



The Wesley-Knox Kindred Spirit Connection

Moving in the Spirit...

Pentecost–Spring 2016

From Rev. Tracy



Tonight I had an opportunity to attend a concert. The concert itself was wonderful, but a situation there left me feeling unsettled. Before the concert began, a gentleman came into the venue in a wheelchair. After I watched him attempt to find several different places to sit, I finally got up and moved chairs to create a place for him to view the concert. These chairs had been placed in what should have been wheelchair accessible spots. Needless to say, this did not go over well with the organizers, but there were no alternate spaces for this man to sit. However the damage had been done. He chose to leave before the concert began rather than create a further scene.

I was angry and frustrated. But mostly, I was profoundly sad. I could not understand how it could be acceptable in any way that there was no accessible seating, and that attempts to make a place for this man were met with resistance. My heart went out to the man for whom there was no space and who was made to feel he was unwelcome, an inconvenience. And I was disheartened to think that this likely happens more often than we realize.

As I sat there wrapped in my self-righteous attitude I found myself reflecting on the Church and how there are likely times when we, too, send messages that tell people they are not welcome. Perhaps not intentionally or quite as obviously, but it made me wonder how often that message is perceived by those who are new to the rituals of worship or who come for

the first time, come alone, are differently-abled, are unable to read, are part of a minority community, struggle with mental illness, want to question, come from another faith tradition, are unable financially to contribute or respond in obvious ways to the worship experience. The list could go on and on.

Jesus taught radical inclusion. The early church wrestled with what it meant that Jesus' message was for everyone. I think if we were asked, all of us would acknowledge that we want to live as a community that breaks down barriers and welcomes all. But this takes more than faithful intentions. It takes really looking at who we are and what, unknowingly, we might be saying to others. It means being open to feedback and asking tough questions. It means acknowledging that "our way" might not be the only way.

At Wesley-Knox, we are a welcoming, inclusive community that strives to extend hospitality. My experience tonight challenged me to imagine how we might build on that to welcome even more people into this place and how each of us has a role to play in creating a space that breaks down barriers. It challenged me to look with fresh eyes and see how we might respond to those for whom this is not yet their church home.

There are many who are looking for a place to belong, a place to connect with God, a place where they can make a difference. Wesley-Knox can be that place. May we open our doors and our hearts widely and welcome all whom God sends to us. Together may we live into this call. Peace.

—Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler



Left to right: The Hallelujah Chorus at the end of Easter service. Full colour photo on the home page of the Wesley-Knox website. Young people reminding us that W-K Family Camp, June 17–19, is fast approaching. Owen Spicer at the Wesley-Knox Organ. Both Owen and Kennedy Kimber-Johnson "won big" at the recent London Kiwanis Music Festival.

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

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life and witness of

Andrew Keith White
January 5

Doris Amelia Lawrence
January 17

Baptisms

Nicholas Lawrence Phillips
son of
Jennifer Jewell and Rohan Phillips

Spring Movie Schedule

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 spend a Friday evening with friends new and old! The 2016 Spring schedule for this popular program includes...



May 13 • **The Bodyguard** with Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston



May 27 • **Brooklyn** with Saoirse Roman and Emory Cohen



June 10 • **Room** with best actress Oscar winner Brie Larson and Jacob Trembley, screenplay by Emma Donoghue based on her celebrated novel, Room. Yes, she's our Emma Donoghue, a member of Wesley-Knox!

More information on the home page of the church website,

www.wesleyknox.com

From our Music Director



As the weather warms and moves toward summer, we think of the many special musical events of spring.

On April 10, the Junior Choir performed its very first full-length concert—the Spring Fling! The 47-voice choir sang beautifully to a full audience. Special thanks to our accompanist, Brian Ratcliffe.

April 13 was the Kiwanis Organ Day at Wesley-Knox. Of the five participants playing organ repertoire, hymns and service music, three were from Wesley-Knox: Kennedy Kimber-Johnson, Sheila LeClair and Owen Spicer. All played wonderfully. Kennedy and Owen both won the Paul Westermeyer Hymn and Service Playing Prize—Kennedy in the senior division and Owen in the junior. We are definitely creating a legacy for the future.

On April 16, the Senior Choir led by our fearless leader, Linda Olson, mounted its 22nd Annual Turkey Dinner. Delicious, community-building and valuable in raising funds for our church family, the Turkey Dinner never disappoints. Many said it was our best ever. Highlight of the evening: entertainment provided by our very own barbershop quartet, the Four Shades—John McFall, Tony Haworth, Kevin White and Richard Yake.

April 24 was our last Singing Sunday. It was spectacular. The Cherubs and Primary Choirs sang better than ever, sounding like a much older choir. The Junior Choir sang a wonderful anthem antiphonally from the two sides of the balcony. The service was beautiful and inspiring.

With choir over for this year, for four Thursdays April 28–May 19, Junior Choir time, 5–6 pm, will be devoted to a new venture—an improvisational Drama Class led by Kim Stark. It promises to be fun and exciting!

A final note. This spring saw the start of an exciting new venture in music, the Wesley-Knox Jam Sessions. Around 20 gather in the parlour to play guitars, bass, piano, and sing any songs they want. Led by Jam expert Amanda Lynn Stublely and her husband, Martin Horak, it is just another example of the tremendous talent and community focus we have here at Wesley-Knox.

Clearly, our music program would not be possible without the talent and support of many key people in our church community. Huge and heartfelt thanks to Barb McGill, Mary Bee Haworth, Kennedy Kimber-Johnson, Owen Spicer, Mallory Brennan, Brian Ratcliffe, Richard Yake, Sandy O'Neil, Amanda Lynn Stublely and Joanne Sutherland, as well as our intrepid photographers, Brian Dalton and John McFall. Thanks also to all the wonderful parents who commit and support their children as they sing their hearts out! Moving in the Spirit...

—Karen Schuessler, director of music

From our Director of Children's and Youth Ministry



I felt really blessed to have had a few hours on Saturday afternoon with YouthQuest and their leaders at the London Food Bank. I slipped into the YQ retreat at about 3:30 p.m., after the food sorting, to catch the end of an impromptu and powerful presentation by a young Canadian Forces war veteran. This was followed by a discussion around "Go make a Difference" (search YouTube HZ4ZFIhOQ6A. Also visit www.change.org.) This was followed by an early evening road hockey game, a pizza supper, and of course, a cake and icing incident! I must admit I did go home for a full night's sleep and judging from our young people's coffee consumption next day, this was a good decision on my part!

Barb's report continues on the back page ►

The Building our Future Growth Campaign

The Building Our Future Growth Campaign continues to move forward. Pledges are currently at over 27% of our \$850,000 goal. Thank you to everyone who has given such wonderful support!

Here are some “Fundraising and “Funraising” activities planned by various people. Please mark your calendars so you don’t miss out and be sure to ask your friends to come out and enjoy any or all of these events!

- **Downton Abbey Strawberry Social**, Saturday, June 25
- **Third Annual Fun Golf Social**, Sunday, September 18
- **The Elvis Gospel Story Show**, Saturday, October 15
- **Halloween Dance/Silent Auction** with live music, London Music Club Saturday, October 22
- **Square Dance**, late fall, exact date TBA

Also, in 2017, look for a **Valentine Cabaret** on Saturday, February 11, and a **Car Rally** on Saturday, May 6.

Please remember that we have a donor who has agreed to match every dollar raised at every 2016 event up to a total of \$25,000. If we bring in \$25,000, this donor will put in an additional \$25,000. So let’s all get involved!

—Sheila LeClair, chair, Building our Future Campaign

Faith in Action Update

Global Action

- The **Syrian Refugee Support Team** continues to work towards sponsoring our Syrian family. Paperwork has been filed and we are just waiting to hear next steps. The Syrian Refugee Support Team is responsible for locating private funds, supplying housing and the necessities of life, and arranging for medical care, education, transportation, and eventually job searching to make the settlement successful. We are establishing a backup team to commit to various jobs required to support this family and we welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this amazing outreach project. Contact Mary Bee Haworth, Linda Olson, Linda Imrie or Sheila Carson to learn more.

- **Loonies for Lent** realized \$1076.39 for the Syrian Refugee Family project.
- Wesley-Knox will staff a **Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan** booth at the June 4 Gathering on the Green. On sale: items brought back from Africa. All funds raised will support CASS projects in South Sudan. More information below.

Environment Sustainability

- A spring Environmental Sunday service was organized by the Environment Sustainability Team (Green Team) for Sunday, May 1, with our own Karlene Kimber preaching. It was followed by an Eco Fair in the Social Hall.

Gathering on the Green

- Both FIA and the Membership Development Committee are asking for volunteers to help staff the two Wesley-Knox booths (CASS and Wesley-Knox) at this year’s Gathering on the Green, Saturday, June 4. Sign-up sheets are available after church. It’s a wonderful day to meet and greet people and share the love and hospitality that is Wesley-Knox.

- The Membership Development Committee particularly hopes that everyone will come out and visit these booths. This will be the fourth year that Wesley-Knox has had its own booth in the children’s section. Theme this year is “Celebrate the Family” and committee members have planned a fun craft for the children to make. The whole event runs 10 am–4 pm and if you’ve never been before, it features crafts, vendors, a tea room, a silent auction, food and music of all kinds, kids’ activities and many community booths. There’s something there for everyone. Catch it at the corner of Elmwood Ave and Wortley Road, behind the old Normal School, now the new YMCA.—*Debbi Jarvis and Sheila LeClair*

From Communications

Your Communications Committee continues to update and improve the Wesley-Knox website, www.wesleyknox.com. For the first time, the annual Pictorial Review—2015 version—has been published as a movie to the Wesley-Knox United Church YouTube channel. By the time this issue is in your hands there will be a link on our home page which will link to the review. This pictorial review is special in that the audio consists entirely of 2015 recordings made of our various Wesley-Knox choirs.

Late in 2014, our committee established a **Flickr photo repository**. There are now over 100 albums and 2,400 photos available. Most of these albums are available under the Photos tab on the Wesley-Knox United Church Facebook page. A link to this page is located on the left sidebar of our home page. If you are posting photos of a Wesley-Knox event to Facebook or any website, please send a link to webmaster@wesleyknox.com. We will gladly add your photos to our Flickr repository. Also, if you are organizing an event and would like it to be publicized through the website or the KSC, please email the webmaster or contact Harry MacLean, 519.473.1668, or John McFall, 519.660.0411.—*John McFall, chair*

Special Services...

Environment Sunday

May 1, 10:30 am
Karlene Kimber
Eco-Fair following service

Pentecost Sunday

May 15, 10:30 am
Holy Communion

Confirmation Sunday

June 5, 10:30 am

Also...

Chris Mortlock, May 29
Glen Pearson, June 12

Special Events...

SC Port Stanley Bus Trip

May 25, 10:30 am–3 pm

KSS ABBA Concerts

Saturday, May 28, 8 pm
Sunday Matinée, May 29, 3 pm

Gathering-on-the-Green

Saturday, June 4, 10 am–4 pm

Children at Conference

Thursday evening–Sunday
noon, June 9–12

W-K Family Camp

Friday–Sunday, June 17–19

DA Strawberry Social

Saturday, June 25, 3 pm

W-K PD Day Camp

Friday, June 30, 9 am–4 pm

W-K Summer Day Camps

Monday–Friday, July 11–15 and
July 25–29, 9 am–3 pm

Movie Nights

Friday, April 29, May 13 and
27, and June 10, 7 pm

Community Breakfasts

Saturday, May 14 and June 11,
8:45–10:30 am

Out-of-the-Cold Dinners

Sunday, May 22 and June 26
5:30–6:30 pm

Board and Council Meetings

Council: Wednesday, May 18
Board: Wednesday, June 15



Notes from All Over

• Summer is rapidly approaching, and a great way to begin summer is by coming to **W-K Family Camp** at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre near Fingal and Iona. Trails to wander, quiet places to hang out, and great places to play games when you need to be active. Dates this year: Friday, June 17, to Sunday, June 19.
—*David Lumley*

• **Card Making Group!** This group of ladies meet every Monday morning 10-11:30 am to make cards. It's a great time of fellowship and creativity and the group would love a few more people to cut, sort and organize cards. Right now, there is a good assortment of Mother's Day Cards on the rack outside of Heather's office. Please take a look. Cards are very well done and cost only 50 cents each or 5/\$2.00. Proceeds go to UCW projects. Do you have a special card need? Let us know and we will be happy to make something just for you.—*Helen Starling and Mary Anne van de Vooren*

• **"It's Your Funeral..."** Who would have thought that an evening of table-talk, stories, and education about planning for your own funeral could be a pleasant event? But, it was! Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler and Rev. Dr. Douglas Ross presented valuable information about how our church could be the venue of a funeral, how a funeral home would be involved, and the practical things individuals can do in advance and have a plan in place. The District Visitors Committee provided hospitality for this event and 35-40 persons attended.—*Brenda Smith, acting chair, District Visitors*

• Not only did Owen Spicer and Kennedy Kimber-Johnson take most of the prize money in the **London Kiwanis Music Festival** organ classes hosted by Wesley-Knox, but, a few days later, Christian Haworth, now a baritone, went on to trophy-class competition with his new voice and won! Congratulations to all!

• Marg Hendsen of the **Property Use Committee** advises that not a day goes by without someone wanting to make special use of our building. Over the past few months, Wesley-Knox has hosted concerts by the Canadian Chamber Choir, the Karen Schuessler Singers and our own Junior Choir, and the London Kiwanis Music Festival organ classes, the Maundy Thursday potluck, the annual Turkey Dinner and the Wednesday Seniors' Connection gatherings. Marg reminds all of us to book all events with Heather in the office. Do **not** just write in an event on the hall calendar thinking the office will know. This will prevent conflict and disappointment later on.

■ **Barb's report continued from page 2**

What a blessing that our young people enjoy being together and that they have adults who so intentionally hold that space for them. Five of the same youth who had a sleepless Saturday night travelled to Camp Bimini on the Sunday afternoon for a Children @ Conference training day. Later that evening I dropped my daughter off at "Hops for Hope", a young adult pub night hosted by Isaac Mundy of Siloam United Church. It was amazingly well attended. Is it any wonder that Middlesex Presbytery has sixteen people answering calls to ministry?

Children @ Conference registration is now open and information can be found at www.londonconference.ca. A reminder that our Summer Day Camp registration is open but filling up fast. Day Camp is an incredible opportunity for our children to connect with one another, our teens and and young adults, and become steeped in one another's shared stories. Registration information and forms can be found on the home page of the church website.

I am still waiting to hear about federal grants for summer students and as soon as I do, that information will be sent out.—*Barbara McGill, director, Children's and Youth Ministry*



Children @ Conference June 9-12, 2016



London Conference
Children at Conference 2016
DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Hosted at CAMP BIMINI, St. Pauls
For Children in Grades 3-8

Join us for a fantastic weekend of fun, fellowship, laughter, and
discovery. Contact betsy@londonconference.ca with questions

register today www.londonconference.ca

Don't forget the Gathering on the Green on Saturday, June 4, and our Wesley-Knox Family Camp at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre, Friday evening, June 17-Sunday, June 19.

DOWNTON ABBEY



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Saturday, June 25, 2016
3:00 pm

at
Wesley-Knox United Church
91 Askin Street, London ON

Strawberry Dessert Delights
Tea / Coffee
Entertainment
\$10 per person

Optional: Bring your favourite tea cup, saucer and stir spoon.
Dress in your favourite Downton Abbey attire.

Tickets: Tuckey Home Hardware (Old South)
Wesley-Knox United Church office at 519-673-4803

Proceeds to the
"Building Our Future Growth Campaign" at Wesley-Knox.

The strawberry, one of the first and fave fruits of the season, will have its own special day 3 pm in the Wesley-Knox Social Hall, Saturday, June 25, when Wesley-Knoxers and -Knoxettes will host their first-ever Strawberry Social, Downton Abbey edition! Join us for delectable strawberry delights, beverages and entertainments! Share in the mirth with your own version of Downton Abbey attire! Bring your own unique teacup, saucer and stir spoon just for the show. Tickets \$10 at Tuckey Home Hardware and the church office. Proceeds to the Building our Future Growth Campaign.—Richard Yake.

FIRST AID CERTIFICATION



Saturday May 7 & 14, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Wesley-Knox United Church
90 Askin Street

Minimum age: 12, as long as you are able
to do compressions

\$125/person

Registration & Payment Deadline:
April 28, 2016

Call Heather 519.673.4803 to register



WESLEY-KNOX
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Food Handler's Certification



May 28, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wesley-Knox United Church
91 Askin Street

\$60

Registration & Payment Deadline: May 17, 2016
Call Heather 519.673.4803 to register

Minimum age is 14. There is a written test to be taken for certification



WESLEY-KNOX
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Summer Day Camps!



PD Day Camp

For Children entering Grade 1 to 6

Friday, June 30

9 am to 4 pm

Crafts, indoor and outdoor games, music, healthy snacks
and pizza lunch.

July Summer Day Camps

Children entering Grade 1 to 6

Daily July 11 to 15 & July 25 to 29

9 am to 3 pm

Children will enjoy this exciting week of story telling, drama,
arts, games and community outreach.

Before and after care is available.



Moving in the Spirit...

Visit wesleyknox.com to register
or contact Barb McGill at 519.673.4803

