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# MCLEOD CHAPEL

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Diana Krebs



**AUGUST 24, 2014**  
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Forward:**

I undertook this information journey when in 2003 the Junior Chapel, a children’s worship service held at the same time as the sermon in the adult worship service, moved from the room in the Sunday School wing to the McLeod Chapel. The picture of Andy McLeod sparked a lot of questions by the students so I said I would find out what I could. As luck would have it - of course it wasn’t luck - there had been a call to the church. Andy’s cousin Louise and Jane, a friend of the McLeod’s, were putting together information about the McLeod side of the family. They had both attended the Andy’s Memorial Service and thought the church may have some information about him. I met with them and we shared information, pictures, and memories. I then brought them to the church to see the current chapel. - **Diana Krebs**

In the back of the Narthex there is a rather obscure flight of stairs leading up to the balcony. Across from the balcony is a small room which will hold 20 to 30 chairs comfortably.



**McLeod Chapel**

Above the door is a small plaque which reads “McLeod Chapel.” There is also a framed picture of a handsome young man in uniform and a paper placed in the corner of the picture identifying him but not explaining his connection to Knox.

**Andrew Lester McLeod**  
Radio Officer in the  
25<sup>th</sup> Merchant Marines  
Lost his life in the service of  
his country on December 28<sup>th</sup>  
1944 at the age of 24



**Andy in uniform**

Andy and his family were not one of the prominent people here at church, but their actions have made a lasting legacy. He was born October 20, 1920 in Spokane, and first came to Knox's Vacation Bible School as an early elementary age child.

**Andy as a child**



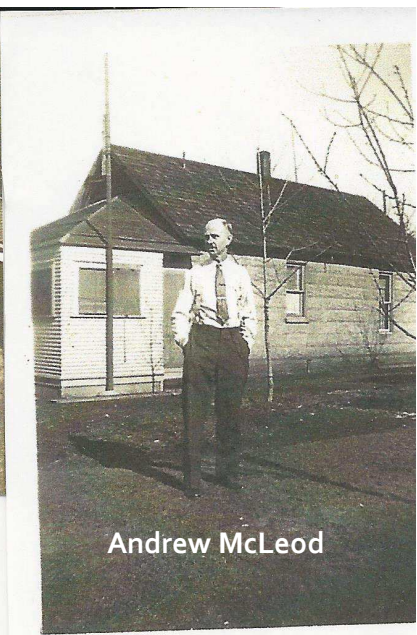
The family lived at N. 1101 Calispel. That is near the intersection of Washington and Boone and on the block where the Union Gospel Mission Thrift store is now. At one point that was a residential area and their house was where the large warehouse doors can be seen. He most likely walked to church.

Bible School interested him and he started attending Sunday school, he accepted Christ as his Savior, was baptized, and became a member of Knox, Feb. 1, 1931 at age 10 years.

It was about this time that his parents also began to attend.



**Dora Anne McLeod**



**Andrew McLeod**

### **Andy's parents**

The father went by Andrew and the son by Andy. The mother's name was Dora. Her name does not appear in the Session records and the women's group records are unavailable. According to

[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) she was born in Scotland. Scotch was her first language and her occupation was Shipyard, Riveter.

The father Andrew, however, was very active at Knox. He was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. Scottish was his first language. He earned his Citizenship in 1912 and fought in WW1 as a Private in the 147th Machine gun Battalion Division. In Spokane he worked as a clerk at Crane Company-Plumbing & Heating Wholesale Firm. There were several entries in the Session records commending him for helping renovate the church and manse and he was on the Board of Trustees.

**Relevant Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)**

(24) "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock, (25) The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock (26) But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand (27) The rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

The scripture can be applied to Knox; from the beginning people, the average attendee as well as the leaders, have kept to God's word. The Bible School, the Sunday School, the ladies groups, and the group of men who did maintenance, all worked in God's name, most anyway, and did not work for their own glory.

**Profile of Andy**

- Attended grades 1 through 8 at Garfield Elementary School
- Attended and graduated from North Central High School. The plaque on the wall in the NC hall lists the graduates lost in the services,
- His interest was science and sports, especially hockey and baseball
- He was active in the radio club Rho Kappa, held the office of vice president as a junior in 1937 and president in 1938. There was a radio shack built on the top of the high school which broadcast several hours a day, the call letters were KFIO.
- Attended Spokane Junior College. The campus was located where Manito Shopping Center is now.
- Helped start the radio club at Spokane Junior College, 1939
- Held the office of trustee in the radio club
- Played on the baseball team
- Graduated from Spokane Junior College.
- Pursuing his goals, the newspaper records that Andy, age 20, took a highly competitive examination for a place in the federal government's radio school located on Gallups Island, Boston. He passed with high honors and was one of 2 Spokane boys selected to attend.
- Joined the Coast Guard first then transferred to the Merchant Marines.

**HISTORY of Spokane Junior College:** Spokane University, a 4 year college, functioned between 1913 and 1933. It was located in Spokane Valley on 9th and Harold. The building was torn down and University High School is in that location

It reorganized in 1935 to Spokane Junior College, a 2 year institution, and was located where Manito Shopping Center is now. It folded in 1942 because so many faculty and students were lost to the war effort. All of the remaining students, books, and equipment merged with Whitworth.

**Merchant Marine ships** transported supplies and did not carry weapons. For protection they always traveled in a convoy with other Merchant Marine ships and armed military ships.



**Postage stamp featuring US Merchant Marines**

The service of the Merchant Marine was important enough to warrant a postage stamp in honor of the Liberty Ships.

### **Andy's War Experiences**

Andy's first assignments were in the South Atlantic. On his second trip the freighter was traveling in a convoy and loaded with coal and other supplies. A German submarine torpedoed a sister ship and their ship. The sister ship did not fare well, but their ship was not fatally damaged, probably because of their load of coal. The ship managed to make it to the Port of Spain at Trinidad under its own power.

Andy told a Spokane newspaper reporter, "They gave me a ribbon for being torpedoed but I'd much rather earn one some other way." He continued, "I've seen about all I want to of the east coast and the Atlantic. I think I'd like to look over the Pacific the next time I ship out." Up until then the Pacific has been fairly quiet, at least compared to the Atlantic. That was about to change.





He was assigned to the **SS John Burke**, a Merchant Marine Liberty Ship.  
U.S. Maritime Commission, Hull No. 609; years Conflicts: World War II 1942-1944  
Length - 441 feet      Speed - 11 knots



**Andy lounging on the SS Burke**

This time the ship was loaded with ammunition. There was a storm and the ships became separated. When the clouds lifted they were vulnerable and the attack began.

“During heavy enemy attack, the ammunition ships SS Lewis L. Dyché and SS JOHN BURKE explodes off Mindoro, (Min door o) Philippine Islands after Japanese kamikaze suicide planes vaporized their ammunition-loaded ships December 28, 1944. The ships were part of a convoy to resupply allied troops at Mindoro, Philippines. All 68 hands aboard the BURKE were lost.”

“**NOTE:** During the invasion of Mindoro, Philippine Islands, more mariners lost their lives than did members of all the other Armed Services combined.”



**Service member flag**

During the War a handmade banner hung in the Narthex. Each blue star represented a Knox member or friend serving our country. The banner is now at Whitworth in the Knox archives. It is so fragile we had to lay it out flat to take a picture.



**Handmade banner with stars representing members and friends of Knox serving in World War 2. The red upside down triangle is for Andy.**

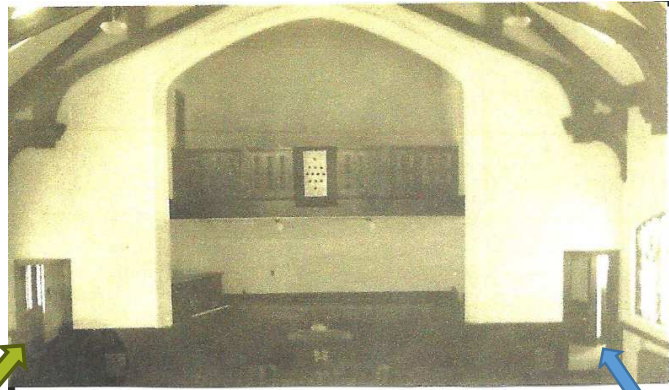
**Service member flag with gold star and red triangle**

The gold star represents a deceased military person serving our country. The gold star is for Pvt. Robert C. Johnson killed with the Seventh infantry in Germany. The red upside down triangle is for a deceased non-combatant serving our country.

The McLeod family is buried at Greenwood and Riverside Cemetery. The parents decided to make a memorial at Knox Presbyterian Church because there was no body.

His cousin said that instead of flowers or other expressions of condolence the family wanted donations to be used to renovate an area in the church which could be used as a small chapel. At that time weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other ceremonies were often small. They wanted to create an intimate place where these services could be held.

### Knox Church Sanctuary Circa 1917 - 1954



Doorway on south side of sanctuary

Pulpit area

Doorway on North side of sanctuary

Inside of Knox with choir loft?

### There have been 3 locations of the chapel

The **first** or original chapel was made in 1945 and lasted just under 2 years. The floor plan of the church was quite different then. There was a room on the north side of the building, right on the other side of the current alter / chancel wall. At that time the chancel area was smaller so the room looked larger. A fireplace was located on the west wall, under what is now the stair case and on the wall of the woman's bathroom. Louise, his cousin who was 11 at the time, remembers the memorial service and the original chapel. The memorial was held during the Sunday morning service, February 25, 1945. After the service the whole congregation filed out of the sanctuary and down the hall to the "McLeod Chapel." She said it was quite attractive with the lovely windows - which are still there, the private outside entrance, and the warm glow of the lit fireplace.

Recently, when remodeling the women's bathroom the fireplace was found, it had just been incased so as not to compromise the structure of the building. The organist said the organ pipes used to be at the back of where the alter area is now. When the alter area was enlarged the pipes were moved to the side.

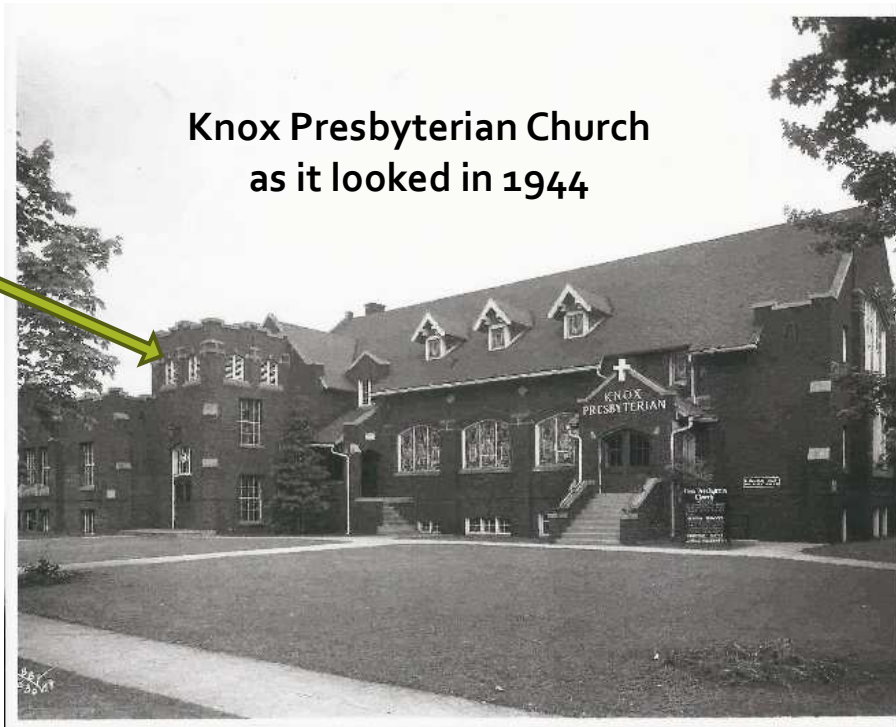
The **second location** was in the top floor of the new wing. After WW2, in the year 1946, there was a massive demographic change. Knox changed pastors from C. F. Kohler to



John McDonald. Within an 8 month period the session records changed names of active members. In the November 1946 minutes there was mention of the McLeod Chapel being moved and enlarged. Pastor McDonald wanted that space for his office so the chapel was moved to the upstairs.

**Knox Presbyterian Church  
as it looked in 1944**

**Location of  
McLeod Chapel**

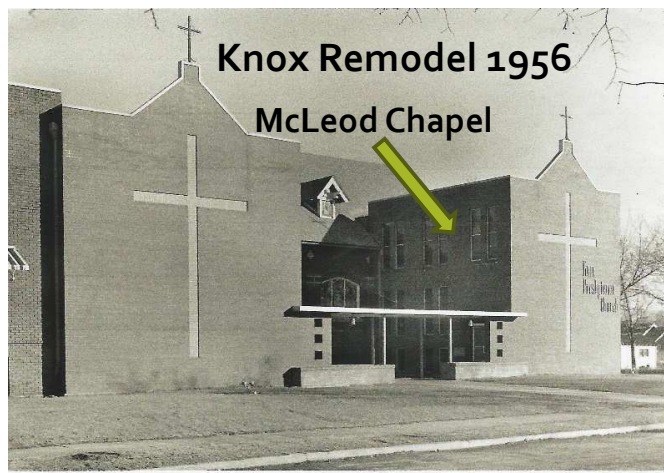


**Knox 1944**

**The third and current location** of McLeod Chapel was constructed above the Narthex during the 1956 remodel

**Knox Remodel 1956**

**McLeod Chapel**



Two scriptures, Matthew 7:24-27 recording Jesus' comment about building on a rock and not the easier way, the sand and Hebrews 12:1-3 relate to Knox history and to our future.



Drinking fountain in main hallway  
Elevator  
Embroidery of Knox Mission Statement in the Narthex  
Celling fans  
Stained glass windows  
Electric lift in entry way

Delphine Leiske & Marie Liere  
Tom & Ruth Parks  
William Hagg  
5 donors' names  
most have a name of the donor  
several donor names

This one small church in a mid-sized city in America has a legacy of building on the rock and of generations serving our Savior. Knox is a tiny part of the "cloud of witnesses" perpetuating the Gospel. Not only the past Christians but today's are included in the "cloud of witnesses." We are the present and future witnesses. **What has been done and what we do now and in the future - in Christ's name - is important.**

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Responsive Reading "**God's Acts in History and Today**" (pew hymnal #487)

God's mighty acts among us are well known.

**We are a people of history.**

God's redemptive acts were epitomized in Christ Jesus.

**We are a people of faith.**

God's salvation gives us hope and courage to affect history.

**We are a people of vision.**

God cherishes fellowship with us in worship.

**We are ready to magnify the Lord.**

**May our lives magnify**

**what we have been given,**

**What we are,**

**And what, by God's grace, we may become.**

**Amen.**

**Benediction:** Paul wrote to the Corinthians at the end of his second letter:

(11) Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. (12) Greet one another with a holy kiss. (13) All the saints greet you. (14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

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**Sources**

Knox Session Minutes from the archives at Whitworth University library

    Knox Session Notes 1927 - 1952

    Flag / Banner made for Knox during WW2

Knox Church archives

Garfield Elementary, attended grades 1 through 8th grade

North Central High School, graduated 1938

    Plaque listing all graduates which have given their life in service

    Yearbook, the Tamarak

Ham radio operator club

Jane, friend of family and a year older than Andy

Louise, cousin of Andy, Jane's mother and Dora were sisters, Jane was 11 at the time of his memorial

Junior College Year Book "Fangs" 1939

Knox members who did building reconstruction

Help with genealogy research

Veterans group

Spokane Newspaper

Spokane Public Library Memorial Book and Northwest History Room

Spokane Public City Directory

Greenwood and Riverside Cemetery

Others from Knox who helped with pictures and memories