

This is the 8th issue of Knox Talks that I have had the honour of putting together. When Jerry Crawford handed over the Knox Talks to me back in 2007, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. My first intentions for the Knox Talks was to bring the congregation together, by relaying information, getting to know one another and opening ourselves to what we as Christians believe. Over the year I have had many compliments over the publication and I thank everyone for that, but I want to say it is because of all the submissions the congregation has contributed to the Knox Talks that makes it all possible. I just take all the articles given to me and try my best to make everything flow. Hopefully this makes Knox Talks enjoyable to read. I thank everyone for submitting and taking the time to share your stories and ideas. Somehow, when I sit at my computer arranging all the articles

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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



*Rev. Paul Johnston*

Sometimes the questions can feel like more than a person can handle. They must have seemed that way for the man, surrounded by hostile interrogators, deserted by his friends and family. And over something that should have brought them together in a joyful celebration.

He was the man born blind from birth. Unable to provide for himself, he had to beg for kindness from strangers. It was a hard life, and people wondered what evil thing he could have done to deserve it. (You can read his story in John 9)

Until Jesus came. Jesus healed him. Jesus opened his eyes. Jesus gave him a bright new future. Time to celebrate!

But hold the celebration a moment — it was a Sabbath day. Even though God designed the Sabbath to be a day of blessing, the community religious leaders objected to the healing. What kind of person worked on the day of rest?

So they demanded an explanation. They demanded the once-blind man give proper honour to God, and that meant denying Jesus, calling Jesus — the one who healed him — a worker of evil. “Give glory to God,” they demanded, “We know that this man is a sinner.” John 9:24 (ESV)

The man hadn’t been educated in all the fine points of the law and the traditions. He knew he didn’t know a lot of things. But he had one certainty. “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” John 9:25 (ESV) He knew what the Lord had done.

Thinkers and scholars have debated the deep questions of life for centuries. Every answer raises new questions. Things once thought