



CASTLETON & GRAFTON UNITED CHURCHES

- with a vision of worship, justice, and community outreach

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Should you not wish to receive these emails, please let us know

Join the journey

Warming May Greetings!

If you haven't done so, check out the new worship adventure in Grafton with hymns and visuals on the new well received large screen in use the last few weeks

Hi there to members, and friends of Castleton and Grafton United Churches,

The cold weather this week reminds me of the Easter season in New Zealand, a time of cold weather, with nature dying. It was close to Anzac Day like our Remembrance Day when we always walked chillingly in the dawn parade, walking a mile in the fog before the sun came up. In comparison, a Northern Hemisphere Easter season is over all very joyous and hopeful; the trees are leafing out; the blossoms are blooming; a few people on warm days wear shorts, and many of us are just itching to get our fingers in the dirt. Easter may not promise that your thumb will be green, but regardless, the earth where you plant your seeds is absolutely brimming with miracles.

It's a busy and pivotal time in the church year. Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter and the Cantata had significant attendance and moving worship with tremendous music.

The introduction of the hymns, Psalm, announcements and visual accompaniment to the service on the Grafton screen uses more of our senses and may well make us more of a community with our eyes forward.

The Friendship Worship Band from Prince Edward County was with us last June and those who heard them are very much looking forward to their coming again this Sunday in Castleton to lift our spirits.

If you are as long in the tooth as I, you may recall a May Pole being used to celebrate May Day, May 1, still celebrated in Europe. It transitioned to International workers Day and will be marked this year by the Occupy movement.

It is in part the renewing of nature that invigorates us this time of year, but the Easter story is fully about a new spirit and new hope, and daring to venture forward to build new community, as the despondent disciples were reinvented to transform the world. We as with many of the churches around us are doing some soul searching to dream our future. It has surely always been that way, but at least in our country and time

we don't have to be making decisions for our future in the midst of oppression and war, as many churches in the past and elsewhere have had to. Easter invites us to enable our decisions and dreams to be more than pragmatic or logical, but faithful and hopeful.

The season of Easter invites us in all aspects of our lives to enable it to be a season of new beginnings, of hope, of dreaming of what might be. There's no shortage of difficult news out there of health issues, or job loss, or worry, or family and world transitions; so may the Easter spirit translate energy and new spirit into whatever you are going through right now, as we pray for those in various traumas in all too many places of our world. When our own burdens feel like they hold us down, may our times of worship connect us with that higher power and lift us to broader vistas.

Below are upcoming worship celebrations and events, you will hopefully find of interest, inspiration, and enjoyment.

Blessings to you all;
Keep in touch,

David

Worship

Sunday Service usual times: Castleton 9:30 am & Grafton 11:00 am

April 29' 11 a.m. in Castleton Joint Worship Service with the Friendship Worship Band from Prince Edward County

Sunday May 13 Mother's Day

Upcoming events

Sat April 28, 10 am – 12 noon Morning Glory Café at St Andrew's all welcome

May 2, 7:30 p.m. Grafton Board Meeting

May 7, 7:30 p.m. Board meeting in Castleton - looking at our future

Sat. May 12, 2 p.m.– Join us as we stroll “*Down Memory Lane*” which will be a celebration of days gone by. There will be a fashion show and displays of wedding dresses and other vintage clothing. Some exhibits may include family mementoes such as pictures, wedding announcements, hand crafted items, things that have a history.

Refreshments will be served. Tickets (\$10) are available from Mavis Garnett, Bonnie Greer, Bev Silk or Cathy White. All proceeds to the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Tanzania to train women in health care. Please let us know if you'd like your keepsakes included in our special event. Wearable clothing by the models can be left at the back of the church in the northeast corner. We will begin decorating and setting up at 10 a.m. on May 12 if you'd like to do your own display.

Friday May 26, 8:00 am – noon Grafton Indoor Yard Sale with Bake sale

In the next month or so Look for a **Movie Night** in the Grafton church with the big wide screen

From children's time in Grafton last Sunday the delightful story of Easter through the eyes of children <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xBgzxoRzWA>

-sent from Carman Manitoba where we are attending the 40th anniversary of a Community Choir which Doreen sang in for eight years. I was minister in Carman from 74 – 84 and hadn't visited for 25 years. At the same time we are walking down memory lane in Morden where Doreen grew up.