



## Congratulations to Knox on its 120th Anniversary



A special evening was held on March 26 to celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Knox and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of worship in our current sanctuary. An enormous thank you goes to all who were responsible for the outstanding success of this weekend of celebration. Your time, effort and team work was much appreciated.

The evening started out with people chatting with old friends and getting comfortable before indulging in a smorgasbord of delicious food. Indeed a feast! The kitchen helpers did a splendid job of getting the hot food to the main table.

Mary Carroll shared the history of Knox which was filled with so many great memories. Later everyone moved into the sanctuary to enjoy uplifting music. The Grace Choir was indeed an inspiration and the Spirit Rising Choir also entertained with a great variety of musical pieces. Back in the hall, delicious decadent desserts, an anniversary cake and ice cream were served. Thanks to the planning and organization by many, this memorable evening was enjoyed by all.

The weekend celebrations continued on Sunday morning with our guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls professor of Hebrew Scripture at VST.

It was good to see the many visitors through-out this special weekend and we can be assured that this event will be added to the history of Knox.



*“You are citizens with the saints, and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”*

Ephesians 2: 19b – 22

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### Our Website

[www.knoxpcvictoria.org](http://www.knoxpcvictoria.org)

If you came to our website, you would find answers to many of your questions. 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 bulletin and sermon can be viewed online and/or printed at home. Our website serves as a 24 hour, self-serve information source for both our own congregation and others in the larger community.

You can also find Knox on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account (signing up is free) and become a 'friend', you can view pictures from many of the church events like pancake lunches and church picnics.

Dear God,  
My Grandpa says you were around  
when he was a little boy.  
How far back do you go?  
*Johnny*



Dear God,  
I bet it's very hard for you  
to love everybody in the whole world.  
There are only 4 people in our family  
and I can never do it.  
*Nancy*

# Passion Play 2010 - Oberammergau, Germany

## Hope Stenton

In the mountains of Bavaria, in southern Germany, there is a pretty little town called Oberammergau. But it has not always been so. In the 17th century the people of this town were suffering from the Black Death. And so at this time, the village council vowed to perform the Passion Play every ten years. In 1634, at Whitsun, “*the play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ*” was enacted for the first time by sixty to seventy actors next to the church, among the recently dug graves of victims of the Black Death.

In later years, that date was changed to the first year of every decade. The play has been performed every decade since then, except in 1922 it had been postponed by two years due to the aftermath of World War I, and in 1940 it was not performed due to the war. Special performances have also been held for the 300th jubilee and 350th jubilee. In 2010 the 41st Passion Play was staged.



Five members of Knox Church - Jake and Margaret Schaffer, William and Hope Stenton and Martha Anderson - along with her sister, Tish, and Ruth and Bruce McCowan, were among a tour group being hosted by a retired Presbyterian minister from Mission, BC, the Rev. Robin Ross. We set off from Victoria airport on June 21st, and met up with the remainder of the group in Frankfurt, Germany the next day.

Our tour took us first east from Frankfurt to Wurzburg, then on to Prague in the Czech Republic. From there we journeyed to Vienna, Salzburg and Innsbruck in Austria, before arriving in Oberammergau. On July 1st after a free morning to explore the town and shop for souvenirs, we arrived at the theatre for a two o'clock performance of the play, with a break for supper at 5 o'clock, then returned at 8 PM for the conclusion of the show, which ended around 10 PM.

The theatre is huge, with seating for approximately 14,000 people. The seating area is covered, but the huge stage, which can easily accommodate 200 actors, is open to the elements. All the actors, musicians, choir, stage hands, costume-makers - everyone involved - are from the town. For the year leading up to the play the actors have been chosen and you can see the men growing their beards in preparation. Everything in the town revolves around the play season.

And what a wonderful play it is! It opened with a living tableau of Adam and Eve, and then turned to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey to celebrate the Passover feast. The tableaux from the Old Testament were interspersed between scenes leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and ended with the women visiting the tomb to find that Jesus had risen from the dead. “*And lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*”

It was a very emotional experience. The play was performed in German, of course, but each person received a booklet with the words written in English, to follow along. My personal feelings became as intense as the crucifixion neared, that I just closed the book, fully emotionally involved in what was happening on stage.

This was an amazing trip, as any of the group will tell you. Of course we took lots of photos too, which will help us to recall this trip of a lifetime. If you have the opportunity, in ten years time, do not hesitate to take advantage of this wonderful experience.



In spite of the cool spring  
think warm - think August - think picnic

Knox picnic - **Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at Eagle Beach, Elk Lake

## National Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Very recently, I reviewed the information package for the first National Presbyterian Women's Gathering to be held in the Toronto area on May 20-23, 2011. The Theme of the weekend is Romans 12: "----Do not conform to this world. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may discern what is the will of God and what is good, acceptable and perfect."

The keynote speaker, Margaret Somerville, herself of international distinction refers to this Women's Gathering in her interesting feature article on Ethics found in our January Presbyterian Record. Several women from Knox plan to attend. Whether or not you can go, take a look at the agenda and read about these wonderful Presbyterian Canadian women. We hope those who do attend will 'Shout Out' for our benefit upon their return.

You can check out the information on display on the shelf in the narthex also on the bulletin board in the hall.

**Look  
IN  
Shout  
OUT**

*Look In, Shout Out  
What's this all about?  
Rumblings sound of a grand new plan  
For Canadian women across our land*

*Look In Shout Out  
What's this all about?  
Adverts now display  
and insist  
It is an opportunity  
not to be missed*

*Look In Shout Out  
Have you heard  
what it's about?  
Look within your hearts  
and souls  
Have you reviewed your insight  
and goals?*

*Look In Shout Out  
Refresh within,  
Herald it out!  
Great women to women will format  
your version  
For a truly value-added excursion*

*Look In Shout Out  
Learn how to give God clout  
New wisdom and  
inspiration there exist  
Is your name upon their 'Gathering' list?*

*Lorraine Whiting*



In memory of **Roy Isherwood**, the family donation allowed for the purchase of an automatic front door opener. What a great gift this has been and helps not only our members but our many visitors.

In memory of **Bill and Norma Gilmore**, the family has donated two weeping sequoia trees. There is one in front of the church and the other in front of the manse. It will be a joy to watch these beautiful trees grow.

***Thank you for these very thoughtful gifts***



# PAKISTAN and AFGHANISTAN

**A**s announced in worship on March 27, 2011 I have been invited to travel on a Presbyterian World Service and Development monitoring trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan in April 2011. I was invited to go because I am a member of the PWS&D committee. I agreed to use my limited and valuable vacation time to go on this trip because I am committed to the work of PWS&D and recognized that though I may have limited time, talents and resources to offer, I need to be willing to give what I can when asked.

Relief and development work is undertaken by PWS&D through partnerships in many parts of the world. Periodically this work needs to be reviewed on site by staff and committee members of PWS&D. Good stewardship of the funds donated by generous members of congregations across Canada requires that PWS&D account for the resources that are invested in these various projects. We will travel with a partner from Canada Foodgrains Bank and meet with members of Church World Service in Pakistan and Afghanistan (CWS-P/A), our partner in those countries. Our projects in this part of the world are largely related to issues of food security which is why our relationship with Canada Foodgrains Bank is so critical. In addition we are involved with the education of Afghan girls in an effort to improve opportunities and living conditions there.



Since the flooding in Pakistan in August 2010, Canadian Foodgrains Bank has supported six food relief projects in Pakistan, worth a total of \$6,139,260. These projects have been led by Presbyterian World Service & Development, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, and Development and Peace, with support from Canadian Baptist Ministries, Emergency Relief & Development Overseas, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, United Church of Canada, and World Relief Canada. In addition to providing immediate food aid, the hope is to ensure food security for the present and the future. Food security happens when all people at all times have access to enough food that is affordable, safe and healthy – is culturally acceptable – meets specific dietary needs – is obtained in a dignified manner – is produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just. Food security is not just a poverty issue; it is a much larger issue that involves the whole food system and affects every one of us in some way.

Working in Pakistan and Afghanistan is working to provide not only food and education but hope. According to those closely involved with the projects *a durable peace is only possible if the Taliban are included in some kind of negotiation, which will necessitate increased knowledge and understanding. "Ignorance makes it possible to propagate hatred and violence". This goes beyond the scope of military intervention, which dominates the current discourse on Afghanistan. "Education needs to be a top priority."*

*The security situation is directly related to poverty. Poppy cultivation continues because farmers have no viable alternative. Droughts and increased run-off which are linked to climate change means farmers need more and better assistance in producing profitable crops. Farmers who have joined the Taliban in order to feed their families are only too happy to join with the CWS-P/A food security project rather than risk lives by continuing to participate in the conflict.*

I invite you to pray for the projects of PWS&D in Pakistan and Afghanistan as you do for projects around the world. I humbly thank you for your prayers for me as I visited on your behalf and as a representative of the church. Despite the inconvenience and the possible disruption of life at Knox – despite the travel difficulties and concerns – despite the limitations of what is might be possible to accomplish, I am convinced that it is my responsibility and my privilege to participate in some small way. It is a joy to witness the work and to nourish the hope.

Laura

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