



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spring 2013 Issue

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Journey

Last year I decided I would like to see the Redwoods. I am not quite sure what led to this decision. Something happened, a seed was planted and knowing who I am it was probably planted more than once. Finally the decision was made and in March I am going to the Redwoods.

The next big decision I had to make was where I would stay. That was easier than I thought. Thanks to *Google* I decided on Ferndale in Humboldt County in Northern California. It is close to the Redwoods – the purpose of my trip – and some other scenic treasures. The next decision was a little more onerous. How would I get there? I had basically two choices: 1) fly to Eureka and rent a car or 2) drive from Calgary. There were many factors to consider such as the cost, time, scenery, etc. After weighing all the pros and cons I decided I'll drive the 4,000+km round trip – three days to Ferndale, stay for seven days, and drive back at a slower pace for about five days back to Calgary.

All of this doesn't seem so bad, but I have never driven more than 4,000 km all by myself (which I don't mind). There were a few considerations. I have never driven in the United States. I know nothing about Idaho, Washington, Oregon, or California. Would I encounter a difficult border guard when I get to the border crossing? I don't know if I would be that impressed by the Redwoods. What would I do if I had trouble on the road

and I am all by myself? What if something happens to my house while I am gone? Would Hanna, KayGee, and the fish be okay for two weeks? (I know they'll be taken care of but still.) What if something happens to my parents?

What's - Inside?

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With all the what-ifs I could still cancel my trip. I don't have to go to Ferndale to see the Redwoods. I can just as easily watch a documentary or I can read my National Geographic Magazine or do a *Google* search and see great pictures of the Redwoods and the Lighthouses along the Oregon coast. In all respect, I don't need to go on the road trip.

This made me think about our sermon series over the past few weeks, as well as the Lenten season. Our theme was "Following Jesus." I wonder sometimes: where are we? Are we still in the planning phase, are we going through the what-ifs, or are we on the journey?

As followers of Jesus Christ we have heard Him say, "Follow me, I'll make you fishers of men" and "Go out into the world and share what you have heard and learned." Perhaps we are thinking about this journey and we are weighing the pros and cons; perhaps we are part of the community of faith but we are going through all those what-ifs and for some reason we feel we are just not ready yet.

I am sure many of you will say to me, "Don't cancel your trip!" There might be many what-ifs, but the experience will be one of the greatest a person can have. There may be a bit of anxiety, but a 'difficult' border guard and a flat tire is not the end of the world.

My friends I encourage you to take the journey – to follow Jesus Christ – without reservation, to follow Him with all your heart, soul, and mind. I know the what-ifs might be there, but don't let them stand in the way of the experience of a lifetime.

I am looking forward to share my experiences and (hopefully) many pictures with you. I also look forward to hearing about your journey as we follow Jesus Christ.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpont

EDITORIAL

Dear Members and Friends of St. Giles,

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35 (RSV)

This was the theme of this year’s World Day of Prayer, hosted here at St. Giles on Friday, March 1st. The service was written by the women of France, inviting people from around the world to join them in prayer for those who feel they are a stranger and alone.

We are reminded by Rev. Delport that we are all journeying as we follow Jesus Christ; and as fellow travelers we are all vulnerable to the possibilities of being a stranger and alone. On this wonderful road of discovery we are invited to follow Him with heart, soul, and mind.

The articles on Easter traditions and the King James Bible will engage your mind. The opportunities for Prayer and Share, Midweek Mix and Mid-Week Praise will be good for your soul. And the article from the African Archives written by Marni Strome will tug at your heart as an outstanding example of faith working through love.

We are invited to look forward to a series of sermons based on Paul’s letter to a group of faith communities in Galatia. Through his teaching Paul reminds us what Easter is all about.

Wishing you a feeling of belonging as you journey toward Easter.

Susan Carmichael for the Editorial Team

NOTE-WORTHY

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

I am so grateful and thankful for your loving concern for me when I broke my shoulder in November.

Thank you for the phone calls, cards, and gifts of food and flowers. Your visits were a blessing and a comfort to me.

Sincerely,
Eileen Jardine

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Dear Friends,

We would like to express our thanks to the congregation of St. Giles for the support that we received during Al’s illness and for the many expressions of sympathy on his passing.

Thanks to Rev. Delport and the ladies who prepared the food for the reception following the funeral service.

Donna Russell and family

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Dear Friends of St. Giles,

I hope this letter finds you well and happy. I am settling into my new home in the Crowsnest Pass—living with my youngest daughter Cathy and her husband Kevin. I have two granddaughters and five great grandchildren living close by. The happiness that comes from seeing them regularly and getting lots of hugs is helping me to offset the sadness of recent months since the passing of Mary. It is the circle of life...

It is also comforting to have the mountains and beautiful scenery wherever I turn. Mary and I have always loved this area and now I am appreciating it for both of us.

I have thought often of all the family and friends that came to visit, attended Mary’s service and sent condolences. I want everyone to know that meant so much to me. I am truly blessed. My wish for you is a very Merry Christmas, filled with smiles and loved ones, and all the best for the coming year.

Jack Uttley

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EASTER TRADITIONS

BY JANET ASTLE

As a child growing up in England, my Easter treat would be an eight inch-high, hollow chocolate egg filled with chocolates. I assumed this was the sweet treat for everyone at Easter until I came to Canada, where I discovered that large eggs were few and far between, while chocolate bunnies were everywhere. Also, people kept talking about Easter egg hunts, which sounded very odd to me. Did they use real eggs? What happened if they broke? Worse, what happened if one was not found and went bad behind the armchair? Stranger still, when we lived in France we heard that it was the church bells that brought chocolates to the children. Obviously, it was time to look more closely into some of the more secular traditions associated with Easter.

This, it turned out, was more difficult to do than I had expected. My usual reference source, the Calgary Public Library, has very little on Easter customs, so I had to turn to the Internet. Even that was somewhat suspect, as many of the references looked very similar, as if they had all come from the same source. As a result, you are warned to take the following circumspectly.

Eggs were used in many pre-Christian societies to celebrate the onset of Spring because they symbolised new life and fertility. It is believed that colouring eggs may have begun in pre-Christian times. These traditions adapted easily to Easter, not only for the above mentioned reasons, but also because they represented Christ breaking out of the tomb. There was, of course, a practical reason for focussing on eggs at Easter - egg consumption was forbidden during Lent, but the hens just kept on laying, so the eggs had to be used up somehow. Eggs were therefore given as gifts and cooked in many of the Easter meals.

The tradition of decorating eggs varies from country to country, but coloured eggs can be found all the way from Egypt to Russia. In the Middle East and Greece the eggs were coloured red to symbolize the blood of Christ while in Germany green eggs were given on the Thursday before Easter. In many countries the decorations became more and more ornate until we now have, for example, the famous painted eggs from Ukraine and Poland. Over time it was the shape that became more important than the actual egg so that sweets and other gifts would be

presented in elaborately wrapped egg shaped boxes. The ultimate egg-shaped containers must be the gem encrusted eggs Faberge made for the Russian royal family.

The concept of chocolate eggs got off to a slow start as it is quite difficult to produce moulded chocolate for a large market. Cadbury was possibly the first to master the technique in 1875 whereupon he filled the hollow eggs with sugared almonds. Decorating the eggs with icing and marzipan flowers soon followed. As a connoisseur of chocolate Easter eggs, I have realised that the more decorated the exterior of the egg the less there is inside. This was proven some years ago when my husband was on a business trip to Italy and bought for me a magnificently decorated and wrapped chocolate Easter egg. He managed to bring this back to Canada in one piece despite the great difficulty of carrying it safely through airports and onto planes. I warned him that there would not be much inside but he had great expectations. Sure enough his hopes were dashed when we broke the egg open to find only a child's plastic bracelet with an enamel fish attached. I, however, was thrilled, as the fish itself is quite lovely and I wear it on a gold chain every Easter.

All this talk of chocolate leads me to think of chocolate bunnies, and in turn, the real things, which also have a history that starts in pre-Christian times and are often linked with eggs. Rabbits were, for obvious reasons, always associated with fertility and new life. The rabbit was also the symbol for the goddess Eastre (the word Easter is thought to stem from this) whom the Anglo-Saxons celebrated in spring when life reappeared after the dark of winter. It would appear that Germans, in particular, continued to connect the rabbit with Easter and they took the symbol with them when they went to America. As far back as the 1700's American-German children would leave out their caps and bonnets as nests in which the Easter bunny could leave coloured eggs on Easter morning.

Now that we have rabbits bringing eggs, it does not seem such a long leap of faith to believe that bells can as well. Sure enough in France and Belgium the children are told that the church bells are silent on Good Friday because they have gone away, some say to Rome. The bells return

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EASTER TRADITIONS

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on Easter Sunday, so that they can peal out joyfully and bring a variety of chocolates for all the good children.

There is one tradition associated with Easter that does not involve food and that is celebrating the day with fresh flowers. Growing up in a small village in England, we would have, more often than not, a plentiful supply of bulbs and blossoms with which to decorate the church. Our church was located to one side of the village between the Great Hall and the Rectory; this meant it was easy for the occupants of those buildings to stroll to church but the rest of the congregation had to walk through the entire village, up a hill, through the lych-gate, and down another side of the hill to the church. For a small child this seemed a very long way, and I would pass the time by searching for the first, tiny wild violets of the year in the grass verges. Compared to those, the huge Easter lilies that are popular here seem very exotic. Like so many other traditions, the mythology of the lily began in pre-Christian times. The Greeks associated it with the wife of Zeus and thus motherhood and rebirth. The Romans, meanwhile, linked it with Venus and the more lusty side of love. The lily became a symbol of purity and modesty for Christians and was often included in the religious art of the time. In particular, it became associated with paintings of Mary.

The white Easter lilies, which are also known as Bermuda

lilies, have quite a history. They were first discovered growing in Japan and were brought to England in 1819. In the mid 19th century they were taken to Bermuda where their tendency to flower at Easter time led to them becoming a commercial crop. When a virus destroyed the industry in 1898 they were taken back to Japan where they continued to be marketed until World War II. Obviously the supply from Japan ceased at that time, so demand for the lilies that were being grown by hobbyists along the California and Oregon coasts increased. This area became the major supplier of Easter lilies for America and Canada. The industry in mainland America did have to overcome one big problem, however, and that was the timing of the blooming. The cooler climate caused the bulbs to flower in the summer rather than in the spring. Forcing the bulbs to flower for Easter turned out to be a tricky process, made more so because the date of Easter can vary by almost a month. The bulbs had to be monitored closely and moved several times between cool and warm greenhouses to ensure the growth took place at just the right speed. This made them a rather labour intensive crop.

Perhaps I can write about the various foods related to Easter in another article but in the meantime, whether you have eggs, chocolate or flowers in your home, I wish you a joyous Easter.

THE MYSTERIOUS MOVING BOULDER

You may have noticed that there is a large, round rock, almost big enough to be considered a boulder that “lives” on the western edge of the church parking lot. What is really strange about this lump of stone is that it has a tendency to move from one end of the parking lot to the other! Even odder is the fact that this has been going on for years and years.

It turns out there is a gentleman who stops by two or more times a week, during the warmer months, just to lift this rock a few times. Being the inquisitive person that I am I just had to ask him why he puts his body through this ordeal on such a regular basis? The answer was very

simple: He takes part in the “Heavy Sports” that are always part of the various Highland Games that are held during the summer in Alberta. The “Heavies” consist of throwing various things and as such include: Putting the Stone (up to 56 lb); the Weight Throw of up to 28 lb; the Hammer throw of up to 56 lb; Over the Bar (throwing a weight upwards so that it can clear a bar set at various heights); the Sheaf Toss of between 16 and 20 lb; and, last but not least, the Caber Toss. It would seem that frequent rock lifting is ideal training for any of those sports, and it would certainly be cheaper than having a membership at a fitness facility!

Janet Astle

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

From April to August we will be on a wonderful road of discovery. During the Sunday morning services the messages will focus on a letter written many years ago to a group of faith communities in Galatia.

Often we wonder if the words spoken so long ago are still relevant for us today, I think we will be surprised by the teaching of the apostle Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. When we read Galatians many of the questions we have are answered. Like the folks in Galatia we might be surprised by some of the answers.

Paul begins his letter by authenticating his apostolic status, but he also does more than that because he tells us in a few words what Easter is all about – *Jesus ... gave Himself for our sins to set us free* Paul continues to help the faith communities to understand the Good News. There is but one Gospel; they have to let go of the past history if they want to followers of Jesus Christ. Quite often in our pluralistic society people have a tendency to look at other faith traditions and pick and choose what they like and amalgamate it into a spirituality that is not really helpful at all. Paul reminds us that we cannot ‘cross pollinate’ faith traditions because to be a follower of Jesus Christ means we change our lives and follow Him with heart, soul, and mind.

Freedom is not necessarily something on our minds let alone spiritual freedom. Yet, I think in a way we are aware of it. Paul tackles this very important issue as he talks about freedom. True freedom is only experienced in Christ.

Paul gently reminds the faith communities that we are children of God. As children of God, God cares about us. As children we also have responsibilities.

Paul’s discussion on faith and works are also quite revealing for us today. I think we still struggle with the whole notion of – bluntly put – ‘I do good things’ therefore God owes me something; as if we can earn our salvation. Paul reminds us that what matters is ‘faith working through love.’

Paul doesn’t leave us without telling us something about the spiritual life. It is not just some spiritual life, but the spiritual life through Christ. This is so important for us today. We are bombarded with so many different ‘spiritualities’ that it can get quite confusing; we even try some of the *new flavours* that we forget the spiritual life in Christ and what that life means.

Last but not least, Paul reminds us that we are responsible for our actions. God has shown us His love; Christ died for our sins; the Holy Spirit is there to guide us every day; we have the invitation, “Follow me”; and God ensures us that we are His children. What are we going to do? We can accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and thus enjoy the bliss of eternal fellowship with God.

I look forward to journeying with you as we explore the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Apostle Paul’s letter to the faith communities in Galatia.

Rev. Dewald Delpont

Sunday Message from April 7 to August 5, 2013

(Please note this is only the main text and all of them are from Galatians)

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| April 7 | 1:1-5 | Where do we start? |
| April 14 | 1:6-10 | Is there more than One Gospel? |
| April 21 | 1:11-24 | A changed Life |
| April 28 | 2:1-10 | Freedom in Christ |
| May 5 | <i>We have a guest preacher this morning – Rev. Delpont is on Continuing Education Leave</i> | |
| May 12 | 2:11-21 | Justification explained |
| May 19 | 3:1-9 | It is about faith |
| May 26 | 3:10-18 | The Old Rugged Cross |
| June 2 | 3:19-29 | For all God’s children |
| June 9 | 4:1-7 | Abba! Father! We are His |

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| June 16 | 4:8-20 | Are we indeed willing to listen? |
| June 23 | 4:21-31 | Two-two-two contrast, where do we belong? |
| June 20 | 5:1-6 | All that matters is: faith working through love |
| July 7 | 5:7-15 | Yet, some are offended |
| July 14 | 5:16-26 | Growing good spiritual food |
| July 21 | 6:1-6 | A thing or two about the spiritual life in Christ |
| July 28 | 6:7-10 | A word of wisdom: You reap what you sow |
| August 4 | 6:11-18 | Let’s bring it home: Glory in the cross |

UPDATE FROM MISSION IN ACTION COMMITTEE

Acadia Place Update

Presbyterian churches along with nine other Christian denominations in our city have been working together for several years in support of Kairos Calgary and the Calgary Homeless Foundation. The goal is to pay down the \$1.5 million mortgage on Acadia Place, a multi-unit housing development for families who are, or have been, at risk of becoming homeless. Together, over \$260,000 has already been raised through various fundraising efforts in many congregations across Calgary.

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod encourages all congregations to keep working toward the goal of reducing the mortgage by \$1.5 million dollars. To that end, they have designated Sunday, March 17 as “**Acadia Place Sunday**”. Envelopes will be available that day to make a special offering for those who would like to continue to support this cause.

Cheques are to be made out to St. Giles Presbyterian Church with a note designating the donation to Acadia Place.

Change Jar in the Narthex

Many people have been bringing in their pennies and other loose change and filling the glass jar in the narthex. All of the monies collected are being forwarded to Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). During the Lenten Season, the insert in the bulletin which has been used as a call to worship, has provided us with stories of how PWS&D is working in various regions around the world to alleviate suffering and hardship.

For more information about what PWS&D is doing, you can visit their website at: <http://presbyterian.ca/presbyterian-world-service-development/>

John McLean for the Mission in Action Committee

ST. GILES FOLK NIGHT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13th

I am pleased to announce that the **5th Annual St. Giles Folk Night** will be held at St. Giles Lower Hall on Saturday April 13, 2013 at 7:30pm.

Doors will open at 7:00pm. The program for the evening will run for about two hours, and there will be an intermission halfway through.

We are currently looking for performers to fill our entertainment roster, and space is filling up fast. Please contact Jason Gaskarth at 403-234-0823, or leave a message at St. Giles Church Office at 403-289-6862. Please let Jason know what you will be performing, in order to avoid possible duplication.

Volunteers are also needed for the kitchen. As in prior years, we will be doing a coffee house theme. Baking of any sort will be welcome. Please contact the church office if you wish to volunteer in this capacity.

Tickets will be made available starting Sunday, March 10th. The price will be as in prior years, a Freewill Offering made in advance. There will be about 100 tickets printed for the event.

Last year we raised about \$1200.00, and we hope to exceed this figure. Proceeds will be put towards a charitable initiative.

I am excited about this year's lineup, as we welcome new performers, and we anticipate most of our performers returning from last year. Every year has been different, but I can guarantee an evening of great entertainment. Feel free to invite friends and family.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jason Gaskarth, Coordinator

TEA TIME AT ST. GILES ON SATURDAY, MAY 11th

In 2011 and 2012 St. Giles hosted a Strawberry Shortcake Tea. This year, we plan to raise the bar and host an **English Cream Tea** on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Those attending will enjoy fruit, finger sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and a variety of dainty sweets along with a delicious cup of tea or coffee.

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

Candace Siddall, Coordinator

THE KING JAMES BIBLE

BY MICHAEL MOORHOUSE

*Last night there were four Marys.
Tonight there'll be but three.
There was Mary Beaton and Mary Seaton
And Mary Carmichael and me.*

Do you remember the song? There are ten verses, but this one is the best known. The first two Marys were royal chambermaids and Mary Carmichael comes from some other story, but it's the fourth, Mary, Queen of Scots that's important here. The ballad foretells her execution, surely a sad way to begin the creation of the greatest book the world has ever known.

Six days after her birth in December 1542, Mary Stuart had become Queen of Scotland upon the death of her father, James V. She spent her early life in France, and for a brief period was married and consort to King Francis II, upon whose passing she returned to Scotland where she married and bore a son, James, to her cousin Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. Mary was regarded with suspicion by another cousin, the powerful Elizabeth I of England, and in July 1567 was forced to abdicate in favour of her infant son who at scarcely a year old thus became James VI of Scotland. Two years later Elizabeth ordered Mary confined, and after eighteen years languishing in various English castles, in a deal perhaps orchestrated by James as the way to the English throne, she was tried and executed on February 7, 1587.

As Elizabeth entered the final weeks of her reign, Sir Robert Carey, an enterprising but impoverished English nobleman, arranged for fresh horses to be stationed at various stops along the road north to Edinburgh, but it was three days of hard riding before he could bring the news of Elizabeth's death to the sleeping James in his bedroom at Holyrood Palace. It took the new king another month of celebrations along the southern road to reach the seat of his throne in London where a hungry England was avidly awaiting a revival after the withering decay of Elizabeth's final years.

Among the hopefuls was a powerful group of clerics known (to others and not to themselves, for it was a slur), as Puritans, which included the Presbyterians, whose

chief aim was to complete what they called the reformation of the English Church with the cleansing of the last vestiges of Roman Catholicism, along with the triumph of text and word over pomp and ceremony. Ranged against them were the bishops of the established Church, who, though certainly not Catholic, urged the new king to stand against the rigours and demands of the church of John Knox and the Presbyterians. And so the battle was set.

James VI, now also James I, was an unlikely hero. Red haired and pale skinned, he nevertheless had a deep desire for peace and a relief from the religious wars that had torn Europe apart for a century. His answer to the disputants was to agree to the Puritans' call for a conference which was convened at Hampton Court in January of 1604. It seemed a strange contest - four Puritans against a battery of robed and sequined bishops. All were educated men and they knew each other well. James listened to each side separately to mitigate the rancour between them. In the end, and perhaps surprisingly, for he would brook no challenge to his authority, the king agreed to the Puritans' request for a new translation of the Bible: not the so-called Geneva Bible, a strictly puritanical work produced by reforming Calvinists in the 1550's, but instead a version to be approved by both the bishops and the king before being used in the English church.

The king's preference was a work to be based on the so called Bishop's Bible of 1568, which like all subsequent works, was ultimately rooted in the New Testament translation of William Tyndale in 1525. The significance of the Bishop's Bible was that it had been sanctioned by the ordained bishops of the English Church. It had been a scholarly work with no hint of division or dissent, and thus no threat to the English throne, which James, the first Stuart King of England, now claimed as a divine right. The Bible that was eventually produced was a noble work, authorized by a man capable of the wildest drunken excess and surrounded by a court riddled with corruption, who yet dreamt of a 'unified church and an inclusive Bible', an undertaking which would necessarily include moderate Puritans.

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THE KING JAMES BIBLE

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If the king had been concerned about threats to his throne from the Puritans he might have more wisely looked elsewhere, for in November 1605 the so called Gunpowder Plot, orchestrated by an extremist group of Catholics led by Guy Fawkes, was unearthed. The intention was to blow up king and parliament. In the grisly aftermath it was not a good time to be Catholic in England.

James delegated the task of organizing the Bible Translators, as they became known, to Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury. Bancroft was rigorously conservative and had been opposed to the Puritans, but he chose wisely and moderately, and deserves much credit for the success of the work. The Translators were to be comprised of six 'Companies', each of eight men, and each led by a Director. Of the latter perhaps the best known is Lancelot Andrewes, Director of the principal team. Andrewes was Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Dean of Westminster. He was competent in Hebrew, fluent in Greek and Latin, and considered to be the greatest scholar of the day. His eminence seems to have been only slightly diminished by his flight from London during the plague that killed thirty thousand persons as the great work was getting underway, an astonishing statistic seemingly overlooked in the other events of the day. As for the rest, their names are all known, as are their biographies in varying detail. All appear to have been educated at Cambridge or Oxford and all were members of the Church of England, where many were clergy at

various levels of power and influence. Their number would have included moderate Puritans.

The Translators comprised the First and Second Cambridge Companies, the First and Second Westminster Companies, and the First and Second Oxford companies. Their work, begun in the conference at Hampton Court at the beginning of 1604, was finally completed in 1611. At the end a Committee of Two, comprising Miles Smith, Bishop of Gloucester, a member of the First Oxford Company, and Thomas Bilson, Bishop of Winchester and of Worcester, was given authority to oversee the final revisions. It is assumed that Bilson wrote the preface, still present, headed by the offering:

TO THE MOST HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCE
JAMES
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND
IRELAND
DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, ETC.

In this manner, four hundred years ago, was created what is described in the words of the New Revised Standard Version we use today as "the noblest monument of English prose". For my part it is important to acknowledge that factual data used in this article were found in the book "God's Secretaries" by Adam Nicholson. This is an excellent book that over the years I have taken from the library four times.

ST. GILES LIBRARY



Come and browse the latest selection of new and old books that we have in our library.

We continue to use the honor system for lending books. Borrowers are asked to fill in their name, phone number, the titles of the books they are taking and the date in the coil-bound notebook provided. When returning the books, mark down the date of return beside the book titles and place your books in the basket provided for returns.

The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Committee would like to encourage you to make use of the library and enjoy the publications provided for you by your church family.

For the GIFT Committee
Ivy Mewha

MARNI'S AFRICAN ARCHIVES—PART II

BY MARNI STROME

The second part of my trip, after the Safari, takes place in Kimberley, South Africa. This is a small city in the middle of the Kalahari Desert, known best for The Big Hole – a diamond mine which is so huge it can be seen from outer space. The mine is now out of diamonds, likely one of the contributing factors to the high rate of unemployment – quoted to me as high as 40%.

My friend, Brother Liam – one of three Irish Christian Brothers, located in the black township of Galeshewe – runs a school for children called Thutong Ya Bana (*Young People's Place of Learning*). This school provides a safe learning environment for kids who may be living on the streets because there is more food and money to be found there than at home. Sometimes kids aren't attending their neighborhood school because their parents are not sending them, or because they might have learning issues that have not been addressed, and therefore school has been an unsuccessful, negative experience.



Brother Liam and two of the girls who attend school



me, with red hair (they take my various hair colors in stride) posing with the grade two class

Thutong Ya Bana runs on a shoestring budget of a small government grant, and donations from Brother Liam's family and friends. The "teachers" are simply volunteers, who receive a stipend of \$12 per week. As food in grocery stores is similar to prices here, you can see that this money doesn't go far, but it's better than nothing. The goal of the school is to transition kids into their own mainstream school, or other kinds of programs, like technical college—for example—where some of the older boys can learn a skill such as bricklaying.



Sitting outside in the sun eating their meal provided by the school

There are anywhere from 60-90 students attending at any given time – ranging in age from 8–20 years of age. The kids are provided a safe learning environment and a cooked meal at lunchtime. For some, this may be their only meal of the day. Visitors from other countries are always a welcome "change of scenery" for the kids in this school – as they would be in any school. The school has had some volunteer teachers from Germany and some other places. The school volunteers tend to teach the kids as they were taught, and new ideas about education have been slow to make their way into this area. Often, the things I am doing look to them like "playtime" and it does not appear that the kids are learning anything because they are laughing and enjoying themselves! The volunteers have gotten used to me, though, and they put up with my strange foreign ways!

When I am there, I enjoy coming into the classes and bringing "gifts" such as pencils with Canadian flags on them, and small notebooks. School materials are coveted, and in short supply. Theft is an issue, and unless things are locked up, they disappear. But let's face it—we all lose pencils and pens—it's just that these kids usually only have ONE to lose!

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MARNI'S AFRICAN ARCHIVES—PART II

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As a teacher, I find it a really gratifying experience to teach here—because the kids are appreciative, they are willing to try anything, and I don't have to mark essays, write report cards, and do all the other mounds of administrative tasks we have in Canadian schools. I get to just teach! What a concept!

I also find it difficult to teach here, because there are few supplies, and the kids are hungry, and low-skilled. We know all the research that talks about how kids have trouble with concentration when they are hungry. This is very apparent in this environment. They also are in various stages of learning English, and some cannot even write their names. The other thing that is difficult is that at this time of year it is COLD!! Overnight the temperature can drop below 0, and since the concrete buildings are not heated, it stays cold in the classroom for most of the day. At recess and lunch, all of us scramble to sit or stand in the sun against the brick wall. Teaching in my winter coat and hat has been a new experience! I am told it is also pretty uncomfortable in those buildings in the heat of summer as well.



Playing a singing game with the grade 6 class— kids are ages 11-13, approximately.

The kids enjoy having stories read to them, they love to sing and play singing games, they love to move and dance, and they love to color pictures! In fact, even the older (often street-wise tough boys) go completely silent and focused when they have a picture in front of them to color. It is even better if I play music in the background—often a Classical piece. They love to sing all kinds of music and they enjoy listening to all types as well, even though much of our Western Classical music is foreign to them. They are extremely musical kids, and it has been interesting for me to find out how open minded they are toward all kinds of music. A couple of years ago, I taught them “Molly Malone” so they could sing it for their Irish teacher, Brother Liam. It was a completely unfamiliar song, and style for them, and

they even had trouble with some of the words, but they practiced enthusiastically, and were so proud to “perform” it for him!



Two boys hard at work coloring— all children of all ages love this activity



When they finish coloring they love to have their picture taken with their work. Sometimes they block they own faces because they hold it up so high!!



Mohammed is 21 years old, engrossed in a coloring assignment. Every day he wore this “Hello Kitty” backpack that he must have found somewhere. Before I left, I bought him a new backpack.

In spite of all their disadvantages, it amazes me how resilient these kids are, and therefore, how inspiring. They are happy, and their enthusiasm is infectious. I think this is one of the many reasons why I am continually drawn back.

MID-WEEK PRAISE

This year we have added one thing to Mid-Week Praise — We celebrate the Lord's Supper each time. We gather around the communion table. We listen to God's words of grace and love and care. We pray together. We break the bread and then serve each other.

Everyone is invited to join us for the Mid-Week Praise service. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. We sing songs – both old and new. We listen to God's Word and a short message. And afterwards we enjoy time of fellowship.

Perhaps you wonder what we talk about at Evening Praise. If there is a passage from Scripture you like we talk about it; if there is a passage in Scripture you always

wondered about we can talk about it; if there is a topic or ethical issue you are unsure of and wondered what God's Word says about it we can talk about it – all you need to do is contact Rev. Delport.

We hope to see you at our next Mid-Week Praise.

“The church lives to praise God.
We have no higher calling than
to offer the worship that belongs to God
day by day...”

Living Faith 7.3.1

Rev Dewald Delport

MIDWEEK MIX

Midweek Mix is a program to keep us active both physically and mentally during the long winter months and to keep us connected during the week, and also to provide a place to welcome newcomers.

Midweek mix is held every Wednesday, just before noon, following the Minister's Bible Study. Anyone who is free is invited to bring a sandwich and enjoy a coffee. This has become a good time for sharing food, recipes, and conversation. After lunch we are invited to join in the exercises and program for that day. We have two excellent DVDs of chair exercises, which are a lot of fun and give us a surprisingly good work out without having to lie on the floor. However, if there was enough demand, it might be very satisfying to have a Yoga class as well.

On occasion, we have followed the exercises with table tennis, card games or a speaker. Two Wednesdays each month are already taken up with the established programs of Quintus, and Prayer and Share. These groups welcome more participants and are happy to start with the exercises beforehand. Last week we were able to help prepare for the World Day of Prayer Service by inserting ribbons and envelopes into the WDP leaflets.

Please join us when you can and give us your suggestions for exercises, crafts, or other programs. Spring is around the corner and maybe we will all be away walking or gardening!!

Chris Browne

PRAYER AND SHARE

Please join us in the Park Room on the 2nd Wednesday on each month at 1:30pm. We have a cup of tea and a visit. We make note of concerns, thankfulness, world issues, individuals, and any other concerns that we would like to pray for, and we take turns in praying.

We light a candle to remind us of the presence of Christ in our midst. Silence often is enough. All information is completely confidential.

You are welcome to join us at any time. For more information please call Joanne at 403-280-0510.

Joanne Watson

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2013



On Friday, March 1st, St. Giles hosted the **World Day of Prayer**. There were approximately 80 people in attendance. The theme for this year was, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," based on the Gospel text of Matthew 25.

The service was prepared by the women of France and the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

St. Giles was joined by the Catholic churches of St. Pius and Canadian Martyrs, the Anglican Churches of Holy Cross, St. Andrew's and St. Barnabas, and the United Church of St. David's. We joined together to pray for and pray with the people of France along with thousands in Canada and around the world.

France is a highly developed country in Europe which is challenged to accept a large number of immigrants every year. They are migrants from other countries seeking opportunities for a better life. The people arrive as strangers because of differences in language, religion and culture, and feel very alone. There are 63 million

inhabitants in France and each year that increases by another 100,000 who are granted French nationality. Projections indicate that within one single generation, immigration will become the sole growth factor for the French population. France has been made richer thanks to the extensive contributions of foreign cultures.

St. Giles heartily embraced the theme by welcoming each person who attended the service. We had many visitors comment on what a friendly and joyful experience it was to share and to pray together for people all around the world.

Prayer is something we can all do and the most important thing we can do. This service could only be achieved through the generosity of time given, the many talents shared and the enthusiasm shown by the whole congregation. Sincere thanks to the congregation of St. Giles.

The offering of \$1,006 received at this service was forwarded to the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada, and will be distributed to worthwhile projects around the world.

Ann Frost

The Crucifixion of Jesus

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

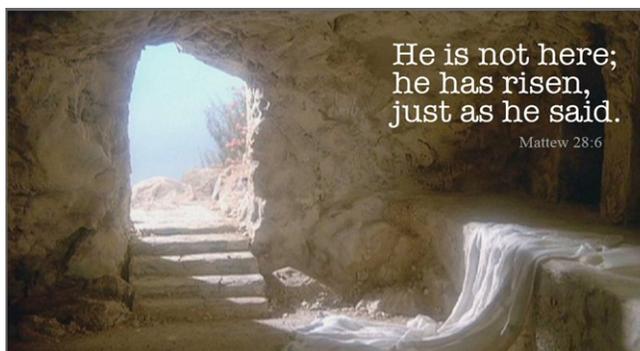
⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23: 39-43

**Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom**

**Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom**

Hymn 206 from The Book of Praise; Words: Luke 23:42

Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection. We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life.



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

The following excerpts of our 2013 Lent liturgies was written by the Rev. Dr. Mark McLennan, Minister at Knox Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, Ontario, for Presbyterian World Service and Development PWS&D).

First Sunday in Lent

Those who love and know God's name will be delivered. When they call out, God will answer them. When they are in trouble, God will rescue and honor them. Psalm 91

Lord, show us your salvation.

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10

Lord, we call on your name. Save us.

<><><><><>

Second Sunday in Lent

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the LORD! Psalm 27

We are waiting, trying to be strong, and mustering our courage for the journey.

Leader: We press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, brothers and sisters, stand firm in the Lord. Philippians 3

We are expecting you, loving you and longing for you, Lord and Saviour.

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Third Sunday in Lent

Seek the Lord while the LORD may be found. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace. The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55

We seek the Lord; we go out in joy. We burst forth in song; we clap our hands.

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

Happy are those whose transgression are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Let all who are faithful offer prayer to God. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust God. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice. Psalm 32

Our transgressions are forgiven.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away. Everything has become new! We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making an appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5

We are a new creation.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

God said, I am about to do a new thing. I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Isaiah 43

We rejoice this day that you have chosen us, and we praise You.

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoice. Those who go out weeping shall come home with shouts of joy. Psalm 126

We rejoice in the great things you have done for us. We come here with shouts of joy.

<><><><><>

Palm / Passion Sunday

As Jesus approached the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" Luke 19

Lord Jesus, we raise our voices to hail you, just like the crowd that day.

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. Philippians 2

Lord Jesus, we are glad we are walking with you.

<><><><><>

Maundy Thursday / Good Friday

God said, this day shall be a day of remembrance. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. Exodus 12

Lord Jesus, we gather to celebrate.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and shall bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53

Lord Jesus, we gather to draw strength from each other.

<><><><><>

Easter Day

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being. As all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 1 Corinthians 15

Lord, make us alive in you.

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" and she told them the things said to her. John 20

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Choir News

BY MARNI STROME

Our St Giles Choir will be happy to present one or two excerpts from Requiem, by Gabriel Faure, at our **Good Friday Service** on March 29th at 10:00am. We are also learning the entire work, to be performed with the Calgary Children's Choir and Crescent Heights High School Choir, Chamber orchestra, and organ, at the Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary, on Saturday, May 11th at 7:00pm. We hope that you will all attend!

Anyone interested in singing in the mass concert is welcome to join us for Thursday rehearsals between now and May 11th.

We are pleased to welcome a new choir member, Marie Bailey who is singing in our alto section! Also, Janet Astle has been hand repairing all our choir gowns, which are coming apart at the seams! We are very appreciative for all the time that she is taking to help us out with this daunting task!

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join regardless of experience level.

Baptism

"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 9, 2012 it was a special privilege for our congregation to welcome into Christ's Church by Baptism,

Jena Park

infant daughter of Jongbeom Park
and Kyeongshun Kim

*Left to Right: Kyeongshun Kim, Rev. Dewald Delport,
Jongbeom Park with baby Jena*



We would like to extend an invitation to those who have so faithfully supported St. Giles Inn from the Cold. There will be an Appreciation Breakfast at St. Giles on Saturday, April 6th. It is an opportunity to say thank you for the dedication that so many bring to this ministry. Also, Rion Sillito, Coordinator of Volunteers for the Inn from the Cold Society has been invited to speak that morning and to help us out with the renewal process for our Security Clearances.

Please RSVP by **April 3rd** to the Church Office at 403-289-6862 or e-mail office@stgiles.ca

Susan Carmichael, Coordinator

Church School News

The Church School has been fairly quiet for the past few weeks but there have been opportunities for the children to learn about Lent and Easter in their classes. They have asked to again make cards for Easter so we are hoping to arrange a time for them to do so. The children enjoy making the cards but they especially enjoy handing them out to members of the congregation on Easter morning!

We are always looking for helpers for the Sunday School and are grateful to Dianne Mascardelli who has agreed to be the substitute lead for the class of the older children.

"**Everywhere Fun Fair**" is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School, scheduled for July 15-19. With Bible stories, music, and other activities that focus on what it means to be a good neighbor, it will be a fun week.

Please consider if you can help with teaching, baking, leading games, crafts or music, doing prep work, supervising, telling stories, etc. More information will be available soon.

Happy Easter!

Characteristics of a Good Teacher By Susan Carmichael

In the New Year, Rev. Delpont began a series of sermons that challenged the congregation to look at our role as followers of Jesus. One wintery day in January he contacted me to recruit my involvement in the upcoming Sunday's message. The sermon title was Follow Him: To the Mountain Side for Study and the scripture references were taken from Matthew 5:1-2 and 7:28-29. With this topic in mind, Rev. Delpont was seeking my definition of a 'good teacher'. What follows is the definition that I shared that morning.

- ◆ A good teacher is knowledgeable. They speak with authority on the subject matter.
- ◆ A good teacher creates an environment where learning, honesty and respect are valued. They do this by modelling these behaviors and attitudes and holding their students accountable with high expectations.
- ◆ A good teacher is patient; recognizing that their students are individuals and that they will have different learning styles and needs.
- ◆ A good teacher capitalizes on "teachable moments"; challenging their students to apply their learning in new and surprising situations.
- ◆ A good teacher communicates clearly through speaking and writing. But most importantly, they listen. It is through listening that they come to know their student's understandings and misunderstandings, and this guides their practice.

On the Lighter Side

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked "Johnny. Do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY BY SANDRA CAMERON EVANS

Calvin Hungarian hosted Presbytery on February 5th with Revs Dianne Ollerenshaw and Tom Brownlee leading worship. Ms. Lori Ransom led our Theological Reflection on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery
 - The Court was saddened to hear of Marg Befus' death. She had been extensively involved with Presbytery, the WMS and Camp Kannawin.
- Strategy and Leadership
 - Work was presented on the ministries and other priorities of Presbytery with several recommendations considered.
 - Rev. Delpont was appointed to work with the Presbytery Webmaster on content, etc.
 - An ad hoc finance team was appointed to investigate the Land and Building reserves and develop terms of reference for them.
 - Rev. Jan Hazlett will be the next Moderator of Presbytery.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

- Interim Moderator's Report for Calvin Hungarian
 - With Presbytery's appointment of Bertalan Bocskoras as Stated Supply, the congregation is eagerly awaiting and preparing for his arrival in May.
- Pastoral Effectiveness Group
 - Pastoral Relationships with Congregations
 - The General Presbyter job posting has gone out and the Search Committee has begun work on the hiring process.
 - Education for Effective Leadership and Policy Implementation
 - Information was provided on strategies for recruiting and training elders prepared by Revs Jan Hazlett and Dianne Ollerenshaw.
 - Pastoral Relationships with Individuals in Ministry
 - Rev. Che Napoleon was declared eligible for reception as minister of the PCC.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 - WMS –
 - The WMS Synodical is April 6 at Camp Kannawin.
 - As WMS will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2014, churches are being asked to forward any historical materials to Marlene LaMontagne before May.

- Synod of Alberta and the Northwest
 - Director of Regional Ministries
 - The Outreach Ministry Group of Westminster is continuing its work on developing a vision for creating a mission point.
 - “Wisdom on the Journey”, a conference on Healing and Reconciliation will be held June 7 & 8 in Calgary.
 - Camp Kannawin
 - Rev. Delpont announced that a campership will be set up in honour of Marg Befus for the next 5 years.
 - The camp is hoping to hire a full-time director for the upcoming camping season. All summer job descriptions and applications are available on-line.
 - The camp will celebrate its 70th birthday this year, starting June 15 and ending with a BBQ on June 16. Everyone is welcome.
 - Presbytery Ghanaian Ministry
 - Information was provided on the work done by the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary (PCGG) with the Presbytery Ghanaian Ministry Team (PGMT).
 - Presbytery will consider providing a grant to lease property for the congregation.
- KAIROS
 - KAIROS Calgary hosted an event on February 9, “Ending Homelessness: The Churches' Role in Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness”.
 - The denominations (including the PCC) represented by KAIROS had set a goal of raising \$1.5 million towards the mortgage of Acadia Place. Churches are asked to take up a special offering for Acadia Place during Lent.
- Calgary Council of Churches
 - The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held from January 20-27.
 - There are currently three Presbyterians on the Council, with two serving as officers.
- Calgary Council of Christians and Jews
 - A Weekend with Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt University will be held March 15–17. All events are open to the public.

Administrative Committee

- The Assembly Council may recommend changes to the formula for calculating Presbyterians Sharing in 2014 at General Assembly.

Next Meeting –Tuesday, May 28 at St. Paul's Church, Banff. Presbytery is open to guests; consider joining us as an observer.

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO FEBRUARY 2013

BY TED SAMSON

After completing 2012 with almost breaking even at \$235,786 for expenses and cash received, I am hoping that 2013 will be as fruitful. Although we are budgeting for an increase in expenses to \$243,732 or about 4 percent above 2012 levels, the income required to pay those expenses will need a 5 percent increase in envelope giving or \$209,932 for the year. In addition, we have budgeted for another \$33,800 in income from various sources, mostly from Congregational Life events and the funds received from the Korean Church, which is slightly less than what came through 2012. Our total cash requirement for any month in 2013 is \$20,311.

Our receipts for January and February were \$14,208 and \$13,581 respectively. This is almost \$13,000 less than the \$40,622 required for two months operations.

As for expenses, in January, we spent almost \$18,000 which is under budget, but in February, we spent over \$24,000, some \$3,800 over budget. In total, our expenses to the end of February were \$42,130 or only \$1,500 over budget, largely due to the major repair of the Rodgers organ and the replacement of the wireless microphone for the sound system.

Presently we have a deficit of \$14,341 after two months. We recognize that it is sometimes difficult to maintain income at this time of year, with weather and vacations keeping our attendance down. Everyone is reminded to faithfully support St. Giles throughout the course of the year so as to help us to meet our monthly financial obligations.

God's Will for our lives

8But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what GOD is looking for in men and women.

It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.

~The Message: Micah 6:8

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

St. Giles is looking to hire a **Nursery Worker** -

Providing a safe and consistent environment for infants and toddlers reflects the love the of the extended St. Giles Church family and allows young parents to fully share in the Sunday worship service. If you know of anyone interested in providing care for children up to the age of three, from 9:30am to 12:00noon on Sunday mornings, have them contact the Human Resources Committee at stgileshrc@gmail.com

Sandra Cameron Evans

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Thanks to Kerry Hodgkinson 02-01-2013
IF GOD CREATED ALL THIS DOES HE HAVE TO
PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL TOO?

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Mikel Rice 09-17-2010
HISTORICALLY, WHEN MY CUP RUNNETH OVER
IT'S BEEN A GOOD THING



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 Delpont.
- ★ **Mid-Week Praise**. Come and join us on the fourth Wednesday 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 4-18** Rev. Delpont is on vacation. Please contact an elder in case of an emergency.
- ★ **March 24**..... **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.
- ★ **March 29**..... **Good Friday Worship Service**
10:00am—We remember Jesus' suffering and death.
- ★ **March 31**..... **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 pianists, Esther Woelffle and Lori Chang-Foidl 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 living Lord, on the first Easter Day you stood in the midst of your disciples as the conqueror of sin and death and spoke to them your peace. Come to us, we pray, in your risen power and make us glad with your presence, and so breathe your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may be strong to serve you and spread abroad your good news, for the glory of your great name. Amen.

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