

Fall 2010



Brookfield Pastoral Charge

Knox United Church ~ Middle Stewiacke United Church

Brookfield Pastoral Charge

Message from the Minister . .

My Friends,

I bring you greetings from my heart to yours. I look back over the last thirty years and what we have done as a worshipping family and as people active in the ministry of Jesus Christ. I cannot list all of the fun times and serious times and challenging times that we have spent together. One thing I have noticed at Knox is that there have been alterations to our church life. There are not the numbers for energy in youth programming. The U.C.W. is not as it was twenty years ago. We cannot go back to those great years we spent together because a new generation of God's children will be doing the ministry that most of us have been a part of for years.

Because we cannot go back and Jesus never wants us to stay still in ministry, we are looking into the future of ministry here at Knox. The reason Jesus sent his spirit to be amongst us was to keep us moving forward in ministry. In an attempt to keep the message fresh and focused, I personally am moved to look at how we do our work here and why. Because I want to be fresh for the message in the pulpit, I am trying to find ways to enhance the message for you. I want to use the ways that are available to us to be the most meaningful, whether that be with our children, in worship, in our decision making. To use the talent that is available to us to spread the message, to use the open hearts to expand and be open for the spirit to move, to use the technology to make our time together inclusive and open and vibrant is what I would like to do.

It is my prayer that those of us who give leadership will be open to different ways of being, different ways to worship, different ways to involve more in decision making and grow in focus in our relationship to God and to each other. If you have comments about some of the areas we are moving, please ask me at any time. It is always with you that I want to do ministry. It is not fun or meaningful to do things without you. May we continue to grow as we experience life together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Larry



Dates to Remember . . . At Knox

November 11 - Remembrance Day Lunch
November 20 - UCW Christmas Luncheon and Sale
November 26 & 27 - Christmas House Tours
December 9 - Blood Donor Clinic (5 - 8 pm)
December 19 - Food Bank Concert (Tentative Date)

Church Services at Knox

November 7 – 9:45 am - Remembrance Day Service at Knox
November 14 – 9:45 am - Regular Service with communion
November 21 – 9:45 am **Family Service** (no Sunday School – children are invited to stay with their parents – however there will be activities downstairs planned for the pre-school or other children that want to go downstairs.

Theme - Festival of Songs

Continental Breakfast for everyone at 9 am

November 28 – 9:45 am First Sunday of Advent
December 5 – 9:45 am Second Sunday of Advent
December 12 – 9:45 am Family Service - 'White Gift'

There will be no Sunday School as this service will involve all of the Sunday School.

December 19 – Christmas Sunday – 9: 45 am
December 24 – 6:30 pm – Family Service
December 24 – 10pm – Candlelight Service
December 26 – 10 am - Joint Service - Middle Stewiacke



Welcome . . .

We have noticed a large number of folks joining us for worship this fall for the first time. Your fresh ideas and new energy are sincerely welcomed and we hope you will find the fellowship of Knox United meets your expectations. If you have any questions, about any aspect of Knox Church please contact Krista McMullin at 673-2285 or email us at Brookfieldpc@eastlink.ca.

Youth and Adult Activities at Knox

Sunday School - 9:45 am (ages 3 - 18) Nursery Room available
TeenBits - Wednesday's at 6:30 pm Grades 7 - 12. (all teens welcome)
Youth Choir - Thursday at 6:30 pm
Senior Choir - Thursday at 8 p.m.
United Church Women Groups

Watch for more youth and adult groups in the new year.

From the Chair of Council . . .

Over the last number of years the congregation through consultation and workshops has told us clearly that we need to make changes. We know that Knox United is very much a community church with a church presence in most activities in the community. There was some feeling that we did not want to be complacent as there was still room for improvement. While most recognized that the church would have a strong presence within the community, most felt that we would have to find alternate ways of contributing to the life of the church both financially and through personal commitment. Many were also concerned that current demographics and family life of the congregation would have an impact on the organization and life of the church. It was noted that our clergy's ministry is very much focused in the community and we are very thankful/appreciative for that.

Over the last few months numerous informal discussions were taking place regarding our declining Sunday School and Worship Service attendance and what we were going to do about it. Simultaneously, at various Council Meetings, we have been discussing the need to make some changes in areas other than our church governance. We have had some recent Council meetings where we did not have a quorum making it very difficult to do the business of the church. The 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting authorized Council to restructure if deemed necessary and in June 2010 the Council Executive approved the formation and Terms of Reference of a Transition Committee to plan and implement important changes. The Transition Committee works very closely with Larry on a regular basis. Changes have been made to both the Worship and Praise and Christian Development Divisions as these are areas about which we had received the most input particularly regarding attendance.

Many felt that the governance structure may have to change to meet the needs of the congregation with the bulk of the work to be done by short term committees or task groups. It was also suggested that instead of committees that we try more of a 'team' approach. It is quite possible that a significant amount of the church communication will be electronic. The proposed changes are a positive move forward for our church and Council is embracing this change.

One of the changes that we have made is that Council only meets twice a year down from four times a year. This is on a trial basis so we can see if more work can be completed at the committee level. This decision also puts more onus on the Executive to make decisions in between the Council Meetings. We also realize we need to improve our lines of communication and we are currently working on getting better at that. If anyone has any questions that would like answered, please do not hesitate to ask myself or members of the Executive.

Because it is impossible for congregations to be all things to all people, it becomes every congregation's mission to find its particular place within God's plan so that it knows to what it is being called. How can we meet the needs of our church family? How can we be the best we can be and do God's work? These are some of the questions that Council and the Transition Team are asking themselves regularly.

Krista McMullin



Mission, Outreach & Communication

The delivery of recordings of the weekly church services in Brookfield is resuming and we would like to know if there is anyone who would like to receive a copy. If so, please call Jocelyn at 673-2951.

The recording of the services is currently done on a CD. In order to ensure that this is done every week we are hoping to increase the number of volunteers trained to do this. If you have an interest in this please contact Jocelyn.

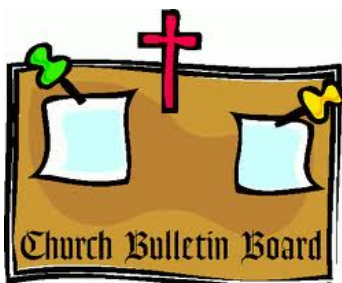
As the last quarter of the year approaches our committee hopes you will carry in your thoughts the valuable work done by the Mission & Service Fund and continue to give generously to this fund.

The Food Bank continues to need donations and you can do this on the second Sunday of each month by bringing in your donations to church.

Community Calendars

Orders are now being taken for the **March 2011-February 2012 Community Calendars**—Cost is \$10.00—if you are interested in purchasing a calendar please contact Shirley Comeau—673-2756.

Bulletin Boards in the Church



One of the responsibilities of The Mission Division is the Bulletin Boards in the Church. Angela Reid has kindly agreed to look after these 5 Bulletin Boards. She will keep the Bulletin Boards organized and remove out of date material.

Each bulletin board will have it's own purpose: The two in the Church Hall will be divided between Mission & Environment and Community Events. There are three bulletin boards in the Front of the Church at the bottom of the stairs. They will be divided as follows: Presbytery Information, Knox Church, and KAIROS.

It is hoped that people looking for information will find this easier once they understand where each spot will be. We are asking those persons who have posters/information for the Bulletin Boards to please add it to the appropriate Bulletin Board. The church doors will still be used to promote things like suppers etc.

Recycling Reminder . . .

Knox United will now recycle your old ink jet cartridges and batteries for you.

You can find the Recycling Containers on the big table in the Front Church Entryway.

We have already saved 39 ink jet cartridges and 187 batteries from going to the dump.



Middle Stewiacke . . . Important Dates

Remembrance Service—On November 7, 2010, following the regular church service, a service of remembrance and laying of wreaths will take place at the cenotaph. Soup and fellowship will follow in the church hall.

Christmas Decorating—On November 27, 2010, at 7:00 pm the Fellowship group will meet to decorate the church for the Christmas season. All are welcome. Please bring something for a shared lunch.



'Angel' Christmas Tree—The Christmas tree in the church basement is in need of new ornaments. It has been decided to make it an 'Angel' tree. Anyone who wishes to make a contribution towards the 'Angel' collection may place their ornaments in the basket now in the entryway of the church (until November 21).

Christmas Eve Service—December 24, 2010 at 8:00 pm

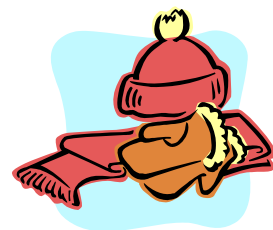
Sunday School

As we start another year at Middle Stewiacke Sunday school, we have 21 children attending Sunday mornings during church time. Children range in age from 3–16. Jeanette Fisher (673-2401) leads age 3–grade 3 and Shelley O'Connell (671-2148) leads the grade 4–and up children. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact either one.

The Whole People of God curriculum is used which provides hands on activities and practical lessons/discussions relating biblical stories to everyday life. The older students often organize outreach projects that give them the chance to show living God's word, not just studying it. Children are welcome to attend anytime, whether on a consistent or occasional basis.

Upcoming Events:

Mitten Tree: warm winter items are collected at the church and donated to Christmas Index just before Christmas. Items such as mittens, scarves, slippers, socks, hats, even sweaters, blankets, and jackets either new or very gently used are accepted. The mitten tree will be in the church from November 14 to December 19.



Tree Lighting Service—December 4–7:00 pm—This is a Sunday School fundraiser started many years ago to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season as a community. Christmas tree light bulbs are sold for \$1.00 each and are lit in honour or in memory of a loved one. Once the tree is lit on the church's front lawn, a time of fellowship is held in the basement with refreshments and snacks. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

White Gift Service—December 5—This is the Sunday that gifts are brought to church for those less fortunate than us. The Sunday school students lead the service on this day.

At Middle Stewiacke . . .

At the age of 92, Leon Chandler Fisher, is a valuable member of the Middle Stewiacke United Church and of the community.

Born May 21, 1918, Leon was the sixth child to his parents Burton and Adella Fisher. He had 5 brothers, and 3 sisters. Educated in Birch Hill till the ninth grade, Leon left school to farm, which he did up until he retired. When Leon began farming, he shipped 3 cans of milk per day, and milked about 15 cows. He also worked at a sawmill, and in the woods a bit, but mostly farmed.

Leon married his wife, Gwendolyn (Moore), at the age of 23, and they had two children, Eric and Avis. They both dedicated many years to the Middle Stewiacke church. Leon was a member of Session for more than 52 years, and is now an honorary member, and he was Session Clerk for more than 40 years. He and Gwen also taught Sunday school, Leon teaching the teenage boys.

Gwen was a member of U.C.W., and a member of the choir for more than 50 years.

Leon was the 5th generation to live on the family farm, which was started in 1782, and is very proud of the fact that his family has lived here all that time, and the 7th and 8th generation are currently living on the farm as well.

An avid fiddler for many years, Leon holds many talents. Many know him as the neighborhood handyman, fixing anything from clocks, to mowers, to pumps and anything in between. Still more probably know him as a great story and joke teller, and a wonderful dancer.

Nowadays, Leon just likes to be known as Grampy, and playing a hand or two of cards with the grandchildren, or the occasional visitor. A well earned rest after many years of faithful service.

Leon pictured here on September 26, 1938 with his team of oxen, Duke and Diamond.
(Photo taken in front of what was Sadie Mesheau's home, now by Searle's Greenhouses. Photo by Sadie Mesheau)



Middle Stewiacke Junior Choir



We are pleased to have six children coming out each Thursday night for Junior Choir. We are learning some new songs and are very excited to display some new talent this year. We are also working with some instruments and are looking forward to November 14 when we will play them for you. If anyone else is interested in joining please call Trudi O'Connell at 671-1983.

Community Calendars

Middle Stewiacke is now taking orders for the March 2011-February 2012 Community Calendars (Birthday and Anniversaries listed). The cost of the calendars is \$10.00. If you have not been getting a calendar and would like to have one please call Mary 673-2496 or Cathy 671-2723.

Elevator Feasibility Committee—Middle Stewiacke

The Elevator Feasibility Committee, that was struck at the last general meeting in January to further investigate the possibility of making our church fully accessible, has put together a new proposal. We wish to invite all interested people of the congregation to attend our information session that is to be held at the church on November 14, 2010 directly after the worship service.

The committee which consists of Jerry Brenton, Linda Geddes, and Ada Higgins, believe that this proposal presents a complete picture of what we, as a congregation, can accomplish toward making those, who have difficulties getting into the church, feel welcome and needed in God's house of worship and fellowship. Hopefully, all will feel that this project is not only possible, but probably as well.

Check out the neighbouring churches and the easy access that has been provided to their sanctuary. It might be difficult to find a church that doesn't have either a ramp, or elevator or premises on the ground floor in the surrounding area. We don't want to be left behind in providing access, for those with motion disabilities, to our sanctuary, gathering place, and washroom facilities.

We'll see you at the General Meeting of the Middle Stewiacke United Church, at the above time and place, to listen to our proposal, ask your questions, and give your opinion. Voting on the updated proposal will take place on November 28 at the church, again, after the worship service.

**A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can
Sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.**



United Church of Canada Moderator Mardi Tindal

Town Hall Meetings: Responding with Hope to Climate and Ocean Change

Mardi Tindal, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, is embarking upon a cross-Canada journey to encourage meaningful dialogue on the topic of care for Creation.

The Spirit Express will bring town hall meetings to communities across the country to discuss the issues of ocean and climate change. She will be traveling by train to reduce the carbon cost of the journey and encourages others to use our Greening Sacred Spaces Carbon Calculator to investigate their carbon use, and to consider offsetting their carbon footprint through a donation to the GSS fund. This is just the first leg of the tour. More townhall meetings will be added for the spring.



Do you have a room that needs painting?

This summer I was involved in helping our son paint his entire house! As you know, I never miss a chance to try out a new environmental learning opportunity. So off to the computer I went to research environmental paints and came up with some great choices!

I discovered that there are now two recycle paint brands on the market. Ecocoat which Piercy's Hardware Stores sell and Boomerang which is sold at Kent's, Happy Harry's and Salvation Army Thrift Stores. I am sure you could find many other retail outlets on their web sites.

We used three different colors of Boomerang Paint and were delighted with the colors, the quality, the ease of application and the price. For half the price of regular paint you can help out the environment and your wallet!

Ecocoat is based in Calgary, Alberta, the company won an Alberta Emerald Award in 2006 for environmental excellence. It produces 100 percent recycled latex paint in 14 colors. You can learn more about this company by going to their website: <http://www.recyclepaint.com/ecocoat-paint> Or by watching their Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7hiXcySdQY>



Boomerang is a Quebec-based company that has been selling recycled paint for 12 years. When you take your paint to the Subway Recycle Center on Pictou Road, this is the place where it will end up.

Laurentide Inc., the manufacturer of Boomerang, makes its paint from the dribs and drabs left at the bottom of your paint cans. Not only is Boomerang a recycled product, but it is low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

These are solvents that make paint flow freely. They also emit pollutants that contribute to smog. Lower VOCs help reduce greenhouse gases, while recycling paint cuts down on the disposal of discarded paint, avoiding the need to bury or dump it. This, in turn, results in fewer chemicals leeching into the earth and water supply. You can learn more about this company by going to their website:

<http://www.boomerangpaint.com/> Or by watching their Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74YivR5cIEw>

If you are trying to get your fall off to a great environmental start:

Check out recycled paint options for your next painting project.

Check your basement for old unused paint and take it to the Recycle Center, someone can put your old paint to good use.

Myrna Matheson
Knox Environmental Rep



RRFB Nova Scotia's Mobius Environmental Award

This Spring our Church was nominated for "the Mobius Environmental Awards Best Community Based Project." It was a great achievement for our Church to be nominated. We did not win the award but I thought I would pass on a few of the nice things that were said about us in the Nomination Application:

"What makes this Church so special is the pride and care that the members take not just in their church, but also in the environment and community around them to ensure its preservation for generations to come."

"Knox United Church in Brookfield has exemplified all of the traits that one could look for in developing, managing and carrying through with a top notch waste diversion program through the motivation of all involved."

In June I was delighted to attend the Mobius Awards Event at Pier 21 and was so impressed with the achievements of the winners in the 10 different categories. **It made me extremely proud to be a Nova Scotian!**

Here are the highlights of two of the winners:

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR: [École Beau-Port, Arichat](#)

École Beau-Port in Arichat is an example of success based on early set-backs in waste diversion. In April 2009, a "thumbs-down" assessment of waste sorting prompted the school to drastically improve the way in which it was dealing with solid waste.



In partnership with the local Waste Reduction Educator, the cafeteria staff and custodians set up a comprehensive program to achieve full compliance. Proper sorting containers, with photographic sorting signs, were placed throughout the school including the cafeteria, the kitchen and even outside the school. Education sessions on the 3R's were held and a volunteer "Green Team" was formed to ensure that the proper recycling was taking place.

The results have been amazing: where once the school was producing 337.5 kg of waste per week; it now produces 46 kg per week. Through École Beau-Port's ongoing recycling education and "Green Team" program, there has been an 80% reduction in the amount of waste it produces on a weekly basis.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: [Wal-Mart Store, Bridgewater](#)

Employees started this journey by analyzing the waste produced, and then finding alternatives to land filling that material.

Through meticulous recovery methods, including unwrapping expired candy, the store has tripled its compost output over the past year. These efforts have paid off with a reduction of their solid waste from one compactor load per week down to one every four months going to the local landfill. In 2009 alone, they diverted more than 500,000 kgs of waste from the local landfill.

The Bridgewater Store is now considered 98% waste free and produced the least amount of waste of any Wal-Mart store in Canada. In fact, they are in the top five of stores in the global network. Now that's impressive.

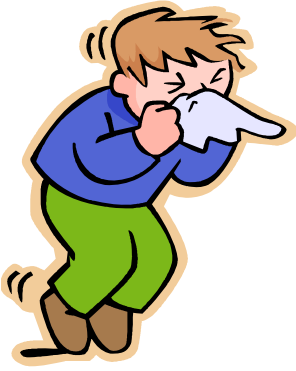
If you would like to see who the other winners were you can go to:

<http://www.rrfb.com/mobius/>

Myrna Matheson

Knox Environmental Rep

THE SNEEZE



They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would NOT pray during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened.

All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED !!!!

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU' and he walked off the stage...

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!!

This is a true story; it happened at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

