



# WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spring 2014 Issue

*ST. GILES' MOTTO: "Called by Christ, Committed by Faith, Connected by Community."*

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### Remember the Foreground:

Two and a half years ago I decided to learn more about photography. I was comfortable with my camera and could take half decent pictures. I was ready to learn more and perhaps even push the envelope just a little further to develop my skills. In January, I completed Sports Photography and currently I am busy with Scenic and Wildlife, which ends in March 2014.

I remember a comment a Facebook friend made when I revealed that I am a SAIT student, "Your pictures are great - why do you want to take photography classes?" I was flattered of course. Yet, I never regret taking any of the classes. There is much to learn. I never really thought much about aperture and ISO, depth-of-field and composition, never mind the rule of thirds and positive-space.

During one class for Scenic and Wildlife, the instructor showed us a series of landscape pictures. After awhile he asked if we have noticed a difference in the picture. All of us agreed that they are much better. The instructor asked us if we knew why they were better. Well, after a few guesses he told us: there was something in the foreground. And it is true, when a landscape picture has something (a rock, a tree, a flower, anything) in the foreground the whole picture looks so much better. The other important aspect of a good landscape picture is to have everything in focus - the foreground object and the scene in the distance.

#### What's - Inside?

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The same principle applies to life as well. Sometimes we can get so caught up at what we are doing or would like to do that we either forget about the foreground object or it is out of focus. Truth is, the picture doesn't look so nice

anymore. The picture just doesn't have the same impact when the foreground is missing or when it is out of focus.

**God is our foreground.**

**Faith is our foreground.**

**Prayer is our foreground.**

**Inviting others is our foreground.**

We are God's children. Our belief in God helps us to focus on others. Our belief in God helps us to get our priorities right. Our belief in God reminds us that we have hope. Our belief in God reminds us that we are never alone, but are strengthened and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our belief in God helps us to remember that we are to love God and our neighbour without reservation. Our belief in God helps us to grow in our spiritual relationship with God.

This year we at St. Giles are focussing on two of our six values – spirituality and inviting others. I think this is important for us because it is easy to lose focus. We have a spiritual relationship with God and this relationship is important. This relationship is fed through prayer and study, through meditation and worship. Inviting others is also part of who we are and, let's face it "others" are all around us and so often we lose sight of friends and neighbors, children and parents.

As we enter the Season of Lent and eagerly await Easter Morning, may we strive to be reborn and transformed by the Holy Spirit and so strive to grow in our spiritual relationship with God and invite others to experience the grace, mercy, and love of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessings, Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpont



*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

Dear Members and Friends of St. Giles,

As you will recall, in 2013 St. Giles approved new Vision, Mission, Values statements and a new Motto. It is wonderful to see the new motto in the header of "What's Up?" and to see the mission statement on the bottom of the front page. In the Session report you will note that a decision has been made by session to focus on two Core Values for 2014:

### **Inviting Others and Spirituality.**

Within this issue you will notice a great variety of opportunities to invite others to share in our celebrations of Christ's way in the world. Through the Folk Night you can offer support to the Thutong Ya Bana School in Kimberley, South Africa. You are invited to stay mentally and physically active by joining the Mid-Week Mix or to sing, pray and listen to the Word on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Mid-Week Praise.

Attending to the second Core Value focus of Spirituality, the church will be open during Lent for prayer on Thursday afternoons and resources for growing one's spirituality are now available on the website. The Prayer and Share program runs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and the Prayer Shawl ministry would welcome your requests and/or participation.

The World Day of Prayer happens the first week of March each year. This is something to put on your calendar for 2015. It is a day where all churches in Canada and around the world come together as one to pray for peace. Representatives from a different country write the service each year; in 2014 the women of Egypt and the World Day of Prayer International Committee prepared the service.

Wishing you Easter Blessings!  
Susan Carmichael for the Editorial Team

## NOTEWORTHY

Dear Friends at St Giles,

Greetings from Ottawa where as you know I have found my home since October of 2013. It seems like a different era when I went through the arduous process of selling my house, downsizing and more downsizing, saying a fond farewell to many friends and stepping in my car on a grey and rainy morning at the end of September to make the long trip across the prairies and Eastern Ontario where I knew my son Malcolm was waiting for me in Kitchener, Waterloo. It felt a bit like coming home to a country side that I remembered from my beginnings in Canada when I started my life with Russ. Six months later I am settled in a new home, making it my own, and have the prospect of my son Alistair, wife Roberta and granddaughter Reagan moving in around the corner from my house on May 1<sup>st</sup>. What a joy, we can "make family" more often and include Malcolm frequently. He moved back to Toronto where he had an opportunity to go back to his old office and tackle more challenging and interesting work.

Ottawa is a wonderful city in the unfortunate grip of a never ending winter with snow, slush, salty roads, muddy cars and – did I mention it?- freezing rain!! Yet I venture out as much as I can finding interesting places and people and, yes, a new church home. Presently I am attending Trinity United Church, an affirmative, inclusive

Christ-community where I hope to continue my journey of belonging, behaving and believing – in the words of Diana Butler Bass.

Please know you have a friend in Ottawa and are welcome any time you happen to visit here or are on a stop-over to other destinations. My address is :3-231 Dovercourt Ave, Ottawa ON K1Z 7H3. My telephone # is: 613-518-6864 and my e-mail address is: [savage.irene@gmail.com](mailto:savage.irene@gmail.com).

I love to include a picture of my spirited little grandchild who has to contend with English, French, Chinese and the Dutch language. So far she seems to be clearly delighted when seeing "oma" and starts dancing once I put the CD with the 100 Dutch children's songs in my player.

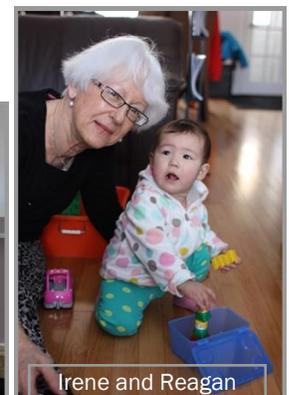
I will never forget my St. Giles family who showed me how to share in the love of Jesus.

My very best wishes to all of you.

Irene Savage



Malcolm with niece Reagan



Irene and Reagan

## *FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE BIBLES AT ST. GILES*

### *BY JANET ASTLE*

**M**y mother once had a friend who always appeared to be quite unprepared for whatever event was upcoming. However, whenever my anxious mother would ask, "Barbara, what are you going to do about...?" Barbara would invariably thrust an arm up to the heavens and announce in ringing tones, "The Lord will provide," which He invariably did. I can't say that I notice this happening to me except when the time is approaching to write an item for *What's Up?* I will be casting around anxiously for ideas when a topic will suddenly come out of the blue. This time it literally came out of the blue when the concept of writing about the various bibles at St. Giles arose as I watched a torn page from our communion table bible flutter, rather pathetically, onto the blue carpet of the chancel steps at the start of service one Sunday morning.

While this bible was being repaired, I looked at its dedication page and realised it was one of the bibles that had come to St. Giles from Chalmers Church. It had been presented by the family and friends of the late Mrs. Mary E. (May) Graham and dedicated at Chalmers on 29 December, 1974. Interestingly, to me at least, this American edition is somewhat circumspect about announcing its editorial origins for, rather than a bald statement announcing it to be the "King James Version," this bible has, on its title page, "The text conformable to that of the edition of 1611, commonly known as the authorised King James' version." It is very simple in its format, as it has few extras other than a key to pronunciation at the front (I must remember that the next time I am given a hard name to pronounce during a reading,) and a short "Survey of each book" at the back.

If you think about it, the communion table bible leads a curious life, for it is rarely read, but it does travel a lot. Every Sunday it is taken out of the sanctuary early in the morning, and then at the start of the service it is brought back into the sanctuary and placed on the communion table. Only once have I seen it actually used. One of the readers for the day walked up to the lectern only to realise there was no bible handy; without missing a beat he took the Bible off the stand, read from it, and then returned it to the stand. I was so pleased to see that bible finally being used for its original purpose.

Since writing the previous two paragraphs, this bible has been given honourable retirement, and a second Chalmers bible, which was stored in the archives, has replaced it on the communion table. This one is in pristine condition and will make a fine replacement. It was presented to Chalmers in memory of Mrs Margaret A. Dalglish, possibly in the mid-1960s, and is notable for the "Index of Curious Facts" that can be found on the last page. Some of these facts, which each have their own reference (apparently) in Scripture, are very curious indeed. I can just about understand the interest in knowing the first mention of a man shaving in the bible - Joseph on preparing to meet Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14); I rather appreciated the fact that men were known to wipe dishes in ancient times (2 Kings 21:13); and I am even more pleased to see that tattooing was forbidden (Leviticus 19:28), but some of the other "facts" are very odd, if not downright peculiar. Why would anyone even try to find a reference to a telephone (Job 38:35), aeroplane (Isaiah 31:5) or a submarine (Job 41:14-32)? I do rather like the "reference" to automobiles, however, for Deerfoot Trail is immediately brought to mind. This is to be found in Nahum 2:4 and reads as follows:

*The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.*

While these two aforementioned bibles are almost austere in their simplicity (apart from the "Curious Facts") there is a third bible in the archives that also came from Chalmers and is positively flamboyant. It weighs almost 16 lbs (about 7kg) and has a heavily embossed cover that is inlaid with many finely detailed gold illustrations of bible scenes. The title of this tome is "Pronouncing Parallel Bible" and it comes with "2000 illustrations." A note inside the cover records that the bible was gifted to Chalmers by Grace Church in early January, 1954, but it was "not able to be used meantime until construction of new church" [sic] (Chalmers was dedicated in 1957). This book was printed by William Briggs of Toronto, but no date is given. The following pages list all the awards the printing house had received for its bibles with the latest date being 1900, which gives a clue to its age.

*(continued on page 4)*

## ***FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE BIBLES AT ST. GILES***

*(continued from page 3)*

Once inside it takes a while to actually get to Genesis as one first has to pass through: the History of the English Translations; Contents (naming each of the chapters within the books of the Testaments); a heavily illustrated History of the Books with “interesting narratives” (the illustrations are in the form of line engravings); Religious Denominations, their history and creeds (which I could have spent quite a time reading); Science and Revelation or, the Triumph of the Bible over Criticism (which looked rather heavy going); Scripture Difficulties Explained; Summary of Biblical Antiquities describing the manners and customs of the Israelites; a Geographical and Topographical account of Canaan, Galilee, Samaria and Judea; Valuable Chronological and Miscellaneous Tables (did you know there were 45 different names by which the Holy Ghost is known in the Bible?); the Pronouncing Dictionary containing every important scriptural word (with copious illustrations); Bible Stories for young people; and finally a Self-pronouncing Dictionary of Scripture proper names. Phew! Genesis then begins with absolutely no fanfare about an inch into the book. As if that was not enough, no sooner has Revelation ended than a list of Readings preferred by the American Committee is given followed by: Chronological index to the Holy Bible; Four Thousand questions and answers; Cruden’s complete concordance; and the Psalms of David in metre. It certainly was an all in one reference book for its time.

While Chalmers is well represented by bibles in the archives, it is not the same case for St. Giles, as there are none at all. A perusal of the bibles that are stored on a shelf in the basement did not reveal any with a significant history other than one that was inscribed with the name of Margaret McLagan (who some of you may remember) and the date April 21, 1951. The one St. Giles bible that did garner, unfortunately, a lot of media attention was the one that was damaged when the church was vandalised on Saturday, December 12, 1992. Compared to 1977, when burglars broke into the church and stole a single

Canadian Flag worth \$8 (Can there be patriotic burglars?), this was vandalism on a grand scale. Damage was done both downstairs in the kitchen and office areas as well as upstairs. In the sanctuary pews were knocked over, hymn books shredded, graffiti written on the walls, the piano and organ damaged, the organ speakers torn out and rolled down the hill into Confederation Park, Christmas decorations strewn around, tiles chipped off the blue cross on the chancel wall, and the Bible burnt. Members of the congregation soon arrived, along with an insurance company cleaning crew, to restore the church so that the service could carry on as normally as possible on the Sunday. On the following Monday the story was covered in both the Herald and the Sun with a picture of a grim-faced Rev. Dr. David Crawford holding the burnt bible. This resulted in many people, of different faiths and denominations, and from all across Calgary and Alberta, writing to St Giles with messages of support, offers of help, and enclosing donations.

Only one perpetrator of the vandalism was apprehended (via fingerprints that had been left on the beer bottles that were strewn around the sanctuary). This young man went to trial in April 1994. He apologized to the court and to St. Giles and was subsequently sentenced to one year in jail at Spy Hill. I believe the Rev. Crawford visited him there.

I am not sure what happened to the charred bible. It is hard to know what to do with old bibles. The Americans know exactly what to do with their flag when the time has come for it to be retired (burn it), and Moslems know precisely that they must not burn the Koran, but we do not really have a guideline for damaged bibles. This probably explains why there is the shelf of orphaned bibles in the basement. Perhaps this is a good time to look at your bible, decide if it has a worthy history and if any of that history should be inscribed inside the front cover for future generations and/or archivists.

### **I Am the Resurrection and the Life**

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup>And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

## MID-WEEK PRAISE

Have you ever wondered what the Mid-Week Praise service is all about?

We Worship. The Mid-Week Praise service follows the flow of a regular Sunday morning service. We sing, we pray, we listen to the Word, there is short message and we celebrate communion.

It is true, we don't have a musician playing for us, but we don't sing a *cappella* either. We sing songs that are well known and a few new ones that we are learning. We use YouTube videos. We use YouTube videos because it adds a few singing voices, the words are on the screen, and it functions like the choir who help leads the congregation with the singing on a Sunday. Some of the songs are instrumental, there are songs played exclusively on an organ, and some songs that have a bit more of a beat to them (nothing outrageous though).

This year our prayers are taking on a different dimension – but a good one. Rev. Delport asks for prayer requests from

those who are there for the prayer of confession and the prayer of the people.

We also celebrate the Lord's Supper each time we meet. The Lord's Supper looks a little different than on a Sunday morning. All of us gather around the Communion Table, we join hands as we pray, and each person serves the one next to them the bread and the wine. We join our hearts together in the prayer of the people. Then we sing "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart." Many people have commented that they find the Lord's Supper very moving and meaningful and they feel it is more personal.

If you would like to join us, or if you are just curious, come and join us for a service. You may find that it very uplifting, meaningful, comforting, or something you just needed that week. We hope to see on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

## PRAYER AND SHARE

My name is Joanne Watson and I want to tell you about a special time that I spend with some prayer friends at the Prayer and Share that is held in the sunshine of the Park Room on the second Wednesday afternoon of the month, from 1:15pm to 3:00pm.

We talk and visit and list things that we are concerned about or thankful for in all domains of life, from our sick grandchild to troublesome neighbors. We pray for our congregation and that all may feel welcome.

We light a candle to remind us of the light of Christ in our midst and then after some time we pass a token around to take turns praying silently or out loud. There are no expectations - just warm friendship. Please come and join us! If you wish to know more, call me at 403-280-0510. I believe this time together helps us to grow a little in spirit. It is fun too!

Joanne Watson, Convenor

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER AT ST. GILES

On Friday, February 21, 2014 St. Giles hosted a Free Spaghetti Dinner at the Lower Hall. This was part of our new initiative '**Inviting Others**'. It was a great success with many members of the congregation and the community attending.

Of utmost importance was the huge support received to put this special event together. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work." A most sincere thank-you to all

the volunteers in serving, cleaning up, and the organizers Jenny Thomson, Ann Frost, Diane Mascardelli, Donna Russell, Jeanne Phene and my family. It was most impressive how so many people offered to help in so many ways. It is lovely to know that St. Giles is always there to help. We are truly blessed.

Candace Siddall, Coordinator

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Over the past few months we have given out prayer shawls to several of our friends in the congregation. There is yarn in the cupboard for anyone wishing to knit/crochet a shawl. We will schedule a meeting in early Spring. If you would like more information, please call Janette Mackie at 403-202-3014.

## MISSION IN ACTION COMMITTEE

Our Inn From the Cold program continues to meet the needs of many of our community's homeless on the first Wednesday of each month. Current volunteers with this program come from within our church community and from the community surrounding St. Giles.

If you have not yet gotten involved in this program as a volunteer, you can get more information regarding positions and specific areas of need by contacting Susan Carmichael or the church office.

In other news relating to IFTC, Derwyn Hughes, a long time volunteer with the program, was able to apply for a grant of \$1000 from Shell Canada. His grant application was approved and the funds will be used to purchase and update some of the equipment needed to operate this program. Thank you Derwyn for taking the initiative to make this happen!

Proceeds from the upcoming Folk Night will once again be directed toward supporting the Thutong Ya Bana mission school in South Africa. Come and enjoy an evening of entertainment while supporting this school's program..

Many on our committee have been working together for a number of years and along with other aspects of St. Giles, it is time for renewal. We will be actively searching out new faces, new energy and ideas in the coming months. If you believe that you could take an active roll in helping St.Giles identify and carry out mission work, let Dewey know or anyone on the committee.

Lastly, Terry Hagen has agreed to take over as the chair of the Mission in Action Committee. The committee members were very pleased to have Terry take on this leadership role. Over the past four years, as chair of this committee, I have experienced the generous spirit of the people of St. Giles, as we worked together to support those less fortunate. I am confident that as we move forward, we will continue to make a difference in our community, our country and in the world.

Submitted by John McLean,  
Chair of Mission in Action Committee

### ST.GILES FOLK NIGHT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>

I am pleased to announce that that **6<sup>th</sup> Annual St.Giles Folk Night** will be held at the St. Giles Lower Hall on Saturday April 5, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Doors will open at 6:30pm. The program will run for about two hours, and there will be an intermission halfway through the program.

Again, we are looking for performers to round out our evening. Please contact Jason Gaskarth at 403-234-0823 or leave a message at the St. Giles church Office at 403-289-6862. Please let Jason know what you will be performing to avoid possible duplication.

Volunteers will be needed for the kitchen, as well as the set up. We will again be doing the coffee house theme, and baking is always welcome. Please contact the church office.

Tickets will go on sale starting Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. As in prior years, Freewill Offering will be accepted in advance, and 100 tickets will be printed for this event.

This year, like last year, the proceeds will be given to the Thutong Ya Bana School in Kimberley, South Africa.

Every year offers something different and unique, and we are hoping to welcome back most of our past performers, and hope to welcome some new performers as well. As in past years, I can guarantee an evening of fun and great entertainment. Feel free to invite your friends and family.

Looking forward to seeing you there for another great evening!

Jason Gaskarth, Coordinator

### ENGLISH CREAM TEA AT ST.GILES ON SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>

We will be having our second **English Cream Tea** again this year. Despite the massive amount of work involved in the preparation, the committee is willing to do it again on Saturday, May 3, 2014. We all thoroughly enjoyed this event last year and we hope you did too!

Advance ticket sales will begin in early April. You won't want to miss it—mark it on your calendar!

Candace Siddall, Coordinator

## SESSION REPORT

In 2013, St. Giles approved our new Vision, Mission, Values and Motto and directed Session “to act upon it”. After prayerful consideration and a Saturday morning spent reflecting on it, Session has begun this work. We agreed that God was calling us to work on the Core Values of “Inviting Others” and “Spirituality” in 2014.

A small group from Session has been meeting, keeping in mind our 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.”*

Out of the group’s work has come the following:

### Inviting Others:

*“We value the act of inviting others to share in our celebrations of Christ’s way in the world, and welcome all those who would come to our Church to learn who we are.”*

Food is always a popular way to connect with people and we at St. Giles are great with food. The Spaghetti Dinner that we hosted on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> was an opportunity to open our doors to our neighbors and extend our hospitality in a casual atmosphere. With approximately 70 people enjoying the Italian meal, it was a good start.

When inviting others, we need to do more work on different and better ways of sharing information and with whom we share it. We have updated the St. Giles’ brochure and have a well used website. As the year unfolds, we will pursue other ideas. If you have suggestions, please pass them on to your Elder or let the Church Office know.

### Spirituality:

*“We value spiritual growth, and the power of prayer.”*

The season of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, setting aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. From March 6<sup>th</sup> until April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Church will be open Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 6:00 pm for people to come and pray. Whether you have an established prayer life or want to build your prayer practise, you are invited to drop in and explore some of the resources that will be available to support prayer.

Other ideas for growing one’s spirituality are being pursued including Daily Devotionals now available on the St. Giles website. As work continues, watch for more information.

Please continue to keep Session and St. Giles’ focus for 2014 in your prayers.

Sandra Cameron Evans, Session Member

## MID-WEEK MIX

Mid-Week Mix is held every Wednesday in the Lower Hall just before noon following the Bible Study. It is open to everyone who would like to enjoy some chair exercises at 11:35am and to share lunch at 12:00 noon.

It is a way to keep physically and mentally active during the long winter months and opens the possibility of welcoming newcomers. We have an excellent DVD to teach us the exercises and it gives us a surprisingly good workout and help with balance problems. Everyone is invited to bring a sandwich, have a coffee, and to share food, recipes and conversation.

On occasion, we have had a speaker and we encourage people to bring new ideas to the Mix. Perhaps someone would like to teach Yoga. After lunch, on the second Wednesday of the month, Joanne Watson leads a program of Prayer and Share in the Park Room.

Please come and join us for one Wednesday... you might like it!

Chris Browne

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.***  
***Psalm 119:105***

## 2014 PRESBYTERY VISITATION TO ST. GILES

*The following is a summary of the Visitation Report by the general presbyter, Rev. Peter Coutts, and submitted to Presbytery. This visitation took place on Sunday, January 19, 2014.*

### Worship:

Worship attendance was 64, including five children and 16 in the choir. The liturgy is fairly typical of Presbyterian worship. About 20 percent of the worshipers are in the choir speaks not only to the importance of worship to St. Giles but more specifically of how important music is to the congregation. One highlight in May 2013 was the choir joining a mass choir concert at the Rozsa Centre for a performance of *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure.

### Congregational Life:

St. Giles has the feel of a family-model congregation with many “family gatherings” that happens through the year, and several mid-week activities. The congregation is enthusiastic and appreciative of the positive impact Rev. Dewald Delpert has had in the area of children and youth. This area is getting stronger with the increased participation. St. Giles is aging and declining, and that is having an impact on the volunteer base.

### Pastoral Care:

Elders find visits can be difficult to organize (all elders spoke of how busy their personal lives are) and arrange (congregants are not always available or receptive to visits). There is a strong Pastoral Care Committee who maintain contact with the congregation's sick and homebound.

**Recommendation #1:** that Session evaluate and strengthen its system of pastoral care, and report their actions taken to the November meeting of Presbytery.

### Mission:

The congregation supports many meaningful mission projects.

### The Session:

The committee organization is in need of assessment and perhaps some kind of restructuring in order to enhance effectiveness.

The Visitation Team believes that the Session's urgency regarding recent trends may not be great enough. The Session received a statement of 2013 finances that showed the congregation ran a net deficit in 2013 of \$33,579 which generated virtually no discussion. The situation may require a different focus and priorities moving forward for the sake of the congregation's future.

### The Finance & Budget Committee and the Facilities & Maintenance Committee:

The committee may be served well by developing an annual business calendar as a prompt to be mindful of and plan for the bigger picture/long term concerns of the congregation. Develop agendas to keep the committee on track with short-term and regular responsibilities. It is recommended that St. Giles create a ten-year major maintenance plan for their facility, scheduling anticipated major maintenance projects.

**Recommendation #2:** that the Session, its Finance & Budget and Facilities & Maintenance sub-committees, consider these recommendations and report their actions taken in response to the November 2014 meeting of Presbytery.

### The Minister:

Rev. Dewald Delpert has served St. Giles for three years with a level of energy and enthusiasm that is appreciated by Session and congregation alike. He is very mindful of the challenges St. Giles faces, which subsequently is his challenge as the clergy leadership of the congregation.

**Recommendation #3:** that Rev. Dewald Delpert be commended for his enthusiastic ministry and his leadership in promoting a more vital future for St. Giles Church.

### Growing Edges and Recommendations:

Offering income was down by \$38,750 over the past two years. In 2013 reserve funds were used to cover net loss of \$33,579 as well as \$23,450 in unbudgeted capital expenses for upgrades. Total \$57,029.

The Visitation Team is encouraged by the Session's recent work on vision and direction as recommended by the 2012 visitation report, and the decision to make spirituality and invitation a focus for 2014. These are excellent choices as one goal seeks to bring new people into the congregation and the other goal provides a means for newcomers to explore belief and faith.

**Recommendation #4:** that the Session report its progress in implementing its vision for the future to the November 2014 meeting of Presbytery.

Fortunately St. Giles is still a good size and composed of many faithful, committed and future-focused people. The resources—both human and financial—needed to work towards a stronger future reside in the congregation.

## ***IF WINTER COMES...***

### ***BY MICHAEL MOORHOUSE***

#### *If Winter Comes Can Spring Be Far Behind?*

Shelley wrote that, the concluding line in his 'Ode to the West Wind'. Yes, it's that time again. Winter 'What's Up?' time that is. So is there anything actually up? Deep and churchy I mean. And if there is, how shall I write about it? Easy for you maybe, but you don't have to do it. Usually I pick on some sort of ongoing theme like travel or the cottage and find a way of tucking in something about church and faith. Trouble is we haven't been anywhere and cottage life is pretty well written up. Right now that place is under two or three feet of snow in the coldest winter on record. Besides, it needs a new roof and I don't want to think about it.

Yes spring is coming, and you know what they say young men are thinking about. But I wasn't born yesterday or anything like it, and in late February I'm usually thinking about ordering seeds, still at the moment I am indeed thinking about love. That's because the other day at church, in one of his time-to-time exchanges with those of us in the pews (often me, because I'm the closest), Dewey reminded us that we are loved by God. More of that later, but first I want to tell you a love story - not a gushy tale of romance, but something that took guts and caring.

It's a story of two men that I had known professionally. Let's call them Jim and John. Jim had at one time been a geologist on my staff. He was neither gifted nor interested in strategic thinking but was very capable and utterly reliable in day to day matters, a real go-to guy when you needed something done. John was a geophysicist elsewhere in the organization. I didn't know him at the time, but we became friendly some years later. Both men were older than I, and it's relevant that both were veterans of World War II. It's also relevant that they had fought on opposite sides.

Jim had been a sergeant in the Essex Scottish, a southern Ontario regiment that had taken part in the Canadian raid on Dieppe in the summer of 1942, where hundreds died and thousands (including my wife's brother), were captured. Jim was hit in the arm as he stepped off the landing craft, and in the reality of that terrible morning had to be left on the beach. He told me he was well treated by the German medical staff and was freed in a prisoner exchange some months later.

I know less about John's story, but I understand that he was a Croatian of German extraction. As the Wehrmacht overran Europe and advanced into the Balkans, John had to decide between Hitler and the Communists under Tito. He chose Germany, and joined the Luftwaffe where he became a rear gunner in a dive bomber. John was shot down by the RAF over Malta and ultimately was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Canada. After the war he was repatriated to Europe, went to university, elected to return to Canada, and was employed in the oil and gas industry where I met him.

The occasion I write about was Jim's retirement - the sort of thing where forty or fifty colleagues are gathered, stories are told, a gift is given, and we all go back to work. I don't mean to belittle these occasions, but big organizations can be like that. Only this one didn't finish that way, because just when things were ending John got up, strode to the front, and very publically gave Jim a close embrace. For those of us watching it was a puzzling, almost embarrassing, moment, and we all went away knowing that something had happened but we didn't know what.

Some years later I got to know John a bit better. We both attended what was then called the Celebrity Series, a set of informal concerts put on by the U of C Department of Music. For lovers of classical music it was the best (and least expensive) deal in town, because in addition to the most promising students, these events often featured internationally known soloists who were temporarily on faculty to teach master classes in their genre.

These evenings were structured in a fashion typical for serious music concerts - something well known but not too long for a start, followed by a three or four movement main event before the intermission. The later part could be more modern and, given that this was a university show, might be considerably more daring. John's love of anything musical stopped well before the time of Debussy, and as the last clatters of the second half's opening piece faded to obligatory applause he would often get up from his second row seat on the aisle and pointedly leave the theatre.

*(continued on page 10)*

## IF WINTER COMES...

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One night, after the concert was over and we were walking back to the car-park I gathered up a fair measure of courage and asked John about that moment long before at Jim's retirement event. He thought quietly for several moments and then he said "Jim and I had been there and done that and we knew what war was about. What I did that day was to thank him for protecting me from all those other b-----s who would have done me in." His remark covered quite a few things, and not least, was about love.

In winding things up here's something closer to home. Or maybe it's not. A Sunday or so a while back Dewey declared that God loves the world. It wasn't part of the

sermon or a prayer - just a sort of offhand remark and I forget the context now. Since we are neighbourhood people and can tend to think rather locally, after the service I asked him what he meant by 'world'. After just a moment's hesitation he said "creation". That had to be the perfect answer, because in the opening words of Genesis it says 'In the beginning .. God created the heavens and the earth ... etc.' I guess that pretty well wraps up time and space, and it must include 'world'.

Looking back, I guess there actually was something to write about. Now I can look at the seed catalogues.

Happy Easter!

## ABOUT MARY...

Not that Mary. This is about **Mary Morley**, the most senior member of our congregation.



We got to know Mary Morley more than thirty years ago, back in the days when my husband Mike was an active member of Session. In those days Communion Cards were still in use, and quarterly pre-Communion home visiting and personal delivery of cards were required Elder's duties. Mary lived in Jaques Lodge before it got gobbled up by the West LRT line and we used to drive her to church along with Mrs. Isa Taylor on Sundays.

Mary was born November 20, 1906 in Edinburgh, Scotland. At age 14 she left school and went into domestic service, where for several years she was employed by an Edinburgh lawyer. In 1940 she joined the war effort and took employment in a converted silk factory that had switched to the manufacture of

camouflaged tarpaulins for military use. In 1941 she met Robert Morley, a Canadian soldier from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. They married in 1942, and in 1946 Mary came to Canada as a war bride.

In 1947 the Morleys acquired a half section of land near Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. After working the farm for twenty years they sold the land in 1967 and moved into Willow Bunch. Four years later they relocated to Calgary, where Mary joined St. Giles and we got to know her. Since the death of her husband in 1985 Mary has lived in a number of seniors' residences in the city and for the past three years has been a resident of the George Boyack Nursing Home. Mary's photograph was taken at her 107th birthday party last November. Nowadays she doesn't have perfect hearing and isn't as nimble as she used to be, but she is caring and sharp-witted, and has been a long time supporter of St. Giles.

For information, Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan is a small town located fairly close to the Montana border, about halfway between Regina and Moose Jaw. It's not a big place - the 2011 census shows the population as 285 persons. But it's pretty, and if you want a coincidence, I know because Mike and I spent the first two months of our married life there in 1955, where he was mapping the local geology.

Margaret Moorhouse

# MY AFRICAN SAFARI

## BY MARILYN MACHUM

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be on an African Safari with my sister, Judy. This would be our first holiday together without parents, kids or husbands. Our first challenge was limiting our luggage to 20 kg., (including carry on and cameras) for 18 days of 40+ weather. Second was insect repellent. We were told DEET wasn't effective and Tsetse flies



Judy and Marilyn

like blues, my favorite color to wear. Luckily, all the biting insects LOVE Judy and, as long as I was with her, they left me alone.

Our hope was to see and learn about the animals especially the 'big 5'— lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo and rhinos. We saw them all except for of rhinos because they were so far away. With the help of our well-educated guides, we saw and learned so much every day that I can only highlight a few of our experiences.

Our accommodations and game drives were in 5 National Parks; Ambroseli, at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Kenya, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti in Tanzania, Chobe in Botswana, and 4 nights onboard the MS Zambezi Queen on the Chobe River ending with 2 nights at the Victoria Falls Hotel in Zimbabwe. All our accommodations were luxurious rooms or chalets with wonderful, personalized service and gourmet meals to rival any 5\* hotel in Canada. Africa had an added feature, monkeys and baboons everywhere. They would be in your room if you forgot to lock your door or window and



would steal anything that caught their eye even from the dining room table including sugar bowls, buns and cameras.



Our first drive provided many animal sightings much closer than we ever expected and it just got better.



Our trip to Serengeti was a grueling 21 hrs. but, it was worth it. One day, we saw a total of 32 lions and cubs. We watched 40 hippos in the river by our chalet and learned that they are very territorial. They even chased elephants away from their area of the river.



The elephants were my favorite and very interesting to watch. They were families that protect and teach their young. They work together to knock down trees and strip branches for food. We also learned that mothers can mourn their dead babies for a few days then cover them with branches and stones before rejoining the herd. We saw wildebeests, hyenas, antelope and buffalo and much more. We learned that zebra strips are as unique as



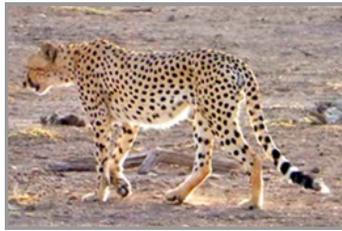
fingerprints and baby zebras have brown strips that turn black as they get older. Warthogs must kneel to graze

*(continued from page 12)*

## MY AFRICAN SAFARI

(continued from page 11)

because their necks are too short, cheetahs can go from 0 to 100km in 3 seconds and tree leopards spend most of their time in trees including dragging heavy prey up into the branches to dine.



Although we loved seeing all the animals, it was also very interesting to see the contrasts of how some of the people lived. The Maasai followed more of their traditional culture and dress. The village, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, was enclosed in a wall of brambles with a zigzag entrance. No cars or scooters so they walk miles. We were greeted by village dancers and men jumping a metre straight up like on a spring. Maasai are warriors not hunters and herd cattle and goats for food. They carry long sticks and wear red wraps outside the village area to scare off animals. Women had beaded collars. Men are allowed 6 wives and each is treated equally with their own home. We did visit one home. The inside 'open' area was about 15 ft. wide and 5 ft. deep. A stone stove was centered against the wall. The only light came from the vent over the stove. On either side of the stove was a bed about 4 ft<sup>2</sup> comprised of a wooden frame filled with branches and covered with cowhide. It was uncomfortable to sit on never mind sleep on it. There was a wooden church, which also was the school, outside the village walls. Education is not important to the Maasai and attendance is sporadic if at all. In the Kasenu village in Botswana there were no village walls, fish were drying on racks, they had a generator, plastic pails, and the village owned a very old truck. There was more western dress. The children had uniforms and attended school. Some of the staff on the boat were from here.

Africa had many surprises and crossing borders along the Chobe River was just one more. Since poaching is such a problem in Botswana, riverboats must anchor overnight



Our Maasai guide and his family



Maasai village dancers in their traditional dress

in Namibia but everything we did ashore was in Botswana. Each time we would get into small boats with our passports, take our exit forms for the 5 min. trip to the Namibian border. There was no pier so they beached the boat and we scrambled up a steep, sandy bank to a *tiny* hut for an exit stamp, slid back down the bank to the boat. Another five minutes and we repeated the process using a rickety pier for a Botswana entrance stamp. Of course it was reversed going back. Twice, they had to search the village for the Namibian 'official'. We were tired and hot and tempted to just stamp our own passports. The hut was always open, the stamp was in the top, unlocked drawer and the forms we handed in each time, could be added to the other 1,000 or so stacked all over the floor.

Our tour ended in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The falls are in Zambia but the view is from Zimbabwe which was



spectacular! Luckily, we didn't have to cross the border which is in the center of the bridge over the canyon. We walked along the rim looking at the falls and had our last surprise. Some of the guard rails were 18 inches high with 2 feet of rock between the rail and the rim, and then a sheer drop of 385ft.

Surprisingly, no one climbed over or sat on the rails and there were no signs saying not to.

*All in all, it was a fabulous trip that I will never forget.*

## BAPTISMS AND BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

*"Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" Luke 18:15-16).*



On Sunday, December 22, 2013 it was a special privilege for our congregation to welcome into Christ's Church by Baptism,

**Lila Rose**

infant daughter of Blair and Shay Poon.

Among family and friends who were present to share in this special occasion were grandparents:

Bernice Poon, Daniel and Tina Tomicic;

godparents (uncle and aunt): Scott and Jocelyn Black; and cousins: Frances, Claire and Jonathan Black.



On Sunday, March 9, 2014 it was a special privilege for our congregation to welcome into Christ's Church by Baptism,

**Rayne Kenneth Lorne**

infant son of Lorne and Lisa Gilbert.

To share in this very special occasion were Rayne's sisters, Laura and Tracey; auntie Cathy Gilbert; grandparents and many family and friends.

### Birth Announcement...

The Siddall family was delighted to have a new addition to their family. **Andrew and Erin Siddall** welcomed their infant daughter, **Sadie Grace**, on Friday, January 3, 2014.

Candace and Wendell Siddall are proud grandparents and Gillian and Graham are proud aunt and uncle.



## 2014 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



On Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, St. David's United Church hosted the 2014 World Day of Prayer. The theme for this year was "Streams in the Desert" and the artwork was created by Farid Fadel of Egypt. The service was prepared by the women of Egypt and the World Day of Prayer International Committee. The early Christian church in Egypt dates back to St. Mark and has become known as the Coptic Orthodox church, but is one of many denominations in this Muslim country.

Nine members of St Giles Presbyterian Church attended the service along with many others from Catholic, Anglican and United Churches in the North West neighborhood, numbering close to 100 people. The service was conducted by Rev. Janice Aicken, Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care at St. David's, and Ann Frost and Jenny Thomson represented the Presbyterian Church and took part in the service filling the roles of Egyptian women.

The service covered the time of ancient Egypt to the present day and stressed the importance of the River Nile

throughout history. This long river is essential for watering the crops and making the desert bloom. As Isaiah prophesied "I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs." The theme of the service continued with the story of Jesus and the woman at the well and Jesus' promise of "living water" to those who ask. The congregation was invited to explore ways that the "living water" which they have received becomes "Streams in the Desert" to the communities.

The congregation prayed for their sisters in Egypt especially widows who are suffering through the difficult political situation, and they prayed for increased interest in education, especially for girls, to enable all people to play a more constructive role in society.

The service ended with a blessing "May you be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail."

After the service, a reception was held in the Lower Hall, where an Egyptian dessert held pride of place on a table of goodies along with coffee and tea. Many friendships are renewed once a year over a cup of tea in this way. It is a wonderful thing to appreciate that all the different churches in the country and internationally have come together as one, to pray for peace and justice in Egypt.

Chris Browne

### Burst Forth

#### 2014 National Presbyterian Women's Gathering

The Burst Forth National Presbyterian Women's Gathering will be held on May 16-19, 2014 in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Registration fee is \$450.00 and registration deadline is March 31, 2014.

This year's theme is "Burst Forth" based on Isaiah 35. Come prepared to grow and interact with a diverse group of women who share our common belief, engage in exuberant worship and celebrate God's love together.

Here's is what you can expect from attending this gathering:

- ♦ Join with hundreds of other Presbyterian women from across Canada in prayer, song, and worship.
- ♦ Learn from one of Canada's most powerful advocates for justice and peace, the Dr. Samantha Nutt, as she inspires each of us to Burst Forth and improve the world.
- ♦ Worship our living God with the Rev. John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland. Rev. Bell has the amazing ability to draw individuals into God's presence, create beautiful harmonies within any group, and present hymns that minister to the mind and soul.
- ♦ Attend two different in-depth forums as you explore topics such as world music or Palestinian women.

For more information on the conference visit the website at [www.womensgathering.ca](http://www.womensgathering.ca). Financial assistance is available for those who wish to attend this conference. For more information please speak to Rev. Delpont.

## OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

*The following excerpts of our 2014 Lent liturgies was written by The Rev. Mary Whitson, for Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).*

### First Sunday in Lent

Lent is a journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, toward the cross and beyond. We will be transformed and blessed by this journey.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

It will take a long time. We will feel the strain in our bodies and the ache in our feet, yet love will urge us onward.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

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### Second Sunday in Lent

We are not the first to journey to Jerusalem; the people of Israel believed they were closest to God there. From near and far, God's people gathered to celebrate God's goodness on the holy mountain.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

Jesus made the journey to Jerusalem many times. As a child and a teen, he entered the city with his parents. Now he has set his face toward Jerusalem again, knowing this time will be different.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

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### Third Sunday in Lent

In ancient times, pilgrims lifted their voices in song as they walked. Coming into God's presence was a gift – for them and for us.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

Ancient psalms of an ancient people rise above the ever increasing multitude, rise in a sweet hymn of praise to the Lord of all creation.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

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### Fourth Sunday in Lent

God's people are familiar with wilderness. After Egypt, they wandered in hunger and thirst – confused and tired – waiting for the promised land. Our destination is different. We aim for Jerusalem – where it all ends – and begins again.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

Closer, closer, ever closer – the city is nearer every day. We can smell the sweet breath of spring, but also a hint of the stench of death.

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

So often, you, O God, have reached out to us and so often we have ignored your open arms. God, oh God, why don't we listen? Why do we wander?

**We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.**

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### Palm / Passion Sunday

Jerusalem, at last! We join the crowd streaming down the mountain. We watch Jesus approach on a lowly donkey. We hear the pilgrims cry Hosanna!

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the blessed of God. Son of David, save us now.**

There is a joyful song in the air. The palms wave, the people cheer. No one is listening to the song of fear and death that floats among the hills.

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the blessed of God. Son of David, save us now.**

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### Maundy Thursday / Good Friday

The night was dark and long This man did not deserve to be hit and spat upon – denied, forsaken, mocked. All this before the cock crowed.

**Crucify him! Crucify him!**

This is the hardest part of the journey – Jesus before Pilate, dragged off to Herod, returned to Pilate again. Beaten, rejected, a crown of thorns pressed on his brow, the crowd given a choice: Jesus or Barabbas? Not Jesus. Crucify him.

**Crucify him! Crucify him!**

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### Easter Day

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Is it true? Can it be? He was dead and now he lives.

**Hallelujah, Christ is risen!**

The tomb is empty. Has the precious body been stolen? Where is Jesus? Is it true? Can it be? He was dead and now he lives. The journey begins again.

**Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is risen, let the world rejoice. Christ is risen, risen indeed.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah! King of kings, Lord of lords, Prince of peace, Take now your throne and reign!**

# Choir News

BY MARNI STROME

Our choir was again joined by a string quartet and trumpet at the Christmas Eve service. These musicians really help us to create a special mood for that service.

The choir was also happy to perform as a group at the Burns Night Dinner later in January, with many of our members also helping with the preparation, cooking and clean-up – largely overseen by chorister Ian McKay.

A little anecdote: you may remember that the choir recently sang the Crimmond setting of *Psalm 23* – The Lord is My Shepherd. Every once in a while when we aren't quite sure what to sing, we pull a favorite out of the hymn book and, thanks to the prowess of our

accompanist, Esther Woelfle, we can make it sound like a composed arrangement! We may entertain a request or two if you'd like to hear a favorite hymn sung by the choir.

As always, our choir will be planning special music for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship services.

We also look forward to participating in another mass choir concert with the Calgary Children's Choir, Calgary Youth Choir, and Crescent Heights High School choir and orchestra, as we present a concert titled "Songs of the Cinema" at the Rozsa Centre on Saturday evening, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Get your tickets early – the auditorium is small and we expect to sell out!

## HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Human Resources Committee is very pleased to announce that two individuals have joined our St. Giles staff since the last issue of "What's Up?"

Last October we regretfully said goodbye to **Fiona Wilkinson** and we happily welcomed **Nikki Oguntuase** as our Administrative Assistant. Nikki is quickly trying to learn St. Giles routines and to meet members of our congregation. She is very receptive to providing assistance to any person or committee whenever she can. You only have to ask.

In February 2014 **Magda Vidal** joined us as our Nursery Worker. She has considerable experience working with young children. Magda has a Bachelor of Teaching in Early Childhood Education from the University of Lima, Peru, and she is also qualified as a Daycare Worker – Level III. As parents may find, Magda tries to organize age-appropriate activities for the children in the Nursery as part of their learning experiences.

Please take the time to meet these young women and to welcome them to our church family.

Marilyn Machum, Convenor HR Committee

## GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER COMMITTEE

The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Committee is looking for suggestions of books to purchase for the Library. If you know of a good book (Christian basis) or a topic that you would like us to find a book on, please get

in touch with Heather Mackie at telephone 403-567-0730 or e-mail her at [heathermackie@shaw.ca](mailto:heathermackie@shaw.ca).

The Library has a collection of fiction and non-fiction books.

### On the Lighter Side

#### God's Left Hand

*Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful. His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"*

*Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed." This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?" "Well" said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"*

# Church School News

BY HEATHER MACKIE

With Easter approaching we are gearing up to make Easter bookmarks and magnets for the Congregation. This has become an annual event with the children making something to give out to the congregation each Easter. We're not sure which part they have more fun with – making the cards or running out the doors of the church to happily hand them to everyone in sight. This is a great way for the children to share the joy of Easter Sunday and they are certainly joyful as they do it.

There are a couple of upcoming events that everyone can mark on their calendars. June 22<sup>nd</sup> will be Recognition Sunday and there will be a Congregational cold pot luck lunch after the service.

We will once again be hosting **Vacation Bible School** this summer from July 7–11 with the theme being **'Weird Animals'** (God Loves You No Matter What!). Please make note of this date as we will be looking for children to attend and volunteers to help in the coming months. If you are interested in helping please let me know and I will pass on your name to the organizers.

Since the Church School children all enjoy puzzles and mazes we have included two Easter puzzles for everyone to enjoy.

### Easter Word Search

	V S H C E S E R U I O R U L R O C M C D I A N L F R O A I S E Y A K Y I S X R E T E P B T D C S M T T H I E V E S M T O I R A C S I S A D U J A R B N E G E U G N E N I L L A I N E D R R P E L P M E T A R P T L E U E H S N E S R S N E R C E N E R R M R O O A Y B W N C E N E F E O S O M I A N P S L O T N V M Y E A I T C T S O S I N M A O I B R N S D A Y	
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Ascension

Body

Cross

Crown

Crucifix

Denial

Empty tomb

Gethsemane

Herod

Judas Iscariot

Lamb

Last Supper

Linen

Mary Magdalene

Peter

Resurrection

Robe

Rock

Salvation

Simon of Cyrene

Sins

Stone

Temple

Thieves

Veil

©A Kid's Heart at [akidsheart.com](http://akidsheart.com)

## Happy Easter!

### On the Lighter Side

*A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter"*

## **COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY BY SANDRA CAMERON EVANS**

Valleyview Community Church hosted Presbytery on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Grant Gunnink led worship. The Theological Reflection period, led by Rev. Victor Kim reflected on “The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”.

### **Discerning the Future of our Presbytery**

- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery
  - Rev. Kobus Genis updated Presbytery on Westminster’s plans for a new preaching point;
  - Rev. Nancy Cocks shared that St. John’s Medicine Hat had received an anonymous donation eliminating most of their 2013 revenue shortfall.
- Strategy and Leadership
  - The committee is working on a draft vision statement for Presbytery;
  - Presbytery appointed Rev. Bob Smith as the next moderator of Presbytery;
  - Presbytery approved St. Andrew’s request to start a new ‘Side-by-Side’ program.

### **Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery**

- Pastoral Effectiveness Group
  - Pastoral Relationships with Congregations
    - The Visitation to Varsity Acres outlined the many activities in the congregation including offering its VBS program at Centennial;
    - The Visitation to St. John’s Medicine Hat lauded the congregation on its pastoral care of Riverside congregants after its dissolution;
    - The Visitation to Grace outlined the various ministries of the congregation including “Conversations of unCommonGrace” started in 2013;
    - The Visitation to Valleyview Community commended the congregation on its improved financial management system.
  - Education for Effective Leadership and Policy Implementation
    - “How to Tap into Social Media” – a workshop on communication, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be attended by Nikki Oguntuase and Rev. Dewald Delpport.
  - Pastoral Relationships with Individuals in Ministry
    - Study Leaves were approved for Revs Leslie Walker, Clayton Kuhn, Dewald Delpport, Nancy Cocks and Victor Kim;
    - Presbytery endorsed Jennifer Hauck as a Chaplain in Institutional ministry.
- Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee Report
  - The monthly city-wide events for youths continue;
  - Work is underway on preparations for CY2014.

- Interim Moderator’s Report for Calvin Hungarian
  - The congregation continues to prosper under the leadership of Bertalan Bocskoras. Presbytery approved his reappointment as Stated Supply for another year.
- Presbytery Representatives’ Report for St. Andrew’s
  - The Search Committee is working to fill the position of Minister, Vision & Direction.

### **Reports on our Ministry Partnerships**

- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
  - WMS –
    - Marlene LaMontagne announced a Presbyterial/ Synodical lunch at St. Andrew’s Calgary on March 22<sup>nd</sup> celebrating the visit of the PWMS National Executive.
- Synod of Alberta and the Northwest
  - Director of Regional Ministries
    - KAIROS Calgary Study Day ‘Churches Doing Good Stuff’ is on March 8<sup>th</sup>;
    - Everyone was reminded of ‘The National Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Event’ March 27-30<sup>th</sup>;
    - A report outlined the work of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church in Calgary.
  - Camp Kannawin
    - \$83,618 of the \$150,000 for their beach reclamation project has been received;
    - On-line application for summer employment and registration is now available.
- Calgary Council of Churches
  - The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was on the theme ‘Has Christ Been Divided?’;
  - Sheila Kirkland’s Council service was recognized as she steps down after 16 years.
- University of Calgary Chaplaincy
  - Rev. Tim Nethercott, the Chaplain, and Zoe Say, a Peer Facilitator, talked about the new emphasis on multi-faith work in the campus ministry.
- University of Lethbridge Chaplaincy
  - Rev. Erin Phillips, the Chaplain, had outlined the work she does on campus including the focus on a food ministry for students.
- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding our Partnerships
  - Rev. Clayton Kuhn talked about the ecumenical discussions that he participates in on ‘Resort Ministry’;

**Next Meeting** – The next regular meeting of the Presbytery will take place at St. Andrew’s Lethbridge church on Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 1:00 pm. Everyone welcome.

## ***FINANCIAL UPDATE TO FEBRUARY 2014*** ***BY TED SAMSON***

**W**e completed 2013 with a disappointing \$177,475 for envelope givings, fifteen percent below what we had budgeted for and the lowest givings in five years. On the brighter side, our other income was better than expected, so our operating deficit was about \$35,000. In order to pay for this deficit, we allocated \$47,000 from Memorial Funds.

Our new Budget for 2014 is almost identical to last year, calling for \$209,937 in envelope givings. Including our other revenue, we are hoping to receive \$20,311 each month. This year again we are well below our anticipated income, receiving only \$14,109 for January and \$14,215 in February, giving us a deficit of \$12,824 after two months. Even though this may not look good, it is still slightly

better than last year. Another good sign is that our expenses are in line with our budget, with only one major expense (repair of the Sump Pump float).

We know that it is difficult to encourage giving at any time, least of all this time of year. Many people are away on vacation or are not members of our Pre-Authorized Remittance Program, causing our giving to be low. On the positive side, there are five Sundays plus the Evening Praise service this month, and April has four Sundays, the Good Friday and Evening Praise services, and also the Pastoral Care Communion. Possibly with the end of winter, there will be more chances for our attendance to increase and hopefully also our revenue.

### ***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. Here is a listing of our present ruling elders:

Sandra Cameron Evans	Toby Gaskarth	Candace Siddall
Lorne Cowan	Ivy Mewha	Wendell Siddall
Dennis Daly	Ian McKay	Jenny Thomson
Ann Frost	Joan McLean	Joanne Watson
Jason Gaskarth	John McLean	John Watson

### **Early one Sunday morning just as the sun was rising...**

Early one Sunday morning just as the sun was rising (on February 9<sup>th</sup>) this spectacular photo of **sun dogs** was taken by John Watson with his iPad Air, as he and Joanne Watson were leaving their farm just north-east of Calgary on their way to church services at St. Giles.

*A **sun dog** is an atmospheric phenomenon that creates bright spots of light in the sky, often on a luminous ring or halo on either side of the sun.*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ **Bible Study**..... continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am. Led by Rev. Dewald Delport.
- ★ **Mid-Week Praise**. Come and join us on the fourth Wednesday (*unless otherwise indicated*) of each month at 7:00pm. We'll sing some old songs, some new songs, and learn a few more.
- ★ **Mid-Week Mix**..... Wednesdays at 11:45am — everyone is invited.
- ★ **March 12-25**..... Rev. Delport is on vacation. Please contact an elder in case of an emergency.
- ★ **April 13** ..... **Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Service**  
10:00am—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.
- ★ **April 18** ..... **Good Friday Worship Service**  
10:00am—We remember Jesus' suffering and death.
- ★ **April 20** ..... **Easter Sunrise Service**  
7:30am—This early morning Sunrise Service will be held at our church's backyard and afterwards we will break fast in the Lower Hall.  
10:00am—**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 Woelffle, and to our guest musicians, for the wonderful and inspirational music that they have provided to us.*

### Check our Church Bulletin for other Upcoming Events

#### **Easter Prayer**

*O Christ, who lived to show what life is like,  
who died to show that sin is death,  
who rose to raise us up to life eternal,  
help us to follow you and love you forever. Amen.*

*(Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, p617, 2004, CRC Publications.)*

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