



Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Christmas 2007

newsletter@standrewsunitied.org

The Editor's Note:

Last year we began the Christmas *Waves*...with a song about Mud! So far this harvest season is kinder and we marvel at green grass. Is that beautiful green an ominous reminder to practice "Green" to save our planet?

Here is a light-hearted poem from Lorna Crozier that presents a thoughtful question.

Onions

The onion loves the onion.
It hugs its many layers,
Saying O,O,o,
Each vowel smaller
than the last.

Some say it has no heart
It surrounds itself,
Feels whole. Primordial.
First among vegetables.

If Eve had bitten it
Instead of an apple,
How different
Paradise.

Now that the gardeners have gathered and braided the onion stems, we can look ahead to the **Seasons of Hopeful Anticipation**, so named by the editor of *Gathering*, who goes on to say:

"No matter how many times we have lived through the cycle of Advent and Christmas, there is a freshness to the possibilities of the season, new discoveries in the old, old story, and new inspiration woven into the message of centuries"

Carol Edwards

Editor of *Waves, Ripples & Hellos*

Church Services:

I have included the readings as listed in the **Lectionary** that is used by most denominations in the western world. The lectionary creates a pattern or structure through which scripture might be more fully understood. Our ministers are free to choose other texts, so if you go to church and discover the listing in the bulletin does not match what is printed here, there is no need for concern.

As each congregation reads the same lesson on the same day, we become one with another.

When you gather for coffee at The Olde Bridge Café, you might discuss the lesson with the late-comers from St. Mary's!

November 18th Worship at 9:30

Rev. Andrea Harrison

Isaiah 65: 17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 25th Worship at 9:30

Lorna McKendry

Jeremiah 23:1-6 ; Luke 1: 68-79

December 2nd Advent 1: Hope Worship at 9:30

Rev. Andrea Harrison.
Communion

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13: 11-14; Mathew 24:36-44

A Celtic Advent Carol Service at 7:00 in Martintown

Featured Musician: Ian Hepburn,
Harpist

Everyone! Mark your calendar for this very special service.

December 9th Advent 2: Peace

Worship at 9:30

Rev. Andrea Harrison

White Gifts

Angel Gifts

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4 -13; Mathew 3:1-12

December 16th Advent 3: Joy

Christmas Pageant at 9:30

Lorna McKendry

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December 23rd Advent 4: Love

Worship at 9:30

Rev. Andrea Harrison

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80; Romans 1:1-7; Mathew 1:18-25

December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 pm

Rev. Andrea Harrison

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14;

December 30th Worship at 9:30

Lorna McKendry

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrew 2:10-18; Mathew 2:13-23

Time for Christmas?

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

How many times this Christmas will you say, “There’s not enough time...”? You won’t be alone in this. We live out of sync with time – we either don’t have ‘enough’ time, or we have ‘too much time on our hands’. You can probably fit yourself into one of these categories, and are probably more acutely aware of this in the Christmas season. With ‘not enough time’ we can feel frazzled and anxious. With ‘too much time’ we can feel lonely and depressed. Or we might be frazzled and depressed, or lonely and anxious – or any of the combinations of ‘insanity’ that

beset most of us at Christmas.

What if we were to make peace with time? What if we were to say to ourselves, “We have enough time” or “We have just the right amount of time”?

When the wise men, in the Gospel of Matthew, see a star in the east, they don’t say, “We don’t have time for that right now. It will take too long to get there. ... Maybe next year, if we have more time ...”. When the shepherds, in the Gospel of Luke, see and hear angels, they don’t say, “We have plenty of time. Let’s go tomorrow when it’s light, or next week when we have moved the sheep to a closer pasture.” They went ‘with haste’. These stories convey something to us. Can we hear these stories, and be inspired to re-write our own stories?

We tend to approach Christmas with ‘lists’. Children have their lists for Santa. Adults have ‘to do’ lists, ‘to buy’ lists, ‘to visit’ lists, and lists of hopes to be fulfilled. Sometimes we have lists of people we miss, things we mourn, things we regret. What if we changed our approach from ‘lists’ to one of ‘writing a story’ – our own story? Who are the central characters in our story? What are the most important journeys to be made? Who are the people with whom we most want to share time, and who are the people with whom we will actually be able to share time?

God would be most happy to help us write our own story, live into our own story this Christmas. We could try starting each day in Advent (Dec 2-24), saying to ourselves, “I have just the right amount of time today!” We could

then ask God, “So, given that I have the right amount of time today, what shall I do with the time that I have?” There will be some things that we won’t have to ask about, because they are a definite part of the day’s schedule. There are, however, during our day, many times where we ask ourselves, “Shall I do this, or that?” Another good question is, “Is this time to do nothing – no thing?”

God is more than happy to guide us, if we care to ask for guidance. What feels like the best choice for the moment? And I say, ‘feels like’, because often we can think great rationales as to why we should or shouldn’t do something, right now. This is a little more intuitive. We are looking for a deeper sense of ‘knowing’ something. Angels may not appear to us, to provide us explicit instructions. We may, or may not have dreams that speak to us about what to do. We can, if we are open to it, experience grace in our day to day living, as we decide how to use the gift of time we have been given. What better time to practice this, than Advent? In this Christmas season, will you have enough time?

I wish you daily blessings throughout the season.

Rev. Andrea Harrison



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Sunday School:

The David and Goliath story has been holding our Sunday School members in thrall. How I remember “A Book of Bible Stories” from my childhood and how my mother was repelled by this story and would hesitate to read it despite my pleas.

An inspiring story it is that allows children to know that, in spite of small size, they can be capable of change for better things.



The ‘affective’ learning activities included preparation of snacks and creating target games. Imagine a Goliath made from a banana with armour made of strawberries!

The Christmas Pageant has been chosen: its title is “A Very Opinionated Christmas Tree.” The pageant date is December 16.

Note: The Social Committee will treat all children and adults to coffee, tea, juice and sweets in Irvine Hall after church!

The next Rotation theme for Sunday School will be the story: Jesus Calms the Storm.

Jennifer Lafave

Free the Children: Char-Lan Chapter

Here is a report from Lynn Larkin who continues to be the staff advisor with the Char-Lan Chapter of Free the Children.

Thank you, Lynn for both your dedication to the chapter and for sending news to *Waves*.....

Free the Children **National Me to We Conference** was held in Toronto, October, 18th and 19th of this year.

The Char-Lan Chapter of Free the Children was pleased to send three members to this event. They were Shelby Munro (of Heron Road, Williamstown) Chelsea Renaud, and Natalie Bougie. They were among thirty three students and supervisors from fourteen public high schools of S. D. & G.

The National Me to We Day was a unique one-day event organized to celebrate youth leadership, social action, and volunteerism. The event launched a year-long educational initiative of taking action in our schools, in our homes, and communities to create lasting difference in the world.

Thousands of youth across Canada took inspiration from some of Canada’s top speakers, thinkers and educators, including Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire, Marc and Craig Kielberger and others. (Justin Trudeau was not able to speak as he was assisting his wife with the birth of their first baby!)

Our Char-Lan students were thrilled to attend the conference and have returned with lots of ideas to share.

H4H – Halloween for Hunger:

Upon returning from the National Me to We Conference, Shelby, Chelsea, and Natalie were keen on organizing a H4H event. Meetings were called at Char-Lan to encourage Free the Children members to collect non-perishable food items on Halloween night for the H4H campaign. These food items were later distributed to the Salvation Army and the Agape Food Centre.

Lynn Larkin

Church Supper Report

In early October, a group of 7 ladies met at Irvine Hall to go over the “lists”. This is a process whereby we assign food requests to as many members of the congregation as possible. We draw on information which has been recorded for a number of years, and try to keep our requests the same from year to year. The reasoning behind this method is that the majority of people seem to be comfortable with providing the same thing each year. We know that there are certain people who are happy to cook turkeys, some who like to provide potatoes, etc.

The lists were passed on to the “callers”, the people who make endless phone calls to everyone on their list to ensure that we receive the food and donations required to make the supper successful.

Some statistics:

- 20 turkeys were cooked, and carved by 18 people. Each turkey cooker was also asked to make 3 loaves of dressing and all the gravy they can

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make.

- 22 people cooked 10lbs of potatoes; 26 people cooked and mashed turnips. (Thanks go to Iris Swerdfeger's brother-in-law for the soccer ball sized turnips!)
- Over 120 wonderful home made pies were baked, in a variety of flavours.
- 23 jellied salads;
- Donations of 6 institution sized cans of peas, 16 lbs of butter, 6 litres of Miracle Whip, 8 bags of milk, 25 cans of cranberry sauce, 2 bags of sugar, 240 tea bags, 12 lbs of coffee, and 500 napkins.
- Purchased 30 bags of dinner rolls and 120 cartons of chocolate milk.

We received \$85.00 in monetary donations. Requests were made for donations for the bake sale table which raised approximately **\$440.00**.

On the Thursday evening before the supper, a group of people set up all the tables and chairs in Irvine Hall, set 118 place settings, and made as many preparations as possible to ease the burden on Saturday.

On the day of the supper, the kitchen team started arriving around 1:00 pm. The kitchen became a hive of activity as people arrived bearing all their food donations. Potatoes & turnips were mashed, 12 cabbages were made into coleslaw, pies were sliced, and food warmed up. Butter, rolls, cranberry sauce, coleslaw, milk and sugar were set out on tables, and copious amounts

of tea and coffee were prepared. As 4:30 approached, chafing dishes were filled, table servers arrived, as did the first team of dishwashers, and plate scrapers.



Tickets were being sold furiously in the church vestry, and the bake sale table was proving very successful, selling baked goods, fudge, etc. and popular items like jam and pickles.

At the appointed hour, the hungry horde started arriving and the hall was soon filled with the happy sounds of friends and neighbours enjoying their feast. Platters and chafing dishes emptied quickly, and were just as quickly replenished. Bowls passed back and forth between hall and kitchen with cries of "more potatoes", or "more turkey", or whatever.

The kitchen team coped in their usual efficient way. Gravy boiled, more pies were sliced, and the jellied salads just kept coming. There was a great spirit of camaraderie. Some people opted for "take out" and were quickly sent on their way with their dinners and all the "fixins".

By 7 o'clock the crowd had abated and the kitchen team were finally able to sit down and enjoy the food which they so richly deserved. We started selling off left over turkey and pies, tables were cleared and things gradually started to be put

back in place.

The intrepid kitchen team continued to help the last crew of dishwashers and worked well into the night scouring pots and pans and generally cleaning up the kitchen. Eventually, all was in order and quiet reigned over the hall. It was after 10:00 pm when the last people left. By that time, some of them had been there for nine hours!

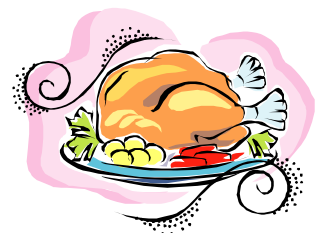
The next day after church people picked up pots, pans and dishes from the kitchen. *Some still remain, so if you are missing something, check the kitchen as it may be there.*

Once all the numbers were tallied, 442+ tickets were sold, and the net profit for the supper was **\$4,250.00**.

All of this is only made possible by the generosity of spirit that prevails in our congregation. Thanks go out to everyone who participated in any capacity; especially those who willingly agreed to provide whatever was asked of them. "God loves a cheerful giver" Without all of you there would be no Turkey Supper.

Special thanks go to Bev Craig who worked so tirelessly to coordinate everything from start to finish.

Sandra French



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Christmas Book Review

We have made our Christmas pilgrimage to an independent book store (Babar Books in Pointe Claire and Montreal) in search of the best in children's books.

The following are a few books that have won The Governor-General's Literary Award.

- *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose: The Story of a Painting* by Hugh Brewster, published by Kids Can Press.
- *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Curtis, published by Scholastic Canada, "Hilarious and tragic, an engaging historical adventure which stands shoulder to shoulder with Huckleberry Finn or Tom Sawyer.
- *Gemini Summer* by Iain Lawrence (Gabriola Island), published by Random House. "A bond with a stray dog and issues of family, life, and death. ...Two boys have a fascination with Gemini Missions."
- *Painted Circus* by Wallace Edwards (Yarker, ON), published by University Toronto Press "Beautiful picture puzzles to involve everyone"
- *The Blue Hippopotamus*, by Joanne Fitzgerald and text by Phoebe Gilman, published by North Winds Press. Parents of young children will verify the appeal of books bearing the name of Phoebe Gilman!

You might check this web-site to

find a more expansive list. www.bookcentre.ca



Help Requested!

We will be delivering Christmas flowers and baskets of food again this year. If you could help by visiting someone or baking for the baskets please call **Nancy** at **613 347-3598**.

Also if you know of someone in the congregation who would enjoy a visit and some Christmas goodies please let Nancy know. We will be packing the baskets on Dec 15 for pick up after church on Dec 16.

McGregor Bequest

Jay Woollven who is the trustee in charge of the financial matters of the McGregor Trust reminds you to pick up the **Request for Funding Forms**. If you have ideas for good uses of talent that require dollars, (the 'talents' of our age) take one of these forms and fill it out and forward to Jay before December 31st, 2007. The forms are available at the church entrance or I am sure you could contact Jay (613 347 3098).

I know that the trustees must know the famous parable about talents, but they are asking for our help as creative, interested people.

The dedicated kitchen cadre at the Turkey Supper must have been

thankful for the use of those 'talents' as they appreciated the updates to work areas, quiet exhaust fans, and safer exits.

Reminders from Our Treasurer:

If you would like flowers placed in the church at Christmas time in memory of someone, please give Jim Lewis the money and details before December 16th so that the flowers may be purchased and an announcement included in the bulletin.

The church books close on December 31 so all contributions must be received by that date to be receipted for 2007. Please submit all bills for the year as soon as possible before December 31st.

Jim Lewis will be giving out envelopes early in December. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please let him know (Tel: 613-347-1116).

Jim Lewis

United Church Observer

A reminder! Subscriptions for the Observer for the United Church Observer are due in January. The envelope for the Observer should be with the church envelopes you receive in December from Jim.

Contact Eleanor with new or renewal subscriptions in January. Eleanor can be reached at 347-2622.

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Cordelia's Cryptic Comments

Here is your editor speaking. Cordelia has expired (behind the clock in the balcony). She thought if she made enough out-of-the-way comments someone would take over or at least take her to task.

I will use this column to report on meetings and happenings in and around our church. Should I interpret some of those incorrectly, I surely will get a response – maybe even a letter to the editor. Here's hoping!

newsletter@standrews.org

After reading this *Waves*...I am proposing that the importance of the *Turkey Supper* lies more within the 'camaraderie' as spoken of by Sandra French, than in the amount of money raised. The coming together as community is a benefit that outweighs the dollars and cents.

That word, *camaraderie*, has its roots in Middle French, *camarade*, meaning room-mate or referring to "a group sleeping in one room". Be assured, we don't follow that meaning in this instance.

The last *Official Board Meeting* concluded with the decision to hold a second meeting. Andrea cannot attend this proposed meeting but it will proceed as an unofficial meeting to discuss such items as hours of worship in summer months, and worship leadership during holidays, study leave and the unassigned one-quarter of the year.

A year ago the congregation voted to *reconfigure the worship space* at the front of the church, on a one-year trial basis. The opportunity to vote whether to keep the new configuration or revert to the previous configuration was on November 13. The vote to keep and improve the present configuration was unanimous.

We are saying goodbye to another '*manse family*'. It was wonderful to have Pattie and Andy Briffett worshipping with us when they were living in the manse while their new home was being built. I think they grew to like our church and community. Perhaps, since their new home is in Glen Walter they can continue to worship with us and Andy may be promoted up from plate-scraper to ticket-seller at the next supper!

June and James McColgan of Calgary and now Beaconsfield will become tenants at the manse on December 1. They will be with us while they consider purchasing property in our area.

Everyone will join me on this one! Thank you, thank you to Linda Kubelka and Shelley MacNaughton Seguin who arranged, coordinated, and cajoled, to make our *Church Directory* a reality. We are sorry that we didn't "get everyone" – our own family of families was short by two-thirds! Shelley and Linda did their very best to arrange for busy schedules – so be it.

Images from old movies that showed evangelists and street

saviours holding meetings of music and religion in the 'dens of iniquity', called the alehouses came to my mind as I listened to a report of a 'new' program called "*Theology on Tap*".

"If the Church does not go to the people, the people will not come to the Church"

is the motto for this program which was started in Illinois by a Roman Catholic post-graduate student who had many questions to be answered by his Church. The idea has spread through many dioceses in the U.S. You can read about more local activities at

www.ottawa-theologyontap.com

They meet at Malone's Bar and Lakeside Grill in the Pavilion on Dow's Lake. The venue for this opportunity to discuss questions of significance seems daring compared to the www.wondercafe.ca of our United Church.



Saving Jesus: Ever feel Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right? This program provides an opportunity to ask questions in a safe environment without fear that the questions be deemed unorthodox. There are short video clips by world renowned scholars, theologians and clergy, and guided study activities to initiate questioning and discussion.

We have had no 'bar' like the

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“Theology on Tap” to act as enticement, but popcorn, apple pie and tea have provided some appeal!

Four of the twelve sessions have been completed:

- Jesus Through the Ages
- Who was Jesus?
- How can We Know About Jesus?
- The World into Which Jesus Was Born
- Jesus Birth and Incarnation

We have found this series very interesting and our brains have been ‘stretched’ to give us deeper understanding. You can feel free to come to the next sessions. **Check the Bulletin for dates and location**

These will commence again after Christmas with:

- The Teachings of Jesus
- The Kingdom of God
- Jesus Ministry of Compassion
- Who Killed Jesus?
- The Atonement
- The Resurrection
- Why Jesus is Worth Saving

The ‘surfers’ can look up more information at:

www.livingthequestions.com

How many of us went to the *concert in Avonmore* which featured our special friends from St. Andrew’s? The Rev and The Choir Boys – isn’t that a catchy

name for a group? It definitely sounds like Martin Gaudet to me. Perhaps they could come to St. Andrew’s Williamstown for a concert.

The *Drum Circle* under the leadership of Rev. Karen Boivin of Maxville United has extended invitations to all who might be interested in this activity. Drumming adds a wonderful component to hymn-singing, helps in meditation and keeps aging brains and arthritic hands synchronized.

Ans Fiske and I are planning to attend (when I remember to go). Ans and I attended a drumming workshop in Ottawa last year and thoroughly enjoyed performing from the front of Cityview United Church.

Carol



Brides & Babes

On Saturday morning of Thanksgiving weekend, the Overbury’s were busy adding ribbons on the pews when Bev Craig, Mac, Susan, and I added some Fall décor to the church. The most anticipated wedding day was here! The rainy day would not detract from the day. Bruce provided the following account!

“On October 6, 2007, Rev Andrea Harrison married **Jennifer**

Overbury and Jason Robinson. Eight attendants joined the bridesmaid, Renee Beaupre and the best man, Alexandre Menard.

The bride wore a 2-piece gown. It was a strapless top with Felicity beading and scalloped edging, and a bustle skirt. A crystal edging 2-layer veil completed the dress.

Family and friends from across Ontario and Quebec joined in the celebration of their marriage. Malcolm and Bonnie Cumming performed beautiful music.

An open invitation was extended to all to join in communion. It was a great opportunity to make multiple use of the new worship space. Many wonderful comments were expressed regarding the structure of the church, and the warm and friendly atmosphere created by the minister.”

As part of our David Thompson weekend celebrations, St. Andrew’s welcomed **Linley Kate**, daughter of Carrie Lin and Rob Dionne. Linley was baptized as big sister Marin took it all in. Congratulations.

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@standrewsunity.org.



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The following puzzle and "Christmas by Peanuts" were *borrowed* from St. David's United Church (Woodstock, ON) newsletter, December 2005.

Christmas Puzzle

Figure out what words the clues represent, then find those words in the grid. The unused letters in the first 8 lines spell out a hidden message.

L M S H E P H E R D Y A Y Y
I T R E G N A M H B E J O T
G C Y A N D P E A A C M S I
H A E O F J C B H R A U T V
T R C I S T O M A G S I L I
S O S A P B D Y I E D E E T
Y L S E N O Y O J I U R G A
S R E N N D R T N G G Y N N
Z H A K O Y L G F K L C A Z
S Z E M L W S E J O S E P H
E Y C A M E L M D M W X K S
F E H V S T F I G L J F N T
K R R E L B A T S F O K N A
J C J T G H D P R X T G I R

MESSENGER OF GOD
INFANT
ANIMAL WITH HUMP
CHRISTMAS SONG
HORSE WITH LONG EARS
PRESENTS
PRECIOUS METAL
SMALL HOTEL
CHRIST'S NAME
JESUS' FATHER
HAPPINESS
THEY BRIGHTEN THE DARKNESS
WISE MEN
JESUS' BED IN STABLE
JESUS' MOTHER
THE BIRTH OF JESUS
WOOLLY ANIMAL
TENDER OF SHEEP
COLD WHITE FLUFFY FLAKES
ANIMAL SHELTER
BRIGHT LIGHT IN SKY
GLAD ----- (NEWS)
IT IS DECORATED AT CHRISTMAS



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and Saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all ..."

"That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." - Linus Van Pelt
