

LENT 2024



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Knox-Elora & St Andrew's Alma



Our Events March 2024

1st March

Community Dinner

3rd March

McIntosh Family Luncheon

Food Bank Sunday

Don Emerick Guest Speaker

9th March

1:30 pm An Afternoon of Euchre

10th March

Communion - Alma & Knox

20th March

7:30 pm KnECT meeting

24th March

Palm Sunday - Choir Music - Alma

29th March Good Friday

11 am Knox Elora

7 pm Alma together
with Hope Springs

31st March

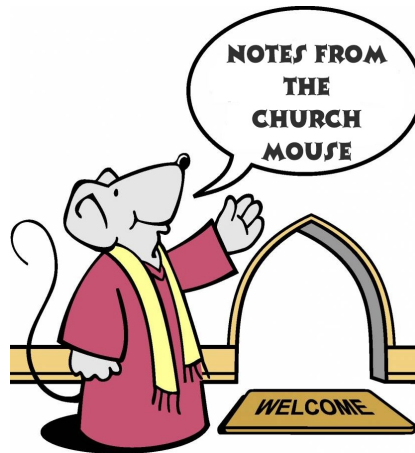
7 am Sunrise Service - Alma

11th May

Glen Jackson Memorial Golf

26th November

Scott Woods Concert



Men's Breakfasts

A hearty breakfast, and a time of fellowship and devotion. Join us gentlemen Wednesday mornings at 8am. At Box Social We look forward to your company.

Sunrise Service Alma

At the Alma Community Centre March 31 at 7 a.m. followed by a Continental Breakfast (All Welcome)

McIntosh Family Lunch

There will be lunch after the service of worship at Knox March 3rd. This marks a return of the pre-covid lunches organized by the McIntosh family. The luncheon put on by Audrey McIntosh and her family is a fundraiser for our Knox Service Club.

We enjoyed their luncheons pre-Covid but because of restrictions during Covid, they were cancelled. With restrictions lifted, they are resuming this wonderful outreach event.

Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be held on March 10 at both churches, the elements will be distributed by the elders. We, however, understand that many of you are still very covid cautious. In which case you are still very welcome to bring your own elements.

Communicant's Classes

Any young people (over the age of 12) who would like to become a member of Knox or St. Andrew's, Rev. Clarke will be running a four week communicant's Class. Date and time to be determined by participant interest

Glen Jackson Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 10 am at Beaverdale Golf Club in Cambridge. More details to follow.

Service Club

The primary job of a Christian is to love others. Martin Luther King once said, "Love is the greatest force in the universe. It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos. He who loves is a participant in the being of God."

Knox is fortunate to have a group of loving members, known as the service club, who work hard to love others. They ensure that we have a time to gather after worship to share the love and friendship of others over a cup of coffee and more often than not tasty baking. They love others providing congratulatory cakes to church celebrations, supporting their functions by providing refreshments, and so many other acts of kindness to church and community.

This month, together with the Eastern Star, they hosted a 'sold out' spaghetti supper.

"I would like to thank everyone who helped with the dinner and those who attended. Your support means a lot to our Service Club. It was a nice social evening. Each group realized just over \$500.00 each. Thank you, Shelley"



Knox/Eastern Star Spaghetti Supper

Fr Mark Curtis Concert

Many of you will remember Fr Mark Curtis once a member of the 'Flying Fathers' and a popular vocalist when he performed and preached at Knox some years ago. We had hoped to have him return to Knox this fall but recent cardiac surgery prevents that. A note from Fr Mark follows:

Dear Family & Friends;

Greetings! In 2024, my music and speaking ministries will be limited to Sunday preaching and my weekly Minute Meditations. That said, I am writing at this time to inquire as to whether you know of a family member, friend, neighbour or fellow worker who might wish to sample and possibly receive my free weekly Sunday Minute Meditations and Songs. If so, can you forward their name and email address to father.mark.curtis@gmail.com and I will send them a sample of my Sunday Minute Meditation.

Thank-you for helping to spread the Good News and for your continued prayerful support.

Blessings,

Father Mark Curtis

Your Knox Property Committee

This committee keeps your church property, including the manse, ship shape and attractive.

Over the next few weeks we will be upgrading the gas alarms and installing a safety bar on the kitchen stove to prevent burners being accidentally turned on — again! We will also be performing some maintenance on the sanctuary lighting.

Our elevator, although simple to operate, is not designated as a self-service elevator so attendants are required. Currently we have three volunteers that we will train to be operators and would like a few more. If you are interested please talk to one of the current attendants or Loretta Fox.

Currently the Committee and the Knox trustees are investigating the effects the new addition to the Elora Centre for the Arts may have on parking in the vicinity of the church. We wish to maintain good relations with the Centre so are proceeding with caution. We will keep you updated.

You were asking?

What are the courts of the Presbyterian Church?

As one family under the lordship of Christ, Christian communities have organized themselves in a variety of ways to provide effective worship, pastoral care, discipleship, and service. While some Christians follow a model in which all decisions regarding theology and polity are decided by the individual congregation (congregational) and others abide by a hierarchical system of priests and bishops (episcopal), the Presbyterian form of government is based on elder-ship. Teaching elders (minister) and ruling elders share in the care and oversight of the ministry of Christ at every level of our church. **Note:** The term minister includes Minister of Word and Sacrament and Member of the Order of Diaconal Ministers

There are four “courts” in our Presbyterian system. Most of the important decisions that affect the church/congregation are made as women and men prayerfully meet to discern the mind of Christ together.

Session:

Sessions are made up of elders and minister(s)*. Elders are women and men who have been elected by the local congregation and ordained. The session provides for the overall ministry of the congregation including pastoral care, worship, Christian education, stewardship and mission. It has representation at the presbytery. The minister acts as the moderator. More on elders in a future edition of News from the Pews.

Presbytery:

The constituent role (membership) of each presbytery is made up of ministers and elders from each congregation within its bounds; one elder for each minister on the constituent role. Presbyteries support and oversee congregations and ministers. We are part of Waterloo Wellington Presbytery which extends from Eden Mills/Rockwood in the East, north to Mount Forest, West to Elmira and South to Doone. The moderator may be a minister or an elder. The current Moderator is Rev. Barb Molengraff (who looked after St. Andrew’s and Knox while I was on Intermission) There are 45 presbyteries in Canada.

Synod:

Each synod is made up of several presbyteries and provides general supervision for them. Ministers, and an equal number of elders, make up the membership of this court. Some synods operate camps and offer educational and training events. We are part of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. Until their recent retirement we employed Rev. Dr. Tori Smith and Rev. Dr. John-Peter Smit. The moderator may be a minister or an elder. Our current moderator is Rev. Jim Biggs. There are eight synods in Canada.

The General Assembly:

The General Assembly meets annually during the first full week of June. It is the highest decision-making body of our church. An equal number of ministers and elders are commissioned by presbyteries to attend. It votes on matters of theology and polity affecting the whole denomination. It receives, discusses and makes decisions on reports from committees, petitions, overtures, references and appeals. Its decisions are made carefully. Some issues require study over a number of years. The General Assembly elects a moderator, a minister or an elder, who presides over the Assembly and

continues in an inspirational and ceremonial role for the following year. The Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly is The Rev. Mary Fontaine.

Lay Preaching Opportunity

The Equipping Leadership Team and the Renewal Team of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington are working together on an initiative to train lay preachers from congregations in the Presbytery. We are asking Sessions to nominate 1 or 2 people from their congregation (not necessarily elders) who the Session believes would be good preachers. We recognize that this will take prayer and discernment to choose who to nominate. We are hoping that by the end of February, Sessions will send the names of people to the planning team.

New Testament Bible Reading Plan

Tips for Reading the Bible Daily

1. Start reading the Bible today -- there is no better time, and there's no reason to wait. Pick a Bible reading plan that will help you know where to start.
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are great, but feel free to use any time that works consistently for you.
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!

March 4 - Matthew 1; Matthew 2; Matthew 3
March 5 - Matthew 4; Matthew 5; Matthew 6
March 6 - Matthew 7; Matthew 8; Matthew 9
March 7 - Matthew 10; Matthew 11; Matthew 12
March 8 - Matthew 13; Matthew 14; Matthew 15
March 9 - Matthew 16; Matthew 17; Matthew 18
March 10 - Matthew 19; Matthew 20; Matthew 21
March 11 - Matthew 22; Matthew 23; Matthew 24
March 12 - Matthew 25; Matthew 26; Matthew 27
March 13 - Matthew 28; Mark 1; Mark 2
March 14 - Mark 3; Mark 4; Mark 5
March 15 - Mark 6; Mark 7; Mark 8
March 16 - Mark 9; Mark 10; Mark 11
March 17 - Mark 12; Mark 13; Mark 14
March 18 - Mark 15; Mark 16; Luke 1
March 19 - Luke 2; Luke 3; Luke 4
March 20 - Luke 5; Luke 6; Luke 7
March 21 - Luke 8; Luke 9; Luke 10
March 22 - Luke 11; Luke 12; Luke 13
March 23 - Luke 14; Luke 15; Luke 16
March 24 - Luke 17; Luke 18; Luke 19
March 25 - Luke 20; Luke 21; Luke 22
March 26 - Luke 23; Luke 24; John 1
March 27 - John 2; John 3; John 4
March 28 - John 5; John 6; John 7
March 29 - John 8; John 9; John 10
March 30 - John 11; John 12; John 13

The Man In The Arena

Theodore Roosevelt

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.



The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

March 31 - John 14; John 15; John 16
April 1 - John 17; John 18; John 19
April 2 - John 20; John 21; Acts 1
April 3 - Acts 2; Acts 3; Acts 4



Volunteers wanted

Looking for volunteers to lead the Responsive Psalm at both worship services. Please speak to Rev Clarke anytime.

Knox is looking for volunteers to act as greeters (before the service) and elevator attendants (before and after the service) No experience required. Please speak to Shelley M, Rev. Clarke, Loretta F or John H.

Stoke the Folk!

Have you ever just sat around a fire? A fire seems to bring out wonderful moments of reflection and conversation.

God's word is compared to a fire in Jeremiah 23:39. Like a fire it enlightens and penetrates. I believe that the gospel is also a fire, and the church needs to be on fire to spread it properly. I also believe that the church that is on fire for the Lord shines brightly in many ways and glorifies Him (cf. Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 3:21). How I wish more brethren would take advantage of the times we burn brightly for the Lord in work and worship.

Have you ever been sitting around a fire that was beginning to dwindle, took a stick and stoked the coals, and the fire would burn brightly again? It is amazing that just moving the burning coals around a little makes such a big difference in the fire.

There's a lesson for all of us in this. It is important to keep moving about serving, working, and encouraging one another in the church. Doing this breathes needed oxygen into the church and helps the gospel fire to burn in our hearts and lives. The more of us "burning coals" who move around, the brighter we will burn together for the Lord!

Life, Times & Contributions of Four Bon Accord Pioneers

Thanks to Ian Rankine

This is the first of a series of brief historical articles on two of the founding families of our congregation, Catherine and James Davidson and Christian and John Keith.

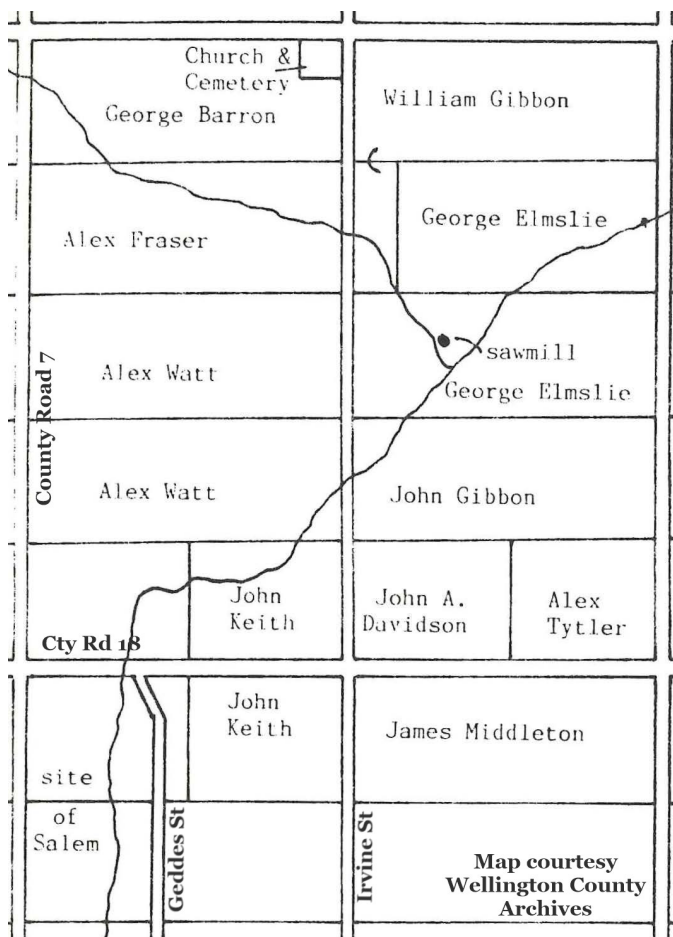
Five letters written between 1838 and 1845 by John A. Davidson from his farm, Woodburn, in Upper Nichol add new material to what is already on record in our previous four histories: to read the full text google Stephen Thorning and John Davidson's Letters from Bon Accord [Wellington County History, Volume 2, 1989, pp. 34-56] Thorning's comments appear in quotations and Davidson's in italics.

Who Were Our Pioneers?

"There wasn't a farmer in the bunch" of the Presbyterian pioneers who settled Bon Accord in the 1830s, rather they were "urban people: mostly merchants, clerks and tradesmen, and all were from Aberdeen on the east coast of Scotland. The subsequent success of many of them at farming was a notable achievement by any standard."

"They were very young (most were in their early twenties); and they were extremely idealistic. Theirs was an idealism combining independence with communal cooperation, and steady personal material progress with a firm commitment to the evangelical zeal which had seized Scottish Presbyterianism."

Where Did Our Founders Locate?



Who Were the Davidsons?

John Alexander Davidson, the youngest and “vocal in matters dealing with the church,” was a carpenter by trade, when he came in 1835.

A bachelor at the time, Davidson boarded with George Elmslie...for some months until he put up his own cabin.... ” He and Alexander Watt were the first two elders elected when the congregation was authorized in 1837.



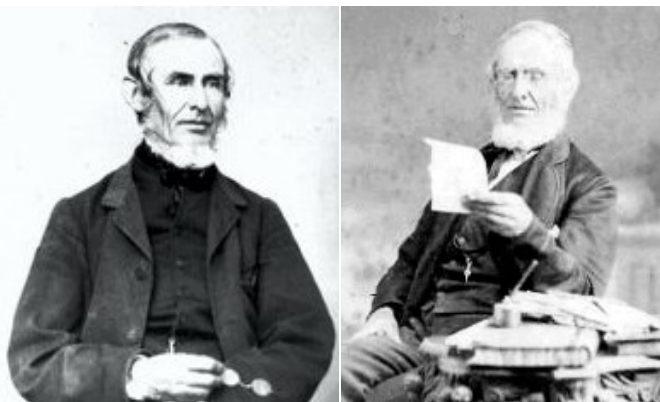
John is still a bachelor with every appearance of remaining so as he lives in a quarter of the country where the fair sex are at a premium ...a very scarce commodity. He adds, “I bitterly repent that I came to Canada a single man and if any of my friends are coming to America to be farmers, I earnestly advise them in God's name (I

speak with reverence) not to come bachelors, or they will find themselves in the wrong box.

John proclaims “ contentment with the independent life of the backwoods” and “his loneliness without a wife” but within a few months he would marry James Middleton's daughter Catherine.

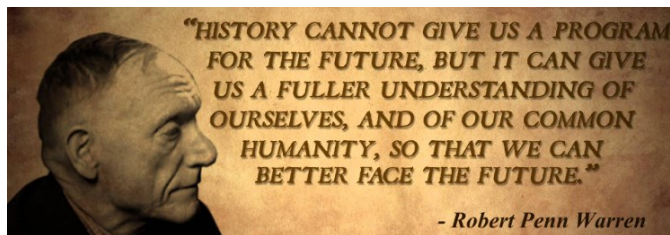
Catherine Middleton Davidson, wife of John A. Davidson of Eden Mills; about 1875; died 5 Mar. 1878, aged 61[WCMA, 14777]. This is a sepia copy of ca 1860 portrait [WCMA, 3095]

Catherine and John left Bon Accord for Eden Mills where he served as Clerk, Eramosa Twp from 1862-1884. The Davidsons had 8 children, 4 girls and 4 boys.



Left: Cannon portrait of John Davidson in his later years when he became a pillar of the Eden Mills community, ca 1860. [University of Guelph, XR1 MS A11 3099]

Right: John A. Davidson, ca 1875 [WCMA, 14776].





Future Events

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

51 Church Street, Elora

Euchre Afternoons

Sat March 9

Sat April 27

1:30to 4:00 PM



Refreshments and Prizes

\$10/Player



Wednesday November 6th, 2024.

The show will be our new YeeHaw show
a take on the old TV show HeeHaw.



June 8—Details to Follow

Nathan came to Elora as a child raised on a farm across from the Elora Gorge Park. He will be backed up by Madison Avenue, a group associated with Adrian Jones' Music School (Elora), which includes Elora residents Natalie Ay-ranto, Noella Mallany and Charlotte Kirley.

Accompanying Nathan in this special presentation are Adrian Jones on lap steel guitar, acoustic guitar, mandolin, and Nathan's musical friend from Orangeville, Mark Ostrowski on harmonica. They have agreed to play "thE lost LOve letteR to a smAll town" with Nathan.



Lent Wordsearch

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angels	ashes	bible	blessed	blood	catholic	children
christ	christian	church	commit	confess	confession	creation
cross	death	distractions	Easter	fat tuesday	forgiveness	forty days
god	goodfriday	harmony	heart	holiness	holy thursday	hope
jesus	joy	lent	life	love	mary	meditation
nails	palms	passion	peace	prayer	prepare	repent
sacrifices	satan	savior	seasons	sins	stations	sunday
tempted	time	Wednesday	wisdom	word		