

Fall 2015

Knox United Church - Middle Stewiacke United

Brookfield Pastoral Charge

Message from the Minister ...

To my sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to all people in the name of Jesus, the great lover of our potential and the illumination of God's Way for us!

After one full year serving Brookfield-Middle Stewiacke, I am starting to settle in. The whole Gale family loves it here and we are grateful for the opportunity to journey together.

Fall is my favourite season – I love the fresh harvest vegetables, the air's crisp coolness in the mornings and evenings, and the way the whole of Creation seems to sing of God's grace. Perhaps my favourite part of fall is how things pick up at church and we restart another year of moving together through the church seasons. I look forward to vibrant Sunday worship, to the joy of youth group, to new ideas, new outreach opportunities, and new faces around the church. Let's make this fall a time of joyous thanksgiving and liberating praise!

There are so many ways that everyone can work together to build up our church's worship and mission life. First is prayer: please include the church and its leadership in your prayers at all time, that we might all live into the Gospel of peace and love. Remember prayers for the children, for our Sunday Schools, and for the youth ministries of the church so that the seeds being planted might blossom and be strengthened. Another important way that you can help the church is to talk about what's going on in the church out in the community or on social media. Share your thoughts with friends and family if you enjoyed an anthem or if a sermon challenged you. Some people who don't come to church think it's a scary and boring place – if we let people know that our churches are engaging and welcoming, they will be more likely to courageously come for a visit. Of course, the best way to help us be the Body of Christ in this community is to get involved! We need your creative ideas and your helping hands to do the work that is set out before us.

This year, explore the opportunities to share in the life-giving ministries of our churches. The children's choirs are always a source of great joy – and this year there will be children's choirs at both Knox and Middle Stewiacke! Consider joining in Bible Study to explore the many layers of the Scriptures. Watch for developing new worship ideas and innovations as we keep growing together in the Spirit. Our exploration of the mystery of God's love is made more fulfilling by our sharing it with one another.

I am very happy to report that Truro Presbytery voted to allocate funds to sponsor a refugee family as soon as possible. Given the tumultuous state of many places in the world, the Presbytery has encouraged churches like ours to also work toward our own support of refugee families. We are reminded of John the Baptist's urging that those who have plenty should share with those who have need (Luke 3:11). My hope is that we can work together to develop this idea and share Canada's abundant resources with those whose lives have been decimated by the horrors of warfare.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with us and all people this fall as we enjoy the awesome splendor of this beautiful part of the world!

In faith,
Rev. Keith

Call/text 902-957-4242
Email keith.gale@gmail.com



Mark your calendar . . .

September 26 - Breakfast and Yard Sale (7:00 am - 1:00 pm)
 September 29 - Official Board (7:30 pm)
 October 7 - Explorers Group
 October 8 - Presbytery Meeting and Supper (Book display before 5:00 pm)
 October 24 - Turkey Supper (4:30 - 6:30 pm)
 October 31 - Halloween - Drop in time to pick up treats. Sponsored by the Youth Group (5:30 - 8:00 pm)
 November 7 - Fall Sale and Luncheon (11:30 am - 1:00 pm)
 November 8 - Celebration and Memorial Hymn Sing
 November 11 - Remembrance Day Lunch
 November 14 - Maritime Youth Event at Knox United (10:00 am - 9:00 pm)
 November 27 & 28 - Christmas House Tours

Other events . . .

“All You Can Eat” Breakfast (Adults \$ 7.00 Under 12 yrs. Free) & Giant Yard Sale & Pantry Table at Knox Church on Sat., Sept. 26 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by Knox Church Council. Rain or Shine. If you have any items for the Yard Sale and would like them picked up please call Russell at [902-673-3448](tel:902-673-3448) or Art at [902-673-2561](tel:902-673-2561). Come and support Knox Church.



PAINTBALL: The Youth Group will be heading to SNL Paintball on Sunday, September 27. This event is open to everyone grade 7 and up. BBQ hot dogs for supper. Meet at Knox Brookfield at 3:30pm. Whatever you can pay (suggested cost: \$20).

HALLOWEEN: The Youth Group is hosting a community candy hand-out location Saturday, October 31 at the Knox Brookfield Hall from 5:30-8:00pm. People who live outside of the busy trick-or-treat areas are invited to come to Knox to hand out candy to trick-or-treaters going through Brookfield and to see their costumes.



FALL LUNCHEON & SALE: Sat., Nov. 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Knox Church Hall. Menu - Chicken a la King/ Dessert/ Tea/Coffee for \$ 8.00; Hot Dog/Cupcake/Drink for \$ 2.50. Also enjoy our Bake Table/Preserve Cupboard/China Cupboard/Craft Shop/ Cookie Table/Silent Auction/Jewelry Box/Sweet Shop. Sponsored by Brookfield Pastoral Charge United Church Women. Come and support us.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOURS: Advance notice: please mark your calendars for the 2015 Christmas House Tours, November 27 & 28. If you would like to add your house to the list, please call Judy Matheson at 673-2427 or any member of Unit 3.



Knox Survey Results . . .

(A copy of this report was distributed as an insert in the June 28th bulletin at Knox)

KNOX UNITED CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS 2015

Earlier this year, a team of dedicated volunteers led by the Pastoral Care Committee distributed a sheet of questions to help me better understand who you are and where you hope to go.

I was very impressed by the responses – over sixty question sheets were returned. You may have noticed some action has already been taken. Other future planning has been initiated because of your valued input. A common theme is how much you value and love Knox United. You called Knox: God's human presence in community, an extended family, a place for support, comfort, spiritual guidance, renewal, nourishment, growth, fellowship, meaning, tradition, safety, rest, grounding, self-connection, a building open to anyone, the centre of the community. The questions confirmed that you want Knox to be a place to learn and understand Jesus' message and what it means to our everyday lives, and that ultimately the Church is *the people*. Some of the areas of concern that we have already addressed because of your responses: we have removed the "Passing of the Peace," held a Lenten Bible study, installed a white board to improve communications and to make it easier to volunteer for tasks, increased youth participation in worship and have invited youth representatives to serve on church committees, and improved communication regarding collection plates for special services and for PAR.

Some areas of focus for the fall include: increasing outreach both locally and globally, assessing the possibility of opening a thrift store / help centre / food bank in the church, making the sanctuary more welcoming to children and young families, increasing youth participation in worship, improving seating comfort, increasing variety of worship and group gatherings outside of Sunday mornings, becoming more welcoming and inclusive, assessing the possibilities for the future of the back lot (including looking at seniors' housing, a community garden, a labyrinth, a paved parking lot), increasing cooperation with the Baptist church, providing regular financial reports, making better use of technology (including retracting the screen when not in use), continuing the work with the youth group, and improving ministry and visitation to seniors. We heard that you are passionate about and appreciative of our worship music, with many suggestions that were not always in agreement (some asked for more old favourites, while others expressed enjoying the current balance).

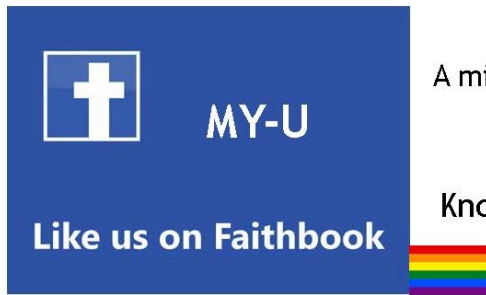
There are many ways that your responses have helped, but one of the many things we learned is that we need to be more creative about including new people in volunteer efforts. Some said they would like to help, but don't know how or haven't been asked. We will need your continued patience as we learn how to be more open and inviting – we want to make it easy and rewarding to volunteer at Knox. You are Christ's Body – you are the hands and feet of God in this place!

I was particularly impressed by how good you feel about Knox – the positive feedback was overwhelming, and the vast majority of the responses were very optimistic and complimentary. You are open to change, appreciative of the many dedicated volunteers, and you are happy to see increased youth involvement. Let's live out new stories at Knox United as we live into God's vision of goodness, generosity, hope and love here on earth!

Thanks to God for your continued dedication to the Gospel,

Rev. Keith Gale





Maritime Youth United: A ministry of Knox United Church

Faithbook: The Social Network
10am-9pm November 14, 2015
Knox United Church, Brookfield, NS

What is MY-U?

MY-U (Maritime Youth United) is a ministry of Knox United Church in Brookfield, Nova Scotia organized by youth for youth. It is a one-day event for youth in grades 7-12 who want more opportunities to be networked with other Maritime youth.

The day will be filled with FUN and ACTIVE events which will help youth explore their faith and relationship networks. Along with enjoying an energizing music team and other large group events, youth will have the opportunity to discuss relevant topics and engage in network-building activities in smaller groups with people your own age led by a team of excellent volunteers from around the Maritimes. We are excited to welcome special guest **Chris Pullenayegem**, Animator of New Ministry Development who will be joining us for this event from the United Church General Council!

There is a cost of only **\$20** to all accepted participants. Included in this cost is a t-shirt, lunch, supper, snacks and all supplies. This is possible by the generous support of Truro Presbytery, Maritime Conference, Knox United Church, Middle Stewiacke United Church and other United Church groups.

There is a maximum enrolment of **100** youth and we are looking for volunteers including up to **16** adult facilitators. Applications will be accepted until **October 19th** - talk to Rev. Keith or email myunitedchurch@gmail.com for more details!

Help us spread the word far and wide about this exciting event!

Event Directors:

Rev. Keith Gale, phone/text 902-957-4242, email keith.gale@gmail.com
Rev. Krista Anderson, phone 902-798-3578, email scpreve@eastlink.ca

Middle Stewiacke News . . .

The Middle Stewiacke Music Ministry is expanding again! There will be a Children's Choir Practice every Sunday morning at 10:00am. We will be practicing songs to sing on the last Sunday of each month. We hope to see more children to either come and sing or play an instrument. The Middle Stewiacke Youth Band (James O'Connell, Beth O'Connell, Kayla Kennedy, Christine O'Connell) has welcomed a new member, Isabella Johnson. The Youth Band continues to learn new songs and have been invited to play at several events around the community. The next event planned is at the Upper Stewiacke Museum on September 30th at 7:30pm.

As always, we encourage new members to join the Senior Choir, Youth Band or Children's choir. All are welcome to sing or to bring an instrument!

Looking forward to another year of good music!

