



MERIVALE-FALLOWFIELD NEWSLETTER

Advent 2004



*Words
from the
Minister*

A FAIRY TALE CHRISTMAS

"Once upon a time . . ." That's how fairy stories usually begin. Most of us know what follows –

Goldilocks and the three bears.

Cinderella and the ugly sisters.

Baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men.

For most of us, the Christmas story sounds for all the world like a fairy story.

A young girl has a baby in the barn at the back of a country pub. Drovers and farm hands come to see what is going on. A choir of angels on hand, just for added effect. Then extraordinary stories about a moving star, voices in the sky and a migration of wise men. Just the stuff of fairy stories. It has a special kind of magic.

Every age produces its fairy stories. We remember them from our own childhood. That's part of the appeal. It's easy to drift into a fantasy world of wicked witches and fairies with magic wands. We can recognize familiar elements – ugly sisters or kindly old grandmothers – but it's another world. It's like Disneyland – one big fantasy.

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ABOUT ADVENT

During Advent, it is our custom to light the candles of the advent Wreath. Each Sunday of Advent a new candle is lit until all four are lit on the Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Eve, we light the central candle proclaiming the coming of God into our darkness.

The Wreath is covered with "evergreens" to symbolize eternal life. The wreath, in the form of a circle, has no beginning and no end, symbolizing eternity – God everlasting. May we enter this season of Advent in anticipation of Christmas – in **HOPE – PEACE – LOVE AND JOY.**



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Words from the Minister
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That's what gives these stories their appeal. The recognizable earthliness of the stories, mixed with the element of mystery in which the impossible actually happens.

In *Jurassic Park*, a family is on an outing when dinosaurs confront them. Two worlds, ancient and modern, come together. It's fantastic, straight from the imagination of Steven Spielberg.

Again, like *Jurassic Park*, the gospel brings two worlds together. A pregnant girl is told that her child will be the Son of God. The baby is born in a barn. Shepherds on a nightshift are confronted by a choir of angels; a caravan of wise men adds a touch of wisdom to the drama.

The frog turns into a prince.
The ugly duckling turns into a swan.
The babe in the manger becomes the Christ of the Cross.

If Spielberg seems fantastic, what about this? Is it just too good to be true? Or maybe it's too true to be good?

The child comes to a world where everything is familiar, yet the very presence of the Christ child makes the familiar seem strange, like a fairy story. It's a coming together of two worlds, divine and human, in a remarkable encounter.

"Our God contracted to a span incomprehensibly made man."

Incredible stories have been told about this event; stories so remarkable that if they really did happen, such events would be

unique in the history of the world.

Did it happen, or is it just a fairy story? One thing is certain; this child was unique in the history of the world, and the Christian faith stands or falls upon this conviction of the identity of the child. Christians hold that through this decisive act, God entered into human life. To say that's fantastic suggests that it's fantasy!

It's more than that. It's true

Martin



AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Christmas can be the loneliest time of the year for people who are economically and socially disadvantaged. Centre 507 tries to meet some of the needs of these people.

At this time of the year, clients of 507 need warm winter clothing and personal toiletries for comfort and morale.

There will be boxes at both churches to gather items for them.

The Centre is a day program of the City of Ottawa, and an outreach ministry of McLeod-Stewarton United Church and Montreal/Ottawa Conference.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

- Nov 24** Party – Merivale Fellowship
- Nov 28** First Sunday of Advent
- Nov 30** Cookie Exchange (F)
- Dec 04** White gift rehearsal (F)
- Dec 05** 2nd Sunday of Advent
Christmas potluck (F)
- Dec 05** White gift Sunday (F,M)
- Dec 12** 3rd Sunday of Advent
Christmas potluck (M)
- Dec 19** 4th Sunday of Advent
Communion (F, M)
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services
6:30 Merivale
8:00 Fallowfield
- Dec 31** New Year's Eve Party (F,M)



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the coming year. We are all doing well, the children have grown so much you'll hardly recognize them. We miss Canada and are looking forward to coming home in 2005.

The Renneberg family

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

We welcomed two distinguished speakers during the month of November.



Our Remembrance Day speaker was **Brigadier-General (retired) Jeffrey Brace, CD**.

After a distinguished military career, and a second career as a museum director, Brig-Gen Brace is now on the Executive of the Organization of Military Museums in Canada (OMMC), a member-at-large of the Air Force Association of Canada, and a facilitator for the Canadian Cancer Society. There is a more complete biography of Brig-Gen Brace in the Fall Newsletter, which is also available on both websites.

The Fallowfield Choir sang at both churches, and piper Colin Abbott played the last post and reveille. At Fallowfield, Graham and Cameron Airth read "In Flanders Fields"; at Merivale, the reader was Natalie Anderson.



Rev. Fritz Clarke was with us November 14. Rev. Clarke is Director for Program Re-Integration of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care (OMCSRC).

He told us about the extreme difficulties experienced by people leaving the criminal justice system in reconnecting with society. He outlined about the support the OMCSRC provides to assist discharged prisoners in rebuilding their lives.

"Except for willing hands to serve and hearts to love, I don't think the terrible disease of being lonely and unwanted can ever be cured"

Mother Teresa

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7



MERIVALE COUNCIL



Items of note from the Sept./Oct/Nov. meetings are:

Jim Whittaker has stepped down as Council chair. Bob Meisner has agreed to act as chair with Jim as co-chair.

Bob has stepped down as chair of Trustees and Dave Cooney has accepted to act as chair.

Dave is looking for someone to take over rental and insurance activities. These changes will be formalized at the annual meeting.

A new sign advertising Merivale Church, to be erected at the corner of Merivale and Highway 16, was approved.

The use of fluorescent bulbs in lieu of incandescent bulbs will be investigated in an attempt to reduce electricity costs. Chances are that the dimmers for the Church ceiling lights will no longer be used if this change is made.

The posting of proper dishwashing procedures to include sanitizing was approved for the CE Hall.

Jim Whittaker



Annual reports for the year 2004 are due January 12.

Ruth Kawaja

GOOD NEWS

You have probably noticed a much cleaner church these past few weeks. It's all thanks to our new cleaners, Elizabeth Hammersley and Sigrid Cormier. Sigrid and Elizabeth are members of the Merivale congregation, and will be cleaning both churches weekly, as well as for weddings, hall rentals and other special events. They have done a wonderful job of cleaning areas that have been neglected at both Churches; please join me in welcoming them!!

Questions or comments should be addressed to the trustees of the churches, not to Elizabeth or Sigrid.

Murray Airth



Sigrid Cormier, Elizabeth Hammersley

FALLOWFIELD TRUSTEES

The renovations to the church have been completed and the Stair-Trac has arrived and is in the parlour. A thank you to everyone who worked on this project.

A hot water tank was donated by a church member who wishes to be anonymous. A thank you to Greg Hautom, the plumber and Bill Brophy, the electrician who gave their

time and supplies for the installation of the tank. This extra tank will be used when the church is catering to a large event.

Ronald Mowat

FALLOWFIELD SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Again this year our Turkey Supper was a great success. We served 507 plates and made a profit of \$5200.00.

The food left over from the supper went to Centre 507.

this another successful social event.

A thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make

Irene Mowat



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GOOD

FALLOWFIELD COOKIE EXCHANGE AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Are you ready for Christmas? Would you like to get in the "Spirit" and also stock up your freezer? Plan on attending the Fallowfield Cookie Exchange on November 30 at 7:00 pm.

The first portion of the evening is held in the basement. Everyone offers some of their favourite Christmas delicacies – cookies, squares, candy, Christmas cake, etc. etc.

Wrap your items in ½-dozen size packages. If you would like to exchange 6 dozen items, you would bring 6 dozen items. If you are trying to stick to a diet, and wish to exchange 1 dozen items, bring 1 dozen.

If you don't like to bake, don't worry. Come and have some fellowship, a warm drink, and take part in a very informal worship service. We meet in the church sanctuary, usually

be candlelight, for readings, carols and meditation. It certainly seems to get everyone into the proper frame of mind.

Everyone is welcome. The event started as a ladies' evening, but has extended to men and women, and we welcome both congregations. Come and bring a friend.

Barbara Fraser

FALLOWFIELD SUNDAY SCHOOL

Another Sunday School year is well under way. We are holding two classes as well as the nursery. Every week we get to see our regular and new members attending!

Remember to mark in your calendar two dates.

Saturday December 4 Our Sunday School White Gift Service Rehearsal

We'll meet at the church at 9.30 a.m. and parents can drop their children off at that time. Lunch will be provided and children can be picked up around 12 or 12.30 p.m.

Sunday December 5: White Gift Pageant and Service followed by the annual Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

As many of you know, this will be my last year as the Head of the Sunday School at Fallowfield. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for the Superintendent's position can contact me to get the "low down" on the job. We have a great group of teachers and supporters and I plan to be available for back-up support. Contact me at church or give me a call—Sheila Allen 825-8219.

MERIVALE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The fall season for the Sunday School is off to a good start. There are five families and nine children participating. Brett Ruskin, and Natalie and Rachael Anderson, all in high school, will move on to form a confirmation class. The class will be taught by Rev. Carnahan and will commence shortly.

The children are split into two groups, those over and those under six years of age. This appears to be working well and we are remaining flexible to accommodate any child that may join the group. We have a calendar and rotation of teachers including myself (Arlene Anderson), Bev

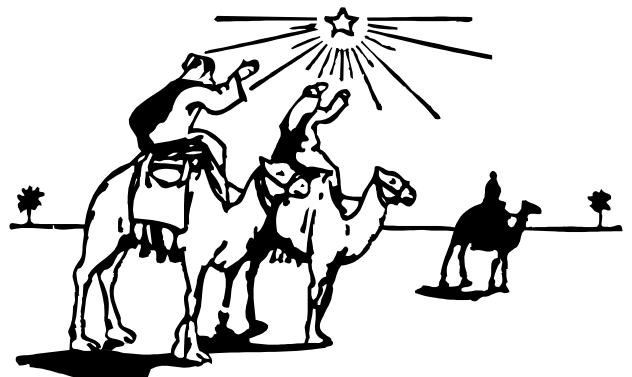
Ruskin, Chuck Ross, and Gerry and Joanne Shewan. Jill Hollingsworth, Claire Davis and Glenys Carnahan have offered their assistance. We are following the curriculum outlined in "Through the Bible in a Year" in the Children's Bible Study Series. This was also used last year.

We have had the pleasure of having Bob and Sara Jane Meisner's grandchildren, Daniel and Caitlin, participating this fall. We will miss them greatly, but will be very happy for them when they are back at home

in the Cayman Islands and reunited with their parents.

For Christmas, we are planning that the entire group will make several large fabric banners for the Church. We are currently obtaining fabric and working on the designs. The children will be starting them on November 28th.

Arlene Anderson



They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:9

MUSIC IN OUR CONGREGATIONS



A joint choir practices every Thursday evening at Fallowfield Church under the dedicated leadership of our choir director, Barb White and our organist, Tamar Shostakovsky. We prepare special music for important church services, such as

Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day and especially the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

We welcome all who enjoy 'making a joyful noise unto the Lord'. We have a few men who would welcome

some more manly voices, and we would love to be able to fill the choir loft at both churches. You don't need previous experience. Come and join us any Thursday evening at 7:00.

Barbara Fraser

SPECIAL VISITORS



We recently had the opportunity to meet James and Robert, who were visiting with their grandparents, Bob and Sara Jane of Merivale United Church.

The boys have recently enjoyed a family cruise with their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

MERIVALE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our year began September 30, with a good attendance.

On December 8, we plan to make up gift baskets for house-bound members.

We have sent a donation of \$25.00 to "The Mission" on Waller Street. A church breakfast, in support of "The Mission" has been rescheduled to early April 2005.

We're planning a potluck luncheon for November 24 and looking forward to the congregational Christmas dinner after church on December 12.

Lila Hird

ANNIVERSARY

The year 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the association between the Fallowfield and Merivale United Churches. A couple of ideas have been put forward to kick off the celebration on New Year's Eve.

(a) Bus trip to **Upper Canada Village** to see the lights, then return to the C.E. Hall for a



Merivale-Fallowfield
1955 - 2005

late potluck meal or pizza and to welcome in the New Year. The cost would be about \$20.00 per person.

(b) Bus tour around **Ottawa** to see the lights, then return to the C.E. Hall for a potluck supper and to welcome in the New Year. The cost would be about \$5.00 per person

If you are interested, or might be interested, please contact Martin, Ruth, Murray or Gayle.

OUR HISTORY

ORAL HISTORIES

I am interviewing senior members of Fallowfield Church and recording their memories of the church. I hope to get in one more interview before Christmas and, of course, to continue on into 2005. I hope you will eagerly say "yes" when I call.

George Giles

and City View United Church for permitting us to copy their pictures and to Bruce W. Taylor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in New Liskeard for sending us a photograph and biography of Rev. J. R. Urquhart.

The frames for these photographs were purchased by the Merivale Fellowship Group.

Jean Stalker

National Presbyterian Museum in Toronto.

Al has been very helpful to us in providing information on the early ministers of this congregation and recommending sources of data for pre 1925 Presbyterian history.

At present, he is doing some research on Rev. Archibald Cameron, who was at Merivale from 1906 until 1909.

FORMER MINISTERS

We are attempting to gather photographs of all of our former Merivale ministers for the "gallery" in the church basement.

Of a total of 24, we now have 18 and two more have been promised. We are still searching for four: Rev. John (?) McClung and Rev. Donald Fletcher (both between 1868 and 1872), Rev. Robert Megaw (1925-1927), and Rev. J. H. Osterhaut (1943-1946). We are indebted to Fallowfield United Church

VISITING HISTORIAN

On October 8, a small group from Merivale (Rev. Carnahan, Gayle Ashby, Vera Hamman and Jean Stalker) enjoyed a visit with Al Clarkson. Al had previously been known to us only through electronic mail.

Al Clarkson is a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Scarborough and the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History. He is also involved with the



Al Clarkson

MERIVALE QUILTERS

Wednesday mornings are a hive of activity. There are often a dozen stitchers around the two quilt frames or working on cross-stitch blocks. Another half dozen kitchen, garden and maintenance workers add to the busy hum.

An ideal Christmas present! Do you know of a young person who would like a Harry Potter wall hanging for a bedroom wall? The quilters have one for sale (\$60). Contact one of us or view it any Wednesday morning.
Sandra Marshall



MOWAT ANNIVERSARY



Rev. Carnahan, Ron Mowat, Irene Mowat, Rev. Hewlett

Congratulations to **Ron and Irene Mowat**, who marked their 40th anniversary on October 31. A crowd of about 75 gathered September 26 at the home of Tracie and Brian Burnett to celebrate this milestone.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Ron and Irene Mowat** on the birth October 15 of a granddaughter, Jordyn Burnett, daughter of **Tracie and Brian Burnett**.

To parents **Dobin and Trish Surette**, big brother **Karl Surette** and grandparents **Don and Elly Good** on the baptism October 24 of Taylor Piernella Gail Surette.

To **Tom and Amberlee O'Conner** on the baptism October 31 of their daughter Ainslee Jaidan.

To **Jennifer Ashby and Danny Beckett**, who have announced their engagement. They plan to be married next fall.

To **Robert Mooney and Katrine Hendricksen** on the baptism November 21 of Nikolas Robert Mooney.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Orchids to **Dave Lyon** for his work in marketing honey products in support of the CGIT

- We stand in awe of **Ruth Kawaja** and **George Giles**, both of whom lent a hand with the canola harvest at the **Mowat** farm. Ruth was deemed to be more photogenic than George, so we're using her picture!



Ruth Kawaja on the combine

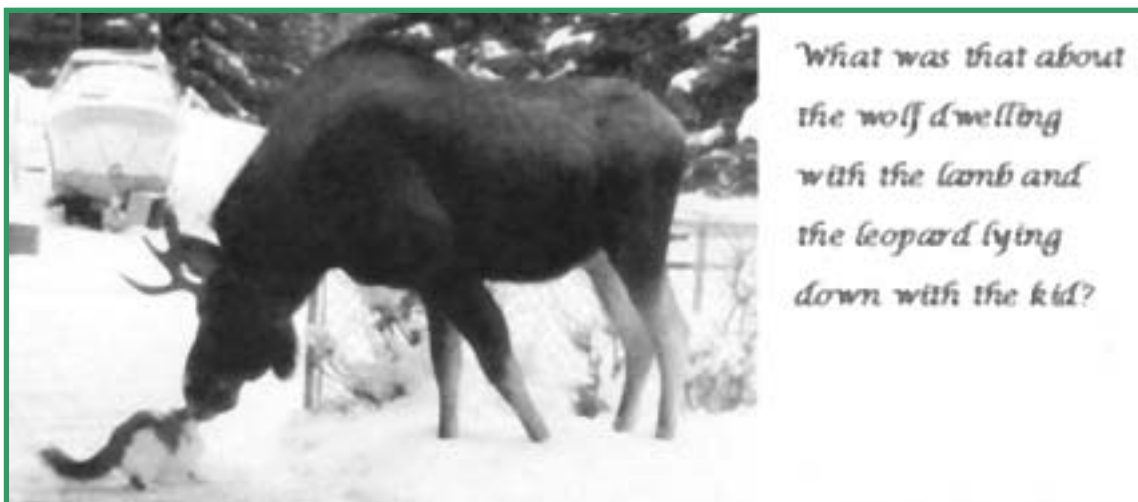


- **Gary MacDonell** has a hidden talent – hidden until now, that is. Gary made and donated our new Fallowfield mailbox. Thanks. Perfect timing; our old one was in rough shape.

- **Kent Fraser** recently participated in a 4-H competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. This competition, known as “Go for Gold”, features questions about 4-H projects across Ontario.

The Leeds County team, of which Kent is a member, competed first at the county level, later at the regional level, and lastly at the “Royal”. The team played three preliminary games followed by a semi-final and then a final game, and they were matched against all five other regions of Ontario. The four-person team also included Melanie McMillan-Chisolm, Ian Verburg and Cole Verburg. These keen young people received rosettes from the Royal, as well as certificates from Ontario 4-H.

(Kent answered correctly the question about the recent 4-H opportunity which allows the winner to dine out anywhere in the world. Our own lucky Don and Elly Good won this trip in the spring!!)



MERIVALE CHILLI SUPPER

On November 13, the two congregations and assorted guests had a rollicking good time at the annual Merivale chilli supper. Once again, Bob Meisner presided as chef, but this time he was ably supported by multiple sous-chefs. A total of approximately 75 partook of the feast. Congratulations to all those who made this happen.

SANDY'S GARDEN

We have just received a photograph of Sandy Whittaker's garden, featuring some of the bounty from our spring plant sale. Brings back happy memories and hopes for the future!



Merivale-Fallowfield Newsletter

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