

Gordon Globe

"HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS"



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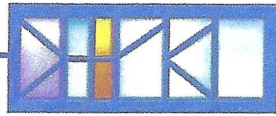
*May you all have a
Blessed and Healthy
2021
&*



The Gordon Globe is a congregational newsletter of:

GORDON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7457 Edmonds St., Burnaby, BC V3N 1B3 - Telephone: 604-521-4242 - gordonnpc@shawbiz.ca
Rev. Cal MacLeod



GORDON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Growing Together"
**A Conversation About the Possible Amalgamation
of Gordon, Knox and St. Aidan's Presbyterian Churches**

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11
NRSV

December 9, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are writing to advise you of a number of important developments in the life of our church, relating to a potential amalgamation of Gordon, Knox, and St. Aidan's congregations. We would like to make all our people aware of these and commend them to your attention. The Sessions and others who have been part of the conversations are excited and inspired by the ideas that have emerged as we have gotten to know one another and developed friendships and trust.

Why Amalgamate the Churches? By way of background, we recognize that our congregations offer our people the experiences of Christian community, the vitality of an encounter with God in Jesus Christ and a deeper sense of meaning in the midst of life. Our separate lives of worship and service have sustained us; we also discover the shared reality of worship together to be inspiring and enlivening. A second, and undeniable, side of our stories is that our congregations are declining, that we sometimes struggle to provide sufficient resources of energy and ability, that finances are a concern and that our facilities are aging (as are we) and so demand maintenance and repair in ways that might be very costly. We agree that without responding to these factors in a significantly different way than we have done thus far, our runway is short. We foresee that, apart from creating a different future, we might have about five years before having to face the closure of our congregations.

Who is Involved? Since 2018, Sessions and others from the congregations of Gordon, Knox, St. Aidan's and Brentwood have been gathering to discuss their current contexts and ways to collaborate in order to support and increase the vitality of their ministries. As time has passed, a new conversation has arisen which encompasses and expands upon that earlier one. Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon have shifted from a focus on collaborating and sharing to an exploration of growing together into one new congregation. We are actively wondering together what this would look like and how it could come about.

In the summer, the Sessions of our three Churches met together and created a working group with the task of proposing a plan for amalgamation according to

the Presbyterian Church in Canada's (PCC) Policy on the Amalgamation and Dissolution of Congregations ("the Policy").

Three representatives of each congregation have met weekly with the Rev. Bruce Cairnie, who is facilitating the process. Knox is represented by Judy Sinclair, Antonia Reynolds and Gareth Youdan. Laurie Deacon, Eileen Sparrow and Angus Beattie represent St. Aidan's and Ian Rokeby, Cal MacLeod and Jim McQueen are Gordon's participants.

What Has Been Achieved So Far? The Working Group presented an interim report to the Sessions on November 17, outlining the progress to date. That report was received very positively. The group has begun to identify a path that could lead to amalgamation. It is important that each of us become informed on this work and prayerfully seek God's guidance on this matter. We emphasize that no decisions have been made that commit any of the congregations to amalgamation.

The Sessions, meeting together, agreed on a number of resolutions that are important to share with you:

1. The vision of this new congregation must be defined; a process of discerning a vision is crucial for how any amalgamation will embody God's mission in the life of our congregation and wider neighbourhood. The steps for the process will be announced soon and your participation will be essential.
2. Without knowing the specifics, the new congregation will be actively engaged in its community through a variety of outreach programs.
3. The Sessions of the present congregations will become one new Session; all elders currently serving may continue to serve.
4. Doubtless a future under amalgamation will bring changes in our staffing needs; the people filling various pastoral and other staff positions will be treated with love and respect through this process.
5. Pastoral care of our current congregations is highly important, especially as opportunities to listen to peoples' dreams and anxieties about what amalgamation might mean.
6. At the request of the Sessions, the Presbytery has named the Rev. Bruce Cairnie as Interim-Moderator of all three Sessions in relation to possible amalgamation. This creates continuity for the Sessions and provides a formal structure for communicating with the presbytery.
7. News about the progress made thus far will be made available in a number of different forms (e.g. Phone calls, mail, email).

Suggested Timeline: While the Working Group on Amalgamation has further work to do, the following general timeline could be possible should the congregations eventually amalgamate:

Date	Milestone	Approval by
Nov 2020	Interim Report	Sessions
Quarter 1, 2021	Completion of draft Amalgamation Plan	Sessions, Congregations
Quarter 2, 2021	Amalgamation Plan Approval	Presbytery
Quarter 3-4, 2021	Amalgamation Plan Approval	General Assembly
January 2022	Amalgamation Plan Implementation	Sessions, Presbytery

This brief letter is intended to inform you of the specifics and status of this process. We anticipate that many of you will have questions and input to be addressed, and that this will strengthen this initiative. More information will be available soon at our new website (address to be announced), and there will be other opportunities to ask questions, discuss the details, and become informed. Your participation in the visioning process will be invited and is essential! We will advise as soon as this is set up. We would urge you to become informed and reach out to your elder or minister with questions or comments.

In Christ,

Session of Gordon Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Strategy and Leadership Committee

Recommendation : That a Special Meeting of the POW be called on Sat. Feb.6, 2021 from 9am to 3pm, to consider a draft proposal of criteria and process for funding New Worshipping Communities within the bounds of the POW and to convene a conversation about the general health and vitality of ministries within the POW. CARRIED

Ministry Committee

A Special Visitation Committee to First PC reported. The congregation faces many challenges. Rev Guy Sinclair retired on Sept.6. Rev. Gabriel Snyman is the Interim Moderator.

Rev. Jim Smith has established formal ties with Brentwood PC as "Minister in Association"

Reports were received from Bentwood, Burnaby Taiwanese, Knox and Langley PC.

Community Engagement Committee

Regional Resource Grant Applications must be received by synod by Jan. 31, 2021, therefor the CEC must receive them by Dec. 31, 2020.

Presbytery encourages congregations to consider joining the MVA, to make use of its training workshops, and explore potential for taking

advantage of student/youth internship, field education, and community leadership opportunities.

The POW recommends to hold a General Assembly in June of 2021 by videoconference. It was recommended that more contentious issues should be delayed to a time when the GA can meet in person.

Crieff Hills Retreat Centre is reaching out to Presbyteries across Canada for support due to Covid.

The Presbytery Website is up and running.

A Memorial Minute for Rev. Dr. Johannes Hendrick Kouwenberg, was adopted by the POW and forwarded to the General Assembly Office.

Recognition services for Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart as Dean of St. Andrews Hall and Rev. Dr. Dale Woods as the Presbyter for Mission and Vision will be celebrated in the near future.

The POW adopted the proposed budget for 2021.

A guide was given for Session Records. A Presbytery Examination Checklist was provided.

The Hummingbird Council has a new Council Member – Renee Nahanee is and Elder of the Squamish First Nation Community.

Submitted by,

Laurel Gorman

MARGARET HALL CIRCLE'S

PURDY'S SALE

Thank you to everyone who was able to support our fundraiser. We sold \$6,803.48 of chocolates. Wow! Not only did Gordon Church show support, but St Aidans and Central P.C. also placed orders. A big thank you to CANWEST TANKS & ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS for purchasing one quarter of our orders! Purdys will be sending us a cheque for \$1,700.87.

Thank you Purdys for sharing one quarter of your sales. I am sure everyone will enjoy their chocolate treats! I think the friendly competition with Knox, helped to increase our sales this year.

Laurel Gorman

Dear Lindy,

Just wanted to say thank you for your support and the support and care provided from Gordon Presbyterian Church for our Adoptive Christmas Program and providing the support towards our clients!

It is so appreciated, and it brings joy and during this Christmas season. I understand this you and the Church have supported the Crisis Pregnancy Centre for many years, and it is so encouraging to see the Church being a support and the tangible and real presence of Christ to those in our community. This is my first year being at the Crisis Pregnancy Centre and it has been so encouraging for me to see the generosity and care provided towards those we provide services to this Christmas season!

Please pass on my thanks to the members of Gordon Presbyterian Church, as well as the pastor and ministry team! I will be dropping off Christmas cards from the ladies who provided hampers for them and their families! They have been so appreciative!

Many blessings!

Andrea Pastoor

Client Services Coordinator

Crisis Pregnancy Centre

7879 Edmonds Street

Burnaby, BC

V3N 1B9

604-525-0999

In office: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday



Morley Elementary School

7355 Morley Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 2K1 • Ph: 604-296-9024 • Fax: 604-296-9069

Gordon Presbyterian Church
7457 Edmonds Street
Burnaby, BC V3N 1B3

December 7, 2020

To the members of Gordon Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the staff, students and families of Morley Elementary School, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your very generous donation of grocery store gift cards and chocolates for a number of our families.

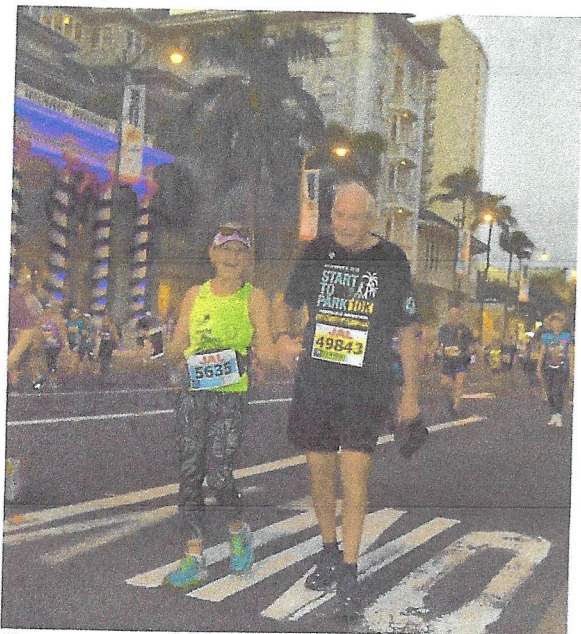
As you know, Morley Elementary School has a high percentage of recently arrived immigrants and low-income families in our school catchment area. They struggle on a daily basis to provide the basics for their children. Just small things, like receiving a food hamper or grocery store gift card, make a world of difference to these families. We thank you for letting them know that there is a whole community who care about them and their well-being.

Thank you for spreading the joy in our corner of the city and thank you for your continued support of our students and their families. We truly appreciate your generosity.

Wishing the entire congregation of Gordon Presbyterian Church a festive holiday season.

With thanks,

Grady Hunter
Head Teacher



Merry Christmas 2020

from Violet and Les Holmes

The picture shows us walking in the Honolulu Marathon in 2018, in celebration of our sixtieth. We had hoped to do it once more in 2020, booked flights way back in January and registered to walk in the marathon, Les the 10k and me in the full 42.2k/26.2 miles ...

Due to covid our trip was cancelled and the marathon went *virtual*, meaning we could do it close to home – which we did – on the frosty boardwalks of the Burnaby Lake Trail, over 2 days. After submitting official GPS time and distance we will each receive a medal and finisher's shirt in January! Rather anti-climatic, but hey, no 5am start!

We gifted Les with a FitBit watch so he could record and submit his own time and he is having some fun with it. If I ask him how he slept he answers, "just a minute, I have to check my watch!" It tracks his walks, sleep score and more! He could pass for Dick Tracy on the job!

Sincerest thanks to all who have in any way supported '*the cause*' through my 20 years of marathoning for arthritis. No words could adequately express my heartfelt appreciation!

On the home front we are all still hangin' in there, with plenty of challenges, but ever grateful for blessings large and small.

We wish all of you moments of joy and peace amid all the frustrations, fears, and isolation. Sending warm thoughts and big bear hugs!

Blessings and love,

Violet, Les, and family.

CHURCH BULLETIN

This afternoon, there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Tuesday, at 7:30 pm, there will be an ice-cream social. All ladies giving milk, will please come early.

Wednesday, the Ladies Literary Society will meet, and Mrs. Johnson will sing "*Put Me in My Little Bed*" accompanied by the Reverend.

Thursday, at 7:00 pm, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All those wishing to become Little Mothers, will please meet the Minister in his study.

On Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

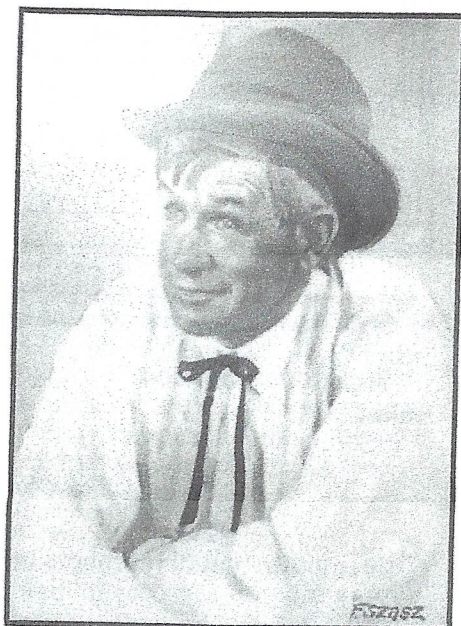
The service will close with "*Little Drops of Water*". One of the ladies will quietly start, and the rest of the congregation will join in.

On Sunday, a special collection will be taken up to defray expenses of a new carpet. Will all those wishing to do something on the carpet, please come forward and get a piece of paper.

The Joyful Noiseletter®



"I have told you this so that My own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." John 15:11 Vol. 36 No. 1 Jan.-Feb. 2021



"WE WILL NEVER HAVE TRUE CIVILIZATION UNTIL WE HAVE LEARNED TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS."
— Will Rogers

Will Rogers, the Cherokee Native-American cowboy from Oklahoma, was America's most beloved humorist and journalist in the 1930s, when he kept Americans laughing and lifted their spirits during the Great Depression. Raised a Methodist, he was ecumenical in his respect for all faith traditions. He advised: "Hunt out and talk about the good that is in the other fellow's church, and you will do away with all the religious hatred you hear so much of today." He needled the politicians of both parties hilariously, and politicians in both parties invited him to run for President, but he refused. Over 100,000 mourners walked by Roger's casket at his ecumenical funeral service. One Protestant pastor said of Rogers: "He (Jesus) makes the most sense to me, the most profound impact on me, when I envision him as Will Rogers in sandals."

Words to start the New Year

The key to a better life:

- Complain less, appreciate more.
- Whine less, laugh more.
- Talk less, listen more.
- Want less, give more.
- Hate less, love more.
- Scold less, praise more.
- Fear less, hope more.

— Michael Josephson

"Having a sense of humor has served me more than it has hurt me, just in the sense that it has allowed me to keep my sanity."

— De De Myers

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

— Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"When you rise in the morning, form a resolution to make the day a happy one for a fellow creature."

— Sydney Smith (1845)

The six best doctors in the world: (1) sunlight, (2) rest, (3) exercise, (4) diet, (5) self-confidence, (6) friends.

— via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

"Count your life by smiles, not tears.
"Count your age by friends, not years."

— Lois Ward
Port Townsend, WA

This is a special, expanded edition of *The Joyful Noiseletter*, which focuses, in part, on "What the news media didn't tell you about pandemics." (On our serious side, see pages 6-9.)

"In the New Year, write a new plan; turn a new page; follow a new direction; be a new person; radiate enthusiasm."

— William Arthur Ward

"A good sweat, with the blood pounding through my body, makes me feel alive, revitalized. I gain a sense of mastery and assurance. I feel good about myself. Then I can feel good about others."

— Arthur Dobrin
via Apple Seeds

"Embrace frugality. Frugality is just doing whatever it takes to spend less than you earn. What a novel concept!"

— Mary Hunt
Columnist, "Everyday Cheapskate"

"The testimony of a good conscience is the glory of a good man; have a good conscience and thou shalt ever have gladness."

— Thomas à Kempis (1471)

"The testimony of deeds is more likely to be believed than the testimony of words."

— John Chrysostom (407 A.D.)

"O God our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus... that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven for Jesus' sake. Amen"

— Robert Louis Stevenson

The Lord's Laughter

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing."
Psalm 2:4

Humor for the hard times

Email messages from seniors compiled by JN consulting editor Anglican Bishop David R. Francoeur of Palm City, FL:

"I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly."

"If you hear me talking to myself, I'm having a staff meeting."

"As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of – it will be misspelled and have no punctuation."

"You drop something when you're younger, you just pick it up. You drop something when you're older, you stare at it."

– Rev. Barbara Bartholomew
Grace Lutheran Church
Wadsworth, OH

After the service, the pastor noticed one elderly woman who was sitting in one of the back pews, nearly in tears, rocking back and forth. Concerned, the pastor walked over to her and heard her say, "How long, O Lord? How long?"

Touched, the pastor laid a hand on her gray head, and said, "Ma'am, God is merciful and has heard you. I am sure He will help you." She smiled and thanked him.

The pastor turned and was about to walk away when he heard the old woman shout, "Praise the Lord!" He saw the old woman run into the now-vacated women's restroom.

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE

More quarantine humor, via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Dover, DE:

- "It's been a great blessing to be at home with the wife these past few months. We've caught up on everything I've done wrong in the last 20 years."
- "So let me get this straight: there's no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitizer and hand soap?"

- "How long is this social distancing supposed to last? My husband keeps trying to come into the house."
- "When this virus thing is over with, I still want some of you to stay away from me."



When his eyes began to give him trouble, a Czech man went to an ophthalmologist in Prague. The doctor showed the patient the eye chart, displaying the letters CVKPNWXSCZ. "Can you read that?" the doctor asked.

"Can I read it?" the Czech replied. "I dated his sister!"

– via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL



"A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country."

– Tex Guinan



God's kids say & do the funniest things

Letter to God from a 6-year-old girl: "Dear God,

Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now?"

– Jane



A five-year-old decided to run away. His neighbor lady saw him go as she worked in her garden. He trudged down the sidewalk, past her house, hauling a little suitcase in his red wagon. He disappeared around the block. A little bit later, he reappeared and went past her again. He circled the block again.

By the third time, she finally asked, "Watcha doing?"

He answered, "I'm running away from home!"

"I don't believe in Santa Claus, but I'm not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December. I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his Theory of Evolution. Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating, to pray before we go to sleep. Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying."

– Andy Rooney



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She said, "So why do you keep circling around the block?"

He answered softly, "cuz I'm not allowed to cross the street!"

– via Rev. Barbara Bartholomew
Grace Lutheran Church
Wadsworth, OH



The Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you say prayers before eating?"

"No ma'am," he replied, "we don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

– via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL



Bloopers that gnash the teeth

Headline in a Florida newspaper over an AP story:

"Miracle cure kills fifth patient."

– via Risa Samra
Hallandale Beach, FL

"Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts."

– Wendell Berry poem
via Rev. Dr. Edward A. Black
Lakewood, CO

"The further West he went, the more convinced he became that the wise men came from the East."

– Rev. Sydney Smith
19th-century English clergyman

Merry Christmas!

Cartoons for Church Publications and Web Sites

Pastors and editors who are JN subscribers may reprint any of the cartoons in JN in their local church publications, such as newsletters, bulletins, fliers, posters, and signs, and church web sites, free-of-charge, and without further permission. Please include the credit lines which appear below each cartoon.



"Where do you see yourself in five years?"

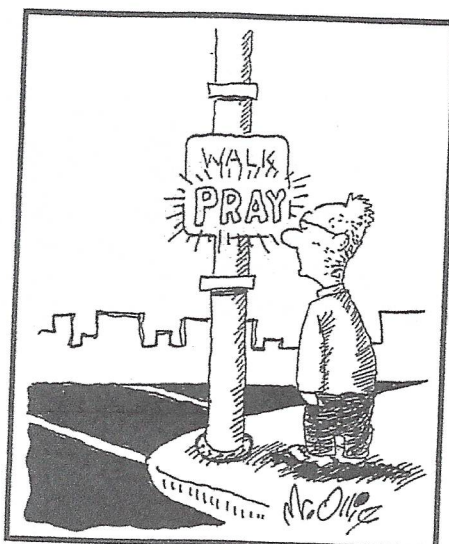
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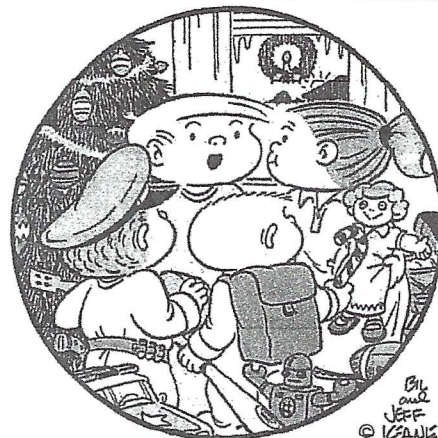


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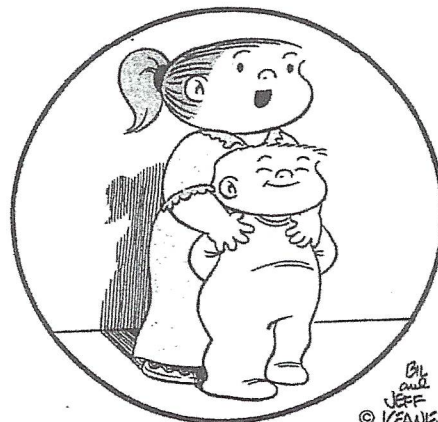
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Today we get to start being normal again."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Don't you think it's time to put PJ in his swaddling clothes and lay him in his manger?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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"Actually, Locusts don't sound too bad compared to broccoli."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Martha Campbell
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Gordon Church Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 2021

Flower - Snowdrop

- 1 Ian Rokeby
- 2 Florence Earle
- 7 Linda Wilson
- 8 Eli Kuampah
- 10 Marie Barrett
- 10 Jack & Rose Pals
- 11 Helen Widman
- 11 Mawuto Kuampah
- 14 Joel Nathan Pals (in remembrance)
- 26 Faith Fitzpatrick
- 31 Vi Holmes

Take time this month, or on their special day, to lift them in prayer.



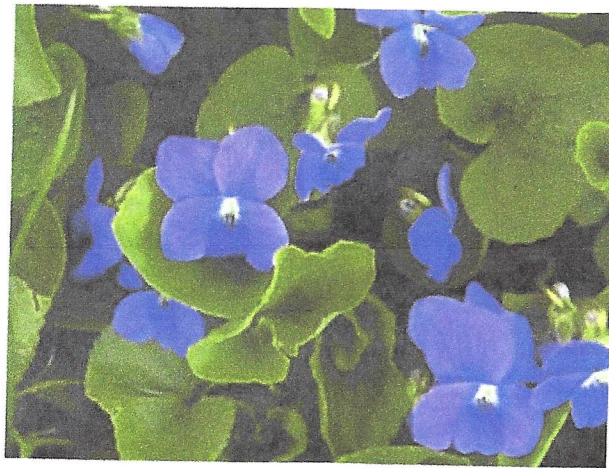
Gordon Church Birthdays & Anniversaries

February, 2021

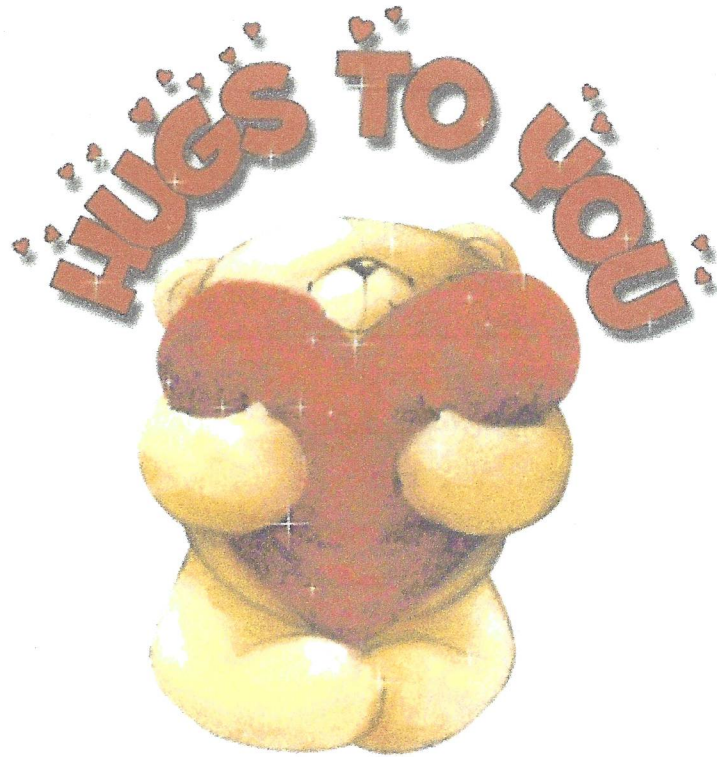
Flower - Violet

8	Susan Robertson
12	Bob Radbourne
12	Les Holmes
15	Landon Frigault
21	Graycen Murphy
22	David Widman
23	Stefanie Cazabon (Pals)
23	Nathan Tomei
26	Nathan Day

Take time this month, or on their special day, to lift them in prayer.



Planning Ahead
Mark you calendar:



Missing ♥
♥♥ you needing you ♥♥
Loving ♥
♥ you ♥
♥♥♥ ♥

A small, black and white line drawing of a young girl with short hair, hugging herself. She has a sad or thoughtful expression. The drawing is positioned to the right of the text.