

THE OPEN DOOR



*Penicuik North Kirk
Newsletter number 308
August 2008*

Dear Friends,

In the Gospels we find Jesus bursting onto the scene in such a way as to cause an immense amount of questioning and speculation. There were exorcisms, healings and other miracles. There were crowds of onlookers, close followers and...opponents. He taught his disciples to replicate his ministry out in the villages. Not everyone became a disciple. And not everyone approved of his actions or his teaching. Some even sought to kill him. Eventually even his closest followers were asking, 'Who is this man?'

So there was a variety of responses, and Jesus clearly wanted to explain to his followers how it was that people could react to him and the arrival of the kingdom of God in such unpredictable ways. That's why he told them the so-called Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23). In fact, although the sower is important to the story, we could also call it the Parable of the Seed as it shows how God's words and actions are received in the world. Best of all it could be called the Parable of the Soils because the real focus is on how the path, the rocks and the soil are able to receive the good seed. This was true of Jesus' ministry; it is also true for the Church across the ages. Some hear, grow and live. Others, for a variety of reasons, don't.

May we be numbered among those who hear and grow and live.

Now turn to the Paul's letter to the Roman Christians chapter 7 in your Bibles. In this chapter Paul has shown how the Law could never deliver the righteous life that it laid before people. In fact it ended up condemning people. But Christians aren't condemned and a righteous life is possible because God has sent his Son, setting us free from slavery to sin and death and fulfilling all that the Law

intended for God's people. But there is still a battle on. Human beings, even Christians, are still troubled by sinful thoughts and desires and the Spirit is in conflict with this state of affairs. But we Christians are on the winning side! The Spirit gives us power to live that life. Indeed he is the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. That's real power!

May we all experience that power and live that righteous life that God intends for his people.

Your friend and minister,



North Kirk Business

The following are some of the points raised at the Session Meeting held on 25th June 2008.

Matters Arising

- Youth Team leader vacancy.
- Needs of Young people in the Community - Session went into Buzz Groups to discuss
- Number of Elders/Elders Districts - Session were asked to prayerfully consider the need for new elders

Reports

- Child Protection Report - Child Protection Co-ordinator, Sylvia Blenkinsop, informed session that the necessary disclosure forms for the *Summer Time Out* Volunteers were still in the "system"
- Presbytery Report - Anne Pearson informed session that she had attended the General Assembly and had found it to be a very interesting and enlightening experience
- Way Ahead Team Report - Jan Naylor reported on the up-to-date position of the Penicuik Food Service. The possibility of providing a listening service and a Youth Worker/Minister is being investigated by the Way Ahead Team

- Reports on visits to the Trailblazers and the Rainbows were distributed to Session

Conference 2008

- The Annual Conference is to be held on Saturday 3rd October when a Training Session on “Safeguarding” will take place.

Penicuik North Kirk Property Team

There are 5 people in the property team

<i>Andrew Knox</i>	Team Leader
<i>Ricky Barr</i>	Manse
<i>Bruce Dunlop</i>	Main Church Building
<i>Colin Glen</i>	Church Back Hall, Kitchen and Toilets Area.
<i>David Symington</i>	Wooden North Hall.

The team is responsible for the general upkeep of the fabric of all properties including the manse, that all gas and electrical equipment is working safely and efficiently. Also in our remit is Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Drill.

General overview is:

- Boiler maintenance and service annually.
- Fire alarm maintenance and service twice annually.
- Fire alarm test weekly.
- Fire extinguishers to be serviced and tested annually.
- Any loose plaster etc repaired, not to endanger property users.
- Painting and decorating as and when required.
- One room in the manse to be decorated annually.
- All boundary stone walls to be maintained in a safe state.
- A Property Register has to be kept logging all work carried out, indicating whether by contractor or ourselves, the date, the cost and where on the property the work was carried out. We are expected by the Church of Scotland to maintain our properties; this

is in receipt of us doing so. The register goes for annual inspection to presbytery.

The above team members are responsible for their designated area to ensure all is as it should be, they are not expected to carry out all work by themselves, we do work as a team and in extreme situations we have a number of people within the Church who are always willing to help us.

PNK Under 3s Creche

The creche meets in the Quiet Room off the Café on Sundays. You are welcome to bring your child along where they will be looked after during the service. Please bring your own drink (biscuit for snack provided). Please also bring a buggy if they require a sleep during this time.

Summer Book Stall and Café

The summer bookstall and café continues on Saturday Mornings during August from 10 am till noon. If it is raining, the bookstall will be held in the North Hall. All proceeds to the Open Door Project. New stock always required.

Lets Get Krafti 5

Once again we are hosting our Bi-ennial Arts and Crafts Fair in the church from Thursday, 28th August to Saturday, 30th August, 10 am to 9 pm on Thursday and Friday, 10 am to 2pm on Saturday.. The Café will be open during these times.

Amateur and professional artists and craftspeople have exhibited paintings, drawings, photographs and crafts such as woodwork, jewellery, toys, knitwear, needlework and embroidery.

Proceeds from the fair will go to the *Open Door Project* and the organisers are looking for all types of arts and crafts by people of all ages.

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Sudoku No 17. Solution can be found on page 6

outside the Post Office to take us to the start point at Stobo. From here we go over the hill (ascent 145m) to the Manor Valley and will stop at The Glack for our lunch which will be about 1.30 pm.

After lunch the route takes us over Cademuir Hill (ascent 220m) where we have a marvellous view over Peebles.

For further information contact Colin or Ruth Herd, 01968 661785 or 07792 815953.

Exhibits will be accepted from anyone in the local community and can be for exhibit only, donated to the church for sale or to be sold on a 15% commission basis. There will also be a limited number of places for stalls available.

Exhibit application forms can be obtained from John Scott, tel 01968 674225, email to John1812@talktalk.net.

**Midlothian 'Doors Open Day'
Saturday, 13th September, 2008**

Once again the church and café will be open as part of the Midlothian 'Doors Open Day' from 10 am to 4 pm

**PNK Ramblers – Saturday 23 August
Stobo to Peebles – 6½ miles**

Our walk on Saturday 23 August is back to the John Buchan Way for the section from Stobo to Peebles.

We will meet outside the church at 10.30 am to arrange cars to Peebles where we will have coffee. We will then catch the 12 noon bus

Back To Basics

Been given a bunch of flowers and don't know what to do with them. *Back to Basics* meets in the back hall - bell on kitchen window sill. Dates remaining for this year - September 25th, October 16th and 30th, November 13th and 27th. For further information, phone Irene Young on 674064

**Thank You To The North Kirk Family
From The Roy Family.**

Annette, Shonah, Matt and David would like to thank everyone who sent cards and offered their condolences on the death of their father, John Roy.

Special thanks to John Fraser for his support, Tom Easton, David Hunter, Ricky Barr and Alison Bagan for their wonderful contribution to the music provided at the service. The catering by Sandra Knox, Rae Hunter and their helpers along with all the beautiful home baking provided was greatly appreciated by all who attended the funeral. Gods work in action, God bless all of you.

Thank You From Annette Heary

I should like to thank everyone who gave me lovely cards and wonderful presents on my 60th birthday. I was overwhelmed by your love and generosity. Special thanks to Sandra Knox, Rae Hunter, Anne McKinnon and Hazel Murray for the superb catering they provided which I know everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was great to be surrounded by so many friends and family at the party and you all helped make it an occasion I will remember always.

The Lighter Side

The Shipwreck Survivor

One balmy day in the South Pacific, a navy ship espied smoke coming from one of three huts on an uncharted island.

Upon arriving at the shore they were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone on this island for more than five years!"

The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see THREE huts." The survivor said, "Oh. We'll, I live in one, and go to church in another." "What about the THIRD hut?" asked the captain. "That's where I USED to go to church."

The Cleaning Woman

There was a little old cleaning woman that went to the local church. When the invitation was given at the end of the service, she went forward wanting to become a member. The pastor listened as she told him how she had accepted Jesus and wanted to be baptized and become a member of the church.

The pastor thought to himself, "oh my, she is so unkempt, even smells a little, and her fingernails are not clean. She picks up garbage, cleans toilets - what would the members think

of her." He told her that she needed to go home and pray about it and then decide.

The following week, here she came again. She told the pastor that she had prayed about it and still wanted to be baptized. "I have passed this church for so long. It is so beautiful, and I truly want to become a member."

Again the pastor told her to go home and pray some more. A few weeks later while out eating at the restaurant, the pastor saw the little old lady. He did not want her to think that he was ignoring her so he approached her and said, "I have not seen you for a while. Is everything all right?"

"Oh, yes," she said. "I talked with Jesus, and he told me not to worry about becoming a member of your church."

"He did?" said the pastor. "Oh, yes" she replied. "He said even He hasn't been able to get into your church yet, and He's been trying for years."

Dictionary

- AMEN The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
- CHOIR A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.
- HYMN A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.
- JUSTICE When kids have kids of their own.
- PEW A medieval torture device still found in churches.
- USHERS The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

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Solution to Sudoku No 17

News Of The North Kirk Family And Parish

BAPTISMS

“Parents, don’t be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord.” Paul’s letter to the Ephesian Christians chapter 6, verse 4

July 27 Megan Rose, daughter of Ray and Gillian Moran, 52 Deanburn

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING

“And Jesus put his arms round the children, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.” Mark 10:14-16

June 1 Duncan, son of Alex and Emma Gordon

June 8 Sophie, daughter of David and Chantal Hay

FUNERALS

“Death is destroyed! Victory is complete! Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian Christians chapter 15, verses 54 and 57.

May 30 John Roy, 6 Rullion Green Avenue

June 10 Joan Kirkhope, 9 Mauricewood Road

July 17 John Boag, 22 Mauricewood Avenue

GOLDEN WEDDING

Muriel and Ben Dawson

Worship At The North Kirk

From September to June our morning worship services begin at 11 am and in July and August at 10 am.

Communion is normally celebrated on the second Sunday of every month.

Our evening worship services begin at 7 pm except on the second Sunday of every month when, at 7.30 pm, we host Tribal Generation, a youth-friendly worship event.

There is a short “*Start the Week*” service every Monday at 11.45 am

Next Newsletter

Copy for next newsletter should be with the editors on or before 14th September for publication on 5th October. Copy can be sent as a Microsoft Word attachment to either email address or hard copy (preferably typescript) can be handed to either editor

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