

# Pelham Community Church

*Creatively loving Jesus here, faithfully serving him everywhere*

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Spring 2010

*A covenanting congregation within the United Church of Canada*

*461 Canboro Rd.  
Fenwick, ON  
L0S 1C0  
(905)892-5922*

*staff@pelhamcommunitychurch.com*

*www.pelhamcommunitychurch.com*

*Minister:  
Rev. Dr. Diane Walker*

*Minister Emeritus:  
Rev. James Weller*

*Minister of Pastoral Care:  
Rev. George Schmidt*

*Youth/Children's Ministry:  
Karla Morgan-Ward*

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## ***From the Pastor's Desk***

From the Pastor's Desk  
Pelham Community Church Newsletter Spring 2010



There is this curious piece of art (although the word art might be a bit of a stretch) -- okay there is this curious 'thing' sitting up at the front of our worship space. It is a weaving, a lumpy, oddly multi coloured bit of weaving on a frame, and by no stretch of the imagination could this weaving described as pretty or elegant.

The weaving is intended to be a visual representation of the Bible, and in particular, the way in which the Bible is a weaving of different threads, writings from different people, different times and circumstances, on different themes and from notably differing perspectives. Just as weaving is done with a vertical thread (the warp) and a horizontal thread (the weft), the Bible has two threads, or themes, running through it. The vertical dimension is the Covenant, God reaching down to us in invitation. The horizontal thread is the Kingdom, God challenging us to weave the life of the kingdom into our lives. From Genesis to Revelation, we can trace the connecting threads: God's sovereignty, our rebellion; God's grace and mercy, our hunger and need; God's call to the most unlikely people and our response to that call.

The Bible is key to how God reveals his face to us. And as we open ourselves to the influence of the Bible, it begins to mould us and shape us. Like a long married couple who resemble one another more and more as the years go by, the more we immerse ourselves in scripture and allow it influence us, the more we begin to reflect, in our lives, the one who scripture reveals: Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible itself provides a multiplicity of images for how it is that God speaks to us in scripture. Here are a few:

PETER says that God's message is like milk to a baby— an essential ingredient of spiritual nurture. Its stories and ideas feed your mind and your heart, and strengthen your faith.

PAUL says God's message is like a sword for opposing evil. It has powerful insights that can cut to the quick, or touch the heart, or confront evil.

JAMES says it is like a mirror, where you see yourself as you really are. Reading the Bible can reflect the truth of how special you are to God, but it can also shed light on the weaknesses God still wants to work on in us.

We have a very pretty church to worship in, and that lumpy, bumpy ill assorted piece of weaving at the front doesn't really fit in with the ambience. In fact, it is rather jarring. Funny thing that, because the Bible is jarring as well. The Bible shakes us up: our priorities, our decision making, our way of thinking. And as we read the Bible, as we reflect on its meaning in our lives, we begin to weave the Bible into our reflections, our decisions, our actions. That's never a neat and tidy exercise with straight lines and trimmed edges. Rather, weaving the Bible into

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## ***From the Editor's Desk***

Happy spring to everybody! I love this time of year. The grass will soon be green, flowers will be blooming, birds will be serenading us, and we'll be going to the beach in our flip flops. If summer had a colour, what would it be? What's on your summer to do list? Hope you've got some rest/relaxation planned.

Looking back... on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the birth of a baby in a manger. Looking forward a few short months...Easter. We sit back and reflect on Jesus' death on the cross. And His resurrection. This year, I've discovered the power of colour when considering the Easter story. Warning: being married to an Optometrist may alter your perception! Just think about God's design of the human eye and how the eye works with the brain to detect colour. What a boring world it would be without colour! Colour affects *so* many things in our day to day lives-the food we eat, how we perceive our health, the clothes we wear and how we furnish our homes. Even our vehicles are not immune to our choice of colours. Do you have a favourite colour?

When I read From the Pastor's desk this month, I was struck by once again being on the same train of thought as Diane. Her message brings to mind a colourful image of the Bible as a weaving of different threads. When she talks about the warp and the weft, I can't help but visualize colour. I encourage you to think about colour as you gaze upon colourful store displays of candy. For those of you giving/receiving colourful jellybeans this Easter think about the colours and what they represent. Here is a favourite poem to share with little ones eager to learn about Easter.

### ***Cool "Easter" Beans***

**Red** is for the blood He gave.

**Green** is for the grass He made.

**Yellow** is for the sunflowers so bright.

**Black** is for the dark of night.

**White** is for the grace He gave.

**Orange** is for the sun He made.

**Purple** is for the hours of sorrow.

**Pink** is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans colourful and sweet.

It's a prayer, a promise and a child's treat!

The title, Cool "Easter" Beans was inspired by a saying my teenage nephew taught me: cool beans! What does that mean? Well, if you remember the 60's, "cool beans"="groovy". Some other synonyms are: right on, awesome, far out, peachy keen, neat, nifty, the cat's pajamas and the bee's knees. Just to name a few. Interesting how slang changes over the years. But colours don't change. Red is red. Always has been, always will be. It has a different name in different languages, but the colour is the same no matter how you say it. Some of God's names are: Lamb of God, The Resurrection and the Life, Lord of Lords, Man of Sorrows, Master, Bread of Life, Alpha and Omega, Messiah, Teacher, Holy One, Good Shepherd, Light of the World, Saviour, The Almighty, Everlasting Father, The Way the Truth and the Life, Jesus Christ. What we need to remember is this: THE WORD OF GOD REMAINS CONSTANT. What a reassurance that is! He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

My challenge to you this month: Read Genesis 9:11-13 and think about the rainbow. Make it a daily habit to be thankful when the colours of the Easter poem come to mind. Diane puts it very eloquently: Weaving the Bible into our daily lives is not a neat and tidy exercise with straight lines and trimmed edges. Here are some suggestions to get you started on your journey of thinking of God's word in colours. Next time you're waiting at an intersection, think RED and GREEN-Jesus shed his blood for you; we have new life in Christ. Diane reminds us that Paul says God's message is like a sword for opposing evil (BLACK). Diane mentions "Peter says that God's message is like milk to a baby— (WHITE) an essential ingredient of spiritual nurture. And the PINK in the sky at sunrise/sunset brings to mind the promise of God by our side.

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## Editor Cont'd

Bible Verse: Galatians 3:26-27 "*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*"

Happy Easter!  
Angela Seddon  
Editor

### Stephanie McClellan attends book signing



Rev. Stephanie McClellan would like to thank all of those who attended her “Book Signing Party” at our church on Jan. 2, 2010. She always appreciates the support and best wishes of her many friends here. Although she has returned to Newfoundland, a few copies of “Preaching at the Crossroads” are still available from her parents, Bob and Jerrie McClellan, 905 892-1161. Editor’s Note: This is an excellent book. It is a collections of some of Stephanie’s sermons. I would suggest it as an enjoyable summer read.

### Matt Durk wins research award

He won a Canadian Institute of Health his research. He's at the University of supervision of Dr. Sandy Pang.



Research Award in Biological Therapeutics for Toronto working on his PhD under the

### Riot Committee (Reaching In and Out Together)

The Riot Committee has been very busy these past few months. The “Get Connected Corner” is now up and running. Please be sure to check it often; our **Bulletin Board** – for events, pictures, etc. and updates, as well as the new and improved Library. Every church family has a **mailbox** now!

Please remember to check yours regularly as this is where you will find information specifically intended for you. The **Church Directories** are now completed and in the process of being distributed. The PCC brochure and inserts are also available and provide a great overview of our Church and all it has to offer. If you know someone you think might be interested in attending, please take them our brochure. We have so much to offer!



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## Sharing and Caring

### GET WELL

In January **PAUL WILSON** suffered a serious knee injury which required surgery and a long recuperation period. We sent greetings on January 10 and wish him a complete recovery. The week of March 1 little **SPENCER BOYCE** broke his wrist and is now sporting a bright orange cast.



We continue to keep little **THEO COLLINGS** and all his family in our thoughts and prayers. The week of March 7 Theo received a bone marrow transplant from his father, Christopher.

### SYMPATHY

We are sad to report the passing of our very dear **Kay Fraser** in December. The memorial service was held January 16, 2010 at Pelham Community Church.



We sent messages of sympathy to **Cathy and Rick Bisson** and family on the loss of Rick's father; to **Cindy and Randy Haist** and family on the death of Cindy's father, Richard Horne, in December; to **Ken Guetter** on the passing of his brother-in-law, Henry DeVries.

**Paul and Bonnie Furtney** and family mourned the loss of Paul's father, Stanley. The memorial service was held at Pelham Community Church February 18, 2010

On February 21, 2010 our beloved **Evelyn Secord** passed away peacefully. We offer our sympathy to Ross and Anne and Robert and Nancy and their families. The service for Evelyn was February 24, 2010 at Pelham Community Church.



Special Thanks to Jackie Morgan for so diligently keeping up with our church family, sending all the cards and submitting the Caring and Sharing for each newsletter!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**DON AND JEAN SUMMERS** celebrated their **25<sup>th</sup>** wedding anniversary in December. We all gave them best wishes as we ate the Silver Anniversary cake on December 20, 2009.



**HELEN HAIST** celebrated her **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday in February 2010 and we celebrated with a birthday cake at Wednesday Worship February 17,2010.

**IVY HAIST** moved into a new home in December She is now at Lookout Ridge. Ivy recently celebrated her **95<sup>th</sup>** Birthday.

**KEVIN SMITH** graduated in December with a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Business – Emergency Services

**A LETTER FROM JAPAN**

*Rob and Keiko Witmer are overseas personnel working in Hokkaido, Japan, at the Dohoku Centre. There they hold Three Love (love for God, love for humanity, love for the soil) seminars which look at rural issues. They also conduct workshops on hunger and food security.*

*The Centre works with local churches. One of those, the Bibaushi Gospel Church, **which has only two members, built a new sanctuary this year!!!***

*Another project is to build a relationship with and hear the stories of the **Ainu** people, the aboriginal people of northern Japan. The goal is not to evangelize, but to work with them to reclaim their dignity and rights, similar to the aboriginal people of Canada. Rob and Keiko ask that we remember the **Ainu** people living and struggling in Japan*

*They sent us a note thanking us for our prayers and our support of them and God's work in Japan.*

**OUR NEWEST ANGELS**

December 1, 2009, Kate and Aaron Miller welcomed their new son, Jude. Another grandchild for Rev. Diane and Paul Miller. Jack William Furtney was born on December 15 to Drew and Jill. Bonnie and Paul Furtney are Grandma and Grandpa. Then on January 27, 2010, little Liam Schroeder was born to Erin and Shaun. The delighted grandparents are Pat and Howard Gillap.



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## **Primetimers**

***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a sell-out.*** \$1000 profit was realized and split with the Youth Group who worked long and hard to make the evening a success. We thank Colleen McCarthy who was the convener. Thank you to all who bought tickets and enjoyed the pancakes, sausage, fruit, applesauce and whipped creme.

Our ***new social conveners are George and Ellen Schmidt.*** Their ideas for fun and games are TBA.

Our next big venture is the annual ***Roast Beef dinner April 23, 2010*** Colleen McCarthy is the convener and there will soon be a sign-up sheet posted. You are invited to look it over to see what is needed that you can donate.

*If you are able to help set-up, cook, serve or clean up, please speak to Colleen. (phone: 905-892-3155)*

*Jackie Morgan, President*

### **Vacation Bible School July 12-16**

#### **Can you help with some easy sewing?**

*Our theme this year is Superhero's and we have been asked to help with sewing simple superhero capes for one of the craft projects. If you have a sewing machine and are willing to help out please contact Karla. Fabric, patterns and details coming soon! Thanks , Karla*

#### **SUMMER SUNSHINE**

On Sunday someone said to me, "We had summer for breakfast this morning!" This means sweet golden local peaches preserved at the peak of ripeness right here in the PCC kitchen.

e will do this again, this year for all of you who want to learn to can. Your family enjoys perfectly preserved local fruit with no chemical preservatives in a reusable jar. AND...it is more fun to work together and make one big mess in the church kitchen with many hands to clean up than it is to mop a sticky floor at home alone.

Soon it will be garage sale time, so look for bargains on canning jars. We will book a week in August to can peaches and a week in September to do pears and tomatoes. It all depends on the season and how the crop ripens.

Jackie Morgan

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## ***What Is God's Name? And How Was It Lost? Submitted by Rev. Jim Weller***

According to scripture God first revealed his name to Moses: And God said to Moses "I am Yahweh, I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob and God Almighty (El Shadday) but my name is Yahweh. I did not make myself known to them." (Gen.17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14, 49:25). The implication is that Moses has not met a new God, but the God of Israel's fathers. He is to be known and worshipped by the name Yahweh.

In antiquity names were heavy with meaning. Not given simply to distinguish one thing or person from another. One's name is one's very self. Shakespeare's question "what is in a name?" was taken very seriously. Nothing exists without a name. At creation God called everything into being by name. An Old Testament name declared the essence of personality, the expression of inmost being. A name had the inherent power to control the behaviour of its bearer. To know someone's name means to be aware of his personality, his reputation and know what to expect from that person. But Moses got only a name, nothing more than that might tell him what to expect or hope for from an unknown God who "WAS" and that's all.

Scholars speculate that Moses asked for God's name in the expectation that such normally significant knowledge might allow him to exercise some influence over this "Yahweh." But God's reply rebuked him and called him to discover who "Yahweh" is by the mighty acts which he was soon to perform on behalf of his people. Israel's faith to this day is based on the historical evidence of "Yahweh's" mighty acts and deeds.

God's name, "Yahweh" did get lost. After Israel returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon the name "Yahweh" was withdrawn from use. The reasons being that Israel had been forbidden by "Yahweh's" command from using his name in vain. So to protect themselves from accidentally or unwittingly breaking this commandment "Yahweh's" name ceased to be spoken both in worship and common conversation. Various substitutions were used, with Adonai (Lord) the most common. Eventually everyone forgot "Yahweh's" name and no one would even try to voice a possible recall for the name of fear of profaning God's holy name.

A significant factor that compounded the correct recall of God's name was the fact the Hebrew script was written only with consonant and no vowels. God's name appears in the old Hebrew texts as "YHWH". Try pronouncing that. Eventually indications of vowel sound were added to the Hebrew script in the form of small marks like commas and semi colons above and below the consonants. HOWEVER, the vowels of "Adona" were added to "YHWH" to remind the reader not to pronounce God's proper name.

Many early translators unaware of this deviation took this incorrect vocalization as "kosher". This, plus the fact that J and Y represent different sounds in many languages eventually produced the incorrect and accidental name "Jehovah." Subsequently "Jehovah" was proclaimed among many Protestants as the one and only name of God. Unfortunately, of all the names of God that appear in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures this is the only one that is not authentic. Not to worry though. I doubt that God is so uptight that he rings up a black mark against anyone who he might catch referring to himself as "Jehovah". Would be nice though if we could all get together on Yahweh.

### References,

BS Anderson: God, Names, The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, VOL. E-J, Abington Press, Nashville (1987) pp. 407-414

R. Abba, Names, The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. K-Q, Abington Press, Nashville, (1987) pp. 501-508

B.A. Brown, Forensic Scriptures, Cascade Books, Eugene Oregon (2009) pp.83-84.

J. Weller

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## Youth News



### Sr. Youth Know How to Beat The Winter Blahs!

February is usually a month when we have had enough of winter and turn our activities indoors. The Sr. Youth however embraced the blustery weather and were busily involved in two weekend getaways. Feb. 5-7<sup>th</sup> we attended the **Snowflake X youth conference in Niagara Falls**. Our keynote speaker for the weekend was Mike Foster. He led four sessions covering : *Hooked on Community*; the need for authentic relational Christian community, *Radical Grace*; forgiving others and ourselves, *DYR*; define your relationship with Jesus and *Faith Adventure*; take God out of the box *and go for it!* Following sessions we had small group time to talk about what we had learned. All weekend long we enjoyed the worship band 905 and quickly found some new favourite songs! Sat. night all 600 participants revisited the fashion disaster decade at the “Totally Awesome 80’s Banquet” where some of our brave youth came decked out in neon spandex, leg warmers and big hair. (Does anyone remember my hair and best friend, Aqua Net Hairspray from high school? Yikes!) We also enjoyed some fun on Clifton Hill.

Later in February our youth served at the **Center for Student Missions in Toronto**. Thank you to Hugh John Cook, Margaret Heikkila and Emily Schutten who joined Adam and I as leaders and drivers for the weekend. We experienced how multicultural the city of Toronto is. We went on prayer tours of the city to learn about issues of poverty, injustice and heard the stories of those who have no one to speak or advocate for them. Sat. made, packed and delivered hot breakfasts to those who had spent the night on the streets. The weather was a mix of snow and rain and as we hopped in and out of vehicles we became wet and it really impacted us as we thought about how difficult and uncomfortable living without any of the comforts of home would be.

We were most delighted to be able to offer the generous donations of socks, hats, mittens and gloves that this congregation provided as we were serving the homeless community. These small gestures and simple gifts were truly appreciated and gave us the opportunity to live out Matthew 25:40, “The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” On Sat. afternoon some of our group went to serve at “Double Take”, a second hand clothing and household store near Regent Park. This store looks like a high end department store and provides a place to purchase quality items affordably. We helped with cleaning and sorting of new donations. The rest of our team served at the Salvation Army, providing tutoring for an afternoon homework club with children from Somalia. That night we spent time walking the downtown core, role playing and imagining we were 14 yrs old and a new run away arriving in the city. We quickly learned there are no safe resources available to young people and that crime, exploitation and human trafficking are huge problems in our major cities. We realistically talked about how we would be faced with the same options if we were living in their shoes and had experienced the brokenness and mistrust that some runaway children have endured. We ask you to join us in continuing to pray for these issues. Our weekend in Toronto finished with the youth sharing music during worship at our host church, Riverside Missionary. Our final challenge was to go home and seek out those who are in need in our community and schools. To befriend those who are longing for a place to fit in, to be in community with others and to serve them in love like Christ would. Overall a great weekend and experience that I pray will stay with us and call us into action as we take what we have learned and apply it daily.

Submitted by Karla Morgan-Ward

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## Youth Upcoming Dates

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and if you would like a copy or more information on our programs please email me [kdmorganward@hotmail.com](mailto:kdmorganward@hotmail.com)

### Senior Youth

**Thursday & Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>: World Vision 30 hour Famine**, in 30 hours we can help make a difference in the life of a child! Please support our youth as they request sponsorship to assist the work of World Vision in caring for children and communities in need. Thank you to Aaron Belding for taking on the administrative role in this fundraiser.

**Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>: Presbytery Solid Rock Youth Night!** Grades 7 through high school invited to attend our evening of worship and games. This month it is being hosted by Wesley United in Welland, we will meet at PCC at 6:30 to carpool.

**Friday May 21-Monday 24: Sr. Youth Pitch and Praise!** Come spend the long weekend learning and having fun with 2,000 other youth! Keynote speaker is Eric Samuel Timms, you can check out his ministry at [www.nooneunderground.com](http://www.nooneunderground.com) and the worship band is Article One who gave an amazing concert at last years event. **Please confirm with Karla by April 22<sup>nd</sup>** if you plan on attending! More details about the weekend can be found at [www.pitchandpraise.com](http://www.pitchandpraise.com)

**Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>: Giant Garage Sale, BBQ and Bake Sale!** Starting at 8am. Come find some great treasures and support our youth programs! Adults volunteers and youth will be needed in week leading up to big event as well as day of sale. Thanks in advance; many hands helping make the day a great success!

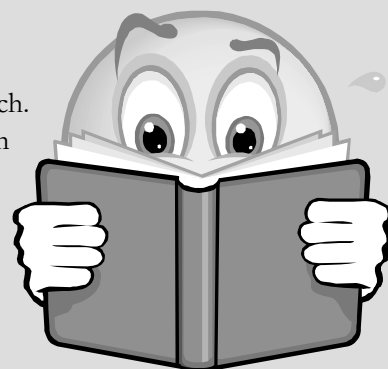
### Jr. Youth

**Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>: Picnic/Hike/Scavenger Hunt at Balls Falls** Cost is \$4 per person, meeting at church for 12:30. Please bring your lunch with you and dress for some outdoor time. Return time is 4:00pm. We are looking for volunteers to drive. In the event we have wet weather on this day we will have an alternate activity and try again April 25th. Please RSVP with Karla so we can arrange drivers!

**Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>: Fishing at St. John Conservation Area.** Families are invited to join us for this afternoon. Note\*\*Children do not need a fishing license, but adults planning on fishing do! I will bring the worms. Please dust off your fishing poles and bring them with you. We will meet at the church for 1:30 and drive down together. We are able to hike as well at the Conservation area if we get discouraged with unsuccessful fishing. Hope your family can join us!

### New Youth Library ...Check it OUT!

Our children and youth library has moved to youth room in the basement of the church. We are in the process of setting up and shelving our new purchases. Check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for an announcement of the opening. The library will be open prior to service and immediately following service. Sr. Youth will be able to sign out books during our Thursday meeting time. Thank you to Gertrude for helping card and organize our new library.



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the changes and challenges of our lives will inevitably result in some lumps and bumps, thrills and spills. So maybe our messy, lumpy woven piece is a far more accurate representation of the Bible, and of the life in Christ that it speaks to us, than we could have imagined.

May the Blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be upon you and abide with you always.

Diane

## ***Important Church Dates***

### **Wednesday Worship 2pm**

the first and third Wednesday of each month

April 7 & 21

May 5 & 19

June 2 & 16

### **Easter Services**

**April 2** Good Friday Service with Communion @ 10:00 a.m.

**April 4** Easter Sunday  
8:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service  
8:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. - Easter Service

**Friday, April 23** Roast Beef Dinner  
**Sunday, May 9** Christian Family Sunday  
**Saturday, May 29** London Conference New Ministries Service.  
Candidate for Ordination: Adam Kilner

**Friday, June 4** Hamilton Conference New Ministries Service  
Candidates for Ordination: Kathy Dahmer and Aaron Miller

**Saturday, June 5** Youth Group Garage Sale

**Sunday, June 6** Guest Preacher – The Rev. Mrs. Kathy Dahmer

**Sunday, June 20** Outdoor Service with picnic to follow at Agape Valley

**July 12-16** Vacation Bible School at Pelham Community Church

