



ABLAZE

SPRING 2020

Lasting Legacy

Mrs. Jean Irving

A Friend and Champion of Kingswood

 **KINGSWOOD**
UNIVERSITY

A Word from the President



Rev. Stephen J. Lennox, Ph.D.
President

No matter who you are or where you live, COVID-19 has changed your life. Some say we'll never return to the "normal" of pre-pandemic days. As you will read in this issue, the virus has disrupted Kingswood, and the ripple effect continues. To those who've been faithfully praying and supporting us through this season, thank you so much.

Other changes may be less cataclysmic, but still significant. With the spring semester, Dr. Ken Gavel concludes his 23-year tenure as Kingswood's Professor of Bible and Theology and Associate VP for Graduate Studies.

Even as Dr. Gavel departs, two new faculty arrive, both Kingswood alums. Rev. Axel Kazadi will teach theology and Bible and Miss Candice Jackson will direct chapel worship and teach worship arts. You can read more about our retiring professor and our two new professors in this issue.

Some changes have been long in coming and are much needed. Construction has begun on the renovation of Stairs Hall. Once completed, this building, which houses classrooms and our dining hall, will **finally** be fully accessible. Our newly renovated dining hall will become the Greg Mann Dining Commons, in honour of our long-time chef. I look forward to dedicating this newly renovated space on October 16th as part of our Board of Trustee meetings.

Still other changes can only be called delightful surprises. That would certainly describe my reaction when I opened a letter from Mr. J. K. Irving and found a cheque for \$1,000,000. This money was given by the Irving family to endow scholarships in memory of Mrs. Jean Irving. As you will see from the article inside, these scholarships will perpetuate the legacy of one of God's great saints.

Kingswood has experienced plenty of changes, but one thing remains the same: our commitment to strengthening the church by training Christ-like servant leaders.

That's the motivation behind our new Business degree in the BA in Ministry program. This innovative major is designed to prepare men and women to succeed in business and make it their business to spread the gospel. Increasingly, the church will need servant leaders who know how to do ministry in the marketplace; this major is meant to meet that need. You can read more on this major inside this issue.

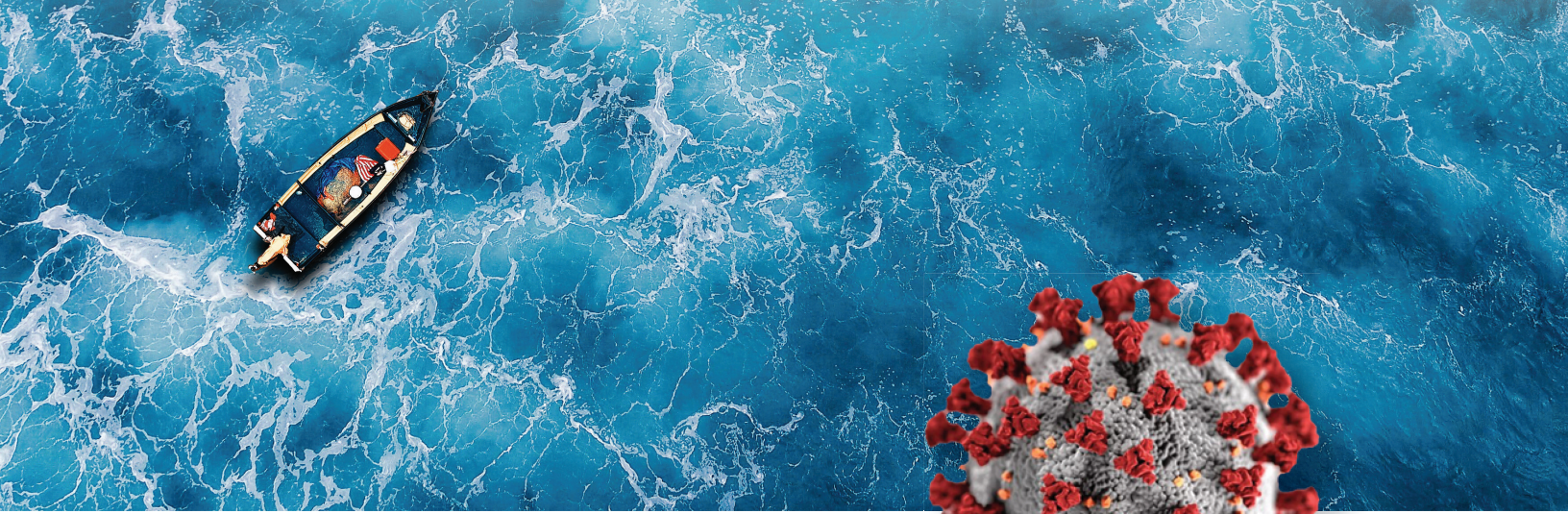
Something else that hasn't changed? Our faithful God. He wasn't surprised by the pandemic. We've heard plenty of evidence of how God continues to accomplish His purposes. He faithfully provides the resources we need — whether faculty or finances—to carry out our mission.

As you'll see in this issue of the Ablaze, Kingswood is experiencing lots of changes. In the midst of these changes, we're working to accomplish our mission in service to our unchanging God.

For the King and Kingswood,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "A. Lennox".





Stepping Out of the Boat

Dealing with a Pandemic Storm

Kingswood Student Council President, Reint-Jan Rammelaere, compared the arrival of the COVID-19 threat to a sudden storm. The news on March 14th “that all classes, services and campus activities would stop,” left the students “upset, confused and perplexed all at the same time.”

Kingswood President Steve Lennox agrees. When he checked his news feeds on Friday morning, March 13th, fears of the virus had closed 220 US colleges and universities, but only one in Canada. By the next afternoon, nearly every university in New Brunswick had announced plans to close. “The picture completely changed overnight,” said Lennox.

An assembly was called for Saturday evening, March 14th, during which Lennox announced the decision to send students home and move courses to distance education format. An extended period of question and answer followed, with Board of Trustees chair, Rev. Peter Moore, offering a closing prayer.

Because of the circumstances, Kingswood faculty had only one week to modify all their courses from onsite to distance education format. The result was remarkable. By the following Monday, each course was up and running.

Dr. Steve Elliott, Professor of Pastoral Ministry, spoke of the challenge involved in course redesign, but also of God’s help to complete it. One of his courses, Homiletics, had the students recording their preaching, then sharing these videos with other students for feedback. “Students expressed appreciation for the digital ‘Question and Answer’ and ‘Chat’ opportunities, and the more extensive comments from the professor,” said Dr. Elliott. “All in all,” he added, “it was a great learning experience for students and staff alike.”

Similar sentiments were shared by Dr. Allen Lee, Professor of Christian Counselling. Although still preferring face-to-

face instruction, Dr. Lee noticed the benefits of the online format. It allowed for more efficient use of time and the chance to get to know the students better by seeing them in their home environment. “One particular group of students has even welcomed me into their group chat to stay connected over the summer break,” said Dr. Lee. “We are already making plans to meet for coffee throughout the summer and in the fall, either in the same room or online.”

Professor Dave Trouten described how, “within an hour of the shut-down announcement, my faculty peers and I were talking. We prefer to tackle things as a team so we easily turned to each other for help. It wasn’t, ‘We can’t do this, or what are we going to do?’ It was, ‘How can we best do this? How can we help each other do it?’”

President Lennox has seen several “silver linings” from the crisis. “Instead of dipping our toes, we’ve been able to jump with both feet into the distance education pool, learning as we go,” he said. “This experience will better position us to provide quality distance education in the future.”

The university currently plans to hold classes on campus in the fall with a wide variety of safeguards in place in order to maintain health and fully comply with all provincial and federal requirements. Backup plans will also be in place to allow for all courses to be available through distance education.

The suddenness reminded Rammelaere of the disciples in the boat in the middle of a storm-tossed Sea of Galilee. “But Christ was still with us,” said Reint-Jan, “beckoning us to step out of those circumstances, like Peter, on the water, into a seemingly impossible situation.”

For more information on Kingswood’s COVID-19 protocol for fall 2020, please visit kingswood.edu/covid19.

The Lasting Legacy of Mrs. Jean Irving

One Million Dollar Endowment to provide \$40,000 in Annual Scholarships

Last October, Kingswood lost a very special friend when Mrs. Jean Irving went home to be with her Lord. In March, her family presented the university with a cheque for \$1,000,000 to establish a scholarship fund to honor the memory of this great woman.

Mrs. Irving and J. K., her husband of 68 years, have long been benefactors of Kingswood University. What began with fine art classes under Professor Randolph Nicholson developed into decades of blessing for Kingswood. Mr. and Mrs. Irving assisted in numerous capital projects and in underwriting several scholarships. In addition, Mrs. Irving personally oversaw the beautification of campus and served for a time on the University Board of Trustees.

The magnificent Saunders-Irving Chapel was made possible through the abundant and gracious generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Irving. This chapel, the site of Mrs. Irving's funeral, is not only a landmark for Sussex but represents the heart and soul of Kingswood.

Mrs. Irving received many honors during her life, including the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the Order of New Brunswick. In 2009 Kingswood awarded her the honorary Doctorate of Humanities degree during the first commencement held in the new chapel.

"Mrs. Irving was a godly and gracious woman whose faith was the most valuable thing in her life. It's our firm commitment that those who receive this scholarship in her memory will share Mrs. Irving's passion to make a lasting impact on the moral and spiritual life of the Church and in the world they're called to serve."

- President Stephen J. Lennox

The one million dollar endowment will generate about \$40,000 annually for scholarships. The family has determined that the scholarships, to be named after Mrs. Irving, will be given to students from Atlantic Canada. In Mr. Irving's words, these scholarships "will serve as a perpetual memorial to the values held dear to Mrs. Irving."

Student Council President, Reint-Jan Rammelaere reacted with gratitude for "the great generosity of the Irving family. These scholarships relieve financial burdens that are all too common amongst college students."

According to Shelley Vail, Director of Financial Aid for Kingswood, "Mrs. Irving's legacy will live on through this tremendous gift. It is a very exciting time in the history of Kingswood, and I am looking forward to seeing the blessing this endowment will bring to future generations of students."

"Mrs. Irving was a godly and gracious woman whose faith was the most valuable thing in her life," said Kingswood President Steve Lennox. "It's our firm commitment that those who receive this scholarship in her memory will share Mrs. Irving's passion to make a lasting impact on the moral and spiritual life of the Church and in the world they're called to serve."



Mr. & Mrs. Irving with presiding President David Medders at Dedication of Saunders Irving Chapel, September 7, 2008

Academic Excellence

Celebrating Dr. Ken Gavel's Retirement

By his own admission, he grew up a shy young man of very few words. Thankfully, Dr. Ken Gavel outgrew that shyness, allowing him a fruitful ministry of teaching at Kingswood University for the past 23 years. That ministry concluded at the end of this academic year with Ken's retirement from the faculty.

Dr. Gavel attended what was then Bethany Bible College, graduating in 1976 with a B.A. in Religion. After pastoring at Woods Harbour Wesleyan, he went on to earn further degrees at Asbury and Princeton before completing his Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh.

In addition to teaching Bible and theology, Dr. Gavel is department chair and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies. He is largely responsible for Kingswood's innovative Masters in Pastoral Theology degree.

Dr. Gavel is deeply respected by his current and former students. A recent Bachelor of Theology graduate, Aaron Hingley, spoke admiringly of Dr. Gavel's teaching and example. "His knowledge of theology helped me to grow on an intellectual and spiritual level. And his example of what it means to live out the love of Christ inspired me to apply my faith in practical ways."

Axel Kazadi is not only a former student, but the one chosen to fill Ken's vacant position. Kazadi highlights Dr. Gavel's pedagogy,



which he describes as "graceful," and his love for students. Axel also speaks positively of Ken's love for the church. "He desires the church to conform to and reflect the image of Christ."

Dr. Janet Starks, VP for Academic Affairs, spoke of Ken's capacity to "weave together academic excellence and a deep care for his students. Ken demonstrates a passion for well-articulated theology both in the classroom and in the church."

Ken and Eileen, his wife of almost 44 years, plan to retire at their home near campus where Ken will write and teach part-time. President Steve Lennox is grateful to have Dr. Gavel remain part of the Kingswood community. "Words may not have come easily to Ken as a boy, but I'm grateful for the words and the life that he has shared with us for more than two decades."

Introducing Our New Faculty Members



Rev. Axel Kazadi

Our new professor in Bible and theology is Rev. Axel Kazadi. A 2012 graduate of Kingswood with a B. A. in Religion, Axel has earned two master's degrees and is currently a PhD student at Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto, working on his dissertation while also serving on staff at Milliken Wesleyan Church in Brampton, Ontario.

Axel was born in the Congo and raised in Zambia and New Brunswick before moving to Toronto. His experience ministering in both rural and urban settings have contributed to a broad worldview which, when combined with theological expertise and pastoral ministry experience, will allow Axel to connect with students seeking to be equipped for contemporary ministry.

"Kingswood holds a special place in my heart," says Kazadi, "because of the spiritual and academic formation that Kingswood cultivates for its students. I want to be a part of mentoring and educating future leaders who are passionate about making an impact for the Kingdom wherever they go."



Ms. Candice Jackson

Ms. Candice Jackson will serve as professor in the Worship Arts program as well as direct chapel worship. A 2008 graduate of Kingswood, earning the B.A. (Religion) degree with a Music Ministry major and a Global Ministry minor, she is currently enrolled in Wesley Seminary's M.A. in Worship Arts.

A talented musician, Candice has served as a church music and worship director and a school music teacher. She has also been a consultant to local churches providing worship leading resources as well as customized music coaching and advising. She has studied in Germany as a part of her minor course of study, and led worship seminars in Barbados. Candice currently resides in New Jersey.

"I want to be a beacon of light to the students and staff, demonstrating worship through my lifestyle and teachings," said Jackson. "I consider myself a student because I am always learning more effective and impactful ways to engage others in worship."

Time with Taps

Dr. Mike Tapper Shares His Kingswood Journey

When did you attend Kingswood University and what was your major?

I graduated from Kingswood in 1998 with a BA in Religion (Pastoral Ministry major), then worked for two years as a Kingswood admission's counsellor. This allowed my wife, Kristy, to complete her BA in Christian Education (Music Ministry major) in 2000.

What graduate and ministry work did you do after completing your degree at Kingswood?

Since graduating from Kingswood, I have lived a satisfying life as a "pracademic," straddling the worlds of vocational ministry and academics. From 2000 to 2003, I served as a youth pastor (Hillsdale Wesleyan, Oshawa, ON) and seminarian (M.Div, Tyndale Seminary, Toronto, ON). Between 2003 and 2009, Kristy and I served as the pastors of a young church (Pathway Wesleyan, Bangor, ME). In 2010, I completed an MA, (Saint Paul University, Ottawa, ON) and then in 2014, I finished a doctorate focusing on trinitarian theology, Canadian Pentecostals, and contemporary worship music (Ph.D. Saint Paul University). After that, it was back into local church ministry serving as a connection pastor (Moncton Wesleyan Church, Moncton, NB) and adjunct teacher (Kingswood University) for three years. Since 2017, I've been honoured to serve as the academic chair of a division of religion (Southern Wesleyan University, Central, SC).

Tell us about your family.

Kristy and I met in 1996 while attending Kingswood together. We married in 1998. Though wanting to extend our family, we struggled for several years with infertility. In 2004, we started the process of international adoption and, one of those classic stories, were astounded by God when Kristy became pregnant. Abigail was born in 2005. Shortly after, Ethan, our Ukrainian born son, entered our family in 2006. A few years later, we internationally adopted again in 2009. This time, it was two Ethiopian brothers. Today, our life feels full and meaningful. Andrew (17), Ethan (16), Abigail (14), and Jadon (13) provide Kristy and me with a lot of joy (and, ok, some testing moments). We're proud of the choices our kids are making these days and Kristy remains my best friend.

You mentioned you are Chair of the Division of Religion at Southern Wesleyan University. How do you enjoy this job?

I love my role at SWU. It fits me well. As a teacher, I have plenty of opportunities to engage and challenge students. Some of these students are preparing for marketplace and vocational ministry, but many are not. My "sweet spot" is in a small classroom jammed with engaged students mulling



over questions of theological and practical importance. As the chairperson of SWU's division of religion, it's my administrative privilege to serve alongside some really wonderful academic colleagues. Together, we challenge each other to consider how we can best serve the church in the area of innovative ministerial training through the 2020's and beyond.

How did your Kingswood education prepare you for the work you are currently doing?

A solid foundation in the area of biblical and theological studies notwithstanding, Kingswood also helped cultivate my heart for ministry and the passion required for the "long haul." These intangibles, I've increasingly discovered as a teacher, are not automatically transferable. But, the blessing of God, coupled with dedicated and passionate educators has enabled people like me to graduate from Kingswood with the endurance, creativity, and godliness required to commit to the fulfilling, but long ministerial journey. Today, I have the privilege to travel around various regions of The Wesleyan Church. When people talk about Kingswood, their responses are consistently positive. Kingswood University knows how to prepare people for ministry. I am one of the many benefactors of this unswerving commitment.

What advice do you have for our recent graduates?

Truthfully, on a first read, what I suggest might sound fairly underwhelming. It's a challenge to "faithful presence." Early in my ministry I wasted time thinking and praying about how I could be a world-changer. And, by most accounts, I wasn't. Today, I encourage ministerial students to be faithful in whatever context they find themselves. Early on, that will likely mean in some obscure contexts, away from the glow of lights and recognition. Yet, I'm convinced the Holy Spirit shapes our hearts, solidifies our work ethic, and cultivates humility in these places. Let the world decide whether or not you're a world changer. More often than not, this only happens in retrospect anyway. Be faithful, friends! Stay the course!

Taking Care of Business

Kingswood Introduces Business as Ministry Major

"Marketplace ministry," says Pete Benson, class of 1981, "is the wave of the future." While running his successful financial management business near Nashville, TN, Pete has learned that "the most fertile ground for being a Jesus influencer is in the marketplace. This is where the lost and hurting people are."

It was this vision that prompted Kingswood University to begin a Business major in its B.A. in Ministry degree, essentially a major in Business as Ministry. Students take the full slate of business courses online through an arrangement with Indiana Wesleyan University. Kingswood provides the remaining courses in Bible, theology, and ministry, and helps the student understand how to use the knowledge and skills of business to minister in the marketplace.

The program, set to launch this fall, will provide hands-on experience and the opportunity to build a network of marketplace ministers. President Steve Lennox predicts, "graduates from this program will become successful marketplace leaders who make it their business to advance the Kingdom of God."

Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, is enthusiastic about this program. "A fresh movement of God requires disciple-making through

the Church and in the everyday environments of life. The business as ministry program is another big step forward!"

According to Benson, "being prepared vocationally to do business and earn income out in the marketplace coupled with solid Bible and spiritual training is the best preparation for life and service to the Kingdom. I highly recommend this new 'business as ministry' program."

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The business as ministry program
is another big step forward!"*

- Dr. Wayne Schmidt,

General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church

Working Together

Kingswood's Latest Partnership Agreements

"Alone we can do little; together we can do so much." When Helen Keller penned these words, she wasn't thinking about Kingswood University, but her counsel perfectly matches Kingswood's passion for partnerships.

Since no university can provide every program, schools do well to find strong academic partners. Thankfully, Kingswood has four very strong sister schools in The Wesleyan Church. "Between these five schools," said Kingswood President Steve Lennox, "people can find almost any major they want, delivered with excellence in a Christ-centered context."

Kingswood also has agreements for specific programs. In February, Kingswood signed an agreement for a 24 month aviation program with Prairie College in Alberta. Bible and theology courses are taken in the first eight months at Kingswood with the student then moving to Alberta for flight training.

Kingswood also partners with like-minded denominations. In 2017, the university signed an agreement with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, allowing a PAOC student to complete all ordination courses through Kingswood.

Dr. Kevin Johnson, Superintendent of the Maritime District has been a member of Kingswood's Board of Trustees since 2014.

In early 2020, an agreement was signed between Kingswood and the Advent Christian Church. Denominational leaders felt the need for an academic partner to provide ministerial education and found that partner in Kingswood.

Most recently, Kingswood signed an agreement with the Canada Atlantic District of the Church of the Nazarene. The agreement allows Nazarene students pursuing Kingswood's BA in Ministry degree to meet the academic requirements for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene. The agreement also allows that denomination a seat on the school's governing board.

President Lennox gives much of the credit for these agreements to Dr. Janet Starks, VP for Academic Affairs. "She has a wonderful ability to see the big picture without losing sight of important details." According to Dr. Starks, "Kingswood's mission is to serve the church; agreements like these allow us to serve the larger evangelical church while continuing to serve The Wesleyan Church."



NEW
FALL 2020
PROGRAM

Business as *Ministry*

You will...

- Gain a solid Biblical and theological foundation.
- Learn basic business principles of accounting, economics, and marketing.
- Engage in practical ministry for three hours each week under supervision.
- Cap off your program with a four-month supervised internship.