

The Vine



Welcome to the fourth edition of the Newsletter!

It is our intention that in each issue of The Vine there will be an article focussing on a member of the congregation or on a group within our church. We are blessed with a congregation replete with people who have led, and continue to lead, interesting lives. In this issue, we have a profile of one of our associate ministers, The Reverend Stan Whitehouse, who recently retired from interim ministry in the Parish of the Trent (Frankford and Glen Miller congregations). However, he continues to be active in ministry.

Read on



The Story behind the Face - Rev. Stan Whitehouse

Stan, who was born in Toronto in July of 1926 of English parentage, recalls many happy years as a boy while growing up in Toronto. He knew sadness too, when his sister Ruth, two years older than himself, died at age seven, leaving him on his own until the arrival of his brother sometime later. When Stan reached the tender age of ten, his mother thought it would be a good thing if he were to become a chorister in the choir of the parish church close by – The Church of The Transfiguration. He did this quite dutifully, never realizing at the time that in this very church in which he had already

been Baptized, later on in his life he would be Confirmed, Married, Ordained a Deacon and as well, preach his first sermons.

At age sixteen, having completed Grade 10 (Technical) Stan left school and became an apprentice truck and bus mechanic, and with World War Two well under way, he enlisted in 1942, in the Reserve Army, training at night and on weekends with The 2nd Battalion, 48th Highlanders. When seventeen, he became a Boy Entry in the Active Army, placed on course by The Royal Canadian Engineers, and over a lengthy period, received training both as a Photogrammetrist – (making maps from and interpreting aerial photographs) and later on in preparation for service in the Pacific, as a Combat Engineer. Stan was discharged from the Army in April of 1946, at which time he returned to his former employer as an apprentice mechanic.

It was at this stage in his life that thoughts about something he wanted nothing whatsoever to do with, kept creeping into his every waking hour. A call to ministry! A call which persisted and which he resisted. It was only after many months of inner turmoil, that Stan found himself one night kneeling down and prayerfully saying, with no small measure of reluctance: “Alright, Lord, I’ll do it. But remember, this was your idea, not mine.”

So it was off to Rehab School, a six month course provided by Veteran’s Affairs after the War, enabling ex-service people to upgrade their education in order to gain University entrance. Then it was on to University for a Bachelor of Arts degree awarded in 1950, and graduation from Wycliffe College with a Theological degree in 1953. As the process unfolded, Stan was ordained a Deacon for the Archbishop of Rupert’s Land, on December 21st, 1952.

Stan and his wife June, who had dated earlier on when both were members of their church’s choir, married in 1948. So together they headed out to Manitoba in the spring of 1953, to his first appointment as Curate of St. George’s Church, Winnipeg. Here he was ordained a Priest on October 28th, 1953. In the ensuing years, Stan became the rector of parishes in three different dioceses – Rupert’s Land, Ottawa, and Toronto. His final appointment was that as Rector of Christ Church, Woodbridge, from 1981-1990. Honours were received by Stan when in 1966, he was installed as a Canon of St. John’s Cathedral, Winnipeg; made an Honourary Citizen of the City of Winnipeg in 1974, and in 1990, although not himself a Rotarian, admitted as an Honourary Member of the Paul Harris Rotary International Fellowship, kindness of the Rotary Club of Woodbridge.

When Stan retired in 1990, he and June moved to the County. Unfortunately, June passed away in 1993. Sadly as well, of four adopted

children, their two daughters died, one at age eighteen in 1974 and the other in her fortieth year in 2001. Since retirement Stan has continued his ministry, serving numerous congregations locally, and as Padre to both Branch #78 of The Royal Canadian Legion and #415 Wing of The Air Force Association of Canada. With a slight smile, Stan mentions that he has learned his profession from the ground up. For five summers during his student days, he worked in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, doing many things including the digging and preparation of graves, with one of these being that of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King. Stan often comes out with one liners. He is fond of saying for example - "You know, life is a grindstone, and how we respond to it and deal with its challenges, either polishes us up or wears us down. It's that simple."

Stan looks mighty shiny to all of us who know and love him. His smile and inward peace light up our lives, making it well-nigh impossible for anyone to have any doubts about what life has done to him.

Copies of a longer version of this article by Josie Farrar are available at the back of the church or from Josie (613-471-1130).

Milestones

Baptism:

Annabel May Lois Irwin, daughter of Melonie and Adrian, sister to Evelyn, grand-daughter of Don and Linda Hopkins, on April 11.

Passings:

Hugh Crawford Folkard, aged 88, husband of Mary on November 30 in Florida.

Ronald George Stone, aged 92, father of Herb Stone on December 22.

George Frederick Maddern, aged 92, husband of Joyce on January 18.

Susan Aurena Mackay, aged 70, wife of Angus and mother of Eleanor, Anne and Angus, on January 20.

Carol Lewis, aged 66, daughter of Joyce and the late George Maddern, on January 25.

Raymond Victor Russell, aged 91, husband of Agnes, on February 13.

Maurietta Hamilton, in February.

Rector's Corner

It is our custom in liturgy at this time of the year to greet each other with the words, "Alleluia!, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" and our thoughts are very much on the Resurrection. Along those lines I was thinking of putting on our outdoor sign, "Christ is Risen, Rise with Him!" I say this not simply as a springtime gee-look-at-the-flowers cliché about nature's apparent rebirth after its winter death but as a serious proposition. As a middle-age person I have been feeling the need of renewal and a rising again, but a rising to a new life. I have been through the struggles of starting a career and family and trying to make it all work. Not all of it, demonstrably, has worked and I know now that there is no going back, not fixing it up, that no amount of trying harder it going to make it all better. That is part of the bitterness and death of this stage of life, but it is also a call to give up those old and now tired dreams and to begin living a new life. Time to stop "reinforcing failure" as the military would say, or pouring energy into things we can't change, or spending energy on regrets and recrimination. It is time to Rise with Christ. To start being a different person, freed from the death and judgement we carry around with us.

Easter and Resurrection are not about resuscitation but *new life* - something different, radically different. As you plan your gardens this spring spend some time thinking about how your life is going to be different this year. What regret are you going to give up? What guilt? What anger? What would that free you to do and be? Then go out and be it. Some people may not recognize you at first, as Mary Magdalene is said not to have recognized the risen Jesus, but wouldn't that be a wonderful thing in many ways? How much energy would be freed up? How much joy and laughter? And if you should fail, well, remember the garden. Remember Jesus. There will be another spring, there will be another life – eternal life. You are free to fail and rise again as much as you like because everything exists in the hands of a life-giving, loving God who will not lose anything or anyone of those he has made. Jesus is Risen, Rise with Him! Alleluia!

Richard+



Read & Rejoice: Accomplishments this Winter

- \$320 was donated to the **Children's Aid Society 'Angel Campaign'** in December.
- In 2009, \$1120 was donated to **PWRDF** (Primates World Relief and Development Fund)
- \$750 was raised by Rev. Richard as part of the **'Sleep out... so others can sleep'** fundraising campaign of the Canadian Mental Health Association Hastings and Prince Edward. He bravely slept out in Belleville Market Square on January 29-30 (the coldest night of the winter!)
- Another successful **Pancake Supper** was held in the Parish Hall on Shrove Tuesday February 16 and raised \$355.
- The **John Stainer 'Crucifixion'** choral work was performed by the the Prince Edward County Ecumenical Choir directed by Michael Goodwin and with organist Duncan McDonald. About 90 attended the concert which was held in the Church on Palm Sunday evening (March 28) and raised almost \$600.
- **New lighting** which floods the ceiling of the Church was installed in January. Now, even on dull days it seems like the sun is shining in.
- In April, 16 volunteers from St. Mary Magdalene delivered **'Meals on Wheels'** an initiative of Community Care for Seniors whereby a hot meal is delivered 4 days a week to seniors, who for various reasons do not cook for themselves.
- The County **Food Bank** received several hundred of dollars worth of non-perishable food items from St. Mary Magdalene.
- A letter of thanks was received from OXFAM for our donations of **postage stamps** - so keep on sending in used stamps!
- A number of our parishioners are volunteering at the **10,000 Villages Store** (outreach project of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church) on Main Street in Picton. These stores provide vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories.

Words to ponder and remember

The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.
The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

The 500 Club - Changing lives in Haiti

In our last issue of The Vine we explained the need for help in Haiti (4 major hurricanes in 2008) and how we chose to help the children at La Judee Orphanage. The 500 Club was formed with the idea of getting 500 people to give \$1/week for a year and thereby provide ongoing support. **All the** money raised goes to the Orphanage



As if conditions were not bad enough, a major earthquake struck parts of Haiti in early January of this year. La Judee Orphanage suffered some damage but the main effect was the influx of additional homeless children - further stretching the resources of the orphanage. Although lots of aid was sent to Haiti, most went to areas of greatest devastation. On April 20 six more children from Port au Prince arrived at the orphanage.

People in the County have been very generous. There are now 203 members of the 500 Club who have now donated over \$10,000. The residents of Kentwood Park Nursing Home on learning about the plight of the children collected over \$400 and are still collecting. The children at Sunrise Academy raised over \$100 through a cookie sale and donated it to the Orphanage. The children and teachers at St. Gregory's, and C.M.L. Snyder Schools are eager to help after hearing

a presentation about the orphanage by Michael Smith and Robert Wilson.

Thanks to everyone for your donations which provide food, clothing and medicine for the children. If we all continue to donate the same amounts and find some new donors we may be able to help send Louise to be with her husband, Ismorin and the children at the orphanage and in Gonaives, Haiti.

If you or anyone you know would like more information about this ministry, please contact Michael Smith (613-471-1135) or Robert Wilson. (613-476-7177).



Fran Langlois' Ordination

On Trinity Sunday, May 30, Fran Langlois along with two other candidates will be ordained into the Priesthood as Deacon. The ceremony will take place at 5.00 pm in St. George's Cathedral in Kingston and will be followed by a reception.

We are expecting there will be many people from our congregation who will want to attend and support Fran on this very special occasion. Car pools are being arranged for those wishing for a ride. You can sign up on the list in the church or contact Helen Pinkerton (479-7393)



Gardening News

The church gardens have come through the winter and are in good shape. However, as in all gardens, there is work to be done! This will involve relocating and splitting up some of the plants and planting new material.

If you have any plants you wish to donate or have any time to spare for tending the gardens, please contact our church gardener, Lorraine Hyatt (476-1869).

Worship Services

Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am
Wednesday 10:00 am

May 20 Senior's Service 10.30 am, followed by lunch in the Parish Hall

May 30 Ordination of Fran Langlois in St. George's Cathedral Kingston 5.00 pm

July 25 Festival of St. Mary Magdalene (10.30 am service will be followed by a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall)

August 22 Jazz Service 10:30 am

Upcoming Events

Roast Beef Dinner: Friday May 14, 5 to 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Strawberry Social and Bake Sale: Saturday June 26 in the Parish Hall

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

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