

*Gower Street United Church
Lent - Easter Newsletter 2018*



On Our Cover

On our cover is a picture of the sanctuary during one of the Easter Sunday services in 1929. The Rev. Dr. Wylie C. Clarke is in the pulpit and the Senior Choir, with Organist and Choir Director Elsie Tait, is in the choir loft. Note that this is before the current Casavant Pipe Organ was installed. The choir loft does not have the ‘bump’ where the current organ is located and the pulpit has not yet been extended outward to make way for that ‘bump’.



EDITORS: Bert Riggs & Linda Hogan

Minister: The Rev. Marion Davis
Minister of Pastoral Visitation: The Rev. Florence Sanna
Minister Emerita: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parry

Choir Director: Dr. D. Dunsmore
Band Director: Dr. Edsel Bonnell

Organist: R. Carl Goulding
Office Manager: Linda Hogan

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Lorne LeDrew

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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

The movie *Paddington 2* has been playing in St. John's since before Christmas. While it might be considered a movie for children, I believe there is a child in all of us, so off I went to the theatre. Paddington is a bear who lives with a family in London, England. Paddington dresses and communicates like the humans with whom he lives. He has many adventures and there are still all sorts of humorous scenes at which the audience laughed heartily. As you can probably tell, I really enjoyed the show!



On the way out of the theatre, I fell into conversation with a gentleman who was there with his wife and grandson. I mentioned how lovely it was to be able to attend a movie that was suitable for all ages. And then another thought came to me – there was no swearing in this delightful show – not one word! This is amazing these days. Or am I alone in being offended by bad language? I know it has become part of the language of the day for many but does that make it acceptable? Until very recently, swearing was not heard on the radio. I was amazed to hear an interview with a world famous Canadian/American architect, Frank Gehry, (who happens to be Jewish) when he used language that I had never heard on the air before. Is this the new normal?

I think of my Dad at times such as this. One day, when I was at Dad's place of business, one of his employees swore in front of him. I still remember what he said, in his gentle way: "With all the perfectly good words in the English language, there is no need to use expletives". He wasn't being "holier than thou", just wanting the person to make the best use of the language available to us. No doubt Dad was remembering: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain". (Exodus 20: 3) As Christian and Jewish people, we have it on good authority to be careful in our use of language.

We are in the season of Lent – a time when we have the opportunity to do some self-examination. Lent is a time for searching; searching for ways to become more the people that God would have us be as individuals and as a church. Someone has said it is time for “training, testing and preparing”. Daily devotional time is always a good practice so if you have not been in the habit of scripture and prayer each day, this is a good time to begin. During this season, a study for all local United Churches called *Living the Questions 2018* will take place on Wednesday evenings at Cochrane Street United Church, beginning on February 28. We are all invited and who knows how we will be changed. Whenever we are open to changing our usual patterns, it is a kind of testing. We are actively testing our ability to be faithful in what we have set out to do.

We move through the season of Lent including Holy Week in preparation to welcome the truly awesome season of Easter. The season of Easter with its promise of new life and spring even if it is a Newfoundland spring, is so welcome. We know that the worst of winter is then past and that our preparation for the celebration of the Christ’s resurrection will be complete. May blessings abound in our “training, testing and preparing!”

Marion



JOIN US as we explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Living the Questions is a video based group study that helps us explore those pressing questions of faith. Join us at Cochrane Centre (Bannerman Street Entrance) on February 28, March 7, March 14 & 21 from 7:30 to 9:30. Rev. Miriam Bowlby (Cochrane Street) and Rev. Peter Bartlett (George

Street) will be our group facilitators.

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Hi All,

Well, I trust you are all getting through Winter, which so far has been pretty tame. Let's hope it continues.

As we enter Lent the United Community of Faith Committee (formerly the Downtown Churches Committee) will once again be holding a series of workshops where we come together from a number of churches and discuss issues relevant to our church life here in St. John's. This year we will continue with the video-based series titled *Living the Questions*. This is a group study that helps us explore those pressing questions of faith. Sessions will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. and will be held at the Cochrane Centre next to Cochrane Street United Church (Bannerman Street Entrance). Sessions are being held on February 28, March 07, March 14 and March 21. The Rev. Miriam Bowlby (Cochrane Street) and the Rev. Peter Bartlett (George Street) will be our group facilitators. I encourage you to come along as I guarantee you will find it insightful, interesting and fun!

Another initiative of the United Community of Faith Committee is to have two combined services, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. The first one is scheduled for May 27 at Gower and the second will be at Cowan Heights in October. The services will be held at 7:00 p.m. and the collections will go to a common charity – the first being Bridges to Hope. We hope to have a combined choir and although we are hosting the first service all the effort will be shared. Please mark the date on your calendar now!!

I would also like to mention that the United Community of Faith Committee has agreed to a standard wedding fee to be charged by all our churches. The fee is to be set at \$750 which includes all basic services (i.e., Organist, Caretaker, Minister, Sound, Rehearsal and all related administrative activities). For Gower this may appear to be a fairly significant increase from our current fee of \$475 but this has been the fee for a very long time. The fee is still significantly lower than other non-church venues. Unfortunately, we are not permitted by CRA to offer a preferred rate to Church members.

Last month eight representatives of Gower attended the Asset Mapping workshop hosted by St. James and facilitated by Rev. Peter Bartlett (George Street). We came away with some great ideas and ones that the new Board will look into. Things such as: Coffee in the vestibule at the beginning of service, outside speakers to carry our services and music on to the street, “prettying-up” the front entrance of the church, getting involved in Gay Pride week activities, etc., etc. I’m not saying we are going to do all these (and there were more) but we are going to look at doing some things to make our Church more “attractive” to the local community and beyond. Remember *“if we keep doing what we’re doing, we’re going to keep getting what we’re getting”!* As for the Workshop the 52 people attending agreed that we will use a \$5,000 grant we have received from Conference to hire a person for a specific period of time to inventory and co-ordinate all our initiatives and calendars and to identify activities we can be doing together. Stay tuned! It’s going to be an interesting year!!

With Blessings:
Lorne LeDrew
Board Chair

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Services are at 7:30 p.m.,
except for the Good Friday Service, which will begin at noon.

Monday, March 26	Cochrane Street United Church
Tuesday, March 27	First United Church, Mount Pearl
Wednesday, March 28	Gower Street United Church
Maundy Thursday, March 29	George Street United Church*

Good Friday, March 30
St. James United Church, at 12:00 noon

***The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed at this service.**

UNITED COMMUNITY OF FAITH

As many of you are aware, the Downtown Churches here in the city have been meeting for many years. This committee, for the Downtown Churches, has now been expanded to include all of the United Churches in the city. The new name is UNITED COMMUNITY OF FAITH. The main focus of the committee is to take action on things that in which we share a common interest. In the past, the committee has done many things, including Re-imagining Church, Remit Sessions, and a Fundraiser for Bridges to Hope, as well as increasing the number of combined services in the Winter and Summer months.

A meeting of the expanded committee was held at Cowan Heights United Church on October 04, 2017, with members of the original committee and the Rev. Denine Morgan, Harry Rowe and Frank Fry in attendance. The expanded committee recently held an Asset Mapping Workshop at St. James United Church with 52 individuals attending from all over the city.


We are planning joint evening services. Gower will host the first service in May 2018 and Cowan Heights will host the second service in October 2018. We are considering Common Prayer for all churches. We are also considering a minimum fee for weddings for all churches. We have had discussions with Jerry Dick, Executive Director, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, with regard to heritage related issues that may lie before us.






We would like to hear from you, our congregation of Gower Street United Church. Do you have any ideas or suggestions that we can bring to our next meeting that will improve the operation of the United Churches here in our city? We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much.
Rev. Marion Davis, Gola Roberts,
Angeline Anstey and Lorne LeDrew



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 18 – MAY 13, 2018

February 18	1 st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 50: 1-6 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15	
February 25	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38 or Mark 9: 2-9	Sacrament of Baptism; Gower Remembers
March 04	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20: 1-7 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22	Birthdays & Anniversaries Sunday
March 11	4 th Sunday of Lent	Numbers 21: 4-9 Psalm 107: 1-3; 17-22 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21	Gower Remembers
March 18	5 th Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51: 1-12 or Psalm 119: 9-16 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33	

			 <p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p>
March 25	Palm Sunday	<p>Mark 11: 1-11 or John 12: 12-16 Psalm 118: 1-2; 19-29</p>	<p>Sacrament of Baptism; Gower Remembers</p>
March 25	Passion Sunday	<p>Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16 Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark: 14: 1 – 15:47</p>	
March 29	Maundy Thursday	<p>Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 116: 1-2; 12-19 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17; 31b-35</p>	 <p>Maundy Thursday</p>
March 30	Good Friday	<p>Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10: 16-25 or Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9 John 18: 1 – 19: 42</p>	
April 01	EASTER SUNDAY	<p>Acts 10: 34-43 or Isaiah 25: 6-9 Psalm 118: 1-2; 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16: 1-8</p>	 <p>He is Risen!</p>

April 08	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 4: 32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1: 1 – 2: 2 John 20: 19-31	Birthdays & Anniversaries Sunday; Gower Remembers
April 15	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3: 12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48	
April 22	4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4: 5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10: 11-18	Earth Day; Gower Remembers
April 29	5 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8: 26-40 Psalm 22: 25-31 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8	Sacrament of Baptism
May 06	6 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 10: 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17	Birthdays & Anniversaries; Gower Remembers
May 10	Ascension Day (Thursday)	Acts 1: 1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24: 44-53	

May 13	7 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1: 15-17; 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5: 9-13 John 17: 6-19	Gower Remembers
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FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

The committees listed below are responsible for providing refreshments for fellowship time.

March Men's Club
April Ministry & Personnel Committee
May United Church Women

Ushers for the period March to MAy 2018

March 2018 - Team 8:

Carl Wright (Captain), Les Barbour, Ashley Wright, Jordan Wright, Geoff Wright, Evan Nash, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour.

April 2018 - Team 1:

Doug Peters (Captain), Angeline Anstey, Jim Churchill, Gola Roberts, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour.

May 2018 - Team 2:

Tom Strong (Captain), Bruce Nickerson, Robert Bradley, Judy Strong, Matthew Strong, Matthew Bradley, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour.

Counters for the Sundays FROM March 04 and May 27, 2018

March 06	Karen Butt & JoAnna Bennett
March 13	Bruce Nickerson & Peter Nell
March 20	Carl Wright & Lester Barbour
March 27	Albert Spurrell & Richard Pike
April 03	Diane Hogan & Bert Riggs

April 10	Kenneth Peters & Linda Nickerson
April 17	Lorne LeDrew & Doug Peters
April 24	Jordan Wright & Mark Peters
May 01	Karen Butt & JoAnna Bennett
May 08	Bruce Nickerson & Peter Nell
May 15	Carl Wright & Lester Barbour
May 22	Albert Spurrell & Richard Pike
May 29	Diane Hogan & Bert Riggs



BAPTISMS

Michael Maxwell Brennan	December 24, 2017
Kate Emily Hinwood	December 24, 2017
Julie Kate Harnett	February 25, 2018
Olivia Anne Chaffey	February 25, 2018

BIRTHDAYS

Helen Milley 95 th on March 18	Emma Wells 96 th on April 19
Doris Bursey 91 st on March 21	Emily Butler 100 th on April 19
Robert Hamlyn 96 th on April 13	Marjorie Pottle 95 th on May 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Shirley & Anderson Abbott	61 st on March 30
Diane & Robert Bishop	60 th on March 31
Helen & Alfred Wilson	54 th on April 02
Judi & Verne Somers	51 st on April 26
Shirley & Ralph Moores	54 th on April 28

MARRIAGES

Marshall Bursey & Tara Coady	December 31, 2017
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DEATHS

Minnie (Reynolds) Delaney (91)	December 12, 2017
Shirley Joan (Craniford) Lundrigan (84)	February 07, 2018
Elinor Christine Udell (70)	February 12, 2018





Gower Affirm

In May of 2008, the Board of Gower Street United Church voted in favour of a motion to hold same gender marriages. The motion and vote followed a “Year of Conversation” that included workshops, sermons on relevant biblical texts, as well as anonymous and public forums.

Fast forward to August 2017. Following the presentation by Rev. Dr. John Pentland, which included a discussion on Affirming Ministries, some of us asked the question about the status of Gower Street United Church. To our surprise we learned that while we had completed the year of conversation on marriage equality, there were a few more steps to be undertaken to be formally recognized as an Affirming Ministry by The United Church of Canada (UCC).

What is an Affirming Ministry? Affirming Ministries are congregations, presbyteries, conferences, educational institutions, and other ministries within the United Church that publically declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The UCC provides a very useful document to assist congregations in the Affirming process. It’s called “Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in The United Church of Canada” and can be found online at <http://ause.ca/wp-content/pdf/OpenHearts.pdf>.

Gower Street United Church has already undergone a substantive and continuing discernment process regarding full participation and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. What are our next steps?

Over the next few months, the Gower Affirm Committee (Gail Wideman, Daryl Pullman, Jill Handrigan, Larry Kelly) will work on the following items:

- *a revision of the Vision Statement to reflect our commitment to inclusion and full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities – to be prepared and brought to the congregation*
- *an action plan that outlines our steps toward becoming an Affirming Ministry – to be developed, communicated and implemented over Spring, Summer and early Fall of 2018;*
- *the submission of documentation on completion of the above steps – to be provided to UCC’s Affirming Ministry’s Coordinators (October 2018)*
- *a public celebration of our membership as an Affirming Ministry – to be planned for November 2018*

The Gower Affirm committee will be assisted by an Advisory Group – Ken Peters, Barb Myles, the Rev. Florence Sanna, and Gola Roberts. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Gower Street United Church community in the continuation of this journey honoring the diversity of God’s creation and enabling each of us to bring our whole and authentic selves to our faith community. We invite your input at every stage. – Gail Wideman

WORTH NOTING



Brady Lawrence, a member of Gower Street United Church, was a participant from the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference to the Winter Retreat of Youth Forum for General Council 43. This retreat took place from February 16 to 19 at the Five Oaks Retreat Centre, Paris, Ontario.

Senator David Wells presents Dr. Kim Hong with the Senate of Canada 150th Anniversary Medal.

At the Chinese New Year’s celebration on Saturday, February 17, **Dr. Kim Hong** was awarded a Senate of Canada 150th Anniversary Medal by the Honorable Senator David Wells. These medals are awarded to people who make major contributions to their communities, without seeking the limelight. In his citation, Senator Wells spoke of Dr. Hong’s exemplary contribution to the Chinese Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, to medicine, to church and community. He highlighted his competency and compassion, especially with his students and patients. To quote Senator Wells: “Dr. Kim Hong has done a lot, not just for the Chinese community...but he’s also done amazing things in the medical industry as a radiation oncologist, and as a teacher, and as a mentor, and a person who cares for families in need.”



Dr. Hong served on the Gower Official Board for several years in the 1980s and 1990s and contributed significantly to Gower’s ministry and outreach to the Chinese community in

those early days when socials were held in the Lecture Hall on Sunday afternoons, led by people such as the late Rev. Levi and Marguerite Mehaney and numerous members of the congregation. For a time Gower Street United sponsored a Chinese Minister, funded by the Mission and Service Fund.

Gower Street United Church congratulates Dr. Kim Hong on this prestigious award and we give thanks for Kim and Mely Hong's continued faithful presence and participation among us. We give thanks for the numerous contributions of the Chinese community to all aspects to our province and country; we are a richer society because of this leadership and expertise. We also rejoice that Gower Street United Church continues in their support to the Chinese Association and community.

At the Chinese New Year's celebration, the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy accepted a donation to Gower Street United Church on behalf of the Gower Board and our Minister, the Rev. Marion Davis. This is an annual donation given in appreciation for Gower's ongoing support and services to the Chinese community. - Lorne LeDrew, Chair, Gower Board



The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy accepts a cheque for Gower Street United Church from Alick Tsui of the Chinese Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This and that...

- **The 2017 Annual Report and the Joint Needs Assessment Report are both now available on our website at www.gowerunited.ca.**
- **Want to be on our email list? We can let you know when the latest Newsletter is available online, send you reports on your contributions,**

inform you about special events. Just send us a line at gsuc@nl.rogers.com.

- If you have anything you would like us to include in our newsletter or have any comments, please give us a call, email us, drop us a note...

Men's Club Activities

Tuesday, January 23, 2018: Dinner Meeting with guest speaker Dr. Lincoln Addison, Professor of Anthropology at Memorial University, who spoke about his work with migrant workers and farmers in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Tuesday, February 06, 2018: Members of the Men's Club joined with the members of First United Church Men's Club, Mount Pearl, for food and fellowship.

Tuesday, February 20, 2018: Dinner Meeting with guest speaker Dr. Philip Hiscock, Professor of Folklore (retired) at Memorial University, who spoke about Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lenten traditions and customs in Newfoundland folklore. Eighteen members of the Cochrane Street Men's Club were special guests at this meeting.

Sunday, March 04, 2018: The Men's Club provided soup for the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation in the Lecture Hall.



Saturday, March 24, 2018: The annual Take-out Teas – tickets at \$12.00 each are available from Club members.



**Dr. Lincoln Addison addressing the
January 23 Men's Club Dinner Meeting.**

POETRY CORNER

Lenten Poem

by

Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.

Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.



CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY and HUMAN RIGHTS

Gower Street United Church hosted a panel discussion on 'How should CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY Reflect HUMAN RIGHTS?' on January 26. This forum was organized by the St John's Group for Human Rights in Palestine. Panelists were **Elizabeth May** (environmentalist, social justice advocate, MP, and Leader of the Green Party of Canada), **Patricia Mercer**, (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel - UNJPPi), and **Jennifer Whitfield** (Presbyterian Church), with **Marilyn Porter** as Moderator.

In the course of her talk, Elizabeth May emphasized the importance of the Canadian government's adherence to the rules of International Law both at home and abroad. There was a very informed discussion following the panelists' statements on how well Canada follows through on its stated position on Human Rights. Ms. May emphasized the importance of constant pressure from society to ensure our Government lives up to its obligations so that the rights of all are protected.



Elizabeth May addresses the gathering.



Patricia Mercer addresses the gathering.



Bridges to Hope Inc.
39 Cookstown Road
St. John's, NL A1C 4G7

709-722-9225
info@bridgestohope.ca
www.bridgestohope.ca

Charitable Registration
#859148009RR001

January 2018

Report to our Partner Churches for 2017

Bridges To Hope is a unique partnership of Presbyterian and United Churches operating a food pantry and other programs. Please visit our website, <http://www.bridgestohope.ca> and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com> to become more familiar with our services.

2017 was an important year for us as we made some significant changes in our operations. We also experienced continued demand of our services: daily food hampers increased by 6%; Christmas hampers increased by 8%; Bags To School also increased.

Vision

A community where each person has access to sufficient and wholesome food

Mission

Inspired by values of dignity, respect and hospitality, Bridges to Hope supports people in need through direct food assistance, instructional cooking programs, and food security advocacy in metropolitan St. John's. Fundraising, food donation, volunteer participation, and a healthy workplace are essential elements in sustaining these activities. In association with the United and Presbyterian churches, Bridges to Hope is a non-profit society committed to accountable stewardship, good governance, open communication, and justice in all our relations.

Staff

Following the departure of our Executive Director in May the operations continued with the three continuing staff. This has required acceptance of changing roles and responsibilities. This

adjustment is ongoing and the staff have responded well. We have also introduced a participatory medical benefits program.

Food Donations

Our food donations come from several sources: our church partners; corporate and school food drives; Community Food Sharing Association; purchases; baking on site. In 2017 we have improved our management of the flow of product from these various sources resulting in more efficient distribution at lower cost.

Marketing

We have launched an aggressive initiative to raise our profile and community awareness through use of social media, primarily Facebook. We invite everyone in your congregations to become a Friend on Facebook. And spread the word to all your regular friends! Please. We have already seen the tangible results of this profile in the community through increased traffic on Facebook, especially when people volunteer to push the Donate button which we conveniently provide on our website, using Canada Helps.

Finances

We depend on voluntary donations. In 2017, donations from our church partners increased almost 29% to \$18,560. This is our dependable core support and very much appreciated. Such an increase in support is simply wonderful! But it still represents less than 9% of our total revenue. We put a lot of attention and energy into fundraising initiatives. In September we held a fundraising event, which though modest in size, was quite successful. We plan to have a larger similar event in 2018. We are also seeking to encourage regular donations through our website. Those people who volunteer to become monthly donors are our Ambassadors. Already, in the last four months of 2017, our Ambassadors more than doubled and their monthly donations increased almost 50%. We believe this has much upside potential. There are many, many individuals and organizations who voluntarily choose to support us and what we do. We are humbled by your confidence and trust, and seek to be worthy.

New Pantry Facility

We continue to have dreams of a new pantry facility to cope with increases in clients, food storage, and hamper preparation, as well as necessary updating and improvements for the safety, security and conditions for our clients, volunteers and staff. We hope to fulfill this dream in 2018. More later.

Thank You

Once again, we extend a sincere THANK YOU to you all for your continued support. We invite you to attend our annual meeting later this spring.

Roger Angel

Chair

On behalf of the Board, staff and our many volunteers



THE ALSALAMA FAMILY - AN UPDATE

Hadwan and Hanan Alsalama with their two children, Samir and Ayman, are settling in to life in Canada. It has been a long and challenging journey as they have been learning another language and way of life. Thank you to VOCM Cares and the members of our congregation for providing the necessities to make this program work.

In February, two years ago, we were all working feverishly to find and furnish an apartment in a two-week period. We managed it with a lot of help from many people. However, disappointedly, the Alsalama family did not arrive until December! We greeted them at the airport in the wee hours of the morning as they arrived with one child and another obviously on the way. Our congregation welcomed them at the church on a number of occasions and it has been lovely to watch them settle in and grow as a family.

Hadwan continues to attend language school and is grateful for any opportunity to do odd jobs. Hanan goes to the play group 'Mommy and Me' with the two children, once a week. At this point in time, both Hadwan and Hanan would appreciate conversation partners to help them practice their English. If you have any free time please consider helping out. Gower has completed its obligation as it relates to the Refugee Sponsorship Program but continues to be a source of help when needed. Thank you for all your support in helping the Alsalamas settle in to their new lives in Canada.



Hadwan Alsalama with his children, Ayman (l.) and Samir at Gower Street United Church.

FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES



TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: How old is your father?

KID: He is 6 years old.

TEACHER: What? How is this possible?

KID: He became a father only when I was born.

LOGIC!! Children Are Quick and Always Speak Their Minds

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy from him?

CLYDE : No sir, it's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

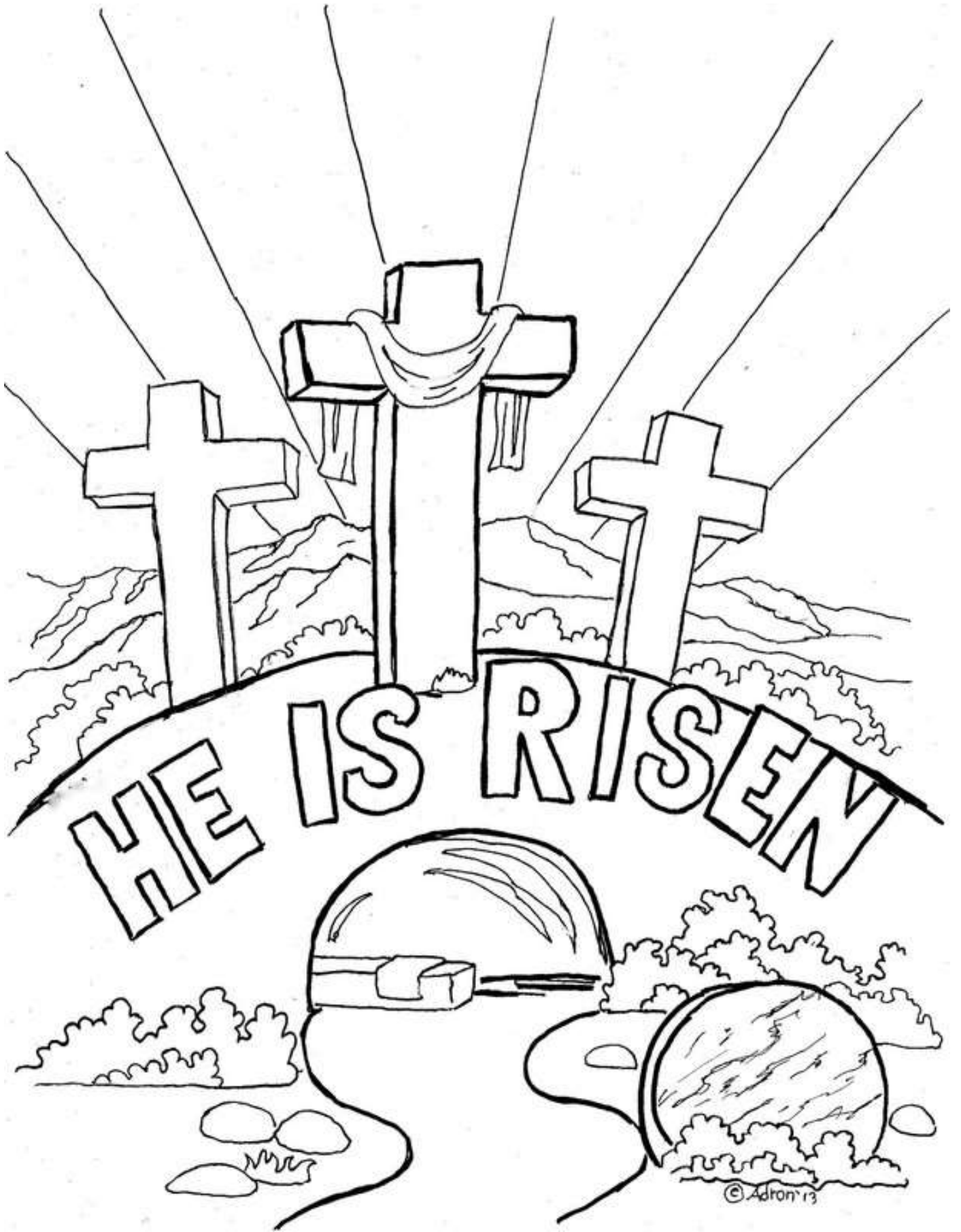
HAROLD: A teacher.

Easter Word Search

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

ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB

MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION
 ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB



PAR

For Your Information and Thoughtful Consideration

On behalf of Gower Street United Church, the Stewardship Committee extends a sincere thank you to all who contribute regularly through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). Your consistent offerings help ensure that Gower continues to meet its ongoing commitment and services to our Gower family and to our greater United Church family.

PAR givers confirm the convenience of having their regular church offerings taken care of. Once PAR is set up to make monthly donations from your bank account, you avoid the hassle of trying to find money each Sunday and then decide how much that offering will be. However, PAR also allows you to make special offerings for events such as Thanksgiving, Advent and others by providing special envelopes for these occasions. Any time you'd like to add more to your offerings you can do so with the envelopes provided. Plus, for those who want to contribute to the offertory at Sunday Service, you can put your PAR Card in the collection plate indicating your offering has already been given.

PAR offerings are managed through the church office and are completely confidential while being readily accessible for any changes or information you might need.

If you aren't already on PAR, the annual distribution of envelopes is an opportunity for you to consider it. Your annual contribution envelopes are ready to be picked up soon. There will be a package for current contributors and for those who decide to join PAR this year. Many of us use direct deposit in our personal lives...why not consider it for your church family this year.

PAR information is readily available at the church office or by contacting any member of the Stewardship Committee.

