

The Vine



Welcome to the third edition of the Newsletter!

Hopefully by the time the next issue of the newsletter comes out we should have our new logo on the front page. Three designs have been chosen and are now ready to be put to the vote. These designs will be displayed in the church and the congregation will be asked to make their choice.

As before, we welcome your input, your ideas, your comments and even your letters, all of which help to make this newsletter a success.



Memories of the First World War

I was five years old when the first World War started. I was coming home from Sunday School and this dreadful news of war was being discussed on the streets. It was a false alarm, but the war did start later in that same year, 1914.

Rationing began and meat and sugar were very scarce. Rabbit was one meat we could buy and rabbit pies were sold in the stores. I, as a child, loved them. Frozen beef was occasionally sold, but no one in those days ate frozen meat: it was a no-no!

One day word went around that sausages were available at the butcher's, so Mother sent me on my lunch hour to go and line up for some. I finally got to the door when the butcher announced they were all sold out! I was so upset, in tears because I had no sausages and no time to eat lunch, and I had to go back to school, still in tears.

There were no toys at Christmas unless your Dad was a soldier. My Dad lost sight in one eye due to a piece of steel that had penetrated his eye at work, so although he did volunteer for the army, he was rejected. He suffered a lot of humiliation from men who were giving a white feather to non-soldiers. There was nothing to buy at Christmas, so I never had a

doll or a game, but I did get an apple and an orange, and a little square of chocolate plus a sixpenny bit. Later on Mother added a book.

Cars were only beginning to appear on the streets and we children would run to see one if one did appear occasionally.

I wore clogs to school which had black leather tops and wooden soles with steel runners on them. My wardrobe consisted of three blouses, a tunic and one dress for Sunday.

Oh how we all looked forward to the end of the war. A big celebration was planned. Alas I got the 1918 flu and spent that time in bed!

Dora Bond

Changing Lives in Haiti - how you can help

On October 24 over 100 people attended a fund-raising concert in the Church presented as part of the Prince Edward Lecture Series to help orphan children in Haiti. The evening featured the singing group "Trinity", a community choir, audience singing and inspiring testimony, particularly by the Pastor of the La Judee Orphanage in Gonaives Ismorin Noel. John Porritt, an engineer from the County working in Haiti, gave an overview of what the country of Haiti is like. Lillian Purdy gave a slide presentation and personal testimony of her two-week stay at the orphanage earlier this year.

Last year Haiti was hit by an unprecedented number of hurricanes - 4 in one month - causing a great deal of hardship. The orphanage was inundated with mud-laden waters forcing the children to spend many days living on the roof, with minimal supplies. Food and fresh water were in scarce supply and expensive. Even under 'normal' conditions, these children survive with very little, apart from a lot of love.

Everyone in the audience was moved by the wonderful music and the plight of these children. About \$4000 was raised from the concert.

However, it was felt we need to do something more to help them on a more permanent basis. Hence **The 500 Club** is being formed to provide ongoing support to the children of the La Judee Orphanage. If 500 people each give one dollar per week, the children at the Orphanage can be fed and sheltered on an ongoing basis. *If you can spare a dollar per week* you can help support the children of the Orphanage. This is the aim of **The 500 Club**. For more information, talk to Robert Wilson (613-476-7177) or Michael Smith (613-471-1135).

Rector's Corner

Café Church for the Unchurched is a meeting in an informal setting outside the church building with people who have responded to my newspaper columns, to more fully explore some of the reasons why the old orthodoxy is being questioned and what the ramifications of that questioning might be. The first meeting was held in Miss Lily's Cafe on October 30.



The topic of this meeting was the Bible: how it came to be, what writings were left out and why. This will lead to studying the Gnostic Christians, whose writings argued for other understandings of who Christ is i.e., not both God and Man in One person. These are important questions because the Bible and the Creeds have defined for centuries what was and was not Christian, and they have steered our social thought. We will be asking if, in the highly political and messy process of defining "right belief", other voices had prevailed? How might the Church and our society be different? How would we understand God and our relationship to God? How would these other conclusions have affected our understanding of the relationship between men and women, our sexuality, our morality?

It may be that we should re-examine some of those early conclusions now that we have access to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi Library. The Scrolls giving us better and more complete copies of the Hebrew Bible and the Nag Hammadi Library a glimpse of other, competing Christianities in the first four centuries.

The group will be doing this because we believe it would be more dangerous not to re-examine the roots of our faith than to re-open these questions and take a second look. It may well be that a renewed and more inclusive Christianity will emerge – one that allows us to integrate our beliefs and our twenty-first century scientific knowledge. Such an inquiry may also allow us to leave behind some of our prejudices and repent of the violence that has been born of them through the centuries.

This is the purpose of the group. This approach is not for everyone.

Rev. Pitcher+

From the Wardens

In recent months we have been occupied with the financial situation of the church. While we do very well for a congregation of our size, the fact is we are continuing the trend of the past several years, with our income not keeping pace with expenses. In past years, such shortfalls have been covered by drawing down our capital reserve. However, we have reached the point where we cannot continue in this way. As a result, we have asked the Bishop, and he has acted, to establish a special Task Force to work with us to determine a plan for ensuring the long-term future of our church. His letter to the Wardens and Rector is summarized here.

October 23 2009

Dear Friends,

Over the past months you have expressed concerns both to me and to members of the diocesan staff and your archdeacon about the continued sustainability of your congregation. On your behalf, I have sought advice from the Archdeacons and the Diocesan executive Officer who have recommended that I establish a Task Force under the provisions of Canon C-11 to examine the circumstances and make recommendations to me as to required future action. Synod Council has concurred in those recommendations and so in accordance with the Canon, I have appointed members of Synod Council to serve on the Task Force.

Archdeacon Jim McShane will chair the Task Force, and he will be in contact with you in the very near future to arrange an initial meeting and explain the process under Canon C-11.

Please be assured that all of us are seeking ways to continue the vital and valued ministry offered in your congregation.

Yours in Christ

George Bruce

Bishop of Ontario

While financial troubles confront us, we should not lose sight of the fact that there are many good things happening at St. Mary Magdalene. Let us all work and pray that together we will find the way to ensure the long-term future of our church.

Make a.....JOYFUL NOISE!

I had a lot of plans for my retirement back in May 2003. One of them was to start a Cursillo group reunion. This is a monthly gathering for all Cursillistas in our community and any of our family and friends who wanted to join us for prayer, fellowship, sharing and to sing praises to our Lord. My husband, Mike, agreed to lead the music. Our first meeting was a great success with about fifteen people attending. Rev. David Sinclair joined us on occasion. One evening as we were concluding he appealed (maybe a little arm twisting, as well!) to our group to sing some of the praise music prior to some of the Sunday services. From this humble beginning emerged, and continues to grow, a group of very joyful musicians and singers.

Six of the original group who attended the Cursillo evenings made up our new singing group. When our 'gigs' started to increase, we struggled with

finding a name for our group. As Christians we are all called to "make a joyful noise to God, to sing the glory of his name (Ps 66:1,2). After much debate we finally settled on "Joyful Noise," although some members of the group weren't entirely happy about the 'noise' part! Since inception some of our earlier members have left us and others have joined so that now we have grown in number to ten!



This works out quite nicely in that when some of our members are unable to attend any function, others are always available. This is really important because not all of the members participate in every function.

Joyful Noise is kept busy throughout the year with a variety of regularly booked services and entertainment evenings. Usually our full complement turns out to provide music from the 30's, 40's and 50's on a monthly basis, alternating between McFarland Home and Hallowell House, at what is lovingly called 'pub night'. We also provide entertainment on special occasions, such as St. Patty's Day and Father's Day at Kentwood Park Nursing Home. Five of our members provide the music at two services each month, McFarland Home and Manor on Loyalist Parkway, with Rev. Dorothy Lancaster.

Twice a year, and with the assistance of our wonderful church choir, our full group provides music during communion at the Seniors service held at St. Mary Magdalene. We have also provided music at the luncheon afterward. This is a very special part of the Ministry to Seniors, planned by Rev. Dorothy with lots of help from many members of all three parishes in the County. Mike and I also assist Rev. Dorothy with the Sunday service at Kentwood Park Manor each month and Mike is often called on to fill in when Phil Robins is unable to make any of his six regularly scheduled services at the retirement and nursing homes. Joyful Noise has also been privileged to provide pre-service music over the past few years at several of the 10:30 services at St. Mary Magdalene. Throw in the odd practice and you have a very busy schedule for a very busy group of talented, fun-lovin', dedicated singers and musicians; but boy ain't we got fun!

Fran Langlois



Christmas Choir Concert

The Ecumenical Choir of Prince Edward County will be performing in the Church on Saturday November 28 at 7.30 pm. For the last few years 25-30 singers from the County, including many from our Church choir, have gathered together to perform sacred music. This year, two works from the sacred choral repertoire, the **Gloria** by Antonio Vivaldi, an early 18th century Italian composer, and the **Christmas Oratorio** by Camille Saint-Saens, a French composer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Both pieces contain solo and ensemble parts and will be accompanied by the renowned Brian Jackson on the organ.

The proceeds from this concert will go towards the purchase of much needed new light fixtures in the Church.

Michael Goodwin

Quotables from Church Bulletins

- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The bible study tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Having trouble sleeping? Don't count sheep - talk to the shepherd.

Read & Rejoice: Accomplishments this Fall

- The **Christmas Bake, Coffee Table, Grandma's Cupboard, White Elephant Table and Gift Basket Draws** held in the Parish Hall on Saturday November 7 raised over \$2500 part of which is earmarked for community needs. A great time was had by all: the weather cooperated, there were lots of good things to eat, drink and buy and wonderful fellowship.
- **\$200** has been **donated to the ROC** (Recreation Outreach Centre) for their music program.
- **Metal railings** (where needed) have been installed on the on the new wheel-chair accessible ramp in front of the church.
- The newly planted **garden** in front of the bell tower with numerous perennials and the abundantly flowering *Nicotiana* was a joy to behold.
- The **Open Mic Coffee House** met in the Macaulay Room on October 1 with local musicians providing good entertainment and donations for the Food Bank.
- **Renovations to the link washroom and the link** itself are almost completed and are looking great. All that is needed is a coat of paint. All labour was provided free by members of the congregation.
- The County **Food Bank** received several hundred dollars worth of non-perishable food items from St. Mary Magdalene.
- The **electrical systems** in the church and the Parish Hall have been **upgraded** to meet current standards. We can now plug two items into each outlet without blowing a fuse!

Milestones

Baptisms:

John Franklin James Kolb, son of Frank and Elizabeth and brother to Grace and Sarah, on August 30.

Isabel Tetley Richardson, daughter of Philip Richardson and Charlotte Miller, on October 4.

Anniversary:

Michael and Pat Barker, 50th wedding anniversary on October 24. The event was celebrated early on July 18 with family at East Lake.

Passings:

Edgar 'Ed' Lee, aged 93, on September 30

Dorothy Edith Nourse on October 8

Worship Services

Sunday	9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 10:30
Wednesday	10:00 am
December 10	Senior's Service 10:30 am, followed by lunch
December 20	Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols 10:30 am
Christmas Eve	7:00 and 9:00 pm
Christmas Day	10:30 am
December 27	9:00 and 10:30 am

Upcoming Events

Christmas Music Concert: November 28, 7:30 pm

Ecumenical Carol Service: December 6, 7 pm in the United Church

Community Living Christmas Luncheon Party: December 16 in the Parish Hall.

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.

Magdalenas Potluck Lunch for the women of the Parish: 12:00 noon usually last Friday of the month in the Parish Hall - due to a conflict, the next lunch will be on December 4.

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