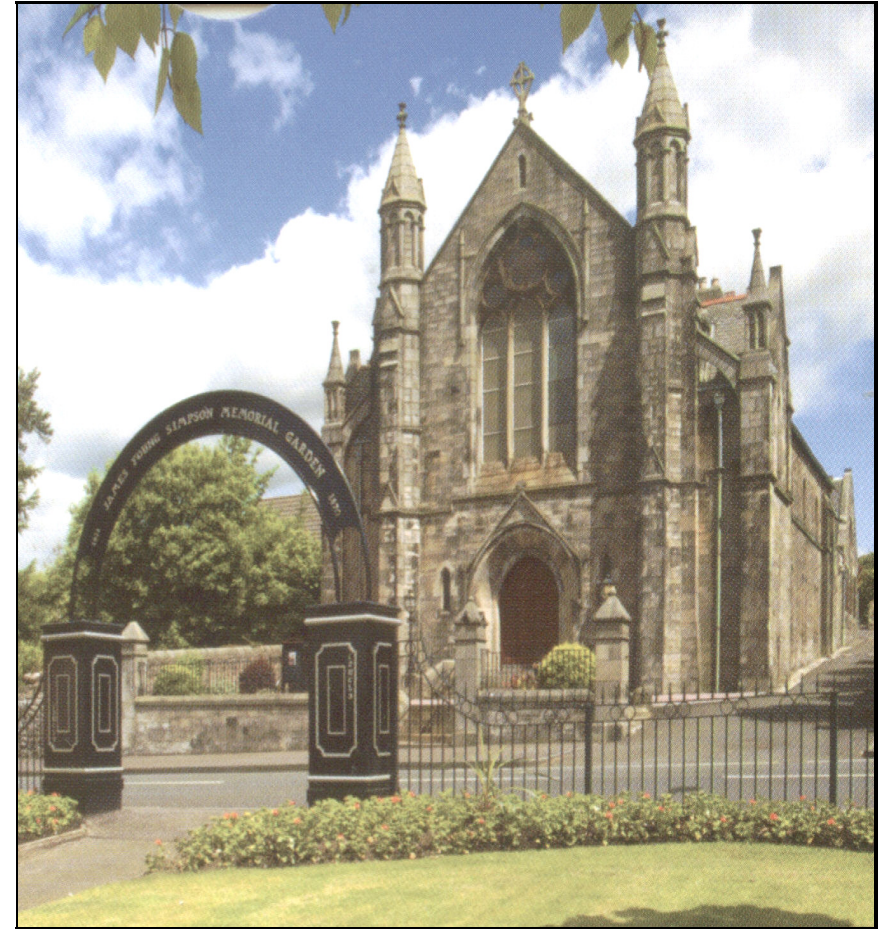


# Bathgate EU United Reformed Church

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

## *Newsletter January 2012*



help, and contributions. There are many of you who, through illness or through caring for loved ones, are unable to come along, and I appreciate and understand this. But I would particularly like to reach out to the members and friends who contribute to the church, but who, sadly, we hardly ever see. Your financial contributions are very important, but we would love to see you sitting in the pews!

It is now over 30 years since I first walked through the doors of our church, and what a welcome I received! That same welcome will be yours when you come back to worship. It is my hope that, as the light of the living God shines on you, you may find the time to come back and worship him with us. I hope this year you will feel able to take your first steps back to church, and we your friends will be there to welcome you.

Remember that God loves us and gave his son Jesus for us, that we might have life everlasting. Remember that Jesus loves you, yes you!!!

God's blessing for a happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Your friend

Aileen Baird.

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### **Holiday in Italy: May 12 – 19, 2012**

Some of you will remember that, as part of our “Bi-Centenary Celebrations” in 2007, we hosted a group from our sister church in Italy. The Waldensian Church has a history stretching back over 800 years, and next May a group from the United Reformed Church will be spending a week in the Alpine Valleys on the Italian-French border, west of Turin, getting to know something more of the Waldensian history and their present day activities. The dates for the visit are 12 to 19 May. The cost of the stay will be around £400, which includes half-board and travel on organised trips from the base in Torre Pellice. The cost of getting to Italy is additional, but flights to Milan can be quite cheap if booked in advance. For an additional £300, a further six days may be spent exploring Turin and meeting members of the English language and Italian language churches in that historic city.

The visit to Torre Pellice will be led by the minister. If you are interested in coming along, please contact him as soon as possible. Deposits of £50 per person must be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012!

Material for the next Newsletter must be with the minister by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

### **Contact Telephone Numbers**

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## Letter from the Minister

“You are the salt of the earth.....” Matthew 5 v 13.

Dear friends,

The words of Jesus, quoted above, are so familiar that we often forget whose words they are!

We sometimes speak of people being “the salt of the earth”, and by that we mean people who are trustworthy, who contribute positively to the life of those around them, who represent what is good and true, with whom it is good to pass the time.

But what did *Jesus* mean by these words? Jesus is referring back to the Old Testament Law, where salt was added to the Temple sacrifices as a sign of God’s covenant (see Leviticus 2 v13 and Numbers 18 v9). For Jesus, to be “the salt of the earth” means being a sign to the world around us of God’s covenant love.

So, the question is: shall we be the salt of the earth? Shall we live as signs to the world of God’s covenant love? Perhaps, if you have not yet made a New Year’s Resolution, or if the ones you did make have already fallen by the wayside!, you might like to consider being “salt of the earth” in 2012, living as a sign to others of God’s great love, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

“You are the salt of the earth....”

Mirella joins me in wishing you all a very happy New Year.

Your friend,

*John S. Bremner*

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Bathgate runs from January 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On January 15<sup>th</sup> there will be the Pulpit Exchange, and the **Revd. Kenneth MacKay**, Locum Minister at Boghall, will be preaching at our church at 11 a.m.

The **daily meetings** for prayer have been organised as follows:

|                                         |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.     | St. Columba’s Episcopal Church,<br>Glasgow Road              |
| Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.    | Bathgate E.U. United Reformed Church,<br>Marjoribanks Street |
| Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.   | Boghall Parish Church, Elizabeth Drive                       |
| Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> , at 11 a.m. | St. John’s Parish Church, Mid Street                         |
| Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> , at 11 a.m.   | St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church,<br>Livery Street           |
| Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> , at 11 a.m. | Torphichen Parish Church                                     |

The **United Service** will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, at Bathgate High Parish Church, Jarvey Street.

The United Reformed Church has been committed to the search for Christian Unity from its very start, and it would be good to see you at the meetings during the Week of Prayer.

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Dear Friends,

While visiting church friends during the Festive Season I found we were reminiscing, and taking a walk down memory lane, speaking about the friends of our church who are no longer with us. Here are just some of the folks we mentioned: Jimmy and Rachel Speedie, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel, Mr. and Mrs. Barton, the Wolfe family, Mr. and Mrs. Adair, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart, Alastair Rankine. There were many more, as you can imagine. We spoke about all of the spiritual gifts that these friends brought to all of us in the church, and of how God has always been there to support us and see us through the bad as well as the good times.

This is the start of another year, a new beginning. I am very much aware of the support that our members give to our church, and give thanks for all your