

The Link



Victoria, BC



“SKIN AND BONES”

I have met many faithful and devoted Christians who have confessed to me the trouble they have with Easter, specifically with the idea of resurrection. They are far from alone. In my days teaching Denominational Studies at St Andrew's Hall, when I was assigned the task of writing a funeral sermon, most of the students were at heart, confused about this as well. Unable to accept the idea of Jesus walking around again after death, they usually substituted some kind of unbiblical idea of the immortality of the soul, floating along somewhere.

Both make the common mistake of misunderstanding resurrection as resuscitation or reanimation – the corpse of Jesus springing back to life in the form we already know. That problem belongs more to the story of the raising of Lazarus; the raising of Jesus is something different again.

The mistake is understandable. There are basically two sets of traditions regarding Easter, those of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, and those of the empty tomb. If there was only the empty tomb to be dealt with, then the events would easily have been put down to either someone having stolen the body, or with an idea that Jesus did not really die, but resuscitated, and slipped away into hiding, not to be heard from again.

It is, rather, those appearances – to the disciples in a locked room, to the disciples on the shore of Galilee, to the couple on the road to Emmaus, – that both solve and deepen the mystery of Easter. The solution held out is that it is obviously some new order of humanity, some new kind of man – a ‘second Adam’ – who is described. Jesus appears in locked rooms, is recognizable at times and at times is not, eats and drinks with his friends and yet appears and disappears without explanation. The resurrected Jesus lives a new order of being.

Understanding this eases the questions and doubts of those, who through both logic and experience cannot accept the idea of a dead body being reanimated with the same kind of life as before. St Paul is very clear and helpful on this in I Corinthians 15 when he writes, “So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body... What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

This helps us with the second set of traditions regarding the importance of the empty tomb. Given the earthiness of Hebrew thinking, if indeed Jesus is the first of a new creation, a new humanity, the empty tomb emphasizes that this new creation is not just some spirit or ghost but lives on in a new kind of physicality, a resurrection body that is “incorruptible.” What the connection is between the earthly body, the “seed” in Paul’s metaphor, and the fruit of resurrection, the spiritual body, is part of the mystery. “How” resurrection happens is something we just don’t know, for

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which we don't have the categories of thinking; but the fact that our bodies, the 'corruptible' are not necessary fodder for the creation of the 'spiritual body', the 'incorruptible,' is good news for us who know about atoms and have lived in times when atomic blasts have vaporized human flesh, leaving nothing physical to be raised.

And lest we fall into the trap of thinking that the whole idea of resurrection exists because it comes from a pre-scientific age that didn't know the facts about life and death, let me remind you that any first century Palestinian peasant would see more corpses in a month that most of us see in a lifetime. They knew dead. So too did the Romans, who were masters at their gruesome form of execution called crucifixion. Even the question of the 'physical nature' of resurrection is not a new one, born in the 'scientific' age. Just before the time of Jesus, two great rabbis, Hillel (who represented the interests of the poor) and Shammai (more a child of the aristocracy) had a fierce debate about 'how' resurrection happens. Shammai insisted that the resurrection body was built for the bones outward, while Hillel was equally adamant that it was built from the flesh inward. And they had their agendas in the discussion. Shammai's aristocratic friends had the resources to have tombs awaiting them, and if they were to lose a finger, for example, they had a place to 'bury' it until the rest of the body joined it in death. Their riches guaranteed their bones could be kept together to await resurrection. It was not so

for Hillel's constituency – the poor, who were unsure of the prospects of their bones because they couldn't afford tombs, and certainly not before their deaths. Their bones could just as well end up scattered over the Judean desert by some roving jackal. Hence Hillel argued that it was the flesh that mattered – and since no one would have any flesh left by the time of the general resurrection, neither the rich nor the poor would have any advantage. Hillel was stressing in this obscure fashion the egalitarian nature of God's love and care for all, and the absence of necessity of the earthly body for God to work his new creation in resurrection.

As we await and pray for the complete unveiling of the new creation, we greet Easter with our hallelujahs because we can be assured, for ourselves and for

others, that the death of our bodies is not the final word. God's love and creative ability have been shown in Jesus to transcend even death, and we share in our Lord's promise and destiny. We read, again, in I Corinthians, "Thus it is written, 'the first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven."

The man of heaven, Jesus, is risen, he is risen indeed. Thanks be to God.

Jean Burnett

Jean Marcellus' son **Doug Burnett**, a former *St Andrew's Kid* recently touched base to report he survived the craziness that comes with managing a venue during the Olympic and Paralympic Games at Whistler.

Doug, who has been in Whistler since Winter 2003, is responsible for the 2,200 seat Roundhouse Lodge Restaurant at the top of Whistler Mountain.

When it was announced in 2009 that skiers would have to take public transit from Vancouver to enjoy the mountain, Whistler's Management decided they would be safe in releasing most of their staff to VANOC who were pleading for help with other food service venues during the Olympics. Lo and behold, the skiers decided to come anyway – by the thousands – every day of the Olympics.

So Doug turned to his few remaining staff and announced that fishes and loaves would be the order of the day. Eighteen days later and we are proud to announce that no one left the mountain hungry. In summary, it was an amazing experience to be part of the Olympics, from all aspects.





Words from the Assistant Minister

Celebrating Lent with St Andrew's has been a moving experience. I have appreciated Ian's TGIF services and have tried my best to create an "oasis" for myself throughout this busy month. I managed to make sure I found as much time as possible to enjoy the Tourist in Your Own Hometown event at the beginning of March. I had an absolute ball visiting the wax museum, miniature world and Abkhazi gardens. However, it was the float plane ride that will remain memorable for me. While we flew over Victoria we could see the Olympic Mountain range and Mt. Baker clear in the distance. I am awestruck when I see these wonders. Throughout the year I have appreciated these splendours but I believe it is in the life of Spring when this all becomes more evident.

Lent is normally a time of reflection but this year it has also been a time of renewal. I have renewed my love of ministry, renewed my passion for hiking and renewed my faith with new experiences.

In the coming months I look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter with this congregation. I will be leading the Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 5pm and the Sunrise service at Mt Tolmie at 7:30am on April 4. This past week I discovered that one of the Lutheran congregations has been hosting a sunrise service at

Mt Tolmie at that same time for over 20 years.

Instead of claiming I beat them to the permit we decided it would be a beautiful Easter celebration to share in the service. Rain or shine!

The University is abuzz at the moment as we are approaching the end of term and year for many students. This means that your

prayers are very much appreciated, as first year students experience finals for the first time or as fourth year students

grasp at how close their graduation is. The chaplains are doing their part by providing some de-stressing activities and providing programs that help the students unwind.

The youth group has been busy throughout March meeting twice for our "Mixing It Up with the Simpsons" curriculum. We were disappointed that the youth retreat had to be postponed but look forward to the opportunity to host it in the future.

We will be meeting again April 16 to plan out our upcoming fundraising event. On Sunday, May 2 everyone is invited to a Pancake Breakfast at St Andrew's before the service. A suggested donation of \$5 is encouraged.

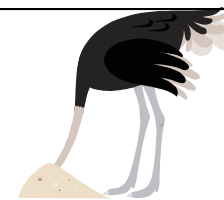
Finally a brainstorming session for the Mission and Outreach committee will be held on April 13 at 7pm. Anyone interested in finding out what has happened in the past through M&O as well as looking to suggest and support new projects is invited!

***On Sunday, May 2
everyone is invited to a
Pancake Breakfast
at St Andrew's
before the service***

I will also be taking some study leave April 23-29. A couple of years ago I attended the Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry. I found it to be useful, both from an academic and practical perspective. There are many tools and resources which I learned, that I still use today. I will be returning to the forum to learn a few more devices which can be used in youth ministry, young adult ministry and outreach. I must admit that I am also looking forward to renewing some of the old friendships!

Jim Delle

Myths Debunked Here...



Chocolate causes acne.

- True
- False
- Who cares, it tastes good!

ANSWER: False. Stern says the link between chocolate intake and acne outbreaks has been broken. Another study, however, showed that stress *can* cause outbreaks.

Acne forms when the oil glands make too much sebum, a waxy substance that along with dead skin, cells can clog pores. Bacteria grow and irritate the blocked pore given the red and swollen look to them. Too much harsh washing can further inflame the area. Doctors have many tools to attack and control acne these days.

Health & Wellness

APRIL IS DAFFODIL MONTH.

Each calendar turn brings a new church season. March brought Lent. April will be Easter and with it, more sunshine and warmth, more flowers and the joy of Easter celebrations. We usually celebrate Easter with daffodils. Daffodils are also the emblem of the Canadian Cancer Society and are a reminder of Cancer awareness.

Cancer rates have been steadily rising and it is estimated that 2010 will be the year in which we see cancer as the leading cause of death in Canada. Improved diagnostic technologies, screening tests, an aging population, and increased risk factors are some reasons we will see an increase in this illness. Each new case of cancer brings not only an emotional burden to an individual or a family, but it also brings an economic burden both to families and to our country.

Cancer cells start out as normal cells but over many years, abnormal growth and DNA mutations of certain cells will cause a cancer. While there are many cancers that are not preventable, a third of cancers are preventable through daily life style choices. Effort and awareness on our own individual part to promote a healthier life style is something within our reach and will eliminate some of the common risk factors for cancer. Here are just a few in a brief overview.

Smoking and exposure to smoke is by far the most important risk factor for cancer. Smoking is responsible for 21% of cancer deaths

worldwide. All cancers caused by smoking could be eliminated completely.

Exercise and ideal weight is one of the key factors in cancer prevention. A third of cancers are caused by overweight, obesity, poor nutrition and inactivity. Cancer risks are increased by 12% if one is not active. There is a 30% decrease in the incidence of cancer if one is active in youth. A minimum of 30-45 minutes per day is recommended for everyone; More would be even better. Just make sure you do something!



Alcohol should be taken in moderation and cancer increase is shown with more than 1-2 drinks per day.

Diet. Load up your plate with vibrant colours of fruits and vegetables! The darker and more colourful—the better! Move towards more plant-based foods which contain antioxidants. Cut down on animal fats and saturated fats and choose leaner meats.

Hormone replacement therapy has shown an increased risk for breast cancers.

Avoiding too much sun exposure. Sun rays are important for Vitamin D production and are good for our bones but getting too much sun and UV sun ray exposure is damaging. Wear sunscreen, wear a hat and check your skin regularly for any significant changes.

Environmental toxins and exposures to harmful fumes and chemicals.

Avoiding stress. Stress can trigger physiological and chemical imbalance in our bodies and cause cell damage. Knowing what causes stress and striving for a healthier emotional environment are important.

There is no guarantee that most cancers can be prevented, but the important thing is to control the risk factors that we know about and choose a healthy lifestyle.

This coming spring I hope to hold an information session on *Cancer Prevention At All Stages Of Life*. This talk will give much more detailed information than this article. I hope that you will consider coming to this session and more information will be coming in the *May LINK*.

Dorothy Reimer, RN
Health Ministry Team

References: American Cancer Society, Canadian Cancer Society, The Lancet.

Words

These are some of the under-used words we came across as we set about this issue:

Conflate ~ To merge

Stochastic ~ Involving chance or probability

Distopian ~ a society characterized by human misery

Inculpate ~ To blame

VST

The Vancouver School of
Theology
March 17, 2010

I write on behalf of the Vancouver School of Theology to indicate that we want to establish an extension site in Victoria. What we intend to do is bring theological education to you through both in-person intensive courses and courses by means of electronic media.

As you may know, Vancouver School of Theology is a place where theological education is offered and where we train clergy for ministry in the United, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. We have an outstanding faculty that teaches a great variety of interesting and engaging courses as well as the recently inaugurated Iona Pacific Inter-Religious Center. You may want to visit our website to learn more about what we are already teaching and doing through VST.

What we want to do is broaden the potential public who can share in theological learning. Courses taught in Victoria could be part of a diploma or certificate program, taken to equip church members for more meaningful engagement in the life of the congregation and the world, or simply out of personal interest. We delight in the role we play in serving and supporting the work of the church, and this in another way in which we can do so.

What I hope you might do is this:

1. indicate your interest in this project,

2. suggest ways in which it might be shaped to support your congregations,

3. offer up some suggestions in terms of what topics and courses might prove most helpful. We are aiming at a start in January 2011.

If you would briefly comment on items 1-3 in an email communication by March 26, I'd be most grateful.

My email is
rtopping@standrews.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Topping, Ph.D
Professor of Studies in the
Reformed Tradition
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Linkstaff had the responsibility of collating the Annual Report. We failed to include the report from our Bazaar committee; we do so now. ...ed

Bazaar Report

Following an appeal for a volunteer to take the position of Convenor of the Annual Bazaar, **Jim Ferguson** offered his services, on condition that an assistant would be available. **Lawrie Matheson** filled that role. They brought together all the elements that resulted in a successful Bazaar on November 7, 2009.

At an early meeting of the stall-holders, it was decided that from the projected proceeds, \$1000 would be held as a "start-up" for the year 2010, that \$2000 would be given to **Kathleen Mackinnon** for the Christmas Turkeys and Gifts for the residents of Our Place and the remainder would be applied to the Fund for the Renovation of the sanctuary. All three were realized, with \$4,000 going to the Renovation Fund.

The convening job proved to be most enjoyable, mainly due to the co-operation and hard work of the stall-holders together with their assistants and the many people with jobs such as security, publicity, set-up crews, clean-up crews, phoners, sandwich makers, tea setters and servers, ticket sellers, fun-fair organisers, baking donators etc. etc. So many people did so much!!! *A big thank you to all of them.*

**Jim Ferguson
& Lawrie Matheson**

Wish I'd Said That 

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Christian Education

Christian Education Committee met on February 24 for a regularly scheduled business meeting. The following outlines the discussions and actions of the committee during this meeting.

New Member:

Laura Richards has agreed to be a member of the committee.

Display for Annual Meeting:

All committees were asked to create a display for the Annual General Meeting. A general discussion ensued with ideas being generated and shared for a display that would illustrate each aspect of the committee's mandate. Everyone on the committee will help prepare the display.

Family Services:

- The Palm Sunday service was discussed with final arrangements being made by Jenn.
- It was decided that Easter would also be a family Sunday. Packages will be prepared for the children with quiet, age appropriate activities suitable for ages 3-5 and 6-12. The packages will be available as the families come into church.

Emergency Evacuation

Procedures:

Emergency evacuation procedures have been written for the nursery, McLean Room and adjoining rooms. These will be sent via e-mail to families, and published in *The Link*. A diagram illustrating the evacuation route along with the written procedures will be posted in each room.

Camp Fund:

Camp VIP operates at the edge of their available finances and still manages to provide a Christian camp experience for many young people and families on the Island. As with everything else, expenses keep increasing and representatives on the camp committee were asked to help raise funds. St Andrew's has a large camp fund that is under utilized. Therefore, it was decided to send \$2000 to Camp VIP to be used as they see fit.

Sunday School Curriculum:

It was agreed that *Seasons of the Spirit* should continue to be the curriculum to be used during the 2010-2011 Sunday School year, September 2010 to June 2011. A creative alternative will be researched for use during the summer to accommodate the fluctuating summer attendance.

Anne Shaffer

The things People Say.....



What you need is "A Good Night Sleep"

Sound sleep is also linked to

longevity and overall better health. Many people underestimate the significance of sleep for their health.

Good night sleep boosts your immune system, contributes to weight loss, improves your mental and physical performance and enhances your mood.

The studies show that sleeping less than six hours or more than eight hours increases the risk of premature death.

Sleep plays an important role for your health, because the production of most of the hormones is closely related to natural body rhythms, while lack of sleep affects your health negatively and shortens your life.



Parish Nurse

HEARTWARMINGS

An informative and enjoyable two hours of an interactive workshop that will inform you about women's heart health.

Over 80% of women have at least one major risk factor for heart disease. Learn about heart attack symptoms that may surprise you, tests and treatments that could save you and personal lessons from a heart attack survivor to inspire you, plus an interactive self assessment survey to check your own unique risk factors. This workshop is being given by Carolyn Thomas, heart attack survivor and Barbra Haley, area manager for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon.

Wednesday, April 21. 10:00-12:00 noon,

Monterey Centre, 1442 Monterey Ave.

Admission is free but space is limited

Register at 250-370-7300

www.myheartsisters.org

Dorothy Reimer RN

THE LANE



From the time the Kirk Hall was built in 1958 parking has been a problem. All that is available for the staff is the tiny space off Broughton Street, close by the church; for the rest of us, it's the lane.

The history of parking in the lane is full of incidents and controversy. Early on it would appear that egress was only allowed by backing onto Douglas Street. Fifty years ago this month the city wrote indicating strong objection to this practice claiming it to be hazardous.

Apparently the lane was not blacktopped from the beginning and there were repeated requests for this to be done. One individual was not enamoured in 1981 when his car was illegally towed away, while two others in 1992 suffered the same fate. In 1991 an edict emerged reserving the lane for staff use only from 8am to 5pm (this, in spite of the fact they already had parking space off Broughton Street.)

This caused such an uproar that the edict was retracted and it was decided the lane could be used by anyone, under strict guidelines. However some cars parked in an obstructive way, some parking so close to Douglas

Street they closed off the lane to everyone else. Others parked so close to the hall fire doors they would have blocked egress had there been an emergency. To pack in as many cars as possible, drivers were asked to park as closely as possible.

Then there were the absentee drivers who parked and then wandered away from the church altogether, so that others got jammed and were as a result stranded. Others simply didn't bother to sign in at all.

Our access over our neighbour's parking lot (the stores adjacent to the church) was a courtesy granted to us. It was understandable that they were not too enthralled when one of the cars from the church damaged one of theirs.

Some of the practices continue. The guilty parties know who they are. The guide lines are clear; *"the driver must be on the church premises; on church business; have signed in and displayed a sticker on the car."*

Is your conscience clear?

Allan Arneil

Origins: who said that ?

As old as the hills

Meaning: Exceedingly old - usually in reference to people rather than things.

The phrase derives from the Bible, *Job 15 7*. It was alluded to in *Miles Coverdale's Bible, 1535: Art thou the first man, that euer was borne? Or, wast thou made before the hylles?*

The phrase in its current form didn't gain use until the 18th century.

Session

After the busy lead up to the AGM, members of session were pleased to have a meeting with a lighter agenda. It was encouraging to hear from Jenn about the activities of the youth group and the increased attendance of the young adult group that now meets on a Sunday evening. Christian Education is planning a family service for Palm Sunday and we look forward to having the children worshipping with the congregation for both that service and the Easter Sunday worship service. It was agreed that \$2000 from Christian Education funds be forwarded to camp VIP to be used as they think best, either to support camp activities or to provide subsidies for campers.

Douglas Hodgkinson, who in his everyday job is Director, Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Council on Learning, is in need of office space. An agreement has been made to provide him with office space upstairs in the Kirk Hall for period of up to two years, on the understanding that it does not negatively impact space use or the finances of the church. In return, Douglas is donating a significant amount of quality used office furniture, and a phone system which will be of particular benefit to the church as the current phone system is in need of upgrading.

Ideas gleaned from the congregation on their 'Pie in the Sky' placemats were shared, and what a range of ideas! We hope everyone will take the time to look at the ideas posted and decide to find out more and join in an activity. Congregational Life

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Catechism

How did Jesus fulfill the office of prophet?

A prophet is one who speaks for God. Jesus is himself God's Word to a needy and broken world. He proclaimed and lived God's love and justice, spoke God's truth, and announced God's coming reign.

Lk 7:15-16 The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favourably on his people!"

Mk 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news."

Lk 4:24 And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown."

How did Jesus fulfill the office of priest?

A priest is one who acts before God on behalf of the people. Jesus became both priest and sacrifice for us. In his obedient life and death on the cross, Jesus offered himself once for all, the innocent one for the guilty.

Heb 4:14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

1 Cor 5:7 For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

Phil 2:7-8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death Eph 5:2; Rom 3:25.

How does scripture describe Jesus' death for our sins?

Biblical descriptions include atonement by a priest, the sacrifice of a lamb, the ransom of a slave, punishment in our place, payment of a debt, and victory over the powers of evil. These express God's great love for the world, reveal the enormity of our sin, and emphasize the cost of our Lord's sacrifice and the sure achievement of his reconciling work.

Heb 9:11-12 But when Christ came as a high priest ... he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Jn 1:29 The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Mk 10:45 The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The very best wishes of the congregation go out to **Vivienne and Stew Burnett** who



celebrated their sixty-second wedding anniversary on March 9.

Considering how much energy this couple has makes it tough to imagine that they could possibly be celebrating anything like sixty-two years together.

Vivienne and Stew—*keep it up.*



Margaret Trowsdale, who sits in the gallery on the minister's left, celebrated her 95th birthday on March 24.

There was a lunch at the Olympic View Golf Club to mark the occasion.

Margaret, who is Aunt to Jean Marcellus and Nancy Dickson, enjoys remarkably good health.

Margaret, we know that if you could be provided with a new set of eyes, you would be able play a round at the golf club. The congregation joins in your celebration, and their wish for you is *many more birthdays.*

...ed

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven Abide with Me

Praise, my soul, the King of
heaven;

To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven,

Evermore His praises sing;
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and
favour to our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless;
Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares
us;

Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hand he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;

Sun and moon, bow down before
him,

Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace.

The original music for this hymn came from Sir John Goss, English composer and organist of St Paul's Cathedral, London; teacher to Sir Henry Sullivan among others.

The lyrics were written by Anglican minister Henry Francis Lyte, during a good time in his ministry. Born near Kelso, Scotland in 1793. Henry Lyte was effectively orphaned at the age of nine when his father abandoned the family after placing him and his brother in boarding school in Ireland. His mother took his brother out of school and both

died shortly thereafter leaving the boy without support. His school master adopted the boy and supported him through school and Trinity College, Dublin.

Lyte was ordained into the Anglican church and served for many years despite recurring ill health. Bouts of weakness and illness caused him to go to Nice, France many times to recover in a warmer clime. In what was to be his last bout of illness Lyte wrote the hymn 'Eventide', which we know as 'Abide with me', within the last three weeks of his life, thus producing a much-loved hymn as his legacy to those around the world who love the Lord.

The tune we sing this hymn to is 'Eventide' by William Henry Monk, one time organist at King's College, London, and later at St Matthias Church, Stoke Newington.

Abide with me! Fast falls the
eventide;

The darkness deepens, Lord with
me abide;

When other helpers fail and
comforts flee,

Help of the helpless,
O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's
little day;

Earth's joys grow dim, its glories
pass away;

Change and decay in all around I
see;

O Thou who changest not
Abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing
hour;

What but Thy grace can foil the
tempter's power?

Who like Thyself my guide and
stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine,
O abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to
bless;

Ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness;

Where is death's sting? Where
grave thy victory?

I triumph still if Thou abide with
me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my
closing eyes,

Shine through the gloom, and
point me to the skies;

Heaven's morning breaks, and
earth's vain shadows flee;

In life, and death, O Lord, abide
with me.


John Parkinson

Theologians Cafe

Every Second Sunday of the month

April 11
May 9
June 13

In the Kirk Hall



Get a cup of coffee and join The Reverend Victor 15 minutes after the Sunday service for a free ranging discussion on the sermon of the day.

The Story of the Banner

The Sunday School needs a creative hands-on curriculum for use during July and August that can engage visitors and our own students alike. Sometimes that means using materials we can find and sometimes it means coming up with our own ideas. This past year was the latter.

It was suggested that the children make a banner with a theme that could be used as their Sunday School lesson. After much discussion, **Cathy Victor** was asked to help with a design and she made a sketch of a banner that would depict "The Good Shepherd". It seemed like a good topic not only for a banner, but also for exploring through Bible stories.

Scraps of material were gathered up from the craft room and peoples' stashes, and materials were provided for making banners. The creative juices flowed and the children, along with the adults who were in charge, started to replicate the drawing with their sheep, tree and shepherd. The original intent had been to use the scraps of material for practice and to purchase new material for the actual banner, but what the children had created was too precious for that. It HAD to be sewn as originally made.

So, there are polka dot sheep, there are striped sheep, there is a flowered sheep, there are sheep of many different colours. Some of the sheep are standing; some are sleeping. There are butterflies and flowers of many different shapes



and hues. There were more sheep, flowers and butterflies than could fit on one banner so two side banners were created. The flowered tree provides shade for the shepherd and many of his creatures. Overall it is a wonderful banner and I wouldn't change it for anything. Thank you to all who contributed.

The banner was displayed at the Annual General Meeting and during the Family Service on Palm Sunday. It will be hung in the Kirk Hall for a while so that everyone may enjoy it and then it will be hung in the McLean Room where Sunday School classes are held. Stop and have a look. Rejoice with the children.

Anne Shaffer



(Continued from page 7)

would also like to hear from those who were not at the meeting. Together let's dream and create a community, a piece of God's family that has a place for all of us and our neighbours and friends. When we come together we can achieve things we could not achieve on our own. Think of what could happenthink of the possibilities.....don't be shy....we want to hear from all of you

Colina Titus

There has been discussion throughout the national church in recent years regarding the role of the church and weddings. There are those who would take the church out of the equation; who consider that marriage should be left to the State, in our case the Province; others disagree.

Assembly has asked congregations, through presbyteries to express themselves on this important matter.

Our elders got together on Saturday morning, February 27 in informal session for discussion. The following is the response of the ministry committee and the notes taken on Feb. 27 by our session clerks. *...ed*

The Response of Ministry Committee to Presbytery OVERTURE NO. 9, 2007

MARRIAGE

There was a good response of Presbyters to the special meeting held by the Ministry Committee to discuss this Overture. An excellent discussion took place. We appreciate the whole report and found it stimulating for Presbytery discussion.

In regard to Recommendation No. 5, we found there were few sessions that had marriage policies. This is something Presbytery could work on to help sessions develop one. It was found that most couples wishing to be married by a minister did not understand the implications of a Christian marriage and a policy would help define this. Most ministers took marriage requests to session for approval. The

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

majority of elders feel this is the role of the minister. We also realize that we don't share resources well.

In regard to Recommendation No. 6, after a lengthy discussion, it was decided we are not in favour of stopping signing marriage licenses as long as there is no legislation making it prescriptive instead of permissive. As it is now, the legal aspect of the Marriage ceremony is a 'small' part of all that marriage represents.

Notes from the February 27 meeting

Summary of the three questions pertaining to the three documents previously circulated

Question 1:

State/Church

- Should we cease being agents of the civil/legal aspects of marriage?
- What would be lost if we stopped? What would be gained?
- What does your group recommend?

Divergent responses included the following:

Separate state and church roles by: minister no longer responsible for signing of the legal documents, but have a BC official present at the ceremony

Couple to obtain the marriage license prior to the church ceremony

Concerns if separate church/state:

May lose an opportunity to bring people into contact with the church through the marriage ceremony

Media may perceive that by no longer performing the religious and state function that the church is trying to avoid the issue of same sex marriages marriage

May lose tax-free benefit

Over time need to work toward separation of church and state (not just as it refers to marriage)

The question of marriage is only a small piece of the issue of separation of church and state.

Question 2:

Session involvement in marriage

- If it applies, what was your experience of the congregation's role when you married?
- Do you wish to see more congregational/session involvement in weddings at St. Andrew's?
- What gifts of spirit, personality, experience, and training would make your involvement with couples about to be married valuable?
- Do you have any ideas or expertise to offer on celebrating and strengthening marriage among us?

Elders shared stories of how they were welcomed and encouraged by members of their congregations. None spoke of marriage preparation programs within their congregations. Several were married in congregations that were not their 'home church'.

Suggestions:

Reading of banns (not required) is a good way to introduce the couple to the congregation

Follow up with couples after the wedding e.g. send a card after a few weeks, one year anniversary etc

Elders to visit

Keep track of and invite couples back to the church to celebrate 1/5/10/25 years anniversary

Make use of modern communication – email/facebook etc- to extend invitation to events

Minister meets with all prospective couples, invite them to a church worship service

Provide websites to groups that offer marriage preparation – e.g. marriage project

Ask couples for feedback on course/weekend after participation

Make sure that minister gets face-to-face with the couple (i.e. not the parents)

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March Madness Affects Ringers...BOSA?

It all started with **Alastair Kierulf** doing up a beautiful poster to recruit interested would be ringers. If you've not yet seen one of these glossy graphic gems you're missing out. Stop by the Lecture Room, or check out the bulletin board in front of the office.

These were posted in various locations around town and at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. The attraction of learning music for free is a no-brainer. Needless to say, lots of the little pull-tabs were taken but nary a face, phone call, or e-mail materialized. It was somewhat curious to say the least. Maybe it was the Bell Choir's long name?

Research determined that First Metropolitan United Church, Oak Bay United Church, and up-Island Church Bell Choirs all have tried to separate themselves from the herd by developing a unique name. Thus we started wracking our brains to come up with a condensed and catchy handle. With simplicity being our guiding principle we agreed upon the acronym, BOSA (Bells of St Andrew's). We'll see if that helps spark more interest in the coming season.

Saturday March 20th was the Island Spring Ring Workshop. Bright and early five of BOSA's best left for Nanaimo. **Bruce McCowan** provided the van and chauffeur service. The day was informative, educational, and fun; filling all those who attended with renewed inspiration to answer the call of the clapper. Approximately 60 ringers attended the workshop; including ringers from Oak Bay United Church, First Metropolitan

Church, and several church choirs from the Nanaimo area. School children from several schools in the Courtenay/Comox area were also in attendance.

It helped us realize that our skills are commensurate with other choirs at the Intermediate/Advanced category. All who attended returned, eager to share their new-found knowledge and skills with other choir members, new and old alike.

With back-to-back performances the following weekend at Glengarry Hospital and St Andrew's, the ringers were quickly able to display their recently honed techniques.

Onward and upward – we are now preparing for a collaborative concert with Oak Bay United Church's Lindsey Twine Memorial Hand bell Choir. The concert is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, May 16 at Oak Bay United Church. This concert represents the second in a series of jointly produced performances. The premiere event was held at St Andrew's.

Although it is an admission by donation event, all monies realized are shared between the choirs is to be used towards the purchase of music and maintenance of the bells. Don't forget, it is the Sunday after Mother's Day if you are marking your calendars. Hope to see you there.

Cathie Lylock

Prayer Chain and Prayer Fellowship

Many of you will know that we have a group at St Andrew's who are committed to pray for those in our congregation and in our community who are going through difficult times. We have a telephone chain and also an email chain. To have your name added to our list all you have to do is phone me at 250-589-7413 or email rev_ruth@hotmail.com

If you would like to join our team of pray-ers just give me a call or join us for our monthly prayer fellowship group. This month we will be meeting on Friday, April 16 at 2 pm in the Bay restaurant (5th floor). The prayer fellowship group is an opportunity for us to connect with each other and to receive updates of the people we have been praying for.

Ruth McCowan

The bouquet of flowers presented to each medalist on the podium – 1,800 in all – are all the same, made up of green spider mums with hypericum berries surrounded by leather-leaf fern, monkey grass, and aspidistra leaves.



What's really interesting? They're all made by **Just Beginning Flowers**, a non-profit company in Surrey that employs women who are just out of prison, abused, fighting addiction, or with special needs, and teaches them how to be florists.

Dorothy Reimer



Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, March 14. A light lunch was provided by the Congregational Life Committee and included was a "Pie in the Sky" cake. In fact Pie in the Sky was the theme of this meeting.



As we sat for lunch the placemats were laid out in a manner which invited us to list the items which are vital to us. Also we were asked to dream of new areas where the



congregation might venture.

There was a lucky placemat which would award the owner a lemon meringue pie. The fortunate winner was **George Smith** and the pie was presented by the pie maker, **Dirk Ryneveld**. George decided to auction the pie; the successful bidder was **Dave Garson**.



As the reports were presented, convenors were invited to speak to their report and to be available to answer questions from the floor.

It was an informative and satisfying meeting.

Vancouver Island Presbyterian Women's Retreat

The last day to register for this retreat is Monday, April 12. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Cock is our speaker this year. She is the senior minister at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat, where she was baptized several years ago, and is the author of the series of children's books on *Fergie the Frog*.

She will be speaking on *God's Grace Through the Generations* and drawing on the research for her book *Growing up with God* and on work she did at VST in children's and adolescent spirituality. Nancy will be leading us on how to interact with younger generations in a variety of roles and relationships.

The retreat is May 14-16 at Capernwray Bible School and Conference Centre on Thetis Island. The cost of the weekend is \$145 and there is bursary help available if anyone needs assistance with the registration for the weekend.

Registration includes all your meals and snacks, accommodation and waterfront activities (canoeing and kayaking). Also available: a small tuck shop and vending machines available. Registration forms are available at the office or for more information contact me at 250-589-7413.

Ruth McCowan

...ed



Christian Education

Dear Parents/Grandparents,
Your children/grandchildren come to Sunday School at St Andrew's and you want them to be safe in all kinds of situations. Just as the schools have emergency evacuation plans, so does the Sunday School. The difference is that attendance is only one day a week and not always every Sunday, so procedures can be forgotten. Everyone needs a reminder every once in a while.

The fire emergency evacuation plan for the Sunday School and Nursery has been updated and the Christian Education Committee believes everyone should be made aware of the procedure. The following and an accompanying diagram are posted in each room and at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the McLean Room. Please make yourself aware of the procedure and where the children are to be met.

Sunday School and Nursery Fire Drill And Evacuation Procedure

In the event of a fire drill, or a fire, all children in the nursery and Sunday School will be evacuated from the church building area under the supervision of the Sunday School teacher(s) or Nursery caregivers. Parents are asked to meet their children at the Courtney Street exit of the Broughton Street car park.

Evacuation Procedure

All teachers must bring with them the attendance sheet on the clipboard.

Children in the McLean Room

and adjoining classrooms will go down the stairs on the Broughton Street side of the church. Once outside, turn left on Broughton Street and walk to Gordon Street, turn left and walk to Courtney Street, turn left and proceed to the exit of the car park.

Once assembled there the teacher is asked to ensure that all children in attendance that day are accounted for. Before handing a child over to parents/guardians, place a check mark beside the child's name indicating safe arrival.

Children and caregivers in the nursery will leave the room, turn right and exit the building at the emergency exit on the left as you go towards the Kirk Hall. Once outside, please continue through the parking lot beside the Kirk Hall and meet the other children at the exit of the car park. Once assembled there the caregivers are asked to ensure that all children in attendance that day are accounted for. Before handing a child over to parents/guardians, place a check mark beside the child's name indicating safe arrival.

Parents/guardians of children who are in the Nursery or Sunday School classes are asked to evacuate the building as per the auditorium evacuation plan and go directly to the car park exit on Courtney Street

Revised January 2010

We all want to work together so that everyone remains safe.

Sincerely,
The Christian Education
Committee
Anne Shaffer

In the March *Link* Dr. Arneil wrote about Communion Sunday and Communion tokens, the forerunner of our communion cards.



I have two such metal tokens from Lesmahagow Old Parish Church in Scotland. On one side are the words 'Keep the Feast'. On the other, Lesmahagow Parish Church round the perimeter. In the centre one has '9th' and the other the date '1806'.

A number of years ago when the ground was being excavated beside the church, to build a Chapter House, bags of these tokens were found and my Mother was lucky enough to get some for our family.

On Communion Sundays when I was worshipping at the above church all the elders wore black striped trousers and swallow-tail coats (there were no women elders in those days). The downstairs pews all had white cloths clipped to the top shelf and the children sat upstairs by themselves, with never a peep out of them.

The Ministers and elders were served first, then the congregation; even up until 1947 when I came to Canada the Communion wine was served in silver chalices.

J.M.Barrie, in his *Auld Licht Idylls* writes about communion tokens:

Without a token, which was a metal lozenge, no one could take the sacrament on the coming Sabbath, and many a member has Mr. Dishart made miserable by refusing him his token, for gathering wild flowers, say, on a Lord's Day (as testified to by another

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 11)

Minister to meet with couple and talk with couple about the service – which bits are negotiable and which bits non-negotiable
Importance of follow-up after the wedding.

Question 3: Session Policy re weddings at St. Andrew's

While there is insufficient time to develop a policy today, let us begin the discussion and point to some directions for both content and process.
Should there be any 'qualifications' for people to be married at St Andrew's regarding membership, Christian faith, or other areas of concern?

- Is it proper for us to be doing 'tourist' weddings?
- What if any requirements should we hold for pre-marital education?
- What happened when you were married (if that applies)?
- What should our structure for fees be, and how should it be implemented?
- What areas of interest or concern have we left out of the discussion?

Policies were not written, but it was agreed that it is a good idea to have policies that answer these (and additional) questions as they relate to marriage.

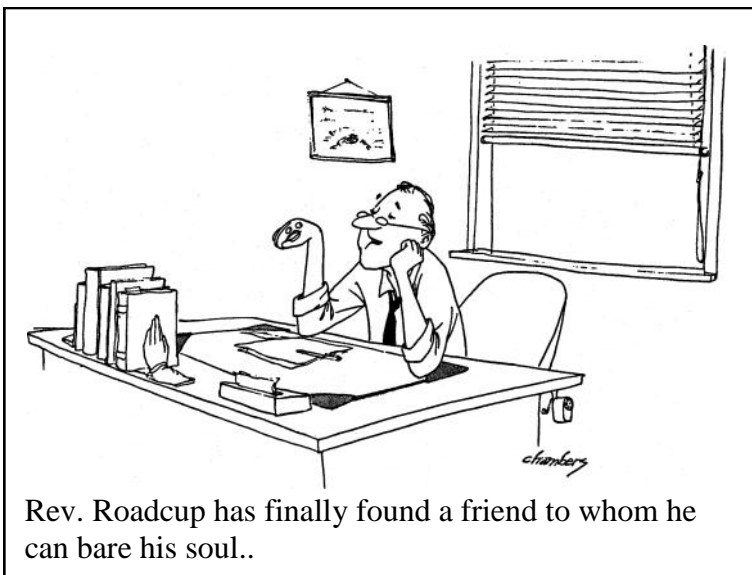
Other questions raised included:

- Can the building be used for a wedding that we have no part in?
- Who can play the organ?

How to proceed with policies about weddings:

Ian and Jenn will present to session their current practice for conducting weddings: a small task force (elders and/or members from the congregation) will work with Ian and Jenn to develop policies (current practice will be the starting place for this process)

Timeline and number of meetings to be set for the completion of this task
Ian will include an outline of his current practice in the 'preparation for and conducting of weddings' to be included in the Lead Ministers report for the March session meeting.



We made an error in the March issue, when we suggested that clocks should be put back...and we apologize.

The interesting item isn't so much our error...we try, but we are aware that we make mistakes...but rather the fact that our goof was drawn to our attention on the Thursday *prior* to the newsletter being distributed!

Rev Jim and Margaret Weir in Tiverton, ON are loyal readers, they read *The Link* online and drew our attention to our mistake.

...ed

(Continued from page 14)

member). Women were lost who cooked dinners on the Sabbath, or took to coloured ribbons, or absented themselves from church without sufficient cause.

I wonder how many communions I would have had to miss!

Agnes Loosmore

The object shown is indeed a communion token, but is not the one referred to... ..ed.

Looking Ahead April

7	TnT meeting
13	7pm - Mission & Outreach brainstorming
16	Youth Group meeting
May 2	Pancake Breakfast
Church office hours: 9am to 2pm	

Update of Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

The form for the Pre-authorized Remittance has changed and you will find it stapled inside the PAR brochure. The brochures are obtainable just below the bulletin board as you enter the Kirk Hall. This form is much clearer and easier to understand. I have printed the form here for anyone who has been considering contributing to St Andrew's using the PAR method.

The PAR is a direct monthly transfer from the donor's bank account to St Andrew's.

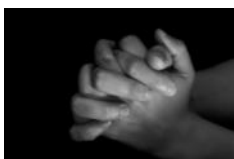
Once the form has been filled in, the donor receives a letter confirming all the details. As the Authorization Form notes, changes can be made simply by contacting the PAR contact with 15 days notice. The PAR programme is administered by The United Church of Canada.

You may see that donations are available via MasterCard and Visa, but not encouraged because of the high service charges.

I hope this helps explain the procedure somewhat—if you have questions, I am available most Sundays, or you can speak to the Treasurer, Jack Reimer.

Leona Johns
250-598-9450

~ Prayer Chain ~
Ruth McCowan
250-589-7413



PAR Congregational Number 11090405	PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM (For new PAR donors and to make changes to banking details.) St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
-------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I/We, _____, (Envelope # _____) request and authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month in the amount of \$ _____ starting on the 20th of _____. This contribution is made on behalf of _____
(enter month)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 680 Courtney Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1C1

This contribution by me/us to the above local church is to benefit:

Local Church \$ _____ Mission and Service Fund \$ _____ Other \$ _____
(please specify)

This donation/payment is made by (check one) _____ individual(s) _____ business

Please attach a VOID cheque.

- I may change the amount of my contribution at any time subject to providing notice of 15 days.
- I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 15 days at which time I will submit a cancellation form obtained from the Church PAR Contact or by contracting my financial institution or visiting www.cdnpay.ca.
- I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursements for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
- I waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of the Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAR before the debit is processed.

Church PAR Contact: Leona Johns Phone: 250-598-9450

Due to high service charges (2.5% for Visa and MasterCard; we do not accept Amex) we generally do not encourage people to use credit cards for PAR donations. However, if donors wish, this service is still available.

Debit my Credit Card _____ EXP _____ MC VISA
Card Number MM YY

Name on Card _____ Authorized Signature: _____
We agree to be bound by, comply with, respect and apply all relevant provisions of the Canadian Payments Act and all related by-laws and standards in force from time to time as they apply to PARs including, without limitation, the Confirmation Pre-notification requirements or waiver of Pre-notification requirements and cancellation requirements as set out in Rule H1.

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation, including but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5).

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

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e-mail: standrewsvic@telus.net

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Assistant Minister: The Rev Jenn Geddes

Pastoral Visitor: The Rev Dr Arthur Currie

Office Administrator: Amy Buchwald

Church Officer: Grant Shepard

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Shut-in Coordinator	Sheila Mitchell	250-479-7801
Friendship Club	Helen Fenton	250-389-1559
Sunday School		250-383-6734

Telephone Prayer Chain	Ruth McCowan	250-589-7413
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Congregational Life	Sabine Teetzel Colina Titus	250-658-8998 250-382-2387
Finance & Administration	Jim Ferguson	250-598-3687
Mission & Outreach	Rev. Jenn Geddes	250-415-2226
Pastoral Support	Brian Titus	250-382-2387
Property	David McLean	250-598-4432
Worship	John Mitchell	250-479-7801



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

April 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>7:30am Sunrise Service Mt. Tohnie, Rev Jenn 10:30am Worship Service Easter</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6-7:15 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10pm - 7am Out of the Rain Youth 7:30pm TⁿT meeting Margaret England's</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1 pm Quilting/Craft group 12 noon Set-up for breakfast: Christ Church 5 pm Maundy Thursday Service—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am Good Friday Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:15am Breakfast for the needy Host: Christ Church 7:30-10:30 Youth Group Chinese Presbyterian Church—Kirk Hall</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service Rev Ian Victor</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:pm Bible Study 4077 Beam Cres.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6-7:15 pm Bell Choir 7pm M & O meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10pm - 7am Out of the Rain Youth</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1pm Quilting/Craft group 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm Youth Group Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service Rev Ian Victor</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:pm Bible Study 4077 Beam Cres.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6-7:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1-3pm Cancer Prevention Clinic—Lecture Room 10pm - 7am Out of the Rain Youth</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1pm Quilting/Craft group 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Jenn on leave until April 29</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service Rev Ian Victor 2:30pm Worship Service Oak Bay Lodge May 2 - Pancake Breakfast</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:pm Bible Study 4077 Beam Cres.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6-7:15 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10pm - 7am Out of the Rain Youth</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1pm Quilting/Craft group 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	