

# Knox News

WINTER ISSUE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

## *What's Reforming at Knox in 2012?*

Knox Presbyterian Church is sometimes called a “Reformed” congregation. On one hand, that means we officially join a host of other Protestant churches in tracing our history back to John Calvin and the 16<sup>th</sup> century church reformers. But the term “Reformed” also means we as a congregation celebrate certain principles championed by those reformers. And one such theme that seems to me alive and well at Knox is the old Reformation rallying cry: “The church reformed and always being reformed” (*Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*). *The phrase implies we are a church that was open to change and continues to be open to change.*

Now to be clear, this phrase “always being reformed” does not mean that either we, or the Reformed tradition as a whole, champions change for change’s sake. John Calvin was famously accused of bringing about “innovation” in the church. To this, he countered that his reforms represented not



“innovation,” but a *return to themes and principles of scripture that had gotten neglected in the church. He believed our God was a living God, and that with humans and churches ever prone towards sin, this God was still at work transforming and refashioning God’s people.*

*But even if it is not every change we celebrate, it seems to me there is an inherent openness to change built into our tradition and this rallying cry. It acknowledges the church is a dynamic entity that the living God is ever renewing in Christ.*

As the new year begins, we are seeing reformation happen here at Knox in large and small ways. First of all, together with other

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, Knox now has a “New Form of Government” for 2012. Those championing this far-reaching overhaul of our denomination’s by-laws have argued it would make churches more flexible and “missional.” Whether or not that proves the case, we now have a quite different (and shorter) *Book of Order for 2012*.

In other changes specific to Knox, you no longer have a “designated” pastor in the new year (which carries a 2-4 year term limit) but rather an “installed” pastor (where there is no preset time limit on service). That change becomes final at a special worship service on January 29<sup>th</sup>, where our local San Gabriel Valley’s Presbytery exec, Ruth Santana-Grace, will be preaching. In 2012, we welcome the completion of a redesigned and re-irrigated front landscape---a space God has physically reformed.

## What's Reforming (cont.)

And in the new year, we will continue to explore what musical, artistic, and dramatic forms might constitute faithful worship for us at Knox today.

But finally, 2012 will likely see additional changes, given our growing numbers. As we celebrate new people joining us in this adventure of being church, we will be striving to adapt to that faithfully---to "reform" in ways that allow for ever deepening community and discipleship now that our church has been literally reformed in its size. New ministries, programs, and mission endeavors are likely to be part of the mix as we explore where God is leading us together.

I look forward to the ongoing journey of reformation and revitalization with all of you, and wishing you a blessed new year,

Pastor Matt



## Branch Ministries 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

### New and Old

So many new things are happening here at Knox that it can be hard to keep up! It can be very exciting to see all the new faces and learn about new programs that are happening in the life of our church. It can also be a little overwhelming, and we sometimes find ourselves wondering if we are growing too fast. After all, new things can be a little scary. When I find myself being a little scared about what God seems to be doing in my life I know I find myself in good company. From Noah to Paul, from Moses to Esther, and from a young shepherd named David to the Good Shepherd



named Jesus, the Bible is full of stories of people who faced big changes. Just like those who went before us, I can trust that God has a good plan for us. We believe that part of that plan includes our new youth group, Branch Ministries. While Branch Ministries is new, we are actually doing some very old things. We are focused on three things: real worship, real discipleship, and real community. These are the things that God has been calling us to do for thousands of years. Through Bible study, prayer, discussion, reflection, playing wacky games, eating meals together, and just hanging out, we are doing our best to create a safe place for our kids to explore and deepen their faith. Let me tell you, we have some amazing kids at our church! We also have some wonderful and dedicated leaders. I am so excited to see the ways in which God works as we seek to honor God with our lives in this ministry called Branch. If you'd like to know how you can support us feel free to email Heather ([heather.thomsen@gmail.com](mailto:heather.thomsen@gmail.com)) or me ([michael.matthew.orr@gmail.com](mailto:michael.matthew.orr@gmail.com)).

Peace!

Mike

## Staff and Interns

*Rev. Dr. Matthew Colwell, Pastor*  
*Laura Becker, Director of Children's Ministries*  
*Heather Thomsen, Worship Leader and Youth Director*  
*Hye Jung Shin, Organist*  
*Ally Lee, Office Administrator and Family Life Intern*  
*Eileen Gathman, Office Assistant*  
*Marguerite Minor, Bookkeeper*  
*Javier Garcia, Custodian*  
*Brian Lee, Pastoral Intern*  
*Lauren Obregon, Pastoral Intern*  
*Mike Orr, Youth Intern*



225 South Hill Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91106

626.449.2144

Website: [www.knoxpasadena.org](http://www.knoxpasadena.org)

Email: [knoxpasadena@att.net](mailto:knoxpasadena@att.net)

# JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Prayer Vigil 7 am to 7 pm	12	13	14
15	16 MLK Jr. Day- Office Closed	17	18 Godly Trek & Youth Group 6:30 to 8 pm	19	20	21 New Members' Class 9 am to 3 pm
22	23	24	25 Grace Notes 6:30 to 7:30 pm	26	27	28 Growing Deep 9 to 10:30 am
29 Pastor Matt's Installation service and reception 10:00 am	30	31				

# FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Godly Trek & Youth Group 6:30-8 pm	2	3 Staff Retreat- Office Closed	4 Growing Deep 9 to 10:30 am
5 Congregational Meeting	6	7	8 Grace Notes 6:30 to 7:30 pm	9	10	11 Ski Day/ Growing Deep 9 to 10:30 am
12	13	14	15 Godly Trek & Youth Group 6:30 to 8 pm	16	17 Toy Story 3 Movie Night 6:30 to 8:30 pm	18 Growing Deep 9 to 10:30 am
19	20 President's Day -Office Closed	21	22 Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service 6 to 8 pm	23	24	25 Growing Deep 9 to 10:30 am
26	27	28	29 Youth Service Night Time TBD			