

Eagle Wing



The Magazine of Groomsport Presbyterian Church

Spring 2017

The *Eagle Wing* was the first emigrant ship to leave Ulster for America. She sailed from Groomsport in September 1636, carrying 140 Presbyterians in search of a life free from persecution in the New World. Fearful weather, however, forced them to return home after two months at sea. Although she did not reach her destination, the *Eagle Wing* became the inspiration for others to make their attempts and since those days, several million people have left our shores, taking with them their culture and traditions. These cultural links with America are celebrated each year at the North Down Eagle Wing Festival in July.

Our church magazine takes its title from this significant piece of local history. In 2002, Jennifer Hulme, a member of the congregation and well known local artist, created the cover design, which strikingly depicts the symbols of the wing, sail and cross.

We seek to be a welcoming community of God's people

*We believe our mission is to hear and share His Word and
to reflect God's unconditional love - as we proclaim
and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ
and strive to be a welcoming, serving and reconciling
community."*

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Visit our website www.groomsportpc.com

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

First, may I thank the Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and you as a congregation for all your kindness to us as a family at the Manse, on coming to minister among you. We are so grateful for the lovely home provided and look back with much appreciation to 3rd March. That Friday night was a very happy evening when I was installed and I know that many worked hard in preparation and on the night. Thank you.



Living with us at the Manse, we have a large and very fluffy cat called Jebediah. (Just in case you are wondering which book in the Bible his name comes from, don't worry - it is not a Biblical name, though it sounds like it should be!) When we knew that we were due to move house in February, we were advised by a number of people to make sure that Jeb, as he is affectionately known, was kept indoors for a couple of weeks, giving him time to get accustomed to his new surroundings. The day eventually came for Jeb to be let out to enjoy his first taste of freedom since becoming a North Down cat. Needless to say, he did a lot of exploring and embraced this new chapter in his life with all four paws! We now have a very happy cat.



Easter is all about freedom. Freedom from guilt to live a life that is forgiven. Freedom from despair to live a life of hope. Freedom from emptiness to live a life of fullness. All this was gained for us through the selfless sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, through his death and resurrection. Because Jesus died, we live; and because he was raised from the dead, we shall never die.

Christopher Porteous, born 8th November 1935, from 1987 to 1995 was Solicitor to the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, and for the next three years served as President of the Association of Police Lawyers. But as well as a career in law, Christopher Porteous also writes hymns, his most popular being *He gave his life in selfless love*, which is number 400 in our hymn book.

The third verse of that hymn reminds us of the freedom Christ has gained for us:

*They heard Him call his Father's name –
then 'finished' was His cry;
like them we have forsaken Him
and left Him there to die:
the sins that crucified Him then
are sins His blood has cured,
the love that bound Him to a cross
our freedom has ensured.*

May this Easter provide afresh the opportunity to give thanks to our living Lord for the freedom we know from sin, the freedom to serve our Lord and Saviour and know the full life that he gives.

Happy Easter,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Paul'.

CONGREGATIONAL RECORD



BAPTISMS

26 March 2017 Sophie Grace, daughter of Michael and Karen Chestnutt

“The promise is to you and to your children”



DEATHS

27 December 2016 Mrs M Taylor, Mullaghboy Home (3)
22 January 2017 Mrs Doris Watson, Ravenhill Nursing Home (16)
18 February 2017 Mr J Davison, 3 Victoria Mews (1)
9 March 2017 Mr Derek Lawson, 32 The Brae (12)

“Blessed are they who die in the Lord”

Love is the power to grant freedom without
desiring to limit or inhibit its exercise...

Only God can give and not take back ...
[God] suffers within himself the entire
consequence of allowing man
absolute freedom.
That is his love...

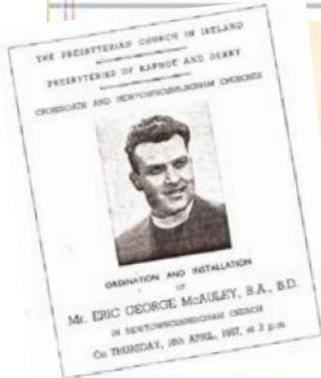
Only absolute love could grant unhindered
freedom, and only omnipotence can endure
the operation of that freedom.

D.R. Davies

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Minister	Rev. Paul Dalzell	9147 9108
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Church Office	Tues, Wed & Fri 9.00-1.00	9146 2552 gportpc@googlemail.com

News from the Pews ...



A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Rev Eric McAuley was ordained 60 years ago on 18 April, 1967, in Newtowncunningham Presbyterian Church. He was installed immediately afterwards in Crossroads Presbyterian Church. All good wishes to both Mildred and Eric as they mark this very special occasion.

Another special occasion — at the other end of the scale — was celebrated on Saturday 18th March, when a party was held in the church hall to mark David Miller's 1st birthday on 16th.



Many happy returns to David!

Golfers in the congregation may be interested to know that in February at an Inter- Club Competition held at Carnalea Golf Club - in which nearly sixty ladies participated - Mrs Marjorie Moore, the Choir Secretary and a member of PW, won the prize for the longest drive!

Well played Marjorie!!

Warning!! Male golfers look to your laurels...



JANUARY SWIM

On a bright sunny Sunday, directly after church, at the end of January 2017, a hardy band of four mad women and one young girl braved the elements and had a quick dip in the sea at Groomsport. This was to raise money for the Endo-Urology Unit in the Ulster Hospital, where June Kirk was a patient six years ago.

Tanya Neeson, June Kirk, Paula Montgomery, Sharon Goldie and Bethany Thomas would like to thank all who supported them in their endeavour - **£700 was raised!**





EAGLE WING

The Magazine of
Groomsport Presbyterian
Church

Vol. 43 No. 3
Spring 2017

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Circulation 1400 per year
Cost £40 pa colour. £30 B/W
Three issues
Spring, Autumn, Christmas

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EDITORIAL

Groomsport Presbyterian Church's ministry is unique to this place – forged by the ministers and members who have served here, shaped by this village, wider local community and a remarkable, ever-expanding global network; a ministry built on foundations laid down in the past, and moving forward on paths opened up by those who have gone before.

In this issue of *Eagle Wing*, as we welcome Rev Paul Dalzell, our new minister, we also record the 60th anniversary of Rev Eric McAuley's ordination; gratefully acknowledge the role of our Vacancy Convenor, Rev Dr Donald Watts; prepare to bid farewell to Rev Chris Miller; and include messages from seven of our former Princeton Interns. The importance of the Princeton link is indicated by the fact that, over the years, several of those Interns have returned to visit, and no fewer than three are due to be back in Northern Ireland later this year. Messages to Paul and the congregation have also been received from the President, and the Director of Field Education, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Paul, Catherine and family are now part of the Groomsport story, and as Paul begins his ministry here, there are timely reminders that it is the responsibility of all of us to engage in that ministry – to encourage, pray, support, learn and work alongside him, as we set out together into this new chapter in our long congregational history. We have reports on the Installation service, the AGM, Crèche and new audio visual system; and news of Sunday School, PW, the Art and Craft Group, and the monthly Sunday morning coffee fellowship. Not only is there a new Manse family, there is also a new Manse cat – and as Jebediah settles in to Millbank, we hear how Toby, his predecessor, is adapting to *his* new life.

Brian McClelland, author of our 175th anniversary commemorative pamphlet, *The Call*, reflects in this issue on home, family history and identity, within the context of a particular natural landscape. Catherine Poxon has sent an update from Aberdeen, and Max Montgomery has connected with the Megaheys in Knysna. Useful tips and community information have been compiled by Roy Mawhinney – have a look, there are some dates for your diary.

This congregation may have been set in a small place, but its influence reaches – both historically and geographically – far beyond a tiny Ulster village. We now embark upon a new phase of this continuing joint venture in a ministry which embraces – not just the members in the pews, but also those who occasionally join them, whether for one Sunday service, or for a few months or years – as well as the North Down community, and our contacts much further afield. As we consider all these interwoven elements of our church life, it is clear that Groomsport Presbyterian has its own, particular role in God's over-arching plan.

Approaching Easter – the absolute affirmation of God's sovereignty and power – we can step confidently into the future, trusting in the One who is risen indeed, the One who said,

I am the Lord, and there is no other
(Isaiah 45: 5)

Welcome to Rev Paul Dalzell and Family – Friday 3rd March 2017

At this Spring season of the year, we are cheered by the signs of new life all around us – in the brightly blooming flowers, the green buds in the hedgerows, the lambs in the fields and the longer, brighter days. Within our congregation, we are also experiencing fresh beginnings as we welcome our new minister – Rev Paul Dalzell. We have looked forward with eager anticipation to Paul's Installation. We warmly welcome Paul, his wife, Catherine, their son, Murray and daughter, Chloe to Groomsport Presbyterian Church.

This will be a difficult time for the Manse family, as they prepare to come to our congregation, a new area and a new home. May they be assured of our friendship and loyalty as, together, we enter into a new, exciting chapter in the life of our church. Please remember the Manse family in your prayers. *Elaine Nixon-Shepherd*



The church choir began the Installation service with an introit of praise, and later sang the anthem, *Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All* by Benjamin Harlan. The hymns, chosen for the occasion by Rev Dalzell, reflected the kingship of God, and his guidance, constancy and protection through ages and generations.



The service was led by the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev Peter Lyle, who – assisted by the Clerk of Presbytery, Rev Dr R.A. Russell – conducted the act of installation. The sermon was given by Rev Gareth Simpson of Ballywalter Presbyterian Church; and the Charge to Minister and Congregation was delivered by Rev Graeme Kennedy of Ballygrainey, standing in at short notice for Rev Dr Donald Watts (inset), Convenor of the Vacancy, who was unable to attend.

Following the service, speeches of good wishes were given by Rev Lyle, and Cregagh Presbyterian's Clerk of Session, Dennison Mahood.



Rev Dalzell was welcomed to Groomsport by Elaine Nixon-Shepherd, Clerk of Session, and by his Church of Ireland colleague in the village, Rev Duncan Pollock.



Paul and Catherine received welcome gifts from the congregation. These were presented by Kane and Jasmine Meredith.



Unfortunately, Groomsport's Vacancy Convenor, Rev Dr Donald Watts and his wife, Fiona, were unable to attend the Installation service; greetings, messages of appreciation, and gifts presented by Bethany Thomas, were accepted on their behalf by Rev Graeme Kennedy.



Photography: Paul Miller

These emails were received recently from Princeton Theological Seminary:

Dear Rev Dalzell and members of the Groomsport Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your very kind invitation to attend the installation of Rev Dalzell on March 3, 2017. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend. Please know that all of you will be in my prayers at this very exciting event in the life of your church. Princeton Theological Seminary deeply values our partnership with Groomsport Presbyterian Church and we are excited about this new chapter.

May God bless you and your congregation,

Craig Barnes,
President, Princeton Theological Seminary

Dear Friends at Groomsport PC,

Congratulations on calling your new pastor, Rev Paul Dalzell! Princeton Theological Seminary enthusiastically looks forward to working with him and the Groomsport congregation in the years to come.

Unfortunately, given the time and distance, I will not be able to attend this exciting event.

You will all be in our thoughts and prayers as you go forward with this next important step in the life of your parish.

Sincerely,

Debbi Davis,
Rev Deborah K. Davis, Director of Field Education,
Princeton Theological Seminary

TEN WAYS TO WELCOME PAUL - OUR MINISTER

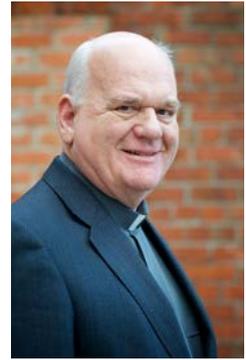
1. **PRAY FOR PAUL DAILY** – there is no greater comfort for anyone, never mind a minister, than to know people are praying for them by name.
2. **LOVE AND HONOUR PAUL'S FAMILY** – this includes helping them to adjust to the new community and letting them have family time.
3. **TELL PAUL AND FAMILY YOUR NAME – AGAIN AND AGAIN** – learning names is the hardest thing a new minister has to do.
4. **DON'T GOSSIP ABOUT PAUL AND HIS FAMILY** – if you don't understand something – ask. Be a positive voice for the future.
5. **SPEAK ENCOURAGEMENT** – say things like, 'Paul, I'm here to help' and mean it!
6. **INTRODUCE PAUL TO PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY** – the earlier the better.
7. **GIVE PAUL TIME** – it takes a while for a new minister to figure things out. Be understanding; Paul has to prioritise – he has the overall picture of the church and pastoral care.
8. **DON'T OFFER A MILLION SUGGESTIONS** – there will be time for suggestions; let Paul have time to learn about who we are as Groomspout Presbyterian Church.
9. **DON'T PREJUDGE PAUL** – everyone makes mistakes; don't assume that Paul will act in a certain way – he may; he may not.
10. **ALLOW A HONEYMOON PERIOD** – give Paul time to get to know the congregation and the church. Keep praying and supporting.

GOD BROUGHT PAUL TO GROOMSPOUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
GOD WANTS TO USE HIM HERE - LET GOD DO AS GOD INTENDED.

(Adapted by Elaine from a blog post by Ron Edmondson)

FAREWELL FROM OUR VACANCY CONVENOR

It seems no time since I was writing to introduce myself as Convenor of the vacancy in Groomsport and now I write to say farewell. I would like to have done so more personally at Paul's installation and to wish him and Catherine well in their new adventure with you - but as some of you know, Fiona was rushed into hospital the night before and I wasn't able to be with you.



Thankfully, she is now home and improving each day. We were both very appreciative of the gifts you presented to us that evening, yet another sign of Groomsport's generosity. We have also been grateful for the support in recent days of so many in the congregation through prayer and in many other ways. I have to say the concern that was shown to us didn't surprise either of us. In the short time we were with you, it became evident that Groomsport is a congregation where people care for one another and that is a great strength to have. I know that many others have similarly found helpful support at times of need.

It was a privilege to work and worship with you in recent months. While, inevitably, there must be new thinking as you move forward, we greatly appreciated worshipping in Groomsport and the strong sense of fellowship in the congregation. Having been in a specialised ministry for a time, it was a delight for me to be back pastoring a congregation - although I would insist that everything we do in ministry must at heart be pastoral! Now I happily hand over to Paul, who I know will be enthusiastically supported by Catherine, Chloe and Murray. I trust that theirs will be a long, happy and successful ministry in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Watts." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

◆ *Our sincere thanks and best wishes to both Donald and Fiona* ◆

What distinguishes any two churches in a given community from each other? If God is the champion of order rather than of chaos and if he is not asking his people to compete with one another to reach the unreached, can we conclude that he has a unique calling in mind for each church? That calling is based on the resources and gifts he has brought together in that church, the ministry environment in which the church is located and the special anointing he gives to each person he calls to lead his people.

George Barna

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 6 March. Our new minister, Rev Paul Dalzell, 'hit the ground running', having been installed on the previous Friday evening, and having conducted his first services on Sunday. He opened the AGM with a reading and prayer, after which reports were given by Clerk of Session, Elaine Nixon-Shepherd; Treasurer, John Boyd - on behalf of Finance Convenor, John Adrain, who was unable to attend; and by Lowry Manson, our Property Convenor. Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Dr Alan McIlmoyle and seconded by Mr Mervyn Nelson. You can read the reports in full in the Directory.



MC, Alastair McQuoid then invited Mrs Catherine Dalzell to join her husband on the platform for a brief 'getting to know you' session.



Entertainment this year was provided by *Concordia*, pictured here with Rev Paul Dalzell. This group of talented young musicians, has been brought together by Andrew Poxon. The audience greatly enjoyed listening to - and occasionally singing along to - a selection of well known pieces, performed in the group's individual style.



Many thanks to - from left - Michael McComb (keyboard), Andrew Poxon (drums); Adam Steele (trumpet); Matthew Steele (clarinet); Catherine Poxon (clarinet); Adam Thompson (flute). Particular appreciation must be expressed to Catherine (who just happened to be home from Aberdeen for the weekend!) and to Michael, who heroically stepped in at the last minute to play keyboard.

This well-attended evening concluded with supper and chat.

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

The Audio Visual System



As you may have noticed, the installation of a new audio visual system has been ongoing within the church since before Christmas. Apart from a few small items that are still to be finalised, this work is almost complete. The audio system, projector and screens were installed just before Christmas and have been used to very good effect on a number of occasions, including the *Carols by Candlelight* service and, more recently, the PW service. A remote control camera was installed at the end of February, along with TV screens in both the new Crèche room and the Edgar McCutcheon Room. These have been in operation over the past couple of weeks and enable leaders, volunteers and parents to see and listen to services, whilst attending to the children.

As is normally expected with projects like this, there have been a few teething troubles. The main issues that have arisen are in relation to what is known in the audio world as 'feedback' and also the sensitivity of the new microphones – but most of these have been resolved over the past few weeks.



The control desk upstairs now consists of a 16-channel audio mixing desk control; an Apple computer for projecting hymns and slideshows, etc; a TV monitor and controls for the camera; and an audio recorder to prepare CDs of services. All of this has modernised our facilities to a high standard, moving into the future. If any of you are interested, we would be delighted to give you a guided tour to demonstrate how all the new equipment works, and how it will be used.

With all this new equipment, we need people to run it and we are delighted that Adam and Matthew Steele have recently come on board with our team. Their youth and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated and they are learning very quickly, having been thrown in at the deep end! In addition, we look forward to – hopefully – a few more faces joining us in the very near future.

As part of the installation project, a training session will be provided by the contractor (Absolute Technologies) in the next few weeks. However, we have already built up a good knowledge of the new system; a lot of time has been spent on, and effort put into, making sure that everything is working correctly, enabling services to proceed without too many hiccups!

We would be grateful if you can please be patient until the training is completed and we will all, hopefully, be able to enjoy the facility to the full.



Don Collins (soon to retire)

Richard McCreedy (not retiring any time soon, it would appear!)

Groomsport A/V Productions

A NEW SPACE FOR OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Rev. Chris Miller

One of the great joys of church life is watching children grow up surrounded by people of faith; people who show them love and teach them what it means to be a child of God. The old saying might best be rewritten - "it takes a church to raise a child." However, for our youngest members (and their parents), it can often take a bit more to make time at church a positive experience, an experience that puts in place the groundwork for a lifetime of faith. Simply put, just as we make sure our building is fitted with ramps to be accessible for those with limited mobility, we need to make sure our facilities are fitted with resources for our youngest members and their families.

It was with that goal in mind that, last Fall, Groomsport began the process of converting the former Vestry into a Crèche. I am very excited to say that this process was completed in early January, 2017 and the facility has been in use for a few months now. For families with young children, we now have a dedicated space in our main building that is outfitted with our youngest members in mind. If you have not visited the space, located on the first floor next to the Edgar McCutcheon Room, I would encourage you to do so in the coming weeks.

The new Crèche is a lovely, bright space designed to reflect the beauty of God's creation.

The green and blue are reminiscent of rolling hills and clear skies, while friendly animals and tall trees welcome little ones into a safe place to play, relax, or nap. Outfitted with a large, colourful (and very soft) rug, children have no shortage of age-appropriate



toys to spark their imaginations. Parents are welcomed by several arm chairs and a variety of floor cushions as they relax

with their children. Additionally, a TV screen mounted on the wall allows those in the Crèche to be part of the service, singing along with hymns, sharing in prayer, and hearing God's Word in scripture and sermon.



Next to the Crèche, the two restrooms have been remodelled as well. The confining dividers have been removed, making each more spacious. The restroom closest to the Crèche has been outfitted with a baby-changing station. Fresh paint and new fixtures have brought a more modern feel to the space, while new, energy-efficient LED lighting helps make better use of our resources.

It is my sincere hope that this new space will serve the families of Groomsport for years to come, but as with any project, this alone will not raise up the next generation of Christians in Groomsport. Just as a ramp, as vital as it is, cannot preach a sermon, neither can a room, no matter how bright, share the love of Christ on its own. It will take our whole community showing love and understanding as we welcome young families. What an exciting adventure!



ALL GOOD THINGS...

Chris Miller

Two and a half years ago, as I sat waiting to interview with a minister from Northern Ireland, I could not even begin to imagine where that conversation would lead Mary Erin and me. Since that day, we have been on a grand adventure that has taken us from the steps of Princeton Seminary to the shores of the Irish Sea. It has not always been an easy road, but we have been blessed time and again by this community, as you have walked alongside us. Please know that you will always have our deep gratitude.

It is hard for me to wrap my head around the fact that in a few short weeks we will be leaving 25 Main — what we have affectionately called the “Mini-Manse” — not for a short holiday, but for the last time. The home where we became parents, where David spent his first year, will soon be just a memory.



As with all good adventures, however, this one has an exciting next chapter. While I am limited in what I can say officially at this stage, I can share that I have declared my intent to accept a call from a congregation in our home state of Missouri. The call system in the US is quite different from here, but as with here, a call must be approved by various groups before it is official. The presbytery where we are headed only meets quarterly and the next meeting is not until mid-May. Pending approval at that meeting, and a final approval vote of the congregation, I will begin my new charge as their pastor at the start of July.

We are very excited about this new chapter in our lives. Not only is the congregation we are moving to serve in an exciting time in its life, it is also fairly close to our parents; only a two- to three-hour drive — just down the road in American terms. While there are many unknowns at this stage, we are confident that God is calling us to this community. We look forward to sharing much more with you in the future!

As this is my last *Eagle Wing* article as your serving Assistant Minister, I would be remiss if I didn't offer some advice based on my time here in Groomsport. One of the great strengths of this congregation is that you are a teaching community. Helping people grow is part of your DNA. This is most obvious in the Princeton program, but I believe this instinct goes deeper. Can I encourage you that this strength, this instinct to teach and share your life experiences, could be harnessed to transform the lives of young families in Groomsport? I believe the future of the church everywhere, and especially here, lies in reclaiming our role as true, intergenerational families of faith. Might this be a place where all children and parents are welcome without question — where all are loved as much as you have loved David? I believe this is in your DNA, it is part of who you are.

Groomsport is a fantastic place, and it will always hold a special place in our hearts and memories. Thank you for everything you have done to love and care for me and my family; for every card and gift, kind word and meal shared. We will miss you all deeply.

Until we meet again,
Peace.

Chris, Mary Erin and David

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

Since August, on the last Sunday of every month, we have been serving tea/coffee and biscuits in the Coffee Bar from 10.15-11.15 – before morning worship. This has proved very popular, with on average 40 members coming each month to enjoy time together with friends. We encourage all members of the congregation to come along. You will be given a warm welcome.

These monthly coffee mornings will run until the last Sunday in May, and then will resume again on the last Sunday in August. Thank you to all ladies and gentlemen who came along to make and serve the coffee. Also, thank you to the Bible Class for giving up the Coffee Bar once a month.

Volunteers (both ladies and gentlemen) are needed, so if you would be free and willing to help one Sunday morning in the year, please contact

Ann Williams: 07710 744884

(We make tea and coffee and serve a plain biscuit - so no baking is involved!)



Once again, a sincere thanks to all the members who contribute to the church flower fund.

A special thanks to the ladies who arrange the flowers for the church service on special occasions.

Pat Miller

OUR ART AND CRAFT GROUP

We are urgently looking for new faces. Sadly, our numbers are dwindling and we long to be the large, happy group we once were.

Meetings are held on most Thursday mornings from 10.00am until 12.30pm in the Walter Nelson Hall. If you feel tempted to pick up a paintbrush and attempt a creation of your own making, do join us - even for one morning. Craft work is also on the agenda.

No previous experience is necessary, and we all 'do our own thing' in a friendly, happy atmosphere that is both stimulating and relaxing.

To learn more about us, come for coffee at 11.00am.

Margaret Johnston
Tel 02891465363



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

I was feeling down, nothing was going right;
With all my aches and pains – now it was my sight.

My friend called to see me, we talked of the good old days;
He told me to cheer up and mend my sad old ways.

“You can walk and talk and still get around;
You are not in bed or wheelchair-bound;

You have your friends and still have your wife –
So perk yourself up and get on with your life!”

He finished by saying, “There’s no fool like an old fool –
And remember what they taught us in Sunday School:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”*

Oliver Hull



The number of children who attend Sunday School regularly may be fairly small but all the teachers have commented on what lovely, co-operative children they are, all joining in our activities and crafts with great enthusiasm.

Since Christmas, our topic has been *This is Jesus* and we have looked at various aspects of the life and witness of Jesus and how we should do our best to live our lives, following His example. We are now looking at some aspects of the life of David, before we study the story of Easter. We will also be highlighting the PCI Youth and Children's Project for this year, entitled *Journeys of Promise*.

As part of our efforts to raise some money for this, we will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th April from 10.30am until noon. Our former intern, Ryan Irmer, and his family are visiting that weekend and we thought this would be a good opportunity for members of the congregation to meet and chat with Ryan, Amelia and Alison. They also hope to worship with us on Palm Sunday.

Please encourage any children over 3 years old to come along. We are always delighted to welcome new members.

The Bible Class continues to meet in the Coffee Bar, under the leadership of Audrey and Elaine. They have many interesting discussions and activities over coffee, tea or hot chocolate and have even been known to have breakfast together. Again, new members are welcome.

Please keep the work of Sunday School and Bible Class in your prayers.

Margaret McCreedy, Superintendent
Tel 028 9146 4361



The mother of a 3-year-old girl was teaching her daughter how to pray the Lord's Prayer. After a few nights of having the girl repeat the prayer after her, the mother asked the child if she would like to pray the prayer by herself. She did pretty well until just after she prayed, "and lead us not into temptation." Instead of praying, "deliver us from evil," she prayed, "deliver us from e-mail."



THE TALLEST CHOCOLATE
EASTER EGG EVER
PRODUCED WEIGHED
16,000 POUNDS —
MORE THAN AN ELEPHANT!

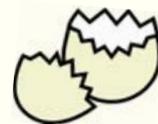


Decorated ostrich eggs have been found in Africa - they are estimated to be over 60,000 years old!

Did you know that more chocolate is eaten at Easter than any other time of year?



Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.



It was the children on Palm Sunday who cheered the loudest. They loved Jesus simply because they knew how much he loved them.



Presbyterian Women

Our motto this year has been **THIS IS THE DAY**
... every new day, He does not fail.
(Zephaniah 3:5)

Groomsport PW held their annual service on Sunday 12th March 2017. The guest speaker was Mr Henry Coulter, Assistant Project Leader, International Meeting Point, Belfast (143A Lisburn Road, <http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Mission/Mission-Projects/International-Meeting-Point.aspx>)



Margaret Caughey, Henry Coulter, Rinda Burnside

On Monday 13th February, the PW ladies were busy packing boxes containing medical and educational materials for Malawi.



This year, thirteen boxes were filled to capacity, and were delivered the next day, by a few committee members, to the carriers for onward transport.

We are very aware that this is only possible due to the generosity of the congregation and PW group members, so we want to thank everyone for their donations this year.

*President (Joint): Margaret Caughey & Rinda Burnside
02891 466303 02891 889084*

The Manse Cat

by

Hollie, Ellis & Summer

When Dr Purce left the pulpit last summer, there was another concern, and that was what to do with the Manse (mouse catcher) Cat. Doreen spent some time ringing round family members but, sadly, no one could take on the big old cat who lived with them. Eventually a cry of help went out in an order of service one Sunday morning - and that's where we stepped in.

On a visit to the Manse later that day, it was love at first sight between us and the large, hairy, temperamental cat called Toby. Mum and Dad agreed (they always do) to let Toby stay with us. A few weeks later, Toby came to live with our family on the Springwell Road.

In the early days, Toby was grumpy! He did not like the family dog, Olivia, who is a very friendly Lab with plenty of bounce. Neither did Toby bond with Tigger, the old, fat garage cat who was to be his stable mate. Toby wanted everyone all to himself, he was jealous and lashed out, but had to learn to share quickly as he discovered he got more cuddles when being nice. He's now turning into a magnificent, affectionate cat, who is free to roam about the house and the garden all day. He's retired from mousing and bird watching, after we caught him



chasing the friendly pheasant that visits us for his dinner, so we decided he needed a sparkly collar and bell to alert the birds when he's about.

Toby is a source of amusement, as he seems to enjoy any kind of food that is offered to him, and he has been known to sit on Mum's feet while she's trying to prepare dinner. He will sit on the back of the chair in the dining room and stare out the window for hours; other times he likes to chase Olivia round the garden, as she is afraid of him.

Toby is a welcome addition to our family and we hope to have many more years with him.

HOMELANDS: A SPECIAL PLACE

by Brian McClelland

It was Wilma who told me of the sale. She had spotted it on *Property News* on the internet. Some women, my sister Molly among them, like to read the death columns of the local newspaper; most men, myself included, immediately turn to the back pages to consume the sports news – but Wilma, well, she's an addict to the thrill of house sales.

And there it was, in all its stark reality:

Homelands, 8 Murdocks Lane, Bangor, BT 19 7QQ, £465,000. This excellent 25-acre small holding comprises a substantial residence with an extensive range of outbuildings situated around a spacious concreted yard. The superbly appointed dwelling enjoys delightful rural views over the surrounding countryside, is located within a much sought after area and is within convenient distance of Ards, Bangor and Donaghadee. The lands are comprised in nine fields, all at present in pasture and well fenced...

Why, you might ask, am I so concerned about the sale of this particular property? To put it simply, Homelands is my ancestral home and, as such, has a special place in my heart. My great great grandfather, Andrew McClelland, farmed here in the 19th century. Andrew's father before him, Robert (1), farmed in the district from the late 1790s, likely the acreage now housing Donaghadee Rugby Club. Henry, Andrew's older brother, farmed at Willy's Wood Island, not too far from Homelands. However, it's not as though I have known this information all my life. Indeed, it has only been in recent years, while undertaking family history investigations, that I have discovered Andrew, Robert and Homelands.



Believe it or not, most of my paternal family history information came to me via Australian relatives, bless them, who have produced a wonderful history originating from the McClellands who left the Cotton (Cottown) in the 19th century, and settled in the State of Victoria. There are now hundreds of McClellands in Victoria – including, would you believe, four Brian McClellands!!

Robert McClelland (1), my 3 x great grandfather, was born c1770. He married local girl, Anne Pritchard, in Donaghadee Presbyterian Church. Like all good historians, I double checked the Australian version of the family history in the wonderfully preserved record of births, marriages and deaths in Donaghadee Church. I was really pleased to discover a Sarah McClelland, whom the Aussies had missed. The first child of Robert (1) and Anne, Sarah was born just a year after the Rebellion of 1798 – when young Betsy Gray, from just down the road at the Six Road Ends,

joined her neighbours in fighting for Irish independence on the side of the United Irishmen, Catholic and Presbyterian. Betsy was cruelly struck down at the Battle of Ballynahinch.

I imagine Sarah to have become a free-spirited child of the revolution, a raven-haired beauty perhaps, none good enough to claim her hand. In truth, she likely married (if at all) some old boy from across the fields, to sentence herself to a lifetime of drudgery in a smoke-filled, airless cottage shared with the pigs. I shall make it my business to find out – she was my great, great aunt after all. Sarah's brother, Andrew, my 2 x great grandfather was the third child of the marriage. He was baptised on 24th June, 1804, married Mary McRoberts in 1826 and thereafter established his farm at Homelands.

It was to the muster roll of c.1630 that I turned to find the earliest McClellands in north Down. The conditions of the Plantation in Ulster required English and Scottish "undertakers" – one of whom was Sir Robert McClelland of Bombie in Galloway (or MacLellan as has been the 'standard' spelling for Scottish historians), installed as the first Lord Kirkcudbright by King Charles I in 1633 – to *"have ready in their houses at all times a convenient store of arms, wherewith they may furnish a competent number of men for their defence, which may be viewed and mustered every half year, according to the manner of England."* In other words, should the native Irish become restless, make sure you have sufficient weaponry to defend your home and family. All chief undertakers were compelled to bring over from Scotland men who would build them a fortified house or "bawn", help defend it if need be, and till the land. Sir Robert brought his McClelland relatives from Scotland to nearby County Down and further afield in the north of Ireland.

While not quite a census, the muster roll is the most exhaustive listing of the settler population that is available. It is, therefore, of great interest to the genealogist and the lowly historian like me. In the district of Bangor, men who mustered on the estate of Lord Viscount Clannaboyes (an old spelling of Clandeboye) in 1630 included four McClellands – Andrew, Robert, John and Alexander. Their arms are listed as being swords and pikes, though Robert also had a caliver, a forerunner of the rifle, the possession of which marked him out as probably wealthier than those who had rather more simple weapons.

I cannot (yet) bridge the gap between 1630 and 1770 in terms of lineage, except to say that in the early 1800s, Robert (1) and Anne baptised four of their six boys with the names Andrew, Robert, John and Alexander to continue a naming tradition which stretched back centuries to the Galloway Peninsula in south west Scotland.

In the heart of the Cotton lies Blaeberry Island Bog. It is a special place. Indeed, it has been declared an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) because of the extent of intact and active cutover bog and the important plant and animal communities that it supports. Our cool and wet climate is particularly suited to the formation of peat.

Lowland raised peat bog was once widespread across the country. Unfortunately, a combination of human endeavours such as turf-cutting, burning and drainage has caused significant damage to most of it.



The bog found at Blaeberry Island is one of the very few to remain intact. Despite past turf cutting, much of this area has been re-colonised by heather, Hare's Tail Cottongrass, colourful carpets of bog mosses and wet woodlands dominated by Downy Birch. In an old farmhouse in the nearby townland of Ballyfotherly, I was shown a couple of idyllic paintings, dated 1930, of land around Willy's Wood Island, which displayed fields of bog flowers, peat stacks and grazing horses.

I now take much pleasure in walking the townlands of Ballyfotherly, Cotton and Ballyhay. Apart from the natural beauty of the landscape, there is plenty of wildlife to be spotted. Once, a fox caught my attention as she glided across the fields without a care. Catching my scent, she turned her head and eyeballed me. Then, with a haughty sneer of cold command, she sauntered on her way. I raised an imaginary, not to say cumbersome, caliver and fired a warning shot over her head – just to show who was boss, you understand.

McClelland Lane is the route up to Willy's Wood Island. The top end is a maze of badger tunnels which crisscross the lane, much to the consternation of the locals. Only last week, I came across a large, dead badger on the Cotton Road, struck down in the hours of darkness by a speeding motorist. Meantime, lazy pheasants flit about the fields and hedgerows, soft targets for brave snipers.

My great grandfather, Robert (2), inherited Homelands upon the death of his father, Andrew, in 1884. I was fortunate to come across a copy of Andrew's will in the Public Records Office; it reads (largely unpunctuated) as follows:

In the name of God Amen. This is the last will and testament of me Andrew McClelland of Cottown parish of Bangor County of Down farmer being of sound perfect and disposing mind memory and understanding make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. I leave and bequeath to my son Robert McClelland now residing with me my farm stock crops and all I possess in this world cows horses pigs...

By the time he died in 1901, Robert (2) was in serious debt. How this happened remains a mystery. The sum of £200 has been mentioned to me. It may not seem much but over one hundred years ago, it was the equivalent of around £20,000. A cousin of Robert (2) came to the rescue, clearing the debt and taking possession of Homelands. Robert's son, James (my grandfather), by now married to my grandmother from Ballyhay, vacated Homelands to live in a damp cottage on the Cotton. Eventually they moved to improved housing in Newtownards.

The last McClelland owners of Homelands, an unmarried brother and sister, Lex (Alexander) and Joyce, both died in recent times. Whoever the property was left to – cousins in New Zealand, it seems likely – they have clearly decided to sell it on the open market. It will be the end of an era. Nevertheless, I shall continue to wander the narrow lanes of the Cotton and adjacent townlands, to enjoy the wildlife and seasonal changes, the wild bog flowers of summer, autumn's fruit-filled hedgerows, winter's icy fingers, spring's rich, yellow whin bushes alive with birdsong, and to confront the ghosts of Homelands, my origins, my special place.



Footnote

Despite much searching, I could find no further trace of my great great aunt, Sarah. I strongly suspect she died in infancy. My goodness, I have just consigned her, quite literally, to a footnote in my little history! Still, Sarah – conceived in the turmoil and slaughter of those dangerous days of the insurrection – is forever a child of the revolution. Her father, and other Presbyterian Dissenters of the Cotton and district, armed with pikes fashioned at smiddy Mat McClenaghan's anvil at the Six Road Ends, made a brave stand in their struggle against wrongs that were subsequently righted when the Anglican ascendancy was slowly dismantled.

We leave something
of ourselves behind
when we leave a place;
we stay there, even though
we go away.
And there are things in us
that we can find again
only by going back there."
— Pascal Mercier

AN UPDATE FROM ABERDEEN!

Catherine Poxon

I would like to thank everyone who wrote to me following my last article. I really appreciate letters and notes in the post. Although I am used to emails, texts and WhatsApp, I must say, nothing beats a handwritten note in the post box!

I also appreciate your prayers, which sustain me on the days I think about home, and have supported me on my present adventure of nine-week placement in Renal in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. ARI is the biggest hospital within NHS Grampian, with a children's hospital and A&E and also an adults' A&E. Compared to the Ulster Hospital, I'd say it's maybe about four times the size - so that's a lot of walking! What an amazing experience and opportunity for learning. I usually do four days a week, so my days start at 5am, when I get up to get ready and make my lunch. I take the 6am bus from just down the road, have a 20-minute journey and then a 5-minute walk to the ward. I change into my uniform, eat my cereal that I bring with me and at 6.50am attend the handover.

Every day in work has brought new challenges, adventures, friendships and sadness. I get back to my flat about 8:30pm and my flatmates and I share making dinner for each other, depending on who is working that day. We share experiences from the day, as we are all doing different courses from paediatric/adult nursing, pharmacy and social work. One of the girls is English, one is Polish and the other is from Shetland.

It has been a challenge to learn to understand that not everyone is going to be able to be helped, no matter what the doctors try to do. I also find it a struggle when the patient is the same age as me, or a similar age. Most of my patients are either in palliative care or are living with a lessened quality of life. I have found it incredibly interesting and have been down in theatre, assisting with fistula formations, plastic surgery, eye surgery - along with other operations, giving injections and all sorts of things. Mum doesn't usually enjoy my stories that involve bodily fluids, so I just tell Dad instead. It has been very interesting, but challenging as to the classic question of why bad things happen to good people.

I have such a passion for nursing and nothing (so far) has put me off. I have a further placement in June and July after my exams finish in May, so I look forward to exploring more aspects of nursing. I love hearing stories that Granny (Edith) tells me, as it is clear that not that much has changed since she was a nurse. Nursing is far from the most glamorous of jobs - but it sure is the job for me.

I head back to lectures in two weeks and then I am off for Easter for two weeks. My weekend at home was a bit of a fly-by as I tried to fit everything in, but it has been lovely to have family and friends over to visit me in Aberdeen. It was great to be able catch up with many of you, play in *Concordia*, and to attend Rev Paul Dalzell's first service. I wish him every success in the church! I have included a plan of the hospital that I work in. My nursing uniform isn't the most flattering, but I'm sure I will get a photo in it at some point! It has been a bit of a roller coaster, moving away from home - but I have met amazing new friends, discovered how awful road noise is when you really want to sleep, and found a new love for cooking risotto.



May I take this opportunity once again to say how much I appreciate your support and look forward to being home at Easter.

Catherine x

catherinep11@hotmail.co.uk

MAX'S SOUTH AFRICAN TRIP

It's amazing, some of the unlikely friendships that come from within our congregation.

In June 2016, my son, Max graduated from university and immediately announced he was planning to travel around the world with his girlfriend, Kerry. They both found employment for six months, with a view to earning money to fund this great adventure. South Africa, India and New Zealand were earmarked as destinations.

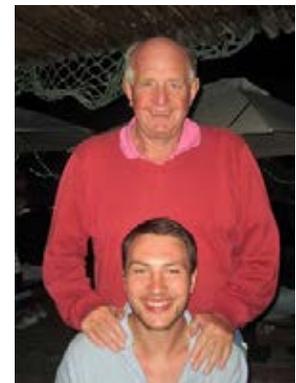


Just before Christmas, I had a conversation with Hazel Megahey and learned that she and Stanley planned to be in Knysna, in South Africa, in February. They very kindly offered Max and Kerry a place to stay for a few days during their travels. Max, however, was somewhat reluctant about visiting a couple he didn't really know, and who were obviously in a different age bracket... until he talked to Stanley at our Christmas Carol Service. Stanley explained where they lived, the view from their house, and how their boat was moored below the balcony. Suddenly, the age difference wasn't an issue, and plans were made to meet up!

After three weeks on safari in Botswana, travelling and sleeping in an old Land Rover, Max and Kerry enjoyed good old Northern Ireland hospitality in Knysna, courtesy of Hazel and Stanley.



They had several boat trips and also met friends from the church there, who asked to be remembered to everyone in Groomsport.



The pair are now travelling around India and will shortly be heading to Bali to meet up with another family member.

Special thanks to Hazel and Stanley for all their kindness in Knysna - and who knows? you may have visitors again!!

Paula Montgomery

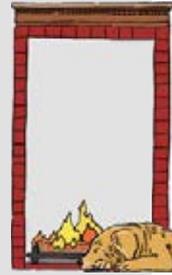


Some information which Roy Mawhinney thought would be of interest to Eagle Wing readers:

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Contact **0300 013 3333** or Email: **affordablewarmth@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk**

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Ulster In Bloom

Groomsport was Runner Up again in the Large Village category last year, so it would be great to win this year! Preparation for this year's Ulster In Bloom Competition started on Saturday 25th March. On the last Saturday of each month until August, Groomsport Village Association would welcome assistance from residents and friends of Groomsport. With light weeding and, thankfully, minor litter collection, it is a small community contribution to a wonderful, unique, historical village. It is also a great excuse to call in at the coffee morning afterwards! Meet up at 10am at The Harbour Car Park. Bring along some light gardening tools, if you have any.

Any flowering ideas for our church?

Contact: Roy McWhinney

Mobile: **07739 347885** Email: **rmcwhinney@btinternet.com**



The Big Lunch, 17- 18 June

Groomsport Village Association is once again hosting 'The Big Lunch'. Although well connected digitally - do we know the person next door, across the road or down the street? This is a national event and an opportunity to get to know people better in our community. It is as simple as bring your own picnic and meet at Cockle Row Cottages. Details to be finalised - but there will be no doubt be music and activities arranged. This is a FREE event! Put it in your dairies and come along.



Eagle Wing Festival, Saturday August 19th

Annual event, with music & fireworks.

The Groomsport Village Association would like to hear from residents and friends of Groomsport who may like to contribute to this day – e.g. contacts with motor bike/car clubs; historical information; art, crafts, photography, gardening clubs; etc.



Contact: Roy McWhinney

Mobile: **07739 347885** Email: **rmcwhinney@btinternet.com**

See more about Groomsport village on the Groomsport Village Association website: **groomsport.info**



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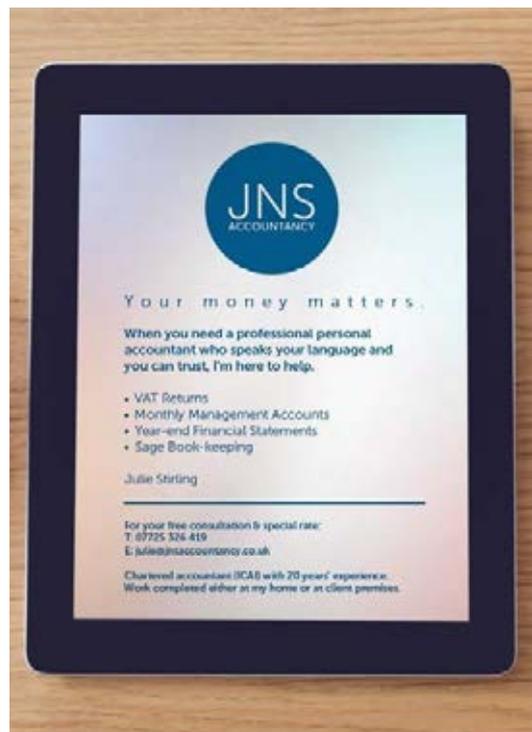


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NEWS FROM FORMER INTERNS

Greetings, Groomsport - and a special welcome to Rev. Paul! I have been praying for you and hope that God's Spirit will continue to guide and support you through this time of transition.

We are transitioning some here at the Nix house. To put it bluntly - I'm getting fat! Baby #3 is confirmed as another princess, and we have been spending our weekends going through old baby clothes, assembling the crib, and trying to explain to Elizabeth that we still have a long time to wait for her baby sister (she is eager to hold her now!) My due date is June 20th, so please keep us in your prayers as I transition into the third trimester.



Speaking of another transition, Elizabeth will be starting kindergarden this fall – how am I old enough to have a kid in full-time school??

In other news: Eric completed his first full marathon in January and now has the "running bug". I guess there are worse hobbies for your husband to have. Steven is finally big enough to tackle his sister, so I'm turned into a referee for the wrestling matches. And me? I'm just working on getting fat :)

We miss you all!

Katie Nix rev.katie.nix@gmail.com (Princeton Intern 2008/2009)



Dear Groomsport Presbyterian Friends,

I am so happy for you all and Rev. Paul Dalzell. I have been holding you all in prayer through the search process, and continue to hold you in prayer as you begin this new chapter in the church's life and ministry. It is not lost on me that you begin your partnership in ministry in the Spring, when the earth reminds us of life and of beginning again. God is doing new things all around, if we would but see them.

The big news from Muscatine is that, two weeks ago, a tornado came through town and damaged buildings in our downtown area and homes about a mile away. Thankfully, there were no deaths and no major injuries. It happened at 10:00 pm. Our church sustained damage, as did the Methodist church across the street (their Cassevant Organ was damaged beyond repair). We sustained a broken stained glass window, our front sign was broken, and we later learned the roof of the sanctuary was seconds away from being torn off. It was lifted up and set down so that one could see daylight - needless to say it looks like we will be getting a new roof. It is all repairable and replaceable. We are so thankful that there was no human loss. We have a saying in this congregation "God is good all the time. And all the time God is good."

Blessings on your Easter, dear friends!

Pam Saturnia psaturnia9@gmail.com (Princeton Intern 1989/1990)

Happy Easter, Groomsport! And welcome to Groomsport, Rev. Dalzell!

I have continued to hold the church in my prayers, as you have gone through this pastoral transition, and will continue to keep you in prayer, as you and Rev. Dalzell continue to get to know one another and grow together in ministry. I really hope that Rev. Dalzell would like to see the Princeton internship remain active at Groomsport. The ministry that you offer to the intern is just as important as, if not more important than, the ministry that we are able to offer to you, and it has prepared all of us well for ministry. It brings me joy to think of more Princetonians getting this wonderful experience, and to think of your commitment to nurturing students as they prepare for ministry.

My ministry is still going well in Myrtle Beach, and I just reached the 8-year anniversary of my ordination. I continue to be as busy as ever, working with various pastoral care ministries, teaching educational classes, and leading in worship. Inspired by my experience in Iona, Scotland, when I traveled together with a group of pastoral friends in Fall 2015, I desired for members of my congregation also to experience a week-long pilgrimage to this site. Assuming I get my visa to visit the UK (fingers-crossed – that application is currently at the British Consulate in New York), I will be leading a group of six to Iona in mid-June. Historically, our church has not done a lot of things connected to spirituality, and my prayer is that this pilgrimage will provide some spark of awakening in those who go, and perhaps inspire others to go in the future. Seeing that I would already be over in Scotland, and provided my visa comes through, I have made plans to extend my time abroad by another two weeks. I will spend the majority of that time exploring the Scottish Highlands and Edinburgh, with a four-day trip to London and a three-day trip to Northern Ireland on either side. My time in Northern Ireland will be just long enough to see a couple friends, and perhaps my family, but it would put me in town on Sunday, June 25, so hopefully I will see some of you then.

Susan has been asking for updates and pictures of the bagpipes. I've been taking lessons for a year now, and was invited to play at an event in February with the Conway Celtic Pipers. We played for a heritage event for one of the Presbyterian churches in our area. In the picture, I am the one in the white shirt, since my black one to match the group had not come in yet, and that's what they gave me to wear. This is also why I'm in the back. Due to being in the back and accidentally ending up in a tall woman's shadow, you can hardly see my uniform or the pipes, but at least there's a picture, right? ! Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts prevent me from joining the group on a regular basis, but I am still loving the instrument, and am finally now playing with one of the drones open.

Blessings to you all this Easter. He is risen indeed!

Christa

CBrewer@mbfpc.com (Intern 2004/2005)



The Goods are doing well in sunny Newport Beach. Steven is currently pursuing his Doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary while serving as the Associate Pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Jill teaches 5th grade at nearby Mariner's Christian School. Graham (7) and MacKenzie (6) are growing and keeping mom and dad on their toes as they pursue their varied interests!

As part of Steven's doctoral work, he will be attending a seminar at Holy Island in Northumberland. Prior to the seminar, the Goods will be spending some time in London and Northern Ireland for a family vacation, arriving in Belfast on the 17th and leaving the evening of the 22nd. Steven writes, *We are planning to drop by at the Saturday morning Coffee Fellowship on April 22nd so we can introduce our children to a community that meant and continues to mean so much to us!*



Here's a recent Christmas photo.

The peace of our Lord,
Steven, Jill, Graham, and MacKenzie
(Princeton Intern 2005/2006)

good.steven@gmail.com



Dear Groomsport Pres,

I hope that you all are doing well. I have been thinking a lot about you lately, and you have certainly been in my prayers during your search for a new pastor. I wish you and Paul all the very best as you continue your ministry together!

Things in Baltimore are wonderful. I continue to love my work as a solo pastor, and we are ever more engaged in the work for justice in our city.

The biggest excitement, though, is planning my wedding - which is coming up quickly in October!

I hope that you all have a blessed Easter.

Peace,

Jennifer jbarchi@gmail.com

(Princeton Intern 2010/2011)



Dear Groomsport

I am happy to hear that Groomsport has called a new minister in Paul Dalzell. I wish him the very best in his ministry. I know from my experience that Groomsport has a gift for hospitality and I trust that they he is being warmly welcomed. I also really hope that the partnership with Princeton is planned to continue under Paul. I know how formative my time with you all was, and I hope that opportunity will continue to be offered to future students. It is truly a gift Groomsport offers, to be able to try on full time ministry with such a supportive and forgiving community.

Tara tara.porr@gmail.com
(Princeton Intern 2013/2104)



From Rich Jones:

A quick line of sending Easter greetings. New news is that Hannah is graduating High School in June. She is still working on college choices and waiting to hear. Her interest is to major in Archeology and Anthropology. Nathaniel is 11 and in 6th grade. He loves soccer, basketball and is on our neighborhood swim team.



We live in Annapolis, MD. My wife, Adrienne, practices as an Orthopedic Surgeon and I am a hospital Chaplain at the same hospital - Ann Arundel Medical Center.

Remembering my time and people there with great fondness. I would love to hear from folks. Our email is rahjones@sbcglobal.net

Rich (Princeton Intern 1990/1991)

It is with Christians as with burning coals. If these are scattered apart, one after the other, they are easily extinguished. But, when collected together, the fire of one preserves that of the other, and the glowing coals often ignite others that lie near. -August Francke

EASTER REFLECTIONS

(From *The Newsletter*)

The prayer in Gethsemane reveals the reality of Jesus' humanity and the depth of what he faced and then accomplished. He asked them to watch with him, not die with him, despite Peter's intentions. Only he could bear this cup. Anyone who doubts the true humanity of Jesus needs to read this passage. Jesus the incarnate Son of God prays. He won the victory for us, as one of us. That victory was won in Gethsemane before it was won at Golgotha.

Graham Cray



The next time the fog finds you, remember Jesus in the garden. The next time you think that no one understands or cares, reread the fourteenth chapter of Mark and pay a visit to Gethsemane. And the next time you wonder if God really perceives the pain that prevails on this dusty planet, listen to him pleading among the twisted trees. The next time you are called to suffer, pay attention. It may be the closest you'll ever get to God. Watch closely. It could very well be that the hand that extends itself to lead you out of the fog is a pierced one.

Max Lucado

Christ took away your sins. Where did he take them? To the top of a hill called Calvary, where he endured not just the nails of the Romans, the mockery of the crowd, and the spear of the soldier but the anger of God... God didn't overlook your sins, lest he endorse them. He didn't punish you, lest he destroy you. He instead found a way to punish the sin and preserve the sinner. Jesus took your punishment, and God gave you credit for Jesus' perfection. *Max Lucado*

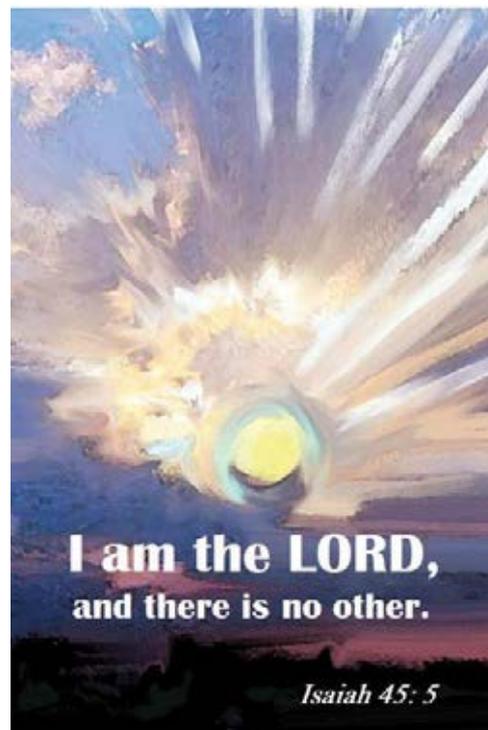
*Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love.
Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.
God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy.
The best way to show our gratitude to God and people
is to accept everything with joy.*

*A joyful heart is the inevitable result
of a heart burning with love.
Never let anything so fill you with sorrow
as to make you forget the joy
of the Christ risen. —Mother Teresa*



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Friday 14th April	08.00pm	Good Friday Communion Service
Sunday 16th April	06.15am	Sunrise Service (meeting at Hall)
	11.30am	Easter Sunday Service (No Evening Service)
Sunday 21st May	11.30am	Service led by John Brown University Cathedral Choir (Arkansas, USA)
Sunday 2nd June	11.30am	Children's Day



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 26th April	Friendship Lunch
Wednesday 31st May	Friendship Lunch Bus Run
Saturday 4th June	Summer Coffee Mornings begin