

September 2012

The Bridge



Communion will be celebrated on
Sunday 9th September at 11am & 6pm.

Everyone is welcome

From the Manse



Home from study leave..... my time in Canada was a wonderful adventure in learning and reflection. To have time to read and reflect was a most precious gift. I read many books whilst I was on the course, prepared seminar papers, wrote book reviews, undertook the study of a congregation in Burlington, interviewing the Minister and five members of the congregation. Two classes a week and an

assignment due for each one made this a much more intense course than I had first thought.

Since my return from Canada I have been sharing excerpts from one of the books I read. For those who missed the story of how I came to read 'Breathing Space – A spiritual journey in the South Bronx' written by Heidi Neumark. Here's the story...

Glancing through the reading list for the course, deciding which books to buy, I quickly decided that the aforementioned book was not one I would read... the title didn't appeal to me.

Dr Walter Dellar, who was leading the course, had quite a different idea... 'Terry, would you like to do the book review for Heidi Neumark's book?' 'no, not really', I replied, he responded, 'I think you should' I responded, 'no, I don't think so....' he insisted.... 'aw well, ok I'll do it'. I was not looking forward to reading the book and so with a heavy heart took myself off to the library to borrow the book. Never judge a book by its cover.... never judge a book by its title... this book is one of the best I have read in a long time.

Heidi Neumark tells the stories of the American Lutheran church, Transfiguration, in the South Bronx during her ministry, and the Hispanic and African-American congregation and community. The book starts and finishes with the story of a mother on her knees washing her son's blood off the streets before the traffic could desecrate what was holy to her. The book is filled with powerful

stories of despair and hope, of people being loved back into life, finding the holy in the most awful circumstances. The book is a wonderful reflection on, and testimony to, the power of grace, love and hope in the midst of poverty, murder, suicide, addiction and abandonment. It is a testimony to the presence of a holy God, making holy all those areas of life where he is allowed to be and where attention is drawn to him.

Intertwined with the story of the community is the author's own story, her feelings of inadequacy, her struggle to pray and to write, her longing for 'breathing space'. This longing is not a longing to escape from the realities around her, for she is "sceptical of contemplation that requires rarified, privileged circumstances" such, she declares is "seems more accomplice than alternative." (p58). Rather the silence is the space to "hear the echo of a deeper voice, or a place apart to grieve or a way to deny bullets the last word". Throughout the book, runs the continuous theme that the bullets, the poverty, the destruction and neglect will not have the last word, the book closes with an invitation in the words of a poem

"Accompany us on this vigil

And you will know what it is to dream!

Then you will know how marvellous it is

to live threatened with Resurrection!

As I read the book I realised that as different as Broxburn is from the South Bronx there are many needy and broken people living in our town. A recent murder here reminds us that we are not exempt from that kind of violence, and if we open our eyes and look around we will see needy and broken people, all of the problems in the South Bronx are present in our town, not on such a large scale, but present nonetheless. I read the book and became convinced that as God's people in this place we have not only a mission field on our doorstep but also a divine imperative to act. Read Matthew chapter 25 verses 31 – 46, a lesson from Jesus that really needs no comment, just action!

Terry

Prayer Corner

At the first of our early Summer services I shared the illustration of a pencil, a simple and one time everyday instrument comparing it to the Christian life.

There are five important lessons I drew from this illustration that the pencil maker may have told the pencil before it was boxed

- Everything you do will always leave a mark
- You can always correct the mistakes that you make
- What is important is what is inside of you
- In life, you will undergo painful sharpening, which will only make you better
- and finally, to be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

I sure you agree we as Christians can acknowledge the need to be constantly sharpened as we are worn down in the world we live.

We are special people with unique God given talents and abilities and only you with God's help can achieve these goals. Knowing God's love for us and the faith he has for you should allow us never to become discouraged and think we are insignificant and cannot be changed.

It is always important to remember who you are, whose you are, it is what is inside of us that counts and we should allow our loves to be guided by the hand of God.

At this, the start of a new session in the church activities, ask God to show you what gifts you have to offer for the service of people in this community. Be open to God speaking to you as you study His word and come to Him in prayer.



God gave you gifts, not for your personal use, but to be used for the strengthening of the fellowship in which you share and serve.

Amen

In your personal prayers please pray for

Our minister, our office bearers and the leaders of all the organisations that God with protect and lead them and their families

Continue to pray for our Queen in this her Diamond Jubilee when he ascended to the throne

For our Government in the very difficult issues facing the world today, for our local councillors.

The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.

Our armed forces and the relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need. Prayer for peace in Syria and Afghanistan.

For the Para Olympics being held in London, and thank God for the success of the Olympics. For all involved in the events for fair play from their hard work.

For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner and her work in Malawi

The Prayer Group continues to meet each Saturday at 10.00 am in the Session House. There is a seat for you. Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 854777



FOCC

A huge thank you from everyone at FOCC to the congregation of Broxburn Parish Church for the use of the halls and for all your financial and prayerful support. It was remarked upon by many of the host parents that the people in the church are so friendly and give us great support.

The visit from 2nd to 30th June saw 23 children from Belarus based in our halls from 8.15 to 5.30 each weekday. During the visit the children had dental and optical checks with 4 of them receiving glasses and most of them receiving dental treatment with some having multiple extractions and fillings. As well as doing crafts etc in the hall we also took them on many excursions including Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland's Theme Park, The Peak in Stirling, Ten pin bowling, swimming, Edinburgh Airport and Potter Around to mention a few. Of course all 23 of the children and the 2 interpreters took part in the Wednesday service on 20th June and this was very well received by the congregation.

Most importantly the children ate lots and lots of healthy food and a vitamin tablet each day. We have a fantastic group of loving host families and the children most definitely received a lot of love and care from their host families. The children are very happy to swap living in their wooden houses with no running water and outside toilets for our comparative luxury houses for the month. Some of the children were returning to the same host families for their 3rd visit. This is important to us as great relationships and bonds are formed. They really become part of the family and it is great to see the children grow and their health and confidence improve over the 3 years.

The visit culminated in the children putting on a thank you concert in the church on 27th June. This was a wonderful event. It was so humbling to see these deprived children putting on such a good performance of songs, poems, fairytales and dance, many of them in English. It was great to see a good number of the congregation

there in the church which was close to full with host families and supporters who had all contributed to such a great visit. The children were very excited to be performing in front of such a good crowd and for being able to say thank you to them.

The children arrived with pretty much an empty suitcase again this year and all left with at least 25kg of clothes, toys, vitamins and essentials they find difficult to get at home. However the best and most important gift they received weighed nothing. Love. And lots of it. Love for them when they are here but also lots of love for them to take home for their family from their Scottish family. During the visit the children were left in no doubt that the people of Broxburn Parish Church loved them and for that I cannot thank you enough.

We are now starting to plan for the June 2013 visit and if you would like to find out more about being a host parent or host family then please let me know. For all the love you give you will get more in return. I am sure of that and you will make such a difference to a very needy child and their family.

Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator, West Lothian Group.

Flowers

Each week there are flowers in the church, donated by members of the congregation and arranged by Sandra Stirling. Some of those who donate the flowers are happy for them to be given, after the service, to people who are ill, who have been bereaved or who are celebrating a special birthday, anniversary. Those who receive the flowers are always very grateful.

Sandra has been asked, by Terry, to make a list of those who donate the flowers and are happy for the minister and pastoral care co-ordinator to decide who will receive the flowers after the Sunday service. If you donate the flowers please consider agreeing to them being gifted by the church to brighten someone's day.



Vlad



Natasha



Anhelina



Vadzim



Olya



Masha



Alena



Website: www.focc-edinburghwest.org



Sasha



Veronica



Andrei



Olga



Katia



Angelina



Vadim



Dasha



Diana



Denis



Krystina



Masha



Pasha



Kostya



Sasha



Nikita



Dasha



Dima



FOCC





Shoebox Appeal 2011



Broxburn Community Council

Dates for meeting:-

August 27th - AGM followed by meeting.

September 24th - First Bus invited guest.

October 29th

November 26th

All meetings are at 7pm in The Old Town Centre – (between Gregg's and The Badgers Brook) or through the vennel off Station Road.

There is no meeting in December but will resume on the last Monday of January.

Anybody who lives in Broxburn and would like to have input to the community is welcome to apply. Currently we are in desperate need of a secretary – anybody willing to take it on?. Support can be given initially if required.

We had a fabulous turn out for the Olympic Flame on 13th June, even the sun shone for us. Everybody had a fabulous afternoon and it should be a good memory for all who attended, especially the children. To our knowledge there were no reported incidents to mar the day.

We are having our Gala day on 25th August this year and it is proving to be a full programme with a good turn out and be a memorable day as well, but will take place before your magazine goes out.

If you Google Broxburn CC you will get our web site which we are trying to make more informative and interesting!

Dorothy Knox

<http://www.broxburncc.org.uk/>

Soup Lunches

5th September	The Busy Project
19th September	Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi
3rd October	United Christian Broadcasts
17th October	Tearfund
7th November	Blythswood - Shoebox Appeal
21 November	The Vine Trust
5th December	Bethany

We require more helpers to take a turn making soup or sandwiches. Please consider helping in this way and contact Evelyn McCreight 854973.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God".
2 Cor.Ch.9v12



Christmas Card competition

The Communications Group is again organising a competition to design a Christmas card for distribution to our congregation with the Christmas edition of the magazine.

All young people are invited to submit a design that reflects the Christmas story as told in the gospels.

Entries should be given to Hugh Brown, Stuart Cunningham or posted to the Communication Group tray in the vestibule.

The closing date is **30th October**.

Please ensure your name and age are written on the **back** of the submitted design.



The Bridge Choir In Concert

For their debut concert, the Bridge Choir provided an excellent evening's entertainment. Looking resplendent in their black and scarlet outfits, they sang their way through a variety of familiar (and some not so familiar) songs from the shows, plus a number of religious items by John Rutter and Howard Goodall – his version of the 23rd Psalm, famous as the theme tune to 'The Vicar of Dibley'. There were some beautifully sung solos and duets from Christine Stewart, Elaine Gilmour & Debbie Mackin, and Linda Duncan and Alison Hunter who were captivating as they performed 'I Still Believe' from Miss Saigon.

Comedy was also on the menu from Jim Lawrie and Sandy Riddell with Cole Porter's 'Well, Did You Evah?' and from husband and wife Ross and Janice MacPherson with their fabulous rendition of 'Anything You Can Do' from Annie Get Your Gun. 'My Favourite Things' from The Sound of Music was absolutely hilarious with lyrics for senior citizens – aching bones and all – sung by Elaine Douglas, Linda Locke, John Macaulay and Lindsay Williamson. Special mention must be made of the Bridge Choir Juniors with their selection from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. They put 100% effort into their singing and were obviously enjoying themselves to the full. The second half began with Queen's iconic 'Bohemian Rhapsody' which had the real 'wow' factor!

At the end, the audience was invited to join the choir in Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Oklahoma!'. The evening was admirably compered by Hugh Brown, conducted by Alan Gilmour with guest accompanist Alan Hastie. There is no doubt that the Bridge Choir just goes from strength to strength.

Review by Rev. David Black

Shoebox Appeal

This year we will be sorting shoeboxes from Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th November.

Bridge Choir

It's hard to believe that it's over 3 months since our concerts! We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves although we were very nervous!! The children were fantastic as usual, and , I have to say did not appear nervous at all!! We have had so much positive feedback and we are all so grateful for this. Thank you again to all the "behind the scenes" helpers who helped make the concerts such a success.

Our experience at Dobbie's garden centre was very positive also, although I have to say it was very tiring!

We have just returned to rehearsals having had a much earned rest over the summer. If only the weather had been kinder!! We have a new programme lined up for this session and are planning another concert hopefully on 6th/7th June 2013. A date for your diaries! We will of course be joined by the junior choir again for this. If any of our wonderful friends and supporters would be available to help on the nights we would love to hear from you. Watch this space for further updates nearer the time.

Meanwhile as well as the concert programme, we have pieces to prepare for Christmas and Easter. Very busy times ahead!

The choir would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support. It means so much to us.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary.

Reminder

All intimations need to be with Elspeth by Wed 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations.

elspethrodger@blueyonder.co.uk

Diary Dates



5th September

**Midweek
services start**

27th September

Kirk Session meeting. 7.30pm

30th September

Harvest, GB & BB Dedication

10th October

Church Quiz

18th—31st October

Minister's holiday

30th October

Board Meeting. 7.30pm

10th November

Elders Conference. 9.30-3pm

Cross House Linlithgow

17th November

Christmas Fayre

22nd - 24th November

Shoebox Appeal

29th November

Kirk Session. 7.30pm

Paralympic games

Jim Anderson will be swimming in the following races:

100m freestyle on 3rd September

50m backstroke on 5th September

50m freestyle on 7th September

The races will be shown on Channel 4

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early November 2012 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham,

or emailed to:

hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk or stu.c@tesco.net

Funerals

May

Sandra Simpson

Allan Brown

June

Peggy Mushet

Billy Taylor

John Roy

July

Eadie Angus

Margaret Crawford

John Wilson

August

Janet Crawford

Maisie Cowie

Weddings

Congratulations to Terry Tinslay and Doreen Nicol on their recent marriage, 21st July, 2012.



Martin Devlin and seven of his work colleagues will be cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres.

They will be covering a total of 969 miles between 8th and 16th September, averaging 106 miles a day, and climbing the equivalent of the height of Mount Everest over the course of the 9 days. On top of the joys of cycling such long distances, they will be camping in farmers fields en route so will not even have the luxury of a hot bath each night!

They have set themselves the challenge of raising £25,000 so if anyone would like to make a donation please see either Fiona or Martin or go to their just giving page at:

www.justgiving.com/scotmidrideacrossbritain

The boys would appreciate you prayers for strength and safety throughout their trip.

Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Terry Taylor BA, M.Th	The Manse, 2 Church Street	852825
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Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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Congregational Board

Chair: Mrs. Felicity Murrie	31 Nicol Road	852464
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Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn	3 Kirkhill Court	856984
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Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon	15 West Hall Road	07758 195274
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Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir	135 Houston Gardens	855626
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Roll Keeper

Mr. Brian Short	28 Newhouses Road	857540
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Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie	53 Goschen Place	854777
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Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mr. Nat Beggs	6 Grange Road	852170
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Organist

Mr. James Lawrie	13 Queens Avenue	856609
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Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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Hall Convener

Mrs. Jeanette Ewington	93 Fergusson Road	857194
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Property Convener

Mr. Robert Pattison	12 Houston Gardens	855505
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Communications co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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Safeguarding co-ordinator

Mrs. Elaine Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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Social & Fundraising Convener

Mrs. Lillian Pattison	12 Houston Gardens	855505
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