



## Knox Presbyterian Church

20 Quebec Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 2T4  
Telephone: (519) 821-0141

E-mail: [office@knoxqueph.ca](mailto:office@knoxqueph.ca)

Web page: [www.knoxqueph.ca](http://www.knoxqueph.ca)

Rev. Johan Olivier  
Minister

Anne Eaton  
Pastoral Assistant

Chris Fischer  
Director of Music Ministries

Wilma Welsh  
Mission Coordinator

Jessie Bush  
Session Clerk

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune  
Nancy Dickieson  
Kathy Stirling  
Stephen Leaders

*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

December 6, 2009

Dear Friends,

***"Watch for this – a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Emmanuel (Hebrew for 'God is with us')." Matthew 1:23 (The Message)***

This being the 2nd Sunday of the season of Advent we focus on faith and love. The above scripture touches on two key topics of our Christian faith. The event we look forward to celebrating and that the prophet was telling people in his day to "Watch for" was not in the realm of the natural or normal. A virgin birth is not the usual for sure. The very presence of the creator of the universe was also not an everyday experience either. This was beyond the realm of normal, everyday living. But it was and is real! We live on a visited planet. Visited by the very Creator God, as he chose to come among us, as one of us, born a human infant in a far off, long ago place and time.

Unbelievable? So many would and do say. In Christian theology this is known as the "Scandal of Particularity" In terms of the normal, in terms of human logic, this just cannot be. That the divine became human in a particular male human infant; no other religion dares to suggest such a radical truth or possibility. Great teachers, yes, religious prophets yes, but God incarnate? Only Christians make such a radical claim. Yet without this truth our faith doesn't exist. It is the central tenant, the core principle, the basic fact on which Christianity exists. And we are called to place our faith in this fact. God is with us. God is one of us. He lived, he died, he rose again, he continues to live for all eternity, and he will come again. This is a world shaking statement. The infinite and eternal has intersected the here and now. And he is love. The embodiment of love came to us at Christmas.

On this we base our faith, our life, our hope. In this we find our joy.

*"Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall  
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all."*

Others find this claim scandalous indeed. How could/ Why would God the eternal humble himself so? This is our faith! This is our heritage! This is THE MESSAGE, the Gospel. God is love, and in love he came to us.  
Emmanuel! God is with us!

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin