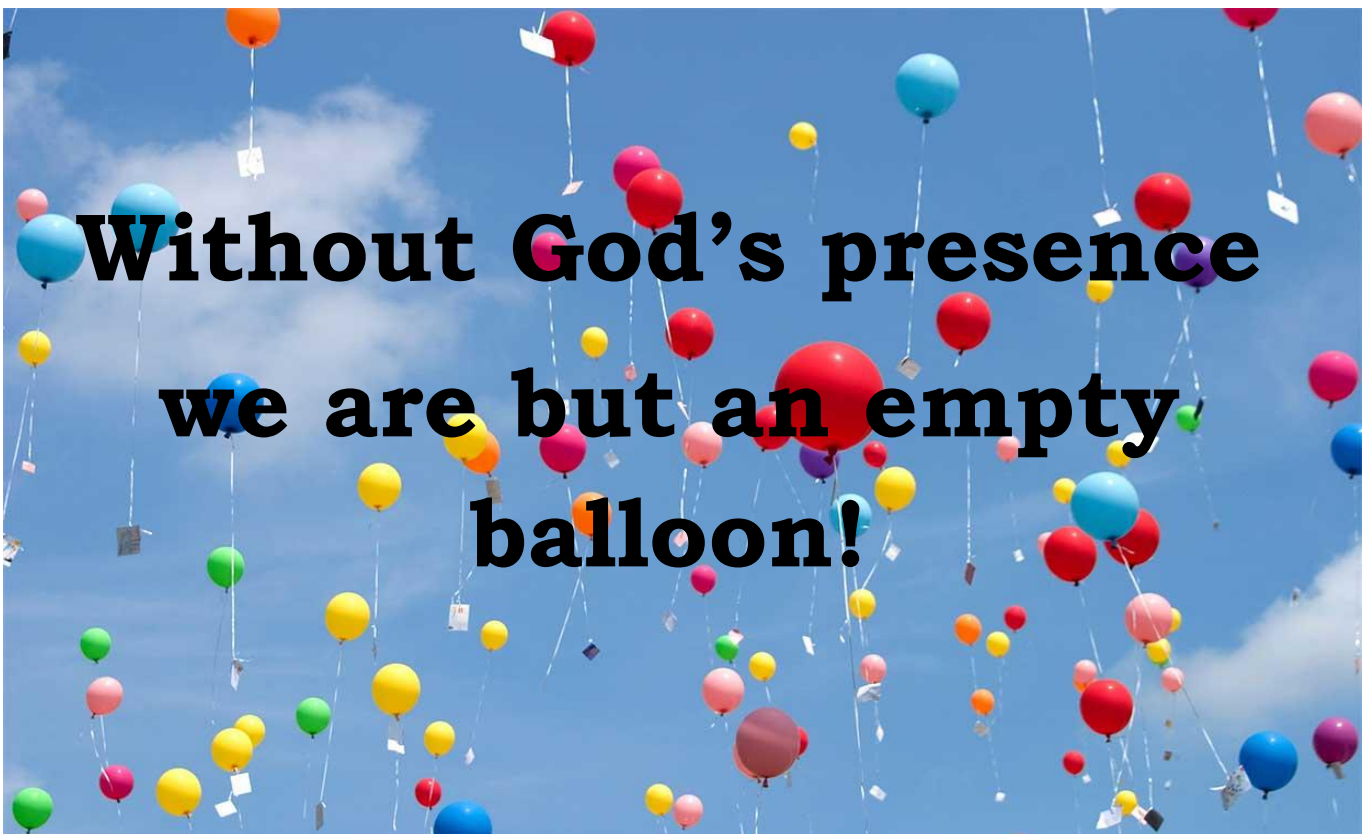


*Govan and Linthouse
Parish Church
Magazine*



June
2017

Dear Friends

It is now nearly four months since I came to you as an interim minister. I am more confident that I am giving the right name to the right person, and I am becoming familiar with the patterns of life in Govan and Linthouse Parish Church. Being a union of three congregations just ten years ago, and with that bringing the history of many other congregations in and around the Govan area, you will know that life just does not stay still!

We continue to cope with the challenge that those changes have brought. While much focus has been on the place of worship, I wonder if it is time to start thinking about the people of worship. Who are we, and what are we about? How do we care for ourselves and our community at large? How do we show the love of God so that the stranger becomes our friend? How do we use our buildings to achieve that?

Some of those questions may be answered during the interim ministry period, and the search for other answers will always be part of our journey of faith as a congregation. Over the next few weeks the Kirk Session will meet with what is called the Transition Support Group. This is a group of 7 people, 3 appointed by the Presbytery and 3 by Ministries Council, and a fellow interim minister who will help us shape what we do together over the next couple of years. They will offer help, support, suggestions and observations, and we will meet with them every few months, so that we can reflect on where we feel we have reached. At other times they will meet with the congregation. I welcome their interest and their support, and look forward with that to help you move on.

Many of you will be heading off on travels this summer, perhaps to seek a glimpse of the sun, and find a period of rest and recuperation away from the everyday stresses of life. Time away and time apart from the normal demands of home and work (and the retired can sometimes be as busy as those getting paid!) allows us to look anew at what we do. God gives a weekly holiday, which in days of old was called the Sabbath day. We have moved a long way from not allowing the children to play in the streets, or not hanging our washing out because it was a Sunday. Nowadays, it may be another day that is our day of rest, but to have a day to rest, to play, to think and to worship is important. It allows us in some sense to recreate ourselves, and give space to God to come a little closer to us.

Should you be attending another church on your travels, then please do sign the visitors' books of any congregation you visit, and feel free to extend the good wishes of our congregation here in Glasgow to those in other "airts and pairts" of the country or even the world. It is at such times we appreciate the fellowship of faith, and the welcome of other Christians in the world at large, and in returning home, we bring a little of that back with us, to be shared with our own kith and kin.

So wherever you journey this summer, may God's blessing be with you, and may you find that sense of refreshment and renewal that this season so readily offers.

With every blessing

Eleanor McMahon
Interim Minister

Is it just me or has the year so far vanished? I can't believe that Eleanor has been with us for 4 months already and I must say I have really enjoyed working with her. For all who attended her induction to Govan and Linthouse on 11th May you will know as well as I how well liked she is given the number of folk who

made the journey to support her. Thank you to all our 'ladies' for the amazing spread afterwards, you always outdo yourself and I must say any other church I have ever been to has never lived up to the standard at Govan 😊

You may be wondering what my front cover is all about...well it stems from one of our Scripture Fun days at Pirie Park. Rob and Bev from Church of the Nazarene were unable to come to 3 of the days we had booked so Grace who comes along to help said to me, 'Don't worry Gillian, we've got this!' For those of you who know me well you will know that I am always happy to help out but I really don't like doing the 'main' stuff. I'll cook for 50 people at Messy Mondays. I'll clean the kitchen and the floors. I'll join in with dancing and games but the 'out front' stuff is not really my thing...Grace thought I was talking mince, so she hatched a cunning plan that as it was 3 weeks we would do the Trinity! 'Great idea', I thought, till she told me she would do God the Father and God the Son and I could do God the Holy Spirit.

So whilst trawling the internet for inspiration I decided on an idea for a balloon! Kids love balloons! This should be okay and they should get the message. So, with a craft, a game, a wee chat and a bible reading we came to the conclusion that we are all bobbing along, living our lives, but unless we open our hearts and our minds and welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives then we are just like a balloon with no air and we are not filling our true potential as human beings.

May your balloon be filled with air!

Gillian

As We Look Back

As we look back over time
We find ourselves wondering...
Did we remember to thank you enough
For all you have done for us?
For all the times you were by our sides
To help and support us...
To celebrate our successes
To understand our problems
And accept our defeats?
Or for teaching us by your example,
The value of hard work, good judgment,
Courage and integrity?
We wonder if we ever thanked you
For the sacrifices you made.
To let us have the very best?
And for the simple things
Like laughter, smiles and times we shared?
If we have forgotten to show our
Gratitude enough for all the things you did
We're thanking you now.
And we are hoping you knew all along,
How much you meant to us.

'Count your blessings' – you recall that old chorus? Thanks be to God for all his benefits to us, especially in the hard times.

I must thank you all for your support for me over the last 7 ½ years – as I have said before on a number of times, as a congregation, you are salt to the community of Govan! We must all remember to say thank you to our Lord for what he has done for us, as we must say thank you to all who help us out, support us, love us and care for us. So Thank You again for your support for myself and the ministry

team. Remember us in your prayers and bless Eleanor with the same level of support you have given me, while she leads us through the next chapter of our story.

Take care and God Bless and continue to look after one another
Your pastoral assistant and your friend

Andrew

Govan Encounters

Background

*Here is the church,
Here is the steeple,
Open the doors,
And are here are the people.*

Since the Summer of 2015 We the people have been missing from Govan Cross on a Sunday morning. While we are making the best of things, the aim of the Kirk Session has always been to ensure that the congregation return there once all the relevant work has been completed. Over the last year, we have been working hard to secure funding for both the sanctuary and the ancillary buildings. While grant funding will get our building completely wind and watertight, to enable us to worship we will be needing further funding to provide us with heating, lighting, and sound systems.

We are therefore now launching a fundraising campaign that will raise £150,000. We will give more details below, but first let us tell you why we are asking for this money.

The Govan Community

Initial research on community needs, showed that the Govan area according to SIMD 2016 is within the most deprived 10% in Scotland. Various local projects focus on either alcohol, health, or wellbeing. There is a Vulnerable People and Families programme, and there are services to support youth employment and to provide support for the community at large.

In looking at such programmes we feel we do not wish to offer something that competes with other projects but instead plan to compliment that work, and to offer to the community, both individuals and community groups something that is cohesive, to bring people together. Our buildings can be part of that, sitting as they do at the geographical heart of the community.

Govan Encounters – Our Vision

Govan Encounters is a project that works on several different levels. Its name comes from a phrase used by Moyna, our late minister. Moyna carried a vision for the Govan Cross buildings, that they would be a “place of encounter”, where people of different backgrounds and culture find a place to meet, to think, to discuss, to learn and to share with each other. While initially thinking that this place would offer both worship and theatre space, the vision is expanding to reach a wider community base, and offer both facilities and activities that allow the individual to grow, and the community itself to develop. The project will work at different levels to meet these needs.

Level 1 – Affordable Community Space

There is a need for affordable usable space for community groups within Govan. The congregation in owning the ancillary building, lets out the two commercial units, which in turn offer a variety of jobs at different skill levels. They currently comprise the café and the bank. The development of the caretakers flat in the ancillary building will provide a flexible number of units or a single large unit for small businesses each with the potential to offer employment opportunities.

The large hall, and other rooms are already available for hire to community groups. The space provided is reasonably priced to be within the reach of many community groups and organisations. Fully developed, it would offer community choirs, youth organisations, community clubs for the elderly, and interest groups a place to meet on a regular basis.

The sanctuary space will also offer community groups reasonably priced access to theatre style accommodation. Once refurbished, it will offer a small community theatre and performance space, ideal for children, youth and amateur productions, and small-scale production companies. There is no other similar space in Govan at this time and with this potential.

Level 2 – Community Interaction and Development

Beyond the offering of community space, Govan Encounters is planned to engage with local people to meet their needs, and seeks to be aware of the financial restraints on young people and families who may be unemployed or part of the “working poor”. Access to community groups at an affordable cost promotes health and well-being, gives confidence and a sense of value and worth. Such activities can seem unattainable and indeed only aspirational for those without the means to use them.

Being at the centre of Govan, there is an opportunity to provide such activities, for example, an Out of School project to offer a homework and play space to children thereby helping to sustain families who work long hours. On completion of currently planned building works it is expected that new community groups would be formed, such as parent and toddlers group, community choir, craft groups, while sustaining existing projects like the Saturday Café and the present youth organisations.

Community Cinema

Within the sanctuary itself, there are plans for the space could be used to develop a Community Cinema. This would run monthly with a variety of films, with a pricing level attainable for both the unemployed and working poor.

Arts and Community Activities

As well as offering school, local theatre groups, dance schools and community groups reasonably priced access to performance space, our plans are for a development worker to help co-ordinate such activities, initiate new ones, and provide “pop-up” activities and events as resources allow and the community demands.

Level 3 – Encouraging Wholeness and Wellbeing

The congregation will continue to use the sanctuary for regular public worship within Govan. This space is open in the usual way for the community at large for both weddings, funerals and school services. But can we do more with this space?

Quiet Space

The creation of a “safe” space is also seen as desirable. Having followed projects in Edinburgh and London, the provision of quiet and reflective space within the life of the community is seen as important and of value. This can be Open Space, when the sanctuary is open for periods in the week for people to come and go as they wish, or Sanctuary Space when using music and art, allows time for an individual to connect more with themselves, or with the world at large, and to explore the spiritual part of their being.

Active Wellbeing

While statistics can measure the level of poverty, what cannot be measured is the lack of confidence and self-worth, and the positive impact on both physical and mental health that spirituality and well-being can offer. Faith can reach the parts that other things cannot. Both the sanctuary and halls will be used to offer these activities, and we are presently looking at church models e.g. Finn's Place in Langside or the Connexions project in Irvine.

Congregational Commitment

We are now launching a fundraising campaign to raise £150,000! We are applying to several grant funders, but we now want to open it up to the congregation and the wider community. Over the next few weeks we will be opening a Just Giving page.

We plan a Gift Day on **Saturday 16th September**. We will give full details nearer the time, but you do not need to wait to till then. Donations are now being received. We know that not everyone will be able to give, but we are asking everyone to consider what they can give to help us complete our project.

We will have an evening for the congregation to help explain where we are in our work, and what the money you are being asked to give will do. We will keep you up to date about this, and help you to understand the challenges that we have faced, and have overcome. We still though need to do a bit more, and so very much need your help.

The Guild

I am writing this on a lovely May evening remembering that Gillian has put a deadline of Monday for magazine articles.

We are in the last few weeks of the Guild and of course we are looking forward to our outing which is on Monday 5th June to Peebles stopping mid morning at Dobbies garden centre on the Clydeside. So far we have around 40 attending. It's always an event on our calendar to look forward to and I'm sure we will have a wonderful day.

The thought of our outing makes me think about those who will not be joining us and we remember some of our members we have lost this session and give thanks for the lives of Annie Allison, Matt Black, May McNaught, Kitty Stewart and Robert Sinclair, they will be sorely missed. We also have a few of our members who are now in care and can't join in the fun but we will be sure to tell them our tales.

Since our last news letter we have enjoyed many evenings. Our opening night was a great success with the Rev Tom Pollock sharing his experiences then Clickman's Sweets where we all enjoyed sweets from our past, I know I have stocked up with my favourites.

Unfortunately our speaker for our project got lost and couldn't find us but we enjoyed the evening never the less. Those of us who went to Hamilton for Christopher's ordination will remember Joyce's Voices who entertained us with their lovely singing. We were blessed to have them entertain us in March and they have promised to return next session. I do hope many of the congregation will come to share this evening. We were also joined by Karaoke Hymns and the trip to Eastwood Theatre was a great night. We had a trip round Lighthouses by Joy Blair and many of our members shared in Monday evening worship in Holy week. It was great to have Paul's daughter Stephanie join us to hear of her trip to help build an orphanage in Africa.

By the time you read this we will have had our Bring and Buy sale and the DVD of last year's annual meeting. Theatre South will be returning to us and then it's the A.G.M. and Cream Tea.

Thank you to all for your support, we continue to help our projects and hopefully some of us will be attending this year's Annual Gathering in September.

I wish you Gods richest blessing as we continue to share this unique fellowship and do invite as many others as would like to join us, you will be very welcome.

With Prayers,

Elsbeth

God's Gang

It looks like summer has arrived!

Since the last magazine we have looked at more parables, fishers of men and of course, Easter.

Some of our children served communion at the Easter breakfast. . .It is great that they love to be involved in the life of the church. Hopefully, in years to come they will be serving communion in Church.

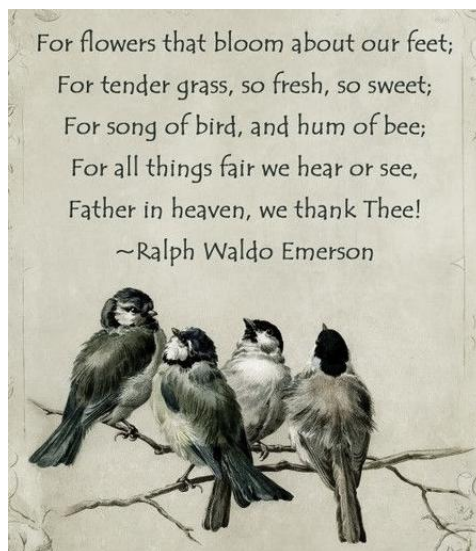
On Sunday 7th May we spoke about lifetime guarantees. Your Tupperware or North Face jacket may come with a guarantee, but that does not cover you if your item is lost or stolen.

Thankfully, Jesus has promised an everlasting life that you can't lose and no one can take it away. That's a guarantee that no one can match!

Sunday 4th June is our outing to Wellsfield Park. Can we get the same fantastic weather as last year?! And Sunday 18th June is our prize giving.

As the session comes to an end I would like to thank you all for your continued support. The children will still continue to meet over the summer.

Karen



34th Glasgow Girls' Brigade

We have had a very busy session! By the time you read this magazine, we will have had our Annual Display and Prizegiving in the Pearce Institute on Friday 12th May. You'll find a few photos of the night attached to this article.

We would like to thank everyone who came along to support us on the night and those who support us throughout the year at our various fundraising events. Without this fundraising, we would be unable to sustain the company and pay national GB subscriptions.

We are very proud of Jennifer Rankine and Abby Lauder who have worked hard to achieve their Brigader's Brooch. This is the highest award in badgework, which was presented to them at the display. Jennifer and Abby have been members of the company for 12 and 11 years respectively. We hope that they will continue to be part of the company and progress in leadership training in the future. Jennifer and Abby have been invited to the Glasgow Girls' Brigade AGM in the City Chambers to receive their awards.

Karen Stevely was presented with a badge at our display for 40 years service to the company as an officer. Congratulations Karen!

This session we have had extremely regular attendance with many of the girls having over 95% attendance. One of our Juniors, Kayla Logan, has had 100% attendance this session which is a great achievement.

This year our theme has been "Animals" with the girls learning about various animals, doing animal related crafts. They have been singing and dancing to animal themed music as well.

On Friday 28th April we stayed at the Compass Christian Outdoor Centre near Glenshee for the weekend. The girls had lots of fun doing many activities including climbing, ropes course, challenges and archery.

On the way home from Glenshee we stopped at Noah's Ark Soft play at Perth. There the girls enjoyed playing in the soft play, dinner and ten pin bowling. The girls were all very well behaved and everyone had a great weekend.

We had planned to take the company to Gambado Soft Play at Soar, Braehead on 17th May for our end of session treat however after booking this we received a call to say that the soft play would be closing at the beginning of May. As an alternative, we managed to book Wonder World at Kinning Park and I'm sure everyone will have a fun time there.

Our new session will start on Wednesday 6th September 2017 in the Govan Cross Church Halls at 6.30pm and we would welcome all girls of school age.

Sandra MacDonald

Sandra MacDonald – 40 years Captain!!

What our wonderful Girls Brigade captain neglected to tell you in her news letter is that not only was Karen Stevely an officer for 40 years but that Sandra has in fact been captain of the 34th company for 40years and an officer for 52years!! This is an amazing achievement and I am sure that Sandra's hard work and dedication has made the company what it is today.

Sandra was presented with flowers, a book full of messages from former and present members of the company and a SPA day at the prize giving on Friday evening from her fellow GB team.

Sandra and Karen were both presented with a variety of potted plants from the minister Eleanor on behalf of herself and the congregation.

We thank you both for your years of service and dedication to the girls of Govan and their families.



The 34th Glasgow Girls' Brigade at the Annual Display, May 2017



Jennifer and Abby 12 & 11 years' attendance

Easter Bunny

Thank you to everyone who guessed how many eggs were in the Bunny's basket. The winner was Lesley Newdall (McFarlane) who was within 1 egg of the correct answer with her guess of 248. The actual number of eggs in the basket was 247.

The total raised for the Renovation Fund was £309

Well done Lesley!

Renovation Fund

Our church renovation fund is currently totalling approx. £27,000. Thanks to everyone who generously donates to this regularly. Every little helps towards this total and with your support through our various fundraising efforts we are hopeful to reach £30,000 soon.

If you would like to donate to the Renovation Fund please see Sandra MacDonald or Frank Brown.

Souper Sunday 2017

This year our Souper Sunday service and lunch will be held on Sunday 11th June. As usual, there will be a soup – what else? – lunch after the service, and people will be encouraged to give what they would normally pay for a lunch out to the Church of Scotland's HIV Programme.

The theme of this year's service is "Salt and Light", and during it we will hear a little about the work being done in Scotland to care for those suffering from HIV and AIDS. If you can make it, please come along.

Elsie Donald

Saturday Tearoom

Please remember that the Tea room is on and that the ladies put so much effort into the running of it. If you can spare a wee hour or two to pop in and support them it is always very much appreciated. Thank you also to everyone who runs, bakes, contributes to and volunteers their time and talents to the tearoom! Govan wouldn't be the same without it 😊

Thank you

Our thanks go out to all who help with the running of the church, be it clearing things away, helping with teas, the count, the setting up, the clubs, the drop offs and pickups, and the fixing of things (George Mills I am talking to you!) Without all the help and support many of the things we run would not be possible. Your help does not go unnoticed.

Magazine – Do you need a hard copy?

As you know we are always looking to save money and cut costs, therefore please ask yourself if you need a hard copy of the magazine. If you do that's fine, but have a look on the church website and see if maybe in future you would be happy reading it electronically as this will reduce our printing costs. Thanks



Shoebox Appeal



Here is a part of an email from Blythswood Care –

Dear friends,

No-one wants to think too much about the Shoe Box Appeal in April. It's getting warmer at last, the days are longer and our thoughts are full of gardening, holiday plans and how to make the most of the good weather (if we should have any).

However, there are some supporters of Blythswood Care who never stop thinking about shoe boxes. They keep an eye on the end of season sales to pick up bargains. They pop a few things into the trolley every time they go round the supermarket, so that the expense of filling that box – or boxes- is spread throughout the year.

Sounds a little like some of us at Govan and Linthouse!

Please keep thinking about the shoeboxes. All donations accepted throughout the year.

Thank you

Karen Stevely

Communion Service

Our next Communion Service at Govan and Linthouse will take place on Sunday 4th June and the second collection will be for the Church Renovation Fund.

The monthly Communion service at Govan Old will take place on the last Sunday of the month as usual at 9.45am.

Annual Stated Meeting

Our annual stated meeting will take place after the service on 25th June. A massive thank you to Frank Brown for all his hard work as our Treasurer. Our accounts are very complicated and Frank does a fantastic job, not only keeping the accounts up to date but also in explaining it all to us all. Frank works exceptionally hard and spends a lot of his free time in the office chasing things up and I would like to ensure him that it is very much appreciated and that it does not go unnoticed.

Session Meeting

We are slightly out of kilter with regards to our Session meetings due to Eleanor's incredibly busy schedule. The next Session meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th June in Linthouse at the usual time of 7.30pm

Department of Medicine for the Elderly
Langlands Building
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital
GLASGOW G51 4TF



16th March 2017

Ms Gillian McElreevy
c/o Govan and Linthouse Parish Church
796 Govan Road
GLASGOW
G51 1YL

Dear Ms McElreevy

I have today received your cheque for £373 for the Southern General Hospital Parkinson's Fund. Can I ask you to send our thanks to your congregation for this donation, which is very much appreciated.

The money will go into our funds, which we use to buy pieces of equipment, etc for the patients while they are in the hospital.

I remember well the gentleman that you are speaking about, and he is remembered fondly by all of us at the clinic. Many thanks again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol Vennard'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Sister Carol Vennard, PD Nurse Specialist

Members Deaths

Robert Sinclair – March 2017

Matt Black – March 2017

We have now lost 2 more remarkable and very faithful men who gave us many memories to ponder over and in Matt's case, many jokes to pass on. They are both very much missed and our condolences go out to their family and friends.

Can you help?

We, as you will all know, are dealing with ongoing building issues which are much bigger than any one individual but we are wondering if any of our members or people in the wider community you may know would be willing to put their skills and talents to good use. Can you or someone you know help with any of the following things:

Painting, plastering, electrical work, joinery, plumbing, laying floors/carpets...

We are looking to do some work in the vestry and session house at Govan Cross and many hands make light work.

If you can and are willing to help with any of the above then please get in touch.

Gillian



Get Well Soon

To all our members who are stuck at home, unwell, in hospital, hospices or homes. We hope you are feeling uplifted in the fact that you are in our thoughts are prayers and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Fun Corner

CROSSWORD - PSALM 23 (KING JAMES)

*Learn one of the best-loved Psalms by answering questions about it in the crossword puzzle below.
Read the Psalm first!*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

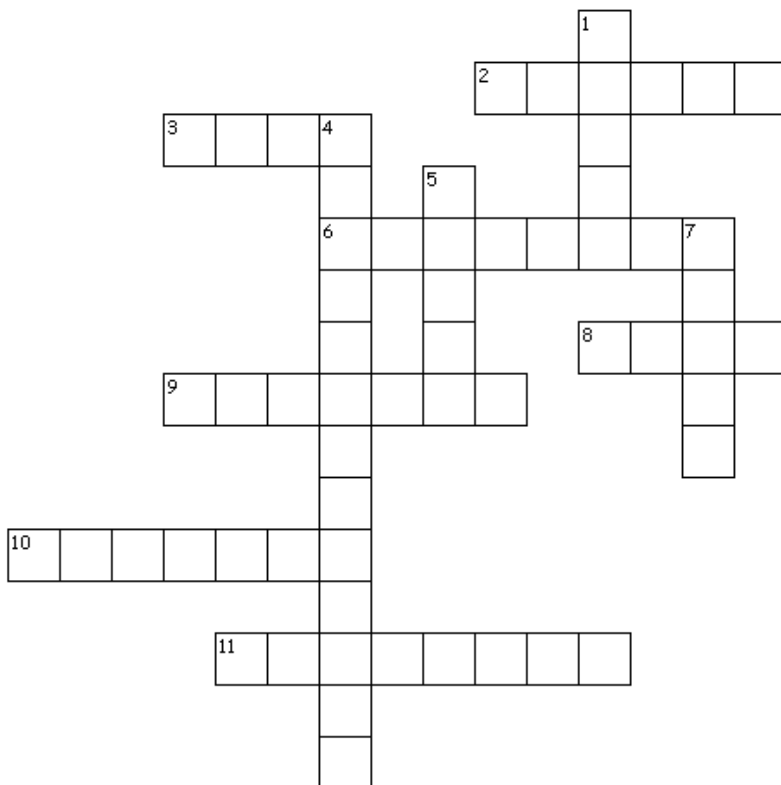
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



Across

2. The valley of this of death.
3. How our cup runs.
6. This and mercy will follow us.
8. I will fear no...
9. Last word.
10. In the presence of our...
11. The Lord is my...

Down

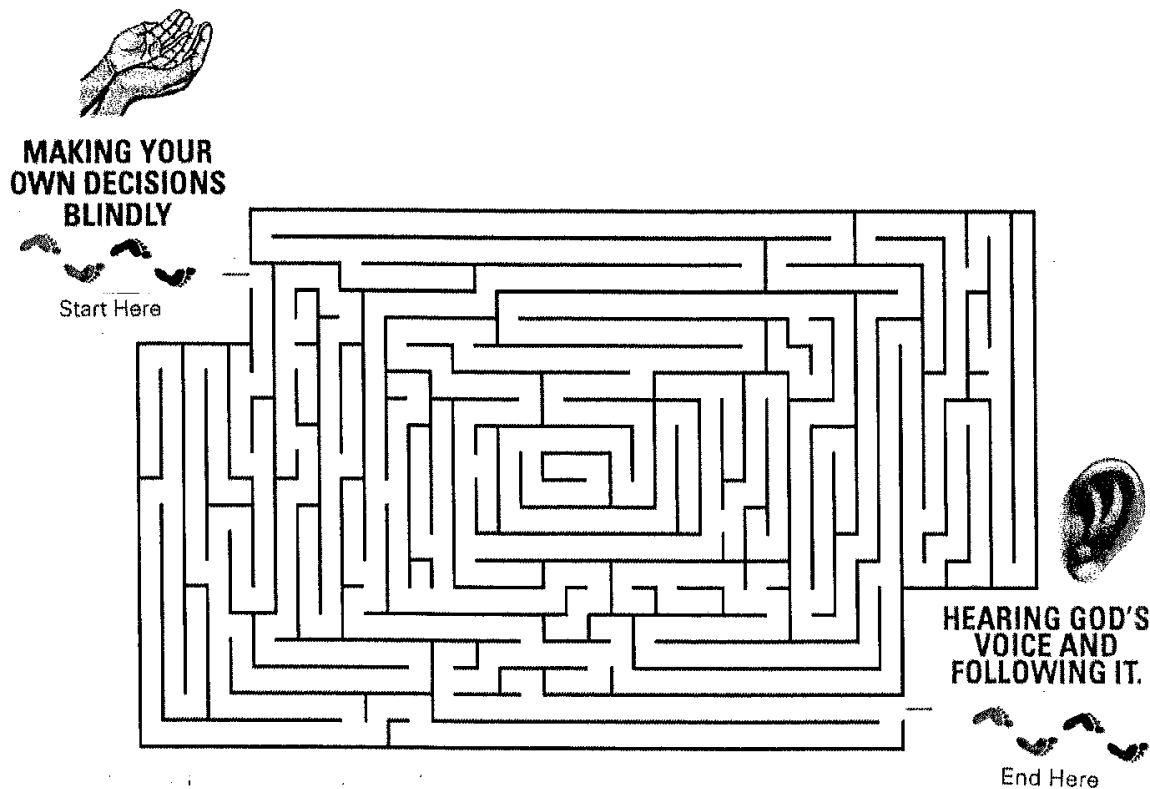
1. God prepares this before us.
4. Paths of...
5. We will dwell in the Lord's...
7. Waters are described as this.

A-Maze-ing Bible Grace

THE ROAD TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

After we give our hearts to Jesus, we receive his grace, which is forgiveness for all sins, past, present and future. Then begins a journey to spiritual maturity. People have more peace and joy after accepting Christ. Many, however, say their lives got harder! God wants you to arrive in heaven having relied on him for all your needs. Hence, he will make sure you are often in situations where the answers are elusive, and you have to *ask him*. The end result? A beautiful relationship, where you hear his voice and trust it and follow it.

Follow the labyrinth from making your own decisions blindly to hearing his voice clearly and being able to follow it:



John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

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www.govanlinthouseparish.org or our facebook page at: Govanlinthouse
Parish