



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

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Board and Bundles

The two medicine bundles of the Dr. Jessie Resource Centre and the Francis Sandy Theological Centre have been retired and a new bundle that represents the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is in the birthing stage. The medicine bundles represent the organization's spiritual growth and energy which are presently carried by Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of The Circle. It was decided with no opposition by the board members at the annual meeting that it was time for the separate bundles to return to their original homes and a new bundle should represent the newly amalgamated Theological Centres now named, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. The board members honoured the bundles one last time by using the rattles and drum with an honour song.

We are grateful to Mohawk Elder Norma General Lickers who has gifted the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre with fresh cedar and tobacco grown in Oshweken territory. The new bundle also includes a pipe made from the sacred red pipestone in Pipestone Minnesota where all sacred pipes come from and which represents the blood of all our relations that perished in the Great Flood.

The pipe will be loaded with tobacco and prayers which will be burned and smoked in ceremony for the good of all our relations. Please pray with us as we go through new and exciting times but with the trust and knowledge that Creator has many good things in store for the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.



Back Row: Rev. John Thompson, Adrian Jacobs, Lee Claus, Donna Beaulieu, Norma General Licker, Grafton Antone, Mary Courtenay

Front Row: Rev. Stanley McKay, Martha Pedoniquote, Maggie Mcleod, Barb Shoomski



This is the SSSC board with the two bundles. One from Frances Sandy Theological Centre and one from Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre.

Introduction To Donna Beaulieu



Middle: Donna Beaulieu

We extend a very warm welcome to Donna Beaulieu, our new Keeper of the Centre. Donna completes the management team at the SSSC which has not been full for a number of years. She is a multi-talented person who comes with many gifts and who has been active within the First Nations Community.

Her experiences include being a cultural worker with the Addictions Foundation of MB and New Directions plus an Aboriginal Studies Instructor for Villa Rosa under the Winnipeg School Division. In the past, she was a piano teacher for The Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts and adjudicator/examiner for Kawai Music Schools.

She is a graduate of the Yellowquill College with a diploma in First Nations Governance. She has been involved with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the White Buffalo Spiritual Society, and the All Nations Traditional Healing Centre.

Donna brings passion and enthusiasm for SSSC and the students. She has previously led sweat lodge ceremonies at SSSC and finds SSSC a very

sacred and exciting place to be. The Centre will face many challenges over the next few years and we feel Donna can make a significant contribution to its growth and mandate as we move forward in these changing times. We look forward to working with her.

Don Winstone on behalf of the Board

Sage Medicine



Baskets of Sage

The smell of a roasting turkey with sage seasoned stuffing is a sense that many people can identify. Just the idea probably brings various memories of family time and the sounds of children with their excited voices in anticipation of good food and playing with others. The succulent sage stuffing taste is never forgotten either with the contented feel of a full stomach. This is all considered "good medicine" by First Nations for what was just described, doctors the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional aspects of one's life.....all with sage stuffing in a turkey.

To First Nations, traditional medicine such as sage is used to improve the health and quality of life. We have an understanding and teaching that man is part of nature and to remain in balance, we respect the land and all it has to offer. We respectfully use the environment for traditional foods, medicines, ceremonies, and for overall health. The Earth is truly our Faculty.

Some of the uses of sage by First Nations, I can share. First of all, the picking of sage is a ceremony in itself and Mary Courtenay (Keeper of the Learning Circle) and myself will don our long

ribbon skirts and ask the land if we are welcome to pick its medicine. Tobacco with prayers is offered and we carefully pick the sage so as not to disturb the roots. If the roots are left intact, that sage medicine will continue to grow season after season.

Sage can be identified as male or female and great care is taken to keep male and female plants separate. When female sage plants are picked, some of the seeds are offered back to the earth, for we respect the offspring of the female. Various forms of tobacco are used to give thanks to the Earth and the medicines it shows us. We will never pick medicines without putting something back on the Earth. The sage plants are dried and carefully packed away for medicine.

The most common form to use sage is burning the medicine for a ceremony we call smudging. We let the smoke from the sage wash over our bodies for cleansing and renewal and prepare us for a ceremony or perhaps the day. Sage is also sometimes used for bandages because it will keep infection away and take away the sting of bites from various insects. Tea is made from sage and used to drink, wash wounds, and rinse hair.

Sage is often considered a woman's medicine and it is the first medicine that a young woman learns about when she passes through maidenhood. Women learn to smudge the family's living space regularly to invite nature into the environment and bless the inanimate and animate of the home. Many different cultures also use sage for a variety of uses from spiritual and medicinal purposes to flavouring food. Sage is not just an "Indian" medicine, it is for everyone and belongs to everyone.

Feast For Friends 2014



Square Dancers

Feast for Friends took place on September 20th, 2014 at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre with a total of 159 registered participants. Two buses went to two pick up locations in the inner city of Winnipeg. Three United Church Community Ministries: Northend Stella; West Broadway; and Oak Table offered their leadership in inviting and registering the folks.

The focus for this year's gathering was "Good News Stories" and the First Nation speakers were Chuck Copenace, Jessica Dumas, and Kevin Chief.

There was camping, sunrise ceremony, bannock making, sharing circles, sweatlodge ceremonies, art, storytelling, and Kevin Chief and dancers led a friendship dance. People enthusiastically participated in all that was planned.

The day ended with a Feast of stew, bannock, fish, and berries. We are grateful for the financial and in-kind support received from various people and places: Sandy-Saulteaux

Spiritual Centre; General Council Justice and Reconciliation Fund; St. Stephen's Broadway Foundation; St. Mary's Road Foundation; All Native Circle Conference; The Conference of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario; and, The Centre for Christian Studies. If you are interested in joining Feast for Friends, please feel free to contact the preceding organizations for further information.

Press Release - Formal Logo Now!



a medicine wheel with all the teachings of the four sacred cardinal directions. The white buffalo is the spirit animal that represents the white direction

whose teaching is wisdom.

Education is called the new buffalo by many Elders now. This is because there was a time that the buffalo looked after all the people's needs, and now, education will look after the people like the buffalo did since time immemorial. The white buffalo also adorns the bowl of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre Ceremonial Pipe and therefore is a significant symbol of the Centre.

We will keep you updated as new promotional materials with the logo become available.

Grey Hall Update

The Grey Hall has been demolished and removed. Thank you to all who have supported the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC) in so many ways as we sadly said goodbye to the original building that housed the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre. Now, we will turn attention to one of SSSC's newer projects which is to continue working on the Library. The books come from the two amalgamated theological centres and we are excited at prospect of forming the new library.

On our back page, you can assist us by helping us with this project. On another note, the three lodges that house 22 guests all require leveling and foundation work because of our harsh and unpredictable climate. Rehabilitating SSSC's



Mama and Baby Deer

lodges is a considerable responsibility but the staff at SSSC have faith that help through prayer, hard work, and assistance will ultimately prevail.



Grey Hall Demolition

Prairie Jubilee

Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC) is pleased and blessed to welcome retreat group, Prairie Jubilee who have chosen our location to be their place of evolved learning. The Prairie Jubilee Program seeks to foster freedom in all individuals. It honours all sacred traditions and seeks to assist participants in realizing their own call to participate in earth's evolving future.

This program may be taken for credit through The United Centre for Theological Studies, University of Winnipeg. For details on



Prairie Jubilee

residency dates, teaching staff, and reading lists, please visit their website at www.prairiejubilee.ca

Sharing A Facebook Post From A Student Minister

Good Cheery big blobs of raindrops but not really raining early this morning folks!!!

Wow, yesterday was very exciting in class, so many times I wanted to come to my room n just lay down but I didn't want to miss out on Lorrie's teachings, she had us playing games that had us laughing, she drew out the creative in not only me but everyone. I warned her there was no right brain thingy in me whatsoever. Aw! But I wasn't I surprised to find there actually is creativity in me, well in artsy stuff anyway, I know I'm creative in writing.

The entire staff here are awesome folks who work hard to make our stay as comfortable as home. Any issues that arise are resolved immediately. It's good to know they know what they're doing. Love them all.

The whole day was a battle to stay up and awake after sleeping in. Thank goodness class was exciting. It kept me going. I was so tired after working on our group project then, on my



Deb Pelletier

journals but I was in bed by 10:30. After laying down I thought geez – I didn't share my day but I thought, you'll all survive a night of not hearing from me. Low and behold, you're all still here in the morning.

Was awake at 6:00 this morning and I just laid in bed for awhile longer before getting in the shower, now I gotta get to work on some more journals before I head for breaky.

God's blessings of Love, Peace, Harmony and appreciation for the opportunity to learn in your home communities and home fires.

Love to all

Deb Pelletier

(Deb is a member of the Okanese First Nation and is a 2nd year student here at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. She is now appointed as Student Minister of Wanakapew United Church. She is a mother and grandmother)



SSSC students at the Centre

Upcoming Learning Circles 2015

January 19 -23, 2015

Justice and Healing

January 26 – 30, 2015

Introduction to the Bible

April 13-17, 2015

Medicine Wheel Teachings

April 20-24, 2015

Addictions

June 1-5, 2015

Understanding and Applying Sacred Teachings

June 8-12, 2015

Urban Ministry

Theological Schools Circle Annual Meeting



Winnipeg, MB – October 1-4, 2014: The United Church of Canada's Theological Schools Circle annual meeting was tri-hosted by Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC), Centre for Christian Studies, and The United Centre for Theological Studies at the University of Winnipeg. This was the annual meeting of the Keeper, Deans

and Principals of the eleven affiliated United Church theological schools. We also met with the Working Group on Leadership Formation for Ministry, members of the Comprehensive Review Task Group, and members of General Council Office. General Secretary Norah Sanders visited with us one day.

The faculty of SSSC went into a sweatlodge ceremony the night before the annual meeting. The United Church of Canada's Theological Schools Circle was held for four hours of

prayer late into the evening in the sweatlodge. Reverend Stephen Willey commented that it was so powerful, the difference in the meeting; that all meetings should have the sweatlodge hold the meeting in prayer and have Aboriginal Spiritual worship as part of the meetings.

Important conversations on ministry formation, competency-based assessments, funding of theological education, and the future of the United Church of Canada were held, often with great passion expressed. The unique history of Aboriginal ministry in the UCC, the progress of development, and hopes for the future were a significant part of the conversation. SSSC hosted the group all day Friday with many newcomers citing our peaceful setting along side the Broken Head River. Whatever the future holds, SSSC will be at the forefront as the National Aboriginal ministry training school innovating through building on the past vision handed down to us by our Aboriginal elders.



*Merry
Christmas*

*from the Board, Staff, Students of the
Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre*



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