



Caring for Mothers

Here is a Mission and Service story from our partner the Christian Council of Tanzania, which offers programs that address rights and concerns of women, as well as women's health.

Maternal health is a terrible problem in Africa. About 1,500 women on the continent die every day in pregnancy or during or after childbirth.

Mission and Service partner the Christian Council of Tanzania operates the Morogoro Women's Training Centre. In an effort to improve maternal health, they are working with the Tanzanian government to develop a program to train and equip 250 community-based maternal health care workers each year for the next three years. The workers will care for women from remote communities in Tanzania and will act as first-response community health care workers.

The Christian Council addresses other women's concerns as well at the Morogoro Women's Training Centre. Residential courses support women in leadership roles within their communities. These courses focus on practical skills immediately useful in women's daily lives. Looking at both short- and long-term skill development, the centre offers training in home-based businesses, such as tailoring, or longer-term programs such as computer skills or business management.

Your gift to Mission and Service cares for new mothers and mothers-to-be in Tanzania. Your Mission and Service gifts help women improve their skills to care for their communities.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Introduction

Covenant Vows of Parents and Congregation

Our Faith:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing of the Water

The Baptism of:

Samuel Brayden McKay

Son of

Christa Flanagan and Steve McKay

Benediction

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU664

Anthem I Will Arise Lovelace

The Offering of Gifts

Offertory This Holy Place Sheppard

Dedication Verse

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Readings

Mother of The Groom by Seamus Heaney

*What she remembers
Is his glistening back
In the bath, his small boots
In the ring of boots at her feet.*

*Hands in her voided lap,
She hears a daughter welcomed.
It's as if he kicked when lifted
And slipped her soapy hold.*

*Once soap would ease off
The wedding ring
That's bedded forever now
In her clapping hand.*

Luke 7: 36—47 Barbara Cull-Wilby
A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat. In that town was a woman who lived a sinful life. She heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, so she brought an alabaster jar full of perfume and stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his feet with her tears. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured the perfume on them. When the Pharisee saw this, he said to himself, If this man really were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him; he would know what kind of sinful life she lives! Jesus spoke up and said to him, Simon, I have something to tell you. Yes, Teacher, he said, tell me. There were two men who owed money to a moneylender, Jesus began.

One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. Neither of them could pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both. Which one, then, will love him more? I suppose, answered Simon, that it would be the one who was forgiven more. You are right, said Jesus. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, Do you see this woman? I came into your home, and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since I came. You provided no olive oil for my head, but she has covered my feet with perfume. I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love.

Hymn Three Things I Promise MV 176

Sermon Between Thee and Me

Hymn Where Is My Mother MV 178

Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude Ceremonial March Wetherhill

Mark your calendar! We're looking forward to an extra special "after party" on May 27th to celebrate Rev. Peter Short's time with us here at St. Paul's. Music, food and good wishes!

Saturday May 19(9:00 AM) has been selected as our annual Spring Clean-Up Day and we solicit your help to sweep, rake, weed, wash, etc. to tidy up and make our outdoor property attractive. Please bring brooms, rakes, shovels, etc. and your good humour to make this a successful day. The more volunteers we have the quicker the work will be done.

St. Paul's is seeking applications for the position of a full-time Sexton (40 hours/week) to provide custodial & maintenance services. Salary is dependent on experience. Forward resume by May 25th to the church office or email:stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com. For details, see job description at <http://www.stpaulsunited.ca>