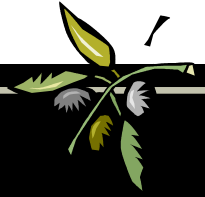


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PELHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

"FAITHFULLY LOVING GOD, CREATIVELY SERVING HIM EVERYWHERE"

*A covenanting congregation within The United Church of Canada, 461 Canboro Rd., Fenwick, ON, L0S 1C0
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From The Pastor's Desk

Pelham Community Church Newsletter March 2009
From the Pastor's Desk Sabbatical Leave

Thirty years ago this summer, I packed up my bags and headed off to my first ministry experience: a student internship charge in Pierceland, Saskatchewan. Thirty years is a long time to stay in the same line of work. Although I had a long stretch of part time ministry while I was raising my kids, for almost every Sunday (except vacation time) for these past three decades, I've been in a pulpit, somewhere.

And now I am going to step back and take a breather: from May 1 until August 30, I'll be off on leave, combining a three month sabbatical and a one month vacation. During my absence, Rev. George Schmidt and Adam Kilner will be teaming up to provide coverage leading worship and providing pastoral care.

My husband, Paul Miller, will also be taking sabbatical leave from his ministry at First Grantham United Church in St Catharines. In May and August, we will read, refresh and renew. For June and July, we will travel together, visiting churches and cribbing good ideas along the way.

We will begin our travels at St Andrew's Church, Sedgely, England, the site of the 2005 Godspell Mission trip, and then on to St Thomas, Crookes Church in Sheffield. A four day conference there will give us exposure to one of the most vital, renewing congregations in Britain. Next is Luton and Stopsley Baptist Church. A week of sightseeing will be followed by time in Sussex with friends who attend a renewing Anglican church. We will also visit Holy Trinity, Brompton, the home of the Alpha program.

In July, we will visit churches and missions in Eastern Europe, places where the impact of decades of communism and official atheism is still keenly felt. The challenge to the church in areas where only .5% of the population are active Christian believers: we will see first hand how God is working miracles today. We will visit the Czech republic, Romania and Bulgaria. We pray that this will be a source of spiritual renewal and encouragement for us.

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I appreciate the support of the congregation for this time off and I know I can count on our staff and volunteers to fill in any gaps (not that I think I am indispensable.) I would ask you to support me with your prayers in this venture. Application has been made to the Potentials Fund of Niagara Presbytery for funds to offset the costs of supply during my absence.

It's going to be a big adventure, and I'm sure, a big blessing, to me to be given this opportunity. May God be with us all in the days ahead.

In the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Diane Walker

From the Editor's Desk

Spring! Summer! Sunshine! Showers! Sabbatical! What? That's right. Diane and her husband Paul are off for 3 months of renewal and recreation. I mean RE CREATION. We wish them all the best as they travel and hope they'll come back with oodles of refreshing ideas they cribbed along the way. Perhaps they'll have some coolio suggestions for fun and fellowship-remember our motto: "Faithfully loving God, creatively serving Him everywhere."

My challenge to you this month is to reach out with God's love to EVERYONE-not just family (don't forget them though), but think about others: neighbours, teachers, strangers, contacts along life's journey. Each and every one of us carries a burden and a shared load weighs less. So go ahead-kick back, rest, relax, renew, refresh, reflect, and reach out to Rev. George Schmidt and Adam Kilner as they fill the void we feel during Diane's absence. And remember: It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice!

Bible Verse: "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6.2)

Theme: Life is a journey, not a destination

Flower: March: Jonquil, April: Sweet Pea, May: Lily of the Valley

Birthstone: March: Aquamarine, April: Diamond, May: Emerald

Challenge: Perform a random act of kindness each month. Ideas: pay for the person behind you at the drive through, take flowers to a neighbour, phone someone going through a rough spot on their journey, bake cookies for a teacher, be on the lookout for volunteer requests.

Happy Easter!

Angela Seddon



Easter Thoughts from Voices from the Past...submitted by Jackie Morgan

Olive Liebau (1980s)

As we pause to look deeper at the true meaning of Easter, past all the manmade traditions which in a small way was a part of our childhood, we realize it all is a symbol of the joy of ongoing life. This joy is expressed now in music in churches. It is the evidence of the truth of Jesus statement that he would rise again. From this fact of resurrection mankind has a basis for the belief of our own immortality which is a very real comfort.

George Saylor (1980s)

When we were children, the Easter Bunny was supposed to come and leave us an Easter nest. Our parents would hide a nest for each of us with some goodies in it maybe even a banana. One Easter, our Dad hid the nests in the barn in the hay. He had to help us find them. We also would have soft boiled eggs for Easter breakfast. The hens at that time didn't lay eggs in the winter but began around Easter time. So they were a treat and we would see which one of us could eat the most.

As we grew older, our Mother would play for us and we would learn the Easter songs. We sang in the choir in the Fonthill Methodist Church and helped sing the Easter Cantata each year which was a real spiritual experience.

Our Mother passed away when we were in our teen and a dear friend of ours sang "Open the Gates of the Temple" at her funeral. The promise of resurrection and the hope of Eternal life has always meant very much to me.

THANK YOU FROM MOZAMBIQUE

Last summer the children learned about missions. In the last newsletter we told you that the children decorated cards and wrote letters of thanks to some overseas personnel. Here are excerpts of a January letter from Bill and Karen Butt.

Dear Friends (Especially Children) at Pelham Community Church,
Last Friday (snail mail) we received your letter. . . That was a great day because the last time we got mail was May 2008. . . . A drawing that you sent is now hanging in our office. We remember very well visiting Pelham Centre UC, have read about your Swaziland mission in the 'Observer' and hope to visit you again . . . perhaps on our next home assignment..We thought we should send you pictures, too. ...we don't draw as



well as you...so we're sending photos. It's 40 degrees C here today and the season for mangoes, pineapple, and papaya, so we're eating well, thank God. Blessings to you all. Karen and Bill Butt

Jacquelyn Morgan

Somebody Really Cares About Me!

Many willing workers make it possible for Pelham Community Church to prepare and serve a meal for Welland Harvest Kitchen on the third Sunday of the month. March 15, was the final meal for this season.

*I want to share an observation from February 15. The Senior Youth group helped with this meal and baked **FABULOUS** Oatmeal cookies to go with the ice cream for dessert. Twenty of them arrived to set up, cook, serve and clean up. They even brought apples to polish and give to people to take home. Their work was well done and very much appreciated.*

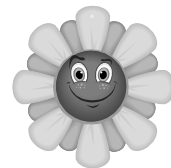


The dinner plate held a hearty serving of Shepherd's Pie, garnished with fresh parsley, bright orange carrots, colourful garden salad, a buttered whole wheat roll and a crisp dill pickle. I overheard one smiling young woman say to her friend as she looked at her food, "When I look at this pretty plate, I feel like someone really cares about me."

Enough said! I'll be back!

Jacquelyn Morgan

SHARING & CARING



SYMPATHY

During January, we sent messages of sympathy to several grieving families.

***Steve Cunningham** and family mourned the loss of Steve's father, **Conrad**.*

***The McGlashans** lost both Bob's sister, **Margaret Trotter**, and Jane's niece, **Vicky Zwierschke**.*

*We were sorry to learn at Wednesday Worship that **Elaine**, the daughter of **Muriel Steed** died suddenly.*

***Roy Tufts** passed away. He was the brother of **Shirley Demers** and brother-in-law of **Marguerite Tufts**.*

*We will all especially miss **Mildred Dell**, mother of **Cathy Rollo**. At the memorial service her grandchildren shared stories of her with great affection.*

Join us for Great Fun!

GET WELL

During January and February, a number of get well messages were sent:

MAKENNA BELDING had her tonsils removed,

WINN LIEBAU had a hip replacement,

LORNA COMFORT suffered a broken hip in a fall

MELISSA NIEWOLD escaped injury in a frightening auto accident,

JUSTIN KELLY was hospitalized in Toronto for heart problems,

And little **THEO COLLINGS** was in McMaster for several days for treatment.

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

Thank you to all who worked at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper and thank you to all who came to enjoy the meal. Approximately \$1500 profit was earned to help support the local church projects and community outreach.

The annual meeting was held in February and we are delighted to have Frank and Gail Belchior as new Social Committee Co-ordinators. Colleen McCarthy remains as Secretary and Shirley Crowe continues as Treasurer. Jackie Mustard has served as Chair for many years and we thank her for her capable leadership. Jackie Morgan (the name's almost the same) will not be able to fill her shoes, but will try.

Once again, the Primetimers offer a \$1000 scholarship for post-secondary Christian study. Applications are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The deadline is May 31, 2009.

Other local church projects supported by the Primetimers include Bibles for Confirmands, money for summer church camp registrations, assistance with the cost of transportation for Youth, purchase of new tables, and money toward a refrigerator.

The Primetimers pay for all the food for the Harvest Kitchen that is not donated.

SO LONG - - - FAREWELL

During the week of February 15, Jay Cowley set off to the west coast to attend film school in B.C. We surely wish him well as he follows his talent and dreams. God Bless.

Farewell

PRIMETIMERS DATES

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

ROAST BEEF DINNER:	MAY 1, 2009
TALENT AUCTION	NOV. 13, 2009
CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC 19, 2009 (at Marg & Al Toner's)
ANNUAL MTG	JAN 20, 2010

Are You Looking for Some Fun and Fellowship?

Check out what is being planned for you! All around us the news is focusing on doom and gloom--down markets, economic crisis, unemployment, recession. We need something fun to look forward to ---something to lift our spirits. We all know that laughter and family support are good for our health; so what better way than to get together with your Pelham Community Church "family" to lift your spirits. We are planning a few social gatherings over the next several months. So mark these dates on your calendar and watch the weekly church bulletin for more details. Contact Gail or Frank Belchior if you have any questions.

Social Events:

Wine Tour -- Saturday, April 4, 2009 Plans are underway to visit the Cave Springs Winery and 13th Street Winery. (And for those interested dinner at the Jordan House is also being planned). See Sign Up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Pot Luck Supper & Games/Cards Social Night at the McCarthy's Barn -- Tentative Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009

Golf (Chip & Putt for non-golfers and 9 hole executive course for the golfers) with Pot Luck BBQ at the Belchior's -- Saturday, July 25, 2009

Pig & Corn Roast at the Durst Farm -- Tentative Date: Saturday, September 12, 2009

Ghost Tour at Fort George -- Friday, October 23, 2009

To help make these social events successful we ask that you sign up as quickly as possible. All sign up sheets and event information will be posting in the Fellowship Hall in advance of the event. Thank you!

Youth Group Pitch and Praise Weekend

This May long weekend our Sr. youth will be joining 2,000 other youth from across Ontario for a camping weekend filled with praise & worship and a ton of fun! We are newcomers to this high school aged outreach that is in its 35th year at Braeside Camp, near Paris Ont. This year's theme, "Into the Wild" looks at the desire to follow Jesus as an invitation to live life to the fullest. Full of new experiences in serving, in learning, in trusting him; following him in places of risk, adventure and uncertainty. We'll hear stories from people who have stepped into the wild and are living that adventure. Guest speakers including Bart Campolo and Amanda Falk will be leading several of the sessions. Christian artists Article One and Life Support are just two of the musicians lined up for Saturday night's concert. This weekend has something for everyone, besides our learning sessions youth can spend time at team sports (ultimate dodgeball anyone?), in the music house of blues (open mic, talent show and battle of the bands), skate park, video games or just chillin' with friends. Any high school aged youth are invited to join us, please contact Karla Morgan Ward (kdmorganward@hotmail.com) before April 30th as we are looking to meet the early bird registration. For more information on speakers, musicians and events check out the web site, www.pitchandpraise.com

Youth Group Garage/Bake Sale & BBQ Saturday June 6th, 8:00am- 2:00pm



Please help us recycle your unwanted treasures and find them a new home! It's time for spring cleaning, save us your sellable items, we will be accepting donated items June 1st - 5th at the church. No clothing please! Thank you in advance for your support!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday April 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. Good Friday Service - Communion will be served

Sunday, April 12 , 2009 , Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

8.:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

May 31st, 2009, deadline to apply for Primetimers' \$1000 scholarship for post-secondary Christian study

June 1st – 5th 2009, DONATE sellable items to church for Youth Garage Sale!

July 6-10, 2009, Vacation Bible School

We Like to Hear From You!

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