



The Wesley-Knox Kindred Spirit Connection

Moving in the Spirit...

Advent – Christmas 2015

From Rev. Tracy



“Imagine the Possibilities” is part of the invitation that the Wesley-Knox Building Our Future campaign team is extending to all those who love this church. It is an invitation for people to get involved, to invest in and to help bring into fruition the dynamic and life-giving ministry to which God calls us. When I think of it, it stirs a sense of excitement, promise and hope for today and for the future.

It reminds me of the season of Advent—that time of anticipation that leads us to Christmas. Advent is the time in which we prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ child, the Light of the World, Emmanuel—God with us. We open our hearts to embrace God’s gift of hope, peace, joy and love.

I can’t help but think that in that baby, God sent an invitation to the world inviting us to “imagine the possibilities”—to see what God is doing and who God longs for us to be. In Jesus, God gave birth to promise and hope for all of God’s people. Imagine the possibilities of what happens when God comes to earth and is known by both

impoverished shepherds and the wisest of kings. Imagine the possibilities when into the dark places of life come angels who remind us not to be afraid. Imagine how lives are changed and healing happens when God walks among us and teaches us how to live in a just and open relationship with one another. Imagine the possibilities of living our lives as a reflection of the love, forgiveness and grace offered by God. In Jesus, God came to the world and said “Imagine the possibilities of how the world might change and grow and flourish if you could live as those who know that I am always with you”.

This Advent at Wesley-Knox, come to worship. Come that we might live out God’s invitation and imagine together. As we reach out beyond our walls, as we build community, as we are surrounded by beautiful music and hear our young people tell the story of Jesus’ birth, let us live into the possibilities and the promises that God has for us. You will be blessed. You will be inspired. You will be embraced by the One who loves you.

Peace.—Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler

What Sweeter Music

This wonderful 17th-century text has been set to music by John Rutter and will be sung by the Wesley-Knox Senior Choir at its upcoming Christmas concert.

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this, our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter’s morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:

’Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see Him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.



The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome Him, to welcome Him.

The nobler part of all the house here is
the heart,
Which we will give Him; and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who’s our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.

What sweeter music
can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this, our
heavenly King?
The birth of this, our heavenly King!

—Robert Herrick (1591–1675)



In Memoriam

We thank God for the life and witness of

Rev. Herbert Wallace Wonfor
September 3

Baptisms

Charlette Marie Esch
daughter of Nicole and Matthew

Owen Hayes McDermott
son of Amanda and James

Brooklyn Elissa Eckmier
daughter of Melissa and Donald

Join us in the SACK!*
*Salvation Army
Christmas Kettle
Drive

December 14–19
11 am–8 pm
Wellington Road Metro



See Donna Light or
Richard Yake at church
or contact Richard at
519.438.1597

From our Music Director



Hearty greetings to you all! As our year of music unfolds at Wesley-Knox, one new project I would like to initiate is to get all the pianists among us—children and adults—playing the organ for pre-service.

Starting in January, I will hold a short Group Practice right after the postlude on Sunday morning. Not all music written for the piano sounds good on the organ as the only thing these two instruments

have in common is that they are played on a keyboard. However, most Conservatory Piano List A pieces and many other pieces work well on the organ as they were often written for harpsichord and not for piano. You can show me your piece and I can tell you if it will sound good.

At Group Practice we will set up the organ for the best sounds for your piece (this is called “registration”) and let you get used to playing it on the organ. Then we’ll pick a Sunday for you to play it! So start extra-practicing your List A pieces to be ready!

As well, we will continue to have an “organ assistant” on Sunday mornings. And there will be more! Stay tuned for other organ excitement in 2016!

And now, on a choir note, don’t forget to tell your friends about our annual Christmas concert, this year called “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, performed by Denise Pelley, our Junior and Senior choirs, organ and band. Often a sellout, you won’t want to miss this spectacular kick-off to the Christmas season at 8 pm on Saturday, December 5, same day as the UCW Christmas Bazaar and Christmas in the Village. Tickets \$20, \$15 seniors and students are available at Tuckey Home Hardware and other outlets, and at the church.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the wonderful musicians in our congregation who continue to bless us with their musical gifts week after week. They help make our community of Wesley-Knox a rich and inspiring place as we worship together, Moving in the Spirit!—Karen Schuessler, director of music

From our Director of Children’s and Youth Ministry



The hot topic upstairs right now is the Christmas Pageant. Cathie Banks was up today to start some special music with the grade 6-8 class—fulfilling her Senior Choir duties and then slipping upstairs to work with the kids. In fact if you ever see a member of the Senior Choir slipping out after the anthem it is highly likely that they are heading upstairs to teach in our Sunday school! Now, before you

continue reading, get your date books ready. We really try to keep the pageant rehearsals during church time so attendance is important!

All children in Junior Kindergarten–Grade 5

- November 22: Learn pageant songs during Sunday School, finish healing story rotation
- November 29 and December 6: Rehearsal and costuming during Sunday School
- Saturday, December 12, 10 am–1 pm: Dress Rehearsal and Party
- Pageant Sunday, December 13: Parents, please have your child at the church by 10 am. Our Pageant Service starts at 10:30 am.

Youth Grades 6–8

- November 22, 29 and December 6: Rehearse with Cathie Banks during Sunday School. For after church, bring a lunch. We’ll have some snacks, write some prayers for the pageant and be done by 2 pm.
- Saturday, December 12: Dress Rehearsal and Party 9:30 am–1 pm. Start with

Cathie Banks, then write prayers with Rev. Tracy

- Pageant Sunday, December 13: Arrive at 10 am, service at 10:30 am

Remember to fill out and return your party RSVP so members of the Christian Education Committee can prepare for the meal.

Another date you will want to know about is Saturday, November 21, when First–St. Andrew’s United Church (FSA), 350 Queens Avenue, London, is hosting a “**Date Night**” open to the community! It is for children ages 3–12, at 2–9 pm, and FSA adults and youth will offer games, crafts, snacks and more. (Participants will still need to bring a packed supper.) To register, e-mail thesamsonwilliams@gmail.com. Fee is just a freewill offering with all proceeds going to the Youth Mission at FSA!

To our Teachers

Thanks for all of your amazing work. Our last teachers’ meeting of the year will be on December 6 after church. We had some great suggestions at our November 1 meeting and we decided that, for the December 6 meeting, we would have “a kind of sandwich potluck”. I’ll figure out the desserts. More details soon!

Finally, thanks to all who supported our “Bean Soup” sales, donating, preparing and consuming. This is a terrific initiative to illustrate the many ways that we serve, contribute and support one another in our faith community. The children look forward to this activity every year and all proceeds go to our youth caring and outreach ministries.—*Barbara McGill, director*

Music Ministry Community Outreach

September began with four parent-child music classes at the Ontario Early Years Centre at Bathurst and Maitland. For four consecutive Mondays I gathered with young families to sing, dance, play instruments and play games. Some mornings there were 35 people in the room. Such great energy and so much fun!

This fall I have several participants in our Cherub Choir whom I first met in these classes last year.

October took us to music sessions at the Knollwood Public School Parenting and Literacy Centre, and November, to classes at C. C. Carrothers Public School.

The Shine Arts Program is now into the seventh week of a 15-week session. Just last week, the program was a field trip destination for two students from the Disabilities Studies Program at King’s College. As part of their field trip assignment, these students will prepare a presentation about Shine for their classmates. They will also prepare some promotional materials that will reflect their experience of this program.

This is an excellent opportunity for all involved to learn and grow. This time around, our youth leaders are working hard to choose and prepare program materials, and with Joanne’s guidance, they are developing skills around adapting activities for our participants. Our current Program Leader is Chad Buisman. Chad is a “United Church boy” and a music student at Western. He has camp experience as well as experience in inclusion counselling, a wonderful sense of humour, and an excellent manner with the children. We are lucky to have him with us!—*Barbara McGill, director*

Advent and Christmas at Wesley-Knox

Join us for worship, bazaar and concert during this joyous Advent and Christmas season!

Sunday, November 29

10:30 am: Advent 1 – Holy Communion

Saturday, December 5

Christmas in the Village! Wesley-Knox Christmas Bazaar

12 noon to 3 pm

Then at 8 pm:

O Come All Ye Faithful Concert

Audiences of 500, year after year, can’t be wrong! Glorious traditional and gospel Christmas music with **Denise Pelley, the Wesley-Knox Senior and Junior choirs, and Steve Holowitz and band**. Tickets at Tuckey Home Hardware and other ticket outlets, and at the church.



Sunday, December 6

10:30 am: Advent 2 – Poinsettias and Handbells

2 pm: A Service of Hope

Sunday, December 13

10:30 am: Advent 3 – The Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20

10:30 am: Advent 4 – All Choirs Sunday
7 pm: Night Passed service for those in 12-step programs and their families

Tuesday, December 22

7 pm: London Conference United Church
Christmas Swell Youth Service. Energy!

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7 pm: Carols, Candles and Kids Family Service
10 pm: Holy Communion with string quartet

Merry Christmas!

Looking Ahead 2016

Sunday, January 31

Deadline for Winter-Epiphany KSC

Sunday, February 21

10:30 am: Holy Communion
12 noon: Annual Congregational Meeting

Group and Committee Reports

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A reminder for folks who have already taken a Food Handlers' course. Please put a copy of your certificate in the red binder in the lower kitchen. Note that we will be running three courses over the first six months of 2016: Food Handlers, an AED refresher evening and a Standard First Aid and two-day CPR course. As of print time, dates were not yet confirmed. For precise dates, watch the Sunday service bulletins and church website early in 2016.—*Cathie Banks, chair*

STEWARDSHIP

This year, our stewardship campaign focused on how sharing our time and talents energizes our Wesley-Knox family and impacts our community in so many ways. Each week we shared stories based on our four stewardship themes: worshipping, caring, reaching out and learning.

After a special Dedication—Moving in the Spirit Sunday service, we welcomed some 120 people to a chili lunch prepared by the Stewardship Committee with extra contributions from Rev. Tracy, Cathy Grasby, and Kevin White. After enjoying the meal many of us spent a couple of hours socializing and working together around the church. Activities included decorating pumpkins to share with members of our Wesley-Knox family unable to attend, the youth group weeding and cleaning up along the parking lot fence, learning to knit, and making paper dolls with the Bread not Stones team. It was a wonderful way to cap off this year's stewardship campaign. Special thanks to UCW Unit 4 for its extra support. We couldn't have done it without you!

We are an active and ambitious group. Stay tuned for upcoming Stewardship Committee events in the New Year. We are always looking for new members to join our team. If you are interested in learning more about our work please speak with

one of the current members: Martin Horak, Marilynne McNeil, Donna Goldhawk, Matt Selman, or Shawn Spicer. —*Trevor Johnson, chair*

WESLEY-KNOX UCW

2015 has been very busy. All units are making recycled all-occasion cards. They are both beautiful and a great deal. You will find them in the Social Hall after church. All are welcome to help make these cards. Check in the service bulletin for times and dates and bring your scissors.

Members of Unit 1 sold pumpkin pie slices and apple cider from the Wesley-Knox tent at this year's Halloween in the Village. Members are now busy making frozen goodies for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar.

Members of Unit 2 are making fancy Christmas cookies for the bazaar and members of Unit 4 are making their famous apple pies. These are for sale at \$8 each. Order from Cora Campbell. Members of Unit 4 are also making cookies and other baked goods for the bazaar.

Of course, everyone in the church can pitch in and donate cookies, cakes, pies, loaves and other baked goods, and preserves like Jam or pickles.

We are also collecting some non-food items to sell at the bazaar: bottles



Sheila LeClair, chair of the Building our Future Growth Campaign, shares the plan on Dedication-Spirit Sunday.

for our Bottle Table—pop, bubble bath, sparkling water, salad dressings, olive oil, etc. We also need gently-used women's jackets and sweaters.

Donations can be dropped off at 6–8 pm on Friday, December 4. Please help if you can and make our Christmas Bazaar a success. Thank You!

As you can see, we are a very busy UCW with more projects coming in the New Year. Ladies, you can join any time. Come and check us out and join in the fun.—*Lynda Laskey, president*

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

WESLEY-KNOX COMMUNITY BREAKFAST TEAM

The Community Breakfast Team continued to serve meals in September, October and November with an average attendance of about 70. Attendance over the past few years has declined a little, perhaps because of more available choices for meals and improvements in our economy.

About 75 came out to enjoy the October Ham and Scalloped Potato Supper, and the Breakfast Fund realized a profit of about \$500. Special thanks to Mike and Margaret Ryan who planned and coordinated preparations for this event.

If you are interested in joining the Community Breakfast Team, please speak to Chris Mortlock, Mike Ryan, Ron Olson or myself for more information. We can always use more helpers, both men and women.

For men on our team, you are invited to get together for breakfast with other men of the congregation at the Family Circle Restaurant, 147 Wellington Street at Grey, 8:30 am on the first Sunday of each month. Hope to see you there!—*Neil Eadie*

Bread not Stones -Taking Action to End Child Poverty in Canada

Right now, in 2015, there are approximately 1,000,000 children living in poverty in Canada. This statistic includes 50% of Status First Nations children living in First Nations communities.

The “Bread not Stones” project to raise awareness of and eliminate child poverty in our country has grown exponentially!

Those of us from Wesley-Knox, First-St. Andrew’s and Rowntree United churches have spoken or facilitated rag doll workshops at approximately 20 events, most recently in Glencoe, Watford and Fordwich, in Huron-Perth, as well as at White Oaks and Siloam United churches here in London. More events are booked for the New Year.

During the election campaign, it was a very special honour to present information about the Bread not Stones initiative and a Doll of Hope to the man who is now our new Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. Tom Mulcair, Leader of the NDP and Perry Bellegarde, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations were both given dolls as well. Stephen Harper had previously received a doll from the women of the Alberta Northwest Conference. We also met with eight federal candidates from the three London ridings and presented each with a Doll of Hope, a powerful letter from our church, and many tough questions about child poverty in Canada.



Linda, Justin and Jackie: Hope...

It’s vitally important to align with other anti-poverty groups as we strive to raise awareness of and eliminate child poverty in our country. On November 4, two of us attended a Bridges out of Poverty workshop at Lambeth United. We also attended Community Conversations hosted by Mayor Matt Brown’s Advisory Panel on Poverty. Recently we connected with Citizens for Public Justice, headquartered in Ottawa. They are working to form a faith-based Anti-Poverty Coalition and will keep us posted. Another group we’ve contacted is the North East Community Conversations Group which, on October 17, hosted a sold out event entitled The People’s Forum on Eliminating Poverty.

In the past few months, Laurel Kenney and I were asked to write articles for the 2016 Minute for Mission booklet and for the November issue of Mandate magazine. Our Minute for Mission will appear in the 2016 booklet on February 14, Valentine’s Day. Our article for Mandate magazine has already appeared in the November issue. Carolyn Pogue, Co-chair of the Alberta Child Well-Being Initiative of the United Church also has a workshop on Residential Schools in that same issue.

The feedback about our new website: www.endchildpoverty.ca has been great! [Ed. Note: You can access it from the Wesley-Knox website through the Bread not Stones link in the left sidebar.] Have a look at our Share your News page to see articles about child poverty submitted from across the country. Please visit our Politics Matter page for a copy of our letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, both to congratulate him and to encourage him to implement his proposals concerning child poverty in our country.

Plans to approach London City Council and our provincial MPPs at Queen’s Park will take shape in the New Year. We’ll continue to advocate with federal MPs as well. Together with other groups and agencies, we’ll work to develop effective strategies to help children in poverty break their cycle.

We will not stop until major changes are achieved in the lives of our most vulnerable children. Join Us. Together, we can do it! The 1,000,000 children thank you.—Linda Woods, co-leader, Unit 4 UCW, member FIA Economic Sustainability Team

Notes from All Over

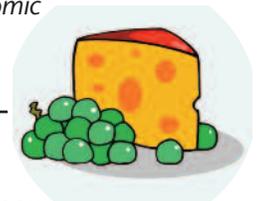
Knit 1, Pearl 2...

Many thanks to those folks who have already brought knitted items to the Mitten Cane. There is a generous supply of wool in the bulk containers under the back table on the west side of the church sanctuary. Please help yourself. Then bring back a stunning pair of mitts, a hat or a warm scarf. We also accept warm socks for both women and men. Items will be displayed on the mitten tree and be made available for our clients at the Community Breakfast and Out-of-the-Cold meal in December.—Cathie Banks

Cheese, Please...

November is cheese month at Wesley-Knox.

[With apologies to Oliver Wendell Holmes who once said this about books, “There is a peculiar dignity attached to a gift of cheese that is in no way affected by its price.”] Pick up an order form from the back table on the west side of the church sanctuary, or from any bell choir member. November 29 is last day to submit your order and delivery date is Tuesday, December 15. All proceeds support the Wesley-Knox Out-of-the-Cold meal program.—Cathie Banks





A beautiful, busy fall: (l-r) Lots of interest and involvement on Rally Sunday. Martin, Amanda and Kevin: Moving in the Spirit, Thanksgiving Sunday. Ian Sadler at the console for the 1925 silent movie, Phantom of the Opera.

More Notes from All Over

Wesley Wheels

Have you had to search for blocks near the church for a parking space on Sundays? Does driving in winter give you the frights? Why not take the bus to church? It's the "Green" thing to do and you won't have to shovel! Regular riders on our two Sunday buses want you to know that the buses aren't restricted to seniors. You too can enjoy the fun times! If you are interested in becoming a rider, contact Dolly Trotter, Muriel Parkes or myself. We'll get you signed up ASAP!—Cathie Banks, cdbanks@rogers.com



New Interfaith Peace Group

This new group for young people ages 14–18 will bring together members of three Abrahamic faiths—Jewish, Muslim and Christian—several times throughout the year. Goals are to answer questions about these faiths; develop a deeper understanding of them; discuss stereotypes and prejudices associated with each faith; and work as one towards some common goals. The first meeting was held at Wesley-Knox on November 7. There will be more meetings in 2016. Please contact me if your young person would be interested in joining this group.—Joanne Sutherland, joannesutherlandxiaobaobao@yahoo.com

Our New Bazaar and Christmas in Wortley Village Festivities, Saturday, December 5

Our new Christmas Bazaar, 12 noon–3 pm, will feature preserves, baked goods, turkey pies, chili, mac and cheese, various vendors, a women's boutique and games of chance, with a hot lunch available 12 noon–2:30 pm. Best of all, our bazaar is on the Christmas in the Village bus route! Bring your children and grandchildren to have Breakfast with Santa at the library. Get your passport to find Uzzels in the village and at the bazaar and win a fantastic prize. We gratefully appreciate donations of baked goods, food, and drinks in sealed bottles, and volunteers for all the various jobs. Your participation will make our bazaar a success! Contact me or Cindy Stewart for more information.—Mary Ann van der Vooren, maryannevan71@gmail.com

Wesley Knox United Church invites you to our **Christmas Bazaar**

We are pleased to be a part of Christmas in the Village **Saturday, December 5th • 12 noon to 3 pm**

<p>HOT LUNCHES available at the Wesley Knox Cafe \$10.00 (limited tickets available)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decadently Delicious Bake Goods • Fabulous Frozen Foods • Perfect Preserves • Women's Fashion Boutique - Gently used Clothing • Unique and one-of-a-kind Vendors - Home Crafted - Mittens, Birdhouses, Jewelry and Books
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6 We are on the Christmas in the Village bus route too!!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Glorious traditional and gospel Christmas music with Denise Pelley, the Wesley-Knox choirs, Stephen Holowitz and band
Directed by Karen Schuessler

**Saturday, December 5
8 pm**

\$20, \$15 students and seniors at Attic Books, Coles Masonville Lambeth Art Gallery, Tuckey Home Hardware and Wesley-Knox

Wesley-Knox United Church
91 Askin Street, London | 519.673.4803 | www.wesleyknox.com