

ECCLESIA

*The church in the heart of the town,
with the town in its heart*



November 2016

**Irvine Church of the Nazarene
8 Eglinton Street
Irvine**

www.nazarene.org.uk/irvine

Pastor's Page



During October I was in Northern Ireland for our District Minister's Conference. Being in my homeland I choose, with Diane, to stay on for a few extra days and meet with family.

Our young niece now has two children, both boys, good children and full of energy. Of course they like all children have their moments of disagreement, usually over sharing a tractor or such like. It was during one such incident that mum had to step in. James, the youngest and still discovering language, was taken to the side by his mum who said to him 'James, you have to be nice to Sam, he's your friend.' In reply to this James with all sincerity commented 'He's not my friend, he's my brother!'

It would not be the first time I have heard similar language in the context of the church. 'I don't really like him (or her)'. 'I wouldn't want to be friends with her (or him)'. Yet, I am constantly reminded that he is my brother, she is my sister, your brother, your sister.

Part of the conference I was attending carried the reminder that we, the church, are the family of God, a people chosen in Christ, brothers and sisters in the Lord - and friends. Jesus himself calls us 'his friends' and as such has shared his life and learning with us.

We are the 'Body of Christ' and this implies that we are different in character and in personality, that we have different strengths and play different roles. But it also implies that we are a part of the whole - the body, and we all understand that in a healthy body all the parts work together as one for the good of the whole.

If 'church' is going to work then the Body of Christ needs to see itself as Family, a community, brothers and sisters - and Friends.

Pastor Des

"The time when God seems furthest away may very well be the times when He is doing His deepest work within us."

"With the help of God we can live faithfully in the very places where our faith is under fire."

"God knows that to grant some of our requests would be a punishment rather than a blessing."

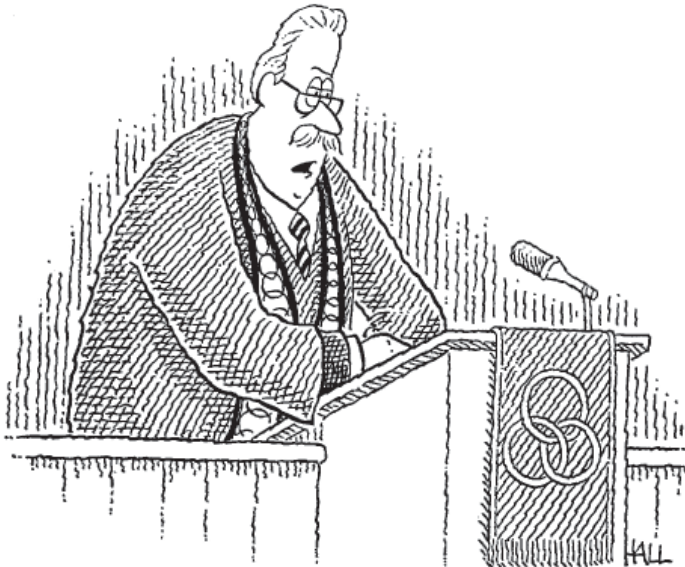
Quotes supplied by Rev Andrew Young

Pastors' Preaching & Pulpit Supply

NOVEMBER	AM (11.00)	PM (6.15)
Sun. 6th	Des Robinson	Andrew Young <i>communion</i>
Sun. 13th <i>Note: 10.50am</i>	Jim Strachan <i>Remembrance</i>	Nathan Payne
Sun. 20th	Des Robinson	Des Robinson
Sun. 27th	Des Robinson <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i>	NMI

LIFE GROUPS

Life groups have already commenced and will meet as usual with the church group meeting in the church at 7.30pm and Peter's group meeting as usual in Maureen's home at 7.30pm.



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"I've stopped expecting you to make leaps of faith,
but it would be nice to see a hop now and then."

Parent and Toddler Group

Last month offered the parents and children a morning out at 'Creepie Crawlies' soft play centre in Irvine with the group meeting there on the Mon / Wed / Thur morning. Lots of time for a chat over refreshments, breakfast rolls and great cakes.

Then it was time for the staff to enjoy a well-earned break as the schools were off on holiday. Next in sight (scary thought) is the Christmas party on 14th Dec.

Every week the parents pay a £1 fee for attending the group but sitting next to the register is a charity box for any loose change parents might care to donate.

The box for 2016 has raised £300 and last month it was decided to donate £150 to a Breast Cancer fund. We did this by sponsoring Caroline McManus (Pride) - a member of our group and church family - who was running her first marathon (26 miles) in Inverness. Well done to Caroline for such a great effort ... next stop London / New York?

Mind you, some of the staff feel as if they have run a marathon by the end of a toddler session! Great team. Thanks for all your hard work.



Pastor Des

"When we give away what the Lord has given to us, He is honoured, others are helped and we are blessed."

"God gives us loving warnings in His Word to correct us and protect us."

"A soft answer has often been the means of breaking a hard heart."

"God has promised always to be present with those who believe in Jesus. No matter how dark the night, the unseen God is ready to respond appropriately to our need."

"GRACE is getting what we don't deserve from God. MERCY is not getting what we do deserve from God."

"God's call to a task includes His strength to complete it."

"The best place for God's Word is first in our hearts and then on our tongues."

More quotes supplied by Rev Andrew Young

Silver Liner's

Though still rather small in numbers, the Silver Liner meetings are going from strength to strength and are a real tonic to those who meet week by week. We have a great time in worship singing mainly the old hymns and choruses so beloved by us older folk. And some wonderful speakers too, the latest being George Campbell encouraging us to be a thankful people even as St Paul urged his friends in his letter to the Thessalonians(1 Thess 5:18), "In everything give thanks". Then Ps Robinson gave us his take on the game show 'The price is right', leading up to the conclusion that the price is indeed right to give back to God in thankfulness for what He has done for us, i.e. to 'present your bodies a living sacrifice to Him' (Rom 12:1.). Following that we had a visit from Ps Wes Hands, son of the Silver Liners' founder, the Rev Leslie Hands. He mesmerised the company with magic tricks through which he illustrated the gospel story; he then went on to tell us about his retirement hobby - wood turning, using scrap wood to produce lovely vases, samples of which he had brought with him. The moral there was, of course, was that though many would regard us older folk as good only for the scrap heap, the Lord can take us up and remake us into useful vessels in His service.

Lastly our dear sister Cathy Tarrant enthralled us by recounting how the Lord has been moving throughout her family circle down through the years; she then encouraged us to go tell others how the Lord is moving in our families also.

The Silver Liners is not just another way in which to pass away an hour or so; it can be a rich time of blessing for you - and you are missing out if you are not there! Come and see that the Lord is good!

Ron Payne

*God will take care of you
Through every day, o'er all the way
He will take care of you
God will take care of you*

Sunday School

The Sunday School children enjoyed taking part in our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. [photographs pages 6&7]

We had lots of fun at our Fancy Dress Party at the start of October. [photographs pages 8&9]

Rehearsals have now started for our Christmas Nativity on Sunday 18th December at 6:15pm.

Our Christmas Party will be on Friday 16th December from 6pm - 7:30pm.



Jennifer Dickson
Director of Childrens Ministries.



Harvest Sunday





Lots of food to be gifted to the North Ayrshire Food Bank



Margaret Hart wins the latest M&M Quiz



Sunday School Fancy Dress Party





What more can be said about these two?



The children [and staff] enjoyed good fun, games & food





NEW BUILDING FUND RAISING UPDATE

M&M Quiz 10

The Sweetie Themed Quiz had 22 all-correct entries and the ultimate winner was Margaret Hart. Well Done and thanks to all who took part to help raise £126 for the fund.

Fashion Show with M & Co

Thanks to all who organised, contributed, modeled and supported the Fashion Show on the 27th October. The total amount raised will be available for the next newsletter.

A-Pound-A-Day

The next ingathering of the Pound-a-Day boxes is planned for 6th November. If you pay income tax please indicate this on the gift aid declaration sticker on the collection box.



Coffee Morning & Christmas Fayre ***Saturday 19th November***



We are holding a Coffee Morning & Christmas Fayre on Saturday 19th November from 10am to 12 noon. Coffee Morning tickets will be on sale for £2.50 each and we plan to have several stalls along with Santa's Grotto.

Building Fund Balance

£182,000

Songs of Praise

SONGS OF PRAISE - I expect many of you get to see, and listen to, the BBC TV 'Songs of Praise' - it was a moving programme last Sunday; part of it focussed on the **Aberfan** disaster of 50 years ago. Charles Wesley's hymns, Love Divine sung to Blaenwern, and Jesus, Lover of my soul sung to the beautiful minor key tune Aberystwyth were most appropriate and rich in meaning...as was Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (sung to Cwm Rhondda). And the testimony of the Methodist minister touched the heart and truly honoured the Lord.

Rev Colin H Wood

[taken from his October,
Benevolent Fund Newsletter]

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

*Words by: William Williams
Music [Cwm Rhondda] by: John Hughs*

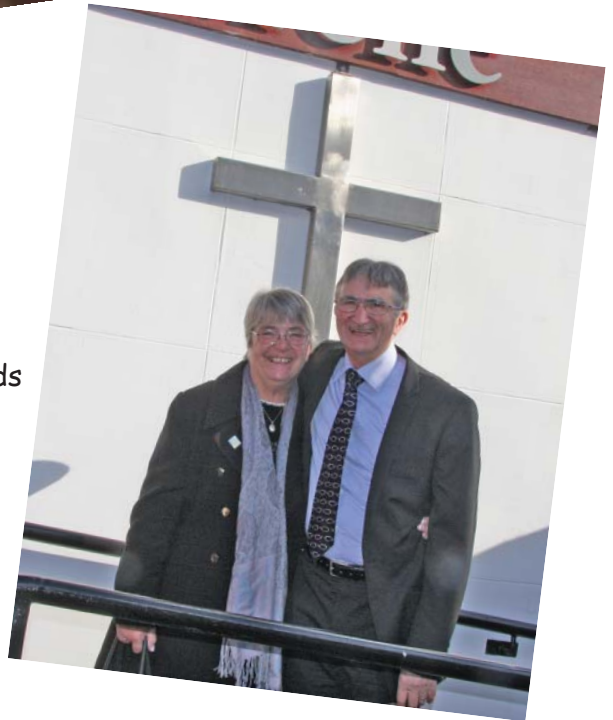
Anniversary Sunday

On Sunday 23rd October our guest preacher was Rev Wes Hands, son of a former pastor Rev Les Hands. Pastor Hands was accompanied by his wife Janet. We were truly blessed by his ministry and we pray God's richest blessing on his 'retirement'



Rev Wes Hands
preaching at
both services

Rev Wes & Janet Hands



What's On



Sun. 6th	Pound-a-Day boxes
Tue. 8th	Church Board Meeting
Sun. 13th	Remembrance Sunday 10.50am start
Sat. 19th	Christmas Fayre
Sun 20th	Items for December magazine
Thur. 24th	Ladies Outreach Lunch

Request

Home baking is required for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 12th. If you would like to help with this request, then please speak to either Elaine or Jennifer who will advise you on what is required and needed.....your help will be greatly appreciated.

The deadline for articles & items for next month's magazine will be the evening service on

Sunday 20th November 2016

Please give your article to Irvine Boal
or e-mail him at

irvineboal@msn.com

NMI



Sunday 27th Nov at 6.15pm

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

In 2015 NAZARENE CHILD SPONSORSHIP helped 11,571 children through child development centres ... come and hear some of their stories and learn how you can become a child sponsor.

Discover the blessing of giving!

Thank you for your generosity in giving to world missions. Churches around the globe contribute annually to the world mission effort through various offerings, gifts and donations.

Last month you helped by raising **£266.13** in Alabaster Offerings and giving **£1099.84** through the Harvest Thanksgiving envelopes.

In giving you have enabled others in the work of extending the Kingdom of God. Jesus said 'I will build my church.'



Nazarene Missions
INTERNATIONAL

Women's Fellowship

It is good to be back after the holiday break and although our numbers are down a little due to illness and hospital appointments, God is still blessing us.

Andrew Young gave us a visit and brought a variety of items with him and after having a wee look we had to guess what they were. We had a few laughs along the way. On the bag he brought were these words "what's left for the rest of your life". His theme was how we should take time to help others and show them God's love. We need to ask God to open our hearts to others needs.

Continue to pray for those who are ill, send a card or make a quick phone call. It would be appreciated.

Jean Paterson



The singing is
always good

Prayer For Our Nation

"A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. and the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the Lord has spoken'" (Isaiah.40:3-5).

The wasteland is a picture of life's trials and sufferings. We are not immune to these but our faith need not be hindered by them. Isaiah told the people to prepare to see God work.

As stories of war violence and persecution continue to fill the news it is encouraging to hear how God's Word even during these hard times is providing a source of hope and comfort for those affected by conflict. This is the story of A Syria refugee (from the Scottish Bible Society).

Mathai's Story (name changed to protect his identity)
- Reflections from a Syrian refugee

When Mathai, 46, discovered that he was going to be next in line to be beheaded by a local IS (Islamic State) gang, who were on the rampage against Christian men in his Syrian hometown, he knew he had to flee. He made sure his wife and three children were safe, and then set off on a long and perilous journey across the border to Lebanon, and into Turkey and then onto Greece by boat. From there he trekked through Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Hungary before finally arriving in Austria.

Sometimes I was afraid. But mostly just so tired, so exhausted.

It was in Austria that Mathai found help from Christian brothers and sisters, who gave him a safe place to stay and helped him lodge an asylum application. What's more, our colleagues at the Austrian Bible Society gave him what is now his prize possession - a large-print Arabic Bible.

This Bible tells me I'm not alone, it reminds me that every human is loved by God and has a value. Whenever I think of my wife and children I'm very afraid, but when I turn to the Bible I see light.

Scripture is also helping Mathai to deal with the trauma as he learns about forgiveness.

I particularly turn to passages in the Bible that are about forgiveness; it helps me when I think of all the people who have done awful things in my country. Jesus experienced the same and forgave his enemies. I am following Jesus.

21 Christian girls freed from terrorists in Nigeria give praise to God
We read of how the 21 Christian girls freed from the Islamic militant group
Book Haran and how they have praised God in the wake of their release.
Many of the girls were Christian, but some were forcibly converted to
Islam. Nigeria ranks twelfth on the Open Doors watch list, making it one
of the worst countries for Christian persecution in the world. Thousands of
Christians have been killed or displaced by Islamist extremists.
Gloria Dame, one of the girls kidnapped two years ago, publicly gave thanks
to God at a Christian celebration event in Nigeria's capital Abuja.
'It is only by God's grace we survived'.

Gloria Dame

She spoke out about the ordeal she and the other girls were put through. In
the local Hausa language she said: "We had no food for one month and ten
days, but we did not die. We thank God".

Please pray for those who have been affected by war, violence and
persecution that they may be kept safe and find comfort in God's word.
Pray for the different Bible Societies as they continue in their mission of
bringing the Word to the world, that they will bring help and support to
displaced and affected people. (From the Scottish Bible Society)

As we read of how the government is to push ahead with regulation of
Church Youth Work, and the Named Person scheme let us pray for all those
who care for, nurture and teach children.

Thank God for their commitment to help young people grow. Pray for wisdom
for all parents of teenagers, ask that they would draw on God's strength
during difficult times.

Our greatest need is for praying

This is the message of Isaiah for today : *"Prepare the way of the Lord!"*

Come now is the time to pray for our Nation. We would love to have you join
with us on a Friday from 10.30-12 noon.

Carol

"When Satan strikes, strike back with the Word of God as your weapon."

"You can never speak to the wrong person about Christ."

*"Reformation is like putting a new shirt on a man; regeneration is like putting
a new man in a shirt."*

Even more quotes supplied by Rev Andrew Young

Celebrations

Anniversaries

None

Birthdays

01	Sarma Gilchrist [70]
03	Robyn Purss
05	Aimee Ferguson
06	Faye McGeachie
07	Kevin Miller
07	Stephanie Culbert
09	Tom Ferguson
09	Isabel Robertson
13	Laura Macmillan
16	Paul Robinson
19	Ben McGeachie
20	Mary Campbell
21	Rev Des Robinson
22	Joshua Ferguson
23	Rev Tom Goodwin
23	Rev Claire Fender
23	Sadie Thompson
24	Ella MacDonald
28	Margaret Mounce

Serving us this month

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Tom Ferguson & Jordan Dickson



DOOR STEWARDS

Hayley Dickson & Carissa Hyndman **am**
Irvine Boal & Margaret Davie **pm**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

6th Christy
13th Jennifer
20th Hayley
27th Fiona K
Dec 4th Rachel



TEA ROTA

6th & 13th Margaret & Marion
20th & 27th Diane & Morag



CLEANING ROTA

4th & 11th Margaret Diane & Alison
18th & 25th Elma & Andrew



Weekly Programme

SUNDAY	11.00a.m. 12.30p.m. 6.15p.m.	Morning Service Sunday School Evening Service
MONDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
TUESDAY	2.00p.m.	Over 50's Fellowship
WEDNESDAY	10.00a.m. 7.30p.m.	Parent & Toddler Group Life Groups
THURSDAY	10.00a.m. 1.15p.m.	Parent & Toddler Group Women's Fellowship
FRIDAY	10.30a.m. 7.30p.m.	Prayer for the Nation F.L.A.S.H. (Youth Fun Night)

CONTACT OUR PASTOR

Rev Des Robinson

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Irvine Church of the Nazarene Mission Statement

*To glorify God and help
people become fully
committed followers of
Jesus Christ*