

Between the Aisles

A Robertson-Wesley United Church Quarterly

SUMMER





Co-editors' Greeting

Happy Summer Everyone!

We are pleased to offer you a wide variety of articles to delight, inform, and interest you. We encourage feedback. Enjoy!!

Janet M. Clark and Nancy Heule

Syrian Refugee Update

Good news to share about our refugee family!! Nineteen year old Abdul Al Masoud, a student at Centre High, has been selected to be a Youth Ambassador for the C3 Canada 150 project, which is a 150-day expedition around the entire coastline of Canada. His leg of the journey will be September 3 – 9 from Kugluktuk to Tuktoyaktuk. How many of us can say that we've visited that part of Canada?! C3 has just publicly announced their Youth team and sent out a press release so Abdul Fettah can now officially celebrate!

This is truly an unbelievable opportunity and he is very excited about it. He is still learning all that it entails, and the responsibilities being a Youth Ambassador holds, but he says he is up for the challenge and that he would like to be a leader for other youth in Canada. The selection committee and educator team with C3 are also keen to support him through the journey. If you are interested in reading more, you can check it out at www.canadac3.ca If you click on the Youth Ambassador section you will find Abdul's profile there (photo credits to Haruko Hashimoto). We are very proud of him and the work he has already done to get to where he is now. We especially love that he is learning some great English vocabulary like "reconciliation, diversity and inclusion, youth engagement, and environment" as these are the four key themes of the journey. There will be lots more work, learning and growth in the months ahead, and during that time he will be working with and being supported by C3 educators and the Youth Ambassador team. This experience will definitely shape his perspective, ambition and opportunities moving forward as a Canadian.

This news was shared by Michelle and Ryan Young, of the Refugee Response Group, who assisted Abdul in preparing his Youth Ambassador application.

Lois Field for the R-W Outreach Committee

A Place of Refuge

Sanctuary. It is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as a place of refuge. A sanctuary is a place to shelter from the troubles of modern life. Several months ago I started noticing behaviours that made me realize that we may be forgetting the real purpose of our church sanctuary. I feel that we are letting the troubles and demands of life follow us into the sanctuary and that it is less a place of refuge than a place of business and noise.

We tend to fall into the temptation of using our cell-phones instead of listening. We tend to chat with our neighbours when we could be listening to and enjoying the talented choir share their music with us. We tend to zone out when we could be listening to those who have volunteered to bravely read scripture in front of the entire congregation. We tend to answer or silence our needy cell-phones instead of taking in the message of the Sunday's sermon. Many people have put much work into our Sunday services and it is important that we respectfully and intentionally participate by listening, paying attention, and giving our full consideration to the service.

Recently I have concluded that I need to live a more real, authentic life and do more real, intentional, quality activities. Similarly, I challenge everyone at Robertson-Wesley to be fully present and fully participate during our Sunday services.

Geoff Anderson



Book Buddies

Calling all Book Lovers!!

The Earth's Blanket; Traditional Teachings for Sustainable Living is Book Buddies' next great read.

The author Nancy J. Turner, an ethnobotanist at the University of Victoria, has worked closely with the indigenous people of British Columbia. She has documented much of their knowledge regarding the natural world.

The book will be available for purchase by Book Buddies in late June. Discussion Saturday, September 30 at 9 am in the Club Room.

Nancy Heule

India Unveiled Tour



India is an experience that challenges the senses - it is an overload of sights, sounds, colours, smells and tastes. This is definitely a country where one should expect the unexpected as there is so much variety in the geography, dress, food, religion and the culture of the people themselves. The three weeks that our tour group spent in this diverse country were cause for me to re-assess and re-think my philosophical and theological belief systems.

The highlight of the trip was fulfilling my long held desire to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra. The Taj Mahal is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World and was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. This architectural wonder is a concrete statement of a seventeenth century love story of the Mughal Emperor *Shah Jahan* for his second wife *Mumtaz Mahal*, who died in childbirth of their fourteenth child. In designing the final resting place for his favourite wife, the Emperor intended that it should resemble paradise. The tomb is surrounded by the then perceived essentials for life - arable land and water. In my opinion, the exquisite gardens, elaborate waterways and master craftsmanship in the inlaid marble features is a recreation of paradise on earth.

The other outstanding experiences for me was the sighting of a Royal Bengal Tiger in its natural habitat in Ranthambhore; the opportunity to ride an elephant just outside the pink City of Jaipur; an overnight adventure on a houseboat cruising the backwaters of Kerala; and a traditional Ayurvedic massage that uses heated scented oils.

I returned from India with a new appreciation for interfaith and intercultural harmony. Within India, the predominant faith groups are Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity and Buddhism. In the southern city of Kochi, we visited a Hindu temple, a Moslem mosque, a Jewish synagogue and a Christian church, all within the same block, without there appearing to be any friction or conflict among the faith communities. All appeared to exist in a symbiotic relationship with each other. This gave me hope and made me wonder why this type of harmony could not exist in the rest of the world.

Religion also impacts the cuisine of India. The soul of Indian cuisine is an exotic assortment of spices that includes chili and black peppers, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, saffron and other secret spices. To our bland Canadian taste palettes, most of the local dishes were extremely spicy. Even within the cuisine, the diversity of India is demonstrated as the food varies with each state and the dietary habits of the predominant religions. Traditionally, Hindus and Sikhs do not eat beef and Muslims do not eat pork. Thus, in addition to many vegetarian dishes we experienced a variety of lamb, mutton, chicken and fish.

India has a population of 1.34 billion people, making it the second most populous country in the world; more than 50% of the current population is under the age of 25 years. This situation generates the issue of gainful employment for the many young adults. In contrast to our western societies, which value automation and efficiencies, India has outlawed and forbidden large box stores like Wal-Mart and mega malls. Instead, in communities outside of the major large cities there is an abundance of small family operated businesses that cater to the local consumers. From what I observed, there is no need for automated and energy saving devices when there is a surplus of human resources to complete the many tasks. In the west, we are continually looking for labour saving devices, while in India, it seems as though the goal is find opportunities to create employment, especially in the hospitality and service industry.

My personal Indian epiphany was the conflict between the Hindu belief of predestination and reincarnation and the Christian doctrine of free will. Our tour guide, Munish, shared his Hindu theological faith beliefs that *every event in the life of an individual has already been determined by God - everything happens only according to God's will. Individuals do not have any control over events.* Many an evening my roommate and I discussed and debated predestination until the wee hours and tried to identify in what life form we would return in our next life, if we believed in reincarnation. I do not know if I could possibly come back in a higher form than that of a tourist in India on the Rostad tour "*India Unveiled*".

Sandi Darrell

Women's Weekend. Earth's Weavers: Making Connections



Registration forms are now available if you would like to join us for a weekend away at Strawberry Creek Lodge from September 15 to 17.

The theme this year is ***Earth's Weavers: Making Connections***

This weekend will include: celebration, creativity, friends, laughter, spiritual practice, time outdoors. The weekend is also a time to relax, eat delicious meals and, most of all, get to know the women at R-W.

Women's Weekend registration forms are now available and can be found in the bulletin today, the literature racks and on R-W's website.

For more information contact the church office by phone or email at mail@rwuc.org. Deadline to register for the weekend is July 2, 2017.

Holy Manners Covenant

Dear Robertson-Wesley family, I am writing to you because I want to share the most recent version of Holy Manners. Edmonton Presbytery has posted this as a covenant on their website and they are using it to launch their meetings. I find some of these "manners" challenging. I am often spilling-over with what I want to say next. I hold my opinions dearly, priding myself on my ability to "get things done." Sometimes I am too afraid to speak plainly for fear that I will be disliked, rather than knowing our relationship is resilient enough to survive conflict and that respect means speaking facts from the heart.

The Easter message of team is practically lived in the manners below. Please hold me to account as I try to intentionally practice these manners with our RWUC staff, each of you, my work colleagues and loved ones. These manners are the foundation for what you can expect from each other in our community.

Finally, I'd like to share something I found which captures the feeling of how I want to be Christian and why I go to our church (I didn't want to be Christian for years before coming to RWUC): Traveling the road of healthy religion and true contemplation will lead to calmly held boundaries, which need neither to be defended constantly nor abdicated in the name of friendship. (Daily Meditations by Richard Rohr: Healthy Boundaries, December 4, 2016). Robertson-Wesley is the kind of place where we don't have to defend or abdicate; we can be ourselves, held in love and respect. These manners put to words how.

*With affection, Lisa Fairweather,
Ministry & Personnel Committee Chair*

Holy Manners

One: We come together as pilgrims, each on a unique spiritual journey, but desiring to work together in faith, in hope and in love. Here, as one community of faith, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we will honour God and promote right relationship with each other and with the world.

All: We affirm that we are part of God's creation, now gathering on the traditional territory of Treaty 6 First Nations and in the traditional territory of the Metis nation. May we honour the past as we preserve this land for future generations.

One: In our Christian love for one another, we will:

Respect each other by listening with our hearts, including all in our language and in our awareness.

Be patient, refraining from interrupting others with words or with gestures, and affirming the deep wisdom of silence, pausing as necessary to ponder the words of others.

Show courage by speaking openly, daring to accept new directions while still learning from and honouring the past.

Remain open-minded, holding our own opinions lightly, welcoming divergent opinions and seeking to understand the viewpoints of others, valuing the person even if we disagree with the argument.

Show humility, avoiding generalizations and speaking only for ourselves in a spirit of truth and gentleness.

All: Together we accept this covenant, journeying together in a spirit of love and cooperation as a whole and holy community. We make this pledge with God's help. Amen.

Spiritual Formation Pod

"Spiritual Formation." Those words sound a little intimidating to me. "Formation" could mean rows of people in straight lines but used here I think perhaps "formation" should be thought of more as a verb than a noun.

Think of formation like forming a clay vessel on a potter's wheel. I have friends who are potters. There is nothing tidy or even "in a straight line" about throwing clay on a potter's wheel. I'm sure you know that throwing pots includes lots of water, wearing an apron and generally messy, slippery hands, clothes, hair, implements and floors as the rotation of the wheel pushes the clay into the strong grip of the potter. So when I think of "spiritual formation" I think of coming to grips with some of the big questions in life, getting involved in discussion and activities that explore the nature of God, God's love for everyone of us, forgiveness, redemption; big words, big concepts but oh so personal.

If we don't get hung up on what "formation" implies, then we can begin to come to revel in, enjoy and perhaps accept the "Spiritual" half of the title, "Spiritual Formation." How and where do we encounter the Holy Spirit? For each of us the answer will be different. It is that diversity that is our strength at Robertson-Wesley.

Sarah Wiens
Coordinator Spiritual Formation Pod



Can You Help Me?

"Can you help me?" I looked up and there he was standing in the doorway to my office at the Memorial Society. He was in his middle 40's, an ordinary-looking man who was a little lost trying to find the office. I asked him what I could help him with and he responded "Yes, if you are the Memorial Society." He entered the office and took the seat I indicated. "What can I do for you?" I asked. (I always ask this just to open the conversation and put people at ease.) He responded "My wife is having an assisted death next Tuesday and I need help. I don't know what to do and what needs to be done. How do I set up her funeral and what else do I need to do?"

I was somewhat taken aback. This was the first 'assisted death' I had run into since the 2016 kerfuffle about the legalities and the needed change in the criminal code. We talked a bit about what he wanted to do in terms of a funeral and how the assisted death would be carried out. He seemed to be ok but as he talked he got more upset. Sometimes it is easier to talk to someone you don't know plus the society wants to focus on being compassionate, friendly and helpful. I took my courage in my hands and said "That must be really, really difficult for you, planning an assisted death. Did you have to get approval from 2 physicians?" At that he started to answer and got more upset but continued... "It's really hard! Yes, we had to get two physicians approval. They will be there, at home to get her final verbal approval and then carry out the injection. She has cancer and is in such pain that there is no quality to life left." I responded that the death was probably the best for her since this was the situation. He then said "I feel like I'm killing her. I don't want her to die but, this is what she wants and it's the last thing I can do for her."

"You don't want her to suffer any more but you love her and don't want to lose her?"

"Yes. Everybody is being so helpful to prevent her suffering. It just makes it worse since I feel this way."

At that he broke down and started to cry, trying, like we all do, to hide his tears. I stood up and asked: "Can I give you a hug?" put my arms around him and let him cry. He seemed so lost and alone. I told him that I had looked after my Mum for 8 years and I knew how hard it is to lose someone to cancer. I couldn't imagine how much more difficult it would be in the case of an assisted death. We talked a bit further about the details of her illness. He then said "She wants to go at home, so it is planned for next Tuesday afternoon."

We had finished setting up all the funeral details. All we could do was commiserate. I reminded him to please call or come by if there was any way I could assist or if he just wanted to talk about the process. He pulled himself together and we hugged again and he left.

I thought about what he said and how he was reacting. I felt glad that I had been able to comfort him. I thought he was very brave to go through with this even though he didn't want to. What a situation and what a couple. My prayers were with them on the following Tuesday.

Lea Callebaut



The United Church Prepares for Great Changes in Structure

A Message from Presbytery

Ever since its inception in 1925, The United Church of Canada has embraced change as it strives to better serve its communities. The United Church is currently made up for 4 courts (each one made up of elected representatives of another). Our national representatives are part of a body called the General Council. In 2015, after a 6 year cycles of listening, prayer and study, they decided on some recommendations for change in our denomination. The changes are drastic enough to warrant a “remit” process – when all courts are asked to vote on issues. Some remits were sent on to the court we call Presbytery (made up of elected representatives from United Churches in one region). Others were sent to the Official Boards of each pastoral charge (church). Remits approved by an absolute majority go to General Council 43 for approval in 2018.

One of the key aspects of remits is that it is determined by an absolute majority (not a count of a majority of those that vote but one of all those eligible to vote) and not voting counts as a no. Thus your Official Board and Presbytery took seriously their task to vote, making sure that if they said no to a recommendation that it was due to prayer and discernment, not apathy. Presbyteries voted on three remits earlier this year and **all passed nationally** (with Edmonton’s support).

Remit 5 - Ministry Partners within Mutual Recognition Agreements

The 42nd General Council recommended that we have a new category of “ministry partner” (currently they need to process through 3 years of admissions). A new category of “ministry partner” will allow properly ordered ministers from certain denominations (those with pre-determined agreements), to be a full member of Presbytery and thus have equivalent membership and responsibilities in all courts of the church.

Remit 7 – Candidacy Pathway

The 42nd General Council recommended that we change the process in which someone discerns if they are called to Ordered Ministry in the United Church. The new process coalesces the process of moving from lay to ordered (deciding, learning, training) into one courts instead of the redundancy of it being worked on within three. Congregations stay involved creating “Circles of Accompaniment” to support students and candidates (without an evaluative role).

Remit 8 – A Step Towards a New Model of Membership

The 42nd General Council recommended that full members of a congregation could vote to allow adherents to vote at congregational meetings on not only the temporal (administrative and financial) matters but also spiritual matters (staffing and foundational).

Please see the United Church website for all the details on the remits (GC42.ca/remits).

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

Between the Aisles accepts unsolicited submissions from members for each quarterly issue.

Submissions can be emailed to: rwucnews@gmail.com

Deadline for the Fall edition submissions:

August 6, 2017

Distribution: **August 27, 2017**

Our Board Votes On Denomination Changing Remits

In 2015, the national body of the United Church, passed along recommendations for drastic changes in our denomination. These have been sent as recommendations to other courts in our church in what are called “remits.” Your Official Board spent a morning together learning about how the church currently works and the recommended changes. They voted and forwarded the results to the General Council office. They agreed with 5 of the 6 recommendations made by the General Council.

Remit 1 – A Three Council Model

Your board voted in favour of re-organizing our denomination from a four-court structure into a three-council model. The intent of this reorganization is to create a sustainable church structure in the face of a declining volunteer base and financial resources by replacing both of the current middle courts with one regional council. Each council would have specific responsibilities including Congregations. We would have more rights and responsibilities including electing and sending representatives to a Regional Council. Those folks would all either go to or elect representatives to the national body called the Denominational Council. (On page 6 you can read about Remits 5, 7 and 8.)

Remit 2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement Process

Your Board voted in favour of eliminating the processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry. This system was used to match up churches with new ministers. It became optional a few years ago and has been used by almost no one since.

Remit #3 Office of Vocation

Your Board voted in favour of establishing a denominational (national) Office of Vocation (with accountability to an elected Board of Vocation), responsible to ensure we continue to be served by trained, skilled, competent, and responsible ministers. Instead of volunteer and peer based oversight committees working regionally, at each court, a permanent Office would set *standards* for and *accredit* candidates for ministry, *support* ministry personnel, *centralize* paperwork, and *oversee* discipline of ministry personnel. Its elected Board would consist of lay and ordered members of the wider church. Its staff would be trained more specifically for human resources as well as discernment.

Remit #4 New Funding Model

Your Board voted in favour of creating a new funding model for the United Church with the budgeting process guided by the following principles: (1) use Mission & Service to fund ministry and mission activities; (2) fund governance and support services of other courts by assessing pastoral charges; (3) share assessments equitably across the whole church; (4) permit Conferences/Presbyteries to use additional resources for regional purposes; and (5) encourage sharing of all resources across the church.

The two main changes for congregations would be which court of the church would assess them for wider church activities, staffing and resources (a move from Presbytery to General Council) and the setting of an equitable, transparent and national assessment formula, starting at 4.5% of net revenue. These funds would cover the costs of governance and support services for the denomination. This would also eliminate the need for these costs to come from the voluntary Mission & Service Fund (currently gives about 10-15% to governance). This frees up Mission and Service dollars for Canadian and International outreach ministry and also will ensure our denomination’s courts live within our means.

Remit #6 One Order of Ministry (defeated)

Your Board DID NOT agree with the recommendation to create one new Order of Ministry encompassing the present categories of recognized designated lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and ordained ministers, with ordination to the ministry of word, sacrament, education, service and pastoral care as the single rite of entry. At present each stream and type of ministry has its own identity, educational requirements and entry rite, as well as some differences on pay scales and requirements during service. To have one Order would eliminate these differences.

Leigh Sinclair

Steering Forward

The Robertson-Wesley United Church (RWUC) budget for 2017 was passed by the Board of Directors on February 3, 2017 and approved by the congregation on February 12. This budget includes an additional investment of business expertise in our church.

Robertson-Wesley United Church was built on over 100 years of commitment, work, love, and steadfast faith. Times have changed dramatically during that period but our need to live a spiritual life in service to God and our community is perhaps more urgent than it has ever been. Five full-time day staff, three part-time events coordinators, and dozens of volunteers like you work together to provide creative and affirming Christian programming available to everyone over the past several years.

The budget includes an additional provision for staffing to build on our momentum and work. The additional staff will facilitate communication with people beyond our physical community to engage with people who may not know who or where we are located (friends that we have not yet met). In addition, a business manager will also review our current practices and methodology for generating revenue to ensure that we are making the most of our available resources. This includes our facilities (weddings, rentals, funerals), alternate methods of payment (credit card, Apple Pay), government grants, and maximizing the impact of our fundraising initiatives.

When the budget was presented, both communications and financial tasks were envisioned to be handled by one business manager. However, these skill sets are extremely broad, so we have since decided that it would be advantageous to bring two people on board with experience and qualifications in each of the fields of communications and business. We are so pleased to welcome Garth to the position of business manager. Garth began working in his position right after Easter and is quickly learning how things work and generating ideas as to how things can work better. In addition, we welcome Iain Gillis in his expanded role as communications officer. Iain has worked with Robertson-Wesley in the past nine months continuing with the wonderful work begun by Reverend Jim Allan before his retirement in August, 2017. Both Garth and Iain have the important tasks of taking their responsibilities "to the next level." The funding for these two positions remains the same as the original budget (\$30,000 for 2017).

There is so much good work that we do and so much more that we would like to do, so we need to channel our gifts and resources to become intentional and effective in our purpose. For example, Garth will review such issues as our parking challenges and work with the congregation to come to a solution that will serve us now and for the future. Iain is working with the Ministry team to reimagine our website and explore new methods of communicating and engaging beyond the Oliver area. Both of these tasks are vital if we are to remain as vibrant in the next hundred years as we have been in the first hundred.

With great excitement, RWUC also welcomes Reverend Leigh Sinclair, who began leading our congregation in worship in March, 2017. Leigh has already made great contributions to our church through her rich and thought provoking sermons, infectious enthusiasm, and powerful prayers. We are blessed to have a mix of talent and diversity in our staff as we do in our congregation.

The addition of Garth, Leigh and Iain will enable Robertson-Wesley fully realize all our gifts and blessings. Reverend Karen Bridges really stepped up and led our congregation since Reverend Jim Allan's retirement in September 2016. Thanks to the tireless work of Karen and the rest of the staff and volunteers at RWUC, our dreams of a diverse, engaged, and loving congregation continues to move closer within our grasp. However, as we grow, we needed to reinvest in our staff. As always, the 2017 budget will be reviewed for effectiveness and adequacy for the 2018 year.

The budget includes a provision for \$48.5K more in revenues (9.10%) and \$86.5K more in expenditures (17.3%, mostly in staffing). We expect that a significant part of the funding will come from the positions themselves, through finding efficiencies and increasing the size of our congregation and attendance of our worship services and programs.

As you may be aware, we have encountered a few expenditures for which we did not budget. Our sound system had to be completely replaced in March, some computers had to be replaced, and our beloved organ needed some repair. These additional expenditures amount to approximately \$20K but should serve our church for years to come. These investments will result in reduced frustration and time spent by our staff in trying to get the equipment to work.

We are grateful to both the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada for approving our grant applications to have the elevator and washrooms in the lower level replaced. These additional improvements to our building will cost approximately \$110,000, of which almost \$90,000 will be paid by these generous grants. The remaining \$20,000 will be funded through the Anniversary-Legacy fund. A debt of gratitude also goes to Pat Stewart for his hard work on the grant applications.

Most important, thank-YOU for your faith, support, and for being an important part of our community. We are very grateful and excited for the all the opportunities we have to expand our programming with more outreach, Christian development, and fellowship.

Robert Mah

Budget Summary

	2017 Budget	2016	
		2016 Budget	2016 Actual (Unaudited)
REVENUE SOURCES			
Offering (including Bequests)	\$ 464,501	\$ 436,277	\$ 430,005
Open	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,579	\$ 11,057
Rentals (Including Weddings, Funerals)	\$ 75,753	\$ 71,090	\$ 62,963
Fund Raising (NON-M&S)	\$ 25,635	\$ 21,300	\$ 23,067
Employment & Social Development Canada	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,331
Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
City of Edmonton Historical Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES (Excl. Investment)	\$ 580,889	\$ 543,246	\$ 532,423
EXPENDITURES			
Ministry & Personnel	\$ 417,336	\$ 378,714	\$ 344,828
Property	\$ 56,628	\$ 53,651	\$ 51,358
Administration	\$ 39,403	\$ 39,200	\$ 42,460
Stewardship	\$ 867	\$ 865	\$ 297
Presbytery & Conference	\$ 30,005	\$ 26,522	\$ 29,942
Worship & Music	\$ 21,130	\$ 18,838	\$ 18,164
Communication	\$ 12,550	\$ 10,539	\$ 9,489
Service Programs	\$ 1,700	\$ 918	\$ 668
Family Ministries	\$ 1,270	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,410
Building Improvements	\$ -	\$ 12,500	\$ 6,650
Other Capital	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (Excl. Investment & Amort.)	\$ 584,089	\$ 546,447	\$ 505,266
Anniversary Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Crawford Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,366)
Robertson-Wesley Reserve Fund	\$ (3,200)	\$ (3,200)	\$ -
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS USED	\$ (3,200)	\$ (3,200)	\$ (1,366)
SURPLUS(DEFICIT) Before Investment & Amortization	(\$0)	(\$0)	\$28,523

Celebrating 50 years of handbell ringing!

Sunday, June 4

The current members of the Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells would like to invite you to a special celebration. The R-W Ringers will play in the service on Sunday, June 4 at 10:30 and the service will be followed by a concert with the R-W Ringers and Nova Bells.

This celebration is in honour of the 50th anniversary of handbell ringing here at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Robertson United Church, under Music Director Douglas Millson, was one of the first churches in Canada to get a set of handbells, and what a legacy that purchase has created! We are calling on all alumni handbell ringers and directors, as well as audience members to join us in this celebration. The concert will begin at approximately 11:30 am on Sunday, June 4.

No admission charge, but a freewill offering will be appreciated.



Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells



*Music is a moral law. It gives soul
to the universe, wings to the
mind, flight to the imagination,
and charm and gaiety to life
and to everything.*

unknown

Upcoming Improvements at R-W

Two projects will be completed at Robertson-Wesley this year, likely by the end of July. Those projects are:

- Replace the present elevator. Note: elevator will be out of service from June 5 - July 31.
- Upgrade the basement washrooms to make them handicap accessible. This project is expected to run from June 22-July 31.

The Property Committee submitted grant applications and has received substantial funding from the federal and provincial governments toward these projects. Below is the summary:

Projects cost

Elevator \$55,090

Washrooms \$51,755

Total \$106,865

Grants

Federal Government \$36,681

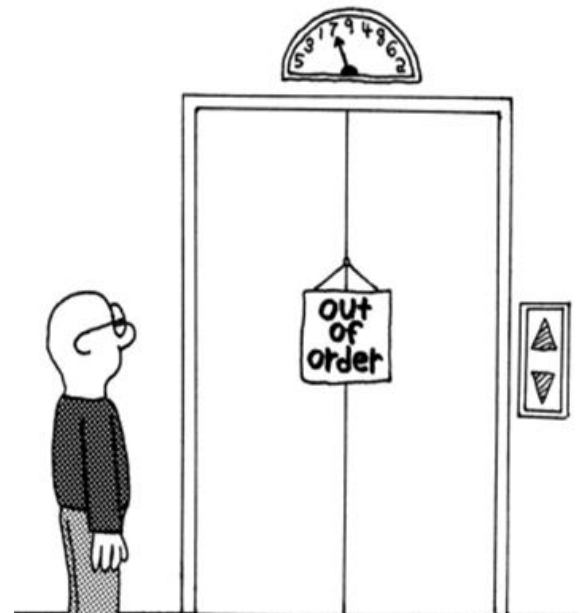
Provincial Government \$53,271

Total \$89,952

Robertson-Wesley Contribution \$16,913

The church is getting \$106,865 worth of work done for less than \$17,000. If you would like to make a donation to help offset these costs, it would be much appreciated. Any residual amount will come from the church reserve funds.

Bear with us during these renovations as the lack of an elevator will inconvenience some people. The east entrance with the ramp will be used by those who can't manage the stairs.



<https://www.clipartgram.com>

R-W Flower Group

After 89 years of service it is with sincere regret that we are announcing the disbandment as of July, 2017 of the Robertson Wesley United Church Flower Group.

With the aging of the ladies and the declining membership, the decision has been made that continuing is no longer viable. We are hopeful that the tradition of having fresh flowers available for our Sunday services might continue in some way under the umbrella of other committees within the church. The present members of the Flower Group would be happy to assist the various committees to absorb the duties presently held by the Flower Group members. These members include Lorna Berlinguette, Betty Jean Buchanan, Rosemary Dunbar, Lois Field, Gayle Houston, Mary McLean, Jean Muir-Golden, Colleen Ouellette, and Betty-Lou Weir.

Gayle Houston, The Flower Group



The Flower Group's Favorite Cookie Recipe: "Cheesies"

¼ container of Imperial Cheese (red container)

½ cup butter or margarine

1 ½ cup Rice Krispies

1 cup flour

Cream butter and cheese. Add flour. Beat together. Fold in Rice Krispies.

Drop by spoonfuls on cookie sheet. With a fork dipped in flour, press flat. (They are best when not too thick.)

Bake at 350 degrees until slightly brown, about 8 minutes.

Watch carefully because they burn easily.

If desired, before baking, sprinkle with cayenne; this is nice with a drink!

These cheesies freeze well.

When needed, heat in 225 to 250 oven until well warmed. Serve warm and enjoy.



Robertson-Wesley United Church

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The musicians of R-W are going on tour!!!

The combined choirs of United on Whyte, Choir of R-W, the R-W Ringers and Cree singer/songwriter Karen Donaldson Shepherd are going on a "tour" in June. We received a Canada 150 grant to do five concerts in four days in the Edmonton region including all four surrounding counties. We will be performing all Canadian music in the following venues:

Friday June 9, 8pm, First United, 10409-100 Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan

Saturday June 10, 7:30 pm, Seba Beach Golden Age Seniors Centre, 109-1st Street, Seba Beach

Sunday June 11, 2:30 pm, St. Vital Catholic Church, 4905 50 Street, Beaumont

Sunday June 11, 7:30 pm, Morinville United Church, 9610 Morinville Drive, Morinville

Monday June 12, 7:30 pm, Robertson-Wesley United Church, 10209-123 Street, Edmonton

Get out of the city and be our groupies!!

