



# Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre



## In this Issue

Join in the Dance - Page 2

Keepers of the Vision- Page 2

Events - Page 2

Remembering our History - Page 3

Rebuilding for our Future - Page 3

Support the Centre - Page 3

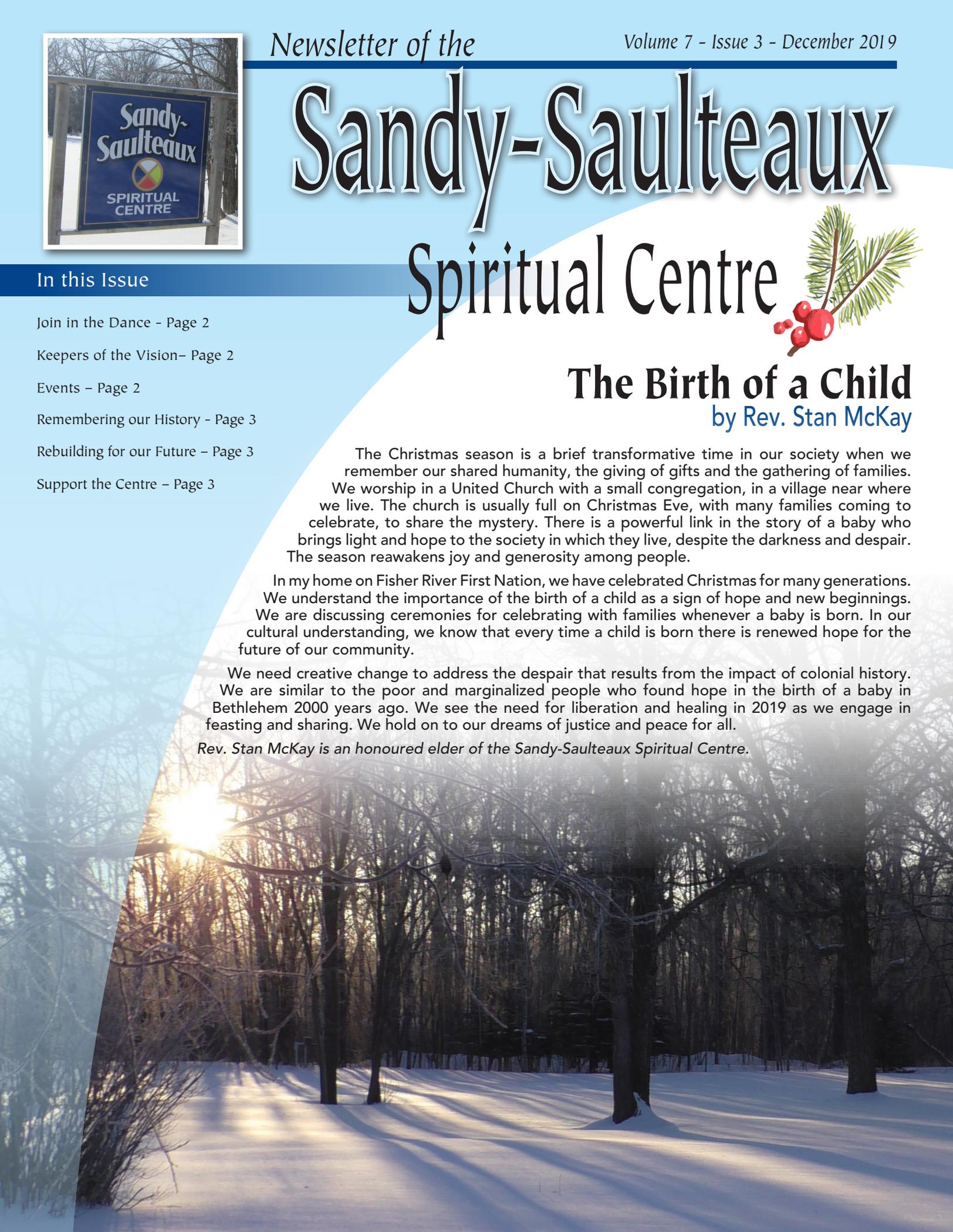
## The Birth of a Child by Rev. Stan McKay

The Christmas season is a brief transformative time in our society when we remember our shared humanity, the giving of gifts and the gathering of families. We worship in a United Church with a small congregation, in a village near where we live. The church is usually full on Christmas Eve, with many families coming to celebrate, to share the mystery. There is a powerful link in the story of a baby who brings light and hope to the society in which they live, despite the darkness and despair. The season reawakens joy and generosity among people.

In my home on Fisher River First Nation, we have celebrated Christmas for many generations. We understand the importance of the birth of a child as a sign of hope and new beginnings. We are discussing ceremonies for celebrating with families whenever a baby is born. In our cultural understanding, we know that every time a child is born there is renewed hope for the future of our community.

We need creative change to address the despair that results from the impact of colonial history. We are similar to the poor and marginalized people who found hope in the birth of a baby in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. We see the need for liberation and healing in 2019 as we engage in feasting and sharing. We hold on to our dreams of justice and peace for all.

*Rev. Stan McKay is an honoured elder of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.*



# Join in the Dance by Murray Pruden



On August 10, 2019, the students from the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre led worship at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering (NISG) in Rama, Ontario. We came together, along with youth at the gathering, to remember and celebrate a time in our recent history that affects all Indigenous people on Turtle Island.

Four Sandy-Saulteaux students came walking into the auditorium and stood in one of the four directions and then quietly came together to light the Christ candle in the middle of their circle. As they entered, without hesitation, the audience and delegates for the gathering stood in respect. Once the candle was lit, a loud, abrupt call came from outside, "Hey-ya! Hey-ya! Hey-ya! Hey-ya!".

Five creature characters came trickling into the auditorium, all with their own movement, voice and curiosity. Four of the five approached the four others around the circle and the scene transformed into parent and child, friendship, teacher, elder moments. But with the harsh slam of a chair on the floor by the fifth creature, now transformed into a figure of authority, the scene stopped. The youth were silenced, blinded and muzzled to show the incorporation of residential schools amongst the nations.

As the harshness was created, it had to end, and with the call of the drum and song by our character from the east, the young and old were able to reunite and all come together to dance around the circle of light. All the characters, even the figure of authority, had to join in the dance, together in harmony as a people once again. All those who watched this story unfold were left with tears of joy, remembrance, hope and the message that we can once again come together to dance around the circle of light.

*Murray helped lead this memorable worship experience at the NISG that some described as the highlight of the gathering. He is in the final year of his Masters of Divinity with SSSC and The Vancouver School of Theology where he is a VST Chancellor's Scholar, an award he received for demonstrating great promise for ministry.*

## New Keepers of the Vision

We are pleased to welcome two new board members.



**Kelly Selkirk** is the post-secondary coordinator for Fisher River Cree Nation where she has worked and lived for over 20 years. She is Metis and grew up in Grand Rapids. She has a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Winnipeg and experience teaching and developing curriculum from Nursery to Grade 12, including adult education and college level.



**Eileen Antone** was named an Honoured Elder by the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre students earlier this year. She has served in many capacities in Oneida United Church on Oneida Territory near London, ON and in the former Great Lakes Waterway Presbytery and in the former All Native Circle Conference. Eileen has a doctorate in education and has shared much wisdom with our Indigenous community.

## 2020 Leaning Circles & Continuing Education Opportunities

Join us in the new year to learn something new!

- Jan. 20 - 24 H/CD1 Introduction to Church History
- Jan. 27 - 31 PM2 Worship & Liturgy: Fasts, Feasts & Ceremonies
- Mar. 23 - 27 AT2 Medicine Wheel Teachings
- Mar. 30 - Apr. 3 PC3 Addictions

Contact us for details and to register.

## Winter Ceremonies December 21, 1:00 pm.

Join us at the Centre for a Pipe Ceremony and teaching, a sharing circle and a feast. Please bring: a meter of cloth, tobacco for prayer offering, and a contribution of food for the feast. All are welcome to participate in any part of the ceremonies.

# Remembering our History

*Elder Robert Patton sat with our learning circle in October on Church Doctrine and Polity. He shared these memories on the history of the Indigenous church.*

In 1980, the United Church held a consultation in White Bear, Saskatchewan with Indigenous people from across Canada. Some didn't speak English so we had interpreters there. The people needed some time to get to know each other. After three or four days, the meeting was cancelled because there was a lot of anger. At a second meeting in Fort Qu'Appelle, the conversation continued. There were maybe a hundred sheets of paper up on the walls where people listed all the issues they wanted to talk about. Native ministry came out as one of the most important. A training committee was set-up with people from across Canada. We worked together and started thinking about setting up an education centre. Many of the young people then who put their names forward to train for ministry have since graduated. They went on to work in their communities and are now retired.

I'm so proud of our people. We've had dreams and visions and worked so hard for them. Many of those items on the 100 sheets of paper have come to pass. I came to those early conversations as an angry young Mohawk from Kahnawake. Now I'm honoured to be sitting in the Learning Circle at Sandy-Saulteaux as an elder.



*Elder Robert (in white shirt) in the Learning Circle*

# Rebuilding for the Future



SSSC students John, Tony and Gloria Snow are involved in the McDougall Stoney Mission Society. The society is rebuilding the historic McDougall Memorial Church near Morley, AB, as part of a healing journey to rebuild relationships between the Stoney Nakoda people and the descendants of the McDougall family, some of the first missionaries to bring Christianity to the Stoney. Here Tony speaks to the crowd gathered on Sept. 22 at the site for a commemorative service marking the 142nd anniversary of the signing of Treaty 7. Visit our website to read John Snow's reflections on the work of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society.

## Support the Centre

Our elders led the change in Indigenous ministry in The United Church of Canada. Graduates of SSSC continued this change and have been a new generation of elders. Our current students are the emerging leaders that will continue this legacy of renewal and healing in the Indigenous communities.

What Bob Patton saw at White Bear, SK as a young man and now as an elder in our Learning Circle and what Stan McKay Jr. calls for in continuing creative change is supported by your financial contributions. There are many ways to continue the legacy of The United Church of Canada living out its apology to Indigenous people.

### How will you donate this season?

- A gift to the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre Legacy Fund will support the long-term sustainability of the Centre.
- A gift to the SSSC General Fund will help with day to day expenses and exciting new developments – we're hiring a second Keeper of the Learning Circle.
- Student Bursary gifts keep ministry training accessible.
- Include us in your Wills and Estate Planning.

**Use the donation form on the next page or donate online at [sandysaulteaux.ca](http://sandysaulteaux.ca).**



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:  \$35  \$75  \$150  \$300  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 Global Awareness
- For General Student Bursary
- For Dorothy McKay Memorial
- For Egerton Bales Young
- For I.C.L.E.F. (Saskatchewan Students)
- For the Sandy-Saulteaux Legacy Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ 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](http://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](http://sandysaulteaux.ca).

Phone: 204.268.3913 Fax: 204.268.4463 Toll Free: 1-855-674-6171 [sansau@mymts.net](mailto:sansau@mymts.net)

[www.sandysaulteaux.ca](http://www.sandysaulteaux.ca) Box 210, Beausejour MB R0E 0C0

**Thank you for your generosity**