

Spring 2009

WEST WORDS



**EAST KILBRIDE
WEST KIRK**

**Communion
Sunday 1st March 2009
11.00 a.m.**

Pastoral Letter - January 2009

First of all let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Most of us have come out of the Christmas frenzy and are thinking about how to deal with realities of life in this New Year.

As we listen, watch and read about the global financial turmoil we realize that we live in a time of almost unprecedented change, fear and stress: Big market chains are going out of business and many small retailer are shutting their doors; and no one knows what the future will be.

Our society has seen many good years in terms of financial growth and, in general enjoyed life with little to think about the future. But now the future has been called into question, one of the most important things for us all is how to respond to it as individuals and as a church.

“This is no time to panic, or to bury [our] head in the sand and think the world will beat a path to [our] church’s door if [we] just leave in place everything that happens to suit us. Above all, it is a recognition that we can’t just go on as we are.”

Sometimes God causes this and there are many Biblical examples when prophets called people’s future into question, people responded by changing their lives and looking forward in hope. So must we.

One way to do this is to have mission action plan or vision, not just as a bland or boring statement, but as a constant reminder of all the things God is already doing in our church (i.e Learning together group) and parish and some of the things we would love to see him do in the future (i.e. family service, more dynamic evening service, prayer breakfast and forming mission partnership outside our congregation etc). Here is the vision that I have suggested to our Session and our church to adopt.

- Our vision is to be a caring community where people feel comfortable and valued.
- Our aim is to mobilize, encourage, challenge and equip people to live a practical Christian life and we seek to accomplish this through the dynamic and relevant message of the Word of God.
- We strive to see the Kingdom of Christ established both locally and internationally.

Let us take this vision as a map to go where we want to go as a church in the years ahead. *“Just as a good map will point out the wild places, the woods and urban gardens and unexpected beauty spots, the countless small but precious features that make [a] place uniquely special, [so a vision and its execution] will tell stories of how this service or activity has blessed those outside, how this family’s or person’s life has been changed after an experience of suffering, how [our congregation] is trying both to connect with the culture and to challenge the aspirations of its local community.”*

The desire for Growth coupled with practical strategy *“is about kingdom as well as church, about Christ like service to the community and prophetic witness as well as numerical growth.”*

So let us not be discouraged by the difficult times ahead but focus on our mission as Church and learn from Paul who says, *“... for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”* (Phil. 4:11-13)

Blessings,
Mahboob Masih

How We Can All Enjoy a Happy New Year

*(Extract from Scotsman Article 2/01/08 by Rt Rev David Lunan
Moderator of the General Assembly)*

What will 2009 bring? What will make us happy? One of the rights in The American Constitution embodies the pursuit of happiness. Often the aim of happiness translates into the pursuit of pleasure. Happiness is surely a by product of doing something else which gives satisfaction, helps others, creating a sense of personal achievement and self worth .

Happiness is something to do with using our gifts, knowing ourselves well enough to identify them and enjoy using them especially when these particular gifts benefit others as well as us.

Fame and wealth does not necessarily make people happy. There can be an emptiness associated with these states. Folk who are perceived to be famous often are not happy as they may constantly seek affirmation from their public that they are still famous and have not left the spotlight of attention. Similarly, those who say win a vast amount on the lottery. The money can change peoples lives and not always for the better. It often depends on the individual's use of the money .Is it used to benefit others as well as themselves? That can make a difference.

More discussion is required on the values that motivate us and shape how we live, and bring happiness. Money and banks used to be reliable not any more as we all now know. The banks cannot be blamed 100%. We went along with the idea that ever increasing wealth and material benefits were our divine right, and that they led to happiness. The credit crunch should enable us to seriously rethink our view of money as a means and not an end in itself. To half of the world money is an almost meaningless concept. A selfish society will be no more be happy than will a selfish person. There is an opportunity now for the finance system to be regulated in a more straightforward and transparent way. It has to be run in a fair manner with solid ethical foundations for savers and for those making loans and paying loans. It has to be realised by all concerned that there is a limited money supply which must be used without favouritism.

When Prime Minister Harold MacMillan was asked what the hardest part of his job was he replied: “Events, dear boy. “. While much of life is what we make of it, much of it is about how we deal with it. Our response depends on our character, which we should all be concerned about, in our church, in our families and in our nation. Will I react positively or negatively, with a short term or long term solution, with what serves my interest, or the good of everyone, by avoiding or facing up to difficulties, by taking responsibly or blaming others, with suspicion or the willingness to adapt, with cheerfulness or fear. One of the clear messages of Christmas is “Do not be afraid”: God does not want us to live out of fear but with trust and love.

In Scotland, 2009 has been designated the Year of the Homecoming: celebrating the 250 years since the birth of Robert Burns. He defined pleasures. They “*are like poppies spread, You seize the Flower, its bloom is shed, Or like the snow flake on the river, A moment white then gone forever.*” Happiness is different. There is nothing quite as enchanting as a happy homecoming. We all long to return to a place of happiness, which we find in giving ourselves to others, and in sharing our lives with them. We are at our happiest when we make other people happy. We all want to leave the world a slightly better place than when we found it. It’s the way that we are made. It’s that combination of a holy restlessness for a fairer world, along with a divine contentment in what we have, that will make for us all a happier 2009.

Deaths

Since November 2008	Mrs J. McKellar Mrs Betty Dickson Mr Robert Watt Mr Tommy Thomson Mrs Joan Kyle Mrs Mattie Hetherington
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Situations Vacant!!



Are you able to help out with any of the following?

- Could you stand at the door and greet members of the Congregation on a Sunday morning? Add your name to a duty team rota.
- The Sunday School needs more leaders especially to work with the older children
- Could you give one night each week to help out with our Youth Organisations? The Brownies particularly need more leaders.
- There will be tea and coffee served every Sunday after the morning service. Can you help out by adding your name to the rota?

These are only a small number of the tasks that are carried out Sunday by Sunday. If you would like to help out with any of these or anything else let any member of the duty team know or give your name to Laura Fleming.

CHURCH A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 2nd March at 7.30 p.m. Please come along to support our Office Bearers. Tea and coffee will be served.

HALLS FUND

Good news! The Gift Aid claim for the period ended 31st December 2008 was lodged with the Inland Revenue at the beginning of January. Once this is received, I shall have sufficient funds to repay the interest free loans and transfer a small surplus to the Church General Fund.

It has been a long road. We now have beautiful halls, albeit with some sound problems to be sorted out, but all due to the tremendous efforts of many folks and the strong support of the congregation as a whole. It is an achievement of which we should be justly proud.

Jean Beazley

CRAFT AND HOBBIES GROUP

The Craft and Hobbies Group wish to thank the Guides and the Girls' Brigade for helping us by putting up the tables for our Wednesday class and putting them away after the class.

We had a lovely Christmas lunch at the Torrance Hotel, helped by our grant from S.L.C.

There are some places available if any ladies would like to join us on Wednesday afternoons.

Isabelle Grant

THE GUILD

Our Christmas dinner evening was a great success, a delicious meal followed by The Darvel Ceilidh Band.....so we were able to dance away some of the calories. Our special guests were Silke and Georgie (and of course Santa!) and it was good to see them enjoy the fellowship.

January started with an insight into the work of the Kilbryde Hospice drop-in centre. Next, a talk by Ian Thomson on his police duties as a V. I. P. escort, driving the Royals and visiting heads of state. Our final January activity was a most enjoyable Scottish Night led by David McAllister.

Our syllabus is varied with something for everyone and we extend a warm welcome to all. Don't be afraid that you'll be left on your own. When our "Hello Girls", Nancy and Vena, see you they will make sure you have a friendly face to sit beside. So have a look at the programme and come along and give the Guild a try!

Dates for your diary:

February	23 rd	Melody Box	Songs and Poems
March	9 th	Yorkhill Children's Foundation	
	23 rd	Fashion show of Wedding Dresses	through the ages 1850 - present day
April	6 th	National Trust	Isobel Dunlop

The Committee

E. K. CHURCHES HUMANITARIAN AID

This year Blythswood Care sent off 124 000 filled shoe boxes. Of these, 883 were sent from East Kilbride (87 from the West Kirk). To cover transport costs, our group also sent £1928.80 (£167 from the West Kirk). Many thanks to all who participated by giving goods and/or money.

Since the shoe box appeal started in 1993, 1 114 000 boxes have been delivered by Blythswood to people in need. Over a million tokens of love! This was only achieved through the dedication of all the people around the UK who take the time to fill and check the boxes. Our EK Churches group is proud, with your help, to be a small part of this venture.

At our last meeting, we distributed our remaining funds thus:

EK Shop Mobility £200

Tommy at Omega £250

Motor Neurone Disease Association £500 (This is a relatively rare disease which has now affected our group twice in two years.)

This leaves £50 in the bank balance.

I'll keep you posted with the dates of future events - hopefully another Fiddlers Rally and a Quiz Night.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Edith Glendinning

TRAIDCRAFT

Fairtrade Fortnight is 23rd February - 7th March. As part of this, we will be holding our joint Coffee Morning with the Parish Church and EK Fairtrade Group on the 28th of February. Hopefully this will be as successful as in previous years!

The range of products available has grown so much that I can hardly keep up. The quality of products on sale has also improved. It is well worth picking up a catalogue and reading it at home or, better still, while you enjoy your cup of tea after Church.

What I enjoy most about being a Tradecraft trader is being part of a movement which promotes justice not charity. This enables producers to provide for their families with dignity and respect. With your help, I have been able to play a part in this achievement.

Tradecraft also works for people in this country. It supports Prisons Week which was in November. As part of Tradecraft's Christian belief that people deserve a second chance, it has set up a scheme to offer employment to serving prisoners who are coming to the end of lengthy sentences for serious crimes. It recently won the North East Equality Award for this scheme. The judges said that "by giving prisoners the opportunity to work in Tradecraft before they are released from prison, they are helping them gather the experience and skills they need ready for when they return to society".

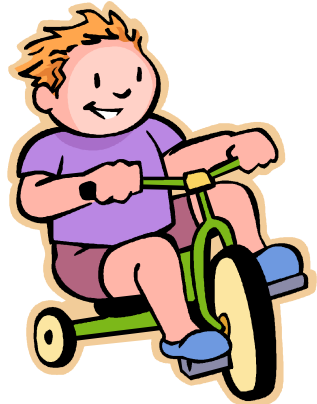
Mary Lang

CRÈCHE ROTA

Thanks to all who continue to help out with the crèche on a regular basis. We are always on the hunt for new helpers, if you would like to help please contact **Margaret Hutton** tel: 261406.

Please find below the rota for the next three months. If you are not able to take your turn please try to arrange a swap with another crèche supervisor or contact me.

March	1	Margaret Hutton
	8	Alison Crooks
	15	Gloria Miller
	22	Karen McGregor
	29	Morag Craig
April	5	Irene Chalmers
	12	Gloria Miller
	19	Karen McGregor
	26	Margaret Hutton
May	3	Alison Crooks
	10	Morag Craig
	17	Gloria Miller
	24	Karen McGregor
	31	Margaret Hutton

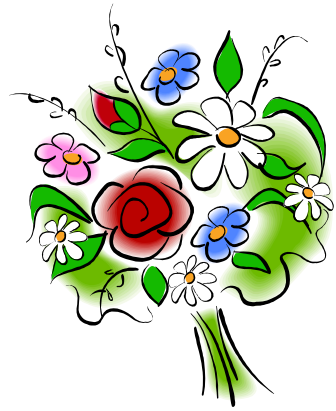


FLOWER LIST

March 1 Mrs Wiper
8 Mrs Wood
15 Mrs G. Miller
22 Wilson family
29 Mrs Redpath

April 5 Mrs McKim
12 Irene Chalmers
19 Mrs Samson
26 Mrs Clements

May 3 Mrs Blyth
10 Mrs Middleton
17 Mrs Govan
24 Mrs Morley
31 Mrs Stevenson



A very big thank you to all the ladies who have filled the flower vase on Sunday mornings.

It does cheer everyone up to see this on the communion table but, as you can see from the list, there are a few vacant dates.

If you would like to fill any of these spaces please get in touch with **Jean Middleton** (221807) who will be pleased to hear from you.

A Fashion Show
Wedding Dresses, 1870 - present
March 23rd 7.30pm in West Kirk Halls

The West Kirk Guild is hosting this "different" fashion show and it promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

All the models are our own beautiful girls and we're aiming to make it a special night with old photographs, wedding hats, cheese and wine, wedding cake and raffles...and all this for only £4!

Make sure you have the date in your diary.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

More contributions or letters to the editor would be welcome for the next edition of WestWords. You can pass contributions to the editor Margery Tordzro or leave in the pigeonhole marked Magazine.

The editor is happy to help contributors with articles if they want assistance. If a contributor would like the editor to contact them before making any editorial changes, please give a contact name and number.

The deadline for the **summer edition** of WestWords is **Sunday 26th April 2009**.

Margery Tordzro tel. 239561 or mtordzro@yahoo.co.uk
Editor

Church Life Teams

TEAM	Worship	Communication	Pastoral Care
Leader	M. Masih	D. Ashwood	A. Fraser
Deputy	L. Fleming	M. Tordzro	E. Montgomery
	John Ferguson	Bruce Arthur	Sheila Gray
	Emma Kendall	Gloria Miller	Edith Glendinning
	Sylvia Goodfellow	Moira Winning	Margaret Murray
			Lorna Sankey
			Anne Scott

Property	Social/Fund Raising	Finance
S. Shields W. Walker	J. Gailey M. Fraser	I. Chalmers L. Baillie
Hector Grant	Allan Thomson	Edith Glendinning
Bill Fleming	Lorna Sankey	Hector Grant
Gil Samson	Mary Lang	Jim Martin
Bill McDonald	Jean Beazley	Hugh Strickland
Bob Woods	Veronica Ball	Bill Walker
Bill Thomson	Sue Kendall	
	Bill Roberts	

Mission & Education	Child Protection
	W. Anderson M. Masih
Joy Eunson	Laura Fleming
Joanne Couper	
George Ather	
Graeme Crooks	

Church Directory



Minister	Mahboob Masih	224469
Session Clerk	Laura Fleming	263295
Treasurer	Irene Chalmers	266832
Team Leaders:		
Pastoral Care	Alex Fraser	260579
Finance	Irene Chalmers	266832
Property	Suzanne Shields	227006
(Hall Letting)	Bill Fleming	263295
Halls Fund	Jean Beazley	227355
Communication	Diane Ashwood	231453
(Magazine Editor)	Margery Tordzro	239561
Social	Jennifer Gailey	245088
Mission & Education		
Child Protection	Bill Anderson	229166
Creche Organiser	Margaret Hutton	261406
Cradle Roll	Jennifer Gailey	245088
The Guild	Marilyn Fraser	260579
Boys' Brigade	Allan Thomson	221697
Girls' Brigade	Suzanne Shields	227006
Guides	Cathy Lee	235367
Brownies	Jane Aitken	238380
Craft & Hobbies Group	Isabelle Grant	243517
Christian Aid Co-ordinator	Sylvia Goodfellow	223094
Flower Convener	Jean Middleton	221807
Minibus Organiser	Jan McIntyre	0141 6460124

Standing Order Mandate

West Kirk, East Kilbride

To be returned to your Elder or the Treasurer in a sealed envelope who will arrange to forward it to your bank to allow payment to commence. Please consider making your offering through the Gift Aid scheme if you are a tax-payer. Details from the Treasurer.

To: The Manager

Bank name

Branch

Address

.....

Please debit the undernoted account:

Name of account holder.....

Sort code..... Account number.....

Amount £.....

On the..... day of each month.

Commencing2009

Until further notice.

And credit to:

East Kilbride West Church,

Sort code: 82-62-24

Account no.: 30175184

Clydesdale Bank

19 Stuart Street

East Kilbride, G74 4NF

Signed

Address.....

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Date