

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH
NEWS LETTER**

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2005

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER
“Happy New Year”**

Dear Friends,

I read recently that for a happy life three things are necessary:

(1) Something to HOPE for.

Alexander the Great, in a mood of generosity, was once handing out gifts. To one he gave a fortune, to another a province, to another a position of high honour. A friend said to him, “By doing this you will have nothing to yourself,”

“Oh yes I have,” said Alexander, “I have kept what is greatest of all, I have kept my hopes.”

The beginning of the end of life is when we live in memory rather than in hope.

As we journey into 2005 let us do so knowing that our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.

(2) Something to DO

Anyone who can look back to days of unemployment or to a time of enforced inactivity when the hours seemed slow and empty knows that work is not a curse but a blessing.

Even in our weakness we are made strong. There is always something we can do. Hands clasped in prayer are doing great things. Kind words, considerate deeds, thoughtful acts, by doing these things we can make it a happy new year for ourselves and more especially for others.

(3) Someone to LOVE

When love enters life, there comes a new thrill; a new humility; a new awareness of possibilities undreamed of. When love is born, life and the world are renewed even in the most difficult of situations. How great is the blessing of love.

We can face all the challenges and demands of 2005 because LOVE came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine. We in turn can love God because He first loved us. May that love be seen in all that we do and in all that we hope for.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jean W Gallacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2005

January 2005

2 nd	11.00am	Morning Worship – New Year Family Praise
9 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
10 th	12.30pm	Local Area Fraternal Meeting
16 th	11.00am	Morning Worship – Presentation to Treasurer
17 th	7.30pm	Scot's Night in the Hall
23 rd	11.00am	Week of Christian Unity – pulpit exchange
24 th	7.30pm	Congregational Board Meeting
25 th	7.15pm	Presbytery Meeting
30 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
	12.15pm	Soup Lunch
	6.30pm	Evening Praise

February

1 st	10.00am	Kirk Café resumes
3 rd	2.00pm	Ladies Thursday Friendship Group resumes
6 th	11.00am	Morning Worship – Baptism
7 th	7.15pm	Guild Night - DIY
8 th	10.00am	Kirk Café
13 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
14 th	7.30pm	Kirk Session Meeting
15 th	10.00am	Kirk Café
20 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
22 nd	10.00am	Kirk Café
27 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
	12.15pm	Soup Lunch
	6.30pm	Evening Praise
28 th	7.15pm	Guild Night – Underwater photography

March

1 st	10.00am	Kirk Café
5 th	10-12	Action Aid Coffee Morning in Hall
6 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
7 th	7.15pm	Guild Night – Trading Standards
8 th	10.00am	Kirk Cafe
9 th	7.30pm	Annual Stated Meeting in the Hall

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

ORGANISTS FAREWELL GIFT

Mr David Faulds was presented with a top of the range digital camera, a case for the camera and some kind of attachment for the computer. The gift was well received and will be used in a way that helps capture much of David's creativity. With a note of thankfulness (recognising how much he has contributed to the life of the congregation and community over the years) and with a pang of sadness (he is already being greatly missed) we bid farewell to David as he moves on in his career. David will join with us from time to time and we look forward to that very much.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Over 165 parcels were received at the Gift service and have in turn been distributed to many of our senior citizens – there is never enough for our ageing congregation - but we hope and pray that this token of thoughtfulness was enjoyed by those who received a Christmas parcel. To any who were disappointed we can only apologise.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Saturday 11th December 65 senior members enjoyed a great afternoon of food and fellowship. Thanks are extended to those who provided transport, food, entertainment and a whole host of other things that made the day such a success. Well done and thank you.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

All proceeds raised will go toward Erskine Home. At the moment I believe the total is well over two hundred pounds which is wonderful. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS

The church was “dressed” simply and beautifully for Christmas. Thanks are extended to those who made this possible and of course to those who keep the church looking so clean and bright week by week.

All of the Christmas services were lovely in their own special way. The mince pies added the finishing touch. A special word of thanks is extended to the children of the church who presented their Christmas Alphabet Nativity and took part in the Christingle service.

WHAT'S ON?

Dunipace Parish Church Guild
is hosting a
SCOT'S NIGHT
With Mr David Faulds and Friends
In the Hall on
MONDAY 17th January 2005
at 7.30pm

Tickets priced FOUR pounds are available from Guild members.
(Avoid disappointment by getting your ticket early)
This will be a great night and will definitely beat
being stuck at home.

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY
PULPIT EXCHANGE
SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY 2005
"The Churches Working Together"

Following the pattern the local churches have established over the past four years, the local clergy will again exchange pulpits as a means of celebrating the Week of Christian Unity.

Denny Old	Rev Alisdair MacLeod Mair
Denny Westpark	Rev. Jean W Gallacher
Denny Dunipace	Rev John Murning
Haggs	Rev Andrew Barrie
Bonnybridge St.Helen's	Rev Helen Christie

WHAT'S ON?

ACTION AID

COFFEE MORNING

In Dunipace Church Hall

SATURDAY

5th MARCH

From 10am – 12noon

**Your support for this worthwhile cause
Would be greatly appreciated.**
(Further details will be intimated nearer to the time)

Dunipace Parish Church

**COMMUNION
SERVICES**

**SUNDAY
6th MARCH**

11am in the Church
3pm in the Complex

**There's a place at the Table for YOU
Come and share in the joyful feast**

GROUPS and ORGANISATIONS

Many of the Groups and Organisations have resumed after the Christmas recess.
You are invited to “pop” alone and give them a try.
A warm welcome awaits you.

SEQUENCE DANCE	Monday from 2pm-4pm
THE GUILD	1 st & 4 th Monday of the month 7.15pm-9.15pm
THE KIRK CAFÉ	Tuesday from 10am - 12noon
THE MEN’S GUILD	Tuesday from 7pm-9pm
LADIES BADMINTON	Wednesday from 1.30pm-3pm
CHILDREN’S STORY CLUB	Wednesday from 2.45pm-4.15pm (this is held in Dunipace Primary School)
THE RAINBOWS	Wednesday from 5.45pm – 7.15pm
THURSDAY LADIES	Thursday from 2pm-4pm
BROWNIES	Thursday from 5.45pm – 7.15pm
MIXED BADMINTON	Thursday from 7.15pm-9.30pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Sunday from 10.50am – 12.15pm
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	Sunday from 7.00pm – 9.30pm

All of our Groups and Organisations are open to the community
and provide an opportunity to meet new friends.
Further information is available from the Minister.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

RETIREMENT OF CHURCH TREASURER

Mr Duncan McKellar our treasurer retired from this position at the end of December having undertaken the often thank-less task of keeping the accounts in order for the past ten years. Duncan in his own quiet and effective way diligently fulfilled the duties of treasurer. It has not been easy I'm sure, what with increasing costs, decreasing membership and rapidly dwindling funds. Duncan should be commended and congratulated. This we will do during morning worship on Sunday 16th January and we hope that as many people as possible will be able to join with us that day.

Donations for a gift should be passed to Mrs Anne Marchant as soon as possible.

CHURCH TREASURER VACANCY

The result of our treasurer's retirement is that we are desperately looking for someone to fill this vital position in the work and witness of the church.

Main duties include: Paying bills, recording all transactions, receiving contributions, arranging bank orders, preparing congregational accounts, transferring funds between accounts as necessary, dealing with financial correspondence...

If you are interested in being our new Treasurer and would like to find out more about what the position actually entails please speak to the Minister as soon as possible or indeed to any member of the Finance Committee.

We pray that someone will feel called to this ministry.
Is God calling you?

A Letter From... The Ladies Thursday Friendship Group

On behalf of the Group – thank you for all donations of wool, old spectacles and used postage stamps. All are put to good use.

We were surprised to find that over the last 11 years we have sent:

*451 Jumpers, and,
182 Blankets*

to orphanages in Belarus

via the Buskit Charity Shop in Stenhousemuir.

These have always been very gratefully received. Thank you to all our enthusiastic knitters who have made this possible.

New members will be warmly welcomed when the new session starts in February.

From Annette.

The Ladies meet in the church hall on a Thursday afternoon from 2pm-3.30pm and even if you don't knit, you can still come along and enjoy a relaxed afternoon with good company.

Well done Ladies and richest blessings in all the work you do.

A Letter of Thanks...

Just a little note from the Minister and congregation of Dunipace Parish Church acknowledging the anonymous donation of one thousand pounds which was received in December. The generosity and thoughtfulness of the giver to the church at this particular time is greatly appreciated. As indeed is the gifts of money - small amounts and large amounts - which often arrive in unexpected ways and at just the right time from many people.

Through your gifts of TIME, TALENTS AND MONEY

We can keep the church alive in this community and for that we do indeed say "thank you"

FLOWER MINISTRY

“You cannot touch a flower all fragrant with dew
without part of its fragrance remaining on you.”

How true this old Chinese proverb is. I know that the flowers that grace the Church week by week bring much comfort and joy into the homes and hearts of those who receive them.

If you would like to support the Flower Ministry by:

Providing flowers

Donating money to the Flower Fund

Distributing flowers on a particular month

Or helping with the arranging of the flowers

Please speak to Mrs Jean Mills or Mrs Fiona Kamal who will be delighted to hear from you.

Our thanks are extended to those who regularly drop some money in the Flower box in the church. All that you give goes a long way toward bringing hope and peace into someone's day.

If you are aware of someone in the community who should receive the flowers please put their name in the book on the table in the vestibule.

CARD MINISTRY

Our sincere thanks are extended to Mrs Sheila Smith who sends out cards to those who are celebrating a special occasion.

Sheila will probably cringe because her name is mentioned...sorry Sheila... but what you are doing is wonderful and is appreciated.

Sheila can of course only send the cards if she is aware of those occasions so please, with the consent of those concerned, let Sheila know if a card is required.

If you would like to support the card ministry or know of a special occasion please speak to Mrs Sheila Smith. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANERS

“Many hands make light work...” If you would like your name to be added to the rota of cleaners please speak to Jean Mills. Thank you.

CHURCH ALIVE IN 2005...

At the end of the Christmas Lunch as one recipient was leaving the hall he happened to comment with a bit of surprise in his voice, "The Church is alive." His comment I think had been made in response to the sheer number of "young" people (by this we mean those aged 35-50) who had helped at the Christmas Lunch. There must have been about twenty of them and that's not counting the ones who gave donations but couldn't come on the day.

There is a widespread belief that the membership of the Church – not only locally but also nationally – is ageing.

Well the truth is this:

none of us are getting any younger

and the young at heart and younger in years are very active in our church.

Folks might not be able to worship Sunday by Sunday but their faith and commitment to the Christian gospel is alive and kicking and when help is called for they pull out all the stops.

(Except it seems when it comes to a Treasurer – but I have faith.)

Seriously though,

It is a TOUGH TIME for the Church

It is a CHALLENGING TIME for the Church

It is a TRANSFORMING TIME for the Church

and that means for the members but the Church is alive.

Jesus himself said that discipleship would be costly.

God never asks more of us than He equips us for.

It is our TRUST in that promise that will keep the Church in this community Alive in 2005 and beyond.

Young and Old – Together we can do it.

PARISH REGISTER

BEREAVED May God's comfort and peace be with those who mourn the death of a loved one:

Mrs	Margaret	Brown	6 Overton Crescent, Denny
Mr	Angus	Wallace	22 Laurel Court, Dunipace
Miss	May	Martin	34 Godfrey Avenue, Denny
Mrs	Meg	Turnbull	Wheatlands Nursing Home
Mrs	Nora	McHugh	18 Duncairn Ave, Bonnybridge
Mrs	Betty	Jackson	35 Hawthorn Drive, Dunipace

Help Us To Help You

If you would like to speak with the Minister about any matter: Baptism, marriage, church membership, please contact Miss Gallacher on 824540 to talk on the phone or arrange a visit.

Please let the Minister (and/or the Church Elder) know if relatives or friends would like a visit while in hospital or at home. Remember that hospital records are confidential.

It is the responsibility of the family to let the Minister know if a relative is in hospital and requires pastoral support.

If you, or someone you know, would like a regular visit from a church member please contact the Minister or District Elder.

If you change your address please inform the Minister and Roll Keeper as soon as possible.

The Church can only show it CARES if you enable us to be THERE

Thank You

OUR WHO'S WHO 2005

Minister	Rev Jean W Gallacher
Student in Training	Mrs Louise McClements
Session Clerk	Mr Nigel Turnbull
Clerk to Board	Mrs Tish Graham
Treasurer	VACANT
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Thomson
Mission Aid	Mrs Aileen Sneddon
Roll Keeper	Mr David Turnbull
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning
Organist	ROTA BASIS
Children's Club & Youth Fellowship	Mrs Barbara Fulford
Sunday School	Mr Lachlan McGown
Flowers	Mrs Jane Mills
Communion Linen	Mrs Dora Johnstone
Kirk Café	Mrs Sheila Smith
Transport	Mr Jim Winning
Property	Mrs June Davies
Finance	Mrs Ann Marchant
Social Projects	Mrs Erica Mckellar
Hospitality & Guild	Mrs Maureen Pleace
Magazine Distribution	Mr Bill Paterson
Communications	Mr David Reynolds

VESTRY NIGHT

At the Manse on a **Wednesday** from 6.30pm.
For other appointments please call the Minister
Rev Jean W Gallacher – 824540