



Knox News & Reflections

September 2018

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Our Staff

Minister: Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett
minister@knoxsackville.ca
Ministry of Music & Dramatic Arts:
John Lindsay-Botten
music@knoxsackville.ca
Office Administrator: Tracey Miller
admin@knoxsackville.ca

Committee Chairs & Team Leads

Baptism: Debbie Chisholm
Church Council: Paul O'Brien
Communication: Rainie Murphy
Fellowship: Janet Mombourquette
Finance: Fred Gallop
Funeral Visitation: Sandra Braye
M&P: Robin Barrett
Nominating: Robin Barrett
Outreach: Caroline Gallop
Pastoral Care: Sonya Osmond
Property: Mannie Lewis
Revitalization: Al Darrach
Security: Jerry Landry
Stewardship: Vacant
Spiritual Oversight: Nancy Kent
Sunday School: Jennifer Mahaney & Jennifer Williams
UCW: Janice Newhook
Ways & Means: Eleanor Lewis
Worship: Angie MacRae

Monthly Meetings: most of our committees and teams will be gradually starting their work for the school year. Check with your chair/lead to confirm the first meeting date.

Spiritual Oversight – 3rd Tuesday Monthly (7pm narthex)
Church Council – 4th Tuesday Monthly (7pm parlour)
Finance – Monday Monthly (7pm)
UCW – 3rd Monday Monthly (1pm parlour)
Outreach – 2nd Monday Monthly (time varies parlour)
Pastoral Care – 2nd Thursday Monthly (7pm parlour)
Fellowship – meets as needed
Worship – 1st Tuesday Monthly (7pm parlour)

Summer Worship Time continues with ONE service each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. up to and including Sept 9th



Our School Year Worship Times resume Sept 16th

8:45 am Sunday Early Service

This is an informal service with active participation by various members of the congregation.

10:30 am Sunday Later Service

This is a more formal service during which we offer Church School classes for younger members of our congregation.

Weekly Activities

Sundays – all starting up on Sept 16th

SpiritSong (youth choir) – 9:40 -10:20 Room 9
Knox Rocks & J.A.M. Church School 10:40 -11:30 a.m.
Youth Group – 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the youth room

Wednesdays

Time Out for Ladies – 1 p.m. Parlour
Bible Fellowship Time – 7 p.m. Parlour starts Sept 12th
Senior Choir – 7 p.m. Choir Room



**Church Facility
Rentals
& Leasing
INFO
902-865-9216**

Knox News & Reflections

The autumn is a notoriously busy time of year and Knox is no exception to the rule. We are starting the year off with a bang by hosting the Men of the Deeps concert on Sept 9th. Count yourself lucky if you managed to get a ticket before they were gone.

Lots of groups are just starting up and plans and information are being gradually rolled out. With many plans in flux we may not have all the update-to-date information for this September issue, so watch for weekly updates throughout the month.

Deadline for submission for the October edition

September 30th

please forward information to the church office
(admin@knoxsackville.ca) or to Pat Galbraith
(pdgalbraith@gmail.com)

To keep you up to date throughout the month, we will continue to publish a short update, "This Week at Knox". You can also stay informed by sharing your email address with the office in order to be included in the weekly email blasts.

Follow us on



www.knoxsackville.ca

**Knox is now also on Instagram at
@knoxunited, so tag your pics**



SEPTEMBER *events*

Men of the Deeps in Concert at Knox with special guests Knox Choir

Sunday, Sept 9th, at 2 p.m.

This popular event sold out early so if you are one of the lucky ones with a ticket don't forget to come.



Bible Fellowship Time Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. in the

Parlour - starting Sept 12th

All are welcome to enjoy a relaxing review of the Bible each Wednesday evening.

Farewell for Rev. Ross with Pot-Luck Luncheon Sunday, Sept 16th

Come and wish Rev. Ross all the best on this his last Sunday at Knox. Bring your favourite dish for a feast in his honour at lunchtime as we commemorate his faithful service to the Knox community these past eight years.

**Farewell
Potluck**



Community Outreach Meal Event



Thursday, Sept 20th, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

All are welcome to this FREE community meal which is held in the Knox Cann Christian Education Hall the third Thursday of each month.

Congregational Meeting followed by a Lunch and Learn

Sunday, Sept 23rd following worship

Knox Property Redevelopment Team will host this meeting to bring us all up to date on the Team's work. See page 6 for details.



Bake Sale

**Sunday, Sept 30th
10 a.m. to noon**



Come early for best selection or place your order ahead of time. Bake sales will be scheduled periodically to support operational costs for the lift. (For details on progress of the lift see page 4).

SpiritSong – Knox choir for young voices will be starting a new and exciting year of music making under the direction of John Lindsay-Botten. During the month of September we will meet for practice at our usual time on Sundays at 9:40 – 10:20 a.m. starting Sept 16th. New members are welcome. If you are interested in participating contact Pat at 902-293-5164.

Decorating for Thanksgiving Collection from Sept 16th – Oct 7th

The decorating group will be collecting non-perishable food items starting Sept 16th and right through until Thanksgiving weekend (Oct 7). Donations can be placed in the box located in the Narthex and all donations will be forwarded to Beacon House following the Thanksgiving service. We will be incorporating these items into our fall decorating scheme at the beginning of October. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*



Knox Annual Live and Silent Auction!

Saturday, Oct 20th from 1-4 p.m.

Tickets \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door



**TIME & TALENT
AUCTION**

Tickets will be available for this fun event in October from Eleanor Lewis or Knox church office. In the meantime consider what you might want to contribute and fill out the contribution form and return it to Eleanor. This can be a talent, or a new item for the auction. If you need a letter to request a donation, we have those also. Any questions email Eleanor at: elewis4_2000@yahoo.com Please have your items in as soon as you can so we can make a list. If you are baking cookies, bread, rolls, or cakes please have your baked goods in the day of the auction.

**Youth Group
Hallowe'en Party!
Saturday, Oct 28th**



**Sackville Concert Band
Friday, Nov 9th Time to be decided
Guests to be announced**

**The Aeolian
Singers
Sunday, Nov 25th at 3 p.m.**



**EnChor East
Sundays, Dec 2nd & 9th**

**John Lindsay-Botten and the
East Coast Carolling Company
Plus Bedford Voices (directed by Laura Beth)
Wednesday, Dec 12th**

Thanks to everyone involved with the Community Outreach

barbecue on July 7th. All of the churches and community organizations involved in the monthly Community Outreach Meal Events were on hand to help organize and provide a portion of the meal. A great time was had by all.

OUTREACH MINISTRY
REACHING BEYOND OUR WALLS

SACKVILLE COMMUNITY PARTNERS
INVITE YOU TO C.O.M.E.
to a Community Outreach Meal Event
Caring, Connecting, Changing Lives

A FREE MEAL!
Hot Meal • Dessert • Beverages

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Knox United Church Hall
567 Sackville Dr. Lower Sackville
For information call 902.865.9216

Anyone who wants a meal is welcome!



BEACON HOUSE - TOP 10 LIST

- Diapers Canned soup Crackers
- Canned tuna/meat Macaroni & Cheese
- Fruit cups Juice Pasta
- Nut-free School snacks Hygiene Products
(deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, soap)
- **NOW ACCEPTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES**--

Back to School Program:

Each school-aged member of the family is eligible to receive a backpack filled with school supplies each fall (supplies are based on the child's grade). Adults returning to school are eligible for this program as well.

The program runs from mid-August to mid-September



UCW Biennial 2018



Maritime Conference UCW Biennial was held in Summerside, PEI from April 27-29, 2018. Attending from Knox were Mary Brill, Anne Hache and Pat Nursey. Shown is the Halifax Presbyterial UCW which was the second largest group attending. Ruth Kennedy was inducted as the President of MCUCW and her theme for the next two years is UCW – Beyond Borders.

UCW Bakeless Bake Sale - \$3050.00 was raised from the UCW Bakeless Bake Sale! This includes a generous \$1000 donation from the Knox Bridge Club. Many thanks to everyone who supported this project to replace the exterior doors to the Cann Christian Education Center.

Worship in the Park

The family of Knox gathered for worship and fellowship in beautiful Acadia Park on two occasions this past summer (July 8th and August 26th). The weather cooperated and a good sized congregation gathered on both Sundays.



(view from the gazebo atop the hill courtesy of Olive McIldoon)

Thanks so much to everyone who helped to make these inspiring services possible.

KNOX LIFT WILL SOON BE UP AND RUNNING



On Sunday August 12th, Judy Houlihan announced the good news that all of the funding for the elevator had come through and the project was officially a go! Funding came from grants from all three levels of government and, of course, through the diligent fundraising efforts of the ladies from Time Out for Ladies.

Greytop Commercial Construction is handling the entire project and have obtained permits, ordered the 2-3 passenger lift, and started preparing the location for the elevator company to install the lift. 20,000 pounds of crushed rock was used to fill in the "pit" that had been in place since the new church was built because this smaller lift does not need space beneath it. We are hoping that construction will be done before the Men of the Deeps concert but it will not be operational until the license is obtained. During the entire process there will be safety measures in place to secure the construction zone.

Thanks to everyone involved for helping to get this project to this point, particularly Judy Houlihan and Fred Gallop.



A Letter from Rev Ross

Dear Friends,

How things can change in a few months! My final Sunday as your minister will be September 16th. As this will be my last opportunity to contribute to Knox News & Reflections, before I go I want to celebrate some things, clarify some questions, and note a couple of new realities.

When I think back on our last eight years, I believe we've accomplished an astounding ministry together. I remember the state of the congregation in the fall of 2010 (when you asked me to be your Interim Minister) and all we did to restore health and trust and joy at Knox. I think of things like our community festivals (complete with bouncy castles) and dinner theatres (who would have imagined people would pay to hear me sing!); outdoor services and ministries in the community (including the wonderfully successful COME meal); study groups and fellowship times (we do love to eat!); special worship services and meeting our neighbours in faith and service; Hawaiian shirt Sunday (oh, the colours!) and Tartan Sunday (oh, those kilts!). We have laughed together, cried with and for one another, plus prayed with and for one another. We have welcomed new life into the world and stood together as those we loved took the next step in the eternal journey of the soul with God. We've set milestones: the largest contingent from one congregation at a Maritime Conference meeting; our first same-sex wedding; funding a new elevator. We've welcomed children and youth to Vacation Bible Schools and choirs and free movies. We've done that ministry together. If I have one concern for you it is that you do not always appreciate how special Knox is and the uniqueness of what happens here and, therefore, underestimate everything you are capable of for God.



We have different seasons in our lives. The Book of Ecclesiastes says that there are times for this and times for that – building up and taking down; beginning and ending; laughing and weeping; speaking and silence. As our season together draws to a close, I feel it is important that you know why I am leaving at this time– realizing that others may have a different viewpoint. We have been predicting budget deficits for the last number of years, although each year by the end of December we have often managed to squeak into the black. The projection for 2018 was no different. But concerns about the deficit have grown and influential voices in the congregation are saying that the deficit can be reduced by not investing in the future of the congregation and by reducing staff costs dramatically. While I acknowledge that concern for the church's financial health is important, the increasing fixation on the financial balance sheet has overpowered much of the voice and vision of ministry, mission, and faith. Faithfully investing in our future was apparently out of the question. At the June Council meeting, the decision was made to not expand our capacity for ministry through offering an internship – a full-time opportunity for a fully trained United Church ministerial candidate to work at Knox during our program year (Sept2018-May2019). This decision was made, despite the fact that the vast majority of the cost was covered by outside grants, leaving only a fraction to be paid from our budget, over two fiscal years. At that same meeting, with no prior warning to me or most Council members, a spreadsheet was presented that clearly charted the intention to address the “structural deficit” by dramatically reducing staff salaries. This was to be done by hiring less experienced staff who could be paid less. A salary review committee was put in place by Council to meet with me, John, and Tracey to discuss those reductions. Since there was little or no objection from Council to this proceeding, it seemed clear to me that it was only a matter of time before the congregation would be faced with an extremely painful public meeting to discuss saving money by ending my call. To avoid that potentially very divisive event (regardless of the outcome), I decided to leave Knox, hoping that, with new ministry leadership, the congregation might again find a more balanced focus led by faith and hope.

I also want to clarify: at the time of the June Council meeting and when the salary committee met with me in early July, I did not have another ministry in mind. Nor, contrary to some rumours, am I unwell (at least not according to my doctor or personal trainer)! In late July, I was pleased to accept a part-time appointment as Acting Formation Director at the Atlantic School of Theology for the next eight months. I'm excited to continue my ministry of education in a new way.

After September 16th, I will no longer be your minister. Our United Church of Canada has very clear guidelines about the involvement of ministers in the life of their former congregations. These rules do not allow any involvement for a year in order to provide time and space for your relationship with your new ministers to root and grow. After that first year, any request for official involvement in weddings and funerals must come through your new ministers. So, while you may see Heather and me in the grocery store or at the coffee shop we can't be around Knox for a while.

As our journeys part, let me say that it has been an honour and privilege and great gift to share ministry with you in these last eight years. I ask your forgiveness for any failings and hope that you have found some blessing in our years together.

I wish you every rich blessing from God in the years ahead.

Yours in Christ's service, Rev Ross



Book Your Space – Knox is a very busy place so please remember to contact the church office to reserve your space for fall events or monthly meetings.



Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp

Enrollment at Camp Kidston has increased but so have

sponsorship requests. If you are interested in helping sponsor a child for camp next summer

donations can be made by credit card at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/art-hur-kidston-memorial-camp/>

by mail to Camp Kidston PO Box 48011, Mill Cove PO Bedford, NS B4A 3Z2.

This is a great opportunity to provide camping ministry to children who might not otherwise have this blessing.



The Go Project was a BIG success

There were 17 children in attendance with four youth leaders and the two coordinators (Alex and Hannah) from UCC head office in Toronto.

The theme for the week-long day camp, held in July, was "Scarcity to Abundance and Ordinary to Extraordinary" with a scripture theme of the sharing of the two loaves and five fishes. This is also the theme for General Council.

Here are some of the things that the children did during the week,

- Made bread!! from scratch!! and shared it.
- Visited the urban garden in Halifax and weeded, sifted soil, and ate edible flowers.
- Visited Gateway food bank and took donations of food.
- Visited a nursing care home and played Bingo with the residents, which seemed to be a highlight for many.
- Visited the Acadia gardens and helped weed and came back several times to play and enjoy the park.
- Did random acts of kindness. Don't be surprised if you find little notes in the Voices United hymn books. Read them and enjoy!



A lot of preparation and planning was necessary to help make this camp a success and there are many people to thank. Thank you to all who purchased or made food, or purchased craft supplies, sunscreen, etc. To the youth leaders: (*Katie, Carmen, Diana, Areila*) you looked like you were having as much fun as the campers, and I could see how incredible you were with the kids.

To the Kitchen Staff: with a special thank you to Caroline Gallop for taking the lead. The food was delicious and the kids asked for seconds!! It was a hot week but you all made it fun in the kitchen.

To the Drivers: Outings were an important part of the program and we couldn't have done that without you.

What an incredible week for these kids! The feedback from the families was overwhelmingly positive. Doing "Random Acts of Kindness" was a whole new concept for most of the participants.

The comfortable pew is no longer where we need to be. God calls us outside these walls, into the community of Sackville and beyond. May we as a church continue to go outside our comfort level and dare to do God's work. There is much work we need to do.

Blessings, Linda White

Knox Property Redevelopment Team

This Team was formed as a result of a motion passed at the March, 4, 2018 Knox AGM. Your Redevelopment Team is charged with exploring options for Knox that ensure Knox can sustain, and improve, its ability to honour and, more effectively, pursue its mission - while at the same time ensuring Knox's long term financial viability, by taking full advantage of Knox's property assets ("Good stewardship").

Team members are: Sinclair Bannerman, Floyd Fullerton, Fred Gallop, Mannie Lewis, and Paul O'Brien. Extensive work is also being done by David Moore and Kevin Webb.

The Redevelopment Team has partnered with UCC EDGE - a consulting group within UCC with experience assisting many similar, and successful, Church transformations.

A Congregational meeting (followed by a Lunch and Learn bringing us all up to date on the Team's work to date) will be held on Sept 23rd after worship. On that day, we hope you will approve the relationship with EDGE; receive a "Viability Report" from EDGE; and begin the next phase of consultation with YOU, through a holistic planning process. Food, contemplation, forward thinking, and next steps - Knox needs ALL of us to move forward, and you're involvement in this important gathering on Sept 23rd is necessary and wanted!! Together we are stronger!

Betty-Lou Killen, Don Farmer, Co-Chairs

Free Life Skills Counselling and

Psychotherapy - Lauren Scott, a long-time member of Bedford United Church, has completed her coursework for her Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology and is now completing her counselling practicum. She is being supervised at *Life Skills Counselling and Psychotherapy*, located in Sackville, the private practice of Sandra Pickrell-Baker, MA, MSW, RSW, CHTP/I.

Life Skills Counselling and Psychotherapy provides support, in a warm and safe environment, for individuals over the age of 12 who are experiencing a wide range of issues including (*but not limited to*) anxiety, depression, life transitions, work place stress, trauma and relationship challenges. It is a compassionate, collaborative and inclusive practice. There is no fee for counselling sessions with Lauren during her practicum, which concludes mid-December. Lauren can be reached at **902-410-4545**

or **Lauren.Scott@gmail.com**

Sessions will take place at 546 Sackville Drive (*basically across the street*) or at Knox, if you prefer.