



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

# The Herald

May 2009

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## Let us do all things for the glory of God



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By Rev. Martin Wehrmann

Dear friends in Christ:

Thank you for your warm reception on Sunday, May 3. I believe we all enjoyed the baptism service with Tyler Brynn Rezner and her family. It is such a blessing for a congregation to have children in its midst! Children's minds and hearts are so receptive to messages of God's love and care. It is a privilege to teach them, but also a grave responsibility for those who teach.

I also write this brief message on the eve of counting the votes to determine whether or not Rev. Barb McGale will be the minister you call. I am aware that some of you will be delighted if the Call goes ahead and some will not. As your interim moderator, I assure you that we are following our Presbyterian Church procedures and that **you** will determine the outcome by the number of signatures received. While the signing to Call by members and concurrence to Call by adherents does not take place in a 'voting booth' as in civic elections, be assured that once the Call document is compiled and sent to Presbytery for consideration, no notes will be kept on who signed and who didn't.

If the Call isn't 'strong enough' in numbers—or if the candidate with-



draws, we will have to determine which of the other applicants are still available. At that time, we will re-evaluate their profiles and present another recommendation to Session for consideration as soon as possible. Meanwhile, all proceedings are reported to Presbytery.

As we don't know the outcome of the signatures at this moment, I do wish to ask you to support one another as members of the congregation and to pray for those who work so hard on your behalf during a search. Whoever the final incumbent is, they will need the full support of this Christian congregation.

Let us do all things for the glory of God and for the good of God's church.

*Editor's note: Please see the Call update on the next page.*

## Status of the Call

Session unanimously agreed this week to send forward to Presbytery the Call for Rev. Barb McGale. Session based its decision on the fact that 76.3 percent of the members it was able to contact signed the Call. A further 29 adherents also signed the Call. The final decision to approve the Call must be made by Presbytery.

On Wednesday, May 27, Session submitted the paperwork for the Call to the Service Committee of Presbytery and the Clerk of Presbytery, along with a request that a special meeting be set as soon as possible to consider the Call. The Service Committee reviewed the forms and confirmed that they are complete and in order and can now be presented to Presbytery.

As a regular meeting of Presbytery is already scheduled for June 17, St. Andrew's request for the Call will be considered at that time. The four St. Andrew's representatives who were selected at the annual general meeting to "speak to the Call" (myself, Bill King, Pat Caldwell and Marsha Scott) will speak as required. At that same meeting, Presbytery will vote on whether to accept the Call.

Session appreciates everyone's patience and understanding as we move ahead following the proper procedures set out by our Church. ...Submitted by David Nattress, Clerk of Session

## Congregation meets Rev. Barb McGale



The congregation had an opportunity to meet Rev. Barb McGale after she preached for the call on April 19. Clock-wise, from top right: Don Dawson introduces mom Helen to Rev. McGale; Ian Watson and Rev. McGale share a laugh; David Parker and Jodie Godwin meet Rev. Bernie McGale; Jennifer Elliott, Don Dawson and Rev. McGale.

## Upcoming

**Sunday, May 31**

**Pentecost**

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher Mrs. Elaine Anderson*

**Bible Study**, 9:30 a.m., every Sunday before worship service, Kirk Hall board room, led by Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra

**Tuesday, June 2**

**Session meeting**

Kirk Hall, 7:15

**Wednesday, June 3**

**Strawberry Festival Committee meeting**

Kirk Hall, 7 p.m.

**Sunday nights throughout May and June**

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

**Sunday, June 7**

**Trinity Sunday**

**General Assembly Sunday**

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

**Wednesday, June 10**

**Women's Fellowship trip to Burlington.** Open to all.

Kirk Hall, 10:15 a.m.

**Sunday, June 14**

**Communion**

**Awards Sunday** for Sunday school attendance

Worship service: 11 a.m. *Guest preacher: Interim-Moderator Rev. Martin Wehrmann.* Check the bulletin for future guest preachers.

**Tuesday, June 16**

**Board of Managers meeting**

Kirk Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 17**

**Regular Presbytery meeting.**

Presbytery will consider St. Andrew's request to call Rev. Barb McGale.



**Saturday, June 20**

Strawberry Festival

**Sunday, June 21**

**Aboriginal Sunday**

Worship service: 11 a.m.

Last day of Sunday school classes until September

**Congregational picnic** following the service, potluck, burgers and hot-dogs

**Sunday, June 28**

Worship service: 11 a.m.

First day of Sunday school summer program. Sunday school superintendent Kathleen Tunmer wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.

**Wednesday, July 1**

Canada Day

**Sunday, July 12**

**John Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Worship service: 11 a.m.

**Monday, July 13**

**Alcohol-free pig roast in memory of Craig Whitehouse**

Kirk Hall 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m., Ceilidh 7 p.m. (see "What's a Ceilidh?" at right)

Tickets are 'free' from Debbie, but donations will be welcome. Any proceeds will go to St. Andrew's/Big

Brothers and Big Sisters.

**July 29**

**Annual St. Andrew's Golf Tournament.** Contact Pat Caldwell, Jenny Elliott or Bob Hunter.

**Sunday, Aug. 23**

Worship service: 11 a.m.

Deadline for the next St. Andrew's *Herald*

Please submit photos and information to Marsha at [marshascott@cogeco.ca](mailto:marshascott@cogeco.ca) or 905-468-9371 or drop your submission in the *Herald* box on top of the piano in the Kirk Hall.

**Monday, Sept. 7**

**Labour Day**

**Sunday, Sept. 13**

**Rally Sunday**

Children return to Sunday school

### What's a Ceilidh?

*A Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-lay) derives from the Gaelic word meaning social gathering. Traditionally, it's an evening of informal Scottish dancing and music. It has evolved to mean dancing, music and entertainment provided by those who attend.*

## Women's Fellowship continues the tradition

By Barb Nattress

The Women's Fellowship once again will be offering several options in the silent auction at the Strawberry Festival. We are offering our wonderful Christmas baking basket ready for pick-up in early December just in time for all your holiday parties. Just think—your baking all done for you!

We are also planning another Progressive Dinner for the auction. This will be a five-course dinner in five different homes. We include the wine and a van to transport the group from home to home.

Our last auction item is the famous pie-of-the-month. A different pie each month delivered to your home. How delicious! So come and bid on these items while you are enjoying the festivities at the Strawberry Festival.

We do need the help of the congregation with our projects for the auction. We need the loan of a seven-passenger van to transport the winners of our progressive dinner group, as well as a driver, for the evening. This will take place later in the fall. There's no pay, but you do get to eat a five-course dinner. If you can help us please call Barb Nattress at 289-868-9063 or Elaine Landray at 905-468-3923.

Our fellowship group is planning an outing for our final meeting of the year on Wednesday, June 10. We are going to a church in Burlington to view art panels titled Triptych, Christ's Living Journey. These panels took three years to be ready for viewing. We welcome any member of the congregation who would like to join us for this trip. We are leav-



*Another tradition of Women's Fellowship is its annual April 1 Surprise Luncheon. This year, Canada was the country celebrated. Here, among the gals in the kitchen, are, from left, Mariette MacKenzie, Evelyn Campbell and Bonnie Tarnowski. Below are Christine Dyck, hard at work in the kitchen, and a happy winner of one of the lovely table centrepieces.*

ing the church at 10:15 am and travelling by cars to Burlington. We will be having lunch at Spencer's Restaurant in Burlington after the visit. Several members of the group are driving so if you wish to come please call Beth Alma at 905-468-4635 or Barb Nattress at 289-868-9063 no later than June 4, and we will arrange the rides.

The ladies' group that is knitting the "Dolls of Joy", to be sent along with medications and equipment to the poorest children in Africa through the International Community for Relief of Suffering and Starvation Canada, is knitting up a storm. Watch the church bulletin for an announcement regarding a future workshop at the church hall for these simple-to-make dolls. Contact Betty Ferguson at 905-468-1288 for further information.



By Julie Hunter

Only 20 more days until Festival Day! The Strawberry Festival Committee has had three meetings to date, and everything is moving ahead smoothly towards June 20.

Last Sunday (May 24) was the first Sunday that we placed sign-up sheets in the Kirk Hall for volunteers to commit to their favourite area to help out. Please sign up on these sheets, or contact any committee member with your availability for that day. It is the volunteers that make this special day a success every year!

While you are 'spring cleaning', please put aside any gently used items you may have to donate to the flea market, granny's attic, this and that booth, or to the children's area (prizes). The flea market welcomes almost anything. Granny's attic (collectables) welcomes any item that can be sold for \$5 to \$25 (china, linens, decorative items and art, for example). This and that sells fashion accessories (scarves, belts, jewellery and hats), as well as kitchen items. Any of these items can be dropped off on the day or evening before the Festival. Flea market items should be left behind the hall. Plastic bags and wrapping material would be appreciated for all of these booths.

Baking is a fine art, and we all look forward to seeing the tantalizing goodies on display each year at the bake table. It seems harder every year to keep this table looking full for most of day, so the committee is asking that you start baking and freezing your 'works of art' now so we can have a great selection. Baking should be dropped off at the



*Hard at work, but still having fun in the strawberry pie booth last year, from left, Nancy Burns, Bev Fellows, Elizabeth MacIntyre and Kathy Beigie.*

church hall on Friday night, June 19. Names and phone numbers must be included on donated baking. This is a Board of Health requirement.

After church each week up to Festival Day, the committee is selling Festival golf shirts for \$25 and hats for \$15 each. Ladies' Festival t-shirts have been ordered and we will have them on sale in the next few weeks. These shirts make it easy to spot our congregational volunteers on Festival Day!

**It takes a fantastic team to run this event every year, and we are blessed with such a supportive congregation! Thank you!**

**The next committee meeting will be June 3 at 7 p.m.**

**If you have not already signed up to join the team, please consider calling one of the committee chairs (page 6) to volunteer for our big day.**

## Silent auction

*By Ann and Bob Crooks*

It is time to check out your attics and basements for anything you can donate to this year's Strawberry Festival silent auction. We welcome antiques and other concrete donations. But if you can't find anything in that area to donate, let your imagination run wild.

Do you have a talent you can offer? Or a service you can provide? Can you tune a piano, or fix a computer glitch? Can you type up someone's memoirs? Could you donate some time to someone's annual yard clean-up next spring or fall? What about a bouquet of garden flowers once a month through the summer? The only limit is your imagination.

Or maybe you can contact a friend or business owner you know for a donation to the silent auction.

With your help and ideas, this could be the most interesting and innovative silent auction ever—and the most profitable. Call Ann or Bob at 905-468-3782.

## Strawberry Festival committee contacts

**Co-Chairs:**

Bob Hunter/Julie Hunter  
468-0263/468-5233

**Treasurer:** John Elliott/Ron Ferguson

**Organ/Sound System/Silent**

**Auction Pickups:** David Nattress  
289-868-9063

**Sanitation/Recycling**

Hugh Hutton  
468-2693

**Advertising/Secretary**

Elaine Landray  
468-3923

**Ticket Sales:** Bill King

468-4117

**Purchasing**

Jennifer Elliott/Doug Dineley  
468-4083/468-2645

**Strawberry Shortcake**

Deb Whitehouse/Evelyn Campbell  
468-4762/468-3652

**Jam**

Lynn Hunter-Hope/Bob Hunter  
688-9311/468-0263

**Pies:** Marsha Scott

468-9371

**Bake Table**

Fiona MacLeod/Ruth Hunter  
468-7726/468-0263

**Yogurt/Milkshakes**

Kathleen/Les Tunmer  
295-4818

**Crepes/Popcorn:** Lynn Lingard

262-4780

**Drinks:** Geof Haswell

468-9371

**BBQ:** Ken Willms

468-3335

**Corn:** Don Dawson

262-4360

**Entertainment:** David Nattress

299-868-9063

**Silent Auction**

Ann/Bob Crooks  
468-3782

**Granny's Attic/Collectables**

Pat Caldwell/Mariette Mackenzie  
468-4901/468-0712

**Children's Area:** Sandra McAslan

468-9696

**Flea Market**

Bonnie Tarnowski/Nancy Howse  
468-2216/468-7381

**This & That:** Jennifer Roberts

468-1319

**Church tours: No convenor yet****Plants:** Heather Voogt

468-5233 (Julie Hunter)

**Berries:** Mike Aitken

468-5840

**Salads:** Joyce Dineley

468-2645

**Set Up/Site Plan/Tents**

Lee Alma/Doug Dineley/Julie  
Hunter/Bob Hunter  
468-4635/468-2645/468-5233/468-  
0263

**Washroom Maintenance**

Peter Lingard  
262-4780

**Babysitting**

Christine Dyck  
468-7112

**Telephone call-outs**

Jennifer Roberts/Ruth Hunter/Sandra  
King  
468-1319/468-0263/468-4117

## Tax receipts for silent auction donors

*By Ron Ferguson*

The question has again been raised with regard to whether or not items of property donated to the Strawberry Festival silent auction are eligible for official donation receipts for tax purposes. The answer is "yes, they are". Receipts can be issued in an amount equal to the "fair market value" of the item donated.

The general provisions are as follows:

If the fair market value of the property is less than \$1,000, a person with sufficient knowledge of the property may determine its value. Specifically, the person who determines this should be competent and qualified to evaluate the particular property being donated.

If the fair market value of the property is expected to be more than \$1,000, the property should be professionally appraised by a third party—someone not associated with the church or the donor—whose name and address must be included on the receipt.

While every effort should be made to satisfy the above requirements, some items are donated for which a fair market value cannot practicably be determined. It is my position that, for these items and within reason, the winning bid can be deemed to reflect the fair market value and a receipt issued in that amount to the donor of the item.

Trudy Wilson, who has attended St. Andrew's since the early 1980s, says this little saying reflects her philosophy of life: "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body. Rather, one should strive to skid in sideways, champagne in one hand, strawberries in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn-out and screaming, 'What a ride!!'"

Trudy may live by that philosophy, but she recently ensured that her 'baby' sister's body is better 'preserved' now than it was a few years ago. On March 4, Trudy donated one of her kidneys to sister Elizabeth Frank, whose own kidneys began to fail about five years ago. And now, with champagne in one hand and strawberries in the other, the sisters are able to celebrate together the success of that ride.

When Liz' kidneys began to fail, she was immediately hospitalized and put through a battery of tests, but doctors couldn't find the reason for the failure. With the help of medication, she went into remission for four years, but finally required dialysis. "That's when I decided to see if I would be able to donate one of my kidneys to her," says Trudy. "Until then, it just didn't seem real that there was a problem with Liz. She looked great and still did everything, including going to work and also working around the house and yard."

### Enjoying time together

For almost one year, Trudy underwent her own battery of tests to determine that she was healthy enough, physically and mentally, to donate her kidney. There were ultrasound sounds, blood work, scans and trips to the hospital. "I felt pretty special through all the fuss," says Trudy.



*Trudy Wilson, left, with sister Liz, looking the picture of health following the kidney transplant March 4, and celebrating life.*

"Liz drove to every appointment with me (I don't like highway driving), and after we would go for lunch, shop or just have a great time joking and laughing. We weren't worried or stressed; we just enjoyed the time together."

The sisters were given a tentative date of last November for surgery. "We thought that would be perfect timing because of our bed and breakfast business," says Trudy. They were disappointed when it didn't happen quite as quickly.

By this time, Liz was on peritoneal dialysis, which she did at home. Every night before going to bed, she attached herself to a machine which did the work for her kidneys until morning.

Finally, March 4 was set as the date of surgery. To keep Trudy's mind off the wait, her husband, Terry, took her on a wonderful trip to Bali for the month of February.

### Surgery

On her return, Trudy went into a four to five-hour surgery and Liz' surgery followed. "The doctors were very

pleased with everything!" says Trudy. Her kidney started working for Liz immediately.

"After surgery things were a little rough for me but not unbearable," says Trudy. "I left the hospital four days later and Liz left the day after me."

During Trudy's recovery, Terry did a "wonderful job" of babysitting and cooking. Married for 13 years, the two have a busy family life with their blended family of six children, as well as five grandchildren and another one on the way in June.

### Life back to normal

"It's been nearly three months since the surgery and I honestly don't feel any different than I did before surgery," says Trudy. "Liz is doing great and so am I. We laugh because she can now eat anything (her food was restricted during kidney failure) and she has a few more cravings for different foods. I tell her it's because of my kidney!!"

Trudy has to go for a check-up in Hamilton yearly. And Liz needs to have weekly blood work to make

*(Cont'd on page 8)*

## What a ride! *(cont'd from page 7)*

sure she is stable. She will have to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of her life.

Trudy thinks it's wonderful what the medical profession can do these days. "I would donate my kidney all over again—if I could. We met many different people at the hospital with amazing stories on health issues and how transplants have saved their life. So many people don't realize how important it is to sign their donor cards."

"Looking at us, you would never know we have a story," says Trudy. "What a ride!

Trudy's family has lived in Virgil since 1953. In 2003, she and Terry bought

the house her dad built. Trudy's mom has Alzheimer's and lives in Heritage Place. Trudy has three brothers and two sisters. Elizabeth and her younger brother Henry were born in Niagara Falls; sister Ella was born in Germany; and Trudy and brothers, Herb and Helmut, were born in Paraguay, South America. She feels lucky to have all of her siblings living in the region.

After Trudy was baptized at St. Andrew's with her children Leeland and Lindsey in 1983, St. Andrew's became like her second home. "I love my church family as well as teaching Sunday school, which I did for more than 20 years," she says.

From her perspective, Liz says, "I

feel great, like a million bucks. Trudy and I have always been close. We check up on each other."

Liz says she's never liked red wine before, but seems to have acquired a taste for it. They blame it on Trudy's kidney.

Liz has given up smoking since the surgery. "I don't think I could have accepted the kidney without giving it my best shot," she says. "Trudy has given me a gift. The bottom line is, it definitely takes a special person to be a donor. I feel honoured that Trudy gave me her kidney and Trudy always made me feel comfortable with her decision. So I was never worried. I would have done the same for her."

## A tribute to my dad

By Christine Dyck

My dad was 54 when he died; I was 14. I am now 61 and still mourn his death. He was a humble man, of few words, but able to show his affection.

Dad had narcolepsy, which greatly affected his life with my mother. Without huge stimulation, he would fall asleep—at the table, in the bath, or on the road. A motorcycle accident in the 1940s ended his career in the army.

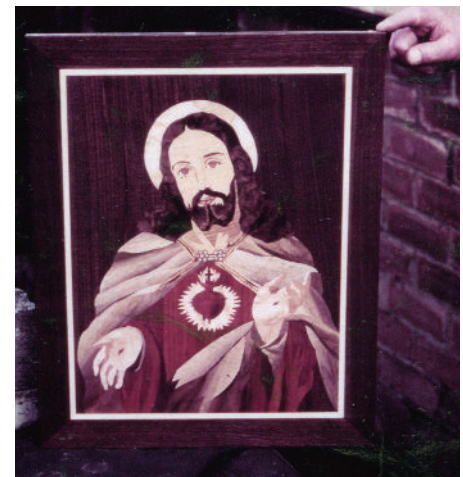
Dad spent the rest of his working life in an office at British Rail, working, I believe, far below his mental capacities. Doctors in the 1950s didn't much understand narcolepsy. Later, they prescribed amphetamines. Don't know that it helped.

This wasn't what I intended to write. What I intended to say is that my dad was an ordinary man, without

any affectations. He had so many abilities, among them a love of creating exquisite designs of inlaid wood called marquetry. He was patient and meticulous in his art as well as life.

I actually have two pieces of his work—his first attempt at marquetry and another beautiful picture of horses in a barn. I attempted some marquetry many years ago, a very simple piece, which took me three months to finish!

In the 1950s or 1960s, my dad was commissioned by a Polish colleague at British Rail to produce some marquetry for a Catholic church, "The Sacred Heart of Jesus". This is the only photograph we have of that work; we have no idea where the piece is today.



## Mother's Day breakfast



*As usual, the congregation came out in droves for the Mothers' Day breakfast. Clockwise, from top right, Jenny Elliott with son Joe Cebado, from Niagara Falls, and girlfriend Lillian Ramsay; Ruth Hunter with granddaughter Mackenzie; Beth Alma with Neil Rumble; Joyce Dineley with grandson, Ben; Mark Dawson with mom Judy; Wendy and Norm Fraser with son, Kevin, of Toronto; and Melanie Paines with son Scott and daughter Ashley.*



Top right, clockwise, Irene and Don Chambers; Rev. David Lewis with Jodie Godwin, left, and Debbie and Jim Hunter; Barbara Lake of Virgil, left, with sister Hope Bradley at the Mother's Day breakfast. (Barbara says she wore the traditional white carnation to honour their deceased mother. Red and pink carnations traditionally honour a living mother); Helen McLeish and daughter Sheila; visitors Norma Morton of St. Catharines and daughter Bonnie Retzik of Niagara-on-the-Lake; and Kathy and Murray Smith, back from Florida.

## Alpha introduced to senior Sunday school

Sunday school teacher Matthew Lingard introduced the Alpha Youth curriculum to the young people in his Grades 7/8 Sunday school classroom this year.

Prior to its introduction, lessons were organized around important themes and questions concerning spirituality, Christian morality, as well as youth and life decisions. The Alpha Youth curriculum deals primarily with these issues as well, but provides some innovative methods for delivering lessons and stimulating discussion. The Alpha youth teacher guide suggests, for instance, using popular youth culture to convey important messages like faith and love. This may be done by showing snippets from recent movies, such as Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter, or using song lyrics.

Unfortunately, Matthew says, there were also several fun activities that could not be done because of his

small class size this year. Nevertheless, he is hoping he can modify the lessons that incorporate these activities so that the Grade 7/8 students can return to the Alpha Youth curriculum next year.

Matthew has been part of St. Andrew's congregation for 14 years and has participated as the grade 7/8 Sunday school teacher for five years. His girlfriend, Claudia Dettenmaier, has also been teaching Sunday school at St. Andrew's for three years. The first year, Claudia taught the toddler class. This year, she taught kindergarten.

Matthew is attending teacher's college at Brock University in September and hopes to teach overseas with Claudia for a few years, in addition to taking a master's degree in theology some time in the near future.

*Matthew is the son of Lynn and Peter Lingard, both current elders at St. Andrew's.*



*Matthew helping out in the kitchen.*

## Manse update

*By Ken Willms*

It's good to announce that the new basement windows of the manse have been painted and installed and most major fix-ups to the interior have been completed. Only minor repairs, touch-ups and cleaning remain.

Outside, our property committee started on the new driveway and landscaping but, in the process, members decided that simply replacing the damaged garage floor would not be practical without addressing the poor condition of the foundations for the garage slab.

Along with members of the Building

Committee and Board of Managers, it was decided that the condition of the garage was such that it would be more practical (for the long term) to build a new garage for the property.

We are now working on a 'master plan' to include the design of a garage, new side entry porch, new driveway, future private patio area, and final landscaping needs.

Because our property lies within the Heritage District of the town, we must await the town's decision on our plans to rebuild the garage. We expect to hear from the town by mid-June, and we're hoping to get



started with this final project before the end of June.

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

## Cariboo Presbyterian Church—a different kind of church

By Ian Ness

It is Wednesday night and the minister's 4x4 truck bumps along the pot-holed driveway for the last kilometre to the host's home for church. He has been driving for nearly two hours, navigating logging roads and trying to avoid the moose, deer and bears that share the road with massive logging trucks and pick-ups.

He gets out of the truck and stretches his legs. Vast acres of pastureland, surrounded by hills of pine forest, stretch out before him like an artist's canvas. The minister knocks the mud from his boots as he carries in the "church box". It is filled with songbooks, a wooden communion plate and chalice, a gift bag for offerings and a small music stand.

As the box is unpacked and the guitar is tuned, others arrive for a time of worship, study, prayer and fellowship. They share their stories with one another. A rancher is driving a logging truck to supplement his income and keep his ranch. A couple is struggling with old age, illness and the implications of living so far from all the amenities that most of us take for granted—electrical power, medical services, stores and phones. The children are home-schooled as there is no school within an accessible distance.

However, despite their difficulties, for the next few hours they will share their burdens and joys with the Lord and one another. They know what a fight it is to be able to gather with other believers in Christ. Afterwards they enjoy fellowship in the kitchen over coffee. Finally that

night, the minister loads up his truck and heads home through the dark forest.

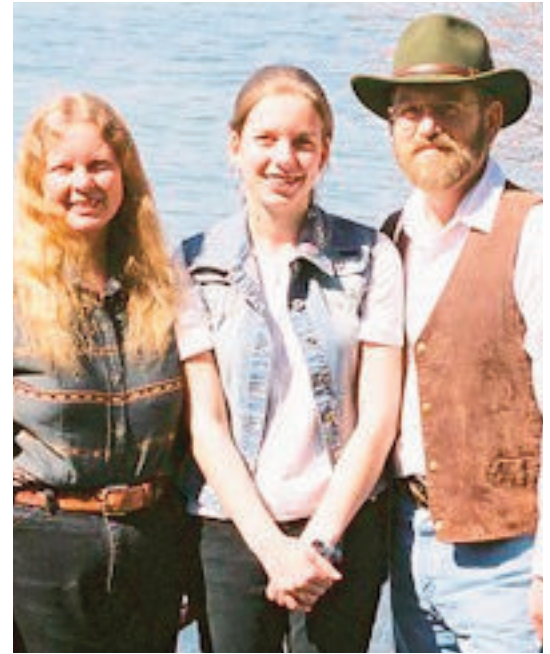
The scattered members of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church in British Columbia are grateful that the Presbyterian Church in Canada recognizes that people in remote communities need the church just as any other follower of Jesus Christ does. The ministry team of four brings the gifts of worship, teaching and fellowship to hundreds of people each night of the week in house churches spread thousands of kilometres apart through this vast region.

Thanks to *Presbyterians Sharing*, these people are vital members of Christ's body.

When I receive my *Presbyterian Record*, I immediately turn to the back of the issue to chuckle and find out what the Rev. David Webber has for me this month. He is part of that wonderful team that services our fellow members in Cariboo.

It is a privilege to realize that by contributing to *Presbyterians Sharing*, we are helping in our own small way to make it possible for the Cariboo Presbyterian Church to serve in that vast land.

We have the easy part, so let us ensure that in St. Andrew's we hit our budget target of \$20,000 for 2009. The total collection to the end of April was \$6,607 and that augers well for 2009. Please keep it up!



*Linda and David Webber with daughter Chelsea, centre, in 2005.*

*Born in Kaslo, B.C., David was raised in Wasa Lake, both rural hamlets in the Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia. He spent most of his early life in a lumber camp and his initial post-secondary education was in forestry. In 1979, at the age of 29, David was baptized into Christ, diagnosed with cancer and felt a call to the ministry. He and his wife Linda have ministered in rural parishes in British Columbia since 1983. During that time, they began to develop the vision for reaching out in a non-traditional way to isolated people in rural and remote areas. In 1989, they moved to Lac La Hache, B.C. and began building the Cariboo Presbyterian Church as a congregation of house churches.*

## New elder: Anne Bittersohl

*In our last issue, we introduced readers to our new Clerk of Session David Nattress, as well as to three of five new elders: Janice Thompson, Mike Belfie and Jennifer Roberts. In this issue, we introduce new elder Anne Bittersohl. We hope to nail down an interview with our last new elder—the elusive Don Dawson—for our next issue.*

### **Anne Bittersohl**

"It is not only a privilege to have been selected to be an elder, but I see it as a growth and learning opportunity," says Anne of her new position as an elder at St. Andrew's. "I also see it as a commitment on my part to be actively involved in serving the church community."

Anne and husband Karl moved to 615 Victoria Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake from St. Catharines five years ago. They have been members of St. Andrew's for nine years, but have been affiliated with the church for close to 19 years.

They joined St. Andrew's because of the music, as well as the warmth and friendliness they experienced here.

Anne is a Registered Nurse, who graduated from the Royal Victoria



Hospital School of Nursing in Montreal and from the University of Western Ontario. She was a Professor of Nursing Education at Niagara College for 26 years and also worked in that capacity in schools of nursing in London, Kitchener and Toronto. She retired in 1996.

In her free time, Anne enjoys knitting, reading and travel. She also volunteers with the Shaw Guild and other organizations.

In the photo above, Anne and husband Karl receive a Mother's Day greeting from Joshua Davis.

## Golfing at Haliburton Highlands anyone?

*By Gord McKindsey*

Members and friends of St. Andrew's are invited to the third annual Haliburton Highlands golf tournament.

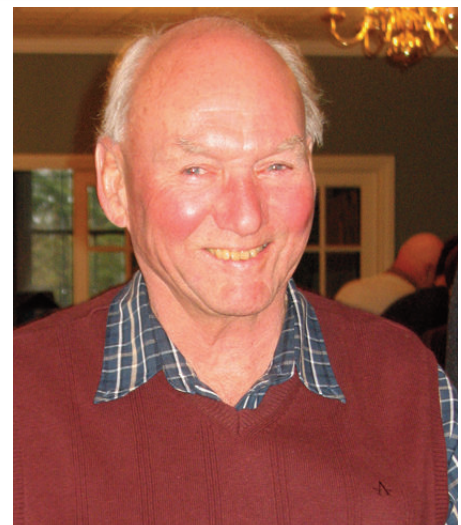
While dates have not yet been set for this year's event, in the past two years, it has occurred in the third week of July. Last year, a dozen intrepid golfers made the trek northward.

Barb and Dave Nattress have generously offered their home near Dorset to help with accommodation.

When not golfing, you can relax and enjoy Haliburton Lake in any way you want.

In my opinion, the previous get-togethers were very successful with lots of fun for everyone.

If interested or curious, give me a call at 905-468-3042.



By Marsha Scott

Have you read *The Shack*? It's a fictional religious novel that has topped the *New York Times* bestseller list for some time. It was written by William Paul Young, a Canadian raised among a stone-age tribe by his missionary parents in the highlands of what was New Guinea. He suffered great loss as a child and young adult and now lives with his family in the Pacific Northwest.

Among the main characters in this book are a young father, Mack, who visits a dilapidated shack—the site of his young daughter's murder five years before—to spend a weekend with 'God'. Other characters include a large, loving African-American woman (depicting 'God'), a wiry Asian woman who describes herself as 'keeper of the gardens' (depicting 'the Holy Spirit') and a Middle Eastern man working as a handyman around the property (depicting 'Jesus'). When Mack asks which one is God, they all answer "I am" in unison. This book, through its unorthodox characters, tries to explain, among other things, some of life's biggest questions: Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is the Trinity? What is salvation? Is Jesus the only way to Heaven? If God, then why evil? And so on.

In spite of the "buzz" about this book and a growing grassroots audience (with more than a million copies in print within a year of its May 2007 publication date), I don't highly recommend it. It has been described as "theologically edgy" and is not particularly well-written. In spite of its attempts to present a Christian worldview, below the surface it rejects traditional Christianity and takes a swing at "legalistic" religions, denominations and doctrines.

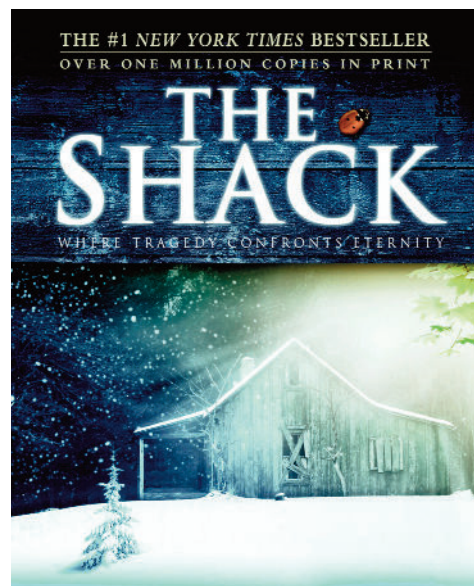
It barely even mentions the Bible. While I appreciate the author's attempt to engage the current culture, I found it a little too 'simplistic' for my liking. What I did find interesting in this book, however, is its description of church by the man who depicts 'Jesus'.

'Jesus' describes the church as "individuals who together form a spiritual city with a living river flowing through the middle, and on both shores trees growing with fruit that will heal the hurts and sorrows of the nations. And this city is always open, and each gate into it is made of a single pearl. (That would be me," Jesus says. "Pearls, Mack. The only precious stone made by pain, suffering and—finally—death.")

Mack understands what 'Jesus' means by this: "You are the way in," he says. But he adds that this is not a description of the church he goes to every Sunday. "That's because you are seeing only the institution, a man-made system," responds 'Jesus'... That's not what I came to build. What I see are people and their lives, a living, breathing community of all those who love me, not buildings and programs."

A bit taken aback to hear 'Jesus' talking about the church this way, Mack asks how he can become part of that church that Jesus talks about. "It's all about relationships and simply sharing life," says Jesus. "Church is all about people, and life is all about relationships. You can't build it. It's my job."

Mack is relieved that church, to 'Jesus', is **not** a lot of exhausting work, a long list of demands, sitting in endless meetings, or staring at



the back of people's heads.

While I agree that the building that is St. Andrew's, for example, is not the "church" that Jesus came to build, it is the building where we congregate as a "spiritual city". And the institution, while man-made, requires work, demands and committee meetings. I also believe, that through God, we can build this church.

Our building may have its door open only one day a week. But if **we** are the church, our doors can always be open. In our church, I have witnessed strong relationships and many, working through Jesus, sharing life and helping heal other's hurts and sorrows.

When I come to St. Andrew's on Sundays, I see much more than a man-made institution. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but at its heart, I believe St. Andrew's is a living, breathing community aspiring to be what God wants it to be.

## Movie review of *Fireproof*

By Pat and Jim Caldwell

While driving in the car one day, we were listening to WDCX radio station, which was talking about the movie *Fireproof*. They said it was a great Christian movie for marriages, so we told our married children about the recommendation.

We intended to watch it ourselves, but had surmised that the movie was written for young married couples. Boy, were we wrong!

The movie is about a firefighter, who, in an attempt to save his marriage, embarks on a 40-day experiment known as "The Love Dare". He is an unbeliever and has the support of his Christian father and Christian friend at the fire-hall. In fact, his father recommended the book to him.

It is a testament of unconditional love and forgiveness. A hopeless situation turns optimistic when it is turned over to the Lord.

We thoroughly enjoyed the movie and think you will too!

### **We dare you!**

After watching the movie, we de-



cidied to take "The Love Dare". It's a 40-day challenge for husbands and wives to understand and practise unconditional love. Whether your marriage is hanging by a thread or healthy and strong, "The Love Dare" is a journey you need to take. It's a great way to learn the keys to finding true intimacy and developing a dynamic marriage.

TAKE THE DARE. We have been married 35 years and we are on Day 20 of the challenge.

*Editor's note: Fireproof is a 2008 American Christian drama film by Samuel Goldwyn Films and Sherwood Pictures. On a budget of \$500,000, Fireproof opened in theatres last September and was the highest grossing independent film of 2008. It was also released on DVD in January. "The Love Dare" is a study book connected with the DVD, combining biblical messages of faith and love with day-by-day dares that force a spouse to consider what he or she can do to improve the marriage, without focus on the other person's wrongs.*

## To Bruce

By Margaret McQueen

Where is that strange land  
In which you live?  
Time came like a silent thief  
In the night  
And carried you off to Babylon  
Into slavery.  
Unknown mystical dreams  
Fill your eyes

Eyes that mirror a sad  
Bewildered soul  
As you search a dark realm  
For illusive words.  
I sit with you in your  
Strange country  
Knowing our two worlds  
Border on the alien.

*Margaret jotted down the basic lines of this poem while sitting with Bruce at Chateau Gardens on May 2. "Alzheimer's sadly leaves us both bereft," she says. "We cannot inhabit each other's world." I'm certain there are others in the congregation who can identify with her poignant thoughts.*

## 17th century nun's prayer

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I

dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for an improved memory, but for a growing humility, and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give



me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

*Submitted by Christine Dyck, who copied it down after visiting an elderly cousin in Chester, Eng. many years ago.*

## Knowing scripture can save your life!

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and Two 38s!" Knowing scripture can save your life- in more ways than one!

## Baptism



*Tyler Brynn Rezner, shown here in the arms of mom Erin, was baptized at St. Andrew's on May 3. Tyler joins Phoenix, left and Caden, right, in the Rezner family. Chris and Erin live in Burlington. Chris is the son of Dan Rezner and Edith (deceased) and nephew of former Sunday school superintendent Gloria Harwood and Judy Heim. He is also a cousin to Nancy MacCallum.*

## A new Newark Neighbours co-ordinator

By Ian Ness

Once again, I have to convey to the relatively small band of regular contributors a very big THANK YOU from Brenda and staff at Newark Neighbours on John Street. The May 2 and 3 collection, which Tom Cochrane and I delivered, will mean a material helping hand to friends in our community who may need a welcome pick-up in times of stress.

I also wish to convey my own personal gratitude for your wonderful generous support over the last five years. How time flies when you are having fun! We started this with a collection on the weekend of January 17 and 18 in 2004.

Now I have decided it is time for me to step down as co-ordinator for this outreach program and hand over the reins to a younger, more energetic member of our congregation. The fact that I hope to celebrate my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and that a few parts do not work as well as in previ-

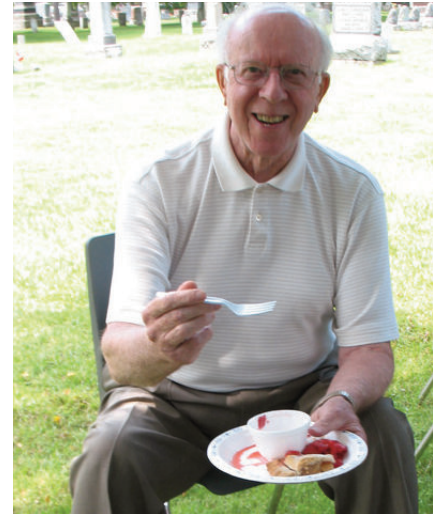
ous years, undoubtedly played a part in my decision.

I appeal to some member of our caring congregation to step forward as the new outreach co-ordinator for Newark Neighbours. Salary is nominal, but the fringe benefits are tremendous!

The program has enjoyed a degree of success over the last five years and offers a stepping stone to a new level of achievement.

Once again, thank you to all contributors who really made this outreach a success. In today's language, "You were awesome."

Finally, I have to single out one more person for his remarkable record of offering himself and his trusty van to ship your gifts from the Kirk Hall to John Street for every single collection over the five-year stretch, Tom Cochrane.



*Editor's note: A big THANK YOU to Ian for initiating and continuing this outreach program for the past five years. And "hot off the press" is the news that Don Laird has graciously agreed to take over from Ian in co-ordinating the Newark Neighbours outreach program. On behalf of the congregation, thank you Don.*

## Guess who?



Three members of our congregation correctly guessed who the little girl, at left, is. The problem is I can't remember who guessed correctly first, or second. I do remember that Jenny Elliott was the third person to guess that the photo was of Nancy Burns, also shown at right with Rev. Barb McGale. For all of our newer members and adherents, one of Nancy's claims to fame is that she is the aunt to golf pro Mike Weir.

## Ten Commandments for parents

By Paul M. Pitman

1. Thou shalt love thy child with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength, but wisely, with all thy mind.
2. Thou shalt think of thy child, not as something belonging to thee, but as a person.
3. Thou shalt regard his respect and love, not as something to be demanded, but something worth earning.
4. Every time thou art out of patience with thy child's immaturity and blundering, thou shalt call to mind some of the childish adventures and mistakes which attended thine own coming of age.
5. Remember that it is thy child's privilege to make a hero out of thee, and take thou thought to be a proper one.
6. Remember also that thy example is more eloquent than thy fault-finding and moralizing.
7. Thou shalt strive to be a sign-post on the highway of life rather than a rut out of which the wheel cannot turn.
8. Thou shalt teach thy child to stand on his own feet and fight his own battles.
9. Thou shalt help thy child to see beauty, to practise kindness, to love truth, and to live in friendship.
10. Thou shalt make of the place wherein thou dwellest a real home—a haven of happiness for thyself, for



thy children, for thy friends and for thy children's friends.

*Dedicated to all who accept parenthood as a welcome responsibility and a high privilege. Lynn Lingard found these words of wisdom on an old piece of paper when she was going through some of her "mom's stuff" and wanted to share it with everyone.*

**Welcome to the 'family'.** Jochem Kamstra with new daughter Madelyn Rose. Madelyn was born at the Niagara Falls Hospital on Wednesday, March 4. New mom, Stephanie, is a professional photographer. She took this beautiful photograph, which seemed so right for this page. Madelyn is Jochem and Stephanie's first child.

# Annual general meeting and dinner



# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

342 Simcoe St.  
PO Box 441  
Niagara-on-the-Lake  
LoS 1Jo

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

## Interim Moderator

Rev. Martin Wehrmann  
905-646-0616

## Organist and Choir Director

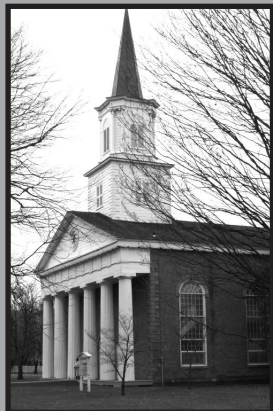
Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra

## Secretary

Kathy Hunter  
905-468-3363  
[standrewsnotl@bellnet.ca](mailto:standrewsnotl@bellnet.ca)

## Editor

Marsha Scott  
905-468-9371  
[marshascott@cogeco.ca](mailto:marshascott@cogeco.ca)



## Dear Abby

*Beth Alma read this "Dear Abby" column from a newspaper at a recent Women's Fellowship meeting. Pat Caldwell passed it on.*

Dear Abby:

One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister.

A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He'd watched the Pastoral Relations Committee reject applicant after applicant for some fault, alleged or otherwise.

It was time for a bit of soul-searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read a letter purporting to be from another applicant.

The letter read:

"Gentlemen: Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications...I've been a preacher with much success and also some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader most places I've been.

"I'm over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances.

"I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing.

"My health is not too good, though I still get a great deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities.

"I've not got along well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized.

"However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

The board member looked over the committee. Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?

The good church folks were aghast. Call an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Was the board member crazy? Who signed that application? Who had such colossal nerve?

The board member eyed them all keenly before he answered. "It's signed, 'The Apostle Paul'"

## Thoughts for today

*If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.*

Happy moments, praise God.  
Difficult moments, seek God.  
Quiet moments, worship God.  
Painful moments, trust God.  
Every moment, thank God.