

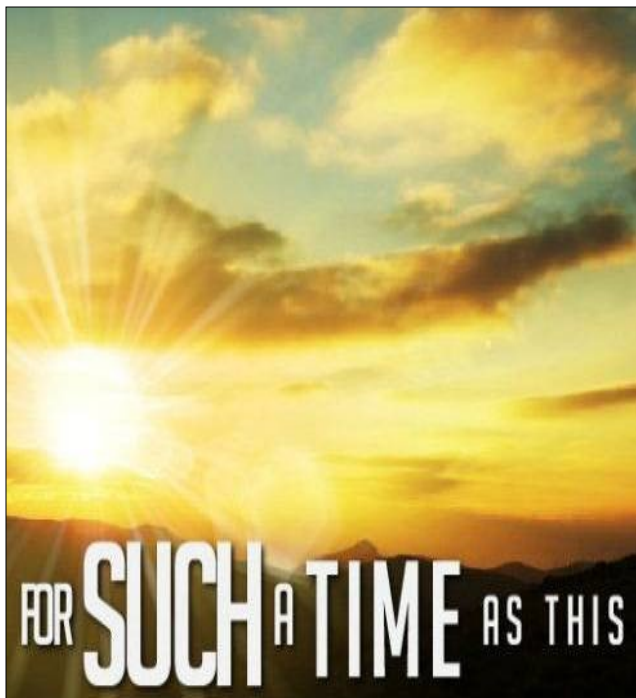


Knox News

October 2021

*Give thanks for the beauty
and gifts of God's creation.*

GETTING READY FOR GOD'S NEW THING... Anne Miller



As I write this, I'm very aware that my time at Knox as worship leader is coming to a close. It has been a privilege to journey with you since February 2020. None of us anticipated that five weeks in we would have to shut down public worship. What resulted were quick adjustments, lots of logistics and the need for much flexibility. I'm so grateful to Nancy, Janet and George for making it all possible week to week, and to all of our readers and musicians and, most recently, ushers and greeters. It has been a joy to serve with you in this strange time.

I'm also aware of wonderful bonds I've made with many of you through great things happening and tough times you've experienced and just the struggles of the pandemic. I don't take what you've shared with me lightly and I'm grateful for the trust placed in me. You have blessed me in many ways and inspired me with your faith and vulnerability. We have incredible and resilient people in this family. Thanks to those who do so much for pastoral care – the prayer link, prayer shawl group, newsletter deliverers and others who carry out this vital ministry.

Knox will always be my home. I will be very carefully discerning what role, if any, is helpful and appropriate for me as our new minister of Word and Sacrament begins here in November. It is a time of transition and excitement for us as a

congregation. I want to clear the way for whatever God asks him to do here. Rev. Dr. Kim brings a wealth of experience and many gifts which our Search Team recognized were needed. By the time you read this, his Call should have been passed by our Presbytery and will then move on to his current Presbytery.

There is so much possibility ahead of us. Rev. Kim has answered the Call to come here and will develop a renewed vision with us. I look forward to talking to him about how I can best support his ministry and his adjustment to life in Woodstock and at Knox. I'm excited for what he brings to us and what God may call me to next in ministry wherever that may be. It will be a new chapter for Knox and I'm so grateful to the Search Team for their faithfulness in the process under challenging circumstances. Thanks also to the Rev. Al Brouwer for steering the team and Session during the vacancy and trusting in me to lead worship and do pastoral care.

I would also like to remind you of something startling: Rev. Kim will not be like me. He probably will not write mid-week reflection e-mails, something I did specifically because of the pandemic. He may not sing a solo or call as regularly as I have because his role and tasks and responsibilities are different. He likely will not lead worship in the same way as me. And that's okay. Things will change to match his skills and what God gives him to share with us.

He also will not be like Rev. Mark or Rev. John or Rev. Ann or Rev. Glenn or Rev. Jan. He will be the gifted person God made him to be and will have different strengths and interests. As we will hear in the book of Esther, just like she was placed in a situation 'for such a time as this' I believe that Rev. Kim has come to us by God's guidance for this time – a time of growing diversity in Woodstock, a time where we need to be listening more intently for God's direction as the pandemic continues, a time to hear anew what our ministry is to the wider community and how we can creatively grow our family of faith.

Rev. Kim *will* be like me and previous ministers in that he loves Jesus and he will strive to faithfully serve God and the people here. He will leave his home and move to be with us and is

bringing his lovely wife Kyoungmi. It is our job to welcome them and to help them feel at home and part of the family. It will take time for him to get to know us, especially due to the pandemic. We will need to offer patience and compassion as he adjusts to a new place of ministry where he knows just a handful of us, and even those hardly at all.

This October, Rev. Kim will be preparing for this huge change in his life. He is stepping out in faith, trusting that God has led him here. And we have work to do as well. If you are at all unsettled about him coming, especially in this pandemic, I hope that you will be in prayer about it, trusting in God's goodness and faithfulness. We all should be praying as we prepare for our ministry relationship to begin with him and his wife, asking God's leading for them and for us as a congregation and that we would honour the gift that we are to each other.

We should remember that while he is bringing many gifts to us, we come offering many gifts ourselves. As a congregation we have weathered this difficult time with healthy finances, many projects undertaken and

completed, and many ministries intact. We offer lots of volunteers with so many different gifts. We have a beautiful building, terrific staff, and a variety of people of many ages who are faithful and seeking, those who have been around for decades and those who are more recent members who bring outside perspective and experiences of other churches.

This is an exciting time. Let's prepare ourselves for what is to come. Let's be enthusiastic and optimistic. Let's pray and ask God to bless this new beginning. Because God still has much to do through us at Knox, 'for such a time as this'.

Peace be with you! *Anne*

Knox Use for Individuals and Groups in COVID

COVID Planning Team

Both formal and informal groups that are using the building through the week are reminded to have their leadership book the space and time with Nancy in the office. Regularly meeting groups also need to sign off on following protocols and present their insurance certificate or ensure that they are covered under Knox's insurance policy.

We also need to not become complacent, even as we experience joy in seeing each other. The fully vaccinated can still get Covid, be asymptomatic, and pass it on to others. Let's reassure each other that we are still aware of the pandemic around us, and let's celebrate the good care we've offered each other so far.

We want everyone to be safe in the building, whether they are popping in to pick up something or staying for a meeting or doing repairs or other work or rehearsals or part of a group. More people are coming in and we need to be mindful of touched surfaces, washroom sanitizing after use and following protocols. We pray that the fourth wave will be short-lived and some guidelines can be eased soon. In the meantime, thanks for continuing to follow the protocols.

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER... Anne Miller



October will be a busy month at Knox!

October 3rd World Communion Sunday

The Rev. Joyce DeGier Vanderspek is leading this service with Anne. For those who come in person, we will be using pre-packaged juice cup and wafer packs which will be given to you as you enter the sanctuary. Those who pass them out will be masked and sanitized. Those watching at home are reminded to have bread or crackers ready and juice, wine, or even tea or water.

October 10th Thanksgiving

October 17th Anniversary Sunday with the Rev. Kristine O'Brien, Director, Crieff Hills

October 24th Anne's last Sunday

October 31st Reformation Sunday with the Rev. Joyce DeGier Vanderspek

Similar to last year, we will *not* be worshipping together with our brothers and sisters from the Reformed churches at Knox.

November 7th We anticipate to be our first service with the Rev. Dr. Kim as our new minister

For all worship services, you are warmly welcomed to come in person as you feel comfortable. It is good to be together in God's house! George will continue to send out the link for the worship service on youtube late Sunday afternoons and will also make the service audio available over the telephone through dialing 833-313-1504.

The nursery continues to be available to families, one household at a time, who need it during the service. Mikayla will be keeping our young families updated about Sunday school. We need to remember to be particularly careful with our kids who do not yet have a vaccine option. Our Sunday school leadership has been trained in Covid protocols for safety of everyone.

Thank you for your continued financial gifts to the ministry of Knox. Thank you as always to our singers, scripture readers, ushers and greeters, tech team and those of you who come and make the worship feel a bit more normal for those who lead. Thank you for pre-screening and thinking of others before yourself, for masking, distancing and sanitizing or hand washing to keep everyone safe. In caring for each other we bless each other. We will continue to find a rhythm of worship in these strange times.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact someone on the Covid Planning Team:

Nick Hardeman – 519-539-5225

Josie Miller – 519-539-1435

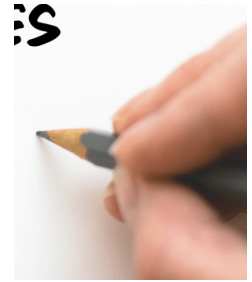
Mikayla Voortman – 519-854-8240

Gord Taylor – 519-290-3409

Anne Miller – 519-533-0767

NOTES FROM VIRTUAL SESSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Josie Miller, Clerk of Session



There were twelve elders in attendance.

Correspondence

- There were thank you letters for the donations from the Isabel Johnson Estate bequest from:
Woodstock Hospital Foundation
Canadian Mental Health Association
Ingamo Homes
Domestic Abuse Services Oxford
Childrens' Aid Society of Oxford County
Justice for Migrant Workers
VON Sakura House
Evangel Hall Mission
Crieff Hills
Camp Kintail
Operation Sharing - The Inn
- Elaine Stevens sent her resignation as an elder. It was accepted with regret and gratitude for her 27 years of service.
- Nora Martin gave a presentation about the benefits of guided meditation. Session approved starting a group at Knox.

Ministry Reports

Mission

- Knox Kids' Camp - It ran for six weeks this summer. Attendance varied between 8 and 12 campers. In all 31 children took part from 17 different families. There were 7 children from Knox, 17 children from other churches and seven children with no church home.
- Supplies 4 Students - Over the summer congregation members were invited to send monetary donations to the United Way Oxford for the Supplies 4 Students program.
- PWS&D - Donations to PWS&D were encouraged for relief work in Haiti after their devastating floods.
- Canadian Bible Society - The CBS is discontinuing the Baptism Bibles Program.

Interim Moderator's Report

- The call to the Rev. Dr. Dong-Ha Kim will be presented at the Paris presbytery meeting in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Simcoe on Sept. 21 at 7.00 p.m. then to the Hamilton presbytery at their October meeting.

Board of Stewards

- Nancy is retiring on December 17, on her anniversary of coming, 34 years ago. We are starting to look for a replacement.
- Michael will be off for up to 2 months due to hip surgery starting the beginning of November and we will find someone to fill in for him.
- Anne will end her time with us at the end of October.

Worship

There will be a communion service on Sunday October 3.

Considering Pre-Authorized Remittance?



*“The pre-authorized remittance plan helps me to give consistently...
proportionately...intentionally.
It helps me to say thank you to God.”*

We at Knox have had a pre-authorized remittance plan (PAR) in place for years, however very few of our members have taken advantage of this system to give their gifts to our ministry. There are many benefits to the PAR plan:

- Your contributions will be made regularly even if you are away on business or vacation.
- You will not have to write a cheque or carry cash to church each week.
- The church will receive your contributions consistently, which will help pay all the bills even in the summer months when many are away.
- It will save time and work for those who count and register the offerings each Sunday.
- Avoids “catch up periods”.
- You can budget your monthly giving.
- Regular support of your church in the amount that you choose.
- Best of all, never again will you have the frustration of getting halfway to church and then remembering that you forgot your offering.

How the plan works:

- You sign up for the plan and indicate the amount you wish to give for work at our Church, Presbyterians Sharing, PWS&D or other Ministries.
- The plan can be changed as you wish at any time by notifying Nancy in the office.
- Cards are available to place in the offering plate each week.

Registration pamphlets are available on tables as you enter the sanctuary; please take one and consider this as a way of sharing your blessings. If you have any questions on the plan you can contact Steve McInnis or Nancy in the church office.

*“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

2 Corinthians 9:7

WMS – October, 2021

Susan McLennan, Secretary

In October 2020 the executive of the WMS Campbell auxiliary – Elaine Stevens as Treasurer, and myself as Secretary, decided that each month, around the time we would normally meet, we would mail or deliver a little package for our members to enjoy.

We have maintained our connections with each other during the past year with ‘door step’ visits in the warmer months and by mail during lock-down periods. While in-person is always better, we have also called each other and stayed in touch as we can.

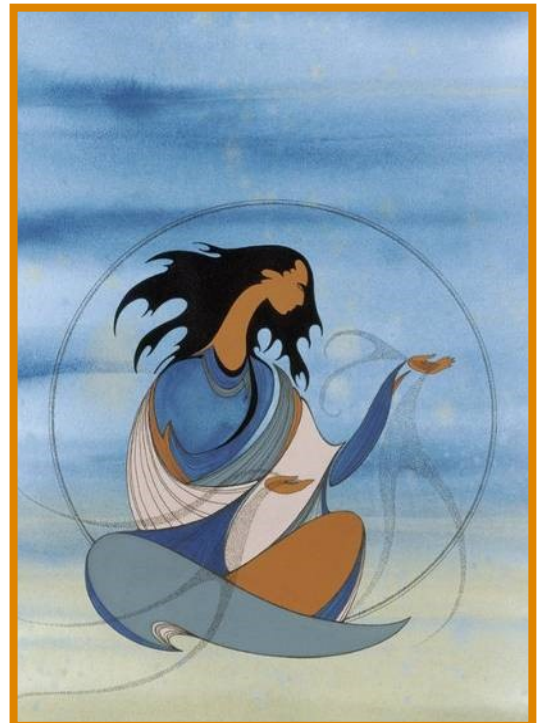
Many of our members have experienced significant changes during the past year and we acknowledge that although we are not prepared to meet in person just yet, our hope is that before too long that will be possible. We never know where our path will take us. *Now, perhaps more than ever, it is important to remember our mission is “to encourage” those around us:*

A prayer from CASA on-line church community:

The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose, in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ, is to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service and fellowship.

In this new day,
may the winds of Spirit
blow you free
and clear out thoughts
that weigh you down.
May the light of love
for all creation
shine through you
as you wave and rejoice
in the goodness of simple moments.
You are part of the mystery
of God's peculiar grace:
In the unfolding of your inner being,
You are enfolded in love.

-Wendy Jean MacLean



Something New at Knox... Nora Martin



This Fall, we are starting something new at Knox. I mean, other than getting a new minister! I mean a guided meditation group. What is that, you ask? Let me explain.

In the Spring of 2020 while Steve and I were in Toronto upon our return from Malawi, I started attending a guided meditation group on Zoom led by the interim minister at Leaside Presbyterian Church which we were both attending (on Zoom) before returning to Woodstock. At first I found that the twenty minutes of sitting still and quiet were a stretch for me. I kept feeling as if I should have my knitting in my hands! However, there was something about it that kept me coming back every week to join the guided meditation sessions. Before I knew what was happening, I was so hooked that I kept on attending even after returning to Woodstock. Then in December of 2020 a series of events led to me taking over the leadership of the group, and I've been leading the group every Wednesday since January 6, 2021.

I still haven't really explained what guided meditation is. Essentially the participants in the group sit still and quiet, with their eyes closed, for the full period of time, usually twenty minutes, while the leader makes periodic comments, encouraging and directing them to help them stay focussed on whatever they've chosen as their focus for that period of time. The goal is spiritual transformation, which is really a gift from God but one which we can cultivate through meditation (among other spiritual practices).

Why would anyone want to engage in meditation, let alone guided meditation? I can

assure you that for me it has been immeasurably enriching for my spiritual life, and for everyday life (which are, of course, one and the same thing in the end). In an email she sent today, my meditation teacher says the following:

As we sit in stillness together and bring a little quiet to our minds and bodies, we discover that the worries of this world start to make less noise. As the worries of this world make less noise, we begin to hear better the still small voice in our hearts that speaks to us of love, peace and joy. The more often we come to stillness (even for brief moments), the easier it becomes to hear our hearts.

These sentences eloquently explain what I believe about meditation. They explain why I keep on with it personally every day, and why I join her group every Monday, and why I want so badly to start a group here at Knox. I believe that anyone can and would benefit from engaging in meditation, and I know that I, at least, have found participating in guided meditation is a good way to start. It's also an encouragement to continue even when one has established a personal meditation practice.

When I lead guided meditation, I usually start by sharing a verse or two from the Bible for the people to focus on for the duration of the meditation, something that will allow them to focus their minds and sit in stillness for twenty minutes. There is nothing magic about twenty minutes, but it's considered to be the usual time for meditation, at a minimum.

If all this sounds like something you'd like to try out, please contact me, either through email (stevenora331@gmail.com) or by phone (519-536-0789) as soon as possible. I'd like to start in October sometime, either in person or on Zoom (or possibly both), depending on the desire of those who express interest. I'm flexible as to time of day, but if it's evening, I'd prefer Mondays. We'd meet weekly, but if you find coming every week is too much for your schedule, no one is taking attendance!

“If all this sounds like something you'd like to try out, please contact me, either through email (stevenora331@gmail.com) or by phone (519-536-0789) as soon as possible.”



Simon Says Hi!!...

Anne Miller

It was great to see Simon when he came for a visit! He's liking his new town and his house. He's even liking his new school and making some friends.

He says hi to everyone at Knox!

George Leslie MacKay 2022 Calendars



To commemorate the 150th anniversary of George Leslie McKay's arrival in Tamsui on March 9, 1872, and the beginning of Canada's engagement with Asia, the Canadian MacKay committee has produced a bilingual English-Chinese wall calendar with historic and contemporary pictures from Taiwan and Canada, plus informative text and dates.

If you would like one or more of these commemorative calendars, please call Nancy in the church office. Cost is \$12.00.

From Our Music Director... Janet vanderSpek



“In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.”

This quote was penned by a wise unknown writer, and Jan Karon shared it in one of her books called “The Mitford Bedside Companion”. Many of you are avid readers of Karon’s novels, especially the Mitford Series.

The praise song “Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart” is a favourite of many. The lyrics express in simple terms a thankful heart. It tells us what to do (give thanks), how to do it (with a grateful heart), whom to thank (the Holy One), and why (because of the gift of Jesus Christ).

This popular song is reflective and personal, though it is to be sung

corporately, fostering a spirit of thankfulness. The writer of the song, Henry Smith, Jr., was born in Crossnore, North Carolina. Of the nearly three hundred songs he has written, only this one was published (in 1987).

I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, filled with blessings. Keep safe and be well and take good care of each other.

From the Kitchen Crew...

Rosie, Carol & Alice



Hope all of our Knox Families are doing well!

We have decided to postpone the Bazaar for one more year. I know that puts a hole in everyone’s heart. We are going to put our heads together as a committee and figure something out for after Christmas or the Spring. Our hope is you all stay safe and healthy.



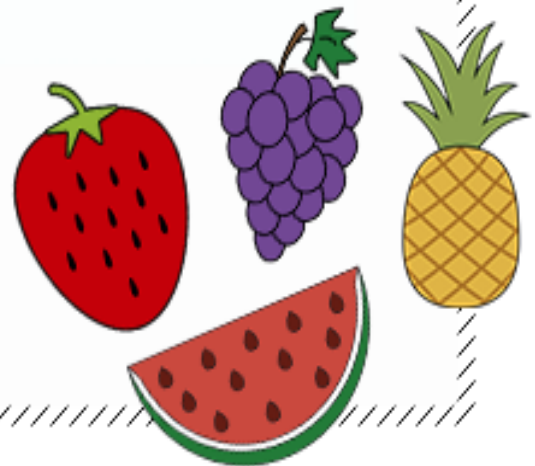
WORD SEARCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

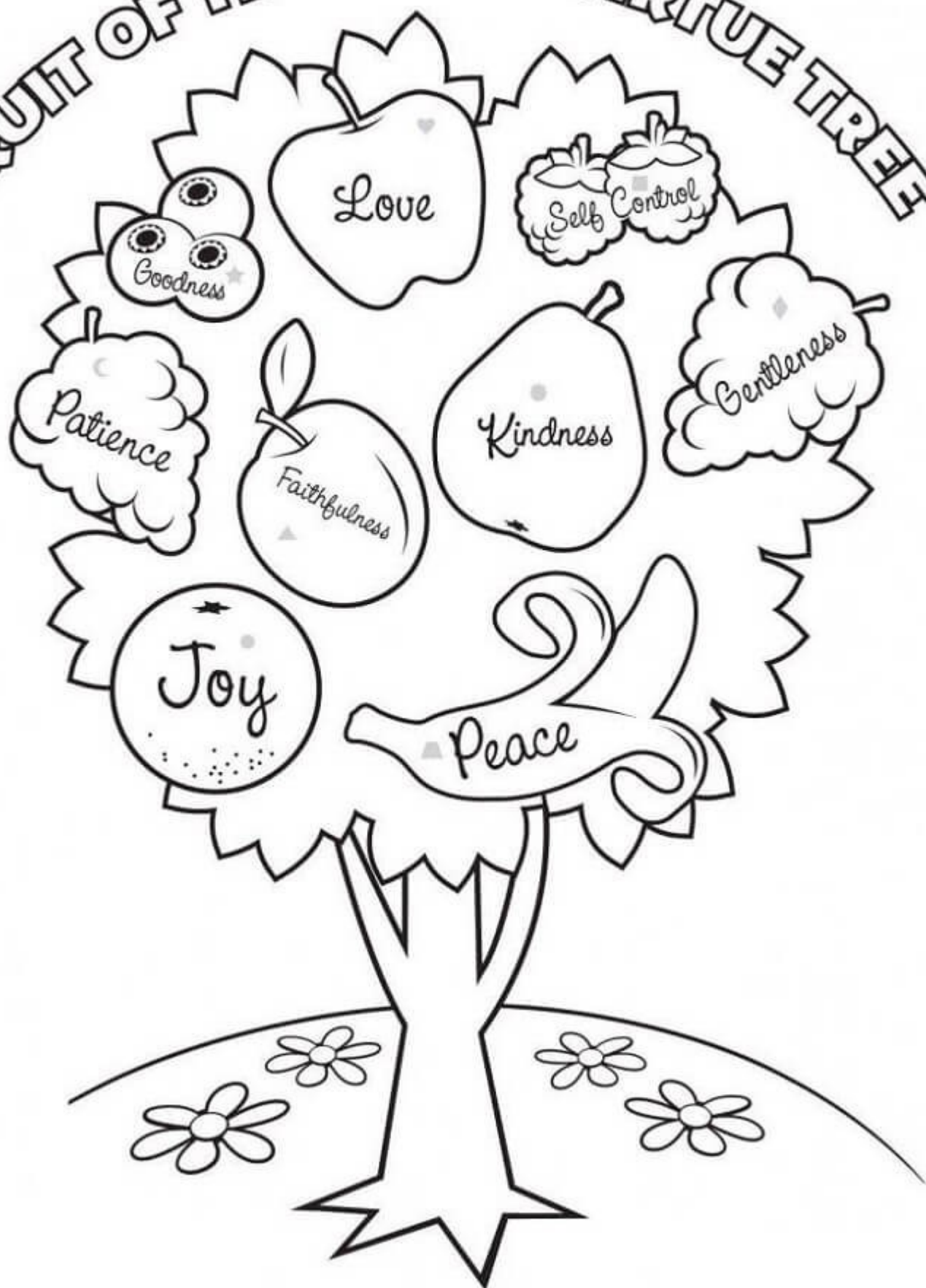
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PATIENCE
FAITHFULNESS
SELF-CONTROL
KINDNESS
GENTLENESS

PEACE
JOY
GOODNESS
LOVE



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT VIRTUE TREE





Some children's perspectives on biblical matters...

- "The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels."
- "The epistels were the wives of the apostles."
- "The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple."
- "Moses died before he ever reached Canada then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol."
- "One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan."
- "St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage."

our Church Family

Births



August 31 - Twins!
Audrey Cora and Harrison Martin
son and daughter of
Emily and Quintin VandenEyden
great-niece and nephew of
Janet vanderSpek

September 20
Claire Eve Janssen
daughter of Patricia Stitt & Jon Janssen
granddaughter of Amanda Dewit



If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please be sure to let Anne (519 533-0767), or Nancy (519 537-2962) know. If you have good news to share, please be sure to pass that on also! Thank you.

Birthday Blessings



October 6
Mikayla Voortman, 26

October 29
Cliffe Jewlal, 77

October 30
Mavis Armstrong, 93



John & Lynn Dobbs
34 Years - October 13

Ron & Margaret Gregor
66 Years - October 15

Alex & Mikayla Voortman
2 Years- October 19

Deepest Sympathy



"Whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Anne Cuthbertson - August 27

John Berst - September 6

Anne Kuiper - September 22

We are deeply saddened by Anne, John and Anne's deaths, and extend truly heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends. Our deep sympathy also to Karen Trick on the death of her father, Bob Trick, on August 29.

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 Email: office.knox.woodstock@bellnet.ca
 website: www.knoxwoodstock.ca

October, 2021



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