



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Herald

August 2010

Something to Behold

By Rev. Barb McGale

I had my first taste of the Strawberry Festival this year. Although I was at the event for a short time last summer, it was hard to observe much through the pouring rain. What I witnessed this year was nothing short of amazing.

I saw a group of people working together as a team. No one booth or room was more important than another. I saw people pitching in where needed, offering a hand when they could, sharing a smile when they were run off their feet. I

saw Paul's image of the "body of Christ" in action. Everyone was so busy, there was so much to do, and yet the event ran like a well-oiled machine. I congratulate those of you who worked at this year's festival. At a time filled with stress and



Inside

Ask Barb.....	2
Upcoming.....	3
Sunday school will miss their special gifts.....	5
Visitation and visioning...6	
Healing.....	6
Congregational picnic.....7	
Presbyterians in action...9	
Fall drive for Newark.....10	
Thomas.....	10
Women's Fellowship.....11	
Give thanks.....	12
'Pied' pipers.....	13
Church refurbishment...14	
Strawberry Festival.....15	
In the news.....	17
Merriment at the manse.....	18
Alpha and marriage courses.....	19
Family album.....	20



From left, the team of Lois Kurtz, David Parker, Elisabeth MacIntyre, Bonnie Retzik and Jodie Godwin "rocked" in the pies section.

Something to behold *(cont'd)*

the need to perform, what was most obvious to me was the love of Christ. I saw it everywhere I went. Maybe you felt like pulling out your hair or speaking curtly to a difficult customer, but instead, you offered a smile and good wishes for the day.

I know the festival is an important fundraiser for the congregation and we have come to depend on the income. However, it seems to me that this event is also an important fun-raiser for St. Andrew's and I am thankful to have been involved. Truly this was something to behold.



Barb and Sammy Parker 'warmed up' serving drinks at the Strawberry Festival. Barb helped out in a number of sections during the day.

Ask Barb

By Rev. Barb McGale

Which books in the Bible (one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament) are your favourites and why? ...Michelle Machazire

Well, Michelle, that may be one of the easiest questions I have to answer in this column. There is no doubt in my mind that my favourite books of the Bible are Isaiah and John.

Isaiah

Isaiah covers the gamut of God's interaction with His people. We find the most amazing description of God's majesty in Isaiah 6. It gives me chills to read it. We are reminded of the need for obedience because God is so much greater than the humans He created. The book of Isaiah brought a word of warning to a disobedient people as God sought to bring them back into relationship with Him. When that warning fell on deaf ears, the

nation of Judah was destroyed, reminding us that there are consequences to our decisions. And finally, a word of comfort was brought to a people in despair. Although their problems were of their own making, the people of Judah were reminded of God's infinite love and His willingness to forgive when people repent. I often hear those words echoing in my own life and my own walk with the Lord.

John

I have a fondness for John because it seems to me to be the theological explanation of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). In the Synoptics we tend to read accounts of Jesus' words and

actions. John provides the explanation. In John 20:30-31, we find the reason the book was written: "That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." That seems like the logical place to end. However, God often acts in surprising ways and this book is no exception for at the end we find the reinstatement of Peter. Although he denied Jesus three times, Peter was forgiven and not only reinstated as a disciple, but given a mission for the Lord. Just like in Isaiah, we see the grace of God. When we repent, we are forgiven, restored, and allowed to serve our Lord.

God is too awesome for words!

Upcoming

Sunday, Sept. 5

Presbyterians Sharing Sunday

Weekly worship service begins at 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 7

Session meeting

7 p.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 8

Monthly Women's Fellowship meetings resume

1 p.m., Kirk Hall

Thursday, Sept. 9

Weekly choir practice resumes

Church, 7 p.m.

Sunday school teachers meeting

7 p.m., Kirk Hall

Saturday, Sept. 11

Newark Neighbours collection

10 a.m. – noon, Kirk Hall

Sunday, Sept. 12

Weekly Sunday bible studies resume under the direction of Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Rally Sunday

Sunday school resumes

BBQ

After church, Kirk Hall or grounds (weather permitting)

Hamburgers and hotdogs supplied by Sunday school

Newark Neighbours collection

After church, Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 14

Monthly Tri-M meetings resume

(Second Tuesday of the month)

7:00 p.m. for 7:30 p.m.

Guest speaker: David Eke, a member of the congregation and a candidate for mayor in the upcoming municipal election.

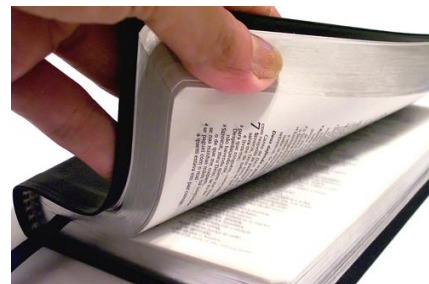


Wednesday, Sept. 15

Wednesday afternoon Bible studies resume under the direction of Rev. Barb McGale

Every week, except second Wednesday of the month

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall



Sunday, Sept. 19

Anniversary Sunday

Sunday bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 21

Monthly Board of Manager's meetings resume

(Third Tuesday of the month)

7 p.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 22

Bible Study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Sept. 26

Bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Bible study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Oct. 3

World Communion Sunday

Bible study

9:30, Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Bible study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Saturday, Oct. 9

Decorating church windows for Thanksgiving

10 a.m. to noon, church

Upcoming *(cont'd)*

Sunday, Oct. 10

Thanksgiving Sunday,

Bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 12

Tri-M meeting

7:00 for 7:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 13

Women's Fellowship

1 p.m., Kirk hall

Saturday, Oct. 16

Visioning Day

Time to be announced, Kirk Hall

Sunday, Oct. 17

Bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 19

Board of Managers meeting

7 p.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Bible study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Oct. 24

Bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 27

Bible Study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Oct. 31

Reformation Sunday

Bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Session meeting

7 p.m., Kirk Hall



Wednesday, Nov. 3

Bible Study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Nov. 7

Bible study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Remembrance Day service

The Herald deadline

Tuesday, Nov. 9

Tri-M meeting

7 p.m. for 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Women's Fellowship

1 p.m., Kirk Hall

Thursday, Nov. 11

Remembrance Day

Sunday, Nov. 14

Bible Study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 16

Board of Managers meeting

7 p.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 17

Bible Study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Nov. 21

Christ the King Sunday

Bible Study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Bible study

1:30 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Nov. 28

First Sunday of Advent

Bible Study

9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Joint Board/Session meeting

7 p.m., Kirk Hall

Saturday, Dec. 4

Festive Fare

9 a.m. – noon, Kirk Hall

Sunday school will miss their special gifts

By Lynn Lingard

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ...Peter 4:10-11

We at St. Andrew's are saddened to say goodbye to several of our Sunday school teachers who have guided our youth for many years. We thank God for their service, but they will be sorely missed.

Kathleen Tunmer has resigned as our Sunday School Superintendent after three years of dedicated service. Before becoming the superintendent, she taught the primary-aged children for more than 10 years. We will certainly miss her guidance, organizational skills and her wonderful lunches!

Michelle Machazire has taught in the Sunday school for the last three years. She was a kindergarten

teacher in Alabama and brought with her an incredible ability to relate to her students. She is now concentrating her efforts on getting into the teaching field in Ontario, and we wish her all the best.

Matthew Lingard has been teaching Sunday school at St. Andrew's since he was in grade 12, six years ago. He taught our grades 7, 8 and 9. After finishing his Concurrent Education degree at Brock, he is now off to the University of Toronto to do a Master's of Theology. Thank you Matthew for your amazing commitment.

Claudia Dettenmeir has been with the Sunday school for the past

three years. She brought with her extraordinary skills as an early childhood educator. She is seeking employment in Toronto this September and we wish her the best as she advances in her career.

New volunteers?

We are looking forward to welcoming new volunteers for the Sunday school, or the nursery. Please consider using your special gifts in these areas. If you think you might be interested, we invite you to attend our first Sunday school teachers meeting on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Hall. For further information, contact Julie Hunter at 905-468-5233, or myself at 905-468-4780.

This year's recipients of the Margaret Hunter Award for perfect Sunday school attendance were Leah and Sam Parker. The recipients for 75 percent attendance were Nicole, Alex and Rachel Aitken, as well as Dinah, Daphne and Nico van Egmond. Doug Hunter, presented the awards. At right, Kathleen Tunmer, retiring Sunday School superintendent.



Visitation *and* Visioning

By Lynn Lingard

Hello everyone! It has been a wonderful summer. I hope yours has been filled with family, friends, and relaxation.

The Session will be returning to its regular meetings on Sept. 7, and we are looking forward to a busy fall at St. Andrew's. The "Every Home Visitation" will take place and we have planned another visioning day. On Saturday, Oct. 16, Rev. David Lewis will meet in the Kirk Hall with our congregation to

facilitate the development of a vision statement for the congregation. We will be covering such topics as worship, organization, outreach, leadership, youth, and any other issues you might want to discuss. Please put this very important date on your calendar. We are a truly blessed community of be-

lievers, so it is our responsibility to focus on our mission and how it serves its purpose in the community.

God bless.

Lynn is Clerk of Session.

Healing

By Jack Challis

The matter of miracles and healing leave many questions in my mind.

I have trouble accepting the obvious interpretations and meaning behind some of them. My engineering training, with the emphasis on the practical approach, no doubt accounts in part for my religious beliefs, but there are aspects that concern me at a deeper level. There is too much of the magic wand about some interpretations. A prime example is the recounting of the episode of the loaves and fishes. Did Jesus miraculously produce enough food for the multitude from nothing more than a small boy's rations? I believe that Christ, through the generous act of the boy, opened the hearts and the baskets of many people in the crowd to share their own food with their neighbours—perhaps a greater miracle!

The miracles of healing, even restoring life, are more of a mystery, not easily explained. Jesus'

words "your faith has made you whole" lie at the foundation of understanding these miracles. These are very profound questions beyond my poor understanding.

I have reflected on these questions since my hip operation in April—hardly life threatening compared to medical problems others in the congregation have faced. The operation went well, thanks to the God-given skills of the surgeon and nursing staff at Greater Niagara General Hospital, with recovery assured by a persistent, demanding physiotherapist, Lyne, and the help of the Community Care Access Centre.

The response from my church, the gift of a plant and personal visit and prayer from Debbie, a visit and personal prayer from Barb McGale, get well greetings for me and Barbara from the Women's Fellowship



and the sense of support from friends in the congregation all contributed to my healing. For this I am grateful and say thank you with all my heart.

Congregational picnic 2010



(cont'd on page 8)

Congregational picnic (cont'd)



Presbyterians Sharing

Presbyterians in Action

By Ian Ness

We are in this together for we are God's servants working together.

As Presbyterians, we are privileged to share in a very wide range of ministries from sending mission personnel to work with international partners to supporting new church development and inner city, native, refugee, remote and chaplaincy ministries right here in Canada. The scope takes my breath away!

International – Guatemala

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Denise Van Wissen, a nutritionist working with the *Fraternidad de Presbiterials Mayas* in Guatemala. Denise offers basic nutrition education workshops to women's groups and works with a group of nutrition promoters to further education efforts in health and nutrition. Denise deeply appreciates the richness of Guatemalan culture and gives thanks to God for the privilege of working with and serving the Mayan women.

Canada – Inner city, Hamilton

Our gifts also support the Hamilton Inner City Outreach Ministry at St. David's Presbyterian

Church. This ministry reaches out to children, youth and families in need in Hamilton's downtown core. Its Discovery Club offers children between the ages of six and 13 a wide variety of new experiences, including singing, cooking, drama, crafts, carpentry and exposure to guest speakers. Importantly, it is a



safe place where children can feel they are part of a community, share a meal together (for some it may be their only meal of the day) and find someone who will listen to them. This vital ministry provides hope for a better future to those who

otherwise would be living without hope.

These are but two examples of *Presbyterians Sharing* in action.

We are pledged to give \$20,000 to *Presbyterians Sharing* for this year and to the end of July, we have remitted to Toronto the sum of \$10,443. At the present rate of donations, St. Andrew's will not reach its target. Ouch!

Session in prior years has always covered any shortfall in our collections to ensure we remitted our pledged figure. The shortfall in 2009 was \$771. Let us not have to follow that route for 2010 and future years.

That is our challenge, which we are privileged to meet as *Presbyterians Sharing*. Let us rise to the occasion, St. Andrew's, in keeping with our rich history of reaching out to others.

After all, it is who we are and what we do!

Part of Denise Van Wissen's work involves educating mothers for healthy pregnancies and babies.

Fall drive *for* Newark Neighbours

By Don Laird

It is time to think about our fall collection for Newark Neighbours.

We have been doing this for a number of years now and St. Andrew's is Newark's main source for toiletries, which Brenda and her helpers really appreciate. Dried or canned foods are acceptable too.

Our church has been most generous in the past and I trust this will continue.

Unfortunately, I will be away leading up to Thanksgiving, so I would like to do the collection on **Saturday, Sept. 11, between 10 a.m. and noon and before and after the service on Sunday, Sept. 12 in the church hall.**

Newark Neighbours is a registered charity and can give tax receipts.

Some people might find it more convenient to put a few dollars in an envelope. Receipts are issued for \$10 and more. All donations will be gratefully received.

Thank you and God bless.

Thomas

By Margaret McQueen

Searching the streets of Jerusalem
All his favourite ways,
John's house, Mary's house, Matthew's house
He knew in happier days.

Sick and in need of care
Balm for his hands and head,
Away from the angry crowd
From those who would see him dead.

Take him away from pain
Where desert flowers bloom,
But only an empty echo
Only a fear-filled room.

There Thomas found his saviour
And proclaimed in accent broad,
A testament for a doubting world
"My Lord and my God."



The oil painting "Doubting Thomas" by Italian artist Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1573-1610).

Margaret writes further, "In the April issue of the Presbyterian Record, there is an intriguing article, written by Dr. Laurence De Wolfe, suggesting why Thomas was not with the other disciples behind locked doors. His theory is that Thomas was out looking for Jesus on Jerusalem's streets. Doesn't that catch the imagination? It would seem very plausible to me. Wherever Thomas was, we acknowledge he identified Jesus in the assuring words, "My Lord and my God!" Doubting Thomas gave to a doubting world the affirmation it seeks."

Women's Fellowship

By Barb Nattress

The Women's Fellowship has enjoyed a summer respite and is ready to begin a fresh start in September. Our first meeting will be Sept. 8 at 1 p.m. in the Kirk Hall. All women are welcome to attend.

We really appreciated members of the congregation helping us this summer with refreshments after church. It has given us a short break while continuing the fellowship time after church. A big thank you to all who helped. It really is easy isn't it?

Last June for our final meeting we went to the Queen Charlotte Tea Room in Niagara Falls for high tea. It was a lovely and delicious end to the year.

We are now gearing up for more lunches for visiting groups and of course for The Festive Fare on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Kirk Hall. We hope to have lots of baking and treasures to sell as well as jam and flowers. Watch for more information on this later.

Once again, thanks to everyone who helped us through the summer.

Barb is the President of Women's Fellowship.



Enjoying the Tea Room last June 9: top, from left, Anne Bittersohl, Shirley Eustace and Fiona Macleod; centre, from left, Jean Cochrane, Evelyn Nelson and Christine Dyck; bottom, from left, Joyce Dineley, Doris Laverick, Nancy Burns and Ruth Hunter. More photos on page 12.

Women's Fellowship *(cont'd)*



Among those attending the June high tea, were: above, left, a guest, Betty Ferguson and Helen McLeish; top right, Barb Nattress and Beth Alma; and left, Helen Dawson, Bonnie Tarnowski and a guest.

Decorate a window to **give thanks**

By Debbie Eke

Thanksgiving will be here soon. What an incredibly beautiful season.

We are once again looking for helpers to decorate the eight church windows.

If you would like to volunteer to decorate a window, or have questions or concerns, please call me at 905-468-7320.

The possibilities for decorating windows are only limited by your imagination. You may choose whatever you wish to decorate with. It's up to you. We all have so much to be thankful for.

The church will be open on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon for decorating.



The 'pied' pipers



Making turkey pies for the Strawberry Festival. Photos clockwise, Bob and Ruth Hunter with Ken Willms and Robert Cleary on the production line; Ken slicing and dicing; Robert and Fiona (time out for a hug); Fiona with Marsha Scott, working on the final count; and Mary Willms ready to "fill 'em up".

Church refurbishment

By Marsha Scott

“Our church buildings stand as reminders of the Lord’s presence in our lives,” said Rev. Barb in the last newsletter. As I checked out the scaffolding around the church this week, it reminded me of a stairway to Heaven. Well, maybe not, but I’ll tell you that scaffolding is mighty high.

According to Ken Willms, the Board of Managers is pleased with the progress and workmanship of our restoration contractors and expects that the window and steeple projects will be completed by mid-September.

He said that the building committee will submit an up-to-date report of the scope and expenses of the project to the Board of Managers at the board’s September meeting.

As head of church renovations, Doug Dineley says that the board wants to begin additional work on the front of the church (refurbishing and restoring its face and columns); however, approval will depend on additional funding and the success of the fundraising campaign ahead.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can use the gifts God has given you (financial and otherwise) to help raise the funds we need to preserve our church buildings for the next generation.

WHAT CODE VIOLATIONS?



Strawberry Festival 2010



(cont'd on page 16)

Strawberry Festival *(cont'd)*



In the news

By Marsha Scott

It's been a long time coming, but finally, on July 1, the recreational trail between Old Town and Virgil, running parallel to Niagara Stone Road, was opened officially. And honoured on the occasion was the man who turned the vision of the trail into reality, former town clerk and councillor **Bob Howse. Bob passed away two years ago from cancer, but wife Nancy continues to attend St. Andrew's, along with family members.**

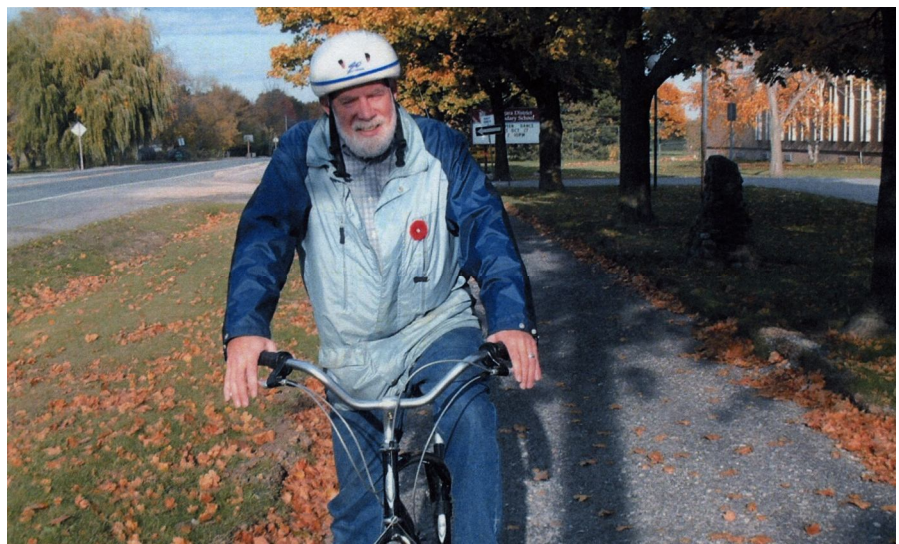
A plaque, dedicating the recreational trail in his name, sits between two benches in front of the Niagara United Mennonite Church. Nancy and family members attended the plaque unveiling.

"I feel the trail keeps my dad's memory alive to me and our family," says daughter Lynn van Egmond. "My dad and whole family have always tried to be involved in the community. The trail is a reminder of that."

Every time she sees the trail, Lynn says, she takes pride in the fact that her family keeps that section of the trail clean. "We take out our garbage bag and pick up any rubbish." It's like adopting a part of the highway.

The trail is now used extensively by pedestrians, cyclists and rollerbladers. Begun in 2005, construction was completed in phases.

"Bob Howse was ahead of most politicians when he talked about connecting the Old Town and Virgil," said Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs during the official dedication. "And he wouldn't let it go."



According to MPP Kim Craiton, [Bob] "left us a legacy. He was the driving force behind this trail—he saw it as a metaphor for uniting the communities of the Old Town and Virgil, and he was right."

Janice Thomson

In August, St. Andrew's elder Janice Thomson—who is already executive director of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce—was appointed as the Niagara Parks Commission's vice chair.

Janice has also chaired the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, is a member of the Committee of Adjustment for the Town, treasurer of the

Niagara-on-the-Lake Physician Recruitment Committee and is the director and secretary of the Niagara Foundation.

In a press release, NPC chair Fay Booker said "Janice brings a wealth of experience and a great perspective to the Commission, gained through her years of residency in the Niagara Region, her experience in the tourism and business communities and her governance experience in publicly accountable organizations. Her skill sets, knowledge, perspectives and commitment are ideally suited to NPC and this position specifically." Janice was unavailable for comment at printing time.

Merriment at the manse

Rev. Barb completed her first year of ministry at St. Andrew's on June 30. To mark the occasion and in celebration of the Lord's goodness to us, our commitment to Him and our support of her, she invited the congregation to the manse on June 26, where we ate, drank and were merry!



Alpha and Marriage courses

By Marsha Scott

“Many individuals have grown in their faith, and couples have been encouraged and challenged in their marriages. It is exciting to see people from our congregations, as well as others from the community with little or no church background, being exposed to the Niagara-on-the-Lake churches’ collective desire to help them in practical ways. Our prayer is that their marriages would be enriched and that their curiosity for God would be kindled.”

Alf and Kathy Guenther and Ken and Sally Enns are again preparing to launch the fall session of the Alpha and Marriage courses. The courses this year will be held at Bethany Mennonite Church, beginning Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 572 East and West Line in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As Geof and I have taken both of these courses, we can testify to their value as stated in the opening paragraph.

The courses, held every Monday (except for Thanksgiving Day Oct. 11) begin with a shared meal and fellowship. Then groups break off into their course of choice.

St. Andrew’s has participated in this valuable outreach program for several years, at times hosting, providing child care and preparing meals.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course includes an intriguing video talk and a small group discussion. For more information, visit www.alphacanada.org.



Alpha

**St. Andrew's
Presbyterian
Church**

323 Simcoe St.
PO Box 441
Niagara-on-the-Lake
L0S 1J0

Regular Office Hours

Tuesday -Friday mornings
905-468-3363

www.standrewsniagara.com

Minister

Rev. Barb McGale
barbmcgale@standrewsniagara.com

Clerk of Session

Lynn Lingard

Organist and Choir

Director

Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra

Secretary

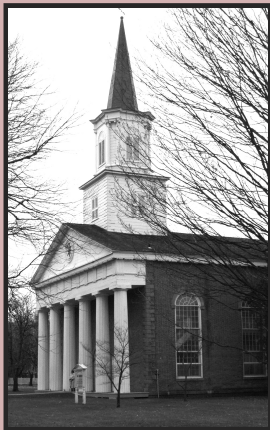
Kathy Hunter

Editor

Marsha Scott

905-468-9371

marshascott@cogeco.ca



Family album



We finally have a beautiful photo of Wendy Fraser and her latest granddaughter, Isla Elizabeth Fraser. Isla is the daughter of Wendy's son Kevin and his wife Jen, from Markham. Isla was born last Nov. 21.



Introducing Grace Morgan Llewellyn, born June 8 of this year. She's the daughter of Ashley and Christopher Llewellyn of Oakville, is a sister for Owen and a granddaughter for Jim and Pat Caldwell. Grammie claims she combs Grace's hair all the time and will attempt a French braid when she's three months old. Pat says she looks just like Ashley.