

'A Cross The Pews

ISSUE 7/8

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Knox Presbyterian Church

Calling all instrumentalists....

We are trying to determine if there are enough players to form a worship band at Knox. If you play an instrument and would like to play in an ensemble, please leave your name, number and the type of instrument with the music director, Terry English.

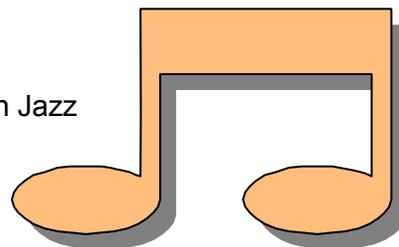
Music at Knox during the summer...

Our choirs and ensembles are resting over the summer, but there is an opportunity for you to participate in the music ministry at Knox. The summer choir will rehearse each Sunday morning prior to the 10:00 service.

If you always wanted to sing in the choir, but can't commit in the fall and winter, now is your chance. Please feel free to join us. We meet at 9:15 each Sunday to learn the piece of music for that day. We are also looking for musicians, singers and instrumentalists to share their talents during our summer services. If you would like to perform an anthem (solo or small ensemble) or an instrumental piece (solo or small ensemble), please leave your name, phone number and the date you would like to participate with the Music Director.

Jazz at Knox:

Join us for Jazz in Worship on Sunday, July 17 featuring the Orion Jazz Trio.



50 Erb Street West, Waterloo, ON N2L 1T1
Phone 519-886-4150
knox@golden.net knoxwaterloo.ca
Sunday Service at 10:00am
Radio Broadcast: Sunday 10:00am CKWR FM
98.5

Thank You

To everyone who has sent valuable information over the years for me to place in the newsletter.

Joan Campbell

Newsletter Editor Wanted For 'A Cross The Pews'

If you are interested in this fun and informative volunteer position, please contact the church office. We need someone to start with the September issue.

Thoughts about moving....from Rev. Linda Ashfield

A week or two before we moved into our new church building I talked with the children. I showed them a book "Moving Gives me a Tummy Ache" and talked about all the different emotions and feelings we would have when we left our church and moved to the new one. Of course, this was one of those "times with the children" that I was hoping everyone was listening to.

If you have ever moved (and I'm pretty sure we all have) you'll know that some people love to move while others get very sad or melancholy. Some can't wait to unpack and set up, making their new space feel like home right away. Others feel disoriented and take months (dare I say years) before all the boxes are unpacked and they actually feel settled. I would imagine that if we took a poll right now, many of us have experienced all of those feelings and more.

It was such an exciting day, the Sunday we all followed the piper and marched over into the new church. I was just behind the children who carried the symbols into the sanctuary and had fun listening to them exclaim – "wow" "cool" "it's great". We were the first ones in and I was grateful the response from those kids was so positive. After the presentation of our symbols and the prayers we stood and closed with the doxology and a blessing. Then we had an amazing lunch and we all had the chance to explore our new church. I don't think too many of us felt very sad that day; we were excited and our hearts were full.

The next day, the movers came and the Knox crew of room champions and other volunteers did a pretty quick job of moving the furniture and boxes in. Later that week crews came in and dismantled the pews (taking them to their new homes) and shelves and cupboards were ripped off walls to be installed in cupboards here. The things we weren't taking with us were brought into the old church hall and I am delighted to report that a lot of it went to homes and our church camps, Kintail and CAIRN.

Now the signs are reversed – and our old church is now the "Construction Site" as the asbestos removal has begun. Very soon, we will see the structure being torn down and I would venture to guess that at that point many of us will have a few tears in our eyes.

We are of course still trying to settle in to the new church. It will take time. Over the summer months we hope to continue our unpacking as well as adjusting to the new space. (For example our first Sunday here, the sanctuary lights were all turned on just as we had always done in the old church. However by the end of the service we realized that unless we all wanted to start wearing our sunglasses to church, the natural light and just a few lights would be all that was necessary).

Many thanks to so many of you who have done an outstanding job (and put in countless hours) in helping us all get settled. Unpacking the kitchen, washing all the new dishes, carpentry work in the Knox Room and so many of the cupboards and storage areas, sorting out the sound system and helping set up the furniture and toys and craft materials.

We are already seeing many visitors who are coming by during the week and joining us in worship so they can see the new church. We look forward to our official openings in the fall once the parking lot and landscaping is done. It has been a great beginning to a new chapter in our life together. Let us continue to support the building committee who are overseeing the finishing touches by the contractor and all those who are giving so much to make this transition a good one.

May we always cherish each other as gifts from God. May we encourage each other, believe in each other, and rejoice with each other. May our life together be woven with gratefulness and praise, with patience and understanding. May God fill our hearts with faithfulness and commitment so that the God of promise will enable us to live out our possibilities as we strive to follow the way of Christ.

Blessings to you...and “well done good and faithful servants”!

PASSAGES

Weddings:

Martin Wolniczek and Holly Anne Strobel (Marilyn Ford's grand daughter) were married on June 11th at the Arta Gallery in Toronto by Rev. Linda Ashfield.

Baptisms:

The last two baptisms in the 1957 sanctuary took place on Sunday, May 15th.
Danica Alexandra, daughter of Jeffrey Oberholtzer and Lisa Hutfloetz.
Lillian Marie, daughter of Christopher Lloyd and Kristen Klooster.

The first two baptisms in our new 2011 sanctuary took place on Sunday, June 12th.
Elspheth Li Na, daughter of Patrick and Kathleen Forde.
Liam John, son of William and Soussamay McManus.

Deaths:

We will miss our friends who have fought the fight valiantly and are now in the presence of Christ:

Elsie Dudley
Elizabeth MacDonald
Robert Chambers

God's comfort be with their families, friends and loved ones who mourn their passing.

Thinking of You

Ed Bain, Andrew Hare, Louise Small, Muriel Shepherd, Harry Todd.

Welcoming at Knox

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me.... whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.' *Matthew 10: 40-42*

(from a sermon June 26, 2011)

Welcome. It is such a common word. It adorns floor mats outside all sorts of entryways. It's often on road signs as one enters a new province, a new town. There are places where people offer "welcome" as a greeting as I enter: "Welcome to Wal-Mart!" "Good evening and welcome-table for two?" "Welcome to the greatest show on earth!"

You are welcome here at Knox Church. Welcome, a word with real loveliness. Welcome. In English, the word finds its roots in a compounding of "well" and "come," though with slightly different connotations that we tend to use today. The root of "well" could go in two directions: it could mean something close to our current understanding of "wellness" or "well-being," but it could be stronger than that, implying desire or pleasure. Some scholars see a link between "well" and "weal," the root of our word "wealth," and thus perhaps the word offers a kind of blessing. "Come" finds its roots in an Old English word "comer," that is, one who arrives or, perhaps closer to the Greek, one who is received. Thus "welcome" can offer in its earliest sense an invitation to come and be well, or to be well in coming. Either way, it is an invitation to be received into the goodness of this new place, this place here that one has just arrived.

While we use the word casually and commercially, making one welcome is not as simple as offering a word, though it often starts there. The art of making one welcome is rooted in the ancient practices of hospitality. Preparing to welcome someone takes thought, intention, discipline. Some practitioners of hospitality are masters of the art; they're always ready with the accoutrements of welcome: an appropriate beverage, food, a comfortable chair, a few thoughtful and respectful questions of the "comer." Their very presence seems to wipe away the strangeness or awkwardness of social greeting and make one feel as if they are home. On Friday evening Linda and I went to Toronto to the home of John Peter and Tori Smit. It was to celebrate JP's 25th anniversary of ordination, his reception of a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia University and his 50th birthday. The food was superb, there were beverages of all kinds including some excellent Champagne, and there was a program of gentle remembrance while we all paid a loonie for the privilege of offering a remembrance of JP in our journey of life together. The loonie was in benefit of the stewardship program at their local congregation of Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church. We were all made welcome and it was a delightful evening. If you have ever been the recipient of such hospitality, you know exactly what I mean. If you are such a master practitioner of hospitality, please know that those of us who have received it notice, and we thank you.

Perhaps the measure of true welcome is the ability of the host to make the guest feel at home. There are some places where one can go and always feel at home. It may look different. It may smell different. It may be full of strangers. But, somehow, it just feels like home, and it is good to be there.

Welcome as a practice of hospitality doesn't just happen. It has to be taught. It comes from the very deep and profound well where we just know that we are loved and accepted. The motto of our LOGOS program says it well:

“You are a child of God, and I will treat you that way.”

Hospitality should be the central practice of the Christian church today. As Sir Arthur Sutherland, the great English financier and philanthropist states, "Hospitality is the practice by which the church stands or falls." Thus hospitality is the central practice that should receive attention by our pastoral leaders and theological educators, by Sunday school teachers and by preachers. So how do we teach hospitality?

We at Knox are now in a new building. Our new building is a proud declaration that we as a worshipping community of Christians belong in the middle of this vibrant region of ours. We are on one of the most prominent corners in the entire region. We are now proudly and prominently present in a dramatic new and exciting building. We have attracted attention. We have already welcomed people who have never before worshipped with us. They may come because of fascination with our building, but they come to worship. As we worship together we become sisters and brothers. We become the welcomers of new worshippers. We will be judged by our welcome, not by our building. And so, people of Knox, (and I include myself here) we need to “up our game”, we need to excel ourselves in welcoming and we need to see this as the most important ministry that we have. If we welcome in the name of Jesus, we are sharing our core values and our genuine openness to those who are vulnerable and make themselves take that courageous step to go through a door of a church that they have never been to before. This is an act of faith and of courage in this secular society of ours and we as the community of Knox are called to excel in the magnificent art of hospitality.

“Welcome to Knox. May our worship together today be a blessing!”

Rev. Brooke Ashfield



from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Knox's Student for the Ministry:

Reuben St. Louis, our student for the ministry who is studying at Knox College in Toronto expects to graduate in December 2012, having recently completed his field education placement at St. Andrew's in Kitchener. This year he is hoping to take a CPE unit as well as completing his course work in Toronto.

This summer he will be involved at Camp Kintail as the Director of Kintail on the road; a program that takes the camping ministry and vacation bible camp to congregations.

At this year's May convocation ceremony, Reuben was recognized for his outstanding academic achievement in the 2010-2011 school year. He was awarded the R.H. Thornton Memorial Scholarship for overall academic proficiency, the Class of 1951 Prize for preaching and the Smith Prize for the highest grade in Doctrines of Reconciliation (theology course). Congratulations to Reuben on his achievements.

Chulmin Lee graduated from UWaterloo, receiving a B. Math in Actuarial Science with a Finance option, and is now looking for a job.

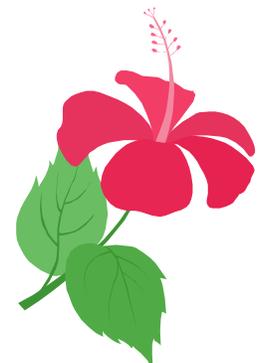
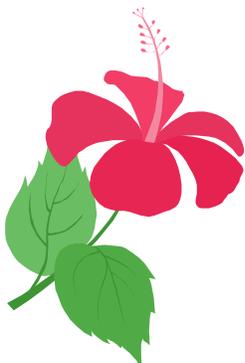
Mary Culp graduated from UWaterloo, receiving a B. Math in Computer Science, with a Music Minor, and begins a job with Sybase in July.

Joachim Nsofini graduated from UWaterloo with a Master's degree and will be pursuing a PhD at Waterloo in Physics.

Amy Palmer is the new Youth Minister for the Presbytery of Newfoundland. She and husband James Munroe and their two daughters now live in St. John's, where James is an assistant professor at Memorial University.

Jonathan, Kaholi, and Mahiro Jilesen will be moving soon to Boston where Jonathan will start a job as Aerodynamics Application Engineer. The company has a pretty cool website which shows what they do (exa.com). We'll miss them!

Submitted by Nancy Matthews



“Starpoint” Youth Festival

My name is Fiona Harper and I have attended Knox church for all of my life. I am now twenty-one, and am studying at Wilfrid Laurier University. In January I became aware of an extraordinary opportunity to attend an international youth festival organized by the Reform church in Hungary. The “Starpoint” festival was promoted through the Presbyterian Record, and after learning more about it I was eager to attend as a participant.

On July 15th I will travel to Budapest, Hungary as the Presbyterian Church in Canada representative at the festival. I will spend two days touring around Budapest before traveling for forty minutes to Tata, the small town where the festival will be held. The “Starpoint” festival is expected to draw over 2500 youth from various countries and runs from July 19th to 23rd. Participants will enjoy cultural and entertainment activities as well as attend seminars, group meetings, and lectures. Discussions will focus on Christianity on a global, national, and personal scale. The main theme of “Starpoint” 2011 is *touches*. We will look at touches from three different points of view. The first is parental touches ensuring our growth. The second is peer touches and interactions in our relationships. The final perspective is God’s spiritual touches and his marks on our lives.

After the conference concludes I will spend approximately five days travelling around Hungary and the surrounding countries to experience the mission work that is being done. I will be accompanied by various mission staff and will stay in their homes. One of these staff is Mary Gorombey. Mary was raised in Toronto and now ministers to refugee students in Budapest with the Reformed Church in Hungary. Another mission staff member whom I am eager to meet is David Pandy-Szekeres. He is currently the Supervisor of Missions for the Reformed Church of the sub-Carpathian Ukraine.

I am extremely excited to meet Christian youth from around the world, to experience the Hungarian culture, and to learn about the mission work that is happening in Eastern Europe. I am thankful to the Presbyterian Church in Canada for its promotion of this venture and to Linda, for all of her help and encouragement. I am also grateful for the congregation here at Knox for their continuous support which I have benefited from throughout my years.

Looking for something interesting to do this summer? Interested in learning? Willing to travel to Toronto once a week for a stimulating lecture followed by lunch?

Check out the Knox College website www.utoronto.ca/knox and look for the Knox College Summer Program.

Four Courses are being offered during the month of August.

August 8-12 Course A - "Africa - Reality Check" and Course B - "Public and Private Tyrannies"

August 15-19 Course C - "Marco Polo and Contemporary Travelers" and Course D - "Astrobiology: Life in the Universe"

You can take one, two, three or all four courses! The College has been offering summer programs for the curious for the past 18 summers.



C.S. LEWIS'
THE
Screwtape
LETTERS

Knox Reads 2011

Seven Summer Wednesdays at Knox

July 6 - 7:30 p.m.- The image of the devil in literature & art

July 13 - 7:30 p.m. – Does God give us free will?

July 20 - 7:30 p.m. – The battle between good and evil.

July 27 - 7:30 p.m. – Can God truly overcome evil?

Movie:

August 3 - 7:30 p.m. – “Shadowlands”

The next four nights will go from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

The movie “Shadowlands” is 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Mark your fall calendar

Crieff Hills Community

Manna Day—Thursday October 20—Rev. Dale Woods

Crieff Women’s Fall Retreat—November 11-13—Rev. Linda Ashfield

