

- **Must I be an active member of Knox to have my child baptized?**

No, though as you are committing yourself to raise your child in a Christian context, it is strongly recommended that you attend Church regularly, and we would certainly hope that such involvement would make you want to become an active part of a Christian community.

- **How do I find out more about Baptism?**

Please contact the Knox Office
269-8382.

- **Is there a fee involved?**

No. Baptism is one of the two sacrament of the United Church—a sign of God's love freely given to all people.

- **Must I attend the Baptism Seminar?**

Yes. As with any commitment you make, it is wise to know just what you are doing before taking any action. Thus at Knox we do require that you take the short Baptism Seminar to make sure that you understand the meaning of Baptism and that you are comfortable with the service.

- **May I have my child baptized privately?**

Usually not. Baptism marks the entry of the child into the Church, and thus is properly celebrated in the midst of that community. However, a child may be baptized privately if his or her life is at risk.



During the Church's early history, many words were used at a time of baptism. We know from the Bible, for example, that baptism was usually carried out "in the name of Jesus" or "into Christ" as well as "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". All of these words expressed the fact that baptism was seen as a time when people were brought into the community of Christ.

At Knox, parents may choose the words used at their child's baptism. They are given examples of different formulae and then are asked to make their choice based on their understanding of our biblical tradition and their personal faith. Here are examples from which you may choose:

I baptize you...

...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

...in the name of God, the Father and Mother of us all, and of the Son, Jesus our eternal Hope and Salvation, and of the Holy Spirit our constant Friend and Guide.

...into the name of Jesus Christ.

...into Christ.

...in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.



*Baptism Celebrations
at the Knox United Church*

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PARENTAL VOWS FOR INFANT BAPTISM

At a time of infant baptism parents promise to raise their children in the Christian faith. At the same time, the members of the congregation promise to help them in this task. It is our hope and prayer that when children are old enough to understand the love of God which was with them as young babies, they will speak for themselves and choose to be confirmed as active members of the Christian community. With this in mind, the following questions are asked of parents at the service of infant baptism.

Presider: You have brought your child here for baptism. Do you believe in God and in God's love?

Parents: Yes, we do.

Presider: Do you believe that God has become known to us in Jesus of Nazareth, the Word made flesh.

Parents: Yes, we do.

Presider: Do you believe that God, by the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and strengthen you?

Parents: Yes, we do.

Presider: Will you do your best to nurture your child in faith, and will you encourage your child to seek confirmation?

Parents: Yes, we will.



AN OVERVIEW OF BAPTISM AT KNOX UNITED CHURCH

(BASED ON THE REVISED POLICY, 1994)

Baptism with water is the sacrament by which we enter the Christian Community. In this act we express the love of God which is extended to all, and that love draws us together into God's Community, the Church.

Knox United Church baptizes both adults and children presented by their parents(s) or guardian(s) who vow to raise their children in Christian faith and to encourage them to participate in the activities of Christ's Church. It is strongly recommended that at least one parent be baptized.

In preparation for the baptism of infants, parents(s) or guardian(s) presenting children for baptism must attend a seminar held prior to baptism in order that they may clearly understand the commitment they are making in their vows before God.

For adults who wish to be baptized, confirmation classes are held twice a year.



GODPARENTS

The whole of Christ's Church is under the most solemn obligation to provide training and love for all children under its care. In the United Church baptismal service, the local congregation promises to stand by all children baptized.

Therefore, there is no specific inclusion of god-parents in our service; however, if the parents(s) or guardian(s) wish to have special friends stand with them during the service and make vows with them, this is certainly acceptable.

BAPTISM DATES

At Knox, we celebrate baptism about once a month, and the dates for these services are set well in advance for your planning and especially so out-of-town relatives can be present. These dates for baptism may be found on the bulletin board in the hall just outside of the sanctuary doors or obtained from our Office (403-269-8382).

Baptism is the entry rite into the Church. It is proper, therefore, that except in the case of an emergency baptism take place during an act of public worship.

