



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spring 2017 Issue

“Called by Christ, Committed by Faith, Connected by Community.”

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Easter 2017

It is only 180 days until September 10th, not that I am counting. Only 180 days before I’ll board the KLM airplane. Only 180 days before I’ll be on my way to St. Jean Pied-de-Port to start the *El Camino de Santiago* (The Way of St. James) an 800 km walking pilgrimage through France and Spain.

Time goes by and adventures await. Yet, that doesn’t mean that nothing happens during the “in-between-time”. As some of you may remember, in the last issue of “*What’s Up?*” I shared with you that I will be taking a Sabbatical this year (in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, clergy are allowed to take a 10-week Sabbatical every five years). Even though I have been preparing for the adventure since May, a lot other things have happened.

We finished our sermon series on the Gospel according to Luke. Bible Study continued with a look at Joshua and Romans; we have also been busy with a Book Study. There have been Sunday services and events at St. Giles. I went on hikes and will complete the *Conflict Resolution* Classes in April. We have had our Annual Meeting, and enjoyed green crepes on the Sunday before St. Patrick’s Day.

Easter reminds me of the hope we have in Christ, the grace the Father has shown us, and the courage we have through the Holy Spirit. It is always a time I look forward to.

When looking forward to something, do we simply wait for it patiently? Well, yes, we wait for it patiently. Does that mean we do nothing while we wait? Well, no, that won’t really work, would it? We still do things. This most certainly includes doing things in our spiritual lives.

I think we sometimes lose perspective. It is easy to embrace the hope, love, and courage that God graciously offers us; to take these and just go on with life as we did before. Going on with life is doing something, right?



Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, the culmination of the Camino.

Since January we have looked at different people in Scripture and how their lives can enrich and inform our spiritual lives. What we see from all these people is that when they accepted God in their lives – once they embraced the hope, grace, and courage offered – the way they lived their lives changed.

The difference is this: once a person has accepted God’s hope, grace, and courage then what you do in your daily living should focus on God and reflect

His image to all those around you. This most certainly means having an active Christian life. It means that Jesus is the greatest - Jesus is greater than all the other things in our lives.

As we continue our journey towards Easter and our St. Giles 60th Anniversary on April 23rd, I encourage you to think how you, and we at St. Giles, can continue to be a faithful witness in Calgary for another 60 years.

Easter Blessings,

Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delport

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MISSION STATEMENT: “St. Giles’ mission is to nurture a vibrant Christian life; we will seek to grow in our relationship with God, we will care for the community and we will dare to follow Christ into the world.”

EDITORIAL

To briefly paraphrase the opening paragraph of Michael Moorhouse's article (p. 10), how can it be April already? But it somehow is, and with the first signs of spring comes another edition of *What's Up?* April also brings with it two significant events in the life of our congregation: Easter and the 60th Anniversary of St. Giles.

Easter has been celebrated by Christians for almost 2,000 years and is a global event. In many countries, the celebrations will be public, open to all; in others, where persecution is commonplace, Easter will be marked more quietly. Fortunately for us, we belong to the former category and three services are planned.

Sunday April 9th will be Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem when He was greeted by enthusiastic crowds, and marks the beginning of Holy Week. The 10:00 am service will also incorporate Communion.

At 10:00 am on April 14th a Good Friday service will be held when we will remember Jesus' suffering and death to atone for our sins.

Sunday April 16th will be celebrated with two Easter Sunday services. The first, for early risers, will held at

7:30 am (the 'Sonrise Service') in the church's backyard. Dress warmly and enjoy breakfast afterward in the Lower Hall. The second, held at the 'regular' time of 10:00 am, will be the traditional Easter Sunday worship service. Both these services will be a celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

On the following Sunday (April 23th) the congregation will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of St. Giles with a lunch at the Calgary Winter Club which will begin at 12:00 noon. Janet Astle's article (pages 3-4) provides an excellent historical background to both the laying of the church building's cornerstone on September 20, 1958, and the dedication ceremony on December 7 of that year (the congregation had been meeting in the King George Elementary School prior to the construction and dedication of the Church building).

Moving forward from April into May, mark your calendars for two St. Giles' events: the 5th English Cream Tea and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, May 6th (see page 6); and the Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 13th.

Best wishes for the Lenten season and Easter

Denis Mascardelli for the Editorial Team

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 11: 25-27 (NRSV)

NOTEWORTHY

In gratitude

Jim and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the St. Giles community for "pulling out all the stops" (literally, in Esther's case, when she played *Jerusalem*) in organizing my mother's funeral on one of the busiest days of the year – December 23rd. Not only did the Rev. Delpont and Esther arrange the service and music at short notice, but the choir all volunteered to sing and the Pastoral Care ladies put on a lovely funeral tea afterwards. Our thanks to you all, and to Ted Samson for all the preparation before, and cleaning up after, that he had to do. Above all, we really appreciated all the kind words,



hugs and cards that we received from the congregation. Our best wishes go to you all.

Janet Astle and Jim Weisert

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for their kind thoughts, cards and prayers for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. It was very special to celebrate it with our church family.

A big thank you to Ann, Jenny, Chris, Merle, Stephen and Crystal for the delicious lunch and anniversary cake.

Blessings to all,
Don and Dawn Flint

EXTRACTS FROM THE ARCHIVES

It is with some chagrin that I realise my own articles have now become archival material. The following are extracts from what I believe are the very first and second articles that I wrote as archivist for St. Giles.

From News and Views, Spring, 1999:

The first item I just had to write about relates to the laying



Cornerstone Dedication Ceremony

of St. Giles' corner stone. This is not only an important moment in our church's history but, as archivist, I am fascinated by the thought of all those documents buried beneath the walls!

The following is extracted from "A congregation called St Giles" by Carol Kubota, published about 1975.

... "Then on September 20, 1958, St. Giles' congregation stood grateful and joyous under autumn blue as brilliant sunshine spotlighted the newly-laid corner stone. Stirring notes from the Salvation Army Citadel Band swept over the surrounding rooftops.

The Rev. H. Lindsay Simpson opened the service with the words: **"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it" ...**

Contents of the cornerstone included: children's names (from congregation); minutes recording formation of St. Giles; first annual report of St. Giles and other church records; letter from the minister of St. Giles; currency; local newspapers; leaflet with order of service; and the Presbyterian Record. Miss M. McLagan, Superintendent of Sunday School, received the children's names. Mrs. H. Lindsay Simpson, Mrs. F.E. Nicol, Mrs. J.R. Henry, Mrs. D. Ferguson and Mrs. H.M. McLagan cemented the

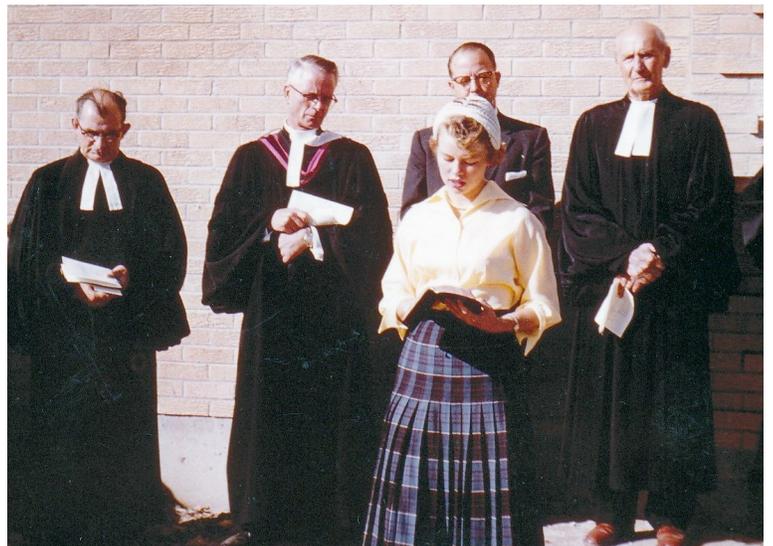
stone in place under the eyes of the Presbytery of Calgary. A member of the Synod Corporation, Mr. George Dunlop, addressed the congregation."

The photographs of the event certainly show a bright, if blustery, day. Everyone is wrapped up well and the ladies are holding onto their hats while the ministers' gowns are blowing in the breeze. The scenery looks rather bleak with the grounds of the church still a construction site and the neighbourhood beyond devoid of trees.

From News and Views, Summer, 1999 - Dedication Day:

The Calgary Herald said there were five hundred people waiting in the sanctuary. The light from a winter's afternoon streamed through the plain glass windows, and outside, standing amid a light dusting of snow were the Moderator and members of Presbytery, the Kirk Session and visiting ministers. After a ceremonial knock on the east door, the group was granted admission and all filed into the church.

This was how the service began for the dedication of the new Presbyterian Church of St. Giles on December 7, 1958. Can you imagine how excited the congregation must have been? Only that morning this congregation had had its last morning service at its temporary location in King George Elementary School, 2108 - 10 St NW. Now the clergy and choir were proceeding down the aisle of the new building. The congregation seated itself and the chairman of the Board of Mangers, Mr. George Samson, presented the keys of the church to the minister, Rev. H. Lindsay Simpson.



Marilyn Machum giving a reading during the dedication of the New Presbyterian Church of St. Giles.

continued from page 3

The service was conducted under the direction of the Moderator, Rev. Gerald Doran, minister of Chalmers Church, with various Presbyterian clergy from Calgary and the surrounding district assisting. The Rev. Ian Burnett, an eminent theologian from Ottawa, gave the sermon. Music, of course, played a large part with the director of music, Mr. Ron Weedon, directing an augmented choir. The entire choir sang the anthem *Te Deum Laudamus* while *How lovely are thy Dwellings* was sung as a solo by one Miss Kelly, now better known to us as Mrs. June Stephen.

The actual dedication part of the ceremony began with words by Rev. Frank Morley, minister of Grace Church:

"We, the Presbytery of Calgary, rejoicing with you that God has put in your hearts to build this house to the glory of His holy name, are met with you to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God, according to the rights of our Church. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses."

And ended with all saying:

"We now, the people of this Church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God."

There are few photographs to record this auspicious moment in St. Giles' history but the next event to be visually recorded certainly shows a marked contrast to the solemn ceremony of the Dedication Service. This occurred the following May when a small group of parishioners gathered to plant the first bushes and trees around the Church. Photographs show that there were not only no trees around St. Giles at this time but there appear to have been few trees between the church and Nose Hill!

It seems there was still a certain amount of protocol to be observed. For even though everyone came armed with a



Tree planting during the spring of 1959

shovel the ladies were dressed in skirts and high heels and the men were in long overcoats and hats. Once the planting was complete the crowd gathered around one, rather spindly, 6-foot-high tree for a dedication by the Rev. Simpson. Those trees have certainly grown since then!

Lest We Forget

an update from the previous issue of What's Up?

In the last issue of *What's Up?* I wrote about the Honour Roll that hangs in the narthex. At that time, I had cross-referenced the names of those who had perished with the names included in the Field of Crosses that is constructed beside Memorial Drive each November.

Five of the men on the Honour Roll were not recorded in the Field of Crosses website so I sent their names to that website. In due course I received a lovely thank you note. As it happens the lady, Laura, who wrote back to me, was a friend of Marie McCormick. Not only that but when Laura was planning her 1986 wedding, Marie suggested they use St Giles church. As a result, Laura has very fond memories of St. Giles. It's a small world!

Janet Astle

"...but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV)

GERALD (JERRY) HALL RECEIVES SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS



I have been asked to do a brief account of the path of volunteering that led to the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers presentation. Probably the first consideration was serving for 12 years on the Board of the 4-H Foundation as Site Development Chair while we built a world-class Youth Development Centre. I later served as Chairman and also judged the 4-H Public Speaking competition up to the Provincial finals. I also served on the Goldeye Foundation Board (Co-op Youth Centre) and the Rural Education and Development Association.

My love of the outdoors led me to serve on the Alberta Wilderness Association Board for five years with the objective of preserving natural areas of the Province. I've been doing bird counts for 10 years, the last three years for Nature Alberta.

For about the last 30 years my main interest has been providing musical entertainment at senior complexes, long-term care facilities and dance groups. My wife Margaret often joins me in this and I play with five other string bands.

I was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture, Shirley McClelland; received the Caring Canadian Award from Governor General Adrian Clarkson in 2003; and received the **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers** from Governor General David Johnson in 2016.

My heartfelt thanks to my wonderful wife Margaret, who supports me unconditionally in all my efforts.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

There are five dedicated members on the Sound System Team and they take their commitment very seriously. Each member takes a turn on Sunday mornings to control the Sound System for our worship service. The team also assist with the sound control for weddings, funerals and other special events at the church.

On Sunday, March 12th, after our regular worship service, the team hosted a St Patrick's Day Brunch consisting of French crepes (green) that were filled with anything you like, such as ham, cheese, Nutella, bananas, strawberries and whipped cream (also green).

We would like to thank those who attended for your contribution of \$85.00 that was put towards the operating expenses of the church.

We are looking for more volunteers (men or women) to join our team and we would gladly provide the training required for the operating of our Sound System.



The Sound System Team in their St. Patrick's Day Brunch regalia (L to R): David Browne, Lorne Cowan, David McCormack, Walter Cooper (Coordinator) and Mark McCuaig.

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER FEBRUARY 28, 2017

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 St. Giles hosted a Pancake and Sausage Dinner with fresh grapes and strawberries for dessert for approximately 65 individuals.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven', meaning to go to confession to say sorry for the wrong things you've done. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confessions the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

Thanks to all those who attended and helped to make this a successful event. Your donation of \$204.00 was put towards the operating expenses of the church.



HAM DINNER MARCH 3, 2017

On Friday, March 3, 2017 the Pastoral Care Team convened a Ham Dinner as a St. Giles fundraiser. We deeply appreciated the help of other church members to make this happen. We provided ham with all the trimmings, and dessert was a German chocolate cake with ice cream.



At the end of the dessert course we asked our guests to participate in a game of Trivia. The people at each table participated as a group and a prize was given to the winning table.

We wish to sincerely thank all members and guests who attended for their much-appreciated support of St. Giles. Your donation of \$1,265.00 was put towards the operating expenses of the church.

Jenny Thomson

ST GILES FOLK NIGHT APRIL 1, 2017

We had our 9th annual Folk Night on Saturday April 1, 2017. Once again, the evening was a success, with great performances across the board. This year, we have raised just under \$1000 to date for the school located in Kimberley, South Africa. This continues to be an important mission work for several folk nights, and for our choir director, Marni Strome. I can honestly say that this event has been a blessing to myself, and it is a small miracle that the power of song, good music, and great company, can do so much good.

Once again, my heartfelt thanks goes out not only to the performers, but also to those who set up, those who ran the concessions before and during intermission, and of course those who helped clean up after the show. Special thanks go to Cathy Brown who coordinated the setup, concession, and clean up.

Look for the next Folk Night, the 10th Annual, to happen in April of 2018. If you have never been to Folk Night, consider performing or attending next year. It is always a good time, and is one of the most affordable events that we hold, and a friendly event to bring guests and family.

Jason Gaskarth

ENGLISH CREAM TEA MAY 6, 2017



Please mark your calendars again this year for our 5th Annual English Cream Tea and Bake Sale to be held at St. Giles Lower Hall on Saturday, May 6th, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm.

This is a major fund raiser for St. Giles.

The menu will include delicious finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and preserves, dainty sweet treats and, of course, tea and coffee served in fine bone china tea cups. Tickets for this event are \$15.00 per person.

We are calling on all bakers; as always, your baking is most appreciated for the Bake Table. We appreciate your talents in volunteering and baking and, if you can help, please contact Candace Siddall at [403-288-7422](tel:403-288-7422).

Please remember we always need your 2-tiered and 3-tiered cake plates, and this year we would also welcome any cotton/linen napkins that you would like to donate. We look forward to seeing you, your friends, and family at this special event.

Candace Siddall

TEAM ST. GILES SURVIVES THE COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR 2017

On the evening of February 25, 2017 a group of St. Giles folk donned their woollies and ventured out to participate in the *Coldest Night of the Year* Fundraiser Event.

This year, funds raised went to support programs and initiatives for three local charitable organizations: The Mustard Seed Street Ministry, Bankview Apartments, and Feed the Hungry. In total, over \$100,000 was raised through this event and our St. Giles Team is happy to

report that we exceeded our goal and raised \$1,030. Thanks to everyone who supported our small but mighty team which was made up of Joan McLean (team captain), Sandra Cameron-Evans (founding participant), Cathy Brown, Connie Harms and John McLean.

Next year, the walk is scheduled for February 24, 2018. Mark it on your calendar and let's double our numbers!

John McLean



Team St. Giles warming up before the Coldest Night of the Year Walk: Cathy Brown, John McLean, Connie Harms, Joan McLean, and Sandra Cameron-Evans



John McLean and his best friend, Mayor Nenshi!



Joan McLean checks to be sure she is still on the right route!

COMMUNITY AND HUMANITY PROJECT

St. Giles has had a long tradition of helping the homeless population in Calgary, and this year's Advent project continued this support. Kairos is a group of Christian churches that works together to help end homelessness. They are working hard to help pay off the mortgages of the four buildings the Calgary Homeless Foundations has bought. These buildings provide a home at a rent the occupant can afford. In addition, Kairos supports the work of the Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS), which works in each building to create a sense of community and to help residents stay settled in their new environment.

So, through our Advent project 2016, we reconnected with Kairos to support Christmas celebrations. Kairos works

year round to support residents and they are always in need of volunteers to help.

We are building a relationship with the Longbow community. Currently, they are in need of coffee morning volunteers (one Wednesday a month) and a volunteer to pick up donated bread from Cobs Bakery (one Thursday evening a month). In addition, they want to start some new programs to help build community and to learn new skills (e.g. cooking, budgeting, child care).

Thank you St. Giles for your incredible support for the Advent project. During a Kairos meeting 'thank you' cards from the residents were shared, and they showed such gratefulness for your generosity.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the above work, let me know (joanmcl@shaw.ca).

Joan McLean

Jesus said... "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you..." Luke 14:14

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



On Saturday, March 4, 2017 the family of **Dawn Flint** held a party at the North Haven Community Centre to celebrate her 80th birthday.

Among those present were son Doug Flint, daughter Michelle and husband Warren Nelson and granddaughter Victoria, husband Don Flint, and many family members and friends from Calgary, Edmonton and Helena, Montana.



Ann Frost, Eileen Jardine and her granddaughter, Lana Firth



On Sunday, March 5, 2017, St. Giles congregation joined with **Eileen Jardine** in celebrating her 90th birthday. The choir and those attending worship sang 'Happy Birthday' to her.

Afterwards we met in the Lower Hall for birthday cake.



On Wednesday, March 29, following Bible Study, the Mid-Week Mix group celebrated **Isa Tieken's** 96th birthday with a delicious carrot cake baked by Chris Browne. This photo shows Isa (right) enjoying her cake with Eileen Jardine.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)

2017 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together each year on the first Friday of March to observe a common day of prayer. This year the service was prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines. The service was hosted by the Anglican Church of Holy Cross and held on Friday, March 3rd at 1:00 pm.

The theme for this year, "**Am I being unfair to you?**", was based on the passage from Matthew 20 v.1-16.

Early in the morning the owner of the vineyard went and hired men to work in his vineyard, he agreed to pay the normal daily wage. Throughout the day, he hired others, some at noon, and some at night. When the time came to receive the pay the workers who came last were paid first, and received a full day's pay. When those hired earlier came to get their pay they assumed they would receive more. They instead were paid also a day's wage. After they complained, the owner said, "Friend I haven't been unfair, didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Should you be angry because I was kind."

And from Matthew 20 v.16 NLT"

"And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then; and those who are last now will be first then."

Jesus used this story of the landowner's generosity to help understand the kingdom of heaven.

In the Philippines, among the rice farmers, the neighbors are called to help with the planting and the harvesting. No one is paid but the harvest is shared among all. This practice is called *Dagyaw* and is a good practice for building and sustaining a community, acting out compassion and caring for each other.

During the service, there was a meditation which was followed by some interaction of the congregation.

They were asked to share and reflect with the person who sat next to them on the question, "Am I unfair to you?" This exercise was received very enthusiastically.



The poster for this year was designed by **Rowena "Apol" Laxamana-Sta.Rosa**. Rowena is a full-time mother and housewife and is a member of a United Methodist Church. Rowena does not have any background in Fine Arts, and yet it is her dream to be able one day to study it. She encourages all women to express their feelings in painting and other creative activities, and to not be afraid of

colors. Although the Philippines has had two women Presidents, the country's women are still discriminated against and treated as subordinates in the home, in church and in society.

This opportunity to share and unite in prayer is something special. We at St. Giles are delighted to join with neighboring churches of many denominations to spread hope and goodwill in prayer. The churches that participated and attended were St. Andrews Anglican, St. Pius Catholic, Canadian Martyrs Catholic, St. David's United and St. Giles Presbyterian. The approximate number of attendees were 70-80. The service was followed by a reception which included some authentic sweet treats from the Philippines.

I would like to thank Pearl Dalip for assisting me in reading at the service. I would also like to thank the 14 people from St. Giles including Rev. Dewald Delpport who supported this event with much needed prayers.

Ann Frost

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

We began this year by looking at the lives of various people in Scripture and how their journey of life can inform and encourage us. We will continue to do so after Easter and, in no particular order, will look at:

- ◆ Cain and Abel
- ◆ Enoch
- ◆ Abram and Sarai
- ◆ Abraham and Sarah
- ◆ The other two patriarchs: Isaac and Jacob
- ◆ Joseph

- ◆ The Judges: Gideon, Deborah, Samson
- ◆ Samuel
- ◆ Elijah and Elisha
- ◆ The Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, Daniel and his friends
- ◆ and a few others.

If there is anyone you would like us to look at, let me know and I'll try to incorporate him/her.

Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpport

A NEW YEAR

Here I sit facing a blank screen again, looking at the title I've just typed and thinking surely it can't be twelve months since I was in the same fix, and wondering where did the time go. It's the middle of March, but New Year's Day was just a couple of weeks ago, wasn't it?

Well forget all that. There's a big day coming - St. Giles will be celebrating its 60th anniversary on April 23rd. I'm not one of the few charter members still around, but my wife and I have sat in the same pew since 1968. It's well to the front because when we joined the congregation was larger, and Presbyterians being what they are, the available space was directly in front of the pulpit.

One could search through the old files and annual reports for highlights and important anniversaries but they would make dry reading. Our concise history is pretty simple. St. Giles was born of two older congregations, Pleasant Heights and North Hill Presbyterian Churches on March 4, 1967, taking the name of the great cathedral in Edinburgh.

Our largest communicant membership was something over 600 in the early seventies. However, the largest attendant congregation our sanctuary has known was not a happy occasion but was gathered for a worship service acknowledging the death of a Calgary Presbyterian who had perished in the sinking of the drillship Ocean Ranger off Newfoundland in February 1982.

Like you we come on Sundays for worship, to approach our God in humility and reverence under the guidance of Rev. Delport. Among other things we are nourished in the reading of Scripture, the latter phrase being part of what is called our framework statement found at the top of the Sunday leaflet. It was proclaimed a few years ago as part of the work of a small group charged with the development of a new mission statement for the congregation. Collectively the words comprise a definition of who we are and have nuances of our history.

The reference to our Identity is deliberate. Is being Presbyterian important to you? For those who are Presbyterian by choice rather than by birth it is with dismay and some foreboding that one reads that the November 2016 issue of the Presbyterian Record marks the end of that publication. There weren't a great many subscribers at St. Giles but along with those others who were, we are saddened.

Perhaps in the same sense one acknowledges the brief efficiency of the recent annual meeting. There were no contentious issues but the sad part, without offence to those whose responsibilities were well handled, is that these meetings provide no forum for the exposition and

discussion of the spiritual and communal aspects of our church life.

Let's move for a moment to lighter things. The Ides of March is upon us. The snow is going fast and spring is at hand. A glance out the kitchen window shows renewed activity around the bird feeder which has been pretty quiet all winter. Of course, the usual characters are around, like the chickadees and the house finches, but they've been here all along. With the end of winter there's a seasonal aspect to some of this because the male finches are decked out in their finest red, having apparently learned from fashion and humankind that feathers make the finch.



Of the two, the chickadees are more appealing. They swoop in singly and silently to a perch, duck in for a seed and fly away to enjoy a quiet meal. On the other hand, the finches arrive in bunches, jostling to get at one of the four feeder openings. Having wrangled such a space, the lucky bird may sit there gorging for several minutes until pushed away by a hungry buddy.

But there are other players here, because the finches are sloppy eaters and litter the ground, which brings out the fun guys, the squirrels. There are the old friends from last year - you may remember Old Blackie and Young Blackie plus Lover Boy and Bushy Tail. The thing here is a new arrival, a sweet brown-grey young thing. There's no doubt about gender, because Old Blackie has certainly noticed, and the chase that begins at the feeder goes round and round the yard and disappears into the park behind.

Apart from the pure fun of it, there is a point in recounting this stuff here, and it relates to navigating the interface between the observed animal world of Charles Darwin that surrounds us and of which we are a part, and our Wednesday morning Bible Study. We are finishing up some weeks of discussing Paul's Letter to the Romans. In addition to the oversight of Dewey in his role of Teaching Elder there are participants who contribute strong biblical scholarship.

Michael Moorhouse

BIBLE STUDY

For the past several years Rev. Delport has led a Wednesday morning Bible study from about mid-September to the end of April. The beginning of 2017 saw those attending embark on a study of the New Testament book of Romans.

Paul – the ‘apostle to the Gentiles’ and arguably one of the most influential people in world history – wrote this book sometime between AD 53 and 55, only two decades after Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. The Church at that time was comprised of Jews who accepted Jesus as the Messiah, and converts from the Gentile peoples. The Jewish Christians were familiar with the Old Testament and the Mosaic law, while most of the Gentile Christians would have had little or no knowledge of the Old Testament. In his letter to the Church in Rome Paul presents a richly developed Christian theology which addressed both groups within three broad themes:

- ♦ Justification is through faith in the atoning sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God and our Lord, and not through our works. Martin Luther’s recognition of this truth was foundational to the Church’s Reformation which began in the sixteenth century. Fifteen hundred years earlier it was an especially important point to make to a Jewish

audience, many of whom had a background steeped in a theology of works.

- ♦ Although the Jews were God’s people, and Paul was proud of his heritage, by the time he wrote Romans it was clear that the majority had rejected Jesus as God’s Messiah. This was a source of sorrow to Paul and he devotes several chapters to this issue, together with his belief that this ‘hardening in part’ will not last forever.
- ♦ And finally, Paul exhorts his readers to live in a way which pleases God. Salvation is through faith rather than works, but this is not a licence to live any way we like. Christians should not lead lives in complete conformity to the culture of the day, an important message for the recently-converted Gentiles in first century Rome, and just as true today as it was then.

Bible study lasts for about an hour and begins at 10:15 am in the Park Room. These sessions provide an opportunity to delve into Scripture in more detail than is possible on Sunday mornings, with the significant bonus of being able to ask questions and discuss the meaning of difficult passages in some depth. No previous ‘Bible study experience’ is required and all are welcome.

Denis Mascardelli

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

MOMS AND TOTS PROGRAM



Moms & Tots at St Giles works to bring timely and accurate information to those who care for babies and young children - including a growing attendance of dads and grandparents. So far this year there have been very well received sessions on nutrition, emergency medicine, and parent/child attachment. The remaining two sessions before summer will focus on family communication and language development in the early years.

The committee wishes to thank all those who have helped and supported the program; you are very much appreciated. A special thanks to Ted Samson, our church officer, for all he does to get everything ready and to Gillian Siddall who is amazing in the nursery.

Linda Anderson, Ann Frost, Donna Hamilton, Teuny Howarth,
Dianne Mascardelli, Candace Siddall



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Let us prepare our hearts this Lenten season by reflecting on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

The First Word (Luke 23:33-34)

When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said **"Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."**

Soldiers have just driven nails through his hands and feet and hoisted him up by those nails. He does not fear those who kill his body; he pities them and prays for them. If they knew how much this hurts, they could not do it to anyone. They are unwitting instruments of the higher purpose that brings him here.

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The Second Word (Luke 23:39-43)

One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, **"I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."**

But a dying thief says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." What the cynical voices suggest is not the way to prove he is the Christ. His kingdom is not of this world. He ignores them and reassures the thief.

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The Third Word (John 19:25-27)

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, **"Woman, here is your son."** Then he said to the disciple, **"Here is your mother."** And from that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

Not quite alone. He looks down. Which hurts worse: the pain of being crucified, or the pain of a mother watching her son be crucified, or the pain of a boy whose beloved teacher hangs bleeding before his eyes? He understands their pain in the midst of his own, and tells them to care for each other.

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The Fourth Word (Mark 15:33-34)

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, **"Elo-i, elo-i, lama sabach-thani?"** which means, **"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"**

But physical torment takes its toll. He suddenly discovers that he cannot hear the still, small voice; he has lost his two-way communication with God. His lifeline is not working, so he must face the narrow gate of death alone.

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The Fifth Word (John 19:28)

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), **"I thirst."**

Time passes slowly. His spring of living water runs dry. He reaches the end of his strength. This is the moment the Tempter has been waiting for: through the voices of cynical men, Satan tries again, as he did in the wilderness: "if you are the Christ, prove it! Save yourself and impress the people."

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The Sixth Word (John 19:29-30)

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on stalk of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, **"It is finished!"**

He has defeated the Tempter again. Despite the agony, he has rejected temptation and cared for those around him. His temporary duty on earth is complete. He has shown the way God wants us to live. He has demonstrated the fact that faith and hope and love cannot be destroyed by anything men can say or do.

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The Seventh Word (Luke 23:46)

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, **"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"** And having said this he breathed his last.

Like a trusting child, he turns to the Father and takes the next step. He has bound himself by love, to both God and the human race. Soon he will begin his long-term ministry by demonstrating the fact that human beings survive physical death. Then he will continue to draw to himself, and thus to heaven, everyone he can for as long as it takes, until whosoever will has come.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

The following excerpts of our 2017 Lenten liturgies were produced by Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).

First Sunday in Lent

What kind of people will we be?
 Will we have the courage to withstand temptation?
 Will we trust in God's faithfulness as we travel through the wilderness?

Jesus, stay with us as we face our own demons.
Stay with us as we listen for your voice.
Stay with us as we seek to live our life in the image of Christ. Amen.

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Second Sunday in Lent

Where will the road of life take us?
 What kind of people will we be?
 Are we prepared to be born anew by God's Spirit?

Jesus, stay with us as we listen for your call.
Stay with us as we wrestle with our history.
Stay with us as we seek your kingdom. Amen.

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Third Sunday in Lent

Do we trust that God will provide water for our thirst?
 Or will we surrender to bitterness and complaining?

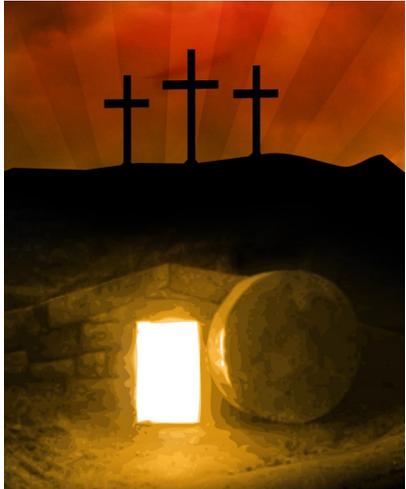
Jesus, stay with us as we think deeply about your gifts.
Stay with us as we confront our own thirst.
Stay with us as we seek to understand your will. Amen

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

Will we live by faith even when we cannot see the road ahead?
 Will we lean on Christ, trusting him to open our eyes?
 Do we really want to follow the Christ path?

Jesus, stay with us as we seek your wisdom.
Stay with us as we consider our relationships.
Stay with us as we discern our vocations. Amen.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

What will we do as we face choices of life or death?
 Dare we trust in the power of God to renew our lives?
 Are we prepared to share this vision with others?

Jesus, stay with us as we go through every valley.
Stay with us as we reach out to the world with hands that heal.
Stay with us as we make our way along the Christ path. Amen.

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Palm/Passion Sunday

Are we among those who will shout, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!"?
 Are we among those who welcome Christ as the prince of peace or are we among those who are already plotting his demise?

Jesus, stay with us as we confront the truth of this moment.
Stay with us as we prepare for the darkness ahead.
Stay with us as it is a fearful time. Amen.

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Easter Sunday

Alleluia, Christ has risen.
 The vision of God that was made manifest in the ministry of Jesus will not be defeated.
 God invites us this day to new life in Christ, and to be alive to the new possibilities of God's kingdom.

Jesus, filled with the power of the resurrection, we commit our lives to the Christ vision of generosity and grace.
Filled by the power of the resurrection, we commit our congregations to the Christ vision of courage and love.
Filled by the power of the resurrection, we continue to follow along the Christ path. Amen.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16 (NRSV)

CHOIR NEWS



Choir is diligently working toward Good Friday and Easter services with some special music.

We are also looking forward to the 60th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 23rd when we are hoping some of our past members will join us in song!!

Did you know, our Organist, Esther, often improvises creative accompaniments to our hymns and anthems? We are so fortunate to enjoy her talents!

We are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to try the Choir experience. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm

Marni Strome

BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 2, 2017 it was a special privilege for our congregation to welcome into Christ's Church by Baptism,

Sophie Alexandra Martin

daughter of Kelly Martin and Monica Cepoiu-Martin

To share in this very special occasion were grandparents Dennis and Chris Martin, and many family and friends.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

The church school has been working on a project for our 60th Anniversary. They are making a paper banner which they will present at the anniversary lunch and are also working on a prayer of 60 things we are thankful for. It has been fun listening to their ideas and hearing how grown up some of the children are becoming. We are going to share the prayer with the congregation in April.

Our next event will be Recognition Sunday, when the children will chose the hymns and do the readings as well as enjoy a lunch together, and then spend some time Mini-Golfing. This year we will NOT be hosting Vacation

Bible School and instead we will provide information about VBS at other churches to anyone who is interested.

Our biggest need at the moment is to get some new teachers!! If anyone is interested in teaching the older or the younger group, please let me know and we can get you involved. Many hands makes light work and at the moment we are short on hands and would love to add some new teachers to our team.

Heather Mackie

Happy Easter!

BOOK STUDY: THE REASON FOR GOD

In January Rev. Delport began a series of evening discussions based on Timothy Keller's book, *The Reason for God – Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. Timothy Keller is the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, which he started in 1980 with his wife, Kathy. Beginning with a congregation of just 50, and the dire predictions of experts that evangelism in New York was a hopeless cause, Redeemer Presbyterian has grown to a weekly attendance of 5,000.

The majority are young single urban professionals and over 40 percent are Asian-American, hardly the demographic that most of us would associate with 'Presbyterian'.

The Reason for God, a *New York Times* best-seller, has been translated into 15 languages, attesting to its popularity. In it Dr. Keller

discusses the most common objections to Christianity that he encounters in his ministry and presents the Christian responses to them, devoting a chapter to each. He wrote the book because of his belief that, 'People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenseless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart skeptic...Only if you struggle

long and hard with objections to your faith will you be able to provide grounds for your beliefs to skeptics, including yourself, that are plausible rather than ridiculous or offensive'.

Rev. Delport organized six evening sessions to examine and discuss the objections and arguments put forward in Dr. Keller's book:

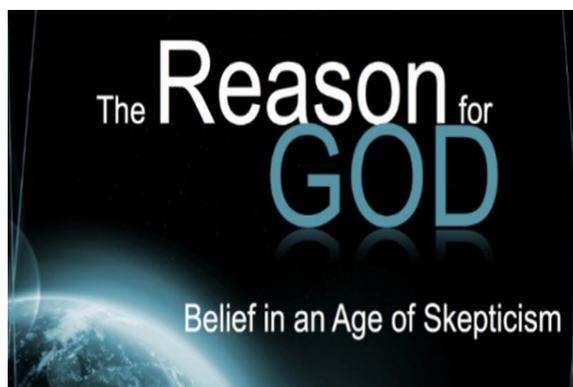
- ◆ Science has disproved Christianity (January 19);
- ◆ How can you say that there is only one way to God? (February 9);
- ◆ What gives you the right to tell me how to live my life? (February 23);
- ◆ How could a good God allow suffering? (March 9); and
- ◆ How can a loving God send people to hell? (April 6).

The 'St Giles Format' was to have a light supper at 5:30 pm (optional), followed by an hour and a half discussion beginning at 6:00 pm

which began with a short video of a group of non-believers expressing their doubts/objections to Dr. Keller.

This series has proven to be popular with fifteen to twenty plus members attending each session, and no doubt all are appreciative of Rev. Delport having taken the initiative to organize the program.

Denis Mascardelli



COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER AT PRESBYTERY

Presbytery met on February 7th at Calvin Hungarian. Rev. Bocskoras opened the meeting with worship. Westminster Church led the Theological Reflection describing their work on Spiritual Growth.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery

Sandra shared that St. Giles will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary on April 23rd.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

Clergy and Congregational Care

- Presbytery-wide youth retreats will be organized for the years between Canada Youth events;
- The records of St. Giles were attested as neatly and correctly kept;
- Rev. Coutts was appointed as Presbytery Representative to St. John's, becoming Interim Moderator upon Rev. Cocks retirement in August;
- The official Presbytery minutes of its May 2016 meeting were corrected to show the actual amounts of St. Giles' General Fund.

Administration Committee

- Audrey Cole from St. Andrew's, Calgary, was named Moderator-Elect of Presbytery for 2017-18;
- The Interim Ministry Covenant between Grace Church and Rev. Allen Aicken was terminated effective February 12, 2017;
- Presbytery moved to transmit the Overture from the Session of Valleyview regarding the process of Gracious Dismissal without comment.

Reports from Interim Moderators/Presbytery Representatives

Varsity Acres Church

- Presbytery gave agreement for the Search Process to proceed.

Centennial Church

- The Congregational Profile was approved and permission was given to proceed with the Search.

Grace Church

- Presbytery approved the Stated Supply Ministry Agreement between Grace, Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris and the Presbytery;
- The new leadership ministry model adopted by Grace was approved and permission given for them to form a Search Committee.

St. Andrew's Church, Calgary

- The Search continues with profiles being reviewed and interviews beginning.

St. John's, Medicine Hat

- The Search Committee will forward the Congregational Profile for information.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

Synod of Alberta and the Northwest

- Director of Regional Ministries
Funding from the Calgary Foundation and Calgary Homeless Foundation will be used to help create an Indigenous Gathering Place providing cultural resources, programs and services;
- Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw is helping congregations host the KAIROS Blanket Exercise Worship as part of reconciliation in Canada;
- PCC Justice Ministries is holding a Healing and Reconciliation Youth Leader Training at Camp Kannawin, May 5-6th. Presbytery approved \$1000 in funding for the event from the Riverside Legacy Fund;
- Rev. Ollerenshaw's role as Interim Moderator for Faith Church, Fort McMurray is complete as the Rev. Gabriel Snyman was inducted February 5th.
- United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry
The ministry engages in spiritual and multi-faith programming at the U of C, MRU and SAIT. They gratefully received \$25,000 from the PCC Avondbloem Experimental Fund to be used for the Drum, Dine, Discuss & Contemplative Community program;
- Drum circles are held weekly with students often getting involved with the Drum, Dine, Discuss program. A Drum Troupe was formed at U of C that performed at the Opening Ceremonies of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week at City Hall;
- The Peer Partnership Program, now in its second year, engages young adults from the Christian community while deepening relations between the Campus Ministry and congregations.

Presbytery Officers

- Presbytery approved that the Clerk will send Congregational Visitation Reports to the relevant congregation's Clerk of Session once they are approved.

Next Meeting –will take place May 29-30th in conjunction with the Presbytery Retreat.

Sandra Cameron Evans

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO MARCH 2017

In 2016 we hoped that our budget of \$278,299 would be sufficient to cover expenses. Unfortunately, between lower than anticipated revenue from envelope offerings and higher than expected expenses, we had a cash shortfall of \$55,333. To pay the bills \$63,723 was transferred from Memorial Funds to the General Fund, significantly reducing our cash reserves.

A substantial factor in our expenses exceeding the budget were much greater than forecast Maintenance and Emergency Repairs, totaling \$41,600 against the \$16,000 budgeted. Repairing the foundation crack (\$15,373), refurbishment of the final stained glass window (\$4,326) and replacement of the old smoke detectors (\$4,597) were some of the larger expenses in these two categories.

The Budget for 2017 calls for envelope revenue of \$208,747 while an additional \$47,900 is forecast from other sources including rental income from the Korean Church and Centron Construction, and Congregational Life events such as the Spring Tea and Christmas Bazaar.

The chart on the right shows our envelope revenue targets by month together with first quarter actuals. Although the year began well with the January receipts exceeding that month's target, The February and March results fell short of the budget goals, resulting in a first quarter deficit of almost \$5,500.

There is though, good news about our PAR program. We now have 14 contributors and these include many of those who give the largest envelope amount each month.

Ted Samson

2017 ENVELOPE REVENUE GOALS

	Percentage of total giving	Goal for 2017	Actual
January	6.7%	13,986	14,320
February	8.1%	16,909	14,454
March	8.3%	17,326	13,953
April	7.8%	16,282	
May	8.5%	17,743	
June	7.7%	16,074	
July	6.0%	12,525	
August	6.7%	13,986	
September	7.5%	15,656	
October	9.4%	19,622	
November	9.8%	20,457	
December	13.5%	28,181	
TOTAL	100%	\$208,747	

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)*



OUR RULING ELDERS AT ST. GILES

The Session is the governing body of the Congregation. This group is made up of faithful leaders, called 'Elders', responsible for the spiritual life of the congregation. They meet to make decisions and to support the Minister and the other committees of the church.

At the beginning of 2016, we had 11 ruling elders. Terry Hagen left us to accept a two-point charge in Northern British Columbia and he is greatly missed. Last June, we were pleased to welcome Jeanne Phene and Bud Hamilton to the team.

Here is a listing of our present 13 ruling elders:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Sandra Cameron Evans | Ann Frost | Ian McKay | Jeanne Phene (new) |
| Lorne Cowan | Bud Hamilton (new) | Joan McLean | Candace Siddall (Clerk of Session) |
| Dennis Daly | Ivy Mewha | John McLean | Wendell Siddall |
| | | | Jenny Thomson |

UPCOMING EVENTS



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ **Bible Study:** Continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am. Led by Rev. Dewald Delport.
- ★ **Mid-Week Praise:** Come and join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. We'll sing some old songs, some new songs, and learn a few more.
- ★ **Mid-Week Mix:** Wednesdays at 11:35 am—chair exercises for all ages—everyone is invited.
- ★ **Sunday, April 9: Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Service**
10:00 am—Holy Week begins with the events of Palm/Passion Sunday. We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, surrounded by joyful crowds who wanted him to be their king. We also remember his suffering and death for the sins of the world.
- ★ **Friday, April 14: Good Friday Worship Service**
10:00 am—We remember Jesus' suffering and death.
- ★ **Sunday, April 16: Easter Sunday Worship Services**
7:30 am—**Easter Sunrise Service**
This early morning Sunrise Service will be held in our church's backyard and afterwards we will breakfast in the Lower Hall.
10:00 am—**Easter Sunday Worship Service**
We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! Our worship service includes the telling of the Easter Story.

Special thanks and appreciation to our Music Director, Marni Strome, our pianist Esther Woelfle, and to our guest musicians, for the wonderful and inspirational music that they have provided us.

Check our Church Bulletin for other Upcoming Events

Easter Prayer

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. From "Worship Sourcebook" p.634

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