

Church Register

Deaths:

“The Lord’s my shepherd I’ll not want”

Mr John Ingram

Beech Way

Church Office

Janette Robertson will be in the Office – Tuesday 10.00 am – 12 noon & Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm. All items for the Pew Leaflet should be given to Janette, or posted through the office door. Please note that articles for inclusion in the Sunday Pew Leaflet must be with Janette no later than 11.00 am on the preceding Friday.

Contact details:

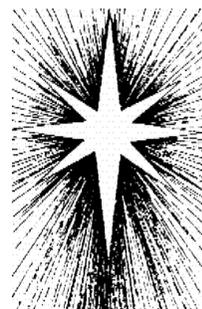
Telephone: (01465) 712672

email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com

Church Website: www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

EDITOR’S NOTE:

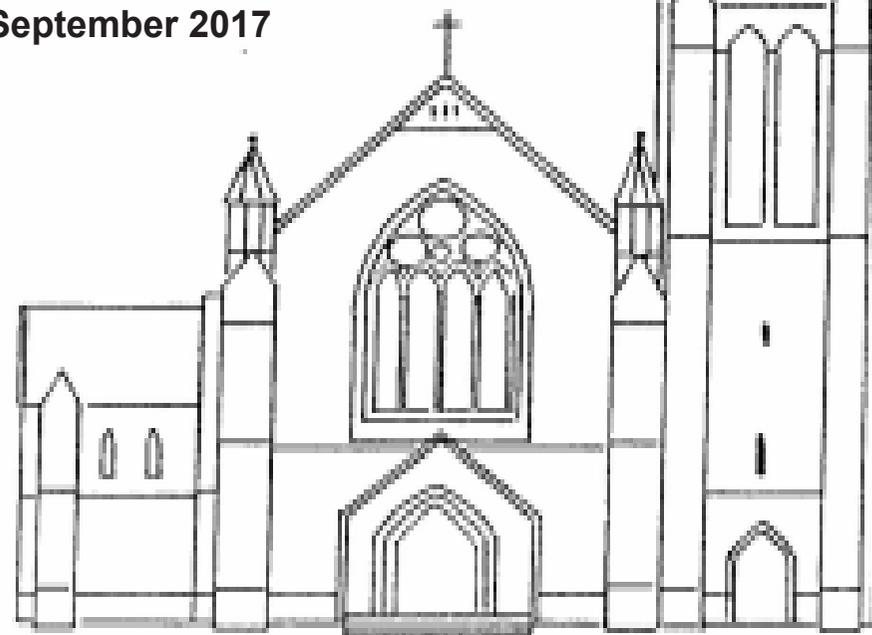
All articles for the October 2017 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 24th September 2017



The Church of Scotland

The North Star

September 2017



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Minister:

Rev. Richard Moffat 38 The Avenue, Tel: 713203

SESSION CLERK:

Mr. Ron Gibson 7 Young Street, Tel: 479206

TREASURER:

Mr Jim Nicol 52 The Avenue, Tel : 714044

CLERK TO THE BOARD:

Mrs. Jennifer Ramsay 30 Golf Course Road, Tel: 712200

ROLL KEEPER:

Mrs. June Allison 48 Glendoune Street, Tel: 712610

CHURCH OFFICER:

Mrs. Anne Johnston 9 The Avenue, Tel:713624

ORGANIST:

Mrs. Marie Mortimer Gowlands Cottage Barrhill, Tel: 821294

CHURCH SECRETARY AND MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Mrs Janette Robertson 78 Bourtreehall, Tel: 715195

HALL CONVENER:

Mrs Anne Johnston 9 The Avenue, Tel: 713624

(Keys & practical arrangements)

Mrs Janette Robertson 78 Bourtreehall, Tel: 715195 (Bookings)

GIFT AID CONVENER:

Joyce Mills 21 North Park Avenue, Tel: 712050

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Margaret Nicol, 52 The Avenue, Tel: 714044

MAGAZINE CONVENER:

Mrs Barbara Warren 35 Sycamore Drive, Tel : 714960

Mrs Irene Tyson 3 Kirkpatrick Street, Tel : 713590

F.W.O. CONVENER:

Mrs. Agnes Gibson 7 Young Street, Tel: 479206

CHURCH Tel. 712672

Blythswood Care

We have resumed our collection for Blythswood, so please bring any of the following donations, and they will be taken up to their shop in Prestwick.

Please mark your boxes/bags with the following appropriate label(s):

BRB = Bric-a-Brac C = Clothes D = Dishes F = Food
G = Glass items M = Medical T = Toys B = Books

Stamps

Please bring along used stamps and place them in the box in the vestibule at the church building.

They are sent to World Mission at '121' who benefit in the region of £2,000 + per annum.

Please leave about one quarter of an inch around the stamp when you cut it off the envelope.

Computer Inkjet Cartridges

Used computer inkjet cartridges continue to be handed in in good numbers in response to the Kirk Session's decision to collect used computer inkjet cartridges and send them off to either The Leprosy Mission (Scotland) or to CHAS. The Leprosy Mission (Scotland) can take only three particular makes but other makes can be sent via the Rotary Club of Girvan to CHAS.

The church will send off the ones to TLM (Scotland) while the rest will be taken to Rotary for them to send to CHAS.

A box will be found each Sunday in the vestibule of the church building into which you may place your used cartridges. Please keep them coming!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our service of Harvest Thanksgiving will be held in the Church on Sunday 24th September 2017 at 11.00am. Janet Arthur will be in the Session Room from 10.00am to 12.00pm and from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Saturday 23rd September 2016 to receive your Harvest Gifts of fruit, flowers and food for display at the Service and for distribution to our elderly and housebound members. As the Main Hall is used by a dance class on Saturdays, please use the Session Room entrance when you are coming to deliver your gifts. Girvan North has always been a caring Church and the Kirk Session thanks you for your generosity in supporting these members.

Ron Gibson - Session Clerk

HARVEST THANKSGIVING - FLOWERS

Last year over 50 baskets of flowers were delivered to the elderly and housebound within our congregation. To do the same again this year we are in urgent need of flower baskets. If you have any that you don't require, we would be very glad to have them so either bring them to church on a Sunday morning or phone Agnes Gibson (479206) or Janet Arthur (715393) and we will collect. Thank you.

Agnes Gibson

Grace & Peace to you all as we enter the Autumn Season.

Just recently I came across these comments for Gary Chapman in his book "The Love Languages of God." Of course, as I read it, I thought of the fact that too often we really fail to grasp in our hearts what Gary said he heard in a sermon:

1. God knows you.
2. God loves you.
3. God wants you.

Gary then went on to share that the preacher walked the congregation through the Old and New Testaments giving illustrations for each of his points. He talked about the Hebrew prophets as though they were his friends. He quoted Scriptures freely.

"Listen to the words of God to ancient Israel," he said. "'I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.' Do you think that God loved Israel more than He loves you? Listen to these words about Jesus as He faced death. 'Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.'"

"God has always loved his children. God will always love His children, and He wants you to be His child," Reuben said with deep passion.

Gary then says that despite the fact that he was tired; he was sleepy, the building was hot, he never once nodded as he listened to the master wordsmith make his case for the love of God as he called his listeners to "repentance and faith in Christ." Then Gary says that as Pastor Reuben gave his plea for sinners to come to Christ, several people left their seats, walked to the front, and bowed at the altar, many of them weeping. "Come home, come home," Pastor Reuben

pleaded. "God loves you too and wants you to be His child."

All of us, I think, need to be reminded from time to time that God wants you & me to be "His child," and that He loves you and me just the way we are. If you think his love for you would be stronger if your faith were, you are wrong. If you think his love would be deeper if your thoughts were, wrong again. Don't confuse God's love with the love of people. The love of people often increases with performance and decreases with mistakes. Not so with God's love. He loves you right where you are. So I would invite you to do as Max Lucado says: "Let God have you, and let God love you—and don't be surprised if your heart begins to hear music you've never heard and your feet learn to dance as never before." Lucado, M. (1999). Touch of the Master's Hand Studies on Jesus (pp. 30–31). Dallas, TX: Word Pub.

As we enter the Autumn season let us continue to dance in ways which delight God and let us share His love particularly with those who are hurting and feeling hopeless.

May God bless you as you dance,

Pastor Richard

Wednesday Break Service

Our new session opens on Wednesday 13th September at 10.30 am in the small hall.

We will pick up our journey through the Gospel of St. Mark, looking at the miracles.

This informal service lasts about half an hour after which we have tea/coffee.

If you have never been before, now is the right time to join us. The worship team of Richard, Eric, Stuart and Anne along with Kathleen, our music guide, will be happy to see you.

Church Calendar

Sunday`	3 rd September	Morning Worship	Rev. Rhona Young
Sunday	10 th September	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	17 th September	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	24 th September	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	1 st October	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat

[All services begin at 11.00 am unless indicated]

Crèche Rota

3 rd September	Yuna McLeod, Michelle Scobie
10 th September	Wilma Armstrong, Fiona McCutcheon
17 th September	Arlene McGarragle, Susan Brown
24 th September	Lorraine Reid, Leslie Forbes
1 st October	Margaret Nicol, Rhona MacKinnon

If anyone is interested in helping out on a Sunday morning, Diane, would be delighted to hear from you – contact details are given below. We are grateful to those members of our fellowship who voluntarily give of their time to staff our Crèche on Sunday mornings. Please remember that if you cannot do your duty one Sunday it is vital that you arrange a replacement with somebody else who is already on the Crèche rota.

We wish to take this opportunity to remind members that the Crèche is available every Sunday for children under 3 years of age.

Diane Irvine is the Crèche co-coordinator, her contact details are:

5 Trowier Road, Girvan Tel: 710524 Wells1969@hotmail.co.uk

New Unitary Constitution.

At the moment Girvan North Parish Church has a Kirk Session and a Congregational Board. This is known as the Model Constitution. The Kirk Session deals with spiritual matters while the Board is responsible for finance and buildings.

The Church of Scotland is encouraging churches to change to the Unitary Constitution. This would comprise the Kirk Session and a number of Action Teams with responsibility for different areas of church life. Final decisions would still lie with the Kirk Session as it did under the Model Constitution.

It was decided at a meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregation Board on 12th June 2017 to make this change. A small committee was set up to look at how this change could be implemented over the next year. The committee has been meeting over the summer and their proposals will be put to the Kirk Session at their next meeting in September. Members of the congregation will be kept informed via North Star.

CHURCH ELDERS

Harvest Thanksgiving is nearly upon us and, as happened last year, Elders are asked where at all possible, to distribute the Harvest Gifts to their own Districts. This has been very successful in previous years and saves a great deal of time and effort. Elders are asked to be at the Church at 1.30pm or as soon as possible on the day of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Sunday 24th September 2017.

Members of the Congregation with cars are also invited to come along to assist Elders who do not have cars. This service for the church does not take long providing plenty of people come along and help. My thanks to everyone who does this important work.

Ron Gibson
Session Clerk

Change and the Church of Scotland

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

- * If you are Charismatic: Only one. Your hands are already in the air.
- * Baptist: At least 15. One to change the light bulb, & 3 committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad.
- * Catholic: None. Candles, only candles.
- * Episcopalian: Eight. One to call the electrician, & 7 to say how much better they liked the old one.
- * Methodist: Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved--you can be a light bulb, tulip bulb or a turnip bulb--you are loved.
- * TV evangelist: Just one. But for the message of light to continue, pick up that phone and pledge your support today.
- * Amish: What's a light bulb?
- * And finally, Presbyterians: Change? My grandmother gave that light bulb!!!

Well, Presbyterians are not the only ones who resist change. Physicists speak of

inertia which is the tendency of a body at rest to remain at rest unless acted upon by an outside force. Most churches suffer from inertia, as do most of their members. What is it that counselors say? "Most people change only when the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of change."

Change is a word that very few of us seem to like. Why? Because it can make us feel uncomfortable, or unsafe or afraid. Well the change we need to consider is based on the reality that The Church of Scotland, of which we are a part, is in a downward spiral. Consider this: The Church is losing 16,000 members per year; 40 churches per year; 879 elders per year; 25 ministers per year and these were the statistics from 2015. In 2017 it was announced that around 390,000 are regular in attendance down from 854,000 in 1984. The Scottish Church Survey compiled in 2016 also gave these key findings:

- 7.2% of Scotland's population regularly attend church,

- down from 17% in 1984;
- The number of congregations dropped from 4,100 in 1984 to 3,700 in 2016;
- 40% of churchgoers are male;
- Four-fifths of church leaders (79%) are male, with an average age of 57;
- 43% of leaders are responsible for more than one church.

This Autumn will see the Presbytery of Ayr down to 24 full time ministers which means there will be 12 vacancies to be filled. The truth is that many of the ministers are feeling overwhelmed, many are close to retirement and many are thinking of continuing on to try and help the church. Ultimately the Presbytery is looking at how the church needs to change, particularly with some of the vacancies now entering their third or fourth year.

Although this information might fill you with a sense of doom and gloom, that was not the purpose in writing this article. Instead it has been shared to try and speak a word of truth. The truth is that we are faced with a crisis, and ministers are not the solution. The Presbytery of Ayr are absolutely convinced that the only person who can turn this around is God. And so it is urging all, in the church, to pick up the mantle of prayer and ask God to reveal what we can do both as individuals and as churches, to engage with the community and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) it reads: **“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”** The Lord Jesus Christ gave everything he had to begin the church and the question we all have to ask ourselves: “Am I willing to do likewise?” That will involve, dare I say it, change.

May the Lord bless and lead us as we seek His face as to what should be changed.

Pastor Richard

2nd Girvan Girls' Brigade



We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer break.

Girls' Brigade will resume on Monday 4th September 2017 which will be our Enrolment Evening.

Enrolment forms are required to be completed by a parent/guardian at the start of each section please.

Explorers	Primary 1 to 3	4:15PM - 5.30PM
Juniors	Primary 4 to 7	6:00PM- 7:30PM
Brigaders	From S1	6:00PM – 8:00PM

Please check out our Facebook page for regular updates, news and information:

www.facebook.com/pages/2nd-Girvan-Girls-Brigade

We look forward to welcoming all out girls' back to GB and we hope to see lots of new faces too!

Lauren Borland
Lieutenant

South Carrick Churches Together

SCCT had another successful event on Sunday 13th August. The Songs of Praise was held at the Harbour and the music was played by the Ayr Salvation Army Band. We were pleased to see the addition of two new musicians; young boys, one playing tuba and the other on drum So uplifting to see the young participating. About ninety people attended, some with their dogs and the sun shone down on all of us. Thank You God. The gathering was reluctant to disperse at the end, everyone happy to chat with one another. Nice comments came our way on the music, hymns, prayers, reading and sermon. Some people were touched by the Service in different ways and would take that special feeling home with them, but they had to share it with us too. Many thanks to all who attended to give their support and the volunteers who lifted and transported the chairs. It was all worthwhile and turned out to be a very pleasurable afternoon.

South Carrick Churches Together

The next SCCT event, The Pot Luck Supper, will be held on Sunday 24th September in the large hall at 6.00 pm. This will be the last event of the year for the North Parish Church to act as the host Church. A cordial invitation goes out to the young and "old" to come along and share a meal and company of the good folks from the other churches. The North Church have been asked, as before, to provide food for the main course. Requests for contributions will be given later, in the Pew Leaflet and a list will be put out for donations to be given. All will be gratefully received. A special thanks to those who give support in any way to these gatherings.

Norma Logan, SCCT Committee

I almost went to Church

I almost went to Church last week
But couldn't find the time,
So much to do in the garden,
To neglect it would have been a crime.
So I dug and I hoed and I weeded,
And went wearily to bed,
But I made a resolution,
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to Church last week,
But some old friends came,
And to have shut the door on them,
Would have been a shame.
So we talked and we chatted and we gossiped,
Until the goodbyes were said,
But I made a resolution,
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to Church last week,
But left it rather late,
And unpunctuality,
Is a thing I really hate.
So I sat before the fire,
Took out a book to read,
But I made a resolution,
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to Church last week,
But my favourite programme's on,
And by the time it finished,
The time for Church had gone.
So I sat before the telly,
Until the set went dead,
But I made a resolution,

I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to Church last week,
But a certain preacher was there,
And for his kind of preaching,
I didn't really care.
So rather than go to Church,
And come back with a heavy head,
I made a resolution,
I'd go next week instead.

I really went to Church last week,
But found it was too late,
The Church was locked and silent,
And "FOR SALE" was on the gate.
Oh the remorse that now I felt,
That little Church was dead,
And I, yes I, had killed it,
By going next week instead.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler group will resume on Tuesday 5th September and we look forward to seeing all the children again. New members are also very welcome.

CHURCH CONCERT

Thursday 5th October 2017 is a date for everyone's diary. The RURAL REVELLERS led by Isobel Montgomery (a former Moderator of The Presbytery of Ayr), will be entertaining us in the Main Church Hall with their own brand of Scottish music. The ticket price is £6.00 and will include a finger buffet supper.

We need to know the numbers for the seating and the catering arrangements so it is necessary to obtain a ticket in advance for the event. These are available from :

Margaret Grassom, Anne Fisher and Agnes Gibson.

Church Officer

Anne Johnston, our Church Officer no longer has a landline. To contact her or leave a message please telephone **07478222904**.

Life & Work

We are now taking orders for Life & Work Magazine 2018. The annual cost is £27.60 for 12 issues. If you would like to place an order or cancel an existing one, please contact your distributor or phone Irene on 01465 713590 or Barbara on 01465 714960 before 1st November 2017. If you wish to continue to receive the magazine you need to nothing, we will continue your subscription as before. We would be grateful if all orders could be paid in full when your February issue is delivered. Thank you.

Irene & Barbara

Ladies Afternoon Badminton Club

The Afternoon Badminton Club starts our winter session on Wednesday 20th September 2017.

Hoping everyone had a good summer and looking forward to meeting up again.

The Club meets on a Wednesday afternoon in the Church Hall from 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

A break for tea/coffee and biscuits is “Guaranteed”.

A warm welcome will be given to any ladies interested in joining the Club.

Nance Stewart, Secretary

Sunday School

The Sunday School is starting again on 3rd September, all children from age 3 upwards can come along. We would love to see you there!.

1st Girvan Boy's Brigade

The Boys Brigade start back, under new leadership on Friday 8th September:

Anchor Boys	P1 – P3	6.00 – 7.00 pm
Junior Section	P4 – P6	6.30 – 8.00 pm
Company Section	P7 – S6	7.30 – 10.00 pm.

Quiz in aid of Harvest Thanksgiving **The answer to each clue was a FRUIT.**

1	With Melba its a sweet	Peach
2	Garden implement	Grape
3	Juice, rind or grass	Lemon
4	Little Thomas at ring	Tomato
5	Grampa adds a polite yes	Papaya
6	With age its feathers	Plum
7	Blossom worn by brides	Orange
8	Chinese language	Mandarin
9	With a branch it offers peace	Olive
10	Sounds unattractive	Ugli
11	Boy band and TV cook	Blueberry
12	Conifer and forbidden fruit	Pineapple.
13	Flightless bird	Kiwi
14	This republic is unstable	Banana
15	A spluttering noise	Raspberry
16	In one's eye he's favourite	Apple
17	A third person	Gooseberry
18	Partridge's tree	Pear
19	Male! Move!	Mango
20	Ogen or water	Melon
21	With brandy its a liqueur	Apricot or Cherry
22	GRITEENAN	Tangerine
23	BORNARLGEY	Loganberry
24	SAINTISPUROF	Passion Fruit
25	BREWAYRTRS	Strawberry

Congratulations to the £20 prize winner Mr Jack Chambers,

Thanks

Hope you enjoyed the Quiz! 86 completed sheets were returned from as far away as Aberdeen and Amsterdam! 44 were all correct. The wonderful sum of £400 has been raised. This will be used over the next few years to buy fruit and flowers to supplement the harvest gifts donated by members. It allows us to continue giving our harvest gifts to over 100 people who are ill, housebound or have been bereaved. Many thanks to everyone who supported this fundraiser by buying or selling quiz sheets. It is much appreciated.

Prayer Topics September 2017

1. The Leprosy Mission – India

The deep-rooted social stigma attached to leprosy leads many families not to take back their elderly members, even when they are cured of leprosy. TLM's five Snehalayas ('houses of love') take care of all the needs of 102 such abandoned people. Pray for the health and wellbeing of these residents and that they will develop an intimate relationship with God and experience His everlasting love. Praise God for the dedicated staff that care for the residents. Pray that through their life and service, they would be able to demonstrate Christian love and compassion.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship – Papua New Guinea

P.N.G. has more than 700 indigenous languages. So when M.A.F. distribute Bibles in people's native tongue, they are in big demand. One recipient said "No-one comes here except M.A.F. Now we are able to have a Bible Study with these Bibles and commentaries." Give thanks that M.A.F. planes reach those who are hungry for God's word. Pray for health and wellbeing as Paul and Clare Woodington serve P.N.G.s people. Paul is a pilot, which Clare is busy as M.A.F.s Wewark Compound Co-ordinator. Ask the Lord to bless their children – Tristan, Aaron and Kiri at university in Australia, and Imogen, a nurse, also based in Australia.

3 Open Doors – Eritrea

At least 170 Christians have been arrested in Eritrea since the beginning of May. Ask God to give these believers strength and courage to keep trusting in Him and pray for comfort and provision for their families. Remember also the many other believers who have been in prison for their faith for many years – some for over a decade. Pray that they will have a sense of Christ's presence with them and remain steadfast in hope.

4 Pray for all victims of recent happenings:- floods, droughts, earthquakes, fires, road accidents and violence. Remember the people of Likoma Island and their needs.

Pray for the church worldwide. Praise God for the places where it is growing rapidly. Where it is declining, as in our country, pray that God will give us a real urgency to intercede for those around us who do not know Jesus Christ and are not waiting for His coming again. Pray for boldness to speak of Him. .Ask that our love for each other would be obvious and would draw people to seek the One whose beauty they see in our lives. Pray for an outpouring of the power of the Holy Spirit in true revival at the beginning of this new session. Uphold our Sunday School, Girls' and Boys' Brigades, Session and Board, organist and pastor and all our members. Ask for special grace, wisdom, encouragement and health for Pastor Richard and Margie in their position of leadership, that all that is done may be to God's praise and glory.

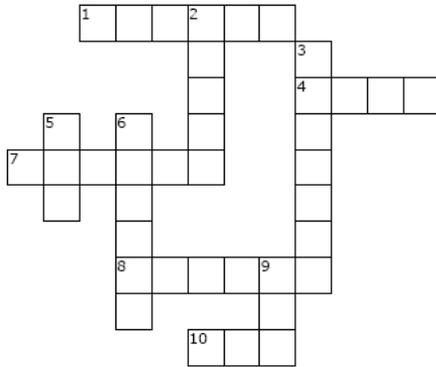
Centre Group

The Centre Group meetings resume on Wednesday 20th September at 7.30 pm in the Lounge. New members will be most welcome. Thereafter we meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Choir

The Choir practises resumed on **Thursday 31st August** in the Memorial Chapel at 7.15 pm. Anyone interested in joining us will be most welcome.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
7. A male parent
8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
10. An adult male human being

DOWN

2. The name that Jesus called Simon
3. A persons who speaks for God
5. To speak
6. The whole body of believers in Christ
9. A male child in relation to his parents

PETER PROPHET	FATHER ROCK	PEOPLE MAN	SON CHURCH	CHRIST SAY
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Children's Worship Bulletin

Peter's Confession of Christ

Matthew 16:13-20

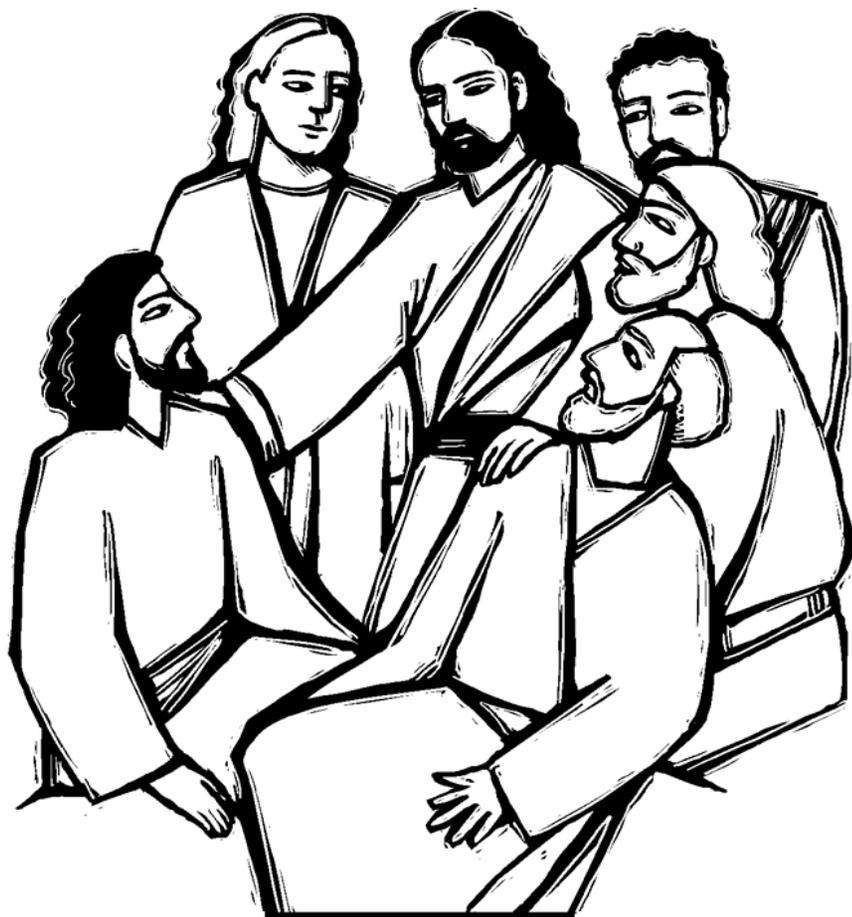
Word Search Puzzle

I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH

Girvan North Parish Church

Coloring Page



“But what about you? Who do you say I am?”
Matthew 16:15



Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	Q	S	T	R	N	P	M	W	Y	L	Z	C	D	H	G	K	E	O	J	F	V	U	I	X	A

- 7-5-19-7-15-18-4-3 _____
- 15-18-26-22-18-6 _____
- 17-18-10-3 _____
- 5-19-13-17 _____
- 17-24-6-16-14-19-8 _____
- 11-24-22-24-6-16 _____
- 13-15-5-24-3-4 _____
- 13-15-23-5-13-15 _____
- 7-18-19-7-11-18 _____
- 1-11-18-3-3-18-14 _____

ROCK PROPHETS	BLESSED CHURCH	LIVING PEOPLE	HEAVEN CHRIST	KINGDOM KEYS
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