

GREETINGS FROM DUFF LARGIE

Happy May 1st. Someone made a comment last night that on May 1, we are half way through spring. Oh my goodness. Someone slow this train down! In terms of weather, April did give us all of the seasons and sometimes in the same day. However, everything is greening up and we are busy cutting grass, tending to flower beds, and even planting some garden. Tractors were spotted a couple of days in the area, but the rains of the past few days put a halt to that. Wilma has submitted an article about stories we tell ourselves. I'm sure our farming community has lots of stories to tell of years gone past as to how soon they got on the land, the earliest they planted, disappointed faces upon waking up the morning after a hard frost, wet springs, etc. Stories keep us going and are a connection to our past and a teacher for our future. May and June Newsletters will be the last until September, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend events listed.

If you would like a visit or a phone call, please reach out to one of the folks below.

CONTACT US:

Rev. Jim Patterson 226-378-5692 Interim Moderator

Wilma Boyce 226-504-3224 Pastoral Visitor and Pulpit Supply

Paul McWilliam 519-878-7224 Clerk of Session

Remember to check out our website and Facebook pages. You can view our service on the YouTube link on website. Click on the link below:

[Duff Church Largie Website](#)

MAY HAPPENINGS

1-Happy Birthday Tyler Ross

3-Happy Birthday David Reid

5-Worship @ 11

5-Largie Ladies @ Bobier Villa Tea Room

8-WMS Meeting @ 1:30

10-Largie Playgroup @ 9:30. Garden of Eden

12-Happy Birthday Ken McArthur

12-Happy Mother's Day

12-Worship @ 11

13-Largie Session Meeting @ 7

15-WI Cardparty @ Crinan Community Centre @1:30

19-Coffee Hour @ 10:30. Hosted by Jackie and Barb. Worship downstairs @ 11

20-Victoria Day

24-Largie Playgroup @ 9:30. Planting Your Garden

26-Worship @ 11

31-Happy Birthday Herman Minnema



FROM THE PULPIT – Pastor Wilma Boyce

Stories to tell ourselves

In the February newsletter I talked about how songs have the ability to lift our spirits and give encouragement. Here's another one: [The Stories I Tell Myself - YouTube Music](#) by Matt Maher.

The reason I share this one with you is because it reminds me of another form that gives encouragement and hope and can also strengthen our faith. The stories we tell ourselves have the ability to motivate us or to make us 'stuck' – we choose which ones we hold most tightly.

On good days gratitude comes; good times come to mind and hopes and dreams energize us. On bad days it's hard to find a story in our past to see any possibilities. Our minds can tell us stories to help us explain or process where we are at. Those stories may come from experience, or they may come from things we've heard, read or seen. So, it follows that the stories we put in our minds should be good or helpful. In the Bible God has given us stories just like that.

In the song I left the link for above, Matt Maher lists a whole string of stories about people God gave a story for us to hear: Abraham, Jacob, Joshua, Noah, Moses and Joseph, each one teaches something good. But he especially mentions Jesus, whose stories we need to tell ourselves again and again because it's our story too. (I hope you listen to the song.)

Here are two of the many 'fish' stories involving Jesus, where we see God bring the miraculous into the common place events of human lives, just like he did in the other Bible stories mentioned, and many others as well.

In *Matt 17:24-27* Jesus tells Peter to go and do what he knows best – go fishing – and experience the miraculous – 'take the first fish you catch, open its mouth and you will find a coin. That coin, amounting to a shekel, will be exactly sufficient for the temple tax required for Jesus *and* Peter.

I always thought the miracle was that the fish had money in its mouth. But it's not that– the fish was doing what it was created to do – Peter's fish, or *paterfamilias*, like the tilapia, keeps it's young in its mouth; When the little fish grow too big to be held, the fish expels them and takes a pebble in their place, or a coin it finds, instead of a stone. The miraculous sign is that the money it had was the exact amount required and the exact fish Jesus said it would be. The fish was obedient to the will of the Lord. And is a reminder to us that God provides what is needed because it all belongs to God. Even *fishes* do their part to provide something as mundane as the temple tax.

In *John 21: 1-11* the disciples have gone back to the occupation they had left to follow Jesus. They just couldn't wait for Jesus to tell them what came next..., and now they don't seem to be good at their old job, ... the fish net is empty after a whole night. Then

along comes Jesus, early in the morning and calls out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No” they call back.

“Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some,” Jesus says, and they obey the direction not really knowing who he is yet. Still they did cast their net “on the right side of the ship,” and caught so many that “they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.” 153 large fish – an abundance – more than enough... more than enough to help with expenses for the care of their families while they are away.

Once again, Jesus performs the miraculous in the midst of a mundane experience, Jesus transforms the fishing event and equips them for his purposes. This story also reminds us of Luke’s account when the disciples were first called to be fishers of men.

Both stories remind us that God is a God of details: everything that is needed is supplied and the outcome is lined up with God’s perfect plan. And so the early Christians have a ‘fish’ story as well.

The ICHTHUS fish was a symbol developed by the early Christians during their persecution by the Roman Empire in the first few centuries after Christ. Because of the fish stories from the disciples, the fish symbol was used to mark meeting places and tombs, or to distinguish friends from foes. An ancient story tells us that when a follower of Christ met a stranger in the road, they would draw one arc of the simple fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in good company.

ICHTHUS is the English transliteration for the Greek letters that spell “fish” and this is how they translate:

I = Jesus
CH = Christ
TH = (of)God
U = (the)Son
S = (our) Saviour



Sometimes I see the fish on a car in front of me when I am driving, and it reminds me that God is present and knows just what is needed. It reminds me of the faithfulness of God. What are the stories you tell yourself that remind you of the faithfulness of God?

Blessings,

Pastor Wilma

LADIES AID AND BURNING BUSH GROUP NEWS (Lynda Drummelsmith)

The Ladies group met on April 13 @ 1:30 p.m. in the church classroom. The meeting opened with President Lin reading the "Land Acknowledgement" followed by a "Pussy Willow" reading.

President Lin reported that the Bobier Villa Auxiliary no longer requires masking. Reminder that our ladies will have the Tea Room May 5, 2024. The tea room in April was well attended, Russell Gowan played music on his guitar. This was enjoyed by all, so he was asked to come back and play again. In April, Jeremy Smith was the entertainment.

The Auxiliary will be holding a Tea on Saturday June 15 from 2-4 p.m. Our ladies were asked to look after the bake table.

The Spring Retreat for the London Presbyterial will be at Backus Page on June 13. Registration 9:30 and morning refreshments. Program at 10 a.m. Theme- "Reaching Out in Mission"

The program April W.M.S. meeting was led by Jackie Leitch and Kathy Minnema. Theme was "Spring". Scripture was read from Eccl. 3 vs 1-14 followed by prayer. Jackie shared a reading, "After Winter comes the Spring". Springtime reminds us that God is not done with us. There is more to come. Lots of hope. Kathy had a contest "Spring Flowers" Her clues were a great help! Barb and Isabel served a delicious lunch. A social time was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 8 at 1:30. Program committee is Lin McCann and Lynda Drummelsmith. Lunch committee is Marguerite Boyd and Jackie Leitch. All ladies are welcome.



"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then, I want to move in with them." —Phyllis Diller

"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out." —Erma Bombeck

"When you feel neglected, think of the female salmon, who lays 3,000,000 eggs but no one remembers her on Mother's Day." —Sam Ewing

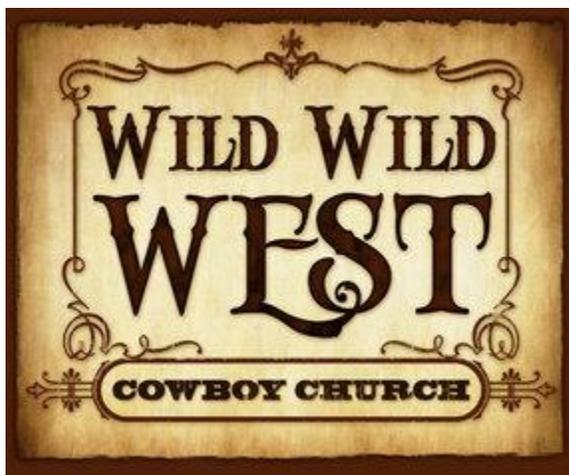
"You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance." —Franklin P. Adams

LARGIE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is growing! During the month of April we were blessed to have children every Sunday except for the last Sunday. We have had up to 7 children come and join us for Sunday School learning about the Tower of Babel, Creation, singing Jesus Loves Me, crafts, and playtime. The sound of childrens' voices, their laughter, and even the sound of their disagreement with Mom, Dad or Grandparent is such a breath of fresh air and hope for growth in our building. Before they come down for Sunday School, they are invited to the front of the church for a childrens' story with Pastor Wilma. Their answers to her questions bring us back to when we were children and how different their minds think. They help to bring out the kid in all of us. Kids....keep coming and parents/grandparents....keep bringing them. Spread the word and invite others to join us. You bring joy beyond all measure!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THIS SPECIAL
OUTDOOR SERVICE**



**SUNDAY, JUNE 23
SERVICE AT 10 AM
BRING YOUR LAWNCHAIRS
WEST LORNE OPTIMIST FOOD TRAILER
COOKING UP BURGERS, HOTDOGS AND
FRIES**



Heads or Tails?

Two vegetables are flipping a coin in the garden. The first alternates picking heads and tails on its turns. The second only picks heads on its turns. The first vegetable asks, "Why do you only pick heads every time?" The second vegetable answers, "I'm lettuce; it's all I know!"

Earthworms

Two worms are staring at the sky one spring night. One turns to the other and says, "Don't you wish we could explore outer space like the humans?" The other looks down and says, "No, I'm an earthworm at heart."

Dry Garden

None of the plants could figure out why water from the sprinkler wasn't getting to their roots. After a thorough investigation, the lettuce turned and said, "There's a leek in the garden."

Source: <https://www.lovetoknow.com/quotes-quip/jokes/spring-jokes-children>

JUMBLE FOR KIDS
 THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!®
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

PNE	○	□	□
URTE	○	□	□
OVME	○	□	□
NTXE	○	□	□

When my leaves are brown, they fall down. There they'll stay until the wind takes them away.

You're a natural.

5/23

THE MAPLE WAS GOOD AT RHYMING WORDS AND LOVED TO CREATE ---

Color me

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Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print answer here: " ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ " _____

ANSWERS ARE ON THE LAST PAGE

<https://www.boomermagazine.com/free-jumble-puzzles-for-kids-and-adults/>

FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The front doors have been installed! The colour is the original colour from years ago and they look amazing! The north and south doors are next.



APRIL'S LARGIE PLAYGROUP

The theme of Playgroup on April 12 was the Loaves and the Fishes. Seven children participated in an interactive story about Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand. We ended our story time by singing and singing the actions to "Jesus Loves Me". On April 26, our theme was Dressing Ourselves. Although it was tempting to gather up some dressup clothes, we used cut outs instead. We used the magnetic white board to dress our



friends for a rainy day, a winter day, a day at the beach, a normal play day and finally pyjamas. The children loved taking part in the story and moving the cut outs on the white board. After story time, the children made a frog from a paper roll. We have been together long enough that now we can ask the children for their favourite song during our time together. This time together is so much fun and just never gets old!!



I will sing to the Lord
as long as I live



PRAISE CORNER

SONGS TO SING THIS MONTH

Since November of 2022, we have been beginning our worship services with songs of praise. In Pastor Wilma's February Newsletter, she provided a number of titles you might want to listen to. Hopefully you had a chance to listen to some of them. Although these praise songs are different from the traditional hymns that we have sung in days gone by, their messages are good and the tunes not that difficult to learn. Beginning this Newsletter, we will list the praise songs we that were part of the previous month's worship service. Click on the title and give a listen. Who knows, some might find a spot of your playlist, but even better, you might find yourself humming them in the car, the tractor or the garden. Click away and enjoy!

[Come Thou Font - Crosby Family](#)

Nobody – we've sung this one three out of 4 Sundays this month as it fit well with Pastor Wilma's message AND the more you sing it, the easier it gets!



MISSION MOMENT

June 30, 2024



After participating in the New Beginnings program that guides congregations through a renewal process to discern God's call for their future, St. James (North Yarmouth, ON) began a ministry to help address the social isolation of seniors and older adults, both within the congregation and the surrounding community. St. James adapted its service to become an interactive, conference-call worship model that allows people at home or in care facilities to participate more fully through prayer, reading scripture or singing. Community programming for seniors is also centred around encouraging greater social inclusion, through delivering hot meals and care packages, a weekly home visit program with the minister and elders, and even chartering a bus to sing carols and bring Christmas cheer to doorsteps during Advent. St. James receives support from Presbyterians Sharing.

Source: <https://presbyterian.ca/resources/mission-moments/>

A Mothers' Love

**I would not trade a Kingdom
Nor a million mines of gold
For something I possess,
Something young, yet old.
Tis always young to me
Tho' old, it's always fair
The dearest thing on earth
My Mother's love, so rare.**



**When life's stormy trials sear
My soul through and through
And I feel so tired and weary
I know one thing is true.
New friends sometimes prove false
Old friends sometimes rue
The love and trust they gave me
But Mother's love stays true.**

**Tho' I might be in humble straits
Or richer than a King
It makes no difference to her
She's ever just the same.
Tho' all else on earth might turn
With fortune's wheel, it's true,
Nothing on earth can change or mar
Your mother's love for you.**



1940

This poem was taken from A Bouquet of Lilies by Catherine Marie (Wrightman) Lilley. Copyright Sadie Irene (Lilley) Blancher. October 3, 1996. This book is a series of poems and photos complied by Sadie Irene (Lilley) Blancher. The poems were written by Catherine Marie (Wrightman) Lilley.

Happy Mothers Day



APPRECIATION

BEAUTIFUL
BREAKFAST
CANDY
CHARMING
COMFORT
DEVOTED
FLOWERS
FORGIVING
GIFTS

GUIDANCE
HUGS
JEWELRY
JOY
KISSES
LAUGHTER
LOVE
MATERNAL

MOM
MOTHER
NURTURE
PERFUME
PROTECTIVE
SHARE
TELEPHONE
TENDER

THE BEST

WARM
WISE

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

SESSION UPDATE

We have had two worship services in the basement of the church, the first being a Palm Sunday Service which was after a brunch organized by the Sunday School. Our second service was April 21 followed by a lasagne lunch hosted by the Ladies Aid. Our next worship services downstairs will be May 19 and June 16 both beginning with a coffee hour at 10:30.

There has been a good response from both churches for the photo directory. Anyone who missed the photo sessions in early April and would like to be included in the directory are asked to contact Lynda Drummelsmith. The next photo session will be June 17 from 1:30-8:30.

Summer services for July will be in Crinan and August in Largie with worship beginning at 9:30. Both churches will be closed July 28th and August 4th.

Largie Session will meet Monday, May 13 at 7 pm.

The next date for Holy Communion will be Sunday, September 8.

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28
29	30					

Monday, May 13th 2024

Sunday, Sep 8th 2024



MISS THE PHOTO DATES IN APRIL?

Want to be included in the Church Photo Directory?

Next photo date is June 17, 1:30-8:30

Contact Lynda Drummelsmith (519)762-2947 or email ldrumm7@hotmail.com for more info or to schedule an appointment.



APPLESAUCE COOKIES

Submitted by Isabel Reid

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. flour

1 tsp. cinnamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. shortening

1 egg

1 c. applesauce

1 tsp. baking soda

1 c. rolled oats (prefer large rolled oats)

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cloves

1 c. raisins



Combine flour, salt and spices. Cream sugar, shortening and egg thoroughly. Combine applesauce and soda. Add to cream mixture alternating with dry ingredients. Stir in oats and raisins. Drop by teaspoon on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 15 to 20 minutes.



MAY 29 FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER.



DUFF CHURCH LARGIE

HISTORY CORNER

Submitted by Lynda Drummelsmith

History of the Largie Young People's Society continued

(Taken from "Station By the River" By Norman McWilliam)

Duff Presbyterian Church Largie will celebrate 169 years this fall.

In the following Newsletters for 2024, we will share the history of the Young People's Society, which was founded 125 years ago. This is the second in the series.

In 1912, when Rev. Walter Nichol was pastor, The Young People's Home Missionary Society was re-organized as the Young People's Guild. Its constitution required the President to be a member in full communion with the church. Its programs were divided into three departments: Devotions, Missionary, and Social Service. There were usually 3 papers or addresses given each meeting as well as two or three musical numbers. These activities involved the young people in the missionary commitment of the church, and served as an important training-ground for those who would be the future leaders in the church. Each year the Society raised a considerable amount of money to support the work of the church. In 1930 the society contributed \$50 to the church treasury and \$40 to the Mission Board Budget of the church. This contribution was substantial and represented 25% of the total raised by the congregation for the Missionary Budget purposes.

ANSWERS TO THE JUMBLE

PEN

TRUE

MOVE

NEXT

The maple was good at rhyming words and loved to create POETREE