

Knox e-news

December 8, 2011
www.knoxhalifax.ca



Minister's message

Greetings to you all on this blustery December afternoon; a day that feels more like late September than a little over two weeks before Christmas. As I write to you, plans are being put in motion following the meeting of the Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg yesterday to have Rev. Ruth Houtby, the Synod's Mission and Education Staff person come and meet with all of us to begin the process of figuring out what our next steps are as a congregation. The Presbytery was unwilling to remove the restriction on the funds from the sale of the manse which are invested in the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Consolidated Fund and so our time to determine our future is limited. As details become available, I will be sure to communicate them to you, but please know that we all need to be part of the conversation as whatever is decided may have an impact on each one of us.

On a more positive note, the generosity of the congregation towards the Angel Tree program has been extraordinary and an answer to many prayers. When we agreed to pursue this, we were thinking of sponsoring 4 children. Due to the generous gifts, we are able to sponsor 12 children. This is not just an answer to my prayers or your prayers. Gail from First Congregational who coordinates the program was delighted that we would be willing to sponsor 4 children; however, she was short of sponsors and

prayed that someone would step forward to help. She was overjoyed when I informed her of the incredible response from the folks at Knox; with the ability to sponsor an additional 8 children, her prayers were answered and all the children are now sponsored. Praise be to God for answered prayers and for touching the hearts of the folks who gave sacrificially out of love towards this vital project.

Donations have begun to come in for the Out of the Cold program which is much appreciated. I have now worked 2 shifts at the shelter and I continue to be blessed by these beloved children of God who for whatever reasons find themselves at the shelter's door each evening; their last hope before having to spend the night outside. We have been fortunate that the weather has been mild for this time of year; however, last night again was wet and windy and the risks to these men and women is great. Thank you again for your generosity. The donations bin will remain in the lobby for the duration of the winter; please remember the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Finally, I ask you to continue to pray for Knox. Your prayers are important and they are heard. Seek God's wisdom in discerning His plan for this gathering of His faithful.

May God richly bless each one of you, His beloved children.

In Christ's service,
Rev. Brian

News from the flock:

This feature will require some help from all of you. As many of you know, the minister is always the last to know. However, if you are aware of some news that is permitted to be shared, please let me know. Your contributions to this newsletter would be welcomed at any time.

- ✚ As I mentioned last week, we are delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday December 11th during worship. In addition to baptizing Meghan (Fowler) Nixon and Jon Nixon's daughter Georgia, we will also be baptizing Olugu and Ester's children Eugene, Mercy and Emenike. Please join us in expressing God's blessing upon these beautiful children of God.

- ✚ Clary Croft is no stranger to the folks at Knox and indeed citizens of Nova Scotia. Clary will be performing his show, A Nova Scotia Christmas Celebration with fellow musicians Gordon Stobbe and Margo Carruthers at **St. Alban's Anglican Church, December 11th at 7 p.m.** The church is located at: 345 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth. For tickets please call 463-2493. If you have not seen Clary's show, I would highly recommend it.

- ✚ As I mentioned earlier, the Out of the Cold shelter is now running for the winter months. We will be collecting items each week which I will deliver on Wednesday evening when I work my shift. If you would like to contribute, a list of needed items is on our website in the News section, on the Out of the Cold's website, <http://outofthecoldhalifax.org/> click on the Volunteers tab, or check the list on the bulletin board in the church lobby. Any and all support for this vital ministry will be greatly appreciated.

- ✚ The response to the request from Hope Cottage for sandwiches has not garnered enough support for us to commit to this program; however, the need still exists at many of the shelters like Out of the Cold, Metro turning Point, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission and Hope Cottage. So, instead of committing to the year, I am suggesting maybe we can plan to meet occasionally to make some sandwiches which can be utilized by these missions in the city. Please let Rev. Brian know if you would be willing to support such a venture.

Dates to Remember



Saturday December 10th - 9:00 a.m. – We invite you to join us for our congregation breakfast at Jim’s Restaurant, 243 The Bedford Hwy. This is a relaxed time of fellowship, sharing table together and we are always happy to have more folks attend.

Sunday December 18th – We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion during our service of worship and we welcome all comers, for Christ’s Table is open to all who want to know Him and be fed by Him in order that we may go out and serve Him and His Kingdom.

Saturday December 24th – We will gather for our Christmas Eve service at **7:00 P.M.** for a service of lessons and carols. Please take note of the time change from what was originally planned; we have changed it back to 7:00 as it was learned that 5:30 posed problems for folks working in the retail sector.

Sunday December 25th – We will be gathering for worship at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. We hope to see you as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour who is Christ the LORD.

Musings and other Stuff

Think before you Speak

T – is it **true**?

H – is it **helpful**?

I – is it **inspiring**?

N – is it **necessary**?

K – is it **kind**?

Kindness Matters!

I received from one of our members a link to a video entitled “Change for a Dollar” which is quite profound and I wish to share it with you. The film has no spoken words, but the message is powerful. St. Augustine is believed to have once said, “Preach the Gospel and if necessary use words.” This film fits with that sentiment beautifully. I hope you find it as moving as I did.

http://www.flickspire.com/m/Share_This/changeforadollar?lsid=161f9da9b7692b6854ca64548e80ab61