

The Vine



Welcome to the second edition of the Newsletter!

As you can see, the newsletter has a new name - "The Vine" - thanks to David Gilbert who had the inspiration for the name as he was driving by Huff's vineyard. We think the name is appropriate - the symbolism of the vine in the Bible and the growing importance of vineyards in the County. We hope you agree. Now we need a logo. A search for one is presently underway (see item on "Search for a logo" in this newsletter). We welcome your input, your ideas, your comments and even your letters, all of which will help to make this newsletter a success.



Sheila Wedekamn - 20 years at the helm!

Last summer when Sheila stepped down from being the convener of the Friends of St. Mary Magdalene it marked the end of a 20 year period of dedication, a lot of organization, and hard work.

Sheila first became involved with St. Mary Magdalene when she and her husband Stan retired from jobs in Ottawa (Sheila was a teacher and Stan worked in the Prime Minister's Office) and moved to Picton in 1986. They were no strangers to The County having spent their summer holidays in Waupoos for 18 years.

When the ACW (Anglican Church Women) was disbanded in the mid- 1980s, the Friends of St. Mary Magdalene was formed and Sheila and GERALYN Walmsley took on the tasks of co-convener. After a short time, Sheila took over as full-time convener. The mandate of the

Friends was to cater and run a whole range of events which they certainly

did - including weddings, funeral receptions, anniversaries, baptismal receptions, all kinds of dinners, as well as the Sugar Plum Tea and Bazaar! Sometimes there would be three events in one week. Some of the events were highly memorable because of the wide range of foods served. One very special occasion was a surprise 40th anniversary reception organized by Shelley one of Sheila's daughters (she has three daughters and one son and 9 grandchildren) for Sheila and Stan whilst they were in England.

A lot of time was spent in the kitchen. Sheila had a wonderful, caring and devoted group of helpers who did not mind hard work. They became "a big happy family" sharing the happy times as well as the difficult ones. It was a great support group in times of need. Many of these women are still volunteering in the kitchen today.

Although it was mainly the women in the kitchen Sheila had the men help washing up, setting up and hanging decorations, which she had made. Some of the events were large scale and made use of both the upstairs and downstairs in the church hall.

A lot of money was raised, in one year as much as \$22,000. Many items were purchased including the long tables and their storage carts and all the chairs in the hall. Also flower-pot table decorations which are still used and lots of kitchen equipment including food warmers, pots, grills, and other serving pieces. Additional money paid for a stove in the rectory, insurance for the church, heat and hydro for the hall and more, even part of the organist's salary!

Sadly Stan, who also devoted a lot of his time to the church, died in March 1999 but Sheila carried on. As well as organizing the Friends, Sheila was volunteering for the Hospital Auxiliary and recently received a 20-year service pin and a local Lifetime Membership.

Sheila is still a very supportive and active member at St. Mary Magdalene and enjoys her new condominium in the Edward Building in Picton. Many thanks Sheila for a job well done!

Copies of a longer version of this article by David Gilbert are available at the back of the church or from Sheila Wedekamn.

Milestones

Our sympathies go out to the families of:

- Lewis "Lew" Kellar (husband to Fran) who died on June 15. A celebration of his life was held in the church followed by a reception in the hall on June 18. Interment in Moira Cemetery.
- Ross Trant (husband to Anne) who died June 24. A memorial service was held in the church on June 30.



Rector's Corner

Summer time and the living is easy....", most of us remember these famous lyrics even if we can't place them (Porgy and Bess wasn't it?) and it is a refrain that echoes in my thoughts as the sun shines stronger and the gas prices go up – summer is here! I hope summer is a little easier for you but I also hope you will keep in mind the need to keep up our contributions over the Summer. For our Treasurer summer time is often not a time when the living is easy!

I hope you will all welcome the members of the Stewardship Committee as they go about visiting everyone in the parish with an eye to strengthening our bonds of community and listening to the hopes and aspirations of all of you.

Improvements to the Church and Hall continue. A wider fire door has been installed at one end of the link to improve wheelchair accessibility. Elaine Philip and I will, by publication time, have been to the "Messy Church" workshop in Cataragui designed to make church more family friendly. This is an initiative of the Diocesan Evangelism Committee as is "Fresh Expressions". "Messy Church" involves the parents and the children in a craft and activities that explore the faith without separating the generations. It could take place in the Hall at a time apart from our regular services. "Fresh Expressions" is a movement out of England but putting down roots in Canada, to "do church differently" and in a way that attracts non-traditional Anglicans and seekers of all kinds. I have a dream of us hosting, in one of the local cafes, a Coffee House Church whereby people are invited to come and dialogue about faith and spirituality in a congenial environment. Musical members of the congregation have offered their services to entertain and present the faith in a new way.

Mike Langlois and Joyful Noise are busy exploring a new source of worship music called Song Select. With full music sheets, chord charts and sound clips, Song Select will, we hope, be a resource for Joyful Noise and, perhaps, provide inspiration for a third Sunday Service that would appeal to a new demographic.

While the warm weather will indeed make things easier (once the grass stops growing!) I know that summer will also be a productive, reinvigorating time for all of us here at St. Mary Magdalene.

Richard+



Parish Visitation

This spring a Stewardship Committee was reformed and one of its initiatives is a Parish visitation program. This will involve members of the committee visiting parishioners with the idea of getting to know their involvement with the church better and getting their input on how things could be improved. In other words, the focus is on "What can St. Mary Magdalene do for you?"

At St. Mary Magdalene we are blessed with a wonderful sanctuary, our Anglican faith and liturgy, and a compassionate congregation that is sharing, caring and supportive. It provides a "church community" where members have a sense of belonging, of fellowship and of good times.

However, there are concerns about the decline in the number of people in our congregation. But it is hoped that this trend can be reversed and newcomers will find our church a place where they will feel comfortable and have a vibrant relationship with God. So how can we accomplish this?

Initially visits are being focused on those who attend church regularly. This will enable the members of the committee gain some experience in determining what may be needed for positive growth in our church before visiting those who attend church less regularly.

Visiting has begun and the teams are finding this a very enriching experience and are looking forward to continuing this ministry in the following months.

The Flowering Cross



As people entered the Church of St. Mary Magdalene on Easter Morning, they went forward and placed flowers on the cross at the front of the Sanctuary. The transformation from the starkly bare cross of the crucifixion to one entirely covered with flowers symbolizes the new life in our risen Lord. The flowering cross is found in Christian art as early as the sixth century and is based on a legend that says that the cross itself burst into bloom at the moment that Jesus died.

Read & Rejoice: Accomplishments this Spring

- The **Easter Pie and Bake Sale, Coffee and White Elephant Tables and Easter Gift Basket Raffle** held in the Parish Hall on April 4 raised \$1400 which will go towards the cost of completing the link renovations.
- The **Seniors' Service** held in the church and followed by a **lunch** in the Parish Hall on May 14 was well attended by residents and their helpers from the County's nursing and retirement homes and also by Bishop George Bruce.
- A **Roast Beef Dinner** catered by the Friends of St Mary Magdalene under the direction of Myrna Martin (our new convener) in the Parish Hall on May 22 was a great success. We served over 80 meals and raised \$1200 towards the Restoration Fund.
- The areas surrounding the new wheel-chair accessible **ramp** in front of the church were **sodded** in early May.
- The County **Food Bank** received several hundred of dollars worth of non-perishable food items from St. Mary Magdalene.
- A number of our parishioners are volunteering at the **10,000 Villages Store** (outreach project of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church) which opened in May on Main Street in Picton. These stores provide vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories.
- The **Strawberry Social & Bake Sale** held in the Parish Hall on June 27 raised over \$1,450 for the restoration fund.

Doorkeepers

The Ministry of Doorkeepers which was introduced into our church in 2000 by Sheila Gribble allows the church to be open at certain times for visitors. The doors are open Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 2 pm during the months of July and August. People visit the church for a number of reasons: curiosity (to see inside the church), a connection through family or earlier days, a time for contemplation, reflection or prayer. Brochures and our digital picture frame provide information on the church including the stained glass windows and church activities. If you would like to be part of this ministry and volunteer as a doorkeeper and welcome visitors to our church, please talk to Brian Pinkerton (476-7393). Having use of our new kitchenette in the Bell Tower should make our time as greeters even more enjoyable.

All you need is...

...a lot of prayer, will power and determination. That is what helped my husband, Mike lose one hundred and two pounds. Yep, that's right one hundred and two pounds. When people asked him what made him decide to lose weight, his reply was, "I got tired of being fat!"



Mike with two 50-pound bags of potatoes - the amount of weight he has lost!

I would like to share with you some of the things I have learned during the past ten months. I have come to realize that your physical appearance is not the only thing that changes because of a huge weight loss. Your daily routine also changes. My husband, who prior to his weight loss, rarely saw ten o'clock twice in a twenty four hour period; is now up, finished breakfast and out for his first 3.5 km walk of the day before six thirty A.M.! Two other 3.5 km walks are scheduled during the rest of the day. This new routine also wreaked havoc with my morning solitude because Mike liked to have the radio on the minute he got up. A new pair of earphones, however, was the answer to that problem. Big weight loss also increases your energy. I could not believe my eyes one day last month. As I

glanced up from doing the dishes, I saw this man perched on a ladder resting against the clothes line pole. He was actually installing a new clothes line! And then another day this same man was climbing the ladder and clearing the down spout of debris which was blocking the water from flowing from the eaves trough. This was unheard of in his previous life!! I had to ask myself "who is this man, and what is he doing in our home?"

And then there are the new wardrobes. Make that five new wardrobes!! Yes, at different stages of this major weight loss, we had to shop for new clothes. After all when you lose that much weight you want to look and feel good in what you're wearing.

Yes, losing that much weight is a lot of work but in the long run it is certainly worth it; good for your health, good for your frame of mind, good for your confidence. And most importantly there is also the acknowledgment, encouragement and compliments from family and friends which means so much.

Fran Langlois (very proud wife)

Jazz Service

On Sunday August 23, St. Mary Magdalene will be having its annual jazz service, in conjunction with the Prince Edward County Jazz Festival.



Our choir, together with invited guests, will be singing excerpts from the Missa Brevis (short mass) by the Italian baroque composer Palestrina. The Brian Barlow Quartet will be playing jazz improvisations in their inimitable and wonderful way during the service, including the hymns.

Be sure to make a note of this on your calendar because, as always, it's bound to be a very popular event.



Search for a Church Logo

This Spring, the members of the Communications Committee decided we needed a logo to help develop an identity for our church. The logo would represent who and what we are in the community and would be used on all communications from the church, including letterhead, advertisements, newsletters, etc.

In May a competition was organized by Andrew Innes and thrown open to anyone who had an idea for a design for a logo. A total of 8 designs were submitted and these are being reviewed by a panel (which includes a graphic designer and two other church members). Three designs will be chosen and then displayed in the church. The members of the congregation, by casting their vote, will choose the winning design.

Worship Services

Sunday	9:00 and 10:30 am
Wednesday	10:00 am
July 19	Festival of Mary Magdalene (10.30 am service will be followed by a potluck lunch in the parish hall)
August 23	Jazz Service 10:30 am

Upcoming Events

Music at Port Milford Concerts:

July 24, 31 & August 7, 14 at 8:00 pm

August 9 Students performing at 10:30 am service

August 15 Student Concert 2:00 pm

PEC Music Festival: September 17-19, 7:30 pm,

Christmas Bake Sale: November 7

Lattimer Bible discussion group: First and third Thursday, 2.00 pm in the Library (not in July and August)

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

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

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

This newsletter was produced by the St. Mary Magdalene Communications Committee:

Rev. Richard Pitcher	476-3303	Andrew Innes	476-7505
Josie Farrar	471-1130	Pauline Smith	471-1135
David Gilbert	476-2118	Barb Wyatt	476-3303

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
335 Main Street
Picton, ON K0K 2T0

Phone: 613-476-3303
Email: churchoffice@on.aibn.com
Website: www.stmarymagpicton.ca