



From The Pews

Newsletter of Paisley Memorial United Church

December 2003 – February 2004 Volume II

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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.

A Baptism Story — contributed by Marni Struyk

When I was recently asked to write a story on the topic of baptism I immediately accepted. Although I do not remember my own baptism, I can very clearly recall the details of the baptisms of all three of our children. Tyler was baptized on May 13, 1995. That Sunday was my first Mother's Day. We were at St. Andrew's United Church in North Bay with the Reverend Jim Sinclair. Devin was baptized on April 23, 2000. It was Easter Sunday and my 27th birthday. We were here at Paisley Memorial and the Reverend Brent Woodward was the minister at the time. And, as you may already be aware, our daughter Jessie was baptized on October 12, 2003, this past Thanksgiving. Our very own Reverend Nancy Ferguson preformed the service. All three baptisms were very special and each one was as unique as the children themselves. We have photos, videos, candles, the bulletins from all three of the services, gifts commemorating the events and many fond memories to cherish for the years to come. What is not as apparent is how each of these baptisms required quite a bit of planning on our part.

We had the baptism preparation classes to attend, special clothing to purchase, portraits to be taken, the post baptism reception to plan, and thank you cards to mail out to everyone. On top of all the energy that we chose to put into planning the children's baptisms, family and friends traveled to attend the service. My children will never remember the events of their christening day, just as I don't remember my own baptism. What was the purpose of all of the work put into these days? Why did we feel that is was so important to have our children Baptized?

The reasons for wishing to have your child baptized will be different for everyone. I think that I may have had a slightly different approach to baptism for each of the children. I prepared for each baptism with a different minister and at very different places in my own faith journey. Despite having different circumstances each time, I believe the core values remained consistent. I truly maintain the adage that states that it takes a village to raise a child. In order to be well rounded, it is important for the village to be made up of a variety of different attributes.

Continued on page 3

Pictured left to right. Devin, Tyler and Jessica Struyk.



From the Minister's Study

Blest be the tie that binds

On the second Sunday of September, the congregation gathered to celebrate the Sunday School's Annual Gate Ceremony and covenanted with our Sunday School Teachers. Two weeks later, we covenanted with the members of three of our new small group ministries. On Thanksgiving Sunday, we participated in the Sacrament of Baptism and covenanted with little Jessica Struyk and her parents, Marni and Jeff. And on November 23, we will gather again before God to covenant with our "By the Fireside" hosts and facilitators. My, there's a lot of covenanting going on at Paisley!

The easiest way of defining a Covenant is to say it's a holy contract. A covenant is an agreement between two parties – and one of those parties is God. Promises and vows are made. But there is one significant difference between a covenant and a contract. If one party fails to live up to their promises, a contract is broken. We need only look to our Biblical story to realize that even when we have failed to live up to our promises, God never breaks a covenant. Covenants between God and humankind are sure and solid.

Just think of all the covenants in the Bible. There's the covenant God made with Noah that never again would God's anger prevail;

the covenant with Abraham and Sarah that they'd have offspring as numerous as the stars in the heaven; and the covenant with Moses through the 10 Commandments, valuable rules for life lived in community. Biblical writes would later dust off the old word covenant and apply it to Jesus Christ. There is a thread that runs through them all. God proclaims "I will be your God and you will be my people". What a beautiful gift! How do we express our thanks for God's grace? We live into that covenant the best way we can by sharing the same grace, love and support with one another as we journey this road of faith.

Marni and Jeff Struyk reflect on the power of covenant in their article on baptism featured on page 1. I encourage you to read it. It is a beautiful piece. And I encourage you to consider the ways in which you share the grace of God through your support of the many forms of ministry that are ongoing and that are being birthed at Paisley. It is an exciting time and there is much to celebrate!

Rev. Nancy J. Ferguson
Minister



A Night of Special Music

A wonderful evening of Special Music came to us with Bruce and Cheryl Harding.

We listened, we sang and we clapped to the beat. Bruce and Cheryl Harding performed their own original songs as well as songs from around the world. This spiritual couple is well known throughout Canada for their contribution of music and songs to the United Church. It was a memorable and magical evening of praise!

Submitted by Joanna Wegman

All ages are invited to Five Oaks' (Paris, ON) seventh annual envisioning of Jesus' birth. It is entertaining and engaging! Enjoy a carol sing; then take the journey to Bethlehem, meeting beggars, artists, innkeepers, and shepherds. Hot drinks and cookies will revive you after your journey. The trip will take about 45 minutes. Please dress warmly. Starts at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m. Admission is by donation and a non-perishable food item. For information on Five Oaks' programs and directions, check the website at www.fiveoaks.on.ca.

“ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS” Nov 28th to Dec 19th

Most of us have lived long enough to learn that what we find and receive in life largely depends on what we seek. Advent is a time of spiritual discipline to prepare us to receive the gifts God most deeply longs to give.

It forces us to strip away the artificial tinsel and plastic snow to ask, “what is most important for my life?”

Journey to Bethlehem
Tuesday December 2nd and
Wednesday December 3rd



What gifts do I most deeply long for God to give to us and to our world this Christmas?”

Join us for 4 consecutive Fridays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium for an exploration based on James Harnish's book entitled, “All I Want for Christmas – An Advent Study for Adults”. Cost of resource is \$7.50 plus tax. Contact the Church office to register.

A Baptism Storycontinued from page 1

It is important for me to have at least one aspect of our village to be faith based. I need help to nurture my children's faith needs. I therefore saw it as important to be actively involved in a church community. Having a church community as a part of that village is crucial. Having a baptism as an official welcoming into the Christian Church community is very symbolic. At baptism a baby's family expands to include the entire church community. Our village strengthens with this new bond between our baby and the church. It is our hope that the relationship that began between our children and the church at baptism will grow and deepen as the children grow themselves. Ideally, the covenant made with God at baptism will be renewed at Confirmation when the once baby is old enough to accept responsibility for their role in

their faith journey; their personal relationship with God. Although babies who are learning to walk do not remember their first step, it is an important accomplishment and leads to so much more. Likewise, baptism is the first step in an important, life long journey of faith. Baptism reminds parents, grand parents, godparents, and other family members as well as church members, of their responsibility to the tiny new person and that person's budding faith. Although Tyler, Devin, and Jessie will not remember their own special day, they may hear the story of their Baptism day, watch the video, or look at photos and understand how important the promise we made with God, on their behalf, really is. I hope that they will feel special when they realize that they belong

to a family rooted in faith. A family who welcomed them as infants, nurtured them as children, and supports them as adults. I hope that they know that they belong to a community; that they have an extended family that starts with loving god parents, continues with their church family, extends to include the Christian Church, and is all held together by God. All of this greatness on top of parents, grandparents and family who love them unconditionally. Sounds like a great place to belong. Jessie's baptism was a wonderful experience for our family and close friends who were able to attend. Everyone felt welcomed at Paisley and enjoyed the day tremendously. We would like to thank everyone for making that day what it was and for sharing it with us. God Bless,
Marni and Jeff,
Tyler, Devin, and Jessie Struyk



Friends and Family of the Struyk's who came to celebrate Jessie's Bantism



Aboard Discipleship Paisley

A Message from Council Chairperson,
Allin Brown

Greetings and Salutations; it's a very exciting time on our journey. I'm pleased to bring you an update on our trip. While our small group ministries are now in full stride, and with the council discussing and creating policy, we are creating the tools needed for smooth sailing. A great big thank you to you for helping the various committees and small groups provide their support to the whole people of God, our captain.

This morning I looked outside and saw the most beautiful sunrise; as the glory of the Lord rose

above the horizon I was filled with a sense of awe and adoration for the many works of God. Our journey aboard Discipleship Paisley also fills my heart with that same warm feeling that I'm sure all sailors felt when at sea. Freedom, peace, and love will certainly lend their support as we continue our journey. Take a moment to close your eyes and envision that warm sunrise, emblematic of our lives together as a family, shipmates on Discipleship Paisley.

God be with us on our journey together.



The Snowflake Tea and Bazaar Committee would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods, crafts and their valuable time. The actual dollars raised will be calculated shortly.


A Special thanks to Lucy Prior, June Moore and Heather Moore who made the delicious and beautiful sandwiches.

Thanks to Joyce LeBlanc for being of support and assistance to myself. She completed her inaugural tea with flying colours.


Sincerely,
Heather





December 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Paisley Christian Publications 1:00pm	3 Bible Study 10:30am Adult Confirmation 7:00pm	4 Choir Practice 7:30pm	5 "All I want for Xmas" 12:00-1:00pm	6 3 rd Advent Event & Potluck Supper 4:00pm
7 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Service 10:30am Citrus pickup 12:00pm	8 UCW Unit 4 At Daisy's 12:30pm	9	10 Bible Study 10:30am UCW Unit 5 Potluck Supper 6:30pm	11 Worship Committee 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	12 "All I want for Xmas" 12:00-1:00pm "Crooked Penny" In Concert 7:00pm	13 Youth Service 6:00pm & 9:00pm
14 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Service White Gift 10:30am	15	16	17 Bible Study 10:30am	18 Widow's Circle 10:30am Choir Practice 7:30pm	19 "All I want for Xmas" 12:00-1:00pm Youth Confirmation Movie Night 6:30pm	20
21 Service Sunday School Pageant 10:30am	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00pm	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day	27
28 Service 10:30am	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

January 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year 	2	3
4 Epiphany Service 10:30am Service at St. Joseph's 7:30pm	5 UCW Unit 4 1:30pm	6	7 Bible Study 10:30am	8 Worship Committee 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	9	10
11 Service - Baptism Renewal 10:30am Sunday School Teachers 12:30pm Budget Deadline	12	13	14 Bible Study 10:30am UCW Unit 5 1:30pm	15 Choir Practice 7:30pm	16	17
18 Service 10:30am Church Council 12:00pm	19	20	21 Bible Study 10:30am Pastoral Care Workshop at Westwood United	22 Choir Practice 7:30pm	23	24
25 Service 10:30am	26	27	28 Bible Study 10:30am Pastoral Care Workshop at Westwood United	29 Choir Practice 7:30pm	30	31

February 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Service 10:30am Service at St. Joseph's 2:30pm	2 UCW Unit 4 1:30pm	3	4 Bible Study 10:30am Pastoral Care Workshop at Westwood United	5 Choir Practice 7:30pm	6	7
8 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Service 10:30am	9	10	11 Bible Study 10:30am UCW Unit 5 1:30pm Pastoral Care Workshop at Westwood United	12 Worship Committee 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	13 Crafter's Group 6:30pm	14 
15 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Service 10:30am	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:30am Pastoral Care Workshop at Westwood United	19 Choir Practice 7:30pm	20	21
22 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Service 10:30am Annual Meeting 12:00pm	23	24	25 Bible Study 10:30am Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	26 Choir Practice 7:30pm	27 Crafter's Group 6:30pm	28 
29 Service 10:30am						

Passages

August 1-October 31, 2003

Baptisms

Jessica Reagan Struyk

Deaths

Allan Lowry
Arnold Prior
Lillian Jones

Moved

Bertha Evans to Palmerston
Nathan and Marilyn Loucks
To Kitchener



The mystery Pen-Pal Project is back! We are looking names of those who would like to undertake this "mysterious" ministry. We match a child with an adult who will write letters to each other from January to June.

Home Visitor Workshop

Advance notice of an upcoming Workshop. It is for those interested in gaining skills for hospital or home visitation. The course is 5 weeks long, begins Jan 21st at Westwood. The event is sponsored by the Guelph United Churches.

Please contact the church office to register or for info.

3rd Annual Advent Event and Potluck Supper

Saturday, December 6th, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

Hosted and Sponsored by the Sunday School

Event for the entire Family!

Enjoy making Advent Crafts, singing carols and hearing Advent stories told.



Pancake & Sausage Supper

Tuesday, February 24, 2004 5:00 – 7:00p.m.

Calendar

Sunday School Christmas Pageant.

Sunday December 21st, 2003.
During Worship Service at 10:30



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2003
7:00 p.m.



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 25, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Alternative Worship

Submitted by Mary Ellen Nettle

During September and October, the Worship Committee decided to hold a mid-week worship time on Tuesday evenings for people who are not able to attend regular Sunday worship at Paisley. There are various people this attempted to serve such as; folks who go to cottages, those working, involved in activities, and those that cannot physically access our regular worship.

We met six times, starting in mid September and ending the last week of October. We gathered in the gymnasium in a small circle and Allin Brown assisted us musically with his guitar. There were usually 8 or 9 members present. We followed the service that had been used on the previous Sunday. Instead of a sermon we had a meditation and discussion on the scripture lesson. There were always one or two members of the worship committee present who assisted with the service.

It was a friendly and worshipful experience for all whom participated and greatly enriched by the presence of folks like Harold McCarthy and Melissa Brooks. We hope to provide this opportunity once more in the spring months of May and June next year.

If you have any questions or suggestions please speak a member of the Worship Committee. We are Jacqueline Gilbert, Emma Hastings, Joanna Wegman, Allin Brown, Heather Campbell, Donna Moore and Mary Ellen Nettle.

Are you hearing the church service clearly?

This month we will be having hearing assistive devices available. Please ask for a set and let us know what you think. Contact Susan Randall at the church office; alternatively contact Mary Elliott or Marianne Matthews. We have several types available on a trial basis beginning Nov. 14th.



Please try these out and let us know what works best. This will help us make a decision on which type works best for people.



Crooked Penny Celtic Band
Friday, December 12
7:00 p.m.
Paisley Memorial United
Church

All proceeds to Tytler Public
School Program.

Crooked Penny Celtic Band plays an eclectic mix of Irish, Scottish and East Coast music. Bob Mino is the son of Evelyn Mino, a long-time Paisley member.

Suggested donation at the door is \$10.00 per person for adults and youth 14+. An adult must accompany youth under 14. Refreshments follow the concert.



The Christian Development Committee

I would like to thank the Christian Development Committee for their assistance and support with implementing the United Church screening program "Faithful Footsteps" into our positions of trust at Paisley. I was very pleased that Paisley Memorial could report to the Waterloo Presbytery in October 2003 that a screening procedure is in place and this will be followed by anyone interested in working with the youth at Paisley.

The Sunday School teachers and assistants have worked hard at pulling the paperwork together and are reviewing their final position descriptions. They will be going for their Police Record Checks and providing this to the Ministry & Personnel Chairperson. Once the Sunday School teachers have approved the Sunday School Superintendent's position description it will be posted. We hope the position description will call someone to this vital ministry at Paisley.

Ministry & Personnel Committee attended the Christian Development informational meeting about the screening program in September and have since reviewed draft application forms and position descriptions for positions of trust. We were pleased that George Elliott agreed to begin implementing the screening procedure into the area of the churches finance and that should be completed by the end of this year as well. The property group has been made aware of ways that could make the physical space a safer place for our leaders and youth.

If you would like to know more about the screening process and if your group needs to be involved, please speak to Rev. Nancy or members of the Christian Development Committee.

Shalom,
Mary Elliott, Chairperson
Christian Development

Notes from our Lay Visitor

Submitted by Mae Potton

The annual Festive Tea for residents of all the various Homes in and around the City was held at St. James Anglican Church Oct 2nd from 2 to 4 p.m. Eight churches helped. Lyla Harmer was present from Norfolk Manor. Marianne and Mae provided the "shared" lunch from our church.

The annual Christmas visitations will begin shortly. The preparations involve writing out approximately 60 cards; cutting and wrapping Christmas cake and preparing treats to give out.

It will take 3-5 Sunday's to complete this visitation. Reverend Nancy Ferguson or Sue Beatty sometimes comes along.

Several of our members, 80 and over are no longer able to attend morning worship. These visitations help us keep in touch with them and provide important Christmas fellowship.

As was highlighted during Worship on November 2nd, this date marked our Minister's 3rd anniversary with Paisley. Congratulations, a card and flowers were extended to our Reverend Nancy Ferguson.



The U.C.W. needs pastry rollers!

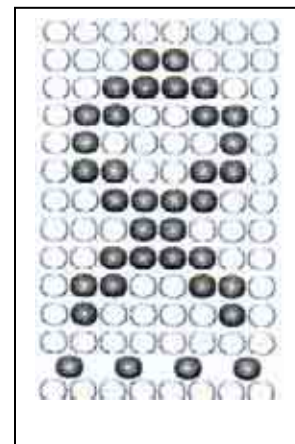
Submitted by Janice Hurry

The U.C.W. has a historically made fabulous meat pies for sale as a Fundraiser for our Church. This year the ladies really need some extra help. It seems that the ladies don't have the same "dough rolling arms" that they used to. Janice Hurry said " All our ladies are most happy to cook the wonderful meat filling and mix up their famous pie dough, but we'd sure love to find an easier way to roll out and press the dough". For now, the ladies are looking for some younger, skilled pastry rollers to keep this Fundraising project alive. If you have this skill, please contact Janice Hurry so this project can get "rolling" again.

A longer-term solution is also on the minds of the U.C.W. Ladies. The September Observer (page 12) contained an article about the Innisfail United Church in Alberta. They have hydraulic-assisted dough press and wooden pie molds that assisted them in creating enough pies to raise \$8000.00 last year. Are you a carpenter or an inventor? Do you own a truck brake cylinder? Can you create something to get us making some "dough" again?

The Beads of Hope Campaign

The United Church of Canada has launched a "Signature of Hope Petition". The petition is an attempt to draw attention and financial support to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This illness continues to spread quickly across marginalized populations in Canada and around the world. This results in enormous costs to families, communities and national economies. Some of the roadblock to effectively stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS or the treatment are as follows; burden of foreign debt hinders low-income countries,



funding in Canada has remained from at 42.2 million since 1993 while HIV continues to spread, and lack of access to low-cost generic drugs in developing countries. The United Church of Canada would like these issues to be addressed by our Government. We are asked to gather 100 000 signatures so that the message comes across loud and strong. Speak to Janice Hurry if you need a petition or more information.

Left to right. Sarah Bailly and Diane Berry. Working the Sunday School Table at the Snowflake Tea and Bazaar.



Ladies of the U.C.W.



U.C.W. Is looking for new members.

Paisley's United Church Women's league is looking for new members.

The group meets every 2nd Wednesday at 1:30 at Paisley.

This group offers its members an opportunity for worship, and fellowship.

Donations of wool needed.

Sherri Speers does a great deal on knitting on behalf of the Paisley Sunday school. In fact, her wares were recently sold at the Snowflake Tea and Bazaar. She is looking for leftover yarn so she can keep her fingers busy. If you have any remnants of yarn you are not going to use, please pass them along to Sherri.

U.C.W. Evening of Fellowship.

The U.C.W. will be hosting the Catholic Womens League of Sacred Heart to join us at our December meeting.

The potluck dinner will include eating, singing, and visiting.

Annual General Meeting

Paisley Memorial United Church

Save the date. We will be meeting on February 22, 2004 at 12:00 p.m.

From the Editor.

I would like to ask that you keep the Newsletter in your thoughts as you plan and prepare exciting events in your unit/or groups. Take advantage of the great exposure your upcoming events can receive; after all From the Pews is distributed to our entire congregation. The simplest way to do this is appoint one person in your group to share all your exciting news with me.

I am open to suggestions and of course story ideas. I welcome to our Small Group Ministry, Allin Brown. As usual, Allin was quick to agree to help as he is with so many other projects. Susan Randall continues to be part of the team, and is a huge help in gather up all the article ideas and calendar items.

We certainly hope you like what we are doing. If you have any feedback or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

P.S. The next deadline for From the Pews is on February 1st, 2004.

Jacqueline Gilbert

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.



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