

When our children were much younger,

we all enjoyed listening to an action poem called "Going on a Bear Hunt." Travellers conquered a variety of obstacles until, "Oh oh...grass...long wavy grass. Can't go over it, can't go under it, can't go around it. Gotta go through it!"

I often think of this poem when reading likely the most popular piece of literature known: Psalm 23. It troubles me that the heart of the psalm is framed with such comforting visuals: green pastures and still waters on one side, and sumptuous banquets with overflowing cups on the other.

There in the middle is that walk through the dark, shadow-filled valley of death. But, ironically, that's life. Can't go around it, under it or over it... gotta go through it. By God's grace (staff, rod, loving presence, resurrection power...) we can go through it. That's life too. Thank God.

The Rev. Bob Geddes is a retired minister living in
Hamilton, ON.



MacNab Street Presbyterian Church
May 11, 2014 –Easter 4
Christian Family Sunday

GATHERING

**Those who are able, please stand*

PRELUDE

* ENTRY OF THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Duty Elder, Rhonda Moore

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd.

I know my own

and my own know me.

I have come so that you may have life

and have it to the full."

Come, let us worship God together.

*PRAISE The Head that Once Was Crowned with Thorns Hymn #270

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Good Shepherd God

You know us,

And we are your sheep.

We know your voice that leads us into

Green pastures and quiet waters.

But we do not always follow.

Sometimes we follow other voices

And we become lost.

We end up bleating on the hillside, alone and afraid.

Forgive us our inattention. Forgive our waywardness.

Keep calling after us, we pray, until we respond.

Christ in your great mercy, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA

Hymn # #298

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit, God almighty, Three-in-One!

Glory, glory, glory, glory, while eternal ages run.

*THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

With one another: The Peace of Christ.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

*PRAISE My Shepherd Is the King of Love Hymn #691

THE WORD in conversation

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47 (p. 124NT)

PSALTER Psalm 23 Refrain 1 Rhonda Moore

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18 (p.107NT)

ANTHEM E'en so Lord Jesus P. Manz

SERMON "My Mother the Shepherd" Irene Duffey

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*PRAISE Mothering God Hymn #312

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION Rhonda Moore

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise father, son and holy ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*PRAISE

Now Thank We All Our God

Hymn #457

*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO MACNAB

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. **MacNab is a child friendly church. The church school is located in the parlour (through the front door in the sanctuary -lectern side- and to your right)- children who wish to stay with their parents for the church service will find colouring materials in the narthex (entrance) Ushers will be happy to assist with any questions.**

Everyone is invited to Johnston hall following the worship service for fellowship and refreshments.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO JOAN GREER

who will celebrate her 80th birthday on May 13th. God bless you Joan, with many more years of good health and contentment.



WESLEY URBAN MINISTRIES CASE FOR KIDS WALK will take place on Sunday, June 1 at Bayfront Park. Once again Marilyn Repchuck will walk on behalf of MacNab and the hope is to raise over \$1,000 for children in poverty in our city- one in four is the shocking statistic . We have supported the walk for more than 10 years now, and your generosity is appreciated. Marilyn will be available in Johnston Hall each Sunday in May to receive your donation or pledge.

COPIES OF SERMONS are available, hard copy or electronically, on an occasional or regular basis. Call the church office if you would like to make an arrangement.

CAN YOU HELP?

The University of Dubuque Concert Choir will sing a concert at MacNab on Tuesday, May 27th at 7:00.

This concert is free to the public - a free-will offering will be taken.

The choir is also asking if any families at MacNab can billet (overnight) pairs of singers. Please contact Chris Teeuwsen if you are interested in this.

This means taking two students home following the concert - giving them breakfast - and having the students brought to the Fortinos Plaza(in-between King & Main at 403) by 8:30 am.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY BIBLE TEXTS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Thursday afternoon 2-5pm but call or email before coming. Occasionally Cathy will be attending to other congregational needs.

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30am-12:30pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ❖ John Baxter recovering from a heart procedure in London, Ont.
- ❖ Alex Cree recovering from heart surgery
- ❖ Don & Carole MacVicar's Inner City Ministry
- ❖ All who are grieving, facing health uncertainties, lonely or jobless

ASSISTING US TODAY:

Church School: Rebecca Teeuwsen
 Greeters: Jennifer, India, and Sawyer Van Hartingsveldt
 Ushers: John Shields, Jennifer Applewhaite, Bob & Marion Cameron
 Coffee Servers: Barry Betzner, Kathy Shields, Joyce Boyle, Chris Dawson
 Duty Elder: Rhonda Moore

ASSISTING US NEXT WEEK

Church School: Kathy Shields
 Greeters: George & Marina Watson
 Ushers: Frank & Irene Mills, Harry & Annette Callaghan
 Coffee Servers: Grace Maynard, Jean Hartman, Gerda Wolf, Lynda Milmine
 Duty Elder: Marilyn Repchuck

THIS WEEK AT MACNAB:

Mon	May 12	7:00pm	Maintenance Committee-Parlour
		7:00pm	Congregational Life-Choir Room
		7-8:30pm	Over-comers-Church House
Wed	May 14	7:30pm	RSCD AGM – Johnston Hall
Thurs	May 15	1:30pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall (prev. Tues pm)
		7:30pm	Choir Practice
Sun	May 18	10:30am	5th Sunday of Easter

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING DONATIONS
OF CEREAL FOR THE INNER CITY BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT – MAY 11TH

You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

John Bunyan (1628-1688) writer and preacher

MacNab Prayer

Loving God, by your Spirit
the congregation of MacNab was
formed, 160 years ago.

This congregation has loved and
served the city of Hamilton and the
world in many ways over the years.

Now we are in a new place
and we need the help of your Spirit
to see what you are calling us to do
and be.

Open our eyes and our hearts, we
pray, so we can, Like Abraham and
Sarah, find life in this new land.
Help us both “hold on to what is
good” and let go of what we no
longer need.

Christ, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

MacNab Street Presbyterian Church
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www.macnabpresbyterian.ca
Interim Minister: Rev. Cathy Stewart
Director of Music: Dr. Christiaan Teeuwssen

COMMUNITY NOTES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VON, the Victorian Order of Nurses is in **urgent** need of volunteers to provide support to individuals and their caregivers of all ages with a life threatening or terminal illness through our **Hospice Volunteer Service**.

Trained Volunteers sit with a client allowing the caregiver to take a little break. The caregiver may need a nap or go out to get groceries or supplies and at the same time, the client may enjoy a little socialization if feeling up to it. Giving the client some comfort, such as a sip of water or fluffing up their pillow may be asked of the volunteer. This service is rewarding to both the client/caregiver and volunteer.

Volunteers are also needed for our **Bereavement support program** to visit clients once a week who have recently lost a loved one.

To volunteer for these rewarding roles, please call Mary Catherine Ker at 905-522-0053 to register for an orientation session May 21 or June 10 or for more information.

PSALM 23

Refrain 1: The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,
leads me beside still waters,
restores my soul, and leads me in right paths
for the sake of the Lord's name. **R**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff-they comfort me. **R**

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for the length of my days. **R**