

Brookfield Pastoral Charge

Knox United Church ~ Middle Stewiacke United

Message from the Minister . . .

To my sisters and brothers in Christ,

Blessings to you from our Lord Jesus, the one who gives everything so that we can be free to find our life and meaning!

My family will cherish the memories of our first Christmas with Brookfield – Middle Stewiacke. The beauty of the season was abundant in the decorations and the many faces that shared in our journey to Bethlehem to meet the newborn Lord.

Of course, the Christmas we celebrated is really all about Easter! As we enter into the contemplative time of Lent, you will notice the worship services will change in tone. I encourage you to enrich your life by committing to a Lenten spiritual practice. I suggest reading the Bible every day, taking extra time to pray, and making an increased effort to go out and be in your community. Of course, worship is an important part of Lent – I look forward to journeying with you toward and through Holy Week where we will be invited to open ourselves to the amazing grace of God. For the fullest experience, join in the services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday – and of course EASTER SUNDAY!

The youth group has begun their first major fundraising campaign by entering a team in The Coldest Night of the Year Walk. They have set a goal of \$1000 to support the Truro Homeless Outreach Society. Support this excellent cause by participating in the fundraisers they are organizing, or sponsoring one of the youth.

I am getting excited about Maritime Conference this year, especially since I am the worship and music co-ordinator for Intermediates at Conference. I would like to thank Christine O'Connell for serving as the youth representative on the worship planning team! Intermediates (grades 7-9) and Youth Forum (grade 10-age 19) are always a highlight of the year – these youth programs run parallel to the annual meeting of Maritime Conference, where approximately 750 adults and 250 youth will gather in Sackville, New Brunswick to help shape the future of our United Church. My hope is that we will send at least 10 youth to Conference this year.

I have felt very welcome in the homes of those I have visited, and it has been wonderful meeting people and getting to know more about the stories of your joys and challenges. There are still many who I have yet to meet – if you would like a visit, don't hesitate to let me know and we will schedule a time.

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 Lent and into the eternity Easter promises!

In faith,
Rev. Keith

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



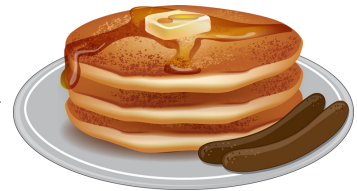
Coming soon. . .

Winter

Saturday February 14, 7:30 p.m.—Valentine's Extravaganza in Knox Church Hall. Entertainment by Cherry Lane (featuring Lorraine & Tim Ross & Joanne & Mark Hamilton) with guests Sarah Matheson-Bates and Keith Gale. All You Can Eat Dessert, Silent Auction, Door Prizes and More. Tickets: \$ 20.00. Advance Tickets Only. For Tickets call Dorene at 902-673-3229. Come and support our Church Council. If you have an item for the silent auction (goods and talents gratefully accepted) call Dorene at 902-673-3229; if you have a special dessert you would like to donate call Lynn at 902-673-2328.



Tuesday, February 17, 4:30-7:00—Pancake and Sausage Supper in Knox Church Hall.
Adults: \$ 8.00; Children 12 & Under: \$ 4.00. For Take-out call 902-673-3363 after 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by Knox Church Council.



Thanks to the knitters and those who supplied yarn.

Knox Knitters donated lovely warm knitted Christmas items for the Brunswick Street Mission in Halifax.

Thirty-nine pairs of mittens, thirteen hats, twelve pairs of socks and eleven scarves were delivered the week before Christmas. A very welcome help for the Mission work.

The need continues during the winter months, there is still lots of yarn available. If anyone wants to keep or start knitting, please pick up yarn in the entries of the church.

Thanks to all who participated!

Knox United Share a Chair Project

The "Share A Chair Project", was celebrated on Sunday, January 25th. To date 63 chairs have been sold and \$585.00 raised for the church.

Erin Jamieson was the winner as her chair was chosen, the chair was given by Erin In Honour of her Granddad, Rev. Ranald Cameron of PEI.

Many will remember Rev. Ranald from his time of ministry here at Knox.

Thanks to everyone who bought chairs already! The next after church fellowship time will be February 22nd when another winner will be chosen. There are still more than 100 chairs available, fill in a form (in the entry) or talk to Kaye Retson if you are interested. Adults chairs are \$10 and students \$5.



Advanced planning . . .

Wednesday, February 4 - Soup Luncheon, 11:30 am
 Sunday, February 8 - Youth Group Concert, 7:00 pm
 Friday, February 13 - Movie Night, Double Feature, 6:00 pm
 Saturday, February 14 - Valentine Extravaganza, 7:30 pm
 Tuesday, February 17 - Pancake Supper, 4:30 pm
 Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday Service, 8:30 pm
 Tuesday, February 24 - Annual Congregation Meeting, 7:30 pm

 Tuesday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Coffee Party, 10:00 am

 Wednesday, April 8 - Soup Luncheon

 Sunday, May 3 - Eastern Star Service, 7:00 pm
 Monday, May 25 - UCW General Meeting

Upcoming Services

Lenten Services

February 18, Ash Wednesday service at Knox United Church - 8:30 p.m.
 April 2, Maundy Thursday service at Knox United Church - 7:00 p.m.
 April 3, Good Friday service at Middle Stewiacke United Church - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

Sunrise service in Middle Stewiacke at Brown's Hill - Time TBA
 Easter Service at Knox United Church - 9:45 a.m.
 Easter Service at Middle Stewiacke United Church - 11:15 a.m.

Worship Services at Elk Court

Rev. Keith is leading worship services at Elk Court at 2 p.m. on February 8, March 8 and on Easter Sunday, April 5. You are welcome to attend. Your presence at these services is a chance to show your support for the residents.

At Middle Stewiacke . . .

Annual Valentine Luncheon- Saturday, February 14th at noon at Middle Stewiacke United Church. A Potluck lunch with fancy desserts. Tickets are \$10, call Linda Geddes to reserve tickets at 671-2314. Sponsored by Units 8 & 9.



Rutherford Taylor Forbes Memorial Scholarship— The Rutherford-Taylor-Forbes Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student from the Stewiacke Valley area entering a post-secondary educational institution (College/University). Selection criteria include the student's character, involvement in church activity, financial need and scholastic ability. Given similar or equal qualifications of candidates, preference will be given to applicants entering a humanitarian field. This scholarship is administered by Middle Stewiacke United Church in consultation with the Rutherford-Taylor-Forbes families. Application forms are available from Student Services or Charlie Crouse 673-2196 and must be returned by May 1st.

Easter Bake Sale- Saturday, April 4th at O'Connell's Family Farm. Come get all your Easter favorites for your family get together. There will be fresh baked rolls, bread, hot cross buns, pies, cookies, cupcakes and doughnuts! If there is something special you are looking for please call Shelley O'Connell (671-2148) ahead of time to place an order. This is a fundraiser to support an exchange trip between 10 members of the Stewiacke Valley/ Brookfield 4-H Clubs and The Anola Northern Lights 4-H Multi-club of Manitoba taking place in July & August.



