

A Very Good Harvest For Three Projects

*Accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts
with what we know you long for
our humble, thankful hearts*

Harvest 2017 began with the displays beautifully created by our Flower Club which contained inventive floral arrangements enhanced by artistically placed fruit



and vegetables. This gave us the traditional element to a harvest thanksgiving. The choir continued this theme with an anthem of praise to God for creation. Although small in number, they sang their harmonies with enthusiasm and set the scene for the worship which contained some of the traditional harvest hymns – the one time in the year when we have the chance to sing them.

The contribution for the congregation this year was planned around global, national and local elements (Dalitso Project - Macmillan Cancer Relief - and Lighthouse Project) and this gave a unique flavour to the occasion.

The global element was the giving for Malawi. In past years the harvest offering has gone to alleviate terrible droughts being suffered there. This year, however, the need for this was not so great and so the Dalitso Project identified the Mary Spink Centre for vocational training as a worthy recipient of your gifts. This centre will be equipped to enable skills to be developed which will result in future employment and self-sufficiency. Is it not wonderful to think that this centre has been named after our much-loved Mary? At the time of writing, the amount raised has still to be finalised, but we will let you know as soon as possible how much it is.

The national element was identified as the Macmillan Cancer relief fund and the idea was the brainchild of May Smith.

(See on right and continued on page 3)



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ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records - September 2017****Baptisms and Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - None

Martin and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted other funerals though none were of members of our congregation.

Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.

Service Core Group**Eco tips****Cook with residual heat**

Turning off the oven five minutes before the meal is ready will allow the food to continue cooking while also saving some energy. It's even easier with pasta: Once the pot's been boiling for five minutes, cover the pot, switch off the stove, and let it sit for five more minutes. This will free up the stovetop and the pasta will be cooked perfectly *al dente* in less than 10 minutes.

IMPORTANT DATES**NOVEMBER EDITION**

Handwritten/typed articles should be handed in to the **OFFICE** by the **FIRST** date and **NOT** to Editor.

Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent **directly to the Editor** or **via office by second date**.

Please **DO NOT** embed articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 20th October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th October (Word-Processed file)

Soup Lunches

The following are planned for next year -

28 January	Dementia Drop-in Café
25 February	Guild
25 March	BBs
22 April	Dalitso Project
27 May	Havilah
23 September	Dementia Drop-in Café
28 October	Dalitso Project
25 November	Havilah

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Organisations will alert members when groups resume after holidays or when changes to venues are made.

SUNDAY

10.15 am – Gathering for prayer.

10.30 am – Choir practice.

11.00 am – Morning service (with short communion on the third Sunday of each month. Tea/coffee after. Creche – up to age 3. Infants – ages 3 to 5. Juniors – ages 8 and 9. Seniors – ages 10 and 11 Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238). Teen Scene – S1 to S2

7.30 to 9.00 pm – Youth Group - Adele Marr (07762 740 317)

Monday to Friday - 12.00 – Havilah : Drop-in Centre – Community Spirit (434088)

MONDAY

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)

7.30 pm – St Andrew's Guild : Fortnightly – Shona Kemp (878526)

7.30 pm – Flower Club : Fortnightly – M McIntosh (876993)

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

6.15 pm – Brownies – Rosie Hill (07977 790 528)

THURSDAY

9.30 am – Parent and Toddler Group – M Laidlaw (07840 966 438)

2.00 pm – Friends Club : first Thursdays – J Lonie secretary (07712 538 306)

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.00 pm – Church Prayer Group

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning

Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.

Martin Fair

October 2017

A foreword from our Session Clerk, Jane Miller -

Martin is having a complete and very necessary break from his ministerial duties for a couple of months to enable him to make the best recovery possible from what has been a major trauma injury to his arm. He is much in our prayers.

On the first Sunday he was off, he sent us a letter to be read out and this is printed below.

Good morning,

It feels strange indeed not to be with you on Sunday mornings. Perhaps only now am I appreciating the value of our services being online! I was richly blessed by last Sunday's service and I'm looking forward to Tim leading this morning.

I want to say a big thank you for the kindness that you have shown to me at this time - so many cards and messages of encouragement and support.

In the immediate aftermath of my accident, I knew I had given myself a serious injury but was still confident that I would be on my feet again and back to work within a short time. Even when the surgeon explained to me the seriousness of the situation and why he was signing me off work for two months, I still wasn't really listening. But the days since then have made it absolutely clear that he was right and that I am going to have to allow lots of time for proper healing to take place.

In the meantime, I am confident regarding the congregation. You are good folk and I know that you will get on perfectly well in my absence. We have Ian Gray as our assistant, Keith - ready to help out whenever needed - and until he starts his next placement, we have Tim as well.

But during times like these, it's for the whole congregation to be ready to serve.

There are a couple of things I would like to ask of you in particular. Firstly, that you continue to make sure that our new volunteers are made welcome. In normal circumstances I would have spent lots of time with them over the last 10 days but of course this has not been possible.

Secondly, I am very much hoping that you will support the worship weekend taking place on Friday and Saturday, 22nd and 23rd September. The evening of worship with Alan McKinley is sure to be a very special occasion and the Saturday conference will prove wonderfully helpful for us all in terms of advancing our understanding of worship and our walk with God and one another. The worship core group has spent months planning and preparing for this event and I would be delighted if you would show them your support by attending. [Editor - this event is now over, of course.]

Finally, though I don't believe in a God who would cause us to have accidents!, I do believe that we have a God who can bring good things out of bad - every time. It may be that He is going to use this next period of time to get my attention in a way that was more difficult when I was running around all day, every day! I wait with interest.

With every blessing,

Martin

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

HARVEST—continued from front page.

May is one of our senior elders, who feels that she is not now always able to help in practical ways, but she found another way to help in supporting the Brave the Shave campaign which involved getting sponsorship for having her hair shaved off. The imagination of others was captivated and May raised around £4,000 at this event which took place after the morning service. She remained very calm during this and relished being referred to as a Skinhead! Well done May, you are an inspiration.

The local element was the support you gave to the

Lighthouse Kids Project run by the Town Mission. This provides clothing for children in our local community who are identified as being inadequately clad, particularly in cold and wet weather. We have been supporting this project for a few months and you came up trumps with a huge amount of clothing. This will be an on-going effort and you can continue to bring donations and place them in the box beside the balcony stairs.

So, all in all we had a unique approach to Harvest, but nevertheless very meaningful, appropriate and demonstrating the generosity of the congregation.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

After Cain murdered his brother Abel, he married a wife who bore him a son called Enoch. But where did his wife come from? I don't want some theory that has been invented. I would like to know if the Bible has an answer.

Theophilus answers :

The biblical account of the prehistoric multiplying of people is divided into two main branches or tribes. First, the genealogy of the growth of Cain's line is given in Genesis 4:17-24. His descendants were apparently extremely prolific, and some scholars believe that the ancient term for nomads, Kayim, who spread out across the east in ever-increasing numbers, comes from Cain's name. (See Genesis 4:20.) In some very early writings, the name 'Cain' is a collective noun and refers to certain tribes.

The genealogy of Adam's line is given in Genesis 5, where we have a detailed account of Adam's descendants from his third son, Seth, and right up to Noah. In that genealogy, we find that Cain, Abel and Seth were not only the only offspring that our first parents had. 'Adam... had other sons and daughters' (v. 4). The next verses tell us that Adam's third son 'Seth... fathered Enosh, and also had other sons and daughters' (v. 6-7). Like Cain's line, Adam's own family and those of his descendants were extremely prolific.

The clear implication is that Cain married one of his many sisters. There is a very ancient book, original fragments of which have been discovered by archaeologists, called *The Book of Jubilees*, or 'The Lesser Genesis'. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church regards it as canonical, but no other main branch of the Christian tradition accepts it as part of the Bible. However, in it the name of Cain's sister whom he married is given as 'Awan' (Jub. 4:1, 9). She had followed him into his exile.

Marriage to a sister at this early stage of civilisation would not have been considered wrong or unnatural. 'If according to the divine purpose the human race was to develop from one pair, then the marriage of brothers and sisters as well as of other close relatives would for a time have been a necessity. Later on the nations would see fit to classify such unions as incestuous, and would seek to keep the human race from running its shoots back to the parent stem.' (H.C. Leupold) Thus the ultimate prohibition of incest furthered the natural spread of humankind. But in the earliest generations, the union of those closely related was not abhorred. For example, Sarah was Abraham's half-sister; Isaac married his cousin, as did Jacob.

That, then, is the Bible's own account of Cain's wife. What it has to do with our Christian lives today I cannot see, but at least we may be assured that Scripture does give us an answer.

David Searle.

GUILD NEWS

Monday 11th September brought our Guild members back together to start our new session and theme 'Go in Love'.

Our year normally starts with a Communion and Dedication service; however, following Martins accident, we decided to incorporate this into Guild week as we did last year. Burst water pipes in 2016, Martin in 2017, what will 2018 hold for us!!!

We had a superb turnout of 32. The busy meeting was led by Shona and Joyce - our normal devotions, catch up of our nation-wide project totals, munching heart shaped sweets, a fun quiz, a lovely supper of crackers, cheese and grapes and then everyone was given a rose to take home. However, the highlight of the evening was the account of the Annual Meeting in the Caird hall on September 8th. Jenni Tosh told us of her day. It was the first time she had been, as it was for Isobel Wright, so as Jenni told us of the wonderful singing, marvelous organ music, etc., we all could see Isobel nodding in agreement, adding snippets, and their enthusiasm of the day was infectious and had us all smiling, some of us thinking back to our first Annual meeting. (If you haven't been it is certainly a date to put in your diary for next year - 1st Saturday in September.)

More than 2000 members attended the event this year and 750 joined 'live' via the Church of Scotland website from 22 venues across Scotland. It was chaired by the new National Convener, Marge Paterson, and included speakers

the Rt. Rev Derek Browning, the Church of Scotland Moderator and author Dr. Pam Cairns.

Dr. Browning encouraged the Guild to 'show what love looks like in public' and praised the Guild's work in highlighting difficult and uncomfortable issues such as trafficking and FGM.

Dr. Cairns founded Free to Live Trust, a charity that supports street children living in poverty and victims of trafficking in Pune, India. She spoke of her experiences there and challenged the Guild to ensure that these children remained in people's minds and that action is taken to support the victims back into family and community life.

General Secretary Iain Whyte praised the day of celebration, saying "the annual meeting is an occasion when we can celebrate, but also where we can learn from speakers of the highest calibre, telling us about work of the highest importance".

For Jenni, Isobel and the 6 others from St Andrew's, it was a day full of fun and fellowship. The contributions from speakers will have brought challenges to the fore but the Guild tackles difficult issues head on, and they and we can surely say we are proud to be part of such a forward looking organisation.

Meetings in October: 9th DIY evening & 23rd Theme night.

Always remembering,

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Tim Mineard

It's been fantastic to lead worship and spend time with you all again over the past two Sundays. The training process can leave you feeling a wee bit spiritually 'homeless' at times, moving around different churches, so it's great to feel anchored to and supported by my home congregation. Thanks especially for all the encouraging words and prayers – it really does make a difference and I and Fiona are hugely grateful for the ongoing support, both financially and more generally.

A number of people have been asking about my ongoing Ministry training, so I'll aim to keep you updated through Quest every so often. I've just started my second year of a 3 year Divinity Degree at St Andrews University. During my first year, I completed an 8 month part-time placement in Broughty Ferry St Lukes, and a 10 week full-time placement at Logie and St John's Cross Church in Dundee. By the time you read this, I'll probably have started my final 8 month part-time placement with Rev Karen Fenwick at Lowson Memorial Church in Montrose. Feel free to pop up one Sunday and say hello (don't tell Martin I said that though!)

I've really enjoyed the process so far, while also feeling stretched and pulled in many different directions at times. My experiences to date have definitely confirmed my sense of calling to the Ministry, but more importantly my own personal faith has been strengthened and deepened along the way. That sometimes seems to get lost in the midst of so many deadlines, assignments, competencies and portfolios, but it remains my absolute priority.

I challenged you all with Jesus' words from Matthew 9:37 last Sunday – "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few". That's an ever increasing challenge for the Church of Scotland, and I'd encourage you to consider whether God might be calling you towards some kind of service within the Church. Take a moment to check out the Tomorrow's Calling pages on the CoS website, and if you feel a wee nudge from God, maybe consider attending the next Vocations Conference on 15th February. I'm also more than happy to chat through my own experiences with anyone.

Thanks again for your support for myself and the family as we journey along this sometimes bumpy road. And I look forward to seeing you again in 8 months!

7th Arbroath B.B.

Our new session got underway on Thursday 7th of September. We are pleased to tell you that all sections are doing well.

Anchor Boys have 6 boys, Juniors have 7 and Company section are looking good with 8 boys. We have 2 boys completing their Queen's Badge this year and look forward to them achieving this highest award.

We welcomed our Vocational students Andrew and Euan who came along to view our activities. Euan is a Queen's boy himself so may be able to offer some advice to our boys.

Our Re-dedication Service is on Thursday 19th of October in the Church at 7.15pm. A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to support us on that night.

At the start of each year we have our fees to pay to headquarters and local Battalion. This amounts to approximately £20 per officer and boy. To help cover this expenditure we are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 21st October. Tickets will be available shortly and can be had from any B.B. Officer or at the door on the day.

Captain Wilma H. Ewart

Dalitso News

September was a busy month for The Dalitso Project with our main focus being our *10 Years and Counting* event that saw 120 people pack into the Arbroath Bowling Club to celebrate a decade of work in Malawi. The evening included interviews with Christina and Charles who run our centres at Thyolo and Kambilonjo, interviews with some of the sponsor kids and a tour of the Dochas Health Centre that we are hoping to open at some point this month. The videos will be posted on our Facebook page for those who were unable to attend and I would encourage you to have a look as they give a real insight into the people and projects. Many of the members of the 2007, 2009 and 2011 groups are still involved and it was great to hear from some of them of the lasting impact Malawi has had on their lives and why they are still involved all these years later.

Our video of Becky posted on Facebook Live was seen by more than 1400 people and we were mentioned in both Holyrood and Westminster during debates in the days following the event. A very exciting few days for all the team.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those from the church that came along on the night and for your continued support.

We are now looking forward to Christmas (our container with your gifts should be on its way to Malawi) and will as always have a few opportunities for you to support Malawi as you get yourself organised for the festivities. We will be doing our Alternative Gift Catalogue so do please email me info@dalitso.org for a copy or see Sheila or Doris. We as always have a wide selection of gifts at various prices including school and sports equipment, mosquito nets, mattresses and school trips. Also for the 2nd year we will be hosting a pampering day with Becky Dunphy and Leonie Atalay where you can book in for a massage or get your nails done. The date of this event will be confirmed on Facebook and in November's Quest. We hope to see some of you there, even if it's just popping in for a coffee.

Charis Bowie

Pastoral Care Conference

On Saturday 24th June, eight of us attended the Pastoral Care Conference in Dunfermline.

The main speaker was the Rev Dr Kenneth Jeffrey who is Director of the Centre for Ministry Studies at Aberdeen University. The day was split into four sessions:

WHAT is Pastoral Care and why do we care?

WHO, WHEN, WHERE is Pastoral Care?
How do we practise Pastoral Care?

In the final session three church members shared ways to deliver Pastoral Care in a Priority Area context, a Rural Area context and an Urban Area context.

It was a very busy and informative day and we were given plenty of opportunity to talk and learn from one another.

We were all pleased to have been given the chance to attend this conference.

Clerk's Corner

We have a few places funded by the church for this conference. You will have to be quick to book and join the others going because the closing date is 15th October. Please give your name to the office if you wish to go.

Understanding Our Faith CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday 4th November 2017 (9:30am-4pm)
Venue: St. Matthew's Church, Perth
Ticket: £20 (includes a free copy of *Learn: Understanding Our Faith*)

This Learn day conference is on the theme of the *Learn: Understanding Our Faith* Publication and aims to encourage everyday believers to reflect upon what they believe and hope, and to grow in confidence as they seek to share their faith in daily life.

Six core issues of Christian life will be explored by the contributors to *Learn: Understanding Our Faith*:

How can I know God? (Knowing God) -
Frances Henderson (Minister of Hoddum, Kirtle-Eaglesfield and Middlebie Parish Church)

What does Jesus have to do with Me? (God the Saviour) -
Paul T. Nimmo (King's Professor of Systematic Theology at

the University of Aberdeen)

Who is the Holy Spirit? (God the Spirit) -
Sarah Lane Ritchie (Research Fellow in Theology and Science at the University of St Andrews)

What is Church for anyway? (The Christian Church) -
Alexander Forsyth (Lecturer in Practical Theology at the University and Associate Minister at Bearsden Cross Parish Church)

What's the point of Discipleship? (The Christian Life) -
Jan Mathieson (Minister of Williamwood Parish Church)

How will I know if I'm going to Heaven? (The Heavenly Things)

Alison Jack (Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Assistant Principal of New College at the University of Edinburgh)

and Angus Morrison (Minister of Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church) who will also deliver the opening and closing remarks at the conference.

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

Sunday 1
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 8
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 15
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 22
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening services commence again

Sunday 29
11 am - Worship Service
Messy Church

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 12
10.45 am - Remembrance Sunday
Worship Service

Sunday 19
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 26
11 am - Worship Service

N.B. As well as the services above there are -
Sunday evening services at 6.30 pm.
and
Midweek services every Wednesday at 10.30 am.

TEN LITTLE CHURCHMEN

Ten little churchmen went to church when fine;
But it started raining, and then there were nine.

Nine little churchmen stayed up very late;
One overslept himself, then there were eight.

Eight little churchmen on the road to heaven;
One joined a rambling club, and then there were seven.

Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday "flicks";
One thought he'd like to go, and then there were six.

Six little churchmen kept the place alive;
One bought a tv set, and then there were five.

Five little churchmen seemed loyal to the core;
One quarreled with the minister, and then there were four.

Four little churchmen argued heatedly;
About the Freewill Offering and then there were three.

Three little churchmen sang the service through;
Got a hymn they didn't know, then there were two.

Two little churchmen disputed who should run the
Congregational Social, and then there was one.

One little churchman knowing what to do,
Got a friend to come to church, and then there were two.

Two sincere churchmen each brought in one more;
So the number doubled, and then there were four;

Four sturdy churchmen simply couldn't wait,
Till they found four others, and then there were eight.

Eight eager churchmen at worship every week
Soon encouraged others, troubled souls to seek

In the people crowded, cramming every pew
Supply, O God, this grace and zeal in OUR parish too!

In an old parish bulletin from approximately 40 years ago
(Strathmartine Church)

Malawi Update

Hi all,

Many thanks for all of you who attended our 10 year anniversary celebration evening on 09/09/17. We had a great evening and it was so encouraging to see so many of our supporters coming along to celebrate with us. For anyone who missed out on the evening, we will be posting some of the videos that we took in Malawi this year over the coming weeks on facebook.

The biggest current news is that all 40 foot of the Christmas container leaves next week! We currently have more donations than a full 40 foot container can hold however, so if you could bear with us for the moment and hold onto your container donations for a couple of weeks until we can get the container away and the next container in place!

[Note - now passed] Having said that, it is time to remind you that if you have not got your sponsor child's Christmas present in yet, the threat level of the container leaving without your gift has been elevated to critical! If you have any issues getting the present please get in touch and we are more than happy to help you out!

Now that I am at risk of sounding officious and mean, I will try to justify myself by reminding everyone of the incredibly tough job that the volunteer container packers do and how much paperwork is actually involved in this task.

Other exciting news, we seem closer than ever to opening the Dochas medical centre (Dochas means hope in Gaelic!). The government officials seem to be happy with it and we are hopeful that this opening may even happen in the next month!

This is a well needed resource in a remote area with little to no medical services currently, in a country where the average life expectancy is 54.8 years, where 10.8% of adults live with HIV and the neonatal mortality rate is 24/1000 live births and the lifetime risk of a woman in Malawi dying in childbirth is 36% - (see https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/malawi_statistics.html). These statistics are horrifying but also highlight the huge need for quality healthcare. It is unacceptable that in 2017 there is such terrible health inequality between the rich and the poor in our world.

Sometimes people tell us that they disagree with helping overseas as 'charity starts at home'. And to some extent I do agree with them. I believe that we SHOULD look out for the poor, the needy, the disadvantaged in our neighbourhood, in our street and in our nation. HOWEVER, in this country we have grown so comfortable in our quality NHS, that there is public outrage and enquiries if ANY mother from ANY walk of life, dies in childbirth these days... In Malawi in contrast, the statistics suggest that of you and two best friends, it is likely that one of you will die in childbirth (if you are a woman). And even if you don't die in childbirth you probably won't live longer than 55 years anyway...

So we are hopeful that we can bring a quality of healthcare to the Kambilonjo region of Malawi and help to begin changing some of these statistics!

Another way of changing the health in Malawi is by helping people to pull themselves out of poverty and education is such a huge part of that process. One of our local Kambilonjo orphans, Chifundo, who is studying medicine is certainly on his way to doing just that. Chifundo was selected by his university to attend the world congress of medical students in Tanzania this year. He was the only first year student to be given this honour and it meant that he was able to get a passport and leave Malawi for the first official time (growing up in rural Malawi on the Mozambique border means that he has never stuck too stringently to countries borders!!). See the back page for Chifundo before boarding his first ever aeroplane and Chifundo with other delegates. What an amazing experience for a young man who lost both his parents when he was very young and who knows what it is to struggle for what you want in life.

My last story today before I bore you completely is of a Thyolo student this time. Vincent Likoswe is one of our very bright stars. He is an orphan who grew up being looked after by his grandparents. In Vincent's end of primary school exams he did really well and managed to get selected to a District level Secondary school, where he has been performing well (even getting 100% in his science exams). So it was to our complete surprise this summer when we handed him his present and letter from his sponsor and observed him reading the paper a few centimetres from his eye. When asked what he was doing he explained that he didn't have very good eyesight and that he couldn't see anything further away than that. Obviously I asked him how he saw the board at school and he explained that he couldn't, that he simply listened, and sometimes his friends would allow him to read their notes taken down from the blackboard. I was absolutely blown away by this story and by how well Vincent has been performing despite this significant set-back. So one day I drove Vincent to the eye hospital in the main city in Malawi. This eye hospital has had significant funding from the NHS in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow I believe and is actually a decent hospital! There they tested Vincent's eyes and informed us that he had +14 vision in both eyes (now I am no optician but I didn't even realise that eyesight got that bad!). It turned out that Malawi didn't have the facilities to make glasses of that prescription but they were able to order some from China and we were able to buy those for Vincent. These arrived just last week and Vincent is now using his new glasses. We're hopeful that he can now see the blackboard and are waiting with baited breath to see what kind of exam results he can achieve now! See the back page for Vincent with his new glasses!

Lastly for any Arbroath based supporters, we will be providing the snacks and food at relay for life this weekend as a fundraiser. If you are able to help please let us know and if you are going to be at relay for life, please come along and get a burger or bacon roll!

Thanks again for all your continued support.

God bless.

Becky Dunphy

More In Pictures

Top - Tim Mineard and his family, and more floral displays from Harvest
Bottom - Malawi pictures (see articles on pages 5 and 7)

