

## **GREETINGS TO ALL**

**As can be seen in the What's Happening section, March is looking to be hopping with activities. Mark your calendars and hopefully you can fit one or more items in. The days are getting longer and we hope that March is kind to us with lots of sunshine and good weather. However, we know that this month can bring just about anything as far as weather is concerned. We are all familiar with the saying from Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar "Beware the Ides of March". Let's see what that day brings us this year! Let's hope March goes out like a lamb because it sure roared in on February 27!**

**Please share our news with neighbours and friends. If someone you know would like to be on our mailing list or would like a print copy, let us know.**

## **WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?**

**Church contact information is as follows:**

**Interim Moderator-Rev. James Patterson (226)378-5692**

**Pastoral Visitor & Pulpit Supply-Wilma Boyce (226)504-3224**

**Clerk of Session – Paul McWilliam (519)878-7224**



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?**

**3-World Day of Prayer @ Dutton United Church @ 2 pm.**

**8-WMS Meeting at 1:30**

**8-It's Not Right presentation at Duff Church at 2:30**

**9-Largie Playgroup. THURSDAY**

**10-Drive Thru Spaghetti Dinner**

**11-Dine In or Take out Lasagne Dinner. Takeout P/U @ 4:30**

**12-Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**15-WI Euchre Party 1:30**

**17-Happy St. Patrick's Day**

**17-Happy Birthday Hannah Veenema**

**20-Spring Equinox**

**24-Largie Playgroup**

**25-Happy Birthday Ally Brittain**

**25-Euchre Tournament at Natterjack's**

**26-Happy Birthday Ken McCallum**

**26Annual Meeting after Service**

# The God of the Poor

by Jim Patterson

Thirty four years ago in the month of March, I set out as part of a group of ministers and lay people to find out first hand what was happening in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The impetus for our trip was the flood of refugees that were arriving by the bus load at the border south of Montreal.

Many of my parishioners felt that "those people" were arriving "to take our jobs". I didn't know a great deal about Central America at that point, but I did know that their weather is a whole lot more hospitable than the bleak cold of a Montreal winter. And I had heard bits and pieces about a war that was happening in El Salvador and in Nicaragua.

That trip opened my eyes to the immense injustice of colonial systems. El Salvador was particularly brutal. In those days, a few families literally owned the whole country. An exceedingly corrupt government was supported by the USA. A bloodthirsty military was led by officers trained at Fort Benning Georgia.

Nicaragua had lived under similar conditions until 1979. In that year, an uprising of the middle and lower classes had ousted the dictator and established a socialist government. The USA promptly blockaded Nicaragua, and instituted a war against the government.

It was in Nicaragua that I first heard a hymn that has remained stuck in my mind for these many years. It was at a church called "The Peasant Mass". The words of the hymn went like this:

CHORUS You are the God of the poor  
the human and simple God,  
the God who sweats in the street,  
the weathered-faced god.  
That's why I'm talking to you  
just as my people speak,  
because you are the worker God,  
the working Christ.

You go hand in hand with my people;  
you fight in the countryside and the city,  
you line up there in the camp  
to get your wages paid.  
You eat shaved ice there in the park  
with Eusebio, Pancho and Juan José;  
and you even protest about the syrup  
when they don't add much honey. Chorus

I have seen you in a marketplace  
installed in a shed;  
I have seen you selling lottery tickets  
without being embarrassed by that role.  
I have seen you at the gas stations  
filling the tires of a truck,  
and even patrolling roads  
with leather gloves and overalls. Chorus

***Agronomist Maria, with farmers at  
El Milagro***



I mention all of this because it is the reason I returned to live for a month in El Salvador. I spent most of my time there walking with peasant farmers to visit their 1 or 2 acre cornfield, many up on hillsides so steep you could fall out of the field if you were not careful. I was accompanied by pastors who have devoted their lives to helping these folk to organize, to achieve better levels of nutrition, to have their children educated, and to help their women-folk to gain much needed human rights. I was also accompanied by some of the students who began their education in grade one 20-some years ago because of monies received through the Presbyterian Church in Canada. One young lady is now a graduate in ministry, and the other is an agricultural agronomist.

We also visited most of the 60 houses that had been built with the help of funds from the PCC after the earthquakes of 2001.

As we wandered down dusty pathways, it caused me to think about Jesus, who was of this class of people. He was the God of the poor- a human and simple God. Not much of religion about him, but rather stories about how this miserable world could be transformed into the Kingdom of God.

For me, it has been a long journey of discovery. The All powerful God of my Sunday School years had to undergo a dramatic transformation, in the face of massacres, land theft, religion for the upper-class, and everything that has gone with 500 years of oppression. It was hard to learn that God is revealed best through the man who walked in the dust with his followers, and who ultimately was the sacrifice on the instrument of empire.

Do I wish I had never had such a journey? I do not. In the faces of the poor, I see the image of the Christ. In the children of the poor, I see hope for tomorrow



**Compassionate God Baptist  
Church, Ahuachapan, El**

**Luis displays his crop variety, Atehuecia**



## WORTH A CHUCKLE

**Q.What is Irish and sits on the back porch?**

**A.Paddy O'Furniture!**

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### Acts 2:38

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" (..turn from your sin...) The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

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### Psalm 23 For Tech Heads

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash. He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart. All of His commands are user friendly. His directory guides me to the right choices for His name's sake. Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my back-up. His password protects me. He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies. His help is only a keystroke away. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and my file will be merged with His and saved forever.

Amen

## WMS RECIPES

### Whipped Shortbread

#### Rose Paton

**1 c. butter or margarine**

**¼ c. cornstarch**

**½ c. icing sugar**

**1 ½ c. flour**

**Mix well together with electric mixer until it looks like whipped cream. Drop on cookie sheet and top with cherries or whatever. Bake 325 degree oven for 15-20 minutes.**





**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT DUFF CHURCH LARGIE**

**Palm Sunday Brunch Sunday April 2nd**

We're having an Easter Brunch after our 9:30 service  
Please join us. There is no charge for this event.

**Good Friday April 7th**

Please join us at 10:00am for this service

**Easter Sunday Service April 9th**

Always a special service on Easter Sunday.  
Service begins at 9:30

**You are always welcome to join us at 13125 Largie Road**

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**MARCH EUCHRE TOURNAMENTS**



**Euchre**  
tournament



West Lorne Optimist will be hosting a Euchre Tournament  
March 25th 2023  
1-5pm  
@Natterjack Brewing Company

Beef on a Bun



For registration  
call or text  
Barb Ross 519-878-9736  
or  
Laurie Reid 519-281-1863  
\$15 pp / \$30 team

What hand will you win with?



**Dessert Tea & Card Party**

Presented by the Crinan Women's Institute

Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 1:30pm

\*weather permitting\*

\$5 Admission

Crinan Community Centre  
13568 Dunborough Line  
Dutton, ON N0L 1J0

Call Jackie @ (519) 762-5294 if interested in attending

**DUFF CHURCH LARGIE  
WMS EVENING GROUP  
13125 LARGIE ROAD, DUTTON**

**INVITES YOU TO JOIN US  
Wednesday, March 8 at 2:30 pm**

**“IT’S NOT RIGHT” (INR)**

**A presentation by  
Elder Abuse Elgin**

**Elder abuse is the neglect, or emotional, physical or sexual abuse of elderly people. The abuse may originate with their caretakers, children, grandchildren or other individuals who are sharing their homes or who are responsible for their care in a facility.**

**Light refreshments available.**

**RVSP encouraged by March 1**

**To**

**Barb at (519) 878-9736 or Lin at (519) 859-2534**

**FREE TO ALL**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**The Sunday School teachers have been busy selling tickets to our two Italian meals this Month. A Drive Thru Spaghetti Dinner is being held on March 10 with pick up between 5 and 6 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by March 1 from any Sunday School teacher. Our Lasagne Dinner on March 10 has been changed to both a Dine In and a Take Out Option. Tickets went quickly on this and we were sold out by February 23! Those who opted for Take out are reminded that the time to pick up is 4:30 on the south side of the church at the Sunday School room. Those who are dining in can study up for a fast paced game of Jeopardy after our dinner which begins at 6 pm.**

**We will serve a Palm Sunday Brunch after church on April 2. All are welcome to come and we home you bring a friend, neighbor or family member.**

**Other upcoming events include a card making workshop on April 28 at 6:30. We will make 12 cards plus a surprise! Cost is \$25. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration by April 20 is necessary. This is a fun event and we hope you will tell your friends! Who doesn't like a homemade card?**

## **POTLUCK AND GAMES NIGHT**

**On Friday, February 17 the Sunday School hosted a potluck and games night. There was a great variety of main course and desserts. A potluck is always a delicious surprise and this event was no exception! After our meal, there was a table of euchre and the rest of the folks were content to visit and get caught up on the news. Conversation won over board games!**



## **PURGE AND REORGANIZE**

**The ladies did a purge and tidy of the church classroom, Sunday School room, sanctuary and closets. Our cleaners now have a proper closet with their supplies organized. We displayed our treasures on tables in the church classroom with dishes, hymn books, music, and a few pieces of furniture. All were invited to check out the items and take something home. Leftovers were taken to The Mission Thrift Store in St. Thomas. They gladly accepted the items that we no longer needed.**

**Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.**



## **SESSION UPDATE**

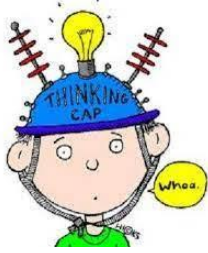
**Session met on February 8 in the church classroom. It was agreed to have internet service installed at the church. Acknowledgment of our Indigenous population will become a part of our worship service. Rev. Jim Patterson led our Communion Sunday on February 19 in Pastor Wilma's absence. A movie night for adults with a follow up discussion date was suggested. Rev. Jim suggested some possible titles. Next meeting is April 12 at 7 pm.**

## **FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS**

**As has been mentioned in previous Newsletters, the Board of Managers has a number of irons in the fire. Quotes for electrical upgrades in the sanctuary, siding on the Sunday School room, flooring in the church classroom, cupboards around the electrical panels and a display cupboard to showcase our rich history are trickling in. Stay tuned!**







### **Time to Test Your Brain**

**Submitted by Lin McCann**

**Taken from The Station at the River by Norman McWilliam.**

### **History of the Largie Cemetery**

- 1. Where is the cemetery located?**
- 2. When was the first burial in this cemetery?**
- 3. In what year was a renovation done in the Cemetery?**



**Answers are on the last page.**

### **IRISH STEW**

<https://www.dinneratthezoo.com/irish-stew-recipe/>

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 3 pounds beef stew meat**
- 1 cup onion coarsely chopped**
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic**
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour**
- 1 cup Irish stout beer**
- 4 cups beef broth**
- 1/4 cup tomato paste**
- 2 pounds small yellow potatoes halved**
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves**
- 2 cups carrots peeled, halved & cut into 1" pieces**
- salt and pepper to taste**
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Season beef generously with salt and pepper.**

**Add half the beef cubes to the pot in a single layer. Cook for 3-4 minutes per side or until browned. Remove the beef from the pot and repeat with remaining meat. Remove all the browned meat from the pot.**

**Add the onions to the pot and cook for 5-6 minutes or until tender. Add the garlic/ Cook for 30 seconds.**

**Return the meat to the pot. Add the flour and stir to coat the meat and onions.**

**Add the beer, beef broth, tomato paste, potatoes, thyme and carrots to the pot. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir to combine and bring the pot to a simmer. Cover the pot. Place it in the oven and bake for 2 1/2 - 3 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender. Can also simmer on stove or in crock pot. Sprinkle with parsley, then serve.**

## **LARGIE LADIES WMS**

**Submitted by Lynda Drummelsmith**

**The Ladies group met on February 8, 2023 @ 1:30 p.m. in the church classroom. The groups have altered their executive format to have the same President and Secretary for both the Ladies Aid and W.M.S. groups. Each group will have its own Treasurer. The program committee consisting of Kathy Minnema and Jackie Leitch chose "Birthdays" as their topic. A Birthday Cake lunch was served by Lin McCann and Lynda Drummelsmith which was enjoyed after the meeting. The World Day of Prayer is to be held Friday March 3 @ 2:00 p.m. at Dunwich United Church Dutton. Our ladies will be helping with the program. Ladies were reminded our next meeting will be March 8, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Following the regular meeting a presentation for INR - "It's Not Right" will be held at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.**



**A great picture of our current group of Largie WMS. We have room for more!**



# **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26 FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER**

## LARGIE PLAYGROUP



Our gang met on February 10 with “kindness being our theme. The children made up a kindness box and filled it with kindness tokens such as helping at home and saying something nice. Some of our children then enjoyed a game of Hide and Go Seek after their story and craft. On February 24, seven children enjoyed a story and craft about Noah’s Ark. Ruth Anne played her ukelele while we sang “He’s Got the Whole World”. Lots of fun!



### Answers to Test Your Brain questions.

1. About 1000 feet north of Duff Church, on east side of Old Currie Road.
2. First recorded burial was September 1855 - a 2-1/2 year old boy
3. Renovations in 1967, a Centennial project, under initiative by Fred Simpson, Board of Managers. Tombstones collected and mounted in a concrete wall located in centre of Cemetery, weeds and debris removed.