



Knox Presbyterian Church

20 Quebec Street
Guelph, ON N1H 2T4
Telephone: (519) 821-0141
Fax: (519) 821-8307

E-mail:
office@knoxguelph.ca
Website:
www.knoxguelph.ca

Rev. Johan Olivier
Minister

Anne Eaton
Pastoral Assistant

Chris Fischer
Director of Music Ministries

Wilma Welsh
Mission Coordinator

Jessie Bush
Session Clerk

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune
Nancy Dickieson
Kathie Stirling
Stephen Leaders

*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

April 3, 2011

1 Samuel 16 (The Message) God Looks into the Heart

God addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint." Samuel did what God told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. "Is there something wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of God. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." He made sure Jesse and all his sons were also consecrated and called to worship. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, "God hasn't chosen any of these."

Then he asked Jesse, "Is this it? Are there no more sons?"

"Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep."

Samuel ordered Jesse, "Go get him. We're not moving from this spot until he's here." Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking. God said, "Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one." Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him. The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.

Ephesians 5 (The Message)

The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

Dear friends,

"Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it." This is God's word to each of us as we strive to walk as Christians. Too often we live as though it is our privilege to make decisions and base our actions on what simply pleases us, what we in our limited understandings think is best for ourselves. A clear message in both scripture passages above is that we are not our own but are Christ's and should live our lives according to his will and plan. This doesn't mean that we will know what we should be doing three months from now. Rather it is a daily walk, always listening and looking for what God is doing in each moment and situation, and then aligning ourselves with his work. Samuel didn't know in advance which of Jesse's sons God had chosen for him to anoint. But he did faithfully trust that God would reveal that knowledge to him at the right time. When he had seen all of the boys presented and still didn't see God's choice he continued to enquire. *"God hasn't chosen any of these". Then he asked Jesse, 'Is this it? Are there no more sons?'"* Jesse was somewhat surprised at the question for he didn't have a very high opinion of the son who was God's choice. *"Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep."* God may well surprise us with the choices and work where he is involved in our lives. But we are to learn to be open and accepting for 'His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts.'

Father give us eyes of faith and hearts of trust that we may walk with you day by day.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin