Dust and ashes touch our face,
Mark our failure and our falling.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
Take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.
Take us by the hand and lead us,
Lead us through the desert sands,
Bring us living water,
Holy Spirit, come.

-Ron Klusmeier

It is becoming more and more difficult to maintain our belief in the goodness of people as our world around us struggles with violence, poverty, racism, war, homelessness, and religious discrimination. As Christians, we pray that goodness will truly triumph. Easter promises joy. Easter promises that no darkness has enough power to destroy God. When Jesus rose from the dead, God showed us that goodness and love always triumph over evil. No matter what we have done, said or thought, God's love for us cannot be defeated. When we experience our guilt and ask for new life, God’s forgiveness is there waiting for us. New life is possible. The spark of God’s goodness and love that is born in each one of us can rise up and transform us. Let us pray for that transformation, let us pray for tolerance, let us pray for peace.

God of love,
As in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
So may we give ourselves to you
Living according to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us;
Help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us;
Fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us.
In His holy name we pray. Amen.
October 4, 2015 – the congregation of North Kildonan United made a decision unlike any other since the church was built over 50 years ago. Major Capital Projects received overwhelming approval to proceed with the installation of a lift, which will provide accessibility to all three levels of the church, plus an expansion and upgrade to the Narthex.

February 5, 2017 – the congregation participated in a ceremony to mark the beginning of construction of an accessibility lift and other renovations to the church. Representing the levels of government who have supported this project, were the Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk, MP for Kildonan-St.Paul, the Honourable Andrew Micklefield, MLA for Rossmere and Tara Latimer, for Jeff Browaty, Councillor, North Kildonan. Bringing greetings from Winnipeg Presbytery was Deacon Richard Manley-Tannis.

“The government of Canada is committed to ensuring greater accessibility and opportunity for Canadians with disabilities in their communities. We believe that all people deserve the same access and opportunities. I’m very proud of the work of the North Kildonan United Church, and all that they do. I am happy that we were able to help.” – said MaryAnn Mihychuk.

“Our government is committed to meaningful support for Manitobans with disabilities. We are pleased to work with North Kildonan United Church to identify, prevent and remove barriers to accessibility.” – said Andrew Micklefield.
Thank you to the members and friends of NKUC for your ongoing support of this project.

The “Geritol Grannies” and friends break down the ceremonial wall.

“North Kildonan United Church plays an important role in our community. On behalf of the City of Winnipeg it is my pleasure to assist in your capital project to ensure greater accessibility for the community to your facility. Your organization should be very proud for reaching this goal.” – Jeff Browaty (represented by Tara Latimer).
To celebrate our Advent season, we at NKUC embarked for the first time on an adventure in time travel. We began by drifting back to the year 1938 at which time we listened in as an elderly woman sitting by her husband’s graveside, reflected on the challenging times in which she was living. Next we swooped ahead to 1983 where we encountered a doting mom lambasting an overworked store clerk over his failure to have a cabbage patch doll available for her daughter’s Christmas present. Then we took a step back to 1950 to look in on a flood victim who seemed to have given up hope before meeting a knife-wielding vagrant. We took a breath and surged ahead to 1991 where we listened in on the tirade of a frustrated teacher trying to accept the banning of prayer in the school. Then we crept forward a few years to find a business owner on New Year’s Eve 1999 dreading the impending disaster to come as a result of the Y2K computer bug. We finished by overhearing a conversation between Three Wise Women in a bar in 1965 as they each struggled with the constraints of a male-dominated culture.

So what did we learn as a result of our whirlwind journey through time? Most importantly, we came to realize that while the context changed over the years, there was very much a common experience leading up to our Christmas celebration, right through to Epiphany. We came to appreciate that the Christmas season has always been a time of excessive pressures, unrealistic expectations and shaken dreams…but always, if we take a step back from our turmoil, God will provide us with messages of hope and encouragement. That is the Christmas magic we need to look for during each Christmas season.

Thanks...to all of those who contributed so capably to our time travel adventures...the actors (many of whom cut their acting “chops” in our dramas), writers, directors, stage hands and so many others. Thank you all. We can hardly wait to find out what Lent might bring us.

-Worship Committee

The Christmas season at North Kildonan United began with a wonderful concert by the Golden Chordsmen. This talented group of men entertained us with not only lovely Christmas carols but with some very funny Christmas songs as well. We look forward to more concerts featuring this lively community group.

On December 18, the congregation enjoyed a wonderful Christmas presentation by the youth of our church. The little ones were exceptional and we saw some budding rock stars at the microphone. The Christmas story, entitled Manger Mania was told with word and song featuring the choir, our senior youth and all the children from the Sunday school participating. What a joyous morning we enjoyed!
Following the service, a family Christmas lunch and party followed.
Sincere thanks to Joan and the choir, CE committee, Sunday school teachers and to our precious children for this wonderful Christmas message.

West Broadway Lunch program needs your help!

North Kildonan United is planning to serve lunch at West Broadway Community Ministry on Monday, March 20th where we will be serving approximately 150 people. Our menu will be spaghetti casserole, dinner buns and dessert. We are planning on 15 large pans of casserole, 12 dozen rolls and dainties/cookies.
Outreach and Mission Committee will coordinate this effort and we are asking the congregation for their support to purchase all items in bulk. The casseroles will then be prepared at the church. Anyone interested in preparing the casseroles or helping to serve the lunch is encouraged to sign up. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex with details and needed items. Please consider a donation (which can be made through your offering) towards this project. If you are interested and need further information please contact Nancy at ncosway@mymts.net, Sheron at miller01@mymts.net, Carin at oday20@mymts.net, or Barb at nkuc@mymts.net or telephone the church office 204-667-7408.
Thank you to ..
- youth group for assembling and delivering two hampers to the Christmas Cheer Board
- the congregation for their contributions to the hampers
- Christmas angels who make and deliver shortbread
- Our wonderful choir and their dedicated director Joan
- Those who decorate our church, making it look festive and inspiring
- Heinz – always helpful and supportive – amazing!

Get well wishes to: Ziggy Klavins, Janice Glatz, and Linda Slade. Betty Hamilton is feeling better and we look forward to seeing her back in the choir. Spotted at the Christmas bazaar was Liz Vanderbos looking healthy and happy. Good to see Dorothy Sinclair up and around. To June Finnson; enjoy your new home. Congratulations to Sharon Hossack Wiebe on her engagement. Hello to our shut-ins and safe travel to those getting away on holidays.

With sincere condolences to:
- the Miller family on the passing of Sheron’s father
- Boroski family who mourn the loss of Richards’ sister
- Sabo family on the passing of Trudy
- Sterling family on the passing of Una
- the Cook family who mourn the loss of Brenda’s brother
- Jacque Reimer on the passing of a cousin
- Donna Price whose aunt in Montreal has passed away

Legacy Giving

For those who may not be aware, NKUC has a Legacy Giving Committee, which is responsible to promote the opportunity for people to make donations to the church through bequests in their will, as well as other options such as gift annuities and gifts of life insurance. Undesignated gifts made through any of these avenues fall under the direction of the Legacy Giving Committee, who then accept requests from various committees in the church to be granted funds for specific projects.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting in 2010, the congregation approved a motion to accept Planned Giving Operational Plan (recently amended to the Legacy Giving Operational Plan), whereby any undesignated funds received will be placed in an Endowment Fund and a maximum of 50% of that fund may be used annually for purposes approved by the Board. These gifts must not be used for the day to day operation of the church.

In a recent gift received from the estate of Margaret Punton, half of the funds have been approved to be used by the Major Capital Projects Group to help fund the Accessibility Project, while the remaining 50% will remain in the Endowment Fund for future use.

We would encourage people to consider this very worthwhile fund when making or updating your wills, as these gifts have a very significant impact on special projects undertaken by the church.

Clayton Gording
Chair, Legacy Giving Committee
Message from the Unified Board

Well we’ve unpacked our bags from our “Sunny Sunday” trip to Australia. What a great way to start 2017. Now we’re looking forward with anticipation to Feb. 5th following the service when we’ll celebrate “Breaking Barriers” – the official kickoff of our Accessibility Major Capital Project. Please join us for this very special occasion. We look forward to starting construction shortly!

Besides the day to day work of NKUC, the Board continues to study the last two remits which will be presented to the congregation before being forwarded to the United Church of Canada in June.

Be sure to mark Feb. 12 on your calendar for our Annual General Meeting.

Spring is just around the corner so let’s see what we can find in our closets to donate to our garage sale in April.

God Bless and see you in church!

Gay Todd
Unified Board Chair

You’re invited … Pancake Brunch – Sunday, February 26th following the worship service.
The Youth Group and the Outreach and Mission Committee are working together to bring the congregation a delicious and educational event. A video entitled “Robert’s Story” will be shown and we are pleased to report that the star of the video, Robert will be attending with a staff from West Broadway Community Ministry.

Annual General Meeting of North Kildonan United will take place on Sunday, February 12th. A great opportunity to hear what’s been happening and what our future holds.

WANTED – new and gently used brass musical instruments.
Neil Bardal Funeral Centre is collecting these instruments to be sent to the Fisher Branch Kalagala School in Mpigi, Uganda where many of their instruments are beyond repair. This school falls under the mission work and outreach of St. Clement’s Mapleton in the Anglican Diocese of Rupert’s Land. If you are interested, call: 204-949-2200 or email: info@nbardal.mb.ca.
After several months of challenging and often frustrating delays, we are very happy to report that we feel that all of the issues surrounding the building code requirements for our Accessibility Project have now been satisfied between the engineer, the architects and the City of Winnipeg. We have received the stamped drawings from engineer and architects signifying their approval, and an application for the Building Permit has been submitted to the City of Winnipeg. In addition, our general contractor has now received the final quotations from all the trades to give us a firm cost for the project.

On January 29th at a congregational meeting, it was reported that the cost of the entire project, $438,000 includes upgrades to the sanctuary required by the building code, as well as a number of extras we feel we need which were not included in the actual construction quotation. A motion was passed at the meeting to approve the $438,000 plus a $40,000 contingency (in the event of unforeseen costs), for a total of $478,000.

Financially, you will see from Marvelle’s report that we have done extremely well. With the approval of our application to Enabling Accessibility Grant (Government of Canada) in the amount of $50,000, our situation has been further strengthened.

On behalf of both the MCP Task Group and the MCP Fund Raising Committee, we wish to thank those that have contributed so generously to this very worthwhile project.

Clayton Gording – Chair
Major Capital Projects Task Group

Update on fundraising for our Accessibility Project

There has been significant increases since last reported and since the compiling of the annual report as well. As of January 29th, 2017 we can report funds received:

- Congregation: $168,997
- Grants, Foundations, Corporations etc.: $243,444
- Total: $412,441

Pledges for 2017 are $22,818.

In December, we received significant gifts from the Armin and Denis Martens Foundation and Cambrian Credit Union. We also received gifts from the Margaret Punton estate, the Betty Ambrose family and our own UCW who donated $1500.00.

This is wonderful news however we have learned that the total project costs will be $478,000 (this amount approved at the congregational meeting of January 29th) leaving us with a possible shortfall of $44,000.

How Can YOU Help?

1. Continue to honor your pledges.
2. If you have not made a pledge for 2017 – honor us with a monetary surprise.
3. Support our fundraisers.
4. Forward any names of contacts, businesses, etc. to me and we will contact them.

Sincere thanks to everyone for continuing to support this important project.

Marvelle McPherson, Chair
Fundraising Committee
Celebrating Spirit

The UCW in Canada will celebrate their 55th anniversary, gathering in Vancouver from July 10-14, 2017. Accommodations and events will be held at the University of British Columbia. Along with the Parade of Banners, special music and enrichment sessions, guest speaker will be Anne Mortifee bringing alive the theme of celebrating spirit. Moderator Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell will be guest speaker at the closing banquet. Barb and Sheron will be attending this event and we invite any woman from the congregation interested to join us. More information can be found on the United Church website.

Pasta Hocus Pocus - Saturday, March 4

You are invited to a Lasagna Dinner and Magic Show. Saturday, March 4. Featured will be magician and illusionist Alex Jay Hamm. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Tickets are $20.00 per person ($10 tax receipt), children 6-15 - $5.00, under 6 are free.
Come and enjoy a delicious dinner and great entertainment for the whole family. Tickets available at the church.

"Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll"-- A survey of several of scriptures slightly salacious stories in six sessions.
While we don't always talk about it, the Bible is full of stories of sex, intrigue, deception, lies, substance abuse, more sex--and more often than one would expect, rock and roll (or at least its ancient equivalent)
The late Leonard Cohen capitalized on this in his song "Hallelujah". This winter, we're going to heat up our Wednesday nights as we consider questions like just how it was that Jael enticed Sisera to spend the night in her tent, whether or not it was only Samson's hair that Delilah cut off, why David danced naked in the streets of Jerusalem, why Noah got drunk after he got off the ark, and what went on between Ruth and Boaz on the threshing room floor.
In addition to looking at stories from the Bible, we will also be looking at depictions of the stories in art, literature, and film.
Six Wednesday evenings beginning January 18 and ending on Feb. 22. 7:00-8:30 p.m.
## Dates to Remember

Please watch your church bulletins for details

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting of NKUC</td>
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<td>Installation of Board Members</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>Pasta Hocus Pocus dinner at NKUC</td>
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<td>Third Sunday of Lent – St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>NKUC serving lunch at West Broadway</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday of Lent; Toonie Sunday</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday; pot luck dinner 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>Good Friday – 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Easter Sunday; breakfast beginning at 9:15 a.m.</td>
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<td>Communion Service 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>April 21-22</td>
<td>Garage Sale at North Kildonan United</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
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**Editor’s Note:** We are looking for articles or pictures about our church or church family. If you would like to share a story about a trip or activity you or your family was involved in, please consider our newsletter. Contact Sheron at miller01@mymts.net or call the church office at 204-667-7408. **Deadline for next newsletter: May 1, 2017.**

Thank you to the following who contributed to this newsletter:

- Gay Todd
- Clayton Gording
- Betty Clark
- Sheron Miller
- Marc Whitehead
- Marvelle McPherson
- Nancy Cosway
- Peter Latimer