

The Knox and St Paul's Presbyterian Churches

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NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Knox Anniversary Edition



200 years
1825 to 2025

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From Your Pastor

He Is Risen!

Dear Friends of Knox,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we are once again reminded of the glorious hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The empty tomb stands as the greatest testimony of God's victory over sin and death, and it is in this victory that we find our eternal assurance.

Before Easter Sunday, April 20, we will meet for Maundy Thursday evening worship on Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m., followed by Good Friday, April 18, worship at 7 p.m. A signup sheet for the Holy Saturday prayer vigil will be available. The time will cover Saturday sunset to Sunday sunrise.

The Apostle Paul declared, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20). The resurrection is not just an event in history; it is the foundation of our faith. Without it, our preaching would be in vain, and our hope would be empty. But because Christ is risen, we have the assurance of our resurrection, the certainty of forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life in the presence of God.

Easter calls us to reflect on the immense love of God, demonstrated so perfectly at the cross. The hymn writer Charles Wesley captured this beautifully: "Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won; death in vain forbids Him rise, Christ has opened paradise." The love that held Jesus to the cross was not the nails, but His unwavering commitment to fulfil the Father's will and redeem His people. Through His sacrifice, we have peace with God. Through His resurrection, we are assured that His victory is ours.

As we gather to worship this Easter Sunday, April 20th, let us come with hearts full of gratitude and joy. Let us remember that we are not merely observers of this great triumph but participants in it. Because Christ is alive, we are called to live as people of the resurrection—walking in faith, proclaiming the good news, and serving one another with the love of Christ.

The resurrection also reminds us that our labour in the Lord is not in vain. Whether in our families, workplaces, or church, everything we do in Christ's name carries eternal significance. In a world filled with uncertainty, the message of Easter assures us that God's purposes will prevail, and His kingdom will be fully realized.

This Easter, I encourage you to reflect on the meaning of Christ's resurrection in your own life. Renew your commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus, grounded in the gospel's truth. Share this good news with those struggling with doubt or despair. Let the joy of Easter shape not only our worship on Resurrection Sunday but every moment of our lives.

May the power of the risen Christ strengthen you, the peace of God fill your hearts, and the joy of salvation be ever upon your lips. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

In the grace and love of our Risen Lord,

Rev. James

Church News

Knox Presbyterian Church in Vankleek Hill

200 Years Old

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church in Vankleek Hill. This represents an important milestone in the life of Knox Church. This is an achievement in light of the struggle so many churches face in staying open in a small town in the country. It is hard to pinpoint the success of Knox without referring to God's faithfulness. Just considering the programs and projects currently in place, this is a reflection of the spiritual thread that has worked through Knox like a thread in a tapestry since its inception.

A poll of members on what this means for them yielded a few interesting comments. The thought that came to me was:- Throughout history the world has never been without violent conflict and crime. Every generation has had its wars, hatred and violence, as a few has sought to control the many for personal gain. But Knox (the Beacon on the Hill!) for 200 years, in a small way, in a small part of the world, shows that there is a better way.

As the minister of this congregation, I am very conscious of the pastors who have served so faithfully for the past two centuries, and my prayer is that I will do the same. Knox Church's roots are deep here in Vankleek Hill, and I am grateful for the past work of the people of this congregation and look forward to where God is leading this church community. **Rev. James**

Knox Church must have God's blessing. **Heather Rawlings**

When we stop to consider all the changes that have happened over the last 200 years, the fact that Knox is still ministering in this community, is a true gift from God. **Robin McRae**

We went to a fundraising concert in Knox, VKH in 1991 as a fundraiser for Knox, Moose Creek, which had burned down earlier in the year. The music was amazing as usual under the leadership of Rosemary Harden. We enjoyed the fact that the youth also participated and our daughter took part in Sunday School and the Youth Group.

Lynda Heinsma

This celebration of 200th anniversary means to remember all the great memories we have made at Knox over the years. It is an incredible church family we have. **Melody Nixon**

Looking back over 200 years, I see God's hand on our church family giving his people the desire to persevere to make His presence known in this community. Only God could give His people the determination to move forward after losing their minister and two known workmen in the dreadful collapse of the back wall and then to pick up the pieces and move forward after a devastating fire destroyed the church building. We have continued to persevere over the generations as God provides for us in so many ways, putting the right people in the right place at the right time to grow our church and to make it a welcoming place to gather to Worship. The addition of the Hardy Hall in 2008, which houses the ramp, made the Sanctuary accessible to all. What a wonderful God we serve.

Karin Mode

200 years of Knox Presbyterian Church in the Context of World History

Knox Presbyterian Church VKH celebrates its 200th anniversary

2025

Queen Elizabeth II died superceded by her son Charles III 2022

2020

Rev Robert Martin Retired 2005; Rev James Douglas inducted 2007

2010

World Trade Centre destroyed 9/11 2001

Knox Church celebrated 175th year anniversary 2000

2000

Dissolution of Soviet Union 1991

Berlin wall dismantled 1989

1990

Rev. Robert Martin inducted as Minister of Knox VKH and St Paul's Presbyterian Churches 1978

1980

Neil Armstrong steps onto the moon 1969

1970

Vietnam war 1964 to 1975

Korean war (police action) 1950 - 1953

1960

King George VI died superceded by his daughter Elizabeth II 1952

Newfound joined the confederation of Canada (by a vote of 52 to 48) 1949

1950

Ghandi assassinated 1948

World War II 1939 -1945

1940

The Great Depression 1929 to 1939

King George V died superceded by his son Edward VIII - abdicated - superceded by his brother George VI 1936

1930

70% of the Presbyterian Churches left to form the United Church with Methodists & Congregationsists 1925

World War I 1914: 1918

1920

Knox Presbyterian Church burned down 1917

King Edward VII died superceded by his brother George V 1910 ; RMS Titanic sunk 1912

1910

Queen Victoria died superceded by her son Edward VII 1901

Wall collapsed when building the stone Presbyterian Church killing Rev. J. MacLeod 1900

1900

South African (Boer) War 1899 and 1902

The Last Spike - completion of the CPR Trans-Canada Railroad 1885

1890

Battle of Little Bighorn 1876

1880

Franco-Prussion war 1870 - 1871

First Long Distance phone call Brantford Ont. to Paris Ont. 1871

1870

Confederation of Canada : Sir John A MacDonald established as Prime Minister of Canada 1867

1860

Crimean war 1853 - 1856

1850

Upper and Lower Canada united following the revolt of Upper Canada by William Lyon Mackenzie 1841

1840

King William IV died superceded by his niece Victoria 1837

Slavery throughout the British Empire abolished 1833

1830

Ludwig van Beethoven died 1827: King George IV died superceded by his brother William IV 1930

Presbyterian Church founded in Vankleek Hill: Rev John McLauren inducted 1825

1825

More Church News



Opportunity Knox Update

The Khalil family moved to Kanata near Ottawa. They need to be in an environment where they are more able to assimilate into Canadian life that provides more opportunities for them. They expressed great appreciation for the kindness they received.

VCI Student Lunch Program at Knox

Knox Church introduced a new program that provides lunch free of charge to high school students. This is held on the second Friday of each month. The lunch consists of a hot meal and drink plus goodies. Lunch is served from 11:15 to 12:00.

The participation has grown each time lunches were served. So the program is deemed very successful for those serving and those enjoying the food. Rev James said the students have been polite and appreciative. There is no proselytizing but we are happy to talk about our faith

and God, if asked. It's simply a safe place for a hot lunch.

We are so blessed to have so many people willing to volunteer to set up, cook, serve and greet the students.

Thank you Rev. James for Photos





*Rev. James Baptised Nikki Bercier on 20th October 2024
Proud Parents Tiffany and Pascal take vows on her behalf*

Thank you for the photo Angela



*On Sunday 2nd March 2025 Leigh Mode
celebrated his 80th birthday. Rev James
presented him with a Toblerone chocolate bar
(white chocolate of course)*

(Screen shot taken from the video)

Christmas Pageant 2024

GOD WITH US



Knox Christmas Pageant was held on December 22nd at the end of last year. As usual participation was by children of the Sunday School with certain parts played by adult members. The congregation participated by joining in the Christmas Carols. Jim McCrae sang a solo - "Mary, Did You Know?"

The pageant was followed by lunch in the Archie hall. The congregation appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants (young and older) and of course the organiser Karin Mode. The costumes were delightful as were the children. Thank you for your continued work Karin, Also for the photographs. (Photos by Angela Dainty)





Breakfast and Bible



Ladies and Gentlemen, Don't forget the monthly breakfasts at Knox. On the first Saturday of each month, the men of the church are treated to a cooked breakfast Typically; - scrambled egg, bacon and/or sausages along with pancakes with all the trimmings (maple syrop, fruit, etc.) and a bible study lead by Rev James. All prepared with loving hands by ladies of the church.

On the last Saturday of the month it's the ladies turn. Breakfast is cooked and served and tables cleared by men of the church followed by a Bible study lead by Nathalie Burcier.

Breakfast starts at 8 am at a cost of \$10.00 to cover the cost of food (excellent value). The Bible study follows. The fellowship is free ! Everyone is welcome, but make sure you are at the right breakfast.

St Paul's Fundraiser

On the 17th December 2024, St Paul's held a fund raiser at the CaB Cafe in Chute-a- Blondeau. Both churches were invited so members of Knox joined with St Paul's members for a delicious lunch. There was a menu to pre-order your meal with desserts and tea or coffee. Hopefully this will be an annual event. Thank you St Paul's



Thank you for the sanctuary decorations Angela and Paul and for the photograph. As usual they were very artistical in composition and colour. This was taken at Thanksgiving 2024.

Departed Friends



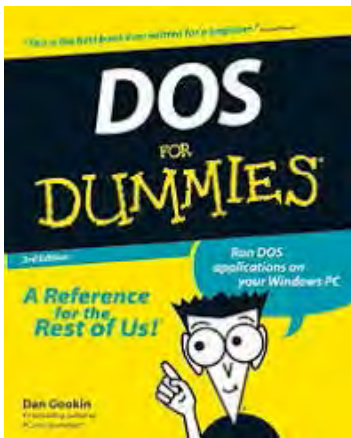
Tony Chenel was a good friend. he was kind, hardworking and loved to help anyone in need. A faithful member of St Paul's A long time member of the Lions Club so typical of who he was - ready to serve those less fortunate. Personally, I remember Tony helping me with some renovation work when we moved to our new home in Vankleek Hill. Our hearts go out to Lynne, Debbie, Andrew and the congregation of St Paul's



Lois Barton passed away on 25th September, 2024. Lois was a long time member of Knox Church and served for many years with the Women's Missionary Society having received a Life Membersip Certificate in 1994. She was also a Sunday School teacher serving as the Attendance Secretary. Lois was a long time member of Ladies Aid, serving as the Greeting Card Secretary. In her day job Lois was a Teacher. Her obituary mentions that she devoted her life to teaching the young.

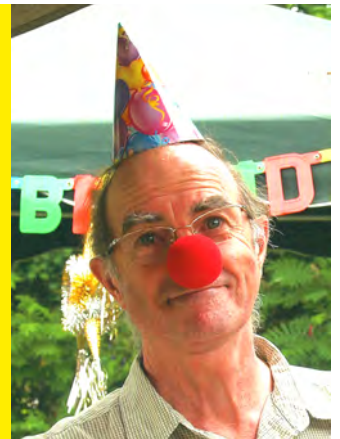


On Thursday 28th of February this year Ruth Fraser passed away. A faithful attendee of St Paul's and also of Knox for many years. In recent times many men in the Church will remember Ruth helping daughter Sandra at the Trillium for the Saturday morning Men's Breafast. Ruth was well known and well loved.



FROM THE EDITOR

SALVATION FOR DUMMIES



In the 1990's a series of books was introduced in response to the proliferation of PC's (Personal Computers). Created by IBM, PC's were made available to the general public. Before that computers were large machines that required an air conditioned room, they were not user friendly and only affordable by large organizations. Computer operation for PC's was simplified by IBM so that users didn't need a degree in mathematics to operate them and they could fit on a desk.

PC operation was by keyboard and required a knowledge of a Disk Operating System (DOS) like that provided by Microsoft. There was a great demand for instructions on how to use DOS, so technical book publisher John Wiley came up with a book that became very popular called "DOS For Dummies". Following success with 'DOS for Dummies' when Microsoft introduced Windows, with mouse and icons, Wiley came out with 'Windows for Dummies', and even branched away from computer science and published a massive range of books 'For Dummies'.

The number of subjects was huge. To date they have published over 2,500 titles covering a very wide range. I think the Dummies title is demeaning (such is pride !). I mean, you can get instructions for piloting an aircraft for Dummies, although I don't think I would feel comfortable flying in an aeroplane piloted by a dummy, How about instructions for a doctor with Anatomy for Dummies ? I notice they have Zen Buddhism for Dummies, Islam for Dummies, even Christianity for Dummies. So I thought what about 'Salvation for Dummies' ?

Christians, from a world perspective, are generally not considered wise and in many cases are considered dummies. I mean, worshiping someone you cannot see, loving those who would do you harm or turning the other cheek, returning to life from death. "How ridiculous ! " might be a popular response .

To be accepted as a disciple in the 1st century, a candidate would have had to follow a very strict regimen to satisfy a Rabbi. They would be required to memorise the Moses scriptures (the first five books of the Old Testament i.e. the Tora), and show that they followed the Law to the letter (note: disciple and discipline has the same word root). Against all tradition, Jesus seemed to have chosen His disciples at random - His choices would normally have been considered unsuitable. They had very little education nor practiced their religion rigorously. They were the riff-raff of the day - a tax collector, a zealot, fishermen, etc. Not the standard normally required of discipleship. Jesus was often accused of associating with the lowest level of society of the day.

In Corinthians chapter 1 verse 27, Paul wrote:-

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise"

Many people feel that choosing to believe in God is not a wise choice. Christianity is ridiculed by many the 'world' considers wise, as they did in Jesus' day.

Consider the state of Christianity leading up to the crucifixion as if it were a modern business establishment. Jesus is the Owner, Peter the Chief Executive, Judas, the Financial Officer and Disciples are Directors and Managers. Christianity would be seen to be in very dire straits. The owner is accused of insurrection and blasphemy – but is innocent. The Chief Executive denies he knew the Owner, not once by three times. The Financial Officer absconds with the money, betrays the Owner, hands him over to the authorities – but then commits suicide. The Owner is tried in a kangaroo court, mocked, flogged, and put to death and the Directors and Managers run and hide leaving the Ladies Aid to deal with the fiasco.

These people who have committed their lives to the Christian establishment would be all considered a bunch of dummies. The worldly people of the 21st century are not a lot different in this aspect than their 33AD counterparts. They scoff just as loudly now as then. So God did not choose the great and powerful leaders of the day to be disciples. Nor did He choose Jesus to be born in a palace, in Jerusalem or even in the "Eternal City" – Rome – the seat of the greatest empire the world then had known. But those who know Christ Jesus may experience pain and suffering but they also know of peace in the heart, inner happiness the world cannot understand, kindness, love and hope for the future. They know God is good.

Christine and I had the good fortune to visit Rome many years ago. It was a moving experience to walk where Peter and Paul had once walked, although it was in better condition when they walked there. Now, the site of ancient Rome is a pile of ruins that gives just a hint of the splendour that it once was. One piece of structure that is still intact is the Arch of Titus. Around AD 68 Titus and his Roman army demolished Jerusalem and ransacked the temple before destroying it. For that, the Arch was built in his honour and he later became Emperor of Rome. Something caught my eye when examining the carvings on the inside of the Arch. It was a depiction of Titus's triumphant parade in Rome on his return from Jerusalem. Titus is shown brandishing a menorah. The ruins don't just provide a hint of the glory that was Rome, it serves as a reminder of the vulnerability of those who seek to compete for God's Glory. So where is this mighty empire now?



Canadian economist John Kenneth Gabor once wrote, "All great civilizations, empires and corporations eventually self-destruct". Empires do not survive greed, arrogance, corruption and treachery. The Church has however, survived ridicule, persecution and even internal conflict, but through God's Grace the Church is still here, very much alive, praising its Creator.



We are told that all of Heaven rejoices when one sinner repents receives salvation and becomes a new creation – but to the 'world' its just another dummy.

*Lord, when I am alone and my veil of strength has fallen
See my fear, forgive my frailty.
Let me grasp your garment that I may take your comfort,
Though healing is yours alone to give.
Let me accept Your Will be done.
But if I falter in the dark specter of the unknown
Bring me your light that I can more clearly see Thy Grace.
In my arms I will hold the cornucopia of Your Love,
Ever abundant and nourishing,
And face what may be.
Yes I may fear, but through your Salvation
I will never despair.*

Helen Taylor