


“The Spirit”

North Kildonan United Church

Summer 2015

 *Summertime and the livin' is easy
The lake is callin' and the kids have no school
Skeeters bitin' and the dandelions bloomin'
Come join us in church and leave all your cares at home*

 *(with apologies to Gershwin)*

Seriously, at North Kildonan United our summer services are truly welcoming and inspirational. During the month of July, while Rev. Marc is on holiday, various committees and guests will conduct the worship services complete with familiar music, prayers and thoughtful messages. Back in the pulpit in August, Rev. Marc will once again provide his wonderful leadership and faithful guidance.

Won't you join us?

The sun is always shining at NKUC.



At North Kildonan United, we have been busy these last several months with wonderful, fun and successful events. Here are some highlights:

Easter Sunday - Lenten services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday led to a joyous Easter celebration at North Kildonan United. Our choir blessed us with beautiful selections and Rev. Marc led us in a meaningful worship service. We often take time to highlight upcoming activities and events in the life of the congregation and to help with this task, Wild Willie and Coolio Julio, with the help of Sister Amnesia serenaded us with a rendition of “To all the girls I’ve loved before” to remind us of the upcoming Sisters of the Holy Rock concert. Thanks for the fun (Bill, Marc and Barrie) but please – don’t give up your day jobs!



Sisters of the Holy Rock Concert – Described as talented and teasing, serious and silly, faithful and frolicking, Holy and hilarious, close to a sell out crowd were thoroughly entertained by Carole “Whoopi” Stone and her talented singers dressed in traditional black and white “nun-like” habits. Combining music from television series, old time gospel and traditional hymns, the audience was most appreciative and was rewarded with an encore performance.

The success of this concert (over \$3100) is largely due to the many volunteers who helped with selling tickets, moving sound equipment, advertising and promotion, ushering and just being there for the needs of the performers and audience. Special thanks to Barrie McPherson’s exceptional effort in ticket sales and promotion of this event

Garage Sale - This bi-annual event took place April 24th and 25th with the entire week prior being spent receiving, cleaning, sorting and selling the many treasures donated. Among the “valuables” were the contents of three suites/apartments from folks relocating to alternate accommodations. Again, our volunteers were the stars helping throughout the entire week and weekend. The sale was a huge success (over \$8700) but also served to raise our profile in the community and bring folks together to get to know each other better. Case in point; Dave from the AA Bond Group. Dave was an incredible help in that he was present the entire week. His honesty, enthusiasm and ‘good nature’ were truly infectious. A Total Team Effort!

Micaela Crighton, a member of our congregation all her life, had a fantastic opportunity through her courses at the University of Winnipeg, to make an unforgettable trip to Israel and the West Bank with a group of her colleagues. We were fortunate to hear highlights of her 10 day trip on April 12th. With much preparation beforehand, Micaela told of lectures from individuals and groups, visits to historical sites of religious and political significance and home stays with a local family.

Filled with passion and enthusiasm, Micaela touched on a variety of issues from the reality of checkpoints, children travelling to school, gender inequalities, and the struggles and hardships of everyday life. She and her fellow students were more confused than when they left Canada due to the complexity of the situation.

However, one important message she left with us was that it is not about who is right or wrong, nor should anyone take sides, but it is about human rights. A powerful message indeed. Thanks Micaela!

After the presentation, we were treated to a meal typical of the area. Lentil soup, hummus and pita bread.



On March 28 at the West Kildonan Curling Club, the **Kleenex Tournament of Hearts** was held between NKUC and Atlantic-Garden City UC. A fun event with various skill sets displayed. Looks like Norway left their wardrobe behind eh Jack! We are looking forward to another Dryer (oops, Brier) in the future. Stay tuned.



(Betty Hamilton, Marc Whitehead, Peter Latimer, Doris Quinn, Jack Armstrong)

In February the congregation and UCW were fortunate to hear Rev. Mary Best present "A Spiritual Journey" the story of Joseph, reflected in a series of quilts which tell the story through patterns and colours. These beautiful works of art were created while Mary was on sabbatical and we thank her for sharing this journey with us.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS
or
"peeps from the seats"



Michael Slater has moved to Deer Lodge Centre and by all reports is doing well. Nancy Klippenstein has moved to Kildonan Personal Care Home and settled in nicely. We wish these folks well in their new homes. A cheery hello to all our folk in nursing homes and assisted living.



Congratulations to Cindy and Heinz Goetz on the birth of a grandson.

Congratulations to Grace Thomson on her retirement from The Dream Factory. Have a healthy and happy retirement Grace and God bless you for all your good works helping children attain their dreams.

Our love and sympathy goes out to Tony Van Yperenburg's family. Tony passed away May 16th at Concordia Hospital.

NEWS FROM THE UNIFIED BOARD

The months of June and July are typically when the business of the Board and various Committees takes a breather while Board and Committee members devote themselves to such activities as sunning themselves on the decks of their cottages, communing with nature in the great outdoors or exploring new vistas on road trips throughout the continent.

But this is not to say that the Board and Committee members are leaving NKUC in the lurch as they engage in their chosen hedonistic pleasures. On the contrary, these dedicated volunteers are using this time away more as a sabbatical to re-new themselves for the coming months of tireless contribution to the work of NKUC as follows:

1. Some will endeavour to replicate Christ's "walking on water" miracle if their unstable craft capsizes while sailing around the south basin of Lake Winnipeg.
2. Some will decide that Christ's analogy of it being easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle etc. should be replaced by it being easier to park a motorhome in a Walmart parking lot than for a rich man to reach the Kingdom of Heaven.
3. Some will gain greater familiarity with "all creatures great and small" as they deal with infestations of mice, ants, squirrels and bats in the walls of their cottage get-aways.
4. Some will fine-tune the art of forgiveness as they are faced with a stream of friends and relatives arriving at their cottage uninvited on every warm day throughout the summer.
5. Some will be truly challenged to "love thy neighbour" when those groups of young people at the next campsite host a "party to end all parties" until sunrise.
6. Some will find it a challenge to develop a sense of hope when they discover in the midst of a torrential downpour that their tire jack is missing, and so have no ability to change that flat tire that occurred in a wilderness so remote there is not even cell phone coverage.
7. Some will learn the meaning of resilience when faced with never-ending hordes of mosquitoes that descended on them through that newly-discovered rip in the canvas of their tent.
8. Some will learn the importance of overcoming pain when 90% of their flesh has turned a deep scarlet after falling asleep on the beach for 3 hours.
9. Some will develop a renewed understanding of the prohibition against "graven images" when they discover a Tim Horton's or "golden arches" has opened up in the sleepy town next to a Provincial Park.
10. Some will be challenged not to exemplify covetousness when their neighbour at the next cottage shows up with a new "top-of-the-line" speedboat, while your own watercraft is a leaky canoe.

So you can see that this break from Board and Committee business will not be spent frivolously, but will represent a true learning experience for all of us. Enjoy a happy and healthy summer!



Seven years ago, NKUC, with guidance from Carol Lyons, began the prayer shawl ministry. This ministry has been a blessing to so many people and here is a wonderful story from Carol of one of those blessings.

A request was made for pocket prayer shawls and Peggy Latimer was able to provide 50 of these mini shawls to a lady who had established her own outreach ministry. Due to health issues, this woman could not live on her home reserve so moved to Winnipeg. Living downtown she visits the Health Sciences Centre and visits those who have no family with them and face health issues alone. She prays with them and leaves a pocket prayer shawl. Her mission is twofold; to help these folks feel that God is always with them and, that they take back the shawls so that others on the reserve might start their own prayer shawl ministry. Occasionally language has been an obstacle, but her response is that prayer has no language barrier. Recently, three African Christian students have been visiting her and they are anxious to take back the pocket prayer shawls to their home community in Africa.

Thank you Carol for bringing this 'shawl of prayer' ministry to NKUC.



Youth Ministries



We were happy to host the pancake brunch on February 15th. With help from the hospitality committee, the congregation and guests enjoyed pancakes, sausages, refreshing oranges and as always, delicious coffee. Israel/Palestine discussions concluded when Michaela did her presentation. We spent some time talking about the "Charter for Compassion" that's been floating around the congregation lately - how the most important part of this (and any other) religion is the "Golden Rule", and how many people ignore that in the name of religion (despite all of the belief systems saying pretty much the same thing with regard to compassion). We also discussed issues of church/state separation, since that's been coming up in Manitoba schools and politics.

After all these "heavy" discussions we need a sleepover which we are planning. Also in the planning stages are a movie night and Skyzone trip.

Thank you to the congregation and Sunday school children who created and planted the "heart garden" on May 31st, in recognition of the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada.

The Junior Youth collected donations for West Broadway Community Centre and presented them to Barb Wiebe during Sunday's worship service. Barb was acknowledged for her dedication to delivering goods to West Broadway on a regular basis. The youth are also making arrangements to visit the community centre to learn more about its activities. Thank you Junior Youth and thank you Barb!



Pack your bags – we're off to do a little travelling.....



to the ... FRENCH POLYNESIAN ISLANDS with Barrie and Marvelle

Our Princess Cruise Line tour took us to the French Polynesian Islands which consist of Tahiti, Huahine, Rangiroa, Raiatea, Bora Bora and Moorea. There are over 118 islands, some without access and the climate is generally hot and humid. The islands are millions of years old with Tahiti having the largest population at 27,000. All education is paid by France. For those with limited facilities, children are sent to boarding schools on islands with facilities. Some people choose to go to university in France and/or New Zealand. Teachers from France have 2 – 4 year contracts. It takes 2 years to learn local customs – salary; 40 hour week \$1,200 – no unemployment insurance.

They are governed by France. They have a High Commissioner who lives in Papeete. Each island elects a mayor and they have a representative who represents all the islands. They also have a representative on the Government of France Assembly. They adhere to French rules and policies. France provides subsidization and provides for free health, education, military and policing. 25% of the population (young people) would like to seek independence – 75% (older people) like the subsidization from France but query what and when it might be cut off. The religion found on the islands is fairly consistent. Protestants came first and account for 50% of the population. Catholics came next

A VISIT TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

We hear so much about the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East...of terrorist activities, claims of land entitlements of unjustified aggression by both parties. With the issues being inflamed by media coverage painting either the Israelis or Palestinians as being guilty of gross inhumanity towards the other, it has been difficult to get a clear understanding of the basis for the conflict and how we, as Christians, might best respond to the needs.

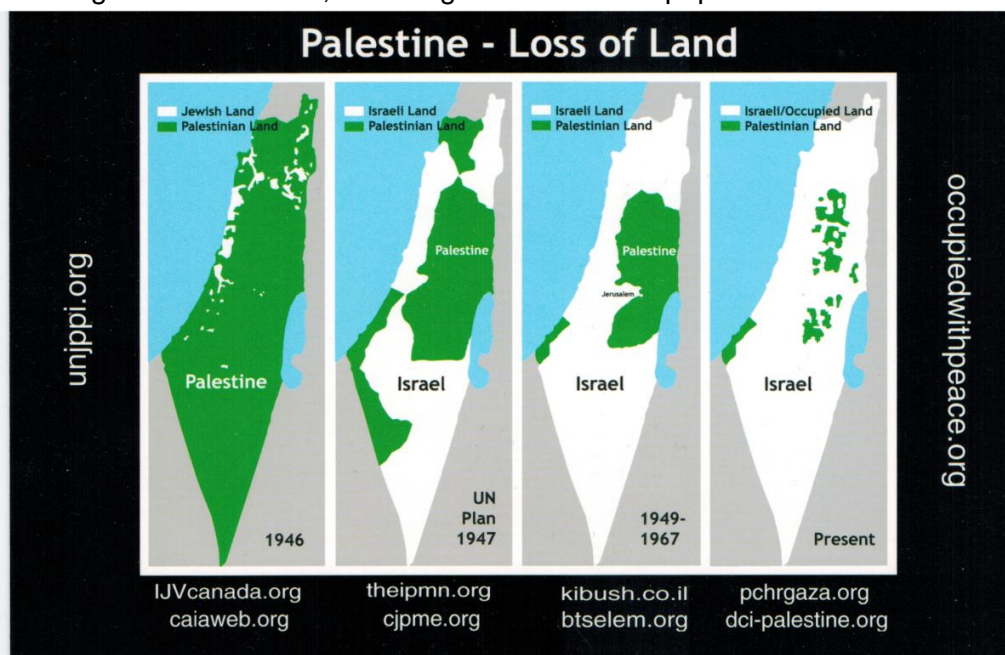
To help us gain an objective view of the issues, Rev. Marc led a study series on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict during Lent. Through a combination of scripture readings, videos, position papers and group discussion, our group began to develop some grasp of a few of the basic issues in this very complex conflict. So what did we learn?

1. While there has been some Jewish presence in this land from the earliest of recorded times (The Land of Israel), it has been under the control of a variety of Occupiers for several thousand years. The descendants of the Palestinian people themselves have had a presence here since before the time of the Roman occupation.
2. As indicated in the maps, the area now called Israel was mostly Palestinian land prior to 1947. In establishing the Israeli state in 1947, the UN plan was to divide the area more or less equally between Israel and Palestine. As a result of a series of conflicts between the Israelis and various Arab nations in the Middle East, between 1949 and 1967 the Israelis occupied most of the former Palestinian land. Since then the Israelis by force have illegally occupied most of the remaining Palestinian land, confining the Palestinian population to a series of scattered settlements.

3. The Israeli authorities have built a wall deep in Palestinian land that cuts Palestinians from their land, their schools and their jobs, as well as from each other. To access jobs, schools etc. on the other side of the barrier, Palestinians must pass through check points each day where they are forced to line up for extended periods and are subject to intrusive searches and questioning.
4. The Israeli authorities continue to illegally demolish Palestinian homes in the occupied Palestinian territory or evict Palestinians from their own homes to create increasing numbers of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory.

5. Signs of hope are: a) dialogue among those practising Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Palestine b) nonviolent protests that are supported by many Israelis, as well as by the international community as a whole c) belief by many in both the Israeli and Palestinian communities that members of both groups can share the land fairly and live in harmony.

6. Some actions that we as members of a Christian community might take in response to this crisis are: a) become better informed about the issues b) boycott products manufactured by Israelis in the occupied Palestinian territory c) visit the area d) challenge misinformation that appears in the media e) voice concerns to our governments about policies that perpetuate the illegal occupation f) challenge misinformation that arises in discussions with family and friends g) read and support the position of the United Church of Canada in respect to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.





Our next trip was to Ireland. Thanks to the Men's Club, the congregation enjoyed a delicious Irish stew lunch which has become a tradition at NKUC. The lunch is held on or near St. Patrick's Day; St. Patrick being the patron saint of Ireland and Irish stew, a traditional meal. However, after all these years that elusive pot of gold hidden by the leprechauns still has not been found!

To conclude our "travels" we took a trip to the Bahamas by attending the World day of Prayer service written by the Bahamas WDP committee. The theme of the service, held at River East Mennonite Brethren Church, was, "Jesus said to them, do you know what I have done to you?" Held on March 6,



the service was inspiring and also included an opportunity to consider our blessings by writing them on notes. Several churches in our area participated in the service and NKUC was well represented with many members attending. Thanks to Barb Wiebe who participated in the service.

Men's Club

The NKUC men's club has enjoyed another successful year. Some of the highlights were:

- We enjoyed a tasty breakfast at Neechi Commons with a lesson on social enterprises that are making a big difference in Winnipeg's North End.
- We hosted the annual Irish stew lunch. Thanks to the hospitality committee for the lovely desserts.
- Bruce Fauschou, Executive Director of United Church Halfway Homes spoke about the three halfway homes in Winnipeg that many folk do not know exist. There are ten spaces in each home for those men or women released from incarceration (criminal or not criminally responsible). Bruce had many interesting stories to share.
- Lynda Trono minister at West Broadway Community Centre enlightened us about the needs of West Broadway and how our group can provide outreach by volunteering services from light construction and maintenance, to cooking, cleaning, leading music groups or donating food, supplies, or coffee cups. She was very grateful for our donation of coffee mugs after the garage sale!

Below is a letter from Ginny Eckert, Volunteer Coordinator at West Broadway:

April 13, 2015

"Hello Frank,"

"Thank you again for asking me to speak at your men's breakfast and for breakfast itself. I really enjoyed the fellowship and getting to know you all a little better."

BREAKING NEWS – mark September 20 on your calendar for the Great Tie Dye T-Shirt event. What has Betty Clark got up her sleeve this time?

Stay tuned!

Thank you to Rev. Shannon McCarthy who visited NKUC to explain the document “United in God’s World”. This document outlines a restructuring plan for the UC of Canada and will be discussed at General Council this August. Shannon did a great job of explaining in “plain” language what this may mean to United Church congregations and ministers.



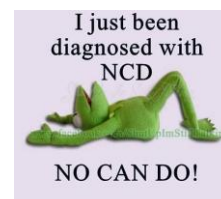
What is Appreciative Inquiry?

Building on the positive and what is already working rather than looking at the problems, what is not working and taking a deficit based view that uses energy, motivation and good will.

On April 10, Rev. Marc Whitehead, Barb Wiebe and Nancy Cosway attended an

Appreciative Inquiry workshop. To quote David L. Cooperrider et al, “Its assumption is simple: Every organization has something that works right – things that give it life when it is most alive, effective, successful, and connected in healthy ways to its stakeholders and communities. AI is important because it works to bring the whole organization together to build upon its positive core.”

As a team we looked at “How can we release our existing Passionate Spirituality?” And some of the ideas that came out of this were: being aware of opportunity, passion is shared and contagious, living impacts spirituality, God is beckoning us to the moment, take life experiences and transfer them to holy, being and doing. We are anxious to share our thoughts and ideas with the Board and congregation.



In February, 30 members of NKUC participated in a natural church development survey. The results generated discussion at the board and committee level and the planning group developed some recommendations. Briefly, they are:

- focusing on addressing/improving and understanding the area of “passionate spirituality”.
- what does passionate spirituality mean to you?
- developing six questions re passionate spirituality that are more readily understood and connected to our own context at NKUC.



(Looking for passionate spirituality)

Update from ...

Major Capital Projects

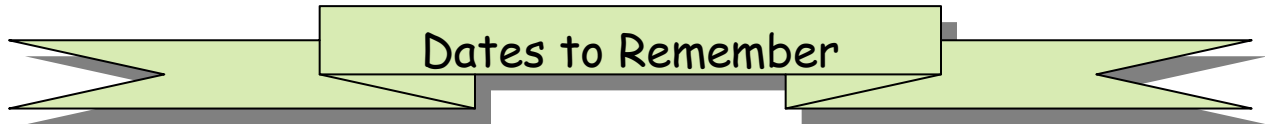
When the Major Capital Projects Task Group (MCP) was formed in 2013, our first project was quite clearly to address the problem of a leaking roof. Once that was complete, we began considering what the most pressing needs of our building and grounds were, and to that end, we solicited input from the major standing committees, as well as UCW. Each group provided suggestions that they felt should be considered over the next few years. From that input, it was felt that to improve accessibility to all three levels of our facility was the most pressing need, and after much discussion, we began moving ahead with that project, by having a proposed plan drawn up and cost estimates prepared.

In recent weeks, MCP has received some feedback that perhaps there are other projects that the congregation feels are more pressing. MCP has recognized that further consultation with the whole congregation would be desirable. To that end, our plan is to draft a short survey that will be distributed widely, both electronically and in hard copy, which will request all members of the congregation to prioritize a list of proposed capital projects which MCP might consider. This survey will be developed and circulated very shortly, and we will request the responses to be returned by the end of July. We strongly urge everyone in the congregation to complete the survey and submit it in a timely manner.

We wish to thank everyone for their support and understanding in this important matter.

Respectfully,
Major Capital Projects Task Group





Dates to Remember

Please watch your church bulletins for details

July 5	Gay Todd*	
July 12	Betty Hamilton*	*conducting worship while
July 19	UCW*	Marc is away
July 26	Worship Committee*	
August 2	Toonie Sunday	
August 11	Board Meeting	
September 6	Toonie Sunday	
September 13	Sunday School Registration - Open House	
September 20	Sunday School covenanting service	
October 4	World Wide Communion - Toonie Sunday – Blanket Exercise after worship service (presented by Kairos and First Nations guests)	
October 11	Thanksgiving Sunday	
October 18	World Food Day – Stone Soup Luncheon, Stewardship Kick-Off	
November 1	Toonie Sunday	
November 8	Remembrance Sabbath and Remembrance Tea	
November 15	Children's Sunday	
November 22	Communion – Dedication of pledges	
December 6	Toonie Sunday	
December 13	Children's Christmas Pageant, Congregation Christmas Party	
December 16	Blue Christmas Service - 7 p.m.	
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service - 7 p.m.	

Editor's Note: We are looking for articles or pictures about our church or church family. Is someone away at school, playing sports away or have you or your family returned from a big trip or activity that you would like to share? Please keep this in mind for our next newsletter. Contact Sheron at miller01@mts.net or call the church office at 204-667-7408. Deadline for next newsletter: August 23, 2015

Thank you to the following who contributed to this newsletter:

Carol Lyons

Betty Clark

Barrie and Marvella McPherson

Shawn McDonald

John Harper

Sheron Miller

Peter Latimer

Marc Whitehead

Nancy Cosway

Ron Fortier

Clayton Gording

