

FALL 2014

## Brookfield Pastoral Charge

KNOX UNITED — MIDDLE STEWACKE UNITED

### Message from the Minister . . .

To my sisters and brothers in Christ,

May the peace and the challenge of a spiritual life keep you always growing and glowing!

I am excited and honoured to be in ministry with you in this beautiful corner of God's creation. My family and I are finding life in Brookfield-Middle Stewiacke to be an awesome experience filled with promise. We are grateful to be living in your beautiful manse and we are looking forward to getting to know you and your hopes and vision for the church.

Although I am just getting started, I can see that we are going to have some great adventures as we embody the ministry of Jesus. One of my priorities this year is to support engaging youth programs to empower and challenge everyone to wrestle with the question of why we are alive. I encourage people of all ages to be honest with their doubts, name their fears, and open themselves to both the joy and pain of living. This is hard life-long work, but it is also refreshingly life-giving. I believe in a God that urges us to ultimately find purpose in our journey by fully embracing all the various highs and lows and even the boring middles we encounter on our way.

The best way to build our church is to realize that you are the face of Jesus to all, both to those who are an active part of our ministries and those who aren't. I challenge you to extend a passionate welcome to neighbours and friends and family to participate in our worship life. Invite people to come as they are, bringing their brokenness and their talents so that we might grow together. May our church be a place where all are welcomed with openness and authenticity.

The various creative ministries that are the heart of the church require your continued generous support. Currently we are facing large deficits, but I am certain that a time of renewal is upon us. Share in the joy of volunteering and financially supporting the church. Give generously and expect great things from your church community. The life and light that emanates from this place is only possible because of your faithful response to God's call.

This month as everything begins to move and build, I invite you to come and enjoy the musical gifts of Pete Woods and Brian Browne at Knox on September 25 at 7:30pm. This is a fundraiser for Knox, and the price of admission is \$12. If this cost is a barrier to your attendance please contact me and I will make sure you get tickets.

My great hope is that together we might follow the Christ who invites us to deep joy by travelling with each other in happiness and in suffering. I celebrate the ways that people disagree on the best way to follow God – I think we always learn more from listening to those who think differently than closing ourselves off with people who all feel the same way. Let's journey the rocky narrow path of faith together by sincerely wrestling with our own relationship with God, by meeting needs of those the world turns away, and by always erring on the side of radically generous unconditionally forgiving love. The love of God, grace of our Lord Jesus, and the fellowship of the Spirit go with you and all people now and always!

In faith,  
Rev. Keith  
Call/text 902-957-4242 Email [keith.gale@gmail.com](mailto:keith.gale@gmail.com)



## Get involved . . .



**Explorers will be starting up on Oct.1.** We meet WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:30 to 8PM at Knox church. Girls in grades 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to join and partake in many activities of fun, fellowship, worship and service. We take a small collection each week to help cover costs. For more info call Kristin at 986-3886

Starting Sunday, September 28 there will be a new weekly **senior youth group** from 7-9pm at Knox open to all people age 13 and over. We are seeking the donation of some comfortable quality furniture to equip a youth room, as well as any volunteer or financial support that you might offer this new ministry. If you would like to help out, let Rev. Keith know!

### Knox Choirs

Do you enjoy singing? Choir practice is just getting started for the fall season and we love to welcome new members. If you've been thinking about joining us, no musical training is necessary, and there's a place for everyone. Senior Choir is held on Thursdays at 8 p.m. (except for September 25 when we'll be enjoying the Pete Woods/Brian Browne concert).

Cherub Choir meets after the service on most Sundays. Kids aged three and up are encouraged to join us for some fun making music! This fall we're starting on September 21.

For more information on either choir, leave Joanne a message at the church office in Brookfield at (902) 673-3363, or find her at home (902) 673-2227.

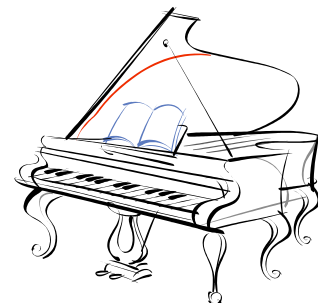
We hope to sing with you soon!



# Upcoming events . . .

## Concert

**Thursday, September 25, 7:30 p.m.** - Accomplished Canadian jazz musicians, Peter Woods (saxophone) and Brian Browne (piano), will present a Jazz Concert of Sacred Music at Knox United Church as part of their Maritime tour. Browne, "one of the leading jazz pianists in Canada...and a national musical treasure" is also known as the pianist on Anne Murray's first two studio albums. Woods is a United Church minister with recording credits in jazz, blues and rock 'n' roll. Admission is \$12. For tickets please call [902-673-3229](tel:902-673-3229); tickets will also be available at the door. Come and enjoy this great evening of music sponsored by Knox Church Council.

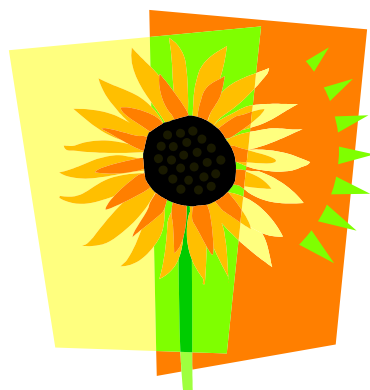


## U.C.W. Fall Luncheon & Sale

The Annual U.C.W.'s Fall Luncheon & Sale this year will be held on Sat., Nov. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The "Sale" will feature different areas including "Preserve Cupboard", "Jewelry Box", "Craft Shop", "China Cupboard", "Silent Auction", "Sweet Shop", "Cookie Table", "Bake Shop" and "Children's Corner". We are inviting our congregations to once again help us by donating homemade jams, jellies, new crafts, new decorations, your "tired" jewelry and china or by baking candy, fudge, rolls, bread, muffins, pies, cookies, cakes, squares and sweet breads. All non-perishable items can be left anytime after October 1 in the designated bins in the entries of both churches. Perishable items can be left in Knox Church Hall on Friday, Oct. 31 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 1 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The luncheon menu will be Chicken a la King ( \$7.00) with a children's menu of hot dogs ( \$ 2.50) if preferred.

## Sunday School . . .

At Knox . . .



Sunday School registration and fellowship time for the children will take place on Sunday, September 28th and classes will begin on Sunday, October 5, 2014. We are always looking for volunteers to help teach and participate in special events so if you are able to give of your time it would be most welcome! Please contact Lori Nielsen at 673-2881 or [loritish@hotmail.com](mailto:loritish@hotmail.com)

# At Middle Stewiacke . . .

*Sunday School . . . Will start October 5*

The UCW group in Middle Stewiacke is sponsoring an evening with Art Fisher in the early autumn. Interested people, teenagers to seniors, female and male, are encouraged to come and engage in his fascinating work stories, experience, and knowledge of working together with vulnerable youth, adults, and families finding themselves in challenging situations.

Art is Director of Family Service of Western Nova Scotia and works as a community-based practitioner. In addition, he is Co-Founder of the Nova Scotia Trauma Informed Network (NSTIN). And his NSTIN work is currently being developed nationally at the request of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Also, in the past decade, Art has facilitated over ninety workshops in fifteen countries and his work is referenced internationally.



## Sunflowers brightening and beautifying High River

By Pauline Zulueta MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST

Earlier this year, High River's United Church received about 20,000 packs of sunflowers seeds from all over the world and now, bright sunflowers can be seen popping up throughout town. Reverend Susan Lukey said she came up with the idea after one of her colleagues, who built box gardens in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, was advised by a biologist to plant sunflowers as they are reported to pull toxins out of soil.

"It just seemed like a wonderful idea and it was something easy for people across Canada to get on board with," Lukey said. "What we figured was that we needed 5,000 packs of seeds to put one in every mailbox in High River." A request was sent out on Facebook and email, notifying people of the project. Packets of sunflower seeds came rolling in, and just kept coming. Lukey was taken aback when she kept receiving sunflower seeds, with some travelling from as far away as Japan and the Netherlands. "I don't think anybody across Canada could have planted sunflower seeds because I think they all came here," joked Lukey.

She received phone calls from the post office notifying her to pick up packages of sunflowers seeds as the office was running out of space. "It was just overwhelming to see the support and the kind of notes that people sent along with the sunflowers," she said. "I think it's just so good to know that others are thinking of us and that we're not alone." In June, Lukey enlisted the help of Sunday school children to design and create cards that were to go along with two seed packs to be sent out to High River residents. She said it has been heartwarming "to see sunflowers peeking over fences now and the blooms popping open." "The children here at the congregation who helped with the idea, made cards and helped pack up the seeds to send out," Lukey said. "They're having fun watching too and realizing that the effort they made is blossoming around town." She added that she has even heard of neighbours having competitions as to who can grow the tallest sunflowers.

Bob Findley, a High River resident who lost his garden to the flood last year, planted the sunflower seeds this year. He now has a variety growing near his fence. "It shows new life and brightens up a lot of spots," Findley said. "I think it's great for the environment to actually get rejuvenated and get cleaned out because that's what they're purported to do." Lukey said, "The thing about sunflowers, they always turn their face to the sun, so symbolically it's just a wonderful flower."

See photos at

<http://www.highrivertimes.com/2014/09/11/sunflowers-brightening-and-beautifying-high-river>