

Fort Massey Star

Spring/Easter

2010

From the Pastor's Desk...

Two caterpillars were crawling across the grass when a butterfly flew over them. They looked up and one nudged the other and said: "You couldn't get me up in one of those things for a million dollars." Easter is the day of possibilities! Caterpillars are turning into butterflies and we are offered the transforming power of the kingdom.

Jesus began his ministry with these words: **The time has arrived. The kingdom of God is upon you. REPENT and believe the gospel.** The Greek word for repent used in this verse means **CHANGE**. The evangelists have taken this word - repent - and claimed it for their own. Repent means simply 'change your ways.'

You are standing at the edge of two paths. You can choose to follow your own path, living for yourself, or you can walk down a new path - dying to yourself - living for others. Repentance means making a radical change in your life, becoming a new

person. It is not merely learning to crawl, rather it is as drastic as leaving the caterpillar behind and deciding to fly.

Tom Harpur, a Canadian journalist and theologian, has done a great deal of research into near-death experiences. Hundreds of people have written to him and spoken with him, telling him about times when they *almost* died. People whose hearts stop beating for a few minutes and about whom doctors say *almost lost that one*. Harpur says that one of the threads which runs through their stories is that the experience changed their lives. They are people who say *I was given a second chance*.

The message of Easter is deeper and more profound than believing in the mystery of the empty tomb. It calls for more than a leap of faith. It calls for a change in our lives, for repentance and commitment.

One author has written about Easter, **The great Easter truth is**

not that we are to live newly **AFTER** death that is not the great thing - but that we are to be new here and now by the power of the Resurrection; not so much that we are to live forever, as that we are to, and may, **LIVE NOBLY NOW** because we are to live forever.

The proclamation of Easter Sunday is that we are offered new life here and now. We do not have to wait for our own personal near-death experience. We are given another chance. Halleluiah!

Happy Easter,

Rev. Trent



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Who's Who @ the Fort...

New at Fort Massey is our Administrative Assistant, Kathy Cochrane. She joined the staff at the fort during the month of March. She and her husband live in Lower Sackville. Kathy attends Bedford Baptist Church where she is actively involved as Chair of the Deacons' Board, visitation, and small group leadership. She enjoys cooking, reading, knitting, crocheting and spending time with her two grandsons. Welcome aboard, Kathy!

Also new at the fort is Elizabeth Flemming. She

and former Admin. Assistant, Gillian Strong, bus over from L'arche Halifax in the north end on Friday mornings to assist with the folding of the bulletins and putting up the hymn numbers on the boards.

After thirty-seven years Bill Fong has retired as Church Treasurer. Stepping in to fill those large shoes as Interim Treasurer is Dr. Tim Dean, recently 'retired'. Tim and Bill have been working closely together making the transition a smooth one for the fort.

Board of Management

Chairperson this year is Dr. Kevork Peltikian. Kevork is a very busy man as *the* liver specialist in Atlantic Canada. He is married to Anne (who serves on the CE Committee), and they have three daughters, Sarah (1st year university, choir member), Sophie and Renee (youth group).

"The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice."
-~Henry Knox Sherrill

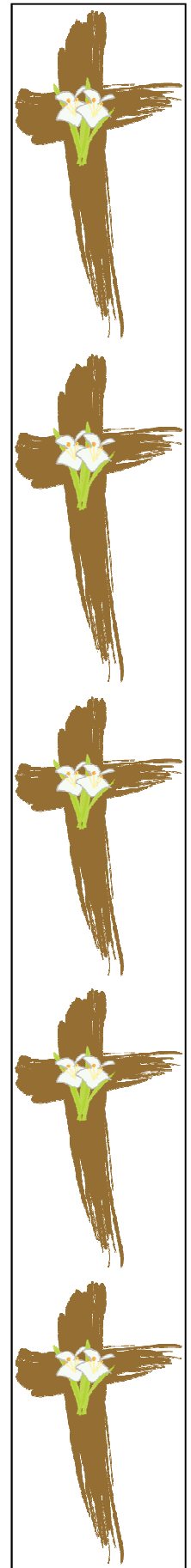
Upcoming UCW Events

April 24th: Flea Market - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

May 8th: Book Sale - Afternoon.

May 3rd: Annual Get-Together - 6:00 p.m. "Pot Luck" supper held this year at St. Matthew's United Church with St. Andrew's, St. John's and Fort Massey.

HAILELUJAH



From God...

To: You
 Date: Today
 From: God
 Subject: Yourself
 Reference: Life

This is God. Today I will be handling all of your problems for you. I do not need your help. So, have a nice day. I love you.

P.S. And, remember, if life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it yourself! Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. I will get to it in MY TIME. All situations will be resolved, but in my

time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

Should you decide to share this with a friend; thank you. You may have touched their life in ways you will never know!

Now, you have a nice day.

~God

Shared with us by a friend who is currently fighting cancer.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

November 17, 2009

To the Congregation of Fort Massey United Church

Fort Massey has come through, once again, for our Food for Phoenix Program - raising \$340 PLUS collecting donations of 6 grocery bags, one of which contained homemade goodies! Yum!

This week (November 16-20, 2009) I used \$200 to buy the groceries and "buy I did!" Luckily, the priority items like milk, cheese, juice, fruits and vegetables had great "specials" so I was able to buy "extras" of these important foods.

My entire trunk was filled

thanks to your generous donations. The staff at the centre were thrilled to see the abundance of groceries being delivered. The Youth will be "well fed".

With your blessing, I have set aside the rest of the donations (\$140.00) to be used the week of May 17, 2010 (another United Church Week, and now sponsored by Fort Massey United Congregation)

The youth and our church committee are truly thankful for your continued support.

Yours Truly,

Margaret Guy

(United Church Rep)

Spring Forever in My Heart

"I can't believe it. These blooms have lasted so long this year," my wife said.

"I hadn't really thought about it, but you are right. As much as I love Lilacs, they come and go so fast," I said.

It has been incredibly exciting this year here in my back-yard. Our Lilac tree has produced the most blooms I have ever seen. The scent is so wonderful that I spend a lot of time just standing on our small deck breathing it all in.

Many of the branches are hollow and cracked leaving me to believe it has seen many Springs. A few winters ago one of the biggest branches crashed to the

ground under the weight of melting snow. It broke my heart. I guess I wasn't expecting much from the old thing this year. But it is magnificent!

Since we have been experiencing so much rain lately the flowers have become heavier. The once tall bush seems to be under a lot of pressure. I can relate to that. There are big gaps because the branches are lower.

Sadly, today I noticed the first bunch of flowers turning brown. It won't be long until they are all gone. But here's what I've learned from it.

Some people are like fragrant flowers. They

come into our lives ever so briefly and leave behind a scent that remains embedded in our being.

Some people, having given so much to you, remain a part of who you are forever. You cannot possibly go through a day without thinking about them.

Loved ones who have passed on, having given their lives to you, having stayed in bloom through a life time of eternal Spring, are like these Lilacs. Although my heart is saddened having discovered that they are dying, I will not remember them that way. I will forever see a thousand blooms each time I think of them. In the coldest, darkest days of the winter of my life, the memory of them will get

me through it all. Even the slightest fragrance, a wisp of "almost there again," will bring a smile to my face and my heart will pound remembering the love.

Oh God, thank you not only for the beauty of the people you bring into my life, but for the lingering fragrance and everlasting memories of ever having loved them at all.

Loving them and believing in you, means I will have "*spring forever in my heart.*"

By Bob Perks

Submitted by

Holly MacIntosh

Outreach in Bolivia

The following is the final update from Emily Tredger who, supported by the Outreach Committee, took part in a 3 month project in Potosi, Bolivia, where she worked with a local organization to promote literacy and health education. Emily is now studying in New Zealand.

Hola to everyone at Fort Massey! I've written before to tell the church about my experiences volunteering in a remote village in Bolivia. I'm back from Bolivia now, and I'd like to tell you how the project went.

Last time I wrote I told you about living in a remote village, teaching music, and gathering information about health issues in the village. After that trip Antonia and I spent some time in Potosi translating into English the literature of PAIS, our partner organization. This was very interesting for us – for example, we learned that PAIS is an acronym, and the full name means "Supporting Community Development and Social Initiatives". PAIS focuses on working with the communities and supporting their ideas and plans. Our translation work was important because PAIS depends on partnering with international groups such as Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Having

English versions of their brochure and annual reports will hopefully make that process easier for them.

While were in Potosi, the main city, we were able to go on a tour of the mine there. The two hours I spent crawling through tunnels and breathing in dust and arsenic gave me a glimpse of every day life for the majority of men in Potosi. The conditions are truly appalling, and any miner who works there for long knows that silicosis is inevitable. While in the mines, I met a 19 year old man named Carlos, who has been working in the mines for four years. He was helping support his younger siblings, but hoped that he could save enough money to leave the mines and become a teacher. Seeing the mines really brought home why it is so important to build sustainable villages in Bolivia – because the alternative is the mines.

We were not able to return to the village due to illness and a coming election, but all in all we felt that it was a very successful project. Antonia and I learned so much from living with the villagers and seeing the challenges and opportunities of an NGO on the ground in Bolivia. And through translating, demonstrating health practices, and

teaching music, we believe that we also had a positive impact on the communities we worked with. Thank you to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, suggestions and support!

Submitted by Leslie Mclean, Outreach Committee

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The Bible Through the Eyes of a Child

Hummingbird Nests

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that..

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eatin'. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in

exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbour's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humour thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also

some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.') During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the New Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the New Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

*Submitted by
Alison McDonald*



Mix up some chocolate and coconut for these neat candy nests.

Ingredients:

1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 cup shredded coconut
Jelly bean eggs

Instructions:

Melt the chocolate chips, following the directions on the bag. When the chocolate is smooth, stir in the coconut, then drop the mixture by the heaping tablespoon onto waxed-paper-lined cookie sheets.

While the nests are still warm, use your thumbs to poke an impression into the middle of each. Cool them, then fill with jelly bean eggs. Makes about 1 dozen.

