

Knox Presbyterian Church, Tiverton

Knox News

Advent and Christmas 2019

Famous Cookie Walk

Dec. 7 - 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. 1st - 10:00 a.m. Knox

2nd Sunday in Advent Dec. 8th - 10:00 a.m. at Knox. White Gift Sunday. Bring your gifts wrapped in white bags or paper.

WMS Meeting Dec. 11 at 2:00 p.m. Roll call, 'A short Christmas tree poem or story.' Remember to wear a Christmas corsage!

Christmas Music Concert Dec. 12 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Donations at the door. 3rd Sunday in Advent and Celebration of the Lord's Supper Dec. 15 – 10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday in Advent Dec. 22 - 10:00 a.m. Hymn and Carol Service

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Knox Dec. 24 6:30 p.m.

Grocery Sunday Dec. 29 –Donations to Kincardine Food Bank. Fellowship after service.



Christmas Message from Rev. David's Desk

How time flies! The season of preparation and celebration is just around the corner while my church office calendar is stuck in the month of August (when I noticed it I was so surprised). According to psychology experts, "people who put their Christmas decorations up early are happier than those who wait." "Decorations, psychoanalyst Steve McKeown says, are simply an anchor or pathway to those old childhood magical emotions of excitement. So putting up those Christmas decorations early extends the excitement." If they are right, I would be better to give up being happier than others this year.

Though the season of Advent and Christmas fall upon me, like the snow falling outside; I feel that I am not ready for the holy season. I have not changed to winter tires yet; my gardens are filled with pile of fallen leaves; Halloween pumpkins are still around the manse – they look like a snowman now. I am not sure when I would be able to set up a Christmas tree and put Christmas decorations up. I feel just rushed and even not prepared for the season of Joy, Peace, Hope, and Love. I might be unhappy or less happy at least. The Christmas story, however, comforts me by revealing that I am not the only one who is not ready for the Christmas season.

Joseph and Mary were not ready for the first Christmas. According to the Gospel of Matthew, they had to search for a place to give birth and then flee their homeland for fear of persecution. In fact, they can be regarded as refugees. They had no warm, safe place to stay; no time to set up a Christmas tree; and no plan for their future. They were clearly less happy than those who lived in a palace, house, or inn. They were less happy than those who had enough time to be prepared for their own holidays because they had a better job with better payment and reasonable regular time shift. But we all know that they were with Jesus who is the God of Emmanuel which means *God is with us*. Even in their busy schedules to move and move again, God was with them. Even in their stressful journey, Joseph and Mary didn't give up Jesus – they kept Jesus with them.

I prayerfully hope that each of you will be happier than last year as you enter the holy season. Let us put our Christmas decorations up earlier, if we can. We may be happier than those who have to wait or cannot do it. But it does not mean that God is with us. It does not mean that Jesus is with us. Where would Jesus be found? The God of Emmanuel may be among the refugee families, strangers, and those who may be less happy around us. May God reveal himself to all of you even when you feel less happy; or when everyone looks happier than you.

In Christ, Rev. David

Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend

Allan Thompson St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Glammis

In a sad, joyous and touching service, the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian formally said goodbye to the site in Glammis that has been home to the congregation for 161 years. "We have not seen the last act of God in this community," said Rev. Larry Skinner, who led the service. Skinner noted how sad the service must be for those who grew up in the church in Glammis, some of whom were baptized there, married there, who buried relatives from there. Harkening back on the early days of a church built by four Presbyterians - when at least one member of the congregation stormed out the first time an organ was played in the sanctuary - Skinner said that change isn't always easy, but that the members of the St. Paul's congregation have embraced that change, by moving to amalgamate with Knox Church, in Tiverton and to depart the building in Glammis.

"I declare St. Paul's in Glammis is moving on to something new," said Rev. Randy Benson, who also joined in the service.

The last minister of St. Paul's, Rev. David Chang, sang during the service and also gave an emotional address to the members of his congregation, at their last formal gathering in Glammis. "It has been a great privilege for me to preach in this historic sanctuary," Chang said. "We think that this is just a building, but this is not just a building. It is the house of all those who have been here, and who have passed away," he said.

"We always say that the church is people so people are the church. Even though we close the building, the same close Glammis congregation will not be closed," Chang said. "You have showed your will to be part of the new and united congregation."

After formal litanies by members of the congregation to the pulpit, the baptismal font, the choir loft and the communion table, the closing service led by the Presbytery came to a close with the singing of the hymn "One more step along the world I go," which includes the refrain: "It's from the old I travel to the new. Keep me travelling along with you."



"Thank you to all the folks at Knox who attended the St. Paul's, Glammis, final Anniversary service on Sept. 22nd and also our church closing service on Nov. 17th – we appreciate your support on this journey to amalgamation."

Islay Eby, Secretary-Treasurer

A Message from Session *Clerk of Session, George Potter* As we approach the year end, it is good to reflect on what has been accomplished in the past year. In my opinion 2019 has been a wonderful year for the congregations of Knox Tiverton and St. Paul's Glammis. The Sessions of Knox and St. Paul's have worked together in wonderful peaceful harmony as we move towards Amalgamation/Uniting on January first 2020.

In February it was decided that all Session Meetings for the year would be joint meetings with both the Sessions of St. Paul's and Knox meeting as one. This process has worked very nicely. With these meetings, working together on items of common interest we have become comfortable with each other. Some of these results are rather intangible on the surface, but are reflected in a culture of friendliness and harmony in the actions they produce. And we are very pleased to see members from St. Paul's taking on important roles in the united church, with Nancy Alexander assuming the role of Sunday School Superintendent and Eleanor Thompson working as Representative Elder to Presbytery.

We know that many churches are unable to continue in this present age. We seize this opportunity to knit together a church ready to carry on far into the future.

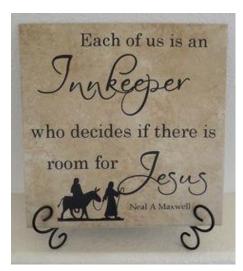
Early on the Uniting Committee of St. Paul's set the stage for working through the details of amalgamation. In March, a draft Amalgamation Plan was sent to Presbytery to give a detailed concept of the steps required to come together as one. On June 18, our Amalgamation Plans were presented to Presbytery by representatives from both Knox and St. Paul's. On the evening of September 17, the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland approved the sale of St. Paul's Glammis church property.

From that point forward many of the details have begun to fall in place. The transfer of Church artifacts from St. Paul's Glammis to Knox Tiverton has begun in earnest. Session is working on a commemorative plaque to mark the amalgamation of the churches. And the fire retardant storage case has been picked out to store the documents accumulated over the years.

On September 22nd St. Paul's Glammis celebrated their 161st Anniversary.

On October20th Knox Church Tiverton celebrated their 160th Anniversary.

We thank God for these and our many other blessings and we pray for His continued guidance and support for the next 160 years and beyond.



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

In the summer months we held no regular meetings. For our July/August meeting we met at the Church, then proceeded to the Bruce Nuclear Power Development where we were booked for a bus tour. We had time first to see a film, then view the many displays. The commentator on the bus trip explained each part of the area, giving us plenty of time to ask questions. At the end of the bus trip we returned to Tiverton for a lovely lunch at 21 Chopstix.

In September we held our meeting at Tiverton Park Manor with the residents as our guests. We served a light lunch and enjoyed a time of fellowship.

In October, we brought articles to be sent to Evangel Hall, a downtown Toronto mission, supported by the Presbyterian Church. With the help of the congregation, we sent six large bags of warm shirts, socks, hats, etc. as well as personal articles.

In November, we continued our mission study. December is our Christmas meeting – lunch and fellowship. We are pleased to have some of the ladies of St. Paul's WMS join us, and are looking forward to the New Year when they will become members of MacLennan W.M.S. We will continue to work together, as we have done on special occasions in the past, as we work to fulfill our motto, "The world for Christ."

Women's Missionary Society

Service of Memories On Sunday November 17th

Rosemary Grover

Knox Church held a Service of Memories to remember the loved ones of the church family and the community that have passed away in the previous year. Those that were remembered were June MacKenzie, Faith Fidler, Wayne Catto, Ken Hendry, Bruce MacPherson, Doug Love, Irene Gowing, Shirley Quipp, John Pinkerton, Bernice Norman, John Taylor, David Taylor, Liam Comyn, and Mary-Anne Thompson. Each person mentioned had a candle lit in their memory by a family member or friend.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed so very dear.

Psalm 23, verse 4 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."





UP HERE DRDS TO TELL YOU, THE JOY THEIR VOICES BRIN EYOND DESCRIPTION, TO HEAR THE ANSELS SING

I KNOW HOW ANLCH YOU MISS ME. I SEE THE PAIN INSIDE YOUR HEART, BUT I AM NOT SO PAR AWAY, WE REALLY ARRYT APART, SO BE HAPPY FOR WE DEAR CORES, YOU MONUT HOLD FOUR, AND BE GUID FM. STRENDWS CHRISTINGS, WITH JOSSIG CHRIST THIS YEAR.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WIPE AWAY

WER, I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS, WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR AUTHOR LINKNOWN



Christmas Cookie Walk on December 7 10 a.m. to Noon

Rosemary Grover

The Christmas Cookie Walk was started in 2005 by the late June MacKenzie. It began as a fundraiser to purchase a new Nativity Scene. Over the years the proceeds have gone towards the renovation of the church tower, etching on the glass doors entering the church, memorial gardens and the new church sign to name a few. In 2012, June passed the organizing of the cookie walk to Lee- Anne Lehman and a great group of dedicated volunteers.

All the cookies, squares, Christmas cakes, fudge, tarts, candies etc. are donated by the talented bakers of the Church. Trays of all the baking are placed on tables in the Church activity room. Shoppers upon entry are given a pair of gloves and a box to fill. The boxes are weighed upon departure.

The cookie walk is being held this year on Saturday, December 7 from 10AM to noon. It has been suggested to come early. You will be allowed into the church but not down the stairs to the basement till 10AM. This is a great opportunity for those people who do not bake or are too busy to bake to stock up on the homemade baking.



Christmas Music Concert on Thursday December 12th at 7 PM

Rev. Davíd Join us at Knox Tiverton were Secular Christmas music and carols will be played by professional musicians followed by a reception, featuring...

Bora Ju (Vocalist): Worship Leading Pastor at Light Korean Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Recording artist with 30 + digital singles/albums including "Who touched my clothes". Opening Artist for K-Pop singers such as LeeSeungChul and ByunJinSup in North America Tour. Korean Drama "Sweet Secret" soundtrack, and Movie "Kkotbee" soundtrack.

JT Kim (Bass Player): Adjunct Music Professor at Tyndale University in Toronto. Band director for K-Pop legends like Bynjinsup, Simsoobong live

concert in Toronto and Vancouver. Shared stages with Grammy winning artists like Ben Heppner and Larnell Lewis, and Juno-Award winning artist like Robi Botos, Jackie Richardson to name a new.

Clark Lee (Drummer): Director of **ODPC Band Academy in Virginia** in the Unites States since 2016. Author of "I am a Drummer: Hands & Foot Coordinations" and "I am a Drummer: Triplet Coordinations". Teaching: New York Music Institute, Annointing Music Camp 2012, Bridge Builders Worship Leaders School 2012-2014: Drums.



The Men's Group George Potter

The Men's Group have completed the final Soup and a Bun for 2019. 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 2020. The members of the Men's Group have fun preparing the meal under the expert direction 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 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, but there are several ladies who pitch in and help fill this void. The men say (or should say) thanks for your valuable assistance. We are always looking for new help – especially if you can tell interesting stories, and tales of the good old days. While telling stories, we never let the facts get in the way of a compelling story. We welcome Barry as the newest member of the Men's Group and appreciate some fresh stories. We (The Men's Group) continue to discuss the problems of the world and resolve the ones we can. Here are a few we are still working on:

- Once you've donated an item do you still maintain some ownership?
- Picking stones how small do you go?
- BBQ methods the use of smoke and the types of wood are best to create BBQ smoke.
- How to build a "Chicken Feeder" charcoal barbecue.
- With Google and modern technology, is life really better?

So if you think you can answer some of these tough questions just show up at 9:30 AM on the 3rd Monday in January 2020 – whatever day that is?

You may even learn something, like which side of the plate the knife goes on.



White Gift Sunday Rosemary Grover

Why do we call it White Gift Sunday?

Why do we call it White Gift Sunday? 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 and no one would know which one was an expensive gift and which one was a more modest gift. No one would be embarrassed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving.

What can you give for a White Gift? Gloves, scarves, toques, socks, gift cards, money, gifts for teens (personal care products) and non-perishable food items. Please keep in mind to check the best before date on any food products. If donating something that needs batteries please include them in the gift.

The White Gifts will be collected on Sunday December 8th and will be given to The Tiverton and District Lions Club to be distributed on Saturday December 21st 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

NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

The book of Luke has 24 chapters and tells the story of Jesus' life. Read one chapter per night in December and wake up Christmas morning knowing why we celebrate the King of Kings!

The Van Dam story, by Joyce Van Dam with a little help from George Potter

In my 101st year I was asked to write my life story.

My name is Joyce Van Dam to everyone nowadays, but I was born Sarah Josina Mulder. I was born on March 8 1919 in the city of Zaandam in the Netherlands. I was the third child in a family of 7, 4 girls and 3 boys. As I write this I am sad to say that I am the only one left.

When I was born things were quite primitive, we didn't have a flush toilet, only an outhouse on the edge of our property. Once each week a row boat came up the little stream, (nothing more than a ditch) to clean out the outhouse. They would pick up the 2 used bins and replace them with clean ones. It was not until I was 4 years old that we got a flush toilet installed under the stairway in the house. I remember this with quite a little excitement when flushing the toilet by pulling on the chain.

The milk was delivered every day. The milk was held in a big container standing on a 3 wheeled cart. You came to the cart with a container and said how much you wanted and paid the man. The vegetables etc. came the same way only in a bigger cart that came down the street and you went to the cart and sorted out what you wanted. Fish were sold the same way. We had a woman who stayed on the street she had a bell and also a very loud sharp voice; we called her the "fish wife".

Streetlights bulbs were lighted each evening by 2 men with long sticks. When the streetlights were lighted, that was the signal for children who were playing in the street after school that it was time to go home.

Clothes were washed by hand on a scrub board in a simple wooden tub. Electric washing machines came later.

There were no kindergartens then. You started to school when you were 6 years old, and went to school for 6 years or 7 years if you are planning to go further.

Our family went to a Christian school. My great-grandfather (Opa) was one of the persons who started the Christian school in the Netherlands; I believe that was in 1850s. He was the principal of a public school before he started the Christian school. Since this was a Christian school the government did not support it and my great-grandfather lost his salary and depended upon the parents of the children who went to school to give him some money. At that time only boys went on to high school and university. I went to a girl's school learning cooking and sewing etc. My older sister had been there too and returned home to help our mother when she had finished. When I finished I also returned to help my mother.

But after I had finished my schooling I wanted a job, a chance to be somewhat independent. My mother didn't want to hear of it, but father overruled and I was allowed to take a job. My father was an Elder in the church. He spoke with Bill Van Dam's father who was also an Elder in the church and worked in the x-ray department of the hospital. I was given a receptionists job in the hospital. My job was to greet the people entering the hospital and to operate the telephone system switch board. I started at 9 AM and worked until 6 PM, but my job was not finished until I had delivered the mail usually riding on my bicycle.

Bill Van Dam was the second child in a family of 9. Bill was about 3 years younger than me. Bill's family and my family knew each other as we went to the same church and schools.

Since Bill was a boy, he was allowed to continue on through high school. After high school Bill went to school to become a navigational signal man on the shipping vessels. That ended when the Germans invaded.

In 1940 the Germans occupied the Netherlands where we lived. For 5 years we suffered under German occupation. The food was scarce and of poor quality. The young men between the ages of 18 and 24 were forced to work for the German army if they were found. For 3 years Bill was in hiding with farmers.

In December of 1944, Bill and I were married. I don't remember a proposal as such; we were just together and fell in love. Things were tough and food was scarce so planning a wedding meal was a challenge. Somehow Bill's father was able to find a pig to butcher, so roast pork was a treat. But the real treat was a slice of real white bread made from wheat. This was obtained from a local farmer who made his own bread.

On their wedding day the German troops moved in so all the young men went into hiding. Bill spent his wedding night in a hiding spot under the floor in the hospital. I spent my wedding night with the in-laws.

I remember clearly the day in May of 1945 when the Canadians liberated our town. Everyone was really excited. I jumped up and hitched a ride on an army truck. Everyone was really happy.

Bill and I lived in Holland until 1945. Our 3 children were born there (Martin, Bill and Harry). We may have continued to live in Holland except that Bill got some sort of a blood poisoning that just wouldn't leave. He had boils and open sores that the doctors in Holland didn't seem to be able to cure. One of the doctors suggested that Bill should move to a different country.

In his usual way Bill started to do research. He studied Canada, Australia and New Zealand and decided Canada was the place for him. But leaving for a different country with a family and not a lot of cash was not an easy task. Bill persuaded his younger brother Harry to go to Canada a year ahead of him and sort of scout things out. Because Harry was single it was much easier for him to pass the immigration requirements. Harry set out for Canada in 1953.

In May 1954, Bill left Holland for Canada. He was still afflicted with boils and open sores and he got a ticket on miserable army vessel and made the trip from Holland to Québec where he met up with Harry and started to work in Canada.

In order to bring me and the family to Canada, Bill had to prove that he had a job and enough money to support the family. Bill got a job working on a mink ranch near Toronto. Before he left Holland he had never seen a mink.

By September, Bill was able to prove he had a job and enough security to bring me and the family to Canada. I remember the boat trip from Holland to Canada as being a crowded and a rather unpleasant trip. The 3 boys and I had to share a compartment with 4 other people. The boat was rough and there was very little privacy as the curtains would open every time the boat rocked.

When the boys and I arrived in Québec, Bill and his younger brother Harry met us at the ship dock. I remember Harry jumped over the fence to embrace the boys and welcome us to Canada.

The family joined Bill at the mink ranch near Toronto. But Bill was busy looking in the paper and he found a better opportunity at Walkerton again working on a mink ranch. About a week after the boys and I arrived we all moved to Walkerton.

I remember the living conditions in the apartment of the mink ranch as being about as bad as it could get. It was a small basement apartment next to the garage or shed that was used to dry mink pelts. It was damp and smelly. I became sick with jaundice and Bill set out to find better living conditions.

When Bill arrived in Canada he began to take correspondence courses to study accounting. He studied from 1954 to 1957 by correspondence. From 1957 to 1963 Bill attended McMaster's University one day each week. Bill received his accounting degree in 1963.

Even in the tough times I never really felt homesick or wanted to return to Holland. My family and I were happy in Canada. The one thing I found difficult was the language. I remember the times when I made mistakes because I couldn't understand the language.

In 1955 we bought a house for \$1500. It was close to the mink ranch. It was unfinished and it had an upstairs. Bare lightbulbs were hanging from the ceiling. It had an outhouse in the shed. In a few years we changed it into a nice modern house. We did most of the work ourselves.

1957 was a very busy year for the Van Dam family. Bill left the mink ranch and began to work for the hardware manufacturing firm Larsen and Shaw. In 1957 we bought a car. When Harry was in school I got a part-time job filing papers at income tax time. That was my first job in Canada. After that I worked for 15 years for the Health Unit in Walkerton. I started out cleaning toilets and floors and finished up as secretary for the Head Nurse.

With the boys in school they began to play with the local neighbour children. The Van Dam boys made friends with the Wismer children. Evelyn Wismer was an English war bride who was lonely and Evelyn and I became friends. Also Jack Wismer and Bill Van Dam became good friends. Our 2 families often set out on weekend car rides. These car rides eventually lead to Inverhuron. While visiting the area Bill and I often attended Knox Presbyterian Church in Tiverton.

In 1960, Bill bought a piece of property in Inverhuron at the stony beach end. We had to clear it to build a cottage. It was built by John Matheson and his brother. After a few years Bill decided he wanted a basement and with the help of me and children we started taking stones out on the weekends when we came up. We kept supporting the foundation with cement when a small piece was done.

In 1970, Bill and I moved to Inverhuron and continued to drive back and forth to Walkerton every day to work for a number of years.

Soon after we moved to Inverhuron we became members of Knox Presbyterian Church Tiverton, and I have been a member ever since. Bill soon became an Elder on the Session of Knox Presbyterian church Tiverton where he served for many years. He also played the organ with enthusiasm for 20 years.

In 1976 Bill decided to go out on his own with his accounting business and set up an office in Inverhuron. And along the way we never stopped building!

The Lord has blessed us so much in our lives.

When pressed for some words of wisdom, it is difficult to answer that in a few words. But here are some thoughts. Live close to Christ and the Holy Spirit will show the way. Love is the most important thing in our lives. Be helpful to everyone. Don't waste energy with anger.



A Note from Your Editor... Cheryl Cottrill

December is my favourite month of the year and I try every year to get as much preparation done before Dec. 1 hits, so I can simply enjoy the time with family and friends and not stress about being ready. You know what they say about the best laid plans. Every year December 1 sneaks up on me and anxiety sets in. I'm not sure why I put myself through it every year as the preparations always get done before the big day, but somehow stress is part of the Christmas season and perhaps it wouldn't be the same without it.

Please 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 over the Christmas season. We are so blessed with a dedicated congregation doing great work to make Christmas extra special for all of us.

This Christmas I wish for you much love in your heart for the life that Christ has provided, with gratitude for the hard times and much joy to be shared with family and friends in the good times.





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To book fellowship hall contact Heather Hunter 519-368-7476

December 2019

December 2019						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 1 st Sunday in Advent 10:00 service
2	3	4	5	6	7 Cookie Walk 10- 12	8 2 nd Sunday in Advent White Gift Sunday
9	10	11 WMS Meeting 2:00 p.m.	12 Christmas Music Concert 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15 3 rd Sunday in Advent & Lord's Supper
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 4 th Sunday in Advent – Hymn and Carol Service
23 St. Paul's Christmas Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.	24 Knox Tiverton Christmas Eve Service 6:30	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29 Grocery Sunday
30	31 New Year's Eve					