



KNOX NEWS JUNE 2008

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

- John Lubbock

Take time to be...enjoy the summer!

All the best
Laverna Marchese
Chair, Knox Board



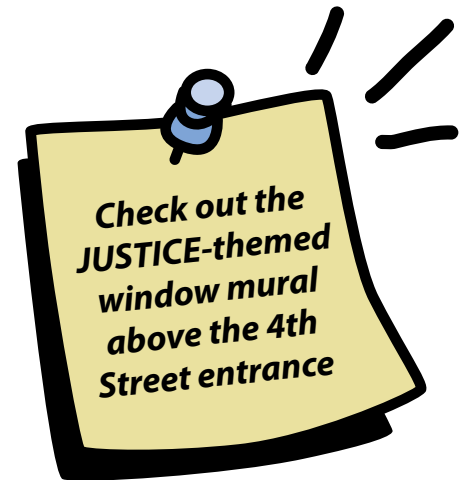
DON'T BE LATE



SUMMER HOURS

Sunday church services will start at 10:30 am during the months of July and August.

September 7th Sunday service resumes at 11am.



95 AND COUNTING

This year at the annual dinner celebrating the approaching 100th year of the historic church building we are honouring the ministers of Knox – past and present. The dinner will be a German theme – Oktoberfest. There will be sauerkraut, smoked pork, sausages, potato salad and apple strudel. Wine will be available for purchase as well as some fine beer. Tickets will be on sale after September 15 and will be \$15. We will gather at 6:00 pm and have dinner at 6:30.

IN FULL COLOUR

To see this newsletter in full colour, download it from the Knox web site: www.knoxunited.ab.ca

Knox News is written by members of the greater Knox United Church community, and compiled, edited, and designed by the Communications & Marketing Committee.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

How are you doing with your time? Are there a few hours you could give to Knox?

Some of the volunteers we need are:

- A sound system operator for Sunday services. Usually you work 12 times a year for 2 hours each. We will teach you how to run the system. It's really not that difficult.
- A Monday office volunteer from 9:30 – 3:00 to answer phones and perform some office tasks.
- A person to keep the pews and information racks properly filled with brochures. One to two hours every other week would be appreciated.
- A little more time consuming positions are: the treasurer, Board Vice Chair and Liturgy chairperson.

If you are interested, or can help a little, please call Chuck Curry at (403) 270-0742. Remember that Knox is equal opportunity for all – these are not gender based positions.

INN FROM THE COLD NEWS!

The Society's AGM will occur June 18 and Knox volunteers will meet on June 24 to discuss the upcoming year. As these important meetings will take place after the newsletter deadline, please check the Knox web site at the end of the month for the most up-to-date information.

KNOX CENTRE THEATRE COLLECTIVE

The goal of the Collective is to help raise awareness for social justice issues in Calgary and beyond. The Collective works with marginalized groups, such as the victims of bullying and people living with HIV/AIDS, and explores these issues through performing arts. Some of the shows presented are the result of workshops that include theatre games, improvisation and storytelling. The new season for the Collective, *Playing with Justice*, will focus on justice themes.

Upcoming shows:

Well... by Wade Lifton was written as a final assignment for the Youth Ministry Certificate Program at Naramata Centre. This play looks at the shortage of clean water in the world through the eyes of two high school students. November 14 & 15, 2008

The Second Shepherd's Play and other festivities will be our Christmas offering this year. Stay tuned for more details. December 14, 2008

Productions to date:

THE DOOR a new play by Helen Young took a look at bullying and body image in high schools. This play was the result of Body Image workshops done with teens in the spring and fall of 2006. (March 14 & 15/08)

The Nativity Pageant by the ***Sherman and Tailors of the York Mystery Cycle*** adapted by Robertson Davis gave us an opportunity to showcase our beautiful medieval sanctuary by presenting a traditional Christmas story. Donations from the show went to the interfaith food bank. (December 16/07)

What Mary Said by Sharon Montgomery is a one-act play wherein Mary Magdalene helps a man in crisis. The play was inspired by Karen L. King's lecture and book *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle*, published in 2003. (May 4 & 5/07)

BONDS, an award winning play by Helen Young looks at the story of two sisters dealing with HIV/AIDS. **BONDS** was presented as a joint fund raiser for AIDS Calgary and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church. (October 11-14/05)

Thank you for your time and interest in the Collective. If you would like to find out more please contact Helen Young, Artistic Director, at (403) 281-7065 or email kctc@nucleus.com

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY WITH HEALING TOUCH

Spring Break had a new meaning for me this year. While visiting my son and daughter-in-law in Vernon, B.C., I fell in their driveway.



My 20-month-old grandson had kicked a ball into the driveway and I went after it, so he wouldn't follow it onto the road. I'm not as agile as I used to be. I lost my balance, realized I was going over, so tucked and rolled. Not quite enough of a tuck, because my left arm flung out and hit the retaining wall on the way down. Ouch! Winded and spent, I sat on the retaining wall a short time, then went indoors to ice the elbow.

Twenty-four hours later I was back in Calgary, at the Rockyview Hospital. They had admitted me after viewing the X-rays taken at the Vernon Hospital the previous night. I had surgery on March 15th, where two pins were wired together to pull the elbow bones back into place. This surgery was a new experience for me, the first surgery in my entire life. I was impressed with the care I received. I'm so grateful for my general good health and for capable doctors and nurses.

The next day I was sent home, where my partner Lois looked after me and my every need. That

was new, too, as previously when I was sick I sent her away so I could go to bed and recover. This time was different. I needed help to do simple things. Lying down was painful and changing positions took planning. I had never needed anyone to look after me before, so being dependent was an eye-opener. Still learning after all these years!

When the Healing Touch team at Knox heard that I had broken my arm, they quickly organized treatments at my house. We do that for each other, with each of us having received multiple treatments after various surgeries. Sometimes we joke that we are there for each other, even if many at Knox don't realize they can ask us for treatments pre- and post-surgery. We know that the sooner a person can get a Healing Touch treatment after injury or surgery, the better. The more treatments, the better, too. The first week I received four treatments, the second week three, and two treatments the next two weeks. I felt really spoiled.

My arm has recovered well. At my one-week checkup, after the stitches were removed, my surgeon was pleased to see how the arm was healing. When I told her I was receiving Healing Touch treatments, she said, "It can't hurt." She also okayed the list of five vitamin and mineral supplements I was taking to aid bone growth. In the next three weeks I exercised the arm, using the half-cast only at night-time and if I had to go out

among crowds. For the first time in my life I slowed down and said 'no' to commitments in order to restore my body to full functioning. It has been a slow process, but the arm is healing well and I can now use it for almost everything. I've learned to appreciate having two good arms to lift, bend, and more recently, to floss my teeth and put the backs on my earrings. Someday I will be able to use my left hand to grab the seat-belt in the car.

I experienced the Healing Touch treatments differently from times when I was healthy. Because I was in pain, and often on painkillers, I was in an altered state of consciousness. I was very aware of my body. I could sense the energy flow, noticing prickles, squiggles, and currents running along nerves and muscles. I monitored myself relaxing into a soft supportive cloud. I felt relief from pain when the practitioner did a Pain Drain on the elbow. I recognized some of the techniques the healers used, noting which ones helped the most. I practiced meditation and deep breathing to assist the treatments. Sometimes I fell asleep during a treatment. I was also aware of lightness, not only in not feeling as heavy, but also in not being so dark. My spirit felt lifted into clarity. I felt fed, nurtured, loved, tended, noticed and accepted. Quite wonderful. Quite remarkable.

These six women from our team (Loy, Elizabeth, Inger, Doreen, Peggy and Gladys) came to my

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NOSTALGIA

The hymn "Abide With Me" is mostly sung at funerals and Remembrance Day services here in Canada. But in England, it is sung with great fervour by many thousands of fans at football matches every May.

I can recall when, as a school-boy, I used to go along with a friend to his grandpa's house



every year to listen to radio coverage of the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. The News Chronicle would organize community singing before the game, and the crowd always finished by singing "Abide With Me".

This beautiful hymn sung by a hundred thousand people always gave a thrill - and we at home joined, too. I believe this tradition began in the '20's and continues to this day.

My friend and I often played at his grandpa's house and he usually didn't mind us being around at all. I must admit though, he wasn't very pleased when we broke some plant pots in a garden shed or

played with an old gramophone with the big horn on top and a handle on the side to wind it up.

When my friend came one morning to tell us his Grandpa had died, my mother gathered us in a corner of our big kitchen. On our knees, we prayed and thanked God for the good and long life that had outlasted God's contract to man by many years. "Abide With Me" - this most lovely of hymns - still gives comfort to people of all denominations. Henry Francis Lyte's hymn was written just a few weeks before succumbing to tuberculosis on his way to the south of France.

William Brindley

HEALING TOUCH

home to give me treatments for the first month. They seemed happy to do so. My arm continues to heal, with regular physiotherapy and home exercises. Both my physiotherapist and my doctor are impressed at my progress. It takes longer for old bones to heal, but I am surprising them. Perhaps the most telling difference is that my daughter suffered a similar accident and surgery in October, 2007. Although she is 25 years younger, her arm is no stronger or more flexible than mine, even though she has had four more months in which to heal. The only difference in our

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treatments is that I had Healing Touch.

Within the Healing Touch group we have wondered what it will take to have more members of our church family ask us for treatments. Sometimes we look at the small numbers at our meetings and wonder how to provide treatments to everyone who needs them. Most times we simply look at our individual schedules and make the time to be present for someone who calls. We are glad that a few members have asked us for treatments pre- and post-surgery. It really does help the

body relax so it can better heal itself. As Dr. O'Brien at the Rockview Hospital said, "It can't hurt!"

Sharon Montgomery

The Healing Touch team offered regular treatments on the second Thursday and third Sunday of June. This schedule will be resumed in September. As Sharon has stated, if anyone would like to book a treatment, call me and we will do our best to accommodate you. Elizabeth Campbell (403) 253-4969

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Committee welcomed two new members this year: Lee Strocher and Ryan Slifka. Other members are Marian Stephenson, Shanna Engler, Dave Mackidd, Michael White and Pat Desaulniers.



Early in the year, Dave Mackidd wrote a petition on the Rights of Migrant Farm Workers in Canada, whose human rights are at risk because of inadequate legislation to protect them. He presented this for signing by members of the congregation and it was delivered to Knox's MP, The Honourable Lee Richardson. We are awaiting an update from him.

Our Easter Offering was designated to the United for Peace Campaign of the United Church. \$600.00 was received. An update on campaign activities lists three projects which have received funding:

- Cities for Peace, an initiative bringing Palestinian and Israeli youth and their parents together to build

understanding and the foundations for peace 60 Years after the Nakba Conference, examining the impact of the displacement of Palestinians during the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 on the quest for justice, peace, and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

- The Methodist Church of Colombia serving thousands of people displaced during the internal conflicts in that country received a small grant for work with two communities hard hit by paramilitary death squads.

As part of the United for Peace Campaign, Ryan Slifka presented a Minute for Mission calling for Canada to reaffirm its commitment to UN Peacekeeping by resuming its leadership role, which has drastically diminished over the last 15 years.

In response to Cyclone Nargis which devastated Burma in early May, the United Church responded by committing \$100,000 immediately for relief aid and reconstruction and set up an emergency appeal fund. Funds are channelled through ACT (Action by Churches Together), a United Church partner, which reports that relief aid is moving and that the Burmese people are coping

well, mobilizing to help their families and communities. Donations can be made payable to The United Church of Canada and marked "Cyclone Nargis Emergency Appeal." The United Church has submitted a proposal to the Canadian Government requesting matching grant status for these donations. We are asked to pray for those affected by the cyclone.

The first week of June was declared a week for International Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel with the message that "It's Time for Palestine... time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace, time to end 60 years of conflict, time for freedom from occupation, time for equal rights, and time for the healing of wounded souls." Dave Mackidd presented a Minute for Mission asking that we write a letter to our MP urging Canada to work to negotiate a just resolution of the conflict that has caused so much suffering. Drew Strickland included the Jerusalem Prayer in the service on June 8th.

United Church Day at Habitat for Humanity, where volunteers from our 28 United Churches can help out, has resumed and takes place on the second Wednesday of each month. Habitat families are Calgary residents who are employed but earn below the

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SUMMER JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL

As part of the ongoing Knox Justice Initiative, we are pleased to announce that we will be showing several challenging documentaries over the summer months.



Tuesday June 24th: *"MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES"* is a feature length documentary on the world and work of renowned artist Edward Burtynsky. Burtynsky makes large-scale photographs of "manufactured landscapes" – quarries, recycling yards, factories, mines, dams. He photographs civilization's materials and debris, but in a way people describe as "stunning" or "beautiful," and so raises all kinds of questions about ethics and aesthetics without trying to easily answer them.

Monday June 30th: *"WHY WE FIGHT"* launches a compelling inquiry into the workings of the military industrial complex and the rise of the American Empire. All showings will begin at 6:45PM sharp in the Library. Admission is free but popcorn is \$5!!

For more info, or to suggest films, contact Don Smith at (403) 281-7065 or donsmith@nucleus.com

Don Smith

HOW ARE WE DOING FINANCIALLY?

So far this year we have not had a month with a break-even on budget or a surplus. Instead there has been a slowly accumulating budget deficit. Although revenue from rentals and concert events has been higher than budgeted, we as a congregation have not been keeping up with our pledges. At this time the donations from members and adherents is below budget by about \$30,000. As we go into the summer



months, traditionally months with lower attendance and lower donations, we need to remember the church and its ongoing ministries. We do thank everyone who has been so generous to financially support the Knox ministries.

Chuck Curry

MISSION AND OUTREACH

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Canada Low - Income level for their family size. They all have children who would benefit from the stability of homeownership and each family invests hundreds of hours to build their home and those of their neighbours. Jason Semeniuk is our Knox co-ordinator and volunteers can sign up with

him at coffeetime. We are thanked for making affordable homeownership a reality for Calgary families in need. Last year the congregation of Knox gave \$20,066.32 to the Mission and Service Fund. This year we have pledged \$20,000.00. A letter of thanks from the Executive Minister of

Financial Stewardship says that the M&S Fund "allows us to be and to do all that is important to us as a United Church... our sense of identity as a denomination is supported, and our common mission goals are met." Thank you.

Pat Desaulniers

WHAT ARE CHRISTIANS FOR ?

A Few Thoughts on the Church and the Justice Initiative

I started attending Knox just over two years ago. Just over a year ago, my partner Cheyenne and I were baptized



into the way of Christ and the reign of God at Knox by Drew Strickland and thus became members of the United Church of Canada. Becoming a member of Knox, and undergoing baptism has been one of the most important and profound events of my life.

I did not grow up in the church, or any church, nor had I considered myself a Christian before Knox. I came into a community that professes open acceptance for all people, regardless of race, gender, class and sexual orientation. I came into a community with an open theological mind, willing to leave behind the most archaic dogmas of the past with a willingness to speak to the present. I came into a community, a church and a tradition that has a long history of advocacy for social justice. My baptism was not only the path into that

community, but it was just as much an embrace of what could be termed “the Christian life.” It was as much an act of personal spirituality as much as it was, as the Song of Faith goes, “to seek justice and resist evil.” I was making an agreement to “do the right thing” as an individual, as well as a part of the community.

This brings me to the Justice Initiative, which I believe is the culmination of the words of the song of faith, moving it into concrete action, the “word made flesh.” Several Sundays ago, Grant gave the definition of that justice—so everyone and everything has their place in God’s kitchen. The world is certainly not as it should be, nor are our own communities. It is a fact that over a billion people in our world suffer from hunger and extreme poverty, despite the fact that more than enough food is produced to feed everyone and more. It is a fact that our over consumption of the natural world is putting us, if not already, on the brink of a world-wide environmental crisis. It is a fact that the gap between the rich and poor in this country, and indeed most countries in the world has increased while the number of homeless people in our own city even has increased exponentially. It is a fact that in our own backyard an area the size of Florida is being strip-mined, poisoning the people

of Fort Chipewyan and other surrounding communities and making us a national and international environmental villain in the process. Shouldn’t we, as people of Christ, as people who believe in the justice and radical love of God, do something about it? Shouldn’t we take an active role in working for change?

Of course we should. The problem is, however, that these are big issues and they can become absolutely overwhelming. “But I’m just one person,” we all say. “What can I possibly do?” There are, of course, personal choices we can each make to live justice. Buy wind power, write letters to politicians, take the C-Train instead of drive and buy locally produced food and goods. These are all necessary, but they will not bring change alone. This is where we get bogged down—if it is only a personal responsibility to change the world, it becomes overwhelming because one person can not change the world. The Justice Initiative is about turning our community into active participation in the reign of God. It is about concrete ideas, actions, and attitudes with which we can do justice and energize ourselves as individuals and a community, so we don’t get bogged down in individual guilt and exclusively personal responsibility.

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STONE RESTORATION ON THE SOUTH FAÇADE

Last week saw the completion of the stone restoration on the lower half of the east and south sides of the church



building. I.B. Jensen Masonry Inc. was engaged to do the work, and it was pre-approved by Alberta Historic Resources who they will cover at least 50% of the cost. The remaining costs will be covered by Knox in the facilities capital budget. The work was necessary to repair many stones that were badly damaged through age and some, at the foundation level, that have been eroded by the winter street salt. In a

few areas entirely new stones replaced damaged stones. Take a look when you are on 6th Avenue. It is very obvious what a wonderful restoration this was. In the coming years the facilities group will be budgeting for further stone restoration work with the hope that by 2013 – the 100th year of the building – all of the exterior stone will be repaired and restored for another 100 years. That is our goal.

Chuck Curry

WHAT ARE CHRISTIANS FOR? cont'd from previous page

This all sounds very political, and it is. The Hebrew prophets were political. The Romans crucified Jesus because he was a political threat to them and the temple elite. The Kingdom of God was not only a spiritual and cultural alternative to the Roman Empire and corrupt practices of the Jerusalem temple, but also to the domination, homogenization and oppression of Empire in all its forms. Christianity is political, but not partisan. There is a tendency in our culture today to place politics and ideas in categories of right versus left, or liberal versus conservative. Christianity is not about left and right, it's about what is right and who is left behind. We all agree on the need for justice, but may disagree on how to go about it. If anything, we can all agree that the world is not as it should

be. Is it right that people who produce rice in India are going hungry while their rice is still on the market in the west? Is it right that the majority of our consumer goods are made in sweatshop (even slavery) conditions? Is it right that we consume so much as to harm the planet in a potentially irreversible way? These questions are political, but non-partisan. Christ is beyond categories of left and right and so is justice. The early Christians offered themselves as an alternative to the injustice of their time, and in that sense our church must be counter-cultural. We need to rekindle our own political imagination as a church to engage the problems of today.

The Justice Initiative is about rekindling our imagination and passion for justice so we

can do justice. Should Knox "go green?" Should we make an economic and personal relationship with our local economy and commit to "fair trade" principles? Should we get involved in justice projects like Community-Supported Agriculture? Our only limit is our own resolve. How can we "do justice and resist evil?" How can we, as a Christian community, "do the right thing?" It is this community that will decide where we go from here. As such, we would love for members of the congregation to get excited and get actively involved in the initiative. The only way we can do justice in a truly meaningful way is as a community, as the body of Christ, active in the world.

Ryan Slifka

COMING CONCERTS AND EVENTS AT KNOX

June 25

Charlie Haden Quartet (Calgary Jazz Festival) @ 8:00. Tickets from www.calgaryjazz.com

June 26

Cowboy Junkies (Calgary Jazz Festival) @ 8:00. Tickets from www.calgaryjazz.com

July 16 & 17

The Chieftans @ 8:00. Tickets from Ticketmaster

October 18

Congregational Dinner – Oktoberfest in the Theatre @ 6 pm – Tickets \$15 on sale in the office after September 15. A celebration of the ministers of Knox over 95 years

October 25

Cantare Children's Choir @ 7:30. Tickets at the door

November 9

Mount Royal Kantorei @ 3 pm celebrating Remembrance Day with veterans. Tickets at the door

November 22

Rhythm of the Rockies (Sweet Adelines) @ 7:30. Tickets at the door

November 26

Barra McNeils @ 8:00. Tickets at Ticketmaster

If you are interested in volunteering for front-of-house staff for any of these concerts, contact Chuck Curry @ (403) 270-0742

Keep up to date on Knox events at:

www.knoxunited.ab.ca

RAINBOW PLAY

When Knox began the process of becoming an Affirming church I thought it would be a good idea to write a play about the journey we as a congregation have taken. The members of the Theatre Collective began organizing meetings with small groups of people to talk and share stories about what Knox means to them. We met with members of the GLBT community and collected some wonderful anecdotes.

As we celebrated our first anniversary as an affirming church it was clear to the Collective that the journey is more than affirming our GLBT family, it is about making sure that ALL are included. After all, God is here for everyone. So with this

realization comes the need for more stories. We would like to invite anyone interested to share stories with us. These stories can be about Knox or finding a spiritual home or feeling a part of the Knox family.

Another area of the play will look at the Song of Faith for the United Church. There is a wonderful opportunity to bring this beautiful piece of writing to life and it most certainly complements our Knox story. So in the next few months and leading into the fall we will be creating workshops that will allow you, the people of Knox, a chance to share whatever stories you believe to be important to life at Knox.

If you are interested in joining a group please let me know. We will need at least 6 people per group so as soon as enough people sign up we will start. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



Thank you
Helen Young
Artistic Director
Knox Centre Theatre Collective
kctc@nucleus.com
(403) 281-7065

ALL IN OUR FAMILY

We wish to congratulate a number of our seniors on special birthdays:

Gene Bacon	May 22	96 years
Doreen Orman	May 28	83 years
Edith Whitson	May 28	88 years
Eleanor Stewart	May 31	92 years
Ruth Newell	June 14	89 years
Joe Swen	June 14	80 years
Sally Elder	June 15	104 years!

Congratulations also to Keith and Loy Bacon on the arrival of their first grandchild, a boy, Anderson Emmet Bacon born January 31 to Stephen and Erin Bacon. This is the fourth great grandchild for Gene Bacon.

Congratulations to Kate Reeves and Mark Wiencki on the arrival of their second grandchild, a boy, Dax Logan Wiencki on March 25. Dax's parents are Morris Cleveland and Corrine Wilson. They also have a granddaughter, Ashley Rose Dueck.

HOW KNOX GROWS

Baptisms

March 9

- Kael Larry Bennett, son of Dennis and Lori Bennett
- Gabriel Lloyd Bukowicki-Mudge, son of Laura and Crystal Bukowicki-Mudge

April 20

- Hayden Christopher Long, son of Christopher and Corrine Long
- Giselle Renee Larson, daughter of Chad and Jenna Larson

May 11

- Everett McAuley Merchant, son of Brent and Dana Merchant
- Kyan James Woolford, son of James and Stacie Woolford
- Matthew Ryan Rovere, son of Ryan Rovere and Natalie Nowiski

Reaffirmation of Faith and Baptism

March 9

- Jacqueline Anne Osiowy
- Timothy Michael Lapointe

GONE BEFORE

Jane Jamieson, a Knox member for many years passed on March 8, at Wentworth Manor. She and her husband were in Vancouver for some years and Jane returned after his passing.

Harold Carlyle passed away April 19 at 87 years. Although Harold no longer attended Knox, it was worthy of note that members of his family had been associated with Knox since the beginning of the 20th century. Harold transferred to Calgary and joined Knox in 1954, serving on several important groups through the years he spent with us.

Rudy Van Der Veen entered into rest on May 29. Having been a member of Knox choir for 26 years, his life was honoured by many of the choir members and organist Frank McKitrick by their participation at his memorial service June 2. Rev. Dr. Grant Dawson presided. Our thoughts are with wife, Linda, children Brian, Brenda, Kirk and Craig, and grandchildren Katelyn, Carter, and Tori Grosart, and Liam and Grace Van Der Veen.

Doreen Kempt

Knox United Church

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