

Knox News & Notes



February/March 2012

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Newsletter articles due

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Small group ministry at Knox

At the beginning of a new year I would like to start out by sharing some thoughts about a ministry at Knox that was born out of our Congregational Vision: Christ renewing our life together.

Small group ministry is an excellent way of living life together as Christians so as to experience Christ's renewal in, amongst and through us.

It is very important to know that our small group ministry is not just another or new program that we have added to our existing programs here at Knox. No, our small group ministry, launched into the congregation during September 2011, is and should become a "new way of life" here at Knox.

Renewal has nothing to do with quick fixes. Renewal has to do with obedience to Christ and His word and we believe that our small group ministry will slowly but surely develop into a wonderful way of obedient Christian living over years to come.

Many theologians agree that when you study God's self-revelation in Scripture you will discover that God's essence is to be defined as a loving relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Since we Christians are His children, Christian maturity and growth will always entail growth in healthy and God reminiscent relationships. Mature Christian living will find expression in and will result in human relationships that reveal the presence and character of God.

For Paul, the Gospel binds Christians to one another because we are bound to Christ. Our acceptance by Christ necessitates acceptance of those whom God had already welcomed. Romans 15:7 - *Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.*

Since the very essence of the Trinity is a shared, interrelated communion of love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the "essence" of the church reflecting the Trinity is not some "other" substance but the unity displayed in members' love for one another - John 13:34 - 35 *So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*

The formation of a community that loves one another is the goal of God's life-giving Spirit sent to the church on the day of Pentecost. Mature Christians maintain their identity but our life and essence is subsumed within God's actions within the Christian community.

Romans 12:5 teaches us that "we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another". This "one another" phrase shows up in Paul's writings more than three dozen times. Because of who we are in Christ, our life is one of deep "one another living": welcoming one another, greeting one another, loving one another, living in harmony with one another, waiting for one another before eating, and, most dramatically, "through love becoming slaves to one another" (Gal. 5:13). To be related to one another through Christ is not merely to interact with one another but to live in interdependence, to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15).

According to Paul in Romans chapter 8:29: God's purpose for his children is conformity with Christ - *For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

As we live this "one another life" together we demonstrate a quality of living that the world is yearning for.

The mission of our small group ministry is found in the following Family declaration read out loud by the small group leader or in unison by the group at each small group meeting:

The Lord is present

He is our Father who loves us and we are His children

Together we constitute a loving spiritual family that takes care of each other's needs

In our fellowship our unity with Christ and each other becomes visible

Our goals are:

To praise and honor God

To love and serve each other in accordance with Christ command

To witness to others so that they may come to know God as their Father

The following principles guide our small group ministry at Knox:

- a. Commitment
- b. We are family
- c. Prayer
- d. Follow a fellowship, study and outreach guideline at our meetings
- e. Discover and develop our spiritual gifts
- f. Importance of the congregation and the church at large
- g. Multiplication

Anyone that would like to join a small group or feels that God is calling them into leadership in this ministry, please contact Johan.

Church School Happenings

Knox Church School welcomes all our children & their families into 2012! We finally have some snow and I hope everyone will take time to get outside and enjoy the gifts of nature in its many forms of beauty.

Thank you so much to all of our children for the wonderful Christmas message presented on December 18th/11. It was truly heartwarming to share the Gifts of Christmas with the congregation. I also want to say a big thank you to our Christian Education Committee for their all their help and Chris Fischer our Director of Music Ministries for the music.

The current curriculum for the Winter term of Rock Solid has our children busy learning about the Ministry of Jesus. They are learning that as a young boy he catches the attention of the scholars as he speaks to them in the Temple and continues onto the beginning of Jesus' Ministry with his baptism and choosing the Disciples. We continue to be thankful for the blessing of gifted teachers who share their time in helping our children to grow faithfully in God's love.

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but look what they do when they stick together!"



In Christ's Love,
Karen Duffield
Church School Co-ordinator

♪ *Musical Notes* ♪

by Chris Fischer, Director of Music Ministries

“Worship and Evangelism”

Recently, the Presbyterian Record devoted a large part of an issue to a topic that some mainline Protestant theologians and pastors suggest has become a “dirty word”: *evangelism*. Indeed, this word has profoundly negative connotations for many Canadian Presbyterians today, associated as it is with “evangelical Christians”... You know, *those* churches, the ones with the rock bands and the screens and the high-energy, “culturally relevant” worship experiences. Perhaps you’ve attended one; certainly, you would not have been alone! Many of the so-called “mega-churches” have been on a path of steady numerical growth for several decades now, constructing large, modern sanctuaries filled with individuals and young families, many of them new to Christianity or religion of any kind. The question I’ve heard asked, and asked myself, is: “Why are they so successful?”

To answer this, let’s start with the fact that we in mainline Christian congregations have not been very effective evangelists. What is “evangelism”? It is the telling of the Good News of the saving love and power of Jesus Christ, in the world and in our lives... It is sharing our faith story with those who do not yet believe. We Presbyterians are mostly not very comfortable with this kind of talk, this public sharing of faith, and it shows. When was the last time you invited a friend or a neighbour to worship? If you’re like the average Presbyterian in the United States, where the following statistic was collected, it was awhile ago: the average American Presbyterian invites someone to church *once every 11.5 years!* Hardly the stuff of growing congregations. But if we’re serious about living out Christ’s command, the so-called Great Commission (“Go and make disciples of all nations...”), and if we pay attention to all the signs in our midst of God’s abundant grace in our lives, we really should let others know about it, too! The joy of God’s Holy Spirit is not a secret, private revelation but a gift intended for everyone.

What does this have to do with worship? As those who study such things tell us, almost everyone who comes into the fellowship of the church, without any family history or other prior relationship to it, comes to it through Sunday worship services. Worship is one of the church’s primary, and most important, evangelizers. And in our contemporary, post-modern culture, one of the central aspects of worship that consistently attracts people to the church, and to faith, is music: music that reaches out and invites their engagement, through singing, meditation, prayer and praise. Music is not a gimmick, but a means of connecting with the heart, and with the soul. It is in the singing of hymns and other spiritual songs that we internalize the content of our faith, and often in hearing music that we internalize, in a mysterious way, the reality and the power of God’s abiding presence in our midst.

Now I’m not arguing that music is a marketing tool! What I’m saying is that music can speak to human beings in a way that words alone cannot; it can draw people into the church, and into relationship with God in Christ. Worship music can inspire lives, leading to more good news to share, widening the circle even further! Witness the incredible stories of young Canadian Presbyterians who attend any of the Canada Youth conferences, held every three years at Brock University: in worship, faith is nurtured and relationships are formed, leading a new generation into leadership and service, in the church and in the world. Music, it can be said, is a missionary! Who knew?

In times past, a good sermon alone was enough to bring new disciples into a congregation; no longer! (Sorry, Johan!) To reach out, connect with and nurture relationships with new Christians, the whole worship experience must be an encounter with the living God. From the hymns we sing, to the lessons and activities in church school, to the hospitality of our ushers and greeters at the door, everyone involved in Sunday worship has a ministry to exercise in the building up of our fellowship here at Knox. I would like you to pray for our worshipping congregation, as we discern where God’s Spirit may be leading us in the future. Perhaps we are being called to think afresh about our worship experience, and to explore ways in which we might reach out to those not presently in our pews. Perhaps we are being called to allow God’s Word, through our worship experiences, to reshape us in new and unforeseen ways, as we answer Christ’s call to “go and make disciples”.

Bless now, O God, the journey..., the road where faith is found. (Sylvia Dunstan)

Bible Studies

Tuesday Evenings @ 7:00 p.m. in the Crawford Smith Parlour - Join Rev. Johan Olivier for his study entitled: **“Modern Parables - Living in the Kingdom of God”**

February 7; March 6, 27; April 2, 24

All are welcome

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Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study began again on January 18th at 2:30 pm. We meet together in the library on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month.** The topic of study this week is "Wisdom" from the Christian Virtues study guide. We study the Bible to know God better and to follow Him more closely. This strengthens our Christian lives and encourages us in Christian service. All are welcome to join in. For further information call Linda Carthew

Canada Youth 2012

Canada Youth 2012 is a five-day assembly of Presbyterian youth and young adults that will take place at Brock University in St. Catharines from July 3 to 8. At present, our congregation has four young people interested in attending this conference. They need to raise enough money to pay their registration fees so they will be participating in several fundraising events between now and the end of June.

During coffee hour on **Sunday February 5th** they be will selling home-baked cookies. Please buy one or two to enjoy with your tea or coffee or a half dozen to take home.

They will also be hosting the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21st.** Tickets will cost \$6 and will be on sale during coffee hour starting January 29th. On **Sunday April 1st** they will provide a hot soup lunch for your dining pleasure. There will also be a **plant sale** sometime in **May**, the exact date will be announced later. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend these events. Your support of our young people in their fundraising efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Cookie Sale

On behalf of the Retreat Ladies, I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful baked goods donated to our sale. Attendance seemed to be down this year, however, it was a much more relaxed atmosphere and people were able to browse and shop without the pressure of the crowd behind and this seemed to encourage them to go back for another box or two. For the first time in years we had enough leftovers to open the sale again on Sunday. Whatever was left after the sale, we packaged and froze for future church events, coffee hour and Logos.

The profit from the bake sale and tea room was \$2857.45 which was presented to Walter Duerksen the following Sunday.

Thank you for baking, thank you for the kitchen workers, the tea room servers and all those who helped set up and clean up. Thank you to those who donated money and thank you to the retreat ladies who not only donate their time and talent but also supplies for the bake sale, (hand sanitiser, ziploc bags, butter, jam etc.). All of these donations allow us to have a minimum of expenses and a maximum profit. Special thanks to Karen Bellamy, Marg Bingham, Peggy Foote and Nancy Gordon. These ladies spent all day (9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.), or the better part of the day, setting up and organizing the tables and baking. We wouldn't have such a successful sale without their help. If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies.

Sincerely
Lindsay Redpath



Knox Library Usage

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Children's & Teenagers' Books	148	81	82	53
Adults' Books	431	386	324	290
Children's DVDs	148	75	71	72
Adults' DVDs and Service CDs	13	20	36	48
TOTAL USAGE	740	562	513	463

ny questions as the answer. In this case -

- Why has the total library usage been declining in recent years?
- Should this decline be of concern?
- How can the library collection and services be better promoted?
- Can the annual financial allotment be better spent?

If you have suggestions, question or comments, please contact the Library Co-ordinators, Judy Steer and Marjorie Bethune.

Congratulations

We welcome the newest addition to the Olivier family. Christine Bergsma (Johan's daughter) gave birth to an 8 lb., 2 oz. baby boy, named Justin Bergsma. Congratulations Johan, Lenette and family!

February 21, 2012 - Shrove Tuesday

March 11, 2012 - Daylight Savings Time Begins - Clock ahead 1 hour

April 1, 2012 - Palm Sunday

April 6, 2012 - Good Friday

April 8, 2012 - Easter Sunday

Visit our website for Coming Events and Services www.knoxguelph.ca



Knox Church Endowment Fund

The information herein is provided by your “Trustee Board” of Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario. Trustee board members are Doug Pruss, Randy Boyd, Colleen Brix, Carol Hall, David Hough, and Howard Simpson. Carol Hall has recently retired from the board and we sincerely thank her for being a trustee for the past four years. We have a vacancy which needs to be filled for the coming year.

The Endowment Fund trust was created for the purpose of expanding and enriching the “mission and ministry” and to assist with any “capital improvements”.

The trustee board is charged with the responsibility of managing and investing the trust property and to receive the income therefrom.

The trust agreement provides that 5% of the total fund be made available in the following year, as approved by a majority vote at a Congregational meeting of Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario.

The amount of money made available each year is to be used for ministry, mission, and outreach 40% and for capital expenditure 60%.

The Knox Church Endowment Fund financial activities for 2011 will be provided in the Annual Report.

As many of you know, the endowment fund committee held a “planned giving” workshop in the auditorium, presented by the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, on December 11, 2011. The presentation detailed the many planned giving opportunities with particular emphasis on Publicly Traded Securities and Charitable Gift Amenities.

Your trustee board is scheduling another workshop later this year – Sunday, October 21, and details will follow closer to that date.

We would advise that “Planned Giving Packets” are available in the sanctuary and at the church office for church members information, and for their thoughtful consideration.

We also advise that Endowment Fund information will soon be available on the church website (www.knoxguelph.ca) and will include a link to the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Howard Simpson – Convener - Trustee Board

Church Register:

Funeral:

Dickieson, Richard Robert	November 18, 2011
Smith, Mary Edna	November 25, 2011
McKenzie, Hilda Shirley	December 15, 2011
Thomas Allen Howden	January 21, 2012
Charles Webster	January 24, 2012

Items from the internet

Someone has written these beautiful words.

- 1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble; it is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.
- 2] Do you know why a car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the rear view mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
- 3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5] Old friends are like Gold! New friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!
- 6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems, HE has faith in your abilities.
- 8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision."
- 9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES; it takes away today's PEACE.

Why go to Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Kids' Korner

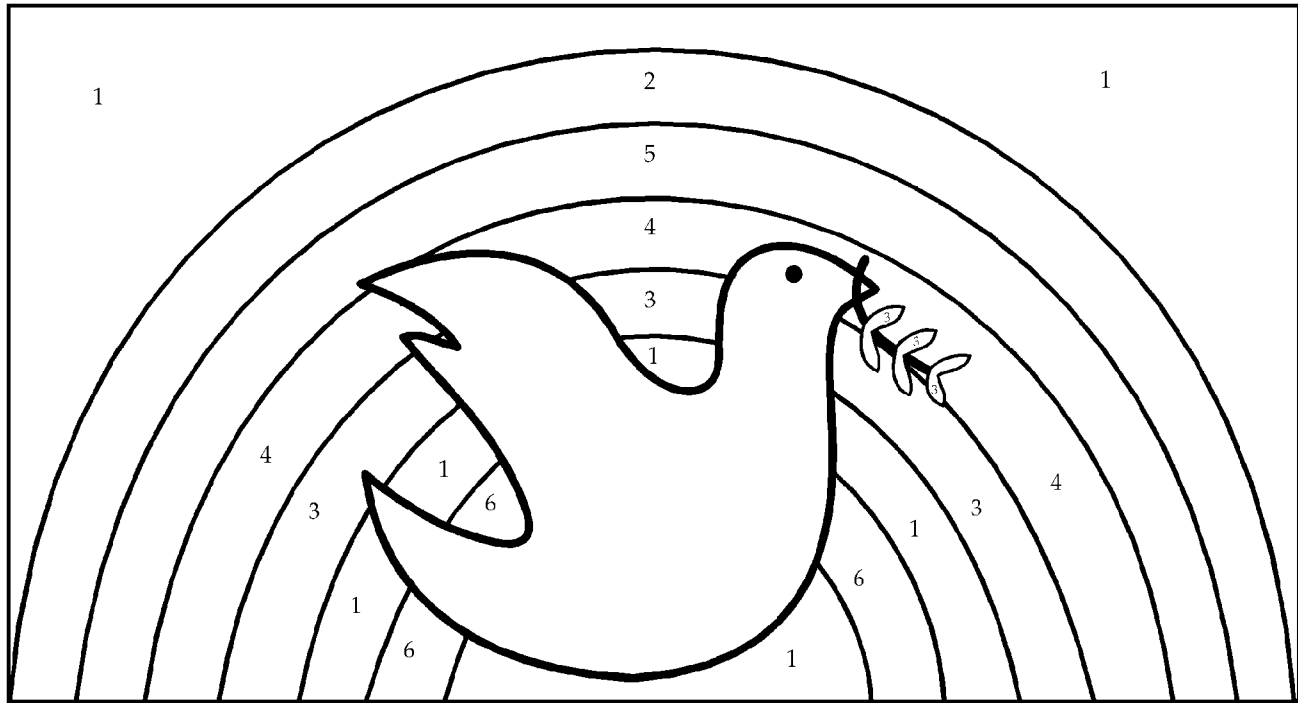
Dove of Promise

Read the story of Noah from a children's story Bible, or from Genesis 6:13—8:12 and Genesis 9:8-17.

- What part did the dove play in this story?
- What does the rainbow mean?

Follow the color key to finish the picture.

Color Key	
1 = Blue	4 = Yellow
2 = Red	5 = Orange
3 = Green	6 = Violet

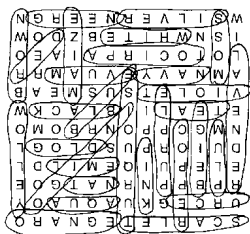


Colors of Promise

In Genesis 9:13, God tells Noah that the rainbow is a sign of promise. Hidden in this word find are all the colors of the rainbow, and many more! Circle each hidden word.

Word List

- | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Apricot | Maize | Turquoise |
| Aqua | Mauve | Violet |
| Beige | Moss | White |
| Black | Navy | Yellow |
| Blue | Orange | |
| Brown | Pink | |
| Copper | Plum | |
| Ecru | Purple | |
| Gold | Red | |
| Green | Scarlet | |
| Indigo | Silver | |
| Lavender | Tan | |
| Lime | Teal | |



Answers

S C A R L E T E G N A R O
 U R C E G K U A Q U A O Y
 R P B P P N R N A T G O E
 E L E P U I Q E M I L D L
 D U I O R P U S D L O G L
 N M G C P P O N R B O M O
 E T E A L I I B L A C K W
 V I O L E T S U S M E A B
 A M N A V Y E V U A M R R
 L O T O C I R P A I A E O
 I S N W H I T E B Z D O W
 W S I L V E R N E E R G N