



# Waves, Ripples & Hellos

St. Andrew's United Church

Summer 2010

[newsletter@standrewsunitied.org](mailto:newsletter@standrewsunitied.org)

## Editor's Note:

I should be writing this with speed and gusto in consideration of all the events, special services, and workshops that the people of St Andrew's have enjoyed recently.

Where to start? I am overwhelmed! A 'Table of Contents' might help to get us on the path so that you have a newsletter before summer has passed.

## Summer News

- Minister's Greetings
- Rideau Hill Camp
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- Summer Event, July 25<sup>th</sup>

## Church Events

- 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Canadian Food Grains
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- Sunday School

## Reports & Projects

- Workshop Reports
- Mission Statement
- Vision Projects

There are likely stories that I have missed. Lorna has greatly contributed to the writing of this edition. A special thank you to Lorna – our worship leader when Andrea is away, church secretary, and helper in many other ways. Thanks.

Carol Edwards  
Editor

**NOTICE: We are invited to join our friends at Knox-St Paul's in Cornwall on Sunday, July 25th. There will not be a church service in Williamstown on July 25th. .**

## A Travel Update from Andrea

Lorna McKendry received an e-mail from Andrea at the end of their first week of travels west. They really enjoyed their train trip to Edmonton, and had a couple of fun days at the West Edmonton Mall, including an afternoon at the wave pool. They've been hiking and picnicking with friends through Banff National Park.

They've had dinner at Bill Phipps' and Carolyn Pogue's with lots of story telling, renewing of friendships, making new friends, and joined Bill and Carolyn at church last Sunday morning.

Earlier this week they did a day trip to Drumheller and walked the 'badlands', and went through the Royal Tyrell Museum of Palaeontology. They plan to spend a day at the Calgary Stampede, and a couple of days traveling through Banff and Jasper, then back to Edmonton. They'll catch a train to Vancouver early this Sunday morning, July 18th.

No doubt, all four of them, Andrea, Bill, Sam and Cody will have lots to tell us about when they

return home on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Until then, we wish them "happy trails."



## Camping Sunday

The 2010 "We Are Camp" campaign of the United Church of Canada is working to raise awareness of camping as an integral ministry for young people. United Church commissioners at the 40th General Council agreed that camping ministry is one of the primary places for faith formation, and is a priority for the church.

Camping Sunday was planned by United Church head offices to remind us that camping is frequently a "faith forming" experience for young people.

Camping equipment and symbols from nature were at the centre of worship for our Camping Sunday at St. Andrews. Our worship service on May 30th focused on summer camp, and rekindled fond memories for many of us.

With that in mind, the proceeds from our Pancake Supper held in March, to the tune of \$900 and a bit was presented to Seaway Valley Presbytery at their meeting in June. Our gift will go to support Rideau Hill Camp, Our closest United Church camp near Osgoode

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- on the shores of the Rideau River.

Lorna McKendry and Iris Swerdfeger are two of our members who treasure their memories of attending Rideau Hill Camp.

Our WoRM program was ahead of the United Church Commissioners as a number of years ago, our Sunday School tried camping right here at the church. Campfire and songs at the back of the graveyard and lots of kids sleeping in Irvine Hall! Candle-light walks around the grass labyrinth created by Edwina Billyk and Tina Cairncross that year. Camp games and fun was had by all.

## Church on the Move

A Sunday bike trip between churches was also held on June 20th. A small group of riders headed off at the same time as kids headed to Sunday School. The route continued with a brief visit at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The group bicycled along the south side of the Raisin River and proceeded to Lancaster to visit St. Joseph's Catholic Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, South Lancaster (for the beginning of their 11:00am service. Then on to St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, where participants had the opportunity to walk the labyrinth. Finally arriving at St. Andrew's – Knox United Church in Bainsville for lunch and their 12:30pm cemetery service. The distance for this route is 20km.

## A Summer Blessing

Blessed are you, summer,  
season of long days and short  
nights,  
you pour forth light from your  
golden orb,  
energizing the earth and calling  
forth growth.

Blessed are you, summer,  
with your generous gift of heat.  
Your warm breath animates  
creation,  
encouraging all growing things to  
stretch toward the sun.

Blessed are you, summer,  
you call us into playfulness,  
encouraging us to pause from  
work.  
You renew our spirits.

Blessed are you, gracious season  
of summer,  
you surprise us with a variety of  
gifts from the earth.  
We, too, gaze into the earth of  
ourselves,  
beholding gifts waiting to be  
honoured.

Blessed are you, nurturing season  
of summer,  
your fruits and vegetables appear  
on our tables,  
changing them into altars.  
Tasting of your life, we are made  
strong.

From *The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons* by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr, 2005

## Pastoral Care Team

Our Pastoral Care Team meets regularly and strives to keep informed of the needs of people in our church and in the community.

We hosted a free, community event in Irvine Hall on Wednesday evening, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Betty McLennan gave a presentation on "Care for the Caregiver." The presentation looked at various kinds of stress experienced by a caregiver and suggested ways of dealing with it. Among the 14 people who attended, there was a good discussion afterwards.

Offering a follow-up Caregiver's Support Group is a possibility that the Pastoral Care Team is looking into.

During the summer months, we are still available to make pastoral care visits, phone calls, or deliver CDs of the church services. If you or someone you know has a need, please send your request to Karen Paavila, team leader, at 613-525-1399, or paavila@persona.ca.



## "Governance and Ministry" Conference

This 4-day conference, held in Waterloo, Ontario was attended by Andrea Harrison, Jean Butler, Shelley McNaughton and Sandra French. Subtitled "Building Effective Partnership Among

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Leaders of the Church", the keynote speaker was Rev. Dan Hotchkiss, Senior Consultant for the Alban Institute.

The Official Board has given some thought to introducing ways of organizing and decision-making to help streamline meetings, reduce paperwork and be more efficient and effective. "Time analysis" charts and using a "consent agenda" (instead of our present "discussion agenda") are two possibilities that will be introduced to Committee Chairs at a meeting in mid-August. An ad hoc group, called the Governance Working Group (GWG) will continue to follow-up on some of these ideas.

## “Summer Event”

This annual gathering has been a source of inspiration for many in the United Church over the years. Traditionally the event is held at a university or college within the Montreal & Ottawa Conference. For the first time, the event will be held at Knox-St. Paul's United Church in Cornwall, in their new building at 800 Twelfth St. East.

Summer Event is a 1 ½ day program of workshops, music and fellowship which culminates with a worship service and lunch on Sunday morning.

The churches of Williamstown and Martintown have been invited to attend the 10 am service on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>.

It is hoped that many of you will plan to attend, showing your support for this event and our sister church. Everyone is invited to stay

for hot dogs and salads following the service. As mentioned earlier, there will not be a church service in Williamstown or Martintown on July 25<sup>th</sup> - so please plan to join our friends at Knox-St Paul's.

## Get Growing Conference

Wall Street United Church in Brockville is hosting Ruth Graham, daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham, on Friday night and Saturday, Sept 17 & 18.

Ruth's keynote address on Friday is titled "You are good to grow". Workshops will focus on how to transform life-controlling issues into life-encouraging issues.

Registration for this free event is required. It's quick and easy to do at [www.wallstreetchurch.com](http://www.wallstreetchurch.com)

## Presbytery Fair & Picnic: Trinity United Church, Chesterville

Sunday Sept.12, 2pm – 6pm

Once again, Seaway Valley Presbytery is organizing a gathering for all 52 churches in our presbytery. This is an opportunity for congregations to share in a fun-filled afternoon of conversation and fellowship.

## Williamstown Fair Ecumenical Worship Service

Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am at the Centre Stage

Plans are underway to involve local clergy, musicians, and soloists in this annual community worship (while the children play in the corn box as opposed to sand box in back corner!)

An agricultural theme using "The parable of the sower" will highlight our many blessings and the importance of farming here and around the world.



## Our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> marked the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of The United Church of Canada. The theme for this anniversary was "Remember, Renew, Rejoice."

Our pastoral charge celebrated the day with a combined worship service at St. Andrew's United Church in Martintown. Our guest preacher was Rev. Garth Mundle from Ottawa.

Garth is a familiar face to those of us from both congregations who took part in our 'visioning'

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workshops. It was fitting to have him preach, preside at Communion and join us for birthday cake and refreshments afterwards.

Luane Doyle and Carol Edwards prepared the 85th Anniversary "bannock" using a starter package distributed to all churches to commemorate this anniversary.

## Canadian Food Grains Bank Sunday

Some of you may recall two years ago Ken Smith from Kemptville was our guest speaker for Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) Sunday. He spoke of a young man, an agriculturalist, in Zimbabwe, that Ken hoped to bring to Canada. Well, that dream came to pass, and Vuruyayi Pugen and his family are now settled in Greeley.

It was our pleasure to welcome Ray (Viruyayi's Canadian name), his wife Thelma, their young son Emmanuel and infant daughter Rachel to our church on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

"Ray", as he is now called in Canada, spoke of the utter poverty and malnutrition in drought-prone Zimbabwe, and the ineffectiveness of the country's infrastructure to provide for the people. The United Church, through the Mission and Service Fund, in partnership with the CFGB is helping farmers in Zimbabwe achieve sustainable food security.

We wish the Pugen family all the best as they adapt to their new life here in Eastern Ontario. In recent months, our congregation has responded to assist them--a freezer

was donated and delivered, and money is being raised to help offset the expense of getting permanent visas. Please speak with Bill Chambre if you would like to help the Pugen family in any way.

## 2010 Irvine Hall Ceilidh

An appreciative audience took in the 2010 Irvine Hall Ceilidh held in Williamstown, Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The evening was off to a great start from Glengarry's David MacPhee and his Fiddlers (plus three accompanists; two of them students). David and his young apprentices played a repertoire of Scottish favourites from slow airs to reels with precision and confidence.

The second act was an eclectic display of playing and song by our own father and daughter duo of Rob and Joelle Moncrieff. Their numbers ranged from piano recital pieces through songs made popular by Great Big Sea.

The Adirondack Harmony Company from upstate NY (with Williamstown's John Hamilton singing baritone) changed the pace and took us to the lunch break with a variety of a cappella numbers in the barbershop style. Their presentations varied from 1950s Doo Wop though to a comedy number to the tune of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen that left us laughing.

After a light luncheon, provided by our Social Committee, Elly Squared closed the evening with a stirring selection of fiddle and dance music. Elly Squared is comprised of two young ladies named Elly and their accompanist Kristin. Kristin and one of the Ellys are daughter and granddaughter of St. Andrew's Kaz and Greta Grzegorek. Their easy, confident yet rousing style was a great end to the evening.

*Submitted by D.J.McDonald*

## Tuesday Night Ceilidhs

If you like to tap your toes to some good Glengarry fiddlin', then remember the ceilidhs at the old township hall on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 9. The hall is air-conditioned, and refreshments are served.

## WoRM Sunday School

We have celebrated the completion of our first 6 years of offering the WoRM rotational model for Sunday School. Six years ago, Andrea, Jennifer Lafave, and Edwina Billyk selected 40 stories from the bible on which to base the program. These stories were favourites, stories that had interesting characters, and stories that provide a good foundation to teach our children. The children spent 4-6 weeks studying a story in various ways. The story and its messages were learned through

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drama, cooking, crafts, games, music, puppets, field trips, and storytelling.

Our season ended with an invitation to the congregation to join Sunday School in a "rotation" experience on June 27th. Our story for the day was of Jesus at the wedding in Cana.

To focus on the 'experiences' similar to what the children have done, we were divided into groups by the children using coloured popsicle sticks. One child must have liked green as the green group had only a couple of people assigned!

The purple group drew pictures of the wedding guests in cartoon style under the leadership of artists, Edwina Billyk and Tessa Lafave. The red group made wedding dessert (strawberry shortcake) with Bevan Lafave and Susan Edwards. Rob Moncrieff and his wedding guests experienced God's world in the outdoors and another group sang "I prayed in the tub" under the leadership of Tina Cairncross. Cody Chambre and Paul Andre Moncrieff. The yellow group were thespians and acted out the "modern" version of the story. The green team - with some additions - played games outside.

We failed at reproduction of water into wine! A jug of water surprised some as it really was clear Kool-Aid. What a marketing gimmick - Invisible Kool Aid.

Amidst all this fun and laughter we had to come down to earth as we realized this was a time to say goodbye to Mary MacGregor, our Sunday School leader for this last year.

We can offer a million thanks, Mary and wish you much happiness in the next step – the biggest step in "experiential learning". We wish Mary and Doug all the best as they were married at our church on July 10th.

Jennifer Lafave, Edwina Billyk and Mary MacGregor have been the creative team that has made this program a success. The Session has approved the continuation of this program; including paying an individual to lead it. Starting in September - the program will begin again. Let's look forward to another 6 years.

## Seeking Teacher!

With Mary moving to Germany and Jennifer and Edwina stepping out of the lead roles, we are looking for an individual who will lead this program.

We are seeking an energetic person who can work with Bible stories and provide a good learning environment. Ideally, the person would have some training in educating young people. Flexibility is key - any given Sunday you could have 3 kids or 16 kids. One Sunday could be all girls; another all boys.

There are many people that could fit this role - help us find our next teacher.

For more information, contact Susan Edwards or Shelley MacNaughton-Seguin.

## Congregation Picnic

Many thanks to Nancy and Jay Woollven for having us to their place for a church barbeque and swim. The setting was idyllic, the pool was refreshing, the table was loaded with good food, the grill has hot, and the frogs in their pond were very cooperative!!

Ask the children someday how many frogs, little and big, they caught in their nets. Check out the pictures on our church web-site.



## Brides & Babes

As mentioned earlier, **Mary MacGregor**, daughter of Alpin and Sharon (nee MacNaughton) was married to **Doug Richardson** on July 10<sup>th</sup>, in St. Andrew's, Williamstown.

Mary's parents and grandparents (Buddy and Marion MacNaughton) were also married in this church.

The occasion was marked by the repainting of the "big rock" on the Glen Road in the corner of Homer and Lorna Grant's field.

The reception was held at the Fairgrounds with refreshments and yard games for everyone before dinner, and an evening of dancing.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, this newly-

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married couple will be living in Gottingen, Germany.

We look forward to another wedding this summer. **Colleen Atchison** will marry **Eric Nielsen** on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Colleen is the daughter of Garry and Penny (nee McDonell) and grand daughter of Clark and Eileen McDonell.

Colleen's parents and grandparents were also married in this St. Andrew's. (I believe I could go back a few more generations with the same comment!)

## Baptism

We all enjoyed witnessing the baptism of **Madelaine**, daughter **Allison & James Dennis**. She looked precious in the christening gown handed down from a previous generation. Family history again likely records that Madeleine's grand mother, Barbara-Ann Dennis (nee Alguire) was also baptized in this church.

## Working with Garth Mundle

Here we are in 2010 embarking on the second decade in this new millennium. Our wonderful churches of St. Andrew's United in Williamstown and Martintown have served our communities well for over 200 years. Still going strong (let's say 'small but mighty'), we want to chart our way into the future.

To do so, it helps if we take the time together to re-examine our current context, our identity, our sense of purpose, our assets/talents/joys, and our goals and aspirations for the future. We found someone who could help us

do this.

**Rev. Garth Mundle** is a United Church minister, with a vast amount of experience in church leadership, and lots of wonderful stories - from his beginnings in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, to Boston, Edmonton, Northern India and the Middle East, to mention a few places. He had just finished doing some consulting work with several pastoral charges to our north-east. We jumped on the opportunity to engage him to work with our pastoral charge.

Garth spent time with us, between Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

We were introduced to Garth when he was our guest preacher on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This service provided people with the opportunity to meet Garth and get a sense of where we were going on this exciting journey of conversation together. Our overall aim was to explore our context, our identity, what we have going for us, and where we want to go in the future. Everyone affiliated with both congregations was invited.

Garth returned on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, to lead us in a workshop on the theme - "Where are we in the current context?" In our time together on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Garth helped us explore our context for being church in our communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The second meeting was held on the morning of Saturday May 15. After re-capping our work from the first session to refresh memories, and to inform those who were not at the first session, we had fun describing our two churches, and identifying our

assets. What talents do we have in our church community? Based on our assets, each group was asked to identify a project that would use the talents/assets identified. Here are some of the project ideas presented:

- Greening the Church
- A place for seniors - create a welcoming place for seniors to play games, have a meal, etc.
- Build a school in a developing country.
- Alive for \$5. This is already moving - see story below.

The third session had each congregation start work on a Mission Statement. The key ideas for the two Williamstown groups were given to a smaller group to put together a proposed mission statement for Williamstown.

Review, consider, and discuss this statement. Does it tell you who we are and what we want to be?

## Mission Statement

**St. Andrew's United - a welcoming and community oriented church; proud of our heritage and evolving to meet the changing needs in our society and world.**

## Vision

On behalf of ourselves, the greater community, and the world, we wish to achieve many things:

- Increase visibility of what we do and offer.
- Help individuals - provide space for healing and inner peace

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- Provide a faith foundation for our children (Sunday School)
- Create a greener church
- Participate in global partnerships such as the Food Grains Bank, Free the Children, and Wells for Well being

You are invited to think about how we can act or live out our mission. The Vision statements highlight how/what to focus on. Share your thoughts with your friends and neighbours.

At the end of the summer/early fall - we will meet again to confirm our vision (what actions we want to take now) and create plans/projects to achieve a shared vision.

## Special Thanks

A special thanks goes out to the Social Club. Food was always mentioned in our discussions with Garth - one of our talents & assets. Over the last few months, the Social Club has contributed food to many, many events.

## Alive for \$5

This innovative idea for a fundraiser by selling pre-packaged smoke detector batteries for \$5, came up at one of the Garth Mundle workshops. This fundraising project was undertaken by the Boy Scouts of America and has been successful for them.

The hope is to work with Jamie McIntosh, son of Barb and Rob McIntosh. So far Jamie has made several packages available to us to sell. Our initial shipment will

result in 100% profit.

Miraculous networking does happen. Andrea and I were at a JGER (Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations) retreat called "Living for the Earth" where the Moderator, Mardi Tindal was the guest speaker.

After her inspired presentation, I offered to make her a "mobius strip" as a teaching tool to illustrate the connectivity of every living thing on this planet. Beside me, Andrea introduced herself as "Sam's Mom" and my friend and broached the idea of the "batteries" as a United Church wide project for community safety. The Moderator has already put this idea forward for consideration.

**Note:** I made the mobius as a scarf and presented it to the Moderator at the meeting of the Toronto Conference. The colours were perfect for her! Now - why were we at Toronto Conference?

## Congrats Christine!

A big, big milestone for our own Christine Sloan. Christine was ordained into full ministry of the United Church of Canada.

On behalf of this congregation in Williamstown we were able to present Christine with the stole that was part of this auspicious ceremony.

Christine's parents, Garry and Helen Sloan and most of her siblings were there for the occasion. Jay and Nancy Woollven and Mac and I made up the supporters gallery from St. Andrew's. It has been a long journey for Christine to reach this

proud day.

Thanks to Jay and his camera you may see Christine wearing her stole when you go to [www.standrewsunitied.org](http://www.standrewsunitied.org)

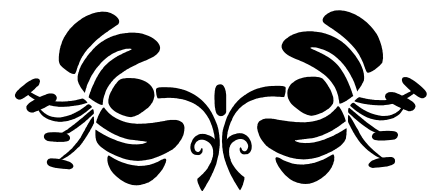


We are invited to join our friends at Knox-St Paul's in Cornwall on Sunday, July 25th. There will be no church service in Williamstown on July 25th. .

## A Prayer in Times of Sadness

The entire community is greatly saddened by the tragic death of 2 year old Finnan McDonell. Our hearts and prayers are with his parents Craig & Catherine, his sister Frances and his brothers Fraser and Fergus. There are so many family members in our community trying to find a way to continue in grief.

We have included a prayer for times of sadness. However, words cannot express to any degree the deep grief and sadness we feel.



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## A Prayer in Times of Sadness

All-loving and caring God, Parent of us all,  
you know our grief in our loss.

Give us strength to go forward from this day,  
trusting, where we do not understand,  
that your love never ends.

When all else fails, you still are God.

We pray for one another in our need,  
and for all who mourn with us this day.

To all who doubt, give understanding;  
to all who are weak, strength;  
to all who sorrow, your peace.

Strengthen in us the love we share with one another.

We thank you for the life and hope that you give  
through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen



from *Celebrating God's Presence, A Book of Services* UCPH, 2001