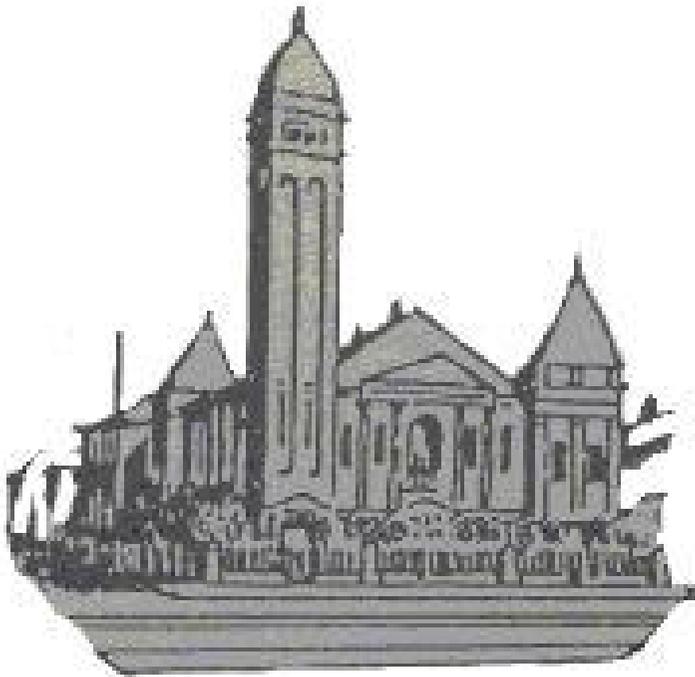


The Trinity Newsletter



August Extra 2014

Message from the Manse

"Special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of you"

Romans 12

Summer has arrived, the tourists are filling the guest houses and hotels, and as I write this the sun is shining, so it's time to pack the cases and set off for that much needed break. But is it the break we need, or indeed look forward to? The children on the car journey squabbling and constantly asking, 'are we there yet?' The self-catering cabin that's damp and nothing works, or the hotel that's miles away from the sea and nothing like the picture in the brochure. The list of nightmare experiences goes on and in the midst of it patience wears thin and tempers get frayed and the rosy dream of a relaxing family-bonding holiday disappears in a mist of tears.

Yet God has given us all special abilities; spiritual gifts, to combat the ups and downs of life and we are given them with the ultimate purpose of developing family values and relationships at home, with others, and in Christ's Church. This applies as much when we face any kind of change in our lives or circumstances. Currently I find myself surrounded by boxes, tissue paper, and a lot of dusty possessions! With each move or change there is the challenge of saying goodbye to the familiar or those whose love and support we have cherished whilst keeping an open mind to embrace the future and those whom we have yet to meet. Moving on tends to focus the mind on what is necessary, both materially and spiritually. There is a need to be mindful of others; to use what God has given us to make the adjustments necessary for change and maintain harmony within the body of Christ. This is the true witness of God's people making a difference on earth.

May I take this opportunity of thanking those who have walked beside me during my time with you. It could be said that beginnings are scary; endings are usually sad, but it's the middle bit that counts. By the grace of God I pray that the middle bit has counted. My hope is for the Lord's blessing of the special abilities of the Holy Spirit upon you all for an exciting new beginning.

May happy holidays where family values abound be with you all,

Janice.

FAMILY VALUES

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The family of God is a family of need,
Who on troubles, traumas and trials must feed,
Daily this life causes boils full of pain to appear,
And cost of the treatment is priced very dear,
But prevention they say is far better than cure,
For that we must study God's Word, to be sure!

This life's values and customs must be thrown away,
Our ideals must be changed to live life Jesus' way,
Transformed into thinking of others above ourselves,
Knowing God, into every deed and thought delves,
With honest appraisal, judge soberly with great care,
Lest our lives, against others, will much worse fare.

God has made each one different and yet all the same,
Our gifts to be used for the other ones claim,
On our own we are crippled and blind, not fully grown,
Together God's Kingdom to us will be known,
So give thought to God's family, for God loves us all,
Understanding and patience is our high call.

Let us each bless the other with what each has received,
Then blessings unnumbered we all will conceive,
Of prophecy and teaching encouragement and grace,
Tolerance, forgiveness, these gifts ALL, must face,
With love for each other communication is good,
Building trust in each other as true love should.

So respect family members for each are unique,
God made us and loves us and will to each speak,
Not to all in the same way, or with words all the same,
But to each as each needs to light the true flame
Of God's Spirit within us Who affects our new birth,
Through us Jesus' teaching will fill the whole earth.

Let's love one another for love is God's special key,
That opens the door and sets all people free,
Resolve to be humble, sincere and holy in all,
To evil and vengeance we must never fall,
For the master deceiver lies in wait to destroy,
While our Father protects, exposing the ploy.

Contd..

Be steadfast and patient through suffering and sorrow,
God will set things straight with hope for tomorrow,
If we serve the Lord freely being constant in prayer,
Others will come to God's family to share
The harmony and healing tranquillity of peace,
Till through us, God's children, the world's strivings cease.