



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

The Herald

March 2009

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Looking back and ahead



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By Rev. Martin Wehrmann

Greetings to you on this beautiful new day in spring. May the difficulty of getting around in the snow soon be forgotten. May dreams of warm days in the garden or visits with friends on the patio soon become a reality. We are all weary from the cold weather, and together we look forward to the longer and brighter days of spring!

Thank God though for the past, for God has brought us this far, and God promises to always be with us until the end of our days.

By now it is no longer a secret that we have finally found a suitable candidate who will preach for a call on Sunday, April 19— just a day before your annual congregational meeting. For many this is the most important church news you've received in months. Please attend the annual meeting to vote for the call and let your mind be heard. And please come out 100 percent, as adherents (regular worshippers and supporters) can concur in the call.

As your interim moderator, I wish to point to the numerous wonderful activities and people in the congregation that have piloted us through the hardships of winter in good spirits and with hope intact.



Several of your groups held Christmas gatherings in addition to the special Christmas service. The fellowship was excellent, for my wife and I were also invited. Even better than the over-supply of good food were the fellowship and warmth of people who gathered together. Also, your Christmas music was stellar!

Your children and church school teachers added a special dimension to your weekly services. I have ministered in a congregation without children, and we certainly missed their charm and honesty in the children's addresses, their participation in the Christmas events of the

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church and more. However, at times like these God also opened our eyes to see and appreciate another of His gifts! In that particular church we came to appreciate the elderly faithful members who kept coming to the church and who were so full of life and joy that we formed a senior women's group solely for the purpose of having fellowship!

Did you know that seniors are a 'renewable resource'? In most Canadian communities there is an abundance of seniors—who, by the way, may be quite young—who now have the time and desire to attend church. They bring a wealth of experience, energy and new ideas into the church, and they know all sorts of people they can invite to 'become the church' with them! I've met you at St. Andrew's, and you are an exciting bunch of people!

Meetings! Yes, there have been lots of meetings with committed elders, managers, committee leaders and Search Committee members representing the diversity of your ministry. They have given me great encouragement and support in the past 16 months. I have learned so much and have been able to glean

some new ideas for my own ministry at Scottlea Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines. I never felt that our meetings would be/were stuffy or stressful, and yet an unbelievable amount of work was done, including renovating the manse during the winter, keeping walks clear and safe, and keeping both church and hall clean and fresh when we brought the 'outside' inside.

Friends at St. Andrew's, I wish you a wonderful spring! May God be in your hearts and minds every day as you also pray for people the world over, whose lands are also trying to bloom and whose rivers want to swell. But wars, greed and mismanagement have destroyed not only what God offers us in every new season, but also their lives. Hope is smashed. Children and women suffer even more tragically than their men at war!

May God continue to lead your church and may God's blessings never be taken for granted.

Rev. Wehrmann is our interim moderator/overseeing minister.

A learning curve

Well, it's been more than a year since I began working as the church secretary. I have enjoyed it.

It has been a steep learning curve for all of us. But even without a full-time minister, we have been ticking right along.

I would like to thank Rev. Martin Wehrmann, who has been great, and Jennifer Elliott for putting up with my questions and a constant barrage of emails. I would also like to thank the Session, Board of Managers, Women's Fellowship, Women's Missionary Society, Tri-M and choir for your understanding when I have forgotten to put announcements in the bulletin and they have had to be announced in church. I would also like to thank Geof Haswell for debugging the old computer and setting up the new one.

I hope the next year will be as interesting as this year has been. All the best.

Kathy Hunter

All I want for Christmas...

"Well, I have to tell you Santa, it's been a long time since I sat on your lap. But if you insist!"

Hope Percy Howse got exactly what he asked for!

Certainly the photo, submitted by daughter-in-law Nancy, is priceless.



Upcoming

Sunday, March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Bible studies every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. Elizabeth Kidnew*

Sunday, March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. Elizabeth Kidnew*

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Wednesday, April 1

Women's Fellowship Surprise Luncheon

Kirk Hall, noon

Tickets \$10 from Fellowship members and at coffee time in the church hall on Sundays.

Sunday, April 5

Passion/Palm Sunday

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Rev. David DeVries*

We observe an open communion and therefore, everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table on this day.

Lent and Easter Concert, 7:30 p.m., at the church

St. Andrew's choir, Cantata Singers and Collegium Musicum Male Chorus

Tuesday, April 7

Tri-M meeting, 7 p.m. for 7:30 p.m., Kirk Hall. Tri-M meets every second Tuesday.

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 10

Good Friday

Ecumenical service, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday

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

Tuesday, April 14

Session meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, April 13

Easter Monday

Sunday, April 19

Rev. Barb McGale preaches for a call

Worship service: 11 a.m.
Reception and light lunch following the service.

Monday, April 20

St. Andrew's annual general meeting

Vote to proceed with the call
Pot-luck dinner followed by a meeting. Check the bulletin for times. All members and adherents are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, April 22

Earth Day

Sunday, April 26

Mission Awareness Sunday

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Society and Women's Fellowship.*

Sunday nights throughout May and June

Caribbean Workers Outreach Project
Caribbean/Canadian services
Bethany Church, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3

Newark Neighbours collection

10 a.m. to noon Saturday; before and after church, Sunday.

Sunday, May 3

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Preacher: Interim Moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann.* Baptism (tentative).



Saturday, May 9

Marriage of Eric Cook and Lisa Ermanson.

Sunday, May 10

Christian Family Sunday

Worship service: 11 a.m.
Mother's Day breakfast, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Kirk Hall

Sunday, May 17

Planned Giving Sunday

Herald deadline. Please contact Marsha Scott at church, or by email at marshascott@cogeco.ca. Or drop your submission into the *Herald* box on top of the piano in the Kirk Hall.

Monday, May 18

Victoria Day

Thursday, May 21

Ascension Day

Sunday, May 24

Ascension Sunday

National Day of Healing and Reconciliation

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost

Saturday, June 20

Strawberry Festival

Manse update

What exactly has been going on at the manse? Here's a list of the work to date and upcoming:

Excavating around entire manse to seal the stone foundation and install drainage

Removal of overgrown trees, vines and shrubbery

Garage door repaired

Removal of dormer in attic to solve moisture problem and return house to the original, historical design

Clean-up of attic and removal of old carpeting

Cedar shingle and roof repair where dormer was removed

New eaves, soffit and fascia on manse and garage

Basement completely cleaned and painted

New furnace and air conditioner installed

Sanding and repairs to existing hardwood floors and installation of new hardwood floor in kitchen

New basement windows being made to order

Painting of kitchen and touch-ups and blending of all trim throughout

New carpet to replace existing in hall and stairway area

Re-design of kitchen and addition of cabinetry to modernize and provide



seating and more usable space (includes dishwasher)

New back door

Ventilation system for under floor of back bedroom to provide added heat (to be done in April)

Upcoming work

More grading to be done around the building after ground has completely settled

New driveway

Landscaping and planting

Miscellaneous repairs to window screens etc.

When a new minister is in place, the minister's tastes will be considered for cosmetic changes such as paint colour, wallpaper, draperies etc.



Many hands make light work...maybe! Top, Jennifer Elliot, background, and Jennifer Roberts look like they were 'steaming' right along when they stripped wallpaper from the manse kitchen recently. Below, Lee Alma makes his contribution. A Presbytery committee will tour the manse before April 15 to ensure the manse is habitable for a new minister.

Voting for a call

By Rev. Martin Wehrmann

On Sunday, March 8, the Search Committee announced in church that it has found a suitable candidate to be called as a minister to St. Andrew's. Session has invited that candidate to preach for a call on Sunday, April 19. The Presbyterian Church of Canada tradition is to make known the candidate's name on the day he or she preaches.

The congregation will vote on the candidate during the annual general meeting Monday, April 20 and the vote will decide whether to proceed with a call to the candidate.

We hope that the additional information below will answer any questions you may have regarding the process to come.

1. **Before the candidate preaches for a call**

We will send everyone—members and adherents (regularly worshipping and supporting friends of St. Andrew's)—a special letter with relevant information about the call. The letter will explain that we are hearing the candidate preach on April 19 and voting on April 20 during the congregational meeting. The letter will also include information on the stipend, housing arrangements and so on.

You will receive this information as soon as we complete the paperwork and mailing. It's a big job and Kathy Hunter, our church secretary, will need help. I am currently consulting where necessary and pulling up the forms. It is not simply a case of getting documents, but also fielding important questions so the process runs smoothly.

Session and the Board of Managers need to finalize call finances and accommodation as per the profile we

submitted to Presbytery. Session and Board representatives will sit together in the next few weeks to clarify details of our offer to the candidate for moving, housing, stipend and benefits. The late date for this work is the joint meeting of Board and Session already set for April 14, but an earlier date may be required.

We also still need habitation permission for the manse. I viewed the manse last week and have invited the Presbytery committee to tour the manse as well. The Presbytery committee must give its approval/or not to Presbytery on April 15.

2. **April 19—candidate preaches for the call**

You will hear the candidate preach and have an opportunity to meet the candidate at a reception (including a light lunch) following worship.

3. **April 20—vote to proceed with the call**

At the annual general meeting, the first step will be to take the vote. The moderator will ask those attending whether they prefer an open vote or a vote by ballot. The body of the meeting will make the decision.

Only members can vote for a call, and a majority vote determines the decision to proceed with the call.

4. **Affirmative vote**

If the meeting votes to proceed, elders will make signature sheets available to attest each member's signature. Adherents may also **concur** with the call by directing the elder as to their wish or support. The elder will add the adherent's name to the signature sheet and attest it.



Rev. Wehrmann has many faces. This one could have been his 'look' BEFORE a Search Committee meeting. Note his smile and relaxed demeanor. And the wonderful casual African shirt—a gift from a member of his St. Catharines congregation, who comes from Ghana. This photo was actually taken on a 'dress down' Sunday—a monthly event at Scottlea Presbyterian Church, designed to make visitors and young people feel more comfortable in worship. Now, turn the page to see what Rev. Wehrmann looks like AFTER a Search Committee meeting!

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We need a strong call, which means that a high percentage of the membership and listed adherents have 'signed' in the affirmative.

Representatives will be appointed to speak to the call at a special Presbytery meeting. Potential dates for that meeting will be discussed at the AGM.

In the following week, elders will try to get signatures from members and adherents who were away or had to miss the congregational meeting. Elders will not advise anyone to sign the call. Spouses and friends cannot sign the call for you.

5. **Negative vote**

According to procedural guidelines, if a significant number present at the April 20 congregational meeting do *not* wish to proceed with a call, the Interim Moderator may stop proceedings and consider the situation with Session at a later date. We would then continue with the other business of the meeting.

At this point, it would be back to the 'drawing board' with Session and possibly Presbytery direction.

Procedural guidelines are listed in



"Calling a Minister", the Book of Forms and resources for processing a call on the Presbyterian Church in Canada website at www.presbyterian.ca.

AFTER a Search Committee meeting. Note the strained expression and the arms full of "just a little light reading". (Photo by Pat Caldwell)

Some reflections on Lent

By Margaret McQueen

Lent is a time to set our faces toward Jerusalem as Jesus did. On this path, we reflect and gain knowledge once more of the tremendous price paid for sin on our behalf on Good Friday.

To know the joy of Easter is first to know the cross. This was the path Jesus trod. As humans we see the cross—as divine beings we see the empty tomb.

Great literature, music and art has been attempted to express the revelation which allows our wonder to expand until in assurance we can say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Step by step, Lent leads us to that certainty.

Forgive the Nails

Forgive the garden bare
The lone prayer.
Forgive the crowd's scorn
The crown of thorns.
Forgive Peter's denial
The mock trial.
Forgive the insults tossed
The heavy cross.
Forgive the hill of woes
The hammer blows.

Forgive the nails.

Santa's visit





New Session

"That the Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for her ministry, Christ furnishes her with officers, among whom are ruling elders." ...extract from the Dec. 7, 2008 ordination service for new elders at St. Andrew's.

Four members of St. Andrew's were ordained as ruling elders and admitted to the Session on Dec. 7, including Jennifer Roberts, Janice Thomson, Anne Bittersohl and Michael Belfie. Don Dawson was ordained and admitted early in the new year.

These elders join David Nattress, the new Clerk of Session; roll clerk Sandra King; representative elder Peter Lingard; Pat Caldwell; Hugh Hutton; Debbie Whitehouse; Ron Ferguson; Donna Pearce; Lynn Lingard; and Bill King. Janice Thomson will serve as alternate representative elder.

On the new few pages, we tell you a little bit about our new Clerk of Session, as well as Janice Thomson, Michael Belfie and Jennifer Roberts. We'll tell you more about the others in our next issue.

David Nattress

"Being an elder is a commitment to serving the congregation and community in providing leadership, spiritual support and pastoral care," says David, the new Clerk of Session.

David and wife Barb moved to Niagara-on-the Lake in June of 2000 from King City. They joined St. Andrew's in 2001 because of the music and David's Presbyterian background. They were previously members of King City United Church.

David is a real estate broker with Royal LePage. Before that, he enjoyed a career in agri-business after graduating with his degree from Guelph Agricultural College. He



grew up on a farm in King Township. David's main hobbies are singing and his log house up north on Kawagama Lake—what he calls a long-term project. He recently joined the Rotary Club in town.

His passion since 1995 has been his involvement with Country Heritage Park (previously known as the Farm Museum) in Milton. The 80-acre site depicts the evolution of farming in Ontario.

In 1995, the government announced it could no longer fund the project and that the site would be closed.

"In the past 14 years, I have worked with a group to establish a not-for-profit corporation that now operates the park, free of government funding," says David. "I am currently president and chairman of the board."

David urges the congregation to check out the Country Heritage Park website at www.countryheritagepark.com. "If you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, experience the "walk to Bethlehem" at the park Nov. 28 to Dec. 1. More than 25 churches in the area take part in an outdoor nativity pageant, including

nativity scenes, authentic costumes, sheep and shepherds, wise men, miniature donkeys, a manger scene in a log barn and more.

Janice Thomson



Janice Thomson views eldership as "a chance to contribute, to give back to the church community, and to share her personal gifts with others."

Janice, who lives on Tottenham Court in Garrison Village, moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1995 from Oakville, where she attended Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church.

She has been executive director of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce since 2000. Prior to that, she owned the Luis House Restaurant (now the Irish Harp) for five years.

Before that, Janice spent 18 years in the national automotive business with Jaguar Canada and BMW Canada. She was national sales manager for BMW before moving here.

Janice appreciates belonging to a church community where she can just be herself—where she doesn't have to be "on duty" for business all

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the time. Being part of the church community allows her to get to know the members of St. Andrew's more as family and neighbours, rather than as residents. And she feels that being an elder is an "obligation to do what is best to honour the church and its members."

Janice has two West Highland Terriers—her "darling" five-year-old Charlie and four-year-old Skye's the Limit. She enjoys Formula One car racing, live or on television. She says she has visited many wonderful places, including Bora Bora, Singapore, Hong Kong, Munich, Frankfurt, London and of course, her birthplace Scotland.

"I am honoured to be an elder and truly appreciate being a member of this church," says Janice. "There is much to learn from fellow elders, church members and ministers. I am grateful to be inspired by their calm, reasonable guidance and look forward to serving the congregation."

Mike Belfie

Mike and Ruth Belfie, who live at 91 William Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake, joined St. Andrew's after moving here in 2002 from Oakville. They joined because "it is an active Presbyterian church with a very good music program and had a viable Sunday school."

Before retiring, Mike attended St. John's United Church in Oakville after returning to Canada from a series of international postings. "While abroad, Ruth and I attended various Presbyterian churches in the British Isles and a protestant ecumenical church in Vienna. Vienna was an interesting experience since services were held in a convent church where they were observed by the Mother Superior, who I expect was making sure we kept to the straight and narrow," says Mike.



The couple was married in Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church in Vancouver and soon moved to Montreal where they became members of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. "Ruth sang in the choir and I became an elder," says Mike. "While there I served as superintendent of the church school, taught the confirmation class, was president of 'Side Aisle', the congregational fellowship organization, and became chair of the Christian education committee.

Mike's career was as an investment executive and registered investment counsel. He is a retired Chartered Financial Analyst.

"Eldership to me is a way to repay the congregation through leadership and pastoral care," he says. "The church's collective leadership ensures the viability of the congregation, while the pastoral role helps bind us together as a church family."

Mike is passionate about the environment and is the president of the Friends of One Mile Creek. He has sat on the executive of the Shaw Guild and devotes time to other charitable endeavours.

Jennifer Roberts

"It is an honour to be of service to my church and fellow members of the congregation," says Jennifer, who grew up attending St. Andrew's with her mother, brothers and sis-

ters. "I hope I do a good job!"

Jennifer was born and raised in town. She lived for a couple of years in British Columbia and seven years in London, Ont. where she worked as a medical secretary in the department of surgery at St. Joseph's Health Centre. She returned to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1993 and now lives on Luther Ave. with her wonderful partner Nino and Leo the Sheltie, just around the corner from her mother Donna, handy for visits and care-giving. She has one daughter, Robyn who is married to Dan, a train engineer. She has two grandsons (three-year-old Robby and Noam, 16 months) and a third grandchild due to arrive any day. They are the joy of her life.

She is an administrative assistant in the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University. "That involves research and education in wine-making and grape-growing," she says. "Lucky me!" Prior to this position Jennifer was the administrator at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club for three years, and at Lightning Circuits Inc. for many years.

Jennifer claims she's a poor, but enthusiastic golfer. Her favourite time is the time she spends with her grandchildren.

"I feel St. Andrews is my extended home and the congregation is my extended family," she says. "I am truly blessed to be part of it."



Strawberry Festival 2009

If you are relatively new to this congregation, you may not know that our annual Strawberry Festival is our major fund-raiser every year. Last year, the Festival raised approximately \$30,000 ! And this year's event is closer than you think. Saturday, June 20 is not that far away.

The Strawberry Festival committee is currently looking for a new chairperson. If you are willing to give some of your time and talents to this position—or serve on any committee—please call Jennifer Elliott at 905-468- 4083, or send her an email at admin@niagaraonthelake.com.

The next meeting of the Strawberry Festival committee will be announced in the bulletin. Please come and see where you can lend a hand. We are always looking for as many volunteers as we can find.

And on the day of the Festival, we encourage you to enlist your family, neighbours and friends to help out. Although there's a lot of hard work involved, it's also great fun and a wonderful bonding experience.

Other contributions

If you are thinking of moving to a new/smaller home, or are about to tackle your spring-cleaning, think

about donating all of that extra 'stuff' you don't need to the Strawberry Festival.

There are all sorts of Festival committees that would happily take anything you want to give away—no matter what its value.

If you have something that you think might fetch more than \$25, save it for the Silent Auction.

If you have something you think is worth between \$5 and \$25, save it for Collectibles. And if you have wardrobe items (accessories like belts, hats and jewellery) or kitchen items, save them for This 'n That. Stuffed animals in good condition are perfect prizes for the Children's Corner.

And the Flea Market welcomes just about anything you have. Remember your so-called trash may be someone else's treasure. It's better to give gently used items a good home rather than toss them into the garbage bin. And don't throw away your books. They are always a popular draw at the Strawberry Festival and could give someone else hours of enjoyment.



Lastly, as we are reminded every year, it will soon be time to bake, bake, bake! It's amazing what you can bake and freeze for the Festival. And home-made baking is always the first to go on the big day.

Hope to see everyone out on June 20. Better yet, long before to help us make this year's Strawberry Festival the best ever.

Letter

There was a time when the congregation of a church would have a small group that kept a weather eye on their older parishioners—especially the most elderly not in the best of health and others with physical limitations.

Apparently this very kind and valuable service has gradually been allowed to fade away for various reasons which appear on the surface

to be fully justified. This is most unfortunate. Perhaps this type of friendly touch is the only caring word such a person may receive for a lengthy period of time. This is sad.

There will come a day (and sooner than you think) when each of us may need a helping hand, or a sympathetic and kind word. Where better

to start than in your own beautiful church?

Anonymous

Session response:

"The Session appreciates your concern. Should you or someone you know need pastoral care, please inform your elder, or Interim Moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann, as soon as possible.

Submitted by Ian Ness

For we are God's servants, working together. ...1 Corinthians 3:9

The *Presbyterians Sharing* goal for congregations in 2009 is \$8,950,000. Let us work and pray together as we consider how to meet our target.

Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund that supports the mission and ministries we do together in Canada and around the world.

Our gifts create, sustain and renew congregations. We support inner-city, native, refugee, urban, remote and chaplaincy ministries. We equip church leaders for Christian education, worship, evangelism, mission, stewardship, youth ministries and justice work. Together we train ministers and lay leaders through our theological colleges. We recruit and send mission personnel to serve our partners around the world, facilitate exchange visits and work with other churches in ecumenical partnerships. Together we speak on issues important to us at national and international forums.

Together we are *Presbyterians Sharing!* Our gifts are really essential in a year when further economic downturn is predicted. People need to hear the hope of the gospel even more!

Our gifts help:

Support David Pandy Szekeres, Mary Gorombey and Brian Johnston's work with the Hungarian Reformed Church in Eastern Europe.

Minister to remote communities in the Cariboo Region of



Our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support Denise Van Wissen who is working with the Fraternidad of Maya Presbyterians in Guatemala. Denise's interactive workshops help women learn the basics of nutrition and healthy eating.

British Columbia with David and Linda Webber, Jon Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga, and Charles McNeil.

Translate the Bible into the Hakka language in Taiwan through Paul McLean.

Reach out to native communities with Margaret Mullin, Warren Whittaker, Mary Fontaine, Stewart Folster, Hoo Sik Kim and George Yando.

Walk with the Church of North India as they minister to people oppressed by poverty and discrimination.

Support inner-city ministries and chaplaincies.

Reach out to vulnerable communities in Guatemala through the work of Denise van Wissen.

Energize and equip youth at Canada Youth 2009.

Support the Hoekstra and Inglis families, working with the Presbyterian Church in Malawi.

These are only a few of the mission staff and ministries your gifts will support in 2009.

As Ron Ferguson has detailed in his 2008 actual column of our financials, we came up short by \$1,102 in our budget target of \$20,000 last year. Fortunately, it was agreed that the deficit be made up from our general funds and so \$20,000 was sent to Toronto.

We have budgeted for \$20,000 once again and, hopefully, we will hit our target in 2009. After all, it is who we are and what we do as Presbyterians.

David Parker and Jodie Godwin, Leah and Sam Parker

David Parker and Jodie Godwin, with eight-year-old daughter Leah and seven-year-old son Sam, have come to St. Andrew's from Southridge Church in St. Catharines. "We wanted to attend a smaller church in *this* community," says Jodie. "We knew a few people who have been at St. Andrew's and that was a draw."

The family has become a regular presence at Sunday service, with boisterous Sam stacking the hymn-books into a castle, while quietly serious Leah enjoys following along with the morning liturgy and singing the words of each hymn as best she can.

David and Jodie moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Calgary in the fall of 1996, after their first year of marriage. David grew up in Port Credit and remembers visiting friends who attended the old Eden school.

David loved architecture even then. Today he is an architect with his own firm, located on St. Paul Street in St. Catharines. He specializes in church design, retirement life-lease projects and he has done a few houses in the area as well.

Jodie was also trained in the arts, specifically sculpture, which she jokes is not a money-maker. She runs Bushy House Bed and Breakfast on Lakeshore Road and often volunteers at Parliament Oak School, attended by Leah, Grade 3, and Sam, Grade 2.

At home, Jodie says arts and crafts are never too far away. "We all like to read a lot," says Jodie, "and chocolate is good too!"



David apparently 'has a thing' for fountain pens. You may see him taking notes and doodling through the sermon, says Jodie. And he loves morning walks.

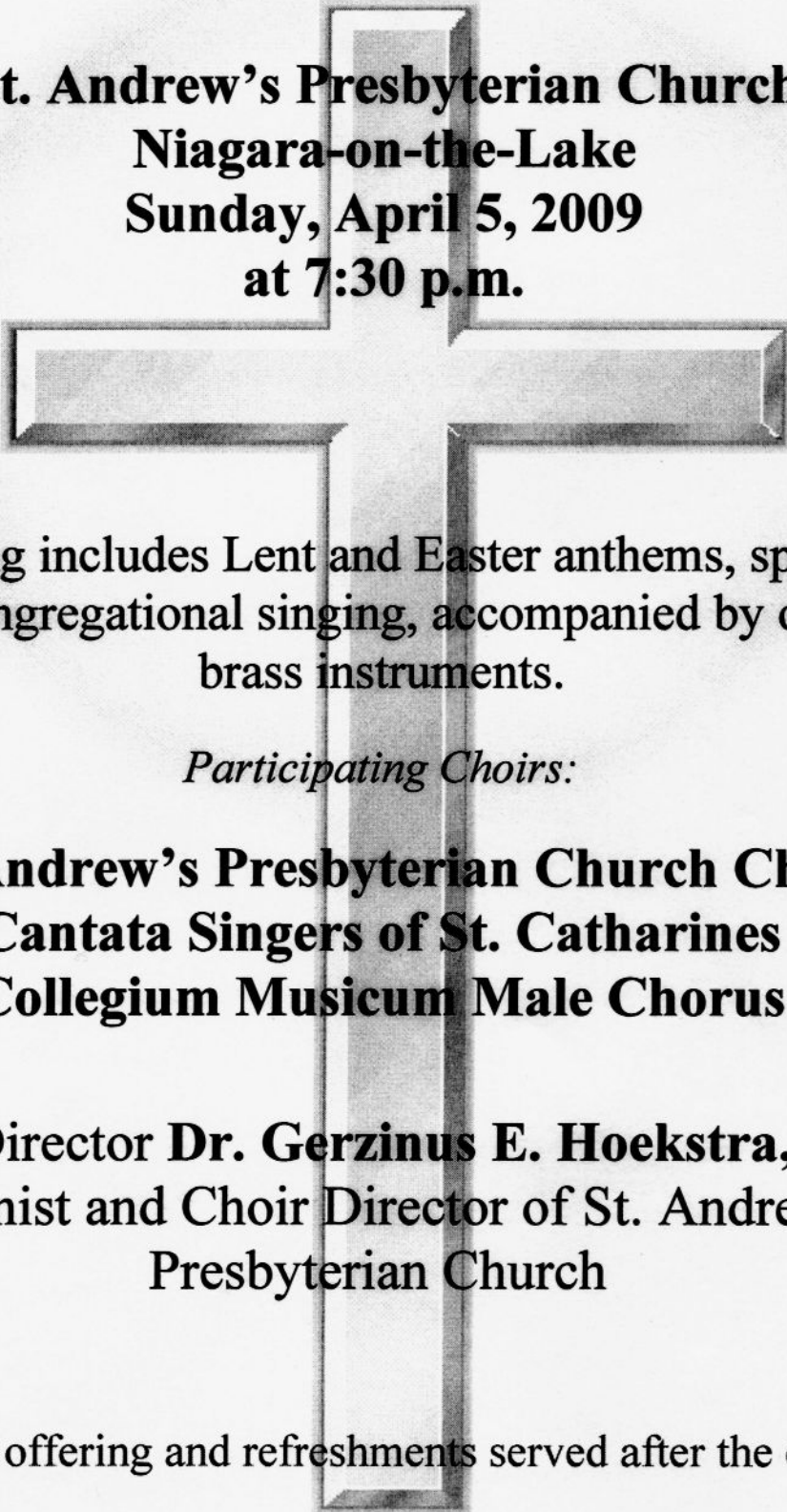
Jodie has fallen in love with gardening, which means her studio time for sculpting takes a back seat at times. She is also fond of sailing and has crewed for races at the local yacht club for several years now—on Tenacite, for those of you who follow boating.

Leah and Sam are learning piano, soccer and swimming, and even some German. Leah takes ballet and Sam has his eye on hockey. Their parents know they are great kids!

David and Jodie say of St. Andrew's, "We know you are in a place of change and flux and that's okay with us. You have welcomed us with open and easy friendliness, and for that, we're glad!"

Leah and Sam say they really like the Sunday school. "We keep checking in with them," says Jodie. "They were quickly made to feel an important part, and we can see that they are learning and growing."

Jodie concludes: "May God lead us as individuals and as a church community, and may His love and purity of vision be ever in us and before us. For those in leadership and those currently seeking a minister, God-speed."



**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Sunday, April 5, 2009
at 7:30 p.m.**

The evening includes Lent and Easter anthems, spirituals as well as congregational singing, accompanied by organ and brass instruments.

Participating Choirs:

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Choir
Cantata Singers of St. Catharines
Collegium Musicum Male Chorus**

**Director Dr. Gerzinus E. Hoekstra,
Organist and Choir Director of St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church**

Free-will offering and refreshments served after the concert.

Finding Jamaica

By Jodie Godwin

This February I travelled to Jamaica, and a few of you have been curious about that. There **was** a little beach time, with eight of us Canadians renting a house for the first week in a quiet town on the south coast. That was lovely—to unfold in the sun, warmth, colour and flavours that are Jamaica. (I guess I hold my perma-sweater-draped body pretty tight through our winter season!)

The sun was no hardship (believe me), but what really propelled me to go to Jamaica was not the sun. Along with my friend Jane Andres and others, I went to see and seek out old friends and new—Jamaicans who work at farms around us in Niagara.

Our lives and the lives of our families have been so enriched by the friendships and fellowship we have found with the hard-working Jamaicans we have come to know here. Neither of us has a farm, but we both run bed and breakfasts and try to use as much local produce as we can. I am increasingly aware of the importance of the farms around us here on the peninsula.

After the first week at the beach, some of our group went home. The rest of us split into twos and continued overland by taxi, with some of our Jamaican friends, to deliver 1,000 pounds of supplies we had brought to Jamaica for families, schools and orphanages. Our load included 85 school boxes that Parliament Oak School had supplied and packed!

Oh my, the heights we climbed! At one point we piled into the back of a pick-up truck for the last half hour of a long day's drive to what must have been the second highest peak in Ja-



Vaughan Bowen (Mori's) shows me his house (as usual, with plans and rebar to expand as resources allow over the years), and some of the plants he is growing. A lot of pineapple is grown in the mountains around him – I have a fresh appreciation for them now! Vaughan and his wife have two daughters and a niece living with them, and we had a lot of fun together driving around.

maica—the famous Blue Mountain. (In the other direction, thousands of feet below, were the harbours of Kingston and Port Morant.) En route, we met coffee pickers making their way down the mountain and children in uniform returning from school. It is amazing. Everyone seems somehow to know how to keep out of the way around corners and on narrow roads—even the dogs and goats! At the top of that mountain were cool clear air, the sweetest grapefruit you ever tasted, sugarcane, jerk chicken, rice and peas, yams, mosquitoes—and a sound stage: 12' x 5' of speakers under a blue tarp (quickly removed) and Bob Marley belting out "No Woman No Cry". Good friends dancing. Beautiful.

Many winding roads eventually led us to friends' houses or a crossroads where they would meet us to guide us even further over washouts and potholes that would slow the car to a crawl. What looked like a short trip

on the map could often result in quite a long trip just trying to find someone's house.

But, **soon come!** We were warmly welcomed and often embraced at the end of each of those roads. The guys—many who have been to dinner at our homes in Canada—were so pleased that we would come and see their families, homes and farms. They were eager to share the fruit that grows in abundance and teach about the plants and 'how-to's' of life in Jamaica.

The wives we hadn't met before were rather shy but soon warmed as their children's natural curiosity and demonstrativeness carried the day. Pictures, laughter, food and gifts would come out. By the end—a half hour or a half day—there would be hugs all around and the knowledge that we would be seeing most of the guys again

when they begin to work the farms in our area.

This was my second and Jane's third trip to Jamaica. Seeing the farm workers' lives there has deepened ties of understanding and respect. Respect—we are all the richer for it.

So, may I extend an invitation to join us on Sunday nights in May and June, when the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project (CWOP) helps with Caribbean/Canadian services on Sunday nights at 7:30. The services are held at Bethany Church on the corner of East West Line and Creek Road.

There is quite a mix of people who attend, so you won't be conspicuous. Leave that to Leah and Sam and I—we can't keep still when the music is going! We'll be there with Wayne, Winston, Marcus, Steven, Blinkie, Cyril, Bigga and Thomas. I'll introduce you. We might even show you **whagwan!** That's Patois for "what's going on".



Marcut Henry (Thwaite Farm) and his family in Heartease, St. Thomas. We came for an hour and stayed four! They generously invited us to stay and celebrate their son's seventh birthday (he and his brother are missing in the picture) with a great meal that included a delicious potato pudding cooked with charcoal. I think Marcus is a bit of a chef.

Dolls of Joy

By Betty Ferguson

The Women's Fellowship has embarked on a mission project called "Dolls of Joy".

The 'comfort dolls' that we are knitting, stuffing and sewing will be sent to the poorest of the poor children in Africa through ICROSS Canada—the International Community for the Relief of Suffering and Starvation—along with medications and equipment.

Women's Fellowship plans to have workshops for these very simple-to-make dolls. If you are interested in participating in this project or have wool you can donate, please call me at 905-468-1288.



Super soup!

Beth Alma obviously has a magic touch when it comes to her home-made cream of potato soup.

The potato soup was just one of many delicious features on the menu during the 2008 Rotary House Tour lunch hosted by our Women's Fellowship on Dec. 5 and 6.

Beth received a number of requests for her recipe and complimentary letters in response, which we share on this page. Beth says, "I am only too happy to share the recipe. I grew up on a farm and simple recipes were always best. I guess I can't get away from that simple life!!"

Letter One: Delicious lunch

"The lunch was delicious, and the hall was decorated beautifully. My sister and I also loved the aprons that you wore; they were very festive!

All of the ladies of St. Andrew's are to be congratulated for the marvelous job they did. Having worked at our own Poinsettia Luncheon at St. Andrew's Thorold a few weeks ago, I know how much is involved in organizing and executing such a project. The best part of the experience for us, though, was the fact that all of you worked well together and you also looked like you were having fun!

We were made to feel very welcome at St. Andrew's, even when we visited the sanctuary. You should feel proud of the work that you, as a congregation, are doing in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond."

*Yours in Christ,
Sandra Beauvais and Susan Crowley*



Beth could well be cheering for her soup, but in fact, she's celebrating her last duty as outgoing president of the Women's Fellowship. Now Beth, surely you weren't that happy to lose your job! This photo was taken at the Women's Fellowship Christmas party last December.

Letter Two: From 'turn off' to 'turn on'

"Thank you so much for remembering to send me your recipe. The funny thing is both my friend and I were turned off cream of potato soup years ago when we were forced to make and eat it in elementary school home economics class. I didn't know that my girlfriend remembered that I had an aversion for it.

I chose the potato soup on Saturday and my friend Trish chose the vegetable soup, which I thought might be a little too hearty for me. When she tasted my soup, she really enjoyed it. I'm forwarding the recipe to her as well.

I love making homemade soup, but have never made a cream soup. I will be trying this recipe soon."

Donna Dobroski

Beth's Cream of Potato Soup

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 7-8 medium potatoes
- 3-4 cups chicken broth
- salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 can Carnation milk

Sauté onion. Boil with potatoes in chicken broth until tender.
Puree half of mixture in blender.
Mash remainder.

When serving:
Heat to boiling point
Add milk and simmer
Top with grated cheese and chopped parsley

Women's Fellowship Christmas party



Rev. Martin Wehrmann installed the new executive of Women's Fellowship last Dec. 10 during the Women's Fellowship Christmas party at the home of Lynn Lingard. From left, are Mariette McKenzie, corresponding secretary; Lynn Lingard, vice-president; Barb Nattress, president; Ann Bittersohl, recording secretary and Betty Ferguson, treasurer. Missing from the photo is past president, Beth Alma.



Even the smallest contributions add up!

By Ian Ness

It is my pleasure to convey a very big thank you from the staff at Newark Neighbours to all those members who contributed to our January collection. Your generosity allowed a number of community friends to receive encouragement in their time of need.

While the current economic problems persist or even deepen, St. Andrew's must be in the forefront of those stretching out a helping hand of love and encouragement. *"Above all, maintain constant love for one another." ...1 Peter 4:8*

To those members who have not participated to date in our program, PLEASE, PLEASE come on board for our May 2 and May 3 collection. With your help, St. Andrew's can increase its assistance to community friends.

As Newark Neighbours receives support from numerous local sources, kindly concentrate on the articles specified by them below.

Toiletries

We continue to be Newark's main source of supplies in this very important category. Fortunately, the sky is the limit in the range of products. Ask yourself what you yourself would most appreciate in a time of shortage? Brenda Shah of Newark Neighbours mentioned that shampoos seem to be in short supply most of the time.

Food

In this category, Newark Neighbours are very helpful in specifying food items that fly off the shelves and often run out. These include peanut butters and jams, tea and coffee, as well as dry cereals.

Clothing

I repeat what I have said many times before: your contributions of seasonal quality clothing have been awesome! Let's keep it up!

Other

Pots and pans, double- and queen-size sheets are always in demand. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our outreach program, you can reach me in church or at 905-468-8734.

Hopefully, it will be my pleasure to

welcome more of you on the weekend of May 2 and 3 in the Kirk Hall at the usual times—Saturday, from 10 a.m. until noon; and Sunday, before and after worship service.

Should these hours be inconvenient for you, kindly give me a call and we can make an alternate arrangement. We aim to please!

St. Andrew's Day 2008



Tom Cochrane, left, and Norm Fraser on St. Andrew's Day last Nov. 30. Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and St. Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Of course, Saint Andrew is also our church's namesake.

More reflections

By Evelyn Campbell

I stood at the top of the snow-laden bank, my head bent down to view a magnificent configuration. The calm surface of the river was a sight to behold.

The bright morning sun was shining behind the multi-gray and light clouds. These were reflected with a brilliant blue sky into the river below.

The steady pace of the water and the many faceted, crackling thin ice flows left a multitude of variegated palettes for these reflections to be enjoyed.

I stood in awe, watching as the Master's brush was busily changing his



unusual canvas. It was a picture so rare, yet so beautiful.

I turned homeward with the bite of the crisp winter morning on my face and a prayer of thanks in my heart for God's beauty.

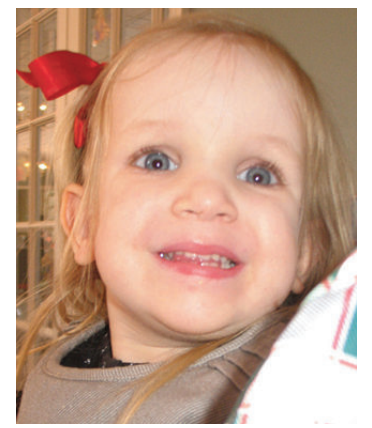
Editor's note: Evelyn wrote this on February 23. "I have seen many beautiful interesting sights on my travels," she says, "but none so rare and unusual as this, right here at home."

Guess who?



No-one guessed who our mystery youngster was in the last newsletter. But maybe the hair threw people off. The good-looking lad, at right, is none other than Phil Landray, who turned 80 last Nov. 10. The photo was taken in Bournemouth, England. At left is a photo of our new "guess who?" I admit I'll be shocked if no-one guesses who this pretty little gal is.

Sunday school soup and sandwich luncheon



Soup and sandwich luncheon (cont'd from page 21)



Grounds clean-up

Although the date for our annual grounds' clean-up has not yet been set, this year is going to be a biggie.

In addition to our usual grounds' clean-up, we have a lot of major landscaping and planting to do on the manse property. So it's likely that we will need volunteers for

more than a one-morning work-party, our usual commitment.

We will also be looking for donations of shrubs and perennials for the manse, so if you have any extras in your own landscape, keep St. Andrew's in mind.

Further details on workparty dates will be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletin. Last year's turnout was not as high as we would have liked, so we would really like to hear from you this year. If you can volunteer to help, just show up at the designated time with work gloves and your gardening tools. And then, dig in!

By Doug Hunter

Since the last publication of the *Herald* we mourn with the families of several members of St. Andrew's.

ELSIE DAWSON

Elsie died suddenly on Dec. 29, 2008 at the St. Catharines General Hospital in her 92nd year. Born in Beeston, England, she immigrated to Canada in 1951. She was predeceased by her husband Dennis (1987). She was mother of Debbie (David) Eke and David Dawson. She also leaves her grandchildren Darren (Carmen) Eke and Sarah (Michael) Pilliteri and great granddaughter Rosemarie Deborah Eke.

Elsie was a long-time member of St. Andrew's. She enjoyed ballroom and line dancing. She will be remembered for her vim and vigour and was never without a beautiful smile.

She was buried in St. Andrew's cemetery at a private family service, according to her wishes.

IRENE WILSON

Irene, the widow of Charles Wilson, died suddenly of a massive heart attack on February 15. She is survived by her son Steve (Bonnie) and grandson Charles, and her daughter Geraldine Wilson Black.

Although Irene was unable to attend church services lately, she will be remembered for her generous donation of new gowns and music binders for the church choir.

She was interred in St. Andrew's cemetery at a private family graveside service.

PHYLLIS HENDERSON

Phyllis passed away peacefully in her 92nd year at Pleasant Manor, where

she had resided for a number of years. She was predeceased by her husband Robert in 1996 and her son Bruce in 2008. She is survived by her son Bob (Karen), daughter-in-law Rosanne, her granddaughters Jennifer (Ross) and Heather (Steve) and her great grandchildren Jackson, Julia and Sydney.

Phyllis was born in England and immigrated to Canada in 1924 and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1966. She was a long-time member of St. Andrew's, serving on the Board of Managers for some time. She enjoyed bridge, golf, reading and gardening. She was a member of the 'Artists Six' who enjoyed displaying their artwork at various shows.

Indicative of her association with many people, a well-attended service was held in St. Andrew's Church, with interment in the church cemetery. The family have requested memorial donations to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library or Pleasant Manor.

TED BROOKER

Ted passed away peacefully at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital on February 25 at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his nieces and nephews John Dyer and family of Montreal, Libby Denbigh and family of Kamloops, Judy Dyer of Victoria, B.C. and Christopher Hawley and family of Toronto. He leaves many friends who have enjoyed his and Barbara's hospitality in their home.

Ted held a Doctorate in Geology and was involved for many years in mining in Northern Ontario.

A memorial service was held in St. Andrew's where he had been a member for some time. He could always be seen stirring jam at the Strawberry Festival.

The family has requested donations in Ted's memory to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Arthritis Society.

PAT RIDER

Pat died peacefully at the St. Catharines General Hospital on March 7 in her 89th year. Her husband Dr. Walter Rider died in 1991. She was a dear mother to Hamish, Sheila (David) and Peter (Mary). She is also survived by her grandchildren Jake Eadie and Joy Rider.

Pat was a long-time member of St. Andrew's and was an instructor of line dancing and Tai-Chi. She was an artist, working with water and oil paints.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held at Morgan's Funeral Home. The family have requested memorial gifts to the Canadian Cancer Society.

We would like to thank everyone who sent condolences and cards after the death of Irene Wilson, mother of Stephen.

From Stephen, Bonnie and Charles Wilson and Stephen's sister, Geraldine Wilson Black.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

Interim Moderator

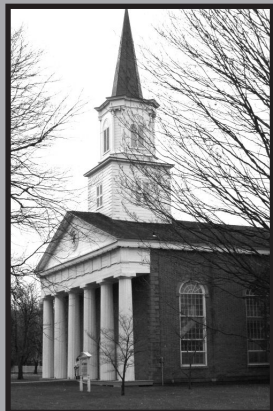
Rev. Martin Wehrmann

Organist and Choir Director

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Old Franciscan blessing

"I love this Old Franciscan blessing," says Michelle Machazire, who submitted it for the newsletter. "My minister in Birmingham, Alabama, used it to close her sermons."

Thanks for sharing it Michelle.

"May God bless you with discomfort at half-truths, easy answers, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deeply and from the heart. May God bless you with anger at in-

justice, oppression, and the exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those in pain, so that you will reach out your hand to them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with just enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this old world, so that you will do those things that others say cannot be done."

500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth

This year is the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin (1509-1564), often called the "father" of Presbyterianism. St. Andrew's will mark the anniversary with a special service later this year.

Calvin was born in France, but spent much of his life in the city of Geneva, Switzerland. From there, Presbyterianism spread through Europe.

Calvin, like other reformers, worked hard to develop a church where everyone, not just the clergy, shared responsibilities. Worship, education and the role of laypeople were a large part of his teachings. Schools were established to provide education for both clergy and laity. He was a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation.

John Knox (1515-1572), after studying with Calvin in Geneva, returned to his native Scotland to establish Presbyterianism there. It soon spread to northern Ireland, the United States and Canada. In 1875, several groups of Presbyterians formed a union and called themselves The Presbyterian Church. Our Church has been independent since then.



Today, the Presbyterian Church in Canada has about 1,000 congregations, with members coming from many national and racial backgrounds. For example, there are now 20 Korean congregations.

Within our denomination, there are many different languages and styles of worship. There are congregations that worship in English, French, Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, Hungarian, Spanish and Portuguese. In the 1990s, the Presbyterian Church in Canada has welcomed new Korean and Ghanaian congregations.

John Calvin's perspectives on Christian faith and life have shaped Reformed churches throughout the world and continue to shape our church today.

Source:
[www.presbyterian.ca/about/pcc/
history](http://www.presbyterian.ca/about/pcc/history)