

# Brookfield Pastoral Charge

Knox United Church ~ Middle Stewiacke United

Summer 2016

## Message from the Minister . . .

To all who strive for a life of faith, hope and love,

I hope that unexpected blessings surprise you on your journey through this spring-summer season. My prayer is that our eyes are opened so we can celebrate the wonder of Creation renewed – that we rejoice with the abundant growth of what was planted in the chill of spring, and that our participation in the Source of goodness causes spontaneous dancing, laughter and song. We are called to be a people of the Good News!

Easter has come. Eternity continues to be written to the tune of life and love. We have tasted the bitterness of death, it has not had the final word. Christ is alive, and the Spirit, the great Friend revealing God's way to us, is active all around us. What a wondrous time to be the Church!

So many awesome Spirit-filled things have happened in our churches over the past few months. I am extraordinarily grateful for the many hard-working hands and generous hearts who have been a part of being Christ's Body in the Brookfield-Middle Stewiacke area. I give joyous thanks for those who have come to worship and for those who have volunteered their talents, bringing together prayers and passions for God's glory. Let's continue to work at living out the radical welcome of Christ. As we move into the season of Pentecost, let's let the Spirit lead us on the continuing adventures of a life of faith.

As the beauty of the summer arrives and we make time to reconnect with family and nature, be aware of God's revelation all around. Pentecost is about the stirring of the Spirit in our hearts and throughout all things. May grace and generosity be in all your relationships. Embody the Gospel through both your playfulness and your reverence. Life is meant to be enjoyed and contemplated and shared. Build up your community by keeping an open mind and an open heart so that the winds of Wisdom can come and go, and so you might find your place among the vast cosmos as a part of the divine love that transcends space and time.

I am excited to know that our churches have chosen to worship together over the summer months – do not miss the opportunity to be in community and to share in the common work that Christ has inspired in the Brookfield-Middle Stewiacke area. If you are away over the summer, I encourage you to visit other churches and to bring back notes of the things others do well. Note the experience of being a visitor so that we might learn how to be more welcoming to the visitors among us. Bring back a bulletin with some written notes to the office so we can continue to learn and grow.

Be inspired in this season of Pentecost – may the spark of faith in us be given the fuel of opportunities to be in community and to participate in the good work of spreading grace, hope and love. The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with us and all people this Pentecost as the Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love comes to life among and within us!

In faith,  
Rev. Keith

Call/text 902-957- 4242; email [keith.gale@gmail.com](mailto:keith.gale@gmail.com)

## Summer Services . . .

Summer Church Services - The Brookfield Pastoral Charge will be holding combined services again this summer. Services at Knox and Middle Stewiacke will be held at 10 a.m. Check the "Coming Home to Brookfield" flyer for service times on July 17 and 24. All are invited to attend worship at the locations listed.

July 3 - Knox

July 10 - Middle Stewiacke

July 17 - Shortt's Lake

July 24 - Carter Homestead

July 31 - Middle Stewiacke

August 7 - Knox

August 14 - Middle Stewiacke

August 21 - Knox

August 28 - Middle Stewiacke



## Knox Sunday School Closing . . . Sunday, June 12

### Greetings from the Ladies of Unit 7, Knox United Church Women

*A Bakeless Bake Sale is on its way, in these busy days who can bake  
pies or cookies or even cake?*

*You'd be surprised if you counted the cost of material, heat and the time you have lost.*

*Baking for sales is extra work, yet nobody really wishes to shirk.*

*So we have thought of a plan that really sounds grand,  
and feel sure you will understand. In an envelope please put the price  
of some pies or cake or something nice.*

*Without fuss or bother you have done your part;  
we are sure you will give with a willing heart.*

*This is the end of our little tale;  
wishing success for our Bakeless Bake Sale!*

**Thank you for your support!**

On behalf of Knox United Church Council



Please note: Please make cheques payable to Knox United Church; place cheques or money in an envelope and address the envelope to Bakeless Bake Sale, Knox United Church, P. O. Box 83, Brookfield, N. S., BON 1C0 or place the envelope in the offering plate before or after church service. Please record your full name, telephone number and church envelope number (if applicable) in the envelope. Receipts will be issued for donations of \$ 10.00 or more. Deadline for donations is June 30, 2016.

## Affirming Pastoral Charge . . .

The Official Board of the Brookfield-Middle Stewiacke Pastoral Charge has voted that we begin the process to become an Affirming pastoral charge!

What does it mean to be an Affirming ministry? In the last two years, both Truro Presbytery and Maritime Conference have become an Affirming ministries. For both of these bodies, it was a multi-year process that stirred up excellent conversation and generated some controversy, but in the end was celebrated and passed with a large majority. Here is a selection from the Affirming Statement published on the Maritime Conference website: as an Affirming ministry, they “celebrate the blessings of, and support one another in the challenges of, our diverse life experiences, including but not limited to: sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, life experience, different abilities, ethnicity, race, generational culture, age, geographic location, economic circumstances, and others we have yet to discern... [and] will equally welcome all people as children of God and offer them the complete range of opportunities to fully be part of and participate in the life and work of the church, continually seeking to identify and dismantle barriers that hinder the participation and inclusion of marginalized groups and individuals. Listening actively and attentively, we will strive to live into understanding one another, treating any with whom we disagree with love and respect.”

Within Truro Presbytery, there are two Affirming pastoral charges: St. Andrews (Truro) and Hilden-Old Barns. Affirm was born from the marginalization of the LGBT community, but its reach has gone far beyond. Affirm has helped many churches become aware of the barriers which prevent full participation of a wide variety of people. The process of becoming Affirming is not a commitment to overcome all challenges, but rather a commitment to work at becoming more inclusive, more accommodating, and more inviting. Affirm is one way that many churches are living out the radical welcome of Christ.

In order to begin this process, we are looking for people from both congregations to serve on an Affirming Committee that will report to the Official Board. Evelyn Negus has agreed to serve as Chair of the Affirming Committee. This committee will help our congregations explore what it might mean for us to commit to being an Affirming ministry, to identify the challenges and the opportunities, and to facilitate an open discussion going forward. If you're interested, contact Evelyn or Rev. Keith.



## Thank you . . .

I would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who donated school supplies, a ukulele, or money to go towards new ukuleles, strings and tuners for my community service trip to Costa Rica. All the donated supplies went to the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center. They were so grateful for everything. The instruments will be shared from school to school making sure they are well used!

Beth O'Connell



## **Middle Stewiacke Sunday School closing - June 5**

June 5th will be the last day for Sunday School and The Little Children's Choir. They will be taking a break for the summer and start up again in September.

On that day, there will be a lunch following the service. (Contact Shelley O'Connell 671-2148 if you wish to contribute to the meal).

A surprise dessert will be provided by the SUNDAY SCHOOL.

## **Other upcoming events . . .**

### **Saturday, May 28th**

**Rhubarb Tea & Plant Sale—Knox Church—9—11 am—Items to create your own fairy garden will be available to purchase.**

**A Supper and Fashion Show will be held at Knox Church Hall beginning at 6:00 pm.**

**Both men and women's fashions from Etcetera, Inglis Place, will be shown by local models. Tickets are \$20.00 from Terry Fox committee members or by calling 673-2427.**

### **Saturday, June 4th**

**Annual Book and Bake Sale will take place at Knox Church from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Donations of books and/or food can be left at the church Friday evening or call for pick-up at 673-2800. Proceeds for Terry Fox.**

**Khrysalis Concert—Knox Church—8 pm**

### **Saturday, June 11th**

**"Back by Popular Demand" a Concert by Dale Fisher, Sarah Matheson and Friends at SCA starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets in advance or at the door are \$10.00. Cookies, Fudge and Water will be for sale.**

## **Brookfield Stewiacke Valley Refugee Family—Project Hope**

Progress has slowed considerably since February 29 when the government reduced the immigration workers dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis. The main family is travel ready but because their eldest son turned 19, could not be included with their application. He has now completed the medical and is in the process of obtaining the security clearance. Understandably the family will not leave their son behind.

There have been some positive developments with the other two families we are assisting in reuniting with their families here. Both the Al Awar and Saoud families have had their medicals and await security clearance. Hopefully the announcement of additional workers will expedite the arrival of all.

Thanks to Bill Casey's office for helping obtain information.