

Knox e-knews

February 5, 2012
www.knoxhalifax.ca



Minister's message

Greetings and peace to you in the name of Jesus; as I write this message, I am filled with the Spirit who is working mightily in our midst even now. Our hall has been rented today and is full of people eating together and discussing issues facing them as they look to the future with hope; sounds familiar!

As you have been made aware, we have been in consultation and conversation with the folks at St. Joseph's Children's Centre and though the sale has been halted due to legal wrangling, the Day Care Centre has been told they have to be out by February 29th; so the clock is ticking.

Greg and I attended their Board meeting on Tuesday and it was confirmed that what we are looking at accommodating is the kitchen/food prep for the various centers and the offices. As you are aware, we will be holding a brief congregation meeting tomorrow following the service; the first part of our discussion will be outlining what an arrangement with St. Joseph's would mean long-term for us as a congregation and to seek the congregation's approval to move forward with negotiations. As you can imagine, time is of the essence. The other part of the meeting will focus on where we see our energy for ministry and mission as we look forward with hope. We will need to have some idea of where we want to focus our attention so we can inform Rev. Ruth and she can begin to put together a plan with us.

Above all, I must acknowledge with thanks all who have prayed for Knox and asked God to provide us with an opportunity to sustain our church long-term. I believe this arrangement with St. Joseph's is God's answer to our prayers; if it goes ahead, we will cover our operating expenditures like heat and water etc. for the year, but more importantly, we will be making available our under-utilized space to an organization that provides vital and essential services to children. And we don't know what the impact of us offering our space to them will have in attracting new folks to our church by having a more visible presence in the community.

Once again, I thank you all for your prayers; prayer is vital in discerning God's will and your prayers have been most welcome. Please do not stop praying, but keep turning to God for guidance as we continue to serve His Kingdom in the here and now at Knox.

May God bless you and keep you 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 and I will include them here. Your contributions to this newsletter would be welcomed at any time.

- ✚ We conclude our 5 week study of the Book of James. Week 5 (chapter 5) is this coming Tuesday the 7th of February at 7:00 p.m.
- ✚ You are reminded and invited to our prayer time in the parlour on Sunday mornings from 10:15 – 10:45. Prayer is vital as we continue to discern God’s will and plan for us. Everything begins with prayer.
- ✚ **Lay Readers:** The Session has agreed to encourage the use of lay readers in our regular worship services. I have put a sign-up list of readings for the next 6 Sundays on the table in the lobby as well as small take-home slips with each week’s readings. If you would like to participate by reading the passages of Scripture on a particular Sunday, sign your name beside the week you’d like to do and take the slip with the corresponding readings as a reminder. If you would be more comfortable only doing a couple of the prescribed readings rather than all of them, please speak to me and we can arrange that. I encourage you to share the gifts God has blessed you with by participating in sharing the good news of God’s Word for His people.
- ✚ **Your Ideas:** The Session is considering a number of initiatives to open our church up to the wider community and invite folks to join us in worship and fellowship. If you have any ideas, please do not keep them to yourselves. Let one of our Elders know or speak to me personally. It has been said, the only dumb idea is the one that is not voiced.
- ✚ **Greeters:** Due to health reasons Mary Redmond has ceased being able to look after getting greeters for each Sunday. The Session has decided to adopt the “Duty Elder” approach to serving the congregation and have taken on the responsibility of getting greeters. Each Elder has a “call list” of folks they are responsible for keeping in touch with; each month, the duty elder will be contacting the folks on their list to ask for help in serving as a greeter. It is our hope and prayer that you will support them in this vital aspect of our ministry of welcome here at Knox.
- ✚ **Annual Congregation Meeting:** The Annual congregation meeting has been set for March 4th. As we did last year, we will move from the service into the meeting which will likely be relatively short and will conclude with the benediction. We will have a light

lunch in the hall following the meeting to allow us to have a time for fellowship. Please ensure that Jean Dunn has the reports as soon as possible, but no later than February 5th as the annual reports will need to be printed and available for pick-up as of Feb. 19th.

- ✚ Ruth Day is singing with the Chebucto Singers at the Dalhousie McInnis Room on **Sunday February 12th at 2 pm** (Sweet Serenade Concert). There are approx 80 singers in this group (not all will attend). Admission is \$15 and dessert and coffee/tea are included. All different kinds of music will be played.

- ✚ Just a reminder, the Out of the Cold shelter is now running for the winter months and we have now experienced some very cold nights. 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.

Dates to Remember

February 5th – We will hold a brief congregation meeting following worship. We will give folks a few minutes to get a cup of coffee/tea and bring it in to the sanctuary for the meeting.

Sunday, Feb. 5th - 7 p.m. – St. John's United Church, Halifax, is hosting its monthly Taize Prayer in Studio 3 in the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, Chebucto Rd. Please use St. Matthias Lane entrance. All are welcome.

Tuesday February 7th – 7:00 p.m. – Our Bible Study of James concludes.

Thursday, February 9th at 7 p.m. A Ceilidh is being held at St. Andrew's, 216 School St, Dartmouth. Everyone welcome. Admission is a donation for Feed Nova Scotia.

Saturday February 11th – 9:00 a.m. – Congregation breakfast at Jim's Restaurant, 243 Bedford Hwy. Everyone is invited to join in this time of fellowship and good food.

Saturday February 11th – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – CHAMA clothes sorting – we will be sorting and packing the clothes on the stage to prepare for shipping to Nigeria later this year. If you are able, your help would be appreciated. Come for an hour or two, come for the day. The more the merrier and many hands make light work.

Sunday, Feb. 12th - 7 p.m. – the Choirs of St. John's United, Halifax, are presenting “Music For A Winter's Evening”; in the Lilian Piercey Concert Hall at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, Chebucto Rd., Halifax. This will be a program of music, readings and visuals for the winter season. Admission \$15 at the door - Reception to follow.

~ *Special Days* ~

8th – Clarence Croft

10th – Bruce Robertson

Happy Birthday gentlemen

Musings and other Stuff

Let's Read through the Bible Together in One Year

As we continue on our spiritual journey, reading through the Bible in 2012; please find below the readings for February. Do not worry if you have fallen a bit behind, because of the organized manner of this journey, it is relatively easy to catch up. We will continue to meet twice a month on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:15 to discuss the passages we have read. I hope and pray that you will continue on this journey of discovery as we read and learn from God's Word year.

February 1: Leviticus 14 – 16

February 2: Leviticus 17 – 19

February 3: Leviticus 20 – 23

February 4: Leviticus 24 – 27

February 5: Numbers 1 – 3

February 6: Numbers 4 – 6

February 7: Numbers 7 – 10

February 8: Numbers 11 – 14

February 9: Numbers 15 – 17

February 10: Numbers 18 – 20

February 11: Numbers 21 – 24

February 12: Numbers 25 – 27 – Meet in the Parlour at 9:45

February 13: Numbers 28 – 30

February 14: Numbers 31 – 33

February 15: Numbers 34 – 36

February 16: Deuteronomy 1 – 3

February 17: Deuteronomy 4 – 6

February 18: Deuteronomy 7 – 9

February 19: Deuteronomy 10 – 12

February 20: Deuteronomy 13 – 16

February 21: Deuteronomy 17 – 19

February 22: Deuteronomy 20 – 22

February 23: Deuteronomy 23 – 25

February 24: Deuteronomy 26 – 28

February 25: Deuteronomy 29 – 31

February 26: Deuteronomy 32 – 34 – Meet in the Parlour at 9:45

February 27: Joshua 1 – 3

February 28: Joshua 4 – 6

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A Cup of Coffee

A group of alumni, all highly established in their respective careers, got together for a visit with their old university professor. The conversation soon turned to complaints about the endless stress of work and life in general.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went into the kitchen and soon returned with a large pot of coffee and an eclectic assortment of cups: porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal – some plain, some expensive, some quite exquisite. Quietly he told them to help themselves to some fresh coffee.

When each of his former students had a cup of coffee in hand, the old professor quietly cleared his throat and began to patiently address the small gathering. “You may have noticed that all of the nicer looking cups were taken up first, leaving behind the plainer and cheaper ones. While it is only natural for you to want only the best for yourselves – that is actually the source of much of your stress-related problems.”

He continued, “Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In fact, the cup merely disguises or dresses up what we drink. What each of you really wanted was coffee, not a cup, but you instinctively went for the best cups. Then you began eyeing each other's cups.”

“Now consider this: Life is coffee. Jobs, money, and position in society are merely cups. They are just tools to shape and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not truly define nor change the quality of the Life we live. Often, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee that God has provided us. God brews the coffee, but He does not supply the cups. Enjoy your coffee!”

The happiest people don't have the best of everything – they just make the best of everything they have. And remember – the richest person is not the one who has the most, but the one who needs the least.

~

“You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be”

Words by Josh Groban



Where am I?

~

Two Horses - A Beautiful Story

Author Unknown

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it.



From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing....

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him.



This alone is amazing.

If you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell.
Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field.

Attached to the horse's halter is a small bell.
It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he can follow.

As you stand and watch these two friends,
you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray.

When the horse with the bell returns
to the shelter of the barn each evening,
it stops occasionally and looks back,
making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.



Like the owners of these two horses,
God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect
or because we have problems or challenges.

He watches over us and even brings others into our lives
to help us when we are in need..

Sometimes we are the blind horse
being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives.

Other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way....

Good friends are like that...you may not always see them, but you know they are always there.

***Be kinder than necessary-
everyone you meet is fighting
some kind of battle.***

***Live simply,
Love generously,
Care deeply,
Speak kindly.....
And leave the rest to God!***

For we walk by faith and not by sight!