



Board Update

7th April 2015

What an amazing celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday this year! We were blessed throughout Holy week to be able to experience four independent thoughtfully planned Worship Services. These services led us from the march into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; to Maundy Thursday and Jesus' covenant for us *to love one another* which was accompanied by the ritual of washing each other's hands; to the grief of Good Friday with reflections, conversations and music, and finally to Easter Sunday Service, which opened with a wonderfully uplifting trumpet and organ Prelude to introduce the good news of Easter. The choir sang beautifully, and our congregation included many faces we have not seen for some time -- as well as several visitors.

We have to thank our Minister, the Rev. Liz Bowyer, for leading the planning of these services with the Worship & Education Team, some very talented musicians, our Youth Coordinator, and many congregation members. Thank you one and all for all the contributions you all have made.

During the season of Lent, Liz led a study group over 5 weeks looking at Mike Slaughter's book "Renegade Gospel, The Rebel Jesus", which proved challenging to our traditionally held beliefs.

A big *Thank You* to those of you handling the Lent and Easter communications in the Vancouver Courier, and on Knox's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed (<http://bit.ly/knoxunitedchurch>). It appears that providing information about our services and events made a difference.

Mission and Service

The Lenten & Easter Appeal this year has been to provide support for Syrian Refugees through the United Church's Syrian Relief fund. It is one of the top priorities of the United Church of Canada (<http://bit.ly/1MyrcrdM>). This year we've tried to feature some of the realities faced by refugees and displaced persons, although it is difficult for those of us in Canada to really appreciate how they exist from day to day. The appeal is still open. If you wish to contribute to it please contact the church office at 604-261-3747 or knox5600@telus.net.

New Knox Logo

As you will note at the top of this newsletter, we now have a new Logo, reflecting our new Vision for the future. Alex Tench, Joanne and Larry's son, with the guidance of Susan McAlpine and Bruce Herzer, creatively led us through the process of its development. Here is a little bit about the logo in Alex's own words.

“The Knox Logo is a representation of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, cradling a star in its wings, giving guidance and protection. The illustration style takes a modern approach in keeping with Knox’s future looking vision, and uses representational imagery and symbolism to communicate its themes.

The shapes and composition hint at the flow of wind and water, lending motion to the layout and providing a frame to give focus to the solitary star which speaks to the idea of navigation, a guiding light from the heavens whose form mirrors the shape of the Cross.

The central themes of the logo focus on movement and direction, a fusion of the main ideas and imagery that Knox has arrived at through its recent process of discovery and renewal; the winds of change; nautical themes; the act of embracing the future with faith and casting off from familiar shores.”

The Logo was introduced to the Congregation after the Worship Service on March 22nd and appears well received. We are very grateful to the efforts of Susan, Bruce and Alex for making the Logo a reality. Thank you.

Membership

Some members of the Pastoral Care Team have been reviewing Knox’s several years of past membership lists to ensure that they are up to date – a time-consuming and detailed task. This is a critical process, as it not only keeps our records up to date, but also determines the amount of money we are expected to pay to Vancouver South Presbytery each year (our contribution to Presbytery is assessed according to the numbers on our membership register). Once this task has been finalized, the data will be entered into our database so that it can be easily maintained and allow for more accurate records on the future. Thank you, Pastoral Care ladies for your good work! If you think Knox’s records may be out of date, please contact the office to provide Josie with details. If you would like to become a formal member of the Knox congregation or have any questions about your membership, please contact Liz to discuss!

Music Task Force

The Music Task Force plans to present a Report to the Board by the end of April. This has been an enthusiastic group, which has already come up with many suggestions - several of which have already been implemented. We look forward to their recommendations near the end of this month.

Communications Specialist

The search for a Communications Specialist in the fall was unsuccessful, so a new search commenced at the beginning of this year. We hope that we will be able to announce the successful candidate of the current search in the very near future.

Meanwhile we have to thank Susan McAlpine and Debra Danny, along with several other dedicated contributors, for keeping Knox's digital communication tools (website, Facebook and Twitter) up-to-date, interesting and inviting.

Governance

The highest priority for the Board over the next 2 – 3 months is to complete the Knox Governance review. Once the new Vision, Mission, Values and priorities were completed, it became important to ensure that the Governance structure could support our new Vision. The review has been delayed for some time now due to many practical reasons, but on Tuesday March 31st a Board Retreat was held to begin the process of reviewing the Governance Structure.

On **May 2nd**, each of Knox's Teams & Committees has been invited to send one or more members to a workshop with the Board. The purpose of this workshop is to solicit input during the Governance review, to ensure that our structure can support the expression of the current Vision, Mission, Values and Priorities.

After Worship on **May 24th**, the Congregation will be asked to vote on the Governance Structure. Once this has been done, a Nomination Committee will be struck. On Sunday **June 14th**, the Nomination Team will present the Congregation with a Nomination slate and the process will be completed.

We rely on the many talents of numerous volunteers to support the activities at Knox and thank you all for your tireless work. We are now at the stage where we want to provide the best possible focus on those activities, which nourish and develop our faith and those that define us as a caring community supporting our faith in action.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Pendray, Chair

You are welcome to contact any member of the Board

Gloria Candido
Richard Dunsterville
Bill Herzer
Susan McAlpine (Vice Chair)
Michelle McMaster
Margaret Pendray (Chair)
Berkeley Scott
Joanne Tench
[Rev. Liz Bowyer](#)



*And what does God
require of you but to do
justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?
- Micah 6:8*

OUR VISION:

The winds of the Spirit are blowing us in new directions! Along the way,

- **Jesus is our compass**
- **Song fills our sails**
- **Worship and prayer sustain us**
- **Love and care support us in rough waters**

OUR MISSION:

Pushing off from the familiar shores of the past, we journey forward, experiencing the Holy, seeking justice, and comforting the lonely.

OUR VALUES:

- **Learning and growing in faith**
- **Faith in action - in our community, and abroad**
- **Mutual respect and neighborliness**
- **Integrity and authenticity**
- **Justice, compassion and healing**
- **Laughing and playing together**

OUR NEW DIRECTIONS:

**Worship | Music | Wisdom & Ageing |
Being a Good Neighbour | Exploring Faith**

Invitation!

**Bring your songs
energy, imagination
and join us on this journey!**