



MERIVALE-FALLOWFIELD NEWSLETTER

Fall through Advent 2006



*Words
from the
Minister*

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

A number of years ago, on October 29, I waited for the end of the world. Nothing happened! It's just as well, because the end of the world should not come this close to Halloween .

But around the world millions of people were making preparation for the end of the world. It had been predicted by a bunch of religious nuts somewhere. They were predicting that Jesus Christ would come at 1 a.m. [EST]. True believers will be whisked away to heaven.

Predictions of the end of the world are a religious version of science fiction. Peculiar phenomena are interpreted as signs of the times -- wars, earthquakes, an eclipse-- anything is useful for religious crystal ball gazers.

Such predictions should, for the most part, be regarded with

irreligious scepticism. A hundred years ago, the Christian Herald suggested that the year 1900 was the last conceivable date for the end of the world. Hal Lindsey reckoned 1988 as the date of the second coming. A man named Edgar Whisenant sold 4 million copies of a book based on his biblical calculations and figured that the Lord would return on October 5, 1989.

The disturbing truth is not that Christ will come in some divine version of a CF 18 to scare the heck out of every one and carry the believers off into the sky. The really disturbing thing is that he confronts us regularly in our daily lives.

There are several parables about being prepared. They include the story of the wedding feast [Matthew 22:1 -- 14]; the story of the bridesmaids who forgot to take their jerry can and were therefore unable to top off their lamps; and, of course, the sheep and goats [Matthew 25:31-46]. It's where Jesus pointed to the hungry and dispossessed and asked "what would you do, if it was me?"

They answered, "well, if it had known it was you, of course we

would have looked after you." But Jesus told them what they did to other people was, in effect, what they would do to him. Maybe Jesus was in the man you travelled with on the bus the other day, as you turned away and buried yourself in the paper. Jesus could have been meeting you in that person's loneliness.

It's uncomfortable to think that our contact with people around us -- those that we consider stupid, no good, foolish, inadequate- we may be meeting Christ.

Of course, if I knew it really was him, things would be different. I would be prepared, I would want to say the right thing. I might even polish up a few quotes from the Bible, just to show that I had read it. But, says Jesus, "in as much as you do it to one of the least of these my brethren, you do it to me." [Matthew 25:40].

If, instead of looking for Christ to swoop down from the skies like some superman, we looked for Christ incognito, our relationships would be entirely different. Then his Advent would come as no surprise.

In This Issue



Words from the Minister 1
Remembrance Sunday 2
Living the Questions 2
Merivale Council 2
Merivale Fellowship 2
Fallowfield Choir 3
Hail and Farewell 3

Sunday Schools 3
Our Anniversary 4
Did you know? 8
Turkey Supper 5
Preauthorized remittance5
Merivale Quilters 6

In the Garden 6
Helen Wilson 7
Congratulations 7
A New Life 7
Sympathy 9
Calendar 10

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY NOV. 5, 2006

The new Legion Branch 641 Barrhaven has asked Reverend Martin, if they can use Merivale United church for their Sunday Parade commemorating Remembrance Sunday, Nov. 5. Your minister is the Legion Padre for Branch 641, hence the request.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS.

People know that, at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian. And that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always

wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought heretic.

Living the Questions is a 12-week, DVD and web-based small-group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. This program is

ideal for Christian invitation, initiation and spiritual formation. Living the Questions will help seekers and church alumni alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

More to come.

MERIVALE COUNCIL

Merivale Council approved the bid of Roof Rite to replace the shingles on the C.E. hall and the work was satisfactorily performed during the summer months. Roof Rite's bid was approx. \$2000.00 less than the next bidder. There is a 25-year



warranty on the materials and a 1-year warranty on the workmanship.

The next project to be undertaken is repairs to the C.E. hall stairs. The tiles have come off in places and they should be replaced before an accident happens. In their current condition it is impossible to use the Stair Trac in the C.E. hall. Council is currently looking into this matter and hopes to make the repairs this winter.

Council is still looking for a volunteer to take over the duties

of rental co-ordinator for the Church and C.E. Hall. If you are interested, please contact either Dave Cooney or Bob Meisner.

The Gardens around the Church and C.E. hall are particularly beautiful this year. Many thanks to Jean Stalker, Vera Hamman and all of the volunteers who have helped to make this a Merivale Road showcase.

The next meeting of Merivale Council is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday November 22, at Merivale.

Bob Meisner.

MERIVALE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group continues to meet at noon on the fourth Wednesday of every month during the fall and winter

seasons. Newcomers are very welcome.

We are looking forward to a potluck

luncheon Nov. 8 and to packing Christmas baskets Dec. 6.

Lila Hird



FALLOWFIELD CHOIR

The autumn season is well under way and the combined choir is busy with regular Thursday practices. We began in late August, in order to be ready for the outdoor service at the Mowat barn. We were successful at recruiting several new male voices. We hope they stay and / or return from time to time.

We were able to present anthems at Thanksgiving, even though our numbers were low due to other commitments. We will be presenting regularly in the weeks to come: most notably Remembrance Day and the Christmas season.

We are fortunate to be directed again by Barb White. We all

have a good time at practices, and enjoy presenting special music at worship.

Anyone from either congregation is welcome to join us on Thursday evenings at Fallowfield at 7 p.m. .

Barbara Fraser

HAIL AND FAREWELL



Katelyn Boerner

On September 10, the two congregations bid farewell to Tamar Schostakovsky, who has been our organist for almost three years. Tamar has completed the requirements for her degree in Political Science, and is moving to Toronto. We are very pleased that she

was been succeeded by another fine musician, Katelyn Boerner.

Katelyn has agreed to remain at Merivale after the Sunday worship service to practice the hymns for the following Sunday with an incipient choir.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

FALLOWFIELD

After a wonderful, warm summer the Fallowfield Sunday School has resumed and we welcome back our students and teachers. We invite those children who are new to the church and those children not currently attending Sunday school to join our classes - it is never too late to sign up! We run two sets of classes each week, one for children 4ish-9 and one for children 9 and up. This year Jen Keech is continuing to teach our little ones and Gwen Grife our older children. We welcome Tracy Wilson to our teaching staff this year. Tracy will be helping out with the older

children one Sunday a month and with the younger ones when needed (thanks Tracy!). We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in teaching or helping out in the Sunday school please call me at 823-6814.

The Sunday school children will be distributing Remembrance Day Poppies to the members of the congregation on Sunday Nov. 5, 2006 and we invite you to join us.

With the holiday season fast approaching we are preparing for our White Gift Sunday and our Christmas Pageant, which will be held on Dec. 3, 2006. The

children will be asked to attend a rehearsal for the pageant at the church on the morning of Saturday Dec. 2, 2006. It is a wonderful service, the children put on a terrific show and it is followed by a potluck luncheon – we hope to see you all there. In light of the holiday season, there will be no Sunday school classes Sunday Dec. 24 and Sunday Dec. 31, 2006. Sunday school will resume in the New Year on Sunday Jan. 7, 2007. On behalf of the Sunday school we would like to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday!

Erica Armstrong

MERIVALE

The Sunday School and Nursery is off to a good start this fall. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already over. The "babies" have very rapidly turned into toddlers and will be in the next year ready for a preschool program. To cover off the Nursery we will be continuing with a parent rotation to cover off on weeks when Natalie and Rachael Anderson have other commitments.

Once again I would like to give a special "thank you" to Chuck Ross who has offered to teach the senior class for Thanksgiving, November and December. Chuck will be covering the compelling story of Joseph.

I will be teaching the primary children, the focus of lessons this fall and over part of the winter will be "The Bible Top Ten" i.e. the focus on a review of 10 lessons from the Old Testament. I picked up a very

enjoyable teaching tool from the Salem Storehouse which is "The big Book of Bible Trivia" for ages 8to80 which we are doing along with the lessons and is proving to be fun.

We are also starting to plan events around Christmas to involve the children with the congregation.

Arlene Anderson



51st ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASTORAL CHARGE

On Sunday September 10, 2006 the two churches joined together at the Mowat Barn for an outdoor worship service in celebration of our 51st year as a pastoral charge. Rev. Martin Carnahan conducted the service and Rev.

Stewart Hewlett read the scripture. Chuck Ross delivered a message to the young people held them spellbound. The weather was beautiful and the choir was in good voice. Everyone enjoyed the outdoor

service, the luncheon that followed, and the good fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a great success.

Fallowfield Social Committee



The Fallowfield Choir Singing at the Anniversary Service

DID YOU KNOW?

Notes on many of the sermons preached at Merivale-Fallowfield are now available on the church websites:

<http://www.geocities.com/fallowfield.geo>

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

FALLOWFIELD FALL TURKEY SUPPER



Fallowfield hosted it's 20th annual Fall Turkey Supper on September 30. Judging from feedback received from both volunteers and guests, it was a very successful event. The hall wasn't too hot, dishwashers were able to keep up with cutlery requirements, and we didn't even run out of peas and carrots!

Altogether we sold approximately 410 tickets and raised just over \$4100;

money that is, of course, essential to the maintenance and operation of our church. We were also able to donate a large quantity of leftover food to the 507 Centre, especially potatoes, buns, coleslaw and turkey. This gift is always very much appreciated.

There are many elements required to make an event of this magnitude successful. Volunteers need to be energetic ticket sellers. Food has to be bought and duties organized. Turkeys, stuffing and gravy to be prepared. A billion pies to be baked. The annual Friday night peeling frenzy needs many hands. And on the big day itself – dishwashers, servers, kitchen



staff – all work with the military precision built on years of practice.

We cannot thank people enough for the work they did, or to single out anyone, since so many did so much. To all those who gave of themselves, in any way, large or small, accept our thanks and know how important your work is to the church.

And see you next year!
The Social Committee

PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE OF GIVINGS

Most members of Fallowfield will have heard me speak about the new program we have in place. It's called "Pre-Authorized Remittance", or "PAR", and is made available by the United Church Head Office in Toronto.

For those who may not be aware, you can now ask that a specific amount of money be withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of every month. That money goes directly into the church operating account.

There are benefits to this approach. The main one is that you don't have to be scrambling to get ready for church every Sunday morning - you don't need to find an envelope, write a cheque or dig money out of your purse or wallet. It also eliminates the need to "double up" if you've been away for a while.

The main benefit for the church is that it provides a steady stream of givings. This is especially important in the summer months, when funds can drop significantly.

Several people have already signed up for the PAR program and feedback has been positive. If you are interested in finding out more, there are brochures tacked on our bulletin board. Or come and ask me about it. I was the first one to sign up and I've been very happy with it!

*Robbie
Sprague
Treasurer*



MERIVALE QUILTERS

The Quilting Group is back to full force this fall; cottages having been closed and summer holidays finished. There is great activity around both of the quilt frames. Our 'pride and joy' cross-stitched top is almost completed after about three years of preparation and stitching. It is as beautiful as we had anticipated. It will be for sale once the binding is in place.

The project in the second frame must be done before Christmas, so there will be two new tops

ready to begin quilting before the New Year.

We have a "Red Hat" wall hanging ready for one frame. It will be an interesting one to see, as it is to be quilted first and then embellished with all manner of extras such as feathers, ribbons, jewellery, veils, etc. We expect to have fun creating a unique piece of 'art,' an expression of the lively philosophy of the "Red Hat" movement currently active in today's social scene.

As always, we welcome visitors on a Wednesday morning between 9:30 and noon, with coffee at 10:30. Drop in to view our projects or inquire about the work, or try out the craft. We can teach, too! Some of us come for the social time and bring knitting or other handwork. Some come for the refreshments! Often the numbers double about mid-morning!

Sandra Marshall



IN THE GARDEN

The gardeners at Merivale basked in compliments about this year's garden. We are aware, however, that the luscious banks of flowers were merely the visible portion of an iceberg. We planned, fertilized, weeded and watered BUT:

Who kept the surrounding lawns neatly trimmed?
Who advised us on a better layout of the beds?
Who brought in generous supplies of compost to rejuvenate the tired soil?
Who roto-tilled the new triangular bed surrounding the sign?
What famous garden inspired the colour scheme?
Who raised flats of annuals from seeds and cuttings?
Who searched out and donated the lovely Browallia 'Bluebells'?
Who came by, trowel in hand, to place the young plants?

We could go on and on, but you get the message. We are not alone.

We say "T-H-A-N-K-S."

Jean Stalker & Edna Vera Hamman

RICHMOND FAIR HONOURS HELEN WILSON



Helen and Merrill Wilson

Every September, during the third weekend, the Richmond Fair is the place to be! Helen Wilson was invited to this year's official opening. She was given the Ontario Association of Agriculture Societies Certificate, which is presented annually to the volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to local agriculture, the Fair and the community.

The Richmond Agricultural Society started in 1841, and moved from Bells Corners to its present site in 1895. Volunteers have made the fair a success for the last 165 years. Helen Wilson's connection started with her 4-H activities. Like the award for which she is honoured, 4-H Clubs have been helping communities since the first one started in Manitoba, in 1913. Their life skill programs train youth to become leaders who benefit the citizens and the communities in which they live. Helen earned the maximum number of 4-H points, and has positively contributed to our Fallowfield family.

Upon accepting the award, Helen remembered when she was 17. Her future husband, Merrill, had taken her to the Navan Fair. Then, two weeks later, they went to Richmond and have been a part of our local fair, ever since. Helen was first

handed the job of organizing the amateur talent shows. Contestants played bagpipes and violins. Gord Hill and Bruce Wilson were annual favourites, along with the Mowat children who danced in the highland and step competitions.

CTV Ottawa's Max Keeping was a master of ceremonies for a Dairy Princess milking competition in 1976. He was back at the Fair's opening ceremony this year. Max recalled the wedding ring that Helen had lost almost 50 years ago, but then found last year, in her garden.

Helen continues to volunteer for the Richmond Fair; this year on the Threads and Fabric Committee. Now she has a rare, prestigious award to show for all her work. Congratulations.

Gary McDonell

CONGRATULATIONS

On July 23rd, 2006, Kamryn Abigale Jean **Fraser**, daughter of Kent Fraser and Robyn Durward was baptized at Fallowfield United. Kamryn was born on February 6th, 2006 and is the grad-daughter of John and Barb Fraser (F)

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 8, Maxwell **Shewan** was welcomed into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Max is the son of Joanne Frolek and Gerry Shewan and the brother of Sarah Shewan.

A NEW LIFE

In 1996, a man in the western part of Canada was in almost perfect health. He had no symptoms that an artery in his brain had swollen; grown larger than six millimetres. It burst, sending blood into the cavity and it killed him. He was 53 years old. Cerebral aneurysms kill

people between the ages of 40 and 60 years old, so he was typical. One out of every 20,000 people will have the disease.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, a Fallowfield United Church woman knew she was dying. Although she also did not show

any symptoms that she was ill, Mary Betts knew she had less than two years to go before she died. During the last decade, her heart was slowly being damaged by a virus. Cardiomyopathy. Eventually, it would no longer be able to contract.

Already, during a restaurant meal when she lived in Toronto, Mary's heart had stopped. Unable to keep a normal rhythm, the organ failed. Like the lack of any warning with a brain aneurysm, the first sign of heart disease, in the majority of people, is death. However, Mary woke up on the floor; alive because the restaurant was close to Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital. Also having dinner that evening, were staff from the Intensive Care Unit. They performed C.P.R. on Mary and brought her back to life.

It was time for a pacemaker. Years before, in 1990, Mary had been to her doctor's office for an annual check up. Everything was fine. Still, with a history in the family, it was a good idea to have a referral to a cardiologist. Soon she found herself walking around the house, with a machine that kept track of her heart. Developed in the early 1960s by an engineer, Holter, the ambulatory electrocardiogram measured her heart rhythm for up to 48 hours. The doctor found that Mary had an abnormal rhythm and that led to the discovery that her heart was going to fail.

Mary and Don moved to Ottawa in 1990 and eventually Mary's heart got so ill, she was allowed join the waiting list for a transplant. Many patients on that list die before an organ is available. Even if a person has signed their donor card, at least 50% have not discussed their

wish to donate. Surviving family members decide what to do with the body and sadly, the organs are wasted.

"It's a matter of education," says Mary. "Just talk to your family." The relatives of the man who died when an artery burst in his head, donated his organs. Later that day, on October 27th 1996, Mary got a telephone call from the Civic. She was admitted to the Heart Institute and interviewed. Dr. Andrew Pipe discussed the donation with Mary, then he flew out west and 'harvested' the organ. A recipient of the Order of Canada, Dr. Pipe is now the director of the Prevention and Rehabilitation Clinic. However, ten years ago, he assisted Dr. Roy Masters when Mary had the transplant. Dr. Masters was born and raised in St. John's Newfoundland. The Memorial University graduate specializes in mechanical circulatory support and, transplantation. He gave Mary her new heart



BETTS, Donald & Mary

Although the average wait time for a healthy heart is seven months, it can be as long as two years. Sadly, 40% die waiting. The longest transplant patient, as of 2002, has lived 24 years! About 85% of patients with a new heart are still alive after a year; 77% make it to three years. Mary Betts is among the 50% that have been given another ten years of life. There is always the chance that a body will reject a transplant because it is an 'invader'. That's why Mary takes medication including Prednisone to suppress her immune system. It is a powerful steroid and the list of its bad side effects is lengthy. One incomplete list I found, went for two pages.

Her good feeling when she awoke with her blood strongly surging through her body, was wonderful. "Just surviving gives you a high," she describes. Mary had to understand her condition, embrace the situation, and then learn how to deal with it. She was able to lean on her friends and in turn allow them into her soul. We congratulate our fellow Fallowfield United Church member on her tenth anniversary and wish her a long life.

"There is always a glimmer of hope," believes Mary. "Do your share in life and give it to the Lord."

Gary MacDonell

Nov/Dec 2006

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Doris Robertson, mother of Sue **Deschamps** , who passed away August 20, 2006



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

Rev. Martin Carnahan
Ruth Kawaja
Jean Stalker
Gary MacDonell

(613) 225-0248
(613) 225-0248
(613) 727-9496
(613) 591-1334

MERIVALE/FALLOWFIELD CALENDAR

Nov/Dec 2006

Sunday Nov 05	Remembrance Sunday (FM) Legion Branch 641 Barrhaven on church parade at Merivale Fallowfield Choir singing at both churches (FM) Coffee after the worship service at both churches (FM)
Wednesday Nov 08	Potluck luncheon "Just Because" at 12:00 noon for the Merivale Quilters, the Merivale Fellowship Group and friends (M).
Tuesday Nov 21	Meeting of the Fallowfield Council at 7:15 pm.
Wednesday Nov 22	Meeting of the Merivale Fellowship Group at 12:00 noon (M) Meeting of the Merivale Council at 7:00 pm. Jim Whittaker in the chair.
Sunday Nov 26	Christ the King Sunday (FM)
Tuesday Nov 28	Fallowfield Cookie Exchange and Worship Service, beginning at 7:00 pm (FM) All Welcome
Wednesday Nov 29	Pastoral Charge meeting at Merivale at 7:15 pm
Saturday Dec 02	Rehearsal for the Fallowfield Christmas pageant, Saturday morning.
Sunday Dec 03	First Sunday of Advent White Gift Sunday (FM) Fallowfield Christmas potluck (F)
Wednesday Dec 06	Pack Christmas baskets (M) Last day of quilting before Christmas (M).
Sunday Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent. Christmas coffee hour, hosted by the Hetherington family (F) Ottawa Dutch Choral Society singing at Merivale (M) Dramatic presentation of the Christmas story (M) Merivale Christmas potluck (M)
Sunday Dec 10 (evening)	Fallowfield Choir will be one of the massed choir singing at St. Patrick's Church, 15 Steeple Hill Crescent, Fallowfield, starting at 7:00 pm. All welcome.
Sunday Dec 17	Third Sunday of Advent Holy communion at both churches (FM) Fallowfield Choir singing at both churches (FM)
Sunday Dec 24 (morning)	Fourth Sunday of Advent Rev. Hewlett officiating. (FM)
Sunday Dec 24 (evening)	Christmas Eve Services - Merivale at 6:00 pm; Fallowfield at 8:00 pm; Members of the Anderson family singing at Merivale Fallowfield Choir singing at Fallowfield
Wednesday Jan 10	Quilting resumes after the Christmas break (M).



MERIVALE/FALLOWFIELD CALENDAR
Nov/Dec 2006