



Knox News

Advent and Christmas 2017

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TIVERTON, ONTARIO

Famous Cookie Walk

Dec. 2 - 10 a.m. to noon, in Church Fellowship Hall. An easy and fun way to stock up on homemade baking for the holidays!

1st Sunday in Advent

Dec 3 - 10:00 a.m. Knox
Knox Sunday School at Tiverton Park Manor at 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Meet & Greet

Dec. 9 - 2 - 4 p.m.
hosted by Rev. David, Yoomi and Rilee in the Church Activity Room
All are welcome!

2nd Sunday in Advent

Dec. 10 - 10:00 a.m. at Knox. Sunday School Christmas Pageant & White Gift Sunday. St. Paul's joining Knox worship. Bring your gifts wrapped in white bags or paper. A lunch and a visit from Santa will follow the service.

WMS - Dec. 13 at 2 PM

Christmas Mini Music Concert

Dec. 15 at Knox 6:30 p.m.

3rd Sunday in Advent and Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Dec. 17 - 10:00 a.m.

Candlelight Service - St. Paul's Glamis

Dec. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's extends a warm welcome to Knox to attend their Christmas Candlelight Service.

4th Sunday in Advent

Dec. 24 - 10:00 a.m. Hymn and Carol Service (*Joint Service with St. Paul's*)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Knox

Dec. 24 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Glamis will join Knox for worship services for January, February and the first week of March.

6 Things to Believe in at Christmas

1. Believe in Miracles
- Isaiah 9:6 
2. Believe in God's Purposes - Luke 4:18
3. Believe in Love, Grace, and Hope - John 3:16
4. Believe in Comfort
- Psalm 147:3
5. Believe in Joy
- Nehemiah 8:10
6. Believe & Seek Him!
- Hebrews 11:6

Christmas Message from Rev. David's Desk

Christmas is just around the corner. What do you want for Christmas? Have you made your wish list yet? Since my laptop's LCD screen was cracked last summer, I have been eagerly waiting for this Christmas season for retailers begin launching their Christmas season sales such as Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and Boxing Day. With a 50% - or even more - discount on a new laptop, through the gracious retailers, God would save me from my limited budget. "Saving" is indeed the most important part of Christmas.

For SAVING money, I have spent my own ADVENT, waiting for CHRISTMAS season sales, searching for an INEXPENSIVE but HIGH-QUALITY laptop, which is a nonsense. In the light of past experiences, after purchasing a new laptop, pushed by the warning "This is the last minute and last chance!" I would realize that I did not save my money, but rather wasted both my time and money for the laptop without a part that I needed, an optical drive (DVD reader/writer) or speaker. I would spend more money buying them additionally. What a silly man! Hope that you will not waste your precious time doing the same silly thing.

Advent is a season, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior, at Christmas. The season also offers the opportunity to be alert for Jesus' second coming. It is a season to spend our time experiencing the costly saving grace of Jesus Christ who was humbly born as a human being, sacrificed his life, and is to come in glory. Since we are thankful for Christ's costly grace, we have waited and prepared many events for the celebration of Advent and Christmas: Christmas Cookie Walk, White Gift Sunday, Sunday School Christmas Pageant, Christmas Music Mini Concert, Advent Communion Service, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, and Christmas Carol Service. May God bless all dedicated hearts and efforts!

Prayerfully hope that, as we take a journey through this holy season, we will not change the costly grace to a cheap grace without following Jesus faithfully, cheap self-indulgence without repentance, cheap communion without confession, cheap joy without thanksgiving, cheap hope without efforts, cheap peace without justice, cheap love without responsibility, cheap generosity without a genuine heart and cheap glory without the cross. May God fill all of us with his costly grace, peace, hope and love.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,

Rev. David

A little colouring fun for the young and young-at-heart



Countdown to *Christmas*
FAMILY ACTS OF KINDNESS

1. Hold the door open for someone.	2. Collect canned goods for a shelter.	3. Donate a book or toy.	4. Write a thank you note to the police or fire station.	5. Write a kind note to a family member.
6. Pick up trash in the neighborhood.	7. Put out birdseed for the birds.	8. Write a letter to someone special.	9. Rake leaves or shovel snow.	10. Bring teacher a treat.
11. Record a christmas carol for someone far away.	12. Recycle.	13. Write letter to grandparents telling them why they are special.	14. Leave quarters on a vending machine.	15. Write a thank-you to Jesus.
16. Bake cookies for the fire station.	17. Collect change for the bell-ringers at the mall.	18. Donate books to the library.	19. Draw pictures for a nursing home.	20. Donate a coat to charity.
21. Leave sidewalk chalk messages for neighbors to see.	22. Send note to someone in the military.	23. Help make a family dinner.	24. Make a paper hug to mail to a family member.	25. Merry Christmas!

Season's Greetings

www.viewfromastepool.com

A Message from Session *Clerk of Session, George* *Potter*

Greetings from the Session of Knox Church Tiverton.

As I sit down to write this it is hard to realize that Christmas and year-end are so close at hand. We've had a beautiful extended fall that made up in part for a summer that some could say was less than perfect. But the extended fall seems to be coming to an abrupt end as I see snow swirling around my patio.

You know sometimes I feel like Father Time. I've been associated with this church for about 45 years and the only constant I see is change. Oh yes I could say I remember the great leaders of this congregation who have now gone to their eternal rest. People we always thought could never be replaced. And while we do miss them dearly life moves on. Though I sometimes wonder where we're going and I do long for those good old days. The days when we had 12 staunch Elders and the hundred kids in Sunday School. But like nearly every other mainstream church we aren't quite what we used to be. Still we pray that we are an effective ministry and witness within our community.

Dr. Kennon Callahan, Inspirational Speaker and author of, "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church", claims that an effective Church should have 4 or 5 community-based services and events that define it in the area. These are things that the community at large can identify

and say, "That's the church that ... (does something special)". In the case of Knox Church that something special might be our Church Suppers.

You may think that Church Suppers are simply fundraisers? But I think they are a great opportunity for the members of our church to work elbow to elbow alongside members of the community. One good Church Supper is probably more important than a dozen regular Sunday Services. They are a great opportunity for members of the community to decide if this is an organization they would like to be involved with or – NOT.

There are at least two other "Special Services" at Knox that I feel meet Dr. Callahan's criteria." These are our Service of Memories and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. And Vacation Bible School fits in there as well. Rather tongue-in-cheek, Dr. Callahan claims that if we get these Special Services right, a community Church can do almost anything else in the other 40 odd services without doing much harm.

So far in 2017 our two Church Suppers, Vacation Bible School and our Service of Memories have been a great example of this concept. I invite all of you to come to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and rate it for yourself.

Some other noteworthy things have happened in those other 40 odd Sunday's. Starting in March Knox Church tested the idea of monthly Praise Worship Services, with emphasis on livelier songs and a brief message. The concept

is to work toward a midweek Service that may suit a younger audience. This concept or a variation of it may be revisited in 2018.

On May 14 we were pleased to witness the baptism of the Rev. David and Yoomi's daughter, Rilee Jiwoo Chang. It has been a long time since we had children in the Manse and Rilee continues to charm the members of our congregation.

On October 22 (Anniversary Sunday) Hailey Rae Aldridge daughter of Jennifer Stark and Gregory Aldridge as well as Finley Paul Rath daughter of Raeanne Schwandt and Jonathan Rath also received the Sacrament of Baptism. We are always thrilled at the baptism of children in our church family. As the congregation promises to support and nurture these young ones we can only dream of the wonders God has in store for them.

At Knox we are blessed with many strong and gifted leaders that work tirelessly to keep the wheels turning. We pray that God will in turn bless each of them and give them a sense of peace, fulfillment and joy.

Knox Tiverton and St. Paul's Glammis continue with our Shared Ministry. At Knox we find that working with our friends and fellow workers from St. Paul's is easy. The 2 congregations are a nice fit and work well together. Knox Tiverton is anxious for the amalgamation of the two congregations but St. Paul's feel the strong ties to their community are too important to sever at present. In 2018 we look

forward to working together in harmony to the glory of God.

This Christmas season as you enjoy celebrating together with your family and friends, please take time to remember Knox Church in your prayers. That's the church in Tiverton that puts on those suppers in the Whitney Crawford Community Centre. Even though we don't do turnip anymore, why don't you drop by and check us out. We invite you to rate us, come to church and see if we're effective. Do we provide something worth coming for?

Here is wishing each of you a Christmas where the true meaning of the season outweighs all the tinsel and glitter.



...and from our Women's Missionary Society
President, Alberta Smith

In December, we look back at the past year. We reflect on what was helpful to others, and where we could do better. What do we have to change? From our mission studies, we learned about people and their difficulties, not just in our own country where people are working to atone for wrongs of earlier years among indigenous people. We were made aware that there are people everywhere

who are disadvantaged, abused and suppressed. Our worship service lead us to consider ways to make life better. How can we help them know that God loves and cares for all people? As we continue, we thank all of you for your help with our special projects, your support for our meetings and lunches, and for your prayers that the mission work of Knox Church will thrive in the years ahead. What is mission? Helping others in need.

W.M.S. meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Please join us – all are welcome.

Merry Christmas to all.



Christmas Meet and Greet "
hosted by Rev. David , Yoomi and Rilee
Saturday December 9
from 2 to 4
in the Church activity room
Everyone welcome!

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* 
presence

Do you love cookies?

Tiverton Knox Presbyterian Church will be holding their annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017, from 10 am to noon in the Church Fellowship Hall. An easy and fun way to stock up on homemade baking for the holidays!



December Devotionals

All through the month of December, the PresbyCan Daily Devotional features wonderful Christmas devotionals. Join 6000 subscribers around the world and enjoy devotionals each day from the Presbyterian Church, delivered free by e-mail to your inbox. Subscribe at www.presbycan.ca/subscriptions

Knox Sunday School

Heidi Pasley

The youth of Knox Sunday School have enjoyed the fall season which was highlighted by our annual Sleeping Children Around The World (SCAW) coffee hour fundraiser. With the tireless efforts of Dianne Currier and the extreme generosity of our congregation, we realized \$393.00 for this worthwhile organization.

Now, with the coming of Advent, our young people are preparing for our Christmas Pageant on the 10th of December. This year's pageant retells the story of Christmas through a shadow presentation with some dabbling in technology thanks to our young and fearless, tech savvy students!

Knox Youth and their teachers would like to extend their best wishes for an Advent season filled with Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. Blessings in abundance for 2018!



Recognizing Jesus

One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so

sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home. When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three

times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave food to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."

Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

– by Melvin Newland



The Men's Group

George Potter

The Men's Group have completed the final Soup and a Bun for 2017. Because December is very busy, we don't prepare a lunch that month. But we do plan to be back the 3rd Monday in January 2018. The members of the Men's Group have fun preparing the meal under the expert direction and careful watch of Chuck. Chuck picks out the menu and the rest of the guys do the best we can to follow instructions and cover the details of preparation. We even had Rev. David help with the onions while preparing for a soup. We tried to instruct him in the onion dicing method taught to us by Walter Fleischer a quite a few years back. It seems Rev. David had some previous experience in kitchen work and chose to do it his own way. We found the soup doesn't really care which method is used to dice the onions – some things matter and some things don't. The problem

in life is figuring which do and which don't?

We usually find plenty of time to have a coffee and chat while the soup is cooking. We are very fortunate in having a number of men who come out regularly to prepare and serve these lunches. Now when it comes to cleanup – not so much.

That said we are always looking for new help – especially if you can tell interesting stories, yarns or lies. I always think that it's a shame to let the absolute adherence to all the facts get in the way of a compelling story.

We (The Men's Group) continue to discuss the problems of the world and resolve the ones we can. The list of those problems solved is strictly confidential so we are unable to share them with you at this point. But we've come up with a few things that we are still working on:

One of our latest issues is centred around which license is required for a tow vehicle used for various different loads. If you have an 8000 pound, 30 foot travel trailer with electric brakes that you pull behind a three-quarter ton truck, is the license required for it the same as for a 12 foot, 4 ton dump trailer also with electric brakes pulled by the same vehicle?

And if we get a handle on that, the next question is what license is required by the driver?

Sometimes these questions are more complicated than a good beef vegetable soup!

So if you think you can answer some of these heavy-duty questions just show up at 9:30 AM on the 3rd Monday in January 2018 – whatever day that is? You'll probably get a job dicing onions.

And we now have 2 approved methods for doing that little job!

◆◆◆
Are you part
of the Inn
crowd, or are
you one of the
Stable few



Sunday, December 10, 2017

Come out and support our young people as they tell the traditional Christmas story, in a unique way.



White Gift Sunday

Rosemary Grover

White Gift Sunday dates back to 1904 in Ohio. The wife of a Methodist minister and her two daughters came up with the idea of giving gifts wrapped in white paper at Christmas time to people in need.

Gifts are wrapped in white so that no one would know which gift was an expensive and which was a more modest. No one would be embarrassed by their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others

There is a Chinese tradition where all the people gave their king a gift wrapped in plain white paper so that every gift would look the same. Each person gave the king what they were able.

What can you give for a White Gift? Gloves, scarves, toques, socks, gift cards, money, and non-perishable food items. If donating something that needs batteries please include them in the gift.

The White Gifts are collected on Sunday December 10th and will be given to The Tiverton and District Lions Club to be distributed on Saturday December 16 to those families in our area who are in need of a Christmas Hamper. All families are given all the necessary items to prepare a Christmas dinner, (turkey or ham, potatoes, turnip etc.,) plus other food products such as peanut butter, cereal, pasta and sauces, jams, canned vegetables, soup, cereal, dessert cups, canned meats and juice.

It is more blessed to give than receive. Acts 20:35



A note from our Decorating Committee

Chuck Exel

Greetings to everyone from the Decorating and Flower Committee at this festive time of year. To help spread good tidings among the congregation, it is our request that those interested, **bring a Christmas card to display in the garland around the sanctuary.** This will add to the decor and involve the whole congregation by bringing good cheer and Christmas blessings to all. Thank you for your participation.



A Note from Your Editor...

Cheryl Cottrill

Rev. David and I have been working hard to develop a new website for the Church. Please take a few minutes to go and visit our new, still under construction,

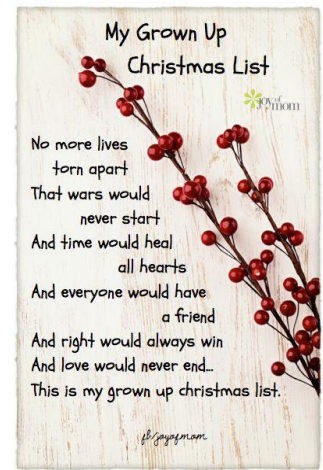
website at <http://pccweb.ca/knoxptiverton>.

We are happy to receive any feedback, good or bad, about the new site. This is your space so please let us know what you would like to see on the website to serve our Church family better.

One of my favourite songs at Christmas, outside the traditional carols, is 'My Grown-Up Christmas List,' composed by David Foster (music) and Linda Thompson-Jenner. First, it suggests I have grown up, which at Christmas my family questions on a daily basis and second, it just seems like an appropriate Christmas list with all that is going on in the world. I believe it is what Jesus would want, not just at Christmas, but all year.

Don't forget to rip off the calendar on the back page and put it on your fridge so you can stay connected to your Knox Church family. We are blessed with a busy congregation doing great work to make Christmas extra special.

This Christmas I hope your Christmas list reflects the true reason for the season and that your hearts are filled with peace, hope and love.



Church Tiverton

P.O. Box 35, 75 King Street
Tiverton, ON

519-368-7235

<http://pccweb.ca/knoxptiverton>

Rev. David Chang

Office: 519-368-7235

Home: 519-368-0330

knoxtiverton@bmts.com

Music Director – Liz Dadson

519-396-6271

Clerk of Session – George Potter

519-368-7859

Board of Manager – Carolyn

Hamilton

519-368-7116

Sunday School Superintendent

Heidi Pasley

519-368-4881

To book fellowship hall contact

Heather Hunter

519-368-7476

God's Work in the Church...(a little Christmas gift for your fridge door)

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Cookie Walk doors open at 10 at Knox
3 1 st Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at Tiverton Park Manor at 2:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9 Christmas Meet & Greet 2-4 p.m. hosted by Rev. David , Yoomi and Rilee in the Church activity room Everyone welcome!
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent – Sunday School Christmas Pageant and White Gift Sunday 10:00 a.m.	11	12	13 WMS Meeting at 2 p.m.	14	15 Christmas Mini Music Concert at Knox 6:30 p.m.	16
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent – Communion 10:00 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23 St. Paul's Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
24 4 th Sunday of Advent – 10:00 a.m. Hymn and Carol Service (<i>Joint Service with St. Paul's</i>) Knox Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30