

## REFLECTIONS OF THE PEOPLE

Since the last issue of the Knox Talks, I was asked by Session how I see the Knox Talks and how do I choose the articles to go into it? My answer to them was that I see the Knox Talks as a reflection of the people of Knox Presbyterian Church. Whenever I sit to put the Knox Talks together I am amazed how God works through every individual's contribution. In the meantime Session adopted a purpose for Knox Talks.

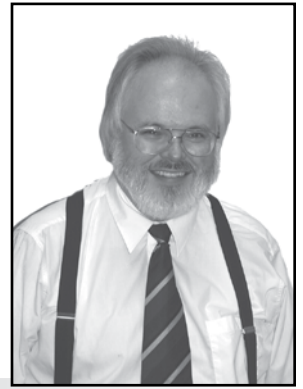
*"The Session publishes Knox Talks each quarter to support the members of the Knox community in their Christian growth and to describe to the larger community what this congregation stands for. It exists to uphold the teaching of our church and encourage people in the values and principles we hold in common. It will do this by providing a mix of congregational news and other articles for entertainment and inspiration. Our hope is it will be a reflection of*

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### **Knox Talks Forum:**

Knox Talks contains things people in the Knox Church community thought were worth sharing. The opinions are those of the writer and not necessarily of Knox Church or the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Their value, like all beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

# MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Watching the news of the most recent royal tour of Canada, it became clear: a royal visit is not a spur of the moment event. Whether it's the prince or the queen or any royalty, there is lots of preparation getting ready.

The traditions of Advent are a little like that. The royal purple draping the sanctuary was a visual reminder of the royal connection. In preparing for Christmas, Christians prepared to celebrate the past royal visit by the newborn king.

But purple reminded people of more than that. It was the colour of reflection and preparation. And it reminded people they needed to prepare so they'd be ready when the king returned in glory. They knew the promise one day would come true that "... he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him..." (Revelation 1:7, ESV)

Jesus urged his disciples "always to pray and not lose heart." That was how they could hold to the promises and be ready for the day when he returned. Jesus wondered, "... when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8, ESV) He would, if his disciples held firmly to the promises.

Advent was a time for remembering the promise and rededication to the hope. Advent calendars and the candles on the advent wreath were among the things people used to remember the purpose of the season. Over each of the weeks of Advent, Christians were encouraged to take stock of their lives. How had things gone over the past year? What were the successes? What things needed changing?

Over the years, the Sundays in Advent acquired a special emphasis. The Presbyterian tradition has emphasized hope, joy, peace, and love. So we ask ourselves questions like these: How well have I shared the love of Jesus? How much do I appreciate God's love for me? How have I trusted his promise? When things looked difficult, have I had faith in his promise? Do I truly hope he is at work building his kingdom on earth?