

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER COBDEN-QUEEN'S LINE PASTORAL CHARGE

Issue 2

March 9, 2008



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

"RANSOM FOR OUR REDEMPTION"

We are coming into the Lenten season. The word Lenten comes from the Old English word *lencten*, meaning long or spring. In Christian history, it became a tradition to observe the fast of forty days before Easter. The tradition began in the fourth century AD. (A.D. 325) Traditionally, the period is observed as a time of penance by abstention from festivities, by almsgiving, and by devoting more time than usual to spiritual exercises.

Lent is a season for us to commemorate Jesus' passion. Jesus suffered shamelessly for us. But at the end of his passion was victorious resurrection. It tells us that regardless of how much suffering we might have, there will be a moment of victory in the end. The death on the cross is not the final word for Jesus. Likewise, the problems we are facing today will not be the final word in our lives. Scripture claims that Jesus' suffering was a ransom for our redemption. Because Jesus suffered, our well-being is secured. (I Peter 2: 24) Therefore, it is guaranteed that every suffering we presently experience will end in victory. Let us learn the principles of life's victories demonstrated by Jesus.

1. Jesus lived his life for a definite purpose. That is, Jesus lived His life for a single purpose of redeeming humanity. Paulo Coelho said, "When you truly want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it." Thus, it is important to have a definite purpose in life to overcome today's problem.
2. Jesus knew when to yield His will to the Father's will. Jesus cried out, "Yet not my will, but yours be one." (Luke 22: 42) Let us be reminded that if I cannot do well with my life, there will still be someone who can do it better than me.
3. Jesus sowed His suffering as seed for victory of resurrection. "He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." (Ps. 126: 5) Jesus sowed suffering on the cross and death in the tomb, and he harvested a victory of resurrection.

Let us believe that today's suffering will be the seed for the harvest of joy and happiness tomorrow. Jesus died for our sins. Yet He rose again from death. Through this Lenten Season, let us participate in the process of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Let us have Jesus' Spirit come alive into our hearts and revive us. As we see newness of life in spring, I am sure our lives will be renewed by the Resurrected Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. After all, every human life is meant to grow toward the maturity of Jesus Christ.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (III John 1: 2)

Rev. James Min

Where did you stand
On that day
You know the one
When the stone was rolled away
Did you stand with Thomas
Doubt filling your mind
Searching your world
For a telltale sign
Did you think back three days
The nails in the cross
The pain and sorrow
Think all was lost
Or did you stand with Christ
Son of the Creator
Risen from the dead
Our Lord and Saviour
Where did you stand
On that glorious day.
Filled with hope and promise
When the stone was rolled away.

Rob McKenzie

EASTER SERVICES

Friday, March 21st at 7:30 p.m. at Grace—Good Friday Service. Communion will be served. The focus will be on the Passion of Christ.

Sunday, March 23rd at 7:00 a.m. at Grace—Sunrise Service and Breakfast. Easter Sunday is held jointly each year with the Presbyterian Church, and this year it is our turn to host this event. Come out and share in the celebration of the Risen Christ.

HYMN SINGS

Sunday, March 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Grace

Sunday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. at Grace

Sunday, May 25th at 7:30 p.m. at Queen's Line (Annual fund raiser)

Sunday, June 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Grace (Annual event). Offering to Cancer Society

The Grace Choir entertained the residents of Caressent Care Nursing Home in Cobden on a Sunday evening in January. Many residents sang along with the familiar hymns. Plans are in the works to have a men's choir for a future Sunday. Anyone interested please contact Keith Peever. There is always room for new members for the regular choir as well. Anyone who has any ideas for the sing along segment of the service, please let us know.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Facts:

Lyricist: Charles Wesley

Lyrics Date: 1739

Theme: Jesus Christ His Resurrection

Composer: Lyra Davidica

Music Date: 1708

Tune: Easter Hymn

Scripture: John 20:20



This hymn is one of the best known of all the Easter hymns.

Its text recites the fact of the Resurrection: "Christ the Lord is risen today;" It announces the result: "Christ has opened paradise;" And calls on all creation to announce this grand news: "Sing, O

heav'ns and earth reply, 'Alleluia!'"

And so these words have become a natural choice for the opening hymn on Easter morning. But, it may be even more appropriate at the end of a service:

"So are we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head:
Made like Him,
Like Him we rise..."

"I believe," states the historic Apostles Creed, "In the...resurrection of the body." Unfortunately, many Christians believe this is a reference to the raising of Christ on the first Easter, and that the promise to the rest of us is to float through eternity as disembodied spirits. But Christ's resurrection was affirmed in the Apostles Creed in an earlier section: "On the third day, He rose again from the dead." What was given Christ is also promised to those who believe in Him: perfect bodies (real flesh, blood, muscles) reunited with perfected souls enjoying a new heaven and a new earth. And so the apostles Creed intends: "I believe in the...resurrection of MY body." Wow!

But being raised with Christ also affects the here and now.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above...put to death...whatever belongs to your earthly nature...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility and patience...forgive as the Lord forgave you...put on love. Let the peace of Christ rule...and be thankful." (St. Paul in Colossians 3)

A delightful, and true, story tells of a church secretary in New Jersey who was enjoying a

day off at the shore. A young boy approached her and boldly asked: "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you go to church?" "Do you read the Bible?" More "yes" answers. "OK, then, will you hold my money while I go swimming?" He expected a higher standard of honesty from Christians and he got it! May our "here and now" be lived today in the light of the risen Christ!

Hymn Story:

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn in 1739, in celebration of the first service of London's first Wesleyan Chapel. This chapel was known as the Foundry Meeting House, as it was a deserted foundry. Charles Wesley purchased the building to house his growing number of converts.

Originally published in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, this hymn was eleven four-line stanzas long. Martin Madan's *Collection of Psalms and Hymns*, 1760, included eight stanzas, with many lines rearranged. Only four stanzas are commonly sung now.

The "Alleluia" which we sing at the end of each line was not part of the original hymn, it was added later by some unknown editor, to better fit the tune. "Alleluia," or "Hallelujah" is a common expression of praise, "Praise ye the Lord," from the early Christian Church. Early Christians would greet each other Easter morning, "Alleluia, the Lord is risen!" Jerome, who died in 420, was an important leader of the early church, who translated the Bible into Latin. He wrote that the very ceilings of houses of worship were often shaken with the reverberating "Hallelujahs" when believers sang their praises to God.

BOARD NEWS

With the conclusion of another calendar year, comes the time to review the success of the year just ended, and to budget for the year just starting. In November of 2007, the Board of Stewards reviewed the year to date financial results, as well as the budgets to be presented for 2008. The Central Treasury budget was approved at the official Board meeting in November, and the church budgets were approved at the annual congregational meetings at Grace and Queens Line on February 3 and 4, respectively.

The 2007 Central Treasury report showed total expenditures for the year of **\$69,572.23**; which included moving expenses for Rev. Min of \$4989.64 and for Rev. Davidson of \$1074.50. It was largely due to Rev. Min's efforts that his moving expenses came in below the \$6000 that had been estimated by the Search Committee. The total revenues for 2007 were **\$66,743.74**. The 2008 budget projects total expenses of **\$75,805** including M&S. This reflects a full year of ministerial costs, whereas we only had a minister for just over half of 2007. Our cash reserves continue to be strong, with approximately \$65,000 in cash and available GIC's at year end. (The proceeds of the manse have also been invested in a GIC, and while we can't spend the principal, we can use the interest to offset some of the minister's housing costs). This cash reserve has allowed us to start addressing some items that have needed attention. For example, a new efficient photocopier was purchased to replace the old second-hand one that was becoming very unreliable and expensive. This will lower the cost per page of copying and allow us to handle the increased workload from the new activities introduced by Rev. Min.

At Grace United Church, the 2007 income received from offerings and other receipts totalled **\$78,656.92** compared to church expenses of **\$70,533.15**. The 2008 budget calls for expenses of **\$81,593**, reflecting the impact of a full year of ministerial expenses. Cash reserves continue to be strong as well.

At the meeting Ted Richardson asked for support for a proposal from Session, that the pastoral charge raise \$1500 for the next trip to Guatemala to build a house. If both churches agree, the request will be taken to the next official Board meeting to be approved by the full Board. Anyone wishing to support this worthwhile effort could donate money through their church envelopes and will receive a tax receipt for their donation.

At the annual meetings, the members acknowledged the efforts of the people doing all the administrative and treasury work; this workload has increased significantly compared to prior years. We are very fortunate to have the talents of Dorothy Edwards (Secretary for the pastoral charge and Treasurer for Grace), Wendy Stone (Central Treasurer), June Ferguson (Queens Line Treasurer) and Joyce Bennett (Grace Envelope Treasurer). These ladies are doing a terrific job. At the meeting, an increase in pay to \$50 per service was also approved for the Grace organists Keith Peever and Isobel Fletcher, in recognition of their value to the congregation. And last but not least, a heartfelt thank you was given to Rev. and Mrs. Min for their enthusiastic service to our charge. It is generally agreed that we have been very blessed in our choice of a new minister.

Grace session welcomed some new "familiar" faces—Susan Gilchrist, Shirley Morris and Terri-Lynn Sukkle.

SUPPORT GROUP

The Support Group has been meeting monthly since last September and we have a small but dedicated group of individuals attending. To have success, however, we need an even larger and more dedicated group of individuals behind us. We need members of the Congregation to draw our attention to those who might appreciate a short visit, a phone call, or even a small gift to brighten their day. On three occasions we have had very interesting guest speakers and all members of the Congregation were invited to attend. Bonnie McLaughlin spoke on some of the topics which were covered at the Pastoral Care Seminar. Bonnie Johnson talked to us about how to help with the sick or elderly and two ladies from the Alzheimer Society gave a very in depth and informative talk on Alzheimer's. It is unfortunate that more of the Congregation did not participate in these excellent topics, but watch the bulletins for possible future topics. Come and join for information only or join the group to lend your talent.

Paper for this edition of the Newsletter was donated by Harold and Susan Gilchrist.

UCW NEWS

After a successful 2007 year which saw receipts from fundraisers and catering totalling almost \$10,000, the Grace UCW met in January to plan their activities for the coming quarter. The main upcoming fundraising activity, is the planned dinner on Saturday, April 5th at the annual community play. Please come and enjoy the entertainment and a delicious meal.....it will be a great evening.

Grace United Church also hosted the 2008 ecumenical World Day of Prayer, under the leadership of the UCW and ladies from other churches in town on March 7th. Guest speakers were Shirley Hill and Ted Richardson, speaking on their work in Guatemala.

The Queen's Line UCW is holding it's **Annual Pancake Supper on Sunday, March 9th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Sausages included! Goodwill donations only. We look forward to seeing you!

PRESBYTERY REPORT

The Support and Oversight Committee of Renfrew Presbytery will meet with the Official Board of our Pastoral Charge on March 26th. This Committee meets with each Pastoral Charge every 3 years. The annual meeting of the Bay of Quinte Conference will meet in Napanee from May 29th until June 1st. Jon Williams will be installed as a Lay Reader at that time. A Camping Sunday for Camp Lau-Ren will be held in our Pastoral Charge at a later date, probably in April.

Although Cobden- Queen's Line exceeded their budget for M & S givings, across Canada givings were down over 2%.

Edna Peever, Presbytery Rep

PASTORAL CHARGE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group, currently composed to ten participants led by Rev. and Mrs. Min meets every Tuesday morning in the CE Centre at Grace. Each meeting is opened with a short sing-along led by Mrs. Min with her guitar for musical accompaniment.

We are currently study "The Gospel According to Mark", which some think was the earliest of the Gospels. Mark stresses action rather than teaching. He presents Jesus the Wonderful, whose rejection, suffering, and death were an essential part of His mission.

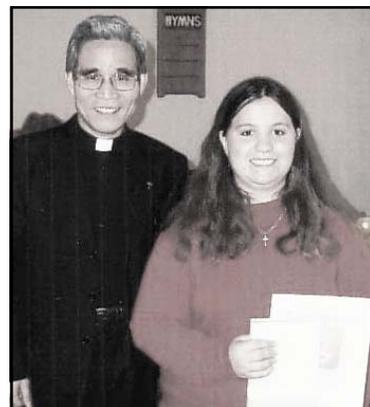
There is always plenty of interesting discussion with varying interpretations and opinions. Rev. Min closes every session with a lovely prayer. Every get together provides an enjoyable time of Christian fellowship and personal reflection.

Dianne Johnson

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

We also welcome new members to the Church from the very successful confirmation class run by Rev. Min. Queen's Line welcomes Jenna Campbell, and Grace welcomed Melissa Sukkel, Jack Oattes, Jason Crozier, Haley Oattes and Amanda Stone.

Rev. Min and Jenna Campbell



OUR CHILDREN

Our children are our pride and joy. The center of our lives. And so to was Jesus, to Mary and Joseph. He was the apple of his mothers eye. He was an accomplished carpenter. He was respected by huge crowds of people who gathered to hear what he had to say. The people listened and Mary delighted in their interest in her son.

Parenting today has its own issues and challenges. Families often endure times of trouble and strife with their children. Addictions, illnesses, physical challenges, tragedies and even death are any parents worst nightmare. Watching your child suffer and struggle through any of these challenges is tough and not easy to accept as a parent.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world he gave his only Son

Yes, Jesus gave his life, to die upon a cross to set you and me free from sin. But he didn't die without suffering. His death was brutal and gruesome. Mary his mother watched in horror, unable to do anything.

But Jesus had already predicted his own death. He spoke to the crowds that had gathered and he told them.....

John 13:49-50 I do not speak on my own authority. The father who sent me gave me his own instructions as to what I should say and I know his instructions lead to eternal life; So I say what ever the Father tells me to say

Jesus knew and understood his fathers instructions but how frightening for Mary his mother. She must have been paralysed with fear, troubled by the unknown. The disciples also questioned Jesus about how he knew these things. Jesus told his disciples at the last supper.....

John 14:1-2 Don't be troubled. You trust God, Now trust in me. There are many rooms in Fathers home and I am going to prepare a place for you.

In the remainder of the chapter Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father and the would be satisfied.

Jesus replies

John 14: 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me

John 14: 14 ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME AND I WILL DO IT

***WOW!!** What a powerful statement. These are Jesus' words. They are his promise. So just turn your eyes upon JESUS. Ask him for anything and you will receive it.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Five youths gathered to bake heart shaped cookies. Their efforts were packaged and passed out to the congregation to celebrate Gods love and our love for one another.

Valentines were created as their way of showing their love for special family members.

Watch for our Easter presentation on Sunday, March 23rd called Hats, Hats and more Hats and watch for our annual fundraising dinner.

Come out and enjoy a hot Chicken dinner at the Agricultural Hall on Friday, April 4th, 2008 from 4:30—6:30 p.m. Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children 12 and under.

CHURCH MEMORIES BY LINDSAY MONTGOMERY

Our family has been coming to Grace United Church for about 50 years ago. We joined this congregation when Bethel United Church in Snake River closed in the early 1960's.

Bethel United Church was built in the late 1800's on land donated by my great grandmother, Anne Graham. The land she donated was part of the family farm that she owned. She became the owner of the farm when her husband died. She later married a Montgomery man and the farm has been in the Montgomery family since then; the land she donated for the church was part of the farm where Isabel and I lived and was located on Highway 17, about 12 km west of Cobden. She also donated another piece of land to be used as a cemetery and the cemetery was located on the town line. The cemetery was used until about 1940. Mrs Willard Edwards from the Bromley Line was the last person buried there.

Bethel United Church opened in the late 1800s. My father's sister, Hope Montgomery, later Hope Smith, was the first organist in the church; she was 12 years old when she became the church organist. It was a small country church and expensive to maintain and in the 1960's it closed; it was sold to Alva Rollins who used the brick in his new house.

When we moved to Grace United from Bethel United several families also moved: Barclay and Francis Poff, Clarence and Olive Poff, Archie and Laura McCormack, Herb and Mabel Smith, Eldon and Ada Smith, Ken and Wilma Smith and Lloyd and Inez Oattes.

Mr. Simmons was the minister when we moved to this congregation and he made us welcome; he came to visit us on the farm and stayed for supper, played the piano while Isabel was making supper and played ball with the boys.

When we became members of Grace United, I joined the choir, Isabel joined the United Church Women and my daughter Linda, sometimes played the organ while I sang. Both of my daughters, Linda and Catherine, were married in the church; Linda in 1969 and Catherine in 1976.

Congratulations to Stephanie Eckford who placed 3rd in piano at the Kiwanis Music Festival in Pembroke in February.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

For many people this time of year has always been a very busy one. Time to get the tomatoes started, time to start the flowers, time to think about what to plant and where to plant it. For some, due to illness or change of residence, this is not always possible. There is, however, a garden that we can all plant, any time or any place. Now that spring is almost here and it's time to plant your garden.....

Make sure that you include three rows of peace:

Peace of mind, Peace of heart, Peace of soul.

Four rows of squash:

Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash grumbling, Squash selfishness.

Four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be kind, Lettuce be happy, Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for worship, Turnip to help one another, Turnip the music, Turnip for service.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Thyme for others, Thyme for fun, Thyme for rest and relaxation and above all, Quiet Thyme.

To be assured of an abundant crop, water freely with patience and cultivate with God's love.

Church Services

Queen's Line United Church —9:30 a.m.

Grace United Church, Cobden—11:00 a.m.

**Contact Information for Rev. Dr. James Young-key Min
613-646-2518 (Office) 613-646-2624 (Home)**

Our Church is an important part of our community!