

## Micksburg 2008

### Ephesians 1: 3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

<sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us.

<sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

<sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

We are gathered today in the Mick Heritage Cemetery.

I don't know what was in the minds of those who chose the name but their choice has inspired my thoughts for today.

I looked up 'heritage' in the dictionary -something inherited  
- passed down from a predecessor

'inheritance' - something transmitted or acquired - a right or title  
or for most folks - land, house, jewelry,  
collection of value  
or something of sentimental value - family Bible,  
grandmother's quilt  
- characteristic possessed as a result of one's birth  
like looks, voice, strong body, quick wit.  
- can also inherit a responsibility  
- for younger siblings or an aged parent

Sometimes what we inherit is less tangible - but even more important lessons we are taught for living, values, work ethic  
How many of you can think of life lessons passed down by your ancestors?perhaps some of whom were laid to rest in this place.

All of us are many generations removed from Peter and Elizabeth and their children

- from Mary Ann, George, John, Daniel, Peter and Mountiford.

And each of those generations has added to the richness of our heritage.

Not allowing for cousins marrying cousins (which happened quite often)

- I should have 31 sets of grandparents besides Peter and Elizabeth Cavanaghs and Combas and Walshes and Millers and Barbers and Neils and probably some I know nothing about.

All of these have passed down to us not only physical characteristics but more importantly attitudes and lessons in life and faith.

This is the inheritance we heard about in scripture this morning.

Faith - that we are redeemed through Jesus' living and dying, that our sins are forgiven by a merciful God, and that a life in glory awaits us

Whether you are a faithful churchgoer or not -

you probably wouldn't be here for this service  
if this bit of faith had not been passed down to you.

When I think about our Mick ancestors - I think of pretty tough people who persevered in the face of persecution and deprivation

If you've had a look at the website, you will know that in 1709 our Mick ancestors left the Palatine in Germany and sustained by faith and hope that there was something better, accepted refuge in England and eventually Ireland.

Today we would call them economic and, to some extent, religious refugees.

Next year, 2009, is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that early journey.

150 years later - in 1848, starvation and sickness in Ireland forced them on another journey, that brought them here.

They had to be tough, and determined, to survive those early years  
It's amazing that so many of them lived to such great ages (104)

What do we have from them? What is our inheritance?

Some of you may still live on the home place. Some carry the name.  
Some still attend the same church - the Methodists are now United.  
(Ironically when they left Germany they were Evangelische -Lutheran  
and by the accident of marriage I ended up back in that fold)  
But all of us have memories  
of lessons taught, and values handed down.

In a moment we will sing of the Faith of those who have gone before us  
and of those of our time  
and of those who have yet to touch our lives

What we have received - this faith of our fathers and mothers -  
we are called to pass on to the coming generations.

This is our heritage. Thanks be to God. Amen