

F A L L 2 0 1 8

THE King City United Church

FALL NEWSLETTER in WINTER

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MISSION STATEMENT:

One of the most important parts of advertising our church and who WE are as a congregation, both online and in life, is our mission statement. I have slightly revised our current mission statement for use as a description on our website and Facebook page. I am putting this out to the congregation in hopes that you will each spend a few minutes thinking about it in the upcoming weeks; all critiques are welcome! A mission statement should be short, concise, and say something about who we are.

Our current mission statement is:

“A Vibrant, Caring, Christian, Family Proclaiming the Good News of God's Love through Jesus Christ.

Through the celebration of worship, the joy of music and warmth of Christian fellowship;

- **we shall nurture and develop Christians of all ages, with special emphasis on children and youth.**
- **we shall reach out through our members to others in the local, national and global communities.**
- **we shall provide Christian leadership in matters affecting social justice.”**

For the purpose of our website the above mission statement has been slightly altered to the following tentative statement:

“We are a small and caring Christian family proclaiming the Good News of God's Love through Jesus Christ.

Through the celebration of worship, the joy of music, and warmth of Christian fellowship we shall:

- **Foster love and kindness in people of all ages.**
- **Reach out together to those in local, national and global communities.**
 - **Provide Christian leadership and support through faith, love and acceptance.”**

As this statement encompasses the whole congregation, everyone's thoughts should be represented. Please get in contact with Sheryl Sinka or Jessica Sinka if you have any ideas regarding the mission statement revisions.

(This same discussion was brought up at church on Sunday November 18th)



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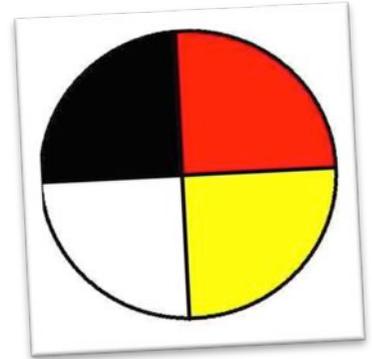
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SMUDGE CEREMONY

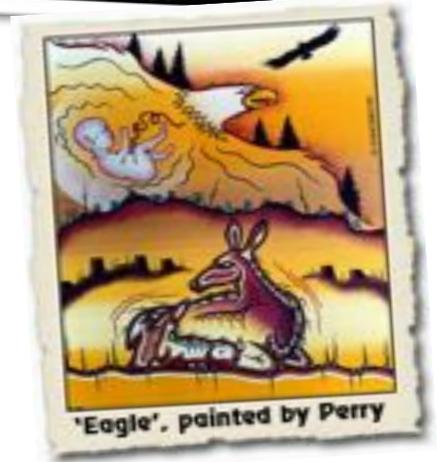
For those of you who know me, know that I have spent my last 4 years immersed in the North Bay area. North Bay for me is characterized by the typical rocky Canadian Shield terrain, cold winds, ice fishing, friendly faces, snowshoeing, skiing, hot coco, and is almost always covered in a white sheet of snow. North Bay is also home to many indigenous cultures like the Dokis First Nations. Recently I had the opportunity to attend a guest lecture given by Terry Dokis and a smudge ceremony presented by Perry McLeod who also incorporated traditional stories, which had been passed down. The beliefs of Dokis individuals are focused on human interactions with the **natural environment**; something that really spoke to me. With that being said this is my recounting of what I learned about Dokis tradition.

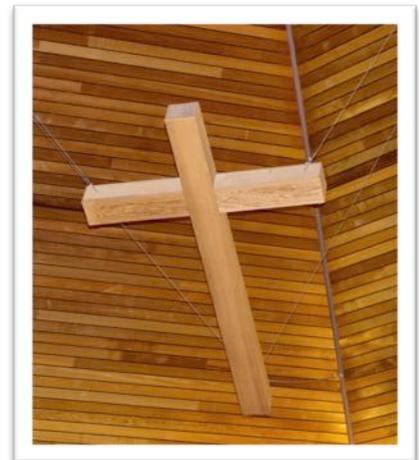


The Medicine Wheel: Pictured above is the depiction of the medicine wheel; this wheel may differ based on geographical location of those using it. This wheel represents directions (north at the top), elements (where typically red is fire, yellow is earth, white is air, and black is water), spiritual animals, but most importantly it represents plant species that are known to have special characteristics. Sage is used to purify and to drive out negative energy, sweet grass attracts positive energy, cedar wards off sickness (we were even told that bathing in cedar water could aid in ones fight against cancer), and finally tobacco, which is possibly the most important plant. Tobacco is seen to be a connection to the spiritual world and is known as “The Gift”. I learned that small amounts of tobacco are wrapped in small red fabric squares and are placed at the location of collected plants to give thanks to spirits (i.e animal spirits or plant spirits) or to give thanks to another being. A VERY large amount of tobacco was given to Perry as a thank-you on behalf of our whole ethnobotany class (a little tobacco was added per person in attendance).

The Smudge Ceremony: Smudging is a ceremony, which is done using smoke of sacred plant spirits to cleanse and purify the body, aura, energy or space. As Perry beat a drum and sang in a loud echoing voice in words I did not know, a smudging bowl (as pictured right) was circulated through the lecture hall. As the shell and smudge stick made it around to me I was quietly instructed to waft the smoke over my eyes, then over my mouth, then over my ears, then over my hair, then over my heart, and finally over my body as a whole. The singing continued until the rest of the class had all had their turn, the words of the song I later found out to be about a sacred thunderbird. It is tradition at gatherings to ‘feast’ and as a broke university student I was more than delighted to see the tables of soups, breads, dips, cheeses and veggies arranged at the front. We were told that at gatherings and ceremonies food is always present. Perry proceeded to create a plate for the spirits, which was taken outside and placed by a tree in offering. We were told that this food is dedicated to loved ones who have passed on and that they are to be remembered and commemorated by us, the living, with the making of their favourite dishes, which is then shared with them in gesture. I couldn’t help but think that I should cook up some cabbage rolls in memory of my great grandmother... she LOVED cabbage rolls! After the food was offered to the spirits we were allowed to begin picking away at our own plates as Perry began an inspiring story of salvation, and although I recall general concepts the words I fail to remember. Perry’s spirit name is “Aandzooked”, which means “Story Teller” in Anishinabemowin so I assure you the story told was beautifully and drew everyone’s attention. (Pictured to the right is one of Perry’s art pieces, which he used in his presentation)

I am so thankful to have been present for both the guest lecture and smudge ceremony and to observe the tradition first hand. For the next newsletter I would love to hear your responses to my experience or to hear your experiences. - Please write me at jess131@rogers.com !





The King City United Church Online Presence

Think about how happy our church makes you. How beautiful our property is; the church itself nestled into the coloured foliage in autumn, the vibrant flowers in spring and summer, or the pure sheet of white snow in winter. The sanctuary is always warm (thanks to the heated floors) and the pulpit décor and plant life always brings a sense of welcome to whoever walks in the doors. King City United Church is beautiful, warm, and welcoming and our online presence needs to reflect who we are. Recently I finished creating a new website and Facebook page which aims to represent all the best qualities of our church.

The website highlights our buildings beauty and currently includes the following sub-pages:

about us, sermons, events, ministries, newsletters, recourses, and map location. In contrast to the website, the Facebook page is less formal and hopefully filled with short update posts and heartwarming stories, maybe even a joke or two!

In order to make our online presence successful I am hoping for a few volunteers for either the website, Facebook page, or both in order to keep the information current. Whether you are comfortable with technology or not you are welcome! A tutorial can be arranged and I promise it is so easy to work with! If you are interested please send me an email at jess131@rogers.com I promise it will be a minimal time requirement.

CHECK IT OUT AT KCUC.NET



Up Coming Event! – “The Dinner”

Hosted by the United Church Men

November 23rd & 24th 7PM

Don't miss out on delicious mouth-watering roast beef, salad, and a special dessert at the dinner hosted by the men of the United Church. The dinner will be accompanied by songs that will raise your spirits and corny skits and jokes that will leave you chuckling for days after!



Bells of Peace

On November 11th a group of bell ringers, dressed in their warmest gear, assembled outside the King City United Church. The national bell ringing moment was a part of The Royal Canadian Legion's "Bells of Peace", and the group here in King City was arranged by Sandra Kirby. They gathered in order to ring the bells one-hundred times (taking approximately 17 minutes) at the "going down of the sun" to mark the end of the Frist World War.

Sandra explained "Bells are a symbolically strong way to mark important occasions and reminiscent of the ringing of bells to signify peace after war"

After the 100 tolls, everyone was treated to delicious carrot cake in the auditorium, courtesy of Rev. Evelyn and hot chocolate, courtesy of Alma.

just some of the amazing bell ringers were:

1) Erianna Payne, the youngest ringer in attendance, rang the bells very carefully and was careful in following Sandra's instructions.

2) Lt.Col. (ret'd) Susan Beharriell who served in the Canadian Armed Forces and is a member of the KCUC Bell Choir

3) Rev. Carol-Ann Chapman, a minister at both Nobleton and Schomberg United Churches



Remembrance Day Ceremony

The closing words of Rev. Bruce Roffey's Sermon:
 "Reach out your hand and touch others in love and change the world like those we honour today changed the world. Remember the past with gratitude. Alter the present with love and shape the future in hope. In those acts of love, we will suitably remember them."



Kitchen Paint Job

Thank you to Lew McLeod, our custodian, and his wife who repainted the kitchen. Say good riddance to the ugly yellow and welcome in the beautiful and clean looking white! The new colours were chosen by the UCW and they look terrific. The task of painting was not an easy one. The previous paint was oil based, so everything had to be washed, primed, and then painted with the final colour. Lew, being so meticulous, cleaned out the cupboards and painted them too! We are so fortunate to have Lew on the staff. He really takes pride in his work.

Previously he painted the auditorium with paint he got himself! He has also painted the Parlour, back kitchen and Chapel.

Glen and Bruce Ferguson are in one photo, admiring the new paint job while preparing a snack for the United Men's Choir practice.

A big thank-you to Earle Laycock for this information!



Berry Nice Photo!

This picture, taken by talented amateur photographer Chris Ludlow (age 33), will be featured on the front cover of one of the upcoming United Church of Canada Sunday bulletins. Chris is the grandson of one of our own congregants, Alma Feindell. The picture of the berries was taken in the Parc du Mont-Royal in Montreal Quebec on December 29, 2015. Chris, who has been taking photos for a little over 5 years, grew up in King City and is now currently living in Toronto.

Great picture Chris!

Women's Prayer Circle

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.

Tuesday mornings, 9 am

Location: Residences of Springhill - The Condo community on 80 Burns blvd. on the south side of King Sideroad. in the private dining room on the main floor.

Believe in the power of prayer? This group of women are gathering to share prayers for those in need. Be it an illness, anxiety or something else, God hears us when we join together in prayer for others.

Prayer is powerful. Join us for a short time and **add your strength to ours.**

Please try to arrive just before 9:00 and expect to stay for about 1 hour.

For information please contact:
Deana Weyman 905 833 5375
Kathy Patterson 905 833 0391

Volunteers Needed!

Remember! The sign up sheet for greeters, coffee hour, counters and pulpit assisting is in the narthex. Please consider contributing your time to these light duties to help our Sunday worship experience run smoothly and to encourage fellowship and care for one another. A welcoming smile, a nice cup of coffee/tea and a light conversation goes a long way.

Thanks in advance for your support!!

How can we help this Christmas?

Here is a great way for our King City United congregation to reach out to our community to assist those who need a little extra help this Christmas season.

Here are some suggestions on how we can help.

Donate funds. Donations requiring a tax receipt must be in the form of a cheque payable to King Township Food Bank, with CiK in the memo line. The Food Bank will issue tax receipts for your donation. Please contact Sheryl Sinka (416 450 0140) or Kristen Doyle (905 833 5181) to contribute.

Donate a gift card in the amount of \$25.00 or \$50.00. Please note that the donation of gift cards is a double gift, because the donor not only provides a gift for the individual, but in the case of a child, the gift of empowering a parent to provide Christmas for their child. Many of the registrants request gift cards.

Contribute towards fully 'adopting' a family as a congregation to give Christmas. Wreath, turkey, gifts, and hamper would come to \$400 for a family of 4 with two children. A family of 3 would be \$300.00. The CIK volunteers will take care of the shopping for us.

Sheryl Sinka will collect of cash and cheque amounts on Sunday November 25 and Sunday December 2nd after worship.

All donations need to be in by December 5th so that they can be delivered to those in charge and sorted.

Christmas in King reaches beyond the Food Bank to help others needing assistance to have a Merry Christmas. This year Christmas in King are responding to requests for about 200 people. Only the donors can make this happen!



Collaboration Initiatives

It is with pleasure that we can say that all three pastoral charges, York Pines, New Hope and King City have passed motions agreeing to pursue the writing of an agreement which would see the three churches sharing their ministerial staff. The expectation is that this will be a position including 50 hours per week, which might be divided in a variety of ways. The most standard might be one minister full time (40 hours) and one part time minister (10 hours).

The services will be at New Hope at 9:30, York Pines at 11:00 and King City will be at 10:00. We foresee that the ministerial prep time will be reduced for preparing worship as the two ministers will alternate their services between the three congregations allowing each minister to prepare two worship services a month. This will also mean that we will have the pleasure of experiencing the message and services of two ministers.

It all sounds quite confusing I know but rest assured, when the agreement is prepared it will be quite clear and we will have a chance to vote to ratify the final agreement.

Although the workload may be somewhat reduced for our supporting staff, we do not anticipate any changes to work hours or job descriptions in the immediate future.

If you have any questions or want to participate in this process, please contact Tanya Nesterenko 416 998 8257 or Sheryl Sinka 416 450 0140

Submitted by Sheryl Sinka

Grant Proposal Approved!

Although we were not successful in obtaining a grant for our accessibility proposal for KCUC, we are pleased to announce that we were successful in our proposal for our clustering group. King City, York Pines and New Hope are the joint recipients of a \$15 000 grant to be used for the purposes of website development, marketing and outreach needs and a speaker series. In these endeavors we will also try to include for the purposes of geographic proximity, Temperenceville UC, Woodbridge UC and Schomberg and Nobleton UC as part of a larger cluster.

With Presbytery disbanding and new Regions created it is more important than ever to continue our communications with our neighbouring United Churches now and into the coming years.

Collaborative Writing Team

As we move forward with the drafting of the Collaborative Agreement we invite anyone who is interested in participating on this Writing Team to leave their names with their church office by Dec. 15.

After this time the two documents, which form the basis of our discussions, will be forwarded to Writing Team members.

Members of the team will be asked to attend a meeting a New Hope UC on Saturday, January 5 at 10:00 am to discuss the above mentioned documents and any outstanding issues. It is expected that this meeting will be approximately two hours in length. The second meeting date will be set according to the availability of this team.

Writing Team members should feel free to email Thom Stenson regarding agenda items at thom.stenson@sympatico.ca or contact

Tanya Nesterenko msnesterenko@rogers.com or Sheryl Sinka sls131@rogers.com

Save the Date:

Men's Dinner:
Nov. 23rd & 24th, 7PM

Lunch with Santa
Dec. 8th, 11AM-2PM

Roast beef and
entertainment, a
wonderful night is
promised - \$30

Soup and Pizza,
festive baking, white
elephant sale, and
ginger bread auction!



“God is light; In him there is no darkness...”- 1 John 1:5

Search for Faith

P E G N I S N W Y Z U Y A P U B H I M I A H N A H A U C H T
R O C Y L I M A F A L T D N R Y K O Q P P T Z E S O A X T Z
S S E N E V I G R O F I V X M A D F U K R D S A V N P H I E
B S E Y A Q P Y N U V N E N K G Y J E S S I C A D A C E A J
F F O P K T S B C F Q U N P N V C E R P V F G L F B E Q F Z
Y K X H W L P T Y T J M T I R Z Q G R K A F E W B T B H R V
C O I B D A G E H I S M K R O W T Q N V N Q W U U O F L V A
K N J Q K T C G C I M O L N W R K A J K V C E D P I K O Y T
I W D R J W I H Y C O C P L W A Q K E U Q R S E M H V V K K
Y O H R P L K M P E A C E E D D S N F Y K H O X L P N E O I

**FAITH, PRAYER, ADVENT, CANDLE, HOPE, LOVE, JOY,
HYMN, COMMUNITY, ACCEPTANCE, SING, LIGHT, FAMILY,
PEACE, HEAVEN, FORGIVENESS, KINGDOM, JESSICA**