



The Road Ahead

Starting Down the Road...Transition Team

Inside this issue:

- Quick Bible Study 2
- Meet Your Neighbour 2
- Update on Renovation at Knox 2
- Kid's Corner 3
- How do you Celebrate Easter? 3
- Outreach Opportunity 4

This is the first communication for all those interested in what is going on at Knox United Church in Ayr. The next three years will see lots of changes and this newsletter, published several times throughout the year, will keep you informed of the comings and goings of staff and the congregation. It will also let you know of the mission and outreach opportunities available through Knox

and connect you with the entire Church community. There will be fun for kids and adults, competitions and spiritual quotes to help you each and every day in your journey as a Christian. Read on and enjoy.

WELCOME

In the dictionary, this means to receive gladly into one's presence and companionship. This newsletter and those to follow, are



John 10:10 "I came that you may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance."

our way of seeking to include you in life at Knox and to invite you to join us as we journey down the Road Ahead to a closer

(Continued on page 4)

News...News...News...



**Psalm
37:4-5**

DID YOU KNOW PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED? **Andrew Granger** finished his chemotherapy treatment on January 13th. He will be returning to work on April 1st, less than 1 year after the initial diagnosis! They would like to thank the Church and congregation for their prayers and support. Michelle would like to specifically thank people for meals. She said some days she would come home to find supper sitting on the doorstep and it was so much appreciated.

Nancy Kyle would like to say, "I have been blessed over the past year with caring, consistent, and fervent prayer from the members of the Knox congregation and in particular the Knox prayer group. Many times when I felt frustrated with health issues and in particular the speed of my recovery, it's the knowledge that others are holding me in prayer that gave me strength. The kindness of cards, notes, emails, food (oh, the good food for my family) and the

(Continued on page 3)



Three colours
spirit

Quick Bible Study

The Good Shepherd calls you by name. John 10: 1-18

“God love’s you so much. He pursues a love relationship with you that is real and personal.

As the Good Shepherd He calls you by name. Why not try changing your routine, one day this week and spend some time outside, if you can. Take a walk around your block, or

through a garden or in the woods. Look at God’s beauty He has created for you. In that time, just concentrate on God. You might praise Him, or thank Him to show your love for Him. Then listen. Is He calling your name? What is He saying? When you go inside, write down how you felt with your walk and talk with God and what impressions were left upon your mind, if any.

Meet Your Neighbour

Perhaps you have been wondering who that new person is who keeps showing up at our church: The one who in his preaching and teaching seems to be saying some strange things about the health of our church.

Rev. Gilroy can be reached through the church office. He enjoys listening to our stories and hopes for the future. He looks forward to meeting you at worship—again, or for the first time.

Rev. Dr. Paul Gilroy comes to us as a Transition Specialist. That is, as a United Church minister with specialized training to help congregations like ours make healthy transitions from one phase of life to another. His ministry is dedicated to helping us recognize and begin to

deal with a wide range of important issues that will help us make a happy and healthy transition to a new future with a new minister following Rev. Hagle’s retirement.

In 2008 Rev. Gilroy was appointed by Waterloo Presbytery to walk with us as we dealt with some tensions that arose, some of which Presbytery recognized as related to some evolutionary transitions that had already taken place, and were continuing. While Paul was working with a number of congregational leaders, Fred went on medical leave, so Paul was appointed by Presbytery as a “Supply” minister until Fred’s health improved and our pastoral relationship with Fred became clear again.

We ask you join our prayer for Fred’s return to good health, and for Carol as she journey’s with him. And we ask you to pray for Paul as he ministers with us, and helps us as a church to discern and move into the Easter new future God keeps on offering us.

Rev. Gilroy and his wife Ann Marie are both widowers, with four twenty-something children. Paul and Ann Marie live in Guelph, while their children live in Toronto, London, and Windsor.

Update on Renovation at Knox

The current phase of the restoration project underway at Knox is the repair of the damaged plaster in the sanctuary and vestibule of the church. At the completion of this phase, you will be AMAZED! Our beautiful new sanctuary will be ‘crack-free’ and re-painted in a wonderful new colour palette. Work began just after Christmas, and we anticipate being back in the sanctuary for worship by mid to late May.

Scaffolding was erected to reach the high ceiling and walls, and plaster repairs have included replacement of many decorative mouldings. This has been the most expensive part of our renovation project costing \$269,800 plus GST. Also new insulation has been installed in the attic for \$18,735 plus GST. The next steps for the project will be to re-point the brickwork on the Fellowship Hall.

We will need your prayers and financial support to complete our project!

KID'S CORNER

How can I be forgiven?

.. Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

Now you know Jesus died for your sins. Are you wondering how you can be forgiven? The Bible says that Jesus is the only way to God. "I [Jesus] am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father [God] except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus wants to be your Savior. You cannot save yourself from sin. You're not saved from sin's pun-

ishment by doing good things. You can't be forgiven by saying prayers, giving money or trying to please God. God says there is only one way, and that is through His Son, Jesus. The Bible says, ". . . Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved . . ." (Acts 16:31). To believe means to trust completely in the Lord Jesus. His death on the cross is the only payment for your sins that God will accept. When you choose to trust in the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God says you are forgiven. You are rescued from the

punishment of your sins. You will not be separated from God in a place of punishment when you die. You'll live with God forever in Heaven someday.

CONTEST:

See how many words you can make from the phrase 'You are Forgiven' (you can put the letters in any order). Please send your entry to **joni-ken_sommersgreen@rogers.com**. Be sure to put '**Kids Contest**' in the subject line....or, if you don't have email, please put your entry in my folder at church (K. Green) and stay tuned for the

next issue of "The Road Ahead" to find out who the winner is *and* the mystery prize! All submissions must be received by April 30, 2009. **GOOD LUCK!**



Genesis 9: 16
So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant, I have established between me and all life on the earth."

How do you Celebrate Easter?

How do you celebrate Easter? Post your picture on the Church in Action board, inside

the Easter Egg. We will display until the end of April. If you would like you

can put a caption with it or identify the participants...you be the reporter!

(Continued from page 1)

offers to drive to chemo were thankfully received and much appreciated.

I've learned that life goes on with you or without you and with no regard for your 'suggested slower pace'. I finished chemo at the end of September and am still recovering from its side effects. I was able to return to work in December. I will continue working 4 days per week until my upcoming second surgery this spring.

Many exciting things are happening in all our lives, Carman and Jennifer have a baby daughter, Madelyn Isabel Kyle born on March 12th and now our youngest son Curtis and his fiancée Nicole will be married at the farm this August. Lots of details to think about and now someone new to talk to about them. God's love surrounds us and his people take such good care of each other. I am thankful and humbled by the love you have shown me. It will soon be my turn to return this generosity.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Good Friday, April 10
10:30

Easter Sunday, April 12
10:30

Knox United Church

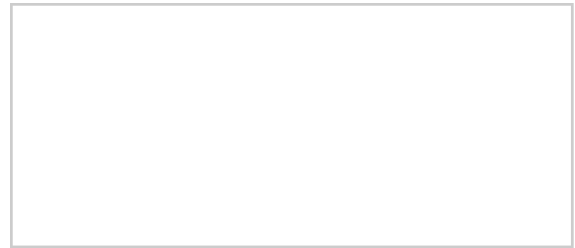
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To connect people to Christ as we
discover, rejoice and
serve...Together.



(Continued from page 1)
relationship with God.

Things are changing here and we are entering a time of transition or moving from one stage in this church's history to another. We know the reason for this move as we come closer to the time of Rev. Hagle's retirement, followed by a time of interim ministry and then the development of a relationship with a new minister. However, we still need to work out a plan for this move and to establish a desired destination. What does Knox United Church, Ayr hope to be? How will we serve our members and adherents, the immediate community and the larger community of God's world? Why is this church here? These are important questions that need to be

answered. Who will decide what our destination should be? As a church family, and the word family is very important here at Knox, we need to all be a part of that decision and to find a united purpose.

Coming together, talking, sharing ideas, hopes and dreams are so necessary. In order to give opportunities for this sharing to take place, a transition team has been established. This group wants to hear from you. However, more importantly we, the family of Knox want you to know that you are valued and we want you to join us as we work to live out our Vision:

"To connect people to Christ as we discover, rejoice and serve.....**Together.**

Outreach Opportunity

The Church in Action Team met for the first time on March 31st. Members of the team are: Sandra Dance, Dean Davidson, Nancy Jacobs and Brian and Elaine Wettlaufer. We are looking for

any budding 'Cub' reporters to do the write-up for The Ayr News column, Hear At The Steeple.

There is a sign-up sheet on our bulletin board (if you come in the back entrance it's on your right-hand side). Please consider volunteering for a Sunday.