

Spring 2010

March 28, 2010



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH in PAKENHAM

Newsletter

Easter Greetings

As I begin this letter, the first rays of dawn are painting the sky, on the early morning street, dog walkers have emerged from winter slumbers, and bird-song fills the air. The marks of a change of season offer a superb backdrop to our Christian story of resurrection. The Season of Easter, The Season of New Life, is upon us! To fully comprehend the rich meaning of our Easter Story, it is imperative that we hear more than merely the conclusion of a story. This year our youth will lead us in worship on Palm Sunday. We will wave palm branches, sing Hosannas, and enter into Holy Week through the streets of Jerusalem. It is my hope that as we hear our powerful faith story once again, that we will recognize ourselves within the story, and that we will continue to live out the Good News of

our Gospel. As always we are each at different places this Easter Season: some may feel that Easter has already come, while others may be living in the darkness of a Good Friday moment. As community we bring together our varied experiences, and collectively find the courage and faith to walk this Lenten Road to a place of promise of yet unseen possibilities: a place where we recognize and give thanks for our many blessings.

Sunday morning worship provides us with a moment of pause to reflect on these blessings of God. Worship also provides us with an opportunity to gain strength from the gathered community, to become attuned to the workings of the Spirit, to sing praises, to hear words of scripture, and to offer personal and communal prayers. At St. Andrews, Sunday

mornings are just the beginning! The spirit of worship continues beyond our one hour on a Sunday morning, and is taken into the living of our life of sharing God's gifts of faith, love, hope, and new life.

Within this newsletter, are stories that speak to the vibrancy of our faith community. As you read, savour our story and celebrate the many mysteries and gifts, of faith.



Peace and Blessings to you all this Easter.

Fondly,

Debbie

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Your Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday **April 1**

6 p.m.

St. Andrew's

Together we will remember the last supper Jesus would have with his disciples. We will participate in the rituals of a Seder Meal, and then share in fellowship with a potluck dinner.

Good Friday **April 2**

11 a.m.

Zion

We will gather around the cross for a service of worship and remembrance. Our quiet service will be followed with a time of fellowship and light refreshment.

Easter Sunday **April 4**

8 a.m.

*River's Edge behind 5
Span Chip Stand*

We will join with our neighbours to sing praises of Hallelujah, and greet the day at the river's edge. Following a short service of praise we will head to St. Andrews to warm up with coffee, tea, and hot cross buns.

9:30 a.m.

Zion

Easter Service of
Worship

11:00 a.m.

St. Andrew's

Easter Service of
Worship



Worship Matters

Teach Me to Pray

Times of Meditative Prayer and Discussion with Debbie will be held during this Lenten Season. All are most welcome. Come to one. Or come to all sessions. Feel free to bring a family member or friend.

Daytime Sessions: March 29 At 12 pm

Evening Sessions: Mar 29 @ 7:30 pm



Planning Worship

On Tuesday mornings Debbie spends time working through the lectionary readings for the week, and plans Sunday worship. If you are interested in finding out more about the many ways scripture reaches us today, or if you would like to help with worship, please come in any Tuesday at 10:00 for an informal discussion with Deb.

Labyrinth

The Season of Lent, invites us to a time of prayerful reflection. With this in mind, during the Season of Lent, a labyrinth is available in Stewart Hall for those wishing to partake of a meditative, prayerful walk. The labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of a circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as tools of meditation and prayer.

A labyrinth is an archetype with which we can have a direct experience. We can walk it. It is a metaphor for life's journey. It is a symbol that creates a sacred space.

Labyrinths and mazes have often been confused. When

most people hear of a labyrinth they think of a maze. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is like a puzzle to be solved. It has twists, turns, and blind alleys. It is a left brain task that requires logical, sequential, analytical activity to find the correct path into the maze and out.

A labyrinth has only one path. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. At the center of our labyrinth is the cross. This is something to ponder as you walk towards the center and back out again. A labyrinth is a right brain task. It involves intuition, creativity, and imagery. With a maze, many choices must be made and an active mind is needed to solve the problem of finding the center. With a labyrinth, there is only one choice to be made. The choice is to enter or not. A more passive, receptive mindset is needed. The choice is whether or not to walk a spiritual path.

At its most basic level the labyrinth is a metaphor for the journey to the center of your deepest self and back out into the world with a broadened understanding of who you are, and the workings of God within you and around you. The first time you walk the labyrinth, you may not notice a change within yourself, however the more often you use the labyrinth the more open you will become to this form of prayer, and perhaps it will offer you something that you have not experienced before.

Instructions for walking the labyrinth are on a table in Stewart Hall. Please do not hesitate to speak to Debbie should you have further questions concerning the labyrinth or your experience with it.

Never a Dull Moment

Coffee House

Warm thanks are extended to the members of *What's New* for hosting the first annual Coffee House this past February. *All You Need is Love*, was a wonderful night filled with song, comedy, and much laughter as the community came together for a night of memorable entertainment.

Funds raised have been used to offer assistance to our neighbours in Haiti, and to help purchase much needed equipment for *What's New*.

We are already looking forward to next year's antics!

Thanks to the many talented, and not so talented, people who participated.



Concert to Raise Funds for the Dessalines Hospital in Haiti

On Thursday, February 18, 2010, the Pakenham community, supported by our area churches, hosted a Concert for Dessalines Hospital in Haiti.

John O'Neill, emceed and attendees enjoyed a wide variety of music including performances by The Ryans, What's New, The Pakenham Community Choir, Jennifer, Hunter & Hannah Blair, The Ziebeth Dancers and Fiddlers, Mark Piper, David Vavasour, Doris Rankin & Rachel Gardiner, and Glen Silverson with Anne Timmons & Colin Evans

The concert raised over \$800.

Dinner for Potential Renters of the New Kitchen

On February 24, 2010, the Special Events committee hosted 14 area organizations for dinner. Our plan was to show off our new facility and encourage folks in the surrounding community to consider renting our facility for their meetings, get-together, training sessions and parties.

We served lasagna, Caesar salad and a wonderful citrus caramel tiramisu.

People seemed genuinely impressed with the new digs. We fielded lots of questions after dinner and a number of attendees said they would consider renting our facility.

We already have five bookings!

You're Invited!

A Virtual Tour of the Holy Land

One of Rev. Heather Kinkaid's dreams, upon retiring from the ministry in 2008, was to visit the Holy Land. A retirement gift, from the community and the congregations of the Pakenham United Church Pastoral Charge, helped her realize that dream in 2009.

On **March 28th at 1 p.m.** at St. Andrew's, Heather will share her memories of that journey with the community.

A light lunch is included. Admission is a donation to cover the cost of lunch.

Quilt & Linen Show & Sale

On **Saturday, April 10 from 10 to 4** St. Andrew's is hosting a Quilt & Linen Show & Sale. From antique to modern, from St. Andrew's to Victoria's Quilts, from wall hangings to beautiful linens - every one is a work of art.

After viewing the quilts and linens, relax with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

\$6 Quilt Show
\$4 Cupcakes and Muffins



Murder Mystery

On **May 1st**, our Pastoral Charge will be presenting a Dinner Theatre. Gather your best sleuths, and come and solve the crime. You will see your minister in an entirely different role, and one of your own, will be on the suspect list. Our list of actors also includes members of Britannia United Church. As the plot thickens, each table group will be asked the question, "Who done it?" This promises to be an evening of fun, so you are encouraged to get your tickets early so as not to be disappointed.

Renovation Project: Final Report

This is the final report on our Renovation Project. It was a challenging project, with a few unexpected twists and turns, but our Renovation Committee maintained their enthusiasm and persevered. Thanks to them, we have a greatly improved facility that will reduce our operating budget and bring in new revenue.

Project History

On Sunday, March 11, 2007, after approval by the St. Andrew's Executive Council and Presbytery, the St. Andrew's United Church Congregation gave the go ahead for a proposal to repair, upgrade and renovate our beloved 110 year old church and its manse. This approval was contingent upon availability of funds prior to commencement of the work.

The grand edifice was still beautiful but needed repairs to floors, upgrades to electrical and plumbing, new furnaces and a water heater. We wanted to get the work underway before Rev. Kinkaid retired in 2009 so it would be easier to attract a talented, energetic, enthusiastic minister. We felt if we could demonstrate that we are a vibrant, active congregation able to raise funds and plan for the future, we would have good shot at the kind of Minister who would make a difference for our church family and our community.

At the time, the kitchen was an integral part of generating about \$10,000 every year in revenue. It was clear that we would not be financially viable without the kitchen. This income was in jeopardy because the kitchen did not meet minimum Ministry of Health standards. An updated kitchen would increase, rather than simply protect, this income by expanding our ability to cater parties, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, suppers, church events, meetings and rentals to community groups. The main kitchen and the vestry kitchen were, and still are, important elements in the fellowship of our church. Renovations to the vestry kitchen would enhance this fellowship and allow coffee service

for weekly meetings and social functions.

In addition, the manse had to be maintained to a certain level based on United Church of Canada specifications. The front porch was becoming a safety hazard and had to be addressed.

And, some projects had to be done right away simply to maintain the status quo and address safety concerns.

Project Scope

Repairs: Level and retile the basement floor and repair the vestibule floor.

Upgrades: Upgrade the electrical service, plumbing and the vestry kitchen as well as insulation and flooring for the washrooms and tower room. Upgrade water services to guarantee potable water.

Renovations: Renovate the kitchen, including an industrial dish washer.

New Items: Installation of a wheelchair ramp and washroom. New furnaces and hot water heater. Lighted outdoor sign

The Cost

It was estimated that the project would cost \$125,000. The renovation committee pledged to undertake only the project items that could be paid for with newly raised funds. So, they began fund raising with an every member canvass. The committee also approached former members and friends of the church to request their support. With the help of the Special Events Committee a number of events such as the Vintage Fashion Show and Tea and a concert by the Stairwell Carollers were organized to add to the project fund.

Progress

By May 11, 2009, the Fund Raising was essentially complete; the Architectural plans that ensured our project would meet new Ontario Building Code requirements were finished and certified; all contractors had submitted quotes based on these plans; a Building Permit had been issued and was posted in the basement; and crews of helpers had packed the contents of the kitchen; and cupboards, counters and tile floor-

ing had been removed.

Then, with help from the Architects, the Board of Stewards and our contractors we amended the Scope of Work to get the best long term results. The most significant change was the need to shift the replacement of our furnace and water heater to Phase 1. This was done because it made sense to do all of the infrastructure work such as electrical, plumbing and heating before we put up new walls. An Energy Audit showed us where we could best save on operating costs. Specifically, new furnaces would be a source of significant energy savings. And, our heating contractor told us that the furnace was on its last legs and the duct work, with all its twists and turns, was a big impediment to efficient heating.

Because of the importance of moving heating to Phase 1 we decided to postpone things like the insulation and flooring for the Tower Room. We then continued to work closely with contractors and started doing some of the work ourselves to save as much money as possible.

At this point we had raised approximately \$95,000 which left us short of our goal. We had a significant pledge from one of our families to help meet this shortfall. Hoping this would inspire others we again asked for donations to fill the gap. As usual, you stepped up and we were able to move forward.

In the end, we raised \$137,000 and paid every bill, in full, from newly raised money!

We were even able to pay the church's share of the GST.

When our application for an energy grant for the new furnaces is approved we will have a balance of \$1,300 that can be used for other important projects.



Renovation Project: Report Card on Costs

Phase 1

New: Architectural Drawings & Certification	Completed using raised funds
Kitchen/Basement: Level floor and retile	Completed using raised funds
Insulate existing washroom crawl space	Completed using raised funds
Interior walls and doors for kitchen	Completed using raised funds
<i>Tower Room: Insulation and floor</i>	<i>Deferred: Budget shortfall</i>
Kitchen: Cabinets/Counters/Installation	Completed using raised funds
Kitchen: Appliances/Sinks	Completed using raised funds
200 Amp Electrical Service	Completed using raised funds
Plumbing and Electrical	Completed using raised funds
Potable Water	Completed using raised funds
Hot Water On-demand	Alternate solution implemented within budget
<i>Decorating Dining Hall: Painting, carpeting etc.</i>	<i>Deferred: Budget shortfall</i>
<i>Outside vestibule floor</i>	<i>Deferred: Budget shortfall</i>
Energy Audit	Completed using raised funds

Phase 2

Replace furnaces and hot water heater	Completed using raised funds
Vestry Kitchenette	Completed using raised funds

Phase 3

Wheelchair washroom	Completed using raised funds
<i>Wheelchair Lift</i>	<i>Deferred: Budget shortfall</i>
<i>Wheelchair Lift Installation</i>	<i>Deferred: Budget shortfall</i>
<i>Lighted outdoor sign</i>	<i>Deferred: Budget shortfall</i>

Overhead

Miscellaneous: Renovation permits, overruns	Completed using raised funds
Fund raising costs: Admin, printing, mailing	Completed using raised funds

Our Sincere Thanks to Everyone Who Made this a Reality

The list of people we want to acknowledge is very long. We'll start with the **Renovation Committee**. It was a long haul but they stayed the course, took each set back in stride and maintained their enthusiasm and commitment to the project.

Special thanks of course to Dave Wilson, who led the charge. He kept everything on track, calmed the waters when things got rocky and never wavered in his pledge to see the project to the end.

We offer heartfelt thanks also, to Fred Myers, who worked tirelessly with the architect, literally for months, until everything was just right.

Every person on the committee brought their own, invaluable talents to the table. We could not have prevailed had it not been for each one of them and their unique gifts. Our sincere thanks to Barb Armstrong, Joan Gillan, Rhonda Tees, Lori Boon and Dan Baron for their hard work.

Our thanks to the **Stewards** who were instrumental in arranging the Energy Audit and managed the work of getting the furnaces ordered and installed.

And, to the dozens of **volunteers** who packed and unpacked the kitchen, removed cupboards, flooring and other debris, and spent hours and hours painting, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Renovation Project: Where to from Here?

A Report from Your Special Events Committee

Now that the renovations are complete and the Renovation Committee is disbanded, the work of making it all worthwhile begins. The Special Events Committee hit the ground running as soon as the paint was dry on the kitchen. They organized a Harvest Supper as a dry run before our first big public event which was the Jingle Bell Tour held just a week later. The Post Mortem on that first event has informed our management of the facility and we are working hard to define and document what is needed to put on a successful event.

Our goal is to welcome one and all to our church and to use the new facility for community outreach, for our church family events and to raise money to support the church. To realize this goal we began by creating a rental agreement, a renter's check list, a brochure and a catering menu compete with prices. We

are now working on a guide that can be left in the kitchen to help other folks run successful events.

On February 10 2010, we hosted a dinner for organizations in the area that might be interested in renting the facility for meetings, training sessions, parties and events. Representatives from organizations such as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Linda Lowe Daycare, the Pakenham Fair Board and Horse Association, The Pakenham Civitan Club, The Pakenham Horticultural Society, the local churches and the Pakenham Senior Citizens Association attended. Many people expressed interest in renting the facility.

We are off to a good start. We already have five bookings to rent the facility. And, we have several events in the works to ensure the place is bustling with life and love for the foreseeable future.

Our New Kitchen at Work

Loaves and Fishes

Although much of our ministry is carried out beyond the walls of the church, our church building offers us a home, and provides a much needed place of welcome. Thanks to the courageous work of the renovation committee, along with the immense support of our whole community, we are now reaping the rewards of long hours of labour.

Our wonderful kitchen is the new home of our hospitality and special outreach ministry. Recently we began our Community Kitchen Program, a modern day Loaves and Fishes story. On the first Thursday of each month all wishing to participate are invited to gather in Debbie's office at 10:00 am to plan menus. Thirty dollars is collected from each participant, and two members of the group then write a grocery list, and do the shopping. The second Thursday of the month is cooking day. We begin at 9:00 am with

lunch together and finish off early in the afternoon. Each member then takes home approximately 20 individual meals for their freezer.

This program is for all those who:

- live alone and are uninspired at dinner time.;
- do not enjoy cooking for just one; and
- are concerned with the high price of groceries.

Not only do the participating reap the benefits of our Thursday cooking, but individuals are invited to participate by cooking for others. Meals are shared with families or individuals facing challenging times..

If you would like to come and have meals to take home for yourself, or if you would like to provide this gift of hospitality to others, please come to the church on the first Thursday of the month. Everybody is most welcome!

And, please, let your neighbours know that church membership is not required to participate.



Two of Our Tried and Tasted Community Kitchen Recipes

Chili

Ingredients

2lbs Hamburger
2cups..... Chopped onion
1cup Chopped green pepper
2 Stalks celery, chopped
2 :Large cans tomatoes
2 Cans kidney beans, drained
16oz Tomato sauce
4 teaspoons Chili powder

Method

1. Cook meat, onion, green pepper, and celery in a pot until meat is browned and vegetables are tender.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients.
3. Cover and simmer at least 1 hour. All afternoon is better.

Makes 8 servings



Manicotti

Ingredients

1 Package Manicotti Noodles
3 cups Cottage cheese
8 oz Mozzarella cheese, shredded
½ cup Parmesan cheese
1 tbsp Parsley
2 Eggs
Dash Nutmeg
28 oz can. Bravo Spaghetti Sauce

Method

1. Cook Manicotti noodles as per directions on pkg.
2. Combine 3 cups cottage cheese, 8 oz mozzarella cheese shredded, ½ cup parmesan cheese, 1 tbsp parsley, 2 eggs, dash of nutmeg in a large bowl.
3. Stuff pasta with cheese filling and place in large pan.
4. Cover with 28 oz Bravo Spaghetti Sauce, sprinkle parmesan cheese over top
5. Cook covered at 350° for 45 minutes.

Makes 6 servings

Can You Spare Some Kitchen Utensils and Gadgets?

Now that we have started cooking in the kitchen we realize that we are missing all sorts of kitchen staples.

If you have some you can spare, or you would like to donate some new ones to make the work easier, please drop your donations off in the kitchen with a note to let us know who you are.

Here are some of the items we could use:

- Measuring Cups
- Mixing Bowls
- Frying Pans
- Measuring Spoons
- Cheese Slicers
- Cheese Graters
- Complete sets of vases: 12 Matching Bud and Medium-sized Vases
- Electric Beaters/Mixers
- Strainers
- Garlic Press





Zion United Church
Services at 9:30 am

Contacting Our Church Family

Reverend Debbie Roi ,and Michelle Gervais,
Office Administrator can be reached at 613 624-5400.
For Pastoral Care emergencies Debbie can also be reached
at home at 613-256-7249.



St. Andrew's United Church
Services at 11 am

Maybe you'd like to join a Committee?

To get involved please contact any of the folks listed below.



Ministry and Personnel: Margie Argue
Manse Committee: Ray Giles
Pastoral Care Committee: Debbie Roi
Christian Development Committee: Mary Ellen Boon
Special Events Committee: H el ene Wilson
Stewards: Bruce Hudson



Church Chuckles

Cliffside Monastery

There is a monastery in Europe perched high on a cliff.

The only way to reach the monastery is to be suspended in a basket which is pulled to the top by several monks who pull and tug with all their strength.

Obviously the ride up the steep cliff in that basket is terrifying. One tourist got exceedingly nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed.

With a trembling voice he asked the monk who was riding with him how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered, "Whenever it breaks."

A Rare Book

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible he found in a dusty, tattered box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"Oh no, said the collector, you've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that ," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

Kids at Lunch

In the cafeteria of a Catholic school, the children were lined up for lunch. At the head of the line was a large pile of apples. One of the nuns had placed a note in front of the apples. The note read, "Take only one, God is watching."

Further down the line was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. One of the boys had written a note of his own. The note he placed in front of the cookies read, "Take all you want, God is watching the apples."



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I Get a Copy of the Sermon?

Copies of the sermon are available each week, following the service. Please speak to Debbie if you would like a copy for yourself, or if you would like to take a copy to someone who was unable to attend worship.

Q: What is the Deadline for Getting Announcements and Other Information in the Weekly Bulletins?

Michelle works on the bulletins on Thursday so needs all of the input by the end of the day Wednesday.

Q. I have been attending church here for a while, and I think that I might like to become a full member. What do I need to do?

Just call the office and talk to Debbie. Our congregation is always happy to welcome new members.

Q. I have been thinking about helping out but am not sure in what way or who to call. What should I do?

There are so many things that we need help with that I am sure there is something just right for you. You could join

a committee (we have a reputation within Renfrew Presbytery for having relaxed and fun meetings). Maybe you like to cook. We are always looking for sandwiches, desserts and help in the kitchen. Maybe you would like to help organize and run one of our upcoming events? The Special Events Committee has lots of things in the works and would love your help. You can do as much or as little as your schedule allows. Everyone is most welcome. Please speak to the chair of any committee or to Debbie.