



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

In this Issue

SSSC Students Visit the Holy Land - Page 2

Congratulations - Page 2

2017 All Native Circle Conference
Grand Council - Page 3

2017 National Aboriginal
Spiritual Gathering - Page 3

Donation Form - Page 4

A Vision for Indigenous Family Reunification

by Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle

In some way the Indian Residential School problem has morphed into the Indigenous Child Welfare problem. Some Indigenous infants are being apprehended in hospital nurseries before Indigenous parents even have a chance. It can cost more than one and a half million dollars to raise a child in the system from birth to age eighteen. This is an unsustainable tragic future. We have a vision to change this into a better future.

In the Fall of 2015 our Strategic Planning and Development Committee began discussions about Indigenous family reunification instead of the current horror of apprehension. Dr. Patricia Vickers, a trauma counsellor for twenty plus years, who had worked with Indian Residential School survivors on the BC coast, talked about trauma treatment and its intergenerational dimensions. Social Enterprise leader Shaun Loney talked about investing in helping Indigenous families stay together. Cree Elder Stan McKay has worked his whole life to bring healing to Indigenous families.

We applied to the Indigenous Innovation Demonstration Fund and got a seed grant of \$20,000 to begin planning. We brought together Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers, mental and family health professionals and counsellors, social enterprise and fund-raising experts, and the SSSC staff and began discussions about what such a center would look like.

Now we have further engaged architects and engineers in our Indigenous design process. Early on in our process I asked the land, the trees, the insects, the fish folk, the animal beings, the plant families and our celestial relatives if this idea of ours was ok with them. Since that time an eagle, deer, insects, trees and our garden have given us a happy answer. We look forward to what we can do to bring wholeness to Indigenous families. Thank you for your support in this.

Upcoming Events at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

SSSC Annual General Meeting: September 23, 2017

Meeting begins at 2:00 pm with refreshments to follow.

Fall Ceremonies: September 24, 2017

Come for 1:00 pm for the sweat ceremony followed by a potluck feast.

Mamawe Ota Askihk – Sharing Life Together Here on Earth: October 16-21, 2017

Indigenous and settler allies reclaiming the homemade, the homespoken and the homegrown are invited to a week of hands-on skill sharing and spiritual teaching leading up to a community feast.

Visit sandysaulteaux.ca for details on these events. Let us know you'll be attending at sansau@mymts.net or 204-268-3913.



SSSC Students Visit the Holy Land

SSSC students Murray Pruden and John Snow took part in United Church sponsored learning tours this summer. They share a taste of their experience in Israel and Palestine.



Murray and United Church group in the underground chapel of the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem.

"I walk in the private garden of Gethsemane by Jerusalem, away from the hordes of tourists, given some time to reflect in a spiritual way of our time on this land they call holy. In solitude, just as Jesus did in his time on this same land, I pray and talk to God. As I stand and pray I gently grab the branch of the olive tree I'm standing next to. As I open my eyes I feel the hot but soothing sun give my body warmth. And as I focus my eyes I see my shadow cast before me, along with the branch of the olive tree. To my pleasure and amazement the shadow looks like a young child holding the hand of a parent. So I reflect on this image and ask, through the eyes of a child, to the Creator: God? Why do the Israelites mistreat the Palestinians? Why do the Palestinians have to fight and demonstrate to stay

alive? God? Are we all not human? Are we not to love one another? God? Why do my Israeli and Palestinian brothers and sisters not respect our Mother Earth? I don't see them pray for the land and talk to her, how come? Why do they want to own Our Mother? God? Can I hold your hand a little longer and help Our Mother and help teach my brothers and sisters to love one another and Our Mother once again? It would bring great joy into my heart to see this in my lifetime and on this holy and sacred land, Our Mother." – Murray



"After learning of the Lord's Prayer in Cree and Nakoda I was able to locate the prayers and take pictures. It was a humbling moment to know that our people and their prayers are already in the Holy Land. Thanks to Tony Snow, Gloria Snow and Murray Pruden, who let me know the prayers were there. After working with the tour leader, Jim Cairney, I was able to go and retrieve these pictures on my Pilgrimage to the Holy Land." – John

Congratulations!

to this year's graduates, Fanny Spence and Deb Anderson-Pratt and our honoured elders, Nelson Hart and Myrtle Moneybird.



Fanny Spence & Deb Anderson-Pratt



Myrtle Moneybird



Nelson Hart

2017 All Native Circle Conference Grand Council

Respectfully submitted by Rev. John R. Thompson

It is always exciting and renewing to meet representatives from the Presbyteries (All Tribes, Plains, Keewatin and Great Lakes Waterways) that comprise the All Native Circle Conference (ANCC). From July 23 – 27, we gathered in the beautiful town of Pinawa where even the wild life - Canada Geese and White Tail Deer - came close enough to the Sacred Fire to get a whiff of the smudging and hear the voices of the people. We were blessed too by the presence of the Moderator Jordan Cantwell, Nora Sanders (General Secretary), a delegation from The Uniting Church of Australia and representatives from other Conferences.

For most of the meeting we heard of Presbytery and Council activities since the last Grand Council in 2015. We were informed that all of the Remits concerning the future structure of the United Church had passed so there was a feeling of uncertainty about the future and the place of Indigenous ministries within the Church.

I felt sad that half of the ministries embraced by ANCC were not represented at the gathering. A number of people received Certificates of Appreciation for years of service and some other deserving people felt left out.

Rev. Nelson Hart and Rev. Dr. Bernice Saulteaux were re-installed as the Leading Elders because the future of the Conference is uncertain. This may be the last Grand Council of ANCC and for this reason some felt it would have been very appropriate to recount our history and acknowledge the elders, from the early 70's to the present, who brought the Indigenous Church to this point of self-governance. Our hope is that what has been gained will not be lost as we continue on the journey of Healing and Reconciliation.

2017 National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering

Respectfully submitted by Ray Jones

This is the third tri-annual gathering of United Church Aboriginal communities. The purpose of the National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering (NASG) is to be a forum for listening and discerning the Creator's plan; visioning; spiritual nurture; mutual accountability; inspiration; education; youth development; and expressing the voice of Aboriginal community on spirituality and ministry.

During our Education Day, the Rt. Rev. Stan McKay conducted a Bible study leading with the Sacred Teachings: LOVE, RESPECT, COURAGE, HONESTY, WISDOM, HUMILITY and TRUTH. We looked at texts from Acts, 2:14-21, 37-47 and found HOPE in Revelation. We heard that a new heaven and a new earth is about relations, and that decolonization must include Biblical statements.

Guest speaker Dr. Shauneen Pete of Little Pine First Nations spoke about "White Privilege in Society and Churches of the Land" and how we cannot take up the work

of reconciliation without talking about white privilege. On the next day, her topic was "Indigenizing the Church" and she asked "where did the 'HUMILITY'(of the Churches) go in serving the people?" She observed that in this time of racism toward Indigenous people, mega churches are being developed. Dr. Pete cautioned the United Church to not have a national policy regarding Indigenous congregations.

The Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle (a group of Indigenous leaders who are looking at our future and Indigenous governance within the Church) presented their 'calls to the church'. The feedback from the Gathering will be discussed at the next Caretakers meeting.

The Gathering joyfully welcomed guests from the Uniting Aboriginal and Christian Island congress and the Uniting Church in Australia. Their warmth, musical talents and participation enriched the Third National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering.

Rev. John R. Thompson and Ray Jones are members of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre Keepers of the Vision.

Fixing the Fireplace



The fireplace in our hall has been a much loved feature of the space here but was no longer safe to use and had to be replaced. With the help of generous donors the fireplace chase is now completely insulated top and bottom and ready for the new unit. We are currently getting estimates to install a new wood burning fireplace and chimney, expecting that this will cost between \$7,500 and \$10,000. Your ongoing support of the Centre will help us complete this project.



Return Undeliverable
Canadian Address to:

Sandy - Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Box 210
Beausejour, MB
R0E 0C0

Yes, I support the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre!

With a gift of: \$25 \$75 \$100 Other _____

In honour of _____
(we will acknowledge this gift with the honouree or family if you provide contact information.)

This is an unrestricted gift to the centre or I/We wish to designate this gift to one of the following Funds

- For the Building
- For Dorothy McKay Memorial
- For Global Awareness
- For Egerton Bales Young
- For General Student Bursary
- For I.C.L.E.F. (Saskatchewan Students)

_____ I would like to make my donation monthly with PAR. Please send more information.

_____ I am interested in leaving a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will.

_____ I offer prayers for the ministry.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Fax: _____

We accept donations through VISA and MASTERCARD

Type of Card VISA MASTERCARD

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

To donate online visit www.sandysaulteaux.ca/donate



GET OUR NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX!

You can now sign up to get our newsletter and other announcements from SSSC delivered to you by email.

Sign up at sandysaulteaux.ca.

Phone: 204.268.3913

Fax: 204.268.4463

sansau@mymts.net

www.sandysaulteaux.ca

Box 210, Beausejour MB R0E 0C0

Thank you for your generosity