

Bathgate EU United Reformed Church

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

Janine Brown

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Janine Brown on May 7th. Her health had been declining for some months, and when Janine was last with us at church, on Palm Sunday, she was obviously not well. However, her passing came as a shock to us all. The large turnout at her funeral was an indication of the number of people who knew and loved her, and we extend to Les and all the family our deepest sympathy.



New Elders

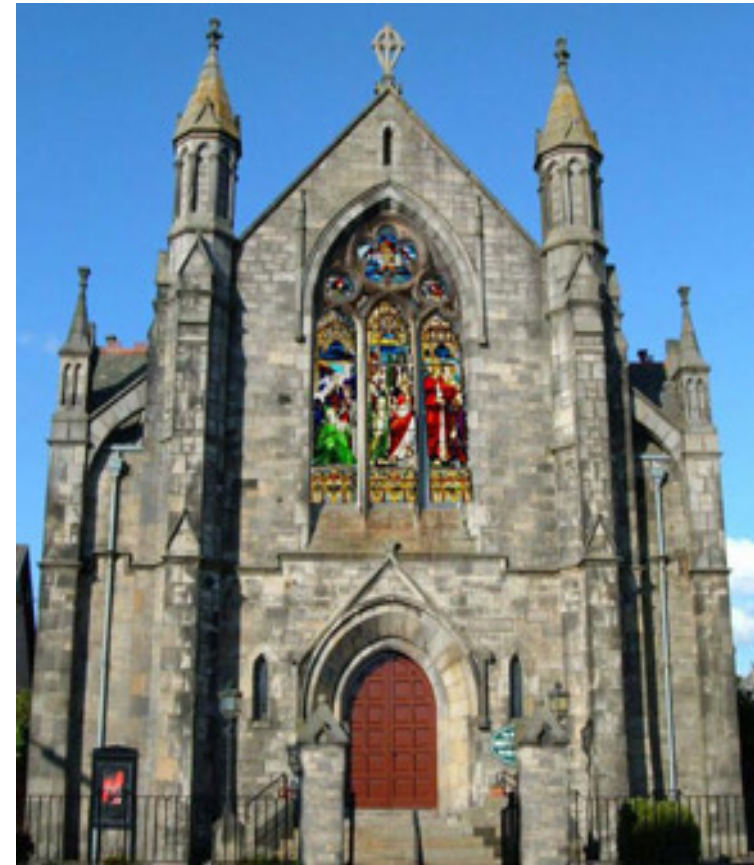
At the Church Meeting, held on Sunday, May 29th, three members were elected to serve as Elders. Nana Christie is already an Elder and served for several years at Boghall. Anne Reid and Billy Bowtle will be ordained as Elders and then, with Nana will be inducted to serve on Elders Meeting. The ordinations and inductions will take place in the autumn.



Church Flower Rota

June	5th	Miss Helen Baynham
“	12th	Mrs Anne Reid
“	19th	Mrs Angela Learmonth
“	26th	Mrs Nancy Stein
July	3rd	Mrs Ann Sharp
“	10th	Miss Helen Baynham
“	17th	Mrs Mary Rosie
“	24th	Mrs Joan Gill
“	31st	Miss Evelyn Lundie

Newsletter Pentecost 2011



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From the Minister – Pentecost 2011

“When the Day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place....” Acts 2 v1

Dear friends,

As the Feast of Pentecost approaches, we might do well to consider how much the picture of the early church, which we are given in the Book of Acts, is reflected in the life of our own church, here in Bathgate. Right at the beginning of Acts chapter 2, for example, we are told that the disciples of Jesus valued a sense of togetherness; they felt called to meet together and they took seriously the idea of fellowship, worship together, seeking together the way forward which the Lord would have them travel.

We live in a very individualistic age. The sense of community, which many of us remember from our childhood and youth, has all but vanished. But, as we remember from the words of the Benediction, the particular theme linked to the Holy Spirit is ‘fellowship’ or ‘communion’. It is in the Spirit of Christ that we rediscover what it is to be ‘together,’ and it is this common experience of being Christ’s people that gave those early Christians the ability to go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel.

So can we offer those around us a real sense of ‘community’, a community founded not on our own good will to one another (always rather limited in this sinful world!) but on the love of God, shown to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead?

Your friend,

John Bremner

Are you ready for change?

Article for synods and local churches – March 2011

On Saturday March 12 the synod meeting saw a presentation on the campaign of radical welcome that the United Reformed Church has been working on for the past two years. The Revd Roberta Rominger, general secretary of the United Reformed Church, believes it to be one of the most significant things she’s been involved in during the course of her ministry. Every URC congregation in Britain has been invited to be part of it, and has been asked to think and pray long and carefully about their response to the invitation.

The URC’s campaign is primarily an evangelistic campaign of radical welcome and, for those URC churches that decide to accept the challenge of becoming radically welcoming, it will be transformational. The Revd Lucy Berry, campaign advocate, explains: “It’s a chance for all URC congregations to change the way church is seen to behave to all those who walk through their doors - and to develop and transform the life of their individual church in the process.”

Participating churches will be required to examine closely how they - corporately and as individuals - welcome people into their fellowship and how they can learn to be as radically welcoming as Jesus. Mrs Rominger says: “The power of the campaign is that people will encounter Jesus, through Jesus-shaped churches.”

Ms Berry adds: “One of the extraordinary things about Jesus was his love and open welcome for those whom the Pharisees and Sadducees saw as unclean. And yet today people of all kinds know or suspect that they won’t get a welcome in many churches. Our campaign will tell people about the churches they can attend where they’ll find a welcome. We believe this initiative will help the spiritual lives of many, many people who need not feel excluded or outside of the love of God. We’re really excited about this campaign and hope that you will be too.”

The next nine months are a time of preparation, inspiration, prayer and transformation for the URC, as churches begin to sign up and start moving towards the aim of being radically welcome - the public launch will be in early 2012.