

YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

"You know your guardian angel is always with you," said the pastor to one of his congregants.
"Does he eat his meals with me?" asked the surprised man.
"Oh, yes indeed!" replied the pastor.
Does he sleep with me each night?" the man then asked.
"Absolutely!" exclaimed the preacher.
"Well, that explains a lot. He's probably the one who kicked me out of bed last night!"



DEVIL IN CHURCH

A prim and proper congregation was worshipping one Sunday when suddenly a devil appeared in church. He was menacing and threatening, causing the whole congregation to flee - all except for one elderly woman who bravely stood her ground without fear. The devil went right up to the woman intending to intimidate her. "Aren't you afraid of me? I'm evil incarnate, the most horrific being in the universe and intend to torture you!"
The woman wasn't swayed. She replied, "Of course you don't scare me. I've been married to your brother for thirty-five years and I say to you as I've said to him many times, "Get behind me Satan!"
The devil left the church.



THE WEALTHY FISHERMAN

Did you know that Peter was a very wealthy fisherman?
You could tell by his net income!



THE TOURIST

A Christian tourist was in bear country but went for a walk in the forest anyway. When he meets a bear, he prayed, "God please make this bear have Christian thoughts". As the man stands there, frozen and frightened, He watches as the bear kneels and brings his fore-paws together, then looking up, says, "God bless the meal!"



First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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Jesus is alive!

He is Risen

He is risen! Christ the holy,
He the Christ who once was slain;
He the earth-born, lone and lowly,
Bursts the tomb and lives again.
Grace divine to men abounded.
Grave, sin, hell, are all confounded.

He is risen! Men despising,
Truths of God revealed in time;
Risen! to His foes surprising,
To His friends a joy sublime;
Risen? yes, alive forever,
Christ, of endless life the giver.

Risen! risen! every nation
Join the universal joy;
Let the song fill all creation.

Men and angels' tongues employ,
Sadden'd hell and gladden'd heaven.
Death is conquered, Christ is risen!

Risen! risen! joy forever,
Christ is victor, death in chains.
Grave shall gain dominion never,
Jesus lives, Messiah reigns!
Thrill the earth with the glad story.
We shall reign with Him in glory!

~ Ellwood Haines Stokes

What's inside...

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Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection. ~ Watchman Nee

Mother-In-Law Dies in The Holy Land

A man, his wife, and his cranky mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The undertaker told them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150." The man thought about it for a while and told the undertaker he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, "Why spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home when it would be wonderful to be buried in the Holy Land for \$150?" The man said, "A man died here about 2,000 years ago. He was buried and three days later, he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."



Something to Think About...

"Jesus presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" ~ Acts 1:3.

He walked the earth more than two thousand years ago. Today, we still hear about His crucifixion. Without the cross we'd be dead our sin. If we depend on our good works, our saintly living, or our own worth, we would come up short. Instead, God arranged that His own Son, Jesus, bore our guilt. Though *"Surely He took our infirmities and sorrows, we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted, He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:4-5).

While the crucifixion of Christ is important for every believer, saved by God's grace through the sacrificial love of His own Son who carried our sins to the cross of Calvary, lifted us up out of the muck of sin, and set us free from the tyranny of Satan, the resurrection of Jesus remains the central historical event in the Christian faith. Without the resurrection there would be no Christianity. Without the resurrection, our God is dead! How could a man who had been publicly executed rise from the dead? History provides irrefutable evidence that Jesus Christ of Nazareth lived, but is He still alive today? *"If Christ has not been raised,"* wrote the apostle Paul, *"then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14). When God raised Jesus from the dead, His spirit rejoined His body, which was now a glorified body (Philippians 3:21). Jesus Christ is alive! Our Lord rose from the grave, presented Himself alive to His disciples, and is still alive today.

The late John Stott reminds us that "Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of the resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed."

As the age of the church began, described for us by Luke in the Book of Acts,



the reality of Christ's resurrection had moved beyond doubt. There was no longer a question in the minds of the disciples and other witnesses that Jesus had indeed been raised from the dead. In fact, the New Testament was written by those eyewitnesses who saw that Jesus was truly alive and appeared to them, fellowshipped with them, in the flesh.

To strengthen their faith Jesus had given them *"many proofs"* – He invited the disciples to touch His body, and He ate with them. The apostle John reports that *"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples"* (John 20:30). The apostle Paul records that Jesus *"was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died"* (1 Corinthians 15:6). If Jesus wasn't alive than it would have been very easy for the opposition to refute their claims. Their witness was how the church was born, souls were saved and the message reached far and wide. Jesus is still alive today. He rose physically from the dead and ascended bodily in to heaven

As believers today, we never know when our Lord will return to receive us into the kingdom of our heavenly Father, so our situation is similar to those in the first century church. We know He lives though we don't presently see Him in the flesh, but we're looking for when we shall see Him face to face. God's Word explains that Christ was already alive, as one with God, before the earth was spoken into existence, eternally present yet choosing to come and live with humankind to reveal the kingdom of God.

I'm a Christian today because I believe in the resurrection. I am convinced Christ died a cruel death on the cross on Friday and came back to life and emerged from the tomb that Sunday morning in A.D. 30 just as the scriptures record. It may not be easy to believe but it's true. This you as we celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday, will you look beyond the festivities – the chocolates and fairy tales – and enjoy the truly Good News that Jesus the Lord is alive; alive forevermore? Will you accept that the wonderful gift of God's amazing grace in Christ Jesus is yours to be His forever? **HAPPY EASTER!** I can tell you that a risen Christ in you will change your life forever indeed.

Mark Your Calendar!

April 1st – Ladies Mission Encounter Group
At Godwinks' Café 1:30 p.m.

April 6th – Communion & Palm Sunday

April 12th – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

April 18th – Good Friday (10:30 a.m.)

April 20th – EASTER Celebration (11 a.m.)

April 29th – Revitalizing Small Church Bible
Study 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Godwinks' Café

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Prayer Room)

Message Series

**Past Deliverance;
Present Assurance**

