



From The Pews

Paisley Memorial United Church

September - December 2003

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Photographed while attending the Annual Shut-In Tea are: (left to right) Elsie Gilbert, Molly Jackson and pictured left is Ted Evans.

The mission of Paisley Memorial United Church is to be a loving community modelling the teachings of Jesus Christ and to create a caring fellowship through worship, study, service and celebration, so that every person is ministered to and every member is involved in ministry.

The Friendship and Visitation Committee held their Annual Tea and Communion for shut-ins and "80 and over" on Wednesday June 18th from 2 to 4 p.m. The weather was perfect. Drivers were provided. Many came with their canes or walkers. The gym was attractively decorated, complete with tea table.

It was a "full house". Rev. Nancy Ferguson gave an inspiring devotional, followed by Communion.

The Village Minstrels entertained with sacred and secular music. Their music was beautifully rendered in voice, piano euphonium and cornet. Some of the ladies of the U.C.W. provided a delicious lunch that was much enjoyed by everyone. A good time was had by all.

Submitted by May Potton, Lay Visitor

From the Minister's Study

"I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" [Isaiah 43:19]

The prophet Isaiah served during turbulent times. The land was under attack and the people were in turmoil. Yet Isaiah's message was always consistent – God calls us to community, a community that praises and glorifies God in it's life together. And then the prophet speaks of future things – of a time when order will be restored, when the peoples will live in peace and harmony. "I am about to do a new thing", he prophesies.

Over the last several years at Paisley Memorial, there has been a great deal of turmoil. Changes in demographics have forced us to make some hard choices – but the choice has always been clear. So long as there is life, we will praise God! As a result of this decision, and the decisions made at subsequent Congregational Meetings over the last year, a lot of energy has been put into building on our strengths. And we've already seen marvellous things happening. And a funny thing, too. We're discovering the opposite to be equally true – so long as we praise God, we will have life!

What you hold in your hand is the inaugural issue of *From the Pews*, a new quarterly church newsletter produced by the Paisley Christian Publications small group ministry. In it you will discover a number of initiatives that are taking place here at Paisley – all in an effort to strengthen the bonds of community, to deepen our faith, and to find new ways to praise God. And a lot of it is happening through small groups.

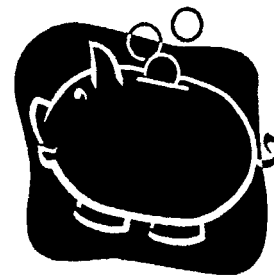
Small groups provide safe places for people to ask tough questions, where real life faith issues can be tackled, and where spiritual growth happens. Small groups are also where disciples can explore new forms of ministry among others who share a similar passion. And as you will see from this issue, several new small groups have sprung up at Paisley. As a congregation, we've committed ourselves to this new venture for a trial period of one year. So you'll be hearing more about what's developing and how the bonds of community are strengthening in future issues of *From the Pews*. And there'll be lots of opportunity for feedback.

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words to the Christian Church in Rome – a place he longed to visit. He speaks about the life of the Christian and likens it to labour pains. It's a powerful image and one that we at Paisley can relate to. For there is much distress in giving birth to something new. But when that new thing is cradled in our arms, and the joy of its arrival is embraced, it is as if all the aches and pains that brought us to this place are forgotten. And it's an image that isn't far from Isaiah's vision.

I encourage you to read this issue throughly, to take note of points of interest, and then to act on what you find here. Whether it's by adding your name to a group or participating in a session or an event – I am sure that you will discover new life and in the process, praise the God who gives you life. May it be so.

Rev. Nancy J. Ferguson

Fund Raising - An all year around event.



Are you aware of the Fundraising efforts that go on year- round at Paisley. Some of them won't even cost you a dime! There are containers at the back of the sanctuary for collecting the following:

Zehrs and Ultra Food Mart Tapes are collected and used for purchasing items for the church. (Our church refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall was purchased by the U.C.W. with the money received from the grocery tapes collected.)

Used Postage Stamps are collected for the Canadian Bible Society. The are given to the Guelph branch of the Canadian Bible Society, who use them to purchase bibles in over 2,000 languages for people to read.

Canadian Tire Money is collected for buying cleaning supplies at Canadian Tire for the church.

Any Loose Change is donated for the Benevolent Fund to help those in need. Many people in the community are in need of food. We provide Food Vouchers purchased from the Benevolent Fund.

Used and New Books are donated for the Tytler School Book Bin. Books are needs for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6.



Birthday Sunday

Over the last 3 years, we've set aside the third Sunday of the month to honour birthdays. Beginning Sunday, November 16 we take this tradition to a new level!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following morning service and sit at table with those who share your birthday month and enjoy a cake baked just for you.

Anniversaries will be honoured on Anniversary Sunday in March.

Highlights and News from Paisley's Newest Groups

By the Fireside – A Small Group Ministry

Attached to this newsletter you will find a description of "By the Fireside" - a small group ministry - that will be beginning this Advent season. Paisley has held Firesides previously and they were well attended. We hope you will be able to attend this year's Firesides and enjoy meeting Paisley folk as we journey along this road to Bethlehem. You will have an opportunity to communicate how you feel things are going at Paisley.



Find a Welcome – A Small Group Ministry

The Find a Welcome Small Group Ministry at the Margaret Street entrance begins on Sunday, September 7, 2003. Our purpose is to give a warm welcome to all Paisley members and to all visitors who enter the church Sunday mornings by the Margaret Street entrance and the parking lot door. We will have information available about the church, church groups and upcoming events at our welcoming table. We hope this welcoming area will become a valuable communication area for members and visitors to learn or to be kept informed on what is happening at Paisley. We will be glad to find answers to questions you may have about any of the groups or events. Please stop by the Welcoming area on September 7th to demonstrate your support for this initiative. We hope you will continue to give us support throughout the coming year as we live out this commitment to our ministry at Paisley.

Program Development and Evaluation – A Small Group Ministry

What ever happened to all that Strategic Planning Stuff???? Well the congregation approved the recommendations put forward by the Strategic Planning Group on May 4, 2003. The Strategic Planning Group then became the Program Development and Evaluation Group (PD&E) and immediately began the process of implementing the ideas. An Administrator was hired for a six-week period to assist with the start up of the recommended new small groups and to help develop some communication tools. It was a very busy summer for this group but we were pleased with the number of responses we had for volunteers. We were thankful for the newsletter group who of course are responsible for this publication. Hopefully in the years to come Paisley's members will feel they can start-up other small group ministries that they have a passion for. The application for the student internship is well underway and the plan is to have it submitted to the Church Council by their November meeting. The PD&E group looks forward to having some feedback from the By the Firesides on how they did at visioning, planning and implementing these recommendations we agreed on at the May 4th meeting.



Christian Development Committee

We have a busy year. When we come back from a time of renewal this summer, we will begin to implement the "Faithful Footsteps – Screening Procedures for Positions of Trust and Authority in the United Church of Canada". Some of you may have heard about this procedure developed by The United Church of Canada and some may not.

In 1997, at the 36th General Council, The United Church of Canada committed itself to "providing a safe environment for Worship, work and study in all Pastoral Charges, congregations, institutions, agencies, organizations or other bodies that operate under its name". Now known as "Faithful Footsteps", the Church has been encouraging congregations to develop their own local procedures for implementing this policy. The National Church is expected to rule within the next year as to when every congregation must be compliant.

At the June 4, 2003 meeting of our committee, the following motion was put forward: "The Christian Development Committee will proceed to implement "Faithful Footsteps screening" by developing job descriptions for the Sunday School Superintendent, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nannies, pastoral care workers and youth workers. This will be followed by the requirement of police checks for the present Sunday School Superintendent, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nannies, pastoral care workers and youth workers. The motion carried.

By September, the position descriptions should be completed for the current Sunday School teachers and Superintendent. Once they have the opportunity to review their position descriptions the next step will be to have the police check done. Presbytery will be asking the congregations in the fall where they are at in the implementation process and we will be pleased to report that Paisley has made this commitment to our youth and our youth workers.

In other news we received the resignation of Muriel Brown as the Sunday School Superintendent effective as of August 31, 2003. The position description is being worked on and will be posted in September. We were sad to hear that Muriel would be leaving the Sunday School as she has been dedicated to our youth for a number of years. We will miss Muriel's vision, wisdom and commitment and wish her a time of renewal.

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labour Day	2	3 Bible Study 10:30 AM Training for Find a Welcome and Caring Connection 5:30 pm	4 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	5	6 Men's Breakfast at Westwood UC 9:00 AM
7 Service at 10:30 Chapel Service St. Joseph's Home 2:30 PM	8 UCW Unit 4 1:30 PM	9	10 Bible Study 10:30 AM UCW Unit 5 1:30 PM	11 Choir Practice 7:30 PM Worship Committee 6:30 PM	12 Crafter's Group 6:30 PM	13
14 Service at 10:30 Sunday School Gates Ceremony and Communion	15	16 Covenant Training for PCP 7:00 PM	17 Bible Study 10:30 AM Christian Development Committee 7:30 PM	18 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	19	20
21 Service at 10:30 Church Council 12:30 PM	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:30 AM	25 An Evening of Singing with Bruce & Cheryl Harding 7:00 pm	26 Crafter's Group 6:30 PM	27 Church Council Retreat @ Conf Office, Carlisle 9:30-3:30
28 Service at 10:30 Faith Talk with Brianna Berry	29	30				

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10:30 AM	2 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	3	4
5 Service at 10:30 Worldwide Communion Chapel Service @ St. Joseph's 2:30	6 UCW Unit 4 1:30 PM	7	8 Bible Study 10:30 AM UCW Unit 5 1:30 PM	9 Choir Practice 7:30 PM Worship Committee 6:30 PM	10 Crafter's Group 6:30 PM	11
12 Service at 10:30 Thanksgiving & Baptism Sunday Citrus Orders start	13 Thanksgiving Day	14	15 Bible Study 10:30 AM	16 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	17	18
19 Service at 10:30 75th Anniversary Mission & Service Church Council 12:30	20	21	22 Bible Study 10:30 AM	23 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	24 Crafter's Group 6:30 PM	25
26 Service at 10:30 Bible Society Sunday Chapel Service The Elliott 3:00	27	28	29 Bible Study 10:30 AM	30 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	31 Set up Bazaar	

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Service at 10:30 Communion Chapel Service St. Joseph's 2:30	2 UCW Unit 4 1:30 PM	3	4 Bible Study 10:30 AM By the Fireside Host/Facilitator Training 7:30	6 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	7	8
Service at 10:30 Remembrance Day	9	10 Remembrance Day	11 Bible Study 10:30 AM UCW Unit 5 1:30 PM	12 Choir Practice 7:30 PM Worship Committee 6:30 PM	13 Crafter's Group 6:30 PM	14 15
Service at 10:30 Church Council 12:30 PM Birthday Sunday	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:30 AM	19 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	20	21 22
Service at 10:30 30 Service at 10:30 Advent 1/ Sunday Sundaes	23 By the Fireside 30 Week begins	24	25 Bible Study 10:30 AM	26 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	27 Crafter's Group 6:30 PM	28 29

Youth Confirmation Program

Want to explore what it means to be a Christian? Interested in asking some tough questions without getting any easy answers? Then the Youth Confirmation program is just for you! As long as you're 12 years or older you can sign up for a 14 week program spread over several months. You'll be meeting with the Minister for some lesson time, getting together with your Mentor for some one-on-one time, and doing some individual work on the side. There will be a field trip and a movie night as well! We begin exploring on **Sunday, October 5** for one hour before service from **9:00-10:00 a.m.** A full schedule is available. Sign up by calling the Church Office at 824-1090. Youth Confirmation will take place on Easter Sunday in 2004.

UCW Snow Flake Tea and Bazaar
 Saturday, November 1
 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come by and purchase delicious baked goods and handmade crafts. Then stay for a lovely luncheon and tea.

Tickets on sale for luncheon in October.



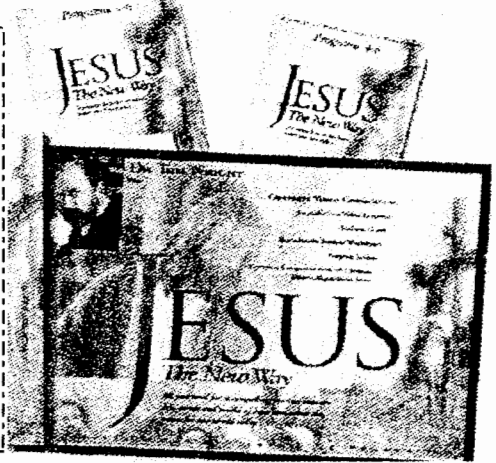
Passages May 1- July 31, 2003

Baptisms
 Victoria McCrossen
 Ann McCrossen
 Aaron McCrossen

Deaths
 Adeline Steer
 Edna Gilfillan
 Marc Davies
 Shelah McLennaghan

Jesus: The New Way

For six consecutive Wednesdays beginning October 15 at 7:30 p.m., the Adult Faith Formation Program for 2003 will run a 6-part video curriculum supplemented by United Church resources. In the video series, noted author and New Testament scholar Dr. Tom Wright, presents fascinating background material from the first century to help us understand the world in which Jesus lived bringing a richness to the study and a renewed sense of commitment to the faith on the part of participants. Following the six sessions, those who wish to make a public profession of faith through Adult Confirmation are invited to participate in one final session dealing specifically with The United Church of Canada. Adult Confirmation or Profession of Faith will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2003 at the 10:30 a.m. service. If you wish to participate in this program, please register through the Church Office at 824-1090.





**“A Passion for Outreach Continues
Strong in the Neighbourhood”**

On November 23rd 1987 the first breakfast of the Tytler School Breakfast Club was served at Paisley Memorial United Church. The children would walk from the school with a teacher, sit at a table with a volunteer, say Grace and have a hot breakfast. They then would return to school for classes. The volunteers would serve the breakfast and help the cooks in the kitchen wash the dishes and clean and tidy the Fellowship Hall.

Over the years, the program has undergone several changes. The current program takes place at Tytler School, and is now a Snack program. Tytler Principal Gord Heasley and the teachers say the children enjoy the snacks. The academic success of the students attests to the importance of this program.

We need volunteers for this important outreach. If you could be at the school for one or two (or more) mornings from 7:30 - 8:15 a.m. every six weeks, please call the church office, 824-1090 or Marj McCarthy, 836-2606.

Our purpose is to unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service.

Unit 5 meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Unit 4 meets every 1st Monday of the month 1:30. The program includes worship, prayer and fellowship. Service seems to be our strong point. We raise funds by several means and serve our community and church community through many good deeds. Our fellowship is most important to us as we follow Christ's teachings.

It is important to us to find other members (younger ones would be great!) to continue our work.

Our upcoming events include the following:

- Unit 5 will be making meat pies in the fall and **need volunteers to roll pastry dough.**
- The Hamilton Conference of U.C.W. is holding an annual fall retreat with the theme of “**Bloom Where You are Planted**” **October 17 & 18 at Five Oaks.** Deadline is September 27.
- We are having our U.C.W. **Snowflake Tea & Bazaar, Saturday November 1 from 11 am - 1:30 p.m.** You can purchase baked goods and handmade crafts, then enjoy a lovely luncheon and tea. Tickets will be on sale in October for the luncheon.

Please contact the church office for more details.



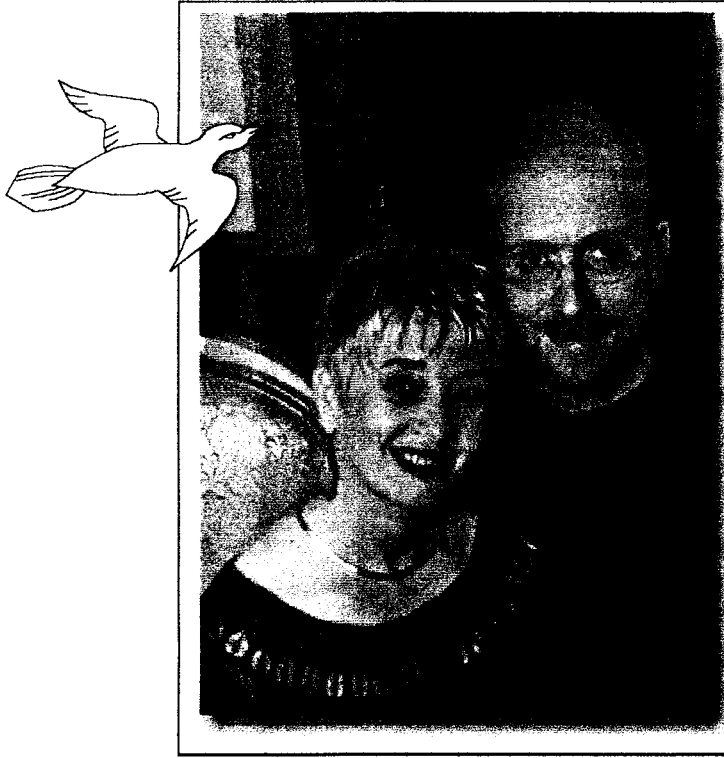
“Disciple Ship Paisley” a Message from Council Chairperson, Allin Brown



Wow!! What an exciting journey we have embarked on. Our small group ministry has always been the foundation for our ministry at Paisley whether it was the UCW, youth group, choir, Men's Breakfast or any other group that has had the opportunity to be enriched by our community. Now that we engage in some other types of ministry that will surely strengthen our bonds and enable our spirits. I'm honoured to be able to share this trip with such a wonderful family here at Paisley, God has surely called us together. These past months I've tried to find out what makes us tick by speaking with many of you, and by looking through some of our past. And when I was doing that I found that even though we are a diverse group of people with different wants and needs, we are still very much a family, a crew.

We are embarking on our own journey aboard the faithful vessel “Disciple Ship Paisley”, becoming a loving community, modelling the teachings of Jesus Christ and creating a caring fellowship through worship, study, service and celebration, so that every person aboard is ministered to and every shipmate is involved in ministry. I hope everyone takes advantage of these opportunities we have and listens for that will of God that calls us into this ministry. As our Captain watches us from above, and while at sea we all have our part on board, we now prepare to shove off into waters unknown to use ourselves on “Disciple Ship Paisley” for the glory of God.

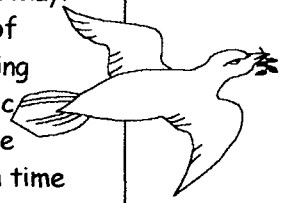
May God's abundant grace keep you safe during our journey together and may your light so shine before others and bring you peace.



"An Evening of Singing"

Join us September 25th, at 7:30 p.m.
for an Evening of Singing with Bruce and
Cheryl Harding.

Bruce and Cheryl are recording artists,
worship and workshop leaders from New
Westminster, BC. They have shared their
musical gifts and love of God with
congregations and gatherings across
Canada and are currently touring in
support of their latest CD, *Like a Healing
Stream*, which was just released in May!
Bruce and Cheryl capture the joy of
meditation and celebration, providing
spiritual nourishment for our hectic
modern world. Refreshments will be
served after the concert, at which time
you will also have an opportunity to
purchase their recordings and songbooks.



Could this be your call to service?

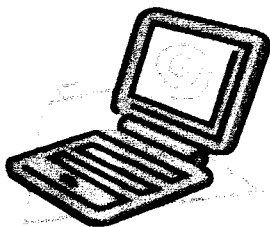
Paisley's Christian Development
Committee is considering implementing
some electronic methods of
communicating with our Congregation.

We are looking to gauge the interest of
the Congregation in the following:

Would you like to receive
updates/notices of special events via e-
mail?

If so, please forward an e-mail to the
church office. The e-mail address is
paisleyuc@golden.net, include the words
"electronic notices" in your subject line.
We will need to measure interest in this
project before committing resources,
therefore please respond by October 1,
2003.

Is there a website in Paisley's future?
There could be if such talents lay hidden
amongst our Congregation. If you have
an interest in this project please contact
Susan at the church office.

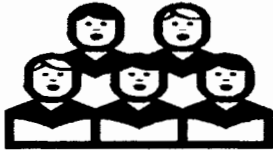


Photos taken during the trip to "Wings of Paradise". A fun time was had by all!



Paisley Choir

Do you like to sing?



Paisley's choir is always looking for new members. We meet every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. starting Sept 4th.

Citrus Fruit Sale Proceeds To Mission and Service Fund

Order Forms for the purchase of Citrus Fruit (oranges and grapefruit) will be available Sunday October 12, 2003. Fruit delivery will be in December, 2003.



Special Events Group

Our group will help any Church Group or Committee with: Set up for special events or dinners, locating volunteers, event advertising, producing tickets etc.

If you need our help, contact the program coordinator, Susan Randell, at the church office at 824-1090.

Crafter's Group

Are you interested in making crafts for the church? Do you wish to join a group that is fun and exciting? New Members are welcome! Upcoming projects include Chismon symbol ornaments, pulpit banners, and crafts for the Snowflake Bazaar. Come to our next meeting! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

An Invitation for Feedback.

What did you think of the first issue of "From the Pews"? We would love to hear your comments. What worked? What didn't? What would you change? What would you like to see?

Please let us know! Feel free to speak to Jacqueline Gilbert directly, drop off a note at the church office or send an e-mail to bd-gilbert@rogers.com.

The next newsletter will be published in December, deadline for submissions is November 1st. This is your opportunity to promote your items or events for December, January and February.

Paisley Memorial United Church- Important Contact Information

Church Council Members

Allin Brown – Chairperson
Jan Ecott - Ministry & Personnel
Mary Elliott - Presbytery Representative
Ken Lamorea – Property Representative
Jane Anneveld - U.C.W. Representative

Sue Beatty - Pastoral Care
George Elliott – Treasurer
Janice Hurry – Outreach, Mission & Service
Amanda Veige – Christian Development
Rev. Nancy Ferguson – Minister

Church Staff

Nancy Ferguson, Minister
Susan Randell, Secretary
Joanna Wegman, Music Director
Bob Stubbs, Custodian
Lynn Ingram, Office Volunteer

Group & Committee Contacts

Church Council - Allin Brown
Visitation & Friendship - Mae Potton
Worship Committee - Donna Moore
Crafter's Group - Susan Randell
U.C.W. Unit 4 - Georgina Martin
Men's Breakfast Group - John Randell
Christian Development - Mary Elliott
Find a Welcome – A Small Group Ministry - Deb Bowie or Mary Elliott
Program Development and Evaluation – A Small Group Ministry – Mary Elliott or Jancie Hurry
Caring Connection – A Small Group Ministry - Mary Ellen Nettle
Paisley Christian Publications – A Small Group Ministry - Jacqueline Gilbert

Estate Fund Property Team - Allin Brown
Sunday School - Muriel Brown
Special Events Group - Susan Randell
U.C.W. Unit 5 - Janice Hurry
Paisley Choir - Janice Hurry
Tytler Snack Program - Marj McCarthy



The church office would be pleased to assist you in contacting any of the above individuals.
The church office is open from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. Monday to Friday.

40 Margaret Street, Guelph, Ontario N1E 5R7.
Phone: (519) 824-1090 Fax: (519) 824-9288
Email: paisleyuc@golden.net