

# "In The Orchard" Newsletter

Orchard Valley United Church of Canada  
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"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great."

Mark 16:1-4 KJV

## Annika's Easter Message

"Roll away your stone, I'll roll away mine. Together we can see what we will find. Don't leave me alone at this time. For I am afraid of what I will discover inside" - Mumford & Sons

Oh, how I love the metaphors of Easter! This is the time of rolling away stones, of community, of discovery. I love this song by Mumford & Sons (<https://youtu.be/3eEobPFhpws>) It sums up perfectly what I think Easter is and where we are as a faith family. We've pushed away those stones and now we're walking into the new reality.

I'm sure it wasn't easy for the disciples to take that leap of faith, roll away the stone, and walk into that new reality. They'd been through a lot. Many of them went out on a limb to establish this new faith family. They gave up family and friends, careers and lifestyles. Imagine their hesitation looking into the tomb after

seeing the stone rolled away. It took them some time to regroup themselves, to reorganize and reassess. They could have given into the darkness that tried to shadow the vision of the kin-dom they were working for.

They could have given up and returned but they didn't!

They stuck with it and continued to push the boundaries that confined them and their religion, knowing that they were working for the greater good. And so do we. You had a vision when you formed Orchard Valley, a vision of a church that would work towards the greater good. You rolled away the stone. Now we are in the time of discovering what lies hidden deep inside.



We're in this together, nervous excitement building with each small discovery, be it a new outreach project to the community, a new form of worship, new spaces, new faces, and new ways to bring spirituality to young families. Sometimes new ventures are more successful than we could have imagined, sometimes they fail wildly, and sometimes they are just so different that we find ourselves angry and aching for the safe and familiar.

And just when we think, we've really done it this time, we're reminded of that Easter grace. Nothing can stop movement toward the kin-dom. Sometimes we momentarily lose the vision, but that's what the never ending grace is for. It's the welcome back to the vision of the kin-dom, the work towards the greater good that changes each of our hearts.

I'm excited, we've rolled the stone, now let's discover what's hidden inside!

## Randy's Easter Message

We, as Christians, are an Easter People – all year round! That means, as believers, 'we have got it': Jesus resurrected is the unequivocal message that God is with us at all times – We are loved! We are not alone! We are forgiven!

A favourite priest, social activist, poet, and author, Thomas Merton, has told us that the grace of God utterly and totally permeates our lives, just as

they are in the present moment. All of our failures and weaknesses are absolutely irrelevant in the face of such all-pervading grace (in the words of James Finley). To hear, understand, and live by Merton's statement, is to recognize that there is always hope! . . . and that is Easter! Not just in our hymns and prayers, but indeed in everyday living.

Over the many years of my ministry, two persons stand out, in the context

of this Easter message. Both were given a life-ending prognosis by their doctors. One said to me "This getting older is for the birds; life sucks!". The other said "As long as I have life, I will live it to the best of my ability!" I think you can discern the quality of life that both led, from that point on. Jesus made the truth clear. "those who have ears to hear . . ."

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## From the Council by Jane McDonald

As we move into spring and hopes of warmer weather, we also come to the culmination of our Lenten season. Many of you have participated in lectionary study, "Living the Question" Christian Study, and many have taken the time for thoughtful reflection.

Easter is a time of celebration and also a time of sorrow. As Jesus rood into Jerusalem on that day many gathered in the streets to celebrate his arrival. Just one week later we

again celebrate his resurrection. Between those times we saw betrayal, fear, denial, sorrow and physical pain. I parallel that with our journey as Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge. We have realized all of the same emotions that the followers of Jesus did during Holy week.

We can take comfort that God will help us to make thoughtful decisions on who we are and how we live out his work through our efforts to help those

less fortunate than ourselves. At times it may seem difficult, but if we care for and respect each other, listen to those who need to be heard and value their feelings, we will find the way.

To me, the Easter story is about faith; faith that God will be there for us as we move into the future. May each of you have time over this Holy Week to share time with loved ones or friends. It truly is a time to rejoice.

## Service Schedule

### Apr. 2 — Maundy Thursday

7 p.m. Foot washing and Communion

### Apr. 3 — Good Friday

#### Ecumenical Service

11 am, St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church, Canning

#### L'Arche Walk with the Cross

12 pm, beginning at Wolfville Baptist Church parking lot, Wolfville

#### Ecumenical Service

1 pm, Wolfville Baptist Church

#### Ecumenical Service

7 pm, Salvation Army Citadel, Kentville

### Apr. 5 — Easter Sunday

7 am Sunrise Worship with Communion

8 am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

11 am Combined Worship with Communion

## Gordon Hansford Designs Official Tartan for the Annapolis Valley by Sylvia Jacquard

Gordon and Helen Hansford will be the special guests at a Tartan Day luncheon hosted by the Annapolis Valley Branch of Clan Donald on April 6, at the Old Orchard Inn. The event will see the launch of the official tartan for the Annapolis Valley that Gordon designed.

The tartan has been officially registered in Scotland and is endorsed by the all of the Annapolis Valley municipalities and the Kings Historical Society.



The tartan's colours are taken from the Valley: the green represents its crops and forests, the blue its two rivers and the red, the blood shed by early settlers.

Anyone wishing to attend can get tickets at Chisholm's, Cochrane's or Saunder's Tartans and Gifts.

## DV UCW Busy With Chrysalis House Project and Upcoming Spring Rally

by Jean Millett

Orchard Valley UCW meets the third Monday of the month from September to June at 2 pm at Orchard Valley United Church. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Our present project is with Chrysalis House. The Executive Director, Rhonda Fraser, spoke at a UCW meeting advising of their work with women and children who are in abusive situations. A "wish list" of needs for the House may be found on the rear bulletin board. Through a phone call, immediate needs were made known. These included hairbrushes, feminine products, children's craft supplies -

canvas, paints, brushes, crayons, colouring books, glitter, etc. There is a basket available for your donations by the coat racks. The Sunday School has taken on the children's craft supplies as an Easter Project. Thank you to all who are assisting in this project.

We are looking forward to the 15th Annual Spring Rally of Valley Presbyterian UCW's. This year the Rally will be hosted by the Berwick and Trinity United Churches at Berwick United, Wednesday, May 13 from 9:30 am to 3 pm. Theme: "We are Pilgrims". As we go into spring and summer, let us join together to renew our faith through prayer and sharing the spirit that brings us all together.

Registration for the Rally will be \$10 which includes lunch and a coffee "meet and greet". There is elevator access to all activities by way of the front door. Please refrain from all scented products at this event. Please advise if you have a food allergy/sensitivity.

The registration sheet must be returned by April 20. Please advise Jean Millett before that time if you are able to attend and if you will need a drive.

We look forward to seeing you on the third Monday of the month, 2 pm at Orchard Valley United Church.

## Valley Foodgrains Bank Guests from Malawi to Speak and Tour the Valley by Jean Millett

The Valley Foodgrains Bank Project, which began approximately 10 years ago, is a local committee of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is made up of 15 churches and church-based relief and development agencies, representing 32 denominations.

In the beginning local farmers were involved in planning crops, providing growing fields, taking part in the planting, caring for and harvesting of the crops. Over the years, the situation has changed as members are not as able to do as much of the work as before but we are still involved directly with the farming community, as pumpkins are provided by local farms either at no charge or a reduced rate, and our blueberries are bought from a local blueberry producer. We are grateful to these farms for working with us; and because of the generosity of the farmers, church congregations and friends, we are able to give a yearly donation to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This donation is then matched by CIDA, 4:1.

Members meet monthly to plan for events and have decided to continue with the pumpkin and blueberry projects for the year 2015. On April 19-21, the Valley Foodgrains Bank Project will be hosting two members of the Malawi Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology Project. The project uses farmer-to-farmer education about agroecology, nutrition and

local food market development to improve food security, nutrition and livelihood of over 6,000 farm families in Malawi over five years. Farmers and youth are also developing local food enterprises to improve income and boost local rural economies. The projects take place in Northern and Central Malawi. The Government of Canada, through the Department of

and Development, is supporting this project.

On Sunday, April 19, Laifolo Dakishoni (Accountant and Acting Project Coordinator) and Rogers Msachi (Community Promoter, Ekwendeni), along with James Kornelsen (Public Engagement Coordinator, Canadian Foodgrains Bank) will be speaking about their work in Malawi.



**This couple are part of the Malawi Project about which two members of the Malawi Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology Project are speaking at Kings Presbyterian on Sunday, April 19.**

Again in the evening there will be a gathering for the local Canadian Foodgrains Bank Committee, members of local churches and friends at Kings Presbyterian Church. While here, they will tour local farms and a farm market, meet with Kentville Rotary Club and go to a local high school. Before leaving for New Brunswick on Tuesday via the Digby Ferry they will have a tour of the Valley area in the morning.

Thank you for your assistance with our projects, which in turn help to build schools, roads, irrigation systems, seeds for planting crops, animals for food and sale, in many third world villages. The aim is to "End Global Hunger".

## Getting to Know — The Choir

*Welcome to The Best Place to be in the Orchard!* We present music to the glory of God from the Middle Ages to contemporary music that has been written especially for us. Our choir is a very dedicated group. We never stop looking for new members to welcome to our fold. (There's ALWAYS room for one more!)

**CHOIR POSITIONS OPEN:** Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass.

**PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Must be able to carry musical notes most of the way across the sanctuary.

**EXPERIENCE:** Have you sung or hummed in the tub or shower? Can you carry a tune in a bucket?

**WAGES:** Satisfaction and joy in God's service.

**FRINGE BENEFITS:** Social security — we promise you the security of social fellowship with the other members of the choir. (We have fun!)

**HOURS:** Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, with opportunities for overtime (at the above-mentioned wages).

**VACATION:** Missed rehearsals and worship services are primarily a matter of conscience and ability to return the glares and pointed remarks of our director.

**REHEARSAL:** Every THURSDAY from 7-8:30 pm except during summer and Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

**APPLY:** By contacting our music director, Ken Hassell at 902-679-6919. We also welcome instrumentalists!



**First row:** Angela Whiteway, Diana Bishop, Marilyn Whiteway, Thea Burton, Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk

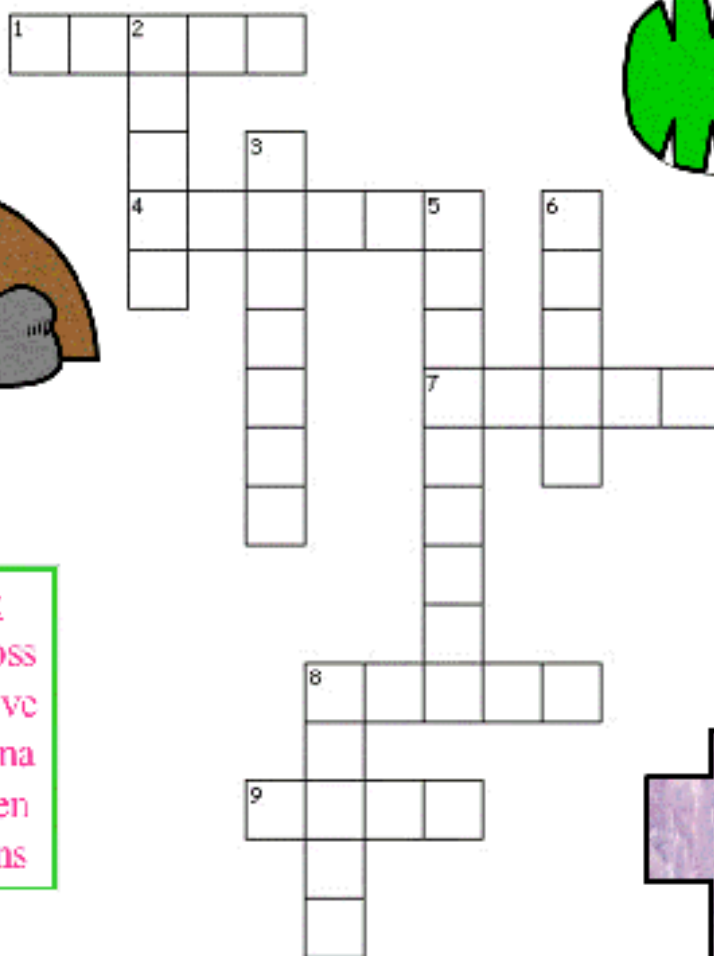
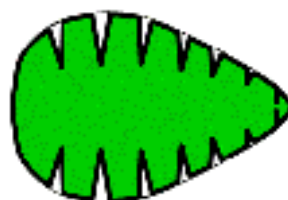
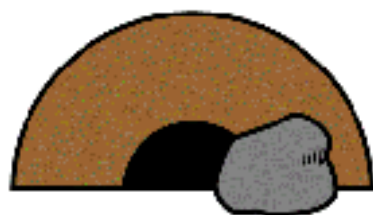
**Second row:** Nancy Handrigan, Cynthia Bruce, Barb Rushton, Ken Hassell

**Third row:** Donna Murphy, Norma Mailman, Vera Burke

**Fourth row:** Bill Simpson, Fred Lipskey, Scott Sweatman, David Murphy, Pierre Hoebbers, Gordon Whiteway

**Missing:** Betty Rockwell, Peter Dekker, Mark Pound, Shelley Moore, Brenda Crozman, Craig Morgan, Alice Munro, Theresa Perrin, Pat Godfrey.

# Easter Crossword



Word List:  
bread cross  
sacrifice love  
stone hosanna  
empty risen  
slept thorns



## Across

1. Taking this during the last supper symbolized Jesus' body.
4. Jesus was forced to wear a crown made of these instead of a crown meant for a real king.
7. The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, Jesus isn't here; He has \_\_\_\_\_ !
8. Instead of praying the disciples did this when Jesus went off to pray by himself.
9. The main reason that God gave His only son, Jesus to die for each of us.

## Down

2. On Sunday the two Mary's didn't find Jesus but a tomb that was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The word people shouted to Jesus that means blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
5. Jesus became the \_\_\_\_\_ for us, so we could be forgiven for our sins.
6. Jesus was meant to die on this.
8. This was put in front of the tomb so nobody could steal Jesus' body.