Clark and Nancy Heule



In Our Community: Music

Robertson-Wesley is blessed with a wonderful sanctuary renowned for the quality of its sound. In fact, so renowned is R-W that this building is famous throughout the city as a concert venue.

One of the groups that performs here is the Alberta Baroque Ensemble. Begun forty years ago under the directorship of Paul Schieman, it is still delighting audiences in this city and throughout Alberta.

This year the ABE celebrates its fortieth birthday. The first concert of the season will take place Sunday, October 20th in our church sanctuary. The remaining concerts will feature special guest soloists who are well-known for their interpretations of baroque composers.

Something else that makes the Alberta Baroque Ensemble special is that its harpsichordist is none other than our very own Tammy-Jo Mortensen.

Check out www.albertabaroque.com for more information.

Church Family Happenings

"Follow the Thread" is an exhibition of innovative tapestries and mixed media woven works by Noreen Crone-Findlay.

Noreen would like to invite you to Harcourt House Gallery* from October 18 to November 23, 2019 with the official opening to be held on Friday, October 18th from 7 pm to 10 pm. All are welcome to attend the opening.

The 'Follow the Thread' tapestries and mixed media weavings are an exploration of dreams, mythology, sacred geometry, spirituality, story and the path of poetry. All of these provide the metaphors for navigating personal experiences through the power of using threads, yarns and wood as the primary palette with leather, metal, wire and found objects as augmentation.

Finding and creating beauty in challenging times can be daunting, but it is essential. Following the threads to the heart of the mystery and weaving the narrative is the journey of a lifetime.

*Harcourt House Artist Run Centre
3rd Floor 10215 112 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1M7
780-426-4180 | harcourtexhibit@shaw.ca

PRIDE NONETHELESS

With the sudden news of the Pride Festival being canceled this year, many folks in the LGBTQIA2S+ community were feeling hurt for many different reasons. In the midst of the upheaval, divided community, and pain of losing our beloved parade, community groups of all varieties stepped up to fill the void. Many organizations, agencies, and groups such as local United Churches, RARICAnow, Evolution Wonderlounge, Shades of Colour, Dragging Youth Series, Edmonton 2 Spirit Society, RAYE, The QUILTBAG, Outloud, ISMSS, and more held events all over the city during pride week.

As the new Affirming Ministries Coordinator of Edmonton, I provide continual support for congregations who are on the affirming journey while providing programming, support, resources and pastoral care to LGBTQIA2S+ and allies on their spiritual journey. My position is a part of Robertson-Wesley United Church's Outreach Ministries, and is funded through a grant from the Edmonton Presbytery New Ministries Development Team. Due to me stepping into this role so close to pride, I made a goal to visit as many events around the city as I could in order to network and provide support. Some of the events I was able to attend thus far were two pride Sunday church services that were hosted by United Churches, three faith/queer group events, a pride block party, a Met Gala, two small plays, and an all-ages drag show. While attending these events three major themes arose: Youth, Community, and Resiliency.



Youth

While attending the Met Gala, there were so many folks there helping to raise funds to support Camp Fyrefly. This camp is an LGBTQIA2S+ camp that empowers youth to be leaders in their communities. Being a past youth and youth leader at this camp, I can honestly say I was excited to help and support the continuation of youth being empowered.

The event that impacted me the most has got to be the all-ages drag show. I've attended my fair share of drag shows and have

seen youths perform here and there, but there was something different this time. Seeing a room full of youth ages 1-20 surrounded by parents and siblings cheering them on as they performed (some for the first time)! It was so heartwarming to see kids and teens be comfortable with who they are and to show that off to the crowd. I felt like a proud dad as I watched two of my past campers perform!

Community

The best part about pride is seeing folks from all around the city come together to enjoy the sun, dance, drink, and enjoy each others company. While there was no park festival this year, Evolution Wonderlounge decided to increase the size of their yearly pride block party. They advertised that there would be an 18+ section and a family section. I was lucky enough to attend the event with close friends that had never experienced a pride event before. We laughed, danced, and sung in the rain and little bits of the sun as we watched the performances of dancers and drag queens. It definitely allowed folks to gain that community aspect that was missing this year.

Resiliency

Ashbourne/Garneau United Church hosted a performance by the GeriActors. This is a program that combines seniors with art students at The University of Alberta to create plays, act and sing. The first play featured four different LGBTQ2S+ stories. The first story was about a gay man's life as he navigated adulthood knowing that he was gay. The second story was about a lesbian who left her husband for a woman. The third hit home for me as it was about a young teen girl telling her grandmother that she was gay. The last story was about the dynamics of an old married couple, and the support that the man got from his wife while he was getting ready to go on his first "gay" date at the age of 88. All of these stories made me laugh, cry, and reflect on my own story of being a youth and coming out. These stories represent the hardships and joys that people who are LGBTQ2S+ experience when trying to be themselves. The resiliency I saw in the characters, as well as the resiliency that I had seen all week, is why I love pride week!

Given the divisions in the community and the damage that was caused by the cancellation of pride, I was impressed and grateful for all of the work that community groups have done in order to provide events for folks to show their pride!

Shylo Rosborough (He/Him)

Affirming Ministries Coordinator of Edmonton

The Inside Workings of Robertson-Wesley

For each area of the life of the church, there is a group that takes primary responsibility. At Robertson-Wesley United Church we use the term "Group" in a generic way to refer to many types of circles, each made up in different ways and meeting at different intervals.

Church Board

One group is the elected Church Board. The Board has 9 members:

- Incoming chair
- Present chair
- Past chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chairperson of the Ministry and Personnel Committee
- Chairperson of the Property Committee
- Member at Large
- Regional representative
- The two ministers sit on the Board in an ex-officio role.

The role of Church Board is to hold the big picture and keep the church moving in accordance with mission. The Board does this by ensuring all groups and functions are staffed/filled and adequately empowered, while holding groups and leaders accountable. This happens through conversations, the Annual Report and receiving correspondence.

The Church Board encourages all to use Holy Manners when fulfilling their roles. Board duties include recommending an annual budget to congregation, setting dates for congregational meetings, mentoring new members of the Board, representing the Board at other meetings, and coordinating setting fundraising dates.

All Groups and individuals are welcome to write to or meet with the Board Chair and request time on the agenda at an upcoming Board meeting. The Board chair discerns when to schedule the request and if the matter is best addressed by the Board or another group for consideration first.

Spiritual Formation and Mission & Outreach Pods

Some groups are gathered into Pods. Unlike a committee, a pod gathers interested people on a one-time basis to engage in a topical conversation from which programs, events, work-

shops or other activities might emerge. The Spiritual Formation Pod focusses on how we form and develop our faith. The Mission and Outreach Pod focusses on how we live out our faith in the community and the world. Each pod has a coordinator who facilitates the topical conversation and then supports the people who gathered in taking leadership for what they have created together.

Task Groups

Some groups are called Task groups. Any existing group may wish to develop a new program, expand a present program, or address a particular problem. While the permanent Group can do this, they also can establish a Group that will work on a single, specific task for a limited period of time. This temporary group is then disbanded when its task is complete.

A Task Group should have:

- a description of its specific purpose;
- an indication of the group to which it will be accountable, and by whom it will eventually be disbanded;
- a contact person whose information will be added to the Leaders Contact List for the duration of the Task Group's work.

Communicating with the leaders of R-W

When desired, individuals can communicate their thoughts about an area of the church's life. The best way is to do so in writing, with their names and contact information to the group that is primarily responsible for that area of the church's life.

The Church Board members, Administrator, and Ministry Personnel will always be available to help identify the contact person for the appropriate Group.

Generally, such communication should first go to the Group with primary responsibility for that area of the church's life. If the response from that Group is unsatisfactory, you may write to the Church Board. If communication is directed first to the Board, the Board may refer it to the Group with primary responsibility for their consideration.

Communication should include your contact information for follow-up. No action or deliberation will be taken if the matter is communicated anonymously. Whether or not the Board or Primary Group agrees with the communication, the response will be timely and respectful.

Submitted by The Board of Robertson-Wesley

R-W MENS GROUP

The Robertson-Wesley Men's Group consists of a number of the Church's male members whose goal is to organize once a month with the intent of having social time or events of interest. The Men's Group meet the second Wednesday of each month, extending from September through to June.

Activities include general morning social hours where those attending engage in lively conversations. Often individuals are invited to present interesting topics or trips they have experienced. Often there are field trips to various locations of interest around the Edmonton area. Examples of visits in the past have included the Royal Alberta Museum, Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, Alberta Aviation Museum, Edmonton Waste Management Centre, and riding the LRT systems Metro and Capital lines as well as the historic Edmonton's High Level Bridge Streetcar.



Photo: Reynolds Alberta Museum, Jim Triscott

The Men's Group has ventured as far as the Reynolds - Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin.

Agendas are planned and finalized only a few weeks in advance. Activities for 2019 - 2020 tentatively include a site visit to the Edmonton Funicular, a tour of the Telus World of Science, a proposed return to the Royal Albert Museum, a European tour slide show, possible tours of floral displays and other local unconfirmed Edmonton landmarks, as well as simple morning coffee days in Robertson - Wesley's Memorial Hall. And of course the women of the church are welcome too!

Submitted by Jim Triscott

What's on my night table?

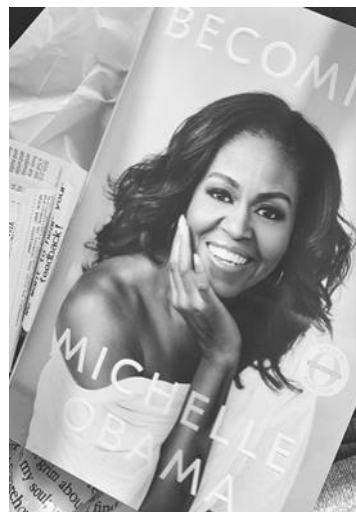


Photo: SimonQ 錫濛譙 flickr.com

Michelle Obama is well-known as the former First Lady of the U.S. Now she is becoming quite famous in her own right (pun intended) as the author of *Becoming*, her memoir that begins with her childhood in a poor section of Chicago, through her schooling, legal work when she mentored Barack who was interning in her law firm, and advocacy for social justice.

Her marriage and family life in the White House are detailed with clarity, humour, and insight. I found the memoir fascinating, made more so because I borrowed the audio book from the library – *Becoming* in her own voice! Both of my book clubs read it. Unusual for us, it was the first book that EVERYONE liked and we had a lengthy discussion of its many thought-provoking merits. Even the Americans in our groups said they learned more and liked it more than they had expected. It is available in all formats at EPL. Mind you, it is 426 pages but I bet you won't be able to put it down.

Submitted by Janet M. Clark

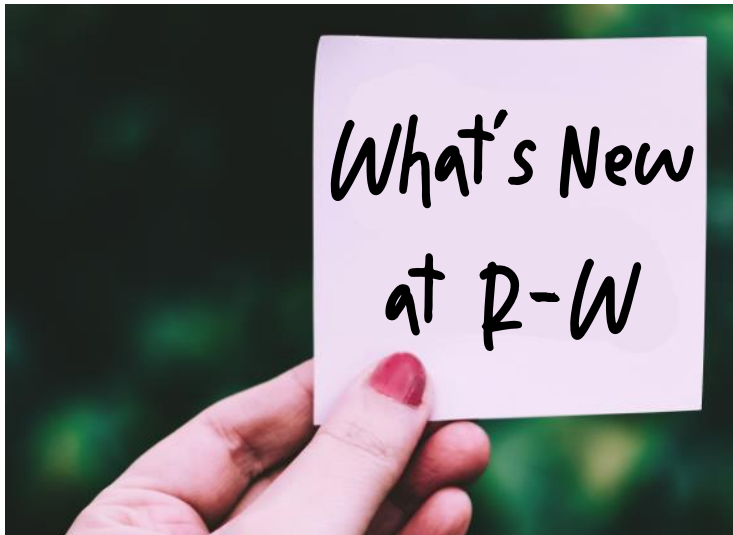
Book Buddies!!

Amy-Jill Levine is well-known to both Jews and Christians the world over. She is on the faculty of Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee where she is a professor of both Jewish Studies and New Testament Studies. The author of at least 48 books, she brings comprehensive knowledge and understanding to the study of the Bible, adding layers of meaning to the Christian interpretation of Scripture.

Join other Book Buddies on October 15th at 7 PM when together we explore and discuss *Short Stories by Jesus* (New York; Harper One, 2014).

The book is available for sale in the church office or after service each Sunday in Memorial Hall. Price \$20.00.

Submitted by Nancy Heule



November Retreat—Create and Hold Space for Grief

November 23 to November 24, 2019. Come, take time and retreat into prayer and scriptures and be nourished in body and soul! Please join us for a retreat here at church. We will reflect on how we can best care for others, in the midst of their grief and our own. How does grief impact body, mind and heart? What do we say when no words will help?

The evening of Friday, November 23 we gather with a potluck of desserts and learning from 7- 9 pm. Saturday, Nov 24th we gather for lunch and learning from 12- 4 pm.

You do not need to be a pastoral visitor (past or future) to attend this retreat and you need not have any experience. Come and let us find a quiet centre in Christ.

Readers' Workshop

Sunday, September 22, 2019 AT NOON

Want to read scriptures in worship?
Love to make announcements in worship?
Scared to read scriptures in worship?
This is a workshop for you!

All ages and stages can sign up to read in a worship service. All of us can use some training and improvement. A workshop for current, wannabe and future: scripture readers, announcement makers, prayer-ers, Holy Honesty moments makers AND anyone who wants to deliver text better!

Guest Coach: Julie Golosky

Please sign up in Memorial Hall and we can assign you a reading in advance.

Marks for the Quest:

An experiential quest into the traditions of discipleship. Challenge yourself to a routine of practicing one or more marks of discipleship and allow a small group to help you be supported, accountable and connected.



Join us for an introduction to this group Thursday September 19, 7:00 -9:00 pm

If you choose this adventure, we will meet every month for two hours, October 10, November 14 and for 2020 January through May.

EXTREME MESSY WEDNESDAYS

Have you always wanted to experience Messy Wednesday, but don't have children? Good News! We have expanded this program to include everyone. Extreme Messy Wednesday is an intergenerational gathering from 5-7ish. As people arrive at 5pm there will be an open space to explore and talk with others. At 5:30PM we will engage in a worshipful moment which will include music, story and prayer. At 5:45PM we will feast together, and then at 6:15 you can choose your own adventures. There will be activities for you to choose from to explore our monthly worship themes in more depth. This is a free program, and we have volunteers who help to prepare the meal. All we ask is that if you are able to help with clean up that would be wonderful.

Sept 25, 2019	Learning to Pray the Messy Way as God intended!
Oct 30, 2019	Moses couldn't run from God and neither can you!
Nov 27, 2019	The Bible – a tickle trunk of faith!
Jan 22, 2019	Serve others the Jesus way!
Feb 26, 2019	Starting a movement the Jesus way!
Mar 25, 2019	The amazing race – the quest for Jesus!



Kid's Church and Youth Group

Begin September 8, with programming for children ages 2 – Grade 6 and youth Grade 7-12. Please fill out a registration form so that we have up to date information on age, grade, allergies and any other concerns might have. Forms will be available in Memorial Hall after worship on September 8 & 15.

“For the Bible tells me....what?”

A series of three-week classes that journey from Genesis to Revelation where together we will learn:

- how was this Holy library created,
- what tools we can use to explore its depth,
- what are some essential stories to know,
- how to wrestle with questions of translation, fallibility, historical contexts and spirituality.

Join us for one of more of this series, held in the Club Room, Thursday nights: October 17-31; January 16-30; May 21, 28 & June 4

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 5:00 pm in Memorial Hall*
Sept 11 | Oct 9 | Nov 13 | Jan 8 | Feb 12 | Mar 11 | April 8

Contemplative Practices

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Are you searching for answers and direction in your life? Do you need a quiet space in this noisy world? Then come and engage in a time of contemplation. Come to Robertson-Wesley United on a Sunday afternoon from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. This is an individual exploration in a quiet space with others. You will not need to talk to anyone, except yourself and the Spirit if you so choose. Know that when you leave you may experience a sense of peace, calm, clarity, inspiration, rejuvenation. These afternoons will prepare your body mind and soul for the coming week. Absolutely anyone can participate, there are no requirements, no charge, and no expectations. You are welcome to simply come and sit in this sacred place in silence.

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|---------------|--|
| Sept 22, 2019 | Meditation in Different Poses Practice |
| Oct 27, 2019 | Ignatian Practice |
| Nov 17, 2019 | Mandorla Practice |
| Jan 12, 2020 | Labyrinth Walk |
| Feb 23, 2020 | Meditation with Forms of Water |
| Mar 29, 2020 | Creative Written Reflections |
| May 24, 2020 | Mandala Practice |

Blessing of your Home

Have you ever thought of having your new home or newly renovated home blessed? Maybe you have welcomed someone new into your home or have a new roommate. And sometimes when we start a new chapter in our lives it is important to acknowledge this in some way. Perhaps your home has become associated with negative feelings and you would like to shift this energy.

At Robertson-Wesley, we have a home blessing service that can be used for just such an occasion. This service is available for you to do with friends and/or family. You can invite Rev. Karen and Rev. Leigh to join you as well.

This service reminds us that it is always good to give God thanks and praise, and that whether at home or at Church, God is truly present, and for this we ask for God's blessing.



GOD ON TAP

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, those with an inquiring mind, and those who wish to deepen their understanding of faith.
Monday, September 9 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Gamers' Lodge 10459 124 St

Worship Themes 2019-2020

Our themes emerged from 3 sources:

1. The DEAP Pod

The DEAP pod suggested six words that describe R-W. They come in pairs to show the tension and fluidity that is held here at the church.

Traditional/Edgy,
Broken/Blessed,
Questing/Valued.

2. A Song of Faith

We heard the words reflecting in *A Song of Faith*, the most recent United Church creed. It says:

"We are called together by Christ as broken but hopeful believers. Loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and space. ...

The Church requires the Spirit to reorient it, helping it to live an emerging faith while honouring tradition, challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement for we are called to be a blessing to the earth."

3. The Call

After spending last year learning about different justice issues, we felt the call to create a growth mindset as disciples of Jesus as our theme for this 2019-2020 program year. We need to begin anew with an openness to what God is offering us, and calling us to be. We will spend the year both creating space and holding space for the Spirit to be at work in our midst, challenging us to the call of discipleship, allyship, compassion,



inclusion and healing.

We will do this by engaging in spiritual practices which were informed by Michael W. Foss's book entitled *Power Surge: Marks of Discipleship* and we have added a couple more that reflect the United Church ethos.

Daily prayer
Weekly worship
Scripture reading
Listening, discerning
Serving
Spiritual friendship
Giving
Balance, wholeness, Sabbath

We will explore one spiritual practice each month. Our hope is that we will all deepen our faith, be spiritually nourished, and learn new techniques and practices that prepare us to go out into the world and be faithful servants of God in our time and space. The Autumn themes are below:

September: Called to be Disciples

Spiritual Practice: **PRAYER**

We are called together by Christ to support one another on our journey of discipleship.

October: Stop hiding...Let your light shine!

Spiritual Practice: **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

We are called together by Christ as a community that worships together.

November: We are broken but hopeful believers

Spiritual Practice: **BIBLE READING**

We are called together by Christ as a *community of broken but hopeful believers*. We endeavour to study the Wisdom of our Scriptures, elders and traditions so as to grow mature faith – active, deep and broad.

Keep an eye on our Between the Aisles covers for 2019/2020, each one themed with one of the three word pairings. This fall issue features Traditional/Edgy.

Submitted by Rev. Karen Bridges and Rev. Leigh Sinclair

WHO'S WHO



We all recognize Tony Jansen. He is often seen ushering and taking up offering. He can also be found at the monthly Community Dinners where he is part of the food preparation team.

Tony was born in the Netherlands, and when he was a child, he spent much of his time in a family greenhouse and flower shop. It is no surprise that when he emigrated to Canada as a teenager he immediately found employment in a greenhouse! A few years later he started work at the Legislature where he helped to maintain the grounds.

Tony soon learned that if he wished to further his career he needed a "piece of paper". Along with raising a family, making a living and singing in the Edmonton Opera Chorus, Tony found time to study and acquire a diploma in Floriculture from the University of Guelph.

For years Tony was Alberta's Provincial Horticulturist. His skilled hands and eyes were busy behind the scenes each time there was a visiting dignitary or an opening of the legislature.

He also spent several years as a florist at Merle's. In fact, he designed many of the bouquets that graced the front of Robertson-Wesley at weddings, funerals, and at Sunday services. Not only is Tony known in Alberta, but he is recognized throughout the floral design world for his artistry and his attention to detail.

He was inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers in 1980. That prestigious accreditation has taken him to many places and just about every continent to teach his art to others. The initials behind his name, Anthony Jansen, mean something: AIFD, American Institute of Floral Design, CFD, Certified Floral Designer, and ODH, Ontario Diploma in Horticulture. They indicate the respect and esteem he has earned throughout his long career.

You deserve a bouquet, Tony!

My Father's GARDEN

Roses, phlox,
hollyhocks, asters,
Lupins, alysium, marigolds;
Radiant colours, comforting smells....

Green velvet grass,
Thick hedges,
Virginia creeper.
Lawn chairs, three sizes,
Sturdy, wooden, painted, comfortable....

My Father's garden –
Weed-free,
tailored,
prize-winning,
beautiful....

But the focal point was the lawn swing –
A magic place to relax, think,
mend wounds,
cuddle, chart goals,
tell secrets.

Sweet memories....
World's away –
Or was it yesterday?

Shirley Campbell-Pearse
© 1991



40th Birthday Party Organ Gala for R-W's Kney tracker organ!

40 is a terrific milestone to celebrate! R-W's tracker-action mechanical pipe organ was installed in 1979, and so it's time to raise a toast to the instrument which has supported thousands of congregational hymns, comforted those who mourn, added sparkle to countless weddings, and hosted fantastic international and local artists. So, we're having a party, reunion, and concert to celebrate this important year.



There will be some wonderful guests from afar – including Ontarian Bruce Wheatcroft – the amazing musician who engineered the arrival of the organ 40 years ago. He will be at the gala to speak about the instrument. There will be other past music directors as well – also arriving from Ontario is Bill Hutton who was music director at Wesley, and then again later at Robertson-Wesley. My predecessor Stillman Matheson is coming from Burlington, ON to tickle those ivories (well, they're not ivory anymore in this day and age!). Robin King will be here to speak about his time at R-W. And then there are the Edmonton friends of R-W including the wonderful Belinda Chiang, colleague and partner in musical collaboration Warren Mack, and Duo Majoya (Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger who have been the teachers of Stillman, Belinda and me)!

This Gala affair will include a concert of some famous organ pieces, some lively and fun music, some Bach of course, and some surprising combinations of players featured in some delightful duets! Following the concert will be a wine and cheese reception with a reunion atmosphere to allow everyone to reminisce, visit and continue

the festivities.

We'd love it if you would be our guest too! The gala event will feature special adult tickets, priced at \$50 which will include the concert, a \$25 tax receipt from the church, some show and tell after the concert as well as the reception. For youth and students, there is a \$15 ticket which includes the concert, show and tell, and reception.

The money raised by the church at this gala will go directly to the organ restoration fund. The fund will help with a few necessary repairs (things start to change when you're 40!), and will also continue to build up a fund, which has already had several very generous donations, to install a piston system.

What's a piston system you ask? Pistons allow the organist to make very quick colour (registration) changes without forcing the organist to stop and change the sounds by hand. It's like saving all your favourite recipes in one place and getting the right one at the touch of the fingertip! Almost every pipe organ built today has this kind of system. When this instrument was built, it was part of the tracker-revival movement in North America (which is a whole other article), and the tonal designer, Bruce Wheatcroft and builder, Gabriel Kney, chose to try to honour the idea that this instrument was modelled on the style of pipe organs that were being built in the 18th century in Germany. It is wonderfully true to that style! However, Bruce admitted years later that if he had to do it all again – he would have had a piston system installed! So, age 40 seems about the right time for a little overhaul!

If you want some further info on past music directors or the organ – check out the music portion of our web site www.rwuc.org

It is time to look to the future and to celebrate the past! Come to a fantastic 40th birthday party! Tickets will be on sale after church, in the office, and from committee members: Doug Sollows, Nancy Heule, Chris Gowers, Caroline De Grave and Tammy-Jo.

Submitted by Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Postlude to Many New Things

After finishing A Transgender Human Rights Odyssey: A Student Vocal Recital, I would like to thank the church for supporting me along the journey to learning the art of singing. Even just with learning piano from scratch over the years, I have found my heart burning not just with passion, but with a clarity of mind that I've never had before. The efforts over the years have given my life meaning, and allowed me to learn of myself, others, and to heal my way through past struggles.

Next year, should my finances and God be willing, I hope to do another vocal recital entitled Connections with Nature, Music & God. The recital is already transcribed meticulously and I've started working on things this summer. Some of the hardest scores I have ever attempted are already in practice, such as J.S. Bach's "Erbarne dich, mein Gott," from St. Matthew's Passion, which has incredibly long phrasing and detail. Both my body and mind are already being stretched beyond my former self as I hope to grow in new directions!

A third, simpler vocal recital is also being planned and transcribed, but I won't get too ahead of myself... But I will give you a hint – I've always wanted to have some solid holiday repertoire that is uniquely me.

In general my life has taken many twists and turns, and I do not know how anything will work out or whether it will make sense, if at all. I only know that I'm following my heart, best I can, after being unemployed for many years. Thanks to all who walk with me now and then! Whether I end up working in the trades on another job, or find myself an economic refugee of sorts in the distant future, is anyone's guess. I only know that life has purpose and meaning, and that has to be enough. May God bless!

by Melisa Guilbeault

as a Spiritual Discipline

Starting this November, Healing Art Director Laura David Foster, MPS, PCAT, CCC, is offering a new series of 3 workshops called Art as a Spiritual Discipline hosted by the Spirited Arts Movement.

Activating the imagination with the intention to experience the sacred can be a powerful transformative practice. Referencing the work of author Pat Allen, in this workshop series, we will support each other in such explorative practice through art, imagery, reflections and sharing with one another. No previous experience in art is required and all materials are provided.

Note: This series of workshops is experiential and is facilitated for self-directed learning and spiritual growth. You can attend one or all three workshops.

The First workshop: *What the devil's eating you?*

How can we move past worry, anxiety, negative self-talk, or other dysfunctional thinking that hold us back from more meaningful purposeful living?

NOVEMBER 23, 2019

THE BE GROUP

An activity group for transgender, transsexual, gender-queer, gender-fluid, Two-Spirit, and non-binary minorities, regardless of age, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status. Whether or not a person is transitioning, transitioned, or exploring life broadly or not, this is a group for others to have fun and engage in the world, who might not otherwise have such opportunities. This is a chance to move beyond isolation, to not have to worry about transitioning and/or gender expression of any sort, and to focus on being in the moment, while expressing our authentic personalities.

The Be Group meets 1-2 Saturdays a month at a variety of times. Contact begroup@rwuc.org for event dates & times. All events will meet at the entrance of Robertson-Wesley.

ART SOLE

Robertson-Wesley will hold its annual ART SALE on **November 16, 2019**. We are collecting all Art! Paintings, woodwork, pottery, etc.. If you have art, we can pick it up anytime and store it. Please contact the church office for more information. **BOOK, CD, & DVD DONATIONS** are welcome and appreciated. These will be sold in Room 11 during our the Art Sale.

SPIRITED ART STUDIO

Mondays, 7:00 pm, and Wednesdays, 1:30 pm.



The Spirited Art studio is a place for people to explore art and connect with each other in an informal creative environment. People are welcome to drop in any time and try out different art-making processes, facilitated by Laura David Foster. We are all creative and the studio community nurtures creativity, authenticity, and friendship... and it's a fun place to hang out!

Deadline for the
Winter Edition submissions:

October 27, 2019

Distribution: **November 24, 2019**

Robertson-Wesley United Church

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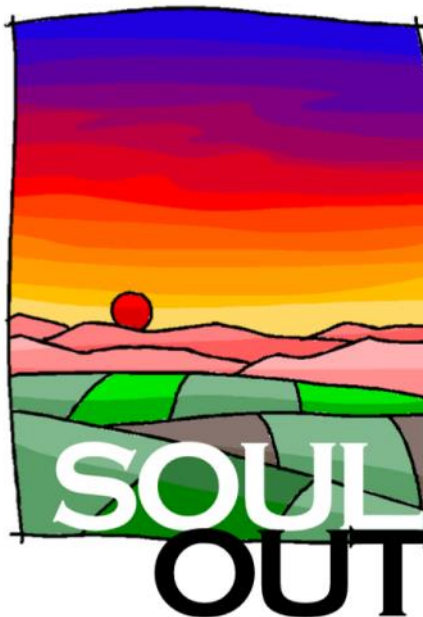
mail@rwuc.org www.rwuc.org



Between the Aisles is published on Treaty Six
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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 19th at 5:00pm



An interfaith faith-sharing circle. Each session uses reflection and ritual to delve into a spiritual or philosophical topic from different faith perspectives. It's a safe space for LGBTQIA2+ persons and allies to explore spirituality and life questions.

The second Sunday of each month at
7:00 pm in the Chapel

Did you know?

You can donate to the church using PayPal?



Visit www.rwuc.org and click DONATE or visit
<https://paypal.me/robertsonwesley>

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Are you part of a single person household?

Does your family live outside of Edmonton?

Providing an emergency contact and phone number to the church is helpful. When we have this information we can provide care and help when needed or follow up when we suddenly can't find you.

Did you also know you can add Robertson-Wesley as an emergency contact? When you add Robertson-Wesley as your primary emergency contact, one of the Reverends will be contacted first in times of need, this will allow them to visit you, provide spiritual care, and facilitate contacting your loved ones. If you would like to add or update your emergency contact please speak to Rev. Karen Bridges, Rev Leigh Sinclair or Elyse Munro in the office.