



# The Wesley-Knox Kindred Spirit Connection

Moving in the Spirit...

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**Fall-Thanksgiving 2017**

**From Rev. Tracy**



I write this message having just come from a wonderful service of celebration and gratitude for Barb McGill's ministry at Wesley-Knox. Thanks to the leadership of "The Celebration Team", our faith community was able to honour Barb's gifts, recognize her many contributions to the life and work of our church and reflect on how she has touched the hearts of countless people in her various roles—and with her various hats!—among us. It was a time of laughter and tears, of respect and love as we gave thanks for Barb and wished her blessings on her next steps of her ministry journey.

What struck me so powerfully throughout the service was the emphasis on community—Barb's gracious ability to help build it and the importance of community in the life of the Wesley-Knox congregation. If you ask people what draws them to this church, the response centres on the sense of community that is present here. Newcomers experience a feeling of genuine welcome. Parents appreciate how their children are embraced by people of all ages. Friendships are made. Meals are shared. Compassion is extended. People feel that they belong.

In a time when many long for a sense of community, we have so much to offer to one another and to God's world. Research teaches us that despite the numbers of "friends" people make through social media, young people are feeling more isolated than ever and we, as a society, are more lonely than ever before. A place of acceptance and belonging, a place where people know your name—this is a gift that can be

shared with those who sit beside us in the pews and those who come to our church looking for community.

As those who follow Jesus, we have come to understand that the Christian faith is rooted in and lived out in community. Jesus teaches us to welcome the stranger, work through conflict, extend forgiveness and love one another. Acts teaches us about people in the early church caring for one another, eating together and living in gratitude. Extending hospitality and creating safe places of belonging—these are all expressions of our faith.

At Wesley-Knox this is part of our culture, and yet we can continue to grow in ways that we welcome people and build community. There are some who worship each Sunday but wonder who notices them. There are people who walk in our doors but are unsure if they are truly welcome. There are countless people who do not know if the door is open to them. In his book, "Fishing Tips", John Pentland encourages us to ask the question "Who is not with us, but should be." Are there ways that we can become a more welcoming, more inclusive place of belonging? Is there someone whom you have been wanting to connect with, but have hesitated to ask?

I trust that each of us we will ask ourselves how God is calling us as individuals and a congregation to build relationships, embrace diversity, welcome others and love one another. And I trust that in doing so, our community will flourish, our relationships will deepen, and we will all be transformed in ways that have an impact beyond Wesley-Knox. May we all Move in the Spirit as we respond to God's call to be this community of faith. Peace.—*Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler*

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## **Some Important Reminders...**

The **Hands Across the Table** potluck supper and service with friends from White Oaks and Calvary United churches and Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian church at White Oaks United Church, 6 pm, Sunday, October 1

Our **Lunch and Learn** after church, Sunday, October 15, to learn about our new governance model

Our **John Dominc Crossan** lectures on **God, Empire and Violence**, Friday-Saturday, October 20-21

The **Annual Sudan Concert**, 7 pm, Sunday, November 5

Our **Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Concert** with our choirs, Denise Pelley and band, Saturday, December 2

## In Memoriam

We thank God for the life and witness of

Willnah Bennett  
April 14

Ruth Mutch  
August 16

Jean Conrad  
September 8

Nancy McFall  
September 14

## Baptisms

Addelyn Beth Lockwood  
daughter of  
Nathan and Alyssa

Gia Morgan Muscedere  
daughter of  
Marco and Cassandra

A reminder that **large-print service bulletins** are available through the church office. Contact Heather Westbook if you would like one. The **Mitten Tree** goes up in November and wool is available! Start knitting those mittens and scarves!

## From our Music Director



We look forward to another rich and exciting year at Wesley-Knox! This fall promises to be especially fulfilling as we look for ways to strengthen our connections within the Wesley-Knox community. One of the main ways to do this is by living out our motto, "Moving in the Spirit". This motto enlivens both our faith life and our outreach. It encourages us to become the hands and feet of Christ in our world, in whatever capacity we might feel called.

We often feel we are Moving in the Spirit when we are singing. Singing with others in worship can be an uplifting experience unlike any other experience we might have in a week. It can even be a door to God's heaven.

At Wesley-Knox, we offer many opportunities for children (through our Primary and Junior choirs) and youth (through our Mysterium choir) from across London to learn to sing together, develop the ability to sing in harmony, learn stories of the Bible through music, and become confident in their musical abilities—leading to a lifetime of joy.

Mary Bee Haworth and I wholeheartedly welcome to our program our new Primary Choir Director, Mallory Brennan, as an equal member of our team. With Mallory's extensive experience in our choirs, you can be sure that our Community Children's Choir (CCC) program will continue to provide children with the vocal and aural skills that will allow the Spirit to continue to move through their songs.

There is still room in our choirs for more singers. If you know of someone who might like to join, please let us know! New blue choir brochures explaining the whole CCC program are available at all church entrances.

On Sunday, November 12, for the first time this year, all of our choirs will sing together at once. This is always thrilling and a perfect time to bring a friend or neighbour to church!

Our annual Christmas concert with the Senior and Junior choirs, the Mysterium youth choir, Denise Pelley, pianist Stephen Holowitz and band, is scheduled for Saturday, December 2. Please mark the date! This popular concert often sells out, so purchase your tickets early. Tickets will be available soon.

Let's continue to Move in the Spirit!—*Karen Schuessler, director of music*

## From Barb McGill and Music Ministry Outreach



December 31, 2017, will mark the completion of our United Church Council Grant for new ministry initiatives. This grant helped create the accessible and inviting space on the second floor now enjoyed by our children and has allowed our community choirs to reach into the community by offering parent-child music classes at Childreach and the Thames Valley District School Board Parenting and Literacy

Centres. This grant has also supported a new program called Shine—the inclusive creative arts program for children of all abilities that Wesley-Knox has been offering in partnership with Thames Valley Children's Centre. Shine will continue this fall under the skilled and enthusiastic leadership of Kim Stark and a group of young and dedicated volunteers from Wesley-Knox and the surrounding community. The last 12-week Shine program to run under funding by the grant is scheduled for September 26–December 19. To oversee completion of the grant, I will be in the Wesley-Knox building most Tuesday evenings until the middle of December. God bless.—*Barb McGill*

A Great Evening of Music!

# Memories

Margaret Ryan  
and Friends

Kim Eyere  
Christian Haworth  
Martin Horak and  
Amanda Lynn Stubble  
Book Kimber-Johnson  
Karen Schuessler  
Owen Spicer  
Iria Stewart  
Richard Yake  
The Four Shades  
and more....



Saturday, September 30  
7:30 pm

Tickets \$15 at Tuckey's and Wesley-Knox

Reception following concert  
All proceeds to the Wesley-Knox Growth Campaign

Wesley-Knox United Church • 91 Askin Street  
519.673.4803 • www.wesleyknox.com

## Our Crossan Lectures

**John Dominic Crossan** has served the faith as a Servite brother, a Roman Catholic priest, a university professor and a Jesus scholar. He is co-founder of the Jesus Seminar, the think tank of some 200 theologians that critically examined the words of Jesus recorded in the gospels. He is also author of some twenty highly respected books about Jesus, Paul and the early Christian movement. A colleague and close friend of Marcus Borg, they produced three books together. Currently, he is Professor Emeritus, dePaul University, Chicago. He travels and lectures widely throughout North America and beyond.

### Why Should You Attend?

Dom Crossan is an outstanding speaker. He is clear, compelling, and blessed with Irish wit, even fun to hear. His lectures often follow a pattern. He explains how history, archeology and anthropology have shaped his views. He notes that the titles that early Christians applied to Jesus—Divine, Son of God, God, Lord, Liberator, Redeemer, Saviour of the World and more—are exactly the same titles that were applied to Roman emperors of the day. Applying these titles to Jesus, Dom believes, was essentially a challenge to the Roman Empire. He also believes that the Roman Empire of the first century is the Global West (particularly America) of today, and that today's Christians face the same choices that early Christians faced in the first century: Will it be a world of violence, force and oppression or a world of non-violence, justice and peace?

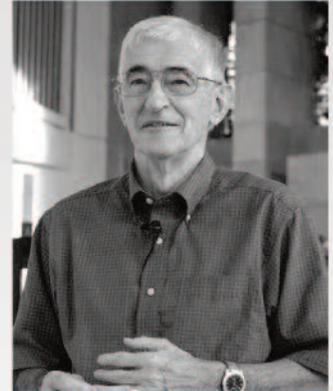
In this lecture series, Dom will place special emphasis on the role of violence in the Bible. If you've ever wondered about that violence, wanted to know more about Jesus, his ministry and the early Christian movement, or thought, "Is Christianity still relevant today?", these lectures are for you. We hope you will be able to attend.—*Harry MacLean*

## John Dominic Crossan

# God, Empire and Violence

**Lecture Weekend**  
**2017 October 20-22**  
**Wesley-Knox United Church**  
**London, Ontario**

**A highly respected Jesus scholar explores the role of violence in the Bible, Jesus' ministry and first-century Christianity as a response to oppression and violence, and implications for us in the global west today. What will it be? A world of violence, force and oppression or a world of non-violence, justice and peace?**



### Schedule

- **Friday, October 20**  
7:30 pm: Keynote Lecture 1 – Civilization and Imperialism
- **Saturday, October 21**  
9 am: Lecture 2 – The Bible and Power  
10:30 am: Lecture 3 – Jesus and God  
Lunch break  
1:30 pm: Lecture 4 – Apocalypse and Violence
- **Sunday, October 22**  
Open question and answer session at 9:30 am followed by worship at 10:30 am. Special music. Dominic will offer the sermon.

### Pricing

- Friday keynote alone \$15
- Three Saturday lectures as a package \$30
- Full series as a package \$40
- Optional Saturday lunch \$10

**Full info and registration at [crossan2017.com](http://crossan2017.com) or 519.471.2160**

## Wesley-Knox United Church

**91 Askin Street**  
**London, Ontario N6C 1E7**  
**519.673.4803 | [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com)**



### Some Crossan Quotes

Jesus is what God looks like in sandals.

Jesus called for nonviolent resistance and a just distribution of land and food. He was crucified because he threatened Roman stability, not as a sacrifice to God for humanity's sins.

Now when you get to something like the Apocalypse of John, when this avenging God is going to have blood to the bridle bits for 200 miles, I think that's venous. I don't think that's justice or Jesus or the God of Jesus. That's the killer God, and the trouble with the killer God is that it justifies us doing the same.

### United Church Women

We invite all women of the church to come to a UCW meeting and see what UCW is all about. Meetings are held monthly from September to June and involve a variety of social events, guest speakers, crafts, and Bible studies. Each meeting concludes with fellowship and refreshments. This is a great way for women of the congregation, especially our newer members, to become better acquainted.

Normally, UCW meetings are held in the Centennial Parlour. All women are invited to take part:

- Unit 1 - first Monday of each month, 7–9 pm
- Unit 2 - first Tuesday of each month, 1–3 pm
- Unit 4 - second Tuesday of each month, 7–9 pm

This year's **Christmas Bazaar** will be held on Saturday, December 2, the same day as the annual **Christmas in the Village** event. If you love to bake and cook, we are looking for donations of baked goods—cakes, cookies, muffins and more. Also, when you are canning pickles, jams, and jellies, please set aside a couple of jars for the bazaar. We are also looking for donations of gently used tops, jackets, purses and jewellery for our boutique.

More information at 519.433.6499, [debra.eppel@sympatico.ca](mailto:debra.eppel@sympatico.ca).

—Debra Eppel. UCW President

### Wesley-Knox Men

Wesley-Knox Men meet for breakfast on the first Sunday of each month at the Family Circle Restaurant, corner of Wellington St. and Grey, at 8:30 am. All men of the congregation are invited to join the group and bring a guest if they choose.

Our community breakfasts resumed on September 9 with 64 meals served. We will continue to provide the meals on the second Saturday of each month until next June. We expect to take the summer months off and resume in September, 2018, as usual.

The major fundraiser for this program is the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper offered at the beginning of Lent. Date of the next supper is 2018 February 13, two weeks earlier than in 2017. As usual, we look forward to great support from the congregation and the community.

Our team of volunteers, men and women, both Wesley-Knox members and a few from the community, make this whole project a great success. Sincere appreciation to everyone who comes out on Saturday mornings as early as 7 am to make it all work. One of the special features of our breakfasts is the oatmeal that is a big hit with many of our guests. Also on the menu: cold cereal, apple juice, toast, pancakes, scrambled eggs and ham. If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please speak to Ron Olson or myself. You will receive a warm welcome.

—Neil Eadie

### Worship Committee

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE is the emphasis of the Worship Committee this year as we evaluate, plan, and propose various worship activities, events and experiences. These include funerals, weddings, baptisms, Sunday services, special services such as

Christmas and Ash Wednesday Eve, potlucks, and much more.

**THE PAST:** We look to the past to learn. What aspects of the worship experience at Wesley-Knox were successful and what aspects of the worship experience at Wesley-Knox were not? What part of our worship events should we keep and what part should we not keep?

**THE PRESENT:** Our Worship Committee plans, organizes exercises oversight of various worship activities. Is a full team of volunteers organized for the various events of worship at Wesley-Knox? Who else in the congregation may be a good fit for contributing to a healthy and effective worship experience that we should approach to ask to jump in and help? Do we need more or fewer volunteers for various worship events?

**THE FUTURE:** Society is changing, culture is changing, and technology is changing. How can we maintain and grow the worship experience inside the doors at Wesley-Knox while being mindful of changes outside our doors? What new aspects of change could we incorporate at Wesley-Knox to better the worship experience or make the worship available, accessible and attractive to a larger base? How would structural or physical changes impact the worship experience? Are there other events of worship to be added?

This is going to be an exciting year in the Worship Committee with the proposed new governance model, insights and recommendations from the sanctuary accessibility committee, and the growing and evolving worship activities planned for 2017–2018.

The Worship Committee welcomes input about the worship experience at Wesley-Knox. What traditions at Wesley-Knox do you value and love? Have you thought of a new worship event that would work here? Please feel free to contact myself or any members of the Worship committee about your thoughts.—Dean Morris, chair



**Oakville kids with Dolls of Hope, many made or finished at Wesley-Knox. See the article on page 5.**

## New Faces at Wesley-Knox

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Summer brought a wave of new faces to Wesley-Knox. Summer students energized the building with their youthful fun and a change swept through our Children's Choir and Children's and Youth Ministry programs.

In June, your Ministry and Personnel Committee (M and P) assisted our Director of Children and Youth Ministry in recruiting Angelo Seneres, Emma Ratcliffe and Abby Jenkins to develop summer activities for our children and youth. They organized a wonderful two-week Vacation Bible School with many young people from Wesley-Knox volunteering, several drop-in nights, and other fun times.

As many of you know, we hired Amy Scott to work as our summer Sunday custodian. Amy also assisted by filling in for our friend and regular custodian, Chris Nichols, while he focussed on recovering from a concussion. We are happy to report that Chris is starting to return. Amy will continue to assist during this transition period. We are blessed to have this dynamic duo working hard to keep our church building clean. Both our members and our renters are well looked after.

August marked the end of Barb McGill's tenure as Director of the Children's Choir and Director of Children's and Youth Ministry. Barb felt the time was right to step down to allow her the flexibility to accept new opportunities as she works toward diaconal ministry. Barb has accepted an internship at St. Andrew's Westminster United Church between London and St. Thomas and will soon be leaving for school in Winnipeg along with fellow Wesley-Knox member Karlene Kimber. We wish Barb all the best and look forward to seeing her and her family at Wesley-Knox which continues to be their church home.

With Barb's departure a recruitment process took place and we are happy to announce that two exciting new individuals have been hired to our staff team!

Lea Oberle is a dynamic and fun young woman hired to be our new Director of Children's and Youth Ministry. Lea has experience coordinating children's and youth programs at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, has a theology degree from Huron College, and is in the discernment process to become an Anglican priest. We feel very lucky to have her directing our Children's and Youth Ministry, especially our Sunday School. We are sure she will do a wonderful job at Wesley-Knox.

Mallory Brennan is familiar to most at Wesley-Knox, having grown up in our community of faith. She has been a member of the Junior Choir, Mysterium, and now the Senior Choir. She has a Bachelor's degree in Music and recently earned a Certificate in Choral Conducting from Capilano University in Vancouver, British Columbia. We know she will do a wonderful job as our new Primary Choir Director.

Please take time to welcome Lea, and to congratulate both Lea and Mallory on their new roles.

Special thanks to members of your M and P Committee for working so many extra hours throughout the summer to make sure there was as little disruption as possible to regular Wesley-Knox business, recruit wonderful new staff, and lead a beautiful and fun farewell celebration for Barb McGill. Thank you, committee members Dave Cooper, Tom Lardner, Marion Hearn, Freda Evans, John Bontje and Craig Read. Also to Rev. Tracy, Karen Schuessler, Barb McGill and Cathy Grasby for their assistance and support during the hiring processes, and to Susan Ackland, Brad Prentice, Cindy Milne, Melissa Page-Nichols and Mary Bee Haworth for their assistance with Barb's celebration. What a great community we belong to!

If you are interested in joining the M and P Committee, we are looking for one or two new members. Please speak to us about joining.—*Trevor Johnson, chair, M and P Committee*

## Bread not Stones Update

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I'm truly excited to announce that on Tuesday, November 21, my co-chair, Laurel Kenney, and I will represent the Bread Not Stones Project on Parliament Hill! We are partnering with Citizens for Public Justice and Campaign 2000, and will be hosted by the All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus! We'll be their guests at a Breakfast and Panel Discussion in recognition of the United Nations' Universal Children's Day on Monday, November 20. Campaign 2000 will release its Annual Report Card on Child and Family Poverty at the breakfast and will later host a press conference in which we'll participate. This will be a day-long event, with several other plans pending.

Most important, however, is that 338 Dolls of Hope will accompany us! They will be delivered to all our MPs! We have submitted an official request to display the dolls in the House of Commons—one on every MP's desk. Each doll will represent a child in poverty in our country. Presented to politicians and others of influence, we hope they will make a real difference. At last count we had 318 dolls completed—almost there! Among the many doll workshops we've held since April, there were four amazing workshops for children ages 5–13. Across the page is a wonderful photo of the children from St. Paul's United Church, Oakville, with the dolls they created (with a little help from some dedicated adults). Our own Wesley-Knox doll-maker extraordinaire, Ann Stokes, added finishing touches, making sure each doll had hair! With children helping children, it doesn't get any better than that!—*Linda Woods, co-chair, Bread Not Stones, London Conference United Church of Canada*



## Fall -Thanksgiving Calendar

### Special Services

#### Welcome Back

Sunday, September 24, 10:30 am

#### Worldwide Communion

Sunday, October 1, 10:30 am

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#### Hands Across the Table

Sunday, October 1, 6 pm  
with White Oaks, Calvary and  
Elmwood churches, at  
White Oaks United Church

#### Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, October 8, 10:30 am

#### John Dominic Crossan

Sunday, October 22, 10:30 am

#### Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, November 5, 10:30 am

#### Stewardship

Sunday, November 12, 10:30 am

#### Faith in Action

Sunday, November 19, 10:30 am

#### Advent 1 Holy Communion

Sunday, November 26, 10:30 am

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#### Taizé Worship

Sunday, November 26, 7 pm

### Special Events

#### Margaret Ryan and Friends

#### Memories Concert

Saturday, September 30, 7:30 pm

#### Governance Lunch and Learn

Sunday, October 15, noon

#### John Dominic Crossan Lectures on God, Empire and Violence

Friday-Saturday, October 20-21

#### Hallowe'en Dance

London Music Club  
Saturday, October 21, 8 pm

#### Fall Congregational Gathering

Sunday, November 5, noon

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#### Annual Sudan Concert

Sunday, November 5, 7:30 pm

#### KSS Silver Jubilation Concert

Saturday, November 18, 8 pm

#### UCW Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 2, 11 am-3 pm

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#### Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 2, 8 pm

#### Friday Movie Nights

Visit [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com) for  
details

#### Board and Council Meetings

Wednesdays, 7 pm. Council on  
September 20 and November 15,  
Board on October 18

#### Community Breakfasts

Saturday, October 8, November 12,  
and December 10, 8:45 am

#### Out-of-the-Cold Dinners

Sunday, September 25, October 23  
and November 20, 5-6 pm

Full details on events at  
[www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com)



At our September 10 celebration for Barb McGill, our Director of Children's and Youth Ministry for the past six years, the church presented Barb with a complete set of Bible Commentaries.

Lots of heavy reading here for Barb as she continues her faith journey!

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## Renewing our Vitality – Reforming our Governance

### What is being proposed?

At its May 2017 meeting, the Official Board accepted a report from Martin Horak outlining a plan to overhaul our governance structure including our Council, our Official Board, and its standing committees. The main points are:

1. Replace the current Official Board/Council structure with a streamlined Leadership Council for faster decision-making and better use of volunteer time.
2. Restructure church committees to encourage involvement and participation.

### What must the congregation decide?

The congregation must decide if it wants to proceed with the proposed changes.

### What should you do to make an informed decision?

1. Read Martin's report. Paper copies are available on the information table at the back of the sanctuary, or read the report at [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com). On the home page, you will find links to the report and a diagram of the revised organization.
2. Attend the **Lunch and Learn** session on **Sunday, October 15**. Martin will lead the discussion and give you opportunities to ask questions. For the lunch, we are asking you to provide sandwiches (names A-L) and nut-free squares (names M-Z). Beverages provided.

### When does the congregation make a decision?

Sunday, November 5 after service at our **Fall Congregational Gathering**

### Questions? Contact a member of the Governance Transition Team

Carl Hearn, 519.269.3335, [larchmoor3335@start.ca](mailto:larchmoor3335@start.ca)

Marilynne McNeil, 519.681.8129, [m.mcneil@isp.ca](mailto:m.mcneil@isp.ca)

Elizabeth Phoenix, 226.236.3025, [elizabeth.phoenix@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:elizabeth.phoenix@lhsc.on.ca)

