



Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Spring 2007

newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

Editor's Note:

The 219th Annual General Meeting of St. Andrew's in Williamstown took place on February 11th. Two long tables were set up for the potluck lunch which preceded the meeting. The lesson of the five fishes appeared to have been lived out! There were those who had food and willingly shared and made welcome those who were without.

Speaking for this editor; this newsletter is intended to inspire all readers to be so curious about events at St. Andrew's that they will come to worship and hear for themselves. There! - That is an outright advertisement! We have always been reticent to spend money on advertising or roadway signs, but we have worship worthy of welcome.

I have attended two events in the last week where the guest speakers made impassioned pleas for each of us to face our responsibilities to save our planet - our mother earth.

Justin Trudeau was the speaker at Founder's Day at MacDonald College. My classmate, Anna Hobbs (readers of Canadian Living will remember her as a Founding Editor) and I were impressed with Justin and his message. He spoke well, with passion and intelligence. At first we commented on his apparel: casual, well-worn jeans and a cotton shirt that did not speak of high tailoring! As the message of his talk became apparent so too did his clothing become appropriate!

The dilemmas of living 'green'

surround us at every turn. As a church, we endeavor to be a welcoming one and physical warmth is necessary along with warmth of spirit. I recently took part in The Prayers for Christian Unity Service at St. John the Divine Anglican church in South Lancaster. All the denominations in our area were made welcome, and as I entered I was able to hang up my coat and sit without it in the warm and welcoming sanctuary!

Magazines and newspapers these days are full of ideas for new and innovative ideas about heating and conserving energy. Solar panels, geo-thermal, wind turbines, bio digesters or will we end up with heated bricks and pans of embers? Are there those among us who will be so inspired by the fires of Pentecost to bring new, 'green' energy technology?

A reminder; read Elaine Kennedy's columns in the Standard-Freeholder. Elaine has always been the epitome of the community conscious person - she was a familiar face helping at our turkey suppers for many years.

Carol Edwards
Editor



An Easter Message from Our Minister

Easter is pivotal to the Christian year, to the Christian story. We know that, but it's not an easy story. We love Christmas - the birth of a baby who reveals God to us - a baby who is born into a 'nobody family', but who will be called the Son of God. We love that story.

Then, there's Easter. Well, Easter Sunday is fine. We tell stories of Jesus rising from the dead - overcoming death itself. We like that part of the story. It's the part that precedes that, that we don't like - the crucifixion. What do we, ourselves, make of the crucifixion? How do we tell our children, or our grandchildren, or our friends about this?

Do we say, "Well, Jesus was the Son of God, and he had to suffer and die so that we could be forgiven of our sins"?

Do we say that Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to suffer and die, if that would help us find our way to God?

Do we say, "Some bad guys killed Jesus because they didn't like what he was doing"?

Do we say that the 'bad guys' were religious leaders and scholars, and that the common folk followed their leadership and made a bad decision?

Do we say that they weren't really 'bad guys' per se, just ordinary people like you and I?

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Do we say that Jesus lived in very violent times, and it didn't take much to trigger violent acts, even from ordinary, usually well-meaning people?

Do we say that when the light of God comes into the world, those who have been living in darkness try to do whatever they can to extinguish the light? Well, maybe not everyone, because some of those who were living in darkness 'woke up' and discovered how wonderful it is to live in the light.

What do we say?

Well, we might say all of these things, none of these things, or these things and more.

Extraordinarily, all of us will make our own meaning out of the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Our challenge is not to come to one "right" understanding but to come to our own understanding, and to deepen that understanding over the course of a lifetime. We will be influenced by our own experience, by teachings – historic and current, by questions and by answers.

Jesus knew the truth of his own story because he was the truth; he is the truth. We see, 'as through a mirror dimly'. Until such time as we completely awaken to the truth, in this life or the next, our understanding of the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection will be incomplete, and there will be room for ongoing growth in our understanding.

So, what hope does that give us for how we might 'deal with' Easter this year?

Actually, we don't have to 'deal with' it. We can just live through it – experience it as a mirror of the drama of our own lives, experience it in worship, in reading, in prayer, in reflection.

We can ask questions of the story, and wait for answers, or even live at peace with unanswered questions.

We can come to know that God works in and through all lives and all stories, even if we don't understand how.

We can know that God and God's love, purpose, truth, and wisdom were shown to us in Jesus, the Christ, even if we can't quite see how.

We can pray to God to open our eyes, to reveal Godself to us in ways that we might be able to receive and understand.

And we can share our knowing, even if we can't find quite the right words.

We can say with full conviction, this is what this story means to me. This is how this story changes my life – gives me hope, courage, joy, blessing.

And, in that, Jesus rises from the dead again, Jesus lives on in us, and Jesus is made known to others through us.

Amen

Rev. Andrea Harrison



Service Schedule:

March 25: Lent 5

Combined Service, Martintown 11am (Note: Martintown invites us to join them for a Pancake Breakfast **before** church!)

Rev. Andrea Harrison. Sermon: Mary Anoints Jesus

April 1: Palm Sunday Communion Rev. Andrea Harrison

April 6: Good Friday, 10am Martintown Rev. Andrea Harrison

April 8: Easter Sunday Rev. Andrea Harrison

April 15: Easter 2

Rev. Andrea Harrison. Sermon: Doubting Thomas

April 22: Easter 3 Earth Day

Rev. Andrea Harrison Sermon: Transformation of Saul to Paul

April 29: Easter 4

Dr. Bruce Wheatcroft. Theological World #4

May 6: Easter 5

Mackie Robertson. Canadian Foodgrains Bank

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Meeting Announcements:

The **Session** meeting will be held in **Irvine** Hall at 7:30 on March 26. Shelley MacNaughton and Susan Edwards will attend this meeting as this year's new members.

Community Events:

Noontime Lenten Services are being held each Wednesday during Lent. These are ecumenical services of worship, and are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in South Lancaster. Soup and sandwich lunch is provided after each service. Every week a different church in the area provides this food for fellowship.

March 22: World Water Day

Faith, labour, and community groups are gathering across Canada to protect water and ensure that everyone has access to clean water. Join in World Water Day events in your community. Nothing planned? Hold your own event. For help contact sstratton@kairoscanada.org

April 14–April 16: Power the Future

Watch for news of this forum in local papers. David Suzuki will be at St. Lawrence College on Friday when secondary school students who have built working solar-powered vehicles will have a chance to meet with him. The third day of the Forum will be a consumer trade show featuring

products and services to optimize energy efficiency in our homes.

April 21: Occupied Lives

JGER (Justice, Global, and Ecumenical Relationships) is hosting a Retreat at Howick United Church. On the Saturday, Susan and Chris Ferguson will lead the session entitled "**Occupied Lives**" – **Palestine Christians and a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine**

May 17– May 19: Faith in the City 2007

A conference at McGill University with a list of leaders and speakers such as: David Giuliano, **Moderator of The United Church;**

Robert Chiotti, Architect and Theologian, whose topic is, "Cosmos, Architecture and Redeeming Sacred Space"

Information: Robert Dalglish

1-800-268-3781, ext 4157

Musings: No person of anonymity has sent in any musings from Cordelia but I am taking the liberty of placing the following contribution in this slot!

Only in Glengarry You Say?

(The following is an excerpt from the "verbal banter" given in between music sets at the Mountain Township Community Hall on January 31st, 2007 by Tina

Cairncross, when she and a "select" group of musicians played for the Mountain Seniors at the request of her mother, Florence)

I love to have children visit me. I live in the "boonies" near the village of Glen Roy. My favorite game to play with the young ones is to ask them if they know where Old MacDonald's farm is. When they say, "No", I just ask them to point in any number of directions and you'd be pointing to the property of a MacDonald who either used to farm or is still farming.

On the concession south of me is the farm of Angus MacDonald. On the concession north of me is the farm of another MacDonald. The fancy sign painted at the start of HIS laneway reads BIG Angus MacDonald! How Glengarrians sort each other out is a real mystery to me, but they do know the difference.

Take the MacLeods for example. You'll hear people speak of Ronnie MacLeod, and there's Johnnie MacLeod, then there's Ronnie Johnnie MacLeod, but then don't forget Ronnie Johnnie Peter MacLeod and so on. I guess you now know why the natives of Glengarry can spot us imports a mile away. They know whom they are talking about and we don't.

Tina Cairncross

Kathi Legault was keen to read The Observer which featured a story about a former Art teacher of hers. Geoffrey Simmins is now a Minister at Forest Lawn United Church in Calgary after spending

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most of his life to date as a professor of art and architectural history.

This editor has heard a rumour that we will want to read the April issue of The Observer because it may contain an article of special interest to us here at St. Andrew's.

Roles & Responsibilities?

I noticed that our church secretary, Andrée Hunter had placed a notice in a Sunday bulletin that indicated some questions had come to her about "Who does what"? Another member asked me similar questions. If you read the United Church Observer you often see questions of this nature.

As I attempted to answer the questions that I had received, I thought –"No wonder!" Despite there being many answers in The Manual of the United Church (written in 1925 and updated modestly and periodically), customs vary in different churches and custom being what it is; it often supersedes The Manual!

Here goes with some notes: We are one **congregation** within a **pastoral charge**, served by a member of **Ordered Ministry** (our clergy, Rev. Andrea Harrison). All members of Ordered Ministry are members of **Presbytery** along with **lay members** chosen by each congregation.

We belong to **Seaway Valley Presbytery** which includes all United Churches from

Hawkesbury on the north to Bainsville in the south-east to congregations to our west such as Prescott and north again to Chesterville and Winchester. This Seaway Valley Presbytery belongs to another division called the **Conference**.

Our conference is **Ottawa-Montreal**, which includes our little triangle of Eastern Ontario, north and west of Ottawa and most of the province of Quebec (**all** the way east on the north shore of the St. Lawrence river) There are thirteen conferences within the United Church. Of our members here at St. Andrew's, one came from Manitou Conference; two others I know of came from Bay of Quinte Conference. (Do you know who these people are? This could be the quiz for this edition!!)

Our Pastoral Charge uses the Organizational Model called the **Session/Stewards/Official Board** structure. Many pastoral charges have changed to the **Church Council or Church Board** structure.

The members of Session are called elders, but this does not mean that members are old! Members are supposed to be "representative of the Pastoral Charge in respect of age, sex, vocation, and gifts." I note however that we have not had any members of Session to represent those under the age of twenty! "Elders may be at varying places in their respective personal journeys but should be committed to spiritual growth and active participation in the Congregation in worship and service."

As briefly as possible the duties of the Session are to:

- admit persons into full membership
- provide religious training for the young; the organization of Christian instruction for all and instituting a Christian Education Committee
- oversee the order of worship, including the use of the church edifice
- oversee the care of the poor, and the visiting of the sick

Methinks this is starting to be as boring as a Grade Nine Civics class. Send in some questions and we can provide entertaining and controversial answers as they do in The Observer!

Trustees Decisions: McGregor Investment

Proposals for money to fund or promote programs, projects or outreach were received by the Trustees. These proposals were to be sent to the Trustees before January 14, 2007 so that the Trustees (Art Craig, Lynn Lafave, Cathy MacKay, Robert McDonell, Tony Durin, Mac Edwards, Jay Woollven and Bill MacNaughton) could allocate funding, and present this at the Annual Meeting.

We will plan to include a summary of the 2007 funding allocations in the next newsletter.

We are reminded that the Trustees need more time than was previously allotted, and with this in mind, please start thinking about

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next year so that well before year's end you will have a proposal that will help do God's work in some way and place.

Sunday School:

The front pew did not provide sufficient space for our active Sunday Scholars one past Sunday. Dr. Wheatcroft kept them in thrall demonstrating masks.

The Sunday School and leaders are preparing a giant fabric collage/wall hanging as part of their study in this Lenten and Easter season. The title for this work has not yet been finalized – as an observer I have my own: “the road less traveled” If you visit Irvine Hall in the near future perhaps the Sunday School people would allow you an opinion for a title!!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner:

Our fifth Shrove Tuesday pancake fete is now history. Organizers of this event have made the proceeds available to various “causes”. This year we sent \$768.00 to Rideau Hill Camp. Last year our local community park benefited from our efforts. We have supported Beads of Hope - Africa and Child Haven in preceding years.

Those monster hams are becoming famous and I note from questions asked that the original “ham” form is becoming rare! Before we know it, no one will know that ham means – the leg of pork (with bone in place), cured and smoked but not pre-cooked!

There were cookers, slicers, dicers, servers and washers. Thanks to all and we are sure that our contribution will be used to help many enjoy camping.

Support Our Military Family:

Private Connor Larkin left Camp Petawawa at 6 am on February 6th. Pat and Lynn, Connor's parents were present for his departure. Connor flew from CFB Trenton to Dubai and from Dubai to Kandahar in the Hercules – our Canadian transport plane (vintage the 60's ?). Connor's long frame felt the cramped space on that flight!

Private Larkin is with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Armoured Division. He drives a vehicle called a LAV (I understand this is an eight-wheeled armoured vehicle – which makes it sound large and I pray ‘road proof’).

I did not get an e-mail address from Lynn as I had intended, so that any of us might forward our support– perhaps we were getting on to other news of her work; work that keeps her mind from constant worry. Lynn is involved with a breakfast program for healthy eating for students at our high school. (More about that later!)

We join with Francine, Nicole and Hazel Ann to welcome **Master Corporal Pat Power** home from an intensive training program at Fort Bliss, Texas. The exercises there were to prepare troops in every way for deployment to Afghanistan. Thus we encounter

military terms such as: Tactical Group - meaning infantry, artillery, tanks and helicopters and all support groups such as mechanics, communications, clerks and military police.

Master Corporal Power is with the Royal 22nd Regiment. His next assignment will be in Wainwright, Saskatchewan for examination and confirmation exercises from the end of April to the end of May.

When I talked to Pat he had just come in from a fun-filled afternoon with his cherished daughters, Nicole and Hazel Ann.

Captain Andrea Harrison is the chaplain of the famed regiment, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. Rev. Harrison will be participating in a Basic Training course, designed for Reserve Chaplains, at Canadian Forces Base, Borden, from April 30th to May 25th. Our own SD&G Highlanders deployed 7 members to Afghanistan in the last rotation, with one member yet to return home. In August of 2008, the Regiment expects to deploy up to 15 soldiers. Rev. Harrison has been interviewing returning soldiers, and may start interviewing departing soldiers before she goes to Basic Training, and before they start to go to Pre-Deployment Training this June.



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Free the Children: The Char-Lan Chapter

This group at our local high school has set a goal to raise funds for a water well in Sri Lanka. They are presently short of their goal by approximately \$650. They are at an early stage of planning for a spaghetti dinner as a fund-raiser for the water project. Our church has been associated with the chapter since its inception. Watch for more information so that you can help the young people in this valuable project.

Birthday Cards for Shane

Shane, a seven-year-old boy who was diagnosed with cancer at age five, has set out to beat a world record for receiving the most birthday cards.... The local papers and TV media have been supportive to Shane.

On speaking with Shane's grandmother it is great to report that the radio station KISS has provided an apartment for Shane's mother so that she can be with her son while he is in treatment in Ottawa.

Our prayers are with Shane and his family. I am sure that many of us have and will find ways to show our help.

An added note: Shane is still collecting those cards!

Shane Bernier
14 High St.
Lancaster, K0C 1N0

Church in Society

This is a title used at Presbytery for a group that endeavours to keep Presbyters and congregations mindful of the place the church can take in the wider community.

Here in Williamstown, we can thank Lynn Larkin for programs at the Char-Lan High School that will allow members of our church to show their belief in church and community.

Lynn has managed to obtain some funding for a program called "Healthy Eating for Better Learning". Students and teachers, the school nurse and members of the community are helping to provide and serve healthy snacks before school begins on Wednesday mornings. Let Lynn know when you can be available to serve or prepare a healthy food item.

The phone number at the high school is 613 347 2441.

So You Think You're Clever?

Not to be outdone by Wendy Mesley and the CBC with their national I.Q Test program; here is ours!

1. If 3 cats kill 3 rats in 3 minutes, how long will it take 100 cats to kill 100 rats?
2. Which is correct: 8 and 8 are 15, or 8 and 8 is 15?
3. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?
4. Take two apples from three apples and what have you got?

Another Invitation to Word Puzzles:

Take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are a few to get you started (courtesy of the Washington Post)

1. Caterpallor (n) The colour you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating
2. Dopeler effect (n) The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
3. Inoculate (v) To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Now, your turn: phone or e-mail your word creations to:

613 347 3675 or

newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

Spring prizes for each contest will be maple syrup (the sweet nectar of Spring!)

Editor's Apology: I don't think the last word puzzle was solvable. The intended answer was:

Create Hospitable Space

The Last Word: it is yours!
newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

P.O Box 114, Williamstown