

Knollbrook Notes

February 2012

Volume 52, Issue 2

From the Pastor...

Special points of interest:

- Pulse Survey moving forward
- Christianity is a Lifestyle, not a Doctrine?
- Council and Annual meeting minutes

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On the evening of the 24th Steve Anonsen, Brian Feickert and I spoke on the phone with Conference and Denominational leaders about our PULSE survey results. They wanted to check with us on their reading of our survey. That will lead to a slight fine tuning and then the final results will be sent to us. They will also be giving us some suggestions on how to work with the survey to move forward in ministry.

We have been on the pathway to Congregational Vitality for some time now and this is another crucial step. Let's keep praying that God will reveal to us and inspire in us the vision for ministry that He wants us to be grasped by. Let's keep praying that God will fire our hearts with love for Him and love for our neighbors and love for each other. Let's keep praying!

Last night as I lay in my bed waiting for sleep and thinking about our survey results I prayed for a specific attitude that we would bring to our post survey discernment conversations. I prayed that we would have a sense of urgency saturated with hope. Brothers and sisters this is a time for pursuing change in a missional direction. We are at a crossroads. We cannot table to another season the work we have to do now. There is urgency about our circumstances! But we must not panic. We must not despair. We must not waste any energy pointing any fingers of blame. There is urgency yes but we have great hope. God is the source of that hope. God is pulling for our Church to

forge ahead. God can pilot our ship and navigate any rapids we may encounter. God is the source of our hope and God has given us already, good gifts for the journey. We have committed and faithful people. We have a growing sense of intention to forge ahead together whatever the changes we need to make. We have help from our denomination and conference. God is in all these things and more and God will provide everything we need to do everything He calls us to!

Remember the special Scriptures (Luke 18:31 – 19:10 and 1 Kings 17) God has given us for this journey. God wants us to hear the cries of those on the side of the road (like the blind man outside of Jericho) and see the worth of those that society might not value (Jesus made a beeline to Zacchaeus in the tree). To go towards them more resolutely in love will mean stretching and risking and with God's help breaking free from whatever restraints are holding us back (What do you want me to do for you? Lord we want to see!). Pursuing Christ and Christ's priorities in the world is seizing on to a task beyond our mere abilities and maybe we feel a sense of depletion. But what God calls us to do God will give us the resources to do (the jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry)!

So there is urgency Knollbrook yes. But urgency saturated by hope!

-Pastor Greg Fullerton

Council Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012

Present: Russ Colson, Brian Feickert, Ken Enockson, Ivan Johnson, Janice Johnson, Marsha Swensen, Jennifer Grieve, Diana Knecht, Carla Viseth, Steve Parkman, Jeff Meyer, Sheila Anonsen, Greg Fullerton, Adam Walker

Russ opened the meeting with scripture. Council members prayed silently as Russ read through Knollbrook's purpose statement.

Thank you was expressed to the outgoing council members: Deb Ankeney and Ivan Johnson, Elders; Russ Colson, Chair; Steve Parkman, Stewardship/Finance; Josh Nikle, Community Service; Jennifer Grieve, Education; Adam Walker, Facilities; Carole Roach, Hospitality; Jeff Meyer, Worship; Janice Johnson, Clerk.

The ballot to be presented at the annual meeting was presented. Three positions remain open at this time – Elder, Worship, Clerk.

Finance Report:

There was discussion about the building fund that has continued even though the building loan has been paid off. Janice will give some background info about this special fund at the annual meeting.

The sanctuary roof will be repaired in the spring. The cost of repair is covered by insurance less Knollbrook's \$500 deductible and cost of any structural repairs.

It was reported that there are 66 active members with 95

listed on the membership roll. There are 38 giving units. Discussion followed regarding updating the membership list. The Elders will take on the task of sending out a letter to non-attending members to see if they wish to retain membership.

The proposed 2013 budget was distributed with discussion and clarification given by Steve P. and Sheila. Jeff Meyer made the motion that the church establish a special camper fund to enable every child who desires to attend camp. Seconded by Diana. The motion was amended to include to attend LBBC or other camp upon approval. Following discussion the motion was passed.

Ken Enockson moved that the budget with changes made be approved. Jennifer seconded. Passed the budget will be presented at the annual meeting for the congregation to approve following discussion and suggested changes.

Greg reported that the Pulse Survey results have been tabulated and a conference call will be scheduled to finalize the report which will then be presented to the congregation.

Information will continue to come with opportunities to volunteer for Convoy of Hope on June 30. Area churches are also asked to give financial support. More information will be coming.

Jennifer reported the Parents Day Out was a success. It was requested that Jennifer post pictures of the event on a bulletin board and Knollbrook's website.

Ivan closed the meeting in prayer.

*-Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Johnson, Clerk*

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

— Acts 17:11



Announcements:

On January 29 Greg Evert of RRV Youth For Christ will fill in for Greg who will be on vacation. He will deliver both the sermon and Mission Moments.

Do you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, a book review, bible study thoughts, movie review, etc., submit to knollbrook@knollbrook.org by the 22nd of each month to put in

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.KNOLLBROOK.ORG

Christianity is a Lifestyle, not a Doctrine?

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My parents are living in Naples, Florida, for the winter and visited a local "Unity" church one Sunday. Their website had the usual Christian words about faith but was a little off somehow so I looked further and then sent my parents a note like the following, after which they've not returned.

"Unity says they are a Christian organization and they use all of the Christian words. Why, then, would I say that their beliefs are not Christian? Because they use those words with completely different meanings than does the "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" (in the words of the Nicene creed). Since they use the same words and often similar rituals it would be hard to tell they weren't Christian until you look into it. Here's what they mean to Unity:

God: rather than an omniscient, omnipotent, good person who is independent of his creation and worthy of worship, in Unity teaching God is divine energy infusing all. Other words used for God: light, substance, law, principle, universal mind (but not person). This is known as *pantheism* instead of the *monotheism* of the Bible.

Spirit of God: rather than the third person of the trinity, in Unity teaching the spirit (lowercase) of God is the God essence that infuses all and not a person.

Humans: rather than being persons distinct from God who are sinful and in need of redemption, in Unity teaching humans are all expressions of God because our essential nature is divine and good.

Jesus: Jesus is divine, as is every other person. He "expressed

his divine potential" to show us how to express ours. He is basically a good role model.

Christ: rather than God with us who saves us, in Unity teaching Christ is that part of God who is in every person, the "divinity in humankind."

Heaven: rather than an invisible part of God's creation, in Unity teaching heaven is a state of consciousness

Hell: rather than a place of separation from God, in Unity teaching hell is a state of consciousness; we "create our own heaven and hell"

Sin: rather than thoughts or actions against the character of God, in Unity teaching sin is a state of mind when we focus on the negative (putting us in hell) instead of the positive (putting us in heaven)

Salvation: coming to understand our divinity and putting it into practice in daily life.

Communion: rather than commemoration Christ's death for our sin, in Unity teaching communion is meditation with the divine essence. The "word of Truth is symbolized by the bread" and "conscious realization of God-life is symbolized by the wine." Unity partakes of the "spiritual energy" in the elements.

Baptism: rather than an acknowledgement of our dying to self and rising to new life in Christ, in Unity teaching it is a process where one "aligns with the spirit of God."

Prayer: rather than communication with God (who in Unity thought isn't really a person to whom one could pray in any case), in

Unity teaching prayer is "asserting positive beliefs" about a desired outcome.

Thoughts "transmit magnetic energy" so we need to harness our thoughts, "co-creating the Good." We "focus on the presence and power of God within."

Church: "a state of consciousness in mankind."

The Bible is interpreted allegorically as "a metaphysical representation of each soul's evolutionary journey toward spiritual awakening," whatever that means. :)

So Unity differs on every essential point from the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Given that, I really don't know why they feel compelled to assert that their thinking is Christianity."

To have a good relationship with someone you must know them. Would your relationship with a friend or spouse change if you discovered they were a fish instead of a person or a murderer instead of saint? Doctrine simply describes what we know about God and the faith. Without it we'd have a relationship with a stranger.

A good goal for 2012 and every year is to learn more about God. "God our Savior... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4, ESV).

- Steve Anonsen

Annual Meeting Minutes January 22, 2012

PRESENT: Kurt Anderson, Deb Anderson, Loren Treibert, Patti Treibert, Ken Meester, Char Meester, Greg Fullerton, Connie Howitson, Rex Howitson, Kurt Lindquist, Linda Lindquist, Christina Walker, Kaye Burrows, Walter Burrows, Jane Feickert, Brian Feickert, Russ Colson, Mary Colson, Erin Nikle, Stan Wolf, Josh Nikle, Brenden Torkelson, Diana Knecht, Sharol Weaver, Wayne Viseth, Carla Viseth, Florence Collett, Sheila Anonsen, Steve Anonsen, Steve Parkman, Ivan Johnson, Janice Johnson, Meldine Tang, Jennifer Grieve, Jeff Meyer, Kelly Meyer, Keri Fullerton, Ken Enockson, Adam Walker, Marsha Swensen.

Russ Colson opened the meeting with scripture and prayer. The agenda was set as follows: Reports (Pastor, Chairman & Chairs of Commissions); **Budget; Nominations.**

PASTOR'S REPORT. Pastor Greg referred to his written report (p. 11-12) and added that this has been a year of talking, praying and working on church vitality. We grieve families that have left our congregation while those who remain formed the foundation of building a vision for the future. Greg presented a variety of ideas that would stretch us and also help us reach out to the community. He expressed thanks to each and everyone who participated in the life and ministry of our church.

CONGREGATION CHAIR. Russ Colson referred to his written report (p. 13-14). He thanked Pastor Greg for his year of ministry. He

commented that we are moving toward transformative change, necessitating our continued development of good communication skills. Further, since sharing our thoughts with one another builds trust in the body, he will continue to encourage communication!

ELDERS. Ivan Johnson referred to his written report (p. 15-16). This past year the Elders reacted, encouraged, reinforced, prayed for, and supported a number of initiatives, many of which were presented to the Elders by others, both within and outside of the congregation. Many of these were sketched under bullet-points within the report. Questions and comments included: Russ's being encouraged by the young people in, and from our congregation, who are committed to ministry; and continued exploration of a "behavioral covenant for Knollbrook"--by the Vitality Team.

EDUCATION. Jennifer Grieve referred to her written report (p. 18). She noted that the year included her transition from commission chair to coordinator of Knollbrook's *Children, Youth and Family Ministry* program (a paid position—see p. 1 of the General Fund Budget). Other Comments: Erin and Josh Nikle (Youth Leaders, along with Michael Feickert) thanked Jennifer for her planning and organizational abilities and also meal prep for meetings of the youth. Jeff Meyer presented "Every Kid to Camp" (a promotion of Lake Beauty Bible Camp), a program (if adopted by Knollbrook) that would provide funds for every child that chooses to attend camp. Details

on "Every Kid to Camp" await further development.

YOUTH LEADERS. Josh Nikle referred to the written report (p. 19-20). He further emphasized that a primary focus of the leaders has been on developing meaningful relationships with the youth. Comments: Jennifer Grieve thanked Josh, Erin and Michael for their commitment to the youth. She further noted that Erin has volunteered to be the female advisor for the youth who attend CHIC this summer (applause followed).

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT. Ken Enockson referred to his written report (p. 21). Ken thanked all who are able to participate in this, the second year of GROW, Knollbrook's intergenerational Sunday school program. He also thanked Core Groups A, B & C for assisting in planning and leading this year's sessions.

COMMUNITY SERVICE. Judy Coryell (Community Service chair) was unable to attend the meeting but we reviewed her report (p. 22). We expressed thanks for her commitment to Knollbrook's community service endeavors.

FACILITIES. Adam Walker referred to his report (p. 23). Thanks to Adam for overseeing the several projects listed in the report, and to Kurt Anderson and Stan Wolf (and Sheila—church administrator) for their good work.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:30 One Oak Place Bible study 6:00 Core Group C 6:30 Youth Group	2 10:00 am Trollwood Bible study 7:00 Bible Study at Sandi Swor's	3	4
5 9:00 GROW 10:00 am Worship Service	6	7 6:30 Council	8 1:30 One Oak Place Bible study 6:30 Youth Group	9 10:00 am Trollwood Bible study 7:00 Bible Study at Sandi Swor's	10	11 Salvation Army
12 9:00 GROW 10:00 am Worship Service 7:00 New Horizon's	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 1:30 One Oak Place Bible study 6:30 Youth Group	16 10:00 am Trollwood Bible study 7:00 Bible Study at Sandi Swor's	17	18
19 9:00 GROW 10:00 am Worship Service	20	21 7:00 Elders	22 1:30 One Oak Place Bible study 6:30 Youth Group	23 10:00 am Trollwood Bible study 7:00 Bible Study at Sandi Swor's	24	25 7-10 Fargo Billiards
26 9:00 GROW 10:00 am Worship Service	27	28 7:00 Stitch Group	29	Weight Watchers continues to meet Thursdays at 5:00 pm and Great Plains' Harmony at 7:00 pm		

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10th Diana Knecht birthday

15th Ken Meester birthday

20th Loren and Pat Treibert anniversary

SERVICE. Carla Viseth referred to her report (p. 24). Carole Roach, co-chair with Carla, had to vacate her position, mid-year, due to caring for Donn. Carla will continue in her position in 2012 but will appreciate all the help she can get as sole chair of the Service Commission.

WORSHIP. Jeff Meyer referred to his report (p. 25). He expressed thanks for the high level of leadership by many members of the congregation, and especially noted the participation of our young people in the worship experience. Appreciation was noted for the addition of new technology and its enhancement of our worship services.

MISSIONS. Diana Knecht referred to her written report (p. 26). Special thanks was given the Mission Commission for keeping the congregation up-to-date with the missions we support (see p. 27-32 of the Annual Report).

VITALITY. Steve Anonsen referred to his report (p. 33), and further reminded the congregation that the purpose of the Vitality Team is to keep focus on *VERITAS*. He emphasized that the Team is not a “decision-making” group but rather a vehicle for guiding congregational decisions. Upcoming is a conversation with Covenant representatives about the *PULSE* survey recently

completed, and suggestions for proceeding.

STEWARDSHIP. Steve Parkman presented the 2012 General Fund budget (see pages 1 & 2 of “budget insert”). Clarification of the line item, “Pastoral Training Tuition” (under the “Pastoral Relations” section of the budget) was asked for and given by Pastor Greg. Sheila Anonsen, Knollbrook treasurer, produced a document from Covenant National Properties, holder of our building loan, indicating that our loan has been “paid in full.” Thanks be to God! (and also to Sheila for all her good work!). Steve Parkman moved and Ken Meester seconded, the approval of the General Fund Budget. Passed. The Mission “Budget” is page 3 of the Budget Insert. Remember: “dollar-amounts” for Mission line-items accumulate at the rate of 28% of general giving (i.e. if a Sunday offering is \$1000, \$280 goes to Mission line-items).

OTHER STEWARDSHIP COMMENTS: Janice Johnson (Chair of the former Knollbrook Building Committee) gave background information on the funds raised for the building addition. Discussion followed relative to the future of the Building Fund with no decisions at the present time.

NOMINATIONS. Brian Feickert, chair of nominations,

thanked all who served in 2011, and presented the ballot for 2012. Brian noted that there is no candidate for chair of the Worship Commission, and a search will continue for a chairperson. He also pointed out, however, that Jeff Meyer, will continue with particular details of “worship” but not as chair of the commission. The gathered congregation voted in favor of the ballot as presented.

Officers for 2012 are as follows (* indicates “newly elected”):

- Church Chair: Brian Feickert*
- Vice Chair/Nominations: Kelly Meyer*
- Clerk: Kirk Kelly*
- Elders: Rex Howitson, Barry Olsen*, Laurens Robinson*, Marsha Swensen (5th elder—pending)
- SS Superintendent: Ken Enockson
- Community Service: Judy Coryell
- Education: Jeff Meyer*
- Facilities: Janice* & Ivan Johnson*
- Missions: Diana Knecht
- Pastoral Relations: Steve Anonsen, Ken Meester, Brenden Torkelson
- Service: Carla Viseth
- Stewardship/Finance: Wayne Viseth*
- Worship: (pending)

Russ Colson moved, and Steve Anonsen seconded, that the Annual Meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Anonsen closed in prayer.

*-Respectfully submitted,
Janice Johnson, Clerk*

Billiards on Broadway

Saturday, February 25, 7-10

Evening for the adults (no kids)

