



2020 - A Marker Moment

Dear OVU and Covenanter Church
Friends:

*"Suddenly, Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."
- Matthew 28:9-10*

The self-discipline of Lent is taking on a whole new meaning this season. These are challenging times. Forced to behave in new ways, we are sacrificing more in relationships and community than likely ever before. The world is shutting down all around us. Our church might feel like it is no exception. We have cancelled in-person worship, study groups, committee meetings,
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For a link to the
**Palm Sunday and
Easter Sunday
video services**
go to OVUC website
- *Worship Services* tab -
Video Recorded Messages

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and some of our outreach.

Be assured that our church has not shut down. We are the church. We are the community whether we can gather together in worship or not. To be the church is going to look different for a while. Maybe it will never be the same again. The church has seen itself changed again and again over the centuries.

I know many of us will have times of fear. Some of the biggest changes in the church have not occurred through fear, but through overcoming fear. There is a lot for us to fear right now, but Jesus tells us, "Don't be afraid".

Leading up to Easter, Jesus will be betrayed and arrested, beaten and tortured. He will be tried and undefended by his friends. The first words spoken to the women at Jesus' tomb on the day of his resurrection are from an angel who says, "Do not be afraid." The first words of Jesus to these women on their way to tell the disciples is "Greetings, do not be afraid." Jesus is telling us again, through all that the world throws at us, that he is with us to help overcome our greatest fears, even death.

That is the story of Easter. Like the crocuses bursting forth through the snow in our front yard, the story is about new life and not living our lives in fear. Jesus overcame it all and is here with me. And you. Easter is going to be different this year. What will be the same is the real message of Easter,



that Jesus overcame death, and is with us to the end. We all need to live each day, not in fear and worry, but in the hope and love of God.

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for Today."

- Matthew 6:34

The lesson we learn during this crisis is to take each day as it comes and adapt to its challenges. I am sure 2020 will hold a marker moment in the life of the church, where things changed overnight and we adapted, we trusted, we loved, we prayed, we sang, we hoped, and we lived out all the parts of our faith as we proclaim again this year, in a new way, "Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed!"

Shalom, Rev. Don Sellsted

Happy Easter from the Chair

As we approach this special time, we find ourselves in an unusual situation and need to realize that the celebration of Easter will not occur like we have mourned and celebrated in past years.

What doesn't change is the fact that the story is the same. How we "do church" is something that Orchard Valley will endeavour to accomplish during the Lenten season as we work with our current situation.

Reverend Don is offering a daily Lenten Reflection and is delivering Sunday worship services through YouTube. What we are learning is that we **can** be creative. We have access to technology that will allow many of us to share time together whether it be for spiritual nurture, coffee or services. We have Facebook and we can stream services and hymn sings live.

You have a dedicated group of individuals who are working to give you spiritual fulfillment during this time and opportunities to engage with other members of our church family. There are even ways that we can offer communion remotely. We have done that at the General Council level and with Zoom we can incorporate that into a service.

Our situation is a temporary lull



in our everyday activities. It offers a time for you to slow down and reflect. Reflect on the blessings that we have, the relationships we are lucky to have, and the people who surround us. Whether they be in the next room in a nursing home, a neighbour in the apartment next door, or the neighbour living across the road or beside you, you are not alone. Let us take this time to also reflect on those who are working day and night to protect us; and, for those of us who are sick, our medical personnel who are working to care for us.

There will be a time to rejoice, not only in the resurrection, but in the end to the self-isolation that we are currently living with. When that will be, we don't know -- but know that we will be there for you if you need us. We will rejoice!

Happy Easter to all and be safe as we move through these challenging times.

Blessings, Jane McDonald

What Palm Sunday Means to Dorothy Robbins

by Dorothy Walker Robbins

My maternal grandfather, Frederick Andrews, died on Palm Sunday, 1922, age 72. He had retired just two years earlier, as a much loved, caring and concerned Headmaster of a Quaker Boarding School in Yorkshire, after devoting 43 years to the School.

He was planning to visit his youngest daughter and family who had emigrated to NS in 1912. This visit was long awaited and it was a bitter disappointment to my mother that this never happened. Every year, as children, we would be reminded that “Grampy died on Palm Sunday”, a fact that still remains with me to this day!

He was an icon in our family and a constant source of conversation. I’m told he never shaved, drank or smoked, and he spoke with the “thee” and “thou” of early Quakers.

He and Anna Maria Lean were married in 1877 and very soon after, he was appointed as Headmaster of Ackworth School. Together they embarked on a very happy journey and became the proud parents of a son and three daughters; my mother

was the youngest. Sadly, this happy family life was shattered when, in 1887, Anna Maria was diagnosed with an incurable disease and died.

From then on, F.A. (as he was known by all except family) continued the Headship for another 30 plus years and his name has gone down in history. All four Andrews’ children attended the School as did my father and two of his sisters, and when the time came for grandchildren, my two sisters and I were all privileged to attend the School, even though it meant crossing the Atlantic by ship and being away from home for two or three years!! This I did happily and loved every minute of the time!

Is it any wonder that Ackworth School and Frederick Andrews are a part of me?



What's Next for Church Renovation: Design Revision, New Fundraising

by Harvey Gilmour

Since we last reported to you, design architects have been working on a revised footprint and interior design to a) continue to meet the priorities of the congregation as expressed to the Facilities Committee and b) arrive at a solution that is deemed affordable to the Committee. The initial design presented to the congregation was well received but significantly (~\$500,000) beyond the \$1.7M budget target set for the project.

Design changes have been agreed to by the Committee after involvement with partners representing the Sunday School and the music sector and it is expected that an adjusted design (less square footage and increased flexibility with shared usage of new space) can be presented that still meets most if not all of our needs.

Planning is also underway to form a new fundraising group and a "Project Implementation Team" that will guide the next phase of the project (once design and budget are



finalized by the congregational vote and approved by UCC Region 15 Property Committee). After surveyor work, legal work, Region 15 approval, and landscaping, the land to the east of the church will greatly enhance the approach and entrance to the Church from Cornwallis Avenue, allowing for easterly expansion of the building and access to rear lot parking.

Highlighting Food Bank Volunteers and Their Work

by Donna Murphy

Within the OVUC catchment area, we have three food banks with many volunteers doing a variety of tasks to serve clients.

We often hear of the amount of food collected and the number of clients at each, but we rarely hear about the volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to serve others in this way.

Although COVID-19 has closed these buildings to the public, volunteers continue to work to ensure people are being served. Clients should call: Canning-902-582-3886; Fundy-902-679-3664; Wolfville - 902-542-0040.

In Wolfville, there are 73 individuals who volunteer twice a month to unload the Feed Nova Scotia truck, repack bulk items, pack grocery

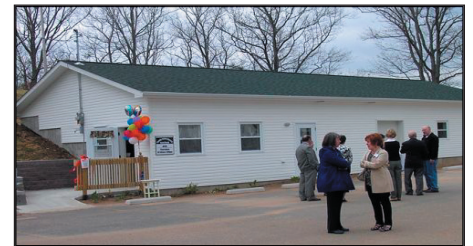


boxes for each family based on size, greet and interview clients, arrange appointment times by phone, maintain client

files, schedule volunteers, replenish shelves, and grocery shop. Jan Porter, a member of our congregation, is one of these volunteers and shares: “I believe

our Food Bank a very worthwhile cause. Many people work very hard to make it run smoothly and efficiently. Mine is a very small contribution made easy and pleasant with fellow workers.”

At the Fundy Interchurch Food Bank in Kentville, there are 51 volunteers. Bruce Smith of OVUC is a volunteer here. “Upon retiring I finally had time to give back to the community and the local food bank drew me because there are so many families in this area who are on minimum or seasonal wages and are in need of nutritious food.”



At the Canning Food Bank there are twelve volunteers, although none happen to be OVUC members at this time. We give thanks for all these volunteers and their commitment to our three food banks.



Meet the Newest Member of Our Staff: Doug MacKinnon

by Sylvia Jacquard

By now most of you will have seen, if not met, our new custodian, Doug MacKinnon, who started work in August.

Doug, a Cape Bretoner, comes from a family of eight children; he is the oldest boy. He is married to Hope, has two stepchildren, and they have chosen to make Orchard Valley their church.

Doug has travelled extensively throughout Canada (except for the North) and has worked in many different sectors of the economy: the lobster industry, human services, mining and others.

When asked why he wanted to work at a church he replied, "For a very long time, I could see myself working for a church. I didn't know the reason and still don't know. I felt I was being drawn to it. When I saw the ad for the job I wasted no time in applying."

Doug hasn't been here long enough to have many stories to tell but he shared that on his first day of training

he mistook an off-duty and casually dressed Rev. Don for another custodian.

Doug's hobbies include playing music, songwriting and painting. Music was always a part of his family and he started by learning to play his grandfather's button accordion and later the guitar.

Doug can also play the ukulele, harmonica, and mandolin. He also "tinkers a bit with the violin, the piano . . . basically any stringed instrument".

His musical high point was playing at one of the venues

during the 2005 East Coast Music Awards in Sydney. "It was a 72-hour jam -- different acts playing 24 hours a day for three days. I also got to share the stage with Buddy MacMaster and John Ferguson from the band McGinty." Doug is a songwriter who has written about a dozen songs.

He tried the visual arts a few years ago, painting landscapes in oil paint.

Doug is always looking for new things to try -- maybe wood carving?



What's Happening at Sunday School

by Andy Pitter

Orchard Valley's Sunday School has come a long way from its beginning when just Anne Cameron, Kathy Schofield and I led the first group of children. We have had a lot of ups and downs since then with a variety of leaders and different groups of kids but we are finally feeling like things have started to jell. We have started to grow!

With a dedicated team of seven teachers, we now have about 20 children involved, ranging in age from 2 to 10 years, plus a couple of youth. Kathy Schofield, Linda Foote, Johanna Rosolen, and I teach the younger children. Cheryl Hill, Heather Hennigar and Alice Morse teach the older ones, with Cheryl sometimes teaching a youth class, and Cheryl and I co-ordinating.

We typically start with a circle time all together where we recap what Rev. Don has done in worship with the kids and then sing a song before breaking up into the smaller age groups to do activities. Activities are often based on one of the lectionary readings.



Sunday School children (front row) Maddie Leveille, Wesley Duyan, Galia Bornemann-Davis, (back row) Cooper Coxhead, Katia Duyan, Noah Duyan, Micah Bornemann-Davis with a recent attendance chart.

Highlights from this year included the Christmas pageant (directed by Thea Burton), and the older children performing a skit about Zaccheus (written by Rev. Don) at a Kings Riverside Court worship service.

Rev. Don held a parents' and grandparents' meeting in the fall that led to some changes. The COVID-19 situation may slow this process down but we hope to incorporate more multimedia activities in the Sunday School program. We also hope to involve more members of the congregation, especially those members with a special skill, talent or interest they would like to share with the children.

OVUC Hosts Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group

by Christina S

The message of the Al-Anon and Alateen Family Groups is one of hope.

It is the story of men, women and children who once felt hopeless, lost and lonely because of another's alcoholism. Although Al-Anon grew from a need expressed by family members of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Alateen offer help and hope to friends and relatives of alcoholics, whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not. While many of our members no longer maintain daily contact with an alcoholic, they seek the mutual support Al-Anon and Alateen groups offer.

Al-Anon is a unique fellowship that unites members of different backgrounds, races, and walks of life in an inspiring endeavour: helping themselves and others to lead purposeful, useful lives by overcoming the frustration and helplessness caused by close association with an alcoholic.

Al-Anon meetings last approximately one hour. There are no dues or fees for membership. We help each other in sharing our experience, strength and hope. No

advice is given and no opinion rejected.

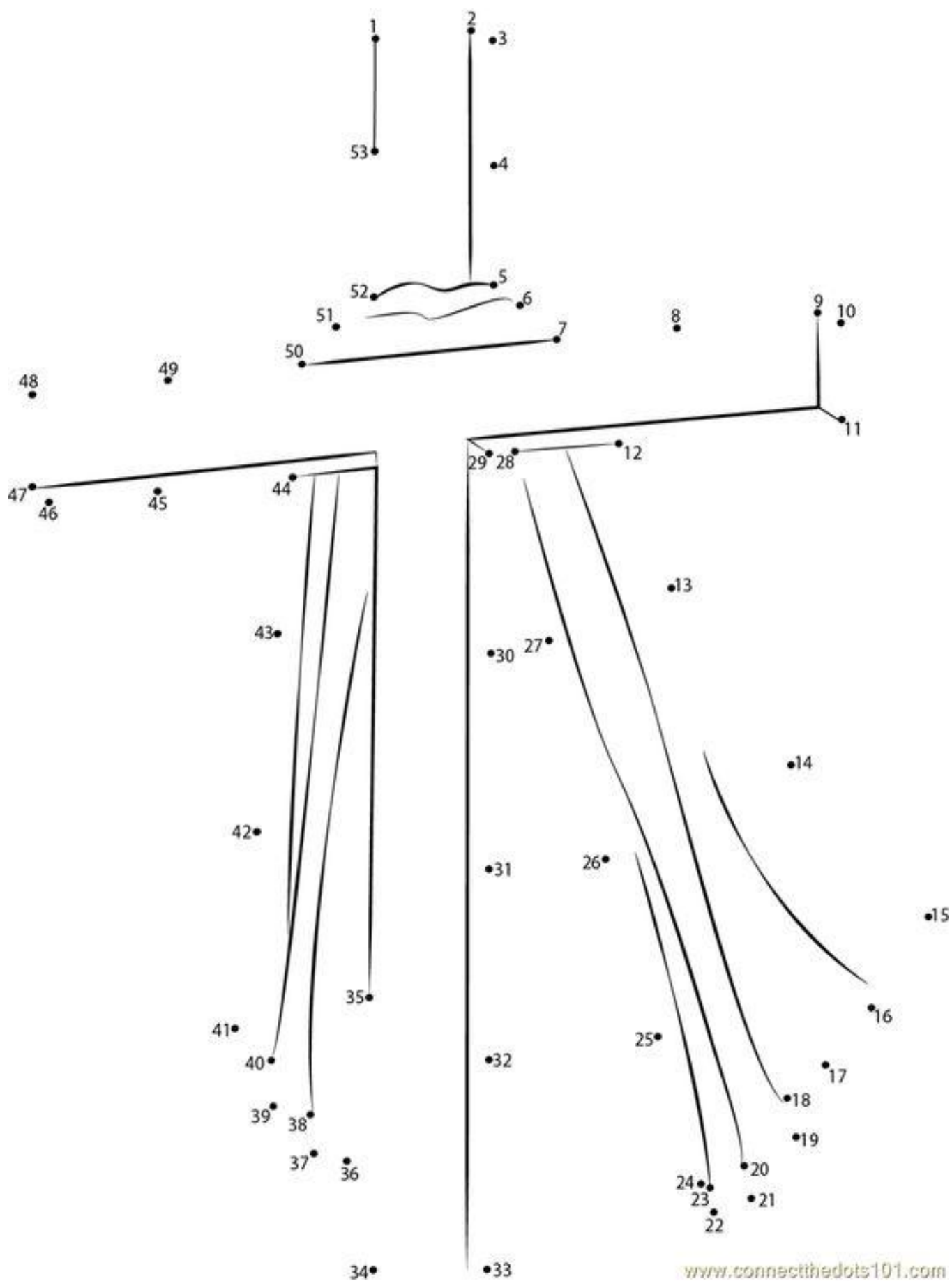
Al-Anon does not discuss religion or become involved with outside issues. We believe that alcoholism is a family disease. We are always careful to protect each other's anonymity as well as that of all Al-Anon and AA members.

In the 1950's there was public recognition of Al-Anon. The AA movement had spread and Al-Anon was following up with inquiries from the wives and partners of the recovering alcoholics. The relatives were starting to realize that they also had problems coming to understand how the disease was affecting them and their children. Al-Anon

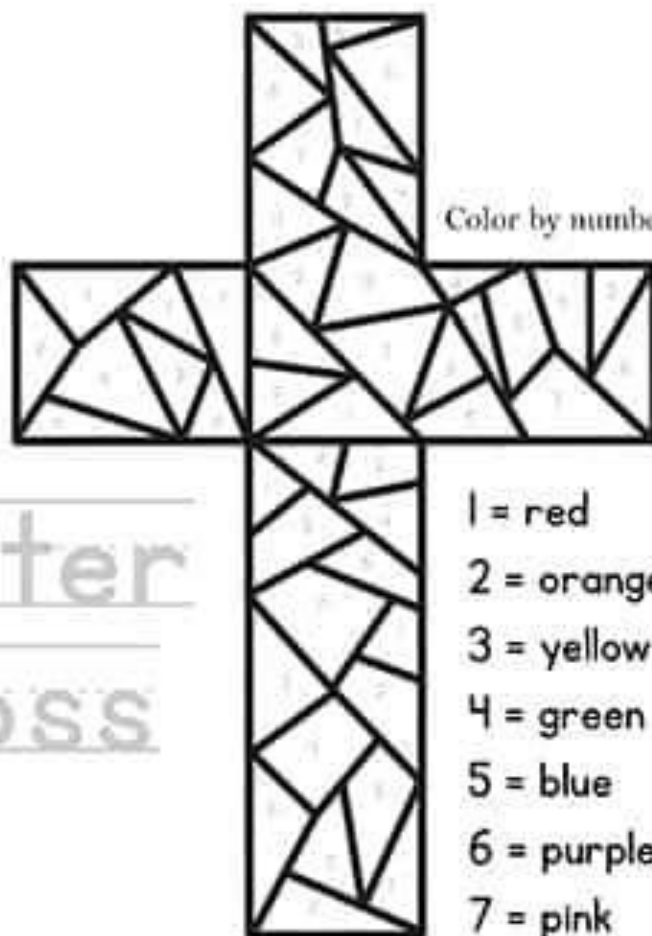
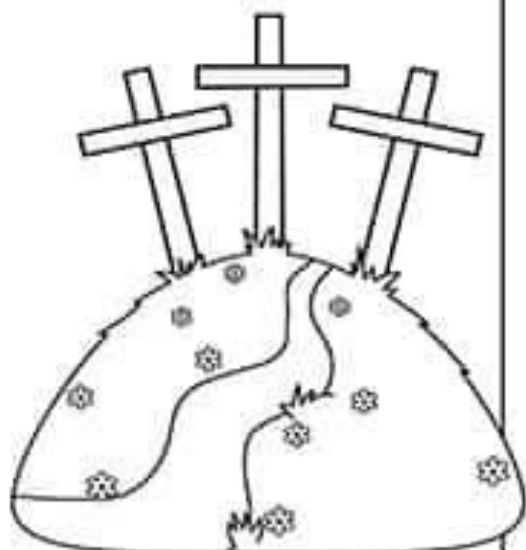
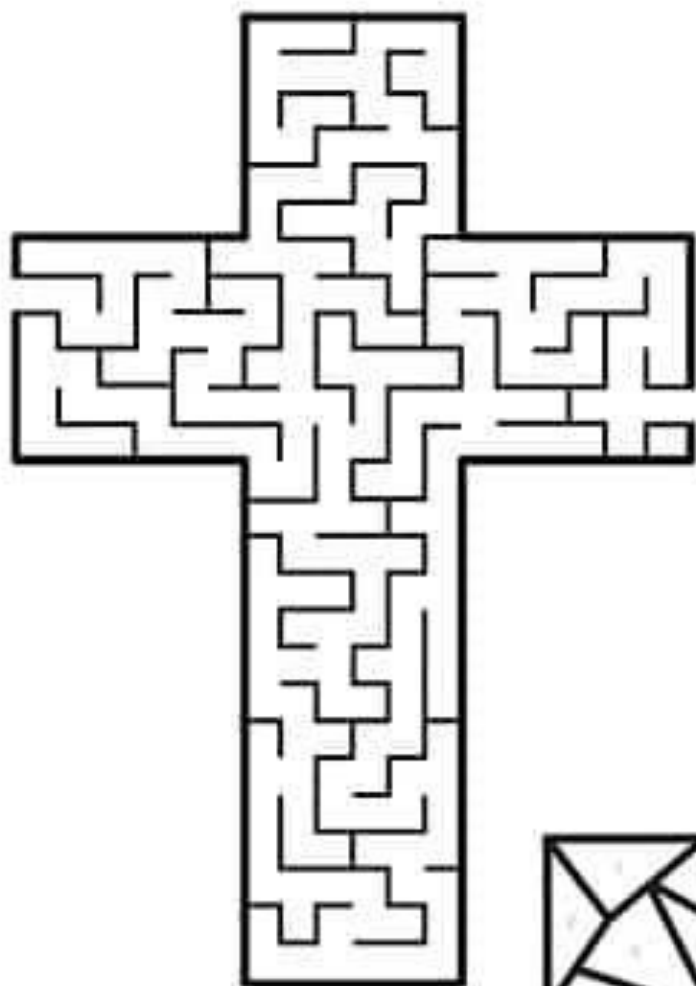


took the Twelve Steps of AA and used them for themselves. Groups were formed across the world and recovery started to occur for the families and friends of the alcoholic.

Hope New Minas Al-Anon currently meets via teleconference on Thursdays at 10 am. To enter the meeting call 1-902-932-1200 and enter 902-932-7986# as the password. If you have any questions please call 902-582-1448 and/or consult the websites: al-anon.org and al-anonmaritimes.ca



Easter Cross Maze

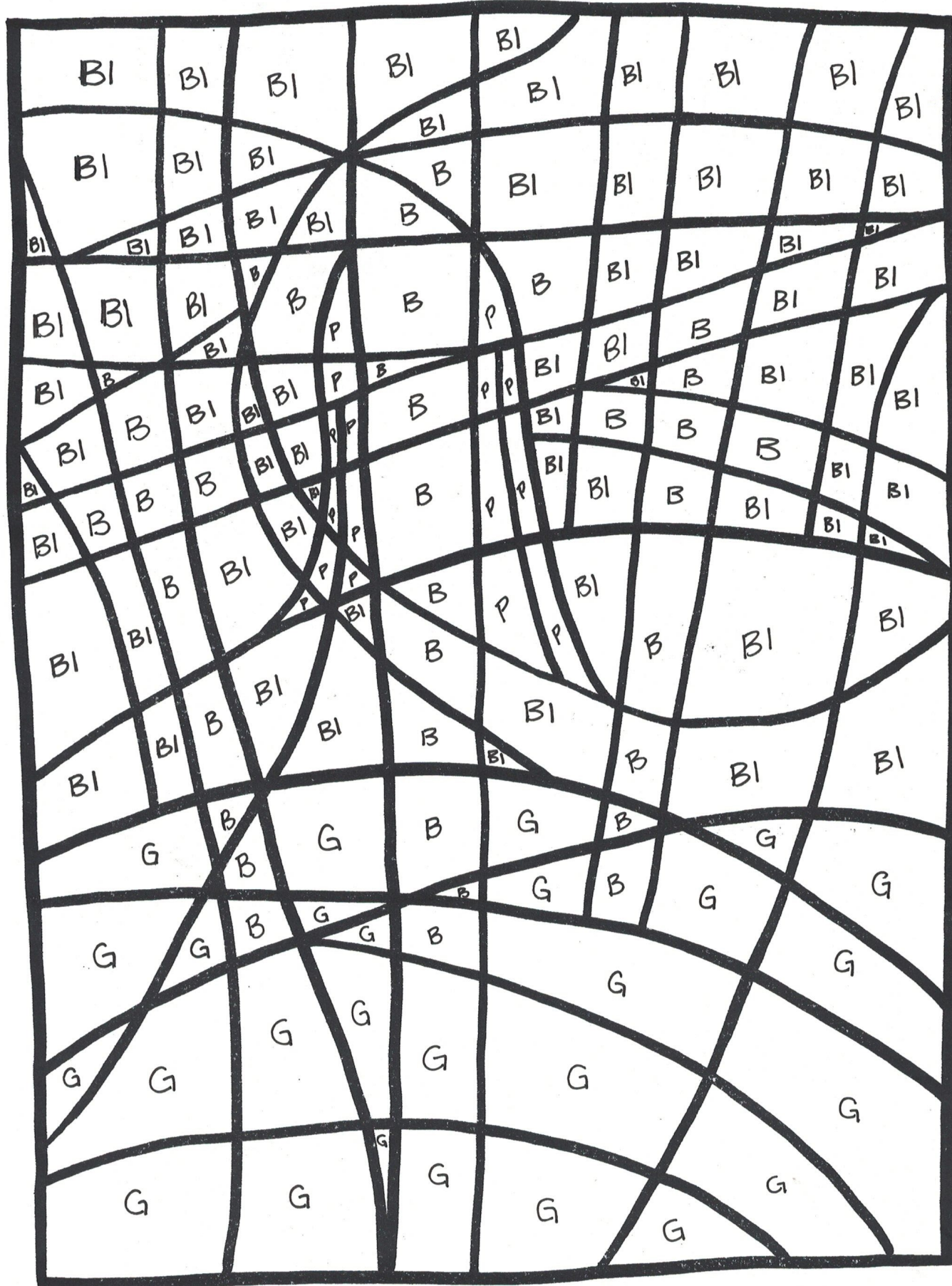


Color by number:

- 1 = red
- 2 = orange
- 3 = yellow
- 4 = green
- 5 = blue
- 6 = purple
- 7 = pink



Easter
cross



P - Purple Bl - Blue B - Brown G - Green