

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A JOYFUL NOISE

Volume 26

Number 1

SON RISE

EASTER 2009

HE IS RISEN!

What is this 2009 Easter Morning?

Can you see the images of that first Easter Morning?

The empty tomb, the voices of angels, Mary's encounter with Jesus,
and the promises made through the prophets coming true.

So rich and full are these images which mark us as Easter People.

How dark was the day of Christ's death, and yet that one moment
of startling fear was completely overwhelmed with joy!

Jesus is Risen! Death could not hold him!

And if it cannot hold him, it cannot hold us!

All that Jesus said about life and death is made real
in that empty tomb and in that encounter in the garden.

As we stand before the cross... this emblem of suffering
and shame... we share in it. We share in the promises made to the
Children of Israel and to the entire world through the Prophets.

We share in the promises made to the disciples and to all
who listened to Jesus as he walked towards his death upon the cross.

We share in it, for the word that Jesus spoke to them and to us
is made true and real by what we testify to on Easter morning,
it is made true by the resurrection! Never forget that! Hold it close to your heart!

For it is also made true by the testimony of our hearts!

What does your heart tell you? You who have been touched

by the Spirit of the living Lord?

What does your heart tell you? You who have heard Jesus knocking upon the door of your soul? You who have opened the door and invited Jesus to come in and dine with you?

It is now more than two thousand years after the stone was first rolled back and the tomb shown to be empty and our Lord risen.

And so what is this Easter morning?

It is God's promise of a new day...

It is God's promise of a new life...

It is God's promise of a new world coming to pass in our midst.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Praise be to God for his great love, and to Jesus his only Son, and to the Holy Spirit, All three in one... Blessed Trinity!

God Bless the Good People of Trinity Presbyterian Church and all their loved ones in 2009!

Love in Christ, Rick

An Easter Invitation

Where were all the disciples that first Easter Sunday? While the women were making their way to the tomb wondering how to get in, ten frightened disciples were locked away inside a house. Thomas was elsewhere and two other discouraged disciples were making their way home to Emmaus, wondering what to do next. They were so emotionally spent and discouraged that they were traumatized.

Have you ever had a feeling like that? All your plans, dreams, and hopes have been dashed. The world has collapsed around you and you feel that it's all over!

The women were the first to discover the Lord's victory over death. They are also the first preachers of the gospel for they were told to go and tell others that the Lord had risen. What they said was true, even if the men didn't believe them. The good news is that Jesus found each of these three groups, met them personally and showed himself alive to each. "The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord." The word for "glad" is a strong Greek word meaning "they cheered." I like that!

Isn't it amazing that Jesus was able to hide his identity from the two who were trudging home? They simply didn't recognize Him as his resurrected body was an entirely different kind of body. One day, we believe we will have a body

like that. When they invited him in and were reclining at the supper table, they suddenly recognized him. Then he “vanished.” Now that they knew his identity, they hurried back to Jerusalem after dark, as they just had to share their glorious news.

What assurance do we have of our own destiny? All they did was a simple thing, certainly not something religious. All they did was invite him to stay with them. That’s all we have to do - invite him in. Let this Easter be a joyous day in which we too may have our hearts deeply warmed, for we’ve discovered who he is - and invited him in.

Campbell

Where did Logan go? Almost everyone remembers Logan, the Yellow Lab guide-dog-in-training, who attended Trinity Church regularly with its trainer Sandra Carslaw. We are most happy to report that Logan has been matched to Dylan, a happy Kelowna boy with Autism, and his mother writes: “Dylan is able to walk freely while attached with a strap connecting his belt to Logan (and) we have noticed that people are much more accepting of Dylan with Logan.” Isn’t that wonderful? Thank you Sandra!

Canada Youth 2009 is a five day Presbyterian youth conference attended by about 800 young people from across Canada. Meeting in St. Catharines from July 20th to 25th, it is divided into three groups:

1. high school students who will play, pray and study the Bible,
2. young adults who will focus on mission gifts and service, and
3. youth leaders who will come to know and tend the roots of our faith.

Session has approved the sending of Larissa McCormick and Abby Cleaver as our delegates to this youth conference. We trust they will return with great tales to tell and in the meantime - pray for them. For further information about this event, see <http://canadayouth.ca>

Speaking of websites, have you seen Trinity’s website put up by Arnold Chan www.trinitypevictoria.org ? It’s improving all the time and even includes our church newsletter.

For some time now, between 8 and 12 fellows have been meeting in the

conference room on Thursday mornings for coffee and discussion. Not to be outdone by the guys, the ladies have begun meeting Thursdays at 10 am in the study, and both coffee hours have been well received by all who attend. Both groups follow a similar format, with a chance to visit, a study and prayer time. Those who are interested can simply turn up any Thursday morning and you will be made most welcome.

Our annual AGM was held Feb 22nd. Members of the Board of Managers for 2009 (in alphabetical order) are: Bev Andrews, Harland Bell (Chairperson), Barbara Chalk, John DiCiccio (Envelope Secretary), Glen Downey, Joy Gartshore, Betty Hall, Linda Isaak, (Bookkeeper), Keith Jamieson (Building Manager), Ken King, and Jeanne Spinelli.

For those who don't understand the workings of the church, the Board "manages" the church's finances - how they are spent and how they are raised. They also oversee the buildings (outside and inside) and make decisions regarding repairs, rentals and lots of other little but constant things that pop up. These include such things as the gardens, the roof, and keeping track of who has keys. The building manager's job is huge and we are grateful that Keith Jamieson has taken it on from Doug Nicholson who has done it for several years and was very dedicated. We would like to give Doug our special thanks for all he has done for us in the past, and feel sure that he will maintain his interest in the workings of the church in the future. He has been more than generous!

You cannot help but be aware that the *Simply Fun Learning Center* (a Christian Day Care) is operating in Trinity, requiring some adjustments from us all. Brenda Irvine (the owner) is using both our upper and lower halls five days a week until 6 pm. This activity will provide up to 48 day care spaces, a much needed facility for this community, as well as giving us the needed capital to face major repairs, such as a new roof, without coming to you for more funds.

We expect this to be a long term rental, making it more possible that one day we will have a proper parking lot. In the meantime, the Permanent Coating man next door to us on Tillicum is perfectly comfortable with us parking on his property pretty well at any time, which is great, as we don't have enough space for our own cars. But please leave some spaces available for his business.

You will be saddened to hear that Cliff Broad, the fellow who has taught

karate in our hall for many years, suffered a fatal heart attack during a class. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to his family, along with a cheque for the last month's hall rental. Cliff leaves behind his wife of 29 yrs and two adult children. Cliff worked as a pressman at the Times Colonist for 40 years.

We understand that someone from another group will be taking over the teaching of karate in our upper hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

On Tuesday Feb. 10th, Norma Mitchell peacefully passed away. Norma was a reliable worker for many years at Trinity, and when she resigned as kitchen co-ordinator, the very foundations of the church shuddered. Norma had always been there! When someone that reliable leaves, it takes a long time to fill the huge hole, so we scrambled and often messed up before we got used to her being gone.

Norma hasn't been at the church for a number of years as it was difficult for her to get out, and a hearing problem was quite distressing for her. She remained active with family and friends, and enjoyed the companionship of her special friend Frank Wright. She often played the piano in the social room of her residence. Our sympathy goes out to her family; she will be sorely missed.

Our banner book has gone missing from the lower hall! It contains pictures of the banners and gives directions as to which banner is to be used for which season. Some are obvious, but not all, and Michael would really like to have it back. Please let Michael know if you have seen it or know its whereabouts.

Sparked by pastor Rick Warren, the Canadian Bible Society has just published "The Poverty and Justice Bible," a compilation of all the biblical references to poverty and justice. It's surprising to see how many there are. You can order online at www.biblescanada.com or call 1-800-465-2425.

Folk new to Trinity may not be aware that Trinity offers a PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program for donations. This proven method for the ongoing faithful support of this church is appreciated by many members, using a convenient monthly withdrawal from their bank accounts, similar to automatic bill payments. It saves trying to find the correct amount for the weekly envelope, and also saves time for our hard working counting staff. For more information, please

contact our Envelope Secretary, John DiCicco.

Sign on a billboard in the U.S. referring to arguments between the Democrats and the Republicans about how to fix the economy:

“It’s a lot like a fox and a wolf arguing over how to rebuild the hen house.”

On the last Sunday of 2008, in a meaningful ceremony, two elders joined our Trinity Session. Randy Brown was ordained and Harland Bell, an elder in Brandon and then Calgary, was inducted with Randy to serve in our church court. Welcome gentlemen!

We were sorry recently to learn that Flora Clarke had broken her collar bone and was in a great deal of pain. And so we rejoiced to see her back in her church seat with us once again. Indeed another answered prayer!

On Feb.1, 2009, the following people (in alphabetical order) were welcomed into the full membership of Trinity: Hana Adam, Roberta Adlam, Donna and Rob Bada, Jennifer Bothwell, Nyamuck Gatwick, Lisa McCormick, Ken and Judy Matthews, Michelle Ann Olding, Luka Pal and Gordon Watkinson.

A big welcome to all these folk; we are most delighted to have you join this family of God. Please get to know us at the coffee hour following worship.

The marriage of Adam Stephen Carl Hanna and Whitney Theresa McCormick will take place at Trinity Presbyterian Church on June 27th at 2 pm.

It is our understanding that any one is welcome to come, but it is expected that the Sanctuary will be quite full with invited guests coming from near and far

However, on Sunday May 31st, a special bunwich luncheon will be held for Whitney and Adam and donations of money will be collected which will be used to purchase items from the Gift Registry for the happy pair. God bless you both.

On Jan. 11th Shannon Bell-Wyominga from the Cariboo Presbyterian Church

gave an interesting power point presentation about their work in the BC interior. As most of you know, these are home churches scattered many miles apart in the Cariboo Region, and the missionaries travel so far between them each year that they wear out their vehicles in short order. The roads are pretty awful in most spots, and they are on these roads pretty much all the time - winter and summer. An amazing and somewhat unique ministry, as may be seen from their website www.cariboopresbyterianchurch.bc.ca

Many of you will know, or have heard of, Peter Boldt from St Andrew's Church downtown, for he is one of the busiest people we know. He is an Elder, works at breakfasts for the street folk, does repairs, builds furniture, and because he is a bachelor, he adores, and is very grateful for, anything home cooked.

Peter has a twenty-five foot long power boat named Alanje, which he has owned forever, and in which he has had many great experiences. Some years ago, he and his wife took it from Ontario, down the lakes and canals to Florida. It is a shallow draft boat (for you landlubbers that means it can manage in very shallow water). While it doesn't have much of a keel, it didn't stop him from going to Alaska, a trip which includes some 60 miles of open ocean, as well as other spots that can get downright nasty. We understand he has also taken it to Mexico.

Last December, Peter flew to Costa Rica to visit friends and to enjoy the warm ocean and the fishing. He caught a couple of small barracudas which he claims were great eating, but isn't it usually the barracudas eating the people?

He and his friend Hal who, like Peter, is over 80, were in the back of the house visiting with one another, when a bandit entered and forced Hal's wife to give him her rings and money, a laptop computer and Peter's camera. He had grabbed Hal's machete and was carrying a knife when the men accosted him and demanded the guys' wallets. The fellows grabbed a couple of two by fours with which they attempted to defend themselves, but the bandit slashed them both, doing massive internal damage to Hal, before escaping with the loot. Hal managed to drive 8 miles to a clinic, from which he was subsequently taken by ambulance to Liberia. Peter was patched up with stitches and has recovered but, unfortunately Hal, after a long and valiant struggle, died of his injuries. The bandit has been arrested and is behind bars. Peter managed to get his camera back when the bandit wasn't looking. He told us he wanted so badly to have the pictures from it, although the camera itself didn't matter. He also added "thank you God, I keep you too busy!" He is very sad about losing his friend.

All this trauma didn't stop Peter from flying to Mexico for Christmas and we have great admiration for his wonderful attitude to life. Keep boating Peter!

Donna Bada and Bev Andrews have graciously agreed to take over co-hosting the job as Coffee Hour Co-ordinator from Terry Nicholson, who feels that it is too much for her to manage now. We do appreciate the time Terry gave to this as we know it isn't always easy, for it also entails doing some shopping from time to time. It also requires finding people to help set up each Sunday. Many thanks from us all Terry.

Do try to check the board from time to time and put your name down to help. It isn't a huge job as it simply means getting there early to make the coffee and put out cups etc. Two people can easily handle it, so do sign up. The guys always do the dishes and clean up after, bless them.

Beryl Tether will be celebrating her 100th birthday just after Easter on April 14th and we wish her an especially happy day. She finds it difficult to get to church now, but we do hope that it might be possible for her to come to church for this very special occasion.

Our Camp VIP (Vancouver Island Presbytery) is gearing up for this summer's program, offering a Christian camping experience for all ages. Their interesting theme this year explores NARNIA (from CS Lewis *The Lion Witch and Wardrobe*). Those interested may wish to read *Knowing Aslan*, a small pocket book sold locally for \$3. Camp dates are: Junior Camp - June 29th - July 4th, Family potluck Camp - July 31st - August 3rd and Teen Camp - August 31st - September 5th. Look at www.campvip.org or see Bob Gartshore for further information. Bob can get you a Thrifty's Smile card for Camp VIP and yes, he is still collecting CT money - used to buy stuff from Canadian Tire - for our camps.

Moves: Mary Ames has moved "downtown" near Beacon Hill Park on Cook Street while Gary and Betty Hall are moving to a condo in the heart of Oak Bay. Our snowbirds (Peggy, Ken and Judy) are moving to their summer homes on the prairies and Ken King is returning to Illinois to be closer to his family. Thank you for all your help at Trinity Ken. Our prayers go with you all the way and we wish you God speed. We will miss you.

On Feb. 24th a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held in the church hall

and was preceded by a worship service in the Sanctuary. Team Martha (the youth) did the cooking for the supper and it was very well received. A big THANK YOU!

Did you know that Noah was the Bible's greatest financier?
He was busy floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation!

Robbie, our Alternate Representative at Presbytery, attended the retirement reception and dinner honouring the Rev. David and Carol Stewart. Many spoke of David's gifts and the Rev. Ian Victor was at his humerus best, but Robbie was highly impressed by the great gift that David gave - himself. As Robbie said with some awe: "David voluntarily moved from the 'Penthouse' of Kerrisdale Church to the 'basement' of the **Upper Room**" where he worked selflessly for many years, a wonderful witness to what can be done in God's power. We were so happy that David was able to play a major role in the planning, and then able to witness the completion of "Our Place." God bless you richly Carol and David.

After nearly half a century of service as an elder - first ordained in the original Gorge Church and carrying on in the same building (now called "Trinity"), our senior elder Robbie has retired from active duty. To mark this occasion, a cake was cut in his honour on March 15th. We will miss his input on Session and his district will miss his visits. Mary Ames is taking his place as our alternate representative at Presbytery.

On December 6th, Sandra Carshaw's son Alex graduated in medicine and surgery from Otago University (Barbara Smith's Alma Mater) in South Island, New Zealand and Sandra flew down to witness the happy event. Alex is now in residency at the Christ Church Hospital.

Arlene Stapleton has just returned from Oslo and Beitostolen Norway having won **three medals** in cross country skiing! Arlene won the silver medal the last time she was in Norway twenty odd years ago and you'll just have to ask her if she won the gold, silver and bronze this time! Way to go Arlene!

The Cleaver family is pleased to announce their daughter Hannah's engagement to Barry Brown, who hails from Scotland. The congregation is invited to attend the wedding to take place on August 9th on the grounds of St. Ann's Academy. We have been given to understand that Pastor Rick will wear his best kilt for the occasion!

“A Gentleman of the Old School” is how Evan McDiarmid was known, and we were very sad for Shirley when he passed away on February 13th, leaving three children and three grandchildren. During the war, Evan served on Corvettes on North Atlantic patrol, retiring as a Lieut Commander. A man of deep faith, he became VP of various firms such as Clairol and Estée Lauder where he was known for his integrity and caring attitude towards employees. Please know that loving arms are around you Shirley.

Michael Kellogg and Randy Brown have completed leading a six week study on prayer - our relationship to God. Using Philip Yancey's six week video study "*Prayer - Does It Make Any Difference?*" the fourteen participants in the study explored this most challenging, perplexing and deeply rewarding aspect of our relationship to God.

On Saturday, February 14, 2009, at 1 pm, the Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of Judy Diane McFarland and Harland Hugh Scott Bell took place, with family and friends in attendance, along with the extended church family. Following the service, a reception was held in the church hall for those who came to wish them well, which included all of us at Trinity. Following that, there was a reception for invited guests at the home of a friend. Rev. Rick Cleaver conducted the ceremony and Rev. Madge Scott Bowes delivered the message.

On the Sunday prior to the wedding, a shower luncheon was held at the church for Harland and Judy and an envelope from the church folk was presented to the happy couple. We wish them many happy years together and pray that God will truly bless them.

Our bunwich luncheons at the beginning of each month are always welcome and much appreciated by all participants. Many thanks to the groups which do the work and make it all so enjoyable for the rest of us. Our next bunwich will be held on April 5th which is also Communion Sunday.

Seen on the back of a T- shirt in the desert: “If a man goes out into the desert all alone and expresses an opinion, is he **still** wrong?”

FROM HERE AND NOWHERE

Most of you are aware that my darling husband likes to walk, preferably long distances, and fast. I prefer exercise that doesn't require a whole lot of sweating and is short in duration. That of course is why he is thin, and I am not.

While we were in the desert, Bob would creep quietly out of the trailer at the crack of dawn and head off into the hills. Why they refer to them as hills I don't know, since they are 5000 ft high! Here we call hills mountains: Mt. Doug and Mt. Tolmie. But I digress! So off he would go, sometimes for two hours, arrive home looking as unrumpled as he left, and not at all tired. I would just be getting up!

He loved it up there, so just before we left to come home, he decided that he should risk the paint job on his new truck and drive me up into a canyon so I could enjoy it too. The road was narrow and really rough, and branches brushed the side of the truck, so the going was very slow. Near the top, we came upon a man and woman descending the trail, so we stopped to speak to them. They were both wearing all white, heads well covered, long pants and long boots and they were appalled to learn that Bob had been up into the canyon that morning. One of them said: "Dressed like that?" and the other said: "Alone?" They then informed us that there are killer bees in the hills that are attracted to dark colours. Bob was wearing shorts and dark colours. Then they added that there is a pack of wild dogs up there that are rabid and will attack anything that looks like food. "Of course you are carrying a gun, but even still, you probably couldn't escape without it being a repeater." So Bob looks rather blank and says: "Gun? Repeater?" He doesn't even carry a stick! So, you think, 'I guess he'll quit doing that!' Wrong. When challenged about it, he replied that one has to be really unlucky to get cornered by wild dogs and bees and besides, he was carrying a cell phone! That made me feel heaps better! Then I remembered that cell phones don't work in the canyons and as a weapon it sucks. They also told us that there are five different types of rattle snakes living in the hills and as the weather was getting fairly warm, it was soon time for them to come out of hibernation. They come in various lengths and can only strike half their body length but hard enough to break bones, which is why Texas cowboys developed leather riding boots that are knee high. Texas has more rattlesnakes than trees! (Don't quote me). They then wisely went everywhere on horse back, leaving the horse the job of stomping the snakes to death.

I loved that ride into the canyons which are always full of little critters scuttling about. The wild flowers were beginning to bloom and the birds chattered together about the intrusion of these annoying two legged creatures, most of whom were armed to the teeth. I did get out and walk a bit, but I would have preferred to

have had eyes in the back of my head!

Those were the animal dangers; the week before there was a man, stark naked, running around outside the park. Maybe he heard that the Greeks ran naked. Or perhaps he was running with the wolves, cougars, and coyotes which also travel in the buff. Or maybe he finally lost it from the overabundance of advice that our neighbours to the south are pleased to share.

I have ridden many times up into canyons in the Rockies, but I had a well trained horse under me, who knew exactly where to go and how to deal with other animals, and I just gave him his head. Which is of course what I am forced to do with Bob! The only way I got him to carry the cell phone was by telling him how frightened I was, knowing he walked alone.

I suppose that if men feared in the same way we women fear, there would not have been much exploring in the world; I can't imagine a group of women trying to figure out how to get to the moon for instance. Most of us wouldn't think of going anywhere in the wilderness alone, but we can sure think of a lot of dumb things to worry about, no matter where we are.

While I was in the emergency ward of the hospital, wondering if my head was going to blow up, I wasn't worried about dying so much as wondering how Bob would get me across the border (do they sell ice boxes large enough)? I heard of a woman once whose husband passed on while they were approaching customs, and knowing that one needed lots of paper work to transport a cadaver, she poured a cup of whiskey over him, covered him with a blanket, and informed the border guy that he was drunk. It worked!

We all have different ways of dealing with what is ahead of us. When we are young we feel pretty invincible, but we older folk talk ad nauseam about when to downsize our homes and where to move to. We worry about being left alone, of being incapacitated or getting senile. But for those of us who have given our lives to Christ, we know that, whatever is ahead of us, He will walk with us. And there will be no concern about being admitted to our heavenly home. Praise God. He is Risen.

Have a joyful Easter.

Joy