



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre



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Rainbow Relations *by Agnes Spence*

God invites us to relate to one another as the colours relate to make one rainbow.

The colours are us, the many expressions of God's love.

No one is excluded from God's love.

Peace is created when we can all gather with our diversity in the middle of adversity (difficulties) to create one rainbow.

Advent is the start of a new liturgical (ceremonial worship) season. This season, that covers the four weeks leading up to Christmas, begins with an emphasis on peace.

The peace called for is that of justice—justice focused on integrity (actions of being honest and just) rather than the removal of adversity.

This is a bold reminder as we travel toward Christmas, to truly celebrate, hope, peace, joy and love... that we still have a lot of work to do, to stop the discrimination against women and all gender diverse individuals and peoples of the world.

Rev. Agnes Spence graduated from Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in 2012. She lives in Nelson House and is invited all over Manitoba to share her traditional teachings.

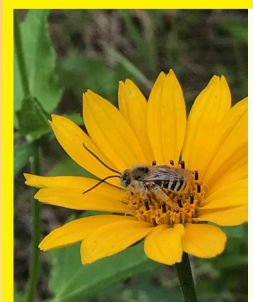
Thank you for giving to cross-cultural and theological education that models how to honour diversity and build bridges of peace! Here's a multi-coloured glimpse into what you make possible...



"I had an amazing time at Sandy-Saulteaux during the [United Church led] Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat. The food was so delicious (especially the bannock) and I am incredibly grateful for all the wonderful staff we met. We attended the Search the Landfill protest and the Pow Wow, this was a day filled with a lot of emotions, learning and listening. Having a place to come back to and reflect on this experience was comforting. Sandy-Saulteaux provided us a space to feel comfortable and safe enough to express ourselves." - Inzwi Munikwa



For Orange Shirt Day this year we invited our elder Louis Young to share reflections on reconciliation around the fire. Friends of all ages, including a group of Scouts and their leaders, came to listen and learn.



Young visitors here often get scavenger hunt lists, directing them to look for signs of insect life, or different colour leaves. All our guests are fed by the beauty of the land here and many with the delicious fruits of our garden.

Choir members at Adam Fiddler United Church in Sandy Lake helped celebrate the ordination of their minister Zack Kakegamic in October. Until recently, Indigenous ministers in rural communities had to travel to urban centres to be ordained or recognized. Together, with communities like Sandy Lake, we are part of the movement to return to communities the control that was taken away by colonialism.



SSSC graduate Rev. Deb Anderson-Pratt brought her sisters to our Mamawe Ota Askihk gathering. Here they are braiding sweetgrass. Patsy and Nettie walk a traditional path and don't combine those teachings with Christianity the way Deb has. All of them have found a welcome here, eager to return to this place where they can teach and learn together. Patsy reflected:

"In this camp the people are very diverse! I sit there and I watch and I learn. These kids are teaching me things! I think that's really good, not only for us older adults to learn from the children but also for the children to learn from us."



Taylor Galvin of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation shared plant teachings with families on a healing journey. In this work we call Return of the Buffalo, we offer retreats for Indigenous parents and their children to connect with each other and with Spirit through time on the land.

Nurturing One Another, Like the Earth Nurtures Us

by Rebecca (Becky) Watson, Keeper of the Centre



Becky with her dog Sunny

As the new Keeper of the Centre, part of my role is to look after the funding and the facilities needed for our land-based theological and cross-cultural education. Events like "Mamawe Ota Askihk: Sharing Life Together Here on Earth" this August really show what a special place we have for this work. We welcomed kookums, aunties, uncles, youth and children to connect on the land and learn together. It was beautiful to see everyone working as a team, encouraging one another and sharing their gifts all week long!

Food sovereignty and sustainability are a passion of mine. I'm always amazed at the magic that unfolds when we spend time on the land together, enjoying its bounty. It brings me back to my childhood of watching (and helping!) my Mom in the garden and my Dad after his moose hunts, to witness their efforts in nourishing our family.

I am thrilled to share that we have received donor support to respond to the growing demand for land-based learning here with the build of a new Outdoor Pavilion! It will serve as an outdoor kitchen and classroom for guests at the Centre for cultural camps to gather, learn and enjoy together all that Creator provides us.

If you're curious about how you might bring your passions together with others and share your gifts to make this kind of magic happen, I invite you to give me a call!



Lola and Sarah look for wild rice to harvest from the river at Mamawe Ota Askihk.



SSSC ministry student Marion Keno and her grandson work on a hand drum made from hides.



Elaine and Wadim build a smoker for preserving meat and fish.

Welcome Sandi!

We are honoured to have Sandi Gendreau join our team to work with our students, staff, elders, teacher facilitators, and partners in supporting students who are becoming ministers.

Sandi grew up on reserve and then her career took her to Northern Manitoba. For over a decade, she travelled to numerous Northern communities; remote First Nation communities and cities of the North. She worked at the program level, also as case manager and in the latter part of her career she worked with post secondary students at the northern UM social work campus and then the University of Winnipeg and Booth University College.



Sandi Gendreau is our new Keeper of the Learning Circle.



Rev. Zack Kakegamic Recognized for Decades of Service in Sandy Lake

by Erica Young, in conversation with David B. Fiddler, Rev. Evelyn Broadfoot and Rev. Lawrence Moore

In Sandy Lake, on October 22, Elder Ennis Fiddler spoke in the church named after his great grandfather and reminded everyone how Adam Fiddler became a Christian and started the church. At that time, someone told Adam that he would need to let go of the ceremonies, the pipe and the drum. Adam said, "No. God gave me a certain way to come to him and I'm not going to let those go."

It was a fitting way to begin the ceremony to ordain Adam Fiddler United Church's latest minister, Rev. Zack Kakegamic. Community leader David B. Fiddler says "That's the way we've been ever since. We still participate in ceremonies. That's in a sense what Zack brings: who we are as a people. Zack speaks our language and our language is who we are. With Zack it's not only the language, it's also the way of life. He goes out in the boat, hunting, fishing, living on the land. He does the medicine from the land. People go to him for medicine when they get sick. This lived experience, it's a strength Zack has".

Zack has been involved in the church since the early 1970s. Today he does funerals, burials, and weddings. David says "Zack gets asked quite a bit to do things in the community, whether it's to visit people, go offer a prayer for a feast and whenever there is a death in the community to go provide support. He's also an elder for the Chief and Council. He works ecumenically".

Zack's community involvement was reflected in everyone who came to his ordination. Chief and Council members were seated in the front row. Ministers from other Sandy Lake churches, a large choir, local elders and guests from the wider church all came to show their support.

Rev. Lawrence Moore, who traveled from Norway House, tried to describe Zack's ordination: "The spirit was moving, it was very sacred. You can't put into

words how good it felt." Rev. Evelyn Broadfoot, who traveled from Winnipeg, agreed. "We know Rev. Zack Kakegamic as a spiritual man. I'm not surprised that the service was very spiritual. We felt the Holy Spirit. Kise Manito was right there."

Rev. Broadfoot helped prepare for Zack's ordination and make the order of service suit the northern Ontario community. The day was very meaningful for her because she has been supporting Zack and his community since 2015. It has been a long journey to see Zack recognized for his leadership and ordained. There have been many restrictions by the wider church that almost made Zack and his community give up.

After the ordination service, the community's support for Zack was evident again. The school gym was decorated in his honour and community members had prepared a delicious feast. Rev. Moore noted that all the guests were warmly received. It was clear that people were very happy for Zack. "The next day, when Zack went to the store, everyone was greeting him and hugging him."

Rev. Broadfoot explained that as ministers, they wear stoles as a symbol of their servanthood to God and the people. This means walking with their communities in sorrow and in joy. As supporters of Sandy-Saulteaux, your prayers and your gifts help strengthen our graduates for this sacred work.

David B. Fiddler works with Zack in Sandy Lake and is a new member of the National Indigenous Council of The United Church of Canada. Rev. Evelyn Broadfoot graduated from Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre in 1991, the first graduation in this location that became the home for SSSC. She is an elder of Keewatin Circle in The United Church of Canada. Rev. Lawrence Moore graduated from SSSC in 2014. Erica Young is Business Assistant at SSSC.



SSSC Keeper of the Vision Donna Kennedy traveled to Sandy Lake for the ordination and noticed that all the public signs are written in their language. "I was amazed how they are still deeply rooted to their mother tongue and why it was so important that Zack be ordained as the minister to do his work in his mother tongue."



Many people came to show their support for Zack in his continued ministry with the community of Sandy Lake. After serving this congregation for many years, Zack Kakegamic was ordained by the National Indigenous Council of the United Church of Canada.



In recognition of Zack's lived experience in combination with Learning Circles at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, SSSC Co-chair Rev. Grant Queskekapow presented Zack with our diploma in Indigenous Ministry.



Zack asked SSSC graduate Rev. Lawrence Moore to give a message at his ordination. Lawrence reflected on John 3: 16-18. Not only did God so love the world, but God so loved Zack!



After an elder said the Lord's Prayer in her language, a young community member spontaneously came up to repeat it in English.



Chief Delores Kakegamic congratulates Zack. Zack goes to morning prayers with Chief and Council every weekday at 9:00.



Lorraine Kakegamic, SSSC Co-chair Rev. Grant Queskekapow, Rev. Zack Kakegamic, Elder Ennis Fiddler (seated), Rev. Lawrence Moore, Rev. Evelyn Broadfoot, SSSC Keeper of the Vision Donna Kennedy and David B. Fiddler, ready for the community feast.



Farewell Christy

We thank Christy Anderson for her strong leadership as our Keeper of the Circle over the last year. Christy's passion for holding a space where people can love Jesus, love the church, and also love who they are as Indigenous people, without leaving either part of them behind, has strengthened our circle.

Christy, we wish you well as you move on to your dream job as Director of Indigenous Research at The University of Manitoba!

WE'RE HIRING!

Do you know someone who would make a great Keeper of the Circle? Please share our job posting at bit.ly/SSSchiring



Farewell Susan

We thank Susan McPherson-Derendy for her time as Keeper of the Learning Circle. As a strong support to students throughout the covid-19 pandemic, Susan also navigated offering online learning circles and began monthly circles for SSSC Alumni. We remember the 3+ years of Susan's work with deep gratitude for her skilled work as a circle facilitator.

Susan, we wish you continued blessing in your new work as the Community Counsellor at Brandon Friendship Centre and other important work serving on the Elders Council at Brandon University. We know you will have much wisdom and care to offer to these circles too!

Keepers of the Vision



Your Centre is guided by a board of caring, experienced and dedicated individuals. From left to right, back row: Gloria Cook, Kathryn Fournier, Grant Queskekapow, Ken Thomas, front row: Donna Kennedy, Elenor Thompson, Mary Courtenay, Deanna Zantingh, absent: student representative Randy King.

Let us introduce our newest members: Donna Kennedy has been involved with the United

Church in many capacities, including with All Native Circle Conference. She is a member of Raymond Flett Memorial United Church in Winnipeg and speaks her mother language Oji-Cree fluently.

Gloria Cook was born into the Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba's Interlake. Her heritage and roots are with the Norway House Cree Nation and Sakgeeng Ojibway Nation. Trained in Public and Health Administration, she has worked with the Indigenous community, the Federal government and the United Church of Canada.

Kathryn Fournier is Cree and Ojibway on her mother's side and a member of the Pinaymootang First Nation in Manitoba. She is Franco-Ontarian on her father's side. She has worked on innovative policy approaches at the former Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Kathryn became active in Indigenous social justice work with the United Church. Now returned to the Anglican church, she is active in the All My Relations Circle of the Diocese of Ottawa.

Finding Home



My name is Randy King, and I'm Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. I'm in the Ministry Training program. This past year, Sandy-Saulteaux has become like a second home for me. It's not only helping me find myself, it's helping me raise my daughter to know who she is. In fact, our family moved to the reserve this fall, another kind of home-coming that is grounding me in who I am. Miigwetch/thanks for your support!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from the staff, Keepers of the Vision and students of Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Note that our office will be closed December 22 – January 1.

You can make an online donation anytime at sandsaulteaux.ca/donate. All donations received by mail, post marked by Dec. 31, will receive a 2023 tax receipt.

Thank you to everyone who's made a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux since our last newsletter!

Your generosity nurtures Indigenous leadership, helps families find wholeness and move us all along a path to reconciliation.

Glenna Beauchamp	William Doyle	John & Heather Lea	Pinawa Christian Fellowship	Susan Sorensen
Elaine Beauchemin	Alf Dumont	Twila MacNair	Andriel Pitter	St. Andrew's U.C.W., Markham ON
Dan & Angelina Beveridge	Lou Erickson	Shelly & Richard Manley-Tannis	Carolyn Pogue	St. Paul's United Church, Virden MB
Bernard Boland	Olive M. Flett	Shirley Manning	Sandy Popham	Lori Stewart & Paul Hagerman
Wendy Boyd	Rudolph & E. Ruth Friesen	Stan & Dot McKay	Irene Rainey & Tim Sale	Bri-anne Swan
Brenda Brand	David Giuliano	Verna McKay	Valerie Regehr	Pamela Thomas
Christine Bridgett & Donna Fossay	Debbie Hubbard & Dean Reidt	McKenzie United Church	Ruby Reske-Naurocki	Michelle Voss Roberts
Brian Arthur Brown	Humber Valley U.C.W.	Cliff & Eleanor McMillan	Beverley Ridd	Rhonda Wideman
Neil Cameron	Amir Hussain	Lila McNeil	Rimbey U.C.W.	Vic & Danna Wiebe
Charleswood United Church	Sophia Joy	Reg McQuaid	Heather Sandilands	Steve Willey & Carol Hancock
Janet Clarke	Lorraine Kakegamic	Lynette Miller	Beatrix Schirner	Margaret Wooff
Adel Compton	Mary Kalberg	Richard Miller	James Scott	Erica Young
John Crawford	Jennifer Kilmnik	Jessie Morrison	Pat Seale	Anonymous (13)
Ken Delisle	Joan King	Suzanne Mozdzen	Joyce A. Seng	
Janice & Ted Dodd	Jack & Christine Kowalchuk	susn palmer	Rev. Betty-Lou Skogen	
Caryn Douglas & Peter Kidd	Charles Kroeker	Robert Patton	Rob & Deb Smith	
			Joyce Smyth	

Along with these individuals and organizations, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is supported by our major funder, The United Church of Canada, through Mission and Service. We acknowledge The Winnipeg Foundation for helping to fund Return of the Buffalo retreats, The United Church of Canada Foundation's Seeds of Hope grant for helping fund a Learning Circle on Solutions to Lateral Violence, Brokenhead River Community Foundation for helping to fund our Community Connection Events in the upcoming year and Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's Healthy Together Now for helping fund the cooking equipment and seating for our outdoor kitchen and Community Connection Events in the upcoming year.

Upcoming Learning Circles & Continuing Education Opportunities

Want to join our students as they study with these fantastic individuals? Contact us for details and to register.



January 22nd - 25th
MEDICINE WHEEL TEACHINGS
with Tim Hackborn & Grant Queskekapow



January 27th - 28th
INDIGENOUS FAMILY TRAINING, REWRAPPING OUR FAMILIES
with Jann Derrick



Jan. 30th - Feb. 1st
INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES OF HEALING PTSD
with Patricia Vickers



April 8th - 12th
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES
with Ken Thomas



June 3rd - 7th
CHRISTOLOGY
with John Boopalan

Donor Connections: Bill Doyle



"I've always believed in alternative forms of education" says United Church Minister Rev. Bill Doyle. He feels good about giving to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre because he knows from personal experience how valuable experiential learning is in preparing people for ministry. "I also have a commitment to reconciliation. As individuals we each have different opportunities and abilities to move towards reconciliation. My support of Sandy-Saulteaux is part of my own work and in support of the church's reconciliation as well."

Bill grew up in Manitoba. He remembers the Centre searching for a home in Winnipeg before we found our current location outside of the city. Now, living further away, in Stony Plain, Alberta, he chooses to stay connected because he sees Indigenous ministry training as "so much more than charity. It fulfills a need for justice by empowering the students and their communities."

Will you join Bill in giving generously as part of your commitment to reconciliation? Mail in the form on the last page of this newsletter or give online at sandsaulteaux.ca/donate.



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My gift is 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 wish to designate this gift to:

- Return of the Buffalo - fostering family well being
- Legacy Fund - an endowment to provide long-term support

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- I am considering including Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will. Please contact me.
- I offer prayers for the ministry.



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