



MERIVALE FALLOWFIELD NEWSLETTER

Lent 2007



Words from the Minister

What! No Flowers at the Altar?

Here we are again -- beginning the season of Lent. Have you ever wondered why we don't decorate the altar with flowers during Lent? This

has been the tradition of the wider church for a long time. Did you ever wonder why?

The custom of decorating an altar with flowers goes back to the earliest days of the church. Gregory the Great, in A.D 604, wrote to St. Augustine to encourage him to permit the popular custom of decorating the altar with flowers. Augustine had wondered if this custom was not pagan in nature. Gregory found it to be a universal custom of hospitality and beauty that could be given Christian meaning. Consequently, flowers on the altar have come to mean the resurrected life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The beauty of the flowers has come to mean the grace and truth of life in Christ.

Lent is traditionally a penitential time, and this austerity is part of the vestments of the altar. The traditional colour for the Lenten season is the colour of penitence, purple. Many lively customs of the church are suspended during Lent. The word "alleluia" is not sung or said. The "Gloria" is not used at communion by many [although I have many times on Palm Sunday] baptisms and weddings traditionally are not performed during Lent. In some traditions the organ is not played from Ash Wednesday till Easter Eve. [Thankfully our denomination is not one of them] Fasting is encouraged. Lent begins with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday as a sign of mortality. Amidst these solemn signs of transience, a symbolic bouquet of resurrection would be awkwardly out of place. The disappearance of such treasured symbols of life and hope exists to encourage us all to look for the coming of Easter, the Resurrection, and the opportunity we share in what Christ has done.

May we prepare for Easter again —the resurrection of Christ — the new life for us as we move through our Lenten season.

Martin

Feb 21 Ash Wednesday service and luncheon at Merivale, 11:30 am. (FM)

April 01 Palm Sunday. Holy communion at both churches. (FM)
Fallowfield Choir singing at both churches.
Pancake breakfast at Fallowfield.(F).

April 05 Maundy Thursday service at Fallowfield, 7:30 pm. (FM)

April 06 Good Friday service at Merivale, 10:30 am. (FM)

April 08 Easter Sunday. Fallowfield Choir singing at both churches. (FM)

Please see the calendar on page 10 for other events.

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THE FALLOWFIELD ANNUAL MEETING



Fallowfield's meeting in February was well attended. We had 54 in the congregation for the baptism of little Dylan. Of them, 26 retired to the room behind the pulpit for coffee and a glance into the three boxes of Tim Bits.

Reverend Martin Carnahan started the meeting with a prayer that reminded us to keep God in focus as we went about the business of the church. It worked. There were no major issues and everyone was able to voice their opinions.

First off, we decided who was eligible attend the meeting. All members of the church could discuss issues and then vote. As well, it was agreed that if someone was in attendance but wasn't a member, the same privileges were extended to them. Very welcoming.

Since no one objected to the two volunteers who chaired the meeting and took notes, we got to work quickly. The rising cost of electricity was an important topic. We sometimes forget to turn off lights. So, a timer will be connected to some of them. Why try to remember something when technology will do it for you? We also use a lot of electricity to heat our water. Since gas is cheaper and does a more economical job, Fallowfield will look into switching.

Two women left the meeting as Barb took her 12 month old daughter back to the farm. The remainder consisted of an equal number of women and men. As the meeting continued, the committee heads had their annual reports approved by the congregation. The

business of religion was continuing in a building that was built in the 18th century. A glass and wooden case house the silver trowel used by Sir John A. Macdonald on June 24th, 1886. A Methodist congregation was the first to make the building its home. Near the display are 14 photographs of past ministers and five drawings or photographs of the church.

As the meeting continued, we were reminded to help the finances of the church by buying gift certificates to our favorite grocery stores. We get some kind of kick back from the retailers! See Irene Mowat for the cards.

A new door replaces the drafty one on the south wall. Now the children who play near it will be warmer. The large honey Gund teddy bear will still be irresistible to anyone wanting to cuddle. There had been a toy that was so noisy that it could be heard in the sanctuary. It seems to have been lost. Permanently.

It was over in an hour. As we stood and stretched, most moved to one of the two rubber bins with their empty coffee mugs. The rest stacked the chairs between the photocopier and the strangely shaped cloak rack. It is like the outline of a pyramid that allows 16 choir gowns to be hung with care. None of the 23 plates that are on display on two shelves were used for the doughnuts so we didn't have to wash them. I can't remember them ever being used. It is just as well. Since each has the drawing of a different church, none of them match!

Gary MacDonell

THE MERIVALE ANNUAL MEETING

The Merivale congregation gathered after the worship service on February 18 for the annual business meeting. Attendance totalled fourteen.

Overall, it has been a good year. For the details, consult the annual report. If you have not yet received your copy, you could get one from the church office.

The meeting approved all the individual annual reports for 2006, then affirmed a proposed slate of officers and a proposed budget for 2007.

Treasurer Jim Anderson reported that donations have gone up, with most of the increase occurring

toward the end of the year. Again this year, we have exceeded our goal for M&S donations.

Unusual expenditures during 2006 included re-roofing of the CE Building and repainting of the sanctuary. In addition, the steps in the CE Building were stripped down and resurfaced, thereby correcting a potentially dangerous situation.

During 2007, Merivale will be focussing attention on the CE Building, which was opened 40 years ago, and is showing its age. Arlene Anderson was asked to spearhead a process of assessment and prioritization of the needs for renovations.

Jean Stalker

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Cliff Neill stopped in his tracks as was walking up the steps from the parking lot at Merivale United Church a couple of weeks ago. Along with other members of the choir, he could hear the clear sound of church music coming from the speakers in the steeple. He beamed as we all realized that it was Cliff's voice. His album was being played for all to hear.

"How Great Thou Art" has 14 "Songs of Praise" and costs only ten dollars. How great it is! We have all heard Cliff sing in our churches, but on the compact disc (C.D.), he is accompanied by guitarists Ron Bender and Steve Rothwell. The organ is played by Barbara White, one of our two church organists. Barbara is wonderful at the keyboard. She'll listen to the soloist and slow down or speed up to match the singer. She makes the singer sound so professional.

Among the other surprises on the C.D. are the delightful duets with soprano Mary Betts and alto Eileen Malcolm. Cliff had only to look to our choir to find excellent back up and partners for his duets. Recording was exciting, since it was all new to Cliff, but hard work as well. He has been in Fallowfield's choir since he was 13 years old, and sings most of the lyrics from memory. "With the duets, we had to record three, four, or five times. It is important to have everyone singing the SAME words!" Cliff joked

but he wanted the songs to be perfect.

Cliff Neill is very comfortable in front of the church. Among the special events at our churches, he sang for Fallowfield's 100th Anniversary in 1986. With his love of the congregations, Cliff has wanted to give something back to the churches. For ten years, he has dreamed of making this recording.

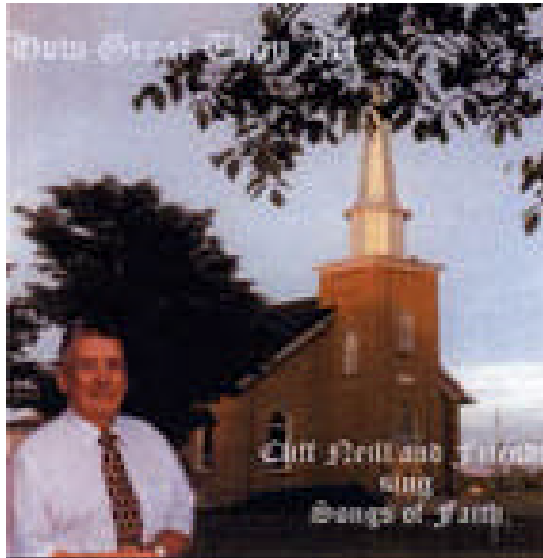
He has always been a member of the Fallowfield Church but has also attended Cedarview Alliance and the Free Methodist on Knoxdale.

His mother sang alto and Cliff just learned to love music. Along with his brother and two cousins, Cliff sang in a quartet from age 15 for about a dozen years. This was during the last years of World War Two. If you are trying to

figure out his age, Cliff was 81 on February 8th.

The C.D. has been re-ordered so please call the Church office at Merivale to reserve one from the next batch. Barbara Fraser, the choir leader, received a nice compliment after a recent service. Someone from the congregation exclaimed that the hymn just sung by Cliff, "should be on the next album." Barb agreed. Cliff knows enough numbers to keep him in the recording studio for years.

Gary MacDonell



World Day of Prayer

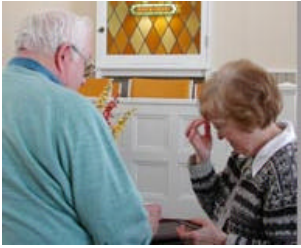
United Under God's Tent

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. The service of worship this year was written by the women of Paraguay. The local group will be meeting at:

Knox United Church, 25 Gibbard Avenue, Ottawa
Friday, March 2, 2007, 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

For the first time this year, the churches held a worship service on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. The service was at Merivale, beginning at 11:30 am.



After prayer, a scripture reading, a hymn and a brief homily, participants were invited to mark their foreheads or hands with wood ashes.

After the service, everyone gathered in the CE Building for a meal of excellent soup and sandwiches.

Will this be done next year? Very likely. Most of those present appeared to find the experience significant and an appropriate opening of the season of Lent.



SYMPATHY



Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Gloria Gartley and family on the loss January 10, 2007 of Gloria's mother **Gertrude Mabel Lloyd**.

Gary Macdonell on the loss December 12, 2006 of his uncle, **Dr. Bobby Copp**. Dr. Copp was in his 89th year. He was a veteran of World War II, played hockey with both the Toronto Maple Leaves and the Ottawa Senators, and practiced dentistry 56 years.

MARRIAGES

Mike Carroll and **Donna Lee Smith** were married at Merivale United Church on New Year's Eve. We wish them every happiness in their lives together.

BAPTISMS

Dylan Todd Malek, son of Todd Malek and Jan Duncan was welcomed into the fellowship of the Christian church at Fallowfield United Church on February 11.

DEDICATIONS

NEW BIBLES: Twenty-five new Bibles have been presented to the Merivale Church, some by the Merivale Quilters and some by individuals. The Bibles were dedicated December 17. On the same day, the church dedicated the hymn board created by Chuck Ross and the table refinished by the Ashby's.

THE FALLOWFIELD CROSS: The beautiful cross in Fallowfield Church was hand-carved by Annie Betts of Millerton, NB. Annie Betts is Don's sister-in-law. The cross was dedicated at the worship service on December 17.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

THE MERIVALE QUILTERS

The cross-stitched "Roses and Ivy" quilt is now completely finished and available for purchase once it has been given a washing to remove the quilting lines. (This is best done in the Spring when it can be laid out flat in the sunshine.) The group takes great pride in the workmanship and is excited about its completion after about 3 years of concentrated labour by a number of the members.

Our efforts now turn to preparations for the October Quilt Show. It has been decided to adopt a "Red Hat" theme in recognition of the "Red Hat" ladies' groups now popular in many countries. A wall hanging, to be sold, is being created with appliquéd red hats which will be embellished with feathers, veils, ribbons, cosmetic jewellery, etc. We are looking for ideas for other theme articles which can be made and sold at the accompanying bazaar---shoe bags, tote bags, scarves, aprons, etc. Speak to any of our members if you can help. The featured colours are reds, pinks,

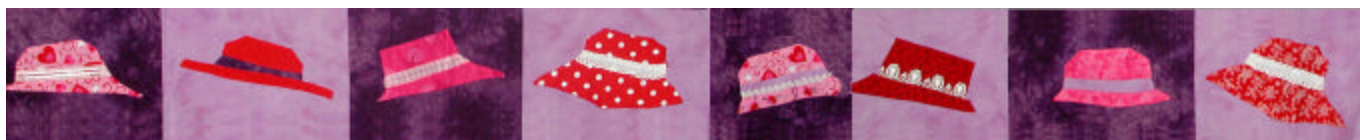
purples, and mauves. Tell all your "Red Hat" friends about our October 20th show!

Another quilt top being quilted by the group, was prepared by one of our members for her granddaughter's 8th birthday. We now have a list of projects waiting to be tackled, and it grows as our work becomes known.

Although our primary purpose is fellowship within our church family, we try to use the proceeds from our work to enhance and support church programs. So, as a group, we are hoping to donate a sum of money to help refurbish and renovate the bathrooms in the C.E. Hall in order to accommodate the various activities held in it.

As always, we welcome visitors any Wednesday morning. Refreshments are served about 10:30 am. Special thanks to the Social Committee for preparing and serving the refreshments.

Sandra Marshall



MERIVALE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The 2006 Christmas Pot luck lunch was a very well attended and everyone enjoyed the food and socializing afterwards.

The Merivale Church Garage Sale will be held on May 12th in the CE Hall. Anyone having items to donate can bring them to the CE Hall on Wednesday mornings or to church on Sunday mornings.

We are also having a Bake Sale that day and will be asking for donations of baked goods.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help set up for the garage sale and be there to help us that day please contact:

Sandy Whittaker- 613-224-8459

Sara Jane Meisner - 613-825-6307.

Pampered Chef Presentation and Luncheon

On Wednesday, March 7, at 11:30 am (after quilting), there will be a Pampered Chef presentation, followed by lunch at 12:30 pm

In addition to the Pampered Chef products, there will be Partylite (candles) and Mary Kay products on display. There will be an opportunity to browse the tables beginning at 1:00 pm

All vendors will be donating monies from their sales to the church.

To reserve a place, please contact:

Sue Deschamps - 613-445-0776

Bean and Ham Supper

Saturday, March 17, 4:30 pm— 7:00 pm

Adults \$7.50; Children 5-15 \$4.00

Proceeds for kitchen & bathroom renovations

Tickets: 613-225-0248



DID YOU KNOW?

HISTORICAL PLAQUE: There's a new plaque on the east wall of Merivale United Church, proclaiming the historical status of the church and the cemetery. The plaque is to be dedicated on anniversary Sunday.



NEW WEBSITE: The United Church has established a website to serve as a "home of open-minded discussion and exploration of spiritual topics, moral issues and life's big questions". The address is

www.wondercafe.ca

Hot topics of the day (February 21) include:

- Why can't United Churches have raffles and lottery...
- Do ghosts exist?
- The Era of the Religious Right is Over



CONGRATULATIONS:

- To **George and Joy Logan**, who celebrated the 60th anniversary of their marriage on November 15, 2006.
- To **Harold Nesbitt** on the contribution that his grandson, Thomas Nesbitt, is making to the Ottawa '67s hockey team. Thomas plays for an experienced coach; Brian Kilrea, recently marked his 2,000th game behind the bench!
- To **Jackie Kawaja**, who has had a short story published in the *Ottawa University Guardian*.
- To **Anna Kawaja** on her successful operation and rapid recovery.
- To **Bud Cummings**, who celebrated a birthday on February 13; we won't say which one.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Offerings totalling \$517 from the two churches went to *Daybreak*, an organization that provides that provides affordable "supportive" homes for low-income single adults in need.



Merivale-and Fallowfield have long been associated with *Daybreak*. Rev. Stewart Hewlett, served for many years as chairman of the Board of Directors and Don Betts and Les Hetherington are actively involved.

Executive Director Monica Siegenthaler visited the two churches in February to thank us for our contributions.



WHERE IS RevStu?: Rev. Hewlett has flown away for a well-deserved holiday in Hawaii



WHERE IS RUTH? Ruth is enjoying a winter break in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.



SPECIAL THANKS: To Chuck Ross for teaching the senior group for the months leading up to Christmas and January. The focus has been the story of Joseph



DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The Ottawa Dutch Choral Society is recruiting new members. You don't have to speak Dutch. The Society practices Tuesday evenings at Merivale.

For more information:

www.dutchchoralsociety.ca

or

613-225-7527





Joseph and Mary



Fitting out a wise man



A halo for an angel



An angel in the wings



Nativity scene



Proclamation of the angels



King Herod



A shepherd keeping watch



Who is that in the stable?

MERIVALECHRISTMAS PAGEANT

In December 2006 we undertook a congregational Christmas Pageant. This idea had been raised at a meeting with Presbytery in the fall. Gayle Ashby kept the idea alive and she and Martin Carnahan provided me with some good materials to pull together into a collaborative script for the service.

The pageant involved the Sunday school, the parents and the congregation. The narrators were Erica Anderson and Brett Ruskin. Sarah Shewan and Brooke Ruskin were lovely angels and also had speaking roles. Mary and Joseph were played by Rachael and Natalie Anderson respectively. Marvin Kealey made a fine shepherd and Mackenzie Kealey and Ainsley O'Connor were pretty angels. Maxwell Shewan dressed as a cow. Benjamin Kelly was a little reluctant to don a costume but we are hoping for next year. The three wise men, Gerry Shewan, Peter Kelly, and Tom O'Connor were a hit, and Glen Ruskin was able to exercise his acting chops as King Herod.

We have had some wonderful feedback not only from our congregation but also from the Dutch Choral Society. They were particularly taken with how well the whole event came together and were very pleased to have been a part of it.

A special thank you to Gayle Ashby, the Quilters and Bev. Ruskin for making some wonderful costumes which will serve us well in future years. I was happy to be able to reuse some of our musical theatre supplies. The crèche was restored by Tom Ashby, who also provided the hay! Special thanks to Jean Stalker for capturing the event on film.

Some of our lambs were "reluctant" as they are still very tiny; next year they should be ready to participate more. Since this first run-through was successful, we will expand the dialogue to include more of the children in the Sunday School and congregation. We are looking forward to next year!

Arlene Anderson



The altar



The accompanists



Setting up



The massed choirs

CHOIR FESTIVAL

The Fallowfield Choir was invited to participate in a Christmas choir festival, which took place on Sunday, December 10. This event was organized by Barrhaven United Church, and our host was St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

Participants included:

- Barrhaven Fellowship Christian Reformed Church
- Barrhaven United Church
- Fallowfield United Church
- Holy Nativity Anglican Catholic Church
- Longfields Community Church
- St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church
- St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

St. Patrick's is a huge building, and very beautiful. The master of ceremonies was Father Tom Riopelle, who repeatedly startled the protestants with his jovial sense of humour.

Each choir sang one number. The choir numbers were interspersed with carols sung by the congregation. Finally, the massed choirs sang "Let there be Peace on Earth".

Fallowfield sang "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem", which we later repeated at both Merivale and Fallowfield; we admit to being very pleased with our performance.

In the midst of the festivities, we weren't allowed to forget those in need. A collection was taken up for the Barrhaven Emergency Food Cupboard.

After all our good works, we gathered in the church hall for refreshments and had a wonderful time.

Yes, we're hoping for an invitation next year! Don't miss it if the opportunity presents itself; it is an uplifting experience.



Father Riopelle



Violin



Recorders



GLIMPSES OF CHRISTMAS AT FALLOWFIELD



The Fallowfield Angels



Refurbishing the choir



Christmas social hosted by the Hetherington family



Annual cookie exchange
(photo from 2005)



Merivale-Fallowfield Newsletter

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Merivale-Fallowfield 2007 Calendar of Events

Friday, Mar 02	World Day of Prayer to be held at Knox United Church, 1:00 pm, 25 Gibbard Avenue (FM)
Sunday, Mar 04	Potluck luncheon and sleigh ride after the worship service at Fallowfield (F).
Wednesday, Mar 07	Pampered Chef presentation by Sue Deschamps and friends, 12 noon in the CE Building.
Wednesday, Mar 07	Merivale Council meeting at 7:00 pm in the church basement (M).
Tuesday, Mar 13	Fallowfield Council meeting at 7:15 pm in the parlour (F).
Wednesday, Mar 14	Pastoral charge meeting at 7:15 pm at Fallowfield. (FM)
Saturday, Mar 17	Bean supper at Merivale (M). 4:30-7:00 pm. Adults \$7.50, children 5-15 \$4.00.
Wednesday, Mar 21	Merivale and Fallowfield Board meeting at Fallowfield, 7:00 pm.
Sunday, Mar 25	Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M)
Sunday, Apr 01	Palm Sunday;.Holy Communion at both churches (FM) Fallowfield Choir singing at both churches. Pancake breakfast after church at Fallowfield.
Thursday, Apr 05	Maundy Thursday service at Fallowfield, 7:30 pm (FM).
Friday, Apr 06	Good Friday service at Merivale, 10:30 am (FM).
Sunday, Apr 08	Easter Sunday (F,M). Fallowfield Choir singing at both churches.
Sunday, Apr 29	Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M).
Sunday, May 06	Merivale anniversary service and potluck luncheon. Service cancelled at Fallowfield to allow the congregation to celebrate with Merivale (FM).
Saturday, May 12	Merivale garage and bake sale (M).
Sunday, May 13	Family day, hosted by the men at Fallowfield (F).
Saturday, May 26	Chicken BBQ at Fallowfield.
Sunday, May 27	Pentecost; Holy communion at both churches. Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M).
Saturday, Jun 02	Merivale participating in <i>Doors Open Ottawa</i> .
Saturday, Jun 02 or 09	Fallowfield Sunday School yard sale (F).

Sunday Jun 03 or 10	Fallowfield anniversary service and brunch. Service cancelled at Merivale to allow the congregation to celebrate with Fallowfield (FM).
Sunday, Jun 17	Fathers' Day.
Sunday, Jun 24	Fallowfield Sunday School year end party (F). Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M).
Sundays, Jul 8 - Aug 26	Lemonade on the lawn after the worship service, both churches (FM)
Wednesday, Aug 15	Corn roast at Merivale, 5:00 pm. All Welcome (FM).
Sunday, Sept 09	Anniversary of the pastor charge. Outdoor service with guest speaker followed by luncheon. Time and place to be announced.
Saturday, Sept 29	Fallowfield annual turkey supper.
Sunday, Sept 30	Coffee hour (with pies!) after church at Fallowfield (F). Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M)
Sunday, Oct 07	Thanksgiving Sunday. World Wide Communion (FM).
Saturday, Oct 20	Quilt show and tea at Merivale.
Sunday, Oct 28	Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M)
Sunday, Nov 04	Coffee after the worship service at Fallowfield(F).
Sunday, Nov 18	Holy communion at both churches.
Sunday, Nov 25	Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M)
Tuesday, Nov 27	Cookie Exchange
Sunday, Dec 02	First Sunday of Advent. Fallowfield white gift Sunday and Christmas luncheon (F)
Sunday, Dec 09	Special coffee hour, hosted by the Hetherington family at Fallowfield(F).
Sunday, Dec 16	Merivale Christmas pageant and potluck luncheon (M).
Sunday, Dec 23	Holy Communion (FM)
Monday, Dec 24	Evening services to be held at both churches. Times to be announced.
Sunday, Dec 30	Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M)