



# Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Fall 2008

[newsletter@standrewsunitied.org](mailto:newsletter@standrewsunitied.org)

## Editor's Note

A member of our family states that every meal in our home begins with a disclaimer. This is necessary because the resident cook never does anything the same way twice!

Disclaimers abound as the Editor with muddled mind faces this Fall – a season of elections, bewildered electors and Wall Street agonies.

I will quote one named Phyllis McGinley who gained some fame as a supporter for women's rights early in the 1900's.

*"We might as well give up the fiction*

*That we can argue any view.*

*For what in me is pure*

*Conviction*

*Is simple Prejudice in you."*

On a happy note: Karen Paavila is home from Spain and the Camino Trail (more about her "walk" to follow). Our minister, Andrea Harrison is home from various points: Britain, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Bill will be home before we finish all the turkey leftovers from Thanksgiving. Special interview later in *Waves!*



Congratulations and "a million thanks" to Sarah (McDonald) Washer our new webmaster. Go to [www.standrewsunitied.org](http://www.standrewsunitied.org) to see what Sarah has contributed to St. Andrew's. Sarah lives in Ottawa. Her parents, Don and Penny live around the corner from our church. There is proof that near or far, our church is not static in one place.

Follow Sarah's directions so that you can keep her "in the loop" to update and add new material to the website.

We would need more than a million thanks to Lorna McKendry who has inspired us from August to October while being our worship leader in Andrea's absence.

*Carol Edwards*  
*Editor*

## A note from Lorna: Doing Six in a Row...

I continue to marvel at how things work out. Taking on the invitation to do six Sundays in a row while Andrea was away has taught me, once again, that if you let it, things will fall into place better than you could ever imagine. I was reminded of Proverbs 3: 5-6:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make your paths straight."*

And the Spirit will give you inspiration for all your worship planning!

I took my cue from a mid-August lectionary reading in which Jesus asked his disciples,

*"Who do people say that I am?"*, and *"Who do you say that I am?"*

It got me thinking that four Sundays in September might be a good time to reflect on who we say that we are as a church. I welcomed the chance to explore four different aspects of this topic -- who we are as teachers, as stewards, as pilgrims, and as family.

As so often happens, I learn something new every time I tackle scripture. In six weeks I learned a lot. I continue to learn to stay calm and be open to signs along the way, even if it's late on Saturday night and my sermon still needs a few finishing touches.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the opportunity, and the challenge, to lead in worship in Andrea's absence. Thank you for your encouragement and support as we continue to walk with one another and *"build the land that God has planned where love shines through."*

*Lorna*

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## Andrea's Holiday News:

As many of you may know, Sam, Cody and I have recently returned from a wonderful six week holiday in the U.K. and Europe. It was a blessing to have this time to rendez-vous with Bill for a holiday, to visit family, and to travel. Our thanks to the congregations for granting us this extended vacation in August and September.

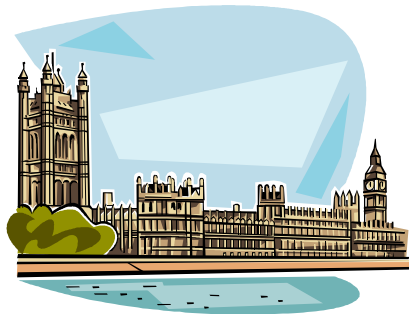
I have family in England, having emigrated from there with my parents and sister in 1973. Bill has family in England and Northern Ireland. It was his grandfather on his father's side who emigrated to Canada. I hadn't been back to England to visit for 20 years. Bill has been able to connect with family in London, on trips with work, but hadn't been to Ireland for 26 years, since his post-university 'around the world' trip.

The boys and I arrived in London on Tuesday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, staying with the same family in Orpington, on whose doorstep I arrived at the beginning of my visit to England 20 years ago. Last time, David, Janice, and Catherine were still living at or close to home. Now David is in Ghana, Africa, Janice is in New York City, and Catherine is Liverpool. It is David, and his wife, Mary, and son, Adam, who were staying with us at the manse in May 2001, when Cody was born. Now it is just my Auntie Helen (Dad's sister) and Uncle John who live in Orpington.

We had a wonderful time with them, awaiting Bill's arrival from Sudan. He showed up at the door with his pack on his back, in time for dinner on Thursday, Aug 21<sup>st</sup>.

We were very delighted to see him!

On Saturday, my uncle drove us to Bill's cousin, Caroline's home, closer to the heart of London. We had a wonderful time there with Caroline, Charles, Molly and Fergus, and enjoyed touring London. The 'London Eye' and Tower of London were highlights. We had dinner outside the Tower with Christine, another cousin of mine.



From London, we flew to Belfast, Northern Ireland, and stayed with Bill's cousin, Will Chambré, Sara, Jack, Ned, and Connie in Ballynahinch, and his cousin, John Chambré, and wife Elizabeth, and their daughter Kate in Dromore. Bill found various Chambré sites – a Chambré Orange lodge, a fine Chambré home, now turned into a bank, and an old Chambré home, weathered by time and war on the border of Northern & Southern Ireland.

We did make our way to the northern coast, and walked on the 'Giant's Causeway' – that ancient structure built by the giant, Finn McCool. We did have ambitious thoughts of visiting family/friends of Vera Cumming's new husband, Robin Hunter. Cody, particularly, wanted to visit his new friend Ethan, but time didn't permit.

From Ireland, we flew to Manchester, and stayed with my Uncle Brian, whom some of you may remember from his visit to us in August, 2007. He even did a scripture reading at the Ecumenical Service at the Williamstown Fair ☺. We settled in for one night, then took a short trip to Nottingham, to visit Bill's cousin, Jean, and her husband, Peter. While there, we, of course, learned about Robin Hood. Sam, with his demonstrated proficiency in archery, became 'Sir Sam of Ontario'. He also became champion at the game 'bagatelle', which I remember playing at my grandmother's home as a child.



After a couple of nights in Nottingham, we returned to Manchester, and enjoyed time with my Uncle Brian, his son, Ian, and Ian's three girls – Fiona, Nell, and Stevie. I last saw Ian when I did his wedding in Germany in 2000. Fiona and Sam were 1 ½ years of age at the time, but have no recollection of meeting each other. Unfortunately, we didn't see Ian's wife, Gesine, as she had to be back home in Germany.

On Saturday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, we had a get-together of my first cousins (Dad's side of the family) in Manchester. Catherine came from Liverpool with her newly-wed husband, Jez. Robert came from Sheffield. I hadn't seen either of

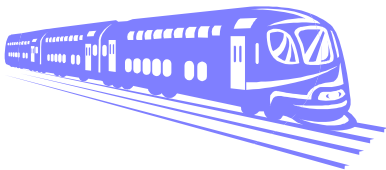
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these cousins for 20 years, and it was great to see them again. Ed and Jemma, who visited us in Williamstown two summers ago, came up from London with their nine month old baby girl, Emily. My cousin Annie, lives close to her Dad in Manchester. She has visited us two or three times in Canada over the years, and I last saw her at her brother's wedding in Germany. We picked up where we left off, and had a wonderful time together.

From Manchester, we had to say another sad goodbye to Bill. On Monday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, the boys and I took a train to the Isle of Wight. We waved goodbye to Bill from the train, as he stood on the platform. Twenty minutes later, he was on a train to Heathrow Airport to fly back to Sudan.

The train ride was good, however. Cody rated it as the best train ride of our vacation. We played cards, ate 'crisps', read comics, and managed to get all our bags from the express train to a small commuter train to the ferry, and over to the Isle of Wight.



We spent a wonderful week staying with my Auntie Jill and Uncle Peter in Yarmouth. They last visited us in Canada in 2003, staying with us at 'Nut Hill' shortly after we had moved into our own home in Williamstown. We had trips to the beach, the zoo, the aquarium, and Roman ruins. We indulged in 'Brit TV', including watching Magic

Roundabout, Shaun the Sheep, Maestro, and The Last Night at the Proms. We also, throughout this holiday, indulged in a lot of good food, thanks to everyone's kind hospitality.

On Sunday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, we took a ferry from the Isle of Wight to Portsmouth. We were met by cousin Annette (Mum's side), and son Ian. We traveled to Ian's house for lunch, meeting his wife, Karen, and three children, Craig, Ben, and Rebecca. We then hopped back in the car for a ride to Dover, where we stayed with Annette for two nights.

I lived in Dover briefly as a two year old. I don't remember that, but I do have many fond memories of holidays in Dover. It was wonderful to be there again, and to take the boys to Dover Castle. We had dinner, one night, with Annette's other son, Paul, and his wife Julie, and three children Chris, Jack, and Sophie. The last time I saw Ian and Paul, we are all single, with no kids.

We traveled with Annette across the English Channel, from Dover to Calais, on a ferry on which her husband, Eric, was working. Eric took us up to the bridge, and the boys were able to check out all the controls, and the computer screens. Sam even got to change the course of the ship by 5°.

Upon arrival in Calais, we took another train to Brussels, Belgium – actually, two trains and the metro – and were met by friends as the metro door opened to the platform. Eric and Marie-Laure Fischer, and their sons, Xavier and Vincent, visited us in Canada four years ago. It was with this family that

the boys then stayed for two weeks. Once on their street, it wasn't hard to find their home, as a Canada flag was hanging from a window.

After a couple of nights with the Fischers, I took a train to Caen, France, to meet up with the "Following the Glens" tour.



This tour was organized through the SD&G Highlanders Regiment Association. Tim Gault took the lead on this, and our travel agent was Carol MacAleese. The tour followed the path that the Glens soldiers took in 1944/5, crossing the English Channel from Portsmouth to Juno Beach on 'D Day', June 6, 1944, and traveling up through France, into Belgium and Holland.

Side trips to other sites were also made along the way. There were three WWII Veterans on this tour. Jack Stevens and Harry Towes, who both served with the Glens, and Ervin Clement, who served with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers. Ervin's grandson, Jeff Clement, is currently deployed with the Glens in Afghanistan. There were a few other military members with us – the SD&G Highlanders Commanding Officer, LCol Roy Clarke, our Honourary Colonel (and good United Church member) Col Bill Shearing (who also spoke

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at our Fair Board dinner a couple of years ago), BGen (retired) Bill Patterson, Capt Mike Eamer, and me as chaplain. Our piper was Nelson Clarke. T

There were other local folk that you may know on this trip, traveling to visit graves and battle sites of family members, or just to learn more about this part of Canadian and European history. Our local MPP, Jim Brownell, was also with us.

This was an extraordinary experience. History came alive as we visited the Juno Beach centre, stood in the sand at Bèrnière sur Mer, looked up at the cliffs surrounding the beach at Dieppe, walked through a cratered landscape to the rise at Vimy Ridge, stood in cemetery after cemetery, saying prayers, listening to the piper, laying wreaths at memorials and flowers at graves.



I realized how very little I knew about the First and Second World Wars. Now I appreciate maps that show dividing lines across Europe in WWI – almost static lines in the mud that cost thousands of lives with each advance and retreat. Now I have an appreciation for the monumental military operation that was launched on D-Day, in order to put Allied troops on European soil, to fight the German Army. Having walked through cemeteries of thousands of graves, the cost of the war, in human lives,

makes itself known.

These fallen soldiers were brought to life in our memories, by names being read, stories being told, and pictures shown. And it wasn't just our fellow Canadians enabling this – veterans, family members, historians – the people of the communities we visited remembered. They had their stories to tell, books they had written, museums they had built about Canadian soldiers. We were greeted everywhere with warmth and hospitality.

Sometimes we were offered coffee and cake, sometimes wine and sandwiches, sometimes Calvados, that local 'boisson' that soldiers remember from the battle days in France. We even had a reception on a street in a new subdivision, where all the streets are named after Glens soldiers who died in the liberation of that community. It was an extraordinary opportunity to be on this trip, and a privilege to serve as chaplain.

*A big thank you to the Williamstown and Martintown congregations for giving me the two week leave of absence that enabled me to be part of this tour.*



I think that all of these travels have enriched our lives, and that this will find expression in my ministry with you. It was so very good to

come home to our community and our church families here. Travel is wonderful, but it's even better when you come home to a place that really feels like home.

Speaking of homecoming, Bill will be returning from Sudan on Saturday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, exactly six months from the day he left. We are looking forward to having him home.

Our love to all of you, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Andrea, Bill, Sam & Cody

Following the above messages of inspiration, I am overcoming my writer's block! The following messages or stories come from two more people of our church. They are: Keriann MacNaughton Sequin and Karen Paavila.

## Keriann's Adventure

Keriann took part in one of the major events of the Montreal-Ottawa Conference of the United Church – the Velotour/Byketour. This Velotour began in 2000 under the auspices of the Consistoire Laurentien, the French-speaking Presbytery of the Conference.

This summer was special because Keriann said it was the first time participants came from abroad. Twenty four young people from the l'Eglise Reformée de France representing three congregations from the Drôme Valley arrived in Montreal to join their fellow bikers from Quebec and Ontario.

Keriann reported that the total tour

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completed 620 kilometers with daily excursions of 35 to 80 k. each day. We remember this past summer's rainy days – Keriann was sure that it rained at least 50% of the time!

The tour traveled to Quebec City by the south shore of the St. Lawrence and returned on the north shore. Keriann said she had been assured that the St. Lawrence Valley was flat. As she said, “they encountered crazy hills as they neared Quebec City”. Carrying 20 pounds of baggage in panniers would emphasize those hills!



The south shore journey made use of bike paths which Keriann said made it possible to look around to enjoy the scenery where as the roadways demanded more attention. Passing cars honked and people waved encouragement. The group did not encounter drivers who were oblivious to bikers' space. There were few mishaps: Keriann said there were “a few chains that fell off and one person lost a pedal”.

After all that rain and sleeping in church basements or community centres, Keriann was enthusiastic about the experience and is now making plans for next summer's Velotour which will be in France!! The tour will take 30 young people between the ages of 13 and 18; there is still space, so sign up now

for “An opportunity you won't want to miss”

The costs of next year's tour is to be shared: one third through the sale of the bikes used by the visitors from France; one third from Conference level and one third from the participants and their home churches.

For a life-changing experience for our youth I am sure we will take the challenge to enable Keriann and her friend Merissa Cumming to raise funds for that required “third”.

Watch for your invitation to help.

## Karen's Journey

After years of thinking about the Camino de Compostela de Santiago, I can actually say that I have walked approx. 250 kms of it and find it difficult to believe that it has happened and that I have returned to everyday life, such as it is!

I wouldn't call it a holiday, as it was a difficult and arduous journey. The huge hills in the Pyrenees, the threat of blisters, sore muscles, total exhaustion upon arrival at the destination for the day and then the lack of knowledge as to whether there would be a bed available in the albergue, all made for stressful times.

However, the wonderful fellow travelers we met along the way, the ideal weather we experienced and the fact that we felt that we had a spiritual partner walking beside us along the way, made it a

walk like no other.



Each village had a 12th or 13th century church at its core, and each evening, after a pilgrim supper, there was a pilgrim mass celebrated by the local people and the pilgrims. It was always in Spanish, but often they would name the countries that the pilgrims came from that day, and often we would be invited to the front at the end of the mass for a special pilgrim blessing. Worshipping with people we had met along the way, from all parts of the globe, who spoke many different languages, was very special.

The pilgrims were mainly folk in their 30s and 40s who had quit jobs which were not fulfilling and were seeking an answer to their future employment, and retired folk with time to do something they had longed to do for a long time. The oldest pilgrim was Bob, from California who is 84, and is walking his third Camino! We celebrated with Ruth, from Leipzig, Germany, on her 68th birthday. She had walked from home, leaving in June, and was on her way to the Atlantic Ocean, past Santiago, walking alone. She would cover 3,500 km before finishing in Finisterre! She asked me for my Canadian bandana when I stopped walking in Burgos, and is carrying it to the ocean with

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her. There were 45 of us staying in an old monastery the night of her birthday celebration, and over supper, we all sang Happy Birthday to her in our native language. Quite touching!

The albergues were quite basic: bunk beds placed quite close together and bathroom facilities which barely met the needs of so many people. Usually it was co-op and so you never knew what sex or country of origin your fellow bedmate would be! Hosts of the albergues were volunteers, and certain countries would host certain albergues for two weeks at a time.

Even though the facilities were trying at times, it added to the camaraderie of the experience. Lights off at ten and on at six usually. Everyone quiet as they woke, stretched, and started packing their back pack for the day ahead.

I had a list of people that I wanted to think about as I walked, and found that until we were out of the Pyrenees, I had to concentrate on just putting one foot in front of the other. Afterwards, I would often compose a little song about the person as I walked, my walking sticks beating out the rhythm of the piece. Don't ask me to remember the contents now! I don't know if my thoughts helped anyone, but I do know that I have heard some sad stories of illnesses diagnosed in my absence, and only wish that I could have included them in my prayers and songs. Perhaps I will, in my daily walks with my dog Gus, now that I am back home.

When I got to Santiago, I attended the pilgrim mass, hugged St.

James, and then sat in the pews and watched as many other people climbed the steps behind the altar and gave the apostle a hug from behind, as I had done. It was quite touching to see the arms reach around his neck or pat him on the shoulder. They also lit the huge silver incense burner, and five robed men, using ropes, swung it high over our heads, until it nearly hit the vaulted ceilings of the transepts. It was travelling at quite a speed as it sailed past the main altar on its downward path!

The villages we passed through were lovely, usually very quiet, roses in the small gardens, dogs sleeping in the middle of the streets, and if we were lucky, a cafe open and serving cafe con leche. We could usually see the villages in the distance, up on a hill with the church in the centre. Tiled terra cotta roofs and you have the picture.

I don't know if I shall return to complete the Camino, but I find myself thinking of my fellow pilgrims who are still walking and wondering where they are. I pray that they will have a safe and spiritual end to their journey and that their lives will be touched by their experiences on the Camino, as mine has been.

Karen Paavila

## Turkey Supper

The annual Church Supper will be held this year on November 1 from 4:30 to 7:30. The cost will be \$12 for adults, \$6 for 6-12 years and under 6 free- a good value for an

all-you-can-eat turkey supper. This is the major fundraiser of the year so we depend on everyone supplying the food donations for which they are asked so that all monies possible can go to the church. We also depend on help in serving, pouring, washing up etc. Sue Henssen will be organizing the kitchen, Cathy MacKay the servers and pourers and Bruce Overbury and Pat Larkin the clean up crew so please say yes when they call. There will also be take out available.

There will be a bake table in the vestry. Contributions of candy, pies, preserves, loaves etc are greatly appreciated.

We would also appreciate any help setting up on Thursday evening, October 30 at 7 p.m.

**P.S:** Have you been asked to make a jellied salad or cook turnips/potatoes for the church supper and cannot find the bowl or pot? Maybe you never picked it up after last year's supper – there are a few extra ones in the hall kitchen. Please mark bowls pots etc with adhesive tape, marker pen or nail polish.



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## Service Schedule

**October 12: Thanksgiving Sunday** Worship Leader: Rev. Andrea Harrison

Outreach: Bring non-perishable foods

**October 19:** Worship led by Rev. Andrea Harrison

There will be Sunday School for the Martintown children with Patti Carson.

**October 26:** Worship led by Lorna McKendry

**November 1:** Worship led by Rev. Andrea Harrison. ("Fall-Back Sunday" – clocks have gone back an hour)

**November 8:** Worship led by Rev. Andrea Harrison. Remembrance Sunday

## Church Meetings

**October 14: Williamstown Session Meeting Irvine Hall, 7:30 pm**

**October 18 – Pastoral Care Training Day: with Verna Nuthall at Irvine Hall: 9:30 to 4:00**

This will be the final day of our Pastoral Care course. Those who have been on course from the beginning will receive certificates indicating their accomplishment.

The final study includes the following topics: aging; caring for the caregivers: caring for ourselves.

If you haven't been with the course from its beginning, Karen emphasizes that you are welcome to attend to learn and show your interest.

For more information, contact Karen Paavila.

## October 21: Martintown Session Meeting

## Community Events:

**October 24th OR 25th: Halloween Movie Night for Rotation Sunday School and Friends**

**Irvine Hall:** Check with Jennifer Lafave (613 347 3847) for the latest on details.

Come with Mom and Dad for Halloween fun. Try out the costumes in preparation for the trick or treat night.

## October 25 Fundraising for the McNaughton Family of Martintown

On Saturday, October 25 at 8 pm at the Williamstown Arena (South Glengarry Recreation Centre)

Dance, with music and entertainment provided by the Roadhouse Dancers. Silent Auction. Do come with your donations to help this family of our community!

## Membership Sunday

Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> was Membership Sunday. This service provided an opportunity for folks to officially become members of St. Andrew's through profession of faith and/or transfer of membership. What a response to this invitation!

The following people participated on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Alison Buchanan
- Tina Cairncross
- Joyce Lewis
- Jim Lewis
- Christine Matt
- Theresa MacDonald
- Lorna McKendry
- Jason Robinson
- Adele Bissonette
- Kathi LeGault

Congratulations to you all!

There are still a fair number of individuals who have expressed interest in becoming "members" of St. Andrew's United Church who were unable to be at church on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stay tuned for more information.

## Over-the-Summer-Happenings

Those lights that illumined our church hall on August evenings marked the presence of visitors "from away".

A sign of a church that is ready to help the whole community was duly demonstrated when a group of young people from France visited Williamstown and were able to stay in our Irvine Hall. The

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sponsors for the visitors were young women from our Williamstown Fair Board, Tara MacRae and Margo Poirier. They thank us for our support.

## Babes and Brides

Although space allows, an update on baptisms and weddings will have to wait for our next edition.

## Rotation Sunday School

Our students in Irvine Hall are finishing their activities in hands-on –learning associated with the story of Abraham and Sarah.

The children made ‘star’ and ‘people’ cookies to represent the story.. A fat snowman cookie for pregnant Sarah and the stars to represent the sons of Abraham

One of the sacred symbols of Judaism: the prayer shawls or stolls were also made.

Many of us were transported back in time when we saw a Punch and Judy puppet theatre set up in Irvine Hall. A magical donation of charming masks has appeared to further inspire the thespians.

## Presbytery Fair

Wasn't that a party! The Church Fair. We sure are "Alive and Kicking!!!"

Most of the Pastoral Charges and nearly 200 people attended the “Alive and Kicking” fair held in Chesterville Fair Grounds on October 5<sup>th</sup>. What a turn out for a

first-time unknown event!

The numerous Church Displays were extremely well done and all those who worked so hard to put them together deserve our collective vote of thanks.

The above is taken from an e-mail from the secretary of Seaway Presbytery.

We must pay special tribute to those who made the contribution from Williamstown. Thanks to Sandra, Shelley and Jay who “lugged” the stuff up there. Pat Larkin and Andrea did the honours for the return trip. Thanks to Susan Edwards who over saw the making of a display board to complete our “booth” at The Fair. Our friend Rev. Doug MacKay really appreciated the shortbread, Sandra.

The evening Worship Service was a hi-lite of the Fair. For those of us from Williamstown it was a joy to see and hear Rev. Wendy-Wright MacKenzie who acted as the co-worship leader.

All in all, it can be said without a doubt, that the 2008 Seaway Valley Presbytery Fall Fair was a huge success.

## Musing and Perusing

I check out other church newsletters – to compare and get ideas. It could happen that our entire format might change as I get bored when things stay the same too long.

A friend's newsletter - St.David's United of Woodstock, Ontario pronounces the importance of the warm and comfortable atmosphere in their church with the headline, Found It: “Padded Pews that is!

We too have invested in some warmth with our padded pews.

## Happy Thanksgiving

Depending on how efficient we are – we hope your thanksgiving is great or was great!

