

THE LINK

KNOX CHURCH
2595 Elmwood Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217

Saturday 6:30 PM Contemporary
Sunday 9:30 AM Contemporary
11:00 AM Traditional is also on WDCX



716-873-2423

office@knoxchurchbuffalo.com

Meet the Habermans!



We are entirely blessed to have Rev. Matthew Haberman, his wife, Traci, and their children, Annan age 4, and Judah age 1, for our new Senior Pastor and pastoral family. Matt's hometown is Pittsburgh PA, and Traci is from Fort Wayne IN. Both have been involved in various areas of ministry. They have graciously accepted to serve at Knox, and have open hearts to reach out into our community.

Hello All,

It is with great excitement and expectation that I begin my first letter to you all in this form. We are re-launching *The Link* after time off. It has been trimmed and tended and reshaped so that what you are holding in your hands now will be useful, thoughtful, practical, and something that you look forward to getting. With all this in mind, I will stop telling you about what you're going to read and actually give you something to read...

A Change in Where We Start

I have recently been thinking about letter writing. Before the email revolution, I do recall hand writing letters. And I got letters back. I remember it being such a joy when I received a letter in the actual mail. In all of that time of writing and receiving letters, there was not one time that I decided what the content or intention of the letter would be based on what the envelope looked like. It would seem like a very silly way to convey thoughts and feelings to start by saying "what does the envelope say about this message". Instead we begin with what we want to give to that person. We ponder the intention before even putting the pen to the paper. We stop, frequently asking whether we need to clarify the message, or whether what we have said is sufficient.

Why then do we so often let our modern construction of church be the deciding factor for what our message will be? In *The Shaping of Things to Come* by Alan Hirsch and Michael Frost, these two Australian missiologists and practitioners offer a way of looking at just this problem. They contend that many

of us who do church in the Western World do it by first thinking about what church should be, then figuring out what the mission of that institution should be, and all of that ends up shaping their expression of who Christ is. We know that we want a church and need a church (not always being able to answer why we think that) so we build a church. Then we need to sustain what we've built so we come up with a mission to reach out to some group that will be able to resource and support what we've built. Somewhere in there we talk about who Jesus is, but now we've spent so much time and energy on the box that we need to make sure that we have a lord that will fit into it.

What Frost and Hirsch offer is a new place to start. They say that we should start by defining what our Christology is. We then let that determine our Missiology, and then and only then, do we start talking about our Ecclesiology. In other words, what we think about Jesus leads to our mission, which then leads to how we do church. So let us start looking first at what and who is our foundation, let us listen to Jesus as he points us into the world to love people and give care where it is needed, and then, may we have the courage and imagination to reshape our church.

Brothers and Sisters, this is the way to life, to truth, to the Way...I think someone else said that a while ago. Drawing close to Jesus is not always easy, but it is always right.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Matt*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

**SUNDAY AUGUST 15th Beaver Island State Park
FAMILY PICNIC & WATER BAPTISM
STARTING @ 2:00 PM**

**ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & FAMILIES, BOUNCE HOUSE
2:30 Water Baptism
4:30 Hot Dogs & Hamburgers & Pot Luck Picnic**

Please use the Clip Board in the Welcome Center to sign-up for attendance & pot luck

MORE SUMMER HAPPENINGS ... Check Sunday Bulletins and the Bulletin Board in the Welcome Center.

Please continue to pray throughout the summer for our country and our leaders, family, loved ones, church friends, personal friends, for traveling mercies, Pastor Matt & his family, and especially the men and women who are serving our country. Be a witness of God's love to everyone you know, everyone you work with, and everyone you meet!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

John Smith	01
Jenna Wingert	01
Robert Hartmayer	02
Louise O'Hara	05
Melanie Perla	05
Steve Bermel	08
Kyle Comeau	09
Vicki Hodge	10
Neil Hoffman	10
Sue Walker	11
Avery Wolfe	11
Trevor Wakefield	12
Joseph Kindred	13
Linda Musson	14
Leanne Ventura	15
Hunter Hanley	16
Suzanne Jetter	16
Elizabeth Albright	20
Robin Comeau	20
Christopher Domagala	22
Ruth Westenfelder	22
David Wingert	23
Maryann Cave	24
Erik Cowles (Steinagle)	27
Susan Denny	27
Joan Flanagan	27
James Green	27
Rick Kennedy	28
Tonya Previglian	28
Jennifer Abbott	29
Richard Jetter, Jr	29
Robert Starck	29
Carlin Joan Wakefield	29
Patrick Galante	30
Patricia Lockwood	30
Emma Szalach	30
Anne Draves	31
Thomas Jefferys	31



ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Jen Krieger	03/91
Michael & Lori Williams	15/81
Robert & Jennifer Lynch	18/00
Paul & Karen Szalach	20/94
John & Linda Smith	21/76
John & Jane Carey	24/57
Robert & Jane Starck	24/68
Joseph & Jackie Cicatello	26/00
Jonathan & Sally Kellner	26/88
Mark & Joy Wakefield	26/89
Donald & Edna Davis	27/66
Dudley & Carol Field	27/83
Brian & Bonnie Nevans	28/04
Bernace & Barbara Kearney	29/86



Please Lift in Prayer ~

Angie & Russell Barbera

Heather Burgess

Mark Christie	Shannon Colligan
Joseph Crowley	Angie DeLuca
Nancy Donn	Peg Ehrman
Joan Gracie	Vera Griffin
Annette Haacker,	baby Ava Hackett
Sally Hoffman	Koryal Ianne
Behzad Kahlali	Bernace Kearney
Dave Leading	Sharon Lissow
Don Lyman	Lesley Maisch
JoAnn Mills	Harold Moore
Don & Lucille Rinard	Vivien Rice
Becky Roche	Jan Rogacki
PFC RJ Scherf, Jr.	Carol Schoukens
Dan Summerville	Nina Warner
Tooty Weeks	Bill Snyder Sr.
Janet Woods	

And the Men's Prison Ministry at Buffalo Correctional

To request prayer for an individual, or to supply an update, please call the Knox office: 873-2423.



To My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

I am so very, very grateful for all your prayers that Pastor Rocky Munson personally requested for me, and that someone put on the prayer list. I know that the reason I am totally healed is your continued prayers. Waiting for my 7 month check-up in May, I was once again told I am free from cancer. I wanted to be totally sure before I made my announcement to you. May God bless Knox Church abundantly and each of you prayer warriors. I love you all dearly.

In deep Christian love, *Angie Decker*

Dear Church Family and Prayer Warriors,

Your thoughts, prayers, and kindness for my nephew, PFC Roger Scherf ("R.J."), have been heartfelt by his parents and all of my family. The Saturday evening service dedicated to him was an enormous blessing. Thank you.

In May R.J. was released from Walter Reed Hospital's Rehabilitation Center to return to his home base in Fort Lewis WA. Last Fall he received a Purple Heart, and he will be Honorably Discharged within a year. He is coming along well physically, yet continues to have major struggles with what happened, and the loss of his entire battalion. R.J. turned only 20 years old last month. Thank you again for caring.

Love, *Lynda Jamieson*

Jack Cave is a longstanding leader and member of Knox. He is an inspiration to many of us, and we are continually blessed by Jack and his wife, Alice. ~ editor's note

~ MEMORY LANE & MINISTRY ~

By Jack Cave

Before I share with you some of my thoughts, I'd like to give you a clue as to the subject that I'd like for us to consider together. Maybe some of you can remember the phrase that was used to describe this church some 63 years ago when I first visited Knox Church...

Yes, it was called the "Church of the Friendly Heart" and how well I remember the first time I came out here by myself from my home in Buffalo. I had already come to a few morning services with a neighbor family. (I thought it was because of one of the daughters that I was dating at the time), when in reality I have come to see it was God's way of guiding my life. But I did come out by alone one night to a young people's meeting - only the meeting was cancelled and I missed the notice. I had a divine appointment here at Knox that night.



The only soul around that evening was the church custodian named, Frank Erion. He was changing a light bulb in the old front entrance. He was the demonstration of the Friendly Heart that night. He struck up a conversation with me and asked me to hold the ladder for him - (I couldn't leave then) and he kept me interested and at ease until time for the evening church service. Like any 17 year old, I guess I needed a friend and he was my friend that night so long ago, but which seems like only yesterday. We may have thought of Frank as grouchy and always having problems or something to be busy about, but this was his church too, and he was demonstrating the friendliness at the heart of this church and this people.

Before too long that night Tom MacAdam and John Dissington, two of the church pillars at that time, arrived to lead the "Sing-Spiration" for the evening service. Each of these men added their warmth to the welcome and genuine interest already shown. Perhaps some of you have had similar experiences.

Well, these are fond memories and I could go on and on with them, but that wouldn't accomplish my goal. Perhaps you noticed that I didn't mention a minister. I guess that was because this church to me was not just a pastor, but rather a warm fellowship of Christians, a family. It is a testimony to this spirit that Dr. Miller was still here as interim Pastor when I accepted the Christ of these men and joined His church.

However, I feel that somehow some of that warmth of friendship and genuine concern has faded, and perhaps in some of us, it has disappeared entirely. Many of us feel a genuine concern for a newcomer, but I'm afraid that it is primarily a concern that they will feel at home and come back. This is not wrong mind you, I just don't believe that it goes far enough.

If Mr. MacAdam and the others had only been concerned that I stay for church that night, or come back to another service, I'm afraid that I might not have been here today. There was a genuine concern for me and it showed. I remember an illustration by Dr. Howard Hendricks when he spoke here during a week of meetings and told of a lady who was encouraging an unsaved woman to go to church with her. After being pressured for a while, the woman asked the question - "Do you love me or do you love my soul?" This makes you stop and think, "How does my invitation to others sound?" Is it an invitation or greeting of genuine concern or love, or are people apt to question our motives too?

Certainly we want to see them saved, but we must be concerned about them as people as well. We are often challenged to be missionaries. And well we should be, but we can be far more effective if we ask God to give us a real heart concern for the individuals with whom we speak. We may not be able to preach, or be afraid of saying the wrong thing, but we can ask God to put a real love in our hearts for people. We can see that they do get to hear His Word proclaimed. BUT we can't let it end there! How long has it been since you have asked anyone new into your home because you sincerely wanted to be friendly and show Christian love? Isn't it much easier to invite the same old friends? We can be so much more at ease with the ones who know us best. Now I'm not against old friends, but when there is no room for new people, we've got to take stock of our life.

We recently had in our home a couple who have been in this church for years and years, yet we never had them out before - why? Isn't it really lack of concern? Let's pray that we will be given a deep concern for someone this week - even perhaps as you read this that you will be able to demonstrate this concern in your life. Let's promise to look around this very week and follow God's leading to help make our church again be "The Church of the Friendly Heart", particularly to any strangers in our midst. Some are strangers to us even though they have been here for years.

There is another area of our lives that we need to examine with regard to the warmth of our fellowship. This is the area of our relationship with others in the church. It is our responsibility to maintain the relationship of Christian brotherly love. Remember that this was a characteristic for which Christians were noted when it was said of them, "See how they love one another." Would a stranger witnessing the many conversations among the groups that gather before and after church in this generation be able to say - "See how they love one another?" Or would it more likely be "How can they say they love each other? Backbiting and gossip have no place in the life of a Christian. We need to ask God's power and strength to do what is so hard for us to do in our own strength. How hard it is to control that caustic tongue or the thoughts behind it. It's only as we give in to God that there can be any victory over these things. We must be constantly on the alert to avoid this sinful practice which is so easy to fall into.

In closing, let's check again the areas for which we need to particularly pray.

1. For a genuine concern for someone outside of our congregation and the opportunity to demonstrate that concern and show the love of Christ for that person.
2. For the ability to love our Christian brothers in spite of differences of opinion, and for the ability to overcome personal hang-ups with individuals to the end that Christ might be seen in all of our relationships - it is the word.

"ALL" that makes it necessary for Christ to provide the power - we cannot do this alone. I believe that if we could regularly make these petitions a part of our prayer life, our church would once again be known as "The Church of the Friendly Heart". *John 15:13, 14*

This message was prepared in 1970 at a time not unlike today when our church was in serious need of God's providential care and the genuine heartfelt prayers of the Knox family. God obviously answered then and He will today.



**"HEY ALL YOU
EXTENSIONAIRES!"**

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER
1st**

11:30 AM BETHLEHEM HALL

"LIVING STONES"

History of Knox United Presbyterian Church

Fifty Years 1927 - 1977

"See this splendid structure of living stones, Jesus Christ Himself the Chief Cornerstone! At first but few, yoked together by faith in the Lord Jesus, infused by the Holy Spirit, they become eternal members of His ever present Body, the expanding edifice against which no evil power can ever prevail." Dr. Earl D. Miller (1956)

Back in its earliest beginning our church was bred of protest in the Highlands of Scotland and was first brought to America over 250 years ago by colonists dissenting from the Established Church. There were two branches, the Associate and Reformed, and in this new land they grew side by side in a remarkable manner.

In 1858 the two were grafted one upon the other and the United Presbyterian Church of North America was formally established. Through the ensuing years the church strengthened and grew, developing home and foreign missions and providing colleges and theological seminaries for educational needs. Its body of theological belief was Calvinistic and was found in the Westminster Standards and in its own Confessional Statement.

In 1958 a second and larger church union took place with the Presbyterian Church, bringing into existence the new United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. With one stroke of the pen we ceased to be a denomination of 250,000 members and instead became members of a national church of more than three million members.

"LIVING STONES" history will continue next month...

"You know the deal"... Bring a bag lunch, we provide dessert and beverage. Join the fun - "Laugh with a Giraffe" as Vicki Hodge from the Buffalo Zoo shares about her work there. We're "sticking our necks out" and planning a **BIG GET TOGETHER** for our first meeting!

See you there! Dot & Dave, Peg & Jim, Jackie & Jim



MISSION NEWS

Argentina

Kyle and Claudia Zimmerman's mission work in Argentina is thriving. God is using them to be a witness for his love among the people there. Please look for a wonderful photo display of recent projects, including Kyle teaching carpentry to teens, their ministry receiving clothing donations, and some of their special children's events.

International Students Review

ISI has been very active this year. Many students completed income tax and immigration forms, and attended Sports Day at Whitehaven Road Baptist Church on Grand Island and the Student Leadership Awards Ceremony for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Eleanor Blackburn attended graduation ceremonies for undergrads and graduates. Sooja from Korea was presented with the Chancellors Award, NYS's highest award for student excellence. Please keep her in your prayers for breast cancer. Nakheon, also from Korea, received a scholarship at the Ambassador's Dinner for Tourism and Hospitality. During a Memorial Day conference for the Northeast Region, Dr. Koshy from India, challenged the students to seek the truth found in the Bible. An evening of pizza, wings and warm hospitality was enjoyed by students at the home of Isabel and Irving of Knox. Many ISI students have enjoyed dinner invitations from people in our WNY community. Activities for ISI students during the summer include Bible Studies and International Social Hours, and berry picking in July and August. Prayer is asked for the Holy Spirit to give understanding to Visiting Scholars who are attending Bible Study, for safe trips, and for Lisa as she plans berry picking. Special prayer is asked for Naresh who will be evangelizing in the Philippines, for God to prepare the hearts of the students and scholars coming this Fall – to give them an interest in Him. Please contact Eleanor Blackburn 883-4465, eleanor@verizon.net for more information.

Short Term Mission Trip to Haiti

John Harbison, of Trinity United Methodist Church and former Chairman of the Board of Journey's End Refugee Services, visited Knox in June and shared about his 6th annual mission trip to Haiti. The trip involved medical work, earthquake-resistant medical clinic construction, and church outreach ministry partnering. Info was also presented about opportunities to join him this coming Spring 2011 for his 7th trip. Interested parties, please contact Stu Chen. *Thanks to Mike Williams for graciously offering his SS class period for this purpose.

The following article, titled **ERRORS TO AVOID; VISION TO EMBRACE: TOWARDS AN ETHOS OF CHURCH-BASED MUSLIM OUTREACH**, was written by Stu Chen, our Mission Chairperson, and provides interesting mission insight. **Look for "ERROR #2" in next month's LINK.**

Left to my own devices, I would rather not engage Islam or interact with Muslims. Spiritual darkness is not fun to deal with – in Muslims any more than in myself. But God's call on my life does not leave me at liberty to refuse.

In interacting with Christians of all stripes regarding attitudes toward Islam and mobilizing for witness to Muslims, the spectrum of erroneous thinking seems to be describable along three distinct directions. It is the first purpose of this paper to characterize these errors so as to avoid them in the same spirit as the classic Bible study application question: "Is there a sin to avoid?" Furthermore, in seeking to avoid those mistakes is the second purpose of this paper to discern and even begin to cast a vision for what one church's philosophy of Muslim outreach can/should be.

Error #1: "Religion of Peace," Moral Equivalence etc.

Error #1 is to swallow uncritically the propaganda that "Islam is a religion of peace." The predominant political correctness of our day buys into this error. For example, we wage a "war on terror" without adequately identifying the enemy or its motivations. Now I ask you: what war has a snowball's chance of being won if we don't even identify the real enemy? Terror is just a tactic. Imagine calling World War II "war on blitzkrieg," failing to identify Nazism and fascism.

Our own presidents of both major parties have publicly described Islam as a "Religion of Peace." When churches invite Muslim apologists to present Islam, this "Islam is peace" propaganda is what they hear presented. (Would that the Muslims reciprocate by inviting us into their mosques to teach the truth about Jesus!). Protestant Liberals point to Joshua's conquest of the Holy Land as "our" equivalent to Islamic jihad in an effort to blunt the message of those pointing out error #1 and say instead that we're all essentially the same. The god of tolerance thus reigns supreme. Until Islam becomes the majority religion in a society, that is.

Muslims consider the Quran to be God-breathed, in fact God-dictated (much like we would consider the Ten Commandments to have been dictated, not just inspired). The thinking of Al-Qaeda leadership is deeply Quranic. One good source for understanding this is The Al Qaeda Reader. Published in 2007, this book gathers together, translated from the original Arabic, the essential texts and documents, many of them used in Al Qaeda training camps, that trace the evolution of the ideas of al-Qaeda founders Ayman al-Zawahiri and Osama bin Laden. Interrupting his "Islam is peace" apologetic he was using on me, I asked a leader in the local Muslim community how he would use unabrogated portions of the Quran (this disqualifying Surah 2:256 which says "There is no compulsion in religion") to disprove the Quranic rationale used by Islamic terrorists to justify what they do. His reply speaks volumes: "It is difficult."

This error #1 is not currently the predominant error in our particular congregation, although it is arguably the predominant error in significant parts of our denomination, the PCUSA.

There are plenty of well-documented sources exposing error #1 for all to see, including <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/> and <http://www.jihadwatch.org/> (among others). Unfortunately, when such perspectives are used not to fuel mission mobilization but rather to throw gasoline on the fires of prejudice and fear, Error #2 results.

WHAT'S UP WITH...

OUR YOUTH DEPARTMENT

If you were to come to Knox's Youth Department on a Tuesday or Wednesday night during the school year, you would find a large group of kids with way too much energy invading the church. You'd also see some adults, both young and old, chasing them around, playing basketball with them, playing dodgeball with them, or just sitting and talking with some of them.

Youth Ministry at Knox is an incredibly purpose driven one, and this previous year (we wrapped up in June) was a great sign of that. The ministry has been impacting the kids that walk through those doors in some way, shape, or form each and every week. Of course Christ is the center of our ministry, and whether the kids realize it or not, that's what keeps them coming back. Many kids would say their reason for coming is their friends, the fun and activities, or the environment, but the fact is all of that is directly connected to Jesus. When the kids come, they get a taste of what Jesus's love, joy, and peace are. Not every kid who comes accepts Jesus or "becomes a Christian," but no one would say that they aren't changed for the better by participating in the ministry.

I am the most blessed guy in the world, with a wonderful group of volunteer leaders who show up week in and week out ready to serve both Jesus and the kids. Please accept this as a formal invitation to come and visit us at a Youth Club event some time!

contributed by Steve Bermel, Director of Youth Ministries

OUR SINGLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Single women of all ages are invited to attend on the 3rd Friday of the month. Meeting location is always posted in the Sunday bulletin. Fellowship, food and devotion. We are currently studying a book by John MacArthur, "Twelve Extraordinary Women." This ministry was started to empower and encourage single ladies in their walk with God. It provides a way to network and minister with others in similar circumstances. We sponsor a woman from Nigeria, in the organization Women for Women International and correspond with her. In the past, we have participated with the Magdeline Project, a ministry to inner city prostitutes of Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Contact Tonya Previglian at 838-0966 or Leslie Maisch at 465-9629

contributed by Tonya Previglian

"Secret Sisters" were revealed at the year end picnic at Susan Lockwood's home. There was plenty of food, good fellowship, and we were blessed to have great weather. Susan reviewed the 2009-10 year, beginning with Sherry Peters, a missionary from Peru, other speakers, outreaches, and events. Highlights included March's Annual Retreat and the Mother's Day Tea with a special presentation on aprons by our friend, Maggie, who is caretaker of treasured items for the Grand Island Historical Society. Outreaches included Samaritan's Purse and our Angel Tree Project. SOF, along with Brothers of Faith and other volunteers, once again blessed Conner's Children's Center with a very special Thanksgiving Dinner. We look forward to September with a new vision to serve the Lord.

Women of ALL ages are welcomed to join us in the second Friday of the month in Bethlehem Hall. Fellowship time begins at 6:30 PM, the meeting begins at 7 PM and is concluded by 9 PM. Babysitting is available. We have a great time, getting to know each other, hearing others share life testimonies, listening and learning from invited speakers, becoming involved in projects and outreaches, and praying for each other. Please don't be shy! Join in!

Sisters of Faith is simply "Women coming together to honor the Lord through friendship, fellowship and ministry". Hospitality volunteers are needed for next year. 2010-2011 pamphlets will be available in August. Please feel free to contact Susan Lockwood, SOF Coordinator, at 877-5640.

DEACON'S UPDATE

Who are our Deacons? *Tracie Arnold, Jack Calkins, Ellen Christie, Sue Columbo, Annette Gillies, Lynda Jamieson, Charles Lady, Mary Rose Luckoski, Debbie Patterson, Hugh Patterson, Dianne Quezada, and Kathy Torrico.* They continue to meet monthly to go over the needs at Knox. Primary concerns are visitation, special needs, coffee hour, church receptions, funeral recognition, publicity, the devotional team, and fellowship. "Taking it to the Streets", which continues, was an outreach vision that began last year. Every meeting is open with a devotional sharing and ended with prayer. Earlier this year, one deacon read from Psalms about "inward unity of purpose", which reflected on how as deacons they can have different opinions on how to do something for the good of the church, but that they have the "good" of the church as their ultimate purpose. Please let one of our deacons know if someone is ill, sick, hurting or in need. Our church cannot reachout to them if their needs are not known. Also pass it along if you see newcomers at Knox that need welcoming. All this serves the Lord in love and fellowship.

Christians can best make financial decisions according to God's plan for their lives by understanding His directives for their lives. Every decision requires a thorough understanding of God's attitudes, and that understanding comes from studying God's Word and communicating with Him.

If Christians never ask God's direction regarding investments of financial decisions, they will never receive an answer.

There are some specific principles that Christians need to consider when making financial decisions: *avoid speculation, keep finances current, keep Christian witness, give—do not loan, never cosign, avoid indulgence, prepare for decreases, and let peace rule.*

Avoid speculation

Christians should seek God's increase rather than trying to increase their financial worth through speculative schemes.

Many times enticing programs and "guaranteed" moneymaking schemes are not only unethical but border on being illegal.

They must assess every so-called opportunity with their relationship with Christ and not let others make financial decisions for them. Instead, every decision must be made in light of individual goals, whether the venture is necessary, and whether it fits into God's individual plan for their lives.

Keep finances current

Christians need *always* to manage their finances on a current basis, making no provision in their financial planning to borrow money beyond their abilities to repay.

Impulse buying, either investment or consumption, is disastrous to budgets.

So, when evaluating purchases or investments, always consider the financial obligation in light of *known* income or *available* funds.

Plan for tomorrow by prudence today; make plans in light of present circumstances, not on some future event.

Keep Christian witness

Consider all decisions, especially financial decisions, on the basis of their effect on the work and reputation of Christ. To blindly pursue a course without a directive from God and then depend on Him to rectify any resultant financial disasters is not God's will; nor is it according to His plan.

As an example, if one must borrow outside of God's people in order to remain in His will, beware! This course is not according to His plan. *"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave"* (Proverbs 22:7).

If Christians deal unfairly or unethically with any individual or any business, it is the Christians' witness that will suffer.

Therefore, Christians must establish that, no matter what the circumstances are, they will tell the whole truth, keep their vows, make decisions based on God's directive and God's plan, maintain financial honesty, and preserve the integrity of Christ in every aspect of life.

Give—do not loan

Christians should avoid lending to those in need if giving is possible.

If someone approaches a Christian requesting financial help in order to acquire wants or desires, that request and justification for the request should be seriously questioned.

If that person is in need, however, and God has directed that he or she is to be helped, it is the Christian's responsibility to supply that need.

Never cosign

To cosign means to pledge personal assets against the debt of another. It doesn't matter whether it is personal or business, Scripture specifically forbids this whenever it speaks of *surety* or *striking of hands*. *"My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, have given a pledge for a stranger, if you have been snared with the words of your mouth, have been caught with the words of your mouth, do this then, my son, and deliver yourself; since you have come into the land of your neighbor, go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor"* (Proverbs 6:1-3).

Of all the portions that warn against surety, or cosigning, in Scripture, this seems to be the one that most explicitly warns against it.

Avoid indulgence

Christians need to learn to discern the difference between needs, wants, and desires in every financial transaction.

This applies not only to purchases of material goods but to investments as well. Before buying, determine whether the purchase is need or a desire; then check it against God's principles.

Before investing, determine the reason for investing and what will be done with the money if God blesses with increase.

Many Christians get frustrated because they cannot distinguish between luxuries and necessities.

Consequently, they seek fulfillment through the same channels as non-Christians and then wonder why they have fruitless Christian witnesses.

Prepare for decreases

Being prepared for unexpected decreases in funds is a vital part of keeping financially current.

Evaluate all financial decisions on the basis of what would happen if there were even a small decrease of income or available funds.

Do not operate at the upper limit of income or available funds.

Instead, make financial decisions cognizant of the possibility that if there is a sudden drop in income, it may be necessary to reduce current living standards.

Let peace rule

Often Christians are not responsive enough to God's Word or to His presence to hear Him, except through an inner turmoil known as *lack of peace*. As a last resort, God will use this to provide direction.

Accordingly, if He does not give peace, do not get involved.

If a quick decision is required, do not get involved. Take the time to think and to pray about any decision, especially financial decisions that will affect the family, and be determined not to make any financial decision under pressure. *"It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it"* (Proverbs 10:22).

Conclusion

Become sensitive to God's guidance by becoming familiar with His directives and leadership procedures, through the study of His Word and by communicating with Him through prayer. He will always provide the right direction for those who seek it.

Even when we fail to see the right path clearly in God's Word or fail to hear Him in prayer, He will never fail to place an unrest or a peace inside that will confirm His preferred course and His will. If we are sensitive, we can usually avoid financial failures and bondage.

THE "BIGGER PICTURE" read on...

"In agreement with the Beaver-Butler Declaration (a copy can be obtained through the office), our Session has written an open letter to the parties named in the letter below. We provide this in the Link for your edification and encouragement. Please know that your Session has and will continue to affirm the the distinctives of the Christian Faith, orthodox theology, and correct expression of that theology in our decision making. For the blessing and encouragement of our congregation, your Session wishes to highlight the second clause regarding our relationships with other religions. It is always our primary goal to focus on our Lord, Jesus Christ, and it is to that end that we do all of our work. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to serve and lead our church to that end."

From the Session of Knox Church, Kenmore, New York, member of the Presbytery of Western New York, PC(USA), to:

The Presbyters of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, the Presbytery of Western New York, and the General Assembly of PC(USA).

This is an open letter from the Session of Knox Church declaring our solidarity with our brothers and sisters at Beaver-Butler Presbytery, and to announce to them, to the Presbytery of Western New York, and to the General Assembly of the PC(USA), that we stand with Beaver-Butler Presbytery in defiance of the actions of the 218th General Assembly of the PC(USA), as outlined point by point in their Open Theological Declaration to the PC(USA).

As a session and a congregation in PC(USA) we have found through the years that as we remain faithful to the Gospel as the Word of God Written, and to Jesus Christ as the Word of God Living, that the theology of PC(USA) is constantly drifting further and further from Biblical teachings as we understand them. As we find the actions of the 218th General Assembly to be unconscionable, it would be unconscionable for us as the Session and leaders of a congregation of faithful, to ignore these tactics and deceptions and to not stand against them. As the councils of the PC(USA) choose to be more and more "of the world", we must remain even more strongly founded within the basic principles of the Universal Church of Jesus Christ. Therefore we, the Session of Knox Church, stand with our brothers and sisters in Beaver-Butler Presbytery, and resolve along with them, in their own words, as follows:

- We do not now and will no longer recognize ordinations that are constitutionally or biblically unsustainable.
- ***We will not seek common worship opportunities with Jews and/or Muslims. To do so would be to ask all parties involved to commit blasphemy since Muslims and Jews do not recognize the divinity of Christ or the Holy Spirit and we cannot deny either. We will continue to engage in dialog with Jews and Muslims seeking to introduce Jews to their Messiah and Muslims to their Mahdi who is the One Lord Jesus Christ in both cases.***
- We refuse to act in accordance with the Authoritative Interpretations adopted by the 218th General Assembly. They have no further force or effect in our congregation because they are constitutionally, biblically, judicially and tactically unsustainable. Their institution has done violence to our covenant life. Further, these interpretations cannot change the plain meaning of the constitution which still holds full force and effect in our church.

- We further affirm that no Authoritative Interpretation, Advisory Opinion, alteration to the Constitution, or re-translation of our confessions can change the plain meaning of the Bible's teaching concerning sexual norms, now accurately reflected in our Constitution.
- We do not and will not agree with Advisory Opinion #22 from the stated clerk's office nor will we support it in our governing body. This ruling denies the plain meaning of our Constitution and wrongly rules that local option is now our reality in the PC(USA). Since we cannot abide the Authoritative Interpretation upon which this ruling is based, we cannot abide this ruling either.
- We will actively discourage our congregation from giving to the new legal defense fund Extra Commitment Opportunity created by this assembly as it encourages both our congregation and its leaders to be actively disobedient to 1 Corinthians 6:1-8.
- We will not work to promote same gender unions within our congregation. Rather we will support biblical definitions of marriage in our society, seeking to fulfill the great ends of the Church by preserving the Truth and promoting social righteousness.
- We will encourage other Sessions and congregations to join us in this declaration.
- We will continue to publish the Gospel once and for all handed down to the Saints, grow our members in the One Lord Jesus Christ, and continue to participate in the transforming work of God according to His Word within our congregation.

As with our brothers at Beaver-Butler Presbytery, we trust in God through Christ for His deliverance and grace. Avowed in unanimous vote on 11 May, 2010, in a stated meeting of our session, in the presence and agreement of our Senior Pastor.

The Session of Knox Church

Scott Bowman, Elder	Jack Cave, Elder	Stu
Chen, Elder	Tim Christie, Elder	Darryl
DeHaan, Elder		
Dave Elder, Elder	Kathy Jefferys, Elder	Bill
Owens, Elder	Linda Sargent, Elder	Mark
Wakefield, Elder		

Signed for The Session:

Susan Leading, Clerk of Session
Matt Haberman, Senior Pastor



Sunday August 1

Jr. Hi Camp

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Monday August 2

Jr. High Camp

Tuesday August 3

Wednesday August 4

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Thursday August 5

7:30 PM Band Practice for
9:30 Service

Friday August 6 Office Closed

Saturday August 7

4:00 PM Band Practice for
Saturday Worship
5:00 PM Pre-Worship Pot Luck
6:30 PM Contemporary Worship

Sunday August 8

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Monday August 9

7:00 PM Session

Tuesday August 10

Wednesday August 11

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Thursday August 12

7:30 PM Band Practice for
9:30 Service

Friday August 13 Office Closed

7:00 PM Single Women's Group

Saturday August 14

10:00 AM Blueberry Picking
4:00 PM Band Practice for
Saturday Worship
5:00 PM Pre-Worship Pot Luck
6:30 PM Contemporary Worship

Sunday August 15

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
2:00 PM Picnic & Water Baptism
at Beaver Island

Monday August 16

7:00 PM Personnel Committee Mtg.

Tuesday August 17

Wednesday August 18

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Thursday August 19

7:00 PM Brothers of Faith
7:00 PM College & Careers Group
7:30 PM Band Practice for
9:30 Service

Friday August 20 Office Closed

7:00 PM Knox Single Women's Group

Saturday August 21

4:00 PM Band Practice for
Saturday Worship
5:00 PM Pre-Worship Pot Luck
6:30 PM Contemporary Worship

Sunday August 22

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
* Evening Multi-Church Gathering *
at Knox - Check bulletins for time

Monday August 23

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

Tuesday August 24

9:15 AM Staff meeting
7:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Mtg.

Wednesday August 25

6:30 AM Men's Prayer Meeting

Thursday August 26

7:30 PM Band Practice for
9:30 Service

Friday August 27 Office Closed

DUFFELD FAMILY RETREAT

Saturday August 28

DUFFIELD FAMILY RETREAT

4:00 PM Band Practice for
Saturday Worship
5:00 PM Pre-Worship Pot Luck
6:30 PM Contemporary Worship

Sunday August 29

DUFFIELD FAMILY RETREAT

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Monday August 30

DUFFIELD FAMILY RETREAT

7:00 PM Tech Committee

Tuesday August 31

7:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Mtg.

KNOX FAMILY CAMPOUT



WHEN: August 27th 28th 29th
WHERE: Camp Duffield Delevan NY
COST PER FAMILY: \$60.00

Accommodations Available:

- Outposts
- Cabins
- Keeler Lodge

Register online:

www.knoxchurchbuffalo.com OR
give payments to Debbie Rife,
Steve Bermel, Mary Ernst/office.

**DO NOT PUT PAYMENTS IN
OFFERING PLATE!**

Duffield is only an hours' drive! Fun and fellowship with your own family, and re-connect with the Knox family and meet new faces! What a great way to top off the summer!

Senior Pastor
Rev. Matthew Haberman

Church Secretary
Mary Ernst

Office Assistant
Beverly Waltz

Director of Youth Ministries
Steve Bermel

Director of Children's Ministry
Deborah Rife

Director of Music
Susan Schuman

Radio Ministries Coordinator
William Owens

Custodian
Jason Kolesar

Browse our Website at
KnoxChurchBuffalo.com
for more information and
updates on our ministries &
activities at Knox Church

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SUMMER 2010



**Link Articles need to be
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for the following month's *Link*