

*Hi folks. Knox Notes is back again. There is a lot going on at Knox these days and we are going to try and keep you informed of what is going on. Since this is a first attempt for me, please bear with me if it is a little plain. If there is anything you would like to add to the next edition, which I plan to produce monthly, please contact me over the next few weeks.*

*In Christ,*

*Rev. Alton J. Ruff*

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#### LET YOUR LITTLE LIGHT SHINE:

Session has formed a small team to look into the building of an exterior sign on Hugel Ave. We hope to build a prominent sign with the ability to communicate messages electronically. How this will look and what it will cost is what we are trying to figure out right now. A proposal will come through Session and be brought to the congregation. Special fundraising would likely be required for this project.

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#### SPRUCING UP THE PLACE:

Part of being a welcoming church is greeting people with a clean and warm space. Our 1<sup>st</sup> St. entrance is a little bit worn out and due to some generous donations from Out of the Cold and private donors, we have the funds to begin a renovation of the 1<sup>st</sup> St. entrance. Expect more details to come.

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#### HIGHER GROUND CAFÉ:

Some new furniture arrived this week as we begin to complete the vision for the Higher Ground Café. Still to come are coffee tables and a signs. We hope that you enjoy a comfortable place to have a cup of coffee and some good conversation following worship every Sunday. Don't forget to offer to buy a newcomer a cup of hot coffee.

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#### WORSHIP TEAM:

The worship experience at Knox is a huge undertaking. Many people work very hard to bring us a service of worship on Sunday mornings that inspire and equip us in worship. While we acknowledge all those who work hard we also want to take a moment to thank a few people who are stepping back from this ministry for the time being. We thank Jennifer Ewen, Kyle Ewen, Felicity Cole, David Anderson, Kate Urquhart, and Al Forget. We appreciate their time and talents that they poured into the worship ministry at Knox.

### PROPERTY & FINANCE TEAM:

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Glen Gowan has joined the Property and Finance Team in the place of Nellie Gowan, who is unable to attend on a regular basis. Our financial position for 2011 is encouraging. Our givings were up about 20% more than in 2010, and our expenses were below budget. This means that although we fell around \$10,000 short of meeting our budget through givings, our actual shortfall was only \$ 1,741.58. The congregation of Knox should feel good about their generosity and support of God's work here in Midland.

### STEWARDSHIP TEAM:

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In keeping with our Vision for the congregation, the stewardship team is looking at ways to communicate our message to the community. One of the things we have learned is that fear keeps people from entering a church, and we need to communicate that we are a casual, relaxed type of congregation. What is our message? How do we communicate it? Are questions we are trying to answer. Also in the works is a fundraising plan as we think ahead to projects such as an exterior sign.

### MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM:

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The Alpha Program was a success in that participants indicated spiritual growth. While we didn't have many join us from the community, we hope to plan better advertising for the Session of Alpha, potentially this fall. More info to come. Much thanks to all those who worked so hard to put this program together. It was a fantastic group effort.

The "Shoebox" program was a success! A total of 48 boxes were delivered. The Team will be planning to do this again, and will make sure that we have all the necessary information available in good time.

Missionary, Amelie Sorensen, will be preaching here on April 15, 2012. You won't want to miss it.

### YOUTH EDUCATION TEAM:

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Around 16 teens from EPIC will be attending "Sno-Camp" in March. Rev. Alton will be with them. We request prayer for the young people attending this special program that they would come to know Christ and grow in their faith.

### ADULT EDUCATION TEAM:

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The AET is hard at work this year with many exciting opportunities for spiritual growth: The “Parenting Teenagers Course” will start on February 8, and will run for 5 weeks. Join us for Dinner and Movie, showing the film “Courageous” at Hillcrest on Saturday February 18, 2012.

The Team is also planning a Games night, with potluck supper in March. The “Alpha Marriage Course” is being scheduled for this fall. Stay tuned!

### HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM:

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The Presbyterian Church in Canada issued a statement in December regarding the “Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005. This requires that appropriate notices be posted at all entrances to our buildings as well as assuring that we have proper equipment and training or those with special needs. We are working towards this goal.

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM:

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If you would like to help us with visiting people who can no longer make it to church, we welcome you! We are also working on the further training of our much appreciated greeters.

### PRESBYTERY REPORT:

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There are several seminars taking place in the near future, such as;

- \* Canadayouth.ca lists a 5 day seminar for youth.
- \* In September there will be a seminar in Toronto about overseas Mission leaders.
- \* On February 25 & 26, there will be a seminar in Calvin Presbyterian Church in North Bay, “Understanding your own spiritual life”.
- \* On April 21, a workshop will be held in Orillia on various subjects.

### FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY TEAM:

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Thank you to Marion Deeton and all our volunteers who make us delicious snacks and coffee every Sunday morning. This team was also responsible for the decorations at Christmas outside the church. The church looked fantastic!

### MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

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The Annual General Meeting will be held on February 26, 2012, following a luncheon after church.