

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER - February, 2016

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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Packing for the World you long for

How do you do with packing for a holiday? Was your family a "take everything just in case, roof rack and trailer family", or a "don't take more than will fit in your somewhat small car" as my family was?

Do you travel with a suitcase or a backpack? Or a suitcase with straps or a backpack with wheels?

When it came to packing for my recent trip to Myanmar, there were many decisions to be made. Would I need my trusty puffer jacket? What about my white shoes? How much was enough for two weeks? Could I fit in all the things I wanted to take for my daughters? Would any zealous customs officer wonder why I was bringing THREE kindles into Thailand? All these decisions were made – glad I took the puffer jacket, didn't have much use for the white shoes, and no-one batted an eyelid over the Kindles.

But the most interesting decision was whether or not to lock my luggage. Would I risk losing the keys to my admittedly rather feeble padlocks? Would they deter any drug dealers from putting stuff into my luggage or any thieves from taking stuff out? In the end I decided not to lock my luggage or to avail myself of the option to wrap it. In talking about it with my daughter, who also did not lock her luggage, we both felt that locking our luggage locked us into a fearful, suspicious mindset of an anxious world and that we would rather treat our luggage as if the world were as we hoped it could become.

Each time I went into a different country I was asked 'Do you know what is in your luggage?' This question certainly raises anxiety levels travelling in Asia where penalties for carrying drugs are severe in the extreme. I had to think about it... I knew what was in my luggage when I packed it, but could I guarantee that nothing had gone into or out of it in the meantime? No, I couldn't. Should I have locked it after all?

The reading for the last week in January is Paul's famous letter about love to the fractious church of Corinth. This letter is not so much about advice for marriage, but about how to live together in God's new community. In this community the walls which kept us safely separate are broken down, which demands more of us in terms of trust, patience, kindness and love. Somehow my dilemma about locking my luggage touched into this reading. Our locks keep us safely separate, protecting us from the risks of love. So when I choose to lock my doors at night, or lock my luggage to protect my people or my stuff, can I at least feel a little sad, knowing that this is not what our God of love intends or desires for us and for our world.

Sally

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals 24th December, 2015 Kelvin Dodge. We extend our sympathy to the family of Kelvin.

ARCHIVES

Our Archivist has recently received some interesting papers, Obituaries of Rev J A Asher and Mr Morris Spence, but even more interesting is an Annual Report of 1897. This is especially valuable as the folder containing the early history of the Parish has been missing now for a couple of years. (If you know of its whereabouts, please let me know). Here are some extracts from the abovementioned report. The minister at the time was Rev. James Paterson, and Mr James Anderson whose bequest is still benefitting the community was an Elder.

“The number of our communicant roll, 340. Sabbath School has 353 scholars including Bible Classes. 15 Ladies and 11 Gentlemen, Superintendent, Librarian and Assistant Librarian now form our staff. During the summer months while the wool ships were lying in the Bay, several of our young men conducted services on board every Sunday when the weather permitted. In this connection a boat was lent to us by the Harbour Board, and to them, we desire to here record our thanks for this assistance. Dorcas Society has held fortnightly meetings. 40 garments have been made and given away to the needy. We are responsible for clothing a child in the Children’s Home and are now busy making garments for a box for the New Hebrides. We beg to call the attention of mothers to the ‘arrowroot’ made by the New Hebrides natives, the sale of which helps Mission work in the Islands. The price is only 1s per pound and is the purest and best in the market.” (More from this report in coming months.)

If you are interested in reading more of the history of St Paul’s, we now have an Archive Corner in the rear vestibule, the shelving of which was made by Ian Sayer. Thank you Ian. Please feel free to take a look at any material. We request, though, that nothing is removed from the Church premises. *Bruce McConnochie.*

PARISH BREAKFAST

On the fifth Sunday in November Inez & I had the privilege of attending the Parish Breakfast held in the Church Lounge. What a great occasion - tables all beautifully set out and decorated, warm welcome & greeting from those preparing the Breakfast – menu catering for all needs and tastes and is as good as if not better than you would get at any Restaurant. Only disappointment was the lack of numbers attending. Come on people support the efforts being made to create a time of Fellowship and Togetherness. Let’s support the effort of those who prepare for the Breakfast and set everything up. This Breakfast is held when/where there is a 5th Sunday in a month and it is a good time to share some quality and relaxing time with fellow Parishioners who you only normally meet with a fleeting greeting between services. Watch the Bulletin/Newsletters for notice of future dates for such events and let’s make them a resounding success.

Fifth (Breakfast) Sundays for 2016 - - note in your Diary/Calendar - 31st January, 29th May, 31st July, 30th October.

Look forward to seeing you there. *Bryan Rudd.*

I Believe... That maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had, and what you've learned from them...and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

MORE FAVOURITE HYMNS - ELLA HAIGH

And Can It Be, written by Charles Wesley with the Tune “Sagina” by Thomas Campbell in his ‘Bouquet’ of 1823.

Brothers John and Charles Wesley did many things together despite their different temperaments. At Oxford they formed the ‘Holy Club’ and earned the name of Methodists; they went to Georgia USA as missionaries, but weren’t very successful; in London in 1738 they each had an experience that brought them peace with God. They also published hymn books together.

Charles wrote nearly 7000 new songs of praise to God. He published ‘And Can it be’ a year after his conversion, and each verse describes his own experience. On the Sunday when ‘his chains fell off’ Charles read in his Book of Common Prayer from Psalm 40: ‘He hath put a new song in my mouth; even a thanksgiving unto our God.’ Prophetic words, considering the number of new songs he would write in the coming years.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds was written by John Newton and the tune “St Peter” by Alexander Reinagle.

John Newton’s mother was a devout Christian and hoped that some day her only child would enter the ministry. His father, too, was a godly man. Their son disregarded his upbringing and grew into a dissolute and godless sailor, often using the foulest language. While engaged in the slave trade he found a book which set him thinking about spiritual matters. The effect of a near-death experience, during a great storm at sea brought him to a decision to give up the slave trade and return to England. While working in Liverpool, Newton came under the influence of Wesley and Whitefield. This led to him taking Holy Orders and his mother’s wish came true. He was a curate in Olney for sixteen years and rector of St Mary Woolnoth in London for twenty-seven years. He continued to preach until he was over eighty. It is said that he was greatly loved for his kindness and sympathy.

Let us with a gladsome mind was written by John Milton, 1608-78. Milton attended St Paul’s School in London where he was one of the brightest pupils. He inherited his father’s love of music and books. He often sat up well after midnight to study Latin and Greek by candlelight. When he complained of headaches and tired eyes, nobody recognized the warning signs. He became totally blind when he was forty-four. He continued to compose poems which were written down by his secretary. It was during this time that Milton produced the most famous of his works. “Paradise Lost”.

He was only fifteen, in his last year at St Paul’s in 1623, when he wrote “Let us with a gladsome mind”. He put Psalm 136 into English verse. The hymn that we sing has only six verses, extracted from the original version of twenty-four. There are two tunes in ‘With One Voice’, ‘Harts’ and ‘Monkland’. We usually sing it to ‘Monkland’, a melody arranged by John Bernard Wilkes.

BOTTLE AUCTION AT FIRESIDE.



Our Fireside meeting for **TUESDAY MARCH 8th @ 7.30pm** will be a bit different. We are having a Bottle auction, a fundraiser for Save The Children. All bottles to be wrapped please. (so contents are not seen). Please bring along a friend or two. There will be a special supper after the auction, so could you all please bring a plate.

We are inviting members from other congregations to attend, and all members of the congregation are welcome. Come along for a bit of good fun and fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 8th March!

Helen Morgan.

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SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY 18TH MARCH, 2016.

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You are invited to an evening of fun and memory testing at a TRIVIAL PURSUITS NIGHT. Teams of up to 4 people. Cost \$5 per person. Time to start thinking about your team. More details to follow.

If you didn't make it to the Christmas Carol Sing-along you missed out on an entertaining and fun afternoon. Letters and emails of thanks have been received and many are looking forward to a similar Pastoral Care gathering before too long. Sincere thanks to all who attended and assisted with transport.

Ian Finlayson (for the Pastoral Care Team)

ART DECO FETE - 20TH FEBRUARY.

9am – 2pm

We still need Fruit, jars, sugar, eggs and butter for baking and jam making. And small gifts for the lucky dip (marked girl or boy).

Our stalls will include Collectables, Handcrafts, Sweets and Biscuits, Jewellery, Jams and Pickles, Lemondade, Lucky Dip, and Devonshire teas that will be served all day.

If you can assist in any way, helping on a stall for a couple of hours or helping with stock for any of the above stalls, your help will be most welcome and appreciated. And goods may be brought along to the church from now on. Thank you. Phone David Walker, 843-7853 for further information.

ST PAUL'S OPPORTUNITY/THRIFT SHOP.

The Board of Managers is looking at the possibility of operating a Thrift Shop or Opportunity Shop using some of the rooms at Asher Hall.

In order for this venture to be viable we would need to determine the measure of support we can reasonably expect for manning the shop and providing stock. If you would be willing to serve on a regular basis once a month, and/or would be willing to donate stock (clothes, shoes, books, china glassware, knick-knacks) please contact the Church Office, (phone and e-mail details on front of this Newsletter.) Thank you.

To celebrate growing older, Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column she's ever written.

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with

God. He can take it. 9. Save for retirement starting with your first pay check. 10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile. 11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present. 12. It's OK to let your children see you cry. 13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their Journey is all about. 14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it. 15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks. 16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind. 17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful. 18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger. 19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else. 20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer. 21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special. 22. Over prepare, then go with the flow. 23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple. 24. The most important sex organ is the brain. 25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you. 26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?' 27. Always choose life. 28. Forgive everyone everything. 29. What other people think of you is none of your business. 30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time. 31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change. 32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does. 33. Believe in miracles. 34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do. 35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now. 36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young. 37. Your children get only one childhood. 38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved. 39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere. 40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back. 41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need. 42. The best is yet to come... 43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up. 44. Yield. 45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

