



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Summer 2013 Issue

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

When things happen

There is an old saying that goes something like this:
If life gives you lemons make lemonade.

That is easier said than done. When life gives us these proverbial lemons we are tempted to ignore them, give them to someone else (or at least we wish we could), throw them like a baseball as hard and are away as we can, or we like to yell out as loud as we can, "I don't want these!"

The month of June handed me a few lemons. One of these lemons happened at the beginning of June. Hanna and I went to the Veterinarian for her annual check-up. Well it turned out that Hanna is now completely deaf.

Needless to say, but Hanna's deafness takes some getting use too. I have to be more aware of what is going on when we go for a walk. I can't let her go off lease anymore – she cannot hear when I call. I have to make sure I wake her up if she snoozes to let her go out. But I have also noticed that Hanna made some adaptations. She usually lays down somewhere where she can keep an eye on me (if she is awake she is right there when I move); when we go for a walk she would turn around every so often just to make sure I am still there; if she doesn't know where I am in the house she would go to each room to look for me and she always goes to the room I am more likely to use.

Both Hanna and I had to adapt. I am sure we have done so even before the official diagnoses. Life handed us lemons but, slowly and steadily, we made lemonade. That is the real funny thing about sayings because there is always an underlying catch. Lemons do not magically become

What's - Inside?

- ★ Editorial
- ★ Features
- ★ News
- ★ Themes

lemonade. In fact it is hard work and takes some dedication and sometimes even adjusting the recipe (it all depends on the sourness of the lemons). You need to cut them in half, then squeeze all the juice out, get some water and sugar and start mixing. Then comes the taste test. Often more sugar is needed.

Our circumstances rarely stay the same. We had the choice: are we going to keep the sour tasting lemons or are we going to try and make lemonade.

Even at St. Giles we have to adapt from time to time. I think we are in that process now. Last year the Presbytery asked us to re-examine our mission statement, which had been around for quite a few years. A group of people started a conversation and a few weeks ago shared a draft proposal with the congregation. Before too long we will have an awe-inspiring mission statement for St. Giles with value statements and vision statements.

If we leave it at that, well, that will be like cutting the lemons in two. Instead, we will be encouraged to be true to our mission statement, we will be encouraged to live our value statements, and we will be encouraged to work towards our vision statements. This may not be easy. There may be some resistance. There may be a few clashes. But, I am confident that we all agree that to have thirst quenching lemonade in our hands is far better than biting into sour lemons.

In the words of Paul to the church I would like to end with this: *So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. ~Galatians 6:10*

Many Blessings,
Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpont

MISSION STATEMENT: "A friendly Christian community gathered for the worship and service of God"

EDITORIAL

The Greatest Commandment

³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 22:36-40
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Dear Friends and Members of St. Giles:

With the effects of the historic flood of 2013 still ever-present, the people of Calgary and southern Alberta have been overwhelmed with the response of compassion, courage, kindness and generosity they have received. Individuals and businesses are stepping forward, offering whatever talents or goods might be needed to bring some measure of care or comfort to aid those who have been impacted. There is no age limit on those offering to help. Youngsters’ hosting lemonade stands and bake sales, teenagers with clothing covered in muck as they shovel out a basement or carry once-treasured items to the curb, to grandparent’s delivering meals; all these and untold other efforts personify the command to love our neighbour.

As this issue goes to print, St. Giles is in the process of drafting a mission statement and evaluating what it is that we, as a congregation, value and in turn what our vision is for the future. Here is a challenge for you. Look over the statements under each of the six headings on the values page carefully. While you read this issue, see if you can find evidence of each area of value. Then look at the corresponding vision statements. Are they also reflected in these pages; are we taking baby steps in that direction? What goals should we set? What actions do we need to take? Jot down any thoughts of what is working, what is missing, or anything that comes to mind and share that with any of the six people who have been involved in the process.

Jesus was very clear when asked to identify the greatest commandment. These commands provide direction in a world filled with many choices. May our words and actions be a reflection of God’s will for our lives as we seek to praise God and love our neighbour.

Wishing you a summer blessed with delightful experiences and many opportunities to connect with friends, family and your neighbour (both near and far).

Susan Carmichael for the Editorial Team

NOTE - WORTHY

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for working so hard to make our Dad’s funeral lovely. I remember when our Mom was involved with providing the funeral lunches and that connection made your involvement for our Dad even more special.

Thanks so much.

Sincerely,
The Lindsay Girls

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all for your prayers and words of concern during my recent stay in hospital. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and baking.

Sincerely
Eleanor Klassen (Elle)

THE ORIGIN OF THE CONFEDERATION PARK SENIORS CITIZEN'S CENTRE BY JANET ASTLE

The idea to have a drop-in centre, where seniors could socialize and make crafts during the week, began at St. Giles, but the ramifications of that dream continue to this day in the form of all the senior housing located along the south side of Confederation Park. Here is how it came about...

The early 1970s were an exciting and busy time for the St. Giles congregation. The membership was still growing, social activities at the church were on the rise, and the financial situation was such that the mortgage was paid off in 1975. Also during this time various members of St. Giles generously sponsored the installation of the final six stained glass windows, replacing the plain glass that had been there since construction of the church. In fact, from reading the minutes of the Annual General Meeting for February 18th, 1973, it would seem that the biggest problem was how to make space for the 140 church school pupils during their class time in the basement.

While much interest was shown for life within the confines of St. Giles, there was also concern about the community at large and, in particular, the needs of older people who may be isolated and lonely. I suspect the idea for a senior citizens' drop-in centre, to be located in the St. Giles Church basement, had been fermenting for a while, but the announcement, in July, 1972, of a Federal government program called New Horizons, which could provide grants to assist the aged, was the catalyst. Alfred Godwin and the Rev. David Crawford spearheaded a committee to look into the feasibility of this idea. They pursued their research energetically, and by the end of October had visited various seniors' centres and met with the relevant federal officers. They were told that the grant should originate from a separate entity from St. Giles, so an "arm's length" Board of Directors was formed for what was to become known as the Confederation Park Senior Citizens' Centre (CPSCC). At various times both Alfred Godwin and David Crawford would sit as chairman of this Board, while other members of St. Giles were also on the committee. No time was lost in applying for a grant of \$15,300.

Little could be done after this burst of activity but wait for the wheels of government to grind ever so slowly round. Finally, in April, 1973, an initial grant of \$5000 was received. The Board of the CPSCC had already discussed with Session the need for storage cupboards to hold craft supplies, etc, so the St. Giles Board of Managers volunteered their labour to renovate the basement. I believe this was when the cupboards were built along the east side of the basement. There was talk also of building a moveable partition across the stage (where the choir room is now) so that the Coordinator of the Centre could have an office. This would have the triple purpose of also providing a separate space for an extra school class AND still being available as a stage (Presbyterians are nothing if not thrifty!)

In the meantime, the Board was interviewing applicants for the position of co-ordinator. The first person to hold this position was Mrs Gloria Milligan. As a result, a mere 11 months after the grant was announced, and two months after it was received, 53 people were able to register at an Open House held on June 14th, 1973. The very next month a picnic was attended by 130 people. And by September the registration had risen from the original 53 to 125 seniors. The official opening was held on October 23rd and was attended by M.L.A. Mr. Roy Farran amongst others.

This was not the end of the story, however, for more ideas were swirling around, not only from Alfred Godwin and David Crawford, but also from the St. Giles Centennial Committee, chaired by Joanne Watson. This committee had been formed to come up with suitable ideas to celebrate the upcoming 1975 Centenary of Presbyterians in Canada. One idea was to build an Education Building on the parking lot to the north of the church (to accommodate all those children on Sunday mornings). That concept was soon extended to include a Seniors' drop-in centre as it was only practical to find a use for the building during the weekdays. However, when Messrs Godwin and Crawford took this idea to MLA Roy Farran, in order to discuss funding possibilities, the latter mentioned that he was really interested in seeing

(continued on page 4)

THE ORIGIN OF THE CONFEDERATION PARK SENIORS CITIZENS' CENTRE

Continued from page 3

senior housing, in addition to recreational space, on the North Hill. They volunteered to pursue the housing concept, and as such met with Mayor Sykes to discuss funding options and the availability of land.

Unusually, considering the many different government bodies concerned, things moved swiftly, and by early 1974 the Alberta government had allocated \$800,000 for a combined housing and recreational building, while the City had identified land along the south side of Confederation Park, and drawings had been submitted by architects. This was the first time the Provincial Government had funded a combined housing and recreation facility like this. It was also decided that the Metropolitan Calgary Foundation would run the housing component while the Confederation Park Senior Citizens' Centre would move from St. Giles into the recreational facility, where it would continue to be administered by the current Board of Directors. The latter negotiated firmly for sufficient space for the recreation facility and were successful in having more than 9,000 square feet included in the design.

(Meanwhile, the idea from the St. Giles Centennial Committee to build an Education building in the north parking lot was still under discussion by Session. What had started as a place for meetings and youth education, and had later included senior recreation, was, by December, 1973, extended again to include senior housing. Plans were underway to apply for funds and \$500 was made available to the architects to cover initial design expenses. In true Presbyterian style a Feasibility Committee was created to look into the concept. Some research was done on the concept but I suspect the costs involved and the loss of the parking lot all proved too daunting and the idea was dropped.)

The various Provincial and Municipal authorities must have approved the plans for the new housing/recreation complex very quickly, for excavation began in early October, 1974, and the sod turning ceremony took place on October 5th. Unfortunately, the weather was truly miserable that morning, with sub-zero temperatures combined with snow and fog. Obviously the ceremony would have to be held indoors, and, just as obviously, that place had to be St. Giles. A photograph of the ceremony shows a rather pristine looking square of turf carefully packed into a crate and placed in the St. Giles basement with Mayor Rod Sykes supervising the Hon. Roy Farran as he was about to thrust the spade into the sod. Behind them were the platform guests including Alderman Eric Musgreave and St. Giles Elders: Dan Daniels, Administrator for the CPSCC, and Alfred Godwin, President of the CPSCC. The Rev. David Crawford, Vice-Chairman of the Centre, was also on hand to give the invocation. Minister Roy Farran also presented plaques to Dan Daniels and Alfred Godwin to commemorate the occasion and their achievements towards it.

Construction of the Lodge was expected to be finished by the Summer of 1975 and St Giles Session made plans for the removal of the Seniors' Centre from the church basement. However, construction of the recreation space at the Lodge must have taken longer for the seniors did not move out until April 15, 1976. At that time Session accorded Elders Godwin and Daniels a hearty vote of thanks for all their work on behalf of the Confederation Park Senior Citizen's Centre. I was told that both Joyce Evans and Marjorie Crawford took turns as Secretary to the Board of Directors, while Lyle Dowdell and Jean Turnbull put a lot of work into the project. There were many other St. Giles people who were involved but unfortunately, their names have not been recorded in the archives.

Reflection

*Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people?
If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10, NRSV*

ST. GILES ENGLISH CREAM TEA

I would like to express a most sincere thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the **English Afternoon Tea** on Saturday, May 11, 2013 a success.

Very special thanks go to Jenny Thompson, Donna Russell, Diane Mascardelli, and Cathy Brown who were essential in the planning, baking, phoning, sandwich making, and supporting this event. Also special thanks to Doreen Higgin, Chris Browne, and Trish Terrill who put in long hours on Friday and Saturday. A special thank you to Dawn Flint as the coordinator of the Bake Table that was an essential part of the Tea and to Fionia Wilkinson for phoning and of course all the many helpers that day who made it happen.

Thank you to Dewald Delport for the lovely posters and for organizing the advertising. Ted Sampson you were invaluable in setting up the tables. To all those who lent us their gorgeous cups and saucers and tiered cake plates which made the tables elegant, a huge thank you goes out to you.

Last but not least, to my family, thank you.

Sincerely,
Candace Siddall, Coordinator



The Siddalls—L-R: Wendall, Candace, Andrew and Gillian

THE 5TH ANNUAL ST. GILES FOLK NIGHT

The **5th Annual St. Giles Folk Night** was held at St. Giles Lower Hall on Saturday, April 13, 2013. This event was once again a success with an attendance of approximately 80 people.

Our wonderful entertainment included our in-house talents. We were privileged to have the talented Paul Millar with us again this year, playing the guitar with some wonderful folk songs and having everyone in the audience participate in the singing. There were many other performers including Jim Weisert, Bill Woodward, and Jackie Wilson.

Special thanks to co-host, Eric Daly, and the team of helpers for an lovely evening of fun and entertainment. Thanks also to refreshment coordinators, Fiona Wilkinson and Irene Savage, and all those who gave of their time and

talent to make this a successful evening.

The proceeds of \$1,373 raised at this event will be sent to the Thutong Ya Bana School in the Galeshewe Township, a settlement of shacks on the outskirts of Kimberley, South Africa. Our Choir Director, Marni Strome, is a volunteer teacher at the school this summer.

Jason Gaskarth, Organizer and Music Coordinator

Plan on attending the 6th Annual St. Giles Folk Night... Coming Spring of 2014!

SESSION NEWS UPDATE

The following is an update of Session News, and includes the activities of our church committees:

- ◆ Pulpit Supply: Terry Hagen will fill the pulpit while Rev. Dewald Delpert is on vacation in August.
- ◆ An Emergency Evacuation Drill is scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd (weather permitting) or alternatively, Sunday, September 29th.
- ◆ Facilities and Maintenance committee reported that unexpected major repairs are required for the refrigerator and also for the dishwasher in our kitchen.
- ◆ Facilities and Maintenance committee has been granted permission to paint the interior of the church. It was agreed that the funds coming in from undesignated memorials will be used to cover the painting cost. Painting is expected to start in early November.
- ◆ At their May 28, 2013 meeting, the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod named Rev. Dewald Delpert as the Clerk of Presbytery.
- ◆ Over the summer months the PWS&D 'Penny Jar' will remain in the narthex for donations.
- ◆ The Policy and Planning, Finance, and Restricted Funds committees are working together to develop guidelines for when we receive undesignated donations (such as memorial donations) to help to discern God's purpose for these gifts.

- ◆ The Mission Committee reports that Thutong Ya Bana (Young People's Place of Learning) has been the focus of our mission at St. Giles for this year and to date \$2,746 has been raised. Our Choir Director, Marni Strome, is a volunteer teacher at the school this summer.

Children come to Thutong Ya Bana from the Galeshewe Township, a settlement of shacks on the outskirts of Kimberley, South Africa. Many children from the poorest and most dysfunctional families have never attended school or drop out and remain out of school for extended periods. These children run the risk of ending up on the streets of the city, getting caught in the cycle of criminal activity and prison.

The Thutong Ya Bana school aims to reduce that risk by providing them with a bridging education to the point where they can be re-integrated into the ordinary school system or access the employment market. Every day 250 children enjoy a main meal, and because of their poor economic background they are also supplied with clothing and attention is given to their medical needs. This is an important and integral part of the school program.

John Watson
Clerk of Session

DOROTHY BARTON WRITES FROM SASKATOON

I was very sorry to learn that my good friend Jackie Purkis had passed away.

When we came over from West Point Grey Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, St. Giles was celebrating its first year in their new church building with the Rev. Lindsay Simpson as Minister.

We found it a delightful "Beehive of Activity" and it was not long before we found ourselves involved: Harold with Board of Managers; Dorothy with Choir and the Women of the Church (Treasurer); and children, John and Bruce with Sunday School. The Purkis family was one of the many families who made us feel so welcome.

We were blessed with 34 years of worship at St. Giles which included guidance from the Minister, Rev. David Crawford (Sr.).

All good wishes—"Thanks for the Memories".

Dorothy Barton

Editors Note: Dorothy lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, but keeps in touch by phone and enjoys reading each issue of our Newsletter. She and her late husband, Harold, together with their sons, John and Bruce, were very active in the life of St. Giles.

REVIEW OF ST. GILES MISSION STATEMENT

In the fall of 2012, Presbytery suggested that St. Giles review its current mission statement **“A friendly Christian community gathered for the service and worship of God.”**

Session, through Policy and Planning Committee, invited several members of the congregation to have a conversation about the current mission statement. They also asked that we consider other matters along the way if the opportunity presented itself, including a motto, vision and values statements. We met and engaged in bi-weekly conversations between February and May. We gave considerable thought and meditation to what God's Will might be for St. Giles over the next five years. We had lively discussions regarding Christ's invitation to his disciples to “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”. We also spent time in discussion regarding the notion of community, and how far it was reasonable to expect that St. Giles's work in the world might reach. We each crafted draft statements. We discussed those at some length and endeavored to discern those which would most appropriately convey our sense of God's will for our Christian community and its work in our larger communities of Calgary and the world.

We arrived at a point at which we felt it would be most helpful to engage more people in our conversation. We presented our work to Policy and Planning. They in turn invited us to meet with Session to review our progress. We met with Session and they agreed that we could speak with the congregation. The small blue folder including the Draft Framework statement, mission statement, vision and values statements was distributed to the Members of the congregation as a ‘feedback’ form. On it were a number of **draft** statements which, taken together might form a planning framework for St. Giles. They included:

The **framework statement** is like a statement of foundational value. It expresses who we believe ourselves to be and how we sustain that way of being.

The **mission statement** is intended to be a statement of our congregational purpose.

The **motto** is very brief statement, intended to deliver who and what we are in a “nutshell”. There are two draft motto statements because those engaged in the conversation felt that they both had considerable merit.

The **value statements** will hopefully resonate with you as those things which are most important to us as a congregation.

The **vision statements** are intended to reflect the way we would wish that the world, nearer and farther into the future, might become in some small part, as a result of our actions through St. Giles.

The Congregation will be provided with another draft of these statements prior to the end of June so that you can consider them over the course of the summer. A congregational meeting will be convened early in the fall to further discuss and hopefully ratify a final set of these statements.

If you have questions, comments or feedback we would invite you to provide additional written material if you would like. We would also invite you to speak with anyone of us who have been engaged most intimately with this conversation. We will be more than pleased to speak with you. This is your material and we hope that you will find it helpful in clarifying our collective aspirations, expectations and calling for St. Giles.

On the following two pages you will see a draft version of all of these statements. Please take time for prayerful reflection on them over the summer.

Sincerely,

Chris Browne	Natalie Hampton
Susan Carmichael	Michael Moorhouse
Rev. Dewald Delpont	Bill Woodward

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DRAFT STATEMENTS



St. Giles' Framework Statement:

We are God's people: enabled by the Holy Spirit, saved by Grace and nourished by Scripture.

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.

St. Giles' Motto:

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

St. Giles' Motto:

He will live in you if you live in Him.

Our Core Values:

Worship

We value the opportunity to study, praise and worship with a focus on the Word of God.

We value feeding the spiritual yearning of the congregation through well preached sermons, communal prayer, Bible study, inspired music, art and drama.

We value the involvement of all people - of all ages - in worship and outreach.

Community

We value the fellowship of a warm and caring community that seeks to serve each other, the larger community, and Christ.

We value the Reformed Tradition of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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.

Spirituality

We value spiritual growth, and the power of prayer.

Humanity

We value human dignity and aspire to Grace in our lives through right relationships² and compassionate care for one another.

Education

We value Christian education, for people of all ages.

We value nurturing the young through an active church school program, youth group, Vacation Bible School, and the provision of nursery services.

(continued on page 9)

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DRAFT STATEMENTS

(continued from page 8)

Our Vision:

Worship

We envision joyful celebrations of God and the life and teachings of Christ at worship through engaging ways of reaching and teaching those who seek spiritual growth.

Community

We envision a vibrant, active congregation of all ages, growing and participating in a joyful community grounded in Christ's commands¹.

We will grow our understanding of what it means to be part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Inviting Others

We envision an open, welcoming church, active in the broader community, sharing the joy of Christ's mission with others, and inviting them to join us.

We will strive to attain the faith and courage we need to verbalize our faith, to take the risks and to embrace the changes we are led to by God in fulfilling His will for us.

Spirituality

We envision a church life that nurtures and strengthens each member's ability to develop a sustaining, personal, spiritual relationship with God and to maintain it through prayer and practice.

We envision a personal relationship with God, being open to hear God's instruction, and seeking to live each day guided by the Holy Spirit.

Through an active prayer life we will seek to experience the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit as God works within and through us.

Humanity

We will seek to follow Christ by engaging in local, national and global mission initiatives leading to a world in which justice, equality and love for our fellows are the norm and not the exception, and in which poverty, hunger, homelessness, violence, cruelty and ignorance are unknown.

We envision learning of community and world needs, and of opportunities to do what we can to act for justice and to encourage relevant social, health-giving, educational and fund raising activities.

Education

We see ourselves discovering Christ both as adults and children; studying and growing in our knowledge of the Bible and Christ's teaching.

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Please feel free to provide to the committee members any comments or suggestions you may have including errors, omissions, or other items which you feel are vitally important and are not addressed through these draft statements.

¹Christ's Commands: "You shall Love your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself".
Mathew 22:37-40.

²"Right Relationships" are those which reflect the second commandment above, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

Keep in Step with the Spirit

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

BY REV. DELWALD DELPORT

As a child when we took long journeys we would sing in the car. For some reason it made the journey a little shorter and perhaps even a little more interesting. Our spiritual ancestors who lived many-many years ago did not have the luxury of a minivan or any kind of car for that matter. If they were extremely lucky there might have been a stubborn donkey to ease long journeys. But, how many people can fit on a donkey?

Image being part of the tribe of Naphtali who just so happen to be located at the northern part of the Nation of Israel and you would like to go to Jerusalem to the Temple for the Passover. That is a seven-day journey if you are lucky and can manage to walk about 30 km a day. For most people travelling with a family it would take much longer. With a car today it would be around two hours. Image trying to keep children occupied for more than 7 days of travel on foot!

Often our spiritual ancestors would sing the Psalms on their long journeys. What a wonderful way to travel. The Psalms are rich in spiritual vitamins and minerals. Just about every topic under world is dealt with in the Psalms.

When we read some of the Psalms we see the doubt, confusion, anxiety, and even anger the Psalmist expresses when he talks with God. Many times we think it is wrong to be angry with God, or to doubt, or even ask a question. But if anything else I think the Psalms show us that it is not wrong to be upset, angry, have doubts, or ask questions. When the Psalmist express his discontent he always finds the answers. It might not be the answers he

was looking for, but he finds the grace, love, and mercy of God, which is the cause for celebration, thanksgiving, praise, and comfort.

The Psalms also express joy, happiness, thanksgiving, and celebrations. And why not? The Psalms retell the story of God in life and that is the cause for all kinds of celebrations.

In September we are going to explore the Psalms and how they apply to life today many years after they were written. I believe the Psalms can enrich our understanding of God and also help us in growing our spiritual walk with God.

I would like to hear from you as I prepare for the Sunday Messages from September to November.

- ◆ Do you have a favourite Psalm?
- ◆ Is there a Psalm that you have always wondered about?
- ◆ Perhaps one of the Psalms challenges you?

This is your opportunity to hear a Sermon on your favourite, or most challenging, or any other Psalm.

Psalm:

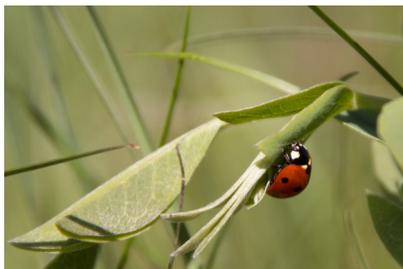
I can't remember the number, but it goes like this:

Why I chose this Psalm:

SPRINGTIME ON NOSEHILL

Photos by
Dewald Delpport

(see page 17
for more photos)



A VISIT TO MONGOLIA AND TIBET

BY MARILYN MACHUM

Some countries hold a mysterious intrigue for me. Mongolia and Tibet are two of those countries.

MONGOLIA

The Mongolian Airport and Ulaan Baatar (UB) were surprisingly modern but the road into the city was a stark contrast to that. The dirt/gravel road was like a washboard that literally jarred every bone in my body. Our guide simply smiled and said, "Wait until tomorrow." How right she was!

Our first destination may have only been 150 km east of the city but it took us five hours to get there. Although we were on a "new" four-lane paved highway, it was more like a four-lane obstacle course of **HUGE** potholes with some pavement in between. Our driver tried to avoid the chasms but our posteriors had minimal contact with bus seats. There were few trees, bushes or buildings allowing us unobstructed views of the never ending Mongolian steppes dotted with white gers and herds of animals watched by men on small resilient horses carrying their pole lasso. We passed several shrines of loosely piled rocks representing Mother Earth, and bits of blue cloth representing the God of Heaven.



Herds of animals watched by men on small resilient horses carrying their pole lasso.



Shrine of loosely piled rocks representing Mother Earth and bits of blue cloth representing the God of Heaven

Our first camp had several round, white gers about 18 feet in diameter that consisted of wooden frames covered with layers of heavy felt and a waterproof tarp. The raised floor was covered with linoleum. A four foot wooden door was the entrance to three single beds and a small, central stove. There was only two hours of power each night. The camp had a central building with modern toilets and hot

water showers and a heated, larger ger for sitting and eating. They served mutton; a staple dish served many ways but none to my liking. On our first night we were fortunate to hear a local 'Throat Singer' with his 'horse head fiddle'.



We learned that over 50% of Mongolians are nomads and 60% of those living in urban areas still live in gers. I must say that sleeping in a ger was very comfortable and quiet compared to a tent.

We visited a horse breeding family. Their ger had brightly coloured blankets & rugs on the walls and a cupboard displaying photos, etc. A traditional bowl of warm milk tea with salt instead of sugar was passed around. It wasn't too bad. Next we were offered the traditional hard 'candy' made from yogurt dried on the ger roof and broken into small pieces. **YUK!!!!**

It was horrible and hard enough to break my teeth. I'm sure they use a sledgehammer to break it up. I did enjoy the fermented mare's milk but I'm not sure it is worth the trouble. The family *may* bathe once a month using the same water which is then reused to wash clothes. That explains all dark colored clothes. Their animals provide everything including dung for the fire.



(continued on page 12)

A VISIT TO MONGOLIA AND TIBET

(continued from page 11)



The lady walks the fields with handmade basket and pitch fork.

Our second camp was in the Gobi Desert, 40 km west of UB and another 1.5 hours bus ride. We foolishly queried the need for the extra driver. There were no potholes, no pavement, and no roads, just a series of rutted

trails. The extra driver determined the best trail. Although it rarely rains in the Gobi Desert, as a special treat, it rained and was cold the entire time we were there. This camp had luxury gers with carpet and 24-hour electricity. The wooden frames were ornately painted inside and each ger had its own toilet and shower. No one but me seemed concerned about the water dripping on my light switch. Here we visited a nomad family that raised Bactrian, 2 humped camels. I found these camels easier to ride than one hump camels. This time we were offered warm camel milk, tea and the 'candy', which we politely declined.



Marilyn on two-hump camel

To round off our Mongolian adventure, the torrential rains meant that we had to leave at 3:30 am for the airport. We drove at a snail's pace with the extra driver walking and picking out the way. Of course we got stuck but a healthy dose of camel dung was collected and put under the wheels giving us the necessary traction to be on our way. We made it to the airport with 10 minutes to spare.

TIBET

Tibet, I found to be a land of surprises and contrasts. Given that it is home to the world's tallest mountain peaks you would expect it all to be cold and snowy, but Lhasa, at 12,000 feet, gets more days of sunshine, receives less snow and is warmer than Calgary. As for contrasts: homes had solar panels, but no central heating; high rises along side low shacks; older generations wearing traditional clothing and younger generations sported current trends; cars and scooters share the road with rickshaws.

The Potala Palace is a marvel to behold. It stands at over 30 stories high and has over 1000 rooms. Only 30 are open to the public. We had to climb 300 steps to get to the entrance and another 100 or so once inside. Many rooms are lined with varieties of small Buddha. One primary Buddha is 12.5 m high and covered with 4,000 kg of gold.



Marilyn in front of the Potala Palace

We also visited the Jokhang Temple, the most important and one of the oldest temples, built around 650 AD. Pilgrims come from all over the



Jokhang Temple

country with their prayer wheels, praying and prostrating themselves along the way. Many die crossing the mountain passes. In the temple, we saw new Buddha statues and month old babies being blessed. Several walls were lined with shelves and boxes filled with ancient scrolls, all available for study or research by almost anyone and exposed to continuous burning yak oil and butter offerings.

(continued on page 13)

A VISIT TO MONGOLIA AND TIBET

(continued from page 12)

Drinking tea is a key part of the Tibetan culture. We partook of this social pastime on many occasions, but two in particular stand out. One was with a local family where we were served warm yak tea and dried yak cheese - like the dried yogurt in Mongolia. We enjoyed the tea and left the cheese. The second occasion was in a local teahouse with about 400 people. The pouring of the tea seems to be an art form. A lady comes around with a huge, metal teakettle filled with yak milk tea, which she pours into your glass from a great height without spilling or splashing a drop.



Mongolia and Tibet were both highlights for me. In Mongolia, the people I met were warm hearted and friendly. They love to sing and tell jokes. In Tibet, from early morning to late in the evening we could hear the voices and laughter of children playing. In both countries, English is not widely spoken but the people went out of their way to make us feel welcome.



Lhasa Tea House

Choir News

BY MARNI STROME

Our choir performed Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, by Gabriel Faure, along with Crescent Heights and the Calgary Children's Choir and other guests from around the community, on May 11th, at the Rozsa Centre. Many thanks to all St Giles members who attended and gave your support that night!

We also had a guest choir visiting from Edmonton - a Chamber choir of twelve, from the greater organization of

Edmonton Young Voices, conducted by Josie Burgess, and accompanied by composer Sheila Wright. The choir gave a concert on Saturday afternoon, May 25th, shared with the Calgary Children's Choir, and performed during and after the service on Sunday May 26th. Choir members and their parent chaperones remarked many times on the friendliness of the St. Giles congregation. They really appreciated the opportunity to sing at the church and felt welcome and at home here!



High School Graduates

Congratulations



Kennedy Nyhoff graduated from the Carrol High School in Southlake, Texas. This fall, Kennedy plans to attend the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia.

Proud parents are Karen and Doug Nyhoff, and brothers Taylor and Mason.

Kennedy is the granddaughter of Jack and Phyllis Alexander.



Bradley McCuaig graduated from Bishop McNally High School. Bradley loves sports and was on the school's Football team and they had an undefeated season but lost in the second round of playoffs. He was also on the Rugby team and they had an undefeated season and won the City of Calgary Division 2 Championship after many rain delays.

Proud parents are Mark and Laurine McCuaig, and sisters Chelsea, Andrea, and Jennifer.



Nathan Livingston graduated from John G. Diefenbaker High School. This fall Nathan plans to attend the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology to pursue a career as an electrician.

Proud parents are Derek and Sandra Livingston, and brother Jared.

Nathan is the grandson of George and Annette Livingston.

University Graduate



Graham Siddall graduated from the University of Calgary in June 2012 with a Bachelor of Music degree. Since graduating Graham has been working at a junior oil company as a junior accountant, continues his involvement in the Calgary music scene and for the last two years has been operating an on-line marketing business.

Proud parents are Wendell and Candace Siddall, brother Andrew, and sister Gillian.



Jordan Livingston graduated with honors from Rancho High School - Aviation Academy, Las Vegas. This fall Jordan plans to attend the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to pursue a career as a pilot.

Proud parents are Trina and Jason Livingston, brother Malcolm, and sister Sloane.

Jordan is the grandson of George and Annette Livingston.

University Graduates

Congratulations



Erin Gray graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario this spring. She received her BSc (Hons) degree in Life Science.

Proud parents are Jeffrey and Jan Gray, and sister Meghan.

Erin is the granddaughter of Bill and June Stephen.

Taylor Nyhoff graduated with a Business degree from the University of Richmond, in Richmond, Virginia. He is now working in New York.

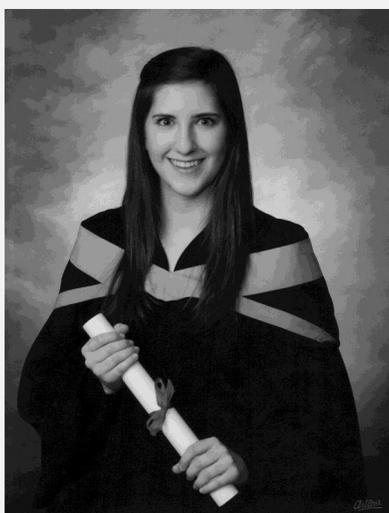
Proud parents are Karen and Doug Nyhoff, brother Mason, and sister Kennedy.

Taylor is the grandson of Jack and Phyllis Alexander.

Heather Klassen graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English (with an emphasis in Literature) and a major in History.

Proud parents are Michael and Hope Klassen.

Heather is the granddaughter of Eleanor (Elle) Klassen.



Theresa Elizabeth Cowan graduated with a BSc Honors [First Class] in Exercise and Health Physiology from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Kinesiology on June 10, 2013. Theresa is the second undergraduate from that Faculty invited to speak at an annual Experimental Biology Conference, attended by 14,000 that was held this past April in Boston. Theresa and her colleagues handled this with courage, dignity and humor as they dealt with presentation rehearsals, travel disruptions, expanded security and general commotion unfolding around the Boston Marathon bombing and pursuant manhunts during the conference. This summer she is working in the University of Calgary Human Performance Lab on an NSERC grant, continuing research into obesity and food. In the fall she will pursue her MSc degree in the same vein moving up from rats to humans with Dr. Bob Ross at the Queen's School of Kinesiology and Health Studies in Kingston, Ontario.

Proud parents are Lorne Cowan and Jeanne Phene, and brother Thomas.

“GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER?”

This year, St. Giles is once again organizing the event **“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?”** Dinner can be anything from casual to formal. Our hosts have already committed to a variety of dinner menus with something for everyone (beef, chicken, fish, lamb, pork, vegetarian) and these menus are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Nartex.

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” is a fun way to get to know others at St. Giles. The idea is that the host doesn’t know who they are making dinner for until they open the door the night of the dinner! And the guests don’t know who they are eating with until everyone arrives at the hosts house!! It may sound a bit scary, but it is an opportunity to go on an adventure, to have faith that you are going to have a wonderful time with those from your St. Giles family. Six dinners were scheduled, unfortunately two had to be cancelled, but hopefully next year they will host again.

I went to a dinner at Jason and Toby Gaskarth’s house – yummy–yum–yum–scrumpdilliscious!!! Ann Frost and Audrey and Ike Harms were the other guests and I don’t think they would refuse another invitation as it was a lovely evening full of conversation and laughter. I look forward to hearing from the others about their evenings. Once again thank you to all who participated – I look forward to next year !!

Fiona Wilkinson

We all know we have a Minister of many talents, but imagine our surprise when Verna and I turned up at the address Fiona had given us, and discovered Dewald on his back deck barbecuing lamb chops with professional nonchalance. Jenny and Ann were there before us and we all enjoyed a great dinner and evening of discovery.

The tasty BBQ lamb chops and foil packs of sliced potatoes and onions were followed by more treats. Who knew that the sausage on the menu meant South African spiced sausage from a specialty store in Edmonton, and who would have guessed that something given the mundane name of Milk Tart could be so delicious (we all want the recipe!)

Conversation continued easily after dinner as the host introduced us to bound books of photos which he had painstakingly organized and edited and which contained family pictures and travels of interest.

This happy evening drew to a close over cups of Rooibos South African tea. The only disappointment was the non-appearance of KayGee, the cat, who we understand likes to stand guard over two beautiful tanks of fish.

Chris Browne

Notice and Observe Others

Anonymous

Once a wise old teacher was speaking to a group of young and eager students. He gave them the assignment to go out by the side of some lonely road and find a small, unnoticed flower. He asked them to study the flower for a long time. “Get a magnifying glass and study the delicate veins in the leaves, and notice the nuances and shades of color. Turn the leaf slowly and observe its symmetry. And remember: this flower might have gone unnoticed and unappreciated if you had not found and admired it.”

When the class returned after carrying out the assignment, the wise old teacher observed. “People are just like that unnoticed flower, too. Each person is different, carefully crafted, uniquely endowed. But you have to spend time with a person to know this. So many people go unnoticed and unappreciated because no one has ever taken time with them and admired their uniqueness.”

*From Brian Cavanaugh’s Book, **The Sower’s Seeds**, Paulist Press, New York, 1990, p.57.*

For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love. Galatians 5:6

Church School News

BY HEATHER MACKIE

The Church School officially ended its year on June 23rd with our Recognition Sunday service and a potluck. The children in church school all participated in the service by doing the readings, taking the offering, carrying in the bible and choosing all the hymns. The children only had two requests when they were asked what about the service – one was to hear the choir sing since they usually miss the anthem and the other was to hear the piano (hence the reason it was played for the entire service). All the children were all given a small gift in recognition of their being a part of our church and then teachers received flowers and the substitutes received a small gift to thank them for teaching.

We did not have our church school wind-up this year as the weather did not cooperate and there was too much going on for us to be able to reschedule.

Now that our year is over we are looking towards the summer and the fall. Vacation Bible School will be July 8th – 12th and the planning is well underway. Thanks to all those who have already volunteered to help with this week of fun!

Over the summer months the teachers are taking a well deserved break and we are asking for members of the congregation to volunteer for one Sunday to work with the kids. The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Committee has put together lesson plans with all the materials needed for the story, crafts and activities. This is a great opportunity for people to get to know the kids and to spend some time with them having fun.

We wish everyone a great summer and hope you all get to spend some time outdoors enjoying the sunshine and warm weather.

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, June 23, 2013 it was a special privilege for our congregation to welcome into Christ's Church by Baptism,

Nolan Lucas

infant son of Brad and Tracy McMillan
and little brother to Ryan

To share in this very special occasion were grandparents Lindsay and Janette Mackie, Barry and Morine McMillan, aunt Heather Mackie, and godmother Fiona Wilkinson. Also attending were many family members and friends.

On the Lighter Side

A little girl is sitting in church with her father watching a baptism. She watches as the priest recites the baptism service and pours water over the child's head before turning to her father and asking: "Daddy, why are they brainwashing that baby?"

COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY BY SANDRA CAMERON EVANS

St. Paul's Banff hosted the May meeting of Presbytery. Rev. Clay Kuhn led worship with a meditation from Ecclesiastes. Rev. Kobus Genis led the Theological Reflection time with the video "How to get your ideas to spread" followed by small group discussions.

I'm proud to announce that Rev. Dewald Delpont was named as Clerk of Presbytery.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery
 - Knox, Calgary is celebrating their 130th anniversary Tuesday, June 11th.
 - Valleyview congregation reached its givings target.
- Strategy and Leadership
 - Presbytery moved that minimums for stipend, housing allowances and annual increases not be set as it believes that the Minimum Stipend and Allowance Schedule set by the General Assembly is adequate.
 - Phil Gaiser will be the new treasurer effective the fall of 2013. Judie Coleman will continue as Secretary.
 - Presbytery accepted criteria to be used for evaluating GPCC (Ghanaian Presbyterian Church in Calgary).
 - An Overture will be sent to Synod asking that a study be done on the purpose, effectiveness and sustainability, financial and otherwise, of ministry initiatives within the Synod.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

- Interim Moderator's Report for Calvin Hungarian
 - Bertalan Bocskoras preached for the first time on May 12th.
 - The Interim Moderators will continue their role of moderating and providing instruction to Session plus mentoring Bertalan.
- Presbytery Representatives' Report For St. Andrew's, Calgary
 - With the position of Senior Minister vacant, the Session has been working on job descriptions for all three ministerial positions.
 - Presbytery approved the appointment of Rev. Dr. Frank Breisch to provide stated supply with some pastoral duties on a half-time basis.
- Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee Report
 - This year's Retreat will be held from October 4-6th at St. Andrew's, Lethbridge. The theme is Survivor Babylon "Outfast, Outpray, Outlove".
 - Monthly city-wide events have been held to connect leaders and youth.

- Pastoral Effectiveness Group
 - Pastoral Relationships with Congregations
 - ⇒ The General Presbyter has begun his role with a list for congregational visitations in 2013.
 - ⇒ A \$7300 grant from the PCC to support the position of General Presbyter was received.
 - Education for Effective Leadership and Policy Implementation.
 - ⇒ A workshop on communication – how to tap into social media, is planned for February 22, 2014.
 - Pastoral Relationships with Individuals in Ministry
 - ⇒ Presbytery moved that Roberto DeSandoli, recommended by the Session of St. Andrew's Lethbridge, be certified as a candidate for Ministry in the PCC.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 - WMS
 - ⇒ The National WMS Council recommended to General Assembly that an umbrella organization, "Presbyterian Women in Canada", be formed to include WMS groups and all other women's groups.
 - ⇒ 2014 will be the 100th Anniversary of the WMS to be celebrated in conjunction with the National Presbyterian Women's Gathering, "Burst Forth".
- Synod of Alberta and the Northwest
 - Camp Kannawin
 - ⇒ Cara Penman has been hired as a full-time director at Camp Kannawin.
- KAIROS
 - Knox, Calgary and Centennial held benefit concerts for Acadia Place.
 - A Coldest Night of the Year Walkathon will be held on February 22, 2014.
- Calgary Council of Churches
 - Rev. Victor Kim, Sheila Kirkland and Rev. Dr. Jean Morris continue as the Presbyterian contingent.
 - With several new members, interest has been renewed in more initiatives to bring Calgary churches together including working ecumenically on mission events.
- Chair of Christian Thought
 - Schedule of Christian Thought Lectures for 2013-2014 was presented.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting of the Presbytery will take place on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at St. Andrew's Calgary, at 2:00 pm. Presbytery is open to guests; consider joining us as an observer.

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO MAY 2013

BY TED SAMSON

Now that we at St. Giles have reached the summer of 2013, we need to look at our current financial situation to see what may be necessary to tide us over the next few months.

At the end of February, we had a deficit of \$14,341 mostly due to lower givings than required. In March, our receipts were up to more than our monthly budgetary needs of \$20,311, raising \$20,693 with five Sundays including Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Since our expenses were only slightly over budget, the deficit increased by about \$1,500.

In April, our income and expenses were quite good, but the deficit still went up by more than \$1,200. Then, in May, our income dropped to the levels of January and February, yielding only \$13,874. We spent just over \$20,000 in May, so the revenue shortfall went up by nearly \$6,200 to \$23,319 for the first five months of this year.

Here are the actual figures for revenue, expenses and deficit for March to April:

	March	April	May	YTD	Budget
Revenue	\$20,693	\$18,587	\$13,874	\$88,943	\$101,555
Expenses	22,235	19,824	20,073	104,262	101,555
Deficit	(*1,542)	(*1,237)	(*6,199)	(*23,319)	0

**(x,xxx) indicates a deficit*

Our expenses up to the end of May are only \$2,700 over budget, but will likely increase in June with the unexpected repairs of the commercial cooler and dishwasher in the kitchen. But the main problem appears to be the lower than expected givings for three of the five months so far this year. We hope all contributors will do their best to maintain their givings over the summer.

SPRINGTIME ON NOSEHILL

Photos by Dewald Delport



UPCOMING EVENTS



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ July 7.....**Stampede Brunch (see below)**
Come and bring a friend - all are welcomed.
- ★ July 8-12.....**Vacation Bible School at St. Giles**
- ★ September 8.....**Fall Welcome-Back Luncheon**
Please join us for a Luncheon in the Lower Hall following our Worship Service.
- ★ October 6 **Worldwide Communion Service.**
The first Sunday in October, during which members of ecumenical churches throughout the world celebrate Holy Communion
- ★ October 13 **Thanksgiving Sunday**

Special thanks and appreciation to our Music Director, Marni Strome, our organists/pianists Esther Woelfle, Lori Chang-Foid 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

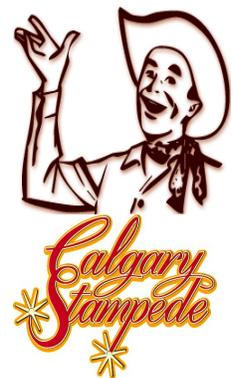
Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer with family and friends

ST. GILES STAMPEDE BRUNCH

Come and join in the camaraderie of **St. Giles Stampede Brunch** sponsored by members of our Session. Dress in your western outfits and bring your family and friends for a wonderful time together as we share in celebrating Calgary's biggest outdoor show "The Calgary Stampede".

Time: After our regular worship service

Place: The Garden



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