

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER COBDEN-QUEEN'S LINE PASTORAL CHARGE



Issue 4

October 2008

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Frank Carleton Nelson wrote following poem which encouraging spirit of gratitude from the bottom of my heart.

Along life's road, I've noticed this,
The grandest sights we often miss,
We fail to see the lovely things
And miss the joy that seeing brings:
The flowers that bloom along the way,
The setting sun at close of day,
The mountains, valleys, streams and trees-
We seem to miss the sight of these.

God left it all to us, I guess,
To help ourselves to happiness;
And yet we grumble and complain
Of too much drought or too much rain,
Of too much heat or too much cold,
All through our lives, until we're old,
We kick and growl and fret and fuss,
And all is wrong that's given us.

The way to live, it seems to me,
Is just to try our best to see
The pleasant side of everything;
Instead of grumbling, try to sing
A song of praise and thankfulness,
For all that's ours of happiness,
And pay the Lord a compliment
For all the blessings He has sent.

I do not know about you, but as for me, when I read it, I found my head sunk in shame and regret, because I know how much I have missed in the wonder and the beauty God had left there for me in the past years. O how I had taken for granted the occasions, the buildings, the streets, the sceneries and the people with desultory manner!

While admiring and being mesmerised by the autumn colors on the trees, we cannot help groping our hearts for songs of praise and thanksgiving. Shall we join with the Psalmist who says: "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1)

Rev. James Y. Min

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES



On September 21, 2008, the Queen's Line United Church celebrated it's 123rd Anniversary with guest speaker Jon Williams. Our little country Church was beautifully decorated, the pews almost filled and everyone enjoyed a light lunch and fellowship after the service.

On Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 11 a.m., the Grace United Church in Cobden is celebrating it's 103rd Anniversary with guest speaker Mary Cook. A pot luck lunch will follow. Come out and help us celebrate!



A TEA AND BIBLE DISCUSSION is being held every Thursday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Grace United Church.

Everyone is welcome! Attendance at every session is not necessary—come when you can!

Queen's Line Praise Night



The Queen's Line Praise night was held the evening of September 28, 2008. Crystal Leach and Bonnie McLaughlin hosted the evening. Entertainers included Rev. James and Hester Min, the Queen's Line Choir, Robin Ross, (left) and Emily, Earl and Cheryl Wall (right). The congregation very enthusiastically participated in singing some favourite hymns. This was a very light, fun filled evening and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



The next Praise Night will be held at Grace United Church in Cobden on Sunday, October 19th at 7:30 p.m. Don't be shy—come on out and join us!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Cobden/Queen's Line Congregational Christmas Dinner will be held at the CE Centre at Grace on December 14th at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 each and *deadline for tickets is November 30th*. Entertainment to follow. Tickets may be purchased from Bea and Ted Richardson, Isobel Fletcher and Bonnie McLaughlin.

Now Thank We All Our God

*Martin Rinkart, 1586–1649
English Translation—Catherine
Winkworth, 1827–1878*

From some of the severest human sufferings imaginable during the 30 Years' War of 1618–48—a war that has been described as the most devastating in all history—this great hymn of the church was born.

Martin Rinkart was called at the age of 31 to pastor the state Lutheran church in his native city of Eilenberg, Germany. He arrived there just as the dreadful bloodshed of the 30 Years' War began, and there Rinkart spent the remaining thirty-two years of his life faithfully ministering to these needy people. Germany, the battleground of

this conflict between warring Catholic and Protestant forces from various countries throughout Europe, was reduced to a state of misery that baffles description. The German population dwindled from sixteen million to six million. Because Eilenberg was a walled city, it became a frightfully over-crowded refuge for political and military fugitives from far and near.

Throughout these war years, several waves of deadly diseases and famines swept the city, as the various armies marched through the town, leaving death and destruction in their wake. The plague of 1637 was particularly severe. At its height Rinkart was the only minister remaining to care for the sick and dying.

This hymn eloquently confirms Martin Rinkart's gratitude and confidence in God, despite of all of the misery and suffering around him.

THANK YOU

The following is an excerpt to a letter to the congregation and friends of Grace United Church from Lynda Plumb.

"I would like to thank all of you for your very kind wishes and thoughtful gestures—the people of Cobden have been very kind and helpful and have gone way beyond anything I have experienced elsewhere—I cannot find the words to thank you for all your help and I will never forget."

Note: Lynda has undergone 4 surgeries in less than 3 years in and out of the country. Proceeds from one of our Praise Nights were given to Lynda for medical expenses.

THE “U” IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you’ll see it’s true
You can’t spell out JesUs and not include U.

You’re a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born, that’s why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn’t it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trumped blew,
and this word resurrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at his upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

‘Go into the world and tell them it’s true
That I love them all – Just like I love U.’

So many great people are spelled with a U.
Don’t they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do.
He’d like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Mrs. Pearl Simmons



Rev. Min extends happy birthday wishes to Ruth Remus who celebrated her 80th birthday in June at the Grace CE Centre.



Everyone enjoyed John Yakabuski as he sang songs from his recent CD at the Praise Night in July 2008.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!'

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something!
Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Weddings

- ♦ Sept. 13, 2008—Sarah Foster & Matthijs van Lindenberg at Grace
- ♦ Sept. 20, 2008—Dean Smith & Tammy Lacroix at Grace.

Funerals

- ♦ July 26, 2008—Elsie Ross at Grace
- ♦ Sept. 14, 2008—Peg Seigel at Grace

HOW MANY ANNIVERSARIES?

With the Fall season, comes the time of year when we celebrate the Anniversaries of Queen's Line and Grace. Many years ago the early settlers of our communities had strong faiths and felt the need to worship together. After first meeting in their homes, they set about to build our churches. They worshipped faithfully and had many activities that centered around the church. Today, we can look at our churches on any Sunday morning and see many empty pews and those who are worshipping are mostly seniors. For many years they worked faithfully as Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, choir members, U.C.W. ladies, and ladies groups before U.C.W., C.G.I.T. leaders etc. They also held different offices in the church and some of our more senior members are still serving. What we don't see, are many under their 50's and children. Are sports and Sunday shopping etc, more important than worshipping God? Are the younger generation going to let all that the previous generations worked so hard for die? How many more anniversaries will we celebrate?

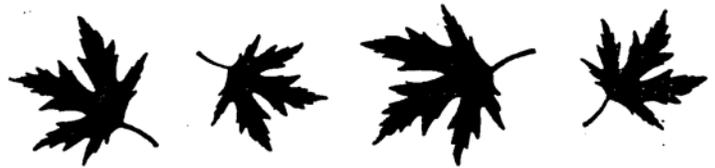
Isobel Fletcher



FALL

As the leaves fall
And days grow cold,
We can stop and see the beauty in it all.
The trees of gold, red and yellow
Show so brightly against the sky
Birds fly south
Squirrels hurry about
Dogs laze in the sun
Children play in the leaves
Farmers gather in the harvest
And, seniors reminisce.
How lucky we are to live in Canada
God has richly blessed us.

Isobel Fletcher



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes are being held on Fridays
at 3:30 p.m. at Grace United Church.

A class will be opened for adult members if
there are any candidates.

Please contact Rev. Min for more information.

Getting through the hard times is much
easier when you have God on your side.
John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life.*

*Past issues of the Cobden/Queen's Line Pastoral Charge Newsletters are available on the
website of the*

Renfrew Presbytery of the United Church of Canada at

<http://www.renfrewpresbytery.org/>

HOLA AMIGOS DE GUATEMALA

by Richard and Susan Schmaltz (Guest speakers at Grace & Queen's Line Churches in September 2008)

To keep you up-to-date with the various projects being carried out by the numerous service teams, and to inform you of just how your donations are enriching the lives of the Guatemalan people, we have outlined an overview of the work of "Oneness" during the past year. It is through your support in so many ways that the work continues to flourish.

- **Education**—Pastores (about 15mins out of Antigua) - A 2 room school was opened, furnished and equipped with all learning materials; 4 pieces of outdoor play equipment were completely refurbished and installed by volunteers from Canada; salary was provided for one teacher-aide; daycare at the Guatemala City dump; replenished all the teacher and student supplies for six classrooms; purchased additional furniture for the infant room and did minor renovations; supported the volunteer from Ottawa running the Music and Movement program for daycare; conducted program and teacher evaluations; and trained 2 long term volunteers to assist in the classroom.
 - Sacala (Mountain village) - Replenished all the teacher and student supplies; provided a daily nutrition program; added a water and sand table to the program; paid the salaries for the lead teacher and teacher aide.
 - Tioxya (Remote village) - Replaced all the teacher and student supplies; restored electricity to the school and maintained electricity charges; paid the salaries for two teachers; scholarships; provided scholarships to 12 students; teacher training and in-service for 20 teachers, in support of other educational programs as well as our own teachers; supported the teachers with travel costs, from Guatemala city, Sacala and Tioxya; housed teachers from the remote schools at the Community House; paid the salary of an associate instructor/translator; student learning materials and supported numerous children with school supplies, especially the children of the families for whom small houses were built
- **Humanitarian Service**—House construction—Constructed 15 small houses through "From Houses to Homes"; provided 11 bunk beds with mattresses and bedding; food hampers provided by the Teams of Service who helped build the houses; provided 8 wood cook stoves, 2 water purification systems; paid for medicine when needed; shared in the funeral/burial costs of a senior without family; provided shoes and clothing to the Guatemala City dump, Children's shelter in San Pedro, as well as many families in Altotenango.
- **Water for Sacala**—Continue to provide support for a small committee from the Ottawa Valley, that continues to raise money as well as work closely with the village of Sacala in procuring a sustainable potable water system
- **Community House**—The "House of Service" housed 99 volunteers this past year providing 1,502 days of service to the poor of Guatemala; the funds to deal with the shortfall of the Community House, has been raised by a generous couple from the Ottawa Valley. As a result none of the general funds coming into the "Guatemalan Fund" have been used to support the Community House.
- **Dental Service**—Brought 5 dentists from Alberta for three days into Pastores.
- **Up-coming Projects**—In addition to maintaining the programs/projects currently in place, the planned projects for this upcoming year include the addition of a grade one classroom in Pastores, two new pre-schools in Santa Maria de Jesus and Xenecoj and hopefully the construction of a new school building in Sacala Los Lomas. We are still investigating the possibility of setting up a lunch hour feeding program at the market for the homeless.

Our house building projects with "From Houses to Homes" will continue this year on a bit smaller scale, as we have had to recruit many of our volunteers for furniture building in the fall.

ON BEHALF OF THE POOR OF GUATEMALA THANK YOU!!

RECOLLECTIONS BY GEORGE WALLACE

IN CELEBRATION OF QUEEN'S LINE 123RD ANNIVERSARY

This story goes back almost 80 years.

When I was a boy attending the Queen's Line Church, and Sunday School, Mr. George Roberts was one of the Sunday School teachers. He was an old man with pure white hair, and he was bent after any years of hard work. He grew up in a pioneer settlement in Glengarry County.

If you have read the book "The Man From Glengarry" you will remember that members of the McDonald family were prominent characters in the book. There was McDonald Baine, McDonald Duhb, their sister Kirsty, and young Ronald whose mother had died. George lived on an adjoining lot, and often heard Kirsty call the men from field or forest to come to dinner. (In those days, many people had neither a watch nor a clock.)

George never went to school. In his old days he said with a wry smile "I shouldn't say I never went to school. One day my brother forgot his lunch, and my mother sent me to school with his lunch.

George learned to read while sitting with his Sunday School teacher during church services. When the minister read from the pulpit bible, she followed along in her bible, pointing out the words to George. She did the same when hymns were being sung. That is how he learned to read.

When George Roberts was a young man he moved from Glengarry County to the Queen's Line, and as mentioned earlier he was a Sunday School teacher in that church when I was a boy. One Sunday he was inspired to sing a solo, and in the quavering voice of an old man, and sometimes off key, he sang "In the Cross of Christ I Glory towering o'er the wrecks of time." It was a memorable time for those of us who heard him, moved as we were by his sincerity.

After his wife died he lived for a number of years with his son and family on the Queen's Line. Those were the years I saw him each Sunday at church. He moved into Cobden later. Those were the years when mail and parcels were transported by train. Six passenger trains passed through Cobden daily, 3 going east, and 3 going west. George obtained the job of meeting each train and transporting letters, and parcels from the railroad station to the post office. For this he received 25 cents per day."

In memory of George Roberts, George Wallace sang the hymn "Some Day the Silver Cord Will Break".

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!