



THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER COBDEN-QUEEN'S LINE PASTORAL CHARGE



Issue 1

December 15, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

I am very pleased to write this letter to the Church family members in the Cobden-Queen's Line Pastoral Charge. We are launching an ambitious voyage of publication of our Pastoral Charge Newsletter. As the minister of this proud pastoral charge, it is my prayer and desire to reach every family member in our church and make a strong tie among each other as a living Body of Christ. This newsletter publication will be one means to carry out that ambition. I thank you those who willingly committed their time and gifts for this task. In particular, we appreciate that Sandra Buttle took charge in editing and laying out the materials. The Newsletter will be published quarterly. All are encouraged to feel free to contribute your thoughts and personal stories, prayers and support for this project. Please remember that this is your Newsletter. It means that it is you, each member in our Pastoral Charge, who will be the primary provider of materials for the Newsletter.

Rev. James Min

Get real

Sure, your life right now is not how you envisioned it. But even though things are not the way God intended them to be, you need to make a plan and work toward a goal. Jeremiah 29:11 I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

FROM MINISTER'S DESK

What does Christmas Mean to You?

"It was almost 11:40 p.m. on Sunday, the 14th of April, 1912." The Titanic which they claim that even "God could not sink this ship" were struck by an iceberg on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York. But it was interesting to notice that the same incident was experienced differently by different people. M. Frolicher, a young Swiss girl, said it only felt like a little ferry making a sloppy landing. And she said to herself, "Isn't it funny ... we're landing!" To Mrs. J. Stuart White, it was like to roll over "a thousand marbles." And so on. (A Night To Remember, by Walter Lord, 1955).

In the same way, Christmas means different things to different people. To some people it means a time to do lots of shopping and getting presents. To some people it means a time of decorating around the house with colorful lights and ornaments. Still to some people it means to go out for many parties and reunions with old friends. And to others, Christmas could mean nothing but a time of depression and frustration to many people. What does Christmas mean to you?

In the Bible time, the birth of Jesus was rather an event which shook the world. Especially it was a shocking news to many people in Jerusalem. King Herod was literally shocked to death about the breaking news of the birth of Jesus. "When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him." (Matthew 2: 3) But to people like shepherds and Magi from the east, the birth of Jesus meant a fulfillment of God's promise. What did the birth of Jesus mean to the people in the Bible time? It meant a disturbing event to the people who lived their lives in pursuing nothing but selfish ambition. But to people who were searching for means to redeem people out of pain and suffering, the birth of Jesus meant to be a breaking news of hope for the peace and joy.

“You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1: 21) It also meant that there will be peace on earth, regardless. In the night of the first Christmas, angels in heaven sang, “Glory to god in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.” (Matthew 2: 14) Most of all, Christmas means that you and I would have been given “the right to become children of God.” (John 1: 12)

What does Christmas mean to you? A shock? Or a joyful redemption?

You're going to need people you trust and can count on. Networking with fellow believers will be crucial to giving you the support you need. You need friends you can talk to, lean on, be accountable to, and cry and pray with. The best place to network is at your home church.



Calvin Wilson presenting "Certificates of Appreciation" to Keith Peever and Isobel Fletcher for their many years serving as organists, pianists and musical leadership.

The Lord's My Shepherd

Facts:

Lyricist: **Scottish Psalter**

Lyrics Date: 1850

Key: F

Theme: God's Faithfulness

Composer: **Jessie S. Irvine**

Music Date: 1871

Tune: **CRIMOND**

Meter: C.M.

Scripture: **Psalm 23**



Devotional:

In a beautiful paraphrase of Psalm 23, this week's hymn gives us a reassuring-and challenging-image of God. He's celebrated as our shepherd, the One who provides for all our needs. And those words wash us with the "quiet waters" of peace because they assure us that God will never leave us in want. But the image of God as shepherd also confronts us with this challenging question: If God is our shepherd, are we sheep who follow and trust? Or do we wander our own way?

The gentle shepherd promises to lead us to pasture to fill our every need. Yet how often have we looked for food somewhere else? Some neglect their faith and family to work long hours, not trusting God to provide in another way. Others hold onto unhealthy relationships, fearful of being left alone.

In hundreds of such ways, Christians wander from the Shepherd. And at the root of our wanderings lies a lack of trust in God—a fear that he won't come through. Not content with the quiet pasture God's provided for today, we start worrying about tomorrow and devising our own plans to fill our needs.

When you struggle with those doubts, sing the words of our hymn often and let them rest in your soul. You don't need to worry about tomorrow's needs. Your Shepherd has provided enough for today. And he'll do the same for tomorrow and every day beyond.

Hymn Story:

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" first appeared in print in the Scottish Psalter of 1650. This Psalter was assembled by the Westminster Assembly, which also gave us the Westminster Confession and the Book of Common Prayer. In it, portions from various sources were combined to create the beautiful hymn we know today.

Though it was well-loved in Scotland, "The Lord's My Shepherd" did not enjoy popularity outside the Church of Scotland for nearly 300 years. It finally appeared in the Methodist Hymnal of 1876 and later the Congregational Hymnal of 1916. But it wasn't included in an Anglican hymn book until 1965.

The hymn version of Psalm 23 remains faithful to David's psalm. Its popularity in England grew in part because of its use during the 1947 marriage ceremony between Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Since that time, it's become a well-known hymn, often requested for weddings and funerals today.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We thank God for the safe arrival of Sarah Rachel on the 24th of October 2007 in Saarbrücken, Germany. Sarah is a sister for Shirley and second daughter for Paul and Natalia Morris, 11th grandchild for Shirley and the late Duncan Morris.

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

Christmas celebrations officially started on December 2 for Cobden-Queens Line Pastoral Charge. An evening of fellowship, good food and entertainment was enjoyed by 100 people who gathered at Grace United Church for the festivities. Even the threat of a snowstorm didn't keep people away.

The CE Centre was decked out for Christmas, and the tables were decorated beautifully by the caterer, setting the holiday tone for the evening. The delicious turkey dinner was catered by Country Caterers, so that the UCW ladies could relax and enjoy an evening along with family and friends. It proved to be a good night to think about skipping one's diet just this once (okay, so it may not be the last night we skip our diets...but it is the holiday season after all).

Entertainment was equally enjoyable, with music and individual talents on display, introduced by master of ceremonies Charlene Valiquette. The evening began with one of our long-time favourites, Wilf Smith on his guitar, singing a couple of humorous Christmas carols to start things off. He was followed by Shirley Ullrich reciting a witty Christmas story-poem that she herself had written. Queens Line joined the entertainment program for the first time, with a trio of singers comprised of Bonnie McLaughlin, Crystal Leach and Eleanor Tabbert. Let's hope this becomes a permanent fixture in the programs in the future. Isobel Fletcher recited a poem written by another of our talented church ladies, Susan Gilchrist. Susan couldn't join us due to family commitments, but everyone enjoyed her story about the forlorn snowman. This was followed by Rev. James and Hester Min singing a song together before Rev. Min serenaded us with several harmonica carols and a solo, after which he and Hester were presented with a poinsettia and gift to thank them for all their work on our churches' behalves. The final musical entertainment of the night was provided by a group of musicians comprised of Rob McKenzie, Bea Richardson, Gordon Thom, Bonnie McLaughlin and Crystal Leach (yes, those Queens Line ladies were busy...that's what happens when you sound so good). The evening's entertainment was completed by a reading by Isobel Fletcher to remind us all of the true meaning behind Christmas.



Hester & James Min

The evening was a great success and a wonderful time of fellowship and fun. All the best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our congregation members and their loved ones. May 2008 be an even better year for everyone.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE AND QUEEN'S LINE CHURCHES

The year is almost coming to an end, and it has been an eventful and fruitful year. The culmination of a long and thorough Joint Search Committee process has brought us Rev. Min and Hester, and we are so grateful for their energy and leadership. Their arrival has resulted in a flurry of new activity. Grace United is host location for many of these activities, but it is important to recognize how many of these are in fact pastoral charge activities, supported by both our churches.

One new and very successful innovation, has been the introduction of the monthly **Praise Night**, a time of praise and fellowship where everyone is invited to bring their talent and their love for music and worship. This is held the third Sunday evening of each month. The attendance has been wonderful, and isn't limited to only our United congregation members. Goodwill offerings have gone to worthy causes, such as the Cobden Food Bank and a planned luncheon at new year's for people who are alone for the holiday season.

The next Praise night is scheduled for **Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.** at Grace United Church. This is planned as a candlelight service, with guest performers who include Gary Doherty, Ian Hamilton, Chuck Pearce, Maureen McCoy, Wilf Smith and Sara Shellhorn. Freewill collection will go to the M&S Fund. The evening will be of special importance, because there will be celebrations following the praise service to honor the new Confirmation graduates.



Dean & Emma Peever on the violins

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE & QUEEN'S LINE *continued ...*

Another new undertaking has been the introduction of **Support Group** meetings, to provide support and fellowship to those suffering through illnesses or troubles in their lives, and to those who are supporting loved ones through such times. These meetings have been hosted at Grace United Church as well.

The new year will see two additional new programs commence. **Bible Study** will be held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the morning, with the first class on *January 15th* at the Grace United CE Centre. Also, **Pastoral Charge Youth Group** will meet every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Grace United CE Centre. Please encourage your children to come.

In addition to their regular role of reviewing and approving budgets and investment strategies, the Board of Stewards was also asked to discuss the financial viability of employing **audio-visual equipment** in the church services and other special occasions. The use of technology can appeal to broader audiences, particularly the young, as well as improving the ability for everyone to enjoy the services more. Rev. Min is pursuing the purchase of the necessary equipment to accomplish his proposed plan.

And of course, a very visible addition to the churches' communication tools, is this **Newsletter** itself. This is a way of reaching out even more about the activities of the church, to everyone no matter whether they are able to attend services regularly or not. Together with the active **visitation program** conducted by Rev. Min and the Joint Session, the outreach to our congregation has increased considerably. Both Grace and Queen's Line households have been divided into regions, 7 for Grace and 3 for Queen's Line. Each session member is responsible for their assigned list to keep the members informed and arrange visitation. Session along with Rev. Min have contacted and visited 98% of the households in the Pastoral Charge. To arrange for a visit or if you have a concern please feel free to contact any session member or Rev. Min.

The Pastoral Charge had a beautiful float in the Santa Claus parade in Cobden on November 24th. Thank you to Crystal Leach for heading up the committee and Wayne McLaren for donating the wagon, pulling the float and supplying a nice warm shop to decorate the float. A very special thank you to Ron Laronde for the use of his wonderful nativity scene for the float. It really helped to make the decorating go easy.

The Official Board met on November 26th. It was a very stormy evening so business was conducted very quickly so we could get home before the snow got even deeper. The Official Board would like to recognize Dorothy Edwards for going above and beyond what was expected of her when she took on the role of secretary for the pastoral charge. Dorothy you are doing a wonderful job and it is appreciated very much. Thank you!

UCW

Grace—The UCW has been busy again this year, catering to weddings, funerals and special events. We would like to thank all the UCW women for their unflagging contributions of time and food and effort. But most importantly, we would like to thank the congregation and everyone else for all their support in making the **Frozen Fruit Sale** and the recent **Farmers Market** sales table, such unqualified successes as fundraisers.

Queen's Line—The UCW was very busy with the annual Pancake Supper and we hosted the Region 2 Annual Rally. We also participated in the Shoe Box project and took a special collection to support families in the Whitewater Region through the Renfrew County Child Poverty Action Network.

Special Services

There are a number of special services coming up very soon, so please mark them on your calendar.

Confirmation Service will be celebrated on Sunday, December 16 at Grace and Queens Line. Please help congratulate the young people who have successfully completed the study program and will be confirmed. Celebrations and cake will follow the evening Praise Night service.

The Queen's Line Congregational Christmas Pot Luck will be held on December 23rd at 6:00 p.m. with entertainment to follow. If you have a talent you wish to share, please feel free to do so.

Christmas Eve service will be held at Grace United Church at 7 p.m., with the traditional candlelight service. Already, the church looks beautiful and in the Christmas spirit, with decorations and poinsettia. To date, poinsettia have been donated by the UCW and by the following:

- Pearl Simmons in memory of Allen and Byron Simmons
- Claudia Sparling and family in memory of Lloyd Sparling

- Les and Joan Buttle in memory of Reba Buttle and Ron Stewart
- Jack and Isobel Fletcher in memory of both sets of parents
- Laverna and Wally Dodds in memory of her parents (Norman and Pearl Logan), her sisters (Greta Logan and Melvina Stuffles), and their granddaughters (Jenna and Jessica Gordon).
- Ruth Remus in memory of her husband Les Remus
- Jack and Janice McLaren in memory of their parents
- Angie Bennett and family in memory of Ray Bennett

Poinsettia in the Queen's Line Church is from Murray and Helen Pettigrew in memory of her parents, Doreen and Arnold Oattes.

World Day of Prayer is being hosted in 2008 by Grace United Church, with participation by the Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Please mark *Friday, March 7, 2008* on your calendar for this special occasion.

Grace United Church Annual Meeting will be held on *Sunday, February 3, 2008* following the church service. Pot luck lunch will be served. All committee reports need to be submitted to Dorothy Edwards by January 14th (or January 18th for treasurers' reports), so that the 2007 Annual Report can be prepared. This meeting is an excellent way to be brought up to speed on the activities of the various committees and on the finances of the church.

The **Queen's Line Church Annual Meeting** will be held at the church on *Monday, February 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.*

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

Tis the season when families come together to celebrate the Joy of Christmas. This is not necessarily the case for some of our aging population. This time of year can be very sad, confusing and lonely for them. They get lost in the busy shuffle and become detached from family because of circumstances beyond their control. We forget how difficult it is for them to cope with physical and mental limitations, therefore we close the door on what could be a wise and wonderful experience for young and old, if we were more caring and understanding of their needs.

Sharing a Story

All the seats on flight 314 were filled with holiday travelers. As Jane, a young teenage mom boarded the plane with her one year old son, she wondered how she would cope for the six hour flight. Soon the engine roared as the front wheels lifted from the pavement and they were homeward bound. All is well, but twenty minutes into the flight, all the toddlers snacks are gone and the small sack of toys she packed, no longer holds his attention. He begins to wiggle on her lap. As she tries to contain him, loud wailing, cries echo in the planes cavity. Jane endures piercing stares and rude muffled comments from surrounding seats. She apologizes to the stewardess and says He really is a good boy. Jane fails to notice the concern on the wrinkled face of the old, shabbily dressed woman across the aisle, till fragile but firm hands reach over and pick up the screaming boy and draws him close to her. Jane watches in amazement as the loud screams cease and a sense of calm came over her young child. The old and wrinkled face smiled a friendly smile and said take a break honey, as she sang the toddler into a restful sleep. For the first time in a long time the old woman felt useful. Elderly bones felt human again. She couldn't remember the last time a baby's velvet face brushed hers. In that satisfying moment an absolute stranger became family.

Just a story, but in the real world, that's how it is for our aging population at Christmas

ARE YOU FEELING LONELY AND DISCONNECTED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Isaiah 66:13 *As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you Says the LORD*
Psalm 90:14 *Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, O LORD,*
that we may sing for JOY and be glad all our days.

PARENTING

The following is an email Rev. Min received from his daughter, Lillian, who is a seminary student at Multnomah Theological Seminary in Portland, USA.

Dear Appa,

You can't imagine how many times I think of you recently. Being in the classroom I often find myself thinking about your past: what you felt like when you were at Emmanuel so many years ago, about what you were grappling with, how God was convicting you then, how you could have ever managed to raise us kids and balance school work and being a jundosanim. I look around at the people seated in my class and think of you. How you may have struggled with the language, but how passionate your love for God must have been to have endured so much hardship.

Then, I think of you now. How many years you have been in ministry and how you have lived the life God has called to for. Will I be like that? Will I be able to endure as you have? Am I a person of enough integrity for God to be able to use me like he has used you? Do I know the God that has been your cornerstone? Will I ever know the depths of God's love and wisdom as you know Him? In my eyes, appa, you are a spiritual giant. And I am thankful that you are my father.

While going to school here I have heard many stories of catastrophes that families have faced either due to illnesses or broken families which have resulted in poor images of fathers. I've learned how important being a father is not only because you are the spiritual head of the family but also because you are a representation of God the Father. Thank you for being a father that is dependable, full of integrity and love. Thank you for making me feel cherished and for giving me confidence to pursue my dreams.

I wish I could be there to give you a big hug. We miss you and love you so much.

Happy Birthday.

Your daughter and son-in-law,

Kyung-Nah and Chi

A PARENTS PRAYER

Lord,
My children stand in need of a strength
that is not in my power to give.
Even if I had it I could not give it.
I can feed them.
I can mend their jeans.
But I cannot give them the one thing they need most...
that is faith...a strength...to live by...
I can lead them in what I feel to be right directions, Lord,
and I can live before them the best way that I know how.
*That's all that I can do...*and it isn't enough.
Lord, God...give them strength.
Pursue them.
Grant them no peace until they find that peace is in thee.
Lure them into finding the faith
that will help them stand steady in the world.

Mary and Joseph were parents to. They trusted in Gods plan from the beginning when Jesus was born. They followed HIM on every step of their parenting journey.

Luke 2 verse 39 and 40

When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the LORD, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom beyond his years, and God placed his special favour upon him.

Contact Information for Rev. Dr. James Young-key Min

613-646-2518 (Office)

613-646-2624 (Home)

Our Church is an important part of our community!