

# KNOX-GODERICH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022



## **A note from Amanda...**

*As I sat down to write this Christmas newsletter a couple of things stood out. Here it is the middle of November....November! Where has the fall gone?! I cannot believe in a couple of weeks we will begin the season of Advent. I'm not sure I am ready. Dare I say, when I think of Advent I think snow and here I am still wearing sandals! And yet Advent is walking up the sidewalk getting ready to knock on the front door to remind us all. "Welcome to the season where you are being called to slow down and ready yourselves for the coming of Christ." Are we ready for this change of season?*



Knox Presbyterian Church  
9 Victoria Street North  
Goderich, ON N7A 2R4

Phone: 519-524-7512  
e-mail: [knoxgoderich@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:knoxgoderich@hurontel.on.ca)  
web: [www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich](http://www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich)

### **Inside this Issue**

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Minister .....	1
Letter from The Presbytery of Huron-Perth, Care of Congregation Committee .....	3
Finance .....	4
Property Committee .....	5
Choir News .....	8
Music Director .....	9
Quilters .....	10
Arthur Circle WMS .....	11
The Bell's Ukraine Family .....	12
Press Release on Ukraine Families In Huron County .....	14
<b>Events:</b>	
Remembrance Day .....	16
Spaghetti Dinner .....	17
<b>Entertainment:</b>	
Christmas Crossword .....	18
Christmas Wordsearch .....	19
HuronSong is BACK! .....	20

*The beginning of Advent, a time where the church is called to slow down in anticipation of what is to come at Christmas. Advent, a time where Christians and the Church are called to stop, rest and focus ourselves towards what is to come. Christmas brings meaning to our faith. Without the birth of Christ, the promise he brings, the hope and joy, the love and celebration he brings, our faith would be pretty flat.*

*I think the other dimension that brings so much meaning to this year's Advent and Christmas season is COVID. Over the last number of Christmas seasons, we have been faced with things being different. And those differences have not been easy ones to accept. Churches not open, carols not being sung, family dinners cancelled, loved ones no longer here that we miss desperately but unable to mourn as we need, new life entering the world but typical traditions not being able to be observed leaving broken expectations.*

*This year we are hopeful we will be able to gather and worship together. Together as a community of faith with our friends and family. COVID has been difficult and it is still difficult. We have all learned how to be a social people in circumstances very unfamiliar to us. Some have adapted easily, others are still finding it tough. Regardless of where you are on that spectrum it's okay.*

*There is hope that in the New Year the church and community will continue to bloom and blossom. I think one thing the pandemic has helped with, outside of being difficult in so many ways, is hope. Hope that the pandemic will end. Hope that we will be able to gather safely with those we love and care about. Hope of a level of normal, such as it is, to return.*

*Christmas is about hope and Christmas is a time of reflection. Of seeing faith come alive through the retelling of the birth of Jesus. Let us, regardless of how that looks for each of us, join together to celebrate the glorious news of Jesus. So let us use the gift God has given us with this vastly different season to find the hope and joy Christmas can bring.*

*From my family to yours, may you have a beautiful and blessed Christmas.*

*Rev. Amanda*



**THE PRESBYTERY OF HURON-PERTH**  
**Care of Congregations Committee**

*Dear Members of Knox Presbyterian Church, Goderich*

*Rev. Amanda Bisson has informed you that she has been appointed Interim Moderator for a two-point charge in Brussels and Molesworth, which has become vacant when their Minister has moved on to another congregation. Your congregation had an Interim Moderator appointed during your vacancy in the past, and now it is your minister's turn to help out the Presbytery, and a fellow congregation.*

*The Care of Congregations Committee of Presbytery prayerfully asks that you be as considerate and sharing of your Minister's time and gifts as possible as she will be required to care for these other congregations and will have many duties to fulfill. As an Interim Moderator she is required to ensure that the vacant congregations have pulpit supply for every service and that the sacraments are celebrated. She must also guide their Sessions and congregations firstly through their grieving process, through their discernment of their future, and finally their preparation for calling a new Minister. She will be responsible for conducting baptisms, funerals, weddings, as well as moderating their Session meetings, Search Committee meetings, and congregational meetings.*

*This appointment will not cost you financially, but you do need to keep in mind that your Minister's time and energy will be spread over a significant amount of time and distance throughout the length of the vacancy.*

*We ask that you keep your Minister in your prayers and help and support her as much as possible.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Care of Congregations Committee  
Presbytery of Huron-Perth*

## **FINANCE**

*It is great to see people back in church and hear the choir singing.*

*Thank you for your continued financial support of the church.*

*We had a great turnout for our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser.*

*I would like to thank all the volunteers and bakers.*

*We may try to do it annually.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.*

*Stay safe,*

*Deb Bell*

### **Here is the latest Knox Financial Report**

Knox Financial Report (to October 31, 2022)		
	2022	2021
Offerings	\$ 87,657	\$ 85,047
Expenditures	\$ 193,215	\$ 154,312
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (16,037)	\$ (47,566)
Presbyterian Sharing	\$ 1,175	\$ 10,170
P.W.S. & D.	\$ 210	\$ 2,430

*I won \$3 million on the lottery this weekend  
so I decided to donate a quarter of it to charity.*

*Now I have \$2,999,999.75.*

## **Knox Property Committee**

*As we changed our calendars to November, it was very pleasant to feel an unusual, but warm breeze, and feel warm sunshine. It was almost like September. However, the change of calendar reminded us that the clocks would be changing, and the preparations for the winter months were needed to be done.*

*We are well aware that COVID-19 is still around, but our building is open and we are welcoming so many people back, and also a number of newcomers to our congregation.*

*Much has happened at Knox over the last three years. Our elevator had reached a point where its operating mechanism was obsolete, and we were advised by the maintenance company that if we did have a failure, that it would be a three-month “down-time” before it could be fixed. We were also advised that if we chose to have an upgrade done, it would only mean about two weeks of “down-time”. Obviously, this was far more acceptable and we decided to do that. Of course, just as that was starting, COVID-19 reared its head and the work took far longer than the two weeks. However, as we were closed, this did not impact us in any way. The work and the elevator is functioning quite well.*

*The flat roof over the office area and hallways had been springing leaks for quite some time, and these got quite bad, and we undertook the work. At the same time we discovered that auxiliary HVAC units for the office and Royal Room were in need of replacement. This was also undertaken and completed. The roof leaks resulted in the necessity for ceiling repairs and painting. This has also been done.*

*Over the period of COVID-19, practically every room has been thoroughly cleaned, and we are greatly appreciative of Brenda Shea’s efforts in this regard.*

*Of course, regular maintenance is taking place, as we are dealing with a very large and older building.*

*As the co-property manager, I am very pleased to be able to work with such a good committee. We pride ourselves on getting things done. Thanks to the long association that Knox has with the businesses in town, we are able to get timely help whenever a problem takes place.*

*I noted that there is a picture at the rear of the church, taken at the time of the opening of the “new” Sanctuary, and I know that many people who have long*

*associations with Knox still refer to the “new” building. Well, 2022 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that building’s opening.*

*Thank for all your encouragement and your willingness to pitch in when you are needed.*

*Rob Evans*

## BRIEF HISTORY



*Looking over plans for the new Knox Church building in 1951: left to right, Peter MacEwan, the Rev. Robert MacMillan and Matthew Ainslie.*



*Laying the cornerstone for the new Knox Church building November 4, 1951: left to right, the Rev. Robert G. MacMillan, the Rev. David J. Lane, the Rev. Richard Stewart and the Rev. Donald Sinclair, Moderator of Presbytery.*

### THE NEW BUILDING



*The new Knox Church building received an award for most outstanding ecclesiastical building in Canada.*

The building was designed by Canadian architect Philip Carter Johnson who received the Governor General's Silver Award for the most outstanding ecclesiastical building in Canada. With its sloping concrete walls, beautiful mixture of quarried stone and soaring ceilings, the building could be classified as modern Gothic in style. It was 130 feet long, 49 feet wide and 50 feet tall. (Editor's Note: Later renovations would change these proportions somewhat).

The free-standing tower is a slender structure complementing the architecture of the church and connected to the narthex by an open porch. It currently contains a Schullmerich Electronic Carillon which may be played automatically or from the organ console and can be heard both within the church and from the tower speakers for a distance of approximately 2.5 kilometres.

On the left in the narthex is the cornerstone taken from the church destroyed by fire. The stained glass window on the north wall is dedicated to Dr. MacMillan. The nave, including a balcony, has a seating capacity of approximately 600. The walls and ceiling are reinforced concrete and the pews and panelling are white oak plywood. The memorial stained glass windows on the north and south walls depict scenes from the life of Christ (detailed information on the windows is contained further on in this book). On the east wall are the memorial plaques listing the names of members killed during the wars of the twentieth century.

## **Choir News**

*As the congregation met together for worship each Sunday through the spring and summer of this year, we were finally able to bring singing back into our services. We were helped with the accompaniment of Mary Smith, Robert Blackwell and Bruce Morgan.*



*In September, we welcomed Deborah Bailey as our new Music Director. Deborah has been involved in church music for many years in Huron County, and we are pleased to have her lead us in musical worship Sunday by Sunday. Her presence has enabled us to gather together as singers to assist with the singing of hymns during worship, and of course to sing, usually one anthem.*

*One of the difficulties with our church space is trying to adapt to the new realities of our rather sparse congregation. On the first Sunday that the choir participated in worship, we sat in the choir loft, and there were very few people sitting in the main body of the church. Deborah felt very strongly that the choir loft was not helping in the projection of the sound out into the main sanctuary. As a result of this, the next Sunday, we sat in the front two rows of the church pews, and stood up and moved to the chancel steps to sing the anthem. While the sound was good, the moving around was extremely disruptive for everyone. Currently, we are sitting to the side, where we are able to stand and sing without needing to move, and the sound is, according to the sound technicians, excellent. Needless to say, this is all an ongoing work-in-progress, and we thank everyone for the encouraging support during this transition.*

*One advantage of this particular set-up is that a number of the choir members are easily able to visit with family and friends at the end of the worship service, as there are no steps to negotiate.*

*This year, our Sanctuary is 70 years old, having been opened in 1952. There certainly would not have been any contemplation on anyone's part that we would be, seven decades later, a worshipping congregation of around 50 on any given Sunday (this is counting everyone in the Sanctuary). Unfortunately, we have to accept the fact that we are an aging congregation. Even so, music still plays a major part in our worship services, and we are also attempting to incorporate music that is both traditional and contemporary.*

*As choir members, we share a love for singing, but we are aware that it is important for us to be leading the singing of hymns, both old and new. We hope*

*that when we are using something that is new, that you will hear the words and as you are able, sing along with us. We are, after all, part of the worship service.*

*We have been pleased to welcome some new choristers. Joyce Garrick has returned after a leave of absence, Mary Hay has returned, and Tony Davison has come to us from another congregation. Renee Stalenhoef has also been singing with us as she is able, and we are thankful for their presence with us.*

*If anyone else is interested in singing with us, please speak to Deborah.*

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### **Message from our Music Director**



*As Director of music, I would like to say that I am very appreciative of the beautiful facilities at Knox. I am grateful to be working with a strong and supportive team. The feedback from the congregation has been positive. Our Knox choir singers with their encouraging support and uplifting voices are a joy to work with.*

*New singers are always welcome to join us. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite. If you love to sing, please think about joining us on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm.*

*If there is some music in particular that you'd like to hear, let me know. We're a work in progress and I welcome your thoughts and ideas.*

*Thank you to all. - Deborah Bailey.*

## ***Knox Quilters Update by Barb Hainsworth***

*The Knox quilters have been able to Quilt at the church now for several months. We are now using the Youth Room. We have been able to finish several Care quilts over the pandemic. We have just finished a quilt on consignment.*



*We are hoping in the new year that we will again be able to offer a Coffee Break for our community again. We have a large double table if you are looking for a space to spread out a project, just contact the church if you want to come out and join us.*

*The photos below of the quilts were completed during the last 2 years and they are looking for a home. If interested please contact the church office.*

### ***Single Size***



### ***Double Size***



## **Arthur Circle WMS**

*Arthur Circle WMS has met several times since the church opened. We have finally decided that our meeting time will be the third Sunday of the month following worship. We will meet in the nursery and would like to invite you to join us.*

*The main action was to use \$500.00 from the legacy that we received from Joyce Thorne's estate to buy Walmart gift cards for our Ukrainian families for winter clothing.*

*Respectfully submitted*

*Diane Osborn*

*Secretary*





## **Our Ukrainian Family by Deb Bell**

***Natasha & Aleksandr Astapenko,  
Barbara aged 12 and Alice aged 13  
months***

*Our Ukrainian family arrived July 7th and went into a 2-week isolation with us. During those 2 weeks, we all got to know each other, as well as our different cultures.*

*As they could not go anywhere, they spent time in the backyard helping us do some chores and enjoying the pool. We took turns cooking our favorite meals. We ate perogies, dumplings and many cakes that Natasha made. They got to try corn on the cob, fresh fish from Lake Huron, rouladen and chili. During that time both Natasha and Aleksandr were studying English and settling into their new lives in Goderich.*

*After the 2 weeks were up, they began to explore their new home location and took daily walks around the town and to the beach which they really enjoyed. They went to Service Canada and received their social insurance numbers and then onto Service Ontario for health cards. Aleksandr was fortunate enough to get a job at Jokey Plastics. Their daughter Barbara was lucky too and attended the Celtic Kids camp at GDCI which she loved. Natasha has had some driving lessons and now has her G2. Both Bill and I found that the summer flew by as we were looking for a rental home for our family to move into with Natasha's mother & brother who arrived in Canada a month before our family arrived.*

*September came and Barbara entered grade 7 at Goderich Public School. She comes home everyday and tells me what she is learning. She is very excited to be in school and making new friends. During that month Kent Gillen & Christy Lomax (Natasha's mother & brother's host family) found the perfect house for them all. The Donnelly families generously offered to let the six of them stay in their family home which was empty. They moved into the home on October 1, 2022.*

*Bill and I would like to thank Knox Church and the congregation for all their support during this time. It has been a wonderful learning experience and we feel lucky to have been able to do a small part to help this family start a peaceful live in Canada. Natasha & family would like to say the following:*

***"Our family is happy to be in peaceful Goderich and together. Thank you for welcoming us to your community and for all your help"***

***Natasha, Aleksandr, Barbara & Alice Astapenko***

## ***Knox and partners supporting people from Ukraine who have arrived in Huron County***

*Since the summer of 2022, more than 50 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine have arrived in Huron County. The new arrivals, who have been hosted by long-time residents in the area, are starting over and are being supported by Knox Presbyterian Church and other community partners.*

*Every month in the autumn, the newcomers and their hosts have been gathering in the lower part of Knox Presbyterian Church to share food, meet one another, and learn about various aspects of life in Huron County. Children's activities have been coordinated by volunteers from the Huron County Library.*

*The monthly events, coordinated by volunteers and the Huron County Immigration Partnership, are an opportunity for people to gather with others who share experiences and language.*

*“Because Huron County is so large, many people who were arriving in this area were not able to meet each other or didn't know other people from Ukraine were here. These meet-ups are a chance for people to share information and build community in a new land,” explained Mark Nonkes, manager of the Huron County Immigration Partnership.*

*The meet-ups have also been a way to address needs that people face. In October, the Goderich Salvation Army provided new winter coats to adults and children who were in need, along with signing families up for their food assistance program. Gift cards to a department store were also distributed at that meeting, thanks to a donation from the congregation at Knox Presbyterian Church.*

*A settlement advisor from the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario has also been on hand to provide information to the Ukrainians. Information about health care in Huron County has been provided by community volunteers, along with information about various funds that are available for people in need.*

*The Goderich Lions Club, in collaboration with community partners, have set up the Huron Area Newcomer Fund to provide funds of up to \$1,500 to families for unforeseen expenses during their first 18 months in Canada. While this*

*committee was founded with the intent of assisting Ukrainians in need of support, it is available to support newcomers from various countries.*

*Rev. Amanda Bisson represents the Goderich Ministerial Association on the Huron Area Newcomer Fund. She joins John Maaskant, Paul Good and Michael Daley of the Goderich Lions, along the Mark Nonkes of the Huron County Immigration Partnership and Christine Marshall of the Wingham Community Connectors who collaboratively administer the fund.*

*For people interested in donating to the Goderich Lions Club's Huron Area Newcomer Fund, cheques can be written to The Goderich Lions Club, with Huron Area Newcomer Fund listed in the subject line. Charitable receipts will be provided for all donations of \$20 or more. Cheques can be sent to the Goderich Lions Club, PO Box 65, Goderich ON, N7A 3Y5. More information about the Huron Area Newcomer Fund is available at: <http://www.goderichlions.ca/donate>*



## *LEST WE FORGET*

### **Remembrance Day Service**

*We were very honoured to have been chosen by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 to host the 2022 Remembrance Day service held on November 6, 2022. The sermon was conducted by Mary Jane Bisset, Paul Thorne (Act of Remembrance) and Linda Lumley (sergeant-at-arms).*

*It was very well attended (97 persons) including members of the Royal Canadian Legion branch 109, Legion Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 109 and the ladies from IODE Maple Leaf Chapter.*

*Music was provided by Matt Hoy (Bagpipes), Hugh McGregor (trumpet) and Barry Devereux (piano) and our own Music Director Deborah Bailey (organ).*

*It was truly a memorable occasion to pay homage to those that gave and continue to give so much for our freedom today.*





## ***Spaghetti Dinner Event by Deb Bell***

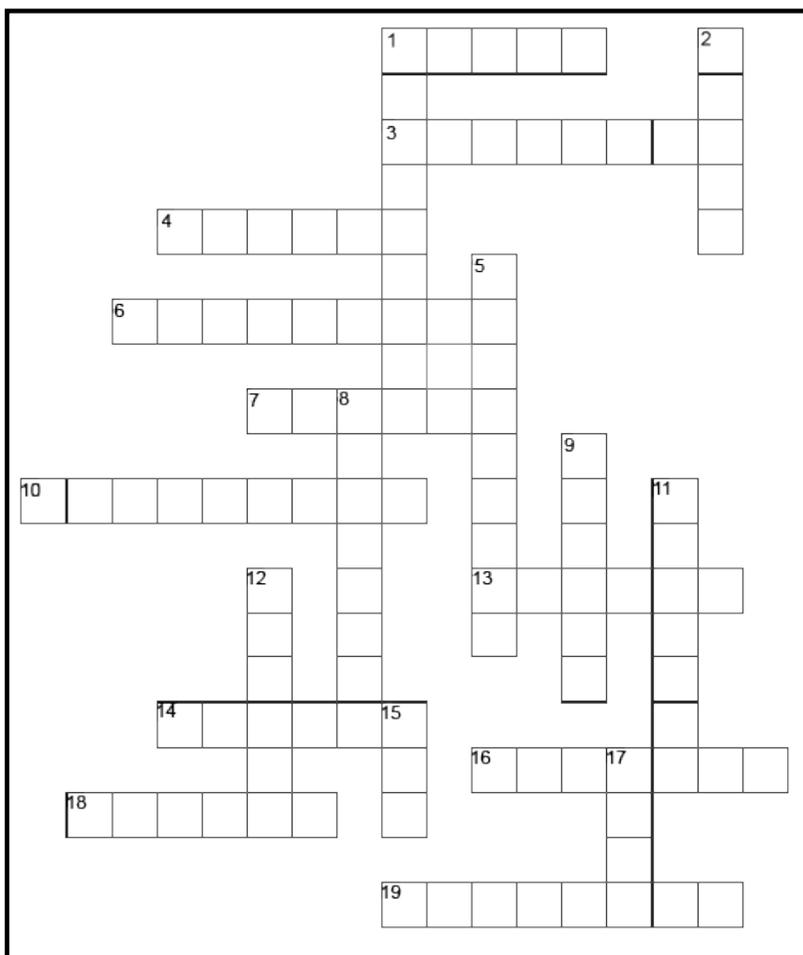
On October 12th we held our Spaghetti Dinner which was very well attended and I received many positive comments, such as *"when will we do it again"*.

This event was so successful we had a net profit just over \$1,000.00 going to the Benevolent Fund and we received a generous donation from Pete Wick in food, close to \$400.00.

A big thank you goes out to all the ladies in the congregation and their friends who baked and donated desserts, as well as all our hardworking volunteers.  
***We couldn't have made this as successful as it was without you!***

# **THANK YOU!**

## Christmas Crossword

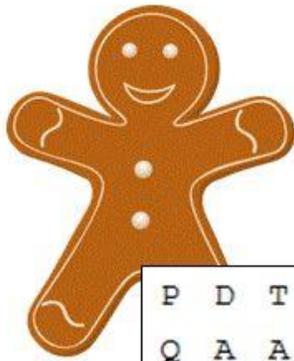


### Across

1. Christmas hymn
3. The original Santa Claus
4. A bird traditionally eaten on Christmas dinner
6. A crystal of snow
7. Father of Jesus
10. An evergreen plant producing white berries
13. A traditional Christmas drink
14. Vehicle used by Santa Claus
16. Santa enters the house through this
18. Circular Christmas decoration for the front door
19. Another name for Christmastime

### Down

1. A hard candy in the shape of a rod
2. December 25 is his birthday
5. The birthplace of Jesus
8. A sock filled with goodies on Christmas day
9. The sound bells make
11. A human figure made from packed snow
12. The four weeks leading up to Christmas
15. A mischievous fairy
17. The three wise men belonged to this tribe



# CHRISTMAS TREATS

P D T M F M S S A H P H L K N  
Q A A U F I U M Z H Q F Y M Q  
G E E E A N O U C O O K I E S  
S R S K O C I L C L O V E S L  
E B O A M E T P E G D U F E E  
G R O C S M P R E H E P L I O  
N E G T M E M A N H A U A R N  
A G U I M A U G A G M M T R E  
R N J U O T R U C R I P B E D  
O I F R I B C S Y A Y K R B E  
N G T F B B S P D V E I E N H  
G O N G G E W R N Y K N A A C  
G N I F F U T S A G R P D R U  
E T A L O C O H C B U I G C B  
X X S E O T A T O P T E E W S

BUCHE DE NOËL  
CANDY CANE  
CHOCOLATE  
CLOVES  
COOKIES  
CRANBERRIES  
EGGNOG  
FLAT BREAD

FRUITCAKE  
FUDGE  
GINGERBREAD  
GOOSE  
GRAVY  
HAM  
MINCEMEAT  
NUTS

ORANGES  
PUMPKIN PIE  
SCRUMPTIOUS  
STUFFING  
SUGARPLUMS  
SWEET POTATOES  
TURKEY



# 'We Come A-Caroling'

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING

## HURONSONG CHORUS



### SPECIAL GUESTS:

*Mary Paige St. Onge, soloist*

*Jan Searle, flutist*

*Capucine Onn, violinist*

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER

**Monday December 19th, 7:30 pm**  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Goderich

**Tuesday December 20th, 7:30 pm**  
Northside United Church, Seaforth

ADMISSION: FREEWILL DONATION TO HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER