



# The Wesley-Knox Kindred Spirit Connection

Moving in the Spirit...

Easter - Spring 2018

From Rev. Tracy



Easter blessings to you! I pray that in this season of resurrection and transformation, you are discovering the ways that God is working in your life. The Easter Season is a time in our church year when we intentionally seek to live as those for whom the promise of new life can be found in how

we live each day, and in the ways in which we engage in relationships.

I recently read two simple words that created an image in my mind of what Easter can mean: "Living Expectantly". Each day we live with expectations of ourselves, of others, of what the day might bring, how the traffic will flow, at what time the sun will set. Some expectations are based on our needs, others on our wants. Many might be grounded in hopes. When we live expectantly we are anticipating that there is something more, something still to come.

Ours is a God that sees our expectations and often turns them upside down. Rather than meeting what we expect, God goes far beyond anything we can imagine. God brings new life, new hope, and new possibilities. All we need to do is witness the signs of spring that will soon emerge, to know

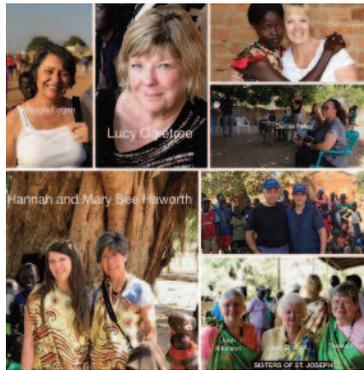
that God is moving in ways that are far beyond anything we can create or control.

The Gospel of John we have been reading through in worship teaches us that our God is a God of abundant grace, a God who meets us in the person of Jesus and reaches out to offer healing and hope.

On that first Easter morning, when Mary went to the tomb, any expectations she might have had were more than turned upside down. She was met with the Risen Christ! For Mary and for centuries of followers that came after her, that Risen Christ has been a constant message that God can come into the dark places in our lives and transform our expectations into a promise that there is more.

When we live expectantly, we live with the anticipation that God is still working in our world. We look for signs of God's presence and seek the face of Christ in those we meet. When we live expectantly, we live trusting that God will surprise us so that, like Mary, we can declare "I have seen the Lord!".

During this Season of Easter I pray that you will encounter the Risen Christ in your life and that you will experience God's love and grace in new ways.—*Rev. Tracy Crick Butler*



They may be half a world apart, but the needs are the same and, to both, the Spirit says, "Go there." Left: The Gordhim, South Sudan, music camp that attracted over 400 children. Centre: The 2018 CASS team that travelled to Gordhim and worked there for twelve days. Wesley-Knox members included Glen Pearson, Jane Roy, Maggie Logan, Mary Bee Haworth and Hannah Haworth. Right: Not just medical care. COMMIT workers visit a small village in Nicaragua. Read the stories of both mission trips on pages 4 and 5 of this KSC.—*Glen Pearson and David Knoppert photos*



## Your Editor is Retiring! —

I have enjoyed editing and assembling the Kindred Spirit Connection for the past 12 years, but the time has come to step aside and spend a bit more time on home, garden and my Amateur Radio hobby. Pentecost will be my final issue. Thanks to all for your faithful support. We'll be around!—*Harry MacLean*

## Cultivating Community —

New life can be seen as the new Wesley-Knox Leadership Council begins its work. There is a learning curve for all involved. However the commitment and insight of this group is already evident. As a way of moving into the future and helping the congregation to focus on common goals, the Leadership Council is inviting Wesley-Knox to focus on "Cultivating Community".

Together we will explore what this means for us, both inside and outside the doors of Wesley-Knox.

What does it mean to be in a community with and for one another?

How do we cultivate faithful community in all aspects of our ministry?

What does it mean to cultivate community as we offer programs for people of all ages?

How might we change our thinking about what it means to be good stewards of our resources as we cultivate community?

Can we cultivate community in ways that continue to ensure that we are inclusive, welcoming and diverse?

You are invited to explore how you can be a part of cultivating community, at Wesley-Knox and in your own life. Plan to be a part of this endeavor. Imagine what might grow out of it!

—*Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler*

## From our Music Director



Happy Spring! There are so many exciting things happening in the musical life of Wesley-Knox in this wonderful Easter season. On Wednesday, April 11, at 11 am–3:30 pm, the Kiwanis Festival Organ Classes will take place in our sanctuary. Stratford's Ian Sadler will be the adjudicator. Come out, enjoy the music, and support our Wesley-Knox organists!

Road Trip! On Sunday, April 15, The Junior Choir (both boys and girls) will travel to Tillsonburg to provide the music for morning worship at St. Paul's United Church. The choir will sing four anthems. Brian Ratcliffe will accompany and I will play the organ. It is always a blessing to share the richness of our church with others, and it will be an exciting morning for the choirs!

At 8 pm on Saturday, April 21, one day before Earth Day, the Karen Schuessler Singers will offer a very special performance of *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*. This performance will bring together KSS, our senior choir, our Mysterium youth choir, Denise Pelley, Paul Grambo, Stephen Holowitz and band, plus New Celebration Dance. This is a special benefit concert for Wesley-Knox to say "Thank you!" for 25 years of support. Tickets are \$25 for adults and seniors, \$10 for students and children. They're available online at [www.kssingers.com](http://www.kssingers.com) and at Tuckey Home Hardware. They're already selling fast, so be sure to get yours soon!

Saturday, April 28, is this year's date for the Senior Choir's famous Turkey Dinner! Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 10 and under. Get your tickets early as this delicious event is often a sellout. The Senior Choir uses the proceeds from this dinner (plus proceeds from the annual Christmas concert) to further many good works around and for our wonderful church and community!

On Sunday, April 29, our worship will feature the Primary and Junior Choirs in their last Singing Sunday of the year. A Family Camp Barbecue will follow this service. It promises to be a lovely morning of beautiful children's voices and lunch! After this, for the Primary and Junior choirs, rehearsals will stop until September. Mysterium will continue rehearsals because they have performances later this spring. Still moving in the Spirit!—*Karen Schuessler, Director of Music*

## Pastoral Care and Membership



We work behind the scenes in a quiet, confidential, and dedicated manner to offer emotional support and spiritual care to community members who may be confined to their homes recovering from surgery, dealing with health concerns,

managing loss or grief, receiving palliative support for themselves or their families, or trying to deal with other life struggles.

For help with your pastoral care concerns, please contact Lisa Morris, Pastoral Care and Membership Coordinator, by confidential telephone at 519.673.4803 x 204, or by e-mail at [wesleyknoxpastoralcare@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyknoxpastoralcare@gmail.com).

Thanks to all who have submitted updated contact information and emergency contact forms.

Others, please send this information as soon as possible. Together, we're moving In The Spirit!—*Lisa Morris, Pastoral Care and Membership Coordinator*



## Children and Youth Ministry



Hello everyone! I would like to introduce myself! My name is **Kim Stark** and I am the new Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Wesley-Knox. First a little bit about me. (Disclaimer: I am not very good at tooting my own horn!) I have a background in education and theatre and my passions include puppetry, playwriting, animation and almost anything creative! I have written and directed several plays for Christmas in the Village and one play for the 2016 London Fringe Festival. I have designed and built puppets for Catholic Central High School's production of *Into the Woods* and the London Waldorf School's production of *A Face Like Glass*. I am the former principal of Sitting Tree School and my fabric sculpted creatures (called Uzzles) have been featured in scavenger-hunt games at both Christmas and Halloween in the Village.

Now, for the good stuff! There are so many fantastic things happening in the Sunday School at Wesley-Knox, I can hardly breathe for the excitement! In the JK–Grade 5 group, we are using a custom-designed curriculum that focuses on stories and characters in the Bible. The stories are told in miniature using handmade characters and props. Each week our story is followed by a time of wondering and creative reflection that encourages the children to internalize the story and make it a part of their personal story. These creative reflections, called “an invitation to play”, are based on a Reggio Emilia approach to education. Activities are open-ended and the children produce beautiful, meaningful responses to the stories we cover. I try to post pictures of these responses as often as I can on Facebook so you can see what we are up to.

This year we have had three Singing Sundays where members of the Children's Community Choir program are invited to join us in the Sunday School. On each of these Sundays, we have combined JK–grade 8 to create large scale collaborative art pieces using a variety of different media. Paint, string art, collage—you name it, we've used it! These large-scale (and I say beautiful) art pieces will be on display at our **April 15 Art Show** to be held in the Social Hall and Gym immediately following the service. I encourage everyone to come and see what we have been doing in the Sunday School!

We are also hard at work on our **Palm Sunday Fair** to be held in the Social Hall and gym immediately after service on March 25. Pick up your Palm Sunday Passports and try all of the cool activities: scavenger hunts, collaborative art, resurrection gardens and maybe even a Peeps Diorama Contest! It should be a really fun way to begin exploring the Easter story as a community.

Last but not least, on Friday, May 4 (May the 4th be with you...), we will have our first **All-Ages Activity Night!** This will be a game design night. Working in teams, we'll practice the principles of design by creating and testing a variety of cooperative board games. Snacks will be available and it promises to be a fun night. Please mark it on your calendars and consider bringing a friend.

Finally, it is my pleasure to be a part of such a vibrant faith community. Thank you for having me.—*Kim Stark, Director of Children and Youth Ministry*

## Resources and Renewal Committee

The new Resources and Renewal Committee held its inaugural meeting on March 5. This committee replaces the former Finance, Property, Property Use, Stewardship and Archives committees. While this first meeting involved determining how to streamline process and decision-making, the possibilities of the new structure were obvious. We even made our first major decision! Wesley-Knox will take advantage of a 100% rebate program sponsored by Hydro One to replace CFL bulbs as they burn out with more efficient LED bulbs.

An ad hoc committee was formed to investigate the cost of improving the audio system in the sanctuary. In a poll of the congregation asking what they would most like to see done with funds raised by our Growth Campaign, a majority identified improving the audio system. The existing system dates from 1991-92 and many of the audio issues we encounter (dead zones, feedback, poor sound coverage) are a direct result of the age of our system plus that it was designed before we upgraded the chancel. As part of the Request for Proposal, we are asking for the costs to be shown in phases and with various options. In addition to upgrading the speakers, digital processor, sound board, microphones (both wired and wireless) as well as increasing the number of inputs available, we have also requested pricing for:

- hearing assist in the Sanctuary,
- upgraded audio in the Parlour,
- upgraded audio in the Social Hall, and
- cost of adding video to the Sanctuary.

Two vendors have now met the committee and spent time examining our existing system. Once their proposals are received, they will be submitted to the Leadership Council to determine next steps.

Earlier in the year, Al Pauli advised that he would be stepping down from his role as Envelope Secretary. We are so appreciative of his commitment and hard work over the past few years. Al, thank you for a job well done. We are extremely lucky to have Rob Reid stepping into this role.

Finally, we still need people interested in helping with the Stewardship Campaign this fall. This is not a heavy time commitment and we don't do one-on-one visits. Rather, we try to find exciting ways to keep everyone informed about the impact their donations have on our ability to create a better Wesley-Knox community. If you are creative and looking for a way to become involved, please consider bringing your skills to this wonderful team. Talk to Shawn Spicer, Donna Goldhawk or Sheila LeClair.—*Sheila LeClair, chair*

## 2018 January Mission to Gordhim, South Sudan

---

*Wesley-Knox's Glen Pearson, executive director of Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan, is also co-director of the London Food Bank and the former Liberal MP for London North Centre. This article, here with minor editing, first appeared in the London Free Press.*

In January, ten remarkable women from Southwestern Ontario journeyed to one of the most devastated nations on earth. They went to the African country of South Sudan as part of a team from Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan (CASS) of which I am executive director. I went with the team to assess the impact of our development programs as South Sudan experiences civil war on top of a range of development issues. Our 12-day journey caused all of us to commit ourselves once again to being there for these formidable people and especially to provide education to young female leaders.

As the team moved out into the region, the results were encouraging. People came out of their homes and villages, determined to tell their stories and show us their accomplishments. There was no military conflict in the area where we travelled, but every day the South Sudanese struggle against political dysfunction, an 800 per cent inflation rate, little access to proper health care and a lack of schooling.

Their greatest tool against such challenges is collaboration. The five women's groups we support joined with other groups from the distant highlands and expanded their micro-enterprises. They pulled their meagre resources together to provide clean water for their children. And they used their collective voice to speak out against the intransigence of their government.

It was a remarkable team visiting at a remarkable time. Yet, it is the people of South Sudan who are truly remarkable. They aren't just surviving but growing and coming together to build communities. For the Canadian team it was a revelation. Here is what some of the team members said:

- Maggie Logan, Wesley-Knox: This was my second visit to the region. Music and art camp each morning was a highlight for me. This year, a few children volunteered to lead the group and teach us songs. Over 500 children together singing and clapping, with joy in their hearts. You could see it, you could feel it. Pure magic.

- Teresa Ryan, Sisters of St. Joseph: The statue of Mary close by protecting the people of South Sudan with the faithful love of a mother always mindful of the needs of her children stayed with me during these days and shaped within me a deep respect for a people who have endured so much and yet prevail.

- Joan Atkinson, Sisters of St. Joseph: Since our return from South Sudan, I find that my memory takes me back to a conversation with a group of South Sudanese women, ages 14–19. They were describing what school was like and why they were applying for scholarships to continue. They were intelligent women who wanted to go on to train as professionals: teachers, lawyers and nurses. They wanted to contribute their skills to this young developing country.

**4** However, they expressed fear that school could easily

elude them because of lack of money. They inspired me.

- Joan Driscoll, Sisters of St. Joseph: I was struck by the tremendous power of presence as a catalyst for hope. I was received with endless expressions of gratitude simply because I came to be with them. Our presence there seemed to unleash a spirit of joy and celebration that I found almost overwhelming. As an elder who experiences gradual loss of active skills, I am challenged to realize more clearly the power of presence to the less fortunate in our society and act on that awareness.

- Denise Pelley: This was my eleventh trip here and it was just as heart-fulfilling as my first one. When you spend your days with people who look like they have nothing—little or no food or water, torn clothing, no shoes, no easy access to medicine, no money to go to school, no employment—what you can see is the overwhelming abundance of love they have. I will forever be in awe of their strength.

- Lucy Ogletree: In 2007 Denise and I started an art-music camp with 40 children attending. The drawings the kids created were horrific with disturbing images of war. They showed me heart-wrenching drawings of things they had actually witnessed. Some of these children were as young as six. The music-art camp in South Sudan is in its 11th year. Now, their drawings reflect daily life—images of their homes, animals, soccer—the way they see their world now. I do believe a handful of Canadians can make a difference in others' lives. The South Sudanese certainly have made a positive difference in mine!

- Carol Campbell: I've been journeying with CASS to South Sudan from the very first trip in 1999. Despite so many hopes being dashed in that troubled land, I was delighted to see again that these people we see every year are overcoming every obstacle, speaking out for their rights, seeking to build schools, micro-enterprises, and better health for their children. The women are especially amazing. I have returned with new hope in my heart.

- Mary Bee Haworth, Wesley-Knox: I witnessed scarcity and abundance intertwined. I saw a level of need and want so vast and complicated I could barely take it in, yet I did not experience a hopeless people. I saw small children caring tenderly for crying, hungry babies. I listened to the fervent plea of young people desperate for education. I saw strength, community, faith, resilience, and an inspiring capacity to welcome and celebrate. All this felt sacred.

- Hannah Haworth, 14 years old, Wesley-Knox: After this, I will never be the same. It made me really stop and think. In South Sudan, no matter how hard things get, they still try. The girls are still asking for education and striving to make sure they get the best life they can. That will always inspire me.—Glen Pearson

# Canadian Outreach Medical Team Mission to Nicaragua

---

*David and Diane Knoppert recently became members of Wesley-Knox. Both are strongly committed to furthering social justice. David, a retired hospital pharmacist and member of COMMIT, filed this report.*

Dates of this year's Canadian Outreach Medical Team (COMMIT) trip to Nicaragua, Central America, were January 18 to February 3. Our team was diverse—18 members from a wide variety of backgrounds. There were two physicians, two nurses, three retired nurses, two pharmacists, a pharmacy technician, an aspiring psychologist, an agronomist (specialist in crop production), a carpenter, a landscape architect, a teacher, and two members with music backgrounds. We were aided by the staff of notorious Pequeños Hermano, (NPH), literally "Our Little Brothers"), a home and school for several hundred mostly orphaned children with a wonderful group of local translators. We stayed at NPH and we worked long days, often under difficult circumstances. Everyone worked together as a team with each member's role being equally important.

While we were there, we offered five medical clinics and four dental clinics in five remote communities. Reaching those communities often took more than an hour and one-half of driving in hilly country, on trails that sometimes went through dried-up river beds. Clients were screened for high blood pressure and diabetes. We discovered several new diabetics at our clinics. A number of them required foot care in addition to nutrition advice and medication. All of our clients were given a public health talk on clean water and dental care, plus soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, sunglasses and a hat. About 200 were given reading glasses. We saw over 900 people and dispensed over 2,000 prescriptions. Hearing aids were left at a local hospital for the hearing impaired to be used as needed.

In addition to the medical clinics, we were involved in several other activities during our second week. Our two previously drilled wells were assessed and repairs ordered. A third well area was explored and will be drilled in the village of La Flor once the necessary requirements are fulfilled. Our sewing program was assessed in three communities. Five new sewing machines were added, along with sewing supplies.

We purchased curriculum-related books for two schools along with a number of library books in both English and

Spanish, some musical instruments, a keyboard, a number of toys, and sports equipment including fifty soccer balls. A variety of games were also left in the schools for the children to use. Fifteen reconditioned computers, each loaded with over 1500 e-books in Spanish and a complete Wikipedia, were left in community schools and at NPH. New printers were placed in the two community schools. Local people were trained to teach computer basics.

We found that our beehive operation, which we started two years ago, was thriving on Omiteppe Island with nine active hives. Our carpenter made eight additional hives and 80 frames to expand that operation. We also purchased a smoker and 100 wax sheets for the frames. We are looking into buying a centrifuge to aid in harvesting honey. We also renovated and painted the inside of one casa (a children's home at NPH) and provided the casa with shelving, hooks, bedding, pillows and furniture. We are purchasing decent mops and pails to clean each of the 16 NPH casás. (Prior practice was wringing out the mops by hand). Several young boys, using machetes, helped us build a one-hole golf course at NPH.

Back in October, we packed and shipped a 40-foot container which arrived about three weeks before the full team arrived in January. Inside were some 4000 kg of dehydrated food, a pallet of layettes, three bicycles, four electric hospital beds, several wheelchairs, walkers and canes, and hospital supplies. Donated firefighting equipment was also in the container and given to the local bomberos (firefighters) for their use and protection. The food was distributed to schools offering feeding programs in the areas we worked.

Overall, it was a great mission trip by a wonderful group of dedicated team members who worked very hard to make it a success. It was a true team effort. A 2019 COMMIT trip is already being planned. For anyone who might be interested in becoming involved, please contact me at 519.668.4063.—David Knoppert

## Announcing Wesley-Knox Summer Daycamps!

---

**Adventure Camp!** Wesley-Knox will offer an Adventure Camp (formerly VBS) for kids entering grades 1–6 on the week of July 9–13. Fees for this full-day camp will be \$85 per child, \$65 for each additional sibling and \$35 for extended care. Camp directed by Kim Stark, Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Theme to be announced in April!

**Creative Summer Daycamps!** Wesley-Knox will also offer four weeks of creative arts daycamps. • **Animation Station!** July 16–20. Move over, Pixar! Principles of animation from hand-drawn to digital. • **Puppet Palooza!** July 23–27. Ever wondered how muppets are made? A whole week of puppet design and building! • **Arts Alive!** July 30–August 3. Explore sculpture, painting, pointillism, sketching, creative collage and mixed media. Bring favourite stories, old and new, to life! • **Tinker Camp!** August 13–17. Design, sculpt, mold and cast your own resin toys and toy mods. Engineer and build giant cardboard structures. Play with circuits and lights. Build robots and more! Cost per camp: \$130 before May 5, \$150 after that (sibling discount available), extended care \$35. Full details and registration forms at [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com).



It's our 24th (Wow!) Annual Old-Fashioned

# TURKEY DINNER!

6 pm, Saturday, April 28  
Wesley-Knox United Church Social Hall  
91 Askin Street, London

Adults \$20 • Children 12 and under \$10

- Only 200 places! A sellout in past years!
- A real homecooked dinner with all the trimmings, just like at Christmas or Thanksgiving, but without all the fuss!
- Special entertainment after dinner!
- Hosted by the W-K Senior Choir in support of church projects!
- Tickets available at Tuckey Home Hardware, from members of the choir, or through the church office, 673-4803!
- Avoid disappointment! Order your tickets today!



## Easter - Spring 2018 Calendar

### Special Services...

Sunday, March 25  
10:30 am  
Palm Sunday | Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, March 29  
6 pm  
Potluck Supper | Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 30  
10:30 am  
South London Service at Calvary United Church  
7 pm  
Swell Youth Service at Wesley-Knox

Easter Sunday, April 1  
7:30 am  
Sunrise in the Sanctuary  
10:30 am  
We celebrate Resurrection!

Sunday, April 22  
10:30 am  
Environmental Sunday

Sunday, May 6  
10:30 am  
Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, June 3  
10:30 am  
Annual Youth Service

### Special Events...

Challenge of Paul Study  
Sundays to the end of April  
3-4:30 pm

Friday Movie Nights  
Friday, April 6, April 20, May 11,  
June 1, 7:30 pm. Titles TBA

London Kiwanis Music  
Festival Organ Classes  
Wednesday, April 11  
11 am-3:30 pm

KSS Missa Gaia/Earth Mass  
Benefit Concert for Wesley-Knox  
Saturday, April 21, 8 pm

Senior Choir 24th Annual  
Turkey Dinner  
Saturday, April 28, 6 pm

Family Camp Barbecue  
Sunday, April 29 after church

All Ages Activity Night  
Friday, May 4, 6-9 pm

Community Breakfasts  
Saturday, April 14 and May 12,  
8:45-10:30 am

Out-of-the-Cold Dinners  
Sunday, March 25 and April 22  
5-7 pm

25th Anniversary Season  
The wolf, whale and loon return...

KAREN SCHUESSLER SINGERS

# MISSA GAIA

EARTH MASS • A CELEBRATION OF CREATOR AND CREATION  
A Benefit Concert for Wesley-Knox United Church

THE KAREN SCHUESSLER SINGERS • DENISE PELLEY  
PAUL GRAMBO • THE MISSA GAIA JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
NEW CELEBRATION DANCE

**SATURDAY APRIL 21 8 PM**

Wesley-Knox United Church | 91 Askin Street, London

Tickets \$25 adults and seniors, \$10 students and children  
at Attic Books, Lambeth Art Gallery, Long & McQuade  
North, Tuckey Home Hardware, by phone at 519.455.8895  
and online at [www.kssingers.com](http://www.kssingers.com)

ACLUFA AQUILA MEXICA  
Concert Sponsor

### Wesley-Knox Welcomes Nine New Members!

On Sunday, February 11, Wesley-Knox welcomed Diane and David Knoppert, Jan Cline and Mike Melville, Sandy Bell-Cameron, Susan Clarke, Joey Lawson, Bettyanne Pajot and Susan Fischer into our community of faith. When you see them, please take time to introduce yourself and help them feel part of our church family.—*Debbi Jarvis*

At the February Pancake Supper, Wesley-Knox Men and Friends raised over \$850 to support the Community Breakfast Program. Well done!—*Neil Eadie*

### Food Handler Certificate Workshop

Saturday April 14, 9am-4:30 pm To obtain your certificate you must commit to the whole day, complete the test, and achieve a minimum grade of 70%. Please note that, if you are a group or individual who cooks in a Wesley-Knox kitchen, City of London By-laws state that one Certified Food Handler must supervise. Their Food Handler Certificate must be stored in the kitchen and available for inspection by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Cost of the workshop is \$20 per person, payable at the church office. For more information please contact Heather Westbrook at 519.673.4803 x 200.