



MERIVALE-FALLOWFIELD NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006



*Words
from the
Minister*

SUDDENLY THE PIECES START TO FIT

Last Christmas we got a 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle. I had forgotten how hard they can be – especially when the picture is a reproduction of a painting done in muted tones. This one had no hard edges and no distinctive patterns to make assembly easier.

Glenys and I spent hours over that puzzle. (Did I mention I hate jigsaws?) We ended up identifying the pieces by the texture of the paint and the texture of the brush stroke. Gradually the full picture emerged.

Just when you feel you are getting nowhere, when

you're idly putting in a piece here and there, suddenly you discover that a whole lot of pieces have fallen into place. You can actually see the picture taking shape.

Perhaps that's how life works too. We keep trying to fit the pieces together as they come to hand. Periodically we add a few new pieces and see how they fit together. Often nothing much seems to be happening – until we stand back and discover a picture taking shape in a way that we never expected.

Faith is one of those pieces. We fit it in where we can. Sometimes it doesn't make much sense but we keep trying it. And then unexpectedly, as Paul wrote to the Colossians, "the hidden mystery is made manifest".

Martin

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Fallowfield Anniversary

Celebrating 120 years

June 4, 2006 at 9:30 am

Speaker: Rev. Stewart Hewlett

Music: The Fallowfield Choir

BBQ after the worship service

Service cancelled at Merivale so that we can all celebrate with Fallowfield

HERE WE ARE AGAIN

The church year runs from July 1 to June 30. Most ministers spend time evaluating their (our) ministry during this period.

What has happened over the past year? Where are we going? What are the blessings that have occurred? Are there things that did not work as well as they should? I do this every year at this time. Sometimes I have shared my

notes and thoughts with you, other times not.

First of all, I wish to thank the members and adherents of both churches for their continued and continuing hard work over the past year.

If I begin mentioning everything I will end up omitting something so I am going to focus on two areas. First of all we continue to grow and be very welcoming and friendly places. I hear

that from the newcomers who enter our doors. Secondly, we more open to new ideas and worship than we have been. Not change for change sake, but change when it is helpful.

Let us continue our walk together in Christ Jesus, knowing that wherever we go we walk together.

God Bless,

Martin

MERIVALE COUNCIL



Merivale Council has been kept busy during the winter months with several projects, not the least of which was the painting of the Church and the pews. Many thanks to Arlene Anderson for co-coordinating the painting of the Church and to Tom & Gayle Ashby, Bud Cummings, Chuck Ross, and Sara Jane Meisner, who

assisted yours truly in painting the pews. It sure improves the appearance of the Church.

The C.E. hall roof needs to be replaced within the next year, as shingles can be seen flying off every time we experience a windstorm. It is estimated that this could cost approximately \$8000.00. Council will need to look into methods of financing this repair.

Council is still looking for someone to take over as a rental coordinator for the church buildings. In the meantime, Dave Cooney and

Bob Meisner have agreed to split the duties, covering for each other when the other is unavailable.

Reverend Carnahan will be on holiday June 19 to July 4.

Reverend McDowell, who served Merivale United Church in the early 60's, was our 130th anniversary speaker.

The last Council meeting before September will be at 7:00 pm, Wednesday May 31 at Merivale.

Bob Meisner

Fallowfield Yard and Bake Sale

In Support of the Sunday School

Saturday, June 3, 2006, from 8:00 am

Don't miss it!

Info: Sheila Allen 825-8219

MERIVALE 130th ANNIVERSARY



On May 7, Merivale celebrated the 130th anniversary of the first service of worship in our church building. We were honoured to have among us Mrs. Walter Packman, grandniece of Rev. Robert Whillans who built the church in 1875/76.

The Fallowfield congregation joined us for the occasion, as did many other friends and former members. Our anniversary speaker was Rev. William McDowell, who was minister of the Merivale-

Fallowfield Pastoral Charge from 1962 to 1966.

Dr. McDowell discussed such books as "The Da Vinci Code", "The Jesus Papers", "The Gospel of Mary" and "The Judas Gospel" which have emerged of late and have been claimed to provide new insight into Christian origins. He emphasized the importance of holding to the core message of the gospel.

The scripture lesson was read by Gerald Shewan.

The Fallowfield Choir sang:

- We are God's People by Bryan Jeffery Leach, music by Johannes Brahms;
- Reach Out and Touch by Charles F. Brown;
- There is a Redeemer by Melody Green.

After the worship, there was an excellent luncheon,

coordinated by Sandy Whittaker and the Social Committee.

It was a great pleasure for the longer-term members to renew acquaintance with Dr. McDowell and Mrs. McDowell, as well as other friends who had returned for the occasion.



Rev. Martin Carnahan and Rev. William McDowell cutting the cake at the Merivale Anniversary.

PRESBYTERY WORKSHOP

On April 1, 2006, Rev. Carnahan, Irene Mowat and Gayle Ashby attended a workshop at Kingsway United Church. The workshop was lead by Rev. Lillian Roberts, the Presbytery Minister, and dealt with, where we are and where we are going.

There was a good representation of Ottawa churches. Most were asking the same questions we do.

How do we keep our buildings open? How do we increase our numbers? Are we doing our part in the community? In what areas can we improve? What if we cannot keep our building open?

One church had the problem of raising funds for a new building. It takes a lot of cash to build; is it fair to make this

commitment for the next generation?

An extremely interesting and learning 4 hours. In the near future we will be sharing our information. Do we want to be a family church, a pastoral church; which can we afford? What do you see in the future for our Church? You will be hearing more from this workshop

Gayle Ashby

FALLOWFIELD SUNDAY SCHOOL



With spring upon us we just celebrated a wonderful Mother's Day by presenting the ladies of the church with heart shaped candles from the Sunday School (a small gift from our hearts!)

Up next is our annual Sunday School Yard Sale, which is to be held on June 3, 2006 at the church. Sheila Allen is

organizing the sale for us and if you have any items you would like to donate please contact Sheila or bring your items to the church Sunday mornings between now and June 3 or on Friday June 2, 2006 between 5 pm and 9 pm. Sheila is also looking for volunteers to help with the Yard Sale Friday June 2, 2006 from 5 pm to 9 pm (pricing and receiving items) and Saturday June 3, 2006 from 7:00 am on.

On Sunday June 18, 2006 we will be celebrating Father's Day with Sunday Sundaes

(where the men are served ice cream sundaes). The Sunday School year will wrap up with our picnic on June 25, 2006. We hope you can join us for these special events.

We have had a great year in the Sunday School and we would like to thank all of those who helped to make it possible. Have a safe and happy summer and we will see you again in the fall.

*Erica Armstrong –
Superintendent*

MERIVALE SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY

It is hard to believe that the Sunday School Season is nearing an end. We are truly blessed with a wonderful group of healthy, happy intelligent children. There is a great deal of activity in the Nursery each week and it is great to see the babies growing and responding. Congratulations to Lochlan Scott, Madyson Gallagher and Ben Kelly on being baptized, with proud parents and family in attendance.

The older children this term have covered a wide variety

of material, which has been tied into the season. Emphasis was placed in the lessons on events leading up to and after Easter.

Just a reminder that there is no Sunday School on June 4th as there is no service at Merivale.

The last day of official Sunday School will be Father's Day June 18th. We will be having an end of year party with games and treats for the kids!

Hopefully it will be a nice day and we can go outside.

A special thank you to everyone who has helped out this year, and to all of the parents who have made the year a pleasure.

Arlene Anderson



VISITORS IN THE PULPIT

We are very grateful to Rev. Neil Parker and Lay-Preacher Frank Hare for conducting the services at both churches while Rev. Martin was on holiday, April 23 and April 30.

MERIVALE QUILTERS

The *Roses and Ivy* cross-stitch quilt is finally on the frame and the first quilting stitches have gone into it! Elizabeth Hammersley was accorded the honour of taking the first stitch. This was a day of celebration for all those who have worked for so long to prepare the top. The materials were purchased three years ago, and since then more than 1200 hours have been spent in the preparation. Many more hours will be needed for quilting and binding. Then the finished work will be for sale.

What would you estimate it's worth?

We have such a number of workers coming out each week that we will be putting a second large quilt into a second frame to keep everyone busy. There is usually a small crib quilt on the go as well. Crib quilts have recently been presented to Lochlan Scott and to Madyson Gallagher after their baptisms.

The Quilters especially want to thank Sandy Whittaker, Sara Jane Meisner, Florence

DuBois, and Claire Davis, who set up and serve coffee, tea and sweets for an increasingly large number of quilters and other workers. We celebrated three birthdays during our Wednesday coffee time and sang to Tom Ashby, Shirley Donegani and Isobel Strath, mistakenly ushering Belle into a new decade!.

Drop in to see our creations any Wednesday morning. It's a time for friendship and laughter.

Sandra Marshall

MERIVALE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group is happy to have Isobel Strath back at the helm and in greatly improved health. The Fellowship Group, in conjunction with the Quilters, held an old-fashioned afternoon tea, and everyone

enjoyed looking back at "the way we were". Silver tea sets were brought in by Isobel Strath, Sara Jane Meisner, and Vera Hamman; Isobel and Molly Boyd poured.

We were saddened, this month, by the loss of Charlotte Greer. Charlotte had been secretary of the Group for many, many years before declining health kept her away.

Lila Hird

OLD FASHIONED TEA PARTY



Molly Boyd, Gayle Ashby, Shirley Donegani, Vera Hamman, Annette Boudreau, Claire Davis, Isobel Strath and Erma Roach at the tea. Photo by Lois Long

It's a long time since the silver tea service has been used at Merivale United. On Sat. April 29, we held an old-fashioned tea party. There were fine china tea cups, fancy sandwiches (even cucumber), and wonderful cookies and squares. Ladies were dressed in fancy gowns with hats and white gloves.

Eileen Malcolm and Mary Betts of the Fallowfield Choir entertained with songs from the twenties, the thirties and the forties. The comments were this was fun, and that is what it was meant to be, **FUN**. We all need a tea party once in a while.

Gayle Ashby

DAYBREAK

On May 5, many of us enjoyed a concert at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in the Glebe. For only \$15 dollars, we heard two hours of singing by the Kingston Cantabile Women, their Children's Choir, and Ottawa's Regional Youth Choir.

As we took in the beauty of this grand church, about 8,000 people in the city had no place to live.

Homeless? In a "fat cat" city like Ottawa? Yes. Our unemployment rate is similar to the national average of 7%, or about 35,000 in Ottawa can't find a job.

It is a myth that the homeless are "mostly middle-aged men with mental health problems and addictions", says Dr. Tim Aubry, University of Ottawa. In reality, they are homeless because of discrimination by landlords or neighbours, inability to understand their rights, difficulty in managing money or language or literacy problems.

Being without a place to sleep could happen to anyone. Nationally accepted housing standards suggest we should pay less than 30% of our income for rent. In Ottawa, in 2001, 65,620 households were paying more than that. People are one paycheque away from losing it all. Every year, more workers are getting only minimum wage, and at 40 hours a week, 50% has to go for a bachelor apartment. Many on minimum wage only get to work an average of 26 hours. If a couple could get 40 hours each, then they might get a place for 30% of their income. However, each child adds 8% to that housing cost. It is no surprise that 71% of

homeless families are single mothers.

As we listened to the combined choirs with their rendition of Gustav Holst's Ave Maria, about 11% of Ottawa's families were trying to get by with "low incomes". They spend more than half their money on the three basics: food, clothing, and shelter. Fran Klodawsky of Carleton University has written that the United Way discovered that recent immigrants, aged 25 to 44 years old, with university degrees are four times more likely to be unemployed than Canadians. Generally, those without a place to stay were evicted in 29% of the cases, couldn't pay the rent (23%) or couldn't get along with their families, partner or roommates (21%).

Each night, a thousand stay in emergency shelters. This may seem unbelievable, but you don't have to convince Rev. Bob Percival. In 1982, along with leaders from seven local churches, he started an organization that now has five homes. "I have been very kindly called 'Father Daybreak'", says Rev. Percival. On April 26, 2006 he was honoured with an award from our Rev. Stewart Hewlett for helping to create the residences that have given hundreds of men and women a place to stay.

Besides RevStu, Don Betts from Fallowfield is also on the



Daybreak Board of Directors. When the homeless arrive at our doors, "they all have broken spirits," says Don, but it warms his heart when a former homeless person gets stronger and moves on. Women stay about a year, the men 18 months and some much longer. "All live in disadvantaged circumstances on very limited income," describes Monica Siegenthaler, the Executive Director. But as a resident has said, "Daybreak gave me back the strength to move on with my life again."

The choir evening was a fundraiser for Daybreak, one of only nine agencies that provides 500 units of supportive housing. About 2,000 people are on the waiting list. The \$15 that we paid at the door that night would almost pay for a Daybreak room for a long weekend. They need at least \$1,000 a year for each of their 44 rooms. There are 18 women in two houses, and 27 men in the other three homes.

The Mission's Executive Director, Diane Morrison, says, "Most people who are homeless wish to have stable housing that offers a sense of community." The City of Ottawa helps about 3,000 households a year by assisting tenants resolve disputes with landlords. But still, life is shorter on the street. Saint Paul University studied 25 deaths among the homeless in 2002 and found that the average age of men was 52 when illness got the better of them. The average age for women who died on the street was 39.

You can help. Learn more at www.DaybreakHousing.com or call them at 613-236-8070.

Gary MacDonell

THE NESBITT SCRAP BOOKS

Harold Nesbitt has recently presented Merivale United Church with the scrap books that had been kept over many years by his mother, Bertha Stapledon Nesbitt.

The books carry a great diversity of clippings, including announcements of births, marriages and deaths; church, Canadian and world news; recipes; knitting patterns; poetry, etc., etc.

The entries span the years from 1920 to 1940. They provide a very interesting insight into life in that era.



Bertha Nesbitt (centre) with Myrtle Lytle and Thomas Dalton Nesbitt at the time of the Merivale Centennial

Thomas Dalton Nesbitt and Bertha Stapledon Nesbitt lived on a farm immediately adjacent to Merivale United Church; in fact, the land occupied by the CE Building, was once part of the Nesbitt farm.

The Nesbitts had five children: Charles Morley, William Phillip, Phyllis Levina, Harold Lemoine and Stanley Edward, of whom only Harold survives.

Harold has four children: Nancy, Kathy (Howard), David and Mary.

The beautiful stained glass window in the north wall of the church is a memorial to Thomas Dalton Nesbitt and Bertha Stapledon Nesbitt.

Jean Stalker

OUR WEBSITES

The Merivale church website has recently been revised. We are now putting some of Rev. Martin's sermons on line, as well as news bulletins, quilting projects and some cemetery linkages. The Fallowfield site has been given minor updates pending

arrangements for more active management.

Comments, suggestions and offers to help are all very welcome. You can view these pages at:

http://www.geocities.com/Fallowfield_geo
<http://www.geocities.com/MerivaleUC>

In addition to the sermons, the websites include a full-colour version of the

newsletters. If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of the on-line newsletters, please give your e-mail address to Jean Stalker or Gary MacDonell. (Your address will be treated as confidential and used only for messages from the church)

Jean Stalker

GEMS FROM CHURCH BULLETINS

- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.
- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm – prayer and medication to follow.

Compiler unknown

HOW TO LIVE LONGER

1. Try everything twice.

On Madam's tombstone (of Whelan's and Madam) she said that she wanted this epitaph: "Tried everything twice...loved it both times!"

2. Keep only cheerful friends.

The grouches pull you down. (Keep this in mind if you are one of those grouches;)

3. Keep learning:

Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain get idle.

"An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud.

Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots and lots of time with HIM/HER.

6. The tears happen:

Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourself. LIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love:

Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health:

If it is good, preserve it.
If it is unstable, improve it.
If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips.

Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

11. Forgive now those who made you cry.

You might not get a second chance

Author Unknown

SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Isobel Berry, Marion Cook and other members of the Greer family on the loss of Charlotte Greer and Campbell Greer.



Charlotte Adeline Greer, a life-long member of Merivale United Church passed away on April 8, 2006.

The last visit I had with Charlotte was when we delivered the Christmas basket. I looked forward to

this visit as she was always so happy to be remembered by her church. She would ask after a number of people; this year it was Jim Marshall and Isobel Strath. She really looked forward to the Newsletter; it was her way of keeping touch with Merivale.

I came to know Charlotte after she retired from her government job and became secretary of the Fellowship Group. If you get a chance, look in the Annual Report for the years when she was secretary and you will find an account of the life of our church for that year.

I remember her little brown car arriving from Osgoode

every Sunday morning, never missing a Sunday. Even after she couldn't drive any more, she would be here for special occasions and anniversaries. She was a very kind, gentle woman, respected by her family and always interested in other people's families, knowing their names.

A few days after the delivery of her Christmas basket, a beautiful card arrived in Charlotte's own handwriting. She was 96. It is a treasure I will always keep it and I know that next Christmas when it is time to deliver the basket she will be in our thoughts.

Gayle Ashby

On May 11, 2006, just over a month after Charlotte Greer's passing, her one surviving brother, **Albert Douglas Campbell Greer** also passed away. Campbell was one of a family of thirteen, living on a farm at the junction of the Hunt Club Road and the Fallowfield Road (now part of the Experimental Farm).

He was baptized in Merivale Church (then Merivale Presbyterian Church) by Rev. James Robinson, and remained a member throughout his long life of 87 years. In his youth, he was an enthusiastic member of the choir and a formidable baseball player.

He graduated from Kemptville Agricultural College, then formed his own insurance and real estate company.

In his later years he devoted much of his time to the care of his older sister Charlotte.

CONGRATULATIONS

- to **Bronwyn and Meghan Allen**, daughters of **Gwilym and Sheila Allen**. Both Bronwyn and Meghan are to be married later this year. On May 11, the ladies of Fallowfield held a big bridal shower in their honour. We wish these young ladies every happiness as they take their "next big step along the world".
- to **Lochlan Scott**, his big brother **Logan** and his parents **Jason Scott and Lauren Nearing** on Lochlan's baptism January 8.
- to **Benjamin Kelly** and his parents **Peter Kelly and Terri Northcott** on Ben's baptism May 21
- to **Madyson Gallagher** and her parents **Michael and Micheline Gallagher** on Madyson's baptism April 16.
- to **Don and Betty Robertson**, who are celebrating their diamond anniversary June 8, 2006.
- to **Bert and Jean Brookes** on their impending 60th wedding anniversary.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Ron Howard, husband of Kathy Nesbitt Howard, has recently suffered a severe heart attack. He is now back at home and on the mend.

SPECIAL THANKS

- to the **unknown benefactor** who installed a pair of Allen keys on spring-loaded leashes at the entrance to the Merivale CE Hall. This is a very welcome enhancement!
- to **Tom Ashby** who created a new panel for the Merivale church sign, to display our Internet address.
- To the **Fallowfield Men's Choir** and their director, **Barb Fraser** and accompanist **Tamar Shostakovsky**. The choir sang May 21 at both churches; both congregations were very enthusiastic about this special presentation.

- to the **men of Fallowfield** who hosted a highly successful beef dinner on April 29, Congratulations to these hard-working men and their long-suffering wives.
- to **Chuck Ross and his team of volunteers** who are responsible for the new sparkle in the Merivale windows..
- to all those who contributed compost, time, plants, cash, and refreshments for the great **"Merivale Garden Party"**. Special thanks to Lois Long of St. John the Divine Anglican Church, who tracked down and presented us with a flat of blue bells (a variety of *Browallia speciosa*). We have every hope that by midsummer our premises will be as beautiful on the outside as they are on the inside.
- to those responsible for the **hundreds of other thoughtful deeds** we haven't recorded here. There is space ahead to add your own thanks.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Merivale-Fallowfield Newsletter</h2>		
	<p style="text-align: center;">Issued quarterly by the Merivale-Fallowfield Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada</p>		
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Merivale-Fallowfield Summer Calendar



May 26-28	Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Montreal-Ottawa Conference meets at John Abbott College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue. Theme is "Gifts of the Spirit". Theme speaker: Rev. Sharon Moon.
Sunday May 28	Fallowfield Sunday School breaks for the Summer (F) Coffee after the worship service at Merivale (M)
Wednesday May 31	Merivale Council meeting at 7:00 pm
Saturday Jun 03	Sunday School Yard Sale, starting at 8:00 am (F)
Sunday Jun 04	Fallowfield 120th anniversary 9:30 am. Special speaker is Rev. Stewart Hewlett. BBQ luncheon after the worship service. Service cancelled at Merivale to allow the congregation to celebrate with Fallowfield.
Wednesday June 14	Official Board of the Pastoral Charge meeting at Merivale, 7:15 pm.
Sunday June 18	Fathers' Day Last day for Sunday School this session at Merivale (M) Sunday Sundaes for all the dads (F)
June 19 to July 4	Rev. Martin Carnahan on holiday. Rev. Stewart Hewlett on call for emergencies. Worship services as usual.
Sunday June 25	Rev. Stewart Hewlett in the pulpit (FM) Fallowfield Sunday School picnic (F). Coffee after the worship service (M)
July, Aug	Lemonade on the lawn after church (F, M)
Sunday July 02	Rev. Stewart Hewlett in the pulpit (FM)
Wednesday Aug 16	Corn roast in the park behind Merivale (F, M) Starts at 4:30 pm. Date subject to change depending on the corn crop; watch the Bulletin.
Friday Sept 01	Planning night for the Fallowfield turkey supper.

