



Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Fall 2005

newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

Editor's Note!

I have been thinking that the name chosen for our newsletter is somewhat awkward! This editor made it up - (with some inspiration from a Seaway Valley Presbytery flyer!). The intent was to get the readers' attention; and to give every reader plenty of information so that all can feel included in our church. Hopefully the "ripples" would be far-reaching as we seek to live out our "Mission Statement"

Enjoy and spread the waves! I look forward to your comments and contributions.

Carol Edwards
Editor

Food For Thought:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. -

---Margaret Mead

Worship Leaders

Rev. John Reynolds will be leading worship on October 16 and October 30.

Important Dates:

October 02: World Wide Communion Sunday.

Our Communion celebration is a symbolic feast, at which we are all invited to come to the table and feast on the presence of God. At this communion service, trays of cubed bread will be brought to the

pews, and served to the people. Trays with small glasses will also be passed amongst the people, and this time, we will have the option of wine (in the centre of the trays) and grape juice (in the outer circles). Come and be fed!

October 02 at 2 PM: Labyrinth Workshop

Leadership by Ian Hepburn, this workshop will consist of introduction and relaxation with harp music and then followed by a thirty minute walk of the outdoor labyrinth. Come to experience this age-old meditation.

October 09: Thanksgiving Sunday

Let us celebrate Thanksgiving!

We are asked to bring fruits, and vegetables, which can be passed on to the food banks. Please, also, be generous with other gifts for food banks and shelters, (i.e., canned goods, cereals, soap, diapers, etc).

October 15: Worship Odyssey at Rideau Park United Church.

Last year we provided funds for five of our members to attend this event. To share this truly awesome worship experience five others should be able to go this year. Ask Dianne Grannary, Malcolm Cumming, or Iris Swerdfeger about this event; then give your name to Rev. Andrea Harrison. Transportation can be a cooperative effort.

October 23: Sacrament of Infant Baptism

Julie Katherine Traverse, daughter of Becky and John Traverse will be baptized. Julie will be presented as the fourth generation "lady" of her family.

Special Theme for this Sunday - "Honouring Our Distaff Side." A service to commemorate women in our church story.

October 29: Halloween Party Irvine Hall, from 6:30 to 8:00.

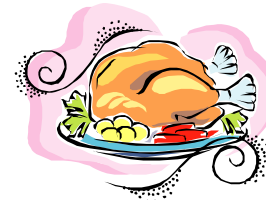
Children are encouraged to wear costumes. There will be no judging of costumes or judging of pumpkin carvings. Organizers are emphasizing a safe time with play and fun for all.

November 06: Remembrance Sunday

Worship at the usual time followed by the community Service of Remembrance at the Williamstown Cenotaph. One of our members will represent St. Andrew's at the "laying of wreaths" ceremony.

November 05: St. Andrew's Annual Turkey Supper:

Items will be needed for the Bazaar Tables. Home cooking, jams, jellies and pickles are also popular items.



Volunteers will be needed to help with the turkey supper, including setting up the hall on Thurs. Nov. 3rd at 7:30pm. Phone calls will be made shortly to ask for help from our "regular volunteers". New volunteers are always welcome too!

Also, please return any kitchen linens or other supplies that you may have taken home to wash. Thank you.

November 20: Thank You Sunday

A tribute to all who worked to make the Turkey Supper the success it usually is.

December 18: Sunday School Pageant and White Gift Service

December 24: Christmas Eve at St. Andrew's, 8:00

In Memoriam

We had some sad news last week to hear that Dave Moore died in Montreal on September 23, at the age of 64. As someone said at the funeral, Dave wasn't a big talker but he was a great listener and somehow he managed to form a special and unique relationship with many of us. His loyal and constant presence in our church helped to make us what we are today and we are truly grateful for his leadership. Although we lost touch with Dave once he moved to Montreal, we carry a piece of him in our hearts and we miss him.

Sent by Linda Kubelka

What Has Been Happening?

Ecumenical Service

The Ecumenical Service at the Williamstown Fair is becoming a fixture! Gradually we are building a larger attendance. Our choir under the leadership of John Hamilton made a great contribution. The members looked as though they too were enjoying the sharing of their talent.

A few last minute notes from John: He extends a sincere and warm welcome to anyone who would join the choir. He needs more voices! Special music will be our gift from the choir for the well-loved Christmas Eve Service.

Lightning Strikes!

The excitement of the summer was the lightning strike! Damage, yes, but we are very grateful that our church is still here. The power of nature! Caretaker, Francine took on the contract to clean the sanctuary – a daunting task as anyone knows who has cleaned up plaster dust from nooks and crannies. Job well done, Francine.

In connection with that lightning: Bill MacNaughton, who has been negotiating on our behalf with the insurance representatives, assures us that we should have our electronic instrument back in the sanctuary by November. Also a craftsman has been hired to replace the historic wood trim that was blasted from its place by the lightning strike.

WoRM Vacation Bible Camp

Does that strange logo need a reminding explanation? The little worm logo represents Workshop Rotation Model.



Bible stories were chosen by the Sunday School Committee who then use them to provide a curriculum for the Vacation Bible Camp. The stories are taught by using a variety of experiences such as art, science, food, music, drama and computer. The Sunday School Staff used the same model to provide a day of music, art and meditation for children ages 5-12.

A big thank you to Kathi Legault for teaching water colour painting, enabling the children (and adults) to create wonderful "Creation" scenes, and to Carol Hague for engaging everyone in clapping, stamping, and moving to the beat or rhythm!

The following is a special observance of that event held on August 24.

A Grandma's Thoughts on WoRM Friends Bible Camp:

This was Jacob's second WoRM Friends Bible Camp, and my first. The program sounded so interesting, I couldn't resist! Such fun to watch the enthusiasm of Jacob and the other children as they sang, clapped, painted, ate and listened to Andrea's story.

After a morning of inside activities, we headed for the outdoors and “an experience” at the labyrinth. They bowed, approached quietly and in single file, began slowly to make their way along the path. What a great photo-op I thought, returning briefly to the hall for a camera. Back at the labyrinth, I found all the children leaping from path to path, high-fiving those they passed and completing the circuit at speeds that would make your head spin! I guess our bodies and minds can be restored by exuberance as well as meditation.

What a fun time! I’ll be back next year with or without Jacob!

Karen (Grandma) Paavila

News from WoRM Sunday School:

The stories from the Bible that are the focus for workshop activities for the first Rotation this autumn are those associated with Moses and The Ten Commandments. The children made cookies and followed the “rules” of the recipe which resulted in success. Imagine playing a game when each player has a different rule! The children played Snakes and Ladders in this manner and the need for fairness and “equal playing” fields would surely never be forgotten.

This Sunday, tablets of the Ten Commandments will be the art project.

Thank you Jennifer Lafave for this information and I hope we have the ‘jist’ of your creative activities.

Book Reading: August 25

We did start calling this a club until one invited person said, “I cannot come. I am not a member of the club!”

By emphasizing the informality of the gatherings, we brought together ten interested people to talk about our last book selection – *The Spirituality of Wine* by Thomas Harpur. The book is beautiful as well as inspiring. Recommended! The great Protestant reformer, John Calvin is quoted as saying “*Wine is God’s special drink. The purpose of good wine is to inspire us to a livelier sense of gratitude to God*”.

Our next book chosen for our attention is entitled *Leap*.

We have multiple copies to share. Time and place of next meeting will be announced.

Brides

On July 22, Mary Cumming married Steve Carter.

On September 5, there were two weddings.

- Carol Touchette married Bernie Lauzon
- Sarah Henssen married Ben Roy.

We were privileged to enjoy the flowers from Sarah’s wedding as they had been placed in the sanctuary for us on the following Sunday.

Message from Andrea

As I look at the names on all the envelopes, I realize how big our church family really is. If I could add another 7 days to my week, I would want to come by and visit all of you – just to chat and hear how you are doing. I’m grateful, then, for this opportunity to send you greetings and wish you well.

This fall has gotten off to a lively start at church, and there is much optimism for current endeavours and future possibilities.

Church can mean something different to you at different times in your life. When I was a Presbyterian, in North Bay, I sang in the choir, and was involved in much committee work. When I moved to Midland, I had a much more demanding job, and chose to not serve on any committees! In fact, I chose to go to the Anglican Church, where I could receive the Eucharist every week, and just receive nurture for my mind and soul. OK, I did sing in the choir too, but that is because I love singing.

The Church is here for you! If you just want to come and sit in the pew once in a while, you are welcome. If you want to come and sing in the choir, or dance the fox trot (see page 5), or read a book together, or walk the labyrinth, or request a prayer, or have a coffee, or chat on the phone with me or your elder, you are welcome.

continued ...

In the book of Ecclesiastes it says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance ..." As we approach Fall and Thanksgiving celebrations, may we: delight in the changing seasons, experience joy and gratitude, and know a sense of belonging.

Andrea

Faith 'n Fitness

Back by popular request – Tina Cairncross has agreed to continue her dancing instruction. She says "Dust off your dancing shoes for the **Fox Trot**. Stay tuned for more information on the date and time of this event.



Report: Committee of Stewards:

Your committee of Stewards met on September 27 and discussed what needed to be done in our church and hall. We also looked at where the money is to come from as, so far this year; we have spent \$20,000 more than we took in.

Our "financial cushion" for our operating budget is getting very low. We would like you to take a close look at your third quarter statement of your offering this year and to ask yourself if this weekly donation reflects your feelings about your church. Our church is there for us when we need it in times of celebration and sadness. Is there a possibility of increasing your offering each week?

If you cannot get to church regularly, pre-Authorized Payment will ensure that your financial support gets to the church each week. Nancy Woollven would be more than happy to help you set up this plan. Our church depends on us.

The Treasurer wishes to remind us that Interim Statements that indicate our givings to the church are being distributed this week. They show givings as of September 30. To make it easier for the steward who is in charge of counting and balancing weekly givings, we are reminded to mark the amount given on the outside of the envelope.

McGregor Bequest

Discerning has been a key word in our odyssey to find an answer to the question "**God ... What is your will for the good use of this money?**" The following is written from the minutes of the fourth Congregational Meeting held in Irvine Hall on September 20.

After reviewing what occurred during the last meeting in the areas of:

- Framing
- Listening
- Grounding
- Exploring

Improving the four areas discussed at the last meeting, we began to look at the details of various options. This is for the purposes of determining actual uses for this money.

The following reports were given.

Building up congregational life.

- \$1000 annually to fund music possibilities and bring them into worship
- \$8000 annual funding for Sunday School
- \$8500 to fund youth programming
- \$4500 to fund "spiritual programs" for adults – bible studies and other spiritually nurturing events

Property Renewal

- To address heating costs (which includes replacing windows) totals \$170,000 to \$220,000

continued...

- Report from an engineering firm was received. In the opinion of the Property Committee the required repair work is \$25,000 though the engineer spoke of repair work with a cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000
- \$45,000 to deal with bats in attic and belfry
- \$30,000 for paving and building accessibility and widening of front walk.
- \$20,000 to renovate the kitchen

In the course of the evening, dealing with the bats, spending \$25,000 on structural issues, and replacing the kitchen became the priority.

Investing the money

Trustees believe that with their updated investment strategy, a 5% yield could be realized on the McGregor bequest.

The Trustees recommend that -
- cash & cash equivalents be 0% to 20%
- equities be 20% to 30%
- fixed income be 70% to 80%

The investment broker with whom the Trustees are working is BMO Nesbitt Burns

Principles for Giving the Money

Ideas previously generated.

- Invest 10% of the bequest and give 100% of the proceeds that this 10% earns every year.
- Give 5% away and set aside 5% for "fundraising" projects as seed money

- Make sure that any money given away is divided 50% world and 50% local.
- Determine a % to be given each year, and then a committee determines where it is given each year.
- Give 10% of the bequest in the first place, and then make sure 10% is given from the proceeds each year following.

Through the course of the evening, it was determined that giving 10% up front was the appropriate and generous response to the receipt of such a generous gift.

Out-of-the-box-thinking

- Windmill idea – Audrey Blair agreed to look at this option and reported that it was terribly expensive.
- Creating a foundation – the yields are too small to have real impact
- Build a retirement home- funds are not sufficient to do such a project

The Proposal:

After lengthy, discerning and frank conversation, the following proposal received general support from the whole group.

McGregor Bequest:
- \$553,000 (plus interest)

Step One: Give 10%

(Rob Moncrieff to work with a small group to develop ideas for this gift for congregational consideration)

Step Two: Capital Expenditures

\$97,700 (maximum to be spent on the following three priorities)

- Remove bats - \$45,000
- Structural beams - \$25,000
- Kitchen - \$20,000

The group gathered agreed to receive donations to offset the cost of these projects, and that those donations would become part of the McGregor Bequest.

Step Three: Invest

Remainder to be invested (a minimum of \$400,000), yielding a minimum of \$20,000 annually) with 100% of proceeds going to support congregational.

Life projects mentioned above (and which could include a 10% tithe each year). None of the interest would be used to offset operational costs.

Step Four: Stay the Course

That this plan remain in place at least three years (2007,2008,2009) and preferably five (until 2011) and then the congregation revisit these decisions.

Where Do We Go From Here?

First, having considered this proposal, it should be communicated to the congregation and there be a period of "resting" before the decision. This is a chance for anyone to voice opinion" on the proposal. This would **not** be a **decision** making meeting, but the final step in the discernment process. Whatever consensus is reached at this meeting would be taken to the February 2006 Annual Congregational Meeting for final decision.

Young People

Some of our young people are gathering at Irvine Hall to watch a film portrayal of the Gospel of Matthew. This wonderful production was made by South African director, Regardt Van den Bergh, and many wonderful African scenes are featured. Jesus is played by Bruce Marchiano, who has written an inspiring account of his experience of making the movie.

On September 22nd, we watched the 'first five chapters' of the Gospel of Matthew, while eating fries and chicken fingers.

We will gather again on Thursday October 6th at 3:30pm at Irvine Hall. We will bring snacks, and order take-out food. All teens are welcome to come.

Play Group

Play Group continues to meet on Mondays between 10:00am and noon (sometimes earlier) on Mondays at Irvine Hall or at the Paul Rozon Memorial Park adjacent to Irvine Hall.

All children, accompanied by their care-givers, are welcome to attend this time of informal play and socialization. Some babies have even come in their first week of life!

We share 'pot-luck snack', and when we are inside, have tea, coffee, juice...

Come and spend some time with old friends and make new friends, and introduce your little ones to some playmates.

Some Humour

I found these in the Newsletter of St. David's United Church, Woodstock. This is the home church of two people who were leaders in "Young Peoples" in Powassan United Church 'way back' in the fifties.

- Thursday night Potluck Supper. Prayer, **Medication** to follow.
 - Weight Watchers will meet at the church at 7PM. Please use **large, double** door at the side entrance.
 - The minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan.
- "I Upped My Pledge-Up Yours"**
- The senior choir invites members of the congregation who enjoy **sinning** to join the choir.

Note: Powassan is a small town south of North Bay – home town of the editor.

Comments

If you have a topic you would like to report on or hear about, please let us know. Please call the editor at 347-3675 or send an email to newsletter@standrewsunitied.org.

In the Summer Waves Ripples & Hellos we asked you to let us know how you would prefer to receive this letter. We found out by informal polling that there were many who did not read their electronic version but read their hard copy when it was sent via Canada Post. A few families have requested that they receive the newsletter via e-mail.

The cost of mailing the two previous letters has been covered by an appreciative donor. We have seen other newsletters where costs have been reduced by donors who made their contribution as a remembrance of a friend or loved one. Please let us know of any other ideas. We would try not to be offended even if you told us you didn't wish to receive Waves, Ripples & Hellos!!!