

Knox News & Notes



June/July/August 2023

A Message from the Interim Moderator

In a time of transition such as this for Knox, patience will be required on everyone's part. There will be a temptation to panic and think that we will fall apart if there is not a Senior Minister in place in the near future. I want to encourage your faith; God has not given up on Knox, and holds the future of this Church, and the whole church of Jesus Christ, with covenant love and faithfulness. Calling the wrong person out of urgency will only compound the problems that need to be addressed and healed before moving ahead with the right leadership in place. The Session is working at discerning what the best course and timing will be, even as it addresses its own internal health. Several Session members have moved on, and some are currently in their last days of service. It would be important for us to thank Gerda Trollip, Gerry Zegerius, Jesse Bush, and Dianne Harvey for their service and to pray blessing on them as they step away from Session, find rest, and attend to other priorities in their lives.

In the meantime, 'Friends, take a firm stand, feet on the ground and head high. Keep a tight grip on what you were taught, whether in personal conversation or by our letter. May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech. 2 Thessalonians 2: 15 - 17 (MSG)

Yours in Christ,

Glen Soderholm
Interim Moderator

Welcome Alex!

Knox's New (Interim) Music Director

You may have heard through church service announcements, or the Knox grapevine, that we have hired a new Interim Music Director, **Alex Lank**.

Alex comes to Knox with a wonderful music background. He has been music director at churches in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He is a piano and drum teacher here in Guelph, and a freelance musician playing music gigs across many genres, in addition to working at Marden Library. His passion for music, and for bringing the organ and piano to life are very evident – you may have noticed, when he played at Knox in April and over the winter. Alex will start with us on June 7th.

We look forward to worshipping with you Alex. We are so excited to have you with us! Please take time to introduce yourself and welcome Alex, in true Knox Guelph style.

Hello Knox Family and Friends:

As you may have heard, the worship committee is urgently looking for aid:

Brian Redpath and Phil Gordon have been the primary providers for the Livestream components and the sound/audio components for many years now. Both gentlemen are doing amazing work which allows our worship to be shared - and both gentlemen have been filling these rolls with uncomplaining service.

Now, it is time for some back-up plans.

I am asking you to *prayerfully consider* if someone you know would consider helping in these roles. This may be yourself, a friend, neighbour, niece, nephew, grandchild, young or older... The frequency can be discussed with Brian and Phil, but they would love to have the occasional Sunday off to sit with their families, or not worry about vacations, or sick days, or unexpected emergencies.

Sound Booth: This is a role that can be trained quite quickly, just by sitting with Phil on a Sunday morning or two. Your time commitment would be from 10:10 on a Sunday morning, until end of service. Please speak to Phil if you (or a loved one) would be willing to help in this capacity. Frequency: flexible!

Livestream: This has two components:

Pre-service: Seeking one or two capable folks to work from your computer/laptop. You would be creating the "overlays" for the service (hymn lyrics, scripture verses - all the words that go across the bottom of the screen). This position will take approximately 2 (or so) hours a week, *and can be completed fully from your own home!*

During Service: Seeking folks to be trained on the operation of the livestream equipment for a Sunday morning service. Brian will offer extensive training, to ensure familiarity and comfort with the livestream equipment. The time commitment, once trained, is 10:10 Sunday morning, and for a few minutes after service, to wrap up loose threads. Frequency: once every 6 weeks or so - TBD with Brian.

Again - *please pray, and please ask around.* Working the Knox YouTube equipment is a unique opportunity that may appeal to unexpected sources. Please reach out to Brian R, Phil G, or Carrie G with any questions. Thank You!

Carrie Gordon
Worship Committee



Knox Picnic – Sunday, June 11 – Marden Park Pond-Pavilion



Worship Services:

10:30 am – Shirley and George will lead the service at **Knox chapel**.

- Members attending the 10:30 am service are welcome to join us afterwards for lunch and activities at Marden.
- **11:00 am** – Herb and Alex will lead the service at Marden Park.

Activities:

Lunch will follow the service at Marden Park. BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs, cold and hot drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert, lawn chair and sun hat. Games will follow our lunch. The ball diamond rental/insurance has been cancelled due to insufficient people to field a team. During coffee hour on May 28, June 4 and at the park on June 11, a free will offering basket will be available for donations.

Come out on the 11th and enjoy a day of worship, food, fun and fellowship!

Coffee Hour



Join us for coffee/tea/juice after worship service on the following upcoming dates:

May 28, June 4, July 16, August 6, September 17

We are also looking for people to form **Coffee Hour Teams**. A team would perform the following tasks monthly: coffee/tea/juice/cookies preparation before church service and serving coffee/tea/juice and cookies after worship service along with clean-up. A Coffee Hour team would consist of 3 to 4 people. If you would like to be on a team or have a group of people interested, please contact either Wendy or Heather to join or inquire further. Instructions and assistance will be provided to start. With several teams we can offer Coffee Hour on more than one Sunday per month.



Congregational Life Committee Needs Your Input and Help – For planning purposes, we are looking for your input for activities or events for participation by our Knox family. You can pass along your thoughts/ideas that would include events that can be either adults or intergenerational in nature to Wendy via: verbal, a phone call or email to congregationallife@knoxguelph.ca



On **Tuesday June 20th** the Knox Lunch Bunch will meet at Jesse's on the Green at the Guelph Country Club 133 Woodlawn Rd E, Guelph, ON at 11:45 am. Contact Deb through lunchbunch@knoxguelph.ca to make a reservation to join us by the Friday June 16th and include your name, phone number as well as your email address. Numbers need to be confirmed in advance with the restaurant the weekend before our booking. Reservations are necessary to ensure that there is room for everyone. Friends welcome. Future Lunch Bunch dates will be posted to the knoxguelph.ca website in the Calendar.



Knox takes confidential prayer requests to comfort and lift up members of the Knox family, their relatives, and friends in times of concern or crisis. Requests are forwarded to our dedicated Prayer Chain members. The Prayer Chain is coordinated by Deb Nash-Chambers through the following link: prayerchain@knoxguelph.ca.

Hospital Visiting Team

During the ministerial vacancy, a small team of volunteers, coordinated by Nancy Dickieson, are available to provide supportive visits to members of our Knox family who are hospitalized at the Guelph General. Our visitors will pass along any special requests to the Rev. Dr. Shirley Gale, or the prayer chain etc.

You do not have to face a hospitalization alone - your Knox family cares about you. Please be sure to notify the office of any hospitalizations so we can arrange a visit.



In Memoriam

Church Register of Clergy Records Received

Grace Cooper

Died April 5, 2023

Age 79

Summer Sunday School

Each summer, Knox holds one joint Sunday school class for kids from JK to grade 6. The class is held in the McGillvary room. Each lesson is a complete unit... it doesn't build on other weeks.

The joint class begins on Sunday June 18, and runs until Labour day weekend. There are some great bible stories that we will be exploring this year, and I think the kids and the leaders alike will enjoy them!

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to lead a class ... if you love kids but can only commit to an occasional Sunday ... if you want to share God's love with our Knox kids ... then I encourage you to consider helping out for one or more Sundays.

The curriculum and all of the lesson material is provided.

We have an awesome supply room filled with just about everything you might need.

We even provide a snack for the kids! All that is needed is YOU.

Please see the sign-up sheet in Metcalfe Hall, or speak with me about how and when you can help out.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22 :6

Blessings

Karen Bellamy

Church School Coordinator

Vacation Bible School

In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community, the Hero Hotline Headquarters, where everyone's gifts are valued and every Hero has a role to play!

VBS 2023 will take place **JULY 10 - 14, from 9:00 till noon daily.** We welcome children who have turned 4 years of age to finished grade 6 in June to join us at the Hero Hotline Headquarters. Over the week, the kids (aka the Heroes) will experience cool music, exciting science, memorable bible stories, creative crafts, fun recreation and delicious snacks, all while learning how we can work together and join God in helping others! There is no fee charged for this amazing weeklong adventure, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Registration forms are available at Knox in the sanctuary, on our website knoxguelph.ca, or by emailing vbs@knoxguelph.ca. Please speak with Karen Bellamy or Carrie Gordon if you have any questions or want to register a child!

Your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbor kids will LOVE this adventure! Sign them up soon so they won't be disappointed!

YOU can also be a Hero.... We will be posting a VBS wish list of items that are needed for this amazing program. We will also be sending out information about a Mission project that we hope everyone will support.

"So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Romans 14:19



A Spring Update From the LOGOS Board

The Logos Board held a meeting on April 19th, for the purpose of making some decisions about continuing the Logos Ministry considering some of the challenges we faced this past year.

The Board has made the decision to offer Logos in Fall 2023 for a 10-week session with a week off at the halfway point. If the Fall session runs smoothly, with an adequate number of regularly attending volunteers, a second 10-week session may be offered in the winter. Here are the Fall dates: Sept 20th and 27th, Oct 4th, 11th and 18th, Nov 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. (Oct 25th will be the week off.) Families will register and pay for each session separately.

Logos is all about developing and fostering meaningful relationships. We begin with our relationship with God, but after that the relationships referred to are relationships between adults and adults, adults and children and children and children. Logos is a ministry for all ages. All generations are welcome and there is a role for everyone.

The timing of each Logos evening will be changed slightly. In an effort to alleviate the afternoon rush and give more time to find parking, Family Time will be a bit more compressed. We will start at 5:15pm sharp. Dinner will run from 5:15-5:35, Family Time Activity will be from 5:35-5:55 and Circle Time will be from 5:55-6:00. If we run overtime, class times will be adjusted accordingly.

We are hoping for a new Lead Minister and a new Lead Musician to add to the fun. These two new leaders will be members of the Logos Board and important contributors to the Logos Ministry. We will continue to pray for the members of the Committees who will be searching for the right people to fill these two important positions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any member of the Logos Board (Nancy, Karen, Katie, Kyla).

Logos is a joyful ministry that values all its members. Everyone is welcome!

Submitted by: Nancy Stepien (on behalf of the Logos Board).



Farewell to Chris Fischer



Chris Fischer, Director of Music, was honoured by the congregation on two special occasions prior to leaving Knox Church for a new full-time opportunity in London. On April 2, 2023, well-wishers joined Chris after worship for coffee and cake. Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, was Chris' final worship service. At that time Tom Stinson and Ray Funnell, on behalf of the congregation, presented Chris with a gift in appreciation for Chris' 17 years of dedicated service. The gift included a purse of money and a unique cross created by Karen Bellamy from original stained glass from the church sanctuary. When Chris looks at this cross in the years to come, we hope they will remember their time at Knox, as we will remember Chris. Good luck, Chris!

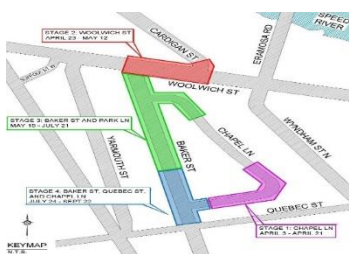
A special thank you to all who helped to plan and assisted at these events - Carrie Gordon and Jessie Bush from the Worship Committee; Heather Sanderson, Wendy Darroch and Gerda Trollip from Congregational Life; and choir members Tom Stinson, Forest Sanderson, Ray and Jean Funnell who served cake.

Submitted by Nancy Dickieson,

Congregational Life

Downtown Guelph Update

Baker District construction: what to expect



Baker District is a landmark city-building initiative that will bring more visitors and residents Downtown, create more jobs and enhance the vitality of our Downtown. Last month we resumed construction on the sewer and other underground work to support the redevelopment of this area. The installation of services and reconstruction of Baker Street, Chapel and Park Lanes will be ongoing in stages until the Fall. This map shows the proposed stages of construction and the approximate timing for the work to be completed.

Status update:

- Stage 1 work is complete
- Stage 2 work is underway
- Stage 3 work is also already underway (ahead of schedule)
- Stage 4 work is still to come

Please keep in mind: Construction timing is fluid, and the current schedule is highly dependent on several factors including weather, and the complexity of working around existing services and utilities in the area. We'll provide updates via this newsletter and in-person (from the City contractor) should this schedule change significantly.

Working with our contractors, the City will make every effort to maintain access to short-term loading, pick-up, drop-off, driveways, parking garages and private parking lots in the construction areas.

Moments from Mission & Outreach

The Mission and Outreach Committee continues to work to rejuvenate Knox's outreach initiatives and this spring has seen the beginning of our "Give to Guelph" food program in support of Chalmers. Knox has participated in food donations for years, but in response to the growing food insecurity in our local community, the committee decided to re-invigorate our collective commitment. Our Sunday School and Logos youth creatively painted sanctuary donation bins and decorated the large donation bin as well this spring. We have had 2 successful "Give to Guelph" Sundays on April 16th and May 21st, already greatly increasing Knox's food donations to Chalmers. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, the beautiful bins are brought out to the sanctuary for donations (donations will still be gratefully received every Sunday throughout the month). Donations are picked up the week following the "Give to Guelph" Sunday by a Chalmers volunteer for distribution through their programs. Each month, Chalmers highlights some items for considered donations. For the month of June, donations of canned vegetables and peanut butter from Knox are being encouraged. Skim milk powder and toilet paper are always needed. All donations are gratefully received. Moving forward into the summer months, our "Give to Guelph" Sunday dates include June 18th, July 16th and August 20th. Thanks Knox family!

In other news, an Al Sawal Family Update: June 1, 2023 will mark 6 years since we welcomed the the Al Sawal family to Canada. On May 17, 2023, the three oldest children, Fidaa, Hasan, and Mohamad became Canadian citizens!

