

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A JOYFUL NOISE

Volume 28

Number 1



NEW LIFE

EASTER

2011

AN EASTER MESSAGE

By Michael Kellogg
(Clerk Of Session)

This time of year often brings to mind coloured eggs, jelly beans and bonnets. However the true meaning of Easter lies in the atoning sacrifice of our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Over two thousand years ago, the only begotten Son of the Father gave His life for each one of us. He had the power to give his life because He also had the power to take it back, as He explains in John 10:18: “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” He freely chose to suffer the sins of everyone in the world.

We believe that only through His name may we be saved. “Nor is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 3:12)

There is no other name under heaven whereby we may be saved. We also believe that we must do more than merely accept Him as our Saviour. We are each individually responsible for our acceptance or denial of His gospel. Acceptance of the gospel of Jesus Christ means that we strive to become like Him which is like our Father in heaven. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matt 5:48) This means we keep all of His commandments and live our lives in accordance with His teachings. When we truly accept Him in our lives, we make use of His sacrifice. When we deny His gospel, we mock His ultimate gift.

Salvation comes as a free gift through the atonement of Jesus Christ. At this time of year, we should seek Him and His gospel. We should remember His sacrifice and how this one act makes it possible for us to return to our Heavenly Father. Amidst the celebration, we should take a quiet moment to pour out our hearts in gratitude for Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

I wish you a truly joyful Easter. May you build your house on the rock, as described in these stirring words by Rupert Brooke:

“We have built a house that is not for Time’s throwing.
We have gained a peace unshaken by pain for ever.
War knows no power. Safe shall be my going,
Secretly armed against all death’s endeavour;
Safe though all safety’s lost; safe where men fall;
And if these poor limbs die, safest of all.”

Who's Who this year (in alphabetical order)

As we look forward to a new minister, Trinity's Search Committee (chosen from Board, Session and congregation) is Harland Bell, Randy Brown, Whitney Hanna, Michael Kellogg, Jeanne Spinelli, Ian MacPherson and Betsy Wicks. Please pray for wisdom for this group, as their's is not an easy task.

Your Board of Managers this year is: Roberta Adlam, Bev Andrews, Rob Bada, John Diccio, Glen Downey, Joy Gartshore, Jeanne Spinelli and Betsy Wicks. Additionally, our Treasurer (Linda Isaak) and our Building Manager (Harland Bell) are automatically on the Board.

Your Worship and Music Committee is Roberta Adlam, Elizabeth Appleby, Lorne Butler, Mary Connolly, Sarah Cunningham and Norma Kincaid,

And your Daycare Liaison Committee consists of Roberta Adlam, Bev Andrews, Joy Gartshore (chair) and Jeanne Spinelli. Any concerns should be directed to Joy.

Some Food for Thought

Trinity has 63 families who in 2010 gave **\$73,716** via envelope offerings (vs \$85,352 in 2009) which averaged \$1,170 per family (about \$20 per week). 37 (60%) gave less than this while 26 (40%) gave more. While rental income brought an additional **\$46,110**, expenses were **\$121,160** and we didn't even have a minister for 3 months! We thought that the Day Care rental would pick up our shortfall, but this is no longer the case.

We have lost some folk and have had some heavy expenses so far this year; the drainage being \$20,000. Our peripheral drains were plugged and water was backing up in the crawl space below the Sanctuary, plus one of the two pumps had failed. Necessary maintenance.

It was very good to see our winter visitors again - Ken and Judy Matthews and Peggy Burton, (as well as those short-term folk visiting family) - who all wish they lived here too! They plan to be with us before the snow flies again on the prairies (October?)

A "Faith Study" drop-in led by Bob Wicks explores basic truths of our Christian faith each Sunday morning at 10am, to which all are cordially invited.

Whitney Hanna is telling a little children's story every Sunday during church, and we are grateful to her for doing that. Although we rarely have "littles" in church, the rest of us enjoy her stories. Whitney's is the happy voice you hear whenever you call St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church downtown.

A "Valentine's Bunwich" on February 13th was enjoyed by all and provided us the opportunity to visit with one another over a simple lunch. And by the time you read this, our "Palm Sunday Pot Luck" will have taken place. Many thanks to all who set these up, served and washed up - not to mention those who brought the delectable assortment of food.

ONLY THE GUYS WOULD KNOW

A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind the team's bench and after the game, he asked her how she liked the experience.

"Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just don't understand why they were so set on killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her date asked "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin; one team got it and then for the rest of the game, they all kept screaming: 'Get the quarter back! Get the quarter back!' I'm like Hello? It's only 25 cents!"!!!!

The following is a Psalm written by Jeanne Spinelli who entitled it "Psalm 151."

Let me sing unto the Lord, for He maketh His way known unto me.

Through doubt, through anger, He gave me the power to do my duty and not give up.

Through deaths, He gave me goals and clarity. Praise be to God.

Let me play my violin and sing praise unto the Lord.

Through my tears, I am refreshed. Praise be to God.

Through my hate, I searched for Him and found solace.

Praise be to God the Father for His beloved son Jesus, who became my Saviour.
Praise be to the Holy Spirit who has, is and will be my Comforter and Guide.

Praise be to Jesus Christ who allowed me to be forgiven.
Hope supports me all day long. Praise be to our Heavenly Father.

Last December 14th, Margaret Bandeen slipped away from us at age 91 and we do miss her. An amazing woman, for until she fell and broke her hip, she volunteered six days a week for various organizations, taking Sundays as her only day of rest. Then she often helped to count our church offering. She always had a pleasant look about her and was quite uncomplaining about hospital food, saying that it was just great.

We've had rather a lot of folk falling and being injured earlier this spring, some because of ice and others because of an incautious step. Bob Katzer fell down his basement stairs, breaking some ribs and a collar bone. Recovery has been very slow and he covets your prayers. Donna Bada and Cynthia MacPherson both came a cropper but are recovering nicely and walking more carefully.

Michael Kellogg was involved in a "fender bender" and, although thankfully no one was hurt, his car was toast and he decided not to buy another, choosing rather to use our excellent bus system. If he behaves himself, Debbie allows use of her car if available although she has her finger in a few pies, so is dashing about a fair amount. We envy her energy. They recently celebrated the birth of their first grand daughter, and although she arrived early, she is doing well and they are very proud!

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. After his father had asked for the third time what was wrong, he finally blurted out "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

Kim Wicks is down in New Orleans helping to rebuild lives in the Inner City. She is working with the Castle Rock Community Church, where volunteers live in dormitories as they run programs for youth and adults. Operating like a drop-in centre, youth know they are safe, cared for and monitored. Workers help with homework, hold devotionals and make snacks for the youth and Kim also gives Bible studies and does office work. She depends on donations for she can't legally work in the U.S.A. and hopes to work there until the end of September. She is very grateful for all the funding she has received.

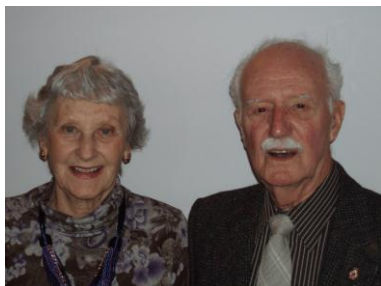
~A Cup of Tea

One day my mother was out, and my daddy was in charge of me. I was maybe 2 1/2 years old. Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift, and it was one of my favourite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought him a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my mom came home.

Daddy made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!' Mom waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy; and she watched him drink it up.

Then she said, (as only a mother would know), "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water, is the toilet?"



Wow! 65 years with the same mate! Now that's impressive - particularly in this day and age. Ian and Cynthia MacPherson celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on April 20th and the congregation gladly adds its hearty congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

Please continue to pray for Barbara Smith and Robbie Robinson, both waiting to hear what the medical gurus plan to do with them next; for June Robinson and Gerry Burns (Glenda's sister), as they struggle with medical problems. And also for Doreen McIntyre who is recovering from surgery. A truly difficult time for them all.

Also for Ed Burrows who is looking about for a facility for Elizabeth, as he is no longer able to give her the care that she needs. This is always such a difficult time for any couple and they need our prayers. If you are ever lucky enough to have a conversation with Ed, you will be fascinated by his stories, for he flew almost every type of Spitfire made, fought many air battles, and never took a bullet in his aircraft! Furthermore, he remembers the names of every place he was and when he was there. That blows your editor away because I can't remember where I was yesterday!

Our organist, Lorne Butler, is recovering from open heart surgery. It was so nice to see him in church again and to hear that he hopes to be back at the organ next month. He and Ronalyn live not far from the church, but just a bit too far at the moment for him to walk or ride his bike. We have missed him.

But we do appreciate Elise Kennedy filling in so capably and helping out with practices when asked. It is good to have her nearby and to so willingly step into the breach. Thank you Elise and her Patrick, who cheers her on each week.

We reported last time that Joan Tigchelaar had moved to a senior's facility - and indeed she did. But after three months of too much good food, too many doors in too many corridors, and windows that opened only a crack, she decided that she wasn't ready for all the restrictions, so she bought a townhouse with her daughter and moved again. Her new address is #29 3049 Brittany Drive (Colwood) V9B5P8.

Dianna Heal has also been on the move - from house to a townhouse in Broadmead, feeling quite smug when the snow came and she was no longer responsible for the shovelling! Her address is 901 Kentwood Lane, V8Y 2Y7, phone 778-440 2208.

The annual Board/Session Christmas party was held at the Gartshores this year, and while attendance was rather low, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. However we will simply have to move to a place that is easier to find!

As good stewards, the Board wishes to advise our church folk that all purchases over \$100 must be pre-approved by the Board. Also all items, no matter the amount, must be accompanied by a receipt or it cannot be reimbursed by the treasurer. This applies to all members, including the Board and Session, for we must have good accountability for the Lord's money.

Last year, Sarah Cunningham completed another long road trip with her son Shaun, exploring some of the lesser known highways, and finding truly spectacular scenery. At one point, they were parked beside the road for some time as Shaun took his many photos that professional photographers need to do in order to get the perfect shot. During this long stop, a helicopter hove into view and the uniformed crew aboard demanded to know what they were doing and did they require help. They probably thought something nefarious was going on! This isn't unusual for the two of them, as they spend their nights in some pretty odd and risky spots.

On February 20th, Trinity celebrated a "Sharing our Heritage Sunday" with historical overviews and personal stories. Our busy Worship and Music Committee spent weeks searching, reading and setting up the church history to present to our church family. This included the history of the Presbyterian Church which was founded in Scotland in 1701. Although our Canadian roots are Scottish, our heritage includes the work and witness of the French Huguenots who came to Canada in the 1660s. We now have congregations that worship in English, French, Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, Hungarian, Spanish, Portuguese and Ghanaian.

Some years ago, we put together a small history book of Trinity, which is of course an amalgamation of three smaller churches in our area, our Gorge Church being chosen as it was halfway between the other two. The original building was erected in 1914 where our hall sits now. This book was put on display at the coffee hour after church and several have expressed an interest in obtaining a copy. We can probably manage that if you are serious about having one, but we do have to charge a nominal fee for the reprinting. Phone Joy at (250) 477-8613.

From a note to a teacher in the Memphis School District:
"Please excuse Johnny from school today... He had diarrhea, and his boots leak."

You will recall that Trinity once again took part in donating shoe boxes filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child. With your help, Roberta Adlam was able to fly south to Chile to be a part of the distribution team, a life-changing experience for her.

In five distribution centres, they handed out 8,000 shoe boxes! The children are entertained by music and drama telling the story of Christ before the boxes are distributed. When all the children have one, they open them together and then, on leaving, they are all given a book entitled “The Greatest Gift of All.”

Chile is a very poor country, and without school supplies, a child simply cannot attend school. Roberta suggests that next time, we buy scribblers, erasers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, and pencil cases. Do you know they actually erase their scribblers and re-use them? Each child must also have a pair of **black** shoes - and there is no such thing as social assistance in Chile (or in most countries for that matter)! So keep your eyes peeled for bargains as you shop this year.

A big thank you to all those who made this eye-opening trip possible!

The Worship and Music Committee this year invites the congregation to participate in their “Easter Bonnet Contest” (note that this is open to both men and women) which will take place during our Easter Sunday coffee hour .

The Cross of Flowers is also their idea, and a lovely one it is. Folk are asked to bring a flower or two with them on Easter Sunday to pin to the empty Easter cross, which has always resulted in a lovely creation. Many thanks to this very imaginative group, who on March 20th also provided us with a lovely cake to celebrate the first day of spring.

Trinity’s “old-timers” may remember Flora Whiteford, a member of Trinity for many years. Flora was a retired Deaconess who knew just how “The Church” should be run and was not afraid to speak her mind. Flora took a tumble while in her apartment recently and is now resting comfortably in the General Hospital.

We know that our own Christa McCowan is engaged to be married to Steven Yannick, and we are privileged to tell you that their wedding will take place on Saturday September 17th in St. Andrew’s Church. Our very best wishes Christa!

FROM HERE AND NOWHERE

One of the things one notices when visiting in California, is how fiercely patriotic they are. They have any number of truly beautiful patriotic songs that brings tears to their eyes and compels them to leap to their feet, hand over heart. We, on the other hand tend to downplay any patriotism until we are forced to fight, and then look out! We are far too British to let on we are moved by a mere song, and as for those of us on the West Coast, our time is taken up muttering about major stuff like the weather.

We arrived home just about the time the city was doing the flower count, and with my usual enthusiasm for bizarre stuff, I was determined to take part, only slightly put off by the somewhat thin showing we had. Bob saw me pick up the phone and asked what I was doing. When he heard my reply, he gently took the phone from me and hung it up, saying things like: “maybe next year.”

Can’t you hear it all now? “Hello. Is this the flower count? Yes, I’d like to report a flower.” Slight hesitation on the other end, then. “Yes. How many do you have?” “Well, I have one.” “I see, is that one tree? We count that at 150,000” Me: “No, not a tree. I have one very pretty miniature daffodil.” Silence. then “That is it?” Me: “ Well yes, unless you include the tiny white daisy-like things in the grass. I have lots of those!” Dial tone.

It takes a horrendous disaster to shake us up; our idea of a disaster being one inch of snow damaging the marijuana crop, so when the earthquake hit Japan, we vaguely thought about getting prepared, spending an inordinate amount of time examining the map put in the paper, which showed us if our home would slide, turn to mud or be washed away. What to do, what to do? I have long since given up on doing much, relying on the supplies we have in the trailer. Now we find that our trailer is full of dry rot (why dry rot when it is actually wet?), so if a quake hits, we will have to sift through rubble to find the supplies, and there will be no dry bed, or roof. Then I read a new article that says to stay in the house and roll yourself in a ball between two large solid objects. I caught Bob looking at me speculatively, and immediately told him I was large but I squish easily into a puddle of lard and he’d better choose some solid furniture. So far we have come to no conclusions.

During the panic over a possible Tsunami, my wacky niece phoned and yelled: “Run, there’s a tidal wave coming.” Then she phoned her son in Barbados and yelled the same thing, and he replied: “Mother, I’m in a different ocean!”

It wouldn’t surprise me to hear that she had phoned the Queen and yelled: “Sandbag Buck Palace, grab the corgis and pop up to the top floor, the Thames should peak in about one hour!”

She also phoned her daughter in Ottawa, warning her that the Rideau Canal was about to flood!

So in the usual West Coast fashion, we talked about it and did nothing. If the big one hits and you hear about someone finding a bag of bones and a bucket of lard huddled down beside a flattened bed, you'll know that we have moved on to a better place.

It is indeed comforting to know beyond a shadow of doubt that God is in control and we have the assurance that a place is waiting for us in heaven.

And it's all because of God's amazing Grace.

Have a blessed Easter.

Joy