

# The Vine



## Alleluia!

**The Easter Gospel proclaims that on the cross Jesus took the worst that a broken world could throw at Him, and rendered it powerless.**

**Confident that because Jesus is risen death does not have the last word on our lives, we are free to contribute to a world where love and truth and justice will ultimately prevail.**

## From the Rector

“Alleluia, Christ is risen!” is the ancient Easter greeting, with its response “He is risen indeed, alleluia!” In those words we capture and share our joy and excitement that the coming season of Easter inspires. Evil in all its forms has thrown the worst it can muster against Jesus, and Jesus has shattered the chains of evil and death, and banished the darkness of sin and despair.



That message offers all of us a deep source of encouragement. Encouragement to get up in the morning and face a new day in a troubled world. Encouragement to face our fears and challenges, confident that death does not have the final word on our lives. Encouragement to respond to God’s nudges, build up God’s church, and carry God’s love to others around us.

On our own it would be natural to decide not to bother. On our own the little contributions of love we can offer here and there would seem too small to matter. But our Easter proclamation rings out: “Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!” As those words echo in our spirits and we listen with our hearts, we find ourselves with Mary Magdalene at the tomb, discovering what we had hoped all along, that death could not hold him: he is risen. Or we find ourselves with the disciples whose hearts burned as they traveled the road to Emmaus with the risen Jesus, recognizing him in the breaking of the bread: he is risen. And we find that because Jesus is risen, we are free to live as citizens of God’s kingdom now, contributing to a community where love and truth and justice will ultimately prevail.

Our Holy Week observances remind us how quickly people can turn from enthusiastically cheering for a saviour to angrily clamouring for his death, as we follow Jesus along the road from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through his gift of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, to his sham of a trial and execution on a cross on Good Friday. And then appreciating anew our need for God to rescue us, we gather in joyful celebration as we proclaim: he is risen.

I hope you will join in worship this Holy Week and Easter at St Mary Magdalene.

***Yours faithfully, Charles***

## Well Attended Annual Meeting Elects New Council Members

In spite of the very cold, wintry weather the Annual Vestry Meeting held on February 8 was well attended. Following the Sunday Service the congregation moved to the Parish Hall for a wonderful pot-luck lunch which preceded the meeting.

The Wardens reported that offerings in 2014 had increased significantly, and while the Parish ran a deficit, it was less than expected. We are still on track for a balanced budget within three years. Members of the congregation were thanked for their faithful support.



Thanks were offered to Michael Smith who stepped down as Deputy Warden, Andrew Innes who completed terms as Synod Delegate and Parish Council Chair, Elizabeth Cowan who served as Synod Delegate, and David Gilbert who served on Parish Council. New members to Parish Council were elected: John Brett, Janet Howes, Claudia McCabe, and Don Watson. Janet Howes was elected as the new Deputy Warden, and the meeting expressed its appreciation to John Clarke, Herb Stone, and Brian Pinkerton who agreed to be re-elected as Wardens.

The 2014 Annual Reports were collated in a beautifully produced booklet which is still available at the back of the Church.



## Lenten Study Series draws to a close



During Lent Charles has been leading a group of 15 to 20 participants on Wednesday mornings. Following the mid-week Eucharist, the group has been meeting at the back of the church. Under the series title *Learning from Jesus through Lent*, the group has been delving into a different gospel passage each week, making discoveries and drawing conclusions for their own lives. The last session in the series of five took place on March 25.

If Wednesday mornings did not fit into your schedule, Charles would be pleased to guide a small group for five sessions in someone's home at a convenient time. Get in touch ([charlesmorris78@gmail.com](mailto:charlesmorris78@gmail.com)) if you would like to host a group.

## Repairing the Tower: Update



Following approval to proceed from the Parish Council last fall, and from Synod Council last November, the Wardens have signed a contract with Eastern Restoration (Belleville) to do the repair work at a cost of about \$300,000. Work on the Tower is expected to begin in May, and will take 3 to 4 months to complete.

Plans are being developed for the fund raising campaign to support this project, and the "kick-off Sunday" for this campaign is set for April 19 during the 10:30 am service. For that Sunday there will be no 9:00 am service.

The projected work will allow us to restore the tower to its original architectural condition, as shown in this photograph from the early years of the Church.



## Belly to Belly 2015

On Epiphany Sunday parishioners began the 2015 version of "Belly to Belly", a project in the Diocese of Ontario to lose weight and raise money for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund Food Security program in developing countries. Last year we had three participants; this year we have ten! Interest and support have been significant, and all are looking forward to seeing how much money we raised when the final weight-loss is tallied on March 29.



The target of the Diocese is to have 100 people from across the Diocese participate and hopefully raise \$28,000. St. Mary Magdalene is certainly doing its part as 10 people have signed up.

It is not too late if you would like to support someone and help fight world hunger: forms are at the back of the church.

## New Banners for the Church



Anne Boyle, a local artist, has given a number of her colorful banners to St Mary Magdalene on long-term loan. She is very talented and expresses her art in many forms: fabric, jewelry, acrylic, oils, inks, plastics, wool and more.

Anne was a presenter last November in the "With Eyes of the Heart" series who spoke about how her spirituality and beliefs helped in her creative processes. Her hangings are particularly influenced by her love of bible stories.

We liked her banners so much we asked if we could borrow them, and several were on display during Advent and Christmas. We let her know we would be glad to give them a regular home and display them here, and so Anne has given us various banners for different times of the year which she has created over many years.



Her work has been exhibited in churches in Belleville, Kingston and Toronto (and Picton!) and in galleries in Kingston, Montreal and the Toronto area. She has also made painted theatre sets and costumes for our local Regent Theatre.

We are delighted to give these banners a church home, and we will display them in the Church and in the Parish Hall on various occasions throughout the year.

## Milestones

### Passings:

**Vanessa Leigh Line**, aged 48, on 16 January, daughter and step-daughter of Richard Line and Elizabeth Cowan.

**Bruce Fairburn Campbell**, aged 65, on 28 January, husband of Mary, father of Sam, Ross and Merran. Memorial service held in the Church 2 February.

**Alice Pauline Burtch**, aged 99, on 25 February. Funeral service held in the Church 2 March.

## George Wright receives Congressional Gold Medal

Ninety-four year old George Wright, a member of our church community, was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal on 3 February at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. This award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by the U.S. Congress and recognises outstanding deeds or acts of service. George was awarded the medal for his involvement in the elite First Special Service Force - The Devil's Brigade (the patch is illustrated below) during the Second World War. This group was a unique bi-national commando unit comprised of soldiers from the U.S. and Canadian armies.



George joined the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment in 1940 (his father, Charles, also served in the same regiment). After basic training in May 1940, he went to Camp Valcartier and then sailed to England in May 1940. George's father gave him a Bible that he had carried in WWI and George kept it with him throughout WWII.



In 1941, he volunteered for commando and paratrooper training where he earned his wings. He returned to Canada and then went to Fort Benning, Georgia in December 1942 where he volunteered again - this time for the First Special Service Force. He was promoted to sergeant in 1943. Later in the year he saw action in Italy and received the U.S. Army Silver Star for his heroic actions in 1944. Later in the year he was wounded in the leg by machine gun fire.

He returned to Canada and civilian life in September 1945. George served his community with the Picton Police Force from 1955-1980. He is a well-known Picton resident and a familiar face at Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Congratulations, George



## Basketeers

The Parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene put forth a tremendous response to the Basketeers 'shower' held on February 22. Thank you, everyone!

Founded in 2000 by Cheryl Stoneburgh, the concept was "to support abused women in new beginnings." Across The County, many women and their children are living in situations of violence and abuse. For over 25 years, Alternatives for Women has provided a range of services and support aimed at helping women break free from these situations, and start afresh. Basketeers is an organization of volunteers mainly across Ontario, but also in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Quebec, who collect household goods – providing much-needed items women can use to help them in their journey to health, safety and independence. Presently they support 49 women's shelters.

At the shower, we collected seven laundry-baskets full of new household and personal items to be distributed by Basketeers/Alternatives for Women volunteers, to County households that need our help.



We celebrated at the end of our collection with a "Thank You" cake. Then, on March 18, a group of volunteers from our church and Alternatives for Women/Basketeers met to sort and wrap the gifts, as can be seen in the photograph. Many thanks to Mary Brett, Annette Kroupa and Joan McBride (seated L to R) for their help. Also pictured here are

Alternatives for Women/Basketeers volunteers, Kim Taylor (seated), Sue Riddell, and Kerry-Lynn Aulthouse. (Photo taken by Janet Howes).

For more information contact Janet Howes at 613-645-2117 or howes.jk@gmail.com or Basketeers at basketeers.ca.

**Janet Howes**

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".

**Margaret Mead**

## Pancake Supper

An annual tradition soaked in local maple syrup, the cold weather could not keep away close to 90 people who enjoyed pancakes, sausages, bacon, and great deserts. It was a great team-effort to host the event, with the men cooking the pancakes and teams of volunteers staffing the serving table and cleaning up.

It was a nice mix of parishioners, friends and visitors that eagerly dug into the feast. And while the pancake supper is more of a "fun raiser" than a "fund raiser," it did raise more than \$500, in addition to lots of fun and fellowship.



## Associate Clergy Re-licensed

St Mary Magdalene is blessed with five associate clergy as members of the Parish. On Sunday January 25 we celebrated their ministry. During the 10.30 am service we gave thanks and blessed them, and presented them with their new licenses and Mandates for Ministry from the Bishop: Fran Langlois (Parish Deacon and Ministry to Seniors), Stan Whitehouse (Honorary Assistant), Bill Kidnew (Honorary Assistant), Dorothy Lancaster (Priest in Charge of Seniors Ministry in the County and Honorary Assistant in the parish), and Bishop Peter Mason (Honorary Assistant).



## Upcoming Events

### Hour of Peace Concert April 1

On Holy Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 pm the Renaissance Singers of Prince Edward County under the direction of Michael Goodwin will present **An Hour of Peace**, featuring Meditative Renaissance Music for the Easter season. The program will include two pieces: **The Lamentations of Jeremiah** (part 1) by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585), and the **Tenebrae Responsories** by Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611), both sung in Latin. The proceeds from a free-will offering will be given to the Church Tower Restoration Fund.

### Friendship Tea April 22

Last fall Parish Council considered ideas to extend out outreach, and one of the suggestions was a **Friendship Tea**. The idea is to host a tea in the Parish Hall and invite folks from the other churches in The County to come. This will provide a friendly, social environment in which to get to know one another better and strengthen the bonds of friendship amongst our "church cousins" in the area. The tea will be held on Wednesday April 22 at 2.00 pm in the Parish Hall and there will be some entertainment. So think who you could invite!

### Ascension Service May 14



Ascension Day falls on Thursday May 14, and, again, we will celebrate it at 7.00 pm with an Ascension Day service at the high altar. Our church is blessed with a beautiful stained-glass window adorning the front or "east wall" of the church (the front wall of the church is always called the "east wall" even though it does not face east) which depicts the Ascension, so it provides the perfect setting to celebrate Jesus' ascension and reign from heaven until the day when earth and heaven become one. Come join the worship this Ascension Day.

### Hymn Sing Coming May 24

Back by popular demand following a very well-received Community Hymn Sing last October, we are planning another Hymn Sing on Sunday, May 24 at 7.00 pm. Jim Macgregor and Michael Goodwin will lead us through hymns as requested by members of the congregation. If you have one or several favourite hymns you would like to be included, and especially if your request didn't make the list last time, write down your suggestion and put it in Jim Macgregor's mailbox at the back of the Church.

## Church Officers for 2015

### Parish Council

Charles Morris	John Clarke
Herb Stone	Brian Pinkerton
Janet Howes	Mike Langlois
John Brett	Michael Goodwin
Sheila Gribble	Nell Kottick
Fran Langlois	Jim Macgregor
Bob Mason	Myrna Martin
Claudia McCabe	Helen Pinkerton
David Sutton	Maureen Townson
Don Watson	Robert Wilson

### Churchwardens

John Clarke  
Herb Stone

### Deputy Churchwardens

Janet Howes  
Brian Pinkerton

### Treasurer

Mike Langlois

### Envelope Secretary

Barb Ansell

### Delegates to Synod

John Clarke  
Bob Mason  
Don Watson

### Alternate Delegates to Synod

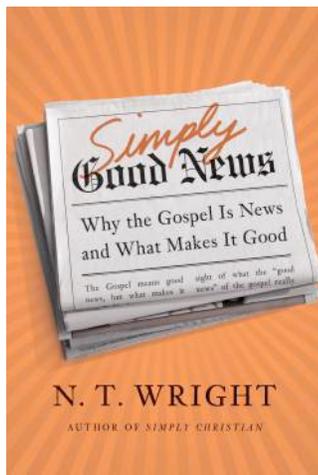
Brian Pinkerton  
Herb Stone



## N. T. Wright's new book

### ***Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good***

In many churches, says Bishop Tom Wright, the Christian good news has subtly changed into good advice. Good advice is useful in its place, but it is not the same thing as good news. His book, *Simply Good News*, describes its objective in the sub-title: he wants to help the church rediscover *Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good*. Tom Wright is a leading New Testament scholar and retired Bishop of Durham who has written a remarkable array of books both for New Testament academics and for everyday Christians. In his research and his writing he asserts it is neither necessary nor appropriate to choose between faith and intellect, and this is apparent in every book.



If you have not read one of Bishop Wright's books, this is a good one to start with. In *Simply Good News*, he helps us understand how the people of the first-century, the gospel's original audience, would have received Jesus' message. He reminds us of the nature of "news", something that has happened, because of which everything else will now be different. Then he offers a clear and thoughtful analysis of what the Christian "good news" is, and explains how it applies to our lives today.

The final chapter is particularly compelling. Working through his argument, Bishop Wright says "our calling is not simply to believe the good news. It is to become good-news people. And we can't do this by simply trying hard. We can only do it through prayer. And if Jesus himself was and is the ultimate good-news person, then the prayer he gave his followers is the best possible place to start." As he works his way backwards through the Lord's Prayer, he leads us inward and upward into the heights of the good news, "that God – the generous God, the loving God – is being honored, will be honored, has been utterly and supremely honored, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus."

### **Rev. Charles**

Dear Heavenly Father,

So far, today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or self centered. I'm really happy about that so far. But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed and then I'm going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen

## Worship Services

**Sunday** 9.00 and 10.30 am

**Wednesday** 10.00 am

**March 29 Palm Sunday** 10.30 am Holy Communion with Blessing of the Palms (no 9:00 am service)

**April 1 Hour of Peace** 7.00 pm Meditative Renaissance Music for the Easter Season

**April 2 Maundy Thursday**

6:00 pm Simple Meal in the Parish Hall

7:00 pm Holy Communion observing the Lord's Supper

**April 3 Good Friday**

11:00 am Good Friday Service

12:00 noon Stations of the Cross

**April 5 Easter Sunday** 10.30 am Festive Communion (no 9:00 am)

**May 14 Ascension Day** 7.00 pm

## Upcoming Events

**Tower Campaign Launch:** Sunday 19 April, 10:30 am service (no 9 am)

**Friendship Tea:** Wednesday 22 April, 2 pm in the Parish Hall

**Seniors' Service and Lunch:** Tuesday 12 May, 11 am Salvation Army

**Community Hymn Sing:** Sunday 24 May, 7 pm in the Church

**Men's Breakfast:** 8.00 am last Friday of the month at The Waring House

**Magdalenas' Potluck Lunch** for the women of the Parish: 12.00 noon usually last Friday of the month in the Parish Hall.

**Food Bank Sunday:** First Sunday of every month. Please donate nonperishable food items and/or toiletries.

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