

'A Cross The Pews'

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

121st Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for

February 28th, 2010

The meeting will start at 7:00pm sharp

50 Erb Street West. Waterloo, ON N2L 1T1

Phone 519-886-4150

knox@golden.net knoxwaterloo.ca

Sunday Services at 9:00am and 11:00am

Radio Broadcast: Sunday 10:00am CKWR FM 98.5

First Sunday

February 7th, 12:00pm

Habitat for Humanity

In Waterloo, in Canada and Internationally



"GOD'S VALENTINE"

My Valentine to you I send,
To tell you that I am your friend.
That in my heart you hold a place,
Which future years cannot erase.
And as I think of earthly love
My mind is drawn to things above.
To Christ, The Lord, who came to be,
"God's Valentine" for you and me.

Long years ago, one glorious night
The savior came with heavenly light.
Among the sons of man to dwell
And represent his father well.
Then on the tree, he showed God's love
This man who came from heaven above.
No greater love can ever be,
"God's Valentine", for you and me.

He rose again, new life to give,
By faith in him, we too shall live.
By trusting him, from sin set free,
Eternally with him to be.
Rejoice, and trust this savior so
His love through you will ever flow,
That others watching you will see,
"God's Valentine", for you and me.

By Jessie Lack
Submitted by Don Sanders

New Members at Knox – December '09

This is part 2 of a series of articles introducing the new members who joined Knox on Sunday, December 6, 2009. In January, we introduced Murray and Grace Ferguson, Bonnie Meyer, and Lisa and Sunil Kuruvilla.

Joyce and Vince Garofalo are new members, although Vince is not a new face in our congregation. He has attended Knox for eleven years. He has a Presbyterian background, coming to Knox while a University student. Here he became involved in Food For Thought, our group for College and University students. Vince is a computer scientist, now employed at Sybase. Joyce grew up a Roman Catholic in Waterloo Region and met Vince in Waterloo. She is a chemist by training, working as a food specialist for the Canada Food Inspection Agency. (She handles food complaints! What an interesting job!) Joyce and Vince were married at Knox in May, 2009.

Christine McDonald was born in Hertfordshire, England, and baptized in the Church of England. When she moved to Scotland about 25 years ago, she joined Greenock Parish Church (Church of Scotland) where she became an Elder. Christine describes interesting developments there, where the church was unable to keep up with spiraling costs of building upkeep, so became “a church without walls”, meeting in a community centre. She reports that Greenock Parish is still “going strong.” She came to Waterloo with her husband for his employment here, and finds this a very attractive community. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. “I hope to get involved in whatever I am drawn to,” states Christine.

Harvey and Theresa Rawn moved from Palmerston to allow their daughter Victoria to swim competitively for the Region of Waterloo Swim Club. Victoria attends Bluevale Collegiate. Their son Philip attends Conestoga College. They also have two older daughters from Harvey's previous marriage. Harvey grew up on a farm near Mt. Forest, with a United Church background. Christine lived on a farm near Drayton before moving to Moorefield, attending the Christian Reformed Church. They were married in 1988 at Drayton Christian Reformed Church. Harvey works in Alma, and Theresa works at Conestoga Mall's Zellers store. Both Harvey's and Theresa's fathers died within the past year. Their mothers still live in the Mt. Forest and Drayton areas.

Knox welcomes these new members, and looks forward to their on-going participation in congregational life. In March, Across the Pews will feature more new members.

Submitted by Agnes Steffy



Thank you so much to everyone who so generously contributed baked goods for our annual Christmas Bake Sale. We raised a record breaking \$821.00 which was donated to Knox Ministry. We could not have done it without our amazing Knox Bakers!

Thanks from the Welcome and Fellowship Committee.

A Note from Christian Education



Pancake Supper

Tuesday Feb. 16, 5-7pm
Church Hall

Adults: \$10.00

Students/Seniors: \$8.00

Family (of 4): \$25.00

Tickets are on sale during coffee hour on Sundays or from the church office.

All proceeds will support the new building fund.



Vacation Bible School 2010

August 9-13, 9am to noon

Hosted by Knox Presbyterian Church, Erb St Mennonite & Waterloo North Mennonite churches

For kids in JK-Grade 8!

Planning meetings are happening now! If you'd like to participate, please see Laura V.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's week of Baobab Blast!!!

Knox, Our Journey, Our Dreams

The Knox Redevelopment Committee is inviting you to a Knox "Our Journey, Our Dreams" brunch, on Saturday March 6 from 9:30AM to 12:00PM at Luther Village.

Craig Miller from RSI will join us at this brunch, as we review our important congregational decision in 2008 to build in downtown Waterloo. We will walk you through the building plans, discuss the finances, and talk about how Knox's vision will be fulfilled. We will answer your questions and involve you, as we go beyond the building in our thinking. We want and need your input into creating Knox's future.

While this event will be especially informative for any newcomers to the congregation since the spring of 2008, it will also be informative to anyone who would like a review of the RSI campaign with a look into our future at Knox Waterloo.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ken Vander Vleuten at

kvandervleuten@rogers.com or 519-884-3921 or contact the Church office at 519-886-4150.



Watch Our Building Grow: Walls Appear

The foundations are done and the framing begins!

Check out the blueprints on the bulletin board in the Church Hall. If you look outside at the foundations, can you see where the Sanctuary will be? The Hall? The Entrance? How about the kitchen? The new building is taking shape right before our eyes. You can really get a sense of where things will be and how large the spaces are.

But walls are really what define a building's rooms. Walls give a building's spaces definition and perspective while doorways and hallways help you anticipate how people will flow through our worship space.

Early in February, the framed walls will begin to arrive. They are being framed at an off-site location and will be delivered to our Waterloo lot ready to be erected. By mid-February, framed walls will begin to define our new building's shape. The second floor's framed walls will be delivered and erected later in the month.

Once the framing is complete, the building's shell (outer layer) will be erected to entirely seal in the building. The construction team can then heat the inside and begin work on the long process of finishing the internal parts of the building.

Alternating weeks have the Contractor, Architect, Engineers, and the KRC Building Committee meeting in the construction trailer to discuss construction details. Paul Ogram is onsite daily to oversee the construction and report back to the KRC. The KRC continues to meet regularly to finalize all details of the involved process of seeing Knox's vision of a New Face come true.

Please continue to pray for everyone involved in this construction process. And once again, thank you for your patience in finding alternate parking arrangements during our construction.

Things to watch for:

- Leveling of the landscape around the foundations.
- Delivery of framed walls.
- Erection of first floor walls.

Submitted by Connie Graham on behalf of the Knox Redevelopment Committee (KRC)



Group C

During the past year, Group C has been an active presence at Knox.

At present our group consists of 10 members: Dorothy Aitken, Dorothy Rumig, Ruth Larsen, Ruth Kirkby, Naomi Ibbitson, Betty Geddes, Lynn Allen, Jean Shantz, Ellen Yessis and Elizabeth MacDonald. Lynelle Purdy and her mother, Loreen Palmer, have joined us when they are able. We also have three members who are unable to attend meetings because of distance or location but are still very much in our hearts: Janet Campbell, Estelle Fritz and Margaret Kuehl.

We are a Bible Study group and are currently using a video re-enactment of the Gospel of Matthew, followed by a discussion of what we have heard.

Several of our members are very active in the Prayer Shawl and Pneumonia Vest Ministry. Elizabeth MacDonald, Jean Shantz, Ruth Kirkby, Dorothy Aitken and Lynn Allen have produced many items. They have been aided by many members of the church and pneumonia vests have gone to the Women’s Missionary Society to be used in India. Many members of our congregation and friends of the congregation have written letters of thanks to tell us how much comfort is provided with these shawls.

Our meetings conclude with a lunch around the table at the home of Jean Shantz. The goodies are accompanied by much laughter and sharing of stories and history.

Our group has been generous over the year and has given offerings as follows:

- Women's Missionary Society \$380
- Presbyterian World Service and Development \$260 - toward the purchase of goats.

We welcome anyone who would like to be part of group C.

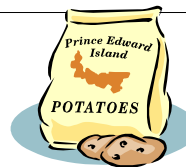
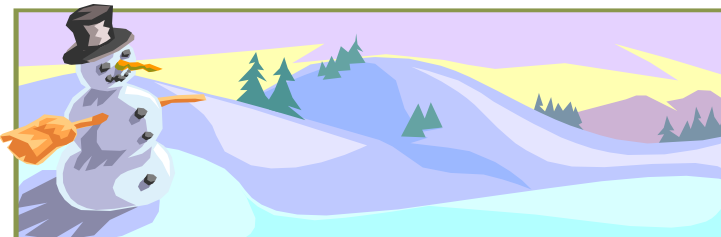
Submitted by Ellen Yessis

Our next ‘A Cross The Pews’ will go out March 7th.

Articles are due February 28th.

Email Joan Campbell at joanmhc@rogers.com.

Or leave the information in my mailbox outside the church office.



Potato Blitz

Saturday, February 20th

Volunteers are needed to collect potatoes at the ValuMart in uptown Waterloo. Speak to Grant Birks or the Global Partners Committee if you are able to help.

Knox Church will also be collecting potatoes. Look for boxes at the entrance doors.

PASSAGES

Births:

Congratulations to Lori and Paul MacGregor on the birth of their fourth daughter and also to Dianne and John Riddell on another granddaughter.

Congratulations to Jenn and Luis Almeida on the birth of their second son, Gil David, a little brother for Daniel.

Weddings:

Congratulations to Robert Allewell and Dorothy Bramley who were married at Knox on Saturday, January 30th, 2010.

Baptisms:

Aislinn Julianne Uniac, daughter of Daniel and Courtney Uniac was baptised here at Knox on Sunday, January 31, 2010.

Deaths:

Our sympathy to Barb Tucker on the death of her father.

Condolences to Christopher, Cameron and Fiona Scott on the death of their grandfather, Mr. LaFlamme

Our sympathy to Elsie Baird on the death of her sister.

Thank you from Joan Campbell and Bob Hengartner for your prayers and condolences on the death of our son and Janet Campbell's grandson Mark Hengartner.

Thinking of You:

Prayers and Get well wishes to Muriel Shepherd who is recovering from illness at Freeport hospital.

Prayers and Get well wishes to Don Sanders who is in Grand River Hospital recovering from surgery.

Manna Day at Crieff Hills Community

Thursday, February 18th

11:00am to 3:00pm

Rev. Dr. Herb Gale will lead and reflect with us on how our disability can bear witness to God's ability.

Take this moment to worship in the style of the Iona Community.



Annual Update – January 2010

Below is a slightly abridged version of the House of Friendship's annual update from Board President Elizabeth McNair.

Submitted by Grant Birks, Knox Representative on the Board of Members.

Dear Friends,

How can it be that after being founded some 70 years ago in the aftermath of the Great Depression that House of Friendship is serving more people in need than ever before? While we all wrestle with larger issues such as government policies, the implications of globalization, and shifting demographics, perhaps it is as Dr. Seljak reminded us at the 14th annual Friendship Fundraising Dinner that there will always be people in need whether it be by virtue of unforeseen circumstances, their decision-making, or factors and forces beyond their control. There will always be the opportunity to walk beside our neighbours during times of struggle and crisis, and always the opportunity to see in our neighbour the image of Christ and approach our service with this image forefront in our minds.

After a 4% increase in demand in the previous year, House of Friendship's Emergency Food Hamper program grappled with an additional 16.8% increase in 2009, providing 33,162 emergency food hampers, with no signs of the need abating in the near future. Similarly, the 2009 Christmas Hamper project fed 9,565 people with a record 3,620 food hampers, an increase of 13% on top of the 10% increase last year! Sound fiscal management and increased general donations enabled us to meet this need in the early part of the year in these and another 16 programs, and balance our 2008-2009 operating budget. However, the perfect storm of sustained greater need and dwindling funding sources means that House of Friendship will have to fundraise \$910,000 in general donations this fiscal, and still face a potential shortfall of \$140,000.

There are many encouraging signs that lead us to believe we can meet this goal. We see signs of hope in the hundreds of volunteers who help us feed those in need; in the Rotary Club of Kitchener Conestoga, which exceeded all expectations to raise over \$180,000 for the 2009 Turkey Drive; in the arrival of House of Friendship's new Executive Director, John Neufeld; in the steady stream of in-kind gifts of food, clothing and household items; but most of all, in the resiliency of the people we serve. Whether they are dealing with addictions, striving to live independently, learning English as a second language or new skills, participating in a parenting program, or finding shelter at the Hostel, their perseverance and determination to live a better, healthier life inspires us to fulfill our mission.

We enter 2010 faced with the challenges of the economy and the stress and hardship it means for many in our community, as well as the uncertainty it will add to service demands and funding support. But we also face the year with faith and optimism. We continue to fundraise, enhance program funding where possible, and prudently manage expenditures. House of Friendship runs four annual fundraising events: the *February Potato Blitz*, *Trek 4 Kids Hike & Bike*, the *Friendship Golf Tournament* and the *Friendship Fundraising Dinner*. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the success of these events in 2009, responded to the recent Gift of Hope appeal or made an annual or Christmas gift. Your prayers and support bring us that much closer to fulfilling our mission.

Respectfully submitted,



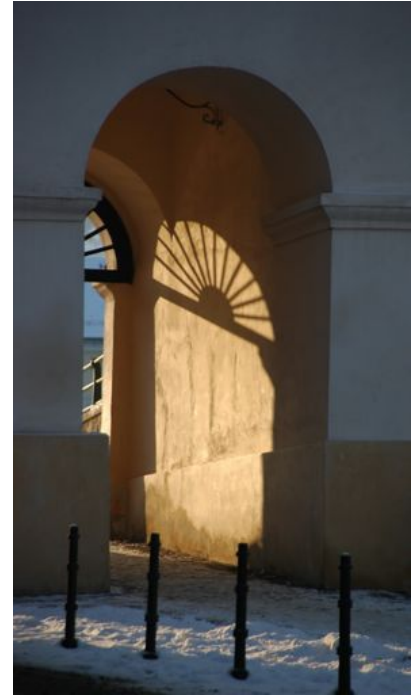
Elizabeth McNair, Board President

From Brian Johnston in Romania

The month of January is often one of the slower months as many of the pastors are recovering from the huge workload involved at Christmas and the students have their major exam period at this time. Services are held not only on Dec 25th but also on the two days after. In some cases theological students are able to help but in the smaller communities the pastor must manage alone. The same is true at Easter and Pentecost.

At the end of December of 2008 and in January we had some unusually fine weather and as a photographer, I became aware of the intense light which can exist during the shorter days of the year.

This year with a tremendous amount of preparation on the part of some of the professors, the institute reached "university status". It required me to be very flexible concerning timetables but in starting the academic year in September I was satisfied that there was sufficient time allotted for the teaching of foreign languages.



Winter Light by Brian

In April we put on a special Spring concert/service. Tordai Arpad preached and we were happy to have the well known choir of the Reformed High School involved. A group of ladies from the Peterborough area were our special visitors headed by Patricia Ross from Norwood, ON. Benjamin Dioszegi a very talented pianist still in high school was a sensation. Due to his severe family and economic situation he is receiving help from Canadian Presbyterian supporters. Once again the visitors were quite surprised by the students' enthusiastic rendition of "O Canada".

The AMS group arrived just after the Pentecost celebrations. Although they would spend more time in Ukraine we were honoured that they could also visit us in Romania. Nagy Emese from the fifth year preached. (an excerpt can be read in the January Glad Tidings) Two excellent soloists from the Hungarian Opera enhanced our program with a Donizetti duet. After a meal in the institute the ladies accompanied by my colleague David Pandy came to my flat for some further refreshment and a great discussion.

In late June I assisted my former student Tokes Attila with his special children's camp and visited two other camps. It is always rewarding to witness the work of former students who make such a difference in the spiritual life in their communities. In July, I and two students participated in a special camp in Hungary near Budapest. I was there for only a short time but my two students remained and did a super job in combining English and religious teaching.

Also in mid July my photo exhibition "Romanian Reflections" took place in an art gallery in the centre of Cluj. This was one of the first times my exhibition was held in a non church setting and a large variety of locals and foreigners attended throughout its duration. At the same time I also participated in a photo workshop held in a nearby village which was very beneficial for me in making contacts with both professional photographers and talented students.

I spent time in Canada in August and although not an official visit I was greatly encouraged by my wonderful colleagues in International Ministries and having quality time with family members was a great benefit. This relaxation time energized me in going back to Romania and in continuing my work at the theological institute, This past semester was for sure my most active and productive to date.

In October I repeated my "Romanian Reflections" at the Remenyik Gallery which is adjacent to the Lutheran Church. When I saw the size of the gallery I decided to invite four former students, all talented photographers to exhibit some of their works. It was exciting for me to co-ordinate this event. A special concert of sacred music took place also during the exhibition period.

<http://szabyka.evonet.ro/exhibition/>

The choir had many excursions in October/November and various octettes from the choir served six congregations with their mission through song. In mid November a special weekend tour featuring the whole choir took place in the Timisoara (Temesvar) area. Many Canadian will remember that the 1989 Romanian Revolution was "sparked" in Timisoara just before Christmas by former bishop Laszlo Tokes. The excursion was expertly planned by fifth year student Jozsa Ferenc and we were able to participate in three services/concerts in three quite varied congregations.

In the past it has been my custom to organize an opera gala in early December. However this year I decided to postpone that event until late February at a less busier time. In its place I organized an Advent Concert on Dec. 11 which was very well attended. I was grateful for the chance for both my students and myself to focus more on the essence of advent. We were able to sing Silent Night in four languages involving audience participation. In the same weekend the choir participated in the inauguration of the English Ministry's first English service. Pastors Michael and Terri Church from the Lutheran Church in USA are leading the ministry and it will be yet another opportunity for my students to advance their English skills in a religious setting. On Christmas Day I attended a special service in a Transylvanian village which involved a huge number of children and youth.

More detailed information about the photo exhibitions and concerts can be provided on request. I was greatly inspired this year by the large number of Canadian visitors but also by many others who are supporting my work through "Share the Gift of Music in Romania".

In appreciation

Brian Johnston, Protestant Theological Institute, Piata Avram Iancu 13, Cluj, Romania

www.brianjohnston.go.ro



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From Church Bulletins

Don't let worry kill you off. Let the Church help.

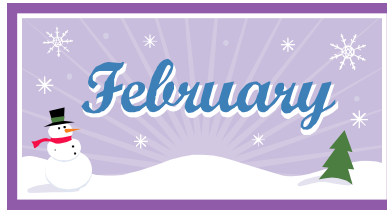
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

Submitted by Naomi Ibbitson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> 7:30 Church Council	<u>2</u> 1:15 Group 'D'	<u>3</u> 2:00 Group C 7:00 Praise Band 7:00 Women's Ensemble	<u>4</u> 4:30 Logos 7:30 Choir	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> MYA Out of the cold
<u>7</u> 9&11 Services 12:00 First Sunday 6:30 Food For Thought	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 7:00 Circle of Care 7:00 Presbytery Committee	<u>10</u> 9:30 Construction Site Meeting 7:00 Praise Band 7:00 Stampers	<u>11</u> 4:30 Logos 7:30 Choir	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 10:00 Trombone Choir
<u>14</u> 9&11 Services 6:30 Food For thought 	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 5:00 Pancake Supper 7:30 Session	<u>17</u> Ash Wednesday 7:00 Praise Band 7:00 Women's Ensemble	<u>18</u> 4:30 Logos 7:30 Choir	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Potato Blitz
<u>21</u> 9&11 Services Lent 1 6:30 Food For Thought	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 10:30 Construction Site Meeting 7:30 Finance Committee	<u>24</u> 1:00 Book Club 7:00 Praise Band	<u>25</u> 4:30 Logos 7:30 Choir	<u>26</u> 12:00 Potato Luncheon at St. Andrews	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> 9&11 Services 7:00 Annual Meeting						