

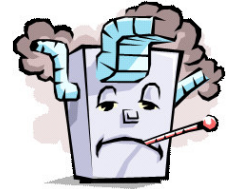
SPRING  
2008

# KNOX NEWSLETTER



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## HEATING SYSTEM PROPOSAL



The Board of Managers is moving along with plans to improve the building's heating system. Currently approximately 60 percent of our heating dollars literally go up in smoke due in part to the age of the system and in part to poorly configured ductwork. In addition we have the potential for an environmental accident in the form of a nearly 50 year old underground oil storage tank.

Jim Reynolds of Knox is acting as consultant on this important project and we are grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity, sharing his considerable expertise.

While at the time of writing this report, costs for the replacement of the oil furnaces with gas units

we do know that the tank removal and the reconfiguring of the ducting systems will cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 dollars.

These two items constitute the very minimum amount of work that is required. To raise funds for these items, we have begun to fundraise in three ways.

The Thrifty Foods Smile Card revenue since May 4, 2008 is being directed to the heating project.

Agnes Duke is offering for sale her inspirational booklets containing her own photographs paired with scripture verses. The booklets sell for \$10 each, with all proceeds going to the heating projects. Production costs are being borne by Agnes.

In June of July, each resident of British Columbia will be receiving a cheque for \$100 as a 'climate action dividend'. If one hundred of us will put that action dividend toward Knox's 'climate' problems, there would be \$10,000 for the project.

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held as soon as there is sufficient information on which to base a recommendation.

Please watch your bulletin for details and be sure to speak to Jim Reynolds if you have questions or concerns about this project. Meanwhile, your support is encouraged through the existing opportunities to contribute and by initiating fundraising projects of your own.

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## KNOX AFTERNOON GROUP

The Afternoon Group have been busy this spring. A coffee morning and bake sale was held in April raising money for mission work. In spite of the snowy morning, great fun was had by those who attended. The \$200 raised went to the Francisco school in Guatemala for their after-school program

The Group has sent \$500 to the Melange Hospital in Malawi and \$500 to the Jobat Hospital in India. Correspondence was received reporting that the money to Malawi had been spent on a hospital bed and that the Jobat Hospital had purchased a cauterizing machine. These funds are from the Thornburn estate.



**Who are we? What has God called us to do or be? Who is our neighbour?**

Planning is important in church life. A primary responsibility of church leaders is to help the congregation understand where it is going, why such a direction is important, and how to get there. Leaders need to help people find worthy goals, and they need to build agreement in the congregation so that people are willing to move together toward those goals. Planning is needed to structure the work and maximize the resources of the congregation.

But too often congregations themselves are not engaged in this process; they expect their leaders to come up with a perfect plan that will meet all needs, or to discover a perfect solution for the congregation's future.

In June I will be attending a seminar to explore various methods of discerning God's will in Christian community. I hope to gain insight into how we can best structure ways to talk about our identity, our purpose and our future as a community of faith. We need a path to develop consensus and a commitment to act. Church leadership consultant and author – the seminar leader, Gil Rendle, calls this a **holy conversation**.

The seminar will hopefully provide a full array of tools to meet our needs as well as strategies to help us discern which conversations we need to have now, which parts of the planning process are most important and appropriate for us at this time, how to best structure open and positive involvement, and what tools or information our congregation needs.

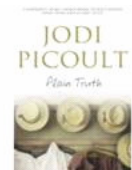
Please pray for me as I attend **Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations** [June 16-19 in Ontario]. And get ready for some divine discussion!

*Laura*

**BOOK CLUB AT THE MANSE Saturday, June 7 - 10:00 am**



On Saturday, June 7 we will talk about the novel '**Plain Truth**' by Jodi Picoult. "An Amish girl gives birth and the baby is murdered, the defense lawyer is a cousin of the girl and there are lots of interesting twists in the story."



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



Book Club @ the Manse	Saturday, June 7 - 10:00 am
Women's Weekend Retreat	June 13 - 15
Strawberry Tea	Saturday, June 21 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Congregational Meeting	Sunday, June 22
Missions Pot Luck Supper (Donald MacKay speaks about Ghana)	Wednesday, June 25 - 5:30 pm
Knox Picnic Service @ Beaver Lake	Sunday, June 29 - 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
Oak Bay Lodge Service	Sunday, June 29 - 2:30 pm
Ladies' Lunch at Romeo's	Monday, June 30 - 12 noon
Communion Service	Sunday, August 3 - 10:30 am
Oak Bay Lodge Service	Sunday, August 31 - 2:30 pm
Camp VIP	Check bulletin and display for dates



Thank you to Marianne Mortimer and Karen Pokipala for organizing the luncheons for the ladies of Knox. Throughout the year we meet at Romeo's Place and this event is enjoyed by all who attend. Check the sign-up sheet in the narthex for details of the next lunch which is on Monday, June 30.

Following a recent sermon preached by Ruth McCowan, the congregation listened to a song entitled 'I Can Only Imagine'. You may be interested in the origin of this beautiful piece of music.

## STORY BEHIND THE SONG MERCYME'S "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE"

MercyMe had been a rock band for eight years when its infectious ode to heaven, "I Can Only Imagine," began saturating Christian radio. After spending weeks at number one on the charts, it garnered Dove awards for both "Pop Song" and "Song of the Year," as well as a "Songwriter of the Year" accolade for lead singer Bart Millard. Almost immediately, the group's 2001 debut album, *Almost There*, was certified gold, and thousands of churches were using "I Can Only Imagine" in worship.

The Dallas-based band—which also includes lead guitarist Mike Scheuchzer, drummer Robby Shaffer, bassist Nathan Cochran, and keyboardist Jim Bryson—knew their first hit was something special, but they never "imagined" it impacting people the way it has.

Millard hopes both listeners and worshipers recognize that, "The song is not about crossing our fingers and hoping that God is out there somewhere, but it's about resting easier at night knowing that there is one true, living God who is crazy in love with us so much so that he desires us to spend eternity with him. "Millard's lyrics grew out of a period of tremendous personal pain. In 1991, his father died after a long battle with cancer. When people told him that his dad would choose heaven over coming back, the 18-year-old began thinking about what his dad was experiencing in heaven. After that, he found himself repeating the phrase "I can only imagine." He began writing it on napkins, paper

bags, and anything he could find. The phrase resonated in his heart and gave him the strength and hope he needed to move on.

Somehow, wondering about that awesome moment when he too would lay eyes on the Lord helped dull the pain of losing his father. *This isn't a permanent separation*, he told himself. *One day we'll be enjoying God's presence together.*

Years later, in 1999, when MercyMe was writing songs for its freshman project, Millard stumbled across that simple phrase—"I can only imagine"—in an old notebook. About ten minutes later, the song was written. "People say it's amazing that it was written in ten minutes, when really it had been on my heart for almost ten years," Millard says. In fact, not many days go by that he still doesn't ask himself those questions that form the chorus of his song:



*'Surrounded by your glory, what will my heart feel? Will I dance for you Jesus or in awe of you be still? Will I stand in your presence, or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?'*



## KNOX CONCERT SERIES 2008-2009

*The first concert of our 2008-2009 series will be held Saturday, September 27 - 7:30 pm.*

**TILLER'S FOLLY** is the name of this interesting trio who describe themselves as an "acoustic roots music experience like no other"! Based out of Vancouver, BC, the Canadian group shines a unique and poignant spotlight on the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Noting that the eastern Maritimes had many songs of local history and culture, while there was a scarcity of such in the West, they determined to fill that void. Consequently, they have been a very popular treat for schools throughout our province beyond their usual venues. Tiller's Folly albums and songs have been nominated for and received many awards and distinctions over the years.

**The success of our series** is due to the many hands and talents of those who have participated in this venture for which the committee gives thanks. Guest artists and audience have felt well cared for. Many people have visited our sanctuary for the first time. New relationships are developing with repeat attendee's. Our website has logged as many as 300 unique visits and 500+ total visits with spikes during concert times. 'Presbyterians Sharing' has received \$922.86 in 2007 and \$1,408.50 to date in 2008. While a number of goals have been met, this venture needs careful consideration to determine its future. An evaluation of the program by the Administration committee is currently underway in which the congregation will be invited to participate.

*Concert Committee*



**A Strawberry Tea is planned by the Afternoon Group for Saturday, June 21 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.** More information in up-coming bulletins.

## KNOX SINGERS

Beautiful music filled the air on Palm Sunday when the Knox singers and Grace Church choir sang praises during the service.

## MISSION AWARENESS

Colourful stoles, made by the Afternoon Group, were worn on Mission Awareness Sunday in recognition of the women in Guatemala and the Aboriginal people.

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## A FRESH COAT OF PAINT



Plans are afoot to paint the entrance hallway, from the front door to the back, the stairwell to the vestry and nursery and the two upstairs bathrooms. The stippled ceiling will be painted a flat white. Walls will be off-white with dark blue and terracotta accents to tie to the sanctuary carpet and the hallway tiles. There is a colour board you can check out in the hallway showing the various elements.

Paint has been purchased at a cost of just under \$700, thanks to a discount made available to us. Funds were raised from the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program.

Work will begin in mid-July with wall washing, ceiling vacuuming and baseboard repair, followed by the wielding of rollers and brushes.

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## OUR WEB SITE

If you came to our website, you would be one of 300 people from more than 20 different countries around the world that visit each month.

You would find answers to your questions like, "what was it she said in her sermon?" Or, "when was that lunch?" In addition to information about our church, our minister, our worship, and our ministries, there are details about upcoming activities and events like concerts, book club meetings, and bible studies. Documents like the church newsletter or the week's sermon can be viewed online and/or printed at home.



In the past five years of operation, this initiative by the Mission and Outreach committee has often brought feet through the door for our many activities. Internet users find us when searching for information and often this leads to a follow up call or visit. Our website serves as a 24 hour, self-serve information source for both our own congregation and others in the larger community.

Notices about any of the happenings at Knox can be posted on the website. You can submit a paragraph or two on paper or by email about your event to either Lynda Gill in the church office or Steve Sturgess. Remember. a picture or graphic can help to make your notice more eye-catching.

So, if you haven't already, join us at <http://www.knoxpcvictoria.org> and see what you've been missing!