



KILTARLITY AND KIRKHILL CHURCHES

The Parishioner



THE VIEW FROM GOD'S LITTLE ACRE

Dear Autumnal Delights,

We can feel the frost on the pumpkin, there is a chill in the air, and so far there has been some delightful sunshine to usher in the autumn season. The season is off and running. I want to thank you and commend all those of you who are reading through the Bible. Hang in there! We're coming up to Leviticus; the mortality rate will be high. But Leviticus does not last forever!

In this article "The View from God's Little Acre", I want to share with you a story. I visited a home (I am trying to visit two or three homes each weekend) and I met this most wonderful warrior of God grown older. She was dedicated, strong, a giant of faith - and we talked easily about the things of God. I reminded her that Communion would be celebrated on 5 October at Kiltarlity. To my surprise, she announced that she had never taken Communion. As we talked, I discovered that she was not a member of the church. I realised that I had bumped into one of the cultural divides that one sometimes encounters. I asked her if she would like to belong, and told her I would be glad to prepare her for church membership. Her reaction was that she was not worthy to be a full communicant member.

I told her the story of the Rev. Robert Bruce, a minister of St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh who, centuries ago, invited his flock to draw near with faith and receive the body and blood of Christ. With his keen pastoral eye, he spotted a lassie weeping quietly, and as the chalice of wine came to her she quickly passed it on to the next communicant. Dr. Bruce left the Communion Table, came into the body of the Kirk, took the chalice and went to the lassie. He himself put it to her lips and said "My child, this is for you; Christ poured out his life for you, Christ lives for you, drink and be grateful". Highland folk have a great respect for church membership, and in many places only a handful of people will feel worthy to receive the Holy Supper.... but it was for them that it was graciously intended! God wants you in his family. The invitation to church membership is not extended to the unca guid, but it is the place to which we are all invited. Membership is not based upon our perfection, but upon God's grace: The Invitation to Holy Communion reads this way:

Come to this sacred Table, not because you must, but because you may: come not because you are fulfilled, but because of your emptiness. You stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence, and to pray for the Spirit. Come to this Table then, sisters and brothers, as you are, partake and share. It is spread for you and for me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot and invited us to become what we truly are, the Family of God, the Body of Christ, the Church. Come, for all is ready.

/ Contd.

The spirit reflected in this invitation to the Lord's Supper is the tone we want to set in our two churches. If you feel a desire to connect with the Covenant, as we have been saying in the sermons of late, or to join the Church, or to give your life to Christ anew, call it what you will - know that this is your spiritual home. If you would like to become a member of Christ's Church in this place, I would deem it an honour to speak to you about it and smooth the path for your entry into the membership of God's family. Give me a call, drop me a note, speak to me after church or come see me at the manse. Let's talk, and welcome home !

Sincerely,

Willis

Pitter pattering around the parish

- ✠ The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in Kiltarlity Church on Sunday, 5 October. The Communion Preparatory Service will be conducted by Willis at the Kiltarlity Church on Thursday, 2 October at 7:30 p.m. The Apostle Paul insists that we should examine ourselves before coming to the Lord's Table, in order that we might properly discern the Lord's body and blood.
- ✠ The TCC group at Kiltarlity Church will be regularly participating in the morning worship service, as they dramatise the passages of Scripture which are being dealt with in the sermon. This allows the children to also keep in step with what we are doing in the worship service. The young people were enthusiastic about this thespian venture, and will begin right after the October break.
- ✠ For Advent and Christmas, two special events are underway. The play, "A Christmas Carol" from Charles Dickens' story, has now been cast, thanks to the remarkable response of the good folks of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill. It will be presented on Friday, 19 December at the village hall in Kiltarlity. Thanks for your willingness to take part in this dramatic production.
- ✠ On Sunday, 21 December at 6.30 p.m., in Kirkhill Church, there will be an evening of Advent and Christmas music by candlelight. We are putting together some solos, choral pieces and congregational singing, with appropriate Advent and Christmas reflections. We need some singers. We are not forming a choir, but we would like for this occasion to have some people who like to sing join us for this festival occasion. You don't have to read music, but it is like a "People's Choir", that prefers enthusiasm to professionalism. Just as the play is comprised of people from both congregations, so we would like for the choral evening to have representatives from both churches. If you are willing to participate in this one-off event, speak to Mary Robb in Kirkhill, and to Willis at Kiltarlity.

FUNERALS

There have been two deaths within the parish:

The Witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was conducted by Willis for John Innes Wright of Kirkhill, at the Inverness Crematorium on Thursday, 25 September 2008.

The Witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ will be conducted by Willis for Heather Anne Munro, also of Kirkhill, in Kirkhill Church on Tuesday, 30 September 2008 at 11.00 a.m.

Letter from the Interim Moderator

Working quietly away in the background the Vacancy Committee is continuing its search for a new minister for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill. We are encouraged by the good work that Willis is doing in building up the congregations and by the work of the Deacons Courts of both Churches in dealing with improving the Fabric of our Churches and seeking to provide better facilities for both congregations. It is very encouraging too to see a marked increase in givings over recent months and more people being willing to get involved in the life and work of our churches in various ways.

All these things lead me to believe that God has a real work in mind as He equips and prepares His Church for even greater things to come. His time is the right time. His will is the right will. His choice is the right choice. We wait patiently therefore and trust in God to both provide and to prepare us for what He knows is best and how He is to take Kiltarlity and Kirkhill forward as He works out his mission in accordance with His eternal purposes and to the glory of His name. No one can say that serving God is not exciting. Indeed He promises to do far more than we think or imagine is possible. So let's keep praying and keep seeking His help such that we shall see His plan for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill unfold beyond even our greatest expectations. For our God is a great God and is ever true to His Word and to His will to bless, and does give us reason to be ever thankful to Him.

Reg Campbell - Interim Moderator.

wedding

Richard Pinder and Kate Robb were wed within Kiltarlity Church on Saturday, 27 September 2008. Congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds!

THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

1 October	Exodus 15,16	Psalms 15,16	17 October	Leviticus 8,9	Acts 8
2 October	Exodus 17,18	Matthew 24	18 October	Leviticus 10,11,12	Psalm 21
3 October	Exodus 19,20	Matthew 25	19 October	Leviticus 13,14	Psalm 22
4 October	Exodus 21,22	Psalm 17	20 October	Leviticus 15,16	Acts 9
5 October	Exodus 23,24	Matthew 26	21 October	Leviticus 17,18	Acts 10
6 October	Exodus 25,26	Matthew 27	22 October	Leviticus 19,20	Psalms 23,24
7 October	Exodus 27,28	Matthew 28	23 October	Leviticus 21,22	Acts 11
8 October	Exodus 29,30	Psalm 18	24 October	Leviticus 23,24	Acts 12
9 October	Exodus 31,32	Acts 1	25 October	Leviticus 25,26	Psalm 25
10 October	Exodus 33,34	Acts 2	26 October	Leviticus 27	Numbers 1 Acts 13
11 October	Exodus 35,36	Psalm 19,20	27 October	Numbers 2,3	Acts 14
12 October	Exodus 37,38	Acts 3	28 October	Numbers 4,5	Acts 15
13 October	Exodus 39,40	Acts 4	29 October	Numbers 6,7	Psalms 26,27
14 October	Leviticus 1,2,3	Acts 5	30 October	Numbers 8,9	Acts 16
15 October	Leviticus 4,5	Acts 6	31 October	Numbers 10,11	Acts 17
16 October	Leviticus 6,7	Acts 7			

Didache sessions on Thursday at the manse at 7.30 p.m. and on Saturday at Kiltarlity Church at 10.30 a.m. are continuing. If you have questions, problems, insights that you have gleaned from the Bible readings for the week, join us at either of these sessions to explore what the Bible, God's love letter to you, is saying. We'll see you there.

Each Sunday's theme in the prayers, readings, hymns and sermon will centre on what you have read during the week.

QUIZ PRIZE WINNERS

In the August issue of the Parishioner, the young people of both Kiltarlity and Kirkhill were invited to enter a quiz on the Old Testament (Under 13's) and on the New Testament (Over 13's), with a £10 book token being awarded for the most correct entry in each category. During morning service on 7 September, the prizes were presented by Willis to the worthy winners, Alex Byham and Lewis Meeks, both of Kirkhill, who both answered all the questions correctly. Well done !

Kirkhill Parish in Bygone Years - A Photographic Record

As many of you will know, the late Charlie Gair had collected many old photos of the Parish. These have now been collated electronically and a showing with commentary will take place on the evening of Wednesday, 29th October at 7.30pm in Kirkhill Community Centre. Come along and enjoy an interesting trip into the past. Refreshments will be served.

**All proceeds will go towards the Kirkhill Church Development Fund.
*Watch out for special posters and announcements***

Tearcraft products

Tearcraft exists to support skilled craft workers in some of the poorer communities around the world.

Maureen Matheson and Ellenor Thomas invite you to a display of sample Tearcraft goods at Kiltarlity Church on Friday 10 October 2008, from 7.00 p.m. onwards. These items are beautifully handcrafted gifts from around the world - jewellery, clothing accessories and items for the home. You will be able to browse, without any obligation - a civilised way to start shopping for Christmas gifts. Tearcraft Christmas cards will also be on display. Orders can be taken on the evening for post free delivery to Maureen Matheson of Kirkhill Church, who will then arrange distribution/collection of completed orders. Alternatively, catalogues will be available to take home.

Tea and coffee will be available, together with Maureen's renowned shortbread.

PAT'S CORNER

"God bless you, everyone" of the merry band who volunteered to be a part of the cast and crew for the "Special K's" production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". The one act play will be presented at Kiltarlity Community Hall on Friday, 19 December 2008. The festivities will begin with a sumptuous supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by the drama. There will be no admission fee, but donations for costs will be gratefully received. The production will be only one hour, and children are welcome. The dinner / theatre will be a gift of the parishes to the community.

Profound thanks to the participants who are giving their time and talents for this endeavour. At the time of publication, members of the Christmas Carol family who will be joining Iain Marr as Ebenezer Scrooge are the following people: Maureen Matheson, Willis Jones, Margaret Shiels, Neil and Helen MacLeod, Ian Morrison, Annabelle Fraser, Ian Campbell, Ethna Ferguson, Annaliese Garvie, Elizabeth Fraser, Debbie Ross and children, Maggie Third, Ellenor Thomas and the girls from T.C.C., Pat Jones and Elizabeth McRae.

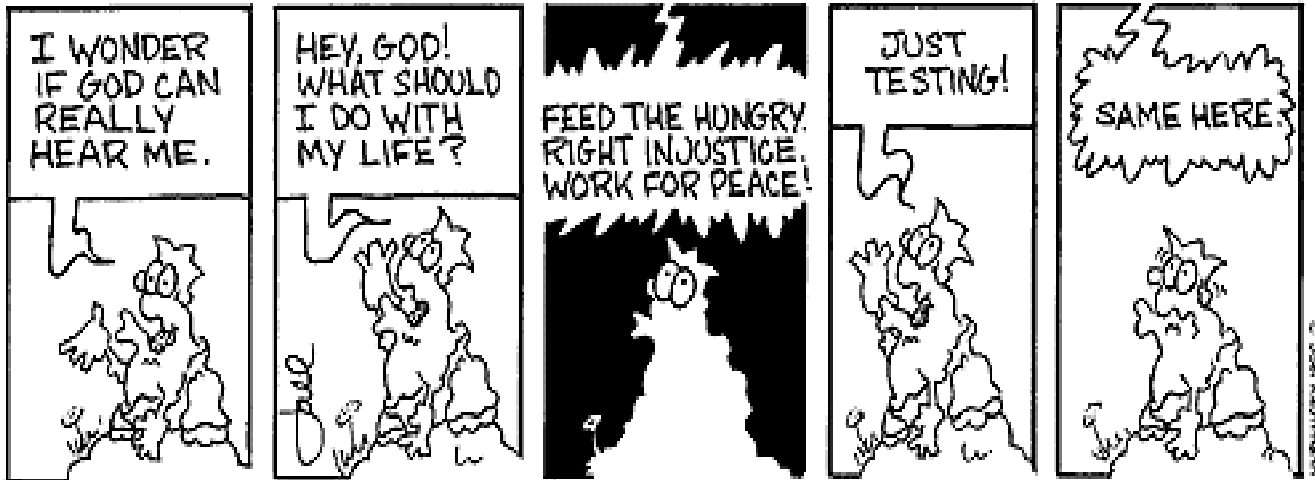
The first meeting of the Christmas Carol family will be held on Wednesday, 1 October 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Kiltarlity Hall. Scripts will be distributed and a play reading will occur. Rehearsal dates, trying to accommodate all needs, will be scheduled at this time. Alternative rehearsal dates, using both churches and the manse, will be scheduled.

Please put Friday, 19 December at 6:00 p.m. at Kiltarlity Hall on your calendar. We promise you a memorable evening.

Cheers!

Pat

 **Pontius' Puddle**



SERVICES of WORSHIP for OCTOBER 2008

KIRKHILL at 10:30 a.m.

KILTARLITY at 12 NOON

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 5 October | Exodus 15,16 Psalms 15, 16 to Exodus 21,22 Psalm 17 |
| 12 October | Exodus 23,24 Matthew 26 to Exodus 35,36 Psalms 19,20 |
| 19 October | Exodus 37,38 Acts 3 to Leviticus 10,11,12 Psalm 21 |
| 26 October | Leviticus 13,14 Psalm 22 to Leviticus 25,26 Psalm 25 |

Each Sunday's theme in the prayers, readings, hymns and sermon will centre on what you have read during the week – see the Year of the Bible

Communion Preparatory Service at Kiltarlity Church on Thursday, 2 October at 7:30 p.m.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Kiltarlity Church on Sunday, 5 October at 12 noon.

*"May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever;
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavour.*

*Lift up your eyes and see his face and his grace forever;
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever. "*