

Knox News & Notes



September 2016

Knox' Priests

There is a phrase: Find a need and meet it; find a hurt and heal it; find a problem and solve it.

Meeting, healing and solving needs, hurts and problems are a very important part of congregational ministry. A meeting, healing and solving ministry flows from our "priestly calling" as Christians – 1 Peter 2: 5 - And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.

As a family of faith we follow Christ, who is also our High Priest - Hebrews 4:14,15 - we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testing we do, yet he did not sin.

As "priests" we are to be sensitive to the needs, hurts and problems of people irrespective the causes of those needs, hurts and problems.

How will people in our community know who God is and that he loves them?

Through us God wants to show who he is, and that he cares.

It's very strange that some people professing that they are believers can be indifferent towards fellow human beings in need. In the past there might have been a one sided emphasis in churches on the need to be saved from sin, almost as if this was the only need that people have. Don't get me wrong salvation is the most important message of the Gospel, but experiencing salvation, living salvation means we become "priests".

God treats people in a unique way - long before we ever responded to his love he was sensitive to our needs. In Christ we see God reaching out to the marginalized in society. We as a family of faith are more than a society for the preservation of the likes and dislikes of a privileged few.

I might be wrong but it seems as if congregations in Canada are increasingly becoming congregations among people in need.

Maintenance minded congregations may be tempted to shut their ears to the cries of others and cling to what they have in order to survive, but unfortunately they lose their identity as God's caring children in the process. Congregations are called to become and to be the serving and caring church of Christ.

The demands on our structure as a missional congregation calls for a sensitivity and involvement with people both in our immediate surroundings and further away.

We rejoice in 36 children joining our VBS program this summer – most of them children that don't belong to Knox. We rejoice in a program started this summer holiday for young parents helping them with parenting skills. We rejoice in the way in which we could help financially at Royal City next door with their meals program; with the grocery gift cards last Christmas for young adults in our community. We rejoice in Karen and Carolyn reaching out into Malawi this fall. We rejoice in every family member at Knox welcoming visitors to our congregation, making people feel welcome. We rejoice in the way in which we reach out to one another as family in our small group lifestyle and the way in which friends at Knox reach out to other friends in times of need.

More and more the Knox family is living up to our calling as a representative of the healing Christ in our community and the world.

As our ministry gears up after the summer holidays may we be well aware of our priestly calling: Find a need and meet it; find a hurt and heal it; find a problem and solve it.

Rev Johan

Mission Notes

On our most recent Knox Women's retreat, I acquired a reference book on Spiritual Journaling that was part of a larger book collection shared from our beloved sister, Linda Kenny. It was, for me, a 'nudge' from God as I recently have become very interested in the journaling process. I believe that when we stop & think about the possibilities that come from being open & responsive to the community & world around us, it gives a feeling that we are close to & watching for where God is clearly at work in amazing & ordinary ways. I think that with the many images of hurt, neglect & greed that we are continuously subjected to through always being 'connected' electronically to everything everywhere we are easily overwhelmed by it all. It takes some determination to be 'tuned out' of it & become 'tuned in' to God's possibilities. One of the ways I have found time to 'listen' for God is to spend time keeping a journal of ordinary moments. It is really quite amazing to me that so much of my day to day life is filled with God's presence when I reflect back through using this process. Spiritual journaling is a way to bring about an understanding of how God has shaped my life & discerning where His presence is guiding me overall. It gives order to the often small or fleeting way that things happen to bring about a sense of the bigger picture! I would be happy to share what I have learned so far from this process for anyone who is interested in learning more.

Karen Duffield
Mission Coordinator



Musical Notes

By Chris Fischer, Pastoral Musician

“The Singing Thing”

“The Christian church sings.” –Karl Barth (1886 – 1968)

Knox Presbyterian Church is a **singing church**... We sing together, young and old:

- to worship God;
- to celebrate God’s blessings in our lives;
- to pray for hope and healing;
- to grow in faith and in love;
- to become a more vibrant and welcoming community.

With apologies to the Scottish composer John Bell, I’ve entitled this little article “The Singing Thing,” the same title as one of his recent books, wherein he argues passionately in favour of the primacy of the people’s song in Christian worship. Neither Bell nor Barth could conceive of the church *as church* without singing, specifically the singing of the people gathered for worship. And by “the people,” they mean **all** of the people, not just the chosen few who might sing in choirs. In fact, for congregations of the Reformed tradition, of which Knox and the Presbyterian Church in Canada are a part, choirs are a comparatively recent innovation, added in the nineteenth century to enhance the singing of the congregation at large... and certainly **not** to replace it.

The problem for many of us in the twenty-first century is that we have come to think of worship in the church, whether “traditional” (with organs, hymns and robed choirs) or “contemporary” (with keyboards, drums and guitars), as events dependent upon the musical performances of a few musical specialists, rather than *liturgy* (the “work of the people”) offered to God by everyone gathered in the name of Jesus Christ on the Lord’s Day.

What a fantastic opportunity we at Knox now have, with our newly reconstructed chancel space, to reimagine our worship together! All of us, including our choir and other music ministers, have been dreaming and visioning of what this time would be like, as we met and reflected upon our mission during several discussions held over the past two years: together, we envisioned a music ministry that would be joyfully inclusive, when we could hear one another’s voices, raised in unity and harmony. The choir in particular feels very strongly that they need to be closer to the congregation – to be less physically separated in our worship space – and to grow into their role as leaders and supporters of a genuine singing family.

With these feelings in mind, we embark on a period of experimentation and discovery, as the Sanctuary Choir in particular embraces literally the entire Sanctuary of Knox Church in the ministry of worship leadership. The choir will no longer be confined to a (for most worshippers) distant loft, but will be seated for much of the service in the pews, among the rest of the worshipping community; they will come forward to present special musical offerings on their own, but they will be otherwise free to lead congregational singing from their seats, or alternatively from different locations, and in different configurations, throughout the room. Imagine being surrounded by confident voices in your favourite hymns, or being guided in new music (even rounds!) by small groups of singers near your own location in the Sanctuary.

In addition to these new possibilities for the enhancement of our communal song, there will be another source of support very shortly in the form of our rebuilt organ console, which arrives in the second week of September. Once some minor work on the mechanism of our pipe organ is itself complete by the beginning of October, the “King of Instruments” will embrace the breadth and depth of our family’s voice as never before. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your overwhelming generosity as this project is brought to fruition at last!

We will celebrate all of this amazing outpouring of God’s love and faithfulness to us with a **FREE** public concert of rededication, to be held at **3:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, October 23**, featuring one of Canada’s finest organists, Christopher Dawes. Do come and join the party!

For more information on any of Knox Presbyterian Church’s music ministries, please visit our website, www.knowguelph.ca or call me at the church office, at **519-821-0141**. Or grab me after worship on Sunday... I look forward to talking further with all of you about the incredible journey we are on, together!

SURF SHACK WAS A BLAST!!

Vacation Bible School was held from July 11 – 15 here at Knox and everyone agreed it was EPIC!!

Our sanctuary was transformed into a surf shack, complete with ocean, sand, palm trees, beach balls and surf boards. There were 36 children in attendance daily and the building was filled with laughter, song, praise, prayer, food and more.



A huge thank you to the VBS staff who volunteered their time and energies into making VBS such a resounding success. Our site leaders and assistants, surf group guides, musicians, kitchen crew, advanced prep folks, set up and cleanup crews – You're amazing.

But, we are also so blessed to have had support of many others: people who prayed for us, gave us donations towards various projects, and more! Vacation Bible School needs everyone's help to be successful... and that is what we had! It wouldn't have been such a success, without the support of the congregation behind this valuable ministry. Here's what some of the parents said...

Our kids loved it and are still talking about it.

Not only was it fun but it has had a theological impact that I couldn't do on my own and with our local church.

They are now talking about heaven, Jesus, trying to act lovingly, etc.

Thank you for bringing the theology to life!

My kids loved the whole week and looked forward to coming back each morning.

Great enthusiasm from leaders. Catchy songs too!

We talked a lot about church and how we can talk to God anytime,
thanking him and sharing everything.

Thank you again for all the love you gave to each child.

God bless each of the volunteers who gave so very much of their time, energy, resources.

It is so very much appreciated.

Our Outreach Projects this year was in support of Hope House. We asked you for your support in providing supplies for Birthday Kits. And we were overwhelmed by the response! The request went out to the Families of our VBS kids as well, and the combined efforts of the Congregation and the VBS families made more than 78 Birthday Kits!! Amazing! Additionally, you helped support 3 other mission projects with supplies, prep or prayer:

The “Mission Mania” room was able to make 72 S.A.N.D Bags (this stands for Snack and Nutritional Delights! These were snack bags decorated by the children, filled with goodies!) and over 74 Soapy Waters Kits, (again decorated by the kids, these contained enough laundry detergent and dryer sheets for 2 loads of laundry.). We were also able to make, decorate and personalize greeting cards for all of our Knox Shut-Ins. Thank you to all who participated in these Outreach Projects!



Looking ahead, we anticipate holding next year’s VBS July 10 – 14 2017. It isn’t too soon to mark your calendars now and plan to volunteer or send the word out to all the children in your life! (nieces, nephews, kids, grandkids, neighbours...)

Blessings

Carrie Gordon & Karen Bellamy

VBS Coordinators



Stewarding Your Stuff Small Group Study Opportunity

Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
October 27th, November 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
by Herb Gale



I am excited to offer the opportunity for the members and friends of Knox Church to participate in the *Stewarding Your Stuff* small group Bible study, which I will be leading on Thursday afternoons, October 27th – November 24th. This will be the second time that I have offered the course, and I know from my own experience and the experience of others who participated in the first study that you will find it an extremely worthwhile and meaningful process. Whether we have much or relatively little, estate planning from a biblical perspective is one of the most important acts we will ever undertake. As the Apostle Paul reminded Timothy, “we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it” (1st Timothy 6:7). With proper planning, however, we *can* leave a significant legacy for those we leave behind. Designed for individuals and married couples, this small group study will help participants look at tax-efficient estate planning within the context of what it means to be a steward of God.

At the conclusion of the study, participants will be invited to set up a free, confidential consultation with an estate specialist associated with the Canadian National Christian Foundation (CNCF). The specialist will answer your personal questions; and, if you choose, complete a full estate plan that you can take to your own lawyer and/or financial advisor for implementation. It is important to understand that the CNCF estate planners do not sell any products. They simply offer their expertise and guidance.

Please contact Mary in the Church Office (519-821-0141 or office@knoxguelph.ca) to register. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact me or any of the Knox members who participated in the previous study (Ray and Jean Funnell, Diane Harvey, or Howard and Bonna Simpson). We would be happy to share our experience of the process.

Contributions to Support Karen Duffield’s and Carolyn Creighton’s Mission Trip to Malawi

Karen Duffield and Carolyn Creighton will be traveling to Malawi in October of this year for a mission trip. Participants in the trip are required to raise their own money to cover their expenses (a “Progressive Euchre and Games Night” has been planned for Saturday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. as a fundraiser for their trip). Those unable to attend the Games Night can still support their mission trip. Simply make your donation to Knox Presbyterian Church and designate your gift for “Mission Trips.” Your gift will then be eligible for a charitable donation tax receipt. If donations exceed Karen and Carolyn’s costs, your gifts will help others in the congregation have similar mission experiences. Thank you for your support.

Progressive Euchre and Games Night



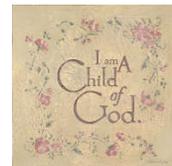
Come and join us for a great night of fun, food and fellowship, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 at the Guelph Curling Club, 816 Woolwich St. Guelph.

The night begins at 6:30 when the doors to the club open. There will be a Progressive Euchre format for all to enjoy, as well as tables with board games and cards for the non-Euchre people. There have been some requests for Bridge, so if you are a bridge player let us know! We can find tables for you too!! A raffle table will be set up with some great items, and a cash bar will be available for refreshments with a light lunch available later in the evening. All this for only \$10.00 per person!

This fellowship and games night is in support of 2 of our Church Family who are planning to go to Malawi in October on a Mission Trip. Karen Duffield and Carolyn Creighton will be joining 7 others all travelling with "Hands and Hearts for Africa" (HAHFA). They are responsible for all their expenses... flights, accommodation, food, insurance, vaccinations, and supplies for their mission projects. All proceeds from the night will go towards helping our girls on their mission trip.

We are looking for donations for the Raffle table of **NEW or GOOD UNUSED** items. Please contact Karen Bellamy if you have things to be considered, or want more information about the Games Night.

Tickets for our fun night are available in Metcalfe Hall following morning worship each Sunday. If you would like more information about HAHFA please go to their website www.handsandheartsforafrica.ca or certainly speak with Karen Duffield and Carolyn Creighton.



LOGOS-Where Everyone is a Child of God!

LOGOS is a Christian education program that nurtures children, youth, adults and families into a lifetime of Christian faith and discipleship through the development of meaningful relationships. All youth from JK to the end of High School are welcome. Come join us at Knox on Wednesday evenings from **5:00-7:30 pm beginning September 28th**. Our first theme of this session will be "Blast Off!" We look forward to getting re-acquainted with all our old friends and welcoming some new people too! Registration forms and information brochures are available in the church office and in Metcalf Hall. Come and join us Wednesday evenings this fall and winter!

Nancy Stepien

Attention Ladies: Do you enjoy walking on trails experiencing God's nature? Do you like good conversations, great food, and awesome fellowship with other ladies? Would you like some time away from your day to day life to sit in quiet contemplation and conversation with God? Then come and join us for the Woman's Retreat at Crieff Hills in Morriston. We will gather on **Friday, September 23rd** around 6:00 p.m. and enjoy this amazing place until 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 25th. If you cannot be there for the entire weekend, please join us for the full day on Saturday. The cost to attend will be based on the number of women joining us. For more details, or to sign up, contact Yvonne Cleary or Lindsay Redpath.

Church School Chatter

Wow! The summer has flown by and preparations are well underway for our Fall Church School Program. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all those wonderful people who volunteered over the summer to teach church school. Although the numbers varied week to week, our amazing volunteers were prepared for every outcome. Thanks for being such wonderful role models for our kids!

Beginning on September 11, we will be resuming our regular age appropriate classes, with our JK, SK and Grade 1 children in the Linda Kenny Room, our Grade 2, 3, and 4 children in the McGillvary Room, and our oldest class, Grade 5 +in the Dunn Room.

Many of our teachers have been providing leadership in Church School for a long time. Many of them also provide leadership in many other areas of our Knox Family. As a result, sometimes there are conflicts. Would you consider helping us with these conflicts? We are looking for enthusiastic adults and teens to help in Church School. This is NOT a difficult job and the rewards are tremendous. Ideally we would like to have 3 leaders in each age grouping, allowing all the leaders of a class to work out their own schedule according to each person's other commitments. There are only 12 teaching Sundays before Christmas, and 21 teaching Sundays after, a total of 33 Sundays requiring leadership. If each class had 3 willing leaders, then the total commitment would only be for 11 Sundays, spread out over the year according to your schedule.

Teaching is NOT hard!! I have had many people say to me that they could not teach Sunday School because they do not know enough about the bible etc. The best way to really learn something is to prepare and teach it! Our Curriculum is very easy to use, provides lots of great ideas for use in classrooms and has excellent bible background for leaders. We have a well-stocked supply room with everything you could possibly need for crafts, games, skits and more.

But more importantly, we have an amazing group of children who are eager to learn. They need positive Role Models. They need YOUR leadership.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our Church School Program.

Blessings to all
Karen Bellamy
Church School Coordinator



The following are a few tips for studying the Bible: Look into God's Word Digging for Treasure

- 1) Set aside a regular time. Unless you schedule it, you'll neglect it.
- 2) Before you start reading, ask God for help and understanding.
- 3) Carefully think about what you are reading. [The treasures of the Bible seldom lie like pebbles on the surface. To mine the gold, you have to dig.
- 4) Try to understand what the author was saying to the first people who read the book or letter before you decide what it means for you.
- 5) Write down at least one truth or principle you can put into practice.
- 6) Try different translations of the Bible. If you find yourself skimming over familiar words, a new translation may focus your mind on the passage in a new way.
- 7) Don't get discouraged. Some parts of the Bible are more interesting than others, and some you may not understand at all. But there's enough that you can understand, and if you apply that much it will revolutionize your life.

from Our Daily Bread

Seniors Connecting At Knox

Seniors Connecting At Knox takes place the last Thursday of the month from 11:30 am to 2 pm in Metcalf Hall (entrance off Chapel Lane). A delicious homemade lunch served to your tables will start at 12 noon followed by a variety of entertainment provided on a monthly basis. There is no fee but donations will be appreciated.



We want to welcome our Knox seniors to join us for good food, fellowship and entertainment. If you haven't experienced this event you are missing out on an enjoyable afternoon once a month from September until June. This event does not run during July and August.

Check the fall schedule of entertainment posted in Metcalf Hall.

Mark your calendar for this season's following dates:

September 29, 2016

October 27, 2016

November 24, 2016

December 15, 2016 (**not the last Thursday of the month due to Christmas**)

January 26, 2017

February 23, 2017

March 30, 2017

April 27, 2017

May 25, 2017

June 29, 2017



Free bus service is provided if you can't attend due to transportation needs. For bus service or any further inquiries about this ministry, speak with Wendy Darroch.

You can always visit www.knoxguelph.ca and follow the link to Seniors Connecting At Knox to get our luncheon and monthly fall event schedule.

Wendy Darroch
Co-ordinator, Seniors Connecting At Knox



Thanks to the dedicated people of Knox Church for the beautiful and much appreciated flower gardens surrounding the church. They have been a real blessing, and add so much more to downtown Guelph.

Blessings
Gord Johnston

Congregational Life Activities

Mark your calendars for the following events planned by your Congregational Life Committee:

Sunday, September 10, 2016 – Coffee Hour – Tea, Coffee and cookies

Sunday, November 6, 2016 – 172nd Knox Anniversary – Lunch in Metcalf Hall

Coffee Hour:

Starting on Sunday, September 10 we will be serving tea, coffee and cookies during Coffee Hour. Join us after Sunday worship in Metcalf Hall for fellowship and a hot drink and cookies.

172nd Knox Anniversary:

An anniversary lunch celebration will be planned for November 6. Lunch will follow the Sunday church service at 12 noon in Metcalf Hall. Further details commemorating the 172nd Knox anniversary will be provided in the fall.

Wendy Darroch

Convenor, Congregational Life Committee



Thanksgiving Offering 2016... “A Tangible Way to Show Thanks to God”

By Herb Gale



One of the beautiful traditions that Rev. Johan brought with him from South Africa, was the tradition of “Give a Day of Pay” as a special Thanksgiving Offering. As Johan says, “It was a tangible way to show thanks to God.” Last year, was the first time we tried it here at Knox Church. The Session invited everyone “to consider joining them in offering one day’s wages or one day’s pension payment over and above the regular personal offering on Thanksgiving Sunday... and to stipulate in writing on the Thanksgiving envelope what you are thankful for.” In the process, we raised nearly \$9,000 (\$8,910 to be exact) for Knox Church’s 2015 stewardship campaign as people shared the many reasons they had to give thanks.

In 2004, Dr. Jane Philpott challenged her colleagues at Markham Stouffville Hospital to “give a day of pay” to help fight HIV/AIDs. That first year, the staff raised \$33,000. Little could Dr. Philpott have known then that her idea would spread as other hospitals and organizations jumped on board what has become the “Give a Day to World AIDS” movement, or that eleven years later more than \$4 million would have been raised to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa and that she herself would be Minister of Health in Prime Minister Trudeau’s cabinet. Gratitude and generosity truly are contagious!

In that same spirit of gratitude and generosity, I invite everyone here at Knox to continue the tradition we began last Thanksgiving and to consider giving a day of wages or pension payments as your Thanksgiving offering in 2016. Who knows... maybe our “Give a Day” Thanksgiving Offering will not only become a tradition at Knox, it, too, will become a *movement!*

Special Note: Blue coloured Thanksgiving envelopes are available in your packets of offering envelopes for 2016. (extra envelopes will be available for those who don't have offering envelopes or have misplaced theirs). Simply place your cheque or cash in the envelope and write down what you are thankful for on the back. If you are unable to be present for the Thanksgiving service on Sunday, October 9th, you can place your envelope in the offering plate the Sunday before or after Thanksgiving Sunday or return it to the church office. If you are unable to give a full day's pension or pay, give at whatever level you are able. We would like everyone to participate in this tangible expression of gratitude and generosity.

From The Library

In June, to give some variety and depth to our reading, Knox Book Club read personal choice books from Knox Library. Here is the rating (out of a possible 10) the member would give her book and a comment on it. Perhaps, you would like to borrow one or more of these books from our library or join our book club.

The Ambition by Lee Strobel (8+) **Diane Harvey** thought the book was well written and hard to put down.

The Third Target by Joel C. Rosenberg (8+) **Bonna Simpson** said this was a great (but also violent) action read with vivid descriptions. It kept the reader well focused and would make a good movie!

Shadows of Ladenbrooke Manor by Melanie Dobson (7) **Heather Weigh** liked how the family's mystery unravelled. The book was about the love of family and the sacrifices we make.

Tidewater Inn and Rosemary Cottage by Colleen Coble (8) **Lindsay Redpath** if you like mystery, suspense, romance and descriptions of historical buildings you will enjoy this Hope Beach series.

Full Disclosure by Dee Henderson (8) **Carol Preater** called this love story and mystery a good read. The characters were well developed and the plot was not predictable.

Hope Harbor by Irene Hannon (7) **Mary Jewell** commented that the book was interesting enough to make it hard to put down.

The Baron's Honourable Daughter by Lynn Morris (7) **Jean Funnell** felt the storyline was entertaining but the details of life in the era were overdone.

Room For Hope by Kim Vogel Sawyer (7) **Marlies Kuemmling** liked the title of the book and explained that no matter how deep your troubles and despair may seem, there is always "room for hope".

My Servant Caleb by Kerstin Sheldrake (8) **Judy Steer** was made aware of the many similarities between Christianity and Judaism and can imagine a world where people of all religions live as one.

Book Club List 2016-2017

All meetings held in the parlour

<p><u>September</u> The Reluctant Fundamentalist By: Mohsin Hamid Meeting Date: September 26- 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>February</u> Eve By: Wm Paul Young <u>Meeting Date: February 27 – 1:30 p.m.</u></p>
<p><u>October</u> Kite Runner By: Khaled Housseini Meeting Date: October 24 – 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>March</u> All The Light We Cannot See By: Anthony Doerr <u>Meeting Date: March 27 1:30 p.m.</u></p>
<p><u>November</u> No Relation By: Terry Fallis Meeting Date: November 28 – 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>April</u> After You By: JoJo Moyes Meeting Date: April 24 -7:00 p.m.***</p>
<p><u>December</u> <u>No meeting this month.</u></p>	<p><u>May</u> See Me By: Nicholas Sparks Meeting Date: May 29 – 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p><u>January 2017</u> Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules By: Catharina I Sundberg <u>Meeting Date: January 30 – 1:30 p.m.</u></p>	<p><u>June</u> Personal Choice Meeting Date: June 26 – 7:00 p.m.</p>



Church Register:

Deaths:

<i>Marion Baier</i>	<i>Died June 11, 2016</i>	<i>Age 91 Years</i>
<i>Alfred Hurren</i>	<i>Died July 05, 2016</i>	<i>Age 89 Years</i>
<i>William Guest</i>	<i>Died August 13, 2016</i>	<i>Age 89 Years</i>