

Clearwater United

“For where your treasure is there your heart is also” Matthew 6: 21

One year ago, we received a treasure: Rev. Krushel joined us February, 2013 and so far, he’s not run screaming back to the big city churches. Happy anniversary to all of us!

“I will make people more rare than fine gold” Isaiah 12: 2

Fine people have stepped up to fill in the jobs of the church. **The board** this year, as last, will be Leslie Ross, Mary Neathway, Abigail Rutley, Sandra Holmes and Susan Murray. **Pastoral Charge board** members are Mary Neathway, Susan Murray, Leslie Ross, Abigail Rutley and Rev. Krushel. **Trustees** are Sandra Holmes, Joanne Wright and Susan Murray, replacing Greg Gregory. **Presbytery rep** will be Abigail Rutley (and don’t forget we are playing hosts in October) with Leslie Ross as our alternate and future Presbytery secretary. **Ministry and Personnel** committee members for Clearwater are Terri Campbell and Leslie Ross. Lorne Wright is **envelope secretary**.

“But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you” Acts 3: 6

We are generously supported by the Barriere church women and their hard work at the thrift store. As we receive, we also give. Mission Support objective has been set at \$800 for our congregation. To make a tax claimable donation, mark your envelope “M&S” and the amount you are giving. Joy Box money goes to this fund also.

We also support the food bank. You can mark your envelope, bring food, or come out and help plant, water and dig carrots. Planting day is set for sometime around the long weekend in May, depending on weather conditions.

News from the Pews Winter, 2014

“The crucible is for silver, the furnace is for gold and the Lord tests hearts” Prov. 17: 3
Hearts and hands were offered to Sandra as she asked for help with coffee sales while she is becoming a grandmother. Susan Murray, Leslie Ross and Abigail Rutley will keep this outreach going while Sandra is in Montreal.

“How much better to get wisdom than gold? To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver” Prov. 16: 16

- Learn the history of the **Seder Supper** and eat well, April 17 at the home of Leslie Ross.

- Learn what to plant, where to plant it and buy the plants for your garden May 31 at our annual **plant sale**.

- Learn how to **pan for gold!** Jim is willing to teach eager miners this summer.

- Learn what is happening in the church world by subscribing to the **Observer**. Give your \$20 for a year’s subscription to Mary Neathway by March 17.

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver” Prov. 25: 11

Susan Murray will lead worship while Rev. Krushel is at Presbytery.

Church of the Living Streams is hosting World Day of Prayer this year on the first Friday of March. More details will follow.

“For wisdom is better than jewels” Prov. 8: 10

Have you ever named a church? A few of us have suggested many tongue in cheek names, but as we progress towards shared ministry, it is time for wisdom and seriousness to prevail. What shall we call ourselves? Committee members Leslie Ross, Leslie Stirling, Susan Murray, Karen Thompson and Rev. Krushel await your suggestions.

The Family Bible

One day Sandra curiously asked, “Where did that big bible that we lug to the front of the church and back every Sunday come from?” Our records show that in 1957, it was presented to the newly born Clearwater United by R. Perry of Knox United in Vancouver.

Then she discovered that the name of Rev. Alfred Moore Phillips is embossed on the front cover and his marriage and the birth of his son are recorded on the pages inside. Who, we wondered, was Rev. Phillips? The internet overflows with information (some of it true) and it revealed the following:

Rev. Alfred Moore Phillips was born to John Smith Phillips (an Englishman who came to fight the war of 1812) and Sarah Bacon in Ontario, January 24, 1846. At the age of 16, he left home to teach school in a neighbouring town. Education was important to him and while he taught, he continued to study English and mathematics. He went to Victoria College and graduated, first in 1869, then returned to graduate in 1878 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.

Rev. Phillips was a temperance leader, a Methodist minister and an editor. He preached in southwest Ontario, Toronto and Montreal. He was a man of intellect, energy and amazing organizational skills.

As a theological liberal and social reformer, he championed the need for a well trained and educated clergy. He played a major role in the 1893 foundation of the Methodist Deaconess Society, a pioneer organization for the training of women for evangelistic and social work. He helped to lay the groundwork for the rise of a liberal theology that sought to reconcile Christianity with modern society.

Poor Alfred. He found the woman of his dreams but their love was short lived. On June 21, 1882, he married Margaret Jayne Coyne, and they rejoiced May 16, 1883 at the birth of their only child, Alfred Coyne Phillips. Alas, Maggie died just 18 months later, on Dec. 2, 1884.

July 6, 1886 saw him wed Susan Hunt in Wallace, Nippissing, Ontario. They had two more children, a son, John Douglas Moore Phillips and a daughter, Maggie Hunt Phillips. He never got to attend the weddings of any of his children, for he died at the young age of fifty, while in Montreal, on December 10, 1896. He is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

His children did marry. Son Alfred Coyne Phillips became a doctor, served in the army during WWI, and married Annie Murrison of Saskatchewan. Like his father, he died before becoming a senior citizen, leaving this earth October 19, 1931. Son John Douglas married Esther Leadbetter when he was 24. He died (possibly) January 23, 1937 in Toronto. Daughter Maggie, who earned a BA in 1909, was second wife to John Robert Page, marrying in Toronto April 17, 1912. Poor Maggie also died young in Feb 28, 1919. Her husband went on to marry for a third time.

Did Alfred, Maggie or John Douglas have children? That is still undiscovered. How did the bible get from Ontario to Vancouver to be given to us? That, too, remains a mystery. When you look at that big family bible during worship, give a thought to the man who first owned it – a man of intellect, a man of energy, a man of God and a good example for all of us. What a wonderful gift Knox United gave us!