

A CROSS THE PEWS

KNOX WATERLOO

mission trip opportunities:

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Trinidad & Tobago

CANCOM: Young Adults in Mission Workcamp 2012

Crete, Greece

WCC Stewards Programme

I Love Taiwan

International Aids Conference:

Turning the Tide, Washington, DC

Israel/ Palestine:

Sabeel Young Adult Conference



SPECIAL THINGS TO WATCH FOR IN THIS EDITION!

- Deadline for Canada Youth 2012
- Youth In Mission opportunities
- World Day of Prayer
- Allyson McHardy receives rave reviews!
- Connecting Women
- CD of African music from Malawi
- Potato Blitz
- Mana Day @ Crieff

Knox has an official Facebook Page!
"Like" us at www.facebook.com/knoxwaterloo



SAVE THE DATE!

PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21st

MANA DAY AT CRIEFF

February 9th 10:30 a.m.

minister's message

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES ON GENESIS

During this month we are doing a four part series on "Genesis and Modern Belief" There have been a number of popular books by atheists including Christopher Hitchens a champion of the "New Atheism" movement. Hitchens described himself as an antitheist and a believer in the philosophical values of the Enlightenment. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, gives the traditional stories of creation that are so familiar to us. The Hebrew mind and culture is quite different from our western modern methodology. Most of the branches of Christianity today, including Catholicism, Lutheranism, Anglicanism and, of course, Presbyterianism, see no contradiction between the traditional stories of creation and the scientific discoveries which continue to amaze us.



BROOKE ASHFIELD

Our local daily newspaper, The Record of Waterloo Region, also has featured a number of unpleasant letters to the editor from both atheists and fundamentalist Christians who have, more or less, declared war upon each other. I believe that thoughtful Christians can find a way to embrace the rich spiritual truths in the Christian faith while at the same time having a lively intelligence that embraces all aspects of scientific understanding. This is part of our historical heritage in the Presbyterian tradition. Between the years of 1650 and 1750 the founding church of the Presbyterian tradition, the Church of Scotland lay the foundation for the enlightenment. Scotland was transformed from one of the poorest areas of Europe to one of the richest. The literacy rate became the highest in the world at over 70%. This arose, as a result of the strong church belief that all church members should have full access to the scripture on their own so that they could be read the Bible and make up their own mind about the faith. The belief that we are blessed when we can read the words of Jesus for ourselves is still part of our tradition. Today many people read the bible for the first time on their computer or phone. This literacy and respect for scholarship laid the groundwork for the Scottish enlightenment, which changed the world. This story is well documented in a book with an ambitious title, 'How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It' by scholar Arthur Herman. The systematization of empirical science and the creation of the first public school in Europe since the Roman Empire were all part of the story. The theologians of the time were very much in tune with the research taking place. In fact the inventor of the Stirling engine was a Scottish minister. Many geological and fossil discoveries were also made by ministers searching for more ways to understand God.

It is to be noted that the Presbyterian Churches in Canada were founded by the educated Scots who immigrated to Canada following the year 1800.

In the years following the enlightenment some branches of the church became subject to a backlash against rationalism where many began to reject the scientific discoveries and to embrace a more ridged understanding of the Christian faith. The fundamentalist tradition with the practice of taking the bible literally arose out of this 19th century tradition.

The series on Genesis will encompass the first three chapters of the book of Genesis. You might want to take a look at these chapters before the worship services.

passages

OUR BEST WISHES TO:

BOB AND CATHY SPENCE who have retired and moved to a new home in Southampton. Cathy served as our Congregational Treasurer and they both acted as ushers for many years.

FRED AND BETTY MORSINK who are moving to a Stratford this month. Betty has served on our Personnel Committee and Fred was an Elder and Church School teachers.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

MARGARET YOUNG's husband Cornelious. Margaret and her family (Dwarika) are long standing members at Knox. Thoughts are also with her children, Neil and Malissa and their families.

REBECCA ANDERS on the passing of her father at the end of December.

The family of LILA WILLIS-BEACH. Lila passed away peacefully the day after her birthday (in hospital) in PEI where she had just moved before Christmas to be near BJ her daughter. Lila was a founding member of Habitat for Humanity in Waterloo and women in our church participated in the Women's Build sponsored by Habitat in celebration of Lila's 90th Birthday a few years ago. She served as an usher and our representative on the KW Council of Churches.

PRAYER LINE:

Did you know that Knox Church has a prayer line?

We are strengthened when we know others are praying for us. People call the church and ask for prayers and with permission, their names are passed on to the prayer line - a group of Knox members who have agreed to uphold one another in prayer.

If you would like to be a part of the prayer line - please tell your ministers or call the church office. Thank you for considering this vital and important ministry.

HOSPITAL VISITS:

If you or a loved one will be in hospital, please let the office know at 519-886-4150.

Along with your ministers, Knox has people designated as hospital visitors.

Photo taken by Hannah Carter in the Garden of Gethsemane



Photo taken by Hannah Carter in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!

Deadline March 30, 2012



It's **NEVER** too early to start counting the days until the next CY!

JULY 3 – 8, 2012 **COST: \$500**
BROCK UNIVERSITY, ST. CATHARINES, ON

It is a five-day event . . . a gathering . . . a celebration . . . an assembly . . . a rally . . .
 CY 2012 will be all these things, and will focus on the youth, young adults and youth ministry of our denomination.

CY 2012 has three tracks:

CONFERENCE

Be prepared to **discover, grow, worship, and play.**

Youth from across Canada will gather together to meet new friends, tell your stories, and **find your voices.**

It's a time and a place to **celebrate your diversity**, vitality and love of Christ.

Through **laughter, play, study, prayer and action** you'll explore what it means to be faithfully "On Fire"

Be **inspired** and **enlightened** – daily – by dynamic speaker Adele Halliday

Loads of great workshops and a crazy collection of recreation activities.

YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING (ages 18+)

Looking to be motivated? Needing some **encouragement**? Eager for new ideas and **unique concepts**?

Youth leaders will **get re-charged** with great plenary sessions, interactive workshops, **dynamic panel discussions**, and the opportunity to swap youth ministry ideas with colleagues from across the country.

This is a rare chance to replenish the spirit, **rejuvenate energy**, and refine youth ministry programs. A place to get to know your colleagues in ministry and have time to reflect, recharge and dream.

MISSION (ages 18+)

Young adults will experience a **new understanding of service and action.**

Take part in a **hands-on-mission** experience, learn how the PCC does mission, and become a part of a small community united in serving and **living out Christ's call** of discipleship.

This is an excellent experience for youth who would like to start mission work in their own city or become more involved in missions in the future.

If you have an open mind, a team spirit, a faithful and a loving heart, and a call to serve in mission, then this conference is for you. Space is limited so register early.



www.canadayouth.ca

mission trip opportunities

CANCOM YOUNG ADULTS IN MISSION WORKCAMP 2012 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Young Adults in Mission (YAM) is an inter-cultural, inter-racial group of young adults learning partnership in mission together. At the workcamp they blend academic thinking with manual work, focusing on God's presence in their lives. **Dates:** July 27- August 13, 2012

Deadline: February 1st, 2012

Cost: \$300

Ages: 18 – 30



WCC STEWARDS PROGRAMME – CRETE, GREECE

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches meets every 18 months to monitor and set directions to the Council's work. The meeting brings together about 150 church representatives, advisers and observers from WCC member churches and associated organizations worldwide.

Twenty-five stewards will help to make this event happen.

Dates: August 23- September 7, 2012

Deadline: March 1st, 2012

Cost: \$500

Age: 18-30



INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE:

TURNING THE TIDE,
WASHINGTON, DC

Dates: July 19-28, 2012

Deadline: March 30, 2012

Cost: \$2000

Ages: 18 – 26



I LOVE TAIWAN

Dates: June 27 - July 14, 2012

Deadline: March 30, 2012

Cost: \$2500

Ages: 18 – 30



ISRAEL/ PALESTINE: SABEEL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE:

Dates: July 2-16, 2012

Deadline: March 30, 2012

Cost: \$2000

Ages: 18 – 35



For more information, contact:

Matt Foxall

Youth in Mission Coordinator

1-800-619-7301 X259

yim@presbyterian.ca

www.presbyterian.ca



FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012 – 1:30 P.M.
KNOX WILL BE HOSTING THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

WDP is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through WDP, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

This year's service is written by women in Malaysia.
Women in France will write next year's service.

We welcome RICK COBER BAUMAN, Executive Director of the Ontario Mennonite Central Committee, as our guest speaker.

Please plan to join us...and yes, men are welcome to attend too.

Did you know...

- The origins of WDP go back to the 19th century.
- In 1887 Presbyterian women called for a Day of Prayer for Home Missions
- After World War One women linked world peace with world mission. In Canada, Presbyterian women called together representatives of women's missionary societies from five denominations for united prayer and action.
- This committee, which has now expanded into the ecumenical Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, organized the first national day of prayer in Canada on January 9, 1920.
- In 1927 World Day of Prayer comes into being.
- Helen Kim from Korea was the first woman outside of the U.S. to write a WDP service (1930)
- In 2009 the women of Papua New Guinea wrote the service and the government declared a national holiday to celebrate.
- Strategies for prayerful action around AIDS and human trafficking include *Education*, *Advocacy* for legislation and *Empowerment* for vulnerable women and children.
- The offering supports AIDS education and a workshop in Thailand that provides work for women.

Visit the website for more information www.worlddayofprayer.net

events for youth (and the young at heart!)



TRANSFORMING LIVES...
AND CONGREGATIONS

LOGOS participants need YOUR help!

Please bring your donations of boxes of Shreddies, Cheerios, Rice Chex, Crispix, Pretzels and cheddar Gold Fish Crackers to the church.

The LOGOS youth will be making Nuts and Bolts snack packs for the guests/clients at the Out of the Cold program.

You can bring your cereal donations in until February 12. THANK YOU!



HE SHOOTS...SHE SCORES!!!

Have your kids signed up for Upward Sports yet? Running until March 6, 6-8pm for Grades 1-6. \$50. per person includes t-shirt, water bottle and basketball for new registrations. Call the office to register or fill out a registration form found at the Welcome Desk. Youth coaches are always welcome; contact Brent Wolf for more information.



BALL HOCKEY & BASKETBALL

COMMUNITY CONNECTION SUNDAYS

February's Community Connection Sunday will be the House of Friendship.

Community Connection Sundays:

- Feb. 26 House of Friendship
- March 25 Cairn Camp
- Apr 29 Habitat for Humanity
- May 27 International Ministries



PANCAKE DINNER

Our annual pancake dinner is in need of organizers.

If you are able to help organize it, please contact the church office.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about any of the events on this page or the next, get in touch with Laura at the church office at 519-886-4150 or by email at 2laura@rogers.com.



W@K
 (WEDNESDAYS AT KNOX)
 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.

We invite you to enjoy our February programs! You can enjoy soup, homemade tea biscuits, cheese, tea, coffee, and dessert for \$5. If you would like to bring your own sandwich and have soup, on these cold days, the charge is only \$3. You may also bring your own lunch for free!

FEBRUARY 8TH: FAMILY STORIES, PART II

As promised, "Writing Your Family Stories" will be continued. Jean Shantz led us on October 30, introducing the topic "Writing Family Stories: Getting Started." We invite you to participate by bringing your own efforts at family history and story-telling. Several people have already agreed to share family trees and published books. Speak to Linda Ashfield or Agnes Steffy.

FEBRUARY 15TH: VALENTINES DINNER AND SHOW

Come to a special Valentines Luncheon on **Feb. 15**, and bring something to share with the group. We will have tables ready to exhibit hobbies, crafts and treasures you love. This will be a Show and Tell for what we love and love to do.



ELLEN MCINTOSH

If you need a ride to Wednesdays @ Knox please call me, Ellen McIntosh, at 519-579-9448, or email me at emcintosh1130@rogers.com. We'd look forward to seeing you!

CD OF AFRICAN MUSIC FROM MALAWI – A REQUEST FROM MIKE BURNS

As many of you may know, the Presbyterian Church in Canada has been involved with the Blantyre Synod Prison Chaplaincy in Malawi for a few years now. Mike has felt called to assist in this ministry as well and is now Assistant Prison Chaplain for the Blantyre Synod. He visits the prisoners and leads weekly bible studies in the Chichiri Prison.

One of the projects in this ministry was the recording and producing of a CD from the Chichiri Prison CCAP Choir. The CCAP members love to sing and have formed a choir. The CD has been released in Malawi, but they only had the funds to produce 300 CDs

Our national office has agreed to produce the CD in Canada for a price of \$15.00 each CD with proceeds going to support the prison ministry. We will order about 20 and will have them for sale soon. Meanwhile if you would like to read Mike and Debbie's blog about the prison work go to:

<http://pccweb.ca/mikeanddebbieburns/2011/10/17/%E2%80%9C-i-was-in-prison-and-you-came-to-visit-me-%E2%80%9D-matthew-2536b-niv/>

You will also find a link to one of the pieces of music on the CD on this site, and as well a link to some incredible photos from the prisons in Malawi.

Please continue to keep Mike and Debbie in your prayers as they serve with the church in Malawi. And, feel free to contact them any time at:

burnsmichaeld@gmail.com

blog: www.pccweb.ca/mikeanddebbieburns

FORMER KNOX MUSIC SCHOLAR ALLYSON MCHARDY RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS IN HANDEL'S HERCULES



Toronto's Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, the latest musical presenter to embrace the popularity of opera in this city, is putting its best staged foot forward this week. At Thursday's sold-out Koerner Hall opening performance of *Hercules*, a "musical drama" from 1745 by *Messiah* composer George Frideric Handel, the orchestra, Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, soloists and dancers were on fire.

Gorgeously rendered music — both instrumentally and vocally — was enough to make this a landmark event in the city's concert season. That there was extra staging involved, even if not perfect, was the cherry on top of an already rich sundae.

Although everyone involved contributed to a memorable performance, particular kudos go to Toronto mezzo Allyson McHardy, who dazzled as Dejanira. McHardy's voice is pure, fragrant, dark buckwheat honey — just the ticket for a particularly demanding role. Paired with dramatically riveting and technically impeccable renditions of Handel's bravura arias for a character walking the tightrope between sanity and madness, this mezzo captivated from the moment she sang her first note.

By John Terauds Entertainment Reporter 

UPCOMING MANNA DAY AT CRIEFF HILLS

Many of us have come across passages in the Old Testament that are so perplexing we tend to skip over them. We don't understand so we wonder what to do with these stories. What do they mean? How are we to read them? Do they apply to Christian lives today?

On THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH (10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) the REV. DR. STEPHEN FARRIS will lead us in a day called, "Exploring perplexing Old Testament Writings". Stephen Farris is the acting Principal at the Vancouver School of Theology and is Dean at St. Andrew's Hall and Professor of Homiletics (preaching) at VST. We are thrilled to have him at Crieff and hope you can join us.

\$20 includes hot lunch. If you love to learn, love to join others and love the adventure of going places — Come to Manna at Crieff Hills. Crieff is only a short 30 minute drive from Waterloo (south of Guelph) and there will be people going from Knox Church if you need a ride.

Brochures that include more information AND the registration are on the Knox Bulletin Board beside the Lounge. Please consider this exceptional day of learning! If you want more information, speak to Rev. Linda Ashfield.



Potato mascots Spuddy and Sweet visit Knox to encourage participation in the Supermarket Blitz!

HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP FEBRUARY POTATO BLITZ

The House of Friendship will need approximately 200,000 pounds of potatoes in 2012 to meet the ongoing high demand for emergency food assistance in its Emergency Food Hamper program and for meals across its eighteen other programs.

In 2011, Knox members canvassed the Valu-Mart supermarket on the SUPERMARKET BLITZ day, which this year is Saturday, February 11th. Because of the high need for food support in our region, in 2012 we are being asked to canvass TWO supermarkets. Added to the Valu-Mart location will be the Fresh Co supermarket location at University and Bridge. We need two teams of 12 people each — four people for each of the 3 shifts (9:00 am-11:00 am, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, and 1:00 pm -3:00 pm) at both locations.

If interested, please contact GRANT BIRKS at [519-885-0530](tel:519-885-0530) or grant.birks@sympatico.ca.

connecting women

(just some of our programs for women)



BETH THORSEN

fitness & fellowship

Leave the chocolate and join us for a new year of fun activity and fellowship. We meet Thursdays at 10:00am for a variety of physical activity and coffee time with friends. Women of all ages and abilities welcome.

group c

Group C is a Bible study group at Knox. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Jean Shantz. At the present time, we are studying the Video Bible of the Book of Acts.

Our current membership consists of the following people: Jean Shantz, Naomi Ibbitson, Betty Geddes, Ruth Kirkby, Ruth Larsen, Linda Hedquist, Dorothy Aitken, Dorothy Rumig, Lynn Allen, and Ellen Yessis. We also have our distant members who remain very much in our hearts: Margaret Kuehl, Janet Campbell and Estelle Fritz.

We continue to support the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Pneumonia Vest ministry at Knox. Our dear friend, Elizabeth MacDonald, who passed away in 2011, led us in these endeavours and we miss her contributions and ideas each month. This year we donated prayer shawls to The Boarding Home Ministry and to Debbie Burns for Malawi when she visited us in September. We have also given many shawls to people within the congregation who needed support. Pneumonia vests have gone to the bale for India and Malawi and also to Debbie Burns when she was with us.

Group C is a Women's Missionary Society (WMS) group at Knox church and in 2011 we donated \$370.25 to WMS.

In conjunction with a visit from Brian Johnston in January, we also gave \$119 to the Gift of Music program with Presbyterian World Service and Development.

In December we decided to give \$175.00 to SHOW housing of Waterloo. We were inspired by the presentations of Grant Birks and the talk given by Clarence, who lives at SHOW.



ELLEN YESSIS

"bad" women of the bible

The Women's Circle of Care is doing a Bible Study on 'Bad' Women of the Bible in Feb, Mar, Apr and May. Any women who are interested can join us at 7:00 for this study. Linda will be leading this study for us.

- on Feb 21st then we will do Eve
- on Mar 20th we will do Jezebel
- on Apr 17 we will do Rahab and Tamar
- on May 15th we will do The Sinful Woman and the Woman at the Well.

Knitters at Knox

PRAYER SHAWLS:

Last year, on behalf of Knox Church, Margaret Woods took 12 prayer shawls, made by women of Knox, to General Assembly for the Boarding Home Ministry. Recently we received a wonderful letter of thanks from The Boarding Homes Ministry. These are some quotes from the letter which express eloquently our mission in making prayer shawls.

"Through the summer and early fall we have had the privilege of presenting the shawls to residents of the boarding homes we visit. Many of our friends are devout with strong prayer lives. They often have important insights into the nature of God-among-us in the community. ...Far too frequently they have been left in isolation, with few visitors, and almost never receive gifts. So, how wonderful, when we were able to share the prayer shawls and point to their spiritual significance.

They gave us a visual representation of the unity of God's people through prayer. The shawls pointed to the Divine love which delights in binding humanity together. Each of the shawls had obviously been lovingly made, and now, in the harsh setting of a boarding home, our church visitors could gently place a prayer shawl around the shoulders of a resident. Words of blessing were spoken. Friends-in-Christ looked deep into each other's faces. The colours, the smiles, the thoughtful prayers: all were reminders of God's love.

The shawls have been a joyfully surprising gift.

They have been received as beautiful presents - which they are.

And, they have helped us appreciate the threads of prayerfulness that link us with God's people all around the country."

Thank you to all ladies who have made prayer shawls. Many have also been given within our own church and have brought sustenance amid our own people. Quoting from one of our people who received one, "The prayer shawl has been both a source of comfort and warmth and a reminder of God's love and power."

We continue to receive prayer shawls for distribution to those in need of one.

PNEUMONIA VESTS: We continue to send pneumonia vests with the bale, which goes to Malawi and India. In the latest edition of *Glad Tidings*, we have received news that the bale will no longer be sent to these destinations after 2012. For this year we will continue to send with the bale to India. If there is an interest we may be able to take pneumonia vests to another group to have them sent overseas. Otherwise knitting skills can be applied to local needs at hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters or other locations.

SUBMITTED BY ELLEN YESSIS

DAYTIME PARKING AT KNOX: (IMPORTANT)

There are 17 parking spots set aside for visitors and for daytime programs at Knox. It is very important to use the designated spots for this. The spots are immediately across from our main door facing away from the church (10 spots) and immediately next to the building outside of the Hall and Kitchen. These are marked with signs for "Knox Use Only." The rest of the spots are rented out and will provide Knox with income. The City of Waterloo Parking Authority will be monitoring people parked in the permit only spots and tickets will be issued for those without permits. This has been the practice at Knox since we acquired the parking lot twenty years ago and will continue. We would hate for you to get a ticket for going to church. Monitoring of the lot starts February 1st.

CONTRIBUTE NEXT MONTH – DUE DATE FEBRUARY 22ND

If you have something you would like to include in next month's newsletter, please submit it to Hannah Carter by NOON Sunday, February 22nd. Email submissions to hannah.carter@gmail.com.



Come bring your Valentine to our

Valentine Tea

here at Knox on

Sunday, February 12th

following the church service

Cost: \$5 Adult (16 & over)/ \$3 Youth (5-15)
(children under 5 are free)

Tickets available: January 29th, February 5th and 12th
during coffee hour

Refreshments include:

A decadent chocolate dessert, tea, coffee, and juice

Proceeds to go towards the purchase of
seasonal supplies for our new chancel and sanctuary.

