



MERIVALE-FALLOWFIELD

NEWSLETTER

Lent 2003



HE IS RISEN!



Easter Greetings!

If you were writing your life story, what would you choose

for a title? Titles matter. They have to tell the reader what to expect. The title has to be a clue, a snapshot of the contents.

The title for your memoirs will force you to look for some long-term themes and recurring patterns. What you did yesterday, how you coped with that slight, that set back, is not important. It's the larger picture that counts. How can you cope today?

On Easter morning long ago,

one man's life story boiled down to *He is Risen*. Because of that fact, you can take heart. Your story isn't finished yet. You can still change the ending. Christ is risen for you! He is alive!

Join us for worship this Easter and celebrate God's love. The only reason you and I were born is so God could love us.

The Blessings of Jesus Christ,
Martin

In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| He is Risen | 1 |
| About Baptism | 2 |
| Merivale Council | 3 |
| Fallowfield Council | 3 |
| Music in the Tower | 3 |
| Fallowfield News | 4 |
| Merivale Special Events | 5 |
| Merivale Quilters | 5 |
| Merivale Sunday School | 6 |
| Fallowfield Sunday School | 6 |
| Merivale Fellowship | 7 |
| World Day of Prayer | 7 |
| Sympathy | 7 |
| Congratulations | 8 |
| Did You Know | 8 |
| Letter from Spencer Hill | 8 |
| Greetings from Rennebergs | 9 |
| Hugs | 9 |

NOTE: Calendar published with the Newsletter is a separate document on the website.

Fallowfield 118th Anniversary
Sunday, June 8, 2003

Special Speaker: Judith Matheson
(brief biography on page 4)

Luncheon to follow the Worship Service
No service at Merivale

Merivale 127th Anniversary
Sunday, May 4, 2003

Special Speaker: Rev. Stewart Hewlett
Luncheon to follow the Worship Service
No service at Fallowfield

ALL YOU EVER WISHED TO KNOW ABOUT BAPTISM ...

Baptism is one of the two sacraments celebrated in our church. The other is communion. Baptism has become misunderstood over the centuries. It has been considered something magical - something needed to ward off evil. In modern times it has been considered no more than a custom with no special meaning - an excuse for a family get together. Baptism is much more.

The following questions have been asked of me over the years. Perhaps they can be useful in helping increase our understanding.

1. If my child is not baptized, will s/he go to Hell?

This question is based on the feelings and thoughts of a past generation. I feel that God who knows us through and through will not abandon a child in need (Psalm 139). Would the loving, caring God that we worship and love hurt a child?

2. I feel as if I should have the baby done "Jack's" parents would be disappointed if we didn't.

Ouch! We do not "do" children in the United Church. Nothing upsets a minister more than someone asking to have their child "done". A minister friend of mine follows up this question with "How would you like them done, roasted, boiled or fried?" If you want your child done, you are showing that you are not at all sure what you are asking for in baptism.

In baptism:

1) We accept Jesus as God's son (Mark 1:9-11)

2) We become members of Christ's church, participating in Christ's death and resurrection.

3) We accept a common discipleship with baptized people.

4) We accept Christ's invitation to new life.

5) We receive the promise and ask that God's spirit enter the baptized person.

6) We receive forgiveness for sins. (Heb. 10:22, I Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16, I Cor. 6:11)

In baptism you are saying "I belong here and I wish my child to belong". If this is not what you feel, then I would ask you to consider or reconsider why you wish a baptism.

If you take part in a baptism for you or your child, both you and the congregation make serious promises before and to God.

These commitments the church takes very seriously.

3. Do I have to go to church or belong if I am baptized or my child is baptized?

God leaves us free will to make up our own minds, but yes you do make these promises to God at baptism. In fact, I cannot see how to keep the promises you make at baptism unless you do attend church and bring your child/children too.

4. Can a baptism be done at home after church?

In a baptism we are baptized into the Body of Christ. This is usually done in front of the Body of Christ (the church) at worship

(usually Sunday). There are exceptions. For example, health reasons or emergencies, but generally baptism is a public affirmation of faith and is celebrated in church during regular worship.

5. When I am thinking about baptism for my child, what should I do?

If you are not attending church, this is the time to begin. Before you request a baptism, begin attending church for a few months so you become more comfortable with church policy and beliefs. This also allows the congregation to get to know you and your family.

If you are already part of the church, or are in process of becoming a part of the church, then the next step is to contact the minister and ask to have your child baptized (remember **baptized not done**). The minister will meet with your family and talk with you about the meaning of baptism as well as the questions that you will be asked and the promises you will make.

At this point, the minister will present your request for a baptism to the session of the church. The session is made up of a group of elders (people chosen by the congregation) who make policy for the church in a number of areas, including baptism. Once your request has been approved by Session the baptism can proceed.

Rev. Martin

MERIVALE COUNCIL

The primary focus of Council January was the presentation of the annual budget by Jim Marshall prior to the annual meeting; the budget was accepted as presented.

We are grateful for Jim's continuing efforts.

We are sure that everyone has noticed the music that is being played each Sunday

from the Belfry. This was particularly lovely at the Christmas Eve Service. Council is continuing to investigate the most cost effective means of having a permanent sound system in place. Exposure to the elements is a consideration.

Council accepted the resignation of Mervin Healey from Council; his years of

service are most certainly appreciated.

The Accessibility Review Committee has had a request by the Trillium Foundation for future financial statements for 2003, which will be provided.

The next council meeting will be taking place on March 19, 2003.

Arlene Anderson

FALLOWFIELD COUNCIL

Fallowfield Council welcomes new members Bob Armstrong to the Board of Trustees, Gary MacDonell to the Stewards. George and Eva

Giles will take over responsibility for lining up ushers from Merrill and Helen Wilson. Thanks to Merrill and Helen for three years of

dedicated service.

The next Council meeting is March 5 at 7:15 pm.

Barbara Bell



Edward Johnson, the Guelph-born singer and general manager of New York's Metropolitan Opera, once declared, "Music belongs to the masses." With this in mind, we have installed a sound system in the bell-tower at Merivale United. We plan to bring a little melody into an intersection filled with noise.

Over the past few months,

MUSIC IN THE TOWER

Jim Whittaker and I have climbed up and down the tower with speakers in hand. We started with rented equipment from Wall Sound, while Martin and the congregation assessed the situation and decided whether or not the church wanted it as a permanent addition. Then George Giles of Fallowfield helped facilitate a used amplifier and speakers. With the help of Don Henderson, this used equipment was cleaned up and shipped over to Merivale. I took to the

tower once again, while Martin and Tom Ashby stood on guard below in case I crashed through the roof. The equipment is now installed in the tower and every Sunday the sounds of hymns welcome us to the service.

We may need one more visit to the tower to secure some connections. "When does Jim get back? That tower was not made for big guys like me!"

Thomas O'Connor

FALLOWFIELD NEWS

CHURCH PORTRAIT

Artist Elizabeth Ross has completed a graceful pen-and-ink drawing of Fallowfield United Church. A miniature version of the original now graces the masthead of this newsletter, and there will be a framed print in the parlour.

There is also an older companion drawing of the Merivale Church, which is to be updated.



Fallowfield Goes Out For Dinner

Fallowfield is planning a fun fundraiser Saturday night, May 3. Everyone in the church is being invited out for dinner! Well some of us are going to be hosts, but the rest of us will be quests. The evening is for everyone, with quests invited to donate whatever amount they want to directly to the church. We don't know if we will be eating KRAFT DINNER or CHATEAUBRIAND, but one thing is for certain, it will be fun.

Robbie Sprague

FALLOWFIELD ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER

The special speaker at the Fallowfield Anniversary, June 8, will be Judith Matheson, co-coordinator of the United Church Pastoral Care Team at the Ottawa Hospital Civic Site.

Judith believes that creating spiritually nourishing communities can do much to help our world become a

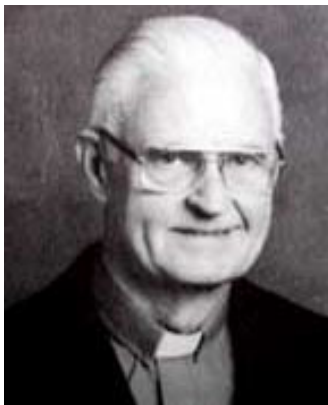
better place. It begins by learning to look after our own deep emotional spiritual needs and becoming better able to take a loving, healing energy of kindness out into our homes and communities. The hope of the church and the world lies in each of us, as individuals growing in relationship with the loving, healing energy of God and bringing that love into all

our relationships, homes and communities.

There is additional information about Judith Matheson on our Website. If you don't have Internet access, please speak to one of the editors and we'll arrange to have it printed for you.

<http://www.fallowfield.geo/fallowfield/speaker.pdf>

HISTORICAL PHOTOS



As many are aware, Fallowfield has a rich heritage and many people have been instrumental in promoting this heritage. Our wall of historical pictures features former ministers, and many congregational photos are featured in the parlour. A former minister, Rev. Fred Hewitt, recently presented our congregation with a collage of photos dating back to 1981.

Many of the children in these shots are now young parents, and those of us who were young adults now see ourselves with grey hair and wrinkles!

These pictures have been a great conversation piece, and we are all very appreciative of Many thanks, Rev. Hewitt!

MERIVALE SPECIAL EVENTS

On March 22, we are holding a **bean supper**, in support of the Stair Trac . Fallowfield's **ice cream social**.. Details in the box at the end of this page.

May 4 is **Merivale 's 127th anniversary**. Rev. Stewart Hewlett is our guest speaker and there will be special music. The service will be followed by a potluck lunch. There will be no worship service at Fallowfield, so that members can join in the celebration with Merivale.

On May 10, we are holding a **plant sale, garage sale, and sale of baked goods**. The sale runs from 10.00 -2:00 pm.

On Saturday May 24th, Merivale will participate in **Doors Open Ottawa**, a City of Ottawa initiative to let the

general public explore buildings that would not ordinarily be open to them. Doors are open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. On Friday, we plan to set up a display of pictures and artefacts, and we will also need greeters for Saturday. If you can work a couple of hours, please let me know so I can co-ordinate participation.

On Sunday, May 25th at 2:00 pm, there will be a **memorial service in the cemetery**. Traditionally, this service has been conducted by the Orange Order, but they are no longer able to do it. Rev. Carnahan has very kindly agreed to officiate and, we hope, St. John's Anglican will join us. Individuals with ties to the Pinecrest Public Cemetery are also invited.

We have a tentative date of August 16 for our **annual corn roast**. This date is subject to revision if the corn crop is not ready.

Quilt Show and Bazaar. This year we are celebrating 20 years of quilting at Merivale and we will be honouring some of our former members. The show takes place Saturday, October 2. If you are working on a craft project over the summer, could you please consider making a copy for the craft table.

This quilt show will probably follow the format we used in 2001 - quilts to see, bake table, crafts, tables to rent. If you have an idea please share.

Gayle Ashby



MERIVALE QUILTERS

The Quilters are working on "A Salute to the Ontario Farm". This quilt is to be their entry in the International Ploughing Match Rural Expo 2003, in Carleton Place this fall. It goes in the class for "over 6 persons" The quilt depicts multiple faces of

Ontario agriculture. It was designed by Gayle Ashby, then appliquéd and quilted with a complementary background by the Quilters. Please join us and add a few stitches to this quilt; we will let them know the total number of people who worked on it.

BIG CONGREGATIONAL PARTY

On March 22, there is a **bean supper at Merivale**, followed by **homemade ice cream at Fallowfield**.

\$5.00 per person (\$15.00 per family) for the supper; freewill offering for the dessert.

Get your tickets early.

RevStu will be officiating at the ice cream freezer.

FALLOWFIELD SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Year is marching along. It's hard to believe that we're about to begin our third portion of the Bible Quest Curriculum, which will take us to the end of June!

At the Annual General Meeting, I had put out a request for anyone who would be interested in joining our Sunday School team. We are planning to split the class into two in September 2003. We have several children (11+ years) who are coming up to confirmation age in the next few years. They would benefit from more "in depth"

discussions. The younger children (4-11 years) will continue in their present class. And the Nursery will remain in the parlour.

I'm pleased to announce that two new members will be joining our Sunday School team. They are Debbi Allen and Jan Malcolm. I am still hoping for one or two more volunteers to help with the teaching and share the responsibility of joining our children every Sunday. If you are interested, please let me know (Sheila Allen 825-8219). Two of our teens have also indicated that they will

help in the Nursery—Ashley Good and Jessy Morin (on Sundays that they are at church). Many thanks to all of you.

Reminder: —Spring is around the corner! Time to start cleaning out those cupboards and closets. The Annual Yard and Bake sale will be held on Saturday June 7, 2003. All donations are always appreciated!

Sheila Allan

MERIVALE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Since Christmas, we have been continuing our lessons from "Bible Quest." We are a little more than half way through, with only five more lessons to go. Most Sundays involve working from our duotangs and finishing with a related craft or game.

We celebrated both Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day. On Groundhog Day, we worked through mazes and search-a-words related to that theme, keeping in mind that God made and loves everything, even groundhogs.

On Valentine's Day, we hunted for toys and candies that were hidden in the

basement of the church. We read a story about how we must love everyone, even our enemies, just as God loves us all. We finished by making Valentine's people and cards for the children's parents.

In recent months, our attendance has dwindled because of illness and winter activities. Congratulations to Sara, who has missed only one Sunday since September, and Brett and Brooke who aren't far behind.

Enrolment seems to be a problem. We no longer have visitors to our Sunday School. Many Sundays we have only one or two children. In the coming months the Sunday

School as a whole will be thinking of our future, if there is one. If anyone has any ideas on increasing our numbers, please share them with me.

Would parents whose children won't be attending Sunday School on a certain Sunday please contact me by e-mail or phone. It only takes a minute.

Wendy Renaud



MERIVALE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

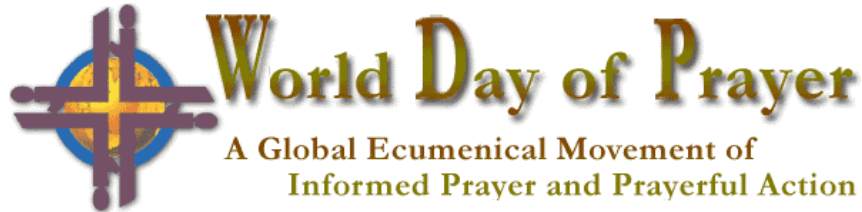
By the time this Newsletter has appeared, we will have finished our study of Lebanon and joined with many other denominations in a World Day of Prayer, planned by the

women of Lebanon. Imagine suffering 17 years of civil war. The women say that they have tried to give the people of the world a feeling of peace, as the Holy Spirit

guides us and we seek God's will in our lives.

These people need our prayers.

Isobel Strath



The World Day of Prayer (Group 19) service will be held Friday, March 7 at Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The women of Lebanon planned this year's service. There are many references to Lebanon in the Bible. Beirut, the capital, and Tyre and Sidon have existed for 6,000 years. It was in

Sidon that Jesus met the Canaanite woman; Paul started his third missionary journey from Tyre. Byblos gave its name to the Bible.

Claire and I attended the planning meeting. There will be artefacts from Lebanon and a great movie. The pastor of the church, Don Miller, will give the sermon.

The service will be followed by refreshments.

Lebanon is recovering from 17 years of civil war. The women of Lebanon ask us to plant a tree as a token of solidarity with them, as they try to replant the areas that were devastated by the war.

Isobel Strath

SYMPATHY



FRY: Sympathy is extended to Hazel Fry and family on the passing of Tom Fry on November 27, 2002. Tom & Hazel joined Merivale United in the 1960's. Tom was a very active member of the Board of Stewards, and the Fry's,

together, took charge of the church grounds. It was Tom who drew the pattern for the Bicentennial quilt that has been hanging in the sanctuary since 1984.

Tom and Hazel eventually returned to Dominion-Chalmers, the church where they were married, but they have often come back to Merivale on special occasions. For our 125th anniversary celebration, they

loaned us a very precious artefact for our display. (M)

JACKSON: Our sympathy goes to Jim and Linda Jackson on the loss of Jim's mother Julia Jackson January 24 in her 95th year. (F)

PETTIGREW: Our sympathy goes to Murray and Helen Pettigrew on the loss on February 23 of Murray's mother Mary M. Pettigrew in her 79th year. (F)

CONGRATULATIONS



To **Rev. Gordon Roberts**, who has been named Ontario Grand Chaplain of the Masonic Order. Rev. Roberts was minister of the Merivale/Fallowfield Pastoral Charge from 1986 to 1996 and is now at South Gloucester. A photograph and additional details are in the February 2003 issue of the United Church Observer.

To **Graham Lancaster**, who has recently graduated from Western University in Civil Environmental Engineering and has started a new job in Calgary as a Civil Design Engineer. Graham and John drove out west together for some last minute father and son bonding. Graham is getting along great in a new

apartment and loves it out there. (Especially the weather!)

To **Florence Dubois** on the birth on February 16 of her great-grandson, Julian Richard.

To **Jennifer Malcolm and Robert Keach**, who are engaged to be married in August.

DID YOU KNOW

- Churchgoers at Merivale are asked to wear **name badges** on the second Sunday of each month. The box of badges will be in the narthex. If your badge isn't there, cards, markers, badge-holders will be at hand, so that you can make one on the spot. The badges help us to recognize and welcome new people, and vice versa.
- Rev Martin has started **church libraries** in the narthex at Merivale and in the church office at Fallowfield. Books can be borrowed, and suggestions or donations are welcome
- There is a **calendar of events** for the full year of 2003 at the end of this Newsletter. Why not copy the important dates into your computer or calendar right now or detach the calendar and hang it on the refrigerator door.
- The **Ottawa Horticultural Society** has a display of photographs of the Merivale Millennium Garden on their Website.

<http://www.geocities.com/otthortsoc/merivale.htm>

LETTER FROM SPENCER HILL

I play hockey for the Goulbourn Rams, a major Atom A team. We played four games and won the Pembroke Regional Silver Stick. That gave us the right to go to the International Silver Stick in Sarnia. In this tournament we won, tied and

lost, so we couldn't go to the finals.

Our team has only lost one game this season; we have started our play-offs and are having fun.



Spencer Hill

GREETINGS FROM THE RENNEBERGS

Before the February 9 service, RevStu sent an e-mail message to the Rennebergs, who have moved to Hawaii, to request an update that could be shared with the Sunday School. The reply didn't come back in time, so we are including Charlene's message in this Newsletter.



Hello Stewart: We were very glad to hear from you. Sorry this won't reach you in time for Sunday school but my Canada.com account wasn't accessible. Oh the problems of technology!

Ian and Jacqueline have settled into their new schools. You were right, by the way, when you thought Jacqueline would have a harder time adjusting. The first month of school was upsetting for her and, therefore, for me. But now she has made friends - actually her little friend's family and our family have become friends.

Mark is doing very well at work. He received a coin of excellence on Friday, of which he is very proud. I'm doing some computer courses in the evenings and on Saturday morning. I'm thinking of returning to the

workforce, and don't want to feel like a complete dinosaur.

The weather is beautiful, although there is a definite cooling during these winter months. I find the Hawaiian people particularly friendly and charming. I've found an Episcopal church nearby which the children and I will attend, but it can't beat Merivale! We certainly miss everyone we met there - yourself included, of course.

Take care and best wishes to all.

Charlene

HUGS

There's something in a simple hug
That always warms the heart
It welcomes us back home
And makes it easier to part.

A hug's the way to share the joy,
And sad times we go through,
Or just a way for friends to say
They like you cause you're you.

Hugs are meant for anyone,
For whom you really care
From your Grandma to your
Neighbour
Or a cuddly teddy bear.

A hug is an amazing thing –
It's just the perfect way
To show the love we're feeling
But can't find the words to say.

It's funny how a little hug
Makes everyone feel good
In every place and language,
It's always understood.

And hugs don't need equipment,
Special batteries or parts –
Just open up your arms
And open up your hearts.

YOU HAVE JUST BEEN HUGGED

Merivale-Fallowfield Newsletter

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