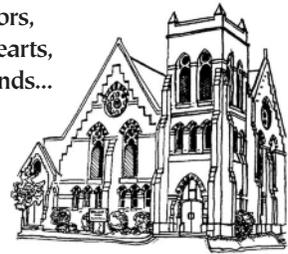


The Kindred Spirit Connection

Open doors,
Open hearts,
Open minds...



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

Pentecost 2012

From the Vestry

Several years ago Susan and I spent a week aboard the Columbia III, the former Anglican mission boat converted to take people on ecological tours in the waters between Vancouver Island and the mainland. (Google Mothership Adventures to learn more.) Years ago I had charted these waters, having applied to spend some time as minister aboard the United Church's mission boat, the Thomas Crosby IV.

We cruised around the area known as The Kingdom (referenced in the well-known novel, *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*), exploring salmon spawning grounds, deserted First Nations villages, floating communities and logging camps, enjoying sea-kayaking and the company of bald

eagles, dolphins and killer whales. We dined on what we caught—fresh halibut, salmon and Dungeness crab. It was an insightful and delightful cruise.

Now, the stretch of water between the north end of Vancouver Island and the mainland is particularly dangerous. The might of the Pacific Ocean is funneled through this narrow passage and around the islands between Vancouver Island and the mainland. On the best of days it is a challenge. On the worst it can be deadly and is every sailor's worst nightmare. But just off the tip of Vancouver Island is a tiny haven for those waiting to venture across. It is on Hurst Island and is called God's Pocket. On the opposite shore, on Calvert Island, is the appropriately

named Safety Cove.

Now that is a wonderful metaphor for life. Life is not always smooth sailing. Often it means facing rough seas, heavy swells, strong headwinds or dangerous riptides. If we want to reach God's Pocket we have to leave Safety Cove, hoist a sail and risk some heavy weather. The same is true if you wish to reach Safety Cove from God's Pocket.

As you head into summer, as you anticipate the arrival of a new minister and the beginning of a new chapter in your ministry as a church, as you face personal challenges and illnesses, travel this great land or simply enjoy the cottage, may you be wrapped in God's grace and be granted travelling mercies. Grace and Peace.—*David*

Pentecost – Summer Calendar

Special Services...

Sunday, June 10
10:30 am: Heritage Sunday,
Holy Communion

Special Events...

Camp Pearce-Williams Barbecue
Sunday, May 27, noon

Rollerskating at NLOC
Sunday, May 27, 7–8 pm

Presbytery Youth Activity Night
Friday, June 1, all evening

Karen Schuessler Singers
All You Need is Love Concert
Saturday, June 2, 8 pm

Camp Pearce-Williams
Friday, June 22, evening – Sunday
June 24, noon

Movie Night
Friday, June 8, 7:30 pm

Community Breakfasts
Saturdays, June 9 and September 8,
8:45-10:30 am. No community
breakfasts in July and August

Out-of-the-Cold Dinners
Sunday, June 24, 5 pm
No Out-of-the-Cold dinners in July
and August

Wesley-Knox Council
Wednesday, September 19, 7 pm
No meeting in July

Wesley-Knox Official Board
Wednesdays, June 20 and August 8,
7 pm. Early August date is correct

First Session, New Photo Directory
Tuesday and Wednesday, August
28–29

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life and witness of

Dorothy Grace Horst
April 22

Lillian Frances Howlett
April 25

June Cleo Agnew
April 29

Joan Lemay
May 1

LEGACY GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

How have you and your family benefitted from the legacies left to Wesley-Knox by our predecessors?

What legacy do you want to leave to the generations that will come after us?

We have information! Ask us about leaving a legacy.—Your Stewardship Committee

Pearce-Williams Family Camp Friday–Sunday June 22–24

Crafts, Swimming, Baseball
Volleyball, Campfires, Hikes

Come for the weekend, or
come for just part of it!

Registration forms
available in the W-K
sanctuary

From the Music Department



We are coming to the close of another wonderful season of music with its rich fellowship and journeying together. God's Spirit is clearly guiding our wonderful congregation on a new path, and by singing and worshipping together, we nurture and support each other and strengthen our witness to God's love.

The theme of the moment seems to be taking our song beyond our walls and out into the world.

The Primary Choir sang at the Kiwanis Music Festival at the Education Centre and won first place. Well done, Barb. Your work with those young singers is inspiring!

The Junior Choir sang wonderfully at Grace United Church in Sarnia on Sunday, April 29, and the Senior Choir sang wonderfully at the Saturday, May 5 London Conference Ordination Service. A truly uplifting service of joy and praise!

Mysterium had the fabulous experience of singing backup to singer-songwriter, Michael Gabriel at Aeolian Hall on Saturday, May 12. Michael was so pleased, he's asked them to sing in more of his concerts this fall.

Right now, our Junior Choir is practicing diligently to sing its best for the Opening Ceremonies of the National Convention of the Canadian Pediatrics Society 3:30 pm at the London Convention Centre on Wednesday, June 6. The Junior Choir has also been asked to sing O Canada! for Run for the Cure in Victoria Park next fall.

Also in the fall, Mysterium will be traveling to Richmond Hill, north of Toronto, in a youth choir exchange with the youth choir of Richmond Hill United Church. Their youth choir will be coming to Wesley-Knox a couple of weeks later.

Congratulations to Kennedy Kimber-Johnson for winning first place in the Pipe Organ category at this year's Kiwanis Music Festival. Kennedy won a \$500 scholarship for her playing. Well done, Kennedy!

Blessings to all as we travel this exciting road together.—Karen Schuessler, director of music

From the Sunday School



As activities wind down for the summer it's time to reflect and also think about next year. As I reflect, I'm left with three clear impressions: First, our Sunday School teachers are passionate about the stories in the Bible and how those stories connect to our young people's lives today. Second, we are a community striving to meet the world with compassion, kindness and love, pushing the boundaries of what these words mean in our everyday lives. Finally, our families are deeply committed to teaching and supporting our children and youth.

Looking ahead, if you have been in the Sunday school you will know that there are two teaching roles for every lesson—the Shepherd and the Deeper Learning Leader. I've discovered that in spirit, all Wesley-Knox Sunday School teachers are really Deeper Learning Leaders! The Shepherd provides the consistency and the framework for the lessons that comprise a six-week unit while the DLLs provide the "meat" of the lessons! If you are looking for a way to be more involved with our children but aren't sure about leading full lessons, the Shepherd role may be perfect for you. The time commitment is longer, but there is less planning and teaching. Consider sharing a session with your spouse or a friend.

And now, some nuts and bolts...

—continued on page 3

Wesley-Knox at Gathering-on-the-Green

This year, on June 2, 10 am – 5 pm, our church will have a significant presence at the GOTG south of the old Normal School at Wortley Road at Elmwood Avenue. We'll be selling beautiful handmade African crafts including jewellery and wood carvings. We'll also be selling Journey With Sudan wristbands and T-shirts featuring the art by our own Linda Imrie. All profits will support Journey with Sudan. Come out and enjoy the gathering and look for our booth. We should be easy to find. Just look for the new Wesley-Knox banner!—*Tony Haworth*



Save the Date – JWS Coffee House and Silent Auction

The Journey with Sudan (JWS) team will be hosting a coffee house and silent auction at the church on **Friday, September 22**. We're beginning to look for donations of interesting auction items as well as musicians or other entertainers who would be interested in performing at the coffee house. Please contact any member of the Mission and Service committee if you'd like to offer auction items or your talent.—*Tony Haworth, chair, Mission and Service Committee*

Growth is the Goal!

There's a new gang operating at Wesley-Knox—a **Membership Development Committee**—and what they want to accomplish is increase the number of people that we see in our church from week to week.

Our new committee just had its first meeting mid-May, but members already have lots of ideas. And we can use many many more, so send them to us! Some of the ways we want to reach our goal is to reach out and tell the neighbourhood, the city and maybe even the world what a great church family we have at 91 Askin Street. How to accomplish this? Get people to check out the new and improved Wesley-Knox website. Direct them to our Facebook page and let them know what's new in our church life. And distribute our new Wesley-Knox brochure far and wide, beginning at the Gathering of the Green on June 2.

We are also hoping to check in with some of the folks we may not have seen for a while to see how they are doing and help them to reconnect. If you know of someone we can reconnect, give us a call and we'll give them a call. And look for a Super Sunday, coming in September. More on that later.

Really, I guess what we are saying is that our goal is to make our church the place where a lot of people will want to be, not just on Sunday mornings but every day of the week. The time has come to start feeling excited about who we are, what we do and what we accomplish. There is a lot to be proud of. So if you know a way we can shake things up and you have some great ideas that you want to share, get hold of any member of the new Membership Development Committee—Debbi Jarvis, Kathleen Brennan, Trevor Johnson, Harry MacLean, Sue Mennill and Jane Walker—and let them know!—*Debbi Jarvis, chair*



—*Sunday School, continued from page 2*

- **Snacks!** Many of you have expressed interest in helping out with the yummy stuff. If you would like to support the Sunday school with donations of cupcakes, cookies, snacks, or nursery supplies, please contact Liz Milne, 519.681.4084! Thanks Liz!
- **Budding Artists.** Phase 2 of Budding Artists will wrap up at the end of May. The first phase of this fundraiser brought in close to \$400. The tile and calendar numbers won't be tallied until the end of May but if all the tiles are donated and the first batch of calendars sell, we will earn just over \$1000. We plan to take this fundraiser to the June 2 Gathering on the Green and to the fall Sudan Concert. We also have calendars for sale at Wesley-Knox, PharmaSave, Secret Garden, Heaven Scent, Budding Artists Studio and the TD Canada Trust branch in Wortley Village. These businesses are excited to support a project that is close to the hearts of the people of Old South. Tile donations are \$10. (These tiles are not for sale. \$10 donates the tile back to the Sunday school for a tile wall.) At time of writing, only 20 tiles were left! Perpetual calendars are \$15. (If you would like to take some calendars offsite to sell, please let me know.)
- **Computers.** We are now the proud owners of four refurbished laptops. Dave Cooper is setting these up and preparing the first computer lab lesson for the Intermediate Class on May 20. Thanks Dave!
- **Sunday School Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.** Hosted by the Christian Education Committee to say thank-you to all Sunday School volunteers. Time and date: 9:30 am, Sunday, June 3. RSVP to Barb McGill, 519.438.4556, mcgill4556@gmail.com.—*Barbara McGill, Sunday School coordinator*

A Wesley-Knox Photo Album



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1. Doors are always open at Wesley-Knox! The Cooper and Rushton families. 2. Easter! We told people, "Dust off your Messiahs and bring them to church!" Forty did and joined the choirs in the singing of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. 3. The cocoon that turned into a beautiful butterfly. 4. Katie Walker, Bev Hennesy and Cathie Banks model the latest at this year's UCW Fashion Show. 5. Karen and Kennedy Kimber-Johnson at the organ. 6. We said, "Recycle your electronics!" Tara LeClair takes a look at it all. 7. Our Junior Choir wowed them at Grace United Church, Sarnia. 8. 14,000 watts of worship at the Good Friday Swell. 9. Sheila LeClair and Glen Pearson led this year's environmental service.—John McFall, Alex Walker and HM photos

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Wesley-Knox UCW held two very successful events this spring—its Third Annual Garage Sale and the Spirit of Spring Fashion Show. Proceeds from the garage sale—\$2249—will go to the table and chair fund for the social hall. A special thanks to Ron and Marilyn Bratti and to Brian Dalton for carting the leftovers to Goodwill.

At the Fashion Show, guests filled the sanctuary to enjoy fashions from Zacks, Sears, Northern Reflections and Kate Walker designs. The show was followed by yummy cupcakes and a chance to visit lots of vendors. Everyone had a great time. Huge thanks to Mary Janet Ross and to Richard Yake for their excellent commentary, Alex Walker for his photography, Harry MacLean for sound and videography, Dave Lumley and his helpers for setting up the sanctuary, Paul Stewart for decorating the stage, and many other people who assisted behind the scenes or in the dressing rooms. These events involve the entire UCW and really, everyone deserves a big thank you!

Wesley-Knox UCW has found a new president. Lynda Laskey will take over the position in January, 2013. This is a two-year term. Thank you, Lynda for accepting this position.

All units are now finishing up for the summer. We invite you to join us in September. Get involved. Meet some of the wonderful women of Wesley-Knox. Help us make a difference in someone's life.

UCW Meeting Times

Unit 1: first Monday of the month,
7 pm, Centennial Parlour

Unit 2: first Tuesday of the Month.
1:30 pm, Centennial Parlour

Unit 4: second Tuesday of the month,
7 pm, Centennial Parlour

Please contact me if you need more information.—*Mary Anne van de Vooren, UCW president, 519.690.2284, Mav_misty@hotmail.com*

WESLEY-KNOX MEN'S GROUP

The community breakfast program will continue on the second Saturday of May and June but will take a break during July and August, resuming on Saturday, September 8. Thanks to all volunteers who have worked so well during the past year to offer full and nourishing meals. Special thanks to those who attend our fundraising events such as the Pancake Supper and Ham Dinner, and to donors who help pay the bills!

All men in the congregation are invited to join us for breakfast at the Family Circle Restaurant on the first Sunday of each month. We will continue to meet during the summer, then serve refreshments to the congregation in the Centennial Parlour following the morning service.—*Neil Eadie, chair*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Budding Artist program is now approaching completion. Barb is hoping to place some of the calendars for sale with our local merchants. We have planned a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for Sunday, June 3. Invitations have been sent. Food and drink will be supplied by our committee.

The Good Friday Swell was attended by nearly 300 teens and the youth groups have had a very busy season. We sent thirteen delegates and two adults to Youth Forum at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre. At the final program, Alex Walker was voted chair-elect for next year's Youth Forum. Our youth led a service in April. We had much positive feedback, and several people have suggested we organize several such services each year. The year is ending in our usual, busy pace. We are rollerskating, conducting a retreat in Grand Bend, hosting another Presbytery Activity Night, finishing up with Family Camp at the end of June.

Our youth stay connected through their Facebook group. I also started a

new Facebook group for parents of our Junior youth group. Thanks to Dave Lumley for his dedication to running this program.

Harry ran an excellent Speakers Series this spring. I was able to attend two of the lectures and enjoyed both. More of our Wesley-Knox family should check out these evenings. A lot of work goes into hosting these speakers, and we should support Harry's dedication to increasing our knowledge of social justice and faith issues.

Dates and times to remember: May 27, noon, for the after-church barbecue; May 27, 7–8 pm, for the rollerskating at North London Optimist Centre; and June 22–24 for Family Camp at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre near Iona. Registration forms are available in the sanctuary. For more information, please call me at 519.438.6252.—*Jane Walker, chair*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Sunday morning worship continues to be a vibrant, meaningful and soul-inspiring experience. As new chair of the Worship Committee I am becoming more and more aware of the many mechanisms that need to be in place and the ongoing coordination of individuals and groups needed to make this experience run smoothly week after week. The exemplary quality of our music program shone forth this spring with our wonderful Easter services. Our growing children's choirs and the dedicated parents of these budding choristers are a delight to see for any of us who are longtime members of Wesley Knox. Kudos to Karen Schuessler, Barbara McGill and the many other people who support them.

David McKane, our Presbytery Appointed Minister, continues to lead our congregation in worship with his dynamic and challenging sermons. His experienced leadership in this time of transition is a real blessing. David

provides the perspective of someone coming from the outside, and his insights into how we can make subtle but important changes in the way we do business at Wesley-Knox is most helpful.

David McKane is a busy minister with interests that occasionally take him away from the pulpit. This provides the church with opportunities to invite others to lead our worship. Along with our two traditional special spring services, one led by the youth of our church, the other by members of the Mission and Services Committee, we also had one guest speaker from another church, our own lay ministers and a speaker from the L'Arche community. All have provided us with different perspectives as we travel on our individual and collective faith journeys.

Comments about worship are always welcome. Please call me at 519.681.7499, or e-mail me at sandra.fox@sympatico.ca. Note that we are always in need of people to assist with greeting and ushering on Sunday. If you can help, please call.—*Sandra Fox, chair*

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Spring Speaker Series was fairly successful. Topics were timely and relevant to the faith, and all four speakers—Rabbi Debra Dressler, Kevin Dixon from St. Paul's Cathedral, Aubrey Harris and Raheel Raza—were judged excellent by those who attended. We only wished that the series had generated more interest among Wesley-Knox members. Was it time of day, time of year, or are we simply not a church that is hugely interested in

exploring current topics and new ideas?

Whatever, average attendance was still around 45 and the series made many new friends for Wesley-Knox. Thanks to the Christian Education Committee for its support of this series, and to Neil and Margaret Eadie for serving coffee after each of the four presentations.—*Harry MacLean*

COMMUNICATIONS

At press time, the new Wesley-Knox website, www.wesleyknox.com, was 95% complete. There were just a few news items to add and perhaps a dozen photographs. There was a small problem related to viewing the website on older-style screens. As long as this problem is resolved, the new website—at least the public part of it—should be live by the time you read this.—*Harry MacLean*

Coming this Fall – A New Wesley-Knox Photo Directory!

It's time to update the addresses, phone numbers and pictures of our Wesley-Knox members and adherents! Several convenient appointment sessions have been arranged...

- Tuesday, August 28, and Wednesday, August 29, 2:30–8:30 pm (These are to accommodate students who might be going out of town to school this fall, or folks who know they will be away in September)
- Wednesday, September 26, and Thursday, September 27, 2:30–8:30 pm
- Friday, September 28, 10 am–4 pm
- Saturday, September 29, 9:30 am–3 pm

New this year: a chance to book your appointment online through the new Wesley-Knox website, www.wesleyknox.com. Watch the Sunday bulletins and the new website for further details on how you and your family can be included in this new directory.—*Cathie Banks*

In July, **Marilyn and Rod Leuty** will be moving to Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, where Marilyn has accepted a call to St. Paul's United Church. (For those new to Wesley-Knox or otherwise unfamiliar, Marilyn was minister of Centennial United Church at time of amalgamation. She served at Wesley-Knox for several months before accepting a call to Trinity United Church in Grimsby.) This move means that Marilyn and Rod will be closer to their son David, his wife, Lisa, and their new granddaughter Lily Ophelia who just turned one year old. We wish Marilyn and Rod well in their new location.—*DJ*



◀ When **Rev. Tom** retired, we all knew what he really wanted—a Ford F-150 pickup truck! We gave him one of course, but alas it was only a model. No matter now. He's driving the real thing! We've had a ride in it, up and down Askin Street and Byron Avenue. It has an Eco-boost engine and since we don't want to get Tom into trouble, we'll just say that it really moves out. Tom and Connie have already taken it to South Carolina on a camping trip. No doubt there will be many more such trips in the future.—*HM*