



KNOX NEWSLETTER

Knox Presbyterian Church

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Minister: *The Rev. Laura T. Kavanagh*

SUMMER 2006

Minister's corner

Worship and Dessert – something you should try!

These relaxed, alternative services have been a source of joy, inspiration and renewal for me – I hope that this is true for you too! Thirty-five to sixty people have been sharing in worship on the second Sunday evening of each month.

We started in January with “The Micah Challenge”, focusing on *Micah 6:8*. Next we went “Looking for God” recognizing the thirst of our faith journey. In March we continued with the water theme, emphasizing

“Enough for all”. We celebrated “From Palms to Passion” in April and explored prayer in May.

Each service is its own unique event – many people participate in leadership – from Knox – from other congregations – friends from everywhere. The music is wonderful and the time is blessed. The purpose is to praise God in an informal way – to use drama, poetry, sights and sounds in addition to all the other gifts that God gives. Following the worship time we spend time together sharing food and fellowship.

On **Sunday, June 11th at 7:00 pm** ***Worship and Dessert*** is called “***Breaking and Entering***” – God continually breaks into and enters our lives through Christ. Come celebrate and share in Communion together. We will pray, praise, sing and be silent together. Speak, listen; fill and be filled – this is truly food for the spiritual journey.

I sincerely hope you can be there.

... Laura

ALPHA UPDATE

An enthusiastic group of twenty-five signed up for the Alpha “2” session which runs April 27—June 22. Nicki Gumble narrates the 40 minute video each week on the Book of Philippians. With Nicki's common sense approach and delightfully humorous asides, the sessions are both informative and captivating.

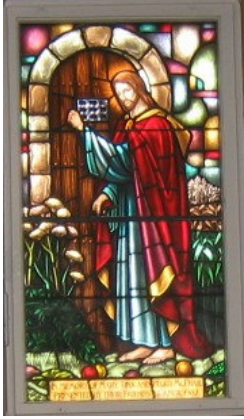
This session of Alpha culminates with a dinner - an added bonus and change from the usual ‘dessert only’ offered previously. All who are taking the course are encouraged to invite someone who has not been to Alpha before or someone who has no church affiliation to the June 22 wind-up meeting.

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETINGS



Look for the start of a new undertaking at Knox in September. Anne Krauss and Agnes Duke feel the Spirit is leading them to set aside a special prayer time. Probably twice a month before the service they will meet to share a time praying together for Knox, the City of Victoria, the Province of BC, our country of Canada and virtually all world needs as the Spirit encourages them. It is hoped that others will feel led to attend.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



Entering the sanctuary at Knox on Sunday morning you may have noticed the myriad colours from the stained glass windows lighting the surroundings. The hues range all the way from cool blue to warm reds. Particularly on a bright day the reflecting and refracting lights interact in such a way as to bring the windows to life. The biblical stories, depiction of figures and symbols, are given a vibrancy by the natural light. There are many windows, but one in particular often draws my attention. It is in the north east corner behind the pulpit. The subject is that of Christ standing at the door knocking. (Revelation 3:20 'Behold I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with me'.) The design of the window brings to mind Holman Hunt's painting "The Light of the World." A closer look at the window reveals a door with no handle and growth around the door.

Lacking a handle indicates that the door may only be opened from within and the entangled growth shows that the path to the door is not a clear one.

As daylight fades and the window is illuminated from inside the character changes. The colour in the window becomes more like that displayed in a painting. Viewed in this way some aspects become more prominent. Noticeable features are: the bearded face; the watching eyes; the bare feet; the fruit strewn on the ground and the abundant growth surrounding the figure.

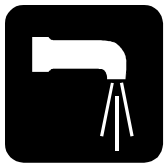
Reflective thought on the one who is the Light of the world and upon the approach of the one who seeks a response from within occurs to me.... but the picture itself is worth many words.

The window bears the following inscription :-

In memory of Mary, Tina and Peggy McPhail presented by their friends at Knox 1982.

... The Rev. Noel Kinnon

Mission & Outreach: 'Community Spirit'



Since the start of 2006, through the generous donations of our congregation at Knox, we are able to continue to support outreach programmes and street ministries in our community making a difference to people's lives. We should also continue to keep in mind through **P.W.S. & D.**, of people in many other countries around the world, who are facing a daily struggle for their basic needs, **'WATER'**, a sacred gift. In Africa, Asia & Latin America, private water companies are taking control of public water services, depriving those who cannot pay.

This reminds us of the story in the Old Testament: Genesis 29:1-8 of Jacob's Well: arriving at a well in the midst of the desert there were three flocks of sheep. Jacob suggested that the people from Haran water their flock right away, but they replied, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled away from the mouth of the well". A huge stone had been placed over the well, which could only be moved if all of the shepherds helped out. This ensured equal access and a fair sharing among all the herds in the community. It highlights how one group of people was able to ensure that their well would not be exhausted by some to the detriment of others.

RECIPE RESULTS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER.....

Cream together:

3/4 cup **Judges 5 v 25** (2nd clause) **BUTTER**
3/4 cup **Jeremiah 6 v 20** **SWEET CANE** (*meaning sugar*)

Beat in:

3 **Jeremiah 17 v 11** **EGGS**
1/4 cup **Judges 4 v 19** (2nd sentence) **MILK**
1 teaspoon **1 Samuel 14 v 25** **HONEY**



In separate bowl combine:

2 1/4 cups of **1 Kings 4 v 22** (first clause) **FLOUR**
1 1/2 teaspoons **Amos 4 v 5** **LEAVEN** (*meaning baking powder*)

Season to taste with **2 Chronicles 9 v 9** **SPICE**
(*suggestion: 2 tsp cinnamon 1 tsp nutmeg and 1/2 tsp of cloves*)
and a pinch of **Leviticus 2 v 13** **SALT**

1 cup of **1 Samuel 30 v 12** (2nd clause) **RAISINS**
1/2 cup of dried & chopped **Nahum 3 v 12** **FIGS**
1/4 cup chopped **Numbers 17 v 8** **ALMONDS**

Add first bowl to second and mix well. Bake in a loaf pan for 1 1/2 hours.

Life & Mission Agency of our national church- a statement from the 2005 General Assembly

The Principal Clerk of the General Assembly recommends “that each congregation be encouraged to take time in 2005-2006 to read and study the 17 comments made by the young adults and explore the implications for ministry with children, youth and young adults in the congregation.”

Ask your Elder to share these comments with you on their next home visit.

As a background for this study it should be noted with some alarm that “since 1984 approximately 10,000 children have left Sunday Schools each decade.” In the same survey young adults were asking:

- .. please do something about the worship service;
- .. is there a place to have a more meaningful part in the life and worship for young people;
- .. can a variety of ways be included: creative music / readings, dance, instrumentals;
- .. include openness adaptable to new forms;
- .. please don't squelch our spiritual questions.

FACTS: Today's society has more technology of every kind and many more seniors than ever before.

FOCUS: How can we interact with the young people / adults in a world which appears to be dynamically opposed to the one in which seniors grew up?

... Worship Committee



KNOX BLESSINGS

Knox was blessed this month by the inception of new members. Publicly professing their faith were: John Callan, Kay Crockett, Ursula Crockett and Ian and Tristan Sturgess. By transfer of membership: Mary Cadman, Joan Callan, Anne Krauss and Flora Whiteford. Welcome!

GOOD MORNING



“Do you know”? that you are part of a very important hospitality ministry in your congregation: the ‘ministry of welcome’.

Hospitality is an important form of evangelism and evangelism is sharing Christian hope and hospitality. Visitors should receive a special welcome – a church can never be too friendly. And don’t forget the people who attend regularly. They are the ones who form the foundation for the ongoing ministry of our congregation and they also deserve a warm welcome!

These words were written by The Rev. Dr. Neal Mathers for his congregation in Ontario as part of a workshop entitled ‘The Ministry of Welcome’. He reminds us that the apostle Paul instructed the

Church in Rome to practice hospitality by extending love and honour to strangers. (Romans 12:13)

Dr. Mathers comments are directed chiefly to the ‘gatekeepers of the biblical tradition’, a significant position and one of trust; our modern day Welcomers and Ushers, however, the information is valuable to all. Any one of us may be the first one a stranger to Knox encounters - at the bus stop, in the parking lot, reading our sign (s) or admiring the flowers.

Your actions may make the difference as to whether or not that person continues to come to our door. Many are nervous of new ventures and first impressions are very important. A pleasant greeting, a friendly smile, an offer to join - you can make all the difference!

If you see strangers in your pew, introduce yourself. If needed, help them to find a hymn or to follow our order of service. Introduce them to our minister after the service.

Invite them to coffee hour and introduce them to others, especially if you must leave.

If you are unable to answer questions, direct them to someone who can.

Suggest a past sermon from the back table, a church monthly calendar of activities or a Knox pamphlet from the hall rack to take home. Invite them to return and bring a friend.

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

... The Worship Committee

YOUTH AT KNOX

I’ve been working with the youth group eight months now and it has been a great experience. We are now at the point where we know each other and are more comfortable around each other. I’ve noticed this in the questions the youth are asking during our Sunday night meetings. At first it was really hard to get them to say anything, now they initiate some great discussions.

Some of the youth are getting involved in youth activities that go beyond the walls of Knox. Ian and Tristan went to PYPS in May and this July Tristan will be traveling to St. Catharine’s to attend the youth convention CY’06. Some of the youth are also looking forward to attending Camp VIP this summer. As we look towards the summer, I’m sure it will be just as busy as the spring.

We will continue to have regular Sunday night youth group until the end of July. During July, I am organizing the Vacation Bible School (VBS) here at Knox. Some of the youth already have expressed an interest in helping out. On a bit of a sad note, Stacey and her family will be moving to Vancouver at the end of June. I know we will definitely miss her at youth group!
Good luck, Stacey!

... Rachel Lawrence



KNOX ANNUAL STRAWBERRY TEA

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 FROM 2:00 - 4:00 PM

TICKETS \$5.00 EACH