



GOD'S PEOPLE STUDY, LEARN, GROW AND SHARE

from the Minister's desk

How did you become a Christian? How does anyone come to the Christian faith? Because of my experience in the field of education it is possible that my views are biased but I am sure that instruction plays a large part in the whole journey of faith. I also believe that the journey continues no matter of our age, our experience, our background, or our intellect.

According to *Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief*, "We live in Christ as we study the Scriptures learning to think and act in a Christian way... equipped for every good work." [8.1.5] Within the *Book of Forms* one of the major responsibilities outlined for the Session of any congregation is the provision of "... Christian education for persons of all ages in order that they may be confronted by the gospel, may grow in faith, participate in the life of the Christian community, and be active witnesses to Christ in the world." [112] Not only that, whenever a minister is called to a congregation, regular study (continuing education) is an expected and basic component of the covenant.

Through the scriptures and the lives of people around us we learn of

Christ – we become open to the power of the Holy Spirit – we come to know and love God. The church interprets the scripture and presents our confessed doctrine – what we usually refer to as a creed or statement of belief. An example of a creed most of us know is **The Apostle's Creed** [Book of Praise, #539] and the statement of belief most familiar is *Living Faith*. These writings are not scripture but summary declarations that guide us. They are proclamations about how we will live, how we will treat one another, how we will share the good news, and how we will serve people in need.

My study leave in 2007 will be spent in India learning about the mission and evangelism of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in that country. I will visit hospitals, schools, tsunami rehabilitation projects, community health programs, HIV/AIDS facilities, and connect with local church communities. This is study of a very different kind for me – not in a book or classroom – not quite so removed from experience and risk. This is the study of faith in action – of the church – my church, in action. I am excited to learn more about the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in India and I am thrilled to represent our denomination in the world. I look forward to sharing what I

discover so that we can all grow together in our Christian discipleship.

What are your study plans for the coming year? I know that not everyone can have the experience I am privileged to undertake in January and February, but each person can make their own commitment to some sort of learning – surely you have some questions to explore, some growing edges. Borrow a book from our extensive church library, come to the Thursday morning Bible Study and discover the riches of *Living Faith*, attend ALPHA, go to Youth Group, get a copy of *A Catechism for Today* and study it weekly on your own or with a friend, take a course or a workshop, ponder the Sunday morning scripture on Sunday afternoon, ask the Christian Education Committee to provide a particular program, invite me to teach a class or a series – the list goes on and on.

We become Christians as we hear and believe the good news – as we learn and grow in faith. This is how we nurture and nourish our faith, too – it is how we continue as Christ's people.

Laura



ALPHA NEWS

ALPHA 2007 began on January 4 for the first weekly session of "Challenging Lifestyle". Eighteen people attended both Knox members and non members. Coffee/tea and Dessert were served before listening to Nicki Gumbel present the first of 19 challenging talks. Nineteen sessions may sound like a very lengthy series but after March 8 we will be taking a recess until after Easter and continue from April 12 to June 8/07.

Agnes Duke



JUST A MINUTE

Mission & Outreach meets once a month to discuss and make plans to raise awareness of certain outreach Programs which as a congregation we support: 'Options Day Care', Laurel House', ('Think Small' Sunday), Transition House for Women in Victoria. Also 'OUR PLACE', including the meal preparation program which takes place at Knox every 3rd Tues. of the month by a group of ladies in our Congregation. Seeds for the Farm Training project in Malawi through P.W.S. & D.

Following the response last year, we again made plans for

two 'Christmas projects' in December, 2006: 'Warm Toes'. These Stockings filled with stuffers were distributed through the street ministry, C.A.R.T.S., (Christian Actions Reflecting the Spirit). From their letter of thanks these gifts were received with great joy and appreciation. This ministry throughout the year, with many volunteers, takes to the street every Friday evening to endeavour to meet the needs of street people with hot drinks, food and warm clothing, plus words of encouragement.

'OUR PLACE': (Sandwiches):

Thanks to volunteers in our congregation we met our target of 20 loaves of sandwiches as our contri-

bution to the Christmas reception for 'Our Place', on Mon. Dec. 18th, 2006. The occasion was a huge success with plenty of good food. This was held in the Fellowship Hall, First Metropolitan Church, Victoria. Over 400 attended.

To start 2007, M. & O., are helping to support the new Alpha Program, a 'Challenging Lifestyle', first of which was held on Thursday January 4, 2007.

Our Committee would like to thank everyone at Knox for being sensitive to the needs of these outreach projects with your generous support.

Mission & Outreach Committee

A PASSPORT TO INDIA

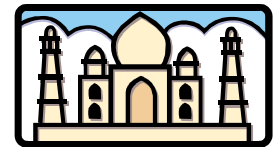
At the Stewards by Design conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario in November, all the teams were challenged to plan a **"one-time FUN event"** for our congregations. Knox's team members were Laura Kavanagh, Jim Reynolds, Nan Zorn and Hope Stenton. After some discussion, Jim came up with the idea to have an East Indian dinner to show our support for Laura's study trip to India.

When we returned to Victoria, the date of January 20, 2007 was set for the dinner – a

week before Laura's departure. Hope took on the task of finding a caterer to supply the food, and enlisted the help of Barb Chester, Lilian Sutherland and Pam Vuckson to give their ideas and input.

On the night of the dinner, 45 enthusiastic folks gathered in the church hall for a delicious meal. When Laura arrived, she was wearing her "salwar kameez", which she will wear on her trip. We were also pleased to have a guest, **Shanoor Seervai**, from Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, who is in her second year at the college and came to

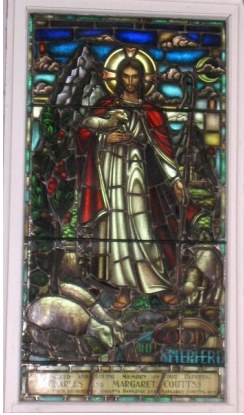
Canada from Mumbai (formerly Bombay). Shanoor spoke to us of her home, and answered many questions from the audience. Laura then described how she was chosen to attend this study trip and what her itinerary will be. Everyone agreed that it was an informative, but also a FUN event.



 Note from Gordon Taylor (former Knox choir member)

"I miss Knox and hope to visit this summer. I am currently in the choir at Newton Presbyterian Church where Jeff Jay is preaching. Also I sing in the Silvertones seniors choir in Cloverdale. Plus I am making a CD at the Langley Legion and have 15 songs on it so far with 7 songs to go. God bless you all at Knox."

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



As we continue to look at the stained glass windows in the sanctuary the next one to draw my attention is the window behind the lectern. This one centres in on the figure of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Looking closely at the window it may be noted that the words *'I am the Good Shepherd'* are etched into the glass, this being a direct quote from John 10: 14. This is significant because it takes our attention into the parable where Jesus outlines the action of the true shepherd in his provision for those under his care. The opposite of the true shepherd being the one who " will not lay down his life..... ". Of course the shepherd figure appears frequently throughout the scriptures in many different roles. Although the scriptural reference to John is quite clear, the depiction in the window shows Jesus holding a lamb in his arm and this brings other scripture to mind. *"He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms....."* this is a quote from Isaiah 40:11, the chapter in which the people of God are assured of comfort and protection. Pictorially in the window we may

also note these features :- * the halo on his head, ** the light on his robe, *** the light on the backs of the sheep, and **** the shepherd's staff. Symbolically the halo is a sign of glory or divine radiance. Light on his robe and on the back of the sheep suggest the favour of the divine upon those in his care. The shepherd's staff symbolizes protection and the action of gathering in. The red in the robe advances the figure to the foreground and blue gives depth as a backdrop. Noting the green on the ground is reflective of the promised "green pastures".

The picture brings to mind many aspects of biblical texts and a few are shared above. Take time to have a look at this bright window.

The window bears the inscription :- *In sacred and loving memory of our parents Charles and Margaret Coutts. Given by their daughters Johanna Dawlings and Margaret Coutts 1972.*

The Rev Noel Kinnon

BIBLE FACTS

- In the bible the word Lord is found 1,853 times
- The word Jehovah 6855
- Psalm 97.8 is the middle verse of the bible
- Esther 8.9 is the longest verse in the bible
- John 11.35 is the shortest verse
- Each verse of Psalm 136 ends alike
- Ezra 7.21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except J

Gathered by the Prince of Granada while in prison



After telling the children the story of Adam and Eve, a Sunday school teacher asked them to draw a picture. One little boy drew a Cadillac with three people in it. When told it had nothing to do with the story, he looked up in astonishment and replied, "But you said 'God drove them out of the garden'!"



BOOK REVIEW

Race Against Time - by Stephen Lewis

This book contains the 2005 Massey lectures, which were aired on CBC Radio's "Ideas" programme. If you only heard parts of these five programmes, or perhaps did not hear them at all, here is a chance to read what Stephen Lewis, who retired at the end of 2006 from his position as UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, has to say about his experiences as a humanitarian, special advisor to the UN Secretary General, and former deputy executive director of UNICEF.

He opens his first lecture with the words, "I have spent the last four years watching people die." He goes on to tell what the situation is like in Africa regarding HIV/AIDS. He recounts his personal love affair with Africa, and some of the heart-breaking things he has seen. Lewis points out how important education is in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the need for women to become involved at a leadership level. At the village level, he describes the plight of women – grandmothers taking on the responsibility for grandchildren, plus caring for the sick and orphaned, and performing their regular obligations of providing food for the household.

In the last lecture he proposes some recommendations and possible solutions for some of the problems of hunger, poverty, gender inequality, disease and death. As he sees that the Millennium Development Goals, set in 2000, will probably not be met, Stephen Lewis concludes, "I live in hope.....but I also live in rage".

This book gives us much to think about as we ponder our contemporary balance of values. It will be available in the church library.

Hope Stenton

FUN EVENTS AT KNOX

The Silent Auction held last fall was a great success. A pot luck was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The total amount raised of \$450 goes to the general fund.

The Christmas Bazaar held in November raised approximately \$2500 also for the general fund. It was a fun day for all who attended and a big thank you to everyone who participated and sent along contributions.

In December The Afternoon Group hosted a pot-luck lunch. The young women from Options Day Care next door along with their little ones and teachers were invited. The children left happily with a teddy bear and chocolate.



MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb 5	WMS rally in Parksville
Feb 20 4:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb 21 11:00 am	Ash Wednesday
Feb 25	Annual Congregational Meeting -lunch served prior to meeting