



The Wesley-Knox Kindred Spirit Connection

Moving in the Spirit...

Easter 2016

From Rev. Tracy



“Our calling is to live in such a way that we enhance God’s reputation in the world.”
—Rev. Harold Percy, Wycliffe College, Toronto

This is such a simple statement. It is also a powerful invitation to those of us who strive to live our faith each and every day. We are each invited to live in such a way that people come to see and experience the presence of a just, loving and passionate God. Our words, our actions, and the many ways in which we interact with one another and God’s creation help to tell the story of who God is and how God is active in the world.

The question then becomes “How are we at Wesley-Knox enhancing God’s reputation?” At a time when Wesley-Knox is actively exploring how to grow into the future, the question becomes even more important as we seek opportunities to reach beyond our doors, welcome new people and send people out as the hands and feet of God and the risen Christ. In our ministry and in our mission, what are we saying to others about the God and Jesus that we serve?

As we prepare to celebrate the season of Easter—a time of hope, promise and new life—we have a special opportunity to live as those who follow God that brings light into darkness and life out of death. It is a time to proclaim that we worship a God of welcome, love and grace. Through our words and actions we can share with the world that God

is the One who longs to gather people into relationship and build communities where each person makes a difference and lives are changed.

As you read through the pages of this Kindred Spirit Connection. I hope you will see signs of new life emerging and community thriving at Wesley-Knox. The passion and dedication of the Bread Not Stones Team and Syrian Refugee Support Team are two particularly inspiring examples. Programs to help young people to grow in faith or develop their leadership skills are further signs of promise. The Building Our Future team’s fun-raising and fund-raising ideas are building our community and growing our ministry. We have five young people in our confirmation class, and there are several new members, already feeling “at home at Wesley-Knox”, to be welcomed in May. Our choirs continue to share their music in ways that continue to enhance our worship. Our people show up on doorsteps with meals, exchange hugs and offer prayers—all expressions of our church’s love and care.

God’s reputation is in good hands at Wesley-Knox. You are living in ways that proclaim, boldly and joyfully, “The God of Easter hope and joy is active in our world and doing amazing things! Hallelujah!”

As we go forward in faith may we continue to enhance God’s reputation in the world. May we continue to celebrate the God that lives among us! Peace!—Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler



Left: Glen Pearson, Jane Roy and the 2016 CASS team in Gordheim, South Sudan. Centre: Liz Mortlock, Chris Mortlock and friend at the March 4 OSCO Chili Cookoff hosted at Wesley-Knox. Chris tied for Fan Favorite with his Hotter than Hell Chili. Right: Michael Morris provides the pre-service music on Sing On, Sisters Sunday, February 28.

The Way of the Cross

Le Chemin de la Croix, opus 29

Music by Marcel Dupré (1886 - 1971)

Poems by Paul Claudel (1868 - 1955)

Ronald Fox, Organist

Margaret Ryan, Narrator

March 18th, 2016, 7:30pm

*This composition for organ and narrator, using poems by Paul Claudel,
will immerse you in the mercy of God as we celebrate the*

Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Free Will Donation

All proceeds will be contributed to the St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica Refugee Committee.



From our Music Director



Happy Spring! There are so many exciting things happening in the musical life of Wesley-Knox!

Over the next few months, you may notice a small person (or not!) sitting on the organ bench on Sunday mornings playing pre-service music. I've invited any piano student to play their best pieces on the organ. It sounds very cool! Several have played already and we have room for many more! Interested? Just come up to the organ after church to see me and I'll set it all up.

The Junior Choir is excited to announce its very first Spring Fling! After worship on Sunday, April 10, the choir will offer lunch for a small fee and, at 1:30 pm, will perform a concert of favourite anthems and some new fun songs! This will be its major spring event this year. It's a perfect opportunity to invite someone who would enjoy hearing this fine children's choir, and an opportunity to introduce our choir program to those who might be interested in singing with us next year.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, April 13, the London Kiwanis Music Festival Organ Classes will be conducted in our sanctuary. Come and support our Wesley-Knox organists! And on Saturday, April 16, the Senior Choir will host its famous Turkey Dinner! Get your tickets early—\$20 for adults, \$10 for children 10 and under—as this wonderful event is often a sellout.

Sunday, April 24, will be the last Singing Sunday for our Cherub, Primary and Junior choirs. No more choir rehearsals after that day. But! I'm excited to announce that, starting on Thursday, April 28, and running throughout May, during what was Junior Choir time (5–6 pm), Wesley-Knox will be offering a new drama program for children and youth in grades 3 (Junior Choir age) to high school (Mysterium age). This program, to be facilitated by Kim Stark, will feature both drama skills and improvisation. All Wesley-Knox young people and friends are welcome. We're moving in the Spirit!—Karen Schuessler, director of music



Easter

I got me flowers to strew Thy way.
I got me boughs off many a tree.
But Thou wast up by break of day
And brought Thy sweets along
with Thee.

The sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and the East
perfume,
If they should offer to contest
With Thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine
endeavour?

We count three hundred, but we
miss.

There is but One, and that One ever.
—George Herbert (1593–1633)

From our Director of Children's and Youth Ministry



Already calls and questions about summer camps are coming in, so this is as good a time as any to let you know about our plans! Note that for youth in grades 9–12, this year's Good Friday SWELL service will be at Grace United in Sarnia. Free bus transportation to and from Sarnia will be available. Details at www.theswell.ca.

Registration is now open for the annual LoCo Youth Forum—the amazing Conference-wide youth retreat that will be held at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre on Thursday, April 7–Sunday, April 10. Information and registration is available at www.londonconference.ca/content/youth-forum. Then fast on the heels of Youth Forum, it's the YouthQuest annual retreat, April 23–24.

This year's Children@Conference will be held at Camp Bimini south of Stratford on Thursday evening, June 9–Sunday, June 12. Register at the London Conference website. This retreat for children in grades 3–8 benefits from strong Wesley-Knox leadership—both youth and adult! As part of the planning committee, I know that many exciting events and activities are being planned!

Lastly, our own summer day camp dates are July 11–15 and July 25–29. There will be a grade 6–8 Junior Leader-in-Training Day on Monday, July 4, 9:30 am–4 pm. This training is mandatory for new volunteers at our summer camps. Main camp leaders will participate in two days of training, June 29–30, 9:30 am–4 pm. Once again, we are applying for Jobs Canada summer student position grants, so watch for possible employment opportunities!—Barbara McGill, director, CYM

Bread not Stones Update

According to latest statistics, there are 1,333,000 children living in poverty in our country. This is an increase of 333,000 over last year and includes 50% of Status First Nations children living on First Nations Reserves.

The “Bread not Stones” project to eliminate child poverty in Canada is picking up steam! We have spoken at many events and have several more booked, both with politicians and with groups inside and outside of the United Church. However, the event that has moved me most was the Bread not Stones Service held here, at Wesley-Knox, on February 7. I was overwhelmed by the response of our remarkable congregation. Thank you everyone for your caring and your support. An article, our Order of Service and several photos can be found on our Bread not Stones website: www.endchildpoverty.ca, on the Bread not Stones page. I’m also very excited to let you know that our Order of Service will be posted on the United Church of Canada’s website www.united-church.ca, under UCW. It will serve as a template for other churches to use. A link to our Bread not Stones site and our doll pattern will also be available on this United Church of Canada site.

More good news! Prime Minister Justin Trudeau just stated that his promised increase in the Canada Child Benefit will appear in the government’s March 22 budget. This measure alone will help lift 315,000 Canadian children out of poverty. A pretty good start!—*Linda Woods, Co-Leader Unit 4 UCW, member, FIA Economic Sustainability Team*



Linda Woods: Bread, not Stones...

From Your Faith in Action Committee

Your Faith in Action (FIA) Committee has had a busy fall planning for the next few months.

Global Action

Both FIA members and the congregation-at-large have been actively involved in determining what path Wesley-Knox might follow regarding the Syrian Refugee Crisis. On February 17, the Official Board approved a motion to privately sponsor a Syrian refugee family. A Wesley-Knox Syrian Refugee Support Team consisting of six core members has now committed to the year-long sponsorship of a family consisting of three people—a young professional dad, a mom who is a teacher, and their ten-month old daughter. This family already has relatives living in London, so the team believes their transition to Canada and their settlement in London can be successful.

The core team will be responsible for locating private funds, housing and the necessities of life, and arranging for education, medical care, transportation, and eventually, assistance with job searching. The team is establishing a backup team to commit to various jobs required to support this family and it would welcome anyone and everyone who would like to be part of this amazing outreach project. Talk to Mary Bee Haworth, Linda Olson, Linda Imrie or Sheila Carson if you’d like to learn more or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back hallway.

Hospitality

Community Breakfast and Out-of-the-Cold hospitality meals continue to draw large numbers of guests. Anyone interested in joining one or both of the teams who host these meals will be most welcomed!

Economic Sustainability

- While very much a project that crossed several committees, a Bread Not Stones service was held on Sunday, February 7. Linda Woods, a member of both FIA and UCW, led the service. It was an excellent opportunity to hear how much has already been done by an amazing group of women.
- The Easter Food Drive supporting the London Food Bank will take place in March. The focus of our donations will be announced early March after consulting the Food Bank regarding its priorities.
- Funds raised through this year’s Loonies for Lent will be allocated to sponsorship of the Syrian refugee family.

Environment Sustainability

This year, our Environment Sunday service will be held on May 1 with our very own Karlene Kimber preaching. After this service, an Eco Fair will be held in the Social Hall. It should be an exciting day with a focus on the importance of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling in today’s world.—*Sheila LeClair, chair, Faith in Action Committee*



Spring into Spring
Artisan/Vendor Fair

Saturday, March 19, 2016
10 AM - 2 PM

fine, unique crafty things
original and environmental
home products

fabulous finds for the foodie
dazzling decor items
& original art

fancy fashion
& jewellery for the
fashionable

Bake Tables
An Event That Can't Be MISSED!

Artisan Crafts

Shop Local

Wesley Knox United Church
91 Askin Street (at Teresa St.)




Imagine the Possibilities

Expanding music programs Restoring and improving the building
Expanding community outreach Growing ministry and pastoral care

Be a part of the picture

Building Our Future
Growth Campaign
Wesley-Knox United Church
www.wesleyknox.com

It's our 22nd (Wow!) Annual Old-Fashioned

TURKEY DINNER!

6 pm, Saturday, April 16
Wesley-Knox United Church Social Hall
91 Askin Street, London

Adults \$20 • Children 12 and under \$10

- Only 200 places! A sellout in past years!
- A real homecooked dinner with all the trimmings, just like at Christmas or Thanksgiving, but without all the fuss!
- Special entertainment after dinner!
- Hosted by the W-K Senior Choir in support of church projects!
- Tickets available at Tuckey Home Hardware, from members of the choir, or through the church office, 673-4803!
- Avoid disappointment! Order your tickets today!



Stewardship Update

Stewardship focuses on activities and initiatives that encourage our faith community to share its gifts of time, talent and treasure. Your Stewardship Committee is gearing up for two exciting events this spring.

First, based on feedback from our Growth Campaign community gatherings, the time seems right for an event to share information about Legacy Giving. Financial gifts to Wesley-Knox, as part of estate planning or even while alive and able to enjoy the results, are one way of contributing to growing our community reach and impact. Stay tuned for more details in our Sunday worship bulletins and on the Stewardship Committee bulletin board in the main hallway.

Next up is the second phase of our organization governance project led by Martin Horak. Many of us believe it's important that Wesley-Knox, as a community of faith, be well-organized so we can respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. How we govern ourselves is a big part of this. During the next phase of this work, Martin will report on the results of the research in which you may have participated and guide us by looking at examples of how other churches are organized. These meetings will be open to anyone at Wesley-Knox who is interested.

If you are interested in helping with either of these initiatives we'd love to hear from you! No ongoing commitment is required! Please connect with any of the following: Trevor Johnson, Donna Goldhawk, Marilynne McNeil, Shawn Spicer, Martin Horak or Matt Selman. Thank you.—*Trevor Johnson, chair*

Christian Education Events

In collaboration with Rev. Tracy, the Christian Education Committee ran a potluck and learning event in January. Theme was experiencing the Light of Jesus in a post-Advent world. We had a lovely lunch and participants took home a beautiful tissue paper star, bread dough made just that afternoon, and a copy of Matthew 5:13-16. Thank you to everyone for bringing such energy to our discussions and activities! A special thank you to Jane Walker and the others who helped make sure that everyone had a star to take home.

Plans are still coming together for our first ever (in recent memory) Wesley-Knox square dance, 2:30 pm, on Saturday, April 30. What we know right now is that it will be a relaxed, friendly afternoon with toe-tapping music provided by the Wesley-Knox Ramblers, and that dances will be taught and called (led) by dance-caller extraordinaire Hannah Shira Naiman. Square dancing is walking with instructions and total dance novices are welcome. Each dance will be taught before it is danced.

We hope you can come and join us in the Wesley Knox Social Hall, to dance or just to enjoy the music and fellowship.—*Amanda Lynn Stublely, chair*



It's Your Funeral...

The District Visitor Committee is planning an important educational event called "It's Your Funeral...". We invite District Visitors and anyone who has ever wondered what might be involved in holding a funeral service at our church. Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler and Rev. Dr. Doug Ross will help us learn about planning such a service. Sounds a bit uncomfortable? Perhaps cupcakes, coffee, tea, etc. will sweeten the topic. Come, bring your questions and plan to enjoy some social time on Monday, April 18 at 7 pm.—*Brenda Smith, acting chair, District Visitors*

The Building our Future Growth Campaign

The Building Our Future Growth Campaign is charging ahead! We now have pledges in of over \$222,235—more than 26% of our \$850,000 goal!

As promised, we have already started to use some of the funds received to Build Our Future:

- \$20,000 to continue funding the Seniors' Connection program,
- \$1,000 to help support our new volunteer Pastoral Care Team, and
- \$20,000 towards the cost of the new boilers

To date, we have held seven Imagine the Possibilities Gatherings. These have been wonderful social get-togethers where ideas have been shared, conversations have been both challenging and uplifting, and where a true sense of our Wesley-Knox community has shone through. Many thanks to all of you who have been such inspiring hosts and hostesses!

It's not too late for *you* to take part in a Gathering. There are still several Gatherings scheduled for April:

Date	Time	Host(s)
Sunday, April 3	2 pm	Carl and Marion Hearn
Friday, April 8	7 pm	Glenn and Linda Wilcox
Saturday, April 9	7 pm	Chris and Liz Mortlock
Wednesday, April 20	1 pm	John and Ruth Rushton (at Wesley-Knox)
Sunday, April 24	2 pm	Marcia Gibson (at Wesley-Knox)



Each Gathering is a social event open to members, adherents and all who love Wesley-Knox. In other words, everyone is welcome!

Each Gathering has many purposes. You'll be able to learn more about the Growth Campaign in a more intimate setting. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions. It will also give everyone involved a chance to share their ideas and visions of the future. Last, but not least, it's a great way to have fun and socialize!

If you have still not signed up to go to a Gathering, the sheets are always downstairs at coffee hour. Sue Mennill is coordinating scheduling, so feel free to ask her any questions you might have. Also a bit of an encouragement to anyone at Wesley-Knox interested in helping—we are looking for additional hosts to hold Gatherings after April. Please let Sue know...

Fundraising—and Funraising...

Fundraising for the Growth Campaign is starting! Virginia Ford is Fundraising Coordinator and will help you with scheduling your fundraising event. **Great news! We have a donor who has agreed to match funds brought in from fundraising events during 2016 up to a total of \$25,000!** So make your Fun/Fundraising ideas a reality! Let's work together and add \$50,000 to our Building our Future Growth Campaign!—*Sheila LeClair, chair, Building our Future*

Notes from All Over

- Neil Eadie advises that all men in the congregation are invited to meet at 8:30 am on the first Sunday of each month for breakfast at the **Family Circle Restaurant**, 147 Wellington Street at Grey. Some of these men will be part of the Community Breakfast Team which is now comprised of both men and women, some not even from our congregation. They prepare and serve a hospitality breakfast on the second Saturday of each month, September to June. Lately the number of clients has been down to around 75, perhaps due to bad weather or perhaps more places now offering a meal. The team's big event in February was its **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. Over 200 were served and the team cleared about \$940—enough to sustain the breakfast program for several months. The team thanks all who attended or made a donation.

- This spring Joanne Sutherland and Cindy Milne-Wren plan to offer parents of grade 4–8 students a six-week small-group course called "**Raising Faithful Younger Adolescents**". Look for details in your Sunday service bulletin.

- Debbi Jarvis, who is our liaison to the Old South Community Organization (OSCO), says thank you to all who came to the Saturday, March 4 **OSCO Chili Cookoff**. Attendance was up from last year. Over 20 Wesley-Knox members took part and tables had to be added. Special thanks to **Chris Mortlock** for his wonderful Hotter than Hell Chili which tied for the Fan's Favourite award. All in all, a great evening that once again raised the community profile of our church.

- New to our church or just curious? If you would like to learn more about Wesley-Knox, come to a special **Information and Dessert Night** on Wednesday, April 13, 7 pm in the Centennial Parlour. Child care will be provided. New Members Sunday will be May 8. If you are interested in church membership please talk to Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler or contact me at 519.471.6727.—*Debbi Jarvis, chair, Membership Development Committee*

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Easter 2016 Calendar

Special Services...

Sunday, March 20

10:30 am

Palm Sunday | Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, March 24

6 pm

Potluck and Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 25

10:30 am

Service at Calvary United Church

7 pm

The Swell at Grace United, Sarnia

Easter Sunday, March 27

7:30 am

Sunrise in the Sanctuary

10:30 am

Celebrating Resurrection!

Environment Sunday, May 1

10:30 am

Eco-Fair following service

Special Events...

Souper Sunday Lunch

Sunday, March 6, 12 noon

Wesley-Knox Jam Session 2

Sunday, March 6, 2–3:30 pm

UCW Spring Into Spring

Artisan and Vendor Fair

Saturday, March 19, 10 am–2 pm

KSS London Composers

Exposed Concert

Saturday, April 2, 8 pm

Junior Choir Spring Concert

Sunday, April 10

Lunch, with concert at 1:30 pm

London Kiwanis Music

Festival Organ Classes

Wednesday, April 13, 1 pm

Wesley-Knox Info Evening

Wednesday, April 13, 7 pm

Senior Choir Annual

Turkey Dinner

Saturday, April 16, 6 pm

**It's Your Funeral—Any
Questions? Info Evening**

Monday, April 18, 7 pm

Annual Women's Retreat

Friday, April 22, 6 pm

W-K Square Dance

Saturday, April 30, 2:30 pm

Movies at Wesley-Knox

Friday, March 11, 7:30 pm

Spring movie times TBA

Community Breakfasts

Saturday, March 12, April 9 and

May 14, 8:45–10:30 am

Out-of-the-Cold Dinners

Sunday, March 27 and April 24

5:30–6:30 pm

Wesley-Knox Council

Wednesday, March 9, 7 pm

Wesley-Knox Board

Wednesday, April 20, 7 pm

More information available at www.wesleyknox.com

Taming the Deficit —

At our recent AGM, your KSC editor made bold—as our Anglican brothers and sisters like to say—to suggest a way that our congregation could tame its projected \$83,000 deficit. Officially, we have 300 households in our congregation. If each household could see its way clear to give Wesley-Knox an extra \$20 a month (we're talking about \$5 a week here—the price of a hamburger and medium coffee), our congregation would have an extra \$72,000 to put against the deficit. We know that could not afford to give this much, but many others could easily give more. This extra \$72,000 plus the monies raised through the Growth Campaign would ensure the future of our church. Of course, we also need more members, but that's for another time.—*Harry MacLean, KSC editor, macve3gro@rogers.com*

2016 Wesley-Knox Women's Retreat

An enriching evening
Gather to share in fun,
fellowship and faith!

Friday, April 22
Dinner at Wesley-Knox, 6 pm
Program to follow

For more information or to
register, please contact
Karlene Kimber
519.282.3056
kkimber@start.ca

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- Our last Middlesex Presbytery Annual General Meeting featured a presentation about United Church of Canada remits on which pastoral charges will be asked to vote. Proposed changes can be viewed on the General Council 42 website.

As Nora Saunder, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada's General Council said in a letter, "These are exciting times. Times of change provide the perfect opportunity to reflect deeply on what it means to be a church—this church—and act on our reflections. Please read the study guides carefully, and prepare to make important decisions about the future of the United Church of Canada."

Here's how you can prepare for the remits: 1) Visit the GC42 website, www.gc42.ca/remits. 2) Read Nora Saunder's letter.

- 3) Review the remits and their respective study guides. 4) Watch for Wesley-Knox remit study and discussion opportunities over the coming year!—*Debbie Jarvis and Karlene Kimber, Presbytery representatives*