

Knox News & Notes



September 2025

The Meaning of Space

Knox made a big and courageous decision on June 22. The fact that there was such a high percentage of support for the decision is truly a blessing, because this kind of decision can tear a congregation apart. Few are the congregations who make this decision before their situation becomes a crisis, so we are also blessed with some non-crisis time. There is no way that such a decision could be made without some ambivalence; it is just too momentous and emotional. While for many this decision may be motivated by pragmatics (a realistic assessment of finances, demographics and space needs) it nevertheless catapults us into a very specific and unique kind of faith journey.

We now will contemplate a couple of big questions: what will we take with us and what kind of space do we need?

The question of “what do we take with us?” may again be a pragmatic question, but not only that. It will surely require some letting go, which is both an emotional and spiritual question: what do we really need in order to worship together and serve our community? In asking this, we will need to face our attachments.

The 2nd question of “what kind of space do we need?” will prove to be interesting. When 9 Knox people gathered on July 20 with the facilitator from Releven (see report later in this newsletter), we realized that we bring quite a range of expectations to this question. The most obvious three options for our new space seem to be: buy a building; lease a space (this could either be in a church or non-church building) or partnering with another congregation in a typical “church” building.

Another (maybe outlier) idea is to de-emphasize the focus on Sundays in order to focus on missional ministry (what happens Monday-Saturday in homes and through participation in the community).

As we work through these questions together, it may gradually become clear that the space question depends upon our understanding and expectations for ministry. What do we need space for? That question takes us to the root of our faith: What is a congregation for, anyway?

If we stick with Jesus, one example of how he described his purpose was: I am anointed to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, proclaiming God's favour. (Luke 4)

What kind of space would allow us to do that? If Knox's particular way of living into that is in cross-generational ministry, what space do we need in order to do that?

We will need every ounce of wisdom, courage and love to walk through this together! We will grow, and we will learn together along the way. God's Spirit is with us.

Rev Cathy

Worship Committee Updates

Flowers in the sanctuary: We extend gratitude to Leesa Nicholson for her very creative and thoughtful work in arranging flower displays, seasonal decorations, communion table displays and arranging beautiful adornment of the cross at Easter. She is taking a break from that for the time being. Thanks to a hint from someone in the congregation, we asked Bob Seim to consider doing sanctuary flowers again and he has very enthusiastically agreed. Bob Seim learned how to arrange flowers as a teenager, and as of late has been looking after centre pieces for Seniors Connecting. Using our significant supply of artificial flowers, he will create some arrangements that can rotate into the sanctuary each Sunday. There is always opportunity to offer “live” arrangements on occasion – for instance in memory or a loved one, or to celebrate a milestone celebration. Please let the office know if you would like to do this.

Choral Scholars: Zoe Fingas sang with the Knox choir for a number of years. Zoe has begun training for Ministry in the United Church and will need to focus on that at this time. As such, their contract with Knox ended in May. Tony is recruiting another soprano to support the choir (to be announced when confirmed).

Annual Review: Bruce Wilson, in his new role as convener of our HR committee, along with Rev Cathy, conducted an annual review with Tony Domzella in July. Together they identified goals for the coming year. Tony will move from 12 hours/week to 15 to accommodate an addition to his role (see below).

Revelation Ringers: when Chris Fisher left, Anne Menzie graciously stepped into the role of Director of the Revelation Ringers. She did so very ably for 2 seasons, challenging the Ringers to play in the Ontario Guild of English Hand Bell Ringers Festival in June of 2025. Over the course of this past year, Tony Domzella has been learning to play bells, and he will begin to direct the Ringers starting in September. Anne has agreed to offer occasional workshops with the group. We extend many thanks to Anne for her service to the Bells. Under her leadership they progressed to being able to play at the “Copper B” skill level in the Festival.

World Communion Sunday: for the last few years, Knox has participated in Run for the Cure, which started down the street in the Square on the first Sunday in October. Traffic being blocked off, it became hard to start our service at its 10:30 time, and because we participated with St Andrew’s we held a joint service on that day and shifted communion to the last Sunday in September. This year the Run has moved to a different location, so parking will no longer be an issue. As well, Mission and Outreach has decided that for various reasons (low participation; different focus for mission in the fall) Knox will discontinue its participation in the Run. This all means that we can return communion to the first Sunday in October, and celebrate World Communion Sunday with the rest of the world!!!!

Changes on committee: After many years of participation on the Worship committee, Bill Nicholson has requested a pause. At committee meetings Bill offered regular observations and feedback to the committee, particularly encouraging a variety of musical formations. Thank you, Bill, for your thoughtful contributions!

Help needed: Communion Set up and clean up: Bill and Leesa Nicholson have looked after setting up and cleaning up for communion for the last several years. Thank you both! Now we need someone else to take on this role. Communion generally occurs 5 times per year. The tasks involved are: cutting up the bread the day before, pouring grape juice into the glasses (we have a great device for this!), and setting up the communion table. Afterwards, there is the washing of the communion elements and storing in the cupboard by the kitchen. Bill and Leesa are willing to walk through these steps with our next willing helper(s). If you would consider doing it as long as you are part of a team, we will help find someone to work with you! Please contact Rev Cathy or Carrie Gordon

Cathy's Corner When we are asked to pray.....

One of the things we learn in seminary is how to lead public prayer, which is different from private prayer. In private prayer, we don't need to think about what others need, or what others think, we can pray in any random order, and God will receive not only our words but the silent ponderings of our hearts "Even before a word is on my tongue, you know it....." (Ps 139)

Praying in the presence of others is a bit different, though not entirely.

We may be asked to pray as the leader of a small group, or in the prayer of Illumination in worship, or when we visit someone in a pastoral role (hospital visitor; part of the pastoral team). Here is a simple guide:

1. Address God. A prayer is directed towards God, so we want to start there. The Lord's Prayer starts with "Our Father". We can say simply "Dear God" or add in some adjectives and descriptors "Gracious God", "Holy One", "Loving God", "God who is like a Mother/Father to us" "God, you know us" "God of the whole world" "God Creator" "God who knit us together in our mother's wombs" "Faithful God"
2. It is often good to start with some kind of thanksgiving: "Thank you that you are with us" "Thank you that you promise wherever 2 or 3 are gathered, you are there" "Thank you for all the ways you care for us" "Thank you for the gifts we receive from your hand" "Thank you for this day" "Thank you for how you speak through Scripture" "Thank you for this group gathered here" "Thank you for _____ (name of person visiting)" "Thank you for all the gifts you have given to ___ and the gifts ___ has given to others"
3. Ask for help "Give us help, we pray to.....make it through this day; hear your Spirit; deal with pain and fear....." whatever.
4. Closing: "We pray in Jesus' name" "We pray trusting in your Spirit" "We pray knowing you are always with us" "We pray knowing that whatever our words are here today, you pray in us and through us"
5. Amen signals that we offer this prayer in trust; we affirm our intention.

Although I had some training in doing public prayer in seminary, the biggest influence on me was through reading the psalms, and through the prayers of Jeremiah. Jeremiah's prayers are so heartfelt. The psalms contain a variety of themes. Some seem individual and personal, but they all became prayers for the whole community. Some are more like Calls to worship "Come, bless the Lord... (Ps 134) or Affirmations of faith that talk about God rather than pray to God ("The Lord is my shepherd..."), but most are prayers directed to God "Give ear, O Shepherd ..." (Ps 80). The Psalms show us many ways we can address God (thanksgiving, cries for help; expressing anger or despair, asking questions).

There is so much to say about prayer. Let me know if this is helpful or interesting.

Rev Cathy





Snippets from Session- Summer 2025

Even though Session has not held formal meetings in July and August, work has continued on some high priority items.

The group looking at the Endowment Fund has worked hard through the summer and will have something to present to Session in September.

The Downtown Guelph Board of Management has made a proposal to all the businesses housed in buildings on Quebec St. including the Knox Church building. The proposal involves lighting up Quebec St year-round with warm white LED lights installed in a way that enhances the architecture of each building. The proposal was presented to Session by the Property Committee and Session affirmed our intention to participate. This is a year-round plan that will be in effect for the next ten years. Installation will begin in September and October with a view to extending it throughout the whole downtown in the coming years.

The Congregational Life Committee has been de-commissioned and restructured. Rather than remaining a committee with a convener, Knox will have a, "Coordinator of Congregational Events." Session thanks Carrie Gordon for agreeing to be the new Coordinator. The rationale for this restructuring states that the word, "committee" infers a long-term commitment. A Coordinator can draw different people in for different events and share the work. Volunteers can contribute where their interests and skills are best suited. If there are not enough volunteers for an event, the event will not take place. On behalf of the congregation, Session thanks Wendy Darroch and the members of the Congregational Life Committee for the many fun events we have enjoyed over the years. We also thank Heather Sanderson for remaining as our Coffee Hour Coordinator.

General Assembly took place from June 1st to 5th in Hamilton at McMaster University. Werner Kuemmling was the Commissioner representing Knox Guelph, along with 7 other Commissioners. Werner reported that General Assembly was well organized and a very positive experience. He was struck by the absolute sense of the love of Christ, not only during worship, but during all the working sessions.

Session has re-affirmed its commitment to a Term Eldership model. Our rotation will begin in September 2025. We will strive to honour members' needs to step off Session when desired, but no one will be forced off or be prevented from staying on if they feel called to do so.

There have been some recent changes to Session membership: Karen Bellamy retired at the end of May. Werner Kuemmling has agreed to remain as our Presbytery Representative. Nancy Dickieson will rotate off in September. There have also been some changes to the leadership of the committees. Here is an updated list of committees and convenors:

Finance Committee- Lisa Hough, Christian Education Committee- Nancy Stepien

Property Committee- David Hough, Worship Committee- Rev Cathy Stewart

Human Resources- Bruce Wilson,

Mission and Outreach- Rachel Fishback and Mel McGurrian

Communication Committee- Session has identified the need for a committee, but there is no membership at this time. Rev. Cathy fills in where needed.

In the Spring, a small committee undertook the updating of our Mission and Vision Statement. Session adopted the update in principle as the current statement of Knox's identity. It was written with the understanding that it will be reviewed and rewritten as the need arises. It has been posted on the Knox website so that it is accessible for all who wish to read it.

On September 20th, Session members will attend a half day retreat at Crieff. The idea for this originated with Revs. Cathy and Glen and Session members have asked for material that is both new and sustaining; a big request! We look forward to receiving what they prepare for us.

And finally, the season is changing; it can be felt in the mornings and in the evenings. Session members are grateful for having had a short rest over the summer and look forward to continuing the work of the church in the coming Fall. 🍏 🍁 🍂 🎃

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stepien,
Clerk of Session.



Treasurer's Report

treasurer@knoxguelph.ca

June 2025

Operating Fund Financial Highlights

Results to June show Regular Offerings below plan and prior year, with other revenue sources tracking ahead of plan and behind prior year. Positively impacting other revenue sources is Mission related fundraising revenue which is intentionally not captured as part of plan. Expenses are below both prior year and plan, with salaries lower than prior year and plan due to Rev. Shirley's retirement. Members plus adherents moved from 247 to 248 year over year.

June posted an operating deficit of \$61.4k prior to planned quarterly Endowment Fund transfers of \$53.1k, resulting in a remaining in-year deficit of \$8.2k. Cash remains healthy.

Financial Highlights - June 2025			
	Budget	Actual	Prior Year
Revenue - Regular Offerings	\$ 143,750	\$ 128,539	\$ 131,931
Revenue - All Other Sources	\$ 8,658	\$ 17,105	\$ 24,792
Expenses	\$ 239,637	\$ 207,010	\$ 232,865
In-Year Deficit	\$ (87,230)	\$ (61,366)	\$ (76,142)
Portion of in-Year Deficit Funded by EF	\$ 53,129	\$ 53,129	\$ 27,727
Remaining in-Year Deficit	\$ (34,101)	\$ (8,237)	\$ (48,415)

Note: Budget is based on straight line phasing and does not capture seasonality

Roll	
2025 Opening (Dec.31.2024 Closing)	247
Members	
New - Members	3
Deaths - Members	-2
Transfers Out - Members	0
Other - Members	0
Subtotal - In Year Change for Members	1
Adherents	
New - Adherents	0
Deaths - Adherents	0
Transfers Out - Adherents	0
Subtotal - In Year Change for Adherents	0
In year change	1
2025 year-to-date	248

There are many ways for Members/Adherents to give aside from envelope offerings! Please call/email the office for more information on any of the following:

- ✓ **Recurring Gift:** PAR – Pre-authorized Remittance, occurring on the 20th day of each month, you choose the amount!
- ✓ **E-transfer:** You choose the amount, and the timing! Send to: acct@knoxguelph.ca
- ✓ **Planned Giving:** This can be by bequest, charitable gift annuity, assignment of life insurance, gifts of real estate, or gifts of publicly traded securities.

Spring Cleaning in the Summer

Before the carpets in the Nursery, Chapel and Library could be steam cleaned, furniture had to be removed, cupboards had to be cleaned, shelves washed and toys needed to be washed, sorted and re-evaluated. After the carpets were cleaned and dry again, everything had to be put back into place. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with this project.



Karen & Maddy Vacuuming & Washing the Toy Cupboards



Carrie & Larahanne Washing & Dusing the Chapel



Mel washing baseboards



Mason glueing wallpaper



Wendy, Elza & Lindsay washing & drying all the toys.

Special thanks to Carrie who washed all the stuffed toys, wall hangings and towels!

Mark Your Calendar



To date we have 21 tables reserved for our November 1st Fall Festival. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in booking at table (or two) for this event, please contact us at fallfestival@knoxguelph.ca.

Volunteers are also needed to donate homemade baked goods, jams, preserves and/or craft items for the Knox tables. We are also looking for new/unused items for our raffle tables.

Fall Festival Volunteer Form 2025

Name: _____
(Please Print)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

This volunteer form will be included with a Sunday bulletin and will also be available in Metcalf Hall.

Able bodied people to help Set-up Friday from 10:00 a.m. on. ____;

-Able bodied people to take down Saturday from 3:00 p.m. on. ____

-Able-bodied volunteers needed to help vendors bring in their wares and return to cars after event. A great opportunity for volunteer hours!

-Friday 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. ____; Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. ____

-Saturday from 3:00 p.m. on ____

Assistance needed in following areas:

If we have enough volunteers to take a shift, we will shorten the time of each shift.

-**Greeters (2):** 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ____; 12:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ____.

-**Bake / Preserves Table:** Set up & Pricing: Friday from 10:00 on ____.

Sales on Saturday: 10:00 – 12:30 ____; 12:30 – 3:00 ____.

Clean up on Saturday: 3:00 on ____.

-Raffle Table:

Set up Friday 10:00 on ____

Sell Tickets Saturday 10:00 – 12:30 ____; 12:30 – 3:00 ____.

I will donate: Baking ____; Preserves (pickles, jams etc.). ____;

New unused items for raffle table ____.

Moments from Mission & Outreach

Generous support of Knox's outreach efforts continued during the summer months:

- Give to Guelph donation totals: June 29.3lbs, July 76lbs, bringing our total for the first half of 2025 to 696.5lbs!
- 23 cans of coffee and \$35 were donated to Royal City on our June Grounds for Giving Sunday (June 1st). **Thank you everyone!**

The Mission and Outreach Committee has been busy, and we are excited to share some of our fall projects with you!

Give to Guelph: Your generosity, rooted in service and faith, is making a real impact on those facing food insecurity in our community; thank you! Give to Guelph Sundays happen every 3rd Sunday of the month, with donations also welcome any Sunday or during office hours via the decorated bin.

Each month, Chalmers highlights priority items:

- **September:** Honey (plus ongoing needs: peanut butter, skim milk powder, toilet paper).
Give to Guelph Sunday: September 21
- **October:** Canned fruit (plus ongoing needs: peanut butter, skim milk powder, toilet paper).
Give to Guelph Sunday: October 19

Challenge!

In April 2023, Knox renewed our commitment to Chalmers through the Give to Guelph initiative, responding to the growing needs in our community. As of July 2025, our donations have totaled **3,573.80 lbs** since April '23! ***The challenge: Can we reach, or surpass, the total of 4,000lbs by year end?*** Thank you for your continued support—every contribution makes a difference.

Grounds for Giving: This outreach began in May '24 after it was shared that coffee is one of Royal City Mission's major expenses. Thanks to your generosity, Knox has donated 96 cans of coffee and \$577 so far! Grounds for Giving Sunday returns on *September 28th*. We invite donations of coffee cans or cash to continue supporting this important work. Be sure to join us for a special coffee hour after the service.

Day of Giving: Fall is a season of gratitude and generosity—a time to share God's blessings. One way to respond is through Knox's Day of Giving. This year, 20% of donations will support Royal City Mission, helping neighbours in need. Envelopes will be available in the bulletin later this month, and online donations marked "Day of Giving" are also welcome. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Refugee Fund Update: St. Andrew's launched a successful GoFundMe page to encourage community donations. Currently there is enough in the fund to help the 3 Ukrainian families until April 2026 at current levels of support.

Mark Your Calendars!

There are many things being planned throughout the fall for your prayerful consideration, support and participation. These include:

- "Knox Rocks Socks" is back for October, otherwise known as Sock-tober! Details coming soon!
- Be sure to visit the Mission & Outreach table at the Fall Festival on November 1st (*We will also be offering Rheo Mint Smoothie orders in advance this year!*)
- Our 4th annual Giving Tree, Gifts of Change initiative in support of PWS&D coming in November & December
- *Saturday, December 6th*: Santa Parade evening! A not-to-be-missed evening of fellowship, optional holiday crafts, dinner & watching the parade together, along with "sustenance sales" & washrooms to parade viewers. Thank you for your on-going prayerful consideration and support of our fall Mission & Outreach initiatives everyone!

Thank you!

The Mission & Outreach Committee received this email to Knox in July; the totals mentioned were as of June 2025.

Dear Knox,

Thank you for your generous donation of **620.5 lbs** of food to our pantry at Chalmers. In 2024, we gave out 21,249 food baskets and the need continues to grow. Sixty percent of our guests are children. All of our guests are extremely grateful to all of our donors. Without you, it would be extremely

hard to continue to serve those who are experiencing food insecurity.

Chalmers is extremely grateful for your support. Your generosity directly helps us to continue our mission of creating a community, without poverty, where people flourish with dignity and respect.

With gratitude,
Crystle Avery
Executive Director
Seniors Connecting at Knox



Fall Congregational Events:

Although the 'Congregational Life committee' has been disbanded as a "session committee", have no fear, Congregational events are very much still alive and well at Knox!

Heather Sanderson and Carrie Gordon will be your contact people for any planned Congregational events, and will be heading up the volunteers needed for each event. Do you have an idea for a Congregational event? Let us Know! We'd love to hear your thoughts!

We would like to get the fall, and the subsequent return to fall programs, going with a SWEET START.

Please join us on **Sunday Sept 7th for SUNDAES ON SUNDAY**. There will be assorted ice cream flavours, and toppings galore for your Ice Cream Masterpiece! (There will also be coffee, tea, and juice if ice cream isn't your 'thing')

Come visit with an old friend, meet a new friend and share your summer joys, and Autumn hopes, goals and dreams!

We would also like to put Anniversary Sunday on your radar now: We will be having cake and goodies after church on Sunday November 16th. This complimentary open to everyone, including any guests. Help us celebrate Knox's 181st year in Guelph!

We look forward to celebrating, and developing further fellowship, within our Knox family.

Carrie Gordon and Heather Sanderson



Seniors Connecting at Knox

If you are a senior and want to connect with other seniors, join us on the fourth Thursday of the month running from September to June in Metcalf Hall. Enjoy a homemade lunch starting at 12:00 noon with entertainment following lunch at 1:00 pm.



Complimentary Taxi Transportation: We offer complimentary taxi transportation for seniors to get to and from our monthly gatherings at Knox. If you would like your name added to the taxi list, contact Nancy D. at 519-821-0141 for further details.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming dates:

For 2025 -

- Thursday, September 25
- Thursday, October 23
- Thursday, November 27
- Thursday, December 11

For 2026 -

Thursday, February 26
 Thursday, March 26
 Thursday, April 23
 Thursday, May 28
 Thursday, June 25



Frozen Soup Lunch Delivery: This program includes a homemade frozen soup lunch package that is delivered by Knox volunteers to the homes of seniors who are considered shut-ins within the City of Guelph. This delivery service will continue on a monthly basis from September to June.



Church School Chatter

The summer has gone by so quickly!

I hope everyone had a wonderful time, enjoying vacations, visiting with friends, camping, swimming, campfires, or whatever amazing things filled your days with joy!

Church School has also had a vacation this summer! But come September, we will all be ready to go again! I would like to invite all children from 4 years of age to grade 8 to join us each Sunday, for time especially for them! Our leaders are always thrilled to have eager learners, and plan great activities, crafts, games and more for all ages. These leaders put so much into their classes, and are filled with the joy of teaching YOUR children more about God's Love for us all!

It would be amazing if all of our Knox kids could join these dedicated leaders each Sunday, and maybe bring a friend! We look forward to seeing you all, beginning September 6!

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6
 "But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

Karen Bellamy

Prayer Chain



Knox takes confidential prayer requests to comfort and uplift 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.

Knox Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch gathers at 11:45 am on the third Tuesday of each month. On **September 16th**, we will meet at the Harvest Moon, 5 Parkside Drive, St. Jacob's ON. We will meet at the Halibut House, 702 Woolwich St, Guelph on **October 21st**. On **November 18th** we will convene at The Souvlaki Flame 206 Speedvale Ave W Unit-4, Guelph. Our **December 16th** outing will be at Montana's Restaurant 201 Stone Rd W, Guelph. Contact Deb through lunchbunch@knoxguelph.ca to make a reservation to join us by the Friday before each outing. 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.

Knox Library

Library patrons who took out books for the summer are asked to return their books in September on a Sunday or a Seniors Connecting luncheon. The library will be available on the first and third Sundays of the month and at Seniors Connecting. Currently, the library is not accepting book donations. Our shelves and the cart are full. Any used laptops or tablets for donation to our Seniors' Outreach will be gratefully accepted starting in September 2025. Please speak to Deb or Midge about the possible donations of devices.



Internal Auditor Needed



The Finance Committee is looking for a new internal auditor. This is a paid position (\$25 per hour) with an anticipated commitment of 3 to 6 hours per quarter (12 to 24 hours per year). Audits are performed each quarter and require a review of payments, invoices and associated documentation. Although experience with accounting would be ideal, no specific credentials are required. We are simply looking for someone who is comfortable with numbers/budgets and has good attention to detail. If you would like more information, please email office@knoxguelph.ca for more information with Internal Auditor in the subject line.

Submitted by
Lisa Hough



Follow us for daily connection and inspiration on Facebook at "Knox Guelph" and Instagram at "knox_guelph".



Notes from the New Beginnings Implementation Team

The Implementation team has continued to work over the summer months. Following the June 22nd congregational meeting and the affirmation of the motion to sell, we met on June 25th and then again with our coach Rev. Jeff Crawford, on July 16th, focusing on cross generational values and preparing for the fall. Our summer action items included:

- Signed Knox's contract with Relèven for 50 hours of consulting to guide space discernment, develop partnerships, and enhance communication.
- Began to work with our Relèven consultant: Kendra Fry. On July 20th, we had our first 4-hour workshop with Kendra, with Wendy Darroch, Eric Fishback, Donna Sheard, and Rev. Glen Soderholm joining us. We explored "What's next for Knox?" and began outlining next steps.
- We are in the final stages of obtaining a building value assessment.
- Conferred, met, and exchanged emails as initiatives continued to flow over the summer.
-

A bit more about our July 20th workshop:

During the workshop we considered a variety of questions posed, looking for commonalities amongst our various perspectives. We considered the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (kinds of things that could cause problems or difficulties) of different tenancy models - long term lease, purchasing a new building or joining in a partnership model in a building with another not-for-profit organization. No decision was reached; discussions were just beginning.

Below are the 10 prompts that the group considered. We share these for us all to reflect on as we move forward together.

When I think of Knox Guelph's new home I hope..	A thing that we are not doing that we'd like to start in a new space...
In our new space we'd like to partner with...	What we'd like to stop doing when we move to our new space...
When I think of owning a new building (buying), I'm excited by:	When I think of owning a new space, I'm scared by:
When I think of renting a new space, I'm excited by:	When I think of renting a new space I'm scared by:
When I think of joining an existing space as a partner, I'm excited by...	When I think of working in partnership in a new space I'm scared of...

As we continue our path, all of Knox is encouraged to continue to push ourselves to shift our thinking about reaching out to communities outside of our immediate congregation, becoming more missional and open to new opportunities around us.

We encourage you to keep your eye open for the opportunities for everyone to contribute ideas about our future space - details in upcoming communications. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Prepared by Mel McGurrin on behalf of the team: Tony Fishback, Kyla Poirier, Nancy Stepien, Rev. Cathy Stewart, Ann Wilson

Knitting For Mission - Helping To Keep Some Of God's Children Warm This Winter.

Greetings From the desk of: Rev. Dr. Shirley Gale

I pray you are keeping safe and doing well despite the high temperatures we have been experiencing this summer. The heat has made gardening and enjoying the outdoors difficult for some seniors. Since my retirement for health reasons this past December, I have been unable to do many things I enjoy, such as gardening. Lately, however, I have enjoyed knitting, as I prefer to stay active rather than sit idle or watch TV for hours.

So, I contacted the Royal City Mission next door to Knox, which, as you know, the Knox congregation supports through our monthly food donations. I asked if they would find donations of knitted items—such as hats, mitts, socks, scarves, and blankets—helpful this winter for the people they support through their mission. I was assured that such items would be most welcome and appreciated. I spoke to Rev. Cathy and received her approval for the project and a suggestion to write about this knitting initiative for Knox News & Notes, thus this letter.



The knitters in our Knox community have a remarkable history of knitting for others in need. I am inviting the knitters amongst us to join me again in reaching out to those in need by knitting any of the items listed above. If you are not a knitter, contributions of yarn, whether partially used balls or new, would be greatly appreciated. Knitted items or yarn donations may be dropped off at Knox during office hours and on Sunday mornings.

I have just finished knitting a single-bed-size blanket. This is my first experience knitting an item of this size, and I discovered it is a larger undertaking than I initially thought. However, I have finished the squares and the assembly and am adding the trim today. I pray this blanket, and all our knitted donations will keep those in need warm this winter.

Many of you participated in knitting pneumonia prevention hats and vests for newborn infants a couple of years ago. The WMS sent them to India to save the lives of infants needing warm clothing. Several of you also knitted "Twiddle Muffs and Twiddle Lap Blankets," which were donated to hospitals and nursing homes in Guelph and the Kitchener-Waterloo area to support Alzheimer's patients in care.

Instead of "Knitting for Mission," this current knitting project could be called "Knitting for Jesus," inspired by "His words: 'What you do for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do for me' (Matt 25:40). Regardless of the name, I pray that God blesses each knitter and the recipient of every knitted item helping to keep them warm. May they view these items as "gifts of God's grace and love, and as an expression of Knox loving our neighbours." Contact me by sending a message to office@knoxguelph.ca with ATTN: Shirley in the subject line if you will be knitting for this mission project, or have any questions, I will keep you advised if any donations of yarn are available.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,
Shirley

Royal City Mission's statement of mission is as follows:

"We're a community of people working together to make the invisible visible in Guelph.

This takes many forms, but three distinct ways we do this together are:

our Drop-In Program, which offers a welcoming space in a world that can often feel cold,
our Meal Program, which offers meals to those in need," and our Sunday morning
worship service."

The Royal City Mission in downtown Guelph is a
community hub that shares God's love by offering a
Drop-In Program, worship services, meals, washrooms, and
a sense of belonging.

The best feeling of
happiness is when you're
happy because you've made
someone else happy.



Dates for your calendar

October 5 - World Communion
Sunday

November 1 - Fall Festival

November 2 - All Saints Sunday

November 9 – Remembrance
Day

November 16 – Anniversary
Sunday