



# MERIVALE-FALLOWFIELD NEWSLETTER



## Lent 2006



*Words  
from the  
Minister*

### LENT – A TIME FOR SMALL INCONVENIENCES

An armed robber accosted a cleric friend of mine on a dark street recently. As the minister opened his coat to reach for his wallet, the thief caught sight of his clerical collar for the first time and immediately apologized. "Never mind Father, I didn't realize that you were a priest – I'll be on my way."

My friend was relieved, of course, and good-naturedly offered the man a cigar. "No thank you Father," the robber said. "I gave up smoking for Lent."

Obviously the hold-up man didn't get the whole picture in whatever religious instruction he had received (in perhaps many ways). But then, neither do a lot of us.

As a child, I was made to feel guilty unless I gave up something for Lent. Year after year I elected to give up

cigarettes and Brussels sprouts. Since I didn't smoke and no one in our house could stand sprouts, these were resolutions that I felt sure I would succeed at keeping.

Lent, to many, is a season of minor inconvenience. Candy or tobacco is sacrificed for 40 days, or coffee is taken without cream or sugar. Small sacrifices are made, and are small jokes about the whole affair. One member of my church told me that his father once gave up going to church for Lent.

The season of Lent in the church begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Easter Eve. It is a period of penitence and fasting in preparation for Easter. At first this fasting was held only on the Saturday before Easter. Later it was extended to Holy Week (the week before Easter).

The season of Lent was also the time to baptise candidates into the faith. Since the early church was an "underground movement", candidates were carefully screened and there was a long period of preparation. Fasting for 40 days was required. This

commemorated Jesus' 40-day fast and temptation in the desert.

Sundays within Lent display a penitential tone, which obscures them as commemorations of the first Easter.

Perhaps this season should be not a time of giving something up; but rather a time of getting: in touch. We can take the time to focus and we can check our priorities. For Christians, it is a time of celebration, culminating in Easter – a celebration of God's gifts of love symbolized in Jesus.

*Martin*

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## THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

### FALLOWFIELD

After a festive holiday season we now enter into the Winter/Spring of our Sunday School year. We hope that you had a chance to attend our White Gift Sunday and our Christmas Pageant, which took place on December 4th, 2005. The service was wonderful, the children put on a terrific show and it was followed by a fabulous potluck luncheon – many thanks to all of those who helped to make this year's White Gift Sunday such a success. This year 14 families either purchased items for Toy Mountain or items for Centre 507 which is our way of giving back to those in need during the holiday season.

Spring is just around the corner and our Spring Calendar includes Easter Sunday, Mother's Day (where we present the ladies and mothers' of the church with a small token), our annual yard

Sale in June and our Father's Day Sunday sundaes (where the men are served ice cream sundaes). We hope you will join us for these special events; more details will follow.

We are always looking for volunteers in the Sunday School, so if you are interested in teaching or helping out please call me at 823-6814.

*Erica Armstrong,*  
Superintendent and Secretary



### MERIVALE

The Sunday School, and in particular the Nursery, is turning into a very busy place on Sundays! We love the activity and we love seeing the children change from

week to week. We will be starting up a *Helping Parents* schedule to cover off weeks when Natalie and Rachael have other commitments.

I would like to give a special "thank you" to Chuck Ross who has been teaching the senior class for January and February. His help has been invaluable.

For the spring we will be planning to have the children make a spring banner for the church. We will start designing it shortly and will ensure that all of the children can contribute to the project.

The Sunday School would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Joanne Frolek, and to Gerry, Sarah and Maxwell Shewan. Joanne's father succumbed to cancer, and our prayers and thoughts are with her and her family at this difficult time.  
*Arlene Anderson*

In Snead, Alabama, convenience store owner Dale Lanier has found a way to get people to read and memorize Bible verses. If they walk into his business establishment, and recite the Bible passage of the month, the customers can have a free soft drink or coffee. February's verse is Psalm 118, verse eight: "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Lanier says he's been doing this for the last six years and gives away between two and 12 drinks a day. Sometimes entire families walk in and recite the Bible passage he's picked.

## CHURCH SUPPER

### MERIVALE CHURCH SUPPER

Beans, ham, coleslaw, desserts!

Saturday, March 18

4:30 - 6:30 pm.

Adults \$7.50. Children \$4.00  
under 5 Free

Take-out Available



### CAN YOU HELP?

We will need people to make beans, coleslaw, and desserts and to cook hams.

We also need people to set up tables on Saturday morning March 18 at 10:00 am, to serve, and to clean up in the evening.

THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

If you know of anyone who wants take-out, it would be helpful if you could make the request in advance, so that we can make arrangements.

*Gayle Ashby, 825-3861*

## INTERIOR PAINTING OF MERIVALE



We are in the process of doing something quite exciting for the Church. There has been a collective will for some time to have the interior of the Sanctuary painted. Council accepted a proposal to have the interior painted and we are now moving forward at a rapid pace.

Randall's Paints gave me the names of four painters that they recommended as doing quality work. Each company gave us a quote for the ceiling, walls and woodwork. Through discussion with members of Council, we

concluded that Paul Allard Painting had given us the overall best quote. In my opinion, though, any one of the painters would have done a fine job.

Four colour boards were presented to the congregation, with a range of neutral tones: "Buttermilk", "Bone White", "Halo" and "Classic Grey". The favourite was "Buttermilk" for the walls and it was nice to have a clear winner. The woodwork will be done in white called "Silver Lining".

The painting was originally planned for the last week of February. The date was moved up to the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> and we had to scramble to get a team together to prepare the Sanctuary.

The pews were removed and the Sanctuary was cleared by a wonderful team of Chuck Ross,

Tom Ashby, Glen Ruskin, Peter Kelly, Jim, Arlene, Natalie and Rachael Anderson, and Joan and Merv Healey. It may have been done in record time, taking only a little over an hour!

I would like to thank everyone for their tremendously positive support for this project. When we took everything off the walls it was clear that we were not the first to do this; the colours have changed many times, and undoubtedly this won't be the last. Gayle Ashby mentioned that there had been wallpaper at one point, and we were able to see a small part of it.

Our next newsletter will include "before and after" shots and hopefully everyone will be pleased with the outcome.

*Arlene Anderson*

## HERITAGE AWARDS

On February 21, 2006, the City of Ottawa presented their annual architectural and heritage awards. Among those honoured were Merivale United Church and Cemetery and St John's Merivale Anglican Cemetery. Gayle Ashby and Lois Long were presented with framed Letters of Appreciation. Bronze plaques with a short bilingual description of the heritage significance of each property will arrive later.



Gayle Ashby, with Tom Ashby and David Stinson, displays the Certificate of Merit received from the City.



Lois Long shows the Certificate of Merit received by the St. John's Anglican Merivale Cemetery. She is accompanied by Jacquie Hopper, Rev. June Hough, Alice Kiewan, Sandy Holmes, and Shirley Kelly.

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## MERIVALE ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, May 7, marks the 130th anniversary of the Merivale Church. The details have yet to be finalized, but we will be celebrating with a special speaker, special music and a luncheon after the worship service. Friends and former neighbours will be invited to join us. Watch the bulletin and the website for updates.

It may be interesting at this time to remember something of our past.

In 1875, the Merivale congregation was worshipping in an old log building erected in the 1840's. (Records differ as to the actual year.) The log

building had been shared between the Anglicans and the Presbyterians, but the Anglicans had moved into their own church in 1874.

When our church was built in 1875/76:

- Our minister was Rev. Robert Whillans. At that time, Rev. Whillans also served charges at Bell's Corners and at Westboro (then called Skead's Mills);
- Vera Hamman's great grandfather, Robert Nesbitt, was a member of the church building committee;
- The sod was turned by Robert James Nesbitt, father of Mildred Lemoine;

- The church was at that time part of the newly formed "Presbyterian Church in Canada".
- Our reigning monarch was Queen Victoria;
- Our Prime Minister (1873-1878) was Alexander Mackenzie (Liberal);
- the telephone had just been patented;
- The automobile was yet to be invented; people rode to church in horse-drawn conveyances;
- The church tower, which is now a distinctive landmark, was yet to be built.

In 130 years, our world has indeed changed!

## OLD-FASHIONED TEA



The Merivale Quilters and the Merivale Fellowship Group plan to hold an old-fashioned tea on Saturday, April 29 from 1:30 – 4:00 pm. There will be real china cups and saucers, fancy sandwiches and desserts. The tea will, of course, be served from silver tea sets.

Ladies are encouraged to wear their Sunday-best dresses, gloves, and finest bonnets. Watch the church bulletin and the website for more details

*Gayle Ashby*

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Rev. William McDowell and sons, taken during his years at Merivale / Fallowfield

The January 2006 issue of *Forever Young* has the regular column by Mary

Cook, called, "Valley Tales". One of the three retired ministers that she describes is Rev. William McDowell. He is the only one pictured and the photograph is a nice coloured one with two grandsons. I quote:

"Across the Ottawa River, in Shawville, The Rev. William McDowell thought he was really retiring in June of 1992, after 50 years of preaching. He scarcely had time to settle into his new home in the Pontiac, when he got a call to fill in at the United Church in Locksley, 70 km west. That was 14 years ago, and William McDowell is still "filling in." And it doesn't look like he will be hanging up his gown, any time soon. He has

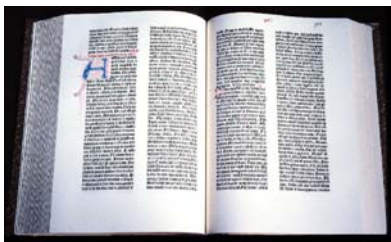
just been signed up to tend the little Salem United Church at Locksley into June 2007!"

"I have never had a minute to be bored since I retired. There is always more to study as times change, and I must keep producing good stuff. I have a sermon every week, and what we used 40 years ago, just doesn't do anymore," he said.

When he has time he likes to garden and he takes time to drive his wife, Winifred, a retired nurse, to Ottawa every week where she works as a volunteer with cancer patients.

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## A SUGGESTION



Have you noticed that the Bibles in the pews at Merivale are old and tattered?

A Bible is an appropriate memorial for a friend or family member who has gone on. A suitable large-print edition

costs about \$35.00. If you are interested in remembering someone in this way, a donation can go in your regular church envelope, with an indication on the outside that it is for a Bible.



### OTTAWA DUTCH CHORAL SOCIETY

A visit from the Ottawa Dutch Choral Society is always a great pleasure. The choir took part in our worship service on January 22. On this occasion, they sang:

- Peace Carol [Beers/Hansen]
- Shepherd's Song [Hodges/Coates]

- We are God's People [Brahms/Leach]
- Benediction [Barrows/John Innes]

The choir celebrated a 50th anniversary in 2003. It all started in 1953 in the de Kleer family kitchen. Alice de Kleer still sings with the choir and several others have been members for over 40 years.

Margaret van Dyk is the present director and Kellina Gehrels, age 16, is in her first season as pianist.

The choir invites those who like to sing to join them any Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at Merivale. For more information about the Choir, check their website: [dutchchoralsociety.ca](http://dutchchoralsociety.ca)

### MERIVALE QUILTERS



Detail from one of the fidget quilts

The Merivale Quilters meet each and every Wednesday, weather permitting. We are working on two large top quilts.

We are also working on "fidget quilts" which are designed to provide tactile

stimulation to Alzheimer's patients. To date, we have completed fourteen.

We have been told that our quilts are to figure in a research project on the care of Alzheimer patients.

Two of the Merivale Quilters are to lead a workshop on "fidget quilts" at the Kemptville Fabric Shoppe on Saturday, March 4. Half the projects completed at the workshop go to us and the other half to their community.

*Gayle Ashby*



Detail from one of the fidget quilts.

## IN THE GARDEN

The Merivale Gardeners are now enjoying a winter vacation, but we are beginning to think about spring. This year our bedding plants will be predominantly blue, with apricot highlights. Our inspiration comes from last summer's trip to the Montreal Botanical Gardens, which were breathtaking.

We plan to welcome the growing season by edging the flower beds and enriching them with a generous serving of compost. On May 24, everyone is invited to a "BYOT garden party". (BYOT

stands for Bring Your Own Trowel.). The party starts at 9:30 am, with a supply of seedlings for everyone. After planting, we are invited to enjoy light refreshments with the Merivale Quilters.

On May 18, the gardeners are playing host to a group from the Ottawa Horticultural Society. This group is gathering for a workshop on Horticultural Photography, under the tutelage of Gordon Hopkins of the RA Camera Club. The coordinator is Angela Snowdon.

Notebooks from past years suggest that our guests may be able to photograph pasqueflowers, *Pulmonaria*, bleeding heart, daffodils, tulips, and the lovely and fragrant *Daphne cneorum*. (That's the little shrub that Jan Harder planted at the church entrance to mark our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.) Of course, we can't make any promises; dates of flowering vary considerably from year to year.

Vera Hamman and Jean Stalker

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## INGER NIELSEN



Inger Nielsen with Vera Hamman

On January 21, the family of Inger Nielsen held an open house to honour her on the occasion of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It was a large and lively gathering. All five of her children - Aase, Jorgen, Helge, Uela and Maryann - were there. The youngest, Maryann, had travelled all the way from China for a surprise visit.

Inger has long been a pillar of Merivale United Church. She is a wonderful cook, a skilled and artistic needlewoman and a kind friend.

A thousand best wishes, Inger.



### I COULD USE A MIRACLE TONIGHT. MAYBE TWO OR THREE

As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let us down probably will. You will have your heart broken, probably more than once, and it's harder every time. You'll break hearts too, so remember how it felt when yours was broken. You'll fight with your best friend. You'll blame a new love for things an old one did. You'll cry because time is passing too fast, and you'll eventually lose someone you love.

So take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you've never been hurt because every sixty seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you'll never get back.

## SYMPATHY



**SHEWAN/FROLEK** Our deepest sympathy to the Shewan/Frolek family on the loss of Joanne's father, Peter Frolek, who passed away January 26, 2006 in Winnipeg. Peter Frolick's joy in life, generosity, intellectual wit and genuine honesty will

be missed dearly by friends and family.

**MOWAT** Fallowfield has lost a lifetime member of the congregation. Bob Mowat passed away on December 13, 2005. Bob loved his church and was a faithful participant. He started the business *Farmers' Sealed Storage* twenty years ago and his partner joined him a couple of years later. It is still in operation. Bob thoroughly enjoyed working with the

agricultural community. He was predeceased by his wife Phyllis of forty years. He leaves to mourn four daughters: Sandra, Shawn, Sherry, and Shelley and a son Shane. He also leaves behind his companion Carolyn Black. He will be much missed by all.

Our deepest sympathy to **GARY MCDONELL** on the loss of much-loved aunt.

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## DID YOU KNOW

- Vera Hamman and Robbie Sprague organize the **Sunday morning Bible readings**. If you would like to read, please contact Vera or Robbie.
- It has been a tough winter. Already, four of our number at Merivale have been in hospital: Isobel Strath, Dave Cooney, Dave Lyons and Erma Nesbitt.
- At Fallowfield, Jay Hetherington is recovering from a hospital visit, and Irene Mowat has been in for repairs.
- Congratulations to Erica Anderson, the champion public speaker of Greenbank Senior Public School.
- Did you notice the new housing around the speaker at the back of the Church? It is the work of Carpenter Allard, brother of Painter (Paul) Allard, who painted the church.



### Merivale-Fallowfield Newsletter

Issued quarterly by the Merivale-Fallowfield Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada

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