

Knox United Church's Mission:

**“to share the gospel of Jesus with all people,
through worship, service and care”**

CARE

Caring for people has two aspects here at Knox – internal to our own members, and external to the community. This element of our mission and ministry is supported by 11% of our budget, and is very effective through the volunteer effort and activity of many committee and church members.

Internally, the Pastoral Relations and Membership Committee sends cards to support members who are ill or hurting, and those who need to remain connected to Knox even when they cannot attend worship services regularly. There is a very active ministry of visiting, involving both committee members and other very committed congregation members. A phone ministry is also part of this committee's regular activity, ensuring that Knox folks know what is going on through the church, and checking on how folks are doing through the year. An annual tea at the Sherbrooke Centre is hosted by these volunteers. This committee includes the role of Clerk of the Roll, currently Joan Fast, who ensures that church membership, baptisms, weddings and deaths are well recorded and up to date.

The Health and Wellness Committee organizes a Prayer Shawl ministry, offering wraps and shawls that are knitted or crocheted by congregation volunteers to members and others who deserve recognition or need support and prayer at a time in their lives. Committee members gather periodically to make soup which is frozen in individual containers and given to congregation members who could use a small assist in meal preparation for any reason. This committee also organizes seminars and educational presentations for the congregation, the most recent being a fire safety and fall prevention seminar after worship in late September. An annual certification seminar for CPR and the church's AED machine is organized by these committee volunteers.

The Fellowship Committee organizes two events each year – the pre-Christmas Chili Lunch, often with a bake sale and Christmas market, and the Strawberry Tea in the spring. These events add to the sense of community and family that members enjoy at Knox, and support the overall well-being of members and visitors.

Part of Knox's caring mission is care for the spiritual growth and well-being of its members and families. The Christian Development Committee plans, manages and oversees the church's Sunday School and Nursery ministries, paying particular attention to supporting children and young families in their Christian living. This committee also coordinates the church providing daily devotional magazines (*These Days* and *The Upper Room*), as well as members' subscriptions to the United Church's monthly magazine *The Observer*.

Externally, an active part of Knox's ministries of caring is the Outreach Committee, whose attention is on caring for the larger community. Committee members are actively involved in the United Church's Integrated Community Ministries' 'Chop 'n' Chat' weekly lunch program, a program that supports the social connection, health and well-being for residents of Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods. This committee also organizes and manages Knox's support for agencies like the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre, Friendship Inn, and Egadz. Knox has long supported Howard Coad school, helping the school to provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches to students who don't have strong meal support at home. Once a year, usually in mid-winter, volunteers connected to this committee, Wayne and Donna Tillotson, prepare and organize church volunteers to provide a soup and bread lunch to the students and staff at the school. Knox's support of Howard Coad school is mostly funded through the funds collected at the church's annual Robbie Burns lunch, organized by the Outreach Committee, again with the leadership of Wayne and Donna Tillotson.

The church also has a Benevolent Fund, gathered through the offerings at the Christmas Eve and Good Friday services. With this fund, Rev. Brian provides occasional financial assistance to individuals and families who find themselves in need at particular times, for a whole variety of reasons and purposes. This assistance varies a lot from time to time, and may be as little as \$20 for some situations, and up to several hundred dollars for others. This fund is not part of the church's regular operating account.

Of course, much of Rev. Brian's time is devoted to caring for people both within and outside the Knox family, and he is actively involved with the ministries of all these committees.