

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

May 2010 Pentecost

From the Vestry

As many of you know but some of you may not know, I have delivered my letter requesting a change in pastoral relations for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2011, to our Official Board and to Presbytery. This is the official way of saying that I am retiring one year from this June. The letter needed to be sent to the Official Board and to Presbytery because we are in a three-way covenant with each other regarding my ministry here.

In the spring of 1991, when the Search Committee wanted me to be your next minister, they asked me if a "call" were extended to me, would I accept the "call"? When I said yes, the Search Committee arranged for a



congregational meeting at which my name was put before the congregation. When the congregational vote was positive, Presbytery was asked to extend the "call" which I accepted. This process is cumbersome but is necessary to honour all three parties involved in "the call".

It has been a pleasure to serve Wesley-Knox but to say that now is to get ahead of ourselves. We have a full agenda for the next 13 months and I look forward to ministering to the needs of the congregation as we proceed into this time of change.

On May 16, I spoke to the children about transplanting my Black Eyed Susans. The grass had moved into the flower bed and the only way to get it out was to dig it up and move the flowers.

Transplantation plays a vital role both in gardening and in church life.

Tom

Calendar

Special Worship Services

Sunday, May 30

10:30 am: Rededication of Chapel

Sunday, June 6

10:30 am: Heritage Sunday and Holy Communion

Sunday, June 13

10:30 am: Stewardship Sunday and Strawberry Social

Sunday, June 20

10:30 am: Ministry 2: What does the Minister do?

Sunday, June 27

10:30 am: Dr. Ross preaching

Sunday, June 11

10:30 am: Summer Communion

Sunday, August 1

10:30 am: Summer Communion

Other Events

Saturday, May 29

8 pm: Karen Schuessler Singers:
The River Concert

Friday, June 11

7:30 pm: Movie Night: The Blind Side

Saturday, June 12

7:30 am: Community Breakfast

Friday–Sunday, June 25–27

Family Camp Weekend at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre, Iona

Sunday, June 27

5:30 pm: Out-of-the-Cold Dinner

In Memoriam

We thank God for
the life and witness of

Edna Mae Stott
March 23

Eulia Ann Brown
March 31

Melvin John Williams
April 18

Jeffery Wilton
April 29

Thelma Marjorie Milliken
May 6

Baptisms

Angelene Rachel Gentile
son of Wade and Nancy

Ava-Riley Almedia Gignac
daughter of Daniel and Nicole

Kate Evelyn Petrie
son of Brian and Allison

Our Newest Members

We welcome the following
into the life and fellowship
of Wesley-Knox

Rendell Dunn
Clare Brenner
Debbie Lee

2010 Confirmation Class

Adele Crozier
Samantha Ede
Alexandra Eppel
Melissa Evans
Natalie Evans
Carly Helm
Mackenzie Ferguson
Kennedy Kimber-Johnson
Jack Phoenix
Adam Read
Aaron Reid
Ethan Reid
Ater Roy
Matthew Selman
Abigail Spicer
Jonathon Stewart
Margaret Walker
Mark Wilcox

From the Staff

Sunday School Coordinator

Since Easter, the Sunday School children have been learning about Jesus' miracles using our Wonder Stories curriculum. This curriculum teaches the Bible stories, and through activities like drama, puppet shows, science experiments and art activities, helps the children discover the themes of these stories and how they relate to us, our church and the world.

Youth Forum spent the month of April attending Sunday worship. During May they will be spending time with Mary Bee Haworth, Karen Pincombe and other members of the Mission and Service committee to explore the role and work of this committee.

There will be no Sunday School on June 27, Pearce-Williams Family Camp weekend. Summer Sunday School begins in July and continues until school begins in the fall. If you can help, please sign up on the "People Helping People Board" just outside the sanctuary. It is an open-session format with all ages in one class. Commitment is for one Sunday only and curriculum is available.

In closing, I'd like to say it has been a privilege to work for our children and the congregation in the coordinator's role over the last three years. I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve Wesley-Knox in this capacity. I would also like to thank the wonderful staff members I have worked with during my time as coordinator. I respect and appreciate the important work they all do to make Wesley-Knox the welcoming place that it is! I hope to carry with me Karen's creativity, Doug's engagement in our church and world, Heather's organization, Wendy's caretaking and Tom's open, inclusive spirit. I have been very blessed to be a part of this team!

I do look forward to continuing to support Wesley-Knox and the Sunday school as a parent and member of the congregation! My prayers will be with the Ministry and Personnel committee as the search begins for a new coordinator. Peace and blessings.—*Karlene Kimber, Sunday School coordinator*

Director of Music

This spring has been one of fulfillment in the musical life of Wesley-Knox. The younger choirs in particular have achieved new levels of refinement and beauty in their music-making.

The Primary Choir, directed by Barb McGill, accompanied by Richard Yake and assisted by Mallory Brennan, performed wonderfully in the Kiwanis Music Festival and placed first. I am always amazed at how well these young children sing and focus their attention under Barb's expert direction. They enrich our lives whenever we hear them.

In April, the Junior Choir went on a road trip to Tillsonburg to sing at a worship service at St. Paul's United Church where Rev. Tom was minister before coming to Wesley-Knox. The children sang as a boys' choir, a girls' choir, and together as the Junior Choir. They never sounded better. The boys were strong and clear, the girls achieved two-part singing, and together, the boys and girls mastered the long lyrical lines and ringing high notes of the main junior choir anthem. They also prepared two descants for the hymns and sang them so thrillingly it sent chills up and down the spines of the congregation. A big thank you to Brian Ratcliffe, accompanist, and Joanna Rowe, flute, for

continued on page 8...

Christian Education

Summer is rapidly approaching. We hope you all have a good summer and we encourage you to begin it by coming to our Family Camp at Pearce Williams Christian Centre near Iona. Camp weekend is June 25-27. At camp, you may keep as busy or be as calm as you wish. Information and registration forms are now available from Jane Walker, Cindy Stewart or David Lumley. For those who have not been to camp before, please feel free to ask about camp. Pictures from previous camps are posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway.

Sunday School continues to be the place where our children enjoy their Sunday mornings. Karlene has been a fabulous Sunday School coordinator for the past three years. She has chosen to leave this position at the end of June and move ahead with other pursuits. We wish Karlene well. Please find time to join us as we extend our thanks for all the effort and creativity she has shared with our children.

The Swell came to Wesley-Knox

on Good Friday. This youth service continues to be held at Wesley-Knox every Good Friday and, usually, on the Monday just before Christmas. This event is led by the Morrison brothers of Grace United Church in Sarnia, and is promoted throughout London Conference. The message at this year's Swell has had a profound effect on the youth who attended. A Youth Forum recently held at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre attracted 138 young people of whom about 40

A shopping cart overflows with food during the Spring Food Drive.



registered because of the Swell experience at Wesley-Knox. This has also led to an interest among youth who want to represent us at this year's London Conference Annual Meeting. We are grateful to Wesley-Knox for continuing to support the Swell services that reach out to so many youth.

Friday movie nights are nearing the end of another season. This series continues to be popular with all ages. Movies are shown at 7:30 pm in the Centennial Parlour. Join us on May 28 for *The Sting* and on June 11 for *The Blind Side*. Both movies will be followed by dessert and decaf.—*David Lumley, member*

Mission and Service

This has been a busy spring for your Mission and Service Committee. Thanks to everyone for supporting Loonies for Lent. Over \$600 was raised. It has been sent to the United Church national office and will be used for reconstruction projects that M and S National funds with its partner agencies in Haiti. Along with the donation, our prayers go to the peo-

Sunday School Coordinator Position Available

We are sorry to report that Karlene Kimber is not renewing her contract as Wesley-Knox Sunday School coordinator, and therefore, we are actively seeking a replacement.

This paid position entails working 7-1/2 hours per week, setting up the program for the curriculum that we use, and scheduling teachers for our Sunday School classes and caregivers for our nursery. This position will be vacant starting in July, and although the summer months may be slow, we really would like to have a new person in place by that time.

Previous teaching experience would be helpful, but is not necessary. Some related experience, working with children and youth, would be beneficial.

I cannot express enough the need for us to have someone in place so that we can continue the wonderful program that Karlene has started, a program that continues to attract the large number of children who learn and grow in our Wesley-Knox Sunday School.

We want to thank Karlene and her family for all the care and concern that they have put in to help our children learn Christian stories and develop Christian values that are so important to their growth.

If you would like to apply for this position, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact Debbi Jarvis at 519.471.6727, or any other member of the Ministry and Personnel Committee.—*Debbi Jarvis, chair*

ple of Haiti as they try to rebuild their lives after such great devastation.

The Spring Food Drive wrapped up at the end of April. It was a success. Two shopping carts filled with food were taken to Mission Services. Many thanks to the congregation for its support during times that continue to be tough for so many.

April 25 was Environmental Sunday. The theme was "think globally, act locally". Glen Pearson took the pulpit and reminded us that the best motivation for actions that can benefit the earth is letting God speak to us through our own "calls of the wild". If we fill our hearts first, actions will take care of themselves.

In the environmental service, Emma Ratcliffe performed a wonderful rendition of My Own Two Hands. (Wonder from where she got her musical talent!) Also, of great amusement, was the choir masquerading as a garbage-bag band, accompanying the children's story.

Unfortunately we had to postpone our planned group neighbourhood cleanup because of rain. We will be picking up garbage next time we get together as a committee. In His service—*Jane Roy, co-chair*

Property

This year, the Property Committee has three new members: Tom Brown, Susan Smith and Andrew White. Anyone interested in joining this committee is more than welcome to do so at any time. You do not need to be an expert on anything, though it can help! We will soon have to decide on what to do with the wooden fence this year. Many of the boards are broken and rotten. For now it will be patched up. We still have a leak in the roof on the Teresa Street side. Until we find it, we can not plaster the interior walls. You may notice that some repairs are taking a bit

longer to get done than usual. Due to budget cut backs, it will take longer when we rely on volunteers to do the job. Thank you for ongoing support of the Capital Improvement Fund. Even though we do not have any special projects at this time, your support will help in case of an emergency due to weather, etc. —*Catherine Flood, chair*

United Church Women

Our UCW units have been very busy this spring. Unit 2 sold all of its Easter eggs, Unit 1 sold all of its turkey pies and Unit 4 sold all of its apple pies. Units have had a variety of activities this spring: a visit to the Food Bank for a couple of hours of work, bowling for fun and fellowship, and a wildlife presentation complete—with wildlife!

A UCW General Meeting was held on Sunday, May 2, with a light lunch hosted by Unit 4. At the meeting, UCW approved the purchase of a



"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, the rushing of a mighty wind..."—Acts 2:2

new refrigerator for the kitchen and requests for educational assistance.

The Harvest to Holiday Festival was discussed. Committees have been formed and almost all of them have coordinators. We are still looking for someone to take the lead on the Candy Cane Lane cakewalk, decorating, set up and take down, advertising, creating posters, and distribution of posters to areas around Wesley-Knox. Please contact Mary Anne van der Vooren or Kathleen Brennan if you can help with any of these committees.

Mary Anne spoke about her volunteer work at the 2010 Winter Olympics. There was a slide presentation, an Olympic Torch, a couple of uniforms and lots of photographs.

The Women's Retreat held on March 23–24 was a great success. We are looking forward to doing this again next year. All we need are a couple of ladies to plan the weekend. Linda Wilcox and Cindy Stewart will be happy to help.

A Community Friendship Tea was held on April 29 in the Centennial Parlour. Twenty people came to enjoy a singsong with Richard Yake, readings by Wilnah Bennett, and delicious homemade pies donated by the units. This wonderful event gives seniors who might not be able to get out to church a chance to come and enjoy a nice afternoon with other seniors.

Summer is approaching. The units will be finishing up their meetings in June and taking a much-deserved break for the summer.

Re meetings, Unit 1 meets at 7 pm on the first Monday of each month, Unit 2 at 1:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month, and Unit 4 at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact UCW president Mary Anne van de Vooren at 519.690.2284.—*Mary Anne van de Vooren, UCW president*

Volunteers and Finances: Inseparable Partners in Stewardship...

Stewardship is about continuing the legacy of faith. By using our resources of time and money, we ensure that the work that was started by Jesus and the disciples continues. Our support of ministries that were created for us will foster new dreams that will address the realities of the world today and tomorrow. Our Christian communities have been extravagantly blessed with resources. This allows us to make decisions about programming and ministry based on faith, integrity and vision rather than economic necessity. We are supporting a legacy that is a testimony to our faiths and beliefs.

A legacy speaks not about how we died but how we lived. It speaks about the things that move us in life, the things that matter to us. **A legacy is an expression of gratitude and thanks to God** for all that has been given and enjoyed in life. It declares that we are stewards of all that we have. As the time line of history continues to move forward, through stewardship we have the opportunity to continue to nurture and support the growth of our Christian community.

This spring we have been examining our stewardship of volunteerism. Each of us has been blessed and given a gift. If God asked you, "What have you done with the gift I gave you?" how would you answer?

Join us on June 13 for a special Stewardship Sunday when we will celebrate the volunteer work that is offered by all members of our congregation.—*Kari-Lynn McFadden, member, Stewardship Committee*

Worship

Blessings to all on behalf of our Worship Committee. The past few months have been both busy and enlightening. It amazes me how much there is to do.

First, I would like to thank all members of the committee for generously giving their time and dedication to ensure that worship services at Wesley-Knox are thought-provoking, spiritual and enjoyable.

As we finish the Easter season, let us take a moment to reflect on the inspiring services we have had the pleasure to experience. Holy Week proved to be most enjoyable with our Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper and communion in the Social Hall. Good Friday service this year was held at Calvary United Church with Wesley-Knox hosting. This service draws together the congregations of Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian, White Oaks United, Calvary United and, of course, Wesley-Knox. What a magnificent way to spend the day and enter the spirit of the season, in fellowship with members of our neighbouring churches.

Also on Good Friday, we had the joyous pleasure to host the Swell in

A Tribute to Deral Johnson

On March 24, Deral Johnson, former director of music at Wesley-Knox, died in Flagstaff, Arizona where he had lived for the past 15 years. Deral is survived by his wife, Marie, his son Merrill and family of New Orleans, Louisiana, and his daughter Gail Salameh and family of Anthem, Arizona. Deral and Marie's daughter, Marsha of Omaha, Nebraska, died in 1999.

The Johnson family arrived in London in 1969 when Deral joined the Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario. He soon established Western as a leading centre for excellence in choral music. At the same time, Deral and Marie became music leaders at Wesley-Knox: director of music and organist respectively. Each year, during the twenty years they were here, students from the university joined our church choir, creating a wonderful musical experience for the students, the rest of the choir and the congregation.

Deral's greatest legacy was his insistence on high standards which he achieved with sternness, fun, and enthusiasm. Marie mentioned that, "He inspired students by requiring a lot of them and he gave them the means to accomplish what he expected..." Yet, in a church choir setting, he never belittled the lack of formal training of anyone who wanted to share in the great experience of singing with others. One of his students who was a member of the Wesley-Knox Senior Choir at the time, Darryl Edwards, is now a member of the UWO Faculty of Music. "What a debt of gratitude we owe this man who shared all he had at our Faculty to raise the choral standard at Western to one of sheer excellence in Canada!"

We at Wesley-Knox who had the privilege of working and singing with Deral Johnson share that same feeling of deep gratitude.—*Neil Eadie*



our building. It is tremendous to see youth coming together from as far away as Algoma, Windsor, and Sarnia. If you have not been to this event in the past, I highly recommend it. The entire sanctuary was alive with the electricity of praise music and worship. It is great to see that the Spirit is alive and well in the hearts and minds of our United Church youth. Its organizers and volunteers do not begin to receive the appreciation they deserve for involvement in this ministry. We must remember that our youth are the leaders of our church in the future.

Our traditional sunrise service was held in our sanctuary on Easter morning. This is an event to attend. To see the sun rise and illuminate our sanctuary through the magnificence of our stained-glass windows is truly amazing. A heartfelt thanks to the Community Breakfast crew who fed those who attended.

As always, our Easter Service was well attended and truly, we celebrated the return of our Saviour and Lord. It is always a moving experience to see the children dressed in their finest attire and hopped up on sugar for Children's Time!

If you have a question, comment or concern about worship in our church, please let us know. We are always open to ideas that will improve our worship experience. The Spirit of Christ is alive and well in this congregation. I look forward to greeting you in our regular worship and to sharing the blessing of our families with those of yours. Yours in the faith—*Chris Mortlock, chair*

Winter Lecture Series Report

This was a new initiative for Wesley-Knox. When we began we had three objectives in mind: We wanted to stimulate thinking, both within our congregation and without.

We wanted to help Wesley-Knox become known as a teaching church. Financially, we wanted to break even!

One question that was often asked before the series was, "How many do you expect will come to each lecture?" Given our modest marketing plan, we guessed between 50 and 85. As it turned out, the actual numbers were right in the middle: 65, 60, 69 and 64 for an average of 65. For most evenings, about half were from Wesley-Knox, the remainder from other churches or from no church at all. At the last lecture, many members of the Unitarian Fellowship of London came to hear their minister speak..



Rev. Dr. David Galston speaking at the Wesley-Knox Winter Lecture Series. David is Ecumenical Chaplain at Brock University, St. Catharines, a Jesus scholar, a member of the Jesus Seminar, and minister of Eternal Spring United Church in Hamilton. His topic: The Comedy and Tragedy of Jesus.

Did the series stimulate thinking? We think so. Before **Raheel and Sohail Raza** spoke, few of us realized there are liberal Muslims who actively seek interfaith dialogue and think of Christians as fellow travellers. Before **Bruce Tallman** spoke, few of us realized that there are stages of spiritual development that have been recognized by great thinkers throughout

the ages. Before **David Galston** spoke, few of us knew about the relationships between the synoptic gospels and what the earliest materials in those gospels tell us about Jesus. And before **Felicia Urbanski** spoke, few of us knew about the Unitarian tradition or that London Unitarians might want to become our friends. (One member of the London Unitarian Fellowship suggested that Wesley-Knox and the Fellowship should try to work on a common project. Perhaps we should.)

Finally, we did meet our financial objective. Our costs, which included speakers' honorariums, some travel allowances, a couple of meals and a custodial fee totalled exactly \$1000. The offering plate brought in \$1025. There was even a bit left over!

What about next year? Many participants were particularly interested in what David Galston had to say about Jesus. David is offering a four-session course on Jesus in Hamilton this fall. He might be persuaded to also present it here. Several people at Riverside United Church are particularly interested in having this happen. More later.—*Harry MacLean, chair, Adult Education Subcommittee*

Wonderful World of Handbells

Clapper Chatter, the spring newsletter issue of Ontario Ringers arrived today. Wow! I can honestly say that handbells are alive and well in every part of Ontario. And two of Ontario's finest solo ringers, Susan Carscadden-Mifsud and Heather Keith (both have played at our church) have been invited to teach as well as perform at upcoming American handbell festivals. If you would like to read this newsletter, visit <http://www.ogehr.ca/ClapperChatterMay2010.pdf>. There you will find

continued on page 8...

Wesley-Knox Photo Album

Thanks to John McFall and others for the photos...

Overheard in hushed tones at our recent Garage Sale: "This is a really active congregation..." Now why did they say that?



On Palm Sunday, the largest confirmation class in recent memory (18 young people) joined the church.



The Good Friday Swell attracted some 400 young people, to Wesley-Knox, many from outside London.



A new sound helped us celebrate Easter! Karen Pincombe joins the brass on our new (to us) timpani!



On April 9, the Senior Choir sang at the Haiti Benefit Concert in the former Empress United Church.



April 17: Carving the turkeys for the Senior Choir's 16th Annual Turkey Dinner. Over 200 enjoyed this meal.



On April 29, 20 of our senior members met in the Centennial Parlour for a Community Friendship Tea.



The Wesley-Knox Junior Choir at St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg (Rev. Tom's former church).



Our youth choir—now named Mysterium—at Frome and Bethany United churches (Southwold Pastoral Charge) where our own Laurie O'Leary serves as minister. Yes, special T-shirts are in the works!



Handbells continued from page 6...

interesting articles about new publications, handbell techniques, handbells on television, recordings and even handbell cruises!

The Wesley-Knox Ringers have finished for the season, but will be ready to start up again in the first week of September. Currently there are 19 ringers in the group, enough for two smaller choirs. How exciting! Perhaps we can recruit three or four more to make that two full choirs of 11. That would be an awesome accomplishment! Criteria include a basic awareness of note values, being able to focus intensively, having a desire to

improve weekly, and being able to commit to the group on a steady basis. The group is open to all, grade 7 and older as of September 2010. Please contact Cathie Banks at 519.471.2351 if you think you have what it takes!

Our 2010–2011 group is planning to attend the Good Vibrations Handbell Festival in Hamilton on May 26–28, 2011, where they will make beautiful music with 500 other ringers from all across Ontario. Watch for our fundraising activities throughout the year, as well as updates on our musical growth. Happy ringing!
—Cathie Banks, handbell coordinator

Director of Music continued from page 2...

helping to make the morning complete. After church, a lunch for 67 at the Tillsonburg Swiss Chalet capped the morning and the year.

A huge thank you to Mary Bee Haworth, my administrative assistant, for coordinating all the arrangements for this event which went flawlessly!

Last Sunday it was Mysterium's turn to share its talent with other congregations. After singing two Sundays at Wesley-Knox and performing a half-hour show at Grand Wood Park, they were ready for the big event—singing in both churches that form Laurie O'Leary's two-point charge: Frome United in Frome and Bethany United in Shedden. Starting at 9:45 and 11:15 am respectively, the group sang all four of their anthems by memory and without direction as I was behind them playing the piano. (The three young women in Mysterium sang two descants as well.) They were confident, strong and inspiring, and won the hearts of both congregations. The young children at Frome were especially fascinated by these big kids in black! A fine lunch provided for us by Bethany was the crown on a great year of developing this exciting ensemble. They reached a high standard and I look forward to taking them even higher next fall. There is no limit for this group!

Lastly, I would like to thank the Senior Choir for its gift of a splendid set of four timpani to add richness to our worship and hymn-singing. With the talent of percussionist Karen Pincombe, it is my hope that these drums will further open our hearts and minds to the magnificent messages of God and Jesus as we travel on our faith journeys together.—Karen Schuessler, director of music

The River Concert

Wesley-Knox is proud to be the home venue of the Karen Schuessler Singers. Its next concert, River, will be narrated by **Don Fleckser** and feature the world premiere of two KSS-commissioned works by London-area composer **Jeff Smallman** plus songs by singer-songwriters **Roxanne Andreggetti** and W-K's own **Kevin White**. There will also be an art show and displays on the Thames in the gym and social hall. Advance tickets: \$18, seniors \$15 from choir members or at Tuckey Home Hardware, \$20 and \$17 at the door.



Did you know that Wesley Wheels offers door-to-door transportation to our Sunday church services? For full information, contact Ronalee Porter, 519.686.2693.

Deadline for submitting materials for the next KSC is Sunday, September 12. Send materials to Harry MacLean, macve3gro@rogers.com or leave them in the Communications Committee mailbox. Thanks!

