

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER COBDEN-QUEEN'S LINE PASTORAL CHARGE

Issue 5

February 2009



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

The year 2008 was a very special year for me. It was special because I had the privilege to experience a full swing of the pastoral year for the first time. If I may, I would like to point out some of the highlights from last year. First of all, was the power point projection. Starting from the first Sunday of the year 2008, we ventured to set up the projection screen and project hymns and images for the congregation. Since I was illiterate on power point, I could not manipulate the system as freely as I should. Yet there was enough help from all directions offering generous encouragement and kindly tips for which I could continue the journey.

We met Tuesday mornings in the spring and Thursday mornings in the fall for Bible Study and discussion. There were about 10 people who had shown their interest and support for the weekly gathering. We covered various topics such as, "Is the Bible really the word of God?"; "Do Roman Catholics believe the same Gospel as we do?"; "How can we approach Jehovah's Witness brethren?" Each session was started with a video clip presentation on a given topic and followed by free discussion. Every session was heated by active participation on the subject matter. The weekly Bible gathering will resume on the first Thursday of February 5, 10:00 a.m. at the C.E. Center, Grace United Church, Cobden. Of course, everyone is welcome.

The quarterly newsletter was another bold attempt we ventured last year. We have published four editions. There were five or six people who have committed their time and talent for this project. We especially appreciate the efforts of Sandra Buttle for her expertise in laying out the materials in such a fashionable format, Dorothy Edwards for printing all the copies for distribution and session members for distribution to all members. Everyone is encouraged to submit his or her own stories. The committee is so excited to have Connie Tabbert as part of this project.

I really enjoyed having four young people for Confirmation Class 2008. The first question by which our young people were challenged was, "Who are you and what is your purpose in life?" Then, they were continually asked questions of God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Bible, Church and the type of life each of us is expected to live by.

We appreciated the strong support for the class shown by the session members and parents of the confirmation class.

God, who has been so gracious to us all, has opened another year for us. As the world economy plunges, everyone seems to slow down including spiritual life. But let us remember that if there may be nothing else in the world we have confidence in, there is God whom we can rely on. He was the One who has helped us in the past so that we might come this far. I am sure that same One would continue to be with us. All we have to do is to "Reach Out and Touch" while we are able. Jesus said to the woman who stealthily touched the hem of His garment, "Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

In fact there were not many things for her to do in order to gain such a comfort and blessing from Jesus. All she needed to do was to "Reach Out and Touch the Lord" while He was passing by. Perhaps that is all we may need to do for any possible challenges in this year. Please, let me add my faith and courage with you while you continue your life journey throughout the year 2009. God richly bless you and yours.

Love in the Lord.

Hester and Rev. James Min

UPCOMING EVENTS

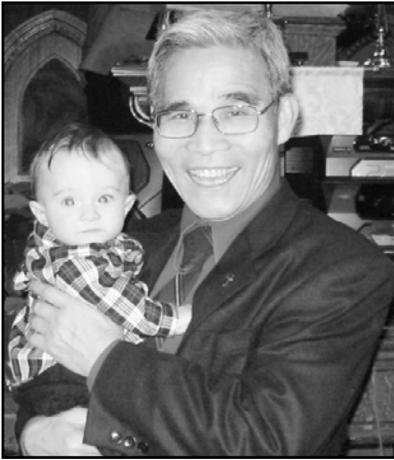
Praise Nights will be held Sunday, **February 15th** and Sunday, **March 15th**. Both Praise Nights will be held at the Grace United Church in Cobden at **7:30 p.m.**

Bible Study and discussion will resume on the first Thursday of February (5th) at **10:00 a.m.** in the C.E. Centre. Everyone is welcome to join us for this time of Bible Study and fellowship

There will be a presentation on the house building in Guatemala on **Friday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the C. E. Centre**. A Crokinole party will follow and a light lunch will be served. "Free will" donations towards a wood stove that will be installed when the house is built in the Fall of 2009.



The Queen's Line United Church is holding a **Pancake Supper** on **Sunday, March 8, 2009** from **4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Good will donations only! Everyone welcome!



Christmas Eve

Declan Helferty-Scott & Rev.
Min



Praise Night—January 18, 2009 at Grace United Church

Susan Gilchrist singing solo and picture on the far right is Bonnie McLaughlin,
Bea Richardson, Therese Narbonne and Gord Thom



Mark your calendars for April 17, 18 & 19, 2009! The annual Community Players are presenting another comedy at the Agricultural Hall entitled "This Must Be The Place". There will be meals before the performance on Friday and Saturday nights. There will be a matinee on Sunday afternoon as well. Check the posters later on for times and prices. Come out and enjoy the play and support this worthwhile annual event.

His Eye is on the Sparrow



By Civilla D. Martin (1866-1948) and Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)

The song, "His Eye is on the Sparrow," was made popular by singer Ethel Waters who loved the song so much that she used its name as the title for her autobiography. It was based on the words of Jesus, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father... So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-31)

*Words: Civilla D. Martin (1866-1948);
Music: Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)*

The words to this song were not inspired by someone who always lived on the sunny side of life. Mrs. Civilla D. Martin (1866-

1948) wrote the lyrics in 1905 after she and her husband visited friends by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle in Elmira, New York. These were true saints; Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nearly twenty years, and her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Dr. and Mrs. Martin noticed that despite their afflictions, the Doolittles lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while with the Doolittles, Dr. Martin commented to his wife about their bright hopefulness, so they asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and his wife. The hymn "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" was the outcome of that experience - the poem was written that very night and sent the next day to Charles Gabriel who put the words to music.

FINDING TIME

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
I had to hurry and get to work
For bills would soon be due.
So I knelt and said a hurried
prayer,
And jumped up off my knees.
My Christian duty was now done,
My soul could rest at ease.....
All day long I had no time
To spread a word of cheer
No time to speak of Christ to
friends,
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.
No time, no time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need
But at last the time, the time to die
I went before the Lord,
I came, I stood with downcast
eyes.
For in his hands God held a book;
It was the book of life.
God looked into his book and said
'Your name I cannot find. I once
was going to write it down...
But never found the time.

Birthdays—Celebrating 90 years young

- ◆ Isobel McLaren, Pearl
Simmons and Vesta Popkie

Births

- ◆ Aug. 26, 2008—Declan son of
Krista Helferty & Brad Scott
- ◆ Oct. 17, 2008—Benjamin son
of Chad & Sandra Kendall

Deaths

- ◆ Henry Tabbert, Nov. 27,
2008
- ◆ Helen Buttle, Jan. 4, 2009

**To book Grace United Church
or C. E. Centre contact Sylvia
O'Brien @ 613-646-2048**

2008 GRACE UNITED FINANCIAL REPORT

Another year is over, and it is appropriate to review the financial results for the year, based on the Treasurer's financial statements for the year.

Expenses for the year relating to operating costs of running our church and paying our share of ministerial costs, totaled \$69,323.71. There were also payments for specific 'designated expenses' of \$10,555.73 where the receipts came in designated for a specific purpose, and the payments were recorded as 'designated expenses' to denote that they are basically a flow through, rather than an expense that must be covered from weekly offerings. In 2008, the designated amounts were for such things as Camp LauRen, Samaritan's Purse, the Guatemala project that Ted Richardson and others participate in, the United Church Observer subscriptions, etc. There were also costs to replace the organ of \$19,845, but these costs were covered by insurance and the Memorial Fund rather than coming from weekly offerings. The \$406 cost of purchasing a new screen for the choir loft to allow the choir to read the projections during Rev Min's services, was generously donated. Donations were also received and paid to M&S and World Development totaling \$7190.25.

So what is worth focusing on, is how we did at managing our operating expenses, and whether we are covering these expenses with our weekly offerings and other available miscellaneous income.

The budget for operating expenses and our share of ministerial costs, was \$71,998.00 for 2008. We spent \$69,323.71. However, the reason our expenses were below budget was because we were given permission to not pay December's share of ministerial costs. Those costs came out of Central Treasurer's funds instead, in order to give the two churches some relief. Otherwise our 2008 expenses would have totaled \$73,732.71. The amount in excess of budget was the cost of audio visual equipment that was paid for in 2008 but for which donations were received in 2007.

So how did we pay for this \$69,323.71 of actual costs? These costs have to be covered by weekly offerings, donations from the use of the CE Centre, and miscellaneous income such as GIC interest. After seeing weekly offerings running well below expenses for much of the year, some of our congregation members made generous donations late in the year to help cover costs. Also, December is traditionally a better month for offerings. The end result was that offerings for the year available to cover local expenses, totaled \$67,165.45. Donations for the use of the CE Centre totaled \$3,265.00, and other miscellaneous interest and rebates totaled \$2,279.55 for the year. This meant we had \$72,710 of income to cover our expenses. While this was more than enough to cover our actual expenses of \$69,323.71, the fact is that if we had been required to pay our full share of the annual ministerial costs, rather than being given a break on December expenses, the total available income in 2008 would have been insufficient to cover costs by \$1,022.

We realize that many of our most faithful members are on fixed incomes and are supporting the church's finances to the best of their ability. We are extremely grateful to them and to all the families who have given so generously as they see the church's financial needs. We are also fortunate to have some cash reserves from prior years, and these will be used to help cover expenses. But it is important to encourage more people to attend and to financially support our church on an ongoing basis, as we move forward and as expenses continue to increase, even though every effort is being made to manage expenses diligently.

Charlene Valiquette

NOTICE

At our congregational annual meetings on February 1st and 2nd, a motion was made to accept requests for sponsors for the Weekly Church Bulletins.

For each week that a bulletin is sponsored the name of the sponsor as well as the occasion would be printed in the bulletin for example, '*this week's bulletin is sponsored by John Doe, in memory of his father*', or '*this week's bulletin is sponsored by John Doe on the occasion of his wife, Jane Doe's birthday on June 1, 2009*' etc.

The cost to sponsor a bulletin for one week is \$15.00. Once the form is completed, it, along with the payment of \$15.00 can be placed in the special envelopes which are available at the front entrance way of each church. The envelopes should then be given to Eleanor Tabbert at Queen's Line or Dorothy Edwards at Grace.

The amount received will be included with your yearly receipt for income tax purposes. This can be done anytime during the year.

* This is *not only* an opportunity to pay tribute and honour a loved one or special occasion but it will also assist in lower church costs.

A UCW STORY

Once upon a time there was a modest rural United Church. One day a very small fire started in the basement broom closet.

The minister was the first to notice the fire. "Holy Smoke" the preacher shouted and in the rush he lost his hair! Now his head resembles heaven, for there is no parting there!

The Church Secretary saw the fire and ran immediately to the office to save the Historical Roll and to look up the emergency numbers.

The Property and Caretaking Committee wondered whom they should contact to obtain a permit for an open fire in the township.

The Greeters and Ushers saw the flames and quickly and efficiently escorted the members of the congregation to safety.

The Church Librarian, upon seeing the fire, ran to the library to consult the new book "Flames of the Spirit".

The Worship and Music Committee saw the fire and wondered if God would speak from a burning broom closet in the same way he spoke from a burning bush.

The Membership Committee saw the smoke and hoped it would attract a large crowd. Perhaps now more people in the area would know the location of the church and start attending regularly.

The Sunday School Teachers safely evacuated all the children and vowed in the future to hold regular fire drills.

The Choir saw the fire and began to sing "Fire's burning, fire's burning..."

The Mission and Outreach Committee who were busy preparing the next issue of the newsletter, stopped the presses in order to include a report about the fire.

The Custodian wondered how she was going to clean up all the mess with no brooms or mops.

The Trustees went to consult the insurance policy to see whether or not a fire in a broom closet of a church was considered an act of God.

The Finance Committee worried about how much of the bill would need to come from the General Fund.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee discussed whether the staff contracts would still be binding if there were no building for them to work in.

The UCW noticed the fire – grabbed a fire extinguisher – and put it out!

For 47 years UCW's across Canada have been putting out church fires and on many occasions, when necessary, have served as the spark to light a few.

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/>

GUATEMALAN HOLIDAY

On November 1st, 2008, Merrill Schauer, Paul McLenaghan, Ray Dumas and Ted Richardson departed for Guatemala. Their goal was to construct classroom furniture which was required for three new schools that Richard and Susan Schmaltz of Lapasse were opening in rural Guatemala. The crew was added to a week later with the arrival of Keith Sparling, Kevin O’Gorman, Shirley Hill and Trudy Winterburn. This project was completed within two weeks, much to the surprise of Richard and Susan Schmatz.

On the Friday of our second week, our house building started. Upon arrival at the site, Joe Collins, the founder of Houses to Homes, informed us that this was a very very poor family living in the worst of conditions.

A house in Guatemala is approximately 12’ x 20’ and built out of cinder blocks with a steel roof, cement floor, one door and one window. The supplies for a house like this cost \$1,500.00 US which the Sunday School and Youth of Grace United Church donated. All other expenses (airfare, room and board and travel costs to and from work) were paid by each individual.

The family was just as destitute as Mr. Collins had informed us. There was no hope of a brighter future for them. We left them six days later in their first home with a floor, a door that could be locked, 2 sets of bunk beds, one double bed, new mattresses and new bedding. A supply of basic food and a wood stove to cook on. This stove will serve 3 families which cost \$150.00 US.

In a period of only 6 days we didn’t solve all their problems, but we did give them their best Christmas ever. On our last day many tears were shed by all, hugs were given and received, and memories that will last us all a life time were realized.

I am looking forward to a return trip this fall to build a house that will be sponsored by the Cobden and Queen’s Line churches.

Ted Richardson.

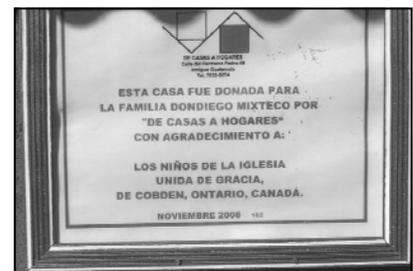
These pictures are worth 1,000 words



Before construction



After construction



Plaque which will always be on their home.

MEMORIES OF GRACE UNITED CHURCH

We came to Cobden and opened up for work January 2, 1952. In 1953 I started attending the W.M.S. of Grace. I was president for a couple of years of the U.C.W. going to Rally's etc. One year the Rally was in Renfrew and of course, the usual weather, rain and snow. Our unit had a part in the service, the prayer. Guess who got it by being there. I think I was the only one from Cobden. By lunch time it had cleared up.

Les wished to remain in his home church. I joined Grace when Rev. Cooke was the minister, sometime either in 1976 or 1977. I've been an Elder twice and once Clerk of Session, on the Board of Stewards and also the Trustee Board.

In the fall of 1962, Mr. Hilliard Argue asked me if I would like to teach Sunday School. I said "yes" as I always had a feeling for that part of the church. I started teaching Grades 1 and 2, ending with Grade 7 and 8 plus. I have a lot of great memories of these years. I taught some and have had some of their children as pupils.

Memories stay in your thoughts and I have quite a few. A couple I will tell you about. One was a little lad who liked to talk all the time—not listen, and of course, disrupted the class. One Sunday a little girl said "I'll keep him quiet". I thought 'you talk too'. Anyway, they came to an agreement and never interrupted once. Class went smoothly. Another was a girl who liked hugs. We were not to lay a hand on any child, the same as the law is now. How do you say "no"? She got her hug. Another girl in an older class wished to read the scripture in church. The minister had the congregation read the scripture before the sermon. Of course, she got the piece with the longest words in the Old Testament. She asked me to help. My advice was for her to read it over and figure out the pronunciation, say it and don't stop. The congregation won't know if you read the right word or not. The scripture went smoothly and the pastor didn't scold me for the advice. We had big classes. I had one with 12 girls in it.

Another story was when we packed bags of candy for the Sunday School Concert. Ronnie Fraser's son, Bobby, and my son, Wayne, and I packed either 139 or 159 bags of candy for the concert one year. It was a good many trips around the table.

I still favour Sunday School. To me it is a very important part of Church.

Ruth Remus

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!