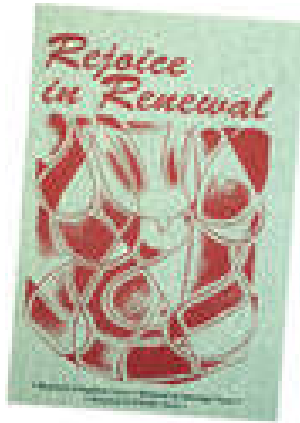


The Chronicle

Volume 78 Number 1
Autumn 2011



The magazine of
Newtownbreda (St. John's)
Presbyterian Church



What a busy summer it has been for Newtownbreda, with the God Loves You project involving the five churches on the Ormeau Road, the Summer Scheme Rocky's Plaice in August, and the weekly walks undertaken by the enthusiastic outdoors members of the congregation! Let us not forget however those who have been away perhaps on holiday to hotels, cottages and caravans for a well earned rest, those who have gone on adventurous trips to America and Africa, and those who have unfortunately been confined to their homes or hospitals because of age, illness or infirmity. It is my prayer that all of us will start the autumn season with a renewed sense of God's purpose for us and the strength to live it out. My prayer is "Forgive me my fear of my inadequacy Lord and replace it with a faith in Your strength".

Joan McQuoid



FROM THE STUDY

‘Communication and Community’

Communication has never been easier. It’s technology! We can ‘phone, email, blog, Facebook and twitter! While all these things are good and part of daily life for many, we need also to be aware of their limitations. For example, as one writer on the subject says, “*I believe what happens online is connection – not community.*” It keeps people informed, but the kind of communication which builds community needs to be more. Meaningful Christian community must have several ingredients. Shane Hipps, an American pastor suggests four: one is a shared history which establishes a sense of identity and belonging: another is permanence – permanence is how we get a shared history: third is proximity – we have to be with each other, building up relationships: and the last is a shared vision of the future – that we’re all headed in the same direction.

We have a good sense of community in Newtownbreda, but as we gradually tend to live further from the church, we need carefully to preserve and further to build our unity of fellowship. There are different ways to do that. Chronicle itself has always been a good source of information as to ‘what’s going on’. If confined to home, would you like to receive a CD of our morning worship? Speak to your elder and we can supply one free of charge! Maybe you could sample one of our many organisations this winter, if you haven’t done so before. You will be made welcome. Our Kirk Session sub-committee on Mission is keen that we all know a little more about life in our organisations and hopes that, maybe once every other month at morning worship an organisation will take two minutes to share a glimpse of who they are with us. The Youth Council has asked for a special ‘welcoming service’ in October, so that members of our uniformed youth organisations and their parents (many of whom are not members of the congregation) will feel more part of us.

The most fundamental ‘being together’ of course is at worship on a Sunday. A service on the screen is good, very good for any who are house bound, but will never take the place of physically joining in worship. When we spend more time staring into the screen than we do into the eyes of those we need to love, it might be time to switch off the screen! John Humphries, the broadcaster draws a distinction between ‘attending’ and ‘belonging’ somewhere. Let’s ensure that we attend, but more, that we belong to each other in Christ.

Wilfred Orr

UNITED APPEAL

With this edition of Chronicle you should find enclosed an envelope and information about the United Appeal Fund of the General Assembly. It is through the United Appeal that every congregation is invited to contribute to the wider work of our Presbyterian Church. Mission is directed both at home and overseas through the two main mission boards of the Assembly. Within each area, however, there are many different agencies and approaches to mission. For example, on Sunday 25th Sept., we shall have the Rev. Karen Mbayo as our guest preacher. Karen is Presbyterian chaplain to Queen's University, one aspect of work supported in part by the United Appeal.

Karen will be telling a little about her work on that Sunday, and anticipating our Harvest services two weeks later. We are asked to fill the envelopes for United Appeal generously and return them on Sunday 9th October when we celebrate the harvest. For many years now, we have provided this means of thanking God for his goodness to us, not just in words, but by gift.

AUDIO RECORDING of MORNING SERVICES

Copies of the service are made every Sunday morning. If you would like to listen to the service please speak to your **Elder** who will arrange to have it delivered each week or telephone Irene 9065 9895



62nd Belfast Scouts

While Scouts have a summer break from regular meetings a few activities have been continuing. Some are working on badges and there is a strong rumour that a scarecrow is under construction for the Church Autumn Fair.

Six of the younger Scouts, wishing to emulate the older ones, had a 2 day hike in North Down to gain the Expedition Challenge. This included camping at Crawfordsburn and navigating in unfamiliar country.

At the last youth service in February it became obvious that our flag, which had seen service for exactly 50 years, had reached the end of the road. Parades and investitures had taken their toll. Several former members made a contribution towards a new one which will be dedicated at the first available opportunity.

HURRICANE IRENE

Hurricane Irene originated off the coast of Africa and as it raged across the Atlantic Ocean it increased in force and volume. When it hit the southern islands of the Bahamas last week it was reckoned to be a category 4 hurricane over 600 miles wide. Several of the small islands suffered devastating damage, with roofs blown off houses and even whole houses hurled away as surging waves and winds of 130 miles per hour lashed their coasts.

When Irene hit the Abacos last Friday evening some of its raging fury was spent. It was now a category 3 hurricane with winds of 120 miles per hour. Residents expected the worst! They are accustomed to the devastation hurricanes leave in their wake. Hurricane shutters were in place, where possible boats were taken out of the water, aeroplanes tied down and every loose object outside removed, as raging winds use these as battering rams. Following the eerie calm at the eye of the storm, the winds resumed their fury, tearing boats from moorings, ripping roofs off homes and uprooting hundreds of trees. The storm raged through the night and into Saturday afternoon.

As the hurricane came from the south the surge did not cause the harbour at Marsh Harbour to flood, but in North Abaco where I live, the communities were hit by the surge and suffered flood damage. All telephone communications were out of service for four days and many utility poles had fallen, leaving most of the island without electricity. Many of the streets in my village, Treasure Cay, were impassable because of uprooted trees and flooding of over two feet of water.

Now the communities are out clearing up the debris, helping to clean each other's yards in an amazing spirit of camaraderie. More hurricanes are expected before the end of September. The next one Jose, has already developed over the Cape Verde Islands. September is the peak month for hurricanes.

Grace Chambers

BROKEN DREAMS

As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God, because He was my friend.

But then instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help in ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried, "How can You be so slow?"-
"My child" He said, "What could I do? You never did let go".

24 YEARS AGO.....

The 1987 Autumn edition of the Chronicle detailed that:

- Margaret Johnson was our assistant minister
- Roxaline Simpson retired after two years as organist, with thanks to Gordon McBride, Campbell Murray and Betty Arnold for deputising
- Newtownbreda had a successful Presbytery visitation, the church having two morning services, and over 900 communicants, although only 600 regular attendees
- There was difficulty finding leaders for Sunday School and youth organizations
- Church finances were healthy with Free Will Offerings up by 7.5%
- Alan Jennings reported on his Jamaican summer visit to help Rev Hughes and his wife with their vacation bible schools
- £2300 was raised for the Third World project in Kothapali India, £450 by Desmond McClean running the marathon, other monies by the Mid-summer Barbecue and the PW selling greetings cards depicting the church
- The Autumn Fair and Flower Show raised £1,250
- Louise Hogarth issued invitations to audition for the church pantomime 'Old King Cole'
- The scouts held their annual concert 'The Magic of the Musical', featuring June Boyle and Deryck Gilmour
- Doris Cardwell was the editor of the Chronicle

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO READ?

What's so Amazing about Grace? is a book by the award winning author Philip Yancey, which explores the meaning of 'grace' at street level. He asks that if grace is God's love for the undeserving, then what does it look like in action? And if Christians are its sole dispensers then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and lack of forgiveness than it does of mercy. Grace does not excuse sin, but it treasures the sinner. He offers compelling true portraits of grace's life changing power and searches for its presence in his own life and in the church.

(This is a powerful and easy to read book that helps people to understand and live out the true meaning of grace- full of true to life illustrations which do not shirk challenging issues like the Holocaust and homosexuality)- editor

AN INDIAN TALE

(the first instalment of Jean Shannon's memories of her life in India as a medical missionary)

“My friends from primary school days say that I always wanted to be a doctor and a missionary. I don’t remember that, but as I grew older I knew that I wanted to study medicine, and at twelve years old I made a commitment to following Christ. Having qualified in medicine and practised for two years in the Royal Group of Hospitals, I suddenly had a big question. What next? Often on my way through Queens a little voice in my head would say “What are you going to do when you finish this?” and I would answer back, “Let me get finished.” In 1963 I had finished training and the moment of truth had come. What was I going to do? I felt a very strong call to go to India as a missionary. I therefore applied to the Women’s Missionary Association, was interviewed, and told I needed more medical experience before being ready to go abroad. After a year in Banbridge Hospital with a wonderful variety of patients, I again contacted WMA, and this time things began to happen. I was sent to St. Colms College in Edinburgh for missionary training, where I had time to think about my faith and also the implications of missionary work. I was called to the Foreign Missions Board in November 1964, and sailed to Bombay on February 1965, arriving there three weeks later. During the voyage I shared a cabin with an American lady who was a follower of Sai Baba, a Hindu “god man”. This was my first missionary experience, and I was amazed that an otherwise intelligent woman could believe that this man could do miracles and had bamboozled her into believing that he was god. I didn’t make much impression on her, but we at least parted as friends.

Bombay Port was something different - the noise, the bustle, the crowds of people everywhere; everyone trying to identify their luggage which had been landed! I looked around, hoping that someone would arrive to help me negotiate my way through the melee, when a colleague arrived and shepherded me through customs, assuring me that the agent would put my stuff in the guard’s van on the right train for the overnight journey to Anand, the nearest railway station to my destination, Borsad. We arrived there at 5am, and all my new missionary medical colleagues were there on the station platform to meet me. I didn’t know any of them before that moment, but very soon over a breakfast at 6am, we made each other’s acquaintance. Another colleague then came to take me in her jeep to Borsad. It was a beautiful sunny morning and the monkeys were playing in the trees by the roadside. At that time I didn’t realise that apart from the four months of the monsoon, every morning in India is bright and sunny.

I arrived at Borsad and found that I would be sharing a bungalow with two others, Nan, the Matron of the Hospital, and Audrey, who ran the Creche and Orphanage. Although there was a hospital on site, I had one task, and one alone-to learn Gujarati as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. For that I had a teacher called Lucy, and a taped course where I had to repeat sentences aloud over and over again for six hours daily, but I found it so boring that if I managed to tolerate it for two to three hours that was enough! Lucy managed to teach me to read and write Gujarati also, so that at the year's end I passed the missionaries' exam with distinction. I occasionally went over to the hospital, just to see cases, but not to work, because part of my first year involved learning about Indian culture and visiting temples.....”

To be continued.....

Jean with some of the village elders



Q: What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?

A: Ruth - less!

BIBLE READING NOTES

Would you like to deepen your understanding of the Bible and discover what relevance it might have for your personal or community life today?
There are a number of very readable booklets to help you!

Most follow a basic pattern- daily reading of a short bible passage which is then discussed, often with humour, with relevance to a contemporary lifestyle. A short prayer, meditation or suggestion for further reading concludes the day's notes.

You will find something to suit you among these options:

- *Words for Today* and *Light for our Path* are annual publications for adults. Both are traditional and popular as are
- *Daily Bread* (quarterly) and two titles especially for women –
- *Inspiring Women* and *Day by Day with God*
- *Discover* is for the early teens

A selection of titles for inspection will be available in Church at the end of November should you wish to order for 2012.

Barbara Gordon

LUNCH CLUB DATES 2011 - 2012

2011

28 September		12 October
26 October		9 November
23 November		7 December
14 December	for	<u>Christmas Meal</u>

2012

11 January		25 January
8 February		22 February
7 March		21 March
4 April		18 April
2 May		16 May

**YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - IF YOU REQUIRE
TRANSPORT PLEASE CONTACT IRENE on 9065 9895**



Some of the children and leaders at the Summer Scheme in August



Pete with Leaders including Salt and Vinegar puppets

ROCKY'S Plaice

On the 15th-19th August, around 30 kids and a great team of leaders and helpers had a fantastic week at Rocky's Plaice – our annual Summer Scheme. Peter the disciple introduced friends such as Cornelius, Dorcas and Priscilla who were there when the early church began. There was a puppet show with our trainee chefs Salt and Vinegar; crafts such as our Hama bead coasters and our Rocky's Plaice placemats not forgetting our massive blanket made of individual squares designed by the kids; games; very messy quizzes and lots, lots more. A special thank you must go to all those helpers who so freely gave of their time to help make this all happen. We're now looking forward to what Summer 2012 will have in store!



“Under His Wings” is the theme for this year’s Presbyterian Women, the women’s fellowship in which women are encouraged to become and grow as Disciples of Christ, in addition to supporting mission at home and overseas. No longer requiring a membership fee, Newtownbreda PW meets alternate Mondays at 7.30pm in the Megaw Room, starting on 10th October with what is an inspiring story of Keith Preston’s outreach work to Belfast’s growing immigrant population. This year’s programme covers topics such as the L’Arche community and Mission Aviation, with quizzes, auctions, a ‘tea party’, entertainment from the ‘Lilting Banshees’ and a fund raiser featuring Jan de Vries. So please come along and sample the fun and fellowship – women of all ages are welcome (and occasionally we include men as well!)

GOD LOVES YOU (GLU)

GLU 2011 took place on the 5-10 July with a record number of volunteers from all five churches in the Ballynafeigh area with over 300 people attending the Fun Day in Cherryvale Park on the Sat. The week commenced with a commissioning service in Ballynafeigh Methodist on Sunday 3 July at 7pm and concluded with a thanksgiving service in Cooke Centenary on the 10 July. As you can see from the photos great fun was had by all during the week of GLU as people removed graffiti from walls, tidied up gardens, offered free tea and coffee, ran various youth and children's activities not to mention the big hit of the week the Senior Citizens Tea Dance on the Friday afternoon. It was a wonderful opportunity for the churches to demonstrate Gods love in acts of kindness to their friends and neighbours and to continue to build the good relationships which exist between the churches in the area. The Fun Day on the Saturday was also lots of fun with many people commenting on the positive and family atmosphere as people from across the community gathered to participate in the activities, archery, bouncy castles, circus performers and free BBQ to name but a few. A special thank you to the catering ladies who ensured that we were well fed and watered throughout the week and to the clergy representatives who led us in devotions setting the tone for the day ahead. More photos of the week's activities will be displayed in the Halls Foyer some Sunday morning after church. Thanks to all who took part in any way.

Jane and Pete



GLU Volunteers from the five churches



From the Teens group to the Seniors Tea Dance





Cleaning graffiti



**Clown at Saturday's Fun day
at Cherryvale**



Aaron doing some gardening



Dancing at the Tea Dance at St Jude's Hall



Christine picking up rubbish

**MORE
GLU
ACTIVITIES
ON
THE
ORMEAU
ROAD**

FROM MARKETHILL TO THE PALACE



This July saw the Clerk of Newtownbreda's Kirk Session receive a knighthood from the Prince of Wales in recognition of his years as Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, our own Bruce Robinson becoming Sir Bruce and his wife Lady Janet. But a life of service began much earlier Bruce was born in Markethill, the youngest of three brothers, to a father who had a licensed house, ran a livestock sales yard, and bottled Guinness and Bushmills whiskey, and a mother steeped in the Presbyterian Church in Tullyallen, Mountnorris. He attended his local primary school and then boarded for seven

years in Armagh Royal, where he became Head Boy, moving to Newry High School to improve his A level grades. It was there that he met an attractive bank manager's daughter called Janet.

They both went to Queen's, Bruce to study Economics and Accounting and Janet Languages, marrying in 1972, living initially in Stranmillis. They looked around for a church that would meet their spiritual needs and tried various places, but the draw of Newtownbreda was strong. On Bruce's father's return from sixteen years in America he and his mother had married in Newtownbreda at the outbreak of war, Janet's aunt and uncle were Mavis and Andrew Rutherford and the daughter of the then minister, Rev Lowry was a friend of Janet's at Queen's. The die was cast!

While working for Coopers and Lybrand Bruce qualified as an accountant and Janet qualified as a teacher. But both were equally drawn to offer themselves for Voluntary Services Overseas, and in 1976 spent a year teaching in Moshi, near Mount Kilimanjaro, Bruce's project sponsored by Christian Aid. When his third level college teaching came to an end, Coopers arranged for him to work on a US AID project in Dar es Salaam for a year, and Janet contrived to teach for VSO there. Bruce describes the incredible experiences they had working in the area, (meeting President Nyerere, a man of similar standing to Mandela, for instance), the wonderful friends they made, many of whom still keep in touch, and how it has shaped and reinforced their beliefs and values. The different church groups in which they were involved broadened their spiritual horizons, and Bruce's interest in economic development grew through his work in Tanzania. On an extended four month journey home they visited Mauritius, Madagascar and South Africa. In Johannesburg they went to the mother house of two nuns they knew from Tanzania, the local nuns working in Soweto only two years after the riots there!

After their spiritual development in Africa it was an active decision to rejoin Newtownbreda when back in Belfast in 1978. Bruce went back to Coopers and their daughter Catherine was born in 1979, son Graham following in 1982, with daughters Sophie in 1985 and Lucinda in 1987. Within two years Bruce joined the Northern Ireland Development Agency (NIDA), starting his career in economic development . It became the

Industrial Development Board in 1982, and this was the beginning of his career in the Civil Service.

It was a very busy period in both their lives, with Bruce's developing career, Janet looking after young children, and Bruce being ordained to the eldership in Newtownbreda in 1979. Bruce recalls the satisfaction of doing elder's visitations, being part of the house groups and third world projects, and being involved in the church's centenary projects in 1992 as well as the congregational survey and future planning *Towards 2005*. When he was made Clerk of the Kirk Session in 1995, he was also Chief Executive of the IDB, and is grateful that he has been blessed with the energy to be able to cope with multi tasking. Always aware that the world is bigger than these shores, he has sought opportunities to broaden his horizons and see the wider perspective, such as choosing to enhance his management skills through studying at a business school in France rather than America. He is especially grateful to Janet for her support, her flexibility and the fact that they share the same values and direction for the future. In 2000 Bruce joined the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment as Permanent Secretary, moved to the Department of Finance in 2006 and became head of the Civil Service in 2008. He is due to retire in October but has no formulated plans for his personal future. Having had a life full of thinking and planning ahead he feels it nice for a change to wait and see how he is guided for the next stage, as Janet has now also retired from her teaching career.

He is very optimistic with regard to Newtownbreda's future. Our Mission Plan is very important and highly relevant for us, he says, defining a positive role for the church within a wider community, and perhaps a different and significant one for the next 4-5 years with Ormeau Churches Together and GLU. He feels that our Halls redevelopment building project has worked out very well, and we were led to make the decision about it at the right time, as it would not have been possible to undertake the project now with the recession.

Bruce and Janet are an enormously warm couple, with obvious love for each other and their adult children. They are generous in their hospitality, and are committed to service both within Newtownbreda and the wider church and community. With deep spiritual beliefs they reach out to those in need with genuine friendship. They continue to 'look upwards', feeling that our church is moving in the right direction and that things will work out well in the future. I have no doubt that part of their own future will be further service to the wider church.

Joan McQuoid

CHURCH RECORDS

As it is now over 10 years since we last updated the Church records and some of the information we hold is incorrect or out of date, your elder will deliver a census form to you in the next few weeks.

The information supplied will be used only for the Church records and will aid future communications to you of relevant organizations and future Church events.

Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia

The trip officially started on Thursday 22nd July and finished on Friday 5th August but in between were some breath taking scenes, kind hearted people and memorable experiences. I say that because it started long before July and hopefully the friendships formed will last much longer.

There were twelve of us in the team ranging in age from 18 to late 30s, made up of four men and eight ladies from across the province from Cookstown to Broughshane. There were different professions as well, from students to teachers and accountants to one sales assistant.

We flew in to Addis Ababa and the thought that struck me was never before had I been in a capital city where goats still grazed the grass on the traffic islands and people drove donkeys up the main road. We were working in Debre Markos to the north west of the city and were told that the journey between the two places was five hours. However, I think our affiliate had forgotten it takes a lot longer in a bus with four gears and whenever you have to stop every fifteen minutes for security checks or for livestock in the middle of the road!

A typical working day consisted of starting work on site at 9.00 and working until 10.30 when our first coffee break was prepared for us by the local women with the help of one of the ladies from our team. We then worked until 12.30 when lunch was prepared for us, consisting of spaghetti, rice, cabbage and other vegetables. This was followed by 'rest time' which meant playing with the local children. We worked some more before our second coffee break was served around 3.00 by which time the daily thunder storm was usually upon us. The affiliate decided it was too wet for us to work so we returned to our hotel. The rest of the time it was sunny and temperatures reached the mid twenties or higher.

The houses have two rooms and neighbours share their outside toilet. They have a stone foundation and a corrugated iron roof. The walls are mainly made from timber which is nailed together. This is then covered in chikka, which is a mixture of a clay soil, straw and water. When this dries it is covered in plaster and painted. We worked seven days out of the two weeks, mainly on our houses. Work consisted of digging foundations, transporting wood and stones, nailing timber and covering the walls in chikka. On the last day we moved on to another four houses which we painted before dedicating them.

Most of the families we were working for were single women with families whose husbands had either died or had left them. They lived in dark one or two room houses which they were currently renting. They all looked forward to moving into their new houses.

As we were out during the wet season we were able to see a different

Ethiopia than that portrayed by the News Channels. Instead of sand and dust we saw green mountains and the fast flowing Nile. This kept the local livestock and wildlife fed. We were also observed Ark of the Covenant Day where a replica was carried around the local church three times under brightly coloured umbrellas. A shame we couldn't understand the hour long sermon!

Our hotel was basic but a welcome sight after a hard day's work in the soaking rain. After a warm shower we had a choice of western food for dinner, provided that it could be deciphered from the menu. Sleeping was easy once the music from the local club ended, the dogs were quiet and the bed bugs stopped biting.

Highlights of the trip included seeing the Nile, playing with the children and dedicating the houses on the last working day. Low lights were the cold showers on the first couple of days and being bitten at night. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored us. We genuinely couldn't have done it without your support.

Duncan Orr



Ruth's Story.....

3 days, 2 flights, and a 10 hour bus journey later we arrived in Debre Markos, a town in the north-east of Ethiopia. We drew a lot of attention as 12 white people all in baby blue Habitat for Humanity hoodies rolled into town! The bus journey from the capital city Addis Ababa to Debre Markos was the first experience I had of Ethiopia – and it was shocking. Donkeys, goats and sheep were more common on the roads than other vehicles, makeshift houses were falling down and everywhere you looked there was extreme poverty. I'm not going to lie, for the first half hour of that journey I was seriously wondering what I'd gotten myself into, and whether I would be able to cope with it. But as I looked closer I began to see gleams of hope and life through the misery. Two children hugged each other, young boys out looking after their herds of cattle splashed and played in puddles left over from the previous nights thunderstorm. And once we began building I found this was common throughout the people of Ethiopia.



The welcome we got was incredible, and the builders were (mostly) incredibly patient as we struggled to keep up with them. We joked all the time that we were only there for

comic relief – that they didn't actually want us to build! Although it was obvious that they enjoyed having us there I think we all had moments of despair; when children ran past carrying the same amount of wood as two of us could manage, when I managed to break 6 nails in a row, when it was obvious the professionals were laughing at us in Amharic. But gradually we became more and more accustomed to building and in the end we managed to achieve a lot. Where there was a bare patch of land on our first day there were four houses that, while they weren't complete, at least had walls and a roof (and our walls only fell off a few times!).

Overall it was an incredible experience, completely challenging, eye-opening and life changing.

Ruth Agnew



LETTER FROM AMERICA

Mark 12:30 says "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

As we study this passage we are challenged with what this really means. It means not just a fleeting glimpse of giving to God but rather a daily and continual humbling before God in all areas and all corners of our life. This has most certainly been a challenge for Melodie and myself over the last 6 months. After celebrating the risen Christ at Easter time we gave the congregation in Batesville another reason to celebrate in May.

It was with great joy we announced to the congregation that we are expecting our first child in the autumn on 11/11/11. It was also with honesty we shared with them that last autumn (October 2010) we were pregnant and had a miscarriage at 10 weeks. We did this for many reasons but most notably to remind the congregation that we also are human. That whilst we celebrate and anxiously await our new arrival we do so having faced our own trials during which it was a struggle to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength."

As excitement continues to grow for the new arrival we had a busy summer, which involved both sets of parents visiting and many other trips including to Memphis and New Orleans. (We even found time for my dad to paint our nursery!) At the start of the summer I was fortunate to take a dozen high school young people to Montreat, North Carolina. There one will find a Presbyterian College and Conference Center and it is there every summer that 5000 Presbyterian Youth gather to be challenged by the word, praise and build up many of the relationships that the Presbyterian Church is very much about.

I have noticed a dramatic difference in many of my high schoolers since returning. I asked them to trust me and to open themselves up to this experience and the result has been incredible. Deeper and more meaningful relationships with me and with God have ensued - What a great reminder this is as we embark upon a new program year. Perhaps we should challenge ourselves to trust God that little bit more and to seek the words of Mark 12:30 as a challenge. That to love the Lord with all our heart, mind and strength is something we work at but it's also something we have to open ourselves to and to trust.

As we embark upon a new program year, see what trusting will do for you. Maybe challenge yourself to a new experience or even just to seek out a new

friend in your church family. Challenge yourself to read your Bible more or maybe even just to attend church more and in trusting God, see what God truly can bless you with.

So the advances of modern technology have allowed us to find out that we will be having a BABY GIRL...so I will also need to learn to trust a little more and be open to many of the new adventures that lie ahead of us.

Steve Pointon
(steveandmelodie@me.com)

ULSTER PROJECT

(two schoolgirls from the church went to America this summer , Caitlin Mellon to Ohio and Arden Armstrong to Texas- these are their stories..)

For me this summer was, by far, the best, as I was lucky enough to take part in the Ulster Project 2011. I had been counting down the days until I left for America since January, and when the time came, I was so excited. I had heard nothing but good things about the project, and I couldn't wait to get stuck in!

From the day we arrived on 26th June to the day we left a month later, our schedule was jam packed. I had no idea that a small town like Alliance, Ohio, had so much to offer! Over the month we flew planes, did high ropes courses, went to a drive-in movie, had dance lessons, helped out at local day care, played bingo with hospital patients, went bowling and to a 'rollertorium', swam in a lake, canoed for eight miles, had a pool party, experienced a Thanksgiving dinner and so much more!

In the time we spent in America we not only became close with the Americans, but we Belfast teens became like family. We still meet up as a group, and talk to our American teens every day! I was lucky enough to stay with a lovely family, the Yoders, and I really bonded with their daughter Emma.

I would like to thank everybody involved in the Ulster Project, especially Rev Orr, for giving me such an amazing opportunity.

Caitlin Mellon

Then Arden's story

When it came to writing this short article for the chronicle I found it very difficult. Not because there wasn't enough to say, because there was far too much to say. But I will try my best to try and fit my memories of the best month on my life into the short space I have here.

It all started way back in October when I applied for Ulster project through church. I really didn't understand what the project was then, and little did I know what a month I was in for.

I will always remember the night that my mum came running into the kitchen with a piece of paper in her hands and a smile on her face to say that I had been accepted into the project. So now I knew I was going to America there was the excitement of finding out where about in America I would be staying. I can honestly say I didn't think I could be more excited than I already was until I found out I was going to Texas!

At long last I got my match and I was paired with Julie Smith , if I am being totally honest I don't think I could have been matched better as Julie and I are two of a kind.

It is impossible to describe how I felt when I stepped into the Catholic Church on Monday the 27th of June 2011. Well to start off with I had just left freezing cold Belfast and entered boiling hot Arlington which was just a little bit of a shock for me and I just didn't know what or where on earth my mind was doing or thinking and I had 101 different things on my mind. But I will always remember the moment I stepped through the double doors and saw Julie in person for the first time .This girl who I had only ever seen on a screen I now was looking at in real person and it just felt like a dream come true.

During the project we participated in many different activities such as high ropes, concerts, tubing, water sports, Six Flags amusement park, Spirit of Hope and pool parties. We did 50 activities over 30 days and I can honestly say we didn't have time to breathe! There wasn't a day that we didn't have less than 2 activities planned for us. The ones that I have listed were a few of my favourite events.

As well as the fun activities, one of my most favourite events was helping out with the community at Spirit of Hope. We spent two days of our time in America with abused children. It was such an eye opening experience to me and everyone else in the group and a lot of emotion was poured out when we were leaving the children as we all became so attached and close to the child that we were looking after. During the two days at Spirit of Hope I looked after two young boys. On the first day I was not able to look after the young boy that I had been given originally as we were taking the children out. Dustin the young boy of 10 years old had previously tried to run away and they didn't want to risk that happening again. So the first day I was looking after a young boy called Cody and he was only three years old. As the day went on we began to wonder why on earth Cody was being cared for at Spirit of Hope as unlike the other children he wasn't nervous and was just a happy go lucky boy who was always smiling and who loved talking ! But we then found out that this young boy had been raped. Words can not even describe how I felt when I was told this. It really made me think about the fact that we get upset about the silliest of things when



here is a small boy who has been raped and he can still have something to smile about so that made me really change my attitude to things in life. It was great getting to treat the kids. We took them out for lunch, we

took them to putt putt golf, they got new trainers and school bags for school but my favourite part was when we got given \$100 to spend on each of the children, and there was a girl of 16 and she had had two babies due to rape, one of which very sadly had died and one who lived with her granny who she never got to see. And when we were all told on the bus that we had \$100 to spend on each of them she burst into tears as she had never had anything like this before in her life, this girl really was such a hero she acted like a mum to all of the kids staying at spirit of hope and she really was just an amazing girl!

Before I went to America I never imagined the love and affection we would be given throughout our month in Texas, by people who were once strangers at the start of the month. I will always remember when I was feeling a little homesick and down one night and my American mum looked me in the eye and she said “ Arden , why are you worrying , you are going home to a family that love you.” And at that moment in time I just felt so special and for someone to say such an amazing thing to me really touched me.

I have formed such a relationship with my American family and I just think of Julie and her older sister Sarah as my sisters too as well as Chloe. I am proud to say that I think I have two families now, one in Ireland and now one in America too!

I can honestly say with a hand on my heart say that Ulster Project has changed my attitudes to the way I view people I now have much more respect for people’s opinions and it has just made me a better person. For anyone in the church who is not sure about applying for Ulster Project truthfully don’t think twice it was the best summer of my life ... in fact it was the best month of my life and it will be with me forever.

I know that I wasn’t meant to write this much for the Chronicle but when it came to shortening it I just couldn’t. Sorry for such a long article but if any of you younger folks are reading this and have any questions about the project feel free to ask me.

Arden Armstrong

AUSCHWITZ

I recently visited Auschwitz with my brother and sister-in-law, and since then have been considering what I heard and saw on the visit.

As an avid reader of World War II books and having watched many films and documentaries I was aware of the infamous sign over the gate “Arbeit Macht Frei” (work brings freedom) and the story of the camp. However I was not prepared for the actual size, the forward planning and the statistics I learned that day!

Auschwitz was not just one large camp- there were actually 51 camps attached to the small Auschwitz 1, many of which were for containing the slave labour for German factories including that of Oscar Schindler. 75% of those arriving at the camp had no record made of their arrival and went straight to the gas chambers, so in effect records that do exist only relate to those who were deemed fit for work or for medical research, and most of this number were killed by starvation, beatings or worked to death.

Whilst the first camp was a brick built converted Polish army camp the other ones were mainly wooden, using former German Army stables complete with tethering rings- 52 horses equalled 1000 people!

Auschwitz 2 had a 330 yard railway track running from the entrance to the gas chambers and the camp housed about 100,000 people. Only half built, it was also known as Birkenau. The mind baulks at the size it might have reached and the numbers who would have been enslaved or died there, if the building plans had been carried out!

Everything was planned to bring maximum benefit to the German economy; people were told they were being relocated so they had to pay train fare, all valuables were confiscated and all other articles including victims' shoes were recycled. There was a display of human hair, and the material made from it, a wall of suitcases, some labelled with children's names, one of handicapped aids and another with thousands of shoes.

Both sites are preserved as a museum and are visited by half a million people a year. My Tour Manager has escorted many groups but does not accompany them inside anymore as he is too affected by the horrors being explained.

I cannot comprehend how a civilised nation could efficiently move millions of people from all over German Occupied Europe and then submit them to such brutality and death.

Auschwitz is worth a visit but unlike my Tour Manager I will not be back!

Ross Irvine

CHURCH BARBECUE



The rather ominous looking grey clouds that lingered all day gave way to some beautiful sunshine on Saturday past as we began our very first Church BBQ. With over 70 in attendance, the sound of conversation filled the foyer as the burgers and sausages were cooked by our excellent team of chefs! Rev. Orr began proceedings by saying grace and then people queued through the office to pick up their burger and hotdogs as well as an array of side salad, sauces and condiments. It was great to see everyone interacting and sharing together and all in all proved to be a big success. After the costs were all covered we were able to give the profit over to the church. Thanks to all who made it possible and for all those that attended and I trust you all had an enjoyable evening.

Pete



62nd Cub Scout Pack

Cubs is a great place where boys aged eight to eleven can meet, play and make lots of friends. The leaders have loads of fun games to play and we learn the history of Baden Powell and how he created the Scouts. Most years the Cubs go on two or three trips and sometimes get visitors such as my Dad, who told us about being a vet and helped us do our Animal Carer badge. The Cubs also do other badge work (swimming, I.T, cooking, science etc). I would recommend Cubs for boys who go to our Church. We meet in the St. John's Hall on a Monday evening from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. If you are interested talk to Akela (our Leader).

I went to Cub Camp from 13-15 May. This is a camping trip where the older boys and some lucky younger Cubs sleep-over at Ardnally for a weekend in a tent. The other boys get to join us during the day to play games, go canoeing and have a go at archery. 16 Cubs camped out and it was great fun!
Callum Doherty

(A Note From Akela: Thanks to Callum for doing such a good job of writing the Cub report).

I just wish to take this opportunity to inform our congregation that all our Scouting organisation are "bursting at the seams". We are regularly having to turn away young boys wishing to join all sections. As you can imagine, this is done with a very heavy heart. We only wish we could accept everyone who phones us or turns up at our meetings. We "Do Our Best" but really need to increase the number of leaders willing to take on even a small role. If you would like to find out more about what we do on a Monday evening, please contact me or call in.

Diane Dawson 9020 9418

URGENT
**JOB VACANCIES WITHIN OUR CHURCH SCOUT-
ING ORGANISATIONS**

POSITIONS Leaders/Helpers (for 14½ -18 year olds)
Leaders/Helpers (for 11- 14½ year olds)
Leaders/Helpers (for 8 - 11 year olds)
Leaders/Helpers (for 6 - 8 year olds)
Leaders/Helpers (for 4 - 6 year olds)

AGE Irrelevant – Young at heart

QUALIFICATIONS Enthusiasm, Energy, Sense of humour

PAST EXPERIENCE None required

FUNCTION To join a team in the running of the Scout group (not necessarily every week of Scouting year)

TRAINING ‘On-the-job’ but formal training is available from Scouting Association, if desired

REWARD Indescribable.....Joy of seeing young boys have fun, develop new life skills alongside members of the local community and mature into responsible young citizens

Please give serious thought to this matter as we can only keep running with the support of our church members.

If you would like to know more, without obligation, please contact our Group Scout Leader, Peter Dawson (who oversees Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). Tel: 9020 9418 or email: 62ndbelfastcubscouts@googlemail.com



22nd World Scout Jamboree

This summer I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to go to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Rinkaby in Sweden. I was one of 10 Scouts from the Belfast County who joined with a total of 72 Scouts to make up the Northern Ireland contingent. For 18 months prior to the Jamboree we met together regularly for training weekends and fundraising events.

On 24th July, the contingent set off from Belfast City airport on the first leg of our journey to Copenhagen. Everyone in the UK had identical Jamboree kit bags so it was incredible that none of our luggage was lost! In Copenhagen we met with the other UK Scouts, more than 4000 in total. We spent 3 days in Copenhagen, sightseeing and participating in activities organised by the UK contingent support team. This was a fun way to start our Jamboree experience.

On 27th July we boarded one of a large number of coaches that would transport us via the Øresund Bridge, which connects Sweden and Denmark and is the longest road and rail bridge in Europe, to Rinkaby in Sweden and the site of the Jamboree. The site construction had started months beforehand and the International Support Team had succeeded in setting up a town for around 40000 Scouts from 143 countries.

The site was divided into four subcamps which were the homes of the Scouts at the Jamboree. This is where most of the everyday camp life took place, sleeping, cooking, cleaning etc. Subcamps made it easier to get to know people from other countries and our subcamp included Scouts from Switzerland, America, and Columbia to name a few. I discovered the meaning of ‘it’s a small world’ when I met Rupert Schildböck, a Scout leader from Austria, who has connections with our very own 62nd as he stayed with one of our members while participating in the Gosford Jamboree in 1989.

Common areas on the site included everything outside the subcamps and the scheduled activity areas. These areas were designed to facilitate meetings and included cafes, exhibitions and specific spaces for faiths and beliefs.

The theme of the Jamboree was ‘Simply Scouting’. There were literally hundreds of stimulating, fun activities to keep us occupied, focusing on discovering new cultures. Activities were divided into five modules.

People, which enabled us to learn about and to understand and respect other cultures.

Earth, which focused on hands-on answers about how our planet works including creating wind power plants, building rivers and landscapes in a model world and stimulating us to think about what actions we can take to make the world a better place.

Quest, which involved visiting worlds from different eras in time, and taking part in physical activities and games to challenge mind and body.

Global development village, which included multimedia exhibitions, interactive workshops and activities organised into six different themes that concern the challenges facing the world today: Peace, Health, Human Rights, Environment and Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Information and Communication Technologies.

Dream, was the Jamboree night activity. This was a chance to discover your inner self and also to meet other people and see life from a different perspective.

Camp in Camp was another activity where groups of Scouts numbering 100-200 took part in smaller overnight camps outside the Jamboree site. These camps were hosted by Scout units from Sweden and neighbouring Nordic countries

During the Jamboree there were several major events held in the main arena. The opening ceremony was spectacular! All participating countries took part in a massive flag parade. Bear Grylls, the television personality who is also the Chief Scout, arrived in style by abseiling into the arena and handing over the Jamboree flag to the host country. Midway through the Jamboree the arena was the site of the Lighthouse Ceremony which was a celebration of all the faiths and beliefs represented at the Jamboree. At the closing ceremony, the Jamboree song, 'Changing the World' was sung by 40000 voices. During the Jamboree, the participants had been thinking about how humanity can improve the world and their suggestions were mixed with performances by various artists, including the band Europe, and a speech from the King of Sweden. The ceremony and the Jamboree ended with a fantastic musical firework display and the flag handover to Japan, host to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in 2015.

However, the closing ceremony was not the end of my Jamboree experience. HO HO or home hospitality was still to come. This gave me the opportunity to stay with a Scout family in another country for 3 nights and so it was off to Finland and a wooden house beside a lake in the forest, complete with traditional sauna.

The Jamboree was a once in a lifetime, fantastic experience and one which I will never forget. I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to participate in such an amazing event and I would like to thank John Lyons, the members of the 62nd and all in Newtownbreda for supporting me in this venture.

Adam Meek

SMALL THINGS I THANK GOD FOR AS I GET OLDER.

Finding my spectacles.
Finding my car keys.
Remembering to take my shopping list with me.
Each time my elderly car starts.
Finding my car in the Supermarket car-park.
When I get back onto terra firma from my 2 step ladder.
That I did remember to turn on the oven for Sunday lunch before I went to Church.

The list is endless, and that is before I start thanking God for the important things :-

Waking up each morning.
Family.
Friends.
The wonders of Nature.
Church.

Anyway you know what I mean !

I am not afraid of tomorrow

because I've seen yesterday and I love today. I have learned lessons from Noah:

1. Don't miss the boat
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead—it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark
4. Stay fit—when you're old like Noah you might be asked to do something big
5. Don't listen to critics! Just get on with the job that needs to be done
6. Build your future on high ground
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs
8. Speed isn't always an advantage—the snails were on board with the cheetahs
9. When you're stressed, float a while
10. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals
11. No matter the storm, when you're with God there is always a rainbow waiting.

Most people walk in and out of your life but friends leave footprints in your heart.

(John Gilmour Ist Cookstown)

St John's goes walking.

"Go walking, that's what you do, go walking, don't you know it's good for you."

Many gathered over the weeks to walk in sun, wind and rain, to see many of the sights that are at our fingertips and others perhaps not so well known, like Gideon's Green at Hazelbank, enjoying the views of the Stormont Estate to the views of the Annalong valley.



Hazelbank



Advance Party on the Mourne Wall

The Comber Greenway proved to be very tedious and dreary as the rain poured down on us. Thanks to the kindness of Mr and Mrs Craig Stuaart we were given a roof over our heads and some warm fluids and refreshments to warm us up. It's amazing what a cup of tea or coffee can do to

give you the motivation to get through the rain as quickly as possible. However during the warmer evenings the pace was as relaxed as you made it, the speed-walkers went at their own pace and the more casual walkers at theirs. All in all this was a very successful and enjoyable experience for all ages; personally I



look forward to next year's walking group and the expeditions we may embark upon. A big thank you to Ken and Jane for organizing the walks.



Scott Robinson

FLOWER LIST

October	2	Mrs D Ditty
	9	Harvest
	16	Mrs P Ferguson
	23	Mrs M Sloan
	30	Mrs W Robb
November	6	Mrs I Colvin
	13	Mrs H Todd
	20	Mrs A McManus
	27	Mrs J Russell
December	4	Mrs I Boyd
	11	Mrs M Kane
	18	Mrs D Adams (in memoriam)
	25	Mrs D Adams (in memoriam)



Clare Pollock would like to thank
all those who helped with Children's
Church over the summer months

Congratulations to Anita, nee Bharucha, and her husband Peter Stewart, who were married in Newtownbreda, and who are now back in England after some months in India, where they adopted their daughter Pratiba.



CONGREGATIONAL RECORD

Baptisms: 10th July Jacob James, son of Donna and Peter Thompson
Deaths: 13th August Iris Gray, 6 Knockeden Park
23rd August Harry Williamson, 13 Cotswold Ave.
15th Sept Dorothy Adams, 70 Ravenhill Park

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October:

Sunday 2nd Communion morning and evening
Sunday 9th Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 16th 10.30 a.m. Uniformed Youth Service

November:

Sunday 13th 10.30a.m. Remembrance Sunday

December:

Friday 2nd Concert by the McPeaks – traditional Irish music in St John's Hall
Sunday 11th 10.30 a.m. Children's Gift Service
Sunday 18th 5.00 p.m. Annual Carol Service

(No evening services on either 25th. Dec. or 1st. Jan.)

The Weaver

*My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me, I cannot
choose the colours He worketh steadily.*

*Oft times He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride forget He
sees the upper but I the under side.*

*Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,
shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needed in the Weaver's skilful hand, as
threads of gold and silver in the pattern life has planned.*

Benjamin Malachi Franklin (1882-1965)

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