



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

The Herald

December 2008

Inside

Message from our Interim Moderator



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By Rev. Martin Wehrmann

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the saints at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

It is always good to receive reports from your elders and friends that things are well at St. Andrew's. You know this better than I do as I usually spend time with my St. Catharine's congregation on Sunday mornings. However, I am often in your midst for leadership meetings and of course, for the Search Committee meetings. I am very pleased

about the reports I hear and about the progress I see being made at the manse too.

You are probably eagerly awaiting news about how we are doing in searching for a new minister. I leave the actual report to the Search Committee, but I can say with all honesty how impressed I am with the quality and number of applicants and the professionalism of your committee in screening them. We are very confident that God will soon lead us to



Rev. Wehrmann and wife Nancy enjoyed the Bangers and Mash dinner Nov. 24, while Debbie Hunter provided service with a smile.

Message from our Interim Moderator *(cont'd from page 1)*

the right candidate so that she/he may be presented to you for your consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to everyone who has filled the pulpit in 2008. May God continue to give you a passion for preaching and worship as we approach a new year.

The other exciting process we are involved in is the elder election. I'm so very pleased that sufficient candidates have agreed to stand for election! I wish to encourage you, the congregation, to vote in full numbers to show the Session that you

stand solidly behind your elders. Even when you have enough elders, managers, church school teachers, study and group leaders, please always consider responding positively and doing your part. Everyone in the congregation is important and may be called on for some help from time to time. We practise a ministry of all believers.

As December approaches and Advent begins, our thoughts will also be upon the coming (advent) of our Lord Jesus as Incarnate God. Special services, music and concerts are being planned for our personal spiritual preparation for the Christ-

mas celebration. Participate, enjoy, support. Thank you to the choir, Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra and church school teachers! Thank you everyone who makes a special effort for the church when family also demands more of us at this time of year.

May God be welcomed and celebrated in your home. If alone, spend some time with good friends. May the richest blessings of God enter every heart.

Peace on earth. Peace in our Church. Peace in every home.

Thanksgiving Sunday



Evelyn Campbell admires a church window that was decorated beautifully by Wayne and Nancy Burns for Thanksgiving Sunday. Thanks to Wayne and Nancy, as well as Joyce Dineley, Ron and Betty Ferguson, Nancy Howse, Phil and Elaine Landray, the Lingard family, Helen and Sheila McLeish and Sarah (Eke) Pillitteri for their creative displays.

Upcoming

Sunday, Nov. 30

First Sunday of Advent, World AIDS Sunday

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher: Rev. Gordon Hastings*

Sunday school: Assembly Sunday for birthday celebration and fellowship. Readings to be assigned for the Dec. 14 service.

Bible Study every Sunday before church service, 9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall. Babysitting available if needed.

A festival of advent carols and lessons. Addison Chorale at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Session meeting, 7:15 p.m. in the Kirk Hall

Thursday, Dec. 4

Choir practice. Choir is held every Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the church. New members welcome.

Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 Rotary Holiday House Tour.

Women's Fellowship will serve lunches in the Kirk Hall. Tours will be conducted in the church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days.

Sunday, Dec. 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship service: 11 a.m. Ordination of elders. *Guest preacher: Interim Moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann*

Sunday school: Play practice for the pageant. Teachers' meeting following the service.

Advent and Christmas Concert. St. Andrew's choir, the Cantata Singers and Collegium Musicum Male Chorus. St. Andrew's at 7:30 p.m.



Tuesday, Dec. 9

Last Tri-M meeting of the year. Pot luck. Guests welcome. 7 p.m. for 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Women's Fellowship, 1 p.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, Dec. 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship service: 11 a.m. *No guest preacher.* Sunday school play. The children will do a series of readings and songs.

Sunday school: The service will be followed by the Sunday school Christmas party and a visit from Father Christmas in the Kirk Hall. A light luncheon will be served. Everyone is welcome to celebrate.

Rotary International's eighth annual Christmas Choral evening.

7 p.m. Shaw Festival Theatre. Tickets available from David Nattress and Ron Ferguson.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Board of Managers meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Kirk Hall

Sunday, Dec. 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. Gordon Hastings*

Sunday school: The children will celebrate the coming of baby Jesus with a baby Jesus birthday party.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve worship service at 7 p.m. *Guest preacher: Rev. John Kurtz.* The children will take part in the worship service. If you are interested in reading this night, please contact Lynn Lingard at church or at 905-262-4780.

Thursday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day. Although there is no worship service at St. Andrew's, everyone is welcome to attend the worship service at Scottlea Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. John Kurtz*

Sunday school: This will be a film

(Cont'd on page 4)

Upcoming (cont'd from page 3)

day for the children in the Kirk Hall, as many of our members are away visiting family and friends.

Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. Suzanne Rescorl*

Sunday, Jan. 11

Worship service: 11 a.m. Communion Sunday. *Guest preacher Interim Moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann*

Monday, Jan. 12

2009 Strawberry Festival meeting, Kirk Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Year-end reports due to church secretary Kathy Hunter.

Saturday, Jan. 17 and Sunday, Jan. 18

Newark Neighbours collection.

10 a.m. to noon Saturday; before and after church Sunday at the Kirk Hall.

Sunday, Jan. 18

Begins Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest speaker Mrs. Elaine Anderson (student)*

Sunday, Jan. 25

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. Suzanne Rescorl*

Sunday, March 9

Next Herald copy deadline. Please send submissions to Marsha Scott at marshascott@cogeco.ca, or drop your submission into the **Herald** box on top of the piano in the Kirk Hall.

Saturday, June 20

2009 Strawberry Festival

Don't be late for this very important date

By Kathy Hunter

Calling all committee chairs: You probably hate to hear it, but it's that time again. It's time to get those 2008 year-end committee reports in. The deadline is Jan. 15, 2009. (Of course, that doesn't mean that you can't drop them off sooner!)

I would really appreciate your cooperation in submitting the reports on time. I am hoping to have the annual year-end report ready for the congregation by Sunday, Jan. 18, so members and adherents have time to review it before our annual general meeting.

Committee reports should be typed and dropped off at the Kirk Hall office, or given to me at church. Reports not submitted on time may be left out of the annual report. Don't take that chance. Your reports are important to our congregation.

Thanks so much in advance for your help.

Helping others in the community

By Kathleen Tunmer

This year, we are asking our children and anyone in our congregation who wants to help out for donations of peanut butter, coffee, tea and boxes of cereal for struggling neighbours in our community.

The Sunday school will accept donations until Dec. 21.

I would like to wish everyone a very joyous Christmas season filled with family, friends, food and of course, fun.

Editor's note: Kathleen's original report was longer; however, all of the information has been inserted in "Upcoming" on pages 3 and 4.

Kathleen is our Sunday school superintendent



New members

We welcomed four new members into our church family on Nov. 9. If you haven't already met them, we introduce them to you here.

Doug and Katie Bannermann

Doug and Katie, 37 Shaw's Lane, were simply fed up with Toronto when they moved to Niagara-on-Lake in 2001.

They say their Scottish ancestry drew them to St. Andrew's. (They had attended Timothy Eaton United Church in Toronto.) It helped that they knew the "very friendly" Pat and Jim Caldwell and thought interim moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann was great.

You won't be seeing much of Doug and Katie until mid-April, however. They are snow birds who have flown the coop to Marco Island in Florida, where they have a second home.

They will spend their time in Florida working on their golf, playing tennis and swimming. They don't have a car there, so they will be walking or biking everywhere.

The pair are fitness buffs, and working out in the Vintage Inns gyms is a pivotal part of their day when here. Katie taught at Niagara Falls Collegiate and at the senior elementary level. She was a guidance counsellor for 20 years and taught physical education at NFC. Doug retired from the venture capital business—"more venture, less capital", he quips.

Katie has joined the Newcomers Club in town and both are members of the Shaw Festival.

Robert Cleary and Fiona Macleod

It didn't take Robert and Fiona long to make friends at St. Andrew's. They seem to have claimed "a table" in the church hall after service on Sundays and attended our recent

Bangers and Mash dinner.

Their introduction to St. Andrew's was at the Strawberry Festival, and they enjoyed it so much that they eventually started attending worship services. "We have found the services spiritually uplifting and really enjoy the music," they say. "We were also warmly welcomed by several members."

Robert and Fiona also go to Florida for the winter. The rest of the year, they live in "The Vineyards" subdivi-

sion in Virgil. After retiring six years ago, they moved here from Ajax.

The two have no children, but have no trouble filling their time. They both like sailing, although they don't have a boat right now. And they say they are "fairly new golfers" and enjoy their garden.

"We have been looking for a church for a long time," says Robert. "We feel we are at home at St. Andrew's."



Katie and Doug Bannermann



Fiona MacLeod and Robert Cleary

Advent and Christmas Concert



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 7

7:30 p.m.

The evening includes Advent and Christmas anthems, spirituals, as well as congregational carol singing, accompanied by organ and trumpets.

Participating choirs:

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Choir

Cantata Singers of St. Catharines

Collegium Musicum Male Chorus

Under the direction of Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra

Free-will offering

Refreshments served

Search Committee update

By Marsha Scott

While browsing the Web the other day, I came across *Presbyterians Today Magazine* and an article by Rev. Jack Rogers, a professor of theology emeritus at San Francisco Theological Seminary and moderator of the 213th General Assembly (2001) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The article was called, "*How Presbyterians make decisions*" and underneath the title was the sub-head: "We listen to each other—and to the Bible and the church's constitution."

Rev. Rogers was referring to the struggle of the Presbyterian Church with enormous moral questions. But his article brought to mind the work of our Search Committee in this past year. On Dec. 13, 2007, St. Andrew's Search Committee met for the first time to begin the process to find a new minister for our congregation. I think that many of us thought the process would be much quicker. After all, how hard can looking for a minister be? (Tongue in cheek!)

Well, we can assure you it is very hard. It requires patience, prayer and a willingness to listen to each other.

Rev. Rogers says in his article, "Presbyterians are not do-it-yourselfers. We make decisions as a community. This is a way of living out the Biblical notion that God has created a covenant community." Certainly, search committee members listen to

each other, believing (as Mr. Rogers says) that God speaks in the community of the church. Eventually, we will make a recommendation to you, the congregation, and you will make your decision.

Rev. Rogers says Presbyterians believe that the best decisions are made when the broadest possible representation of our diversity participates. Our search committee now has nine members (since the departure of Richard Blaine for the United States), guided by Interim Moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann. It is comprised of elders, board members, committee members, Sunday school teachers, choir members. Members are male and female, young and not-so-young. And we represent you, a diverse church community.

Presbyterians do not just pull ideas out of the air, adds Rev. Rogers. "Our system of government enables an orderly process of discerning the will of God in which everyone participates." Indeed, in every decision, the search committee has tried to discern the will of God and how it should be applied to the complex choices we have to make. We have also followed every step of the official process 'by the book'.

Where does this lead us? Just recently, we received an additional 15 applications.



Committee chair, Pat Caldwell, says, "We are excited to report that we have reviewed applications, videos and references of several candidates who look promising. We have viewed, listened to and read sermons."

In spite of the hard work, it is a privilege to serve on your search committee.

In Pat's words, "It is amazing to see God's hand at work in all of this. We continue to lean on Him as He guides us onward."

Looking for ushers

Can you volunteer to be an usher at Sunday services in 2009?

There's nothing to it. All you have to know is where everyone sits every Sunday! Just kidding.

Seriously, we are in need of some ushers to fill out next year's roster. A commitment consists of four Sundays.

"It's a nice job," assures Jenny Elliott. If you are interested, call Jenny at 905-468-4083, or approach her after church.

Manse renovation update

By Ken Willms

Manse renovations are moving along at a steady pace.

As recommended by Drew Chapman, a member of and advisor to the Niagara Foundation, the dormer has been removed from the manse roof. As the Foundation contractor, Drew quickly determined that the dormer was not part of the original manse and was also causing problems in the attic space.

Drew will soon start installing new basement windows, more like the windows that existed in the original structure. New soffits, fascia and eaves troughs have been installed already on the manse and garage, and the garage doors have been repaired.

We have ordered a new furnace and air conditioning, and installation should be completed by the end of this month.

We have also awarded a contract for repainting the interior trim.



The manse without its dormer window.

At this time, the Building Committee is reviewing estimates for floor sanding and refinishing, new kitchen cabinetry and flooring. We will present recommendations to the Board of Managers in December.

The congregational tour of the manse on Oct. 5 was a success—well attended and probably the first

time many had a chance to see it. I would like to thank Barb and David Nattress and Betty and Ron Ferguson—the coffee/tea crew who hosted our fellowship time in the manse.

Ken is the Building Committee's project manager for manse renovations.

"To everything there is a season...." Ecclesiastes 3:1

By Ron Ferguson

This is a season for giving. We have recently given thanks for an abundant harvest and to our veterans for their sacrifices; we are also about to celebrate and give thanks to God for the birth of his Son and, of course, we'll be exchanging gifts with friends and loved ones.

It is also the season to consider our gifts to St. Andrew's. As reported in the weekly Order of Service, offerings are below budget. If you are able, please consider a 'catch-up' or an increase in your offerings before the end of the year.

Also, please consider your offerings for 2009. As we all know, inflation erodes our ability to meet our expenses, and so it is with St. Andrew's.

The new year will be exciting, with the arrival of a new minister. It will also be a challenging year, with increased expenses. I encourage you to prayerfully consider this matter, and I ask those who use the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) system to advise me by Dec. 15 of any increases they want to make.

Ron is our church treasurer.



By Ian Ness

Being good Presbyterians, it will come as no surprise to learn that Tri-M will celebrate its December meeting with a pot luck supper. As always, guests are very welcome!

This fall we have continued our practice of inviting members of our congregation to be guest speakers at our Tri-M meetings. We thank Helen Dawson, Barb and David Nattress, as well as Don Chambers and Geof Haswell for their presentations this fall.

September

In September, we were fortunate to have Helen deliver an interesting talk on her family's 'cottage life' over many years, accompanied by numerous photographs. The meeting became even more interesting when Helen responded to many questions from the audience. Questions stirred a number of fascinating memories, which added greatly to the evening.

October

In October, we were delighted to welcome Barb and David, who drew on their extensive experience in real estate in the Niagara Region to offer many suggestions and answer our questions on "Housing in our community".

November

As this meeting fell on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, we were happy to welcome Don and Geof as guest speakers. Both of them followed careers in the Canadian Forces.

Although Canada was technically at peace during their military service, both were in fact injected into several dangerous world trouble spots. It became clear, as Geof followed Don with his presentation, that the



Geof Haswell, left, and Don Chambers, who both participated in peacekeeping missions during their Canadian Forces careers, with Second World War veteran and Tri-M president George Howse.

nature of Canada's commitments changed from pure peacekeeping roles to something more dangerous.

Despite the seriousness of their careers, each balanced his presentation with moments of humour.

Congregational speakers a big success

Tri-M has benefited greatly this year from the talents and endeavours of our overworked and underpaid program co-ordinator, Don Chambers. Inviting congregational members as guest speakers has been a huge success and confirms Don's confidence that many in our congregation have lived interesting lives and have stories to tell.

If you are willing to come to Tri-M as a guest speaker, please give Don a call at 905-468-3870, or contact him at church.

If you are not a Tri-M member, but are interested in the subject of a

specific meeting, please come to our meeting as a welcome guest. Apart from the presentations, the goodies at tea/coffee break live up to the high standard set by St. Andrew's.

Ian is the secretary of Tri-M.

The soldier

By Margaret McQueen

You were so young
The day you went to war,
Your face held the promise
Of a soft unfolding bud
And into the infinite
Stretched your legacy of years.

My lips stung with words
You would not understand
The layers of life
Had not yet marked you
Your absence
Left me bereft.

Do you remember
The day you went to war?
Why do you not answer me?

By Ian Ness

There is more happiness in giving than in receiving. ...Acts 20:35

Congratulations to the caring members who have contributed generously to our outreach program to Newark Neighbours over the last five years. Time passed so quickly that I am amazed to realize that we started this program with a collection on the weekend of Jan. 17 and 18, 2004!

In that time span, St. Andrew's has made a material contribution to members of our community in need of a helping hand at a time when encouragement was so essential in their lives.

That being said, we have an opportunity to improve and increase our assistance in two particular areas.

Food

When I asked Newark staff how our church can help even more people through our contributions, they responded that if we concentrate on specific food items, it would allow them to meet the needs of the community more effectively.

These specific items include peanut butters, jams, teas, coffee and dry cereals, which apparently run very low or run out completely during the year. (Most other food items are covered by the generous support of other contributors.)

Newark Neighbours is always very appreciative of our collections, but this specific information gives us food for thought and action.

More contributors

An increase in the number of contributing St. Andrew's members would more accurately reflect the generous spirit of our caring congregation. Participation by our Sunday



Tom Cochrane, left, and Ian Ness at Newark Neighbours.

school in October was particularly gratifying. Thank you, Kathleen Tunmer, teachers and children. You all helped make a difference.

Next collection

Our next collection weekend will be Saturday, **Jan. 17 and Sunday, Jan. 18 in 2009**—exactly five years from when our outreach began. Please drop off any donations at the Kirk Hall on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and on Sunday, before and after church.

Toiletries: shampoo and deodorant

In addition to donations of the specific food items mentioned above, our primary target remains toiletries. St. Andrew's is Newark's *only* source for these items.

Newark staff says two items in particular are a major challenge to keep in stock: shampoo and deodorant for men, women and children. Please keep this in mind when shopping. Even with our generous support, Newark still runs out of toiletries during the year.

Seasonal clothing

You continue to amaze me. The quality and quantity of your donations in this category are simply "awesome". Keep it up!

Other

Double and queen-size sheets, as well as pots and pans, are always needed to meet community needs.

Thanks

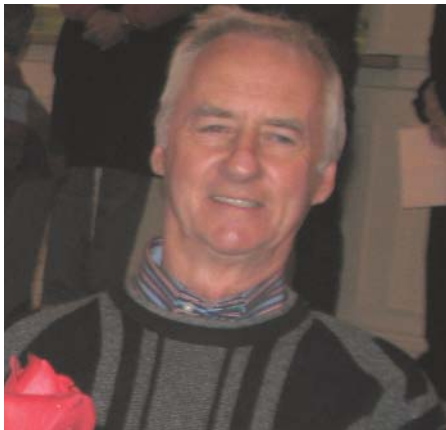
My thanks, once again, to Tom Cochrane who, with his trusty van, has helped me pick up your contributions and deliver them to Newark Neighbours for the past five years—not missing one collection! Well done Tom!

As always, I look forward to welcoming more of you on the weekend of Jan. 17 and 18, 2009.

To all, a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Editor's note: On behalf of this congregation, I would like to thank Ian for his tireless work in co-ordinating this outreach program since it began.

Bangers and Mash 2008



Statement of receipts and expenditures Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2008

	2008 <u>BUDGET</u>	ACTUAL <u>To Oct. 31</u>	ACTUAL <u>To Sept. 30</u>
RECEIPTS			
Offerings	\$ 115,000	\$ 85,952	\$ 76,477
Donations and bequests		4,311	4,311
Strawberry Festival	30,000	30,408	30,408
Women's Fellowship	7,000	1,000	1,000
Fundraising events	1,500	1,090	1,028
Weddings & funerals	500	400	300
Donations for hall use	2,000	950	950
Interest	7,800	7,720	7,690
GST rebates	<u>2,000</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>645</u>
	<u>\$ 165,800</u>	<u>\$ 132,476</u>	<u>\$122,809</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Minister			
Stipend	\$ 52,000	\$ 26,103	\$ 26,103
Study leave	300		
Medical	4,000	2,893	1,929
Manse - Fuel	3,500	2,785	2,744
- Utilities	3,500	1,818	1,818
- Insurance	1,400		
- Maintenance/Renovation		14,277	14,048
- Property taxes	7,500	7,538	7,538
Pensions & group insurance contributions	5,350	5,349	2,676
Ontario Health Tax	783	783	783
EI & CPP expenses	3,000	1,522	1,522
Pulpit supply	<u>5,200</u>	<u>8,125</u>	<u>7,525</u>
	<u>86,533</u>	<u>71,193</u>	<u>66,686</u>
Interim Moderator	5,200	1,300	800
Organist	15,500	12,950	11,675
Music	850		
Sunday School	3,000	1,794	1,332
Presbytery dues	5,500	5,240	5,240
Bell ringer	160	80	80
Church & Hall- Fuel	8,500	7,655	7,414
- Utilities	6,500	4,355	3,958
- Insurance	6,500	5,356	5,356
- Building maintenance	7,800	6,500	5,850
Grounds maintenance	13,360	11,016	9,908
Other repairs & maintenance	30,000	8,235	7,419
Office supplies & expenses	4,500	5,091	4,648
Secretary	7,800	3,800	3,400
Church publications & expenses	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,365</u>	<u>3,224</u>
	<u>\$ 204,703</u>	<u>\$147,930</u>	<u>\$136,990</u>
 (-Deficit)	 \$ -38,903	 \$ -15,454	 \$ -14,181
Cash on hand, January 1		<u>32,707</u>	<u>32,707</u>
Cash on hand, end of period		\$ <u>17,253</u>	\$ <u>18,526</u>
 PRESBYTERIANS SHARING	 \$ <u>20,000</u>	 \$ <u>14,215</u>	 \$ <u>13,366</u>

Serving lunch to more than 400 visitors—we hope!

By Beth Alma

There is no Festive Fare this year as the Women's Fellowship will be serving lunches to visitors during this year's Rotary Club Holiday House Tour on Dec. 5 and 6.

As you may have already read in the bulletin, our historical church is one point of interest on this year's tour. Tours will be conducted in the church on both days.

There is not only a need for volunteers to lead the tours, but there is also a need for volunteers to help serve lunch in the church hall on both Friday and Saturday, especially between 12:30 p.m. until finish.

Call me at 905-458-4635 if you can help with the lunches. The point of contact for church tours is Ian Ness at 905-468-8734.

Women's Fellowship has already begun preparing for the lunches. Just for fun, here is a list of some ingredients we have used to make our soup:

- 30 lbs ground beef
- 90 lbs potatoes
- 20 lbs onions
- 30 lbs carrots
- 6 heads celery
- 60 cups chicken stock
- 30-28oz cans tomatoes
- 30 cans tomato soup
- 30 cans carnation milk

You may have noticed that these



amounts are slightly larger than used for your normal pot of home-made soup, but remember, we hope to serve more than 400 people! As well our members will be baking 40 yummy cakes as dessert.

We will also be selling jam during the event.

New president

My term as president is up at the end of December. Barb Nattress will take over in January for two years. My thanks go out to this hard-working group of friends for their help and encouragement.

Women's Fellowship is truly a wonderful group, with each member contributing time, skill and talents

to carry on this important part of God's work. Monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month.

Our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

See the newsletter in colour on our website

If you would like to see the newsletter in colour, you can view it (or run off copies) on the St. Andrew's website at

www.standrewsniagara.com/26122.html. Jenny Elliott is our 'web master'.



God's gift

By Margaret McQueen

For God so loved
The world
He gave
An unspeakable gift
This Son
Gently rocked in angels' song
The light of heaven
On his face.

Lowly shepherds
On a hillside
Heard the clear
Resounding song
Tuned their souls
In heavenly wonder
And journeyed on
To Bethlehem.

There the bitter cold
Of evening
Caught the starlight's
Piercing rays
While fragile prayers
In hushed whispers
Praised the great
Eternal one.



Women's Fellowship shares a prayer

Heavenly Father
We praise you for all you have shown us in Jesus.
Now we know that you are not far away.
We thank you that though we cannot see you,
You have promised that
No matter who or what we are,
No matter what we have done or failed to do,
You will be very near to each and every one of us.
As we prepare for Christmas,
Help us to remember the coming of Jesus.
We praise you for the joy of His living presence in our lives.
Father, we praise you that He came into this world
Just as we did—as a helpless baby.
We thank you that His coming has left us in no doubt
About your love and mercy.
We praise you that He has opened the way to real life now
And for eternity.
We praise you for the story of Mary and Joseph,
The shepherds and the angels,
The wise men and the star.
We praise you for the carols we sing
And the joy we share in celebrating the arrival of Jesus.
We are all the more thankful that it is not just a story
But a message of the birth of the Saviour of the world.
Forgive us Father, if we spend so much time
Preparing to enjoy ourselves
That we forget those who will have no joy on Christmas.
Forgive us that as we decorate our homes,
We forget those who have no home.
Forgive us if, as we welcome the baby in the manger,
We forget He was the man on the cross.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, who came and still comes.
Amen

Photo credit: The above photo is of a painting by artist Simon Dewey. It was taken by James Larson for a photo album of Paintings of Jesus. He captions the photo: His name shall be called wonderful (birth). Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus at the town of David called Bethlehem. Luke 2: 1-7

The prayer at right was submitted by Beth Alma. She shared the prayer with members of Women's Fellowship in November and several asked for a copy, so she decided to share it with everyone.

Steeped in St. Andrew's history

By Marsha Scott

In the last issue, I promised that every *Herald* will attempt to feature at least one long-time member of our congregation. This issue features the Elliott family—a family with arguably the longest history with our church of any family in our congregation. Their story is rich, with so much to tell that I have barely scratched the surface in these pages.

You will see the Elliotts in church most Sundays—John and wife Joan (Cooper), sitting with daughter Jenny in a box pew at the back of the church, unless John or Jenny are ushering. In a box pew to the right of the church sits Hope (Elliott) Bradley, often with daughter Lynn or other family members.

In the beginning

The father of Hope and John, James Edward Elliott, was born on Sept. 30, 1900, in the sexton's cottage on the grounds of St. Andrew's Church (formerly the school and meeting house), as the bell was ringing for Sunday morning service. As Joan writes in a family memoir, "This seems appropriate, as Jim lived most of his life within a few hundred yards of his beloved St. Andrew's Church." The foundation of that house is barely visible now behind the Kirk Hall.

At the time of James' birth, the Elliott family (his father John and mother Louise) were taking care of the church and churchyard, probably in exchange for their rent. Among his father's duties were digging graves by hand, keeping the church and churchyard clean and lighting the two potbelly stoves that heated the church on cold Sunday mornings. Among his mother's duties was polishing the church brass.



Joan and John Elliott, with Hope (Elliott) Bradley (right)

The family moved not long after, but not far away, to a house on the corner of Simcoe and William Streets. They also purchased several acres of land nearby. When James grew up, he worked alongside his father as a stonemason and plasterer. Their pay for building a drywall stone fence along River Road near Queenston was a dollar a day, and this included the use of their team and wagon to haul the stone. The wall remains virtually unchanged today.

The family continued to take care of the church. "A lot of times there wasn't enough money for fuel for the stoves," says Hope. "Our father would often take coal or wood over to heat the church for Sunday services."

While building the stone wall around the Rand complex at the corner of John and Charlotte Streets, James met his future wife, Isabelle (Daisy) Smith. At the time, she was a nanny for the children of Admiral Nelles and was living with the Nelles family

on what later became the Ansley estate, then a private art gallery and finally what we now know as Riverbend Inn.

James and Daisy had six children: Hope; John; Barb (Elliott) Lake—who lives in Virgil and will soon be joining St. Andrew's; Betty, who was killed at 21 in a car accident; Heather, who attends the Catholic church; and Donald, an elder in a Presbyterian church in Sarnia.

Church life

James was an elder, a member of the board of managers and a member of the choir at St. Andrew's for years. "The nicest compliment I ever heard about my dad was from Gerry Wooll," says Hope, "who said dad was the closest man to a disciple that he had ever known."

Daisy became active in Women's Fellowship, the Women's Auxiliary

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and held fundraising teas at her home for the auxiliary.

The Elliott children attended Sunday school in the church loft (used by the choir today for storage and donning gowns before worship services).

"The 'juniors' went there after sitting through the church service, and our parents went home," says Hope. "We always went to church on Sunday nights too. Dad wouldn't let us go out on Saturday nights unless we went to both services."

"We always had a wonderful choir," recalls Hope. Two boys, who had to be poked awake if they fell asleep, pumped the organ.

"It was also a time when elders were really 'elderly', quips Joan.

Before the old church hall was built, all of the church's social events were held in the choir loft

John, Joan and Hope fondly look back to the days when St. Andrew's had a wonderful Presbyterian Young People's Society for teens 15, 16 and 17 years old. Teens from all over town came because the Presbyterian church was the only one with a Young People's group. "We performed skits and musicals and won competitions against other Presbyterian Young People's groups in the region," says Hope. John remembers both he and best friend Doug Hunter tearing siding off the house where John's dad was born to heat their meeting place before a new hall was built in 1945. Joan remembers Helen and Harry Dawson as chaperones.

John and Joan had attended elementary and high school together. Joan attended St. Mark's Anglican Church—one generation of Coopers was Anglican after a Cooper married



Hope and John Elliott with mom Daisy.

an Anglican school teacher. But her earlier ancestors were Presbyterian. Ironically, it was Joan's great great grandfather who was the 'architect' of St. Andrew's. Actually a Queenston Road farmer, he and other members of the congregation visualized how the new church should look after the original St. Andrew's was burned during the War of 1812-1814. His "Grecian Design from the Temple of Theseus" was the plan that was approved, with some modifications and alterations. And as Joan now says, "Our timelessly beautiful church took shape."

Building their own families

Hope married Allen Bradley at St. Andrew's Church in 1946. After the death of their first child, they had seven more children: Lynn, Mary (Klassen), Allison (Hildebrandt), Bruce, Jim, Paul and Robert, most members of this congregation.

Allen, a plumber/electrician and finally a manager of an L.C.B.O. store in Niagara Falls, was active in the church. Hope taught Sunday school for a couple of years, but her large family kept her too busy to do more than help out when asked. She also

served a term as an elder. Her last job was as a receptionist for the Shaw Festival and she had a decorating shop, Bradley Decorating, for three years. Her husband passed away in 2004.

John and Joan were married in 1949 in Joan's parents' home by a Presbyterian minister Rev. J. Lloyd Hughes. They had three children: Digby, David and Jennifer.

John, a retired bank manager, was the church treasurer for 31 years and served on the Board of Managers for as long. He was also an elder for more than 20 years. Joan is a retired early childhood education supervisor.

Jenny works for the local Chamber of Commerce. Like her dad, Jenny has worked on almost every committee in the church. Her family calls her "church Jenny". Like her great grandfather, she is a kind of 'caretaker' in the cemetery—marking out grave locations as chair of the cemetery committee.

The history of the Elliotts and St. Andrew's seems to have come full circle. The Elliotts, in so many ways, still take care of our church.

The Elliotts remember ministers

Hope's first recollection of a minister at St. Andrew's was Rev. McFarlane. "He used to come to our house to listen to the hockey games," she says. "He was a bachelor and was looked after by a couple who lived in the manse."

One former minister—a big man who claimed he had weighed 17 pounds at birth—didn't stop at intersections when he was driving and had a mean, black dog that bit Hope on the ankle. As the eldest child in her family, she was often called by the minister's wife to keep her company when the minister wasn't at home. Why? The minister's wife was afraid because she thought the

manse was haunted. (The basement of the manse had harboured run-away slaves when the Underground Railroad was active here).

John recalls that when St. Andrew's Young People's group was at its peak, the minister smoked but never carried his own cigarettes. Instead, he bummed cigarettes from John and Doug Hunter.

Hope remembers one minister who always asked for a beer with ice cubes when he visited the homes of his congregation. He also tucked his cigarette butts into his pant cuffs or pockets.



A younger John Elliott, with a full head of hair.

The importance of bringing young people into our church

With so many years of church history behind them and so much experience with different ministers, it seemed natural to ask the Elliotts what kind of minister they would like to see at St. Andrew's.

They were unanimous: they would like to see a young minister answer the call.

The Elliotts believe our congregation would be very accepting of a younger minister because it realizes the importance of bringing more young people into the church.

"Everyone is so co-operative in our church," adds Joan. "We all work together and I don't think our congregation would be difficult for a younger minister."



Hope and Allen Bradley at the baptism of their seventh child at St. Andrew's.

The list we should all carry with us

Submitted by Lynn Lingard

The most destructive habit: Worry

The greatest joy: Giving

The greatest loss: Loss of self-respect

The most satisfying work: Helping others

The ugliest personality trait: selfishness

The most endangered species: Dedicated leaders

Our greatest natural resource: Our youth

The greatest 'shot in the arm': Encouragement

The greatest problem to overcome: Fear

The most effective sleeping pill: Peace of mind

The most crippling failure disease: Excuses

The most powerful force in life: Love

The most dangerous pariah: A gossip

The most incredible computer: The brain

The worst thing to be without: Hope

The deadliest weapon: The tongue

The two most power-filled words: "I can"

The greatest asset: Faith

The most worthless emotion: Self-pity

The most beautiful attire: A smile

The most prized possession: Integrity

The most powerful channel of communication: Prayer

The most contagious spirit: Enthusiasm

To the world, **YOU** may be **ONE** person, but

To **ONE** person, **YOU** may be the **WORLD**

Kathleen Tunmer encouraged Lynn to share this with everyone in the Herald, after Lynn read it during a Sunday school meeting.

Guess who?

Unless I'm having another 'senior moment', no-one correctly guessed the identity of the little gal below from "Guess who?" in our last issue. It's Beth Alma and she's still making people feel "welcome" at St. Andrew's. Now, can you guess the name of the lad at right?



Stock up for Christmas giving

In keeping with today's 'big business' philosophy, our jammers are diversifying. No longer are they offering just the half-pint jars of jams, jellies and mustard. They are now offering smaller jars of many of their products.

Here's the newest price list. The best thing is that you get a 10 per cent discount for six items or more. To place an order, call Bob Hunter at 904-468-0263.

Jams \$4 large/\$2.50 small

Strawberry
Strawberry rhubarb
Peach
Peach and pear
Sweet cherry
Apricot

Jams \$4 large only

Rhubarb
Pear
Sour cherry



Jams/jellies \$4.50 large/\$2.75 small

Raspberry
Crabapple
Blueberry
Blackberry
Cab Franc
Concord

Other

Pint of peaches \$4
Peach and pepper relish \$5 large/
\$3 small
Hot mustard \$5 large/\$3 small

Bob and Ruth Hunter celebrate 50 years



Strawberry Festival meeting coming up!

Planning will begin soon for next year's Strawberry Festival—our church's biggest fundraising event of the year. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 12, at the Kirk Hall.

Everyone is welcome—in fact, encouraged, to attend. The more the merrier. Church newcomers, especially, are invited to come out to discover what the festival is all about.

If you are interested in chairing this year's Strawberry Festival committee, please contact Jenny Elliott at 905-468-4083.

By Ian Ness

The work of many hands—we are God's servants working together.

Like many traditional villages in south-central Ghana, Kyeremase is reached by travelling a few kilometres off the main road over a dirty, dusty, bumpy path.

Small-land farming is the major occupation. There is a primary school and several kiosks selling the necessities of life.

Nana Yaw is the local chemist who will sell one pill at a time if someone cannot afford a whole bottle. He is also a catechist in training for the Presbyterian congregation that meets in the village school. His congregation numbers about 60—children, youth and adults who gather in one of the classrooms for a time of praise--singing, prayer, scripture reading, sermon, offerings, and announcements that include village concerns. This gathering is the centre of life for the congregation. The services are conducted in the local language—Twi. After the service, some members go to the homes of those unable to attend the weekly services. This is a truly loving Christian congregation in action.

The mission work of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana relies on many people in rural and remote villages who have had a very limited formal education and teaching in the Christian faith. Fortunately, the Nsaba Lay Training Centre has recently been established to provide training, encouragement and support to people such as Nana Yaw who is a convert to Christianity.



Our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay and Rev. Dr. Donald MacKay as they work at the Presbyterian Church of Ghana's Nsaba Lay Training Centre. At the training centre they help organize and teach courses for mature candidates entering the ministry, lay ministers, women, ecumenical guests, ministers and group leaders.

The worn and old facilities at the centre are limited, yet this does not seem to dampen the spirits of those who come throughout the year for several weeks of residential learning, Nana Yaw among them.

By contributing to *Presbyterians Sharing*, **you are there**, supporting the work of Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay and Rev. Donald MacKay as they serve as facilitators and teachers in lay education and also assist in the early days of the development of the Nsaba Lay Training Centre.

Because of your generosity and caring, people like Nana Yaw can be encouraged and assisted in helping God's people grow in faith and in Christian service within the communities they call home.

This is but one example of the practical work of *Presbyterians Sharing*, which can be easily duplicated many times both at home in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

St. Andrew's has the wonderful opportunity to be part of this outreach by ensuring that we at least reach our budget target of \$20,000 for 2008. The Nov. 9 bulletin stated that as of the end of October, our actual givings amounted to \$14,215 for the 10 months. The shortfall stands at \$5,785, so we have a challenge in November and December to rise to the worthy occasion and ensure the continued success of the program.

All those people in the field deserve nothing less than our best effort. After all, it's who we are—it's what we do as Presbyterians.

Grandmas' brag book



Above photos: Marc and Christine (Nattress) Mainguy of Newmarket, Ont. welcomed twins into the world on the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 9. Max Albert, left, weighed in at a 'whopping' five pounds, 10 ounces; Elliott Thomas weighed in at five pounds, four ounces. The twins are the grandsons of Barb and David Nattress.

Ashley (Caldwell) Llewellyn (below) and husband Christopher Llewellyn of Oakville, Ont., welcomed their first child, Owen Thomas, on Sept. 10. He weighed seven pounds, nine ounces. Owen is a third grandchild for Pat and Jim Caldwell. "Grammie is VERY busy and can't stop smiling," says Pat. This is grandchild number three for the Cawdells, whose son has two children, Ivey and Hudson.



Tear soup, a recipe for healing after loss

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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[www.standrewsniagara.com/
26122.html](http://www.standrewsniagara.com/26122.html)

Interim moderator

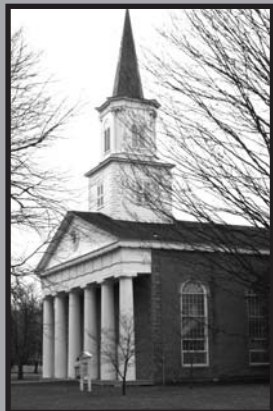
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Submitted by Nancy Howse

Grandy's cooking tips

Grief is the process you go through as you adjust to the loss of anything or anyone important in your life.

The loss of a job, a move, divorce, death of someone you love, or a change in health status are just a few of the situations that can cause grief.

Grief is both physically and emotionally exhausting. It is also irrational and unpredictable and can shake your very foundation.

The amount of 'work' your grief requires will depend on your life experiences, the type of loss, and whatever else you have on your plate at that time.

A sudden, unexpected loss is usually more traumatic, more disruptive and requires more time to adjust to.

You may lose trust in your own ability to make decisions and/or to trust others.

Assumptions about fairness, life order, and religious beliefs are often challenged.

Smells can bring back memories of a loss and a fresh wave of grief. Seasons, with their colours and climate, can also take you back to that moment in time when your world stood still.

You may sense you have no control in your life.

Being at work may provide a relief from your grief, but as soon as you get in the car and start driving home you may find your grief come flooding back.

You may find that you are incapable of functioning in the work environment for a short while.

Because grief is distracting, it also means you are more accident-prone.

The object of grieving is not to get over the loss or recover from the loss, but to get through the loss.

Over the years, you will look back and discover that this grief keeps teaching you new things about life. Your understanding of life will just keep going deeper.

Helpful ingredients to consider

A pot full of tears
One heart willing to be broken open
A dash of bitters
A bunch of good friends
Many handfuls of comfort food
A lot of patience
Buckets of water to replace tears
Plenty of exercise
A variety of helpful reading material
Enough self care
Season with memories
Option: one good therapist and/or support group

Directions:

Choose the size pot that fits your loss. It's okay to increase the pot size if you miscalculated. Combine ingredients. Set temperature for a moderate heat. Cooking times will vary depending on the ingredients needed. Strong flavours mellow over time. Stir often. Cook no longer than you need to.

Suggestions

Be creative
Trust your instincts
Cry when you want to; laugh when you can.
Freeze some to use as a starter for next time.
Write your own soup-making in a journal so you won't forget.

Serves one

From "Tear Soup, a recipe for healing after loss". By Pat Schwiebert and Churck DeKlyen. Illustrated by Taylor Bills. Copyright: Grief Watch 2006.