



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"*

August 7, 2011

2 Peter 1(5-10) The Message (MSG)

Don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have a job to do. But never think it is something which we are able to do on our own.

Peter is writing to people who have accepted the gift of faith in Jesus as Saviour. He reminds them that their faith is just a beginning. It is a basic foundation on which they are to build their new life and character. As he lists the qualities that they are now to add to their personalities I'm sure the list must have at first seemed like an overwhelming impossibility. Read his list again slowly and as you do ask yourself if you have all these qualities. I know there are many of these that I'm lacking. It's enough to lead us to throw up our hands in despair and admit that we have a long way to go. So far indeed that left to our abilities we may indeed never get there.

We are like those who attend Sunday School for 20 minutes each week as a child, then when reaching teen or adult years think they have no more growing or learning to do in our Christian faith. Building on the basics of faith is a lifelong work. And even at that it cannot be done alone. It will only happen as we invite God's gift of His Holy Spirit to teach us daily, even hourly. When the Spirit is living within us all of these character gifts can be ours! What a wonderful possibility. The primary gift of God through Christ is the gift of forgiveness. But that is obviously just the beginning. When we open ourselves to the indwelling of God's Spirit all these other gifts are made available to us. Truly all things are made new in Christ.

Loving Father God, As we realize some of the ways you desire to remake us and to mould us into your image, help us to grow that your name might be glorified. Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin