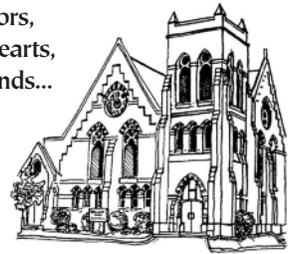


The Kindred Spirit Connection

Open doors,
Open hearts,
Open minds...



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

Epiphany - Winter 2013

Message from Rev. Tracy



Happy New Year! By the time this Kindred Spirit Connection reaches your home, the Wesley-Knox Sudan Team will be meeting new friends, delivering goats and chickens, running their arts and music camp, and reaching out to God's people in South Sudan. What an amazing journey they are on! God spoke to their hearts and said "Go. Go to South Sudan and be the hands and feet of Christ in that place..."

Each of them listened to that call. Those of us at home (some desperately wishing they were with them) will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers and learn about their activities through information that will be posted on our Wesley-Knox website, www.wesleyknox.com, and the Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan) website, www.web.net/~cass.

It's timely that this team will be in South Sudan as we begin our season of Epiphany. Christmas is when we celebrate the incredible gift that God gave us in the Baby Jesus. Epiphany is about how we respond to that gift, how to live out our lives in ways that reflect that Jesus has come into our world. While this year some of us will do this in South Sudan, most of us will have

to settle for living out our faith in the circles where we live and work, engaging in our daily activities. It may not feel as exciting, but it can be just as life-transforming when we try intentionally to live as a people who believe that Christ is in the world.

So this Epiphany how will you respond to the baby born for you? How might you live out God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love in our world? Where will you share those same gifts with others? It would be easy for us to feel intimidated by these questions. But instead, might we feel inspired? Might we feel called by God? Might we see this as an opportunity for our faith community to continue to learn and grow together as we encourage one another and hold one another in prayer?

I am excited about the ministry possibilities in the Wesley-Knox community. We have young people who are active and engaged in countless ways. We have passionate leaders and committed members. We are blessed with strong relationships and new people looking to call this place "home". As we journey into this season of Epiphany together, may we all respond to the God who has gifted us with Jesus and who calls us to go into the world sharing Christ's gifts with those we meet. Epiphany blessings to you all.—*Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler*



By the time you read this, thirteen Wesley-Knox members—including Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan co-directors Glen Pearson and Jane Roy, and son Ater Roy—will be hard at work in South Sudan. In this photo (clockwise beginning left to right): Glen Pearson, Ater Roy, Karen Schuessler, Maggie Logan, Sheila LeClair, Margaret Eadie, Linda Olson, Tony Haworth, Alexandra Eppel, Wes Wilcox, Susan Smith, Jessie Read and Jane Roy. Also members of this year's team: Sue Gaskell (bottom left), Carol Campbell and Denise Pelley.

The Wesley-Knox Sudan Team

Notes and News from All Over...

- On Thursday, November 16, the Wesley-Knox Junior Boys' Choir sang O Canada just before the London Knights met the Oshawa Generals at Budweiser Gardens (formerly the John Labatt Centre). Overheard at warmup just before the choir went onto the ice to sing: "Boy, they're good!" Similar comments were also heard afterwards! Yes, the Knights won—by scoring a winning goal in overtime!
- At 2 pm on Sunday, February 10, it will be the Wesley-Knox Junior Girls' Choir's turn. They'll be singing O Canada just before the London Lightnings meet the Summerside (PEI) Storm basketball team at Budweiser Gardens.
- Just before Christmas, we reported that a video of our Wesley-Knox young people performing The Cup Song had garnered some 8000 hits. That was then and this is now. Would you believe nearly 80,000 hits at press time! If you haven't yet seen this video, bring up YouTube on your computer, search for "Cup Song Wesley-Knox" and be proud!
- We have a new organ in our Wesley-Knox Chapel! This instrument, a gift from St. Anne's Anglican Church in Byron, became available when St. Anne's upgraded to a newer and larger instrument. Unlike the instrument we had before, the console, which features a full 32-note pedalboard, is built to the same standards as the organ in our sanctuary. It offers a wider range of sounds than the instrument it replaces, and makes it possible to play real organ literature in our chapel!
- The torch has been passed! Lynda Laskey is new president of our Wesley-Knox United Church Women, taking over from Mary Anne Van der Vooren who served for many years.
- Not all of our Sudan team left or will be returning together. Linda and Wes Wilcox departed a week early and found time in Kenya to take in a safari. Others plan to take in a short safari just before returning to Canada. It is a long and expensive trip. Most will be leaving from Detroit Airport on Saturday, January 5. They will fly to Amsterdam and then on to Nairobi, Kenya where they'll move themselves, their luggage and the medical and teaching supplies they are bringing with them onto two small chartered airplanes that will take them to Malualkon near Gordhim, South Sudan, where they will be working.
- A reminder that date of this year's Annual General Meeting will be Sunday, February 3. The 2012 Annual Report is expected to be available one week before, on Sunday, January 27. The report will also be available on the Wesley-Knox website.

- The United Church National Office has distributed a letter on behalf of its Comprehensive Review Task Group. Purpose of this Task Group is "...to examine the vision and circumstances of the United Church of Canada and recommend models that will enable the church to sustain faithful leadership in God's world."

According to the letter, immediate impetus for the group's work is "declining membership, diminishing resources, and changing priorities and patterns of behaviour that mean that many Canadians choose not to participate regularly in a faith community." The letter notes that "Many people express a deep spiritual hunger, but do not feel nourished by the church," that "our structures were designed for a church that no longer exists," and that "our financial situation also calls for significant change... Everything is on the table..."

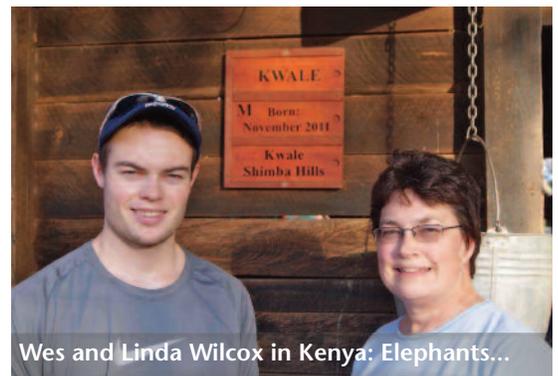
Rev. Kenji Marui of Calvary United Church, London, is a member of this Task Group which hopes to initiate a broad consultation process in the spring. A link to full text of the letter may be found on the Wesley-Knox website.



The Wesley-Knox Boys' Choir at the Gardens



The new organ in our chapel...



Wes and Linda Wilcox in Kenya: Elephants...

Advent and Christmas at Wesley-Knox



It was a packed house for the annual Wesley-Knox Christmas concert with Denise Pelley, choirs and band.



Santa at Community Friendship Tea



Candles for our Night Passed service



The 2012 Christmas Pageant



Nearly 600 attended our 7-pm Christmas Eve worship service. Photos by John McFall, Brian Dalton and others.



Sharing the Light...

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life and witness of

Donald Matthew Gourlay
December 6

Baptisms

We welcome into God's family

Claire Olivia Petri
daughter of Brian Michael Petri
and Allison Diane Miller

Movies at Wesley-Knox

Movies are shown in the Centennial Parlour at 7:30 pm on selected Fridays (usually every second Friday). Popcorn and soft drinks are provided, decaf and dessert after the movie. Often, there is a second feature for night owls. Here's the winter schedule for this popular program. More information in the new brochure available at Wesley-Knox or on the Wesley-Knox website.



• January 18: **Pitch Perfect** with Anna Kendrick and Brittany Snow

• February 8: **Brave** with Kelly Macdonald and Billy Connolly

• February 22: **Robot and Frank** with Susan Sarandon and James Marsden



• March 8: **The Way** with Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez

• March 22: **Dark Shadows** with Johnny Depp and Michelle Pfeiffer



Update Your Faith this Winter with LtQ2!

Living the Questions 2 is an updated version of the very successful DVD-based program that we ran at Wesley-Knox (and at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian) a couple of years ago. It's an **open-minded** alternative to studies that try to give participants all the answers. Instead, participants are exposed to the wide range of understandings of God, Jesus and the Bible that are found within Christianity today and given opportunities to discuss and make up their own minds.

Here's how the program will work. We'll be asking participants to give us contact information so we can send each participant a couple of pages of material to read before each session. **The seven sessions in this set will be offered at 3:30–5 pm on Sunday afternoons starting on Sunday, February 10.** At each session, we'll introduce the topic, watch a 20-minute video, break for coffee and a snack, and then discuss what we've seen and heard. Additional reading will be available for those who want to learn more.



Facilitators will be Harry MacLean and Samantha Brennan. **Topics** will be 1. Invitation to Journey, 2. Taking the Bible Seriously, 3. Thinking Theologically, 4. Stories of Creation, 5. Lives of Jesus, 6. Paul: a Passion for Christ, and 7. Challenges: Out into the World. **Videos** will feature some of the world's best Christian thinkers: Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, John Shelby Spong, Diana Butler Bass, Amy-Jill Levine, Sister Helen Prejean and more.

Want to learn more? Speak to one of the facilitators, pick up one of the LtQ2 brochures that will be available at the church and on the church website, or watch the promotional video at www.vimeo.com/11843862. Then plan to update your faith by taking part in this exciting winter study!—Harry MacLean

Epiphany - Winter 2013 Calendar

Special Services...

Sunday, January 6
10:30 am
Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 13
10:30 am
UCW Sunday

Sunday, January 20
10:30 am
Holy Communion

Sunday, February 3
10:30 pm
Annual Meeting Sunday

Sunday, February 10
10:30 am
Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, February 13
7 pm
Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten services throughout the remainder of February and early March

Sunday, March 24
10:30 am
Palm Sunday
Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, March 28
Good Friday, March 29
Easter Sunday, March 31

Special Programs and Events...

2013 Annual General Meeting
Sunday, February 3 after service

Living the Questions 2, Sundays, February 10, 17 and 24; March 3, 10, 17 and 31, 3:30–5 pm. See description in this KSC

Movies at Wesley-Knox, Friday, January 18, February 8 and 22; March 8 and 22. See schedule in this KSC

Community Breakfasts
Saturday, January 12, February 9 and March 9, 8:45–10:30 am

Out-of-the-Cold Dinners
Sunday, January 27, February 24 and March 24, 5:30–6:30 pm

Wesley-Knox Official Board
Wednesday, January 16 and February 20, 7 pm

Wesley-Knox Council
Wednesday, March 20, 7 pm

For detailed, up-to-date information about services, programs and events, visit www.wesleyknox.com