

And may your name be glorified, from the rising of the sun to its setting. For we ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world and the Lord of all.

Perhaps they are prayers which we could use not only at the Feast of Pentecost, but throughout the year!

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### Gift Day - 20 June 2010



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As you all know, our electricity rates went up considerably in 2009. Given the particularly heavy winter, we have been unable to make any significant reductions in our use, which means that our bills have continued to rise.

While we recognize the financial commitment that many have already made in increasing your weekly offering, the Property and Finance Committee agreed that we would hold a Gift Day on Sunday 20 June to allow the opportunity for specific additional contributions to be made towards these costs.

While we still hope it is possible to contain our costs, particularly in the warmer weather, this would significantly reduce our ability to continue with the ongoing maintenance of the buildings and our other regular commitments. Our current electricity agreement runs out later this year and our aim is to have cleared the debt by this time so that we can move to a new, more cost effective supplier.

We would therefore like to ask you to consider whether you are able to make a specific contribution to these costs and to do so on (or around) Sunday 20 June. Any Gift Day offerings should be made in a plain envelope marked Gift Day and if you Gift Aid your weekly offering, you should include your offering envelope number so that we can claim the tax back of this additional gift. Envelopes will be available at the front of the church from early June.

We have indicated 20 June as the Gift Day, but if you are away and wish to contribute on another date, please do so.

Please do talk to me if you have any specific questions about this.

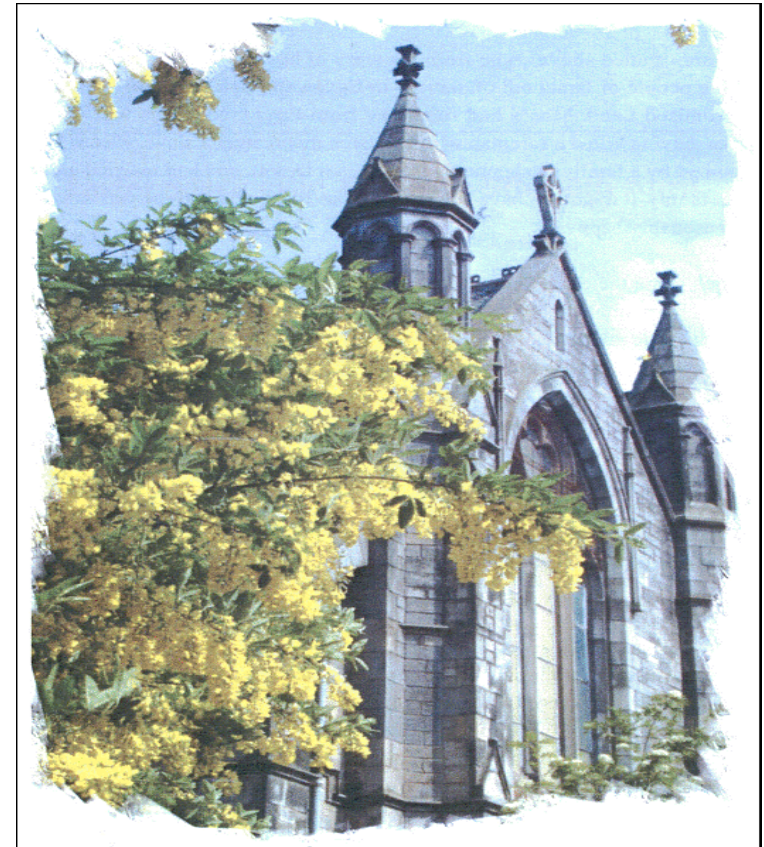
**Eilidh Young**

Items for the next Newsletter should be with the Minister by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you.

## Bathgate EU United Reformed Church

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

### *Newsletter May 2010*



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**“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2 v.4)**

Dear friends,

Every year, we hear the story of how the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them courage to stand up and preach the Gospel message. At the centre of the message they shared is Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and glorified. As we read the second chapter of the Book of Acts we learn that through his Son Jesus Christ, God has loosed the chains of death and sent his Holy Spirit into the world so that Jesus' victory over sin and death might be experienced by us. This new life starts with the realisation that it was our sin which took Christ to the cross, but that God, in his mercy, has not only freed our Lord Jesus from the power of death, by his resurrection he has also freed us from the power of sin and death. We are no longer prisoners of our past, but are free to live our lives to God's glory.

And that good news needs to be shared! The Christian faith is missionary by its very nature, for if we truly believe the good news of Easter – good news which finally made itself clear to the disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them – then we shall beyond doubt wish to share that good news with all whom we meet! And if that means finding new means of communication, new “languages” with which to speak to our neighbour, then so be it. The world needs Pentecost today just as much as it did two thousand years ago.

May the Holy Spirit come upon us, as he came upon those first disciples, so that we, like them, might become sharers of the Gospel.

Your friend,

*John S. Bremner*

**This year, during Pentecost, many Christians around the world will be meeting in public and in private, to pray for the mission of the Church. Here are three prayers which will be used this day.**

#### **A Prayer for the Church**

*“They lifted their voices to God with one accord”* - Acts 4.34

Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, together with believers all over the world we gather today to glorify Your Name. Apart from you, we can do nothing. Transform your Church into the image of Jesus Christ. Release your power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn. Pour your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry and to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in Your care.

Almighty God, we need Your comfort and guidance. Transform our hearts.

#### **A Prayer for the City/Nation**

*“If my people...will humble themselves...”* - 2 Chronicles 7:14

Father of mercy and grace, we acknowledge that we have sinned and that our world is gripped by the power of sin. Our hearts are grieved by injustice, hatred and violence. We are shamed by oppression, racism and bloodshed in our land. We mourn all loss of life in murder, war and terrorism. Our homes are broken and our churches are divided by rebellion and pride. Our lives are polluted by selfishness, greed, idolatry and sexual sin. We have grieved Your heart and brought shame to your Name. Have mercy on us as we repent with all our hearts.

God of mercy, forgive our sins. Pour out Your grace and heal our land.

#### **A Prayer for the World**

*“For God so loved the World...”* - John 3.16

God our Father, we lift our voices in unison with believers from Africa and Asia, from the Middle East and Europe, from North and South America, and from Australia and the Pacific Islands. May people from every tribe and language become followers of your Son, Jesus Christ, so that the Gospel may bring transformation among all peoples. Let Your kingdom be established in every nation of the world so that governments will rule with righteousness and justice.