

**AUGUST
2026**

NEWSLETTER

CLIFFORD PASTORAL CHARGE

www.cliffordpastoralchargeuc.ca/

clifforduc@wightman.ca

P.O. Box 205, Clifford, ON N0G 1M0

519-327-8378

revsuetell@gmail.com

Rev. Sue Hertell

403-578-6027

*Alsfeldt, Ayton
101429 Concession 6
Normanby Township
R. 2, Ayton, N0G 1C0*



*Knox, Clifford
11 Allan Street East
Clifford, ON N0G 1M0
519-327-8292*

Combined Worship at 10:00 am, alternating between Alsfeldt and Knox

Weekly emails are sent informing of each Sunday's Worship Service details and announcements. If you are not receiving these emails, and would like to, please email the church office clifforduc@wightman.ca to be part of this communication.

Sunday, Aug. 2



10:00 am Outdoor Service at the home of Anne Matthews – 5946 Normanby-Minto Townline, Clifford led by Rev. Sue. Remember your **lawn chair**. You are invited to stay for a **Potluck Picnic Lunch** – bring a favourite food to share.

Sunday, August 9

10:00 am at Knox– 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

Sunday, August 16

10:00 am at Alsfeldt – 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

Sunday, August 23

10:00 am at Knox – 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

Saturday, August 29

8:30-9:30 am Men's Breakfast at Dell's Diner in Clifford.

Sunday, August 30

There will be no worship services at Alsfeldt or Knox.

Sunday, September 6

There will be no worship services at Alsfeldt or Knox.



Sunday, September 13

10:00 am at Alsfeldt – Creation Time begins.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Men, you are invited to a **monthly breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am on the last Saturday of each month at Dell's Diner in Clifford.**

Contact Lorne Underwood for more information 519-392-8573.



Benevolent Fund is available for those in our church and community who are in need. If you, or someone you know, is in need you can contact the church secretary Ellen Underwood 519-327-8378 (office) or email clifforduc@wightman.ca or call her home 519-392-8573, cell 519-418-9560.

Reduce/Recycle/Reuse as you reach out to others:

The Pastoral Charge continues to collect the items listed below. Please drop off your contributions in **the green baskets** at the entrances of each church.



Stamps - used; if you are able, please trim with ¼" of envelope around the postage stamp and put them in an envelope or bag.

Pop tabs - to help purchase wheelchairs through the sale of the aluminum.

Milk bags –the outside bag holding the 3 litres; please flatten and fold. The bags, when cut into strips are crocheted/woven into mats for the homeless.

Glasses – used eye glasses are given to the local Lion's Club to distribute as needed

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

Sometimes life's agenda takes over our best-laid plans. With PAR, you don't have to worry about writing a cheque or forgetting to donate because life has thrown you a curveball. By signing up for PAR, you make a clear statement of what is important to you. You also give the recipients of your gift the peace of mind that comes with knowing your help is stable and reliable.



Complete the **PAR Authorization Form** and give it to the treasurer in your church. You can indicate on the form how much your gift to your church will be, and how much you would like to give to transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world through Mission and Service.

If You Are Unable To Give Your Offering At A In-Person Worship Services You May-



*send to your church treasurer

Alsfeldt- Chris Newman, P.O. Box 197, Ayton, ON N0G 1C0

Knox- Carman Weppeler, 5705 Minto-Normanby Townline, Clifford, ON N0G 1M0

*send your cheque to the church office

Clifford Pastoral Charge, P.O. Box 205, Clifford, ON N0G 1M0

***contribute by PAR. Pre-Authorized Remittance. If you would like to set up a pre-authorized remittance account, please contact your church treasurer.**



From the Minister's Desk...

SPACE! What a great theme for the VBS experience this summer! The 25 “astronauts” and their leaders had a “blast”! It was so much fun to participate!

What really struck me (apart from the fun the young people were having!) was the energy and creativity of the leaders! Kathryn and Beth-Ann make an amazing team and inspire us as a pastoral

charge to think beyond what we normally experience. Might we, too, contemplate what God had created beyond what we usually see under the sun here on earth, and what lies behind the moon as we gaze into the endless galaxy!

Kathryn and Beth-Ann made a lot of space in their lives this summer to create and execute this amazing VBS program... and I suspect that that grows out of their ongoing commitment to make “space” for God in the lives of their families.

One of the Bible verses we learned in VBS was from Psalm 147:4 “God determines the number of stars and calls them each by name”. I believe God calls each one of us by name to be a part of God’s creation as we live together in community. Can we make “space” in our lives for God’s teaching and inspiration as we enjoy the summer and plan for our fall events? May God be with us!

Blessings, Sue



If you or someone you know is in need of some pastoral care, please let us know so we may respond. We would also

appreciate if you would let us know if anyone is having a celebration such as a special birthday, anniversary, birth.

Rev. Sue Hertell

Phone/text: 403-578-6027

Email: revsuetell@gmail.com

Anne Matthews (Alsfeldt)

Home: 519-327-8306

Email: matthews1978@wightman.ca

Judith Anne Douglas (Knox)

Cell: 519-292-1496, Home: 519-335-3802

Email: jad335@hotmail.com

Ellen Underwood, Secretary

Phone: 519-327-8378 office

Home: 519-392-8573, Cell: 519-418-9560

Email: clifforduc@wightman.ca

We hold in prayer...

Please keep those of our congregations & community in your thoughts & prayers:

Joy Burnett

Joyce Cook

Heather Derbecker

Saige Dosman

Claude Field

Elaine Field

Larry Grummett

Sam Matthews

Jim & Rita Measures

Sharon (Dunn) Stevens

All who mourn the loss of a loved one

If you or a family member is having a special birthday, anniversary, or event, please let us know so we may share with our congregations – leave a message at 519-327-8378 or clifforduc@wightman.ca.



Pictured at Maple Court in Walkerton is Jim Measures on Father's Day and Rita Measures on Mother's Day.



Library Report

Hello Readers,

Friends might be out of sight, but simply hearing their name can instantly bring back cherished memories, making it feel as though you had just seen them yesterday. Recently, one of our Church members generously donated a book to our Library which was written by an old friend of ours. As soon as I saw the author's name, lovely memories came flooding back. I remember her well as our Board Co-Chairperson in 2016, 2017 and 2018. She quite literally left her mark on our Church by spearheading the painting of our sanctuary in Knox – just one of the many memories I have of her. Yes, I am talking about our lovely Marion Douglas. It is my pleasure to share with you that Marion has written her own book entitled, "The Game of Giants".



"Rose Drury and her partner, Lucy, have just learned that her son, Roger, is considered to be below average - at the third-percentile rank in most areas, according to the pediatrician. Although Rose herself is a developmental psychologist and knows all of the "right" answers and "correct" things to do, she finds that she is all too human, struggling with the opinions, social pressures and off-handed cruelty that can beset the mother of a child who is different. With humour and desperation in equal measure, Rose sifts through her life history, looking for the definitive moment that could explain how she and her son got to this point. In this sparkling and empathetic novel, Marion Douglas digs into a young mother's uncertainty, fear, and hard-won wisdom as she and her son - an odd and lovable giant of unpredictability - forge a path forward together."



As I read the reviews, I find myself intrigued by descriptions such as "darkly hilarious" and "eccentricity" which only add to my curiosity. Although I have not read this novel, I am sure you will be as excited as I am to learn that one of our former members has fulfilled her dream of becoming a published author. It is a joy to celebrate Marion Douglas and her achievement in writing "The Game of Giants". I am delighted to add this book to our Church Library and hope that readers enjoy her work.

Happy reading!

Jennifer Devlin

**Other book titles by Marion include: 'Bending at the Bow', 'Dance Hall Road', 'Magic Eight Ball', and 'The Doubtful Guests.'*



Vacation Bible School News

What a **BLAST**!! And I truly mean it...what a **BLAST** we had at Vacation Bible School last week!

'**SPACE**' was our theme for VBS 2026; one that the campers had been asking to have for several years now. When Beth Ann and I first met to break ground on this year's theme, we were both a little lost on how to speak about outer space in church. But God always seems to have a sense of humor and purpose when it comes to our VBS planning and so by the end of our initial meeting the ideas were immense, the layout almost made itself and 'oh my' the food ideas were perfection for our 'space' theme...God, as well as Beth Ann and I were 'pumped'!! Fast forward to this past week...with faithful hearts and God as our guide, we strapped into our space shuttle, along with 25 enthusiastic campers and 10 teen helpers, and blasted off to explore the beauty of God's dark and mysterious outer space!

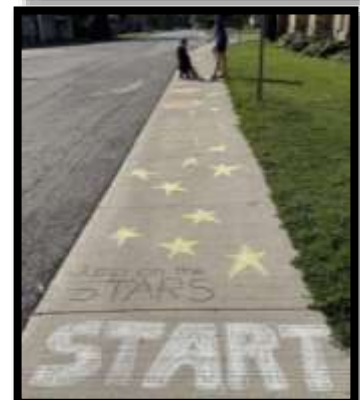


DAY #1!! Genesis 1:1 is where our space adventure began: **"In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth"**. With these 10 simple words, we learned the amazing truth about creation. How we got here, what's beyond the clouds, who created the Earth, Sun, Moon and Stars? We watched

a short video on creation and then tested our knowledge with a 'Creation Story Board'. We then made space rockets and ate astronaut food before heading outside to complete of series of

Astronaut training activities.

Thanks to Megan and Mason, the sidewalk from side entrance to front entrance was covered in sidewalk chalk with an extremely sophisticated hopscotch challenge where they hopped on stars, spun on the sun and bounced, bobbled and danced their way



through the planets before running around the lawned side of the church and doing it all over again!

We then ended our first outside time with a BANG as we launched a small but mighty rocket!

We were back inside to learn all about the Sun with the memory verse: **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” Philippians 4:13.**

The Sun is the centre of our Solar System and is responsible for our weather, changing seasons, plants growing and having the essentials of heat and light for us to live here on Earth! If we compare the big yellow Sun to the Son of God – Jesus, we can see the similarities in providing warmth and light and being the centre of our spiritual life. The activity we completed with the sun were tie dye t-shirts, created by using sharpie markers and rubbing alcohol to make the sharpie bleed creating the tie dye effect. They turned out incredible!



Lunch was next to be served and reflected our theme with crescent moon croissant sandwiches, sun chips and all the fixings with planet earth cups for dessert!!

With the lovely day, our outdoor adventures continued with a variety of



parachute and water balloon games! The giggles with these 2 activities always make it a favourite of VBS!



Our afternoon lesson took us to the Moon! Although the Moon coming out at night can often signal a time of rest...there is no resting

at VBS! Rev. Sue led our Moon discussions with a memory verse from **Psalm 4:8 “In Peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone Lord, make me dwell in safety”.** She covered what the International Space Station (ISS) is, and NASA and we watched an info video on the very recent mission to the Moon. Now it was time to get messy!





We created some moon dough which is simply a mix of cornstarch and conditioner and the campers loved it! And that was a wrap on day one, sending them out the door with either a rocket popsicle or an ice cream sandwich while we began to clean up our cornstarch mess!



DAY #2!! As always, we started our day



with our VBS band and songs and then moved into our first mission of the day – Galaxies. **Psalm 139:14 says: I Praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made**” and this was our first memory verse to kick off the day! We learned about our Galaxy ‘The Milky Way’ and other galaxies that are in our Universe. We made our own mini-



Galaxies using milk and food coloring and then made a ‘galaxy pinwheel’. It was then time to play with our food and the campers made constellations with mini marshmallows and pretzel sticks that doubled as their snack along with lots of fresh fruit. Due to the rain, we had our youth leaders create an obstacle course in the sanctuary to get our bodies moving and some of our energy used up!



Our 2nd mission of the morning was to explore the stars with our focus on:

Psalm 147:4 “God counts the stars and calls them all by name”.

God talks about stars many times throughout the Bible. Stars represent His power, greatness



and guidance. We explored 3 well known Bible stories that included stars as their spotlight. Abraham and Sarah came first when we learned how God promised them their descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Second was Joseph and his beautiful coloured coat. Joseph had a dream that the Sun, Moon and stars would bow



down to him. And our third story was on the Christmas Star that led the Wisemen to the 'Son of man, Jesus!' Our 'star' activity was a Christmas tree star ornaments made with yarn. The campers crafted and designed beautiful keepsake reminders of VBS and God's guidance.

Next up was lunch that did not disappoint. Much to our campers' delight, we had planned a full brunch! Eggs, toast, pancakes, waffles, French



toast, sausage, yogurt, fruit and all the fixings! It was an abundant feast!

The sun broke through just long enough to squeeze in a short outdoor time to polish off one more bin of water balloons before the drizzle started again. We were back inside to embark on our final and most dramatic mission of VBS 2026! The campers were split into groups of 2 or 3 to explore all 8 planets plus the sun and moon. Using every nook and cranny of our 'space' here at Knox, we wanted our campers to see that **"God saw all that he made and it was very good!" Genesis 1:31**



To say that the campers got their exercise and their step counts in would be an understatement!! More than once we heard the comment *"My parents would never let us do this at home!!"* They were so excited as they worked through each station and waited for the jingle of the bells to move to the next one. At the end of each station, they collected a bead to represent the planet they visited.

When we were complete, they joined all their beads

together to make a keychain to remind them of God's amazing Solar System and our time together at VBS. And with that they headed out the door with a bag of crafts, a bowl of ice cream, just a little sweaty, tired and hopefully full of stories and excitement from an amazing couple of days at VBS!!



THANK YOU

- A very **BIG** Thank You to all our 25 VBS children and those who made our two days very successful with your time, talents, thoughts, prayers, and donations!!
- Thank you to Anne Matthews, Shelley McIntosh and Dianne Epworth for doing our registration and kitchen help each day! Tremendous job ladies!!
- Thank You to Rev Sue, Kathy Morden and Judith Anne Douglas for playing the drums, guitar and piano and leading our music each day! (And to Hugh for helping along the way with your grandchildren, you're their hero!!).
- Thank you to our 10 youth Leaders: Megan, Maddix, Foxx, Mason, Rea, Darcy, Myles, Allannah, Quinn and Kennedy. You each bring life to our VBS Program and your enthusiasm is always a blessing!
- Thank you to Ellen, Lorne and Jennifer for all your behind-the-scenes work!! All you do is very much appreciated!
- Thank you to our congregation that supports with encouragement, financial donations and prayers.
- Thank you to Matt, Carman and Lachlan who do a lot of behind the scenes: lifting, moving, building, stress reduction etc....
- Thank you, Thank You, Thank You to Beth Ann Weppeler for organizing and dedicating so much time, thought and energy into our VBS program!! How you come up with such amazing ideas, I will never know!! You made our two days amazing Beth Ann!!

Thank you to all for an 'out of this world' Vacation Bible School!!
"God saw all that he made and it was very good!" Genesis 1:31

Have a wonderful summer,
Kathryn Rehorst

**Our receipts for Vacation Bible School have been calculated and we've estimated a cost of \$30 per camper for the two days. If you would like to make a financial donation towards VBS and sponsor a camper, all gifts can be given to our church treasurers. Thank you to those who have given already!! God Bless you all!!



Sawyer practicing his drumming skills after worship – Grampa Damm's apprentice?

Clifford Dining Program hosted by the Seniors' Centre for Excellence is **Wednesday, August 26, 2026** at Knox United Church, Clifford. Doors open at 11:30am. Lunch at Noon. \$20 each. Guest speaker will be Serena Lowry (WCMA) *Games People Play*. **RSVP by Friday, August 21** at 519-638-1000 if you plan to attend.

On Sunday, June 28th, Lorne and Ellen Underwood attended the Retiring Service of Rev. Heather Leffler.

Rev Heather and her family, husband John and girls Sarah, Helen, Lisa, served Clifford Pastoral Charge from 1999-2012. She then served Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge until June 30, 2026. The service began at Stone United and then moved to Rockwood United. During the service, Rev. Heather mentioned Alsfeldt and Knox frequently and also many photos of her time with us were included in her farewell video. During a potluck lunch, presentations and gifts were given.

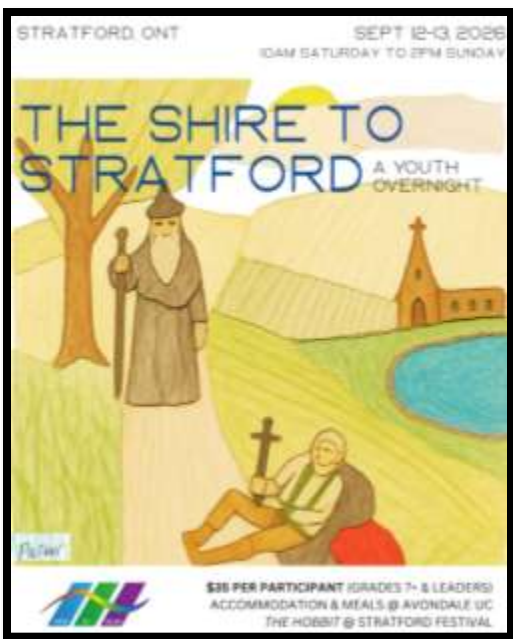
Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge gave her paintings of the four churches she had served, each depicting a different season.

Alsfeldt was an autumn scene and Knox was winter. You can view the service and presentations at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOW-lkew26Y>



Pictured above is Rev. Heather Leffler with daughter Lisa who is kept busy with pulpit supply and other work in the United Church.

You will be able to congratulate Rev. Heather Leffler on Sunday, September 27, 2026 when she will be guest preacher at Alsfeldt's Anniversary Service.



Details of this Youth Event can be found at:

<https://wowrccucc.ca/event/from-the-shire-to-stratford-a-youth-overnight-quest/>

Donations to the Clifford Food Bank may be left at Knox United Church or at the Clifford Library.



Moderator Right Rev. Kimberly Heath's annual Emancipation Day video message:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrpq-4YF9jI&t=5s>