

## Worship Services

**Sunday** 9.00 and 10.30 am  
**Wednesday** 10.00 am  
**Tuesday** 3.00 pm silent prayer

**December 18** 10.30am Service of Lessons & Carols

**December 24** 4.00 pm Family Service  
7.00 pm Carol Singing  
7.30 pm Choral Communion Service

**December 25** 10.00 am Communion Service

**January 1** 10.00 am Communion Service

## Upcoming Events

**PEC Ecumenical Choir Concert:** A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, Magnificat and Ava Maria: Saturday 17 December at 2 pm.  
Tickets \$20 (students \$5)

**Annual Vestry Meeting:** Sunday 5 February 2017. Follows the 10.30 service and potluck lunch (no service at 9.00 am)

**World Day of Prayer:** Friday 3 March at 2.00 pm

**Discover: An opportunity to explore and share the story of Jesus:**  
A week-long workshop with Harold Percy. First week in May.

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

**Magdalenas' Potluck Lunch** for the women of the Parish: 12 noon usually last Friday of the month in the Parish Hall

**Food Bank Sunday:** First Sunday of every month. Please donate non-perishable food items (including pet food) and/or toiletries

Newsletter editor: Pauline Smith

Production Manager: Michael Smith

Pictures by our church photographers

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

Phone: 613-476-3303  
Email: stmpicton@gmail.com  
Website: stmpicton.ca

Rector: Archdeacon Charles Morris  
Deacon: Rev. Fran Langlois



# The Vine



**Gentle God,  
Let the grace of this sacred season take hold of me.  
Free me from distractions  
that steal away glimpses of your goodness.  
During these days and weeks of anticipation and  
expectation,  
make me mindful of joy, hope,  
and the wonder of your incarnate love.  
Amen**

## From the Rector

On that very first Christmas, the gospel of Luke tells us, the Shepherds heard astounding good news: "to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord." After the angels left, the Shepherds did not look at each other and say "well that was weird." They said ""Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing," and once they had gone and seen it, they shared the good news of great joy the angels had proclaimed to them. They had no idea how it would work, but they knew God was doing something and they had been part of it. It was a story that had to be shared.



It is a powerful story, so much so that, over the objections of sponsors and network executives, it was the centrepiece of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Charles Shultz's Christmas special that aired this month on network primetime for the fifty-second consecutive December. Charlie Brown can't figure out the real meaning of Christmas until Linus retells this story from Luke's gospel. There is no explanation of how this works, but somehow after the story is told Charlie Brown's spirits are lifted, and the whole Peanuts gang who have been terribly mean to Charlie Brown come around and celebrate Christmas with him. This is *still* a story that has to be shared.

And so we will share it again, and invite it to touch all of us deeply once again this Christmas. That's what all our preparations of this season are leading up to: being captivated once more by this astonishing good news that God has sent a saviour to redeem his people and renew his creation. If we let it, this story can change our perspective, and lift our spirits, and renew our hope. I look forward to experiencing that with you at St Mary Magdalene this Christmas.

May Grace be to you and yours, and Peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, all through this Christmas season.

***Yours faithfully, Charles***



## Christmas Stories, Songs & Cookies



Our Advent Afternoons of Christmas Stories, Songs and Cookies returned this year. Last year the response was modest but encouraging, and this year the word was out. Lots of people came and enjoyed the stories as our own Claudia McCabe read her story *Mrs. Toddlebottom's Christmas* on December 4, and Rick Zimmerman performed his adaptation of Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* on December 11. The singing was enthusiastic and the cookies were delicious (with thanks to the many parishioners who baked them). Comments were heard that this was the perfect start to the

Christmas season. Many thanks go to Joan McBride and a large team that included musicians Celia Sage, Michael Dufault, and Peter Mason, and of course story tellers Claudia McCabe and Rick Zimmerman.

## Upcoming events

### **PEC Ecumenical Choir Concert, 17 December at 2 pm**

Under the direction of our choirmaster, Michael Goodwin, two main works are featured in this Christmas concert: A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten and the Magnificat attributed to Pergolesi. Harpist, Tabitha Savic from Belleville, will accompany the Britten and the Pergolesi will be accompanied by a small string ensemble. Three settings of Ave Maria will also be performed. Tickets \$20 adults and \$5 students.

### **World Day of Prayer, 3 March at 2 pm**

Our church will be hosting this ecumenical event. The service has been written by the women of the Philippines, using the theme, "*Am I being unfair to you*". Organizer, Marie Connor is looking for a Filipino or Filipina who is able to tell us about the Philippines. Audio-visual material and food are being planned. It should be a great day.

### **Discover: An opportunity to explore and share the story of Jesus**

Rev. Harold Percy will be returning in May 2017 to lead a week of events hosted by the Anglican churches in The County. As many have now discovered Harold is a gifted speaker and is experienced in growing congregations. He is presently the interim Priest-in-charge at Christ Church St. James in Toronto. Watch for announcements about events that will help us prepare for Harold's week of Discovery.



## The Stable

When we see the crèche in our church with the sweet animals, I think of my old barn and its sounds and smells. The warmth of the stable on a winter's night comes flooding back to me, like an old friend. My barn, built around 1850 or before, was one of the last barns with hickory floors,



no cement, a superb piece of architecture completely of wood. The mangers and the stanchions for the cattle were also of wood. There were 2 stables, one on either side with the hay mow in the centre. It was wonderful to come into the stables after a day at work, and watch the animals peacefully chewing their cud, or the chickens clucking around and kicking up hay with their feet to see what was underneath. The sheep lived in another more open section of the barn, which was probably the original house on the farm, made of log dating prior to the barn proper.

When I see the crèche, I think of my relationship with the building and the animals and I feel such a rush of peace and wellbeing. It is hard to be frightened or depressed or angry in a stable. The animals instill a sense of great harmony and a deep knowledge of the rhythm of life. I often went to the barn to be alone, and I found it to be a comfortable place to have a lie down in the hay and think.

When I think of Mary and Joseph in the stable, awaiting the birth of Jesus, I do not consider that to be a mean environment. Mary would have found great strength and happiness in the straw or hay, with the animals for company. I believe they would have been quite sympathetic to her ordeal, and would have helped her to be calm and to focus on her task at hand.



Laying Jesus in the manger was a good idea, clean fresh hay or whatever the nourishment was at that time. I picture Mary looking out of the door at the bright star and maybe even being thankful that there was no room in the inn! Calm, peaceful, quiet sounds from the animals. I think God's plan was exactly that.

**Josie Farrar**

## Meditation strikes a hidden chord

Who would have thought that 50 plus people would show up for a day-long seminar on Meditation? But that's exactly what happened at our church on 19 November.

Billed as a day "for those who meditate or those who don't but think they might like to try", attendees came from our own Parish, other Parishes and quite a number from the community at large. Bill Tomlinson and Rev. John Flindall (parishioners of St Thomas' in Belleville) talked about their approaches to meditation, Zen and Christian respectively; Rev. Linda Privitera (from Ottawa), shared her insights on approaching art in a contemplative way; and Rev. John Whittall (now one of us here in Picton) shared with the group his wisdom on developing a rule of life in which he stressed the need for flexibility. The day offered a blend of inspiration and practical advice, with many opportunities for questions and interaction with the speakers.

As a result of the day, a small group now meet regularly on Tuesday afternoons between 3:00 and 3:30 for Meditation and Silent Prayer. WHY NOT JOIN US? Speak to Charles Morris or Andrew Innes if you have questions.

**Andrew Innes**

## Updates on our youth ministries

### ROC (Recreation Outreach Centre)



Since 2000, the ROC has offered a variety of programs that support the personal, social and academic development of our young people. There is no cost to participate, and they provide healthy snacks to everyone and transportation where needed. In a nutshell, the ROC presents barrier-free programs in school, after school and now outside of school with the opening of the new PEC Youth Centre at 299 Main Street in Picton.

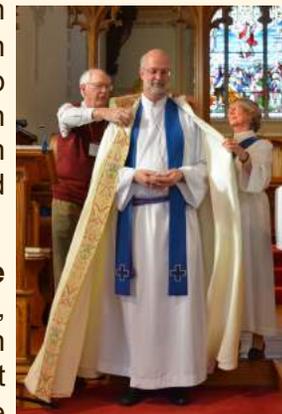
So far, this year, we have given \$2,600 to support programs operating in school and after school. Hilary Fennell, ROC program co-ordinator, outlined the programs at our Friendship Tea this spring and spoke in church on Sunday 11 September. The money raised from our Community Hymn Sing held on 2 October went towards the new Youth Centre. This much-needed facility will cater to teenage youth. There is an ongoing need for funds to maintain staff and programs and expand the reach to more young people in The County.

## Read and Rejoice

Members of our church were on hand to help celebrate the November **Birthday Party at McFarland Nursing Home** on 16 November. Our **Joyful Noise** group led a sing-along which was followed by cake, ice cream and visiting.

On Sunday 27 November Revs Charles and Fran dedicated the new automated **defibrillator** which has been installed at the back of the church. Dr. Elizabeth Christie and John Briggs, Dr. Helen Cluett, Dr. Andrew and Pronika Janikowski and Dr. David Sutton banded together and donated one to the church. We are very grateful to them for this practical gift, and we pray it will be seldom used.

On the same Sunday Bishop Peter Mason presented a **cope** to our rector, Archdeacon Charles Morris, on behalf of the parish. Bishop Peter explained that a cope is a vestment worn by senior clergy, particularly archdeacons, on special occasions. Charles was appointed Archdeacon of Ontario earlier this year.



The **Christmas Tea, Bake Sale and more** (Grandma's Cupboard, White Elephant Table, Silent Auction, and Gift Basket Draw) was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 5 November. Again it was a great success raising \$4350. People were served a wonderful tea of sandwiches and sweets and enjoyed the warm fellowship in the beautifully decorated hall.

On 9 and 10 November **Rev. Harold Percy** presented inspiring talks during his introductory visit to The County. He invited us to think about what it means to be followers of Jesus in healthy churches and to consider how we can prepare for his return visit in May.

As part of our **Seniors' Ministry**, we hosted **Christmas Services and Parties** at Hallowell House Nursing Home on Wednesday 7 December and at Kentwood Nursing Home on Tuesday 13 December.

The **Magdalenas**, the women of the church, donated \$350 to **Outreach** this December: \$175 was given to the Children's Foundation **Angel Tree Program** and \$175 to the **New Life Girls' Home** in Consecon. This money was collected throughout the year at the Magdalenas' monthly potluck lunches.

A donation of \$650 was given to the **Gilead Fellowship Church** to help with their **Christmas Day Dinner** at the Community Centre. They expect to serve more than 400 free dinners and anyone can attend.

## Stewardship 2017

November 20 was *Stewardship Sunday*, and our Rector Charles Morris was pleased to share very encouraging news. We continue to expand our outreach in the community and beyond, we are meeting the commitments to the Tower Restoration Fund, and donations for the ongoing operation of the parish have continued to increase. At the November Parish Council Meeting the Treasurer reported that all the money borrowed from our investments last year for the Tower project had been repaid, and at the end of October our accounts showed a modest surplus. Nobody could remember the last time we heard that, and it suggests we are getting very close to our goal of a balanced budget.

As the cost of running our church continues to increase, Charles asked parishioners to prayerfully consider their support for 2017. Response forms are available, inviting parishioners to give the Envelope Secretary an idea of their intentions for supporting St Mary Magdalene next year. Providing this information is optional, but it is very useful, as it helps the Churchwardens prepare the budget. Completed forms may be put in a sealed envelope addressed to the Envelope Secretary, John Brett, and he will provide the totals to the Churchwardens. John can also help if you would like to use Preauthorized Giving (PAG), which many parishioners find very convenient.



## Basketeers

As many of you will recall we have been supporting Basketeers and Alternatives for Women for several years. Our contributions, of toiletries and small household items, make an enormous difference in the lives of women and children at risk throughout The County. The collection of items will take place between now and the end of January, with delivery planned for some time in February. **The collection bins and a list of suggested items are in the church.** Preference is for brand-new items which would be symbolic and would provide a moral boost for the the women and children as they begin their new life.

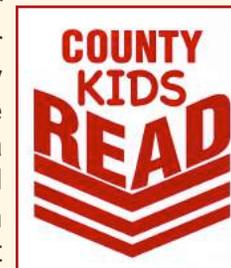
If anyone would prefer to make a financial donation, which would enable us to purchase some of the more costly items, please place your contribution in an envelope and mark it for the Basketeers. This can be put on the collection plate on a Sunday, or given to Mary Brett, Janet Howes, Annette Kroupa or Joan McBride.

We did a remarkable job last time, and we look forward to another successful year. Many thanks to everyone!

**Janet Howes**

## County Kids Read Celebrates First Year in New Room

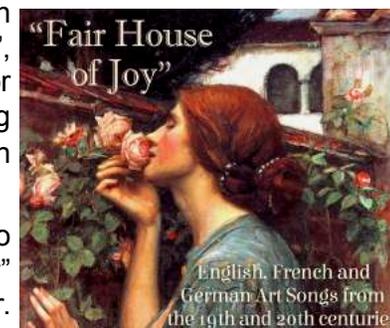
It has been a whole year since the room in the lower level of the Parish Hall was refurbished by our “Never Ending Construction Company” and County Kids Read was able to move in. In November, Anne Preston and the program volunteers hosted a reception to mark the anniversary. This coincided with the release of a video about this program prepared by the Diocese of Ontario and shown at Diocesan Synod and in our church on Stewardship Sunday. The video featured Michael Smith, Brian Pinkerton, Anne Preston, and of course groups of children in the room choosing books. The video is on YouTube, and the link can be found on the church website by selecting “News & Recent Events” at the top.



## Fair House of Joy concert benefits the 500 Club

Since 2009, many people in our church have been members of the “500 Club”, whose purpose is to provide schooling for children in St. Georges, Haiti. Following Hurricane Matthew in October there is an acute need for assistance relief in the area.

A very appreciative audience turned out to hear a concert entitled “Fair House of Joy” on a Sunday afternoon in November. Soprano Josie Farrar was accompanied by Michael Goodwin (piano), Ernie Neufeld (violin), Janine Dudding (Celtic harp), and Walter Kipp (oboe). The proceeds of \$1200 from the concert



went to disaster relief in Haiti. Every penny goes to help the children and is sent through the charity *La Fondation des Foyers Angèle*. More information about their work and how you can contribute can be found on their website ([foyersangele.org](http://foyersangele.org)).

These three children have recently been added to our 500 Club group of sponsored children. Their mother, Vienne, died during Hurricane Matthew and their father cannot look after them or send them to school. From our donations we are paying their school fees, as well as their books and uniforms.

## Remembrance Day Jazz Vespers



A full church appreciated the combination of poetry, prose, personal narrative, and Jazz Music during our annual Remembrance Day Jazz Vespers Service. Music was again provided by The Brian Barlow Jazz Trio as well as by our own church choir and guests. During the service we rededicated three memorial plaques that have been recently restored. The

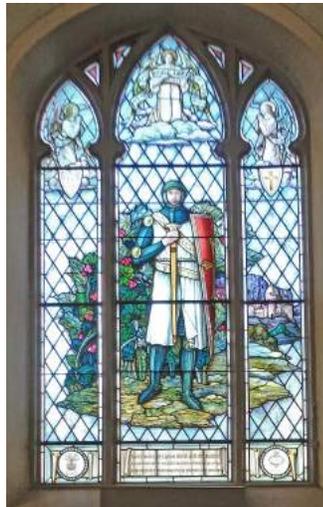
crowd of 175 listened with rapt attention as our own George Wright shared some of his experiences from WW2. George's talk is largely reproduced later in this Newsletter. Also, Shirley Stone gave a moving tribute on the Crusader window (see below).



## The Crusader Window

Lieutenant David Jellett Barker, I have been staring at your beautiful window for over 50 years. With your permission, Sir, I will share some information with those gathered here this evening.

David was born in Picton on Halloween 1878. He was the only son of David John and Rose Barker. David John was Sherriff of Prince Edward County, owner of Picton Foundry and, at one time, was People's Warden at St. Mary Magdalene. David worked in Montreal and was assistant to the general manager of the Bank of Montreal. He was a keen golfer and hockey player; a member of the Beaconsfield Golf Club, St. James Club, Free Masons and the Church of England. He voluntarily enlisted for war service in Montreal on July 4, 1916.



## The Lord's Prayer

Despair not 'neath afflictions stroke but rather  
Bring all thy troubles to the bosom of **Our Father**  
He comforteth nor is there ought of leaven  
In his relief a tender parent thou **Who art in heaven**  
With sympathetic grace from him always the same  
We grateful murmur **Hallowed be Thy Name,**  
And with the angels cry - no voice there dumb  
Aloud with one accord - **Thy Kingdom come,**  
And as our hearts in gratitude to him are won,  
May we not truly supplicate **Thy will be done,**  
As did that bard of old, that wonderful eleven  
His gracious spirit they received **On earth as 'tis in Heaven**  
By whose sustaining Hand in hunger fed  
As faint they cried **Give us this day our daily bread,**  
He coming in his gracious might to bless, passes  
By one who truly prays - **Forgive us our trespasses**  
With hope of mercy great hath He not fenced us,  
Then say - **As we forgive them who trespass against us,**  
And, as sin comes to all whatever be our station,  
So pray we all, **Lead us not into temptation**  
And when we're weakly tempted to believe ill  
Of kin or friend, He will **Deliver us from evil**  
As all shall test that grand and sacred story -  
**Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory**  
So when stern Death this mortal coil shall sever,  
Immortal life be ours **Forever and forever**  
**Amen**

Composed by Llewellyn Henry Robertson (Nancy Watson's grandfather, 1844 - 1930).

**Nancy Watson**, a member of our congregation, wanted to share this interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, which was written by her grandfather, Llewellyn Robertson. She never met him but she keeps the prayer, which she inherited from her parents almost 50 years ago, in one of her bibles. Little of the prayer's history is known. Llewellyn was an anglican and his father was the first principal of the Toronto Normal School, now known as the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.



## Imagine by John Lennon (1971)

John Lennon's anthem for peace was performed by the church choir at the Jazz Vespers and numerous people have asked for the words in print. Music arranged by Michael Goodwin and words adapted by Michael Smith.

Can you imagine heaven  
I'd like you all to try  
And help to build it here on Earth  
Beneath a spotless sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living life this way...

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no divisions too  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A fellowship of man  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one



David embarked from Halifax, Nova Scotia on 3 May, 1917, aboard His Majesty's Troop Ship, *Justicia*, arriving in Liverpool, England on 14 May. It was at Stanstead, England, when he asked to revert to the rank of Lieutenant from Captain so he could fast-track to the front lines in France.

He was attached to the 87<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry and arrived in France on 17 August 1917. Forty-one days later, on 27 September, while holding the front lines near Petit Servins and waiting for reinforcements, he was killed by an enemy Trench Mortar. He was 39 years of age.

From the Regimental War Diaries for August 1917:

*29<sup>TH</sup>: At 11 am Lieutenant Barker was buried in the cemetery at Villers-au-Bois Station. A large number of officers, also men from Lieutenant Barker's platoon and a large number of other men were present. Lieutenants Hannaford, Meyrick, Hall and Smith acted as pall bearers. Service was conducted by our Chaplain and Lieutenant Wallace. General Odlum and Lieutenant McCann of the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade and Captain Walker and Lieutenant Wallace of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division were among those present.*

David's parents and his sisters donated this beautiful stained-glass window in his memory at St. Mary Magdalene. The window is called "A Crusader". The image of the crusader has the face of Lieutenant David Jellett Barker. There is a biblical verse, on a scroll at the top, "Put on the whole armour of God". This is referenced as Ephesians 5:16 on the scroll but the correct reference is Ephesians 6:11.

In 2002, Herb and I travelled down a dirt road, leading from a farmer's back garden to Villers Station Cemetery. We placed poppy wreaths I had made at David's grave and at the grave of Private Charles Walter Jones, Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade, who was also a member of this church. Lieutenant David Jellett Barker rests in Grave: XII.A.2 and Private Charles Walter Jones rests in Grave: VIII.D.3.

I sat in front of David's grave and showed him a photo of the stained-glass window and told him his family had donated the window in his memory. Before leaving the cemetery, we placed the photo of the window and a note in the Visitor's Book, explaining that David's parents and sisters had honoured him at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Picton, Ontario.

**Shirley Stone** (presented at the Jazz Vespers on 11 November)



In the chapel, there are two other stained-glass windows donated by the Barker and Jellett families; one in memory of David Jellett's mother, Rose, and the other in memory of David's grandfather, Judge Robert Patterson Jellett.

## A Soldier Remembers



Back in September 1939 I was just a 19 year old farm boy. I had never been out of the County except a couple of times to Belleville. So I had not much excitement in my life. Now my father, who had been to France and all over in WW1, had signed up again and was once more in England. So, I thought, why not me.

Did I join up to fight for my country? Heck no. Most of us joined for the excitement. I didn't think about someone trying to kill me. I joined

the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment on January 10, 1940, and by the middle of May I was in England. I thought I would be joining my Dad but I found out he was leaving the next day for Canada - he had lied about his age and did not disclose that he had been in WW1. In fact, he was still suffering from the effects of that.

As we said our goodbyes he told me: "Son, don't volunteer for anything and keep your head down." He then took a small New Testament from his pocket and said: "Your Grandmother gave me this when I left for WW1. Now it's yours for this one." I took it and I still have it today.

I got bored after a year or so of spit and polish but I did realize more what the war was all about. We were fighting for our country, our freedom and our way of life. My buddy Charlie Bedborough and I tried to transfer to the Air Force during the Battle of Britain but we were turned down.

Finally, I was sent on a six-week course with the British Commandos. After that, I was ready for anything, as it was a tough course! My C.O. called me in shortly afterwards and said: "All I can tell you is that they're forming a suicide unit in the United States, half Canadians and half Americans. Do you want to join? If you do, have your kit packed by 6 pm and be on the train to Sheffield, as you have to be a trained paratrooper to go."

Now, I had met a girl who I thought a lot of, and I had to tell her I was leaving and probably would not make it through the war. But if I did, I might come back to see her.

I got my wings and finally arrived at the First Special Service Force. Then came the hardest training any person could take. We had to be in outstanding physical condition and be expert in every field - weapons (both American and German), explosives, unarmed combat, skiing, mountain climbing. Only one in five was able to stand up to the training. If you failed, you were sent back to where you came from. I was one in five.

Our first mission was to Mount De Fencia in Italy. The U.S. and British forces were being held up there and defeated in every frontal attack. The rear of the mountain was thought to be impossible to scale and so was not even being defended except for a few sentries. So, as accomplished mountaineers, we were given the task of taking it.

We went through the enemy lines on a dark rainy night. We climbed the first 2000 feet by means of a goat path, and then 1000 feet of sheer rock face. By daybreak, we had 600 armed men on the top behind enemy lines. There was a day of fierce fighting with many casualties on both sides. During the fighting, a German officer and four men surrendered to our Colonel. When he walked out to accept their surrender, the German officer shot our Colonel in the head. We took no more prisoners that day. By evening we had control of the mountain. We never failed to take and hold any objective, regardless of the cost, as "retreat" was not in our vocabulary.

It was on the Anzio beach head where we got the name "The Devil's Brigade" from the enemy. We went behind their lines and left stickers on the bodies of their dead sentries - in German "The worst is yet to come!"

Was I ever afraid? No one can honestly say they weren't. You had to fight down the fear. I never thought I might actually be killed but I might be wounded one day. On the push to Rome that did happen - my buddy got shot in the leg and I got two machine gun bullets in my left side. But I got out of hospital and rejoined my unit in the mountains along the French-Italian border. By now, we had lost 500 good men, and the enemy an estimated 30 for every one of ours. But, you know, they also had loved ones to mourn their loss.

I was decorated on the Anzio beach head with the Silver Star, for saving a buddy's life. Does this make me a hero? I don't really think so - he would have done the same for me, as would any other member of our unit. The real Heroes are those 500 men who laid down their lives that I might live. So I wear my medals for them.

Finally, after three years away I was shipped back to England, where that young lady was still waiting for me.

How do I feel now about the war? We fought two major wars in the last century because an enemy wanted to take away our way of life. And that is the pity of war. It really solves nothing. We are still at war and I fear our grandchildren will be fighting for their way of life. But having said that, maybe fear will make us realize what is happening in the world. Many times before a battle I said a prayer and maybe that is what we all need to do. Then I hope and pray the future will look a little brighter.

**George Wright**