

## A LETTER FROM REV DEB

### John - The Gospel of Light and Life

"In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God..."

--John 1:1

Dear friends,

The Gospel of John stands alone as a story of Jesus' life. It is filled with images and symbols that draw us into deeper insight about God's Messiah. John seeks to offer a vivid theological painting of who Jesus is that is quite different than Matthew, Mark and Luke. While compelling and inspired, filled with facts and stories, these three gospels are called the Synoptic Gospels because they resemble each other in many ways and provide more of a synopsis of Jesus' life.

John, on the other hand, starts in the Creation itself and joins Jesus to God's original creating Spirit which leads us eventually to the wonder and hope of God's eternal, resurrection spirit. The gospel of John requires deeper study to discover the layers of meaning being offered so that each reader may come to know Jesus, in whom "there was life and the life was the light of people." -John 1: 4

This Lent, we will study the gospel of John together through small group discussions and worship. As we journey once again through Jesus' ministry and culminating Passion toward the gift of new life in his resurrection, we will do so through the powerful vision of John, disciple and evangelist. Beginning on February 14 and continuing each week of Lent through Easter, March 31, Knox will proclaim, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it!"

-John 1:5

We invite you to commit to the journey!

Blessings in Christ,  
Deb



## Sermon Series Begins February 14

"Praise the God of Resurrection" Cantata sets the stage for our study of John. Through music, scripture and commentary we will reflect on Jesus' journey as it begins and where it will lead.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10. Join Knox for a family friendly service at 7:00 pm to help you begin Lent with a time of reflection.

February 21	The Word Made Flesh	John Chapter 1	
February 28	The Miraculous Signs of Jesus	John 2: 1-5, 9: 1-3	
March 6	The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus	John 8: 56-58	
March 13	The Farewell Discourse of Jesus.	John Chapter 14	
March 20	PALM SUNDAY The Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion of the King	John 19: 14-20	
March 27	EASTER Eternal Life!	John Chapter 20	

### Holy Week

March 24	Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm 24 Hour Prayer Vigil at Knox begins
March 25	Good Friday Noon day Service, 12:00 noon 7:30 pm - 24 Hour Prayer Vigil ends

Easter Services	6:30 am Sunrise Service at Veteran's Park 9:00 am & 11:00 am services at the church
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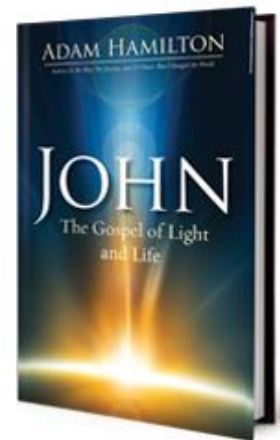
### Lenten Small Group Studies and Resources

This year's Lenten resource is Adam Hamilton's study of John, The Gospel of Light and Life. The books are available in the Commons on Sunday or from Bev Mayer during the week. Cost is \$12.75

Not in a small group? We'll help you find one or start one! Look for sign ups in the Commons starting January 31. Check out the weekly Sunday bulletin as well. We will also send an email blast with a sign up link at the end of January.

Jump in. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity of study and grace with your church family. Questions: contact Rev Deb at [droberts@knoxpres.org](mailto:droberts@knoxpres.org) or Pam Williams at [pajdwilliams@comcast.net](mailto:pajdwilliams@comcast.net)

**Find out about small groups online.**



### Epiphany Star Sunday 2016

What a wonderful way to begin our year together through worship and communion. We thank our Star Story folks for their humor, insight and faithfulness, so eloquently expressed. We know they inspired you and we have great hopes for next year's stories.

Our gratitude to:

Julia Dana - Life  
Duncan Caldwell - Patience  
Pam Williams - Inspire  
Helene Schaefer - Consolation  
Ron Mobley - Gaining

What's your star word this year? Who are you praying for?

Our annual Epiphany Stars offer two opportunities:

1. Biblical study and reflection

Discover where in scripture your word is found. How can it be a lens for growing  
In faith and closer to God?

2. Prayer

What a joy to know that we are praying for one another as a congregation.

Would you like to meet your Star family?

Would you like to know how to pray for them this year?

From the above opportunities we know that God will offer light and guidance - an epiphany for heaven's sake!

If you have any questions, please contact one of the pastors. We are here to help!!

**More about Epiphany Stars.**

## ADULT EDUCATION

All classes welcome newcomers at any time!

### **Sunday**

**9:00 am** - Adam Hamilton's study of *John - The Gospel of Light and Life*; led by Brooks Reid in Senior High Room

**10:30 am** -

Christianity 323 - Christian Existentialism: Kierkegaard and Nietzsche continues, led by Jim Clinton in Room 202.

2/7 Nietzsche - Critic of Christian Morality Phillip Cary

2/14 Friedrich Nietzsche on Nihilism and the Death of God Robert Solomon

2/21 Nietzsche, the "Immoralist" Robert Solomon

2/28 Nietzsche on Freedom, Fate, and Responsibility Robert Solomon

**7:00 pm** - *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers; Exploring Christian Faith*; book with straight forward information on key elements of our faith and life together. Leaders: Frank Mayer and Randy Johnson in Middle School Room

### **Tuesday**

**9:00 am** - *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers; Exploring Christian Faith*. Led by Frank Mayer in Middle School Room.

**9:00 am - 11:00 am** - Beth Moore study - *A Woman's Heart...God's Dwelling Place*. Led by Sue Curry in Room 203. No class second Tuesday of any month

**1:15 pm** - Jeremiah study: *Run With the Horses*; led by Deb Roberts in her office

### **Wednesday**

**9:15 am - 11:15 am** - Women on Wednesday—N. T. Wright's study of Ephesians; see the significance of your role in God's grand narrative. Leaders: Robin Kolar (skolar7227@aol.com) and Margaret Lambka (mllambka2@gmail.com); begins in Fellowship Hall; activities and childcare for infants through Kindergarten

**7:30 pm** - Star Stories: A study of our Star Words; led by Deb Roberts in her office

**7:30 pm** - Study of the book of Romans at Hopvine Brewing Company, 4030 Fox Valley Center Drive; facilitated by Rev. Eric Heinekamp

### **Thursday**

**6:00 am** - Men's Daybreakers Group; leader: Clint Roberts at the Coffee Bar

**9:30 am - 11:00 am** - Study of the Parables using J. Ellsworth Kalas' study lessons. On Feb 11 we will start with the study of John; led by Cindy Karis in Middle School Room; childcare available

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



## **Women on Wednesdays**

is off and running with a study of Ephesians but it's not too late to join us! In Ephesians, throughout its worship, prayers and instructions for living, Paul can't contain his joy and amazement at the larger story of God's plan to save us in Jesus the Messiah. This study will help us see the significance of our role in God's grand narrative, and encourage us to live more fully as people who are lavishly loved by God. WOW meets on Wednesdays from 9:15-11:15 a.m. with fellowship and refreshments, followed by large and small group discussions and prayer. WOW welcomes women of all ages and Bible knowledge and includes childcare and activities for infants through Kindergarten. For more information see the WOW link or contact Robin Kolar at [skolar7227@aol.com](mailto:skolar7227@aol.com), 630-369-4539 or Margaret Lambka at [mllambka2@gmail.com](mailto:mllambka2@gmail.com), 630-420-7885.

## **Rachel-Rebekah Circle**

- The February 9 meeting of Rachel-Rebekah Circle will be held at 9:30 am, in the home of Mary Ellen Kelly, 1447 Swansea Ct., Naperville, 60565. We invite anyone interested in Bible study, mission and fellowship to join us. Please RSVP to Mary Ellen @ [WK1444@aol.com](mailto:WK1444@aol.com).



**Ruth Circle** will be meeting on their regular scheduled time (3rd Thursday of the month) in the Knox Parlor at 7:30 p.m. This evening circle would love to have new women join in at any time. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our circle, please contact Bev Mayer at 630-615-4325 at Knox.

**Mary Martha Circle** will meet on Tuesday, February 9 at 9 am at Sue Mortenson's home. Interested in joining or need more information? Please contact Ineke Pelella ([630.357.3350](tel:630.357.3350)).



**Knox Book Club** Our February book discussion will be *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Many of you have probably read this popular book, set in WWII. Please plan to drop in for discussion Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. in the Knox Library.

Beginning March 9, we will meet the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. in the Knox parlor. Our March selection is *Miss Hazel and the Rosa Parks League* by Jonathan Odell. We welcome new readers any time. Questions? Contact Janice Wiles at 630-416-9537 or [wilesjan@gmail.com](mailto:wilesjan@gmail.com).

# MISSIONS AT KNOX

## Go & Serve Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

Please join us for the following Go and Serve 2016  
Fundraiser opportunities:



Our annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser will be held in Lehman Hall at Knox on Wednesday, February 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please come out and support our youth mission trip this year. The Go & Serve location will be announced at the dinner. Cost is \$7 per person or \$25 per family. Sign-ups will be taken in the Commons after services on Sundays, January 31, and February 7 and 14. Gluten Free options will be available. Not able to sit down with us that night? - Take out is available! Contact Ginger Ovens (gingerovens@gmail.com) or Ginny Van Blaricom (gvanb5@aol.com) to pre-order!



February 18, and every third Thursday of each month (all year!) join other members of Knox at Hopvine Brewing Co (4030 Fox Valley Center Drive, Aurora (next to The Comedy Shrine)) for lunch or dinner! The next day at Hopvine is February 18. Mention Knox Go & Serve (or provide the coupon below if you can) to your server and Knox Go & Serve will receive 10% of your dining bill! Extra coupons are available in the Commons Area. Friends and family welcome!



## Loaves & Fishes

The next Hunger Sunday is **Feb 7**. Donations can be left in or near the Loaves & Fishes bin next to the Mission Council table. Thank you!

**Most Needed Items**







## Hesed House

"Hesed" is God's unfailing mercy and love

During the past year at Hesed House, volunteers have allowed Hesed House to serve more than 1,000 homeless men, women and children and allow us to live their mission 24/7, 365, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and give people the chance to hope again. Every gift of time, talent and treasure was truly a gift from above, and often times, right when we needed it.

Thank you to the volunteers at Knox who assist Hesed House in their mission.

We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you are interested please join us in this vital ministry. Please join other Knox members for service and fellowship by signing up for a shift or providing a dish. Sign-up sheets are available on the table in the Commons and will soon be available online.

Next volunteer night: Saturday, February 27 at 6 pm. 11 pm and 3 am.

If you are unable to volunteer, Hesed House is also in need of these items: cold medicines (without acetaminophen), cough drops, ibuprofen, white athletic socks (men & women), twin sized sheets, and jeans (men & women). These items can be placed in the HESED HOUSE donation box located in the Commons.

## Family Ministry Mission Opportunity Feed My Starving Children

April 15

8:00 - 9:30 pm

**Register Online.**



## Sisseton – Dakota Partnership

I had a response from one of our Native American parents about the presents. "I see the gifts putting smiles on kid's faces because I have seen it!" That makes the Christmas Angel program worth it.

Now that the hubbub of Christmas has passed we are always collecting:

Christmas bags

Towels and sheets

Any small toys: in particular

Barbie's

Matchbox cars



Thank you for all your help and support. We were able to give presents to 199 kids this year and left more at the Church to distribute.

All donations can go in the mission bin marked Dakota Partnership. Any questions: Julie Milldrum 630-717-8240



## Prison Ministry Mother's Day Project 2016

Time to start collecting for Companions' Mother's Day project. As you know, each year we supply packets of "pretty" writing materials to imprisoned women and juveniles so they have something nice to send their mothers or children at Mother's Day. Once again we ask your help.

### Materials we need:

Postage stamps

Stationery, Mother's Day, thinking of you, blank note cards

Gallon Zip lock bags

Donations to help cover delivery costs (Please make checks to Companions, Journeying Together, Inc.)

\*Please do not send white or old items. We want to provide the recipients with something attractive to send their loved ones. We cannot use cards, envelopes or stationery that has anything glued, pasted or taped on it or has stickers attached.

Where to put donations: A collection box is located on the mission table by the coffee bar

When are they due? By March 15

Help we need: Help assembling packets (date to be announced)

Churches or companies which would make copies of the insert letter

What it means: "Thank you so very much for your encouraging letter and the beautiful stationery! The cards and paper & envelopes are so nice. I am anxious to mail some words of encouragement to my family and friends. May God bless all of you and may your days be filled with smiles on your lips, in your hearts and always in your thoughts."

Whom to contact: If you can help assembling or have questions please call or e-mail Mary Ellen Neumeister 630-408-1553, meansmimi@aol.com

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### **Pre-school Play Group – Come meet other young families!**

Families of Toddlers and Preschoolers: Want to get out of the house and meet other young families of Knox? Then join us for a time for parents and kids to play and socialize. Many toys will be put out for the kids during this open house play group.

February 13 – 10:00 am – 11:30 am





## A Fourth Grade Service

*"I love watching the kid's enthusiasm and determination as they plan the service. They have such pride when they are able to lead in worship." – Pastor Clint*

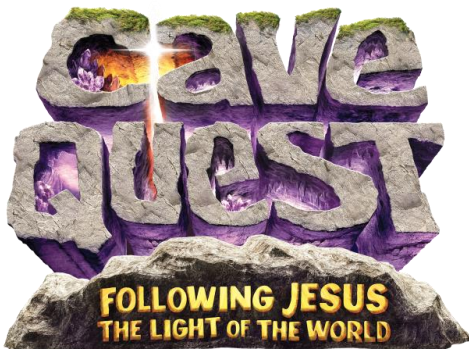
A favorite time for the Fourth Graders is working with Pastor Clint when they prepare a worship service for the congregation. You do not need to be registered on Wednesday Evenings to participate but we do work on the service from 6:30 – 7:15 on Wednesdays. If your fourth grader is interested in being a part of the worship service on April 24th, please contact Jenny Hubbard at 630-615-4318 or [jhubbard@knoxpres.org](mailto:jhubbard@knoxpres.org).

## Ash Wednesday Family Service

February 10

7:00 – 7:30 pm – All are welcome!

Please join us for a family worship service on Ash Wednesday in the Sanctuary. This service will follow a special lesson during the Wednesday Evening program that will focus on explaining Ash Wednesday. If you are not already a part of the Wednesday Evening but would like to participate in Wednesday nights, you may sign-up as a guest. Wednesday Evenings is a program for Kindergarten to 8th Grade.



**Save the Date**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 13 - June 17**  
**Register Online.**



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP



### Skiing At Four Lakes

Four Lakes, Lisle (meet at Four Lakes)

Date: February 5

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Meet at Four Lakes)

Cost: \$30.00 + extra money for snacks

**Register Online**

Questions? Contact Jenny Hubbard,  
[jhubbard@knoxpres.org](mailto:jhubbard@knoxpres.org), 630-615-4318



# CHURCH NEWS

## Lenten Cantata

The Chancel Choir will present "Praise the God of Resurrection" the first Sunday in Lent. This compilation by composers Mark Hayes, Lloyd Larson, Joseph Martin and Ruth Elaine Schram, "traverses the breadth of human emotion found in the passion story of our Lord. The pervading theme is that ultimately God is in control." We invite you to worship with us, February 14, at 9:00 am & 10:30 am, for a moving reminder of the power of our Living God.

## Eats & Entertainment

Join us for a good old-fashioned church potluck with great entertainment following. The "Wise Guys Trio" are professional musicians, who, with their unique talents play a wide variety of music from the Oldies to the current classics, Sinatra to the Rolling Stones & Glenn Miller to the Beatles. They will entertain with sing-a-long songs and their humor will be infectious. The audience participation will keep everyone involved.



When: Sunday, February 21

Time: 5:00 pm

What will be provided: Chicken

What to bring: Salads (S-Z), sides (A-J), desserts (L-R)

**Register Online.**

## Butter Braids are back!!!

NEW THIS YEAR: Caramel Rolls. As good as grandma's.

Sales begin Sunday March 6 - order forms due Sunday March 13.

Pickup Wed March 16 and Sunday March 20.

Contact Jennifer Vollbrecht with questions - [jenandhermen@att.net](mailto:jenandhermen@att.net)



## The Knox Winter Blood Drive

Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 7:30 am to 11:30 am

To make your appointment to donate, **sign up online**

at [www.heartlandbc.org](http://www.heartlandbc.org) or contact Neil Goltermann at 630-750-5863 or [ntgoltermann@aol.com](mailto:ntgoltermann@aol.com). The Blood Drive will be held in the lower level rooms because of the Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins are welcome! Please remember to bring a photo ID.





## Annual Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 505's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held in Lehman Hall on February 20, 2016, from 7:00 am --1:00 pm. Look for Troop members selling tickets on Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14 in the Narthex. Tickets will also be available for walk-ins on February 20 too! If you have any questions you can ask Neil Goltermann when you see him, call him at 630-750-5863 or email at [ntgoltermann@aol.com](mailto:ntgoltermann@aol.com).

## Welcome Esther!

Knox is excited and pleased to welcome our new Sunday School and Family Ministry Coordinator, Esther Moreno. Esther has a Masters in Christian Education from Ashland Theological Seminary as well as several years of experience in Children's Ministry. She brings with her an infectious love for Jesus Christ and an enthusiasm to serve. Esther is married to Guy and they have two children, Grace and Gideon.



## Session Highlights



Knox's Session met Monday evening January 11th for its first meeting in 2016. After devotions and prayer led by Moderator Clint Roberts, Session acted to joyfully receive Patti DeNichols, Neil Goltermann, Jeff Hild, Rebecca Klopp, Mike Komma, Frank Mayer, Diane Noreen, Rudi Tanck and Mike Williams to the body of Ruling Elders. Session elected Ralph Lambka, Clayton Thomson, Neels De Coning, Anne Sherren, Joan DuChane and Randy Johnson to serve as Elder Commissioners to Presbytery for 2016 with Julie Milldrum, and Ann Beran-Jones (along with all other active Elders on Session) to serve as Alternates. Session

gratefully reelected Cheryl Hanson to serve as Clerk of Session and Randy Johnson to serve as Treasurer for 2016.

Knox finished 2015 with a modest cash surplus for the second year in a row (see Stewardship article in this newsletter). In December, Session acted to give \$20,000 to PCUSA Shared Mission support (after cutting \$40,000 for Shared Mission a year ago to balance the 2015 General Budget). In January, after reviewing year-end totals, Session acted to give an additional \$20,000 to Presbyterian World Mission. The 2016 Budget will be finalized by January 31st and presented to the Congregation at its Feb. 14th Annual Stated Meeting. As of January 11th, 2016 Pledge totals are running \$118,000 behind 2015 totals.

The Session will hold a Leadership Retreat in March. The Elders concluded the meeting in prayer for our members, their families, our nation and world.

## Knox Deacons CHILIMANIA 2015 - January 31!!!

- Mark your calendars for CHILIMANIA, the annual fundraiser of the Knox Deacons!
- Enjoy as many types of soups & chili as you wish and vote in our friendly competition on for this year's BEST of the BEST!
- Tickets can be purchased in the Commons & also the day of the event.
- Deacon chefs carefully prepare both vegetarian & non-vegetarian, spicy or mild, chili & soups for all to enjoy! Hotdogs will also be provided for the non-soup loving member of the family.
- Enjoy great food and fellowship while supporting your Knox Deacons!



## Dr. Anne T. Sherren Scholarship Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Dr. Anne T. Sherren Scholarship. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2016. Contact the Church Office for an application form. Applicants should be persons pursuing a fulltime career in Christian Service. If you have questions please contact Anne Sherren at 630-932-0481 or [atsherren@noctrl.edu](mailto:atsherren@noctrl.edu).



### Save the Date Opportunity Knox Dinner and Auction October 28, 2016 Bolingbrook Golf Club

We are pleased to announce that Steve Cochran, WGN Radio Chicago will be returning as our Guest Auctioneer!

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

God Unites All Gifts to Create Big Impact. Presbyterians have a history of working to build a more just, resilient, and sustainable future. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during Lent, you are supporting the gifts and talents of people and communities all over the world. Through your gifts you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression. Knox has participated in this Presbyterian Denominational Wide Offering for its History. The amount of our contribution to this Offering has varied from \$6,000 to \$10,000. For our newer members we may think of this offering as the Lenten Offering.



This offering gives us a chance to give something extra to areas that are truly in need. The Presbyterian Church (USA) along with other denominations, make a great impact in helping put our gifts to good service. For more information, read the bulletin inserts during Lent. There are envelopes in the pews for your generous contributions. If you have additional questions, contact one of your pastors, Mission Council members or Anne Sherren 630-932-0481. Knox Collects the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering each Sunday during Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday with the culmination on Palm Sunday.

## MINISTRY TO SENIORS

### Seasoned Citizens

Join us for Dinner at Hopvine Brewing Co  
Thursday, February 18 at 6:00 pm  
Enjoy dinner, fellowship, and support Knox Go & Serve  
Sign Up at Knox Jan 31, Feb 7, and Feb 14  
Pick up a Hopvine Coupon--10% of dinner bill goes to  
Knox Go and Serve. Hope to see you here!





# THANK YOU

Thank you for all who donated to the **Christmas Card Fund**. The total donated in 2015 was \$6,331. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Christmas Joy offering in 2015. The total donated was \$7,302. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Teen Parent Connection (TPC)** and its young families were delighted and thankful for the 2015 year end gift of Knox congregation. The gift consisted of 19 boxes of diapers. TPC's young moms and dads with their little ones get together at Knox on Tuesday nights for counseling and fellowship. Various groups within the congregation prepare meals for TPC on those nights.



Thank you.. Thank you all for your prayers and love sent to my son-in-law, **Lt. Col. Jeff Jackson**, during his fight with cancer, to me and my family. Jeff is now at rest on the Air Force Academy grounds. He joined the Air Force after receiving his degree in Psychology, where he did his 5-year internship for his Doctorate, and remained with the Air Force the rest of his life, becoming a Professor at the Academy. He loved what he was doing for over 20 years, and even when he retired, he taught and did research at the Academy. He will be missed by many, as expressed by his fellow officers and friends. Jeff was granted a full Military service with a nine-gun salute and taps. Jeff married my youngest daughter, Connie, 40 years ago at Knox Presbyterian Church by Rev. Lehman and had a beautiful marriage with three children: Doug, Rickie and Kristin.

**Carol Brand-Price**

Thank you so much for all of the loving thoughts, prayers, cards, and encouraging words as I begin my battle with breast cancer. I appreciate each and every one as they make the fight a bit easier to manage. I have already seen and felt the effects in my treatment and on the pathway to my fight! Thank you!

**Liz Lawrence**

## KNOX STEWARDSHIP 2016

### **The Stewardship Race: Success is a product of good work**

By Clayton Thomson - Elder and Moderator,  
Stewardship and Cash Management Council

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)*

If you remembered one thing from the 1981 British film Chariots of Fire, it's probably the iconic music playing while a pack of runners glide alongside the ocean in slow motion. But in terms of the film's





dialogue, there's one scene that stands out: Eric Liddell is being reprimanded by his sister for neglecting his responsibilities before God as he devotes his focus toward competitive running. Liddell responds, "I believe that God made me for a purpose. But He also made me fast, and when I run, I feel His pleasure."

Eric Liddell was a devout Christian who represented Scotland in the 1924 Paris Olympics. He was also a Protestant missionary, and some believed he should give up the sport to preach. But Liddell believed that God had called him to race, and to race for the glory of God.

In 2016, Knox has a similar story as we start a new race for the glory of God that is full of opportunities and challenges. But I first want to offer my gratitude for your generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure in support of the ministry of Knox Presbyterian Church in 2015. During the fourth quarter, we finished the year with not only the balanced budget that we had planned for earlier in the year, but we also finished with a modest surplus. That unanticipated level of giving provided your Session an opportunity to increase our planned general fund mission spending for 2015 by an additional \$40,000; with half going toward the support of the Chicago Presbytery's mission programs (known as Shared Basic) and the other half given directly to PCUSA's World Mission Fund, which supports the amazing work of our missionaries around the world. "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

I also want to thank you for your 2016 stewardship pledges, which will continue to support our worship, pastoral care, Christian education, adult and children's programs, missions, communication, outreach, and much more. Through your generosity, \$1,263,000 was pledged for 2016\*. But at the same time, Knox is experiencing a shift where some of our church family is reducing or ending their giving for a variety of reasons, such as retirement, relocation, job change, or others. As a result of this shift, pledges came in short by \$118,000 when compared to our final 2015 pledge total\*. As we continue our prayers for the last remaining pledges to be returned in the coming weeks, our hope is that the gap will close. Based on historical trends, we anticipate a general fund shortfall of approximately \$70,000 as we head into our budgetary process in late-January.

Your stewardship and cash management council follows a disciplined budgetary process that utilizes only the pledged gifts we receive to craft a balanced general fund budget. In 2015, we sharpened our pencils to provide staff a small salary increase, set aside a contingency fund to fill an anticipated budgetary gap for the Children's Day Out program (CDO), ensured that our facilities manager had sufficient funds to keep our campus in top shape, and funded most all of our ministerial priorities.

However, to accomplish our priorities last year, we held off funding our usual mission giving to the Presbytery of Chicago Shared Basic, for which a portion is allocated to the World Mission Fund. Thanks to staff's careful management of expenses, CDO finishing the year with a budget surplus, and an increase in giving that came during Q4, Knox was able to maintain its historical mission giving levels for 2015.

2016 will presents us with new budgetary challenges, and information about the hard choices your council made to craft another balanced budget will be made available at the our February congregational meeting.

When you read the opening of this article, you may have asked yourself how Eric Liddell's example as a Christian athlete is relevant to stewardship and budgeting. He put his total trust and confidence in God, not just for his athletic career, but also for his entire life. God's Word constantly stresses the absolute necessity of living a total life for Christ. Doing so will create a very different perspective, one that considers it our role to be good stewards of the time, talent and treasure God has entrusted to us. This perspective requires an extraordinary level of commitment and accountability to the Lord.

Is it possible to live an integrated life for Christ that would glorify Him? The answer is "yes," but it's not always easy. The secret is found in a simple but profound principle: Priorities are what we do; everything else is just talk. Your stewardship and cash management council is committed to ensuring that as many of Knox's ministerial priorities are met using all the gifts God provides.

All members of the Stewardship and Cash Management council contributed to the writing of this article: Mike Williams, James Sault, Randy Johnson, Charles O'Neill, Rita Eagleson, and Clint Roberts.

# CARE MINISTRIES

\* Data as of January 28, 2016.

## Illness/Health Concerns:

Chuck Ward (friend of Linda Mast)  
 Donovan McCoy (Tom Sieczynski's grandson)  
 Betty Bohlander (friend of Diane Charles)  
 Larry Trimmell  
 Abby Swanson  
 David Wayne (friend of Mark and Pam Guth)  
 Pat Gislain  
 Ken Chapek  
 Lawrence  
 Carole Mickelson (friend of Diane Charles)  
 Helen Scheiner (Sarah Carlson's mother)  
 Anja de Leeuw (friend of Ineke Pelella)  
 Patricia Renggli (mother of Anne Renggli)  
 Brent Fry (friend of Carol and Charlie O'Neill)  
 Larry Sieczynski Jr. (Tom Sieczynski's nephew)  
 Stephenia Siczewicz (Pete Siczewicz's aunt)  
 Marilyn Cortright (Bob Cortright's mother) (hospice)  
 Mitch Porter (nephew of Bob Porter)  
 Larry Sieczynski Sr. (Tom Sieczynski's brother)  
 Paul Norris (friend of Jim and Ruth Hutto)  
 Colleen Carosella (niece of Charlie and Carol O'Neill)  
 Gerry Cornett (friend of many Knox members)  
 Mark Scoughton (friend of Diane Charles)  
 Brandon McKenzie (nephew of Kathleen Olson)  
 Steven Obremski (son of co-worker of Kevin Williams)  
 Dr. Tom Jandris (co-worker of Joan DuChane)  
 Margie Kasper (friend of Carol O'Neill)  
 Diane Terry (Anne Sherren's cousin's wife)  
 Sarah and Kevin (sister and brother-in-law of Rebecca Klopp)  
 Barb Stewart (friend of Helene Schaefer)  
 Roy Cole (brother-in-law of Norah Johnson)  
 (hospice) and wife Joann Cole  
 Shirley Sichel (aunt of Mariette Siczewicz)  
 Jack Romine (father of Jill Poskin)  
 Mike Mascal (son-in-law of Norah Johnson)  
 Oliver Thomson (father of Clayton Thomson)  
 Bob Stout (co-worker of Kevin Williams)  
 Elijah Georges (Arlene Beslic's grandson)  
 Laura Armstrong (family friend of Gary and Ruth Dispensa)  
 Jo Ann Allen (good friend of the Du Chanes)

Liz

## Grieving:

### The friends and family of:

Francis Atkinson on her death (Janet Schletter's mother)  
 Josephine Geraci on her death (Gerry Geraci's mother)  
 Jack Parker (charter member of Knox) on his death in Florida  
 Frances Longstreth Wallace on her death (Megan Bradshaw's mother)  
 Jeanne Adams on her death  
 Kari Erwin on her death

## Home Recovering

Gina Velino  
 Alan Graves  
 Diana Newby  
 Matthew Gill (friend of the Morten families)  
 Elaine Nelson (friend of Bobbie Britton)  
 Doug Shields  
 Richard Novinger  
 Allen Dickinson (Ann Smith's father)  
 Kendall Olsen  
 Marshall Price  
 Al Pelella  
 Mark Bickler

## Military

Jonathan Ballew  
 Matt Cincotta  
 Chris Hurford  
 Matt Krempel  
 Morgan Plummer  
 Calvin Warren  
 Adam Barnes  
 Scott Zweirs  
 All military personnel & their families.

## Hospital

Joseph Panek (Central DuPage Hospital) (Allen Panek's brother)  
 Jessie Cortes (Rush Medical Center, Chicago)  
 (Robert Sacramento's brother-in-law)  
 Al Hulse (hospital in Iowa) (friend of Angel Seitz)

## Nursing Home/Home Bound

Pick up a weekly prayer concerns card in the Commons for a list of our members who are in nursing homes & home bound.