



Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Christmas 2005

newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

The Editor's Note:

This is November the 22nd, a special day in November - not St. Andrews Day but the day designated to St. Cecilia – the patron saint of music!

A day also to send thanks to the “early birds” who get this newsletter underway - thanks to Nancy Woollven, Jay Woollven for submitting news items and to Susan Edwards who says, “Here is the template for the Christmas newsletter – get going”

After my attempts to justify the name of this missive, I heard a friend say “Well, you could put that in your *Wipples*, or whatever you call it.”

With Advent Sunday in November, we must collect ourselves to prepare for the season that recognizes the birth of Jesus. Yes, we will name it: it is Christmas!

Carol Edwards
Editor

Important Dates:

November 27: First Sunday of Advent:

Jennifer Lafave with her daughters Bevan and Tessa lit the first candle of Advent. This is the candle of Hope.

We also welcomed Carolyn Ruda who led us in worship. She spoke about Christmas as a time of waiting – waiting for the birth of Jesus.

December 4: Communion and Confirmation

The Peace Candle will be lit. Communion sharing will be by intinction. The communion bread will be a gift from the talents of Thelma (Fourney) Dupuis.

We will also celebrate the confirmation of Brenna (MacNaughton) Seguin.

December 11: The Third Sunday of Advent.

Joy is the theme for this Sunday's candle. Rev. John Reynolds will lead worship.

December 18: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love is represented by the candle lighting. We will receive a gift from the Sunday School children as they present a pageant. White Gifts will be collected to symbolize our gifts of love.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 8 pm.

The choir will lead us in this age-old service of carols and Christmas scripture readings.

December 25: Christmas Day

A special Christmas Day service will take place in St. Andrew's United Church, Martintown at 10:00 am. This will be a celebration of sharing on this special day. Three churches of St. Andrew will worship together – two from Martintown and one from Williamstown.

January 1: New Year's Day

Worship, in St. Andrews, Williamstown at 10:00

So many events in a few short weeks!

Sunday School:

Sunday School began again in September with another session based on the Workshop Rotational Model (WoRM)

The first rotation was on the story of Moses and The Ten Commandments. Lots of discussions about rules!

The second rotation was the The Greatest Commandment, as illustrated by the parable of The Good Samaritan. This rotation included a field trip to the Upper Canada Village Bird Sanctuary, to visit some of our “neighbours” in creation – geese at feeding time.

Our current rotation is the Christmas story, focusing on the story of the Wise Men.

Earlier in November, we attempted to symbolize love by sharing our culinary skills by making chocolate brownies. We hope the adults, who seemed to enjoy our cooking, got the message of love and chocolate.

The Sunday School is now preparing another gift of love – The Christmas Pageant. Plan to enjoy a unique take on the telling of the Christmas story on December 18.

Jennifer Lafave

Waves, Ripples & Hellos

Cordelia's Cryptic Comments:

The editor asked me to write a few notes for the newsletter. At first I said, "No" – but relented....here it goes. What to write about?

Thinking about church services and the sight of those little heads rising above, or almost above the back of the pew, makes me realize that we now have a "pewful" of young'uns.

The sights and sounds at the Turkey Supper spoke of communion and community.

Can I write about Malcolm, perched at that tiny portable key board and as it jiggles he brings forth beautiful music? Listen too at the end of the service; he usually has a musical treat.

Sandra's cookie tin has some bling, bling from the sale of used books. The little yellow book shelf looks great and this fine modular piece fits under a table and never needs to be stored in the vault to make room for hungry people.

Have you heard from anyone who has peeked in the windows of Irvine Hall to see Ans Fiske or Betty Dreimanis doing the FoxTrot?

I have heard that Tina Cairncross has written more prayers in poetic rhyme.

I wonder if the choir knew that their beautiful rendition of "Let Me Be a Channel of Your Peace" would fit so perfectly into Rev. Andrea's suddenly revised order of worship.

How does Francine keep up with our various groups and the stuff we leave behind?

Did you recognize Deb Jenkins in full colour in The Glengarry News? I forget her exact title but I know she has to travel to every nursing home and seniors' residence between here and Kingston. She is charged with implementing new guidelines in these vital institutions.

I am saying goodbye for now and leaving you a Caesar Square. Write the following letters in 6 equal rows, one under the other, and then read down the columns and I am sure you will finally agree with me.

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Submitted by: Cordelia Hoffenboff

Outreach Projects

We have choices, choices when it comes to finding a place to show our caring for the world. A few quotes from the Moderator's letter on behalf the Mission & Service Fund.

He writes in part....

"When God gives life to a human creature I think God expects the creature to say, "Thank you." I think God expects the creature to share the gift.

The United Church of Canada labours to share the gifts that are the blessings of Christ – healing, feeding, liberating, praying, and working for a just global community. Our Mission and Service Fund is at the heart of this effort. It makes possible our chaplaincies in hospitals and prisons, missions in urban cores, the work of overseas personnel, emergency aid, justice work, community development."

There are special Advent/Christmas envelopes should you wish to make a donation to share your blessings with others.

Matanzas, Cuba

Lois Gaudet, who is completing her requirements for ordination next May, has sent us a letter requesting medicines and medical supplies. She will be taking these with her to Cuba where she will be working in association with a Mission Hospital there.

The medical supplies that she is allowed to take with her to the community in Matanzas are listed:

- Systemic and topical antibiotics;
- Anti-parasitic, anti-ulcer, anti-inflammatory;
- Immodium;
- Analgesics
- Decongestants, and
- Antibiotic eye drops.

The Seminary that is hosting Lois has also indicated that the following items are also helpful in the communities they serve:

- Advil, Tylenol (children & adult)
- Vitamins (B1, B6, B12, E, A, D, Calcium, multivitamins for nursing mothers)
- Toothpaste & tooth brushes
- Band-aids and wound dressings
- Pens, pencils, or pencil crayons.

Lois asks that any donations be given by **December 15**.

Waves, Ripples & Hellos

Lesotho (Africa)

A note from Linda Kubelka: My friend, Penney Place, was a teacher of children with special needs and she felt she had something to give to the destitute and orphaned children in Lesotho. She will be over there for three months, hoping to support the teachers of four elementary schools and to work on an after-school program for orphaned teens.

I would certainly like to pass along my thanks to everyone who has donated so generously towards the school supplies Penney will be taking with her. I have a large box almost full of the donations. Penney will now have to pack them into two hockey bags she plans to take as her luggage. When she returns in April she is willing to spend some time with us to tell us of her experiences.

Local Outreach

Again, in this Christmas season, we will be distributing a bag or basket of Christmas goodies to those who cannot be with us for worship. If you know of someone who would benefit from a visit and some cheer at this time of year, please contact Nancy Woollven. We will be assembling the gift bags or baskets on the morning of December 17th in preparation for distribution on the 18th.

Free the Children: Char-Lan Chapter

We have been made aware of the activities of this group as we were part of the "Flower Gram" fund-raising campaign in mid November. The local chapter sold

820 flower grams at Char-Lan High School and we added another 80 flower grams. As a result, approximately \$450 will be available to help needy children locally and internationally. The international part will be the "Brick by Brick" campaign to build schools in countries where education is not available. In 2002, the Char-Lan Chapter helped to build a school in Ecuador.

For a second time, the Char-Lan Free the Children Chapter will raise money, gifts and awareness through the local Children's Aid Angel Program. You can take a paper "angel" from the line in Irvine Hall and the details of the needed gift are written on the "angel". The gifts are given to children who are not wards of The Children's Aid but children who have been identified by that organization as being in need.

On February 10, 2006, all the chapters of Free the Children in the schools of the Upper Canada School Board will pool their resources and enthusiasm to establish a school in Sierra Leone. One of their fund-raising ideas is to have a talent show. Are there any contestants out there – dancers, pipers, singers, comedians or magicians? Please consider this opportunity to share your talents. For information, call **Kelly Ann Rogers** or **Lynn Larkin** at 347-2441, Char-Lan District High School.

As I write this, I remember Barb McIntosh, Andrea, Mac and I sitting at a table in a cafeteria at Bishop's University. Barb and Mac are rather wary at being convinced to go to Summer Event of the Montreal Ottawa Conference. But we have just

heard an inspiring speech by someone from M&S, and Barb is enthusiastic, "We have to do something!" We sort of humoured her at first but she would not let us off the hook.

Well, we soon had two young people, fifteen year old Arnold Engle and eighteen year old Pamela Anand, who are regular speakers with *Free the Children* to share their message with us at a special worship service on October 15th, 2000.

We had asked for the founder, Craig Kielberger, but I remember his surrogates did a fine job. From a little *Wave* came a *Ripple* and this was the seed for the local chapter.

Thanks to: Linda Kubelka, who many years before had suggested that we attend summer event: to Barbara for being adventurous: to Rev. Harrison for having vision: to Lynn Larkin who kept the Ripple going. Now, it seems a Wave has hit in the Upper Canada School Board.

An update – just before publication! Today, November 27, in the Ottawa Citizen, I found a two-page article about Craig Kielberger. Starting in 1995, as a 12 year old, Kielberger has managed to provide "one speech at a time, one fundraiser and one petition at a time... to raise awareness. ...These efforts have improved the lives of more than one million kids through clean water, alternative income projects and the construction of more than 400 schools."

Waves, Ripples & Hellos

Reminders from Our Treasurer:

The United Church Observer subscriptions are due for renewal in January. The cost is again \$14. There will be an envelope inserted in your 2006 box of envelopes. Please pay by cash or a cheque made out to "The Observer" and place in the offering plate. If you would like a complementary copy to "test" your interest, there are a few copies on the table as you come into church. Ask the greeter at the door if you cannot find one.

I also want to remind everyone that in order to receive official receipts for 2005, all money must be received before December 31, 2005. Please submit any outstanding bills as soon as possible.

The new envelopes will be ready for pick up in the church entrance in early December. I will be reassigning some numbers in an effort to cut down on the number of boxes used. Please do not use any previous year's envelopes. If you have not been on the envelope list and would like envelopes, please call me at 347-3598. PAR (Pre Arranged Remittance) is always available.

I am also collecting funds for flowers placed in memoriam at Christmas. Give me your contributions and necessary information by December 21 so that your loved one's name will be printed in the bulletin for Christmas Eve.

Nancy Woollven

Report from Stewards:

We have an Ultra Violet Light system installed in the manse so that our water will be safe for drinking. The same water is used in Irvine Hall, a place where food is provided for the public and thus where Provincial regulations require testing on a regular basis by an authorized water testing business.

Irvine Hall is getting a new "coat." It is being covered with a non-wood cladding. Ceiling fans in the church have been recommended by the consulting engineers, and they will be installed soon. We have now exceeded this year's budget for hall maintenance...

Linda Kubelka

More Money Talk

The editor would like to share some material "picked up" while visiting another church. That sounds slightly illegal – believe me, this information comes from a handout.

The appeal for offering was called: **First Things First - a program for automatic monthly giving through your bank account** (We referred to this earlier as) PAR.

"Stewardship is the continuous process of moving from self-centered to God-centered living and giving.

Advantages of First Things First (PAR)

- *Regular contributions, even during summer*
- *Less handling of money*
- *Easier bookkeeping*

- *Better budgeting and planning of church programs*

- *Keeps us strong, healthy, and helping*

How does the monthly giving program work (PAR)?

- *You decide the monthly amount.*
- *You may divide your gift between St. Andrews and the Mission & Service Fund*
- *You receive special cards to place in the offering plate.*
- *You may change the amount of your giving (or leave the program) whenever you like by sending a note to the Church Treasurer*

Somehow this all makes sense and easier than all those envelopes we wrote about earlier. We could better manage our budgets and funds.

Turkey Supper - A Success

It was a warm night and many people came out to eat a fine supper and visit with friends and neighbours. The turkey supper raised just over \$4000

THANKS to all of you who volunteered your time and talents for making this another successful event.

A yummy cake was shared after service on November 20th to thank all these tireless volunteers.

Waves, Ripples & Hellos

Faith 'n Fitness

The next Faith and Fitness evening will be announced soon. We are thinking of a square dancing evening.

Before we learned the Fox-Trot at the last Faith 'n Fitness evening, Tina prayed with us:

Thank you for the gift of dance
And for giving us another chance
To meet each other here at the
Hall
In preparation for--- nothing at all.

May our slows and quick, quicks
make us smile
And make us stay to dance a
while.
As we move with fearless grace
and glee
Let us remember to Thankful be.

May we as patient partners be
And when in error look at me,
Not he or she.
Let's make our own feet work just
fine
And have ourselves a fantastic
fox-trotting time.

As if no one is watching, is the
way to dance,
May we feel this free, our spirits
enhance.
Only you, Lord, are watching us
from above
With your tender care and
everlasting love.

Amen

If you have a talent that you would like to share, please contact Carol Edwards.

Christmas Book Review

The following two stories are two of the editor's family favourites.

Pippin The Christmas Pig: A new favourite written by Jean Little tells a new Christmas story. While all the animals in the barn reminisce of their great, great, great grand parent's involvement with the original baby, the pig - whose ancestors were not there - wants to know more about this baby.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: Many fond memories of our son, John, reading this book to us during the holidays. There were tears from laughter rolling down our cheeks.

Barbara Robinson tells a wonderful story about the six mean Herdman kids who lie, steal, and smoke cigars (even the girls) who then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

Here are two more books for parents and grandparents to consider. These are recommended courtesy of The Ottawa Citizen.

Room for little One: A story in the stable where Kind Ox welcomes a series of tired visitors with the phrase, "There's always room for a little one here", culminates in the nativity scene - Jesus born in a stable, surrounded by animals. This book is a gem with stunningly beautiful pictures.

Shall I Knit You a Hat? A story of giving, and a good lesson for youngsters who think a garment has to be store-bought and fashionable.

Babes & Brides:

There is a new one in the editor's family. **Jack Murray Brand Edwards** was born November 4th.

His parents are John and Jodi Edwards. His sister Elizabeth is graciously sharing her space.

Julia Katherine Traverse, daughter of Becky and John Traverse was baptized at St. Andrews, Williamstown on October 23 She and her sisters, Autumn and Brittany made up the four generation of her MacNaughton family present on her special day.

McGregor Bequest

The final meeting with Rev. Brian Cornelius took place on November 22. The purpose of these meetings was to obtain ideas and gain consensus on how to use the money bequeathed by the late Donald McGregor. The result - agreed on recommendations from the congregation to the Trustees on how our church community should use this gift.

The key change to the recommendation or proposal that was published in the Fall edition of *Waves, Ripples and Hellos* related to the "giving away of 10%."

The current proposal is that five percent (5%) of the market value of the McGregor Investments held at December 31 each year will be made available to the congregation in the following year.

Ten percent (10%) of the money made available will be donated in Donald's memory (balanced between local and outside needs).global). The remainder (90%) of the yearly allocated funds will go to projects proposed by the congregation and its various committees.

The trustees will present a

Waves, Ripples & Hellos

proposal (balanced between programming and capital improvements) for allocation of these monies at the Annual General Meeting of St. Andrews United Church, Williamstown.

This process has been very constructive and positive. We thank God for the time and guidance we have received through Rev. Brian Cornelius.

St. Andrews or St. Andrew's?

I received a humorous yet informative book from our church-friend, Mary Wilson. Many of you will be familiar with this book. It is titled, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves, The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. The title is derived from the humour created in misplaced commas. The author, Lynne Truss, who has extensively researched punctuation, writes: "St. Andrews has no apostrophe."

Which will we be: St. Andrew's (as we have on our Waves' banner) or St. Andrews (as it is written in Scotland)??

Now, I have to ask your forgiveness for some errors in punctuation already made in this edition. I haven't finished reading the book yet!

A Closing Message from Andrea:

"Will you come and see the light by the stable door? It is shining newly bright, though it shone before. It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are; will you hide, or decide to meet the light?" (VU #96)

These are the words from an Epiphany hymn in our hymnbook,

Voices United. I love the invitation – "Will you come and see the light?"

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, the days are getting darker, as we approach the longest night of the year. Up at the North Pole (actually this information would be accurate for Canadian Forces Station, Alert – the Northernmost supply depot for Santa) the sun set in October, and won't rise again until March!

So, for us, it is in a season of darkness that we are invited to see the light. In our Advent services, we will do this symbolically by lighting Advent candles – candles of hope, peace, love, joy, and finally the Christ candle.

In Sunday School, the children will be learning about the story of the wise men, who followed a bright star to find the Christ Child. They sought and followed the light.

We are invited to see with new eyes, to notice what is wonderful, to see beauty, to live in awe and wonder, and to notice the daily miracles that surround us.

If you look closely enough, snow resting on a dead leaf is beautiful. It is a miracle that trees can grow new leaves each spring. (Cody, age 4, had wondered how all the leaves in the leaf pile were going to get back up onto the trees in the spring.)

Although we lament illness, whether it be a seasonal cold or terminal cancer, it is actually remarkable that any of us can live for even a day, when one considers the complexity of all the functions of our body. We overlook the miracles of new blood cells being created, of oxygen & carbon dioxide being exchanged, of food

being absorbed.

Once you start looking for miracles, they are everywhere. In the Gospel of Thomas*, we hear Jesus saying, "I am the light that is over all things. I am all: from me all came forth, and to me all attained. Split a piece of word; I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there." (Thomas 77)

So, in this season of Advent and Christmas, seek the light, and know, like the wise men, if you persist you will find it, and it will be well worth the journey!

My family and I wish all of you a blessed Christmas.

(* The Gospel of Thomas is a 'sayings gospel' that did not make the cut to be included in the New Testament, but has survived antiquity. This lost gospel was found in the excavation in Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945. Some scholars have concluded that this gospel predates Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John by 20 to 40 years respectively, and that it was authored around 50 C.E.)

Comments

If you have a topic you would like to report on or hear about, please let us know. Please call the editor at 347-3675 or send an email to newsletter@standrewsunity.org.

There will be a prize for the reader who submits a reply to:

- The St. Andrew's OR St. Andrews question
- A new puzzle for the next edition of *Waves*.
- Explain the humour in *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*

Winner must provide answers to all three parts.