

MINUTE FOR GRACE – JANUARY 4TH, 2015

‘Minute for Grace’ is brought to you the first Sunday of the month by “SNIFF” – the Spiritual Nurture in Faith Formation Team.

ART is a small word but one that has enormous emotional powers. Art is defined as something that is created with imagination and skill; is beautiful in the eye of the beholder and expresses important ideas and feelings. There are many pieces of art throughout Grace-Westminster – in the Sanctuary, the Lounge, the offices, the Memorial Tower, the Chapel and Andrea’s Place. Paintings, stained glass windows, wood carvings, specially designed and crafted pieces of furniture, silverware for the Sacraments, pottery, ceramics and wall hangings. Look around and absorb the spiritual beauty that is housed within these walls. Every piece has significance!

The Nutana Methodist Mission Church, Saskatoon’s first church building, was erected in 1892 at this site and dedicated on January 15th, 1893. It was 26 by 40 feet, designed to hold about a hundred people. The exterior was a white lime and gravel mixture and referred to as a cement structure. This building served the congregation’s needs for some 18 years before being demolished in 1910 to make way for a larger building. Prior to demolition, James Eby, secretary of the Official Board, was asked to have a picture taken of the old church with some

old timers in front. The 1910 photograph served as the model for this relief carving by Bill Chapman. **William A. Chapman** was a minister at Grace-Westminster United Church from 1977 to 1981. Affectionately known as Bill, he was an avid wood carver of relief pieces and free standing birdlife.

Inger DeCoursey, co-founder of Broadway Painters Workshop, a group who met for 25 years from 1960 – 1985 in the church auditorium, is a Saskatoon artist who has steadily gained a reputation for her paintings depicting life in our city. Her work is vibrant and energetic, beautifully capturing the moments and spaces that make each scene unique. Inger's painting shows the tall, quiet strength of Grace-Westminster being reflected in melting snows of the seasonal change between winter and spring – steadfast and enduring. Inger's painting was completed in 1979 and dedicated "In Loving Memory of R.H. MacFadyen – Presented by the Family".

Lou Chrones is also an active Saskatoon artist specializing in landscapes. She is a founding member of the Artists' Workshop Co-op, a group that gathers in the church auditorium on Wednesdays. Her painting of the Church was presented to Grace-Westminster United Church on October 13th, 2007 – "On the occasion of the 125th Anniversary". The sunlight captured shimmering through the tall trees gives reality to the spiritual presence.

The Church family is extremely blessed to have works by these and other artists hanging in the Lounge and the offices. Take a moment to browse through the areas of the Church and enjoy the collection.

On the tables at coffee today, please pause to view the Commemorative Plates of Westminster United, Grace United and Grace-Westminster United Churches.

I will also move these art pieces into the auditorium during coffee time so you can have a closer look.

Stay tuned for more interesting trivia on February 1st!!