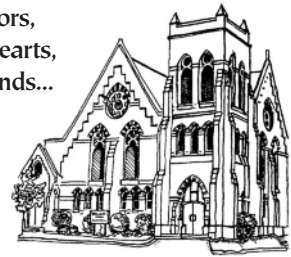


The Kindred Spirit Connection

Open doors,
Open hearts,
Open minds...



Wesley-Knox United Church • 91 Askin Street, London, Ontario N6C 1E7 • 673-4803 • www.wesleyknox.org

Epiphany - Winter 2015

Message from Rev. Tracy



I am writing this message to you having just left the Centennial Parlour kitchen where two of our Wesley-Knox women are cleaning and preparing it for future use. Already today we have had people in the church helping to distribute hats and mittens for those in need.

At worship yesterday I was struck again by the large number of people who take various roles to help our community worship together. Those who lead us in music. Our talented and committed team of Sunday School teachers and youth leaders who support and nurture our young people. And those who support the staff. Things get broken but somehow get fixed. Books are balanced. Meals are served. Meetings are chaired. All of this is done in the name of God and the One we call the Christ.

Thank you to all of you who share in the ministry and the mission of Wesley-Knox United Church. We are so blessed to have a community that not only shares its gifts, but extends its hospitality in so many wonderful ways. Folks new to our worship often comment on how welcome they feel in this place. The warmth you show, the acceptance you offer, and the love of Christ that we communicate together is how you are living out our calling to be the Church in this place today.

As we continue our journey through Epiphany (the season that begins with Christmas and ends with Lent) we are invited

to explore, both individually and as the church, how we can live as those who embrace Jesus. What does it mean that Christ is alive in our world? How does that affect how we live, how we use our resources, how we treat one another and God's earth? It is an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of who we are called to be in Light of the One Who is the Light of the World.

In the New Testament, in the book of Acts, we read about how the early church decided it would live in response to Jesus. Acts 2:43-47a tells us, "Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, although they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and showing goodwill to all people."

So what is our vision? How do we at Wesley-Knox want to live as the Church in this place? It is an exciting question to ask in our current culture at such a relevant time. I look forward to exploring this question together and continuing to discern how God is calling us to be the Church. Please pray for Wesley-Knox, for our ministry team, for our leaders, and for all of you who are such a vital part of the ministry of this church. Blessings to you always.—Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler



Left: It was almost standing room only at Angels We Have Heard on High, this year's annual Christmas concert. 600 attended and the concert was shown five times on Rogers Television. **Centre:** Saint Nicholas (the original) paid a visit to Wesley-Knox in this year's Christmas pageant. **Right:** Just candlelight and stars. The Christmas Eve blessing. Merry Christmas!

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life and witness of

Lillian Beryl Carroll
November 14

Rosemary Jane Bartlett
December 5

Baptisms

We welcome into God's family

Olivia Victoria Walker
daughter of
Trevor and Melissa

From the Music Department



What can we say about Advent and Christmas at Wesley-Knox? It was great! Many said our Christmas concert with Denise Pelley, the choirs and the band was our best ever. It was certainly the best attended in many years with 610 tickets sold. That concert was videorecorded and broadcast on Rogers Television five times before Christmas Day. Also, all of our choirs, including the handbell choir, outdid themselves at our Advent services, and our Christmas Eve Family Service attracted 550. It seems that our fame continues to spread!

But now it's a New Year and we have plans. Over the coming months, all of our choirs will be honing their skills in preparation for a recording session scheduled for the first weekend in May. The recordings, with accompanying visuals, will be posted on YouTube to give our musicians and our music program a strong presence there. Once again, in April, all of our choirs except the senior choir will be competing in the London Kiwanis Music Festival. And once again, we are planning an end-of-the year road trip for the Junior Choir, destination to be announced. A fun and busy year lies ahead!—*Karen Schuessler, director*

From our Director of Children's and Youth Ministry



I love coming back to Wesley-Knox after Christmas. We come back renewed, refreshed and ready to hear things in a new and deeper way. To keep in the loop, note that our grade-8 students are getting ready for their Confirmation journey with Rev. Tracy and their faith partners. If you have a young person who is older and would like to attend confirmation classes please contact me through the church office or e-mail me at the address below. Classes will start with a 9 am breakfast on Sunday, January 25. When you check the calendar of events on page four, please notice that the children (grades JK-6) will be having their own AGM this year during our congregational AGM. I will ask our youth to help with supervision—both in the nursery and at the AGM so we can have maximum attendance. Our youth, grades 7 and up, will meet at a later date for their own AGM.

The biggest change we are feeling this year is Jane and Dave's shift away from their weekly youth ministry work. However, I am happy to report we have an excellent crew of volunteers filling Jane and Dave's positions and we are working hard to make sure that things go smoothly. The Junior Youth Group (grades 5-8) will meet on the first Sunday of every month from 12 noon-2 pm! Lauren Schmenck, and Maggie and Emma Morden are programming for this group. Senior Youth Group (grades 9-12) continue to meet on Sunday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm, with Brian MacKinnon, Brad Prentice and Susan Ackland at the helm. Jane and Dave are still actively involved in our many family events and Conference youth events. I hope I haven't forgotten any names!

If you are looking for a conversation starter with one of our teens, ask them about the story he or she is preparing for class or ask anyone of our young people, grade 7 and up, to teach you the actions to the New Creed! If you want to learn along with our youngest, purchase a copy of "Praying in Colour: Drawing a New Path to God" by Sybil MacBeth or "Writing to God: 40 days of Praying with my Pen" by Rachel G. Hackenburger. Both are available in children's versions from our Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre. Happy New Year!—*Barbara McGill, mcgill4556@gmail.com*

Some exciting news related to our Children's Music Ministry! In the fall, with the support of the Wesley-Knox Council,

Barb's report continues ►

PANCAKE SUPPER!



All-you-can-eat pancakes plus ham, baked beans, coleslaw, beverage and do-it-yourself sundaes for dessert!

5-6:45 pm, Tuesday, February 17

Adults \$7 | Children \$3*

Wesley-Knox Social Hall

91 Askin Street, www.wesleyknox.com

Proceeds support the Wesley-Knox Community Breakfast Program
*Children 12 and under

Old South Community Organization CHILI COOK-OFF

6-9PM



Saturday, February 28th
WESLEY KNOX UNITED CHURCH
91 askin st.

Advanced tickets available at Tuckey Home Hardware
Adults \$10. - children (12yr.& under) \$5.
\$12.& \$7. at the door

WINNER ANNOUNCED AT 8PM JUDGING BY PANSHAWEE

MEAL STARTS AT 7PM

Sudan Update

After returning from its 2013 mission trip to South Sudan, the Journey with Sudan team discussed ways to make a difference for the people whose lives had so touched ours. We decided to support the projects led by William Ater, a CASS (Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan) employee and native of South Sudan. The idea was to fundraise \$3000 per year to help underwrite these projects. We're pleased to report that we recently wrote our first cheque to CASS for about \$3,500. This was achieved through a Walk-a-thon, collecting electronics for recycling and selling African crafts at the Gathering on the Green. Look for future fundraisers from the M and S (Mission and Service) Committee in support of South Sudan!

Are you itching to serve others or the planet in the name of the Christ but haven't been offered the right opportunity? Perhaps you're not quite ready to join a committee, but you're willing to make a contribution of money or food, or perhaps even roll up your sleeves for an afternoon. Here are some simple ways you can make a difference:

- Contribute to the two annual food drives for the London Food Bank at Thanksgiving and Easter
- Help prepare/serve a hot meal to children and youth at the Limberlost after-school programs. See Barbara McGill.
- Contribute money to ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) during Loonies for Lent
- Sign-up to turn off your household lights during Earth Hour on March 28
- Bring your old household electronics to WK for recycling in April—exact date TBA.
- Plant some trees with a group from WK (April – exact date TBA)
- Buy some unique African artifacts at the M and S table at the 2015 June 8 Gathering on the Green

Please note that more "short burst" opportunities to engage in outreach will likely be added to this list over time. Please check the M and S bulletin board outside the Centennial Parlour for latest updates.—*Tony Haworth, chair, M and S Committee*

Stewardship Update

Wesley-Knox achieved remarkable successes in this year's Stewardship Campaign. During the campaign the committee shared that we were concerned about our deficit. Our community responded in so many wonderful ways. Using our Mission Possible stories as inspiration, gifts of time, talent and treasure were shared focused on our stewardship themes of worshipping, reaching out, learning and caring. Thank you to everyone! Here are some of the results:

- Total number Estimate of Givings Cards Returned - 105,
- Total number of cards who pledged to increase their givings - 79,
- Total number of givers using PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance): 81 or almost 40% of our givers. This is much higher than the national average for the United Church of Canada and a very helpful thing for our finances,
- And countless acts of kindness, friendships begun or strengthened, hundreds of dollars raised and donated to non-profit charities in London and even more given to our Wesley-Knox home.

This coming season your Stewardship Committee will shift gears to other ways of sharing. Stay tuned for activities related to

- Wesley-Knox past, present and future: our church history and the stories of those who built Wesley-Knox, your place in this story today, and how we can shape the future together, and
- Sharing thanks: Recognizing things that sometimes go unnoticed.—*Trevor Walker, chair, Stewardship Committee*

Notes from All Over

- In support of the Out of the Cold supper meal program, on Sunday, March 7 after church, we are once again holding a **Super Sunday Lunch**. Come and enjoy a steaming bowl of homemade soup, warm buns, and dessert all in financial support for this very valued program. A vegetarian option will be available.

- To give people new to our church a chance to meet the staff and others interested in Wesley-Knox, the Membership Development Committee is planning an **Intro to W-K Dessert Night** for Tuesday, March 24. For details, please contact Debbi Jarvis, 519.471,6727, debedee40@hotmail.com.

- On Saturday, February 28, Wesley-Knox will host the 2015 OSCO (Old South Community Organization) **Great Chili Cookoff**. This is another great opportunity to make Wesley-Knox better known in our community. The Wesley-Knox entry will be a mean **Devil's Own Meat Lovers' Chili** created by our very own Chris Mortlock. May he win big!

Official Board and our Music Ministry, I submitted a grant proposal to the Middlesex Presbytery United Church Council to increase our children's music outreach. I am happy to report that the full \$30,300 was granted! The grant will fund two outreach initiatives: Music classes for parents and preschoolers at Childreach Ontario Early Years Centre and three downtown TVDSB Parent and Literacy Centres, plus renovations in one of our Sunday school rooms to accommodate an inclusive creative arts program that will be offered in partnership with Thames Valley Children's Centre. Be on the lookout for regular updates and contact me if you have any questions.—*Barbara McGill*

Winter Movie Festival

Movies are shown in the Centennial Parlour on Fridays at 7:30 pm. Free popcorn and soft drinks plus decaf and dessert after the movie, and often a second feature for night owls. A great way to make new friends! Here's the 2015 Winter schedule for this popular program. More information on church bulletin boards and on the church website, www.wesleyknox.com.



- February 6: **Sabrina** with Humphrey Bogart, and Audrey Hepburn

- February 20: **Magic in the Moonlight** with Colin Firth and Emma Stone

- March 6: **Kate and Leopold** with Meg Ryan and Hugh Jackman



- March 20: **My Old Lady** with Kevin Kline, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Maggie Smith



- Family Movie Night, 7 pm, title and date TBA

Three Notes from Cathie Banks...

Happy Birthday Handbells

2015 marks the 30th birthday of Wesley-Knox handbells. They are still in great condition. Watch for special events throughout the year: quartets, trios, duets and selections featuring other instruments.

Sunday Bus Service

Are you looking for a ride to church on Sunday mornings? The Transportation Committee will soon be looking at how we can offer Sunday ride service in the most cost-effective yet comfortable manner. (Please be assured there will be no changes made at the present time.) Right now there are two buses that travel to Wesley-Knox each Sunday: one from the Cherryhill area and the other from the Mornington Avenue area. For future planning, the Transportation Committee will need to know of any possible new interest in ridership. How many people are we talking about? Where do they live? Please contact Cathie Banks at 519.471.2351, cdbanks@rogers.com, if you have input or interest in accessing transportation on Sunday mornings.

Mitten Cane Donations

There are some very talented knitters in our midst and there will be many warm hands, heads, necks and feet this winter. Warm wear was distributed at the December Out of the Cold Dinner and at the December and January Community Breakfast. Our clientele was 80% male, 15% female and 5% children. So if you like to knit year round, we truly need large men's mitts and scarves. Socks were also very much appreciated this year. This will give us a head start on next year. Thank you! Thank you!—Cathie Banks

Epiphany - Winter 2015 Calendar

Special Services...

Sunday, February 8
10:30 am
AGM Sunday | Holy Communion

Sunday, February 15
10:30 am
Intergenerational Worship

Wednesday, February 18
7 pm
Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22
10:30 am
Chinese New Year Sunday

Sunday, March 29
10:30 am
Palm Sunday | Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 5
Services at 7 and 10:30 am

Special Events...

River Valley Family Tubing
Saturday, February 7, 10 am–12 noon, meet at W-K at 9 am

2015 Annual General Meeting
Sunday, February 8 after service

Family Potluck and Games Night
Sunday, February 15, 5:30 pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 17, 5–6:45 pm

OSCO Great Chili Cookoff
Saturday, February 28, meal at 7 pm

Intro to W-K Dessert Night
Tuesday, March 24, 6:30–8 pm

UCW Vendors Sale
Saturday, March 28, 10 am–12 noon

KSS Celtic Concert
Saturday, March 28, 8 pm

Movies at Wesley-Knox
Friday, February 6 and 20, March 6 and 20, 7:30 pm

Annual Turkey Dinner
Saturday, April 18, 6 pm

UCW Garage Sale
Saturday, April 25, 9 am–12 noon

Community Breakfasts
Saturday, February 14, March 14, April 11, 8:45–10:30 am

Out-of-the-Cold Dinners
Sunday, February 22, March 22, April 26, 5:30–6:30 pm

Wesley-Knox Council
Wednesday, February 18, 7:30 pm, April 15, 7 pm

Wesley-Knox Official Board
Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm