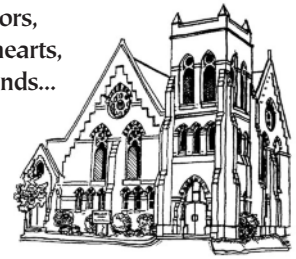


The Kindred Spirit Connection

Open doors,
Open hearts,
Open minds...



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

January 2010 Epiphany

From the Vestry

The 2009 givings year has come to an end and our Annual Report is being written. The nominating committee is adding and subtracting names from their committee lists as they hear from individuals about their commitments for the coming year. As we look to the future, it is clear that "...the times, they are a changin'."

No one sets out to change things in a church. It just happens. A little push here, a little change there, and suddenly it's different. Today, at the insistence of the Health Unit, a sink for hand washing was added to the kitchen. The chapel has been remodelled, making us rethink how we will use this room. People are changing too. Several people on our Official Board will be taking on new responsibilities, and inevitably, as people function in new ways, some people will be tempted to say "We don't do it that way...."

Those six words can be the deadliest in a church. Who is the "we"? Is it an "in group", a "power



group" or "the old guard" or is it simply our friends? There are lots of ways to do everything and we haven't come close to trying all of them yet. New times require new approaches. New times may also require approaches that have been tried in the past and now need to be tried again.

Some time ago, I was chair of Lambton Presbytery. We needed to close a little church in the middle of a subdivision of fairly large houses. It looked like the perfect place for a church and this congregation was always on the lookout for people to replace people who had once gone to their church. But there was

a problem: it was the expectations they had for their new people.

In this church, Mabel, had always made the gravy. Mabel had just died and the church needed someone to replace her. The next person through the door was pressed into making gravy even though she had never made gravy in her life and didn't even like gravy. And she was persuaded to make the gravy, not using a new recipe, but using the recipe that Mabel had used for the past thirty years. No one asked the new person what she wanted to do, nor were they willing to consider any new ideas that she might have had.

So get ready and get set. It's 2010—a brand new year and a brand new decade. Some things will be the same, but some things will be different and you won't know which it will be. All I can guarantee is that it will be exciting!

Tom

Be part of it! There's lots happening at Wesley-Knox!

Sunday worship at 10:30 am • Sunday School • Youth Forum

Our new chapel • Our new Winter Wednesday Lecture Series with four outstanding presenters
Pancake Supper • Ash Wednesday service • Movie nights • Choirs for all ages • Handbells

Annual General Meeting • Community Breakfast program • Out of the Cold dinners • NA
Exercise groups • First Light Study Series • Youth groups • UCW • Men's Club • and much more....

In Memoriam

We thank God for
the life and witness of

Robert James Ford Sherriff
2009 December 6

Alice Mae Hathaway
2009 December 23

A Prayer

This is a day which God has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us count our many blessings.
Let us be grateful for the
incredible gift of life.
Let us be grateful for the capacity
to see, feel, hear and
understand.
And let us be especially grateful
for the ties of love which bind
us together,
Giving dignity, meaning, worth
and joy to all of our days.
Amen

It's the Wesley-Knox Men's Club

Annual Pancake Supper!

All-you-can-eat pancakes,
plus ham, dessert and beverage!

**Tuesday, February 16,
4-7 pm**

W-K Social Hall

Proceeds support Community
Breakfasts and other W-K Men's
Club programs

Get your tickets soon!

Adults \$6 • Kids 10 and under \$3
Family Maximum \$15

Angels Among Us: an Out of the Cold Report

Christmas miracles were all around us this past season.

The Mitten Cane was filled with your donations of hats, scarves, mittens and gloves of all colours and varieties. Bags of odd wool were left at the base of the cane, and magically, over 150 beautifully crafted pieces were created. These were distributed to our clients at the December 27 Out of the Cold dinner. We fed only 55 folks that evening. We can only pray the others were looked after, possibly by family members or friends. The rest of the knitted articles will be distributed at Community Breakfast, on January 9.

With your support, the Sunday School, under the direction of Karlene Kimber-Johnston, managed to package beautiful gift bags for the clients as well. These bags of toiletries, sanitizers and snacks were most appreciated, as was evident by the surprised yet grateful looks on the faces of receivers. Thank you Karlene and our youth!

Perhaps the most moving miracle took place just following the Sunday night meal. As the serving staff sat down to our meal, there was one last client still eating. We'll call him B.

B has some real health issues: He has multiple seizures every day, mobility problems and speech impediments, as well as social issues. B frequented the Out of the Cold meals at Centennial for years and we were pleasantly surprised when he showed up at Wesley Knox a few years back. B finished his meal, started toward the mitten and hat display, but to our surprise, walked right by and sat down at the piano.

And the miraculous music flowed! B sang three verses of O Holy Night, completely memorized, completely in tune, accompanying himself beautifully on the piano. We all sat there in awe, and also in tears. What an emotional time for all! We knew it was B's way of saying "thank you" and wishing us a Merry Christmas.

Thank you B! You were a Christmas miracle to us!—*Cathie Banks*

Wesley Wheels!

The Wheels on the Bus go round and round—all through the town!

Did you know that our three buses bring 40 members of our church family to church every week? That our bus travels as far west as Oxford Street and Commissioners Road West, as far east as Highbury Avenue, as far south as Southdale Road and as far north as Gainsborough and Wonderland Road North?

Did you know that this service now costs \$18,000 a year? That's why we appreciate all donations made to the "Transportation Fund", to assist us in providing this valuable service.

Did you know, that someday you might become a rider on that bus and we would be so happy to see you?—*Your Transportation Committee: Muriel Parkes and Ronalee Porter, 519.686.2693*

Wesley-Knox Winter Lecture Series

Come and learn! Wednesday evenings, February 24, March 3, 10 and 24

In his final book, *Forrest Church*, the much-loved senior minister of All Soul's Unitarian Church, New York City, spoke of the world as being like a cathedral. God's light shines on the cathedral, but the people inside see this light only through the stained-glass windows. And there are many windows: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and more. Each window presents God a little differently, but in the end, it's all the same God.

In a recent sermon Rev. Tom offered a similar idea. He said that people of the Bible often thought of the night sky as the roof of a tent. They thought that God's light was just above the roof and manifested itself as stars as the light penetrated the roof and shone upon the people in the tent.

We hope that this Winter Lecture Series will help you look at God through a few windows that you might have never looked through before. Or building on Tom's idea, that this series will help you poke a few holes in the roof of your tent! Whichever way you choose to think about it, here's our 2010 lineup of outstanding presenters:



Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 pm **Raheel Raza: The Passion and Politics of Islam**

Raheel, a native of Pakistan, is a journalist, broadcaster, documentary film maker, author (**Not my Jihad**, Basilea Books, 2005), outspoken advocate of gender equality, and a tireless promoter of interfaith dialogue. Raheel—the first woman to lead a Muslim worship service in Canada—and her husband will present a much-needed balanced perspective on the Muslim faith.



Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 pm **Dr. Bruce Tallman: Magic to Unitive: What's Your Spiritual IQ?**

Bruce, a liberal Roman Catholic, is a London-based spiritual director, marriage coach, adult religious educator, author (**Archtype for Spiritual Direction**, Paulist Press, 2005) and frequent contributor to the Religion and Ethics pages of the London Free Press. His talk will focus on stages of spiritual growth with special reference to the thought of philosopher Ken Wilber.



Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 pm **Rev. Dr. David Galston: Meet the Historical Jesus**

David is a United Church minister (Eternal Spring United Church, Hamilton, Ontario), ecumenical chaplain at Brock University, St. Catharines, a **Jesus scholar and member of the Jesus Seminar**. His talk will focus on the humanity of Jesus—what we can reliably know about Jesus, how we are able to know it, and the significance of Jesus' sayings and parables.



Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 pm **Rev. Felicia Urbanski: Those Heretical Unitarians!**

Felicia, Interim Minister of the Unitarian Fellowship of London, is working towards ministerial standing in the United Church of Canada. Her workshop and video presentation, first given at last October's **Explore the Elements Progressive Christianity Conference** in Toronto, will describe a liberal faith tradition whose roots go back to the earliest days of Christianity.

We plan to offer these lectures in our sanctuary. Each lecture, about 45 minutes long, will be followed by a question and answer period and an opportunity to meet the speaker. **Lectures will be free**, but in our advertising to the general public, we will suggest a donation of \$5 per lecture. **Come and learn!** Join us for this exciting lecture series!

Come to Friday Movie Nights!

Friday, January 22, 7:30 pm. **War of the Buttons.** Two Irish gangs engage in escalating battles. Buttons are removed from clothing of the losers. Over time, the gangs' leaders develop a grudging admiration for each other.

Friday, February 5, 7:30 pm. **Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian.** Starring Ben Stiller and Amy Adams. Famous figures of history come to life at night. Comic rivalries develop.

Friday, February 19, 7:30 pm. **The Time Traveler's Wife.** Starring Eric Bara and Rachel McAdams. A Chicago librarian suffering from a rare genetic disorder is sent hurtling through time. He falls in love and marries. The endurance of his wife, who meets him at different times of his life, gives the movie its title.

JANUARY 2010

Yes, this is a short **Kindred Spirit Connection**. Virtually no committee reports! No, it's not the start of a new trend. It's just that committees don't get together much during Advent and the Christmas season. But there's lots happening over the next two or three months and we wanted you to know about them. That's the focus of this January/Epiphany issue of the KSC....

Deadline for next KSC is March 5.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 am Sunday Service	11 7:15 pm. First Light Study Group	12 7 pm Unit 4 UCW Exercise Group, KSS, NA	13 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7 pm Trustees 7 pm C G and D Quilters Group, NA	14 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	15 7 pm Family Movie Night Robots!	16
17 10:30 am UCW Service Kate Steeper, speaker	18 7:30 pm UCW Executive No First Light Study	19 7 pm M and P Unit 1 UCW (Exercise) Exercise Group, KSS, NA	20 7 p.m. Official Board NA	21 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	22 7:30 pm Movie Night War of the Buttons	23
24 10:30 am Holy Communion	25 7:15 pm First Light Study Group	26 Unit 1 UCW (Exercise) Exercise Group, KSS, NA	27 6:30 Bell Practice Quilters Group, NA	28 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	29	30
31	December 2009 S M T W Th F Sa			February 2010 S M T W Th F Sa		Notes: All entries correct as of 2009 January 06 but subject to change. Please contact committee chair or group leader for latest information.

FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:15 pm First Light Study Group	2 1:30 pm Unit 2 UCW Exercise Group, KSS, NA	3 NA	4 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children youth choirs	5 7:30 pm Movie Night Night at the Museum	6
7 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 am Sunday Service	8 7:15 pm First Light Study Group	9 7 pm Unit 4 UCW Exercise Group, KSS, NA	10 6:15 pm District Visitors 6:30 pm Bell Practice Quilters Group, NA	11 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children youth choirs	12	13 9 am Community Breakfast
14 10:30 am Sunday Service 12 noon Annual General Meeting	15 6:15 pm UCW Executive 7:15 pm First Light Study Group	16 4-7 pm Pancake Supper Exercise Group, KSS, NA	17 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service W-K Council TBA NA	18 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	19 7:30 pm Family Movie Night Time Traveler's Wife	20
21 10:30 am Sunday Service Bellissima Ringers	22 7:15 pm First Light Study Group	23 3 pm Presbytery Exercise Group, KSS, NA	24 7:30 pm Lecture Series 1 Raheel Raza: The Passion and Politics of Islam Quilters, NA, Bell Practice	25 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	26	27
28 10:30 am Sunday Service 5 pm Out of the Cold Dinner						
	January 2010 S M T W Th F Sa		March 2010 S M T W Th F Sa		Notes:	

Date of our Annual General Meeting: Sunday, February 14

These calendars are part of an experiment. If they turn out to be accurate and useful, we may continue with them. If nothing else, they should give you a sense of the many activities that take place, week after week, at Wesley-Knox...

MARCH 2010

Chapel Update

Have you seen our new chapel? Please stop in and look at the beautiful memorial windows that have been installed. By the time you read this, our chapel should be completed. We would like to have a dedication service in February or March. Watch for announcements! The Chapel Story will be told in its entirety in the next issue of the Kindred Spirit Connection.—Ronalee Porter, Chapel Renovation Committee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:30 pm Unit 2 UCW Exercise Group, KSS, NA	3 7:30 pm Lecture Series 2 Dr. Bruce Tallman: What's Your Spiritual IQ? NA	4 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children youth choirs	5 7:30 pm Movie Night Book of Secrets Deadline for next KSC	6
7 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 am Sunday Service 12 noon Lunch Lunch	8 Unit 1 UCW	9 7 pm Unit 4 UCW Exercise Group, KSS, NA	10 7:30 pm Lecture Series 3 Dr. David Galston: Meet the Historical Jesus Quilters Group, NA, Bells	11 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children youth choirs	12	13 9 am Community Breakfast
14 10:30 am Sunday Service	15	16 7 pm M and P Exercise Group, KSS, NA	17 No lecture this week 7 pm Official Board NA	18 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	19 7:30 pm Family Movie Night The Proposal	20
21 10:30 am Sunday Service	22	23 3 pm Presbytery Meeting Exercise Group, KSS, NA	24 7:30 pm Lecture Series 4 Felicia Urbanski: Those Heretical Unitarians! Quilters, KSS, NA, Bells	25 7 pm Senior Choir Exercise Group Children and youth choirs	26	27 9 am-4 pm Embroiderers Guild 8 pm KSS Concert Love is in the Air!
28 10:30 am Palm Sunday Holy Communion 5 pm Out of the Cold Dinner	29 This is Holy Week	30	31	1 6 pm Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper and Holy Communion	2 Good Friday Service Location TBA 7 pm Good Friday Swell	3 Tomorrow is Easter!
	February 2010 S M T W Th F Sa		April 2010 S M T W Th F Sa		Notes: All entries correct as of 2009 January 06 but subject to change. Please contact committee chair or group leader for latest information.	