



PULSE

Volume 58 Number 2

Autumn 2018

McQuiston

Jesus Centred - People Focused

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Recently as a family we have discovered 'Geocaching'. What is that I hear you ask? Well it is a modern take on a timeless classic! Armed with your mobile phone, you follow GPS coordinates and clues to find a hidden box, filled with trinkets and a log book to sign that you have found it!



Put simply, it is a treasure hunt! I am still not sure who enjoys it the most, the boys, or us!

As we come to the end of our summer preaching series on Proverbs, it occurred to me that we have also been seeking treasure, from the Words of Wisdom in Proverbs.



We have a tendency to put a lot of time and effort into storing up or seeking treasure. We might seek to get a better job... live in a bigger house... drive a nicer car! Or perhaps we treasure our relationships with our friends or our families. Perhaps we place our treasure in our reputation or our status?

Paul addresses the Philippian Church regarding where he finds his real treasure!

In Philippians chapter 3 he calls the Church to "Rejoice in the Lord!" Paul was a man who had reason to boast! He had accomplished much and had a strong reputation; yet he said it all paled in comparison to his real treasure!



He says, *"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith."* (Philippians 3:8-9)

Jesus was his true treasure! His joy was, not in his own righteousness, but that of Jesus!

I wonder where you seek and store your treasure?



If you are a 'Geocacher' yourself or would like to know more please let me know.

I pray, that as we begin a new Church year in McQuiston you may seek and find Jesus as your ultimate treasure and that you, like Paul, may gain Christ and be found in Him!



Alan Marsh

HARVEST SUNDAY

Harvest Sunday is 14 October. We would appreciate donations of fruit, vegetables and non-perishable foods (i.e. tins of rice, soup, fruit, spam, vegetables etc) to decorate the church.



Alternatively if you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of fruit, vegetables and flowers this would be much appreciated.

Please speak with either Joan Gardner or Karen Beggs.



HARVEST GIFT ENVELOPES

It is hard to believe that summer is quickly drawing to a close and autumn is almost upon us. With autumn comes the Harvest and at this time of year we remember God's promise to us, *"While the Earth remains, seedtime and Harvest will not cease"*.



Let us take time to count the many blessings we have had during the year, the many things we enjoy and are eternally grateful for, and remember how these things are our "Harvest" for which we truly need to say, "Thanks Father, for your bountiful Harvest".

With this edition of Pulse you will receive a Harvest Gift Envelope which should be returned on Sunday, 14 October.

Take a few moments to consider what God has done for you in 2018. Can we say our Harvest "Thanks" in a tangible way remembering that God's Son gave His "ALL" for you?



ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Senior Members Fellowship

After what feels like months of sunshine (and just a few showers), won't it be nice to get back to some kind of a routine? If you're in need of something that makes you feel good and gives you something to look forward to every week, then you'll be relieved to know the Senior Members' Fellowship is back on Tuesday 11 September.



Senior - is whatever age you are now!

Members - you don't have to be a member of McQuiston to come along.

Fellowship - is about spending time with friends who have something in common, in our case a love for Jesus.

The SMF is for men and women who enjoy a bit of company, a cup of tea and a 'wee something' to eat. Every week there's a short devotional time then a speaker.



Over the next couple of months we'll hear about the RNLI Search and Rescue, Christians Against Poverty, how to de-clutter and a story or two along from friends who've been travelling. We'll even throw in some armchair keep-fit and a bit of a sing-song. There's something for everyone!

*please
join us*

New friends are welcome every week, just make your way to the Moneyrea Street entrance on Tuesdays at 2pm and come on in – we are a friendly group!

Leta Halliday

Lunch Club

We have finished another successful year and will recommence on Monday 10 September at 12 noon. The cost of our 3 course hot meal is just the cost of a cup of coffee - £2.50 If you are a Senior Citizen why not come and join our happy group (men and ladies) but first you need to call the Church Office 90458155 and give your name and contact number.



We are delighted to say that we have once again retained our 5 star hygiene award from the Food Standards Agency.

Sheila McAllister

Transformers

As we enter our 10th year of this children's ministry, we have much to give thanks to God for. Originally started as two groups over the years we thought it a better idea for leaders and children to come together and Transformers was born!



Over the years we have had many children attend along with younger siblings as they became the age to join. Children starting with us in 2008 are now 18 or 19 years old! We do from time to time see some of our boys and girls that have now moved on. We give God thanks for each and every young person who has come through our doors, for the message they heard each week, what He has done in their lives and how He loves them. We had around 30 children on our roll in 2017/18 who wanted to hear about God.

It has been a blessing seeing the children growing in confidence, asking questions about God and developing relationships with their parents. Thank you for your prayers over the years, we have certainly felt the power of prayer and greatly appreciate them.



As we start this new session we hope to see new and returning children eager to hear about Jesus. As leaders we are aware that we serve in this way not for ourselves but for the Glory of God, a God that loves us and wants us to love Him too. We start again on 13 September from 6.45 - 7.45pm each Thursday for children in P1 - P7. All children will be made very welcome.

Heather Sergeant

McQuiston Storehouse

The Storehouse continues to give practical support to those in our community who find themselves in need. We are able to support John McCandless, outreach worker in Mountpottinger Presbyterian, the CAP Centre based in Willowfield Parish Church and Thompson House, the hostel operated by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.



Tesco NI are now offering quality, fresh and in-date food to local community centres and foodbanks free of charge. We are in the process of applying for this offer which will further help those who are in need.



Thanks to everyone who continues to support this important outreach, either by donating food or finance or helping to assemble the food boxes.

Alan Bousfield

Boys' Brigade

Our spring session ended with our parents' evening on Friday 23 March when we had a fantastic turn out of parents and friends of the Company. Our guests were treated to a night of fun and fellowship as each section gave a taster of what happens every Friday night during Boys' Brigade. The turnout was the best we have had in recent years and was very encouraging to all of the officers and boys. Thanks to all who came along.



We said goodbye to the Rev. Robert Beggs as a BB officer. Thanks must go to him for the vision and effort that went into starting our BB up again after the years it was dormant and for the work that has gone into building the company up over the last number of years. We will miss Robert's involvement every Friday night, but rejoice in the fact that he remains our Chaplain and will continue to pray and support the work of the BB in McQuiston.

After a few weeks of rest our summer session began, running through April and into May. This is usually the time we can relax and have a more informal programme with the boys. Time around God's word was equally important, but we were able to make full use of our sports and other equipment to provide a full evening of fitness, fun and frolics. These are the times when we can really get to know the boys and understand what is going on in their lives. Please pray for the many conversations the officers have had with the boys, as we seek to advance God's kingdom.



The Company Section finished their session with outings to Jack Straws game café, Pirates Golf and McDonalds and a movie night. Please pray for numbers in the Company Section, that God may send more of the 11-15 age group. Working with teenagers can be incredibly challenging as well as immensely rewarding and this work needs much prayer.

We concluded the year together as a Company with a Saturday outing to Carnfunnock Country Park just outside Larne. It was great to join the Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section together as we toured the maze in the shape of Northern Ireland, ate lunch together, played games, rode the miniature railway, played crazy golf and football, bounced on inflatable castles and played in the amazing park at Carnfunnock. It was a great way to conclude the session.





BB will recommence on Friday 21 September at 6.30pm for the Anchors and Juniors and at 8.00pm for our Company Section. We are looking for adult volunteers to help on Friday nights from this September within all three sections. If you feel you can help in any way please speak to me. New recruits from the age of 4 to 15 are always welcome. If you have any children/grand-children or know of any boys who would enjoy the fun, please pass on the relevant details.

Thanks again to all the officers, parents and the members of the congregation for all your support, enthusiasm and encouragement for the 19th. Please continue to pray for the boys, their parents and officers, as we seek to advance Christ's kingdom among the boys.

Jim Ross
Captain

McQuiston Toddlers



McQuiston Toddlers will re-commence on Tuesday 11 September in the Ballantine Hall. A warm welcome is extended to all parents, grandparents or child-minders within the congregation and from the local area. Please do come along and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. You will be assured of a warm, friendly welcome.

Roberta Graham

Ladies Fellowship

The ladies will recommence their new season by hosting a Vintage Fashion Show in conjunction with War on Want on Friday 14 September (see page 13 for further details). Proceeds will go to Missions at Home and Overseas supported by Presbyterian Women and War on Want. We would welcome your support at this event.



Our monthly meetings begin on Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm when Jean Johnston will be our guest speaker. Jean was to be with us last January but due to unfavourable weather our meeting was cancelled. At our October meeting we will be hearing about the work of the NI Assistance Dogs and in November a Christmas Craft evening. A warm welcome is extended to all ladies in the congregation.



Joan Gardner

SUCH LOVE

In conversation recently with a friend, she told me about a family friend, respected and loved by his family, friends and the wider community.

One of the gentleman's well-known characteristics was his affinity with the animal world with whom he had



a natural bond and a special rapport. Loving and caring for them in the countryside where he lived was a gift he had.

The man had two very 'special friends', who lived on the River Maine, which ran alongside the bottom of his garden. They were a



pair of swans, who were his firm friends over several years.

They visited regularly, sharing in the generosity of his time, protection, hospitality, companionship and care.

When the swans produced a new family of cygnets, this always happened by the riverside close to the man's family home.



The lives of both were mutually enhanced in an amazing way by the relationship between them.

There was no doubt that in line with God's instruction that mankind care for and take charge of the living creatures that He had designed, this gentleman's

Caring for God's Creation



love for God's creation was exemplary.

A great loss was felt by everyone in the community when earlier this year God called the man to his Eternal home. It was noted in the period of mourning that his 'special friends' remained on the River Maine close to the family residence.

On the day of the funeral a short service was held first in the family home. There was one event that was particularly noted by those who attended the service.

As the assembled mourners looked out of the picture window in the home, they were amazed to see at the bottom of the garden (seemingly motionless on the water) the two swans remaining with heads bowed throughout the service.

Such devotion, respect and honour between those whom God had created! This was the response of mutual 'love' shared, and was a testimony to the gentleman.

The standard that God requires of each of us is exemplified in the story above, not only in how we respect and care for this beautiful earth and all in it, but particularly in the care, respect and devotion we should have for one another.



It is easy in the busyness and demands of life to concentrate mainly on the survival and needs of 'oneself' to the exclusion of meaningful relationships with others around us. Can it be said of us, as was in the case of the man and his beloved swans – 'See how he loved'?

The greatest love we will ever know is that in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. As our Creator and in considering the depth of His love and provision for us in the sacrifice of His son, Jesus, on the cross, how can we not humbly surrender our lives to His authority and love?



Jesus set out for us clearly the way to respond to this immense love that surrounds us. In the care, respect and service of others (without exception) we honour and please our Saviour.

As a new Church year begins, it is worth again considering the health of our relationship with our very special friend, Jesus. If we daily walk, talk and grow our lives together with Him, the depth of our love and commitment will grow and we will be enabled to develop the skills God has individually gifted to us to use for Him.

In finding true fulfilment in living in close relationship with our Lord, our lives will reflect His love, compassion and care in the contacts and relationships we have day by day.



Let us walk closely with Jesus, growing and maturing into the 'friend' He would have us be. In this way we will fulfil our purpose in life and bring honour to our Heavenly Father.

Psalm 103 tells us: *'Everything the Lord has made should praise Him in the places He rules. My whole being, praise the Lord'!*

Anna Johnston

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Property Report

During the past 3 months a number of planned works have been completed. These include new guttering installed round the church, acoustic panels installed in the Ballantine Hall and new spot lighting should be completed by the end of August. The sound system in the D.D. Boyle room has also been updated and the driveway at the manse has been completely resurfaced as it was in a poor state.



Alan Bousfield

Defibrillator

The church has purchased a defibrillator which will shortly be installed outside the Ballantine Hall. If you are interested in having training on how to use the defibrillator and basic first aid please contact Linda Wray 02890 796933. The training will be held in September.

Linda Wray

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

I am sure by now you will have received lots of communications from numerous companies/organisations advising you of the new GDPR which came into law back in May 2018.



As a congregation we hold personal information on our church members. When your District Elder visits with this magazine he/she will have a data collection sheet with the personal information we hold on you. We would be most grateful if you would take a few moments to check that this information is correct and agree to the church holding that information in a secure setting.

John Shivers
Clerk of Session

Ordination of new Elders

A Commission of the Presbytery of East Belfast will conduct the service of Ordination for our 3 new Elders, Mrs Hilary Hawthorne, Mr James Ross and Mrs Heather Sergeant on Sunday, 4 November at 7pm. Please put this important date in your diary and make every effort to attend this special service.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project.

Last year over 1.2 million shoeboxes packed full of gifts and goodies were wrapped, packed and sent to disadvantaged children from the UK alone. But it all boils down to one gift, from one individual to another. So this Christmas share the power of a simple gift of spreading love, joy, hope and smiles.

Thanks to a huge army of volunteers who give their time to help make this Christmas Miracle come to life, they deliver gifts by hand to children in need living in Africa, Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

McQuiston has been involved in this project for 16 years and this year we need your help to make a difference to children across the world spreading the love of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard His message.

If you haven't helped before, it is easy to get involved and a lot of fun!



1. Take a shoebox (available from mid September) and transform it into a gift of love.
2. Wrap shoebox and lid separately
3. Fill shoebox with gifts
4. Enclose a gift of £5.00 (*cheque – payable to Samaritan's Purse*) to cover costs). Envelopes are provided in the vestibule
5. Attach the appropriate boy/girl sticker on the outside of the lid, ticking the correct age category.



Please note boxes are not distributed to babies or adults.

All shoeboxes should be brought to church on or before the morning service of **Sunday 28 October**.

Please help us by getting involved this year with your family, your friends and your neighbours. Why not encourage your workplace or school to help also? A DVD presentation and additional leaflets are available which you can use to promote the project.

Should you be unable to make a shoebox but would like to make a contribution, please speak to Roberta Graham so that your donation can be transformed into a shoebox in time for dispatch to the children.



HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB



Our Holiday Bible Club this year saw the church halls transformed into a camping wonderland with a forest included (Christmas trees come in handy all year round).

It was a week filled with so much fun and laughter. We sang and danced, made lots of different crafts, listened to stories and had great conversations in our groups. The week focused on the disciple Peter and the amazing difference Jesus made in his life.

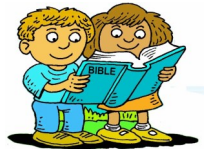
We learnt we are ACCEPTED, PROTECTED, SAVED, FORGIVEN and LIVING for Jesus.



By the end of the week each of our campers had heard stories and knew they were known and loved by Jesus. They didn't have to be a super hero to be Jesus' friend, they could be 4 or 94 and Jesus loves them and wants to be a part of their lives.

The week was rounded off with a Son Rock Kids Camp service on the Sunday morning followed by a BBQ for all the campers and their families as well as the congregation. A wonderful morning getting to celebrate together as a huge church family.

God has been so good throughout all of this, from the planning, leaders volunteering, financial contributions, juice and biscuit contributions, prayer support, BBQ preparations and so much more. There has been total provision in every aspect of this Holiday Bible Club.



We are thankful for a faithful Father God who looks after His children and we are thankful for all the people who were involved in the many, many different ways over the week. We couldn't have done it without you!



Please keep praying for the children and their families, giving thanks for our God who works in the most amazing and perfect ways.

Kerry & Paula

MUSIC @ McQUISTON 'ON THE BOX'

Saturday 20 October
@ 7.30pm



Our capacity this year is restricted to 350 and therefore it is important that you secure your ticket early.

Further details will follow shortly in the weekly Bulletin.



SPECIAL SERVICES



7 October @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

14 October @ 11am & 7pm

Harvest services

4 November @ 7pm

Ordination of new Elders

11 November @ 10.55am

Remembrance Day service

25 November @ 11am

BB Enrolment



McQuiston Ladies Fellowship
in conjunction with War on Want are holding a

VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

Friday 14th September at 7.30pm
in the Ballantine Hall

Tickets £10 including supper

Proceeds to Missions at Home and Overseas
Numbers limited so get your ticket early



Email churchoffice@mcquistonpc.org
or speak with Joan Gardner

FLOWERS

Many thanks to all members of
our congregation who
contribute to the church flowers.

April

Margery Beggs
Anna Corbett
Sadie Ferguson
Eileen Kelso



May

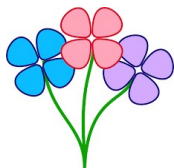
Kay Bousfield
Sheila McAllister
Sandra Morrison
Annette Wasson
Joan Wootton
Linda Wray

June

David Graham
Sandra McIlwrath
Pat Wray

July

Ann Anderson
Dorothy Burrows
Agnes Crowe
Jean Ewing
Sadie Ferguson
Emily McCandless
John Sutton



BLESSING

***“And He took the
children in His arms,
put His hands on them
and blessed them ”***

1 July

Thomas
infant son of
Craig Wilkinson &
Lynn Johnston
51 Tullyard Way

MARRIAGE

18 July

Michael Alexander Edgar
14 Clendinning Drive
Portadown
to
Gillian Beggs
52 King's Road

AT REST

***"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"***

18 March

Mrs Joan O'Brien
23 Donovan Fold

12 June

Mrs Evelyn Poots
18 Canton Court

25 June

Mr Herbie Crowe
Holywood Nursing Home

30 June

Mrs Margaret Cooke
7 Greer House

20 July

Mr Robert (Bobby) Killops
52 Ardenwhor Street

29 July

Mrs Alice Maginnis
63 Springhill Road, Bangor

VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

***"Be not forgetful
to entertain strangers"***

September

Pat Wray, Ken Wray,
Norman Maynes, Glenn Wasson
Convenor: Annette Wasson

October

Roberta Graham, Irene Smyth,
Alan Bousfield, Kay Bousfield
Convenor: Tommy Kane

November

Avril McColl, Jean Grierson,
Lina Graham, Annette Wasson
Convenor: Ken Galbraith

December

Rene Montgomery,
Christine Kelly, David Graham
Convenor: Tim Graham



***Come ye thankful
People come...***

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