

## FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## MINISTER'S LETTER

### *"Three and two, thirty-two"*

"This morning's first hymn is number 1, on its own; number 2, one little duck; number 3, cup of tea. That's 123 folks. The reading is Chapter 4, knock at the door, verses 5, man alive, 6, just a dick, to Chapter 7, lucky for some. The Committee meets at 8, one fat lady, stops at 9, doctor's orders, and Easter Tuesday is April 10, Tony's Den."

Tony's Den years ago a bunch of Presbyterians went with a member of their Ministerial Team to Bingo – disguised to look like lost sheep. It was a self-inflicted exercise to do them good. Among them, elders and various pillars of the kirk. They were asking the question: "What does it feel like to be a stranger in our church for the first time?" In they went under the 'Bingo welcomes you' sign – but much slower than the regulars. They didn't know where to sit. Hardened bingo goers politely shoed them away from 'their' table. When they did get seated, they couldn't keep up. The lingo confused them. Some gave up. Some laughed nervously. Born again bingo players who had been at it all their lives in that same 'hall' – I think that is the right word – shushed them and quietly wished they would take it more 'seriously'. In fact it was the hallowed 'seriously' bit which most impacted. Nobody even asked, "Are you doing a round of all the bingo halls?" No friendships were established. Nobody went back. None enjoyed the experience. Some were bewildered. None felt welcomed in any way. None 'belonged' there. Perhaps, it was later suggested, if a friend had brought them along it might have been different. Some suggested post-bingo therapy. What about being placed in a room painted Presbyterian blue and played dull psalms at half speed for half an hour to bring them round? Or perhaps if they were served tea and tray-bakes and listened to a dozen long dreary speeches about nothing? They made full recoveries.

But the wise among them also knew that, had they been hugely talented bingo players, they might have posed an even greater threat. Bingo aficionados of many years would have had to ring fence their territory and stake it out. In any case, no invitations to bingo study were given out, nobody told them their big bingo win story over tea. And the bingo caller didn't offer to drop in with them for a wee chat. No Presbyterians were converted to bingo that night. And, to be fair to my bingo playing readers whose blood pressure is rising, the only reason they went down the bingo road was: not one of them had been before.

Over the last year Kirk Session has been asking: How do we value, welcome and include new members? Here's where we are now with this:

- ❖ We have included Christian greetings for All Age and Communion services. Let us commit to greet one another in a Christian manner.
- ❖ New communicants and new members will be offered 'vestibule duty'. Let's be inclusive.
- ❖ [www.firstlisburn.org](http://www.firstlisburn.org) is to be added to the main church notice boards, and placed in the local press. Let's inform people.

### Three new Ministry initiatives

- ❖ Karin Finlay has been appointed Convener of **New Members Ministry (NMM)**

Sheila Hammonds, Convener of **Social & Recreational Ministry (S&RM)**

Cecil Kirkwood, Convener of **New Developments Ministry (NDM)**.

They, with Clerk and Minister, are working on a glossy 'Welcome to FLPC' brochure. Each Convener is bringing together a small Ministry Team.

- ❖ **NMM** will manage new members who 'arrive' on site. Their's is a 'roaming brief' on Sundays, making contact with **new** faces, and facilitating introductions between new and existing members. They oversee the integration of new members into the Congregation. They will arrange *Wavelength* profiles of new members from time to time and will provide coffee after All Age services. A welcome 'information point' is to be made for the vestibule. ***Let's not ignore, but minister to 'new' people.***

- ❖ **S&RM** will arrange easy, flexible entry points to church life which 'draw in' new and established members. (A Light Programme rep. sits on this Ministry Team to ensure we don't duplicate events). Events may include cinema, summer BBQs, Sunday afternoon picnics, congregational strolls. Trips to Glasgow and football for men have been suggested! Such events are shared information with the New Members Ministry Team for promoting to new members. The S&RM also manage the 'Fun Day'. ***Let's get to know each other.***
- ❖ **NDM** will 'deliver' a brochure to the new developments within our Presbytery parish bounds. Volunteers will be needed for the odd sunny evening to help with this. And yes, this **is** pro-active Presbyterianism. It is us going out to make contact with people on their door steps. We also want to develop a strategy whereby we are informed by you – the Congregation – when appropriate – of any new families moving into existing housing stock within our parish. ***Let's get out and bring in.***

If bingo doesn't attract new members its number is up. In 1980 PCI had 133,000 families, by 2000 we hit 114,000. The 2006 figures show 110,000, of which only 89,646 contribute to funds. That's a loss of 120,000 people in 25 years. It takes some doing to achieve that! Increasingly, many children don't even know the rules of the game any more. PCI has dropped from 5,000 baptisms a year in the early 80s to 1900 last year.

So, let's get behind these Ministry Teams' ideas and, as they say, 'move on' together. Let us resolve to continue to be what we are meant to be, a living church which welcomes new members, includes young and old together, sees new and established members as equally valued. We have no right to accept that PCI is simply doomed to decades of decline, destined only to welcome empty pews every Sunday or left to make the last decision of all: who switches the lights out when we all go? We have no calling to build a comfortable church – one which suits 'me and me alone' and no mandate to hide the Message. We're here to proclaim, here to welcome, here to reach out. And we're here to put ourselves 'out', not to prevent others coming in. As our Lord once put it in Matthew 2 and 5, 25: "I was a stranger and you invited me in." And let us say Amen – or is it Bingo? – to that.

## Passover: a new approach in Holy Week.

On Thursday 5 April of Holy Week, in the Upper Room, we are hosting a candle lit Passover meal just as it would have been on the evening of Holy Week when Jesus celebrated communion with his disciples. The tables will have a seder plate and an order of service with songs, readings and questions, so the symbolisms of the meal come to life. Families are welcome – *indeed we need children there!* It is an evening for whoever wishes to join us and is FLPC's first attempt to capture the meaning of Passover and the impact of the first ever communion. Tables will have salads and cold meats for the meal. Non alcoholic red wine and Schloer will be on each table as will a seder plate with a hard boiled egg which represents the Holiday Offering in the days of the Holy Temple. The meat of this animal constituted the main part of the Passover meal. We will have sliced roast beef and turkey. Bitter herbs remind us of the bitterness of the slavery of our forefathers in Egypt. Fresh horseradish, romaine lettuce is the most common choice.



UNIQUE IMAGE NYC

Parsley is there for dipping in salt water and a mixture of Charoset – apples, nuts, honey and wine which resembles the mortar and brick made by the Jews when they toiled for Pharaoh. And of course, the unleavened bread.

A non-bitter root vegetable alludes to the back-breaking work of the Jews as slaves. A shankbone is there, but not eaten. Side by side is Elijah's cup, in case he returns to join us – and so we eat with the Upper Room door wide open!

It will be a simple meal – a salad with cold meats. Yes, I do know about children and salads... and the bitter herbs can be avoided! There is no coming and going from the kitchen, but the children will ask formal questions and search for the hidden bread. So it is a meal with attitude!

Then, at the end of the meal we do what Jesus commands. I will take the Cup which we use at Holy Communion and, using the simple words of Jesus on that evening, we pass a loaf and a common cup down the long tables and you and your family receives them. Parents will, as is appropriate, share the elements with their children as they choose. A few songs punctuate the evening and the atmosphere is not silent, but alive with chat and listening as each stage is enjoyed together. At the same time, the meaning and the candlelight, the words and the noise of a church family will, we hope, bring to life in solemn laughter and purposeful informality the meaning of the night to which our Presbyterian Sacrament of Holy Communion looks back and from which it takes its deepest purpose.

Join us – we can cope with about 80 people.

**You do need to register in the Vestibule on Sunday mornings. (This event is arranged by the Worship Sub Committee of Kirk Session.)**

John Brackenridge

## Youth Ministry

Session is delighted to announce that Keith Lunn has joined our Youth Ministry team as an Intern under Matt Craig's leadership. Keith is presently taking a Gap year before heading to University in September/October this year. He has already gained valuable experience as an Intern at Orangefield Presbyterian Church.

Richard McNeight  
Session Youth Sub Committee

## BIBLE MINISTRY

**Sunday Evenings - 4 March to 1 April  
6.30-8.00 pm in the Upper Room**

**'ON HIGHEST GROUND'**

***Surveying your resources in Christ*  
A STUDY OF PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS**

**with Derick Bingham, BA, FRSA**

## ***From your Editor...***

Moving further into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century all the time! I am now on Broadband with effect from this week and my new email address at home is [mary.mcneight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mary.mcneight@tiscali.co.uk)

My [wavelength@firstlisburn.org](mailto:wavelength@firstlisburn.org) email address has **not** changed so you can continue to use it if you prefer. I can be contacted on either of these.

I do try to keep up with modern technology, albeit to a much lesser degree than all you young computer whiz kids out there. I started my career in 19\*\* on an old manual Underwood typewriter and boxes of carbon paper so I feel quite chuffed to have come this far! However, my age caught up with me as I listened to Keith promoting FLPC's Friday Night Take-away - I wonder what 'high jinks' will be expected of us oldies that night! I will probably feel much more within my comfort zone at the PWA Victorian evening!

Well, what a pro-active and innovative congregation we are! Again we have a packed *Wavelength* full of interest, including the three new Ministry initiatives, which I am sure will have the full support of the congregation. And there is a long list of diary dates and events to note over the coming months.

We look forward to experiencing together the full meaning of Easter, through the musical 'Stauros' on Palm Sunday, followed by Holy Week Services, the Passover meal, and the Good Friday March of Witness, culminating in a celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I want again to thank all my faithful contributors to *Wavelength* – those of you who put so much thought into keeping us in touch with congregational life, and those who submit articles of personal interest. Thank you, also, to my willing team who cheerfully help put *Wavelength* together, making the collation of our magazine fun rather than a chore.

### ***Any suggestions?***

While the main purpose of *Wavelength* is to keep the congregation informed of what is going on in FLPC, many of you must have an interesting experience or story to share, or perhaps you have an idea for a regular page you would like which may be informative or of practical help to our members. ***This is your magazine***, so please feel free to contribute and make suggestions. After all, variety is the spice of life!

Mary McNeight

## **FIRST LISBURN'S FRIDAY NIGHT TAKE-AWAY**



**FRIDAY 23 MARCH**

**Please keep it free!**

When I took on the position of Youth Intern about three weeks ago, thanks to Session, John, Matt, and Richard, I felt it was really placed on my heart to do something BIG, some event to bring EVERYONE in the Church together outside of Sunday morning. This idea has turned into

### **First Lisburn's Friday Night Take-Away**

The night it is completely FREE and will consist of fun for ALL AGES, including game show segments, such as Mr and Mrs, Family Fortunes, The Price is Right and The Generation Game, as well as Northern Ireland's official number one illusionist and escape artist, RE teacher at Wallace High and Christian man, Paul McCabe. In addition, there will be a dance, funny sketches and videos, and good-hearted crowd participation altogether. However, don't panic as those who are taking part in most of the games have already been asked to do so, so you will not be dragged up on to the stage against your will, I assure you.

The hall will be transformed for one night only, '*Lights, camera, action!*' doesn't even come close to this. I can say now that you will not recognise our hall. Tables and chairs will be the seating arrangement to encourage conversation and fellowship with your family and friends. Of course we must not forget that tea, coffee and nibbles will be at the hatch throughout the evening. There will be a facility for younger children who get tired or bored as the start of the programme will be more suitable for them, so don't let not getting a baby sitter put you off from coming. The programme will start promptly at **7.30 pm** and end close to 10.00 pm.

While I was at Orangefield, I occasionally drifted back to First Lisburn from time to time. When I walked into the building, I could feel the warmth around the place. First Lisburn is buzzing at the minute; I want that to continue, and I want it to start on Friday 23 March. Come down and we can ALL share in a night of fun, laughter and fellowship as one Family, because that is what we are.

I hope to see everybody there.

Thank you

Keith Lunn

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Sun 11 March</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship – All Age and Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30 pm	'Studies on Ephesians' with Derick Bingham
<b>Wed 14 March</b>	8.00 pm	Cross Community Group Special guests – The Mayor of Lisburn, Councillor Trevor Lunn and Paula Jennings of Stepping Stones
<b>Wed 14 March</b>	8.00 pm	Irish Mission Rallies, Legacurry PC
<b>Sun 18 March</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	'Studies on Ephesians' with Derick Bingham
<b>Fri 23 March</b>		FLPC Friday Night Take-Away
<b>Sun 25 March</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	'Studies on Ephesians' with Derick Bingham
<b>Tues 27 March</b>	7.30 pm	PWA Victorian Evening'
<b>Sat 31 March</b>	7.30 pm	Girls' Brigade Display
<b>Sun 1 April</b>	11.00 am	Palm Sunday
		'Stauros' Easter Musical
	3.30 pm	GB District Parade to First Lisburn
	6.30 pm	'Studies on Ephesians' with Derick Bingham
<b>2-6 April</b>	7.00 pm	Holy Week Services
<b>Thurs 5 April</b>	7.00 pm	Passover Meal in Upper Room
<b>Fri 6 April</b>	12.30 pm	Good Friday March of Witness
<b>Sun 8 April</b>	11.00 am	Easter Sunday Service
<b>Sun 15 April</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship with focus on Lisburn Street Reach
<b>Thurs 19 April</b>	8.00 pm	Cross Community Inter-church Worship & AGM – St Columba's
<b>Sun 22 April</b>	6.00-8.00 pm	Parent Night in Upper Room
<b>Sun 29 April</b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion
<b>Fri 4 May</b>	7.30 pm	Fields of Life Celebration Choir Visit to FLPC
<b>Sun 27 May</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship and after-church Picnic & Prayer event in Wallace Pk. linking with Global Day of Prayer

## EASTER MUSICAL –

**Palm Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> April**

# S A U R O S (Greek: *cross*)

No one can live in our society and be unaware of Christmas and Easter. They break up the school year very nicely, thank you... a few familiar, sentimental songs to bring a warm glow in the cold mid-winter followed a few short months later by lots of eggs – chocolate eggs, hard boiled eggs, fluffy yellow chicks celebrating the return of life to nature as they emerge from their shells.


The span of time from December to April is so short – but there is nothing short, or easy, about the journey between Christmas and Easter.


The spiritual journey, that is.

The infinite, unthinkable being of God reduced by birth as a human child to unthinkable humility.

The misunderstanding and rejection of the faithful, who would not recognize or understand.

The pain of searing loss as the Father turns his face away, to make the sacrifice complete on the cross

**S  A U R O S** is the story of Easter, a story of love which overcomes pain and cruelty and suffering – and death.

**S  A U R O S** will be presented in readings and songs by a choir of 30, an orchestra of 13, and assorted readers and soloists. On Palm Sunday morning, let us celebrate Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem, and reflect on the true meaning of Easter.

Jonny McGeown

### Holy Week Services

Mon	Tues	Wed	
2, 3, 4 April	7.00–7.30 pm	Upper Room	
Thurs 5 April	7.00 pm	Passover Meal in Upper Room	
Fri 6 April	7.00 pm	Service of Contemplation in Church	

## Good Friday March - 6 April 2007

Leaving Jessop's corner at 12.30 pm, local Clergy from the City Centre Ministers' Fellowship will carry the cross to opposite FLPC where we have a 10-minute act of Easter worship. Please make a point of joining us as we celebrate the meaning of Easter at the heart of the City.

## The Church will be open on Good Friday from 12.30 pm–2 00 pm.

Tea/coffee will be served in the church porch and quiet instrumental music will be played in the church giving the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection. Members of the Prayer Healing Team will be available to listen and pray with those who would like personal prayer. Invitations will be given out in the City centre during and after the March of Witness and short service.

## Easter Sunrise Service

There will be an Easter Sunrise service on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 am. The venue is to be confirmed – please watch announcement sheet. There will also be a light breakfast served afterwards (approx 8.00 am) in the Church Hall. We hope to see many of you for both.

Ashley Parks

## Fields of Life Celebration Choir – Friday 4 May

Fields of Life Celebration Choir are coming to Ireland to celebrate 10 years of Education in Uganda. First Lisburn PC is hosting them on Friday, 4 May.

The evening consists of praise by the choir and the congregation. There will be a five-minute DVD presentation on the work of FOL and an interview with one of the directors. The programme in total will last for 1 hour 15 minutes at most. The 16 children in the Choir are all secondary school ages and with them are two teachers.

**HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2007**      13-17 August 2007

## BIBLE MINISTRY 2007/08

4,11,18 November 2007	Desi Maxwell, Belfast Bible College
25 November	Robin Fairbairn, Executive Secretary, Board of Mission in Ireland
2 December	Billy Patterson, Drogheda – Irish Mission
Feb/March 2008	Michael McClenahan, Assistant Minister, Greenwell Street, Newtownards

**Full details of these special Services appear later in this issue**



## SEPTEMBER 2006 – JANUARY 2007

The Alpha Course was rounded off at the end of January with a Celebration Supper and party, also a time of sharing from some members on the course. From feedback on the course in general it was clear that those who shared in it enjoyed being together and growing in their relationship with God.

We look forward to renewing friendships at the Bible Ministry evenings with Derek Bingham. Following on, we hope to have a monthly event to come together for teaching and sharing together. Keep an eye on the announcements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in the setting up and running of the Alpha Course. There was a real sense of team spirit with each person doing their part, causing things to run smoothly.

**THANK YOU TO:** Group Leaders, Administration Team, Catering Team, Crèche Team, and Prayer Team. Also to all who shared in the course, thank you for your part in Alpha.

Evelyn Whyte

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



"Jesus the Wounded Saviour" is the title of the study during lent.

*"Our Lord is the wounded Healer – His ability to heal our wounds flows from the fact that He Himself experienced our wounds. The God we see in Jesus did not study our sufferings from a distance in a cold and detached way, but wrapped Himself in our flesh and felt what we feel."*

We have already started the course in both groups. Anyone who would like to share in this course just come along to either of the groups.

**Tuesday Group:** 7.45pm (for coffee/tea) in the Boyd Room.  
**Wednesday Group:** 10.00 am for coffee followed by Bible study.

**There is friendship, fun and fellowship.**

Evelyn Whyte

# Prayer Healing Ministry



The Prayer Healing Ministry continues to meet twice monthly on the first Thursday in the month from 12.30 pm–2.00 pm, and on the third Wednesday from 7.30 pm–9.00 pm.

The Church is open at these times for quiet reflection or receiving Prayer Ministry from members of the Prayer Ministry Team, and we would encourage anyone who is in need of any kind, whether it be illness, going through a difficult time, worry, or perhaps wanting prayer for a family member or friend, to come to the Church where there is an opportunity to share your situation if you want to, or not if you don't, in the assurance of complete confidentiality.

## THE DATES WHEN THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN ARE:

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b><u>7.30pm-9.00pm</u></b>	<b><u>12 noon-2.00pm</u></b>
14 March 2007	5 April 2007
18 April 2007	3 May 2007
16 May 2007	7 June 2007
20 June 2007	5 July 2007
18 July 2007	2 August 2007
15 August 2007	

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRAYER ON GOOD FRIDAY 6 APRIL 12.30 PM-2.00 PM**  
*Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are burdened and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

**For further information please contact the Church Office on  
Tel: 9266 0144 Email: [office@firstlisburn.org](mailto:office@firstlisburn.org)**

Evelyn Whyte

## ***A personal experience...***

Do you need physical healing, mental healing or spiritual healing? I'm sure there's not one member of our church who can answer "no" to all of the above. Here at First Lisburn, we as a congregation are so fortunate to have an amazing prayer team for healing. I can say this with great confidence, as I benefited in such a powerful way from their ministry. I personally was hoping for physical healing – I received all three.

I was very apprehensive on my first visit, not knowing what to expect. To be very honest, as soon as I sat down in church with my two "friends" to pray, I wept buckets. But I wasn't embarrassed - it was a release which I needed so much. I have continued to come for the healing ministry each month, because of the great comfort and love that radiates from our team. Please consider coming yourself. I assure you that if you can take that first step, you, too, will find great comfort from a truly amazing team.

First Lisburn member

## **Containers For Malawi**

This proposal has caught the imagination and interest of the congregation and the organizing team is delighted with the response. So far 11 containers have been filled, five with items for schools and six with medical requirements. We are drawing this appeal to an end soon. The closing date for receiving goods will be Sunday 18 March 2007.

We know that our support for this project is greatly appreciated by those who are coordinating it from the Overseas Board of the Church. We can move our thoughts further and imagine the excitement and joy in a primitive primary school or in a sparsely equipped hospital when our containers are unpacked. Thank you for your generous donations of these items, which will be accepted and put to such good use by personnel of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. Thank you also for the thoughtful contributions of money, which go towards paying for the containers and for their long journey to Malawi.

Joyce Moran

## FROM THE TREASURER...

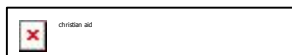
### **The costs of running a congregation**

As already referred to in my report to the congregation at the Annual General meeting, it takes £627 per day every day of the year to enable First Lisburn to do all the things it currently does. Unfortunately, approximately one hundred "members" contribute absolutely nothing towards these costs but seem happy to have all the other members subsidise them, and in addition will no doubt expect the church to be there for them when they require it. To such members: please consider your membership and take the obvious action. Church must be the only organisation to which individuals can claim membership but don't feel that they should contribute to its upkeep.

### **Standing Orders**

This is a very good way of contributing towards church funds – and many of our members use this method – but could I remind all such to increase their contributions to take account of inflation.

Jimmy Lynn, Hon. Treasurer



Christian Aid Week will be 13–19 May. Many of you have volunteered in the past for the door-to-door or the street collection (Tuesday 15 May this year) and Ted or Hazel will be glad to give you a job again. The theme this year is all about growing – growing a movement for change in the world and helping poor communities grow and develop.

Later this month (March) two of our supporters will be taking a 'Jump for Justice'. Our own Church Officer, Colin Young, and one of the lunch volunteers, Lesley Bartholomew from Legacurry congregation, will be making tandem parachute jumps to increase awareness of the work of Christian Aid and to raise funds. Both of these brave folk would be glad of some sponsorship.

Finally, the lunches continue on Tuesdays until late May and then close for the summer. If you have never tried one of our delicious home-made soups do come along and join us one Tuesday very soon. The cost is still only £3 and you can be in and out again in 10 or 15 minutes or you can sit and relax for two hours, whatever suits your schedule.

Hazel McCall: Tel. 9260 1777

## YOUTH NEWS FROM MATT

**Exchange and Summer Madness:** There are some great things happening among the youth of First Lisburn and some big events coming up. Our older teenage fellowship group (Yr11-Yr14) has just embarked on a 16-week discipleship programme called 'Exchange', written by Exodus. We currently have 15 students taking part and hopefully a few more to join soon. At the end of the course, each student will partake in a service project. For most, this will be the Summer Madness and Street Reach programme at the beginning of July. Summer Madness and Street Reach (not to be confused with Street Reach Lisburn) is open to students going into Yr 11 and up this year.

**IGNite** is continuing to go strong with an average of one new member every week since the New Year. We just completed a six-week series called 'Tough Talk on Tough Issues', which were issues that our students on the MAD Weekend asked us to address. Keith and Ashley will be taking the reigns of IGNite during March and April looking at what Paul had to say to the Church in 1 Corinthians.

**Summer Opportunities for Young People:** In addition to HBC, there are several summer opportunities for young people (and young adults) including sports, adventure camps and local missions. In addition to Summer Madness, a few older teens and uni students hope to go to Dublin Christian Mission to help with summer camps, which occur for a week throughout the summer. If you would like any information on these opportunities, please contact me ASAP as deadlines are approaching.

**Street Reach Lisburn:** From 12-14 August, many young people in Lisburn will be trading in their long lie-ins, video games, Bebo, etc, for long days, paint brushes, spades and the heart of a servant. Anyone in Yr 11 and above who is willing to simply serve the local community is asked to consider getting involved in this wonderful opportunity. Picture 200 young people hitting the streets together – what an awesome sight!

**Youth Intern:** I would like to welcome Keith Lunn back on board the Youth Ministry team in First Lisburn as Youth Intern. Keith will be in post until the end of August and will be heavily involved in our current programmes and summer outreach. Welcome back Keith!

Matt

**New Mid-week Children's Club – Need Help!** After speaking with several parents of primary school children, I believe that a mid-week children's club would be beneficial for those of primary school age. This programme would hopefully start in September running early on a Thursday or Friday evening, and would have a 'Bible Club' type of feel to it. I envision this to be for older primary school children in P4-P7, but it could extend to suit children in P1-P3.

What I am looking for now are a few people to help think this through with me to see if it is feasible. We will of course need volunteers for the programme itself to work, perhaps on a rota basis. ***If you would be willing to help with either, please let me know ASAP.***

**Holiday Bible Club 2007** will take place from 13-17 August. There will be programming for all school-aged young people. Please prayerfully consider getting involved in this year's HBC. You do not need any special gifts, nor do you have to like working with young people, as we need caterers, set-designers, artists, people to cut paper, etc. Even if you are unavailable during HBC week, we would value your time in the coming months as we aim to have most things prepared by the end of June. Please do not wait to be asked - I am requesting this now! Please watch the website and announcements in the coming weeks as there will be meetings for those wishing to be involved. ***If anyone is interested in helping to plan any of the events during the HBC, please contact me ASAP as planning is already in progress.***

#### **Attention Parents**

Have you ever wondered what your child does with his/her time on the Internet? Do you know who can be accessing their personal information?

Although the Internet is a wonderful source of information and a means for vital communication, we also need to learn to protect our children from the dangers that are out there in cyber world.

Gillian Cartmill spends much of her time speaking to young people about the dangers of the misuse of mobile phones and the Internet, which young people seem to not be able to live without. She has agreed to come and offer the same information to parents.

**The Parent Night (open to all adults) will be held from 6.00 pm-8.00 pm on Sunday, 22 April in the Upper Room.** This is sure to be a very informative session and a chance for a bit of fellowship as well. If you have a son or daughter who spends a lot of time on the Internet, you cannot afford to miss this.

Matt

Please Pray  
for

## **BIBLE MINISTRY**

**Desi Maxwell**  
Belfast Bible College

*The Big Story*  
*through the Bible in 3 Giant Steps*

on Sunday Evenings  
6.30 pm – 8.00 pm  
from 4 to 18 November 2007

**Robin Fairbairn**  
Executive Secretary Board of Mission in Ireland

Sunday 25 November 2007  
6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

**Billy Patterson**  
Drogheda Presbyterian Church

Irish Mission  
Sunday 2 December 2007 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

**Michael McClenahan**  
Assistant Minister, Greenwell Street, Newtownards

on *Justification*

February & March 2008

**FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**IN THE UPPER ROOM**

## **BIBLE MINISTRY**

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Drogheda Presbyterian Church

Irish Mission

ON

SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2007

6.30 PM – 8.00 PM

**FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE UPPER ROOM**

Tom Kinkead



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Our President, Mrs Elizabeth Watt, opened the first meeting of 2007 on Tuesday 9 January and welcomed everyone to our Visitor's Night in the Upper Room. In particular she welcomed Mrs Charlotte Stevenson, a recently appointed Development Officer at PWA headquarters, as our guest speaker for the evening, and four guests from each of the Presbyterian Churches in Hillsborough, Harmony Hill and Magheragall.

Charlotte spoke of the ongoing challenge for the majority of branches, that of attracting younger women to join. Generally, membership numbers remain unchanged but, over the years, changed in terms of age: members are older.

At executive level they have been discussing a name change and new logo. The aim is to suitably blend the PWA and Young Women's Group and this has proved quite a challenge for design artists, but at last they have produced a suitable logo and we will be known as Presbyterian Women.

At this meeting we were reminded of our decision to fill educational and medical boxes for Malawi and the items that are required for both boxes. Mrs Joyce Moran gave a "Minute for Mission" on the boxes in church later in the month.

At our February meeting our speaker was Mrs Beth Reid from Spring Cottage Crafts and she gave us an interesting demonstration on making a pair of oven gloves as well as an in-depth talk about her craft business and the large variety of items she makes. She told us how she has loved to sew since a very young age; she believes God, whom she came to know in a personal way in 1980, gave her the gift of loving to sew, just as he gives everyone a gift in one form or another.

Beth brought a huge selection of items with her and our members were spoilt for choice when making their purchases. Beth told us she supports a charity for terminally ill children called 'Shine a Light' and would be making a generous donation to it as a result of the purchases made on the night.

Mrs Joyce Moran gave us an update on the boxes for Malawi – six already away and enough items for another four boxes – an excellent response from the congregation.

As the result of our participation in this project, our AGM and Members' Night has been rescheduled for Tuesday 17 April, and on Tuesday 6 March we will have Marlene and Ken Nelson, local overseers of the project, to speak to us on their involvement with the boxes and how they are used in Malawi.

Later in the month, on Tuesday, 27 March we are hosting a Victorian Evening with a fashion show by War on Want. We are hoping for much support from our congregational ladies, so if you are offered an invitation-ticket please do consider joining us on the evening.

Olive Reid, Hon. Secretary

**FIRST LISBURN PWA invites you to**

**"A Glimpse into the Past 1840-1919"**

**Presented by 'Mrs Florence Blair and her ladies'  
on Tuesday, 27 March 2007 at 7.30 pm**

**NUMBERS are limited  
Admission will be by invitation only**

**Invitations can be obtained from:  
Mrs Elizabeth Watt           9268 3391  
Mrs Eleanor McFadzean       9260 3966**

***Steve and Johnno***

***Clearview Window Cleaners and Maintenance***

Window cleaning, gardening, painting and decorating carried out. Man and van for hire. No job too small.

Tel. 9266 6343 or Mobile No. 07775 853 511

***Maintenance Joinery work carried out*** Tel: 9266 2264

## LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE



I am so grateful to God for leading, protecting and providing for the work of Downtown. People with real life issues and needs have been helped and they have acknowledged that God has helped them become who they are, and has accomplished great things for them.

When we have a reason to celebrate, God says we ought to do it with thanksgiving and rejoicing and it should really represent something, then joy will last long after the celebration is over.

Downtown has been allocated funding for an Administrative Assistant to the Co-ordinator, from Peace and Reconciliation funding. The post will be for 12 hours per week and will be advertised in the local papers. If you are interested please apply when you see the advertisement. We are looking for someone who is computer literate, understanding Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher. Good accounting skills are necessary as the post will involve accounts work. The hours are flexible and the work is worthwhile.

We also urgently require a driver to pick up people for the Friday Club. The group members are elderly and therefore require transportation. The clients come from Hillsborough, Lambeg, Dunmurry and Ballymacash. Pick up would be required to commence at 10.00 am. You would need to allow yourself approximately one hour to an hour and a half for the inward run. The return journey adds a drop off at Lower Ballinderry. Perhaps two people could share this volunteering task. We are able to offer reimbursement for expenses at 40p per mile, which is in accordance with NICVA regulations. Please, please let me know if you are able to help in this way. At the moment I am having to do the run most Fridays and this is taking me away from the work at the centre.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and prayerful support. I would also say a special thank you to those people who over the last couple of months have really put themselves out to assist me with people who have called into the centre for help. You know who you are and the Lord does; may he richly bless you for your love and kindness.

Margaret Bailie  
Co-Ordinator

## CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB

We are now into our twelfth year and are pleased to say we have welcomed more new members. If you are a senior citizen and would like to join us, please come along to the Boyd Room on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We meet from 2.00 pm until 3.45 pm approximately. The programme for the rest of the session is as follows:



7 March	Living in Cyprus	Ruth Mulholland
21 March	Living in Turkey	Maureen Baird
4 April	Easter Bonnet competition Holy Week meditation	
18 April	Slides of Northern Ireland	Desi McKee
2 May	Outing to Tudor cinema	
16 May	Lunch and party games	

We also have an ongoing fundraising project. Marion will again be going to Kosova in the summer and we are hoping to raise a substantial sum for her to buy medicines and extra food for the people she will be working with. We have a "bits and bobs" stall and to date we have raised £125. Thanks to all who have helped so far.

Helen Lynn

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2007



Following last year's extremely successful appeal, it is wonderful to know that some members of the congregation, and their friends, have already started knitting hats and scarves. We have a good quantity already. Thanks to all these people, and to anyone who has given items such as facecloths, toothpaste, tooth brushes, hair accessories, notebooks, crayons, rubbers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, jewellery and soft toys. It is great to receive these so early in the year. There is a much wider variety of small items in the shops at present and buying a little something now and again spreads the cost. Our appeal box is available in the vestibule.

### ***Can you help with the following?***

We have received a quantity of Barbie/Sindy type dolls, and guess what? We need some clothes for them! If you need knitting wool we do have a small stock of this and will be happy to supply it to anyone willing to knit for this appeal. Thank you.

Helen Lynn

## FIRST LISBURN GIRLS' BRIGADE

Since the last edition of *Wavelength*, we have raised £1,000 through bag packing in Marks & Spencer, which was a great effort by all concerned, not least the generous shoppers.

The Junior Marching Team was placed second in the District Competition and the Senior Section narrowly missed a place in the Northern Ireland P.E. Competition finals.

The Brigader Section hopes to go to Dublin in March for a weekend which will include seeing the musical *Mamma Mia!*

Our thanks to all who supported the Seniors on Sunday 18 February at their Soup and Sandwiches lunch following Morning Service. They raised £232.00 which will help fund their camp at Castlewelan.

### ***GB Display – Saturday 31 March at 7.30 pm***

We are now preparing for our 65th Annual Display which will take place on Saturday 31 March 2007 at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £4.00 each, including supper, and can be obtained from myself or any officer. We would love to welcome members of the congregation who perhaps have never been to a GB Display. We can promise an enjoyable evening and an excellent supper. We hope to see you then.

Maureen Killiner, Captain

### ***Wider World***

Maureen Staniland has now taken over as agent for *Wider World*. This quarterly magazine costs £3.00 per year and appeals to ladies of all ages. Maureen would welcome new subscribers and would encourage younger ladies in the congregation to become regular readers.

*So, if you do not already take Wider World and would like to subscribe, please speak to Maureen Staniland or contact her on 9260 1258.*

### ***ReachOut***

This is an interesting magazine published every two months (February, April, June, August, October, December). In addition to Irish Mission workers' reports, there are also reports on many other aspects of mission and outreach on the island of Ireland. Annual cost £6.00.

*Anyone who would like to subscribe to ReachOut,, please contact Doreen Burns on Tel No. 9267 9965 or speak to her at church.*

## 1<sup>ST</sup> LISBURN SCOUT GROUP

### Squirrels

The year started in a very special way. Gillian Parker, a leader, gave birth to a little boy, Caden, the first baby born in the Lagan Valley Hospital in 2007. Congratulations to Ian and Gillian, both Mum and baby are doing well.

The Squirrels are keen to have more members as several have gone up to the Beavers, so any children aged 4-6 years would be very welcome on a Tuesday evening from 6.30 pm-7.30 pm in the basement hall.

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs recently enjoyed a visit from the Fire Brigade's Blue Watch team. The younger boys enjoyed seeing over a fire engine and wearing the firemen's helmets. The older boys were given advice on safety and had a 'question and answer' session; they too saw over the fire engine. This was a successful evening enjoyed by the children and the leaders.

### Beavers

The Beavers have had a busy time recently working on the Personal Safety Badge and making bird seed feeders. They celebrated the Chinese New Year by making dragon masks and lanterns, sampling Chinese snacks and learning how to say HAPPY NEW YEAR in Mandarin!

### Cubs

The Cubs are also busy working for the map reader badge and are looking forward to the Centenary Camp in May 2007.

They are to be congratulated as they won the Expandite Shield for the second year running. Well done to all who participated! This is a competition for all Cub packs in the District and we are so pleased that our pack came first.

### Scouts

The Scouts are enjoying their troop night and, like the rest of the sections, are working for badges.

The Scouts welcomed GIRLS into their troop for the first time, and also two female Assistant Scout Leaders – Mrs Joan Brown and Mrs Gillian Cartmill. When Joan isn't available, Gillian will help out. So well done – and another first for our Group in this the Scout Centenary Year.

Irene Richer  
Group Scout Leader

## THE LIGHT PROGRAMME

### What is the 'Light Programme'?

Well, let me try and explain.

It is a group of church members and friends who organise 'events', usually on a monthly basis, hopefully friendly and cheerful, within First Lisburn. If you have not as yet been to one of our 'get-togethers', let me give you a warm invitation to one of our 'events' – man, the craic is great!

We try to vary our programme to suit all tastes – in the past we have been to concerts, plays, mystery evenings, open air musical evenings, guided historical walks, country rambles, cinema, barbecues and bus tours. Some of the venues include the Odyssey, Waterfront Hall, Lisburn Island Centre, the Omniplex, the Palace Stables, Armagh, and the rambles to Bushmills and the Giant's Causeway, Castlewella Forest Park, Portglenone Forest Park, Castleward, the Broadwater and the Mourne. We often organise a meal in conjunction with these for those who wish to join in.

We welcome suggestions for possible future efforts. Our organisation is VERY loose and not restricted. If you are interested, speak to me or keep an eye on our notice board at the side entrance to the vestibule.

Our future plans include:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 25-29 March | Ulsterbus Tour – Scottish Borders and English Lakes                    |
| 25 April    | Lisnagarvey Operatic Society <i>Anything Goes</i> at the Island Centre |
| May         | Tudor Cinema Comber  |
| 23 June     | Country Ramble   |

*For more details contact David Gourley, Tel: (028) 9260 1013*

## FIRST LISBURN FOOTBALL CLUB



### Here is a quick update on the progress of First Lisburn Football Club.

Things are going better than we had expected at the beginning of the season.

We have won 9 games, drawn 2 and lost 8, and we are sitting seventh out of 13 teams in the league – what a success already on last season. On Saturday past we defeated Ballynaveigh Young Men on penalties and progressed to the quarter-final of the John Cleland Cup. We have grown and matured greatly over the past few months it must be said; there is a real family feel around the team. With some departures due to uni, work commitments and injuries, but some arrivals also, the team has been strengthened, and new opportunities have arisen.

The Tuesday night Bible Fellowship is going great. We have finished a study of Ecclesiastes and are now embarking, ironically, on a journey through Ephesians; however, Derek Bingham said he was booked up this month doing a study of Ephesians at a Church in Lisburn. Each night we have around eight or nine guys and wonderful conversations are arising, especially considering that some of those who attend aren't Christians.

Please can I ask for your continued prayer for the team, for our attitude on and off the pitch and to each other, support, safety and togetherness. Could I also ask for prayer for the Bible Study and for those who are asking questions, that God will provide us with answers, and work in all of our hearts as we all grow in our faith.

Thank you for your support.

Keith Lunn

### ***Lisburn Lions Club – Sight First Campaign***

Lisburn Lions Club would appreciate your support of the International Sight First Campaign by placing your used spectacles and hearing aids in the bin provided in the vestibule. Thank you.

### ***Stamps for Save the Children***

Save the Children would be very grateful to receive all used stamps. Please pop them into the box provided in the vestibule. Thank you.

## ASHLEY IN SEATTLE

I am currently doing the one-year certificate course in biblical studies at Belfast Bible College, Dunmurry. As part of my course I had to participate in a 5/6 week placement, either in Northern Ireland, or abroad. I chose the latter! So in January/February I spent just over five weeks in Maplewood Presbyterian, Edmonds, outside Seattle, Washington.

I initially planned to work only with the youth, but this was not to be the case. I was working with all ages, from 2-5 year-olds in the preschool, to pastoral visits to 83-year-old ladies, and everything in between.

When I arrived at the airport, Laura and Gillian, (who were over volunteering in 1st Lisburn HBC two years ago), met me with a "Welcome Ashley" sign. It was great to see some friendly faces that I knew. Next morning when Barry brought me to the church, there was a big sign: "Welcome Ashley Parks, intern from N. Ireland". All this trouble just for me! As I was introduced at church on Sunday morning I said to the congregation, "Feel free to come and chat to me at any time when you see me here." I didn't think many would take me up on it. I was wrong! There was literally a queue at one point. I was put at ease so much by the friendliness of everyone. I knew this was going to be a great trip.

If I was to talk about everything that I did at Maplewood, it may take up the entire *Wavelength*, so I'm just going to talk about a few things.

I spent three mornings per week working in the Preschool at the church. I really enjoyed this, as all I had to do was play with the children, paint, teach, read stories, sing, and generally entertain them for three hours. It was a lot of fun. It was fantastic.

On Sunday evenings I helped to lead the youth group. The young people each brought something different to the group. When I first arrived there were only about nine young people there, and they were very quiet when it came to sharing or talking about Christian things. This was quite disheartening, but I persevered, and by the time I was leaving there were 16 young people attending. I had the opportunity to do a talk on my last night there, and as part of it there was some personal reflection and feedback. I thought I may get feedback from two if I was lucky, but ALL of them wanted to share. It was awesome to see them so comfortable sharing with each other important parts of their lives. I learnt so much from working with a great group of young people.

Myself and Ben (another Intern) went to visit a lady named Margine Bacon in her nursing home. She was on a permanent oxygen machine, so hadn't been to church in a couple of years. It was amazing to chat and get to know this lady. As we were leaving I prayed with her, and could see in her face and tears how much our visit meant to her. It was a great experience, and one that I will not forget for a long time.

If anyone has any questions or wants to chat to me about any part of my trip, feel free. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers while I was away, and also for your continuing prayers and support through the rest of my course at BBC.

Ashley Parks

### **MARK IN MEXICO**

So, with almost five months clocked up in this City alone, I thought it time to record a few of my observations on life here, rare as they are. Hopefully these'll leave you in no doubt that if you ever find yourself in a strange place, and it happens to be Mexico City, you'll know about it.

In Mexico City...

- Handbrakes serve no purpose.
- Food that should be hot is always served lukewarm.
- No matter where you go, women are putting on make-up and plucking their eyebrows with massive dentist-style tools.
- Armed guards with rifles and ammunition belts protect Coca-Cola bottles!
- Time means nothing.
- 70-year-olds kiss passionately on park benches.
- You smell gas wherever you go.
- Everyone has a moustache!
- The taxi:person ratio is 1:1 (there are almost 30 million people in the City!)
- When buses sound their horns, the Godfather theme tune plays.
- Nothing ever works out as planned.

There are many other eternal truths about this City, some too drastic to write in this family friendly magazine, but if you ever want to experience a different way of life, come to DF!

As always, thanks a lot for your prayers and contact.

God bless  
Mark Robinson

## **CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS**

### **BAPTISMS**

10 December 2006 JAY MOFFETT, infant son of John and Gillian,  
11 Rivergate Lane, Lisburn  
11 March 2007 THOMAS JAMES ANDREWS, infant son of  
Jonathan & Nicola, 17 Highgrove, Lisburn

### **DEATHS**

17 December 2006 MR DAVID MORRISON, late of 16 Rushmore Gardens,  
Lisburn  
30 December 2006 MR REGGIE McKELVEY, late of Lisburn Care Home  
6 January 2007 MR WILLIAM (BILL) RICHER, late of 2 Avonmore Park,  
Lisburn  
10 January 2007 MRS PAMELA WATSON, late of Lisburn Care Home,  
Lisburn  
11 January 2007 MRS GRETTA JONES, late of 18a Clontara Park,  
Lisburn  
2 February 2007 MRS KATHLEEN CROTHERS, late of Woodgrove PN  
Home, Lisburn  
10 February 2007 MR DAVID McCOURT, late of 7 Carntogher Road,  
Lisburn  
17 February 2007 MRS DOREEN BROWN, late of 12A Belsize Road,  
Lisburn

### **MARRIAGES**

14 December 2006 MARK SNOWDEN & ANDREA ENGLISH

## CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS

### NEW MEMBERS

LEONARD, HILARY  
SIMON & MARK WOODS                      8 Kenilworth Avenue, Lisburn, BT28 3UG

EVELYN REID,  
JAMES & HEATHER WRIGHT                98 Gregg Street, Lisburn  
3 Birchwood, Lisburn

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DARREN, KATHRYN                            from 14 Adlon Crescent, Lisburn  
& BETHANY BROWN                        to 6 Wellington Park Avenue, Maghaberry  
RUTH HANNA                                    from 27 Clonevin Park, Lisburn  
to 36 Eglantine Park, Hillsborough

### DISJOINED

DR & MRS DEREK BELL                      23 Ballinderry Road, Lisburn  
moved to 23 Dunamallaght Road, Dunavoley,  
Ballycastle, BT54 6PB  
transferring to Ballycastle PC

THE RODGERS FAMILY                      8 The Belfry, Dromore  
moved to Magherafelt

MR CRAIG LIVINGSTONE                    38 Barban Hill, Dromore

*If you are aware of errors in any part of our Church records, e.g. wrong address etc., please notify the Treasurer, Jimmy Lynn. (Tel: 9266 3285)*

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Clerk of Session	Perry Reid	9266 2922
Congregational Secretary	Alan McIlmoyle	9266 2823
Congregational Treasurer	Jimmy Lynn	9266 3285
Sunday School Superintendent	Prof. John Davis	9260 2576
League of Church Loyalty	Andrew Vient	9258 4003
Porch Duty Convenor	Bobby Watson	9266 5837
Sunday Duty Convenor	Morris Wilson	9267 8139
Bible Study & Prayer Gathering	Evelyn Whyte	9061 3410
Bible Fellowship	Douglas Anderson	9266 6193
'GO' Group	Richard McNeight	9267 6668
Cross Community Group	Joyce Moran	9267 8284
Church Friends	Helen Lynn	9266 3285
Cheer-You-Up Club	Helen Lynn	9266 3285
PWA Secretary	Olive Reid	9266 2922
Christian Aid	Hazel McCall	9260 1777
Catering Officer	Margaret McIlmoyle	9266 2823
Light Programme	David Gourley	9260 1013
Girls' Brigade Captain	Maureen Killiner	9268 3726
Scout Group Leader	Irene Richer	9267 0041
Designated Person for Child Protection	Maureen Killiner	9268 3726
Church Flowers Organiser	Annabelle Poots, MBE	9267 5915
Wavelength	Mary McNeight	9261 2451
IGNite, and all enquiries for children and young people	Matt Craig	(see Staff page)