



From The Pews

Newsletter of Paisley Memorial United Church

March - May 2004

Volume 3

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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.

The 40 Days of Lent

As a church we have now entered the Season of Lent, 40 days traditionally marked with fasting, prayer, and repentance. Lent is part of the rich history of the Christian church, dating back to the 3rd century.

At first, the Lenten observance was only a 40-hour fast for catechumens before their baptisms on Easter, to coincide with the belief that Jesus spent 40 hours in the tomb. Over the years, it was expanded to include all the faithful and was lengthened in duration. The church finally settled on a 40-day Lenten fast, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding the Saturday before Easter. *(Sundays are not included in the count, as each Sunday is a little Easter, a weekly reminder of the Resurrection.)*

The number 40 was chosen for its significance in the Bible, most notably that Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days. Today, few Christians observe a fast for 40 days. Rather, Lent has become a period of introspection and self-evaluation.

Other traditional Lenten disciplines include prayer and almsgiving. Often, people will "give up something" for Lent. With its emphasis on repentance, Lent's liturgical colour is purple.

Some have likened Lent to a "wilderness time", recalling other biblical wanderings and times of trial and repentance: the 40 days and nights of rain that destroyed all the earth but Noah and his family and the animals in the ark; the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness; the 40 days Moses spent fasting on the mountain before he received the Law.



Yet wilderness times can be wonderful, positive times as well: the time the Israelites wandered in the wilderness formed them as a nation; the 40-day journey of Elijah to Mount Horeb where he honestly sought God's presence and discovered his calling. It was in the wilderness where Hagar found spiritual renewal, where John baptized, and where Jesus fed the multitudes. And it was after 40 days spent in the wilderness that Jesus found enough strength in his faith to fend off the temptations that assaulted him.

Lent can be a time, not just of grief and brow-beating, but a time of growing profoundly in our faith, strengthened by God's presence, which empowers us to face the truth of Good Friday, and then rejoice in the glory of Easter. Lent offers us the opportunity to slow down, enter our own "wilderness" to reflect, pray, and return to God.

Excerpted from *Seasons of the Spirit™ Congregation Life*, Lent, Easter

From the Minister's Study

As you read this 3rd issue of "From the Pews", we will have just concluded our 157th Annual Meeting in the life of this unique faith community known as Paisley Memorial. We've been at it a very long time! But what an exciting year it has been.

We've seen the birth of several new ministries throughout the church that seek to bring us closer together as a community, to nurture and excite us, to allow us to share our passions, and to draw us out sharing our faith in new and exciting ways. It has been wonderful to see people share their gifts. It has been a delight for me to watch as new Committees formed just one year ago, found their footing and really explored their purpose blessing the entire congregation. Of particular note is the Faith Formation & Education Committee

(formerly *Christian Development*) who completed the project of implementing the Faithful Footsteps screening procedures for volunteers mandated by Waterloo Presbytery. Truly we can say, Paisley is a safe place as we endeavour to grow in the faith! But now that the 157th Annual Meeting has drawn to a close, new initiatives will be undertaken, new venues explored, and new opportunities available for service.

As we begin our trek through this Lenten period – a period of introspection and self-evaluation – this is a time for each of us to take a closer look at the way in which we are living out our Baptismal vows. Are we "living" our faith in God? Are we following the way of Jesus Christ by resisting evil and seeking justice? Are we proclaiming Christ in our words and actions? Are we joining with our brothers and sisters at

Paisley to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ? Lent is the time to take stock, to take a microscope to our faithful living, and to consider our involvement in the wider faith community. Take advantage of the opportunities available to you here at Paisley. Check out the calendar in the newsletter and in your weekly Sunday worship bulletin. If you have a passion, you can be sure there are others interested. Offer yourself and your gifts and you'll be amazed at what can happen. I can hardly wait until our 158th Annual Meeting!

Have a blessed Lent and a joyous Easter.

Rev. Nancy J. Ferguson



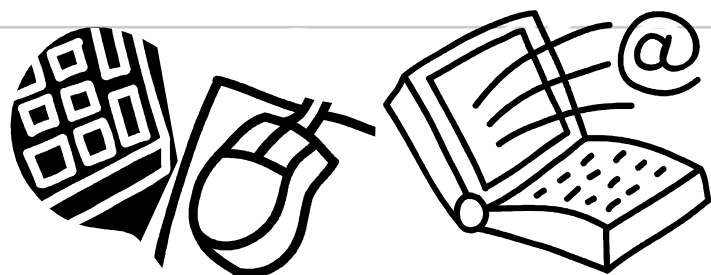
Paisley has a Website!!



For those of you on-line, please take a moment to experience Paisley's new Website. Additionally, our groups and programs have been featured. An electronic copy of From the Pews will be located on this site.

This new site was developed by Allin Brown. Here you will find general information, like how to contact the church.

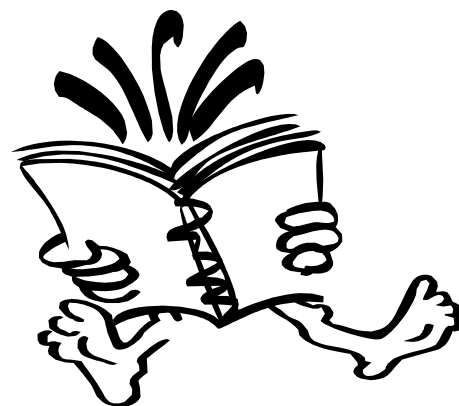
<http://home.golden.net/~paisleyuc/>



The Paisley Book Club

A new addition to the Adult Faith Formation Program launches Tuesday, April 20th, 2004!

Bring a favorite book and have a say in the selection as we look to meeting once a month to discuss, raise questions, reflect on our reading, and grow in the faith, in a friendly and relaxed environment.



Our first session begins at 7:00p.m. with dessert/tea/coffee in the Calvert Room.

Contact the church office if you are interested, then make a note in your calendar and set aside the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

For more information please speak to Rev. Nancy. We'll see you on April 20th at 7:00p.m. !

Faith Formation and Education Workshop

*Saturday, April 17, 2004
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Paisley Memorial United Church
Gymnasium*

Guest Speaker: George Elliott, Scotiatrust

An invitation is extended to all church leaders, committee members, and interested members of our faith community to attend an educational workshop at Paisley. George Elliott will give two presentations:

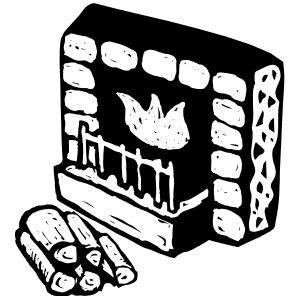
- 1) "To Will or Not to Will" (wills, guardianship, power of attorney, joint property and rights of survivorship). A time for questions and answers will be available after the second presentation.
- 2) "Gifts of the Spirit – Gifts of the Heart" (The United Church of Canada Foundation and Planned Gift Giving)

Please register at the church office 824-1090. There is no cost for the workshop and coffee/tea/juice provided. A complete agenda will be sent to the church leaders, registrants and posted in the Fellowship hall. Some resource materials will be available from the United Church of Canada and Scotiatrust. Day care provided. Hosted by the Faith Formation and Education Committee.

"By the Firesides" We're doing them again!!!!

We had a wonderful turnout The week of March 7th will be at our Advent Firesides and the week of our Lent Firesides. We will remain with the same Fireside groups. Dates will be sent out to the various hosts, facilitators and group members within the next few weeks.

many thanks to everyone who provided a warm welcome and facilitated the program. Thank you also to all the participants who attended the small faith groups The evaluation meeting was very exciting as the reports were positive and the groups were in agreement that we should do this again! Rev. Nancy has agreed to prepare another program for Lent and to provide training to the hosts and facilitators.



The Host & Facilitator Training Fireside has been set for:
Wednesday, March 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Host: Mary Elliott

Aboard Discipleship Paisley

No Wind Blows in Favour of a Ship Without a Destination

A Message from Council Chairperson,
Allin Brown.

It has been reported that when Christopher Columbus was nearing the American continent, he saw floating on the ocean swells an encouraging sign. Moving toward him in the water was a small tree branch. Its leaves were green - a significant sign that land could not be far away. At the time, the crews aboard Columbus' ship were greatly disheartened and on the verge of mutiny. The branch gave them a burst of enthusiasm, and not long after its discovery, the sailor at the topmast rang out the cry that thrilled all their hearts, "Land ahead! Land!"

What is amazing to most historians is that the crews of Columbus ever got far at all. It was uncommon for sea-faring ventures to the west of Europe to be abandoned early in a voyage. Those who set sail before Columbus were "explorers" who had little conviction that they might actually find something of value. What made Columbus' voyage different was that he truly believed - based upon evidence he had accumulated for years - that he could and would reach his destination. He was not simply an "explorer" of the waters. He was a man convinced he would find land on an opposite shore. These past months we have been travelling aboard the Discipleship Paisley and through our Small Group

Ministries, our activities and our innovations, we are travelling through the same waters as Columbus. In the coming months I'm sure we will find our green tree branch as we continue our "exploration" of uncharted waters, let us continue to persevere and come together as one body aboard the Discipleship Paisley.

As this will be my last article for a while from Council, let me leave you with this verse:


"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14



March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Morning Meditation 8:00am UCW Unit 4 1:30pm	2	3 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am Fireside Training 7:00pm	4 Cluster 9:30am Choir Practice 7:30pm	5 Morning Meditation 8:00am World Day of Prayer	6 Music with Friends 7:30pm
7 Lent 2 - Communion Service 10:30am Service at St. Joseph's 2:00pm	8 Morning Meditation 8:00am	9	10 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am UCW Unit 5 1:30pm	11 Worship Committee 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	12 Morning Meditation 8:00am Crafter's Group 6:30pm	13
14 Lent 3 Service 10:30am 158th Anniversary Potluck	15 Morning Meditation 8:00a	16	17 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am	18 Choir Practice 7:30pm	19 Morning Meditation 8:00am Pie Making 9:00am	20
21 Lent 4 Service 10:30am	22 Morning Meditation 8:00am	23 Presbytery 5:15pm	24 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am	25 Choir Practice 7:30pm	26 Morning Meditation 8:00am Crafter's Group 6:30pm	27 Prayer Workshop 10:00am
28 Lent 5 Service 10:30am	29 Morning Meditation 8:00am	30	31 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am			

April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Cluster 9:30am Choir Practice 7:30pm	2 Morning Meditation 8:00am	3 Music with Friends 7:30pm
4 Youth Confirmation 9:00am Palm Sunday Service 10:30am St. Joseph's 2:00pm	5 Morning Meditation 8:00am UCW Unit 4 1:30pm	6	7 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am	8 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm Choir Practice 8:00pm	9 Good Friday Service at Chalmers 11:00am Youth Eventz Service 6 & 9 pm	10
11 Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Service Communion 10:30am	12 Easter Monday	13	14 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am UCW Unit 5 1:30pm	15 Worship Committee 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	16	17 Wills & Stewardship Workshop 9:00am
18 Service 10:30am SS Teachers 12:00pm	19 Morning Meditation 8:00am	20	21 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am	22 Choir Practice 7:30pm	23 Morning Meditation 8:00am Crafter's Group 6:30pm	24
25 Service 10:30am Church Council 12:00pm	26 Morning Meditation 8:00am	27 Presbytery 5:15pm	28 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30a	29 Choir Practice 7:30pm	30 Morning Meditation 8:00am	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Music with Friends 7:30pm
2 Service 10:30am Service at St. Joseph's 2:00pm	3 Morning Meditation 8:00am UCW Unit 4 1:30pm	4	5 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am	6 Choir Practice 7:30pm	7 Morning Meditation 8:00am	8
9 Service 10:30am Potluck 12:00pm	10 Morning Meditation 8:00am	11	12 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am UCW Unit 5 1:30pm FFE Comm. 7:00pm	13 Worship Committee 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	14 Morning Meditation 8:00am Crafter's Group 6:30pm	15
16 Service 10:30am	17 Morning Meditation 8:00am	18	19 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30am Mid Week Worship 7:00pm	20 Choir Practice 7:30pm	21 Morning Meditation 8:00am	22
23 Service 10:30am	24 30 Service 10:30am Mystery Pal	25 31 Morning Meditation 8:00am	26 Morning Meditation 8:00am Bible Study 10:30a Mid Week Worship 7:00pm	27 Choir Practice 7:30pm	28 Morning Meditation 8:00am Crafter's Group 6:30pm	29

Passages

November 1, 2003 - January 31, 2004

Baptism

Alana Marie Arsenault
Julia Kathleen Raso

Confirmation

Cynthia Susan Perrin
Beverly Anne Taylor

Transfer/Reception

Bonnie Raso
Barbara & David Curzon

Deaths

Clifford Chamberlain
Donna Vera Strauss
Edna Bolton
Stanley James Harper
John Clifford Reed
James Thomas Plumridge

Potluck Lunches

March 14, 2004 - Anniversary Sunday

May 9, 2004 - Mother's Day



**Host & Facilitator
Fireside Training**

Wednesday March 3, 2004
7:00pm - 9:30pm
Paisley Fellowship Hall

Facilitator: Rev. Nancy Ferguson
Host: Mary Elliott



**Maundy Thursday Worship
Service**

April 8, 2004
7:30pm



**Good Friday
Worship Service**

April 9, 2004
11:00am
At Chalmers United



Prayer Writing Workshop

Saturday, March 27, 2004
10:00am - 12:00pm
Paisley Gymnasium

Hosts: Barbara Curzon, Mary Ellen Nettle and Rev. Nancy Ferguson



Wills and Stewardship Workshop

Saturday, April 17, 2004
9:00am - 12:00pm
Paisley Gymnasium

Guest Speaker: George Elliott

Host: Faith Formation and Education Committee

Mystery Pen-Pal Project

This year's project has begun, send in those letters.

Special Luncheon
May 30, 2004 after Church



Mid-Week Worship

Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Paisley Gymnasium
Starts May 19, 2004

Poinsettia greeting card, hand painted by Betty Corstorphine.



Notes from our Lay Visitor

Submitted by Mae Potton letters were received from Frank and Tricia Darby and Rev Woodard and family. Christmas Visitation was very busy, but very rewarding. Rev. Nancy and Sue While visiting with Betty accompanied me on some of Corstorphine, she was as the visits. We enjoyed several afternoon "tea parties" ing cards she had made in on our travels. Fifty-eight Craft Class at the Ellington. visits were made and they She had painted a beautiful received cards, cake, jams poinsettia on them; they and jellies. Cards and letters were so attractive. What an were mailed to our out of inspiration! towners; in return, cards and

Church Humour

Believe it or not, the following announcements actually appeared in various church bulletins.

1. Don't let worry kill you -- let the church help.
2. Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
5. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

Pictured below are the children from Sunday School. Their Christmas performance was an entertaining delight.



Following Jesus -- steps on the way

"At the very heart of the need as Christians and the Christian faith and life ways in which we are stands the invitation of Jesus to 'come and follow me'", writes Harold Percy. "There are many possible responses to this invitation but the only one that actually starts us on the journey is yes."

Come join us for an exciting 6-week Lenten study that explores the "food" we

called to "exercise" our discipleship.

We'll gather on Sunday afternoons beginning February 29 at 4:00 p.m. for discussion followed by a potluck supper. Childcare is provided. Cost of the program resource is \$14.95

+ tax. Deadline for registration is February 22.

Beads of Hope Petition

The deadline to submit this petition is February 29th. I will be sending our signatures on February 23rd. Please consider signing one of the copies if you haven't had a chance to do that.

Tens of thousands of people die every day because they do not have access to affordable treatment for infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS but also Tuberculosis

and Malaria. The petition asks for funding against these diseases. Copies of the Petition are located on the coffee table, bulletin board, on the Welcome Table, at the back of the church or with all small group members.

Blank petitions are available to circulate among your friends and return to the church by February 23rd,

Mid-Week Worship Services

The mid-week worship services offered last fall will be starting again. In September and October of 2003, the Worship Committee facilitated a Tuesday evening worship.

This spring, the services will run again, but on Wednesday evenings.

The services will run for 6-weeks, starting May 19th until June 23rd, 2004. The service starts at 7:00 p.m.

If anyone wishes to know more about these services please contact Mary Ellen Nettle at 826-0731 or menettle@golden.net.

Music With Friends

On the first Saturday of every month some of the very talented musicians from here at Paisley will be hosting and performing concerts that will appeal to any and all ages.

Join us for some fun, music, and fellowship.

Some of our guests will include: Deb, Bob, and Emma Hastings, Kevin O'Hara, Allin Brown, and many, many more.

This Season ... Lent, Easter

Welcome to this season
of wilderness and fishnets and new cities,
of shepherds and doubters.
A season of stones that will not be turned into bread
and stones that cry out
and stones that will not keep love entombed.

Jesus turns to Jerusalem and
invites us to join him
not only there, but beyond.
Stories of forgiveness and overflowing love
point us on the way that takes us through Palm Sunday
to a new reality,
in which a great net is cast
and brought in
bursting at the seams with new life.

There is room for everyone in this net –
just as there is in the new heaven and new earth
envisioned by John.

And yet, somehow,
at the same wondrous time
the net cannot contain all that God offers.
The spirit that flames forth
and blows where it will
invites us into the net, and sends us forth.

Welcome to this season
of coming in
and going out.

Excerpted from *Seasons of the Spirit™ Congregational Life, Lent,*

U.C.W.

Friday, March 19th at 9:00
in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring along a rolling
pin.

Coffee and conversation
provided.

Many different jobs need to
be filled. Don't be shy,
please volunteer even if
you can't roll pastry. You
could roll dough, fill shells,
bag or count pies...

Please contact Jane Anne-
veld at 822-8289 or Kay
Chihrin at 822-6639

Looks like a large gathering of Unit 5 of the U.C.W. doesn't it? Well, we're in the picture but we invited the Catholic Women's League to join us for our Christmas Potluck meeting.

It was a wonderful get-together. We made new friends or met old friends; we ate, sang carols and heard the history of some of our favorite carols. We hope to do this more often! It was a wonderful evening.



Donations of Wool

Thanks to those of you that answered my call for donations of leftover yarn. I keep busy knitting, then donate the completed goods to the Bazaar on behalf of the Sunday School.

I am looking for yarn on an on-going basis. Please send any my way you don't intend to use.

Sherri Speers

United Church Observer

Reminder! Subscriptions are due in May. If you would like to renew or become a new subscriber contact the Observer rep, Susan Randall at the Church Office.

Subscription cost is \$14.00.



Sunday School Superintendent

A 2-year position, Paisley Memorial is seeking an individual to be responsible to co-ordinate and facilitate the smooth running of the Sunday School including nursery and youth classes. The successful candidate will ensure that the children who attend the church are introduced to the teachings of Jesus in a safe and friendly environment where they can experience the love of God

and be spiritually nurtured.

Experience with children ages birth to 14 is required. Must love children, have a strong organizational and leadership skills, be comfortable taking initiative, and possess good communication skills. A full position description and application form can be obtained through the Church Office or at the Margaret Street entrance.



From the Editor.

We are trying out some new software for this edition of From the Pews. The look is a bit different, but I hope you find the changes to be positive. I have focused this edition on increasing the font size for easier readability. Please let me know what you think.

The deadline for the next edition of From the Pews is May 1st, 2004. Submissions are always welcome, and I am always looking for photos taken at church events. Please use my e-mail address of bd-gilbert@rogers.com or drop off to the Church Office.

Respectfully, Jacqueline Gilbert

Paisley Memorial United Church - Important Contact Information

Church Council Members

Jan Ecott - <i>Chairperson</i>	Barbara Curzon - <i>Worship</i>
Jan Ecott - <i>Ministry & Personnel</i>	George Elliott - <i>Treasurer</i>
Mary Elliott - <i>Presbytery Representative</i>	Bev Taylor - <i>Secretary</i>
Allin Brown - <i>Property</i>	Amanda Veige - <i>Faith Formation and Education</i>
Jane Anneveld - <i>UCW Representative</i>	Rev. Nancy Ferguson - <i>Minister</i>
Marguerite Gilbert - <i>Member-At-Large</i>	Janice Hurry - <i>Member-At-Large</i>

Church Staff

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

Group & Committee Contacts

Church Council - <i>Jan Ecott</i>	Property Committee - <i>Allin Brown</i>
Worship Committee - <i>Donna Moore</i>	Special Events Group - <i>Susan Randall</i>
Faith Formation and Education Committee - <i>Mary Elliott</i>	Men's Breakfast Group - <i>John Randall</i>
Visitation & Friendship - <i>Mae Potton</i>	Crafter's Group - <i>Susan Randall</i>
U.C.W. Unit 4 - <i>Georgina Martin</i>	Paisley Choir - <i>Janice Hurry</i>
U.C.W. Unit 5 - <i>Jane Anneveld</i>	Sunday School - <i>Marni Struyk</i>
Tytler Snack Program - <i>Marj McCarthy</i>	Finance Committee - <i>George Elliott</i>
Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council - <i>John Randell</i>	
Find a Welcome - A Small Group Ministry - <i>Deb Bowie or Mary Elliott</i>	
Program Development and Evaluation - A Small Group Ministry - <i>Mary Elliott</i>	
Caring Connection - A Small Group Ministry - <i>Mary Ellen Nettle</i>	
Paisley Christian Publications - A Small Group Ministry - <i>Jacqueline Gilbert</i>	
By The Fireside - A Small Group Ministry - <i>Mary Elliott</i>	



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

40 Margaret St., Guelph, Ontario, N1E 5R7

Phone:(519)824-1090, Fax:(519)824-9288, Email:paisleyuc@golden.net

Website: <http://home.golden.net/~paisleyuc/>