

3 September 2017		
10am	Coffee Team: Bruce, Terri & Sylvia Welcome Team: Alice, Charles, Luca & Pete U	
10.30am	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Service</b> Leader: Ian Naismith	Speakers: David Trodden Graeme Shanks There will be communion at the end
6:30pm	<b>Songs of Praise</b> Led by the Band	Speaker: Jon Gemmell
10 September 2017		
10am	Communion Service Chairing: David <i>Missionary Offering for Jim Burnett (Argentina)</i>	
11am	Coffee Team: Anne J, Daniel & Gill Welcome Team: Alastair, Andrew, Emma & Neil	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Ally Chalmers	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Journeying to Jerusalem</b> Luke 13:1-17
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Tim Foster	Speaker: Bruce Pass <b>Judges: Conforming to Canaan</b> Jephthah & Co. (Judges 10:11-12:15)
17 September 2017		
10am	Communion Service Chairing: David	
11am	Coffee Team: Alice, Tim & Zoe Welcome Team: Bruce, Laurence, Peter McG & Simona	
11.30am	Induction Service for Graeme and Alistair Leader: Paul Johnston	Speaker: Robin Sysderff
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Ally Chalmers	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Judges: Conforming to Canaan</b> Samson 1: Birth & work (Judges 13-15)
24 September 2017		
10am	Communion Service Chairing: Neil <i>Second bag offering for Heber &amp; Fiona Gallitto</i>	
11am	Coffee Team: Margo, Vanessa & Violet Welcome Team: Gina, Klass, Sylvia & Thane	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Graeme Shanks	Speaker: Ally Chalmers <b>Journeying to Jerusalem</b> Luke 13:18-35
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Garry Ferrier	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Judges: Conforming to Canaan</b> Samson 2: Downfall & death (Judges 16).
<b>Flowers</b> 3 Sept: Arlene 10 Sept: Liliias 17 Sept: Bridget 24 Sept: Doreen	<b>Crèche September</b> 3 Sept: 1. Alex, 2. Emma, 3. Karen 10 Sept: 1. Margo, Peter McG, Simona 17 Sept: 1. Molly, Margaret, Vanessa 24 Sept: 1. Karen, 2. Ally, 3. Esther	<b>Roots September</b> 3 Sept: 1. Esther 2. Hannah 3. Susan 10 Sept: 1. Ally W 2. Peter B 3. Laura B 17 Sept: 1. Bridget 2. Anne J 3. Christy 24 Sept: 1. Robert 2. Hannah 3. Alex
<b>Prayer Meetings September</b> Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> 7:45pm: All Church Prayer Thu 21 <sup>st</sup> 1pm: Lunchtime Prayer	<b>Small Groups September</b> Weeks beginning 10 and 24 September <i>To find out about Small Groups, please speak to Alistair.</i>	

# September 2017 Newsletter



## THE PASTOR'S PEN by Graeme Shanks

'Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do.'

The above line is from Pharrell Williams' 2013 song *Happy*. We live a world obsessed with the notion of happiness. You may or may not know that the twentieth of March is officially *World Happiness Day*. On this day each year people from all over the globe are invited, for a whole 24 hours, to adopt the mantra "Today, I will try to create more happiness in the world around me." Consider yourself extremely fortunate if your birthday happens to fall on the twentieth! Not so much if it falls on the twenty-first!

I've thoroughly enjoyed studying Paul's letter to the Philippians over the summer. As one reads it through one cannot help but see the dominant joy thread that runs from beginning to end. Paul is obsessed with the notion, not of happiness, but of joy! He wants it to be the distinctive feature and experience of his own life and he wants the same to be true for his dear brothers and sisters in Philippi.

What is perhaps even more surprising is Paul's situation as he writes! He's in the confines of a Roman jail! Not much room for joy there surely! But none the less Paul declares that he is 'glad and rejoices with all of them' (2:17). So is Paul simply a glass half full kind of guy? Is this Paul determining always to look on the bright side of life? Is this him making some lemonade as life throws him a lemon? No.

So where, for Paul, is true joy to be found? Well, the key to the Christian's joy is its source, which Paul repeatedly states in his letter as being the Lord. Knowing Jesus Christ. Loving Him. Treasuring Him. Abiding in Him. The circumstances of Paul's life may well change, but the source of his joy, the unchanging Christ, will not.

Sinclair Ferguson writes; 'This joy is not based on how we feel about our personal circumstances, but on the fact of our fellowship with Christ, and on the facts about Him.'

Particularly, Paul gives 3 reasons why the Christian can be joyful in Christ.

**The past.** Formerly a running rebel set on persecuting the Church, God, by his grace opened Paul's eyes to see the all surpassing greatness of Jesus Christ. There remains a fundamental wonder in Paul that Christ Jesus has made him His own (3:12). We may have a different story to Paul, but as Christians, our testimony is still the same. That we are great sinners and Christ is a great Saviour!

**The present.** So sovereign is God that He, by His Spirit, is using every situation to shape Paul more into the likeness of Jesus Christ. God is committed to renewing his people as he changes us from the inside out!

**The future.** Our great God is summoning us to enter his presence through the work of His Son. As Christians, we have a future in heaven with Him to which all the happiness in this world cannot compare!

Joy

And so Paul declares; *'Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice!' (4:4)*

Always? Yup, you heard it right, always! The Christian is called to something much more sweeter and permanent than a mere 24-hour date with happiness. The Christian is invited to embrace a relationship of sweet fellowship with their Lord and truly know lasting joy!

As the old hymn puts it; *When with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see,  
'twill be my joy through the ages  
to sing of his love for me.*

Dear father, by your grace, may that be the song that our hearts truly clap along to!

### **Induction Service – 17 September at 11:30am**

The special guest speaker at the Induction Service for Graeme Shanks and Alistair Chalmers will be Robin Sysderff, Minister of Chalmers Church. Lunch will be provided upstairs after the service.

### **Missions News by Sheila McLeod**

**Jim Burnett, Fiona and Heber Gallitto in Argentina** - Jim has returned to Parana after a short visit to Scotland. Give thanks that some members from the Assembly he started in 1980 felt God's call in the last three or four years to develop two new assemblies in the city. Jim will continue writing articles for the Assemblies' magazine and he plans to devote much of his time in the next months to visiting, preaching and teaching in neighbouring provinces. Heber and Fiona are leading one of the new assemblies and they are rejoicing to see four relations of church members becoming Christians. A lady who began reading the Bible with her nine year old son, who had received it as a prize at a children's club, asked the Gallittos to come and pray for her. They were able to explain the gospel message to her and she decided then to commit her life to Christ.

**Andrea Smith in Lebanon** - Praise God that the visit of students from the Evangelical School to Scotland was a success. Pray for them as they still have two more years of education. Remember Andrea and the staff in all their responsibilities and ask God to send more believers who can contribute to chapels and staff prayers once the school resumes after the summer. The situation in Lebanon, especially for refugees, is desperate. Many young children are working and begging on the streets. Pray for peace and tolerance amongst the various communities across the country.

### **Food and Fellowship by Gill MacKintosh**

As you may know, we have a system in place with the Pastoral Care team to offer practical care to church people by providing meals at times of need such as having a baby or convalescing from hospital.

We use a website which lets us all know who's cooking what and when and those receiving the meals know what to expect. The rota tends to run for no more than 4 weeks but not to provide a meal for every night - perhaps just a few meals per week, and please don't worry about the cooking part of it- you could provide pizza, salad and garlic bread, or pasta and a jar of sauce. There really isn't any pressure to produce a cordon bleu meal!

We would like to set up a meal rota for Pip and Alex Lind when the new baby arrives, the rota is likely to commence mid October.

If you would like to be part of the rota please get in touch and I can provide further information.

### **Holiday Club 2017 by Peter Irvine**

This summer our Holiday club, **Guardians of Ancora: Treasure Seekers**, ran for five mornings at the end of the school holidays. This is only the second time we have run a week-long holiday club in recent years. In the previous three years our holiday clubs were compacted down to two long days.

At the end of the first day, even though I know numbers are not the most important thing, I couldn't help but be disappointed at the number of children as only around 15 had come, and even Beth's friend hadn't shown up. I wondered whether the timing of the club had been a mistake as it clashed with an SU camp some of our kids were at, and I started to think I should have gone back to two full days instead of going for five mornings again. This was even though it had been clear we were able to build much better relationships with the children over five mornings compared to two long days.

However, our prayers were answered as I was able to get in touch with Beth's friend who came and had a fabulous time, and we had a significant boost to our numbers with over 20 there on the Tuesday and for the rest of the week. This helped give the holiday club a nice buzz, without it being too busy for some of our younger and quieter children.

One of the best things over the week was seeing friends bringing friends, with new children even coming on the Friday. It was also fantastic to see Jack do so well as a junior leader and even develop his acting skills in the drama. At the end of the week I was really thankful to God for the privilege of being able to lead the holiday club with such a great team.

- Give thanks for how God was at work over the week, and that we were able to clearly share the Gospel with the children. Please pray for follow up at Kids' Church Friday Funzone, Bruntsfield Primary SU group and Boroughmuir High SU group.
- Give thanks that we've now had one of the parents ask about a space at Friday Funzone and pray that they would come and that others would follow.
- Give thanks for the great team and pray that we would be able to expand the team for future events and see more people involved across the congregation.



#### **Lunches**

There will be a church lunch after the induction service for Graeme and Alistair on 17 September. Everyone is invited.

The first young people's lunch of the new session is on 24 September, provided by Fraser and Lynn. There is a lunch for young people every Sunday during university term-time.

#### **Heart of the Matter September**

**3 Sept:** Rev. Olaniyi Daramola, *Worldlink UK Coordinator*  
**10 Sept:** Cristina Contiu, *Golgotha Bible School, Talmaciu, Romania*  
**17 Sept:** Keith Getty, *Singer, songwriter & worship leader*  
**24 Sept:** Bill Thomson, *Men's Ministry, West Lothian*

*Black Diamond 107.8 FM: Sunday 9 am. repeat 8 am. following week. FM and online. Crystal 107.4 FM: Sunday 11 am. /Midnight and Tuesday 11 am. FM and online. Alive FM 107.3 FM: Sunday 10 am. FM and online. TD 1 106.5 FM: Sunday 8 am. FM and online. Heartsong live: Various times Edinburgh's first and only online Christian radio station.*