

"I can't!" we claim.

Honestly, though, it's not that we can't...it's that we won't.

We refuse to forgive, choosing instead to hold on to bitterness and resentment. The problem is, refusing to forgive is like the old saying: "It's like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." When we refuse to forgive, we are the ones who suffer.

Joseph forgives his brothers and says, "What you intended for evil, God has used for good." He is able to forgive because he focuses on God and not on those who have hurt him.

"Forgive and forget" is what we are often told, but it's almost impossible to forget hurtful things that happen to us. Forgiveness isn't about forgetting what has happened. Forgiveness is about *choosing* not to remember the sins others have committed against us. It's about letting go of bitterness and resentment and freeing ourselves from their destructive power.

The choice is ours. Will we focus on those who have hurt us? Or on God who forgives us our sins and asks us to do the same?

The Rev. Paula Hamilton serves in team ministry with her husband,
The Rev. Dr. Tom Hamilton, at St. Mark's Charlottetown and
St. Columba, Marshfield, PE.



MacNab Street Presbyterian Church
September 14, 2014 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

**Those who are able, please stand*

PRELUDE

* ENTRY OF THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 104)

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

We look to you to give us our food in due season;

when you open your hand, we are filled with good things.

When you send forth your spirit, we are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Come, let us worship God.

*PRAISE Sing Your Praise to God Eternal Hymn #423

PRAYER OF APPROACH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

We confess, O God, that it is hard for us to receive our lives as gift.

**We labour to earn our way through life, so we know where we stand in
relation to others: everyone getting what they deserve.**

Save us from our foolishness, we pray.

Wake us up to your generosity.

Christ in your mercy, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

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 Jesus, Friend So Kind and Gentle Hymn #519

BLESSING OF TATYANA PATTERSON-GREEN and her parents
RICHARD PATTERSON AND ELIZABETH GREEN

HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Exodus 16:2-15 (p.69 OT) Ian Dalziel

PSALTER Psalm 105:1-6; 37-45 Refrain #1 David Milmine

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16 (p.22 NT)

ANTHEM

SERMON "Offensive Generosity" Rev. Cathy Stewart

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*PRAISE God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending Hymn #663

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*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.**

THIS WEEK AT MACNAB:

TODAY! NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!

Mon	Sept 15	7:45pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall
		7-8:30pm	Over-comers-Church House
Tues	Sept 16	FRIENDLY CIRCLE IS CANCELLED FOR SEPT	
Wed	Sept 17	7:00pm	Session-Parlour
		7:30pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall
Thur	Sept 11	1:30pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall
Sat	Sept 20	7:00pm	White Cockade Social-Johnston Hall
Sun	Sept 21	10:30am	Worship with Rev. Cathy Stewart
		7:00pm	Ontario Presbyterian Chorus

50+ voice choir-refreshments following

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT – Sept 14th

In necessary things, unity; in disputed things,
liberty; in all things, charity.

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
theologian, poet and church leader.

COMMUNITY NOTES

MANA DAY AT CRIEFF WITH REV. BOB GEDDES

“Science, God and Evangelism.” Join us at Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference Centre as we explore how our probing of this amazing cosmos is a key for understanding how much God loves us. We will share time of learning, singing, fellowship and a great lunch!
Thursday, October 16th 10:30am-3:00pm

DINNER & GOSPEL CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 18 –St John & St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
19 Tisdale St N – Dinner at 6pm - Concert 7:30-9:30
Tickets \$20. Guest Performances by Dionne Maria Young, Kathleen Brooks & Steel Drum Musician Steve Perez

RYERSON UNITED CHURCH, ANCASTER presents “Raising the Ryerson Roof” Benefit Concert, Sunday, Oct 19 2pm. Freewill offering.
All proceeds go to roof repairs. See bulletin board in Johnston Hall for details.

PSALM 105:1-6; 37-45

**Refrain #1: Praise the Lord, God’s mercies trace, Alleluia!
Praise this providence and grace, Alleluia!**

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,
make known God’s deeds among the peoples.
Sing to the Lord, sing praises,
tell of all God’s wonderful works.

Glory in God’s holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the strength of the Lord;
seek the Lord’s presence continually.

**Remember the wonderful works God has done,
the miracles, and the judgments God has uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, God’s servant,
children of Jacob, God’s chosen ones.** R

Then the Lord brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it

**The Lord spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.
They asked, and the Lord brought quails,
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
The Lord opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
The Lord remembered the holy promise
made to Abraham, God’s servant.** R

So the Lord brought the people out with joy,
the chosen ones with singing.
**The Lord gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
that they might keep God’s statutes
and observe God’s laws.**

Praise the Lord! R