

May 2019

# Brookfield Pastoral Charge

Knox United Church ~ Middle Stewiacke United

## Message from the Minister . . .

Friends,

I can not tell you how happy I am to be writing this letter for our Spring and Summer newsletter. Why am I so happy? Because I'm not a winter person. Not at all. Spring has always been my favourite season, with autumn being a close second. Now, I know not all of you agree with me, some of you love winter. You relish skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, drinking eggnog and watching the snow fall. And that's okay, because we all have different points of views, experiences and thoughts, and thank God for this diversity.

Life in the Brookfield Pastoral Charge continues to be busy, in the best sense of the word. There is always something happening, and we are very fortunate to belong to a pastoral charge that is so active in the community. I got to test out my acting chops recently at the Brookfield Mens Club's Ladies Night. I won't be winning any Emmys, but I had fun.

I have been reflecting on the importance of the Affirming Ministry certification process. It is my understanding that there was interest in becoming an Affirming Ministry. An Affirming Ministry is a credential offered by Affirm United after communities of faith undertake a process of self reflection and discovery in which we look at the ways in which we are welcoming and affirming, and the ways in which we are not. Think of it as checking our blindspots, and making adjustments where necessary. The benefit of this is that when Affirming Ministries advertise themselves as affirming, members of the LGBTQ+ community can be sure that they will be welcomed and affirmed. Without going through this process of checking our blindspots we may think we're being affirming, but LGBTQ+ people may not find themselves affirmed and welcomed, despite our good intentions. Basically, if we want to advertise ourselves as open and affirming and as a safe place for LGBTQ+ persons, we need to make sure that we are. I remember in the early 2000s I was at a seminar called Making the Church a House of Prayer for All People. The facilitator explained how we sometimes think we're being welcoming, when we may be sending a different message. He then told the story of how he was driving past a church with a sign out front that read "Family Worship Sundays at 11 am". A seemingly innocent enough statement. But the facilitator asked how a single person might interpret these words "Family Worship." Would they feel welcome?

I have been working with gay and trans youth in the greater Truro area over the past few months, and I have heard over and over again how these kids have been called, or have heard people like them called, abominations by their religious leaders. Often these stories are shared through tears, and my heart breaks. These youth have never heard that God loves them fully and completely as they are, and that is a tragedy. The Affirming process is very important. However, it's not something I can or would impose on you, there has to be grass root support. So, if you are interested in making the Brookfield Pastoral Charge welcoming to all, consider serving on the Affirming Ministry Committee. As a member of this committee you and your committee colleagues would be responsible for guiding the Pastoral Charge through the Affirming process, and after we are declared an Affirming Ministry to ensure that we are living out our intentional welcome, and not resting on our laurels. If you'd be willing to so serve, please get in touch with me!

The Brookfield Pastoral Charge is a great place to be.

In gratitude,

Rev. Michael Henderson

## Summer Services . . .

Summer Church Services - The Brookfield Pastoral Charge will be holding combined services again this summer. All services will be held at 10 am (with the exception of July 21)

July 7 - Knox

July 14 - Middle Stewiacke

July 21 - Shortt's Lake

July 28 - Middle Stewiacke

August 4 - Knox

August 11 - Middle Stewiacke

August 18 - Knox

August 25 - Middle Stewiacke

Sept 1—Knox



## Knox Sunday School Closing . . . Sunday, June 2

### From the Communications Committee at Knox . . .

***Please remember to book all meetings & events at Knox Church through Lynn Matheson 902-673-2328***

We continue to post the approved minutes of Knox Church Council on both the bulletin board in the main entrance to the sanctuary and in the hall going into the auditorium.

A list of the members of Knox Church Council and their contact information is posted there as well. Please feel free to contact any member of Church Council with any concerns related to the life of our congregation.

Our Lost and Found Bin is located on the top of the coat rack in the hall going into the auditorium.

### From the Worship Committee at Knox . . .

We are delighted that Knox will be receiving a new banner this spring to be hung in the Sanctuary. The talented Donna Hogan is creating a special banner in memory of her parents, Art and Roberta Lindsay. The dedication will be held at a Sunday service in early June.



## Mark your calendar . . .

**Saturday, June 1 – Perennial Plant Sale and Rhubarb Coffee Party at Knox  
9 am—11 am**

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**Dinner Theatre—Saturday, June 8 at Knox Church**  
*In collaboration with Doc McCoy Murder Mysteries*

### **‘MURDER AT THE RESORT’**

A fun night of intrigue and delicious dining.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Price: \$30/person.  
Call Kaye, 902-673-2356, to reserve and indicate names of people in your party.

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**Strawberry Supper at Knox – Saturday, July 6**

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## **Giant Yard Sale & Breakfast – Saturday, September 28**

If you have items to donate to this fundraiser, please leave at Knox and mark that it is for the yard sale. If possible, large items should be left closer to the event

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### **To Contact the Minister**

The Rev. Michael Henderson  
P. O. Box 43, Brookfield, NS B0N 1C0  
902-305-4620  
revmichaelhenderson@icloud.com

Usual office hours:   Monday       9 am - 12 pm  
                                  Wednesday 10 am—2 pm  
                                  Friday       10 am—12 pm; 6 pm—7 pm

Knox United Church  
Worship begins at 9:30 am  
53 Hwy. 289, Brookfield

Middle Stewiacke United  
Worship begins at 11:15 am  
21 Cloverdale Road, Middle Stewiacke