

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DRIVING TEST

Congratulations to Peter Maguire, for passing his driving test. If anyone happens to see Peter out on the road, can you let David and Jill know where he is as he is never at home, now that he has gained wings to fly. **WELL DONE PETER!** (just be careful young man).

BIRTHDAYS Wednesday 30th December

Callum Richardson is 3 years old on this day. (Congratulations also to his mother and father who have both aged 10 years in this 3 year period).

Note: Please ensure any notices you want included in next month's newsletter (February) are submitted to Royanne, no later than Sunday 24th January. Thank you!

Pastoral and Ministry Team Visitation / Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request and/or require a pastoral visit, please let us know. Call the pastor directly, or detach this and place it into the offering bags during the service.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

Prayer Request: _____

Tick which best describes you: I am:

A church member A Regular Visitor Looking for a church

Considering membership Considering salvation

Considering Baptism Engaged - Looking to be Married Child

Dedication Other

Craigavon Baptist Church

Drumgor Heights. Craigavon.

Tel: Pastor's Office: 028 3844 0049 or Mobile: 07595 219470

Pastor's Blog: www.pastorsimon.co.uk

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Craigavon Baptist Church News

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WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Hello and welcome. If you are a visitor to the church today, we give you a really warm welcome and trust you are blest by God as we worship together, especially if this is your first time joining with us in CBC.

Well, it's that time of the year again. The time of year when most of us think, "New Year = New Beginnings". A time to 'put right', a time to 'make better', or 'change direction' regarding certain areas of our lives. Or does it?

Just like most of you have probably done already, or will do very soon, I've had to do some serious soul searching and seeking God over areas in my own life. Then, intertwined greatly with that for Royanne and I as a family, is the direction of this church. Not only it's direction, but it's vision, it's goals and achievements (or lack of). Overseeing it's ministries and individuals of all ages in their spiritual growth and development.

Usually for me, the New Year is a doubled edged sword. While it's **New Year**, with all of it's new challenges and expectations, it's also the passing of another year into the annals of history. It's events, it's sorrows and it's victories, gone, forever, never to be revisited again, except in the wanderings of our own memories, should we choose to walk there.

All of us have lost loved ones and friends in this past year. Some have seen job changes. Some have had victories, and some of you have had and continue to have great challenges in family, health and finances. Yet through all of 2009's events, (good or bad), each of us have grown in God, seen His faithfulness displayed, gained many more new friends, and seen souls won for the Lord.



This coming year? Well I'm excited about this coming year. Not in a cheesy 'rouse the troops' kinda way. Or, not because it's a new year/new start in a 'dusting off the cobwebs' type of way, but because I honestly don't believe there's much we should beat ourselves up over in having to 'change' or 'dust off'. This year, I believe we have just got to keep going as we are. Steady as she goes, so to speak.

Now, don't get me wrong, I know I, and we, as a church, are a long way off being perfect. I'm still very much a 'driven' person with goals for 2010, but what I'm saying is, I'm more contented with the steps we've been making in that journey, than I am discontented with the thoughts of 'where we could be'. Does that make sense?

I guess, I'm saying, it's not about the destination, but in the journey that matters. We're moving forward, and I believe God is with us in our moving. Now that is pretty neat in my book!

One of my all-time favourite musicians is Michael Card and I've been listening to him a lot again lately. He once wrote a song called 'Joy in the Journey' which describes wonderfully this contentment in the process of journeying I'm talking about. I would encourage you to have a listen to it on youtube or via iTunes. These are the lyrics:

*There is a joy in the journey
 There's a light we can love on the way
 There is a wonder and wildness to life
 And freedom for those who obey
 And all those who seek it shall find it
 A pardon for all who believe
 Hope for the hopeless and sight for the blind*

*To all who've been born in the Spirit
 And who share incarnation with Him
 Who belong to eternity, stranded in time
 And weary of struggling with sin
 Forget not the hope that's before you
 And never stop counting the cost
 Remember the hopelessness when you were lost*

*There is a joy in the journey
 There's a light we can love on the way
 There is a wonder and wildness to life
 And freedom for those who obey*

Wow! "To all...who belong to eternity, stranded in time". Such a beautiful way to sum up what we've been looking at recently in our studies in both Jeremiah and 1 Peter. We are but 'temporary residents', but belonging to an eternal kingdom.

MY NEW YEAR PRAYER: *Father at the start of this new year, let us be content to take your hand in the journey, not focusing on our faults or failings, of which we all have many, but in recognizing how far we have come, in You, from that point of 'hopelessness when we were lost'. Help us to see and to thank You for the wonder of being called Your children and for being perfected, daily, by your Spirit's power as we submit to Your will for us in the coming year of 2010, knowing and taking comfort in that wonderful truth of Christmas, that You are now and always, Immanuel, 'God With Us'.*

Happy New Year and love to you all – Pastor Simon



“Verse of the Month”

that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see Him—and in seeing him, become like Him. **1 John 3 v 2-3**

SUNDAY NIGHT TEA ROTA FOR JANUARY 2010

- Sunday January 3rd: Lorraine & Nettie
- 10th: Gladys & Royanne
- 17th: Margaret & Esther
- 24th: Ida & Barbara
- 31st: Lorraine & Nettie

Anyone who would like to be added to the tea rota please speak to Royanne.

Schedule of Weekly Events for January 2010

Monday 8pm Sports Hall – Ladies Aerobics (all ages welcome)
 £2 per night (bring a towel and gym shoes)
(returns on the 11th January)

Wednesday 6.30pm-7.30pm – **Good News Club (returns on the 6th January)**
 (finishes on the 16th December – restarts January 6th)
 Children's Christmas party night on the 16th December.

Bible Studies & Prayer Meetings

Wednesday 2nd: Pastor Simon
 Wednesday 9th: Prayer Meeting Only 8pm – 9pm - followed by a members meeting.
 Wednesday 16st: Pastor Simon

Thursday

7th: Musicians only practice
 14th Musicians and singers practice
 21st Musicians only practice
 28th Musicians and singers practice

Friday 7.30pm – **Highway Club (11-18year olds) (returns on the 8th January)**

See Schedule of Events on the notice-board in the main foyer.

Note: The 2nd Friday in each month: Prayer meeting for the Good News Club work at 7.30pm - 9.20 Enniskeen. See Ellen for more info.

Sunday Mornings:

3rd: Speaker: Pastor Simon (New Year Message part 1)
 10th: Speaker: Pastor Simon
 17th: Speaker: Pastor Simon
 24th: Speaker: Pastor Simon
 31st: Speaker: Bobby Foster

Sunday Evenings:

3rd: Speaker: Pastor Simon (New Year Message part 2)
 10th: Speaker: Bobby Foster
 Soloist: John Boyd
 17th: Speaker: Gary Cousins
 24th: Speaker: David Lyttle
 31st: Speaker: Pastor Simon

Sunday Evenings:

ALL – Immediately following the Evening Service
 8.15-9.15pm (approximately) - J 4 L Club (teens)

SPECIAL APPEAL

Would all those who are scheduled on a rota for duties, please ensure that they arrive in plenty of time for that service, and/or make arrangements with another member of the same team to cover for them if they are going to be late or absent. Thank you for your understanding, support and co-operation in this.
 Pastor Simon