



# Knox News

God is Here for Everyone

Please visit us at: [www.knoxunited.ab.ca](http://www.knoxunited.ab.ca)

Summer 2009 Edition - June

We are an *affirming* community  
within the United Church of Canada  
506 - 4th Street SW, Calgary, AB  
Office (403) 269-8382

Services

July & August Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
September to June Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesdays Communion at 12:10 p.m.

## THE FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF RICHARD MAY 2009 / 2010 KNOX UNIFIED BOARD CHAIR

I'm the proud father of a blended family of 5 boys aged 7 to 15. My wife, Susan, is an investment rep at BMO Nesbitt Burns. As you can imagine, they keep the two of us quite busy!!

I'm originally from Byron, Ontario now a suburb of London. My parents attended First St. Andrews and I was confirmed there. I also went to school in London, including the University of Western Ontario where I got my engineering degree, and later an MBA. On graduation I worked for Nortel Networks (when it was called Northern Telecom). I had great fun working all around the world, and eventually ended up in Spain and then China where I learned Spanish and Mandarin respectively, having already picked up French in Ottawa. After China I came back to Canada, family in tow, and found a job as a venture capitalist. High technology is a passion of mine and being a VC was a great way to feed that passion.

Nowadays I spend my time running a small wireless startup company called Myotis Wireless. We're building very low power, long range data radios for the oil and gas market. We're just starting to trials with customers and it looks quite promising, but there's still a lot of work to do!

I'm honoured and excited by the opportunity to serve as Chair of the United Board. Knox is a great institution with roots deep in the history of Calgary. My role as Chair is to build on and renew Knox's wonderful foundation based on leadership in social justice within the community. My priorities include helping attract the resources we need to carry on our mission as a church and to bring new alignment and energy to the Board, a group of wonderfully capable volunteers. On a personal level I'm very interested in deepening the links to our local neighbourhood at all levels, from the street to the condo, and in entrepreneurship as an avenue to social justice.



Richard, Susan & Family on their Wedding Day at Knox United Church

## INTRODUCING ONDREA MANN A NEW FACE ON THE ORGAN BENCH



My name is Ondrea Mann, and I was pleased to join the Knox team as Associate Organist this spring! I was born and raised in Saskatoon, a middle child in a family of five. I've been playing the pipe organ since I could reach the pedals, and began my career at St. Thomas Wesley United Church under their guidance of their patient and talented organist, Mary. I received my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Saskatchewan, and then moved to Edmonton to pursue a Bachelor of Music (Organ Performance) from the University of Alberta.

I have served in a variety of Anglican and United churches, and have been blessed to work with many fine ministers, both lay and ordained. I am currently working as a music specialist with the Calgary Board of Education in a diverse and exciting elementary school in Calgary's north east. In addition, I volunteer on the executive of the Calgary chapter of Carl Orff Canada, a group of music educators committed to enriching the lives of children through speech, song, movement and instruments.

On my off hours, I enjoy travelling with my husband, Scott, rafting on the Calgary's rivers, exploring the mountains, and gardening. I look forward to getting to know the people Knox better throughout the summer, so please, come and introduce yourself!

## HEALING TOUCH SUBMITTED BY: ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

We had a very enjoyable potluck dinner on June 18 to mark the coming of summer. It was held at the home of Gladys Walters, and there were eight of us to bring and consume delicious food. We rejoice in the expansion of our numbers. Two new people have joined us in the last few months. You would have noticed them participating in the Service of Healing and Renewal on June 14. They were affected deeply by the service as was each member of the team. We would all like to express our thanks to the ministerial staff and the congregation for their support; we feel privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to the spiritual life of the church in this way.

In the last issue of Knox News, one of our newer members, Barbara Burse-Hanning, wrote about her story. So that you get to know our newest members here is a little about them.

**RONLANA SIBBALD** is from Cape Breton and has lived in Calgary for 25 years. She was introduced to Healing Touch when she attended Foothills United Church. She was suffering from arthritis to the point where she had difficulty walking. After receiving treatments a couple of times a week over a period of several weeks, the pain was significantly decreased. Then she started taking courses herself, and completed two levels of the Healing Pathway program and is looking forward to taking Phase 3. She moved to the eastern part of the city two years ago and couldn't get to Foothills United Church for Healing Touch anymore. She heard about our group at Knox and also met Doreen Orman at the Inglewood Silver Thread Seniors, so she became part of our group in April.

**RUTH MOSTOWY** is originally from Saskatchewan, moved to British Columbia in her 20's and has been in Calgary for three years. She was introduced to Healing Touch in Port Coquitlam where there were friends involved in various kinds of energy healing. After searching for a method that felt right for her, she chose Healing Pathways, and has taken two of those courses. She realized the benefit of working with healing energy when she was supporting a friend who was dying from cancer. With other members of her group, Ruth visited and did Healing Touch for their friend, and eased her passage from this world. Ruth states, "I was blessed to see how Healing Touch helps to fulfill a journey. It can have a profound effect on a person even though it might not be visible to others". She met Sharon Montgomery at the Mind, Body, Soul Expo in April where Sharon was selling her book, *The Invisible Body*. They started talking about Healing Touch, and Ruth came to check us out. She like what she saw and experienced and has been part of our group since April.

We will be starting up our regular appointment times in September. If someone has a specific need for Healing Touch over the summer, contact one of us at church, or phone Elizabeth at 403-253-4969.

In closing, here is a little wisdom about living in the moment from Gordon Pinsent as quoted in Pamela Wallin's book, *Speaking of Success*: *"It's the moment we are living. It's the moment we're having, not the one we hope to have, not the one we're going to have, or maybe will have if we go through the right door. It is truly the moment we're living."*

## HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER

## **MISSION & OUTREACH REPORT**

### **SUBMITTED BY: PAT DESAULNIERS & DAVID MACKIDD**

In January, year - end disbursements from the Outreach Fund were sent to the following local agencies and groups. A total amount of \$11,000.00 was disbursed. The Outreach fund receives 40% of the pledged offering to Mission and Outreach.

1. Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre
2. United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry
3. The Doorway (formerly the Back Door)
4. Camp Kasota,
5. YWCA Family Violence Prevention Centre
6. Servants Anonymous
7. Horizon Housing
8. Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
9. Habitat for Humanity
10. Alpha House
11. Calgary Meals on Wheels
12. Kerby Rotary House
13. Awo Taan Healing Lodge
14. Wood's Homes Treatment Resources
15. Distress Centre
16. Aventa Addiction Treatment for Women

The offering from the Christmas Eve services amounted to \$4,010.48, which was designated to CUPS.

In 2008, the Knox congregation supported the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada with a contribution of \$21,249.70. Our pledge for the year 2009 is \$20,000. This Fund receives 60% of the pledged offering to Mission and Outreach, and supports the work of the United Church across Canada and around the world.

In response to a Call to Action for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mission and Outreach supported an initiative of the United Church of Canada to raise funds and awareness for the people of the DRC, which has been devastated by war since 1996. A fragile peace treaty has been in place for a few months and the strife may be over, but the consequences will last for generations.

We sent a letter and a petition from the congregation to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, requesting support for the DRC. We received a detailed but less than satisfactory reply from Lawrence Cannon, our Foreign Affairs Minister. At least we were heard. A new display at the M&O table will display government correspondence received from such initiatives.

On March 15th, we participated in a very moving Peace Sabbath dedicated to the people of the DRC. We used this service for our spring directed offering, instead of Easter, and \$2,128 was raised for the United Church of Canada's United for Peace Campaign, specifically directed at Congo relief. The money will go towards helping victims of the war, social advocacy for the rights of women, and agricultural projects to help the Congolese people in the affected area improve their standard of living.

June 11th was the first anniversary of the Federal Government's apology to former residential school students. A Moment for Mission acknowledged the wrongs committed and steps of compensation being taken. An invitation from the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary to the Circle of Reconciliation National Event celebration at Fort Calgary on June 11th, in a spirit of forgiveness and healing, was extended to the congregation.

The United Church partnership with Habitat for Humanity has changed its format, but there are many ways in which we can offer support, and these suggestions were included in a recent bulletin, with a Moment for Mission describing the Habitat for Humanity mission.

We received a request for needed items to be sent to the Cuban Council of Churches. Some of these will be donated to "La Castellana," a school for challenged children and youth. Items needed include medical aids, sports equipment, art material, and hygiene and office supplies. A complete list is available at the M&O table and items can be brought to the table during the month of June.

Thank you for your support.

## REMINDER....

As we look forward to our summer vacations and the warm weather, please try to remember Knox still requires your support over the summer months. We are running our usual annual summer deficit but consistent donations from the congregation can make a huge difference in what our finances will look like as we head into fall and winter. Thank you!

### HARVEST DINNER AT KNOX

On October 24, 2009 we will continue celebrating our countdown to the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Knox Church building. Each year we celebrate a group within the church and their contributions to the life of Knox over the past 100 years.

This October we will be celebrating the Lay People of the church and their significant accomplishments to bring Knox to where it is today. This year the dinner will culminate the season of organic vegetables at Knox. We will use as produce from the Oxyoke Farm as much as possible for this dinner. It will also celebrate our multicultural food heritage at Knox.

The gathering is at 6:00, and the dinner will be served at 6:30. The cost is \$15 for a single adult and \$40 for a family. Beer and wine will be \$5.00 additional. Tickets will go on sale in August. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to be there. If you can volunteer to help set tables or serve, please call Chuck Curry at 403-270-0742.

### CHRISTMAS IN JULY

There is an ad hoc committee reviewing the decorations of the sanctuary for the Christmas season for this year. We have met twice and have determined some changes.

Since our Christmas trees are in such bad repair, we will not be putting up the trees this year, but we will be using fabrics and lighting to provide colour to the space. We have also asked Gordon McRae to design and build Nativity figures for a crèche to be placed in the front of the west balcony. We are also planning some decorations on the exterior of the church building.

Of course, none of this was forecast in the 2009 budget, so we are adding the costs to the **wish list**. If you anyone is so inclined to help with projects or donate to this fund, please call Margaret Miyagishima at 403-282-9171.

### MEMORIAL GARDEN

For many years Evelyn Reid has been the master gardener who has done much of the design, planting and care. She has been assisted by Holly Smith, Murray Songer, Chuck Curry and Marg Robinson.

This year Evelyn is taking a much needed respite from the garden and after a note was placed in the Sunday bulletin, two new-to-Knox persons volunteered to do the clean up and planting.

Dale Paterson has been instrumental in the cultivating and has also provided many of the plants this year. On June 3rd Holly Smith, Chuck Curry Meredith Gillespie, and Dale Paterson met to plant the garden. Bob Benner has been kind enough to take care of the mowing of the church lawns.

Please take a moment to thank them all for their work and donations to the garden.

### UNITED CHURCH DVD RESOURCES

Did you know that members and adherents of the United Church in Western Canada can borrow and view hundreds of thought-provoking and educational DVDs **FOR FREE** through AVEL (Audio Visual Educational Library) West?

All the latest material from Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Living the Questions and hundreds of justice related documentaries are all there! Your United Church dollars in action!

Just go to:

<http://www.mnwo.united-church.ca/area/avel> and browse the DVD and VHS resources. E-mail Tannis Young at [avel@confmnwo.mb.ca](mailto:avel@confmnwo.mb.ca) with your requests and they will be mailed out to you with a return postage sticker so that you don't even have to pay to mail them back!

Don't be shy! Give it a try! The more we use the Library the more likely it is that it will expand and grow! Your United Church dollars in action!

### CONCERTS

In the spring Chuck Curry asked in the Sunday Bulletin for some help in managing sanctuary concerts. We are so pleased that two persons stepped up to the challenge, and they are now writing contracts and helping with concert management. Please welcome Joanne Semeniuk and Janet Dargie to the office volunteer group to do this important work. Each year these concerts bring in additional operational revenue of over \$55,000. Thank you both.

## KNOX WISH LIST

From time to time there are needs that cannot be met by the annual budget because they are One-Time and Out-of-the-Ordinary needs that our annual revenues will not cover. Therefore we have a wish list for those needs in case someone thinks that they may assist Knox in attaining these needs.

Big ticket items:

1. External lighting of the historic church building and tower - \$10,000
2. Refinishing historic furniture including the communion table, collection plate tables, chairs and some beautiful oak tables we want to use in the recently renovated parlor and theatre - \$5,500
3. Handicap (family) washroom on the main floor outside the gym - @ \$40,000
4. Portable lectern with light and sound system for the theatre and parlor @ \$2,500
5. Video monitors for the choir loft and organist so that they might see what is happening at the front of the sanctuary @ \$2,000
6. New Christmas decorations in the sanctuary estimated to be around \$2,000

Small ticket items:

1. Draperies for the Healing Touch room - @ \$400.00
2. New furniture for Healing Touch room @ \$1,500
3. Your time to mount a wreath on the external wall of the tower in November
4. New carpet for the main office @ \$1,500
5. Your time and talent to paint the main office
6. Your time and talent to paint the upper gym walls

If you (or your committee) have specific non-budgeted – but nice to have- needs that will enhance the work of Knox, contact Chuck Curry in the office (269-8382). Call if you can help fund these wishes.

Here are some items recently donated on the wish list:

Speakers for the sanctuary sound system at the front of the church \$3,500

*Thanks very much to those donors for helping some wishes come true.*

## REIMAGINING THE WORLD - OUR FALL MINISTRY THEME

“Reimagining the World.” This theme is derived from the 2009-2011 national church mission theme, “Living for the Earth: Choosing Creation over Empire,” as well as September’s Jesus Seminar on the Road program, described elsewhere in the newsletter. The intent of adopting such a theme is to give an element of theological unity to ministry, allowing us to declare who we are and proclaim the gospel of Jesus with a single, unified voice.



**"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." (John 3:3)**

What does it mean to “reimagine” the world? As Christians, we’re called to see the world a little differently than most. The Gospel, as proclaimed by Jesus, is a jolting vision of all of creation outside the bounds of and at odds with “the way things are.” The lame walk, multitudes are fed and the sick are healed in the vision that Jesus names as the Kingdom of God. We are called to “buy in” to the Kingdom, not as something far off in the future, but in the here and now. This vision is in contrast and direct opposition to what we have named as Empire.

So, friends, as we join together this fall to sing hymns, give alms and speak prayers of thanksgiving, let us take the invitation to proclaim new possibilities for the transformation of our lives, our church and the world with the vision of the Word and the Holy Spirit. Let us embrace our calling as people of God, living faithfully, with active imaginations.

# KNOX CENTRE THEATRE COLLECTIVE

## SUBMITTED BY: HELEN YOUNG

The Knox Centre Theatre Collective is a not for profit theatre group presenting plays with a social justice theme. The collective grew out of a desire to have a theatre group that presented plays with a meaning.

In the spring of 2009 we began a series entitled **Our World**. These plays are written in the form of a news talk show and will take a look at the history of Knox as a downtown church. The series of plays began with *Behind the Rainbow*, our show on Knox becoming an affirming congregation. Part 2 will look at the involvement Knox has had with community groups such as Inn from the Cold and CUPS.



Knox will celebrate its 100 birthday in this building in 2013 and the Collective is joining in the celebration by showing the people of Calgary what the people of Knox have contributed.

### COMING IN THE FALL:

- **The Knox Writers Circle**

We will return to meetings on September 2/09. The group will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June. If you would like more information on the circle call Helen Young at 403-281-7065 or email [kctc@nucleus.com](mailto:kctc@nucleus.com)

- **Knox Players Acting Workshop**

The Theatre Collective is looking for actors! Meetings will be once or twice a month starting in September 2009 (dates TBA) to work on scenes and monologues, do some improv and try our hand at writing some short plays. If you are interested in joining please contact Helen Young at 403-281-7065 or [kctc@nucleus.com](mailto:kctc@nucleus.com)

- **Grace of God** a new play by Helen Young November 20, 21 2009

What can a police officer; two social workers and a homeless man learn from a pregnant 14 year old sex worker named Grace. Could she be carrying the new Messiah? Join us to find out!

Helen Young, Artistic Director  
Knox Centre Theatre Collective  
[kctc@nucleus.com](mailto:kctc@nucleus.com)  
403-281-7065

## NOSTALGIA

### SUBMITTED BY: WILLIAM BRINDLEY

I still remember the night I danced on a Paris stage in front of a packed audience at a big theatre in the city centre. Along with the three other men, they were all American; I was persuaded to go up on stage. The star of the show asked us to dance in turn for a couple of minutes the same steps we had just watched the chorus perform.

The orchestra struck up and each man danced, then the applause of the huge crowd. I was number four and a bit scared but I spoke up loud and clear when asked my name and hometown, Calgary, Alberta, Canada – cheers! Giving the dance my best effort, I won, due I believe to the strong voice of our fellow bus members. Yes, I have photos if any of you have doubts!

Two days and two countries later I was stopped in a shopping arcade by a tall gentleman in his late sixties from Houston, Texas. He wanted to know if I was the fellow who won the dance competition in Paris the other night. I said I was and then he complimented me very highly for a great show.

Turning serious he asked me if it had all been rehearsed beforehand, because it had been done so well. I replied, "I didn't know anything about this till just before going up onto the stage." He said this was his first visit to Europe since his army days during the war, and he was having a great time. I thanked him warmly for his comments and he then went on his way. "Who was that man?" Kay wanted to know. I said casually, "Oh, just one of my fans."

Participants receive a **FREE 5x7** as well as a **2009 Knox Church Directory**.  
**NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY** to qualify for these gifts – just be sure you  
make your appointment and have your photo taken.

Our target date for photo delivery is the first week of **December**,  
in time for **Christmas**. They will be at the church office for pick up.

# Knox United Church

## 2009 Photo Directory Schedule & Appointment Information

### DATES AVAILABLE

Saturday, August 22

10 am to 4 pm

Friday, September 18

2 pm to 9 pm

Saturday, September 19

10 am to 4 pm

Saturday, October 24

10 am to 4 pm

For appointments please contact

**Brenda Badke**

anytime after **June 22** by either of the  
methods listed below:

**Phone: 403 730 8071**

Please leave a voice mail with your contact  
information as well as the date and time you  
would like to schedule and Brenda will call  
you back to confirm.

**OR**

**E-Mail: [badke@telus.net](mailto:badke@telus.net)** with  
the day and time you would like to book as  
well as your contact information and Brenda  
will call you to confirm the appointments.

# Jesus Seminar



## on the Road



Calgary, Alberta

September 11-12, 2009

## Re-Imagine the World God's Empire & the 21st Century

Bernard Brandon Scott & Arthur J. Dewey

Arthur Dewey and Brandon Scott address the Christian challenge to Empire in the 1st century AND the 21st century with a keynote lecture on the 8th anniversary of 9/11 and a series of Saturday workshops.

### Lecture

*9/11 & the Empire of God*

Friday evening, 7:30-9 P.M.

### Workshops

*Jesus' World, the Roman Empire*

*Jesus' Challenge to Empire*

*Paul's Subversion of Empire*

*Re-Imagining our World*

Saturday, 9:30 A.M.-4 P.M.

### All Events at

#### Knox United Church

506 4th Street SW

Calgary, Alberta

Canada T2P 1S7

### Registration

| All Sessions                       | U.S. | CAN  |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
| Pre-registration (by Aug 28, 2009) | \$60 | \$65 |
| Registration (after Aug 28, 2009)  | \$75 | \$80 |
| Additional Family Member           | \$50 | \$50 |

### Single Sessions

|                             |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Friday Evening Lecture      | \$20 | \$20 |
| Saturday Morning Workshop   | \$30 | \$30 |
| Saturday Afternoon Workshop | \$30 | \$30 |

### Contacts

#### Westar Institute

P.O. Box 7268

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

tollfree (877) 523-3545

(707) 523-1323, fax (707) 523-1350

events@westarinstitute.org

#### Don Smith

(403) 281-7065

#### Rev. Drew Strickland

#### Knox United Church

(403) 266-6450, (403) 264-7850 fax

www.knoxunited.ab.ca

donsmith@nucleus.com



Bernard Brandon Scott (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University) is the Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament at the Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK. He is the author of several books, including *Hear Then the Parable* (1989) and *Re-Imagine the World* (2002), and editor of the Jesus Seminar Guides series.



Arthur J. Dewey (Th.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Theology, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio and co-founder of the Healing Deadly Memories Program, a unique project that conducts workshops on how to deal with the question of anti-Semitism in the New Testament.

Call (877) 523-3545 toll-free or visit [www.westarinstitute.org](http://www.westarinstitute.org)