

**Anglican 1:** My, here it is, Communion Sunday and there are no proper hangings again. These United Church folk are so lax in observing the proper ways of doing things.

**Anglican 2:** And not to mention that they don't even kneel down to pray. It just doesn't seem fitting to lounge around on your fanny when you're praying to the Lord.

**Anglican 3:** You can say that again!

**United 1:** These Anglicans sure do like to be jumping up and down a lot during their communion services. How's a person supposed to know when to stand and when to sit? I feel like the most popular girl at the dance.

**United 2:** I'm always sitting when they want to stand and standing when they want to sit. I never thought I'd get an aerobic workout just coming to church.

**United 3:** You can say that again!

**Anglican 1:** I must say, it certainly is relaxing coming to a United communion. We just stand for the hymns.

**Anglican 2:** It is definitely easier on the old achy joints. I remember a day when we practically spent the whole communion service on our knees. Heavens, it was hard to get back up to sing a hymn.

**Anglican 3:** You can say that again!

**United 1:** They say we need to be more tolerant of each other's beliefs and ways of doing things.

**Anglican 1:** They say we need to let go of some things in order to meet the needs of both groups.

**United 2:** I can't believe they all insist on drinking out of the same cup of wine. Heaven only knows how many germs are floating around in there.

**United 3:** You can say that again!

**Anglican 2:** I don't understand why they want to use all those funny little glasses. And grape juice? The Bible says, "And the Lord took the cup of wine." Who do they expect will wash all those glasses?

**Anglican 3:** You can say that again!

**United 1:** They say we should remember that we're all part of the same family.

**Anglican 1:** They say we should remember that we all believe in the same big picture; it's only in the small things that we differ.

**United 2:** I suppose that I could put up with having two communions a month if I have to. It could be worse; we could be having it every week.

**Anglican 2:** I suppose that I can get used to not kneeling down to pray if I have to. And I can stand for the gospel if I want to, so that's okay too.

#### *Scene Change*

*(Slowly, everyone gets up and walks to the front and stands side by side.)*

**United 1:** I think that we can make this work if we set our minds to it. We're supposed to be accepting of others, and this is a good test for us.

**United 2:** Yes, if we can't act like good Christians in church, then what hope have we for the rest of our lives?

**United 3:** You can say that again!

**Anglican 1:** I really believe that we can learn to be more tolerant and accepting if we try.

**Anglican 2:** Yes, I think that we can have a bright future as a church if we can just get this congregation to join together as a family.

**Anglican 3:** You can say that again!

#### *Scene Change*

*(All link arms and flip the signs hanging around their necks. The reverse side of each sign reads, "Proud member of Robson Valley Anglican/United.")*

**All (in unison):** **One family together! Praise be to God!** *(pause)* **You can say that again!**

*Sherry Wiltsie, McBride congregation, Robson Valley Shared Ministry, McBride, B.C.*

## ALL ABOUT PAR – A SKIT

### Regular Givings Made Easy

Each congregation will need to improvise the dialogue to suit its context.

#### Cast

Man (M) Wife (W) and PAR Person (PP)

#### Scene

Place four chairs at centre stage and at an angle, two chairs behind the other two to suggest a car.

## Skit

*(Man enters looking at watch, mimes getting into driver's seat and doing up seatbelt. He acts with impatience. He's obviously in a hurry, checking his watch frequently. Finally he blasts the horn—sound effect offstage if possible. M mutters to himself. Wife enters flustered, checking purse, doing up her coat or scarf. She sits beside M.)*

**M:** *(starting the car)* What took you so long? We're going to be late—again. You know I hate walking in during the announcements.

**W:** I'm sorry dear. I stopped to put some food in the cat's bowl, and while I was doing that I noticed that there wasn't any water either, and then I couldn't find my purse, and then...

**M:** Oh never mind, we're on the way now. *(sighs)* I just wish we could be more organized. Perhaps we should get up earlier on Sundays...

**W:** Oh my gosh, did you remember that we have to pick up Mabel? Quick dear, turn left here and go through the back lane to get to her place.

**M:** *(making a quick turn)* Rats! You didn't tell me we were picking her up today, did you?

**W:** *(uncertainly)* Well dear, I thought I did...

**M:** *(resigned)* Never mind, we're there now. *(Stops the car, gets out, and opens the back door nearest to the audience for PP, who enters, running, and gets in. M gets back in and starts driving again.)*

**M, W:** Good morning, sorry we're late...

**PP:** I was wondering if you had forgotten me.

**W:** No, Mabel, we wouldn't forget you. We're just so disorganized, that's all. We just don't seem to be able to leave in good time. In fact we were just saying...oh bother, I forgot to make sure I have some cash in my purse for the offering.

*(She rummages in her purse, comes up empty.)* And of course I never think to bring the cheque book.

Have you got any cash in your wallet, dear?

**M:** I don't think so. You can check... *(reaches in breast pocket, gives wallet to W.)*

**W:** There's only a five in here. Oh dear, that will be the third Sunday in a row that we've had to put in loose change. Even though loonies and toonies do add up, they always sound so, well, noisy.

**PP:** You know, listening to you two, it sounds as if the PAR program would really help you out.

**M:** I've heard of it, but I don't honestly know how it works. Do you?

**PP:** PAR stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance... It's so simple, just like paying any regular bill directly from your bank account. There should

be some forms at the back of the church; if not, ask \_\_\_\_\_, the treasurer. Decide how much you would like to give monthly, fill out the form, and hand it in with a voided blank cheque. Once it's registered, your offering will go directly to the church on a certain date each month. No need to go scrambling for your cash.

**W:** Well, it does sound like a good idea.

**PP:** And it's also really good for the church, too. Think of all the times people *don't* come to church, for whatever reason; whatever a person puts in when they do come, if it's not there, the offering is down that much. With PAR, we have a much better idea of the church's income. In fact it really helps us to budget knowing we can depend on a certain amount from PAR offerings.

**W:** What happens when the plate comes round, though, and you don't put anything in? I'd feel embarrassed that people might notice.

**PP:** Well actually, you do put something in: a little card which says you are making your offering through PAR. Far from feeling embarrassed, you should feel really good about making a regular contribution to the church.

**M:** It sounds like something we should look into.

**W:** Yes, let's pick up a form today. Remind me, will you dear?

**M:** No problem. And here we are. Everyone out!  
*Gabrielle Untermann, Claremont U.C., Claremont, Ont.*

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## GOD, THE POTTER – WE, THE CLAY

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Diane Robinson writes: I felt Spirit-inspired to build an entire worship service around Jeremiah 18:1-11, the theme used at General Council 40.

### We Gather as People of God

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to symbolize the presence of the Risen Christ in this place.

#### All Sing

"Where two or three are gathered in my name"  
(MV 14)