



Knox News

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

God is Here for Everyone

Please visit us at: www.knoxunited.ab.ca

Spring 2008 Edition - March

Services

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays Communion at 12:10 p.m.
Nursery & Youth Programs during service

Easter Message from Knox Unified Board Submitted by: Laverna Marchese

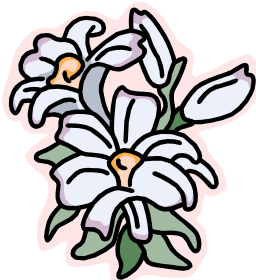
Easter is about being fully alive. Three quotations that call me into Easter Life are these:

“To be a Christian”, said Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his letters from prison, “is not to be religious – it is just to be”.

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”.
(John 10:10)

John Spong explains, "Jesus reveals God in **loving totally, living fully, and being all that he can be**. I worship the God I meet in Jesus by **risking love, by daring to live, and by having the courage to be myself – my best, deepest, and holiest self**. So the call of Christ to me is an eternal call **to love, to life and to be**. It is an invitation to work for those things that create life and to oppose those people, those attitudes, and those systems that distort life. It is to become aware of the freeing, the exhilarating, consciousness-raising experience of the Holy God."

Wishing you life!



2006 Easter Flower Cross

Concept by: Christine Bryce
Built by: Gord McRae
Photo Contributed by: Trifonia Barbosa



Coming Soon!! Behind the Rainbow Workshop

The Collective is looking for anyone interested in helping to workshop scenes and monologues for the upcoming show on Knox as an Affirming Church. The show is being planned for the spring of 2009. Workshop details to follow shortly. For more information please call Helen at 281-7065 or email kctc@nucleus.com.

Helen Young, Artistic Director
Knox Centre Theatre Collective



Thoughts for Easter

Submitted by: Reverend Drew Strickland

"You are looking for Jesus? He's been raised. Go and tell." Mark 16:6,7

Someone came to me once shaking their head, "I don't know, I simply don't know." When the circumstances of life bring us to that point, we are in ancient and holy company. We are speaking the language of Mark as he writes about resurrection morning (Mark 16).

A little Bible study: Some women decided among themselves, as we may on Easter morning this year, to go to the place where they would find Jesus. For them, it was expected that he would be dead. It had been difficult keeping up with him when he was alive. It would be easier to be faithful to the body now. They could count on him being in one place from now on, and never changing on them again. When they got to cemetery ... you know the story! But did they go away rejoicing? Mark says, "They were alarmed, terrified, and amazed" (verses 5, 8), and Mark's last words were that, "they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (verse 8). No resurrection appearances, no suppers at Emmaus, no breakfasts on the beach. "I don't know. I simply don't know." Silence.

It's difficult to write an Easter hymn according to Mark! Most ancient manuscripts of his gospel end here. We wouldn't want those words carved into a grave stone. Mark knows that even though the good news of resurrection is proclaimed and trumpeted, some will say what he does. Resurrection can be a fearful thing, a threat. (Good) Friday took no one by surprise.

If you know about the politics of religious institutions and the violence of Empire, Jesus was doomed three years ago when his ministry began. But nothing in this life prepares us for what was encountered at the tomb. As with these visitors, so with us - when the church breaks out and is going ahead of us, it can scare us. We can despair unless we do something about how the story ends.

That's Mark's point this year. The Easter story is open ended. His book says, I'm not telling you the answer, nor showing you what it looks like. It's up to you to determine what is the outcome of the resurrection story. After verse eight, it is the resurrection Gospel according to you. **You write the ending. You decide where Christ is risen. You live and tell the resurrection appearances.** It was the church in those early years after Christ that did just that. They added 12 more reassuring verses. They finished the story according to *their* experience of the resurrection.

Baptismal faith in 2008 is about finishing the story according to our experience. What will those 12 verses read like in the gospel according to Knox United? We can make it read like this - "They knew he was risen. He appeared to them in the children and adults who gathered together in greater numbers than ever before. They had a passion for justice that was electric and the whole city knew it. They sang, they gave of their earnings, their being and their substance to live and tell the story like never before for every day was Easter day!"

I wish you all a blessed Easter like never before ~~ Drew Strickland

Easter Nostalgia

Submitted by: William Brindley

Everyone loves Liquorice Allsorts! But I bet no one knows that the only place in Britain where liquorice was commercially grown was in Pontefract, Yorkshire. It was tried out once in Scotland but it wasn't a success.

From my home on the outskirts of the town I can faintly remember seeing men knee-deep in the mud digging trenches to get at the roots of the plants that were wanted. The moist loamy soil was ideal for it as the roots were 3 feet deep, and it was a hard job.

Around the turn of the last century there were 15 or so factories turning out the delicious sweets but alas, there are only two factories now and neither is locally owned. Nowadays, and for the last few years the thick black extract is imported in barrels from Europe, mainly Belgium I believe. I've been told that Turkey and Spain have the ideal loamy soil to grow liquorice too.

Next to coal mining the liquorice factories were the biggest industries in the town. I can still remember going to the back entrance of a nearby factory and buying for a few pence a paper bag full of misshapen allsorts and sticks and laces to last it seems for a whole week!

Women and young girls were preferred to work in the huge cutting rooms because they had nimble fingers. Young girls leaving school could in those early days always depend on getting a job in the factories. There were many different terms to describe the various jobs. Some were called stalking, cakers, stampers, cutters, and strippers who cleaned off the trays before filling them again with liquorice. One girl who worked there got heck from her boyfriend when she told him she was a stripper!

Nowadays, many of the jobs such as packing are done by machines and they make other kinds of sweets too, such as "After Eights" and jelly babies! Weighing jelly babies sounded like a cushy job to give to a girl beginner, but they soon found out it wasn't what they thought it was! Export orders were always packed in wooden boxes and these were made right in the factory.

It was said that Wilkinson's was a nice place to work, as they had gardens with flowers. They also had tennis courts on the grounds, and the men had their own cricket team. The name "allsorts" was derived when many years ago one of their reps got his samples all mixed up; so that at the next place he called at he showed them his new line. He said they were "Allsorts," this they tell me is quite true.

The Knox Writers' Circle Presents a Café Night

Friday April 4, 2008
Doors Open @ 7:30 p.m.
Readings @ 8:00 p.m.

Knox United Church, 506 - 4th Street SW
In The Lower Theatre

Join Us for Coffee And Dessert Hear Samples of Our Work and a Stay for a Chat

ALL ARE WELCOME

Healing Touch Newsflash

Submitted by: Loy Bacon, RN, BN, CHTP

Knox Healing Touch members have planned a workshop in mid-March regarding the benefits of sound called "Sound Healing Tunes Your Soul".

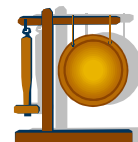
We have invited other United Church Healing teams to attend to learn new techniques related to sound and healing as well as sharing informally healing experiences within our respective church settings. Our team believes that we must continue to gain knowledge and experience to assist us in our growth as Healing Touch practitioners that will benefit our clients, YOU.

Sound is known to:

- relieve pain
- improve concentration
- improve sleep
- relieve stress and anxiety

At the workshop, we will learn about vibrational healings and resonances that are felt in the body. Sound meditation will connect us with stillness and holy silence.

Tibetan singing bowls, chakra chimes and crystal bowls will facilitate our experience in learning about sound. Our voices can be used for chanting and toning. These healing tools can be used in our Healing Touch practice at Knox. We look forward to sharing our new knowledge and experience with you at your next session. Please call Elizabeth at 253-4969 for your next appointment.



Knox Centre Presents
Mel Hurtig, Bill Phipps, and the Truth About Canada

Submitted by: Ryan Slifka

Have you ever got the feeling that Canada is not the country it was two or three decades or so ago? You may not be alone.

Brought to you by Knox Centre, famed nationalist, activist and author Mel Hurtig will be making a special stop in Calgary at Knox to promote his newest book and the cause behind it on Wednesday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m. According to Mel, Canada is not the country we think it is—and it's not just nostalgia. The book, titled ***the Truth About Canada: Some Important, Some Astonishing, and Some Truly Appalling Things All Canadians Should Know About Our Country***, takes a startling, in depth look at how Canada stacks up globally in terms of social, economic and environmental issues—much of it shocking, disturbing and down right mind-boggling.

According to Mel, Canada has changed incredibly—very much for the worse—in the last two decades. Many of his statistics are internal, and compare conditions 20 years ago with those today. They back up two of the book's most powerful themes: the failure of Canadian big business to turn record profits into ongoing investment in our country, and (no coincidence) the sellout of our assets at a rate that no other country would allow. The book ranges from every part of the lives of Canadians—health care, wages, productivity to other areas such as culture, the media (the “most concentrated,” and monopolized in the world) and foreign ownership. Mel's message is that Canadians can do nothing to fix these problems until they recognize *the Truth About Canada*.

Additionally, the **Very Reverend Bill Phipps** (a long time friend of Mel's) will also give a short introduction on the issues brought up by Mel's book and what we can do as individuals and organizations (such as churches) to affect change and tackle these issues. Mel's talk will be followed followed by discussion and a book signing. For further information, please contact Ryan Slifka at 247-8050, or email him at rrslifka@ucalgary.ca.

Some statistics from the book: Our rank in reducing pollution is a dismal 126th of our 146 countries. In social spending, Canada ranks 25th out of 30 OECD countries as a percentage of gross domestic product. We rank 54th in the world in terms of doctors per person, and at about 2/3 the OECD average. Did you know that by 2005 20% of families in Canada owned 69.5% of all net wealth in Canada, while the bottom 40% owned only 2%?

Mel Hurtig is the legendary Edmonton bookseller, publisher, and creator of The Canadian Encyclopedia who became a political activist, then an author in 1991 with his huge bestseller The Betrayal of Canada. He is also the author of Pay the Rent or Feed the Kids, The Vanishing Country, and Rushing to Armageddon. He is a member of the Order of Canada, and has received many honorary degrees

Knox United Church Upcoming Events

March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Canadian Forces Cadet Band Concert. Admission by a donation to the Food Bank.

April 26 at 8:00 p.m.

Festival Chorus presents the Earth Mass (Missa Gaia). Tickets from Ticketmaster.

May 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Savridi singer's concert. Tickets at the door.

May 17 at 8:00 p.m.

Spiritus Chamber Choir concert. Tickets from Ticketmaster.

Inn from the Cold ~~ Kayla's Article

Submitted by: Beverly Reynolds

Unfortunately being homeless was not a new experience for my family and me because we had been homeless three times before coming to Inn from the Cold.

It was not that my parents did not try hard enough, or do everything they could to keep a roof over our heads, but there were deeper underlying issues that just seemed to keep bringing us back to the streets again and again.

One of the things that I immediately came to realize about Inn from the Cold was that they recognized that the crisis at hand was not entirely about the fact that there is a family without housing, but that there is a family without housing for a reason. The Inn is not just about trying to get every family back into housing as fast as they can. From the moment any family walks through their door, the Inn from the Cold staff works hard to assess each family's needs, and works closely with the family to help them successfully get off the streets and remain off the streets. It a life long commitment that the Inn makes as soon as any family steps through their doors.

I truly feel that this is one of the most predominant and memorable aspects about Inn from the Cold that stuck with me. Inn from the Cold is about so much more than just temporary shelter, it's about helping families break their cycle of homelessness.

Our family's first chance at breaking our cycle of homelessness came when Inn from the Cold provided our family with the opportunity to live at Rainbow Lodge, the Inn's transitional housing. It was by providing our family with transitional housing, that we were given the first stepping stone we needed to begin rebuilding our lives.

I remember the first time I stepped into the housing. It felt so surreal to me that I had a place to call my home after six months, and my family and I did not have to worry about where we would be sleeping each night.

Inn from the Cold continued to help after getting into the transitional housing by setting up the funding that our family needed to pay our rent, and to begin getting back on our feet. Without their support in setting up the funding, our family would have ended up back on the streets.

But housing is not everything. There are many aspects to getting off the streets like, being able to afford the food needed each month, or being able to afford the furniture, clothing, beds, or any of the basic necessities any family needs to live.

Once again Inn from the Cold came to the aid of our family, no questions asked, and supplied us with food by taking us to the Food Bank, and putting our family in touch with organizations that could help supply us with the simply basic necessities we needed.

At least once a week during our stay at Rainbow Lodge, Jen, an amazing Outreach worker with Inn from the Cold, would drop by and ask us how we were doing and what we needed help with. She made herself available and we were never made to feel we had to go to her. She was just always there and ready to help, without even being asked.

It was also Inn from the Cold that help our family move to our next stepping stone, Calgary Housing. And even when our family was given the opportunity to live in a townhouse provided by Calgary Housing, Inn from the Cold was still there offering support and helping us move.

My family and I have been in Calgary housing for about three years now, and Inn from the Cold is still a big part of my life, and still there ready to help in any way they can.

This past June I graduated high school and planned to head immediately into college, but that almost didn't happen. Something had gone wrong with my student loan and I just could not come up with the money I needed for my tuition. Inn from the Cold came to me and gave me the tuition I needed until my loan came through and I could pay them back.

I came so close to missing out on my dream and there was Inn from the Cold, almost three years later, still willing and ready to lend a helping hand.

Without the compassion and guidance that the Inn has given, and continues to give to this day, I know beyond a doubt our family would not be where we are today. The support and encouragement that they have given me to pursue my dreams is indescribable.

I am so grateful to have the Inn as part of my life, and truly thank them from the bottom of my heart for all they have done, and are continuing to do for our family.

- A former Inn Guest

Mission & Outreach

Submitted by: Pat Desaulniers

Knox United Church's year-end disbursements were sent to 11 agencies in January. These are the recipients:

- Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre (Homelessness)
- U of C Campus Ministry (Students)
- The Backdoor (Youth Leaving Street Life)
- Camp Kasota (Camp for Children)
- YWCA Family Violence Prevention Centre & Sherriff King Home (Family Violence)
- Servants Anonymous (Rehab for Women Victims of Sexual Exploitation, Homelessness, Poverty, Substance Addictions & Violence)
- Horizon Housing (Mental Health and Special Needs Housing & Support)
- Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (Immigrant Support)
- Alzheimer Society (Patient & Family Support)
- Alpha House (Support for Alcohol & Drug Dependents)
- Calgary Meals on Wheels (Provides Affordable Meals to the Disadvantaged)

Many letters of thanks have been received and these can be read at the Mission & Outreach table at coffee time.

Our Easter Offering will be donated to the United for Peace Campaign of the United Church of Canada. The Campaign was approved at the 39th General Council 2006, "out of grave concern for the situation in Israel and Palestine. The scope ... has been broadened ... to also address conflict and the need to work toward just peace in Canada and other parts of the world."

The goal of the Campaign is to raise \$2 million by the end of December 2009. Education and advocacy are also important parts of the Campaign.

92% of donations will be received by partners of the United Church of Canada to pursue peace initiatives. The rest will be used to cover education, advocacy, and fundraising costs.

Contributions are over and above givings to the work of World Development and Relief that is part of the M&S Fund. This Campaign was initiated because the need for peace work supported by M&S is beyond what can be provided solely through the M&S Fund.

The following examples highlight the need. "Currently the world's peoples are suffering through almost 40 armed conflicts in 27 countries, child soldiers are involved in at least 17 of these conflicts, annual military spending is over \$1.1 trillion, and there are over 600 million small arms in circulation around the world - one for every 10 people on the planet."

At least half of the funds for grants will go to UC partners in Palestine and Israel working for peace, an "expression of the United Church's commitment to support a peaceful two-state solution that includes recognition by the Israeli government and the emergent State of Palestine of equal citizenship rights, protections, privileges, and responsibilities for all their citizens regardless of religious or national origins.

The United for Peace Campaign is advocating for a Federal Department of Peace to reinvigorate Canada's peace building role globally. The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Muriel Duckworth, a co-founder of Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, concerned citizens from many faith communities, and other people of conscience are also promoting this initiative.

More information will be available throughout the Campaign.

COMING UP AT KNOX CENTRE

JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN

Coming to Knox in September 2008
God and Empire - Jesus against Empire then and now!

Friday September 19th Lecture 7:30 p.m. - \$25
Saturday September 20th - All Day Workshop - \$75

Call Rev. Drew Strickland at 266-6450 for details
To register call the office at 269-8382

2008 Stewardship Update
Submitted by: Chuck Curry

Although the 2008 budget was passed at the Annual Meeting on February 3rd, donations and pledges are gratefully received all through the year. If you wish to donate to Knox and receive a tax receipt you must complete a target/pledge form and return it to the office. An easy way to do this is to place it on the collection plate during the offering at worship.

These forms are available at each entrance to the sanctuary or speak to Chuck Curry for further information.

So far the pledged amounts for 2008 are below budgeted expectations. The pledged donations for 2008 are as follows:

Operations: \$304,000 (We budgeted for \$382,000)
Mission and Outreach: \$26,800
Foundation: \$4,262

Almost 100 households have yet to pledge for the 2008 budget year. Your donations are very important to the ministry of Knox. We encourage all persons to think about the importance of the Knox ministry of worship, outreach, healing touch, Knox Centre adult education courses, labyrinth meditation, youth and children education, and music is to them and others in the Calgary community and helps us to continue this important work.

**KNOX CENTRE THEATRE
COLLECTIVE PRESENTS**

**Body Image & Women:
An Improvisational Playwriting
Workshop for Women**

This workshop will examine how media “sees” what is beautiful. Media being: TV, movies, music videos, magazines and video games.

The idea is to use the workshop to create material for a new play to be performed in the future.

Details

**When - Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22, 29
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Where - Lower Theatre
Knox United Church
506 4th Street SW**

Maximum- 14 people

**To register call Helen Young
281-7065 or
E-mail kctc@nucleus.com**

News from Knox Office
Submitted by: Chuck Curry

Office Requests:

The office desperately needs volunteers to act as receptionists on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or even a morning or afternoon would be helpful. The volunteer would answer the phone, take messages and do some other light tasks. Please contact the Knox Office Manager, Mark Wiencki, at 269-8382.

There is also a need for a volunteer to format the weekly bulletin on an alternate week basis. This is an easy word processing task following a prescribed template. Usually it takes two hours on a Wednesday morning every other week.

Knox Centre Theatre Collective

Submitted by: Helen Young



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. The shows presented are the result of workshops that include theatre games, improvization and storytelling.

The Collective's first production was the award winning play **BONDS** by Helen Young. This is the story of two sisters forced to deal with the fact that one of them is dying of AIDS. **BONDS** was presented as a joint fundraiser for AIDS Calgary and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church.

BONDS was followed by Sharon Montgomery's play, **What Mary Said**, 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.

Our March 14 & 15 production, *THE DOOR*, tackled bullying and body image in high schools.

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

Inn from the Cold Buys Emergency Family Shelter

Submitted by: Beverly Reynolds

For the past 10 years, Inn from the Cold has served Calgary's homeless families and others in need. Thousands of volunteers in churches, synagogues and community centres have provided these families with a warm, safe place to play. While the Inn is thankful for this tremendous support, moving from place to place each night has been hard on family members, especially children.

Fortunately, Inn from the Cold has now found a way to provide Calgary's homeless families with a stable place to stay and the same address they can return to every night. An Emergency Family Shelter can be a reality in our community, but we need your help.

With the successful bid on a building located at 110 – 11th Avenue S.E., the Inn has found the ideal facility for its Emergency Family Shelter. Here, families are given the gift of time to begin to rebuild their lives and address the issues that have contributed to their homelessness. They will now have the benefit of staying at one address as they wait for appropriate housing to become available. Volunteers will come to the Emergency Family Shelter to provide meals and hospitality. Families will continue to receive the programs and services they need to overcome their challenges. Children will have the stability they need to grow and develop.

Inn from the Cold's Emergency Family Shelter is a new concept for this community and will play a key role in ending homelessness in Calgary. It is a part of the Committee to End Homelessness' mandate and the Housing First philosophy.

In December 2007, Inn from the Cold launched its Building Family capital campaign. To date, the Inn has raised approximately \$3 million and it needs to raise another \$3 million by May 2008 to fulfill the financial requirements of this deal.

Once the deal closes, some families will move in to the Shelter in June 2008 and after renovations are completed, more families will move in. The Shelter will accommodate up to 80 individual family members in semi-private rooms. Churches and other organizations will continue to provide temporary emergency shelter for single men and women, as well as any families who can't be accommodated at the Emergency Family Shelter.

As Calgary's population has grown, so has the number of homeless families. As housing prices rise and vacancy rates plunge, families with children are frequently left out in the cold – despite the fact that many parents work full-time jobs. The problem is not going away. Inn from the Cold is ready to make a big difference in the lives of homeless Calgary families. We can do that with your help.

There is no better time to get involved. Now is the time for the Calgary community to come together to give homeless families hope for a brighter future. It is time to make sure that every child has a chance to break free from the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Please contact us for more details about how we can create a **city without homelessness**.

Please call the Inn office at 263-8384 or e-mail diana@innfromthecold.org for more information, or visit www.innfromthecold.org.

All in Our Family

Submitted by: Doreen Kempt

Pursuant to my suggestion in the last Knox News, to learn what draws folks to our church, the following is a submission from Elaine and Bob Stewart:

Doreen Kempt asked me to write a few words regarding our reasons for joining Knox United Church when we moved to Calgary in 1968.

Bob and I have been discussing this over the last few days and both agree that the first reason was because we had a close relationship with the Rev. Dr. Jack Paterson and his wife Marjorie when we lived in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Dr. Paterson was now at Knox United and we were delighted to renew our friendship at this time. Our first visit to Knox with its breathtaking stained glass windows, the wonderful Casavant organ accompanying an outstanding choir left no doubt in our minds that this would be our new church home. My Mom and Dad, Agnes and Ed Pitt, also had decided to transfer from Scarboro United to Knox United as they had moved to a different area of the city. The four of us transferred together. Our children, Doug and Laura, loved Sunday School at Knox where I volunteered as a Sunday School teacher and Bob became Director of the Sunday School.

Bob has held many different positions on the Church Board, including Chairman. He is still deeply involved in the Knox Church Foundation as Director Emeritus and I am pleased to work with the Foundation Board as Secretary. Knox United Church is still our church home and its members our family.

How Knox Grows

Transfer of Membership – February 3, 2008

Jennifer Lee Ringrose from St. David's United Church, Calgary

Affirmation of Baptism – February 3, 2008

John Robert Pantazopoulos
Andrew Lyn Warrel
Timothy Michael LaPointe

Baptism – February 17, 2008

Alexis Gail Hall, daughter of Keith Hall and Shannon Humphrey-Hall
Louis Beach Mate, son of Anthony and Cynthia Mate

Please make the acquaintance of these persons among us.



Gone Before

Dennis Hoyle, passed away December 23, 2007. Although he was not believed to have been a member of Knox, his wife Elsie was well known prior to her final illness and death in 1996.

Harper Thornton, passed away at home on January 31, 2008. His wife Jeannie Thornton, and he were married for 63 years. Jeannie was the longtime office secretary here at Knox beginning in 1963.

Janet Sheriff passed away on February 17, 2008, in Creston, B.C. at 94 years, just one month prior to the 64th anniversary of her marriage to husband, Joseph. Although known as Janet to most, she was "Jenny" to her loving family, Ann, Joan, and John, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren, all residents of Calgary. Ann Farebrother and Michael Farebrother are daughter and grandson of Janet and Joseph and are longtime members of the choir. A memorial service presided by Reverend Dr. Grant Dawson was held at Knox on February 28, 2008.

Milton Harradence, passed away on February 28, 2008. He was widely recognized for many accomplishments in local newspapers and had a long-time association with Knox. Our thoughts are with his wife of 58 years, Catherine and family. The memorial service was held at Knox on March 5, and celebrated Milt's life and accomplishments.

You Didn't Have to Come

I'm awed and so thankful to you Jesus,
I don't know Lord when Our Father gave His Plan to You,
But You could have looked into the future,
Have seen those would revile instead of revere,
Who would hate instead of love You?
You could have seen the horrible crimes and sins some of us have done as humanity,
Have shaken Your Head and said "No, they aren't worth saving, find another way if You must."
That dark night in the Garden when your disciples slept,
And our mutual enemy showed You all the sins,
That ever had, and ever would be committed by us as humanity,
You could have just said, "Father, take this cup from me",
Instead of saying it and submitting to His Will in Your next sentence,
No one of us would have blamed You.
The Pharisees' scorn,
The crowd's cruel demand to crucify,
The scourge's brutal lashes,
The agony of nails through Your Hands,
That only touched in Healing and Love,
Through your feet that walked only,
To deliver Your Message of Peace and Love for others,
Your gift of Salvation so simple and free,
There are still those who say, "I'm going to Hell and that's fine with me."
My heart shudders and weeps with You,
Do they really know what they are saying?
Who awaits them?
I'm alive for only one thing,
To do what You and Our Father wants me to do,
To arrive in Heaven having accomplished His Purpose,
For my life here, and to have truly loved,
That's the future I hold most dear.

Written by: Kerri Wickhorst
Through God's Blessing and For His Glory Alone