

1st Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church



The Link Magazine

Vol. 18 No. 1

September 2008

*Whether it be in seedtime
or harvest ...*



*break though the
Bread of Life.*

Tel: (028) 9332 2578
Email: emcdowell@presbyterianireland.org

The Manse
Ballyeaston

14 August 2008

Dear Friends,

As we look forward to our harvest services in October, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and in particular his promise in Genesis chapter 8 that *as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.*

God is love and when we allow him, he seeks to take care of all our needs. In fact God never stops loving us even though we might not love him, and he will never let go of us even if we let go of him. Jonah tried to let go of God. He tries to run from the presence of God by going to Tarshish instead of Ninevah, but then God sends a violent storm. When the sailors discover that Jonah is the reason for the storm, they ask Jonah what they should do. Jonah says "*pick me up and throw me into the sea and it will become calm*".

When Jonah suggests to the sailors that they should throw him overboard, he knows that he is going to die. Jonah thinks that he is going to run away forever, but God has other ideas. As Jonah is being thrown overboard, God prepares a great fish to swallow him up whole. Jonah thinks that his destiny lies in his own hands, but God is still in control. God still loves Jonah and saves him from drowning in the sea.

I think this amazing story testifies to the relentless reach of God's love. Even though Jonah does all that he can to escape from the presence of God, yet God is still there for him. And just as God demonstrated his love for Jonah through sending the fish, so he demonstrates his love for us by sending his only Son. On the cross Jesus Christ takes the blame and the punishment for our sin, and so through faith in Christ, God rescues us from the power of sin. He loves us so much that he wants to forgive us and walk with us through life.

So whatever fears or difficulties you might have you can be sure that God is with you. He will never let go of you. God will be with you in the storm just as he was with Jonah. He won't just be with you, but he will carry

you as a father carries his child.

Your friend and minister,

Edwin McDowell

PLANNING TO GET MARRIED?

Members of the congregation planning to be married in 2009 or 2010 should contact the Rev McDowell as soon as possible. There are no details as yet on dates for the **Marriage Preparation Evenings** organised by Presbytery, usually in the Autumn, but this information will be made known as soon as available.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE?

Right now you can! **How?** By giving to the work of the Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society.

It is now the time of year when we can give towards the work the Society does within our Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

The Society currently assists around 800 children and in 2007 gave almost £500,000 in direct regular and exceptional grants to help them as well as helping other presbyterian childcare projects. In helping children and families it believes this is what God wants us to do. God expects us to share His concern for others and so the work of the Society therefore is rooted in the character of God. God wants us to show compassion to those in need and since 1866 some 41,000 children have benefitted from the Society's help and today it continues to meet a real need within our congregations. This annual collection gives you the opportunity to be part of a community that responds to the needs of others by giving to the Society's work.

Many young lives are being constantly changed through the work the Society does and it is only made possible by those who give so generously each year to this very important work. As a congregation we raised a total of £1,245.62 for the Society last year - a tremendous achievement!!



**THE PRESBYTERIAN
ORPHAN & CHILDREN'S
SOCIETY**
.....

Envelopes are being sent out with this September issue of The Link Magazine so that every family within our congregation will have the opportunity to give to this very worthwhile cause. The envelopes

can then be placed in the collection plate any Sunday during September or October (up to 26th October). If you are a taxpayer please consider taking advantage of the Gift Aid Scheme. All you have to do is complete the back of the envelope and the tax you have already paid on your donation will be refunded to the Society by HM Revenue & Customs at the rate of 28 pence in the pound. If you are unable to come out to church and would like someone to call and collect your envelope, please contact Mrs Lily Hill (Tel: 9332 3450) or myself, Mrs Jean Woodside, (tel: 9332 4185).

Many many thanks for all your support and may God touch your heart again to give generously to this very important work within our church.

Jean Woodside

PRAYER TIME

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 4 v 31.



Giving good gifts to His children is what God most enjoys doing. As parents we desire to bestow nothing but the best upon our children, and so it is with God. He gave his best, His only son Jesus Christ and He is also eager to give us His Holy Spirit. What do we need to do to draw near to Christ and have our lives set on fire by the Holy Spirit? To receive, we must ask and that means we must pray. We do not necessarily have to use words because sometimes prayer can be wordless; for example when the soul is filled with worship and longing for God. At times like this words just escape us.

Recently, in my daily devotions I came across a printed prayer which I found to be a powerful inspiration. I include it here for you to read and echo in your heart.

Lord, end this wishy-washy, lukewarm, mumbling religion and set us on fire. Put the divine fire in us before the demonic fires destroy us and our world. Take away our small thoughts and our small loves. Make us big as the world in vision. Take away our weaknesses. Fill us with the strength of Jesus Christ. Help the sleeping might of the nation in which I live to be awakened into the glorious action by the Holy Spirit. We are sick of our disgusting indifference and we know that You are sick of us. Do not spew us out of your mouth, but set us on fire. God of courage, sweep aside our pitiful timidity. Make us divinely unafraid. Help Christendom to rise, not in fine sounding

words but in deeds and in fire and in truth; change out defeat, in this battle for freedom and for Christ, into glorious victory. Give us a Pentecost at any cost. Send a Pentecost right now and begin it in me. Keep your promise, Lord Jesus, and baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The altar is ready, the offering is laid, now, Lord send the fire.'

Make this prayer your own and use it to pray for the Church worldwide to be set on fire with the Holy Spirit – starting with you.

William Stewart

CHURCH RECORD

BAPTISMS

EDEE VICTORIA, daughter of George and Jenny Rankin,
46 Clare Heights, Ballyclare;

CHRISTIAN DAVID, son of Raymond and Julie Hill,
40 Kilbride Road, Doagh;

LEWIS ALLEN, son of Chris and Lindsay Arthur, 68 Gateside Manor,
Ballyclare;

ARCHIE STEPHEN, son of Stephen and Elaine McCullough,
37 Ballygelly Road, Broughshane;

EMMA VICTORIA, daughter of Wesley and Jacqueline Thompson,
1A Craigstown Road, Moorfields;

SARA AMANDA, daughter of John and Victoria McKnight, 23 Gateside
Manor, Ballyclare;

CHLOE LOUISE, daughter of Hamilton and Claire McConnell,
16A Tildarg Road, Ballyclare;

GRACE & GLEN THOMAS, children of Tommy and Karen Mayne,
75 Castletown Road, Ballynure.



DEATHS

16th April, Mrs June Neill, Hamilton Nursing Home and
2 Rathmena Drive, Ballyclare;

5th July, Mrs Mary Jane (Mollie) Stewart, 52 Lower Ballyboley
Road, Ballyclare;

7th August, Mrs Agnes Adair, 11 Uppertown Drive, Mossley;

15th August, Miss Mary (Molly) Kissock, Clonmore Residential Home
and formerly of Ollar Fold, Ballyclare.



THE GIRLS' BRIGADE



A successful Display was once again held in Ballyclare Secondary School to round off the 2007/2008 session. The chief guest for the evening was Mrs Gillian McKee who was a former Officer in the Company. Also on this occasion, we were very sad to say goodbye to long serving Officer, Mrs Orvil Cree. Orvil has worked tirelessly for many years within our Company and felt it was time to 'retire' from her post. A gift was presented to Orvil in recognition of her service and our sincere thanks for all her hard work was conveyed to her at the Display. Orvil will be missed.

Again during the summer months, work has been progressing on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme with some of the girls completing expeditions, etc.

The GB recommences on the following nights with registration and uniform sales in the Lecture Hall:

Seniors/Brigaders - Monday 1st September at 6.30pm,

Toddlers/Explorers/Juniors - Friday 5th September at 6.30pm.

Normal GB will then start on the following week at the times noted below:

Friday

Toddlers - Galbraith Hall 6.45 - 7.45pm (Please note change of time)

Explorers - Lecture Hall 6.45 - 8.00pm (Please note change of time)

Juniors - Lecture Hall 7.15 - 9.00pm

Monday

Seniors - Lecture Hall 7.15 - 9.00pm

Brigaders - MacConnell Hall 7.15 - 9.00pm

The Annual GB Enrolment Service will be held on 23rd November.

Also please note a few holiday arrangements during October and December;-

Monday 13th October – Senior/Brigader Sections (Harvest Supper)

Friday 5th December – Toddlers/Explorers/Juniors (Christmas Sale)

We would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who would be willing to help out within the GB to come forward. Anyone interested should contact Ann Agnew, our Captain, for further details. New members are also

very welcome to come along and join in the fun and activities on a Monday or Friday night.

For further information about the GB please contact any GB Officer or Ann Agnew, our Captain, on 9332 2970.

Lindsay Arthur

SENIOR MEMBERS' AFTERNOON

The number of senior members going on our coach outings has been declining in recent years, so this year we enjoyed instead a 'get-together' in our church halls. Our outings had been taking place since 1997, with visits to such places as Ballycastle,



Bangor, Newtownards, Lisburn, Cookstown, Portstewart, Portrush and attractions like Mount Stewart, Benvarden and a couple of 'Historical' farms, in addition to a number of Garden Centres. After eleven years, it seemed time for a change of format given also that some of our more senior members who have travelled with us regularly are now less able to do so.

So on Saturday 21st June beginning at 3.00pm we had a varied programme, including Archie Reid's film based on Florence Mary McDowell's book 'Other Days Around Me' which allowed us to reminisce about an earlier and more innocent age when farming was so much more dependent on hard manual labour and schooling much less pressurised. We also viewed short film clips of Ballyclare May Fair from the 1960s to the late 1990s including memories of the fair from a number of well known local people, including the late Dr Bert Millar. We thank Mrs Lindy Reid for her agreement to the use of this film material. Between the films, Mr Tom Andrew entertained us with his humorous poems and stories delivered in the Ulster-Scots tongue. Everyone then moved into the main hall for a copious tea provided by the ladies of the PWA.

Mr Sam Waugh as Master of Ceremonies kept the proceedings flowing very effectively and we thank John for using his expertise in showing the films. We were pleased to welcome our minister and his family who obviously enjoyed the programme along with everyone else. It was good also to see our former minister, Mr MacConnell, along with Mrs MacConnell, renewing old friendships.

If you have any suggestions about the format of next year's event for senior members, do let me know.

Jim Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS

As a congregation we extend our congratulations to the Rev. J H MacConnell on being awarded the degree of Doctor of Ministry from the Reformed Theological Seminary in the United States upon completion of the studies he has been undertaking through the Highland Theological College, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands based at Dingwall, north of Inverness. The degree will be conferred at a graduation ceremony in Dingwall in October, a day which we trust he will enjoy and long remember.



FLOWER ROTA

Sept. 7th Mrs M Davis

14th Mrs L Hill

21st Mrs E Nimmons

28th Mrs S Bates

Oct. 5th Mrs L McNair

12th Harvest

19th Mrs M McNeilly

Oct. 26th Mrs V Baxter

Nov. 2nd Mrs C McDowell

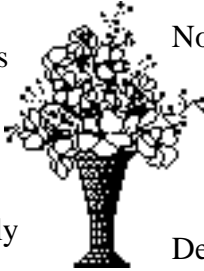
9th Mrs D Cunningham

16th Mrs G Elliott

23rd Miss E White

30th Mrs M Strain

Dec. Mrs A Beard



As a congregation we thank those ladies who provide and arrange the flowers so tastefully in the church Sunday by Sunday. If there are other members who would like to put flowers in church, perhaps to mark a special occasion, please contact Susan Drummond or Margaret Waugh.

Anyone receiving flowers in a container is asked to arrange, where possible, for its return to the kitchen in the Galbraith Hall so that it can be reused.

HARVEST SUPPER

13th October 2008

at 7.45pm in the
Lecture Hall

with **BALLYCLARE MALE CHOIR** and Susan Bates, providing a programme of music and song for your entertainment. Comper will be Mr Brian Johnston, Lisburn. Subscription : £7.00.

Do plan to come and share in this special evening of music and song.



THE BOWLING CLUB

The Indoor Bowling season is almost upon us once again.

The Club meets on a Wednesday evening in the Lecture Hall, starting about 7.45pm.

The first night of the new season will be Wednesday, September 17th, and members, old and new, will be made very welcome.



Christopher Craig

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Youth Fellowship will commence its new season on the 3rd Sunday in September i.e. 21st, from 7.30 to 9.00pm in the Church Halls.

Anne and the crew would love 2CU all back again and new members of secondary school age upwards will be very welcome - do also bring your friends. Any queries, speak to Anne - 9334 1374.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER TIME

Mr McDowell plans to commence the new season of Midweeks on Wednesday 17th September at 8.00pm in the MacConnell Hall. A warm invitation is extended to all to meet each week for this time of fellowship in Bible study and prayer.

PRESBYTERY DIVINE HEALING SERVICES

These Presbytery organised Services are held on the last Wednesday of alternate months between September and May at 8.00pm. The services are open to anyone who wishes to attend. For 2008/09 the locations will be

24th September	Dundrod
26th November	2nd Randalstown
28th January	High Street, Antrim
25th March	Hydepark
27th May	1st Ballyeaston

TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY WEEKEND

The annual Presbytery Weekend will be held from 19th to 21st September with the Friday evening being given over to a meeting for ministers and Saturday morning to the popular 8.00am 'Elders' Breakfast' at Killead Church Hall with Prof Drew Gibson as this year's speaker. Prof Gibson will also be the speaker at the Presbytery Rally to be held in Muckamore Church on the Sunday evening (21st) at 7.30pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2008/09

It would be easy to look at the start of the new session of Sunday School as another sign that the holidays and the fun and relaxation of the Summer are over for another year. However I think we have good reason to be more positive about Sunday School.

For all age groups it offers an opportunity to renew friendships and catch up on the 'buz' about all that we get up to over the Summer months.

Some of the little ones will face the challenge of a completely new experience but one that will be enriching, full of fun and ultimately life changing.

For us as Sunday School Teachers, the most important thing is the return of our children and young people for another session and we look forward to seeing each and every one as well as the prospect of some new faces. We share the responsibility of nurturing our children in the Christian faith in partnership with you who are parents and we recognise that without your co-operation and support we will not be able to fulfil the church's covenant promise.

Can I remind you of a word of encouragement and challenge that appeared in 'The Link' a few years ago .

'A word of encouragement to the Sunday School Teachers:-

It is recognised that teaching in Sunday School is a position of great responsibility. Great importance is attached to this work with children and young people. But you are not alone - far from it!

Communicating the Christian Faith to children and young people is a team effort involving the teacher, parents, Minister, Kirk Session and congregation, all equipped and guided by Almighty God. It is very common to feel a sense of inadequacy for this work, however we need to remember that in any sphere of christian service, all we do is in dependence on God, who, when He calls us, equips us for the task.

A word of challenge to the congregation:-

Ask yourself when was the last time you prayed for the Sunday School Teachers, asking God's blessing and guidance for them. This is something all of the congregation can do. It doesn't require very much - you don't need any particular gifts - it simply requires a desire to support Sunday School teachers and students with your prayers. Pray for the salvation of the children

and young people - "But thus says the Lord: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, **and I will save your children**" (Isaiah 49:25).

Sunday 14th September will see the start of the 2008/09 Sunday School year. Wouldn't it be great to see a large number of new faces and the return of many of our absentees on that first Sunday. Let's pray that God will help us to meet the challenges of the year that lies before us.

Robert Woodside

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, 'What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?' The young boy was apologetic. 'Please, mister. ..please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do,' he pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop...'



With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. 'It's my brother', he said. 'He rolled off the kerb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.' Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.'

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very

noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message:

‘Don’t go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!’

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don’t have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It’s our choice to listen or not.

Thought for the Day:

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring.

He sends you a sunrise every morning.

Face it, friend - He is crazy about you!

Send this message to every ‘beautiful person’ you wish to bless. God didn’t promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

Read this line very slowly and let it sink in ...

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

With greetings from Dinah Maybin, Australia (currently in Ballyclare)

PCI YOUTH ASSEMBLY

One of the many decisions taken at this year's General Assembly was that to approve the establishment of a Pilot Youth Assembly for 2009. A group of young people and youth workers have already been meeting to develop a model for this Youth Assembly which they have decided to call 'SPUD'.

Each congregation will be invited to send two delegates aged 15 to 25 to one of two SPUD events - 17th January in Dublin and 24th January in Antrim. From these events, a small number of delegates will be selected to attend a residential event at the end of February when they will discuss live issues supplied by some of the Assembly Boards. In this way it is hoped that the young people can make an informed contribution to the discussions at the General Assembly in June 2009 and gain an understanding of how decisions within the church are reached.

Capetownship08

After three action packed weeks I finally completed the mammoth journey from Cape Town last week and made it back to Ballyeaston. It was with mixed feelings I returned to the green island we call home as I had so many amazing experiences whilst out in South Africa. Not only was it an honour to take part in building someone their first proper house but it was also an honour to experience the warmth of the people living in the townships in Cape Town. We were welcomed openly into communities that had a reputation of being volatile and dangerous but the people could not have been friendlier.

After heavy rain and flooding, the first two days of the build had to be postponed which was frustrating but after this initial setback we were blessed with blue skies and were able to progress unhindered. It was amazing to see the houses go up in such a short space of time and the excitement of the homeowners was a great motivation. The team worked really hard each day to keep up pace with the South African builders who were often demanding.

It was a great privilege to be present at the house dedication ceremony at the end of the build and hand over the keys to the new family. There was fantastic celebration and joy in the air as not only the family but the surrounding community enjoyed the moment. This was the crowning moment of the whole trip and it was clear to see what a real difference was being made to the lives of the family that day. On that day the team were able to hand keys over for 4 houses that we had built.

Although building houses was the primary aim of the trip we were also lucky enough to learn more about HIV/AIDS and how it is ravaging communities in South Africa. Even though education on AIDS is steadily improving there are so many people that it has come too late for. It was harrowing to hear some of the stories and situations that people dealt with day to day. One sobering example is that instead of having a children's address each week at the local church there was an AIDS testimony.

Fair trade was also an issue that we addressed while in Cape Town as we visited a fair trade vineyard to see the difference that it was making to people's lives. People can often be sceptical about whether fair trade is

really worth it and this visit to the vineyard really underlined the fact to me that it is. Not only do the fair trade farmers own their own land, vines and houses but their children are also guaranteed a chance for a good education and a chance to go to university. Other farmers on the other hand live in poorer quality housing which they do not own and they can be evicted at any time. They can also never afford third level education and so their children are not able to escape this circle of poverty. With increased consumer pressure by buying and requesting fair trade products we here in Northern Ireland can improve the lives of people on the other side of the planet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole congregation not only for financial support but also for your thoughts and prayers before, during and after my trip. I learnt so many things from my time spent in South Africa and hopefully it has made a small difference to a community that is still in desperate need of our help. I would also encourage anyone who is considering going on a Habitat team anywhere in the world to make the most of any opportunity and go for it.

Simon Baxter (28th July)



From the 1st May a new name was launched to replace PWA and Young Women's Group. The two groups are now united under 'Presbyterian Women' (PW). We hope that our programme for the incoming year will appeal to all ages of Presbyterian Women.

Often ladies have excused themselves from joining the PWA as there is a lot of catering attached to it. The motto for Presbyterian Women is 'Living for Jesus' and the theme for the session 2008-09 is 'Now is the time. Be ready.' (Matthew 24:44) So as Presbyterian Women, we feel 'Now is the time' to disconnect PW from catering, but more about this later.

'Presbyterian Women' is to be a Christ centred organisation whose aims are -

- * To support mission at home and overseas;
- * To reach women in our own area for Christ.

The new programme begins on Tuesday, 9th September at 7.30pm in the MacConnell Hall, when we will be hearing Pearl Hanna speak of her

journeys through the jungle to help establish a maternity unit in Madagascar. As before, all women of the congregation and their friends are warmly invited to join us.

Please be patient as the members of our PW Group invite ladies of the congregation personally to accompany them to a meeting. In our attempt to reach other women, we would ask that you might agree to come to one or more meetings, to share in our fellowship.

October's meeting takes the form of the Annual Harvest Supper. This will be held on Monday, 13th October at 7.45pm when the programme will be provided by Ballyclare Male Choir and supporting artistes. The Annual PW Link (Presbyterial) Rally is to be held in Dundrod Presbyterian on Tuesday, 28th October at 7.45pm. The speaker is Lynda Gibson, Deaconess to Maghaberry Prison.

Our thanks go to those who faithfully help collect towards the mission funds through the Mission Boxes. Please join us on the Box Opening Evening on Tuesday, 11th November for a time of fun and fellowship. If you wish to begin a collection on behalf of our missionaries, a box may be obtained from our Treasurer, Mrs Lily McNair, or ask any member of the PW Group. It is always helpful if these boxes are forwarded to any member before the evening of opening in November.

It seems strange to be announcing Christmas at this time, but our annual Christmas Sale is on Saturday, 6th December commencing at 2pm.

The members of our Group hope to go for a Christmas dinner and this year it will be on Tuesday 9th December. Any ladies who wish to join us, please speak to myself or Margaret Waugh.

During the past months members have been busy catering. It is very much a team effort and we thank all those who helped in any way with our fund raising efforts, especially those who were invited to help out in times of shortage. It is hoped that any ladies, who have time or talent to spare, will join the 'Catering Group' even if they are unable to commit to it on a regular basis. Information about this group will be available shortly.

Susan Drummond

CATERING GROUP

A preliminary meeting to set up a 'Catering Goup' is planned for Tuesday 2nd September in the MacConnell Hall at 7.30pm. All those who are willing to help, even to provide if not able to participate in the event itself, are asked to come along or if the date is unsuitable speak to Margaret or Susan. You can help as much or as little as you are able to (no pressure). It may be that you would like to help just at funerals or only once or twice a year. Do let us know.

BOYS' BRIGADE

The B.B. completed the 2007/2008 session with the Parents' Evening held in the Brann Hall. This attracted a very large crowd which was a great encouragement to both Officers and boys.

During the summer the Junior Boys spent a very enjoyable and dry weekend in Portstewart.

The B.B. recommences in 2nd Ballyeaston Church Halls:-

Anchor Boys : Monday 15th September 6.30 - 7.30 p.m.

Company Section : Monday 15th September 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

Junior Section : Friday 19th September 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.



Jennifer Dickey

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SPONSORED STAY AWAKE

On Friday the 25th July, the members of 1st Ballyeaston Presbyterian Youth Fellowship gathered in the MacConnell Hall for a night of sleepless fun. The teenagers sang their hearts out in karaoke, while others hit the court in a frenzied game of basketball. As the night wore on tiredness began to set in leading to many cups of coffee being made. As dawn approached, many of the participants took to less strenuous activities such as watching movies and playing board games. Eventually, nine o'clock beckoned. After a somewhat tiring but also successful and enjoyable night, the members were glad to have a well-earned rest.

Many thanks to Anne, Brian, Elizabeth, Simon and Bruce for all their hard work.

TAPE MINISTRY

Church services are now regularly recorded and are available on tape for anyone unable to attend church, especially the elderly. If you have a

tape recorder on which to play the tape and wish to receive tapes on a regular basis, please speak to your District Elder or to William Stewart to confirm the necessary arrangements.

C A News



Many thanks from Christian Aid for your response to the annual Christian Aid Week appeal. To those who gave of their time, as well as their money, in helping with the house to house collection in Henryville which is organised jointly with Jean Robinson of 2nd Ballyeaston, a big 'thank you'. Your donations through the envelopes placed in the pews raised £740 while the house to house collection in Henryville raised £417.20. Thanks also to those of you who completed Gift Aid certificates enabling the tax to be reclaimed on your donation, a worthy extra 28p for every £1 donated.

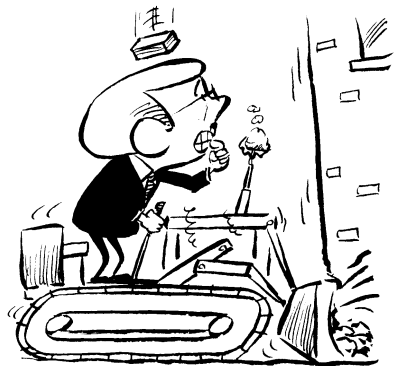
The last reported overall figure for the 2008 Christian Aid Week collection within the Ballyclare area, as raised through the various churches in the district, was in the region of £9,000.

Sam Waugh (Rep. to Local C.A. Group)

A Word Search for 10 New Testament Books.

The words will appear from all directions - forward, backward, upward, downward or diagonally. Circle or draw a line through each word as you find it.

M	A	R	K	N	C	G	Q
J	A	M	E	S	H	P	Y
S	U	T	I	T	E	O	H
L	A	C	T	S	B	Q	J
Z	W	Y	L	H	R	A	O
P	J	J	U	D	E	H	M
G	I	C	K	D	W	W	I
P	E	T	E	R	S	F	T



Knowing Your Limits

One big part of being smart is knowing what you are dumb at.

The Cookery Nook

ITALIAN BEEF



Ingredients:

1 lb mince steak
1 teasp oil
1 finely chopped onion
3 ozs sliced mushrooms
1/2 teasp. basil
1 teasp. mixed herbs
7 oz tin chopped tomatoes
salt and pepper
3 ozs cooked macaroni

White Sauce

1/2 pint milk
1 oz butter
1 tblsp flour
3 ozs. grated cheese

Method:

Place oil in pan and fry meat until browned. Add onions and mushrooms and cook for 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and herbs and cook for 15-20 minutes.

Make white sauce by melting butter in a small pan, add flour and blend together. Gradually add the milk and then the cheese.

Place half of the meat mixture in a suitable dish, followed by a layer of cooked macaroni. Pour half of the cheese sauce on top. Repeat these layers once more. Arrange a thinly sliced tomato around the edge.

Cook in oven at 190C, Gas mark 5, for 45-60 minutes.

Serve with salad or crusty bread.

STRAWBERRY ROULADE

Ingredients:

3 large egg whites
175g (6 oz) caster sugar
1 level teasp. cornflour
1 teasp vinegar
1 teasp vanilla essence
200g (7oz) sliced strawberries
500g pot of Greek yoghurt

Method:

Preheat oven to 150C (130C/fan oven) - Gas Mark 2. Line a large swiss roll tin with non stick parchment.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Gradually whisk in the sugar, cornflour, vinegar and vanilla essence. Transfer the mixture to tin and

level gently.

Place in oven for 25-30 minutes until the surface is golden brown. Remove from oven and cover with a clean damp tea towel for 10 minutes. Turn out the meringue on to a large piece of parchment. Cover with yoghurt and sliced strawberries. Use the edge of the parchment to help to roll the meringue into the roulade and place on a serving plate. Now enjoy!



GRANNY'S GREEN BERMUDAS

In Miami, one of the major summer events in our neighbourhood was the beach party picnic. Along with the families, food, towels, blankets, lawn chairs and beach toys were all packed in the cars. Of course, my dad and Red Johnson always brought their guitars. There were about five families in all; the Johnsons', the Frys', the Freedmans' and the Kramers' along with us, the Carrolls'. There were 15 children and 11 adults including Little Mama (my grandmother from Antrim). She had spent many holidays in Portrush, but never went into water above her ankles. The water at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne was as warm as a bubble bath, a fact that she refused to believe!

It would be an all day event including a cook out with hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and ribs, potato salad, coleslaw, chips and desserts of banana pudding and watermelon. The food seemed endless! Dad and Red Johnson would do the cooking over the large square charcoal grills that were built under a shelter. Wooden picnic tables were placed in rows and could accommodate at least 30 people. The ladies relaxed for a change... as if anyone could with so many children running around playing under your feet!

“Can we go in the water now? Please! Please!”

“No one goes in until one hour after eating!”

Eventually everyone was allowed to walk down to the shore. We gathered in small groups, each parent taking a few of the children, along with buckets and spades, floating sea horses and colourful inflated tubes. We walked across the grass under the cool shade of the banyan trees, then ... there was about 200 yards of scorching sand to cross before reaching the water.

My three brothers lined up and made a run for it promising to wait at the water's edge for my dad. They ran as fast as they could with their knees pumping up and down trying to get to the cooler sand by the water before it brought tears to their eyes. The little girls had sandals on so they could make it most of the way, but even then the hot sand would start to spill into their shoes and one of the adults would have to carry them the rest of the way. Mom carried Jane on her hip and I had Suzie wrapped around me like a little monkey. Suzie needed to be watched very closely. She was only about three but she had no fear.... of anything!

The warm clear salt water was gentle and even though our eyes became red, we couldn't resist opening them under the water to spot small tropical fish. Tiny crabs scurrying near the water's surface burrowed themselves into the wet sand. Needle fish darted past within inches of our legs and harmless jelly fish floated in the tide pools created for smaller children. There were endless miracles to discover in the soft waves.

My dad and Red Johnson took turns throwing each of us into the air and we would land with a great splash. My brothers would climb on their shoulders and use them as a diving board. My mother and Ruby Johnson along with Little Mama sat in aluminium chairs with nylon woven seats, at the edge of the water with Jane and Suzie playing in the sand at their feet.

Little Mama had surprised everyone that day when she came out of the bedroom dressed for the beach. For the first time in her life she had not put on a dress to go out! She walked into the living room with one hand on her hip and the other behind her head, on top of which was perched a sprawling straw hat. Her small white legs stuck out from under a pair of green Bermuda shorts topped with a matching green print short-sleeved blouse. From her pocket she pulled out a pair of dark sunglasses and stood with her little ankle turned showing off a new pair of white sneakers. It was a big surprise to all of us to see our conservative granny from Northern Ireland looking almost like a Florida native! We cheered her on as she turned like a model so we could all see the summer ensemble. I gave her a hug of encouragement, when I realized under the soft cotton shirt she was wearing her corset!

"Oh Little Mama, you can't wear your corset to the beach! You'll roast in the heat!" I said in shock. "Oh yes I can and I will!" She said picking up her

black patent leather handbag as she headed out the door. You had to give her credit for wearing the Bermuda shorts at least. She would certainly never have been seen on the streets of Antrim dressed in Bermuda shorts!

Sitting in her lawn chair on the beach with Jane at her feet, she seemed quite content. The three women watched everyone romping in the sea and having a wonderful time. My mother noticed that Suzie had got up from her sand pile and stood at the edge of the water watching my dad and clapping her hands. She watched as he dunked the boys and played in the surf. She wanted to be out there with him.

She stepped into the warm salt water. My mother watched her to see how far she would go. She waved to dad and getting his attention pointed at Suzie's progress. Up to her little belly now, she kept on without falling. She waved her tiny arms in the air to keep her balance as she toddled forward. The water rose higher and higher. My mother expected any second now for her to turn back or fall into the water... she did not. Dad watched as she made her way closer and closer to him. Everyone stopped playing to watch her. She was all smiles as she got closer. Then the water lapped at her chin but even this did not deter her. She tilted her little face towards the sky. On she went and the water kept rising almost over her face. Suddenly, she lost her footing and under she went! My dad stepped forward and scooped her up out of the water. She grabbed his neck spluttering sea water through a big smile. She would have kept going until she reached her goal no matter what. It was a demonstration of how she would live her life.

After wearing out all the adults, the children would be bribed into returning to the picnic area for ice cold watermelon. Red Johnson retrieved two of them from a tub of ice, set them out on the picnic table and cut them open with a large machete. Ice cold juice oozed onto the wooden table. The bright red insides were dotted with shiny black seeds. Everyone got a large piece even the little girls. My brothers buried their faces into the cold melon and spat seeds at each other. Scolded by my mother, they stopped but started again when she wasn't looking.

Karen Fry sat primly on one of the benches eating her melon with a fork. Karen was so lovely. She was in her twenties and wore her long, thick, blond hair in a pony tail with curls all around her small face. She lived two doors down from us and had become close friends with the

Freedmans'. Howie Freedman made a joke of Karen being so proper even at a picnic, eating her water melon with a fork and knife, not a hair out of place!

"It doesn't seem fair to everyone else that you look so fresh!" he said, teasing her.

"Just don't you get any big ideas Howie Freedman!" she said laughing, moving farther down the table away from him.

Everyone continued to eat their slices of cold melon with juice dribbling down their chins. The boys were covered with juice and seeds and the little girls ate sitting on the ground struggling to keep the large slice of melon on their tiny laps. Then all of a sudden there was a shrilling scream! We all looked around and there was Howie behind Karen with a large melon rind in her hair! She screeched and jumped up from her seat chasing him with her melon. He stopped short and taking a hit on his shoulder, grabbed her around the waist and pulled her close and rubbed the melon in her pretty little face. She yelled and screamed for help, but nobody could do anything but rock with laughter. Karen's husband just laughed because he knew this was payback for hiding Howie's keys to his new car the week before.

The drive home in the early evening was usually quiet. Everyone was exhausted from playing in the sun and found it impossible to stay awake. My parents were in the front seat of the station wagon with Suzie. The three boys were piled like puppies in the rear of the car. Little Mama sat in the middle seat with Jane's sleepy head on her lap and I sat next to the window with the warm wind blowing on my face.

My parents carried Jane and Suzie in, their tiny heads lolling gently on their shoulders. Jane with white blond hair and Suzie with her curly red locks, they looked like dolls not real children at all.

My brothers and I headed for the back yard. The best part of the day was about to come! We were all covered with a dusting of sand and salt making our skin gritty and warm. Since there was only one bathroom in our house, my dad herded everyone to the back yard and chased us with the garden hose to rinse away the hot sun. This was a great game to all of us. The object was not to get hit with the icy water. Our skin was so warm and burned that the water was a shock. We squealed with surprise as my dad hit

his targets. He used a nozzle so he could set the pressure to increase or decrease the distance of the water. Just when we thought we were out of range, he twisted the nozzle and nailed us! After a while the grass became slippery and it was harder and harder to get away from him. It wasn't long before we were all soaked and rinsed of all the salt and sand. When the mosquitoes came out, we went in; Mom would be waiting to rub everyone down in vinegar to relieve our sun-burnt skin.

By now, the little girls were bathed and in bed. Mom had a snack for us left over from the picnic and then it was to bed. No TV on nights after the beach and no arguments. We were all glad to go to bed.

That night Little Mama got back into her flannels, but slept with just a sheet (instead of her usual pile of blankets) pulled up to her sunburned nose. It was a lovely way to become exhausted. Sleep came quickly and soundly on summer nights after the beach.

Yvonne Fisher

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to this new Issue of 'The Link'. I had thought until recently that the summer months were not going to be quite the washout of last year but I was wrong! I suspect most of us are now hoping for a warm dry Autumn to bring in the harvest and to shorten the Winter.



As always, however, there is much to be getting on with within our church life over the months ahead and without doubt the Christmas / New Year season will be upon us before we know it.

Thanks to all who have provided material for this Issue and to the production team for much valued assistance. If you have anything you would like to contribute for a future issue, please get in touch. *Sam Waugh*



If you have any comments or material for inclusion, contact Sam Waugh (Editor) by
Email: sam.waugh@nireland.com
Post: 4 Collin View, Ballyclare BT39 9AR
Telephone: (028) 9332 3708



**EXTRACT FROM TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2007 AS PRESENTED
TO PRESBYTERY ON 4th MARCH 2008**

Givings to Specified Sources

Congregation	<u>No. of Families</u>		Specified Sources	Average givings per Contrib. Family	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Contrib.</u>		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
First Antrim	723	445	£196,564	£441.72	£396.61
High Street	402	241	£86,927	£360.69	£255.74
Greystone Rd	380	276	£71,293	£258.31	£272.11
1st Ballyeaston	350	305	£77,465	£253.98	£259.63
2nd Ballyeaston	326	275	£95,286	£346.49	£367.60
Crumlin	130	105	£32,815	£312.52	£374.23
1st Donegore	228	179	£64,920	£362.68	£339.51
2nd Donegore	204	170	£65,936	£387.86	£425.15
Dundrod	225	193	£59,719	£309.42	£284.70
Hydepark	182	166	£54,803	£330.14	£346.56
Lylehill	102	97	£28,379	£292.57	£284.88
Kilbride	503	380	£104,091	£273.92	£268.33
Killead	180	160	£47,698	£298.11	£263.03
Loanends	173	159	£48,893	£307.50	£284.54
Muckamore	257	195	£117,751	£603.85	£564.64
1st Randalstown	160	106	£40,618	£383.19	£366.57
Duneane	86	80	£27,009	£337.61	£341.31
2nd Randalstown	195	156	£64,574	£413.94	£431.33
O C Randalstown	408	297	£104,130	£350.61	£324.58
Templepatrick	319	267	£110,431	£413.60	£387.54
2007 TOTAL	5,533	4,252	£1,499,302		
2006 TOTAL	5,581	4,402	£1,479,568		
2005 TOTAL	5,676	4,434	£1,402,174		

Note: The average givings per family for 2007 across the Presbytery was £352.61 compared with £336.11 for 2006. Our own congregation's givings to Specified Sources in 2007 were £2,241 down on 2006 which in turn were some £600 down on 2005 with no allowance for inflation. Based on contributions per family we now stand last of the 20 congregations in the Presbytery as against one from the bottom in 2006. This sad position has to be viewed against the fact that in terms of contributing families we are the third largest congregation in the Presbytery.

UNITED APPEAL - All congregations within the Presbytery met or exceeded their targets for contributions in 2007. New targets have been set for 2008 and that for 1st Ballyeaston is £10,117.00 as against £9,669.31 for 2007.

BALLYCLARE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month in Foundry House, the new Community Concerns Building on the Doagh Road. Meetings commence at 7.30pm. New members and guests are always welcome.

9th September, ***"The Past in Peat. Archaeology and Bogs"*** -

Sinead McCartan from the Ulster Museum speaks on this fascinating topic.

14th October, *Lindy Reid* shows some more of Archie's videos.

11th November, ***"Belfast at War from The Glorious Revolution to The Troubles"*** - A Powerpoint presentation by *Trevor Parkhill* from the Ulster Museum.

9th December, ***Christmas Meeting*** with festive food and entertainment by *Jack McKinney*.

13th January '09, *Wesley Bonar* tells the story of *Carmoney's pioneer aviatrix, Lilian Bland*.



HIS HOUSE ON THE HILL - A HISTORY OF FIRST BALLYEASTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

There are about 150 copies of our church history, written by Jim Wilson, still available out of the 500 odd printed. Most of our recent sales have been to the USA, New Zealand and the UK mainland through the Internet (<http://uk.geocities.com/firstballyeaston/>). If you have not yet got a copy or are looking for a present for someone, especially someone with an association with Ballyeaston, then why not buy a copy (or two) now. Still priced at only £12.99, copies can be obtained through any member of Session or Committee, from the author or from myself. To date the book has realised just over £960 in profit for the Vestibule Fund.

Sam Waugh



BIBLE READINGS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

Reading plan courtesy of the International Bible Reading Association (IBRA).

PROVERBS

The benefits of wisdom

- September 1 Proverbs 1 : 1 - 19
2 Proverbs 1 : 20 - 33
3 Proverbs 2 : 1 - 22
4 Proverbs 3 : 1 - 12
5 Proverbs 3 : 13-20, 4:1-9
6 Proverbs 8 : 1 - 21
7 Proverbs 8 : 22 - 9: 6

A sampler of sayings

- 8 Proverbs 10 : 1 - 17
9 Proverbs 12 : 1 - 28
10 Proverbs 15 : 1 - 17, 33
11 Proverbs 18 : 9 - 19: 1
12 Proverbs 22: 1 - 16
13 Proverbs 24 : 3 - 22
14 Proverbs 31 : 10 - 31

COLOUR IN THE BIBLE

Not all black and white

- 15 Numbers 12 : 1 - 16
16 Matthew 23 : 27 - 28
17 Isaiah 1 : 15 -18
18 Mark 9 :1 - 8
19 Song of Songs 1 : 5 - 6,
5 : 10 - 16
20 Job 30 : 26 - 31
21 Genesis 30 : 25 - 43

Green, purple and red

- 22 Genesis 1 : 30, 9 : 3
23 Psalm 23 : 2
24 Luke 16 : 19 - 21
25 Mark 15 : 16 - 20
26 Genesis 38 : 28
27 Joshua 2 : 18 - 21
28 Revelation 4 : 1 - 11

READINGS IN MATTHEW

People in need

- 29 Matthew 8 : 1 - 17

September 30 Matthew 8 : 23 - 34

- October 1 Matthew 9 : 1 - 8
2 Matthew 9 : 18 - 26
3 Matthew 12 : 22 - 32
4 Matthew 14 : 22 - 33
5 Matthew 15 : 21 - 31

Questions put to Jesus

- 6 Matthew 9 : 9 - 13
7 Matthew 9 : 14 - 17
8 Matthew 12 : 9 - 21
9 Matthew 15 : 1 - 20
10 Matthew 18 : 1 - 9
11 Matthew 19 : 3 - 12
12 Matthew 19 : 16 - 30

SEEING GOD IN CREATION

The ocean of chaos

- 13 Psalm 104 : 1 - 9
14 Genesis 7 : 1 - 12
15 Genesis 8 : 13 - 22
16 Jonah 1 : 1 - 17
17 Psalm 77 : 11 - 20
18 Luke 8 : 22 - 25
19 John 6 : 16 - 21

The tree of life

- 20 Genesis 2 : 4 - 9
21 Psalm 1
22 Luke 6 : 43 - 45
23 Acts 5 : 27 - 32
24 Revelation 22 : 1 - 5
25 Luke 13 : 18 - 19
26 Isaiah 65 : 17 - 25

Dust to dust

- 27 Psalm 90 : 1 - 12
28 Psalm 103 : 1 - 14
29 Psalm 63
30 Jeremiah 14 : 1 - 10
31 Psalm 65

November 1 John 8 : 1 - 11

BIBLE READINGS (Continued)

November 2 Luke 8 : 4 - 15

READINGS IN MATTHEW

Teaching in Jerusalem

- 3 Matthew 23 : 1 - 12
- 4 Matthew 23 : 13 - 22
- 5 Matthew 23 : 23 - 28
- 6 Matthew 23 : 29 - 39
- 7 Matthew 24 : 1 - 14
- 8 Matthew 24 : 15 - 28
- 9 Matthew 24 : 29 - 35

Teaching about the End

- 10 Matthew 24 : 36 - 51
- 11 Matthew 25 : 1 - 13
- 12 Matthew 25 : 14 - 30
- 13 Matthew 25 : 31 - 46
- 14 Matthew 22 : 15 - 22
- 15 Matthew 22 : 34 - 40
- 16 Matthew 22 : 41 - 46

MUSIC IN THE BIBLE

The power of music

- 17 Psalm 150
- 18 Exodus 15 : 1 - 21
- 19 Daniel 3 : 1 - 12
- 20 Ezekiel 26 : 7 - 14
- 21 1 Samuel 10 : 1 - 8
- 22 1 Chronicles 25 : 1 - 7
- 23 2 Kings 3 : 9 - 20

Praise the Lord!

- 24 1 Samuel 16 : 14 - 23
- 25 2 Samuel 6 : 1 - 5
- 26 2 Chronicles 5 : 2 - 14
- 27 2 Chronicles 29 : 20-30
- 28 Ephesians 5 : 15 - 20
- 29 Revelation 5 : 6 - 14
- 30 Psalm 92 : 1 - 4

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS :

READY FOR GOD

Ready to hear

December 1 Isaiah 64 : 1 - 9

December 2 Isaiah 45 : 9 - 17

3 Psalm 80 : 1- 7, 17-19

4 Jeremiah 23 : 1 - 8

5 Psalm 85

6 Jeremiah 30 : 1 - 9

7 Jeremiah 30 : 10 - 17

Promises for the people

- 8 Isaiah 40 : 1 - 11
- 9 Jeremiah 30 : 18 - 24
- 10 Jeremiah 31 : 1 - 6
- 11 Jeremiah 31 : 15 - 20
- 12 Jeremiah 31 : 21 - 30
- 13 Jeremiah 31 : 31 - 34
- 14 Jeremiah 31 : 35 - 40

Ready to respond

- 15 John 1 : 6 - 8 ,19 - 28
- 16 Ezekiel 34 : 11 - 16
- 17 Ezekiel 34 : 17 - 24
- 18 Ezekiel 34 : 25 - 31
- 19 Matthew 21: 33 - 41
- 20 Matthew 21 : 18 - 22
- 21 1 Thessalonians 5 :
16 - 24

Ready to receive the Light

- 22 2 Samuel 7 : 1-11, 16
- 23 1 John 1 : 1 - 4
- 24 1 John 1 : 5 - 10
- 25 John 1 : 1 - 5
- 26 John 1 : 10 - 14
- 27 John 1 : 16 - 18
- 28 Psalm 36 : 5 - 9
- 29 Isaiah 60 : 1 - 7
- 30 1 John 2 : 7 - 11
- 31 Galatians 4 : 4 - 7

Bible Reading Notes for 2009

Order forms should be available by beginning of December. Do place your order in good time for new year.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

In my last report I mentioned that Kirk Session were in the process of studying and discussing the content of a book entitled “ Outgrowing the Ingrown Church” and how we might learn from some of the suggestions made. Rev McDowell compiled a summary of the conclusions reached and suggested how we might progress to achieve our aims. In due course Mr David Millen from Evangelical Ministries was invited to address Kirk Session and give his views on how, as a Kirk Session, we might become more effective leaders and witnesses for Jesus Christ in our congregation.

At the beginning of April several of our young people attended a rally in the Odyssey in Belfast with Franklin Graham the Evangelist and several others taking part. To the delight of Kirk Session some of our young people who attended on that occasion made a personal commitment to accept Jesus Christ into their lives. We congratulate them on the commitment they have made and pray that they may know God’s blessing on their lives in the days and years ahead.

When the Sacrement of the Lord's Supper was observed on the first Sunday in May, we were pleased to welcome to the service six of our young people who were coming for the first time on profession of faith - Miss Rachel Baxter and Mr Simon Baxter, 40 Trenchill Road, Miss Sarah Gardiner, 177 Ballyeaston Road, Miss Megan McAuley, 9 Braepark Road, Miss Emma Witherhead, 52 Glenhead Road and Miss Elizabeth Woodburn, 124 Braepark Road. Our prayer is that they may continue to know and experience the guiding hand of God in their lives and be an encouragement to others to come and acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. At each and every service of Communion an open invitation is extended to all who love the Lord to come and sit at His table obeying His command “Do this in remembrance of me”.

Also in the month of May, Mr David Warwick, a member of Kilbride congregation, came to a morning service and spoke about the work of the Christian Blind Mission. In response to an appeal for its work, a special collection was taken up and a cheque for £500 forwarded to the charity for the benefit of its ongoing work.

As another summer season draws to a close, we look forward with anticipation to a new term of life and witness in our congregation. May all

of us be faithful ambassadors for our Lord as we seek to live out our faith by what we say, what we do and above all following our Lord's command to love one another as He loves us.

Jan Patterson

TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is a summary of contributions to church finances up to the end of July, with the last 2 years' figures for comparison.

	2006	2007	2008	Change
	£	£	£	
Weekly Freewill Offering	33,176	32,038	31,304	- 2%
United Appeal Envelopes	3,066	2,860	3,163	+ 10%
Vestibule Fund Envelopes	12,242	11,530	10,406	- 11%
Total	48,484	46,428	44,873	- 3%

General Revenue Account

As you can see contributions towards Church Funds are still decreasing. The Templepatrick Presbytery Finance Report for 2007 shows that 1st Ballyeaston has the 3rd largest number of contributing families but our average givings per family, £254, is the lowest in the Presbytery and well below the overall average givings per contributing family of £352.61.

In the December 2007 Link Magazine I had pointed out some facts regarding the situation of the church's finances and had asked for your support. This year we have seen oil and electricity bills increase dramatically. It is estimated that, by the end of the year, inflation will be at 5%. **HAVE YOU INCREASED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS BY 5%?** If you contribute £52 a year that is only £2.60 more, if you contribute £100 a year that is £5. Some members of the congregation have, but just as many have cut their contribution. This Account is used to meet the church's day-to-day operating expenses, which are getting higher.



Although there is a slight increase toward the **United Appeal**, it is not even half of the target set by Presbytery, £10,117, an increase of 4.6% on last year. Usually the balance has to be paid from the General Revenue

Account at the end of the year, thus further increasing our expenditure.

Gift Aid, based on the claim for 2007, was £24,495. This has always helped our finances each year. We are always seeking more members of the congregation to take up this scheme. The 28p rate of rebate for every £1 given is set to remain in place for the next year or two. If you would like to sign up to the scheme, talk to Cecil Davis, John Cummings or myself.

The Vestibule Fund.

Hopefully the final cost of the vestibule will be established and settled by the end of the year. We now owe £225,000 of the loan with a further £15,000 plus interest of approx £6,600 to pay in November having made similar payments back in May.

I appeal to all members of the congregation to think about the level of financial support you give to the work of the church and to consider whether you are giving back to God as He has blessed and prospered you.

Joe Bingham

CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer - Ian Patterson has recently retired from the role as Church Treasurer after 44 years in this position. Ian has ensured that our church's finances have been kept in good order during this time. The members of the Committee are extremely thankful to Ian for all his hard work and dedication as Treasurer over the years. I am glad to be able to report that Joe Bingham has agreed to take on the role as Treasurer with John Waugh acting as Assistant Treasurer and we are grateful to them for taking on this responsibility.

Manse - There is still some work on-going at the Manse with some concreting to be completed at the rear of the manse and the outside of the manse to be painted as well. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather over the last couple of months, the painting has not been undertaken yet.

Church - The majority of the remedial work in the vestibule has now been completed and the contractor who is to undertake the external painting of the Manse has painted the inside of the Church as well. We are grateful to the members of the Property Committee for ensuring that this work was carried out correctly.

Malcolm Downey

MISSION IRELAND CALENDAR FOR 2009

The Mission Ireland (Irish Mission) calendar for 2009 has been created in two designs - as a 6.25" x 6" desk/wall calendar and as a 16" x 5" one picture per month appointment calendar. These are now available and can be ordered through our Magazine Agent, **Mrs Orvil Cree**. Priced at £2.50 each, they represent good value for money. Please ensure that your order is placed in good time, well before the New Year, especially if thinking of sending to friends abroad. There is a poster on the noticeboard in the church vestibule giving detail, including the design.



CHURCH CHOIR



Choir practices for Harvest commence in the Church on Thursday 4th September at 8.00pm. New members will be made most welcome.

Margaret Waugh

FOR YOUR DIARY (*Continued*)

NOVEMBER

Sunday,	2nd	11.30a.m.	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
		7.00p.m.	Service of Thanksgiving and Lord's Supper
Wednesday,	5th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	9th	11.30a.m.	Remembrance Day Service
Tuesday,	11th	7.30p.m.	PW Group Mission Box Opening Night
Wednesday,	12th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	16th	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship
Tuesday,	18th	8.00p.m.	Church Committee Meeting, MacConnell Hall
Wednesday,	19th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	23th	11.30a.m.	Annual GB Enrolment Service
Wednesday,	26th	8.00p.m.	Presby. Divine Healing Service, 2nd Randalstown
Sunday,	30th	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship

DECEMBER

Wednesday,	3rd	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Saturday,	6th	2.00p.m.	PW Group Annual Christmas Sale, Church Halls
Sunday,	7th	11.30a.m.	Annual Gift Day Service (No Evening Service)
Tuesday,	9th	7.30p.m.	PW Group Christmas Evening (Dinner)
Wednesday,	10th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	14th	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship

For Your Diary



SEPTEMBER 2008

Mon./Fri.	1st / 5th	6.30p.m.	GB resumes - Registration & uniform sales (<i>see p.6</i>)
Tuesday,	2nd	7.30p.m.	Meeting re. Catering Group, MacConnell Hall
Thursday,	4th	8.00p.m.	Church Choir commences practices for Harvest
Sunday,	7th	10.30a.m.	Sunday School Teachers meet - Patterson Room
		11.30a.m.	Morning Worship
			No Evening Service - see next Sunday
Tuesday,	9th	7.30p.m.	PW Group - opening meeting of session (<i>see p. 14</i>)
Sunday,	14th	10.30a.m.	Start of Sunday Schools & Bible Class (10.45a.m.)
		11.30a.m.	Morning Worship
		7.00p.m.	United Evening Communion with 2nd B/easton
Monday,	15th	6.30/7.30p.m.	BB resumes - Anchor Boys/Company Sect. (<i>see p.16</i>)
Tuesday,	16th	8.00p.m.	Church Committee Meeting, MacConnell Hall
Wednesday,	17th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time starts, MacConnell Hall
		7.45p.m.	Bowling Club opening meeting of season, Lecture Hall
Friday,	19th	7.00p.m.	BB Junior Section resumes (<i>see p.16</i>)
Friday, 19th - Sunday,	21st		Presbytery Weekend with Prof. Drew Gibson (<i>see p.9</i>)
Sunday,	21st	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship
		7.30-9.00p.m.	Youth Fellowship commences, Church Halls
		7.30p.m.	Presbytery Rally in Muckamore Pres. Church
Wednesday,	24th	8.00p.m.	Presbytery Divine Healing Service, Dundrod Church
Sunday,	28th	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship

OCTOBER

Wednesday,	1st	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	5th	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship
Wednesday,	8th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	12th	11.30a.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
		7.00p.m.	Evening Harvest Service
Monday,	13th	7.45p.m.	Harvest Supper with Ballyclare Male Choir in Lecture Hall (<i>tickets available from PW Group Members</i>)
Wednesday,	15th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	19th	11.30a.m.	Morning Worship
Wednesday,	22nd	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall
Sunday,	26th	11.30a.m.	Pre- Communion Service
			(<i>End of British Summer Time - clocks back 1 hour</i>)
Tuesday,	28th	7.45p.m.	Annual PW Link Rally in Dundrod Church
Wednesday,	29th	8.00p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Time, MacConnell Hall