



Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Winter 2006

newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

The Editor's Note:

The 218th Annual General Meeting of St. Andrew's in Williamstown took place on February 5th. Now that should make you wonder - does anyone have a copy of the first annual report? I bet the women weren't allowed to speak!! Our dear Rev. Doug MacKay who started here in 1962 said once, "You know Carol, when we elect women as elders, they will just start to take over." You might like to know that Eleanor MacNaughton was our first elder from the distaff side. What a great beginning!

The Editor arrived in Williamstown in 1960 and has missed few annual meetings since. Yesterday's attendance must have made history. I do not remember ever seeing forty five people in attendance - surely this is a sign of a healthy assembly of the people of God (i.e. the Church).

This prayer that opened the meeting will express the atmosphere that was sustained. To quote in part:

".....Through differences of opinion, your Spirit speaks to us and helps us to clarify our work and your visions for us as a church. Give us courage to speak out and grant us receptive hearts to hear what everyone has to say.

The writer of that prayer is the minister at St. George United Church, St. George Ontario.

Carol Edwards
Editor

Annual Congregational Meeting:

You will soon be receiving the final version of the Annual Report and the minutes of the meeting. Because of motions made that will affect plans for 2006, I am including some information in this newsletter. However *Waves, Ripples & Hellos* is coming together so slowly that you might well receive the Annual Report first.

Proposals for the use of the available monies from the McGregor Bequest must be sent to the Trustees before February 28, 2006. The Trustees will decide which proposals will go forward. If you or a representative of any group within the church has a proposal, you need to complete the Request for Funding form and send it to Bill MacNaughton, Chair of Trustees. Form is attached.

Your proposal may concern a need that you see for the church, the hall, activities or an outreach idea for our community or for the global aspect of our ministry.



Important Dates:

February 16 & February 23: Faith'n Fitness for Body & Soul in Irvine Hall at 7:30.

Come for square dancing basics. No prior experience needed. Bring a partner if you can, come anyway if you can't.

February 19: Youth Group Planning Meeting at Andrea's at 7 pm.

February 22 - Pastoral Care and Oversight Meeting: In Williamstown at 7:30 pm. This notice is for **all Members and Adherents of Williamstown-Martintown Pastoral Charge**. You are invited to attend and discuss the Life, Work, Health, Strength, Concerns, and Vision of your Pastoral Charge with representatives of the Seaway Valley Presbytery's Committee on Pastoral Care and Oversight. This is an every-three-year visit to each pastoral charge as designated by the United Church Manual.

Be sure to come out and share your thoughts with the Presbytery Team and one another.

February 23: Special Meeting of Seaway Valley Presbytery: Knox-St. Paul's, Cornwall at 7:00 pm. This meeting is "an examination and discussion on the future of Presbytery and its Congregations. Members of local boards, councils, and sessions are encouraged to attend.

February 26: Transfiguration Sunday At this time we are without a worship leader.

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February 26: Youth Group: 7-9 pm at Andrea's.

February 28: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in Irvine Hall
Time: 5:00 – 7:00

Committee in charge – Mac Edwards, Edwina Billyk, Sandra French, Kathy McKay, Jennifer Lang, John Oxley, and Tina Cairncross. If you would like to help, please phone Mac at 347-3675. Proceeds of this event will be donated to the “Friends of the Williamstown Park.”

March 1: Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent

Lunchtime Lenten Services begin at Knox United Church in Lancaster. Rev. Gary Stokes will be leading this Ash Wednesday service. The service begins with a time of music and quiet contemplation, and after the service there is a soup/sandwich lunch. All are welcome.

For the Welsh in our midst; this is **St. David's Day**. This day was celebrated as a holy day until the Protestant Reformation. But surely we can recognize a man who said,

“I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us.” and “Do the little things.”

These sayings could be adopted by all and seem especially apt for us at St. Andrew's, Williamstown.

March 5: First Sunday of Lent: A Liturgy for Extinguishing Candles Begins. The lectionary readings for this date and year are:

- § Genesis 9: 8-17
- § Psalm 25: 1- 10
- § 1 Peter 3: 18-22
- § Mark 1: 9-15

March 11: (Saturday) Worship and Music Workshop

Dr. Bruce Wheatcroft will be designing and leading a ‘worship and music workshop’ just for us at The Abbey in Glen Nevis! We will explore the role of music in shaping the worship service, and enabling our spirits to soar. We will work in congregational groups to prepare our Easter Sunday worship services. The Workshop will begin at 10:30am, break for specially prepared lunch, then conclude at 2:00pm. The Pastoral Charge is paying for the workshop. The cost of lunch is \$15 per person.

This announcement is copied from the worship bulletin of February 5th. Perhaps, like some of you, I was not in church and missed this announcement! I attended a similar workshop with our organist's sister, Roseanne Carr, and I can tell you that it was wonderful, awe-inspiring and fulfilling to the ear, the soul and the stomach! **Give your name to Andrea so that you may partake in this ‘feast’ of food and song. Call: 347 2063.**

March 12: Lent 2: The lectionary readings are:

- § Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
- § Psalm 22
- § Romans 4: 13-25
- § Mark 8:31-38

March 19: Lent 3: The lectionary readings:

- § Exodus 20: 1-17
- § Psalm 19
- § 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25
- § John 2: 13-22

March 26: Lent 4 : Worship and Music with Dr. Bruce Wheatcroft

Dr. Wheatcroft will continue his conversation and experience with us when he leads worship in both congregations. There will be an informal lunch following the Martintown service, and members of both congregations are invited to gather with Dr. Wheatcroft at that time. Again I have quoted from the bulletin.

April 2: Lent 5: From the lectionary:

- § Jeremiah 31: 31-34
- § Psalm 51
- § John 12: 20-33

Use your copy of Voices United to find a listing of all lectionary readings. This is Year B. You can look up appropriate hymns for each Sunday and pass on your choices to Rev. Andrea or any member of Session

April 9: Lent 6 Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday: This meditation for the Easter Season is taken from *Gathering*.

It shouldn't hurt to

Enter The Easter Season.

Easter week, in Fact, should be a time when

Circumstances should allow each one of

Us to feel warm and comfortable toward

Ourselves and all others-warm and Comfortable, because we realize. each

One of us,

A

Miraculous sense of renewal at the

Waves, Ripples & Hellos

Knowledge that Easter is a Time for new

Beginnings. It was the point in our

Religious calendar that Christ was

Re born

Thus, Mother/Father God, each one of us

Should be able to

See Easter in the most glorious of Terms.

By Mark Gorman, First United Church, Ottawa, ON.

April 16: Easter Sunday Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

Plans for this highest of Holy days are embedded in our workshop with Dr. Wheatcroft. We depend on our traditions of sacred story but this 'point in our religious calendar' makes us see the importance of sacred ritual.

...sacred rituals are re enactments or embodiments of sacred story.

...through ritual, one relives the story.

The elements of ritual function to create a sense of the sacred – of another reality. They commonly involve not only hearing but also seeing, singing, movement, and sometimes tasting and smelling. Like sacred story, but more effectively, ritual can shape the religious imagination.

Excerpts from The God We Never Knew by Marcus J Borg

Would some of our famous bread-makers volunteer to make Easter breads from different cultures? (e.g. Paska bread, Simnel cake, Koulich or Paasbrod.) Make your offer to any member of Session.

Flowers for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday:

If you would like to place flowers in memory of a loved one, please speak to Nancy Woollven.

May 27: Service of Ordination: Montreal –Ottawa Conference, St. James United, Montreal

Surely a date you must make plans for – Lois Gaudet will be ordained into the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada. History in the making for St. Andrew's Williamstown: over our long history of 200 years plus we have had only one of us become a minister – the late Alex Grant.

For this memorable event for Lois and ourselves, we have hired a coach so that many will be able to attend. The following information is from Nancy and Jay Woollven.

We have arranged for a Delaney coach (holds up to 56 people) to go to Lois Gaudet's ordination at St. James United in Montreal on Saturday evening May 27, 2006. The bus will leave Williamstown at 5:00 pm for the service which starts at 7:00 pm. The bus will leave Montreal at about 10:00 pm. Cost will be \$30 per person. If we fill the bus, there will be money left over which we can give to M&S. See Nancy Woollven ASAP with your cheque to sign up.



Welcome Baby Dupuis

Thelma and Eugene Dupuis are grandparents. Tanessa was born January 26th weighing only 2 pounds. She is presently at CHEO where she is getting special care necessary for such a tiny baby. You are all in our prayers.

Musings:

As yet I have not been able to locate Cordelia Hoffenboff for more pertinent content.

I notice that a book has recently been published about the 'other 'Group of Seven' known as the Beaver Hall Group – obviously centred in Montreal. Of interest to us here in Williamstown is the recognition of the artist, Prudence Heward. She would have been related to the former resident of Williamstown, Beatrice Heward, and to a younger generation, John Heward, former teacher at Char-Lan High School. Beatrice owned the McLennan house now owned by our family of Dianne, Frank, Alex, Christopher, and Michael.

The book is called: The Women of Beaver Hall: Canadian Modernist Painters. By Evelyn Walters

The publication, Glengarry Life by the Glengarry Historical Society 2005, features an article written by Sue Harrington, titled Carrie Holmes MacGillivray. This, of course, connects you to the fur trade stories and the home of the MacGillivrays – Dalcrombie. Dalcrombie has become the home of Carolle, Rob, Joelle and Paul-Andre.

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Now, I ask you for the name of a book. I recently heard a very interesting man speak about his concerns about strife in our world – the Christian vs. Islam turmoil. This was on CBC last weekend and the speaker's name sounded like 'Oz'. He expounded that the problem was not based on religions but on Fanatics vs. Pragmatics. My inefficient search of the CBC site has not given answers.

In the last issue of the Observer, there is a review of the film. **The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe.**

The review is written by Trisha Elliott. I hope the name rings for many of us. Remember when she led our worship with her strong inspiring voice? Trisha writes:

“Traditional Christian doctrines of sin, salvation, sacrifice, and redemption couched in beautiful cinematography and compelling acting light up the big screen.

.....Seeing The Chronicles is like backing into an over-stuffed, magical wardrobe – a tight squeeze for a denomination that values an expansive theology, but a potentially enlightening and thoroughly enjoyable excursion nonetheless.”

When asked about his “latest” favourite book, my grandson Angus told me about a book called Stella Queen of the Snow by Marie-Louise Gay. This story is about a little girl named Stella and her little brother Sam. Sam asks lots of questions like “can you eat snowflake?, what does a snowman eat? do birds get goose bumps.? Stella provides her view of these questions – Polar bears eat

snowflakes for breakfast; snowballs, snow peas and snow suits; No, birds wear snowboots. Angus' favourite part of the book is when Stella, Sam and their dog Fred make snow angels.

Quilt of Belonging:

We are thinking of you Karen!

Karen Paavila is traveling this week (February 14 -15) with the Quilt. She will be in Iqaluit where the quilt will be displayed in St. Jude's Parish Hall. This is the hall of the famous igloo-domed church that suffered serious fire damage. Karen is taking our best wishes and some financial help to this church. For photos and stories, go to:

<http://invitationproject.blogspot.com>

The blog writer is Lee Towndrow who was born when his parents lived in Williamstown. Lee spent his early months calling *Brookside* his home. *Brookside* is now the home of Doris Ferguson.

Sunday School:

From Jennifer Lafave comes this report.

In January, we have been studying the story of the Rich Fool. We played money games the first week. In one game we had to first take as many pennies as possible from the other players in one minute –taking one penny at a time. The player with the most pennies won. Players then had to give away as many pennies as possible – one at a time-in a minute. In this round the player with the least pennies won.

In the second week, we discussed

fears and worries that we have and what the rich fool might have spent more time worrying about. We then loosened up with a few drama exercises. The older children prepared a drama presentation of the parable while the younger children made a cross to keep with them to remember that God is always with us no matter our worry.

In the third week, we were able to release our personal fears by representing them in our artwork. In this concrete form, we represented our fears in charcoal drawings and then used erasers to get 'rid' of them!

On the fourth week of this rotation we spent time outdoors with friends. Our Winter Fun Day was a winter slush day (with a strong cold north wind) but it was enjoyed by all and ended with hot chocolate and apple cider in Irvine Hall.

If our readers have forgotten this parable, look it up. It is found in Luke 12: 13-2

Note from the Editor: This caption “Sunday School” makes me question. Is the word “school” welcoming and comforting? From my years as a teacher, I could confidently say that for many it is not.

At our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, you might have noticed that although a report was titled “Young People's Ministry” we adults repeatedly referred to it as Sunday School.

I would ask us to question ourselves and agree with the leader who presented the report and use the title-Young People's Ministry.

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No, that doesn't work either. Can you hear this, "I'm going to Young People's Ministry.

This sounds like an introduction for a new quiz. Speaking of which, we had one response from the quiz in the Christmas issue of *Waves, Ripples, and Hellos*. With a drum roll; the winner of the mystery prize is Penny Cavell. The presentation will take place at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 28.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Keep that date (February 28th) open so that you can come and enjoy pancakes, maple syrup, strawberries, blueberries, pineapple and glazed ham.

There--you have all four food groups: meat/bread/fruit/milk.

The proceeds from this cooperative effort will be given to a group of local enthusiasts who are raising money to build a permanent base for the outdoor skating rink in Paul Rozon Park which is located next to our parking lot.

The thought of the skating rink might remind some of our older members of the great times that were enjoyed when the Winter Carnival took place on the rink, followed by refreshments in Irvine Hall. On second thought the rink must have then been located where the post office now stands!

Faith 'n Fitness

The date for our February activity has already been listed under Important Dates. We discovered that our dancing was good exercise and much more fun than a treadmill!

We, of two left feet did not feel overly embarrassed either. We are considering an introduction to yoga as well as cooking demonstrations. Please send your suggestions and questions to newsletter@standrewsunited.org

How to Pet a Chickadee!

It's amazing the different "personalities" that exist in the world of these delicate feathered friends. After feeding chickadees by hand along my hiking/snowshoeing trails over the last few years, I've come to realize just how unique each chickadee is. By offering sunflower seeds from a bare hand, I've made numerous observations.

Some birds have colder feet than others! Some take more care with their pedicures thus making for a softer touch when they land for a snack. Others are "boss birds" and sit for long periods of time on my hand looking over their shoulders, their main concern being preventing any other relative from honing in on the feast! Some kind of seed security issue I suppose.

Most times the birds are rather civilized about the free meal and take turns flying in from various trailside bushes taking one seed at each visit to my hand. The really

timid ones virtually hang onto my fingernails in a rather upside down position, and sneak cautious peeks over the top of my fingers, lunging for the highly desired seed in that nano-second when their courage is mustered to a level that surpasses their fear.

The "opportunist" is confident, planting itself in the middle of my palm, and through a careful crosswise placement of the first seed in its beak is capable of snagging not one but two seeds at a time. I particularly enjoy the ones that alight on my hand, glance up at me, then down at the seed, repeating this three or four times before deciding to commit to the seed snatch move at which they've become so skilled.

My biggest thrill, however, came on the day when I decided to try to pet a chickadee. I had to be selective. I couldn't lose the confidence of the timid ones, the ones whose fear I felt in the grip of their feet. I needed to try it with the confident land-in-the-middle-of-your-palm types. And the moment arrived. I gingerly moved my thumb up and away from my other closed digits. The bird stayed. I gently touched the side of its body. And the bird stayed. I stroked in the direction that respected the lay of its feathers. And it still stayed. I was petting a chickadee! Heaven was truly in this moment.

Tina Cairncross

**St. Andrew's United Church - Williamstown - 2005/2006
REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM McGREGOR INVESTMENT**

McGregor Investments

These investments are a result of a bequest from the Estate of the late Donald McGregor. The disposition and use of these funds shall be as follows: Five percent (5%) of the market value of the McGregor Investments held at December 31 each year (**2005 - MV = \$576,943.85**) will be made available to the congregation in the following year (**2006 = \$28,847.19**).

Ten percent (**10% - 2006= \$2,884.72**) of the money made available will be donated in Donald's memory (balanced between local and outside needs). The remainder (**90% - 2006 = \$25,962.47**) of the funds will go to projects proposed by the congregation and its various committees. The Trustees will present a proposal for allocation of these monies at the annual general meeting (there should be a balance between programming and capital improvements).

Project Name: _____

Group or Person requesting the funding: _____

Type of project:

Donation Programming Capital Improvements

Project Description: _____

Who will be overseeing project: _____

Estimated number of participants in program: _____

Total cost of Project **Please attach a detailed budget** \$ _____

Less: Amount self funded \$ _____

Total Amount of Funding Sought from McGregor Investment: \$ _____

Number of volunteers involved in project: _____

Number of volunteer hours involved in the project: _____

Requisition submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Project Number: 2006-- _____ Amount suggested by Trustees for approval: \$ _____

Chair of Trustees: _____ Date: _____

Please submit request by February 28, 2006