

Worship Services

Sunday 9.00 and 10.30 am
Wednesday 10.00 am
Tuesday 3 pm silent prayer

April 9 Palm Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion with Blessing of the Palms (no 9.00 am service)

April 13 Maundy Thursday

6.00 pm Simple Meal in the Parish Hall
7.00 pm Holy Communion observing the Lord's Supper

April 14 Good Friday

11.00 am Good Friday Service
12.00 noon Stations of the Cross

April 16 Easter Sunday 10.30 am Festive Communion (no 9.00)

May 25 Ascension Day

July 16 Feast of St. Mary Magdalene followed by potluck lunch in the Parish Hall

August 20 Jazz Mass 10.30 am

Upcoming Events

Gloria Concert: Sunday 30 April at 7.30 pm. More information inside.

Discover: An opportunity to explore and share the story of Jesus. 2 May to 7 May with Rev. Harold Percy. More information inside.

Seniors' Service and Lunch: Tuesday 9 May, 11 am Salvation Army

Strawberry Social: Saturday 24 June

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

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St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Picton

April 2017

The Vine



Spring! New life is come!



Easter Hymn

*Up He sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.*

*When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By Your touch You call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.*

From the Rector

Matthew's Gospel tells us that on the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene went to see Jesus' tomb, and met an angel of the Lord who said to her: "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised." This is wonderful Good News, and it starts with the reassuring invitation: "do not be afraid!"

I often encounter people who are afraid of God. I have conversations with people who wonder if there is a God, and here's the thing: I have never once heard someone say to me: "what if there really is a God, and I've missed out on a wonderful, joyous, loving communion with my creator?" No, sadly, without exception I have always heard people express in one form or another this fear: "what if there really is a God: will I be punished and sent to hell for ignoring him, or for drinking or swearing or worse?"

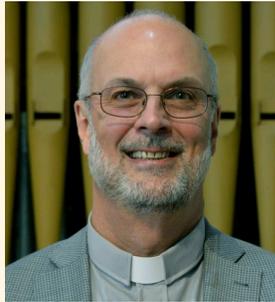
That's why it's important to know that the Easter Gospel message begins with the reassurance that we do not need to be afraid of God, and continues with the staggering truth that God is for us, not against us. Jesus' resurrection means God has not and will not abandon us, and instead has acted decisively to forgive our waywardness and bring us back into his loving embrace. Even if we have wandered off from God, perhaps deliberately ignored or consciously rebelled against God, God invites us back.

Like all invitations, this one requires a response. It isn't like a notice in the paper that Joe and Sue are going to be married next month. It's like an invitation addressed to you personally, asking you to come, and requesting the favour of a reply.

Since you are reading this newsletter it is likely that at some point you decided to accept God's invitation, replied to it, and one way or another determined to follow Jesus. Easter presents you with the opportunity to renew that response and deepen your commitment.

Or perhaps you never quite heard the Easter gospel as an invitation you could respond to, or you put off your response for another day. Easter presents you with the opportunity to hear the words "do not be afraid" as an invitation directed personally to you, and requests the favour of a reply.

During the first week of May we will explore those opportunities further, as we welcome Harold Percy to The County to lead us for a week under the title: **Discover: An opportunity to explore and share the story of Jesus.** That is another personal invitation for which the favour of a



as an Alternate Synod Delegate and member of Parish Council, replacing Don Watson who was thanked for his service in these positions.

Basketeers

This past winter, our amazing congregation once again contributed an incredible array of items for the Basketeers project. With cash donations, we bought additional sheet sets, pajamas (for women and children), two toasters and an electric kettle. We filled nine large plastic containers, which were then delivered to the Alternatives for Women in Picton. The staff there were so



grateful, and overwhelmed by the volume and variety of donations. Other larger, gently-used items which had been donated, had been delivered earlier in the month, and were again gratefully received. On 26 February, Rahno Boutilier, Executive Director of Alternatives for Women, visited our church for both the 9:00 am and 10:30 am services, to thank the congregation personally, and explain a little more about the organization's work helping needy and abused women and children in The County. Thank you to everyone involved for a job well done!

Our support of the program is ongoing. We have placed a basket and a list of suggested items at the back of the church where you can leave your donations.

Janet Howes

PEC Ecumenical Choir sings Vivaldi's Gloria



The PEC Ecumenical Choir, under the direction of Michael Goodwin, presents their spring Concert in the church on Sunday evening 30 April at 7:30. The main work on the program will be the **Gloria** by Antonio Vivaldi. This will be performed in its original form with instrumental accompaniment comprising strings, oboe, trumpet and harpsichord.

Also on the program are four shorter works; two settings of **O Magnum Mysterium** by 16th c. Spanish composer Tomas Luis de Victoria, and contemporary

American composer Morten Lauridsen; **The Lamb** by John Tavener; and an early setting of the **Mass** by Gabriel Fauré.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear great sacred choral music from across the centuries. Tickets \$20 (students \$5) at the door

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a Huge Success



This year we wanted our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to be open to the public. Knowing that would entail a lot of work, a team of 14 men and seven women was recruited to offer the meal. We imagined perhaps 120 people would come, so when the count topped 200, we were exhausted but delighted. It was a great time for a group of people, who had never worked together and never taken on a project in the Parish Hall kitchen, to get to know one another

and have fun. There was a lovely atmosphere as people waited patiently in line and then sat down to delicious pancakes, sausages, bacon and real maple syrup. Special thanks are due to Myrna Martin and Nell Kottick who shared their experience with past dinners and did most of the shopping. And a huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this such a great evening. Over \$1000 was raised.

Annual Vestry Meeting Receives Encouraging News

A well-attended Annual Vestry Meeting took place on 6 February. Following a delicious pot-luck lunch, the gathering sat down to review the events of 2016 and establish the budget and leadership for this year. The Annual Reports again presented an impressive array of projects and activities, and reflected continued support for our many outreach activities. The Rector was pleased to be able to share that our “gentle growth” in attendance has continued, with average attendance in 2016 of 91 each Sunday (both services combined), up from 86 in 2015, and 79 in 2014. Christmas Eve services saw 191 people in attendance, the most in more than 15 years. The Wardens were delighted to share the news that not only was all the money that had been borrowed to complete the Tower Restoration project paid back into our investments, but our income to support the operation of the parish exceeded expenses by about \$800. Nobody could remember the last time St Mary Magdalene finished the year with a surplus.

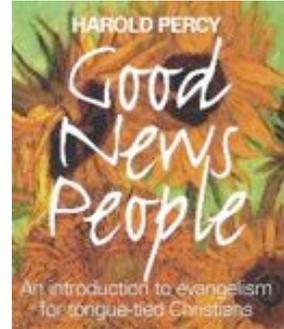
Brian Pinkerton was thanked for his service as a Warden and Deputy Warden. Brian has stepped down but will still be involved in the life of the parish, especially with his ongoing efforts as part of our “Never-ending Construction Company,” joining Michael Smith in the ranks of those known affectionately as “Wardens Emeritus.” John Clarke was also thanked for his service as a Warden. This year John has stepped back into the role of Deputy Warden, and Janet Howes has moved into the role of Warden, joining Herb Stone. Rounding out the team of Churchwardens, Brian Etherington was elected as a Deputy Warden. Josie Farrar was welcomed

response is requested: come grow in faith in the risen Jesus, whose resurrection we celebrate this Easter.

Yours faithfully, Charles

Lenten Series explores Good News People

In this series, we focussed on Harold Percy's book, *Good News People*, sub-titled *An introduction to evangelism for tongue-tied Christians*. As we prepare for Harold's return visit, we may feel tongue-tied about inviting people to the events.



In preparation, each Sunday sermon during Lent offered a reflection on a chapter from the book in light of the scripture reading for that Sunday. The Wednesday morning study series provided an extended talk-back and discussion session, exploring the themes suggested each Sunday. We discussed questions like why should we want to share the Good News, what is the core content of the Good News, and does it make any difference if you follow Jesus, or something else, or nothing at all? In the final session we shared where God has come into our individual lives and worked on expressing our own “mini-creed”. We aimed to answer personally: what is it about following Jesus that matters most to me?

The sessions were well attended, and participants felt they had been helped understand better how following Jesus impacts their lives, why it matters, and how they could share that good news with others.

Harold Percy coming here May 2 to 7

Last November many in our churches discovered that Harold Percy is a gifted preacher and speaker. Harold is returning to The County May 2 to 7, speaking at eight events under the title **Discover: An opportunity to explore and share the story of Jesus.**



Harold is a dynamic congregational leader with more than 35 years' experience in growing congregations and nurturing passionate Christians. Says Harold about this week:

“Christians, from the very beginning, have believed that the story of Jesus is a story to live by; a story on which to build one's life. At the

end of his famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet did not fall, because its foundation was on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24, 25) The events of this **Discover** week provide the opportunity to explore this story, to be reminded of some old truths, hopefully to discover some new insights into this amazing story, and perhaps for some, to hear it for the first time, or for the first time in a long time”.

The opening and closing services will be at St Mary Magdalene. On the closing Sunday there will be one service at 10:30 to which all the Anglican Churches in the County are invited. Brochures are available that describe the details of the week. Here is the summary of the program:

May 2 at 7:00 pm: Opening Service at St Mary Magdalene - “**A Story to Live By**”

May 3 at 3:00 pm: Coffee at the Wellington-on-the-Lake Hall - “**A Suffering Woman and a Desperate Father**”

May 4 at 2:00 pm: Coffee and refreshments at the Waupoos Pub – “**Just a Little Bit More**”

May 4 at 6:00 pm: Free BBQ at St Philip’s Milford, followed by a service at 7 pm - “**Regrets, I’ve Had A Few**”

May 5 at 8:00 am: Breakfast at the Waring House: free-will donation, but seating is limited so **advance registration required**. You can phone or email the church, or indicate you are “Going” on Facebook. “**Caught Up a Tree!**”

May 5 at 7:00 pm: Service at St Andrew’s Wellington - “**The Last Enemy**”

May 6 at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: at St Mary Magdalene Parish Hall:

- Morning talk on a Christian’s growth: “**A Certain Kind of Person.**”
- Afternoon talk on Healthy Congregations: **A Certain Kind of People.**”

Bring a bag lunch: coffee and tea will be provided.

May 7 at 10:30 am: Joint Closing Service at St Mary Magdalene - “**Living Well and Finishing Strong**”

Robert Wilson asks that we pray for persecuted and suffering Christians in Egypt and throughout the Middle East and elsewhere. See Hebrews 13.3.

Learn how you can stand with persecuted Christians by visiting www.vomcanada.com

Names in the News

On 8 January the rector of the Anglican Parishes of Quinte West, comprising Trenton, Frankford, and Glen Miller, suddenly resigned. Bishop Michael Oulton asked Bishop **Peter Mason** to serve as Interim Priest-in-Charge starting 22 January. We will miss Peter and Carmen for the duration of Peter’s service, and, we are assured, on the part of Peter and Carmen they will miss us. But it is an important role, and our parish knows from first-hand experience Peter’s skill in this area. So we wish them God’s blessing and have assured them we will keep them in our prayers every Sunday until their return, which we hope will not be long in coming.

On 15 January, after more than five years with us, sadly we bid goodbye to our friend **Michael Dufault**. He was a very valuable member of our choir and took part in many church functions, singing and playing his violin. He was always been willing to help with the Music Festival, Port Milford concerts and the Ecumenical choir. A teaching opportunity arose and Michael has moved to Kingston. We will all miss his great musical knowledge and his ready wit but we wish him, with God’s help, a happy and satisfying future in his new environment.

The Rev. Canon **John Whittall** has for some years divided his time between The County and Toronto, but last year decided it was time to live full-time in Picton. John accepted Charles’ invitation to become an Honorary Assistant, and at the service on 22 January he was formally installed into that position and presented with his license from our Bishop. John continues to serve as an Honorary Assistant at “the other” St Mary Magdalene Church in Toronto, so he will not be with us every Sunday.

Milestones

Passings:

Eleanor Sharpe, aged 96, on 6 January, wife of the late Ira, mother of Robert and Ernie. Memorial service held in the church on 10 January. Reception in the Parish Hall.

Marion Hill, aged 81, on 14 January, wife of Hudson. Memorial service held in Kingston. Interment at Glenhaven Cemetery, Glenburnie.

Ronald “Ron” Third, aged 72, on 23 January, brother to Grace Armstrong and Donna Medland. Memorial service held in the Parish Hall on 28 January. Spring interment at Cherry Valley Cemetery.

Henrietta “Effie” Ross, aged 92, mother to Stuart, grandmother to Kirstie and Malcolm. No funeral.

Susan Christie, aged 85, wife of the late Jack, mother to Gavin, Robert, Vicky, Peter and Elizabeth. Funeral service in the church on 27 February.

places. However, the stars of the display were clothes, dolls and trinkets from the Philippines, which were provided to us by Silvina Edwards, Filipina and co-owner of Edwardian House B&B here in Picton. The tables looked beautiful, and the food was delicious.

Over 100 people attended the service and through their generosity we collected \$760. This money will be sent to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, who will ensure that our offering will be used in areas world-wide where the need is greatest.

So many people were moved to comment on how happy they were to be a part of this day, and how welcome they felt at St. Mary Magdalene. Thanks to all those who helped in any way.

Submitted by Marie Connor

ROC (Recreation Outreach Centre)



On 23 January the new PEC Youth Centre at 299 Main Street in Picton was officially opened. The space was packed with visitors, students and area politicians. The centre provides a safe and welcoming space for students aged 12 to 18 where they can take part in structured programs or hang out with their friends. Planning involved input from the youth. All this was made possible by the great commitment from the community, including our church.

The ROC continually seeks funds and volunteers to operate all their programs (in, after, and now outside the school). The programs are free, and include healthy snacks and transportation where needed. Feel free to drop into the Centre: they would love to show you around.

If you're interested in helping out, you can check their website theroc.ca, call 613-476-1462, or drop by the Centre.

ROC'N REVUE, their annual fundraiser event showcasing PEC youth talent will be held at the Regent Theatre on Thursday 4 May at 7pm. Tickets are \$15.

A celebration of ROC programming + a showcase of PEC youth talent
In Support of the Prince Edward County Youth Centre

ROC'N REVUE

Thursday
May 4th 7pm
\$15

Featuring
Youth Performances
Community Coaches
Professional Musicians
Quinte Children's Choir
Visual Artists
PECI Panther Improv Team
Quinte Youth Chorale

*'Spectacular performance!!!
This is one show you don't want
to miss and a great way to
support our County youth!'*

BUY TICKETS ONLINE or at THE REGENT THEATRE BOX OFFICE
224 Main Street, Picton Tel: (613) 476-8416 ext.28
TheRegentTheatre.org

Earth Day 22 April 2017



Earth day is the largest environmental event in the World with over 193 countries participating. It promotes awareness and calls for protection of our planet. In Canada, through numerous programs, Earth Day connects people, particularly children, to nature. This year's theme is: Environmental and Climate Literacy and calls attention to the dire environmental threats in the 21st century through exploitation, misuse and climate change.

This annual event began in the US in 1970 - a time of gas-guzzling cars and smoke-belching industries. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity and there was little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Times have changed. But the fight for a clean environment continues with increased urgency as the impact of climate change become more evident every day.

So what can we do?

- ✓ We can reduce our own personal impact by simply reducing what we use, reusing items and recycling as much as possible.
- ✓ We can become informed and try to understand the threats to our environment and call for appropriate action.
- ✓ We can participate in our County's Trash Bash, which this year coincides with Earth Day (Saturday 22 April), and help to clean up and take pride in our environment.

"Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?" (Baptismal Covenant Question)

Read and Take Note

★April is the month that members of our church deliver "Meals on Wheels" for PEC Community Care for Seniors. Many thanks to John Clarke for organising the schedule and to the numerous volunteers.

★Recently air-conditioning units were installed at the church. Hopefully these will help us feel more comfortable on those hot, muggy days in summer.

★Remember those living alone. Many members of our church live independently and alone and would love a visit. Can you help by asking someone who lives by themselves if they would like a visitor? Company and fellowship go a long way to curb loneliness and lift one's spirits.

Welcome Home

*Where did you winter?
Here early....
not the Season -
You!
Brave harbinger of Spring.*

*Wish you wore sweaters
which I would
fashion to keep
You
cozy and warm, dear thing.*

*Soft orange-red and
deepest brown
with shiny black
buttons
like the notes you sing.*

*God's gift of love -
your sweet song.
His wonders
performed.*

Sing, Spring robin, sing.....



claudia jean mccabe

New Photo Directory Available

Over the past few years we have had a steady flow of newcomers join our church, which has led to the happy problem of looking across the church and wondering: who is that person? But help has arrived. Since last October Joe Parisi and David Gilbert have been taking pictures, and this month their efforts came to fruition as we produced our first Parish Photo Directory in more than 10 years. Featuring pictures of 144 members of our parish, the Directory also provides addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for everyone on the parish list. Now when you see a face and can't remember the name, you can browse through the pictures and be reminded of who it is. If you haven't received your copy, just ask at the church office.

This directory was an "in-house" project (printed for us by PrintPractice). By doing it this way, people would not feel pressured to buy packages of portraits in return for a "free copy" (which can be standard practice with companies that do directories like these), and we will be able to easily produce updated versions when needed.

World Day of Prayer

On 3 March, our church hosted one of many World Day of Prayer services taking place on this day in over 170 countries around the world. It is our pleasure to host this ecumenical service once every five years in rotation with four other Picton churches – the Salvation Army, the United Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church. St. Philips, Milford and Bloomfield United Church participate but do not host.

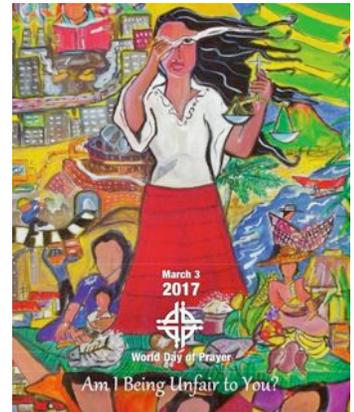
This year the service was written by the women of the Philippines, Filipinas, and was based on the Gospel reading of Matthew 20:1-16, the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. The theme was "Am I being Unfair to You." The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada provided us with material, including a video about the lives of Filipinas and some of the problems that they experience. This was shown before the service.

The Philippines is a sovereign country made up of over 7,000 equatorial islands, situated in the western Pacific Ocean, and is prone to earthquakes and typhoons. With the colonisation by the Spanish in the 16th Century and later by the Americans in the 19th, the Filipinas, the existing matriarchal society was replaced with a patriarchal one and christianity became the main religion. Many women still take on the role of breadwinner, as they go abroad to work. This has a staggering social cost to the country. The majority of Filipinas remain poor and are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

The service began with a procession of several people carrying symbolic items: the scales of justice, carried by a participant dressed as a Filipina Lady of Justice, a basket of fruit representing their largely agricultural society, and, oil and water - two other essentials of life, which were placed at the altar.

The service was led by Marie Connor, from our congregation. Members from the participating churches spoke various parts throughout the service. Small sachets of rice (one of their staple foods) were distributed during the service, symbolic of sharing the harvest. The grains of rice represent the seeds of justice which, we hope, will grow, flourish and bring hope in this unfair world.

After the service, we all headed up to the Parish Hall for refreshments. The hall was beautifully decorated with artwork and fabrics in all the right



With improved water drainage, and two years of no flooding, we decided to tackle the basement of the Parish Hall. Obsolete heating ducts, water pipes and electrical wiring, damaged and moldy wall boards and ceiling tiles were removed and discarded - a huge undertaking. A new suspended ceiling, new lighting and wallboard were installed. The basement is no longer a dark, damp, cold, uninviting space. The Macaulay Room was transformed into an attractive room to hold meetings (and to rent out). The washroom in the hall basement was completely renovated and a new furnace installed.

As part of our youth ministry, the adjacent room was completely renovated and donated to the "County Kids Read" group who are committed to improving children's literacy in The County. The room is a joy to behold: it is bright, with numerous book shelves filled with colourful books, comfy chairs and carpets on the floor and is very welcoming to the many visiting children from our schools and other groups.



Other tasks have been undertaken over the years. For example, risers (platforms) were built and painted to accommodate performers at church events and concerts. The oak platform at the front of the church was extended to accommodate the grand piano, and across to the pulpit. The memorial corner of the church was also restored: the flags and the regimental colours were re-hung and the memorial boards refurbished. And those lovely new kneelers at the communion rail! There have been many other tasks too numerous to mention. A binder is being created to list the projects we have completed over the years.

Work is now in progress to renovate the kitchenette space which will complete the renewal of the hall basement. Could it be that the work of the Never Ending Construction Company is finally coming to an end? We doubt it!

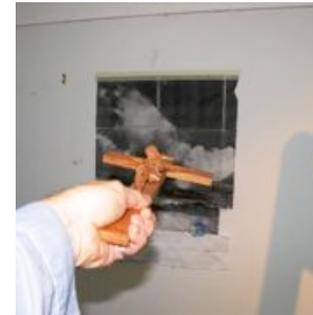
Brian Pinkerton and Michael Smith



The Road to Belleville

Over the years, people have told me how much this painting, which hangs on the south wall of the chapel, means to them. This, of course, is very humbling for me and, because of this interest, I thought I would write a few words about the piece and its creation.

The first thing to note is that the painting is of a crucifix, not a crucifixion, and for a very practical reason: I had a beautiful crucifix. This Oberammergau crucifix was given to me in 1977 by Canon Glenn Pritchard, who was Vicar of St. James Cathedral in Toronto. At the time, I was a postulant in the Diocese of Toronto. Secondly, Our Lord's face is mostly in deep shadow because I wanted the viewer to be able to "imagine" Our Lord as *they* imagine him, not as I do; in other words, to relate to the piece without interference.



The painting is based on the superimposition of one image on another as shown in the photograph. The idea of bringing the crucifix and clouds together occurred to me in a creative moment while rounding the bend at Mountain View Airport. I could see the crucifix prefigured in the clouds and stopped to take a photograph.

Painting the piece was a challenge because a canvas six feet by six feet was too large for my studio. I therefore had to paint the painting in two halves bringing them together at the end. As I painted, I had in mind Wesley's hymn: *Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I go, / my daily labor to pursue; / thee, only thee, resolved to know / in all I think or speak or do.* I hope that some of the forward movement of the hymn is captured in the painting.

Not by accident, there is a bend in the road of the painting. Who knows what lies around the corner? As someone said to me not long after the painting was hung, "If we keep our eye on the road and on Our Lord we'll be OK!"

Andrew Innes

In a future issue of "The Vine" Andrew plans to write about another of his pieces, "Reformation", which hangs in the Parish Hall.

Our own *Never-Ending Construction Company*

For a number of years in the early 2000's, the Parish struggled with declining membership, deteriorating structures and outdated facilities, compounded by increasing expenses and declining income. An inspection of our church by the Diocese of Ontario Property Committee in 2003 revealed several major issues ranging from a need to upgrade the electrical system, to eliminate water dampness and mould in the basement, and to repair and repoint parts of the outside stonework of the church building. The number one priority was re-shingling the leaky roofs of the church and hall. This was done in 2004 and paid for through an endowment but none of the other needs were addressed.

In 2007 the wardens were painfully aware that something had to be done: the buildings were deteriorating rapidly. In addition a number of areas were not up to the building code and the Provincial Government had new regulations concerning disabled access. Over the years other improvements including a handicap-accessible washroom on the same level as the church were suggested but not done. Quotations were obtained but the costs were beyond our means at the time.



"Can I hold it for a while?"

It was evident to us that if these improvements were going to be made, we would have to roll up our sleeves and do the work ourselves. Fortunately, we could afford the cost of our labour! And so our own home-grown Construction Company was born, the brainchild of Brian Pinkerton and Michael Smith. They soon recruited David Gilbert and then Herb Stone to join the Company. Over the years, many others have lent a helping hand.

Initially known as the *Never-Again Construction Company* because of the length of time, effort and work needed to finish the work. But we quickly learned that the rewards were beneficial both to us, because of the fellowship, fun and learning, and to the church in general as new and improved facilities promoted a positive atmosphere. We then became known by others as the *Never-Finished Construction Company*. This title came from the fact that we constantly started new projects before the last one was 100% finished.

We are now known as the *Never-Ending Construction Company*, with our head office at Miss Lilly's Cafe! After 10 years we continue to toil on, building and renovating. With your moral and financial support we have been able to significantly improve the appearance and amenities of the church.

For our first task, we shortened and rebuilt three of the pews so that people in wheelchairs did not have to sit in the aisle of the church. Other small tasks were completed but our first major project was building the wheelchair accessible bathroom and the kitchenette in the bell tower. This involved clearing away all the abandoned junk, leveling the floor, closing an old staircase to the basement, sealing a disused doorway and erecting new walls. New plumbing and fixtures, electrical work, a final coat of paint and kitchen equipment produced the area as we now know it. The completion of this project was a major step in developing the positive atmosphere



of our church as it allowed us to socialize after church services and to cater other functions. Many visitors have passed favorable comments on the set up.

Our second major project involved a complete makeover of the Parish Hall, which took us several months to complete. The walls and ceiling of the hall were thoroughly cleaned and repaired, chair rail and baseboard installed. Then the hall was entirely repainted and the hardwood floor refinished. The walkway from the church was re-tiled. The money for this was raised from the proceeds of "The Floor Show" concert featuring our own church talent. A grant for energy conservation enabled us to retrofit the electric lights in the hall. Later the entire electrical service in the building was brought up to code. This allowed new lighting, the relocation of electrical switches and the addition of four new circuits in the kitchen. Our user groups (art classes, etc) and visitors have commented on how bright and welcoming our hall is.

There were two other major maintenance areas of concern about the exterior of our buildings which had to be addressed. The basement walls were crumbling as ground water was seeping around the stones in the walls. This was rectified with weeping tiles and the installation of a new drainage system. The other area of concern was the rapid deterioration of the exterior of the church tower. This was finally addressed in 2015 with the restoration of the tower by the Eastern Restoration Company.