

News from St. Mary's

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter!

It has been a while since the church last produced a newsletter. Here is the first issue of what we hope will be a quarterly publication for informing the community of St. Mary Magdalene about what is happening.

The general format is to include stories, regular columns from the rector and the wardens and news of upcoming events. In addition we will include articles on specific church-related topics, profiles on church groups and people, and a book section featuring recommendations or reviews of books that people have read and think others might enjoy.

We welcome your input, your ideas, your comments and even letters, all of which will help to make this newsletter a success. The newsletter needs a name - any suggestions? Let us know - our names are on the back.



Dora Bond's First 100 Years

Dora Bond was born on March 22nd, 1909 in Todmorden, Yorkshire, England, to Samuel and Maryanne Williams. She was the second of three children. Dora left school at age 14 and apprenticed as a bindery girl in a book binding business. Dora and her family emigrated from England to Canada in 1924 when she was just 15.

The family settled in Toronto's east end and Dora found a job doing the same work as before. She married her boss Robert James Bond in April 1932 (yes, her very own James Bond!). Sadly, he died in 1971.

Dora has two children, Barb who lives in Picton, and Bill who lives in Trenton, She also has 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



Dora has been a very faithful and active member of the Anglican Church and when she moved to Picton in 1993 she along with Barb became members of St. Mary Magdalene church where they both joined the choir. She was a member of the choir for a number of years and was also involved with the church in other areas, helping with the Altar Guild, the Christmas Bazaar, baking and doing whatever she could do.

While living in England one of Dora's favourite activities was watercolour painting, and when she moved to Canada she took some art classes and has produced some very lovely paintings. Although Dora does not paint anymore she is however an avid reader and she still attends church on a regular basis, sitting in her usual front pew, and greeting everyone with her lovely smile.

In the year Dora was born, Alexander Graham Bell (inventor of the telephone) achieved the first powered flight in Canada, when his "Silver Dart" took to the air in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. In the same year, Robert Peary first reached the North Pole, the Ottawa Senators won the Stanley Cup and the first Grey Cup game was held and won by the Toronto. So you see, 1909 was a year of extraordinary events!

Also, just think when Dora was born, the present church of St. Mary Magdalene Picton had not yet been built. It was actually opened in 1913. So in just a few short years from now, we will have another 100th birthday to celebrate. Let's all put on our thinking caps and come up with some ideas for that special event!

Milestones

- Faithful parishioner, Dora Bond, celebrates her 100th birthday on March 22. Congratulations! (see lead article)
- Our youngest parishioner, Aaron Oliver Draper, son of Steve and Caroline and brother to Callum and Orson, who was born on January 12 2009 was baptized on January 25.
- Sheila Wedekamm, after 20 years, stepped down as convener of the Friends of St. Mary Magdalene. Our thanks and appreciation to Sheila. Myrna Martin has agreed to be our new convener.

Laughs from Church Bulletins:

"Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow."

"Don't let worry kill you - the Church can help."

"A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow."

Rector's Corner

You have in your hands the first edition of what we hope will be a regular quarterly Newsletter about goings on here at SMMAC. This is not the first time a newsletter has been launched in the parish but unfortunately other incarnations have died out. I know you will give your heartfelt support to this new effort by sending in copy and photos to the Communications Committee to sift through in order to produce a dynamic product.



There are some very practical and tangible needs that can be met by having a parish newsletter and there are, in perhaps equal measure, some very real spiritual needs that can be met through this vehicle as well. If we are members of the body of Christ, then we need to know what is going on in our parish community. It is in the simple act of knowing that many of us will be empowered to pray for and to support those who are involved in ministries here and to become directly involved in the working out of our mission.

When ever people talk about communications in the church the cry always goes up that it needs to be improved....and I cringe. I am afraid that this will mean yet more paper that I cannot get to and which, often, is of limited interest or use. With this Newsletter, however, that shouldn't be the case as what is covered will be local and of interest to all. The Newsletter will enable all in our parish to stay connected with what is going on, even if they are not able to be here every Sunday

I hope and expect that we will use this forum to communicate and celebrate the social and spiritual happenings in the parish thus tying together in a tangible way the "body of Christ" of which we are all members. I look forward to many editions to come and I hope and pray that this is but one sign of more good things to come.

Richard+

From your Wardens

We are pleased to have this opportunity to report upon some significant achievements and events over the past while. The access ramp at the front of the church has been built and is now in use, with some landscaping to be completed this Spring. Also, after many years of discussion, a fully accessible washroom and a handy kitchenette were completed in the Tower, largely by volunteer labour. And new ceiling fans were finally installed at year's end. The bold sign outside the front of the church has drawn favourable comments and attention, and has helped to increase our visibility to the community. All are agreed that these projects are great additions to our facilities.

Through the work of Reverend Pitcher and members of the congregation, we have established a Memorial Corner in the church, which was dedicated in the presence of local veterans, at our Remembrance Day Service.

The Church continues to be a focal point in the community hosting numerous musical performances throughout the past year, including the PEC Music Festival, Music at Port Milford, Shout Sisters, Command Performance and a fabulous Messiah concert that raised over \$3000 for our organ fund. The Door Keepers program opened up the church and welcomed visitors from near and far during the summer months. These are all important aspects of our outreach to the community at large.

Building maintenance and improvement continues to be an ongoing and expensive concern. New eavestrough, fascia and soffits have recently been installed for the church building and parish hall, at a cost of around \$21,000. In addition, the overpass flooring will be replaced, and a study is underway to improve the lighting on the church.

On the financial side, we do remarkably well for a congregation of our size to maintain our church. However, while we have many generous supporters, total givings fell short of our budget target by \$20,000 in 2008. As a consequence, we continued to draw down our capital reserves to meet ongoing expenses. We cannot continue in this way and maintain the building at the same time. Therefore, we face some difficult financial decisions in the year ahead, and we must work and pray that together we will find the means to ensure the long-term future of our church.

John Hughes

Michael Smith

Read & Rejoice: Some Key Accomplishments of 2008

- **The Ramp** project to increase wheelchair accessibility into our church was completed, made possible by gifts from the late Fred and Anne Bradley and by the Bake Family on behalf of Willem Bake.
- **A wheelchair accessible washroom and kitchenette**, designed and built by our very own SMMAC *Renovation Dream Team* of volunteers, are now in place in the Bell Tower. The cost, approximately \$8,000, was paid for through fundraising projects and generous donations from various parishioners. The volunteer labour saved us half of the costs.
- **The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund** received approximately \$1,330 in donations from our church in 2008.
- The County **Food Bank** received almost \$400 cash as well as hundreds of dollars worth of food items from St. Mary Magdalene's.
- We donated \$1,000 to the local **Salvation Army** to help the victims of a fire on Main Street.
- **The ROC (Recreation Outreach Centre)** was given \$1,100 to pay for new basketball backboards. "B" ball is a major part of their outreach to Youth in Picton.
- We sponsored a child to attend **Camp Hyanto**, the summer camp run by the Diocese.
- Our **Organ** was **restored** and improved through the Lillian Lauer bequest and some very successful fund raising by Michael Goodwin and the choir, notably through the two performances of *The Messiah*.

Caring for the Community

- Our rector braved the cold to raise money for the homeless. On Friday 30th January, Richard slept outside overnight in Belleville's market square, supplied only with an arctic-style sleeping bag and a large cardboard box. With pledges from members of our church and from St. Phillip's and St. John's, \$900 was raised.
- We regularly collect:
 - non-perishable food items for the Picton Food Bank;
 - toiletries and other household items for Women's Shelter;
 - postage stamps, which go to Oxfam.
 - drink can tabs, which go to a children's wheelchair charity.
- St. Mary Magdalene volunteers help to deliver Meals on Wheels during the month of April.

Spectacular Variety Night

About seventy people from the parish as well as from the community at large turned out for the SMM Variety Night on Friday February 20th. The event was a tremendous success, and with a raffle raised over \$900. Everyone enjoyed an evening of superb entertainment performed in a casual, coffee-house style environment. It truly was a variety night with entertainment ranging from show tunes, semi-classical, country, popular music and comedy.

The Variety Night would not have been possible without the treasure trove of talent at SMMAC. With straw hats, guitars and ukulele in hand, headliners like *Pinkie and the County Rovers* (see picture) and *The Smokey Mountain Boys* showed beyond a shadow of a doubt how well The County can do Country. The "Ballad of Barack Obama" will not soon be forgotten in these parts.



Other tongue-in-cheek performances included the regional weather forecast sung to an Anglican Chant, performed by SMMAC's very own choir.

Considerable acting talents were showcased with a unique take on the classic Abbott and Costello "Who's on first?" skit, poking fun at computers. Our Rector treated us to a superb rendering of Stanley Holloway's famous monologue "Albert and the Lion". The evening was splendidly emceed by Lita Field who appeared in a captivating outfit. A word of thanks also to those who provided the refreshments which were available before and throughout the performance.

The proceeds from the event will help purchase new flooring for the link (the overpass which connects the Church and the hall) and the back entranceway and pay for associated upgrades. "Early estimates indicated the work would cost as much as \$4,000", said The Rev. Richard Pitcher, "but thanks to the efforts of our renovation squad, who donate their valuable labour, we can probably do most of the work for half of that". For their continued hard work, a special thanks goes out to SMMAC's dream renovation team, made up of Brian Pinkerton, Michael Smith, David Gilbert, Bob Mercer, Jack Lashley, as well as other faithful and trusty assistants as do lend a hand from time to time, and to Mike Langlois who provides coffee to the crew.

Pancake Supper

This year saw the return of the St. Mary Magdalene Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, on February 24th. Judging by the large and enthusiastic response, the return was greatly welcomed. About 100 people enjoyed pancakes, sausages, bacon and dessert in the Parish Hall. Special thanks to all those who helped, especially the tireless cooks. Although not intended as a fundraiser, generous donations helped raise \$340.



Parish Survey

The Parish planning day held in late October, 2008, with about 30 people in attendance, generated enthusiasm, fellowship and ideas for the future of the parish. Subsequently, a survey questionnaire was distributed in January to assist in charting a course for our future.

Forty-six people responded to the survey, which represents about 30% of the number of parishioners. Of the respondents, 87% were in the age categories of 61 and over. Twenty-seven percent of respondents have been worshipping at SMMAC for more than 30 years, while 24% of those responding have been worshipping in this church for 5 years or less.

At its February meeting, Parish Council moved to strike a small committee to review the results of the survey, including 16 pages of written comments received, and to provide a summary to the whole congregation.

Parish leadership would like to thank all of those people who participated in this process, as input from the whole parish is one of the key building blocks in the development of the church's long-range plan.

We would also like to thank Michelle Hauser, the Diocesan Stewardship and Congregational Development Coordinator, for organizing and leading the planning day, and for her valuable assistance in producing and distributing the survey and summarizing the results.

Services for Holy Week

April 5 Palm Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am
April 8 Wednesday 10:00 am
April 9 Maundy Thursday 7.00 pm
April 10 Good Friday 10.00 am
April 12 Easter Sunday 9.00 and 10.30 am

Upcoming Events

April 4 **Pie and Bake Sale**, Coffee Table and more in the Parish Hall, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

May 14 **Seniors Service and Lunch**, 10.30 am

June 27 **Strawberry Social**

November 7 **Christmas Bake Sale**

Christian education course

"Experiencing the Bible again for the first time."
10 weeks, Wednesday afternoon, starting March 25th.

Lattimer Bible discussion group: First and third Thursday, 2:00 pm in the library

Men's Breakfast: 8:00 am last Friday of the month at Gus' Restaurant

Magalena's Potluck lunch for the women of the parish: 12:00 noon last Friday of the month in the Parish Hall

Foodbank Sunday: First Sunday of every month. Bring your non-perishable food items

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