



# CATALYST

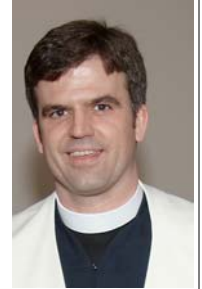
Winter 2010

## St. Andrew's Church

75 Simcoe Street, Toronto, Ontario M5J 1W9 (416) 593-5600

*The people of St. Andrew's are called by God to serve in faith, hope and love in the heart of Toronto.*

## Creativity in Tradition



There is something absolutely wonderful about watching the creativity of children. Whether it is a picture that they have drawn, or a song that they have just 'made up', or some fantastic scenario that emerges out of their active imaginations, there is much to be celebrated about the ways that kids express their creativity.

As we get older, however, we have a tendency to stop acting on this creative impulse. Whether it is because we begin to put too much stock in overly critical or negative assessments of our work, or because we compare our own endeavours with those of others, or because we simply stop trying to do new things, the creative impulse within us gets stifled.

Fortunately, not everyone gives in to those voices. In our own congregation, there are a tremendous number of incredibly creative people -- celebrated authors, published poets, gifted artists, wonderful musicians, and the list goes on. And not all of these individuals are recognized -- or even known about -- outside of their closest circles of friends and family members. I am often surprised and impressed when I find out about the diverse ways that members of our own congregation find opportunities to express their creativity -- and am convinced that we need to find more ways to share these creative gifts in our life together.

Seldom do we ponder the theological implications of the gift of creativity. At the very heart of our faith is the belief that we have been created in the image of a creative God. To be creative, therefore, is essential to what it means to be human, and to be faithful.

There are times in our modern culture and in the church, however, when we pit "creativity" against "tradition". That is, we act as if an appreciation for a "traditional" way of expressing our faith -- as in the form of liturgy that we enjoy at St. Andrew's -- is a way of discouraging too much "creativity" in the practices of faith.

Nothing could be further from the truth. After all, the only thing that an appreciation for tradition implies is that we long to expose ourselves to the best creative minds from across all of the centuries, and not only those with whom we happen to share this moment in time. Whether it is by grounding our spirituality in the ancient words of inspired -- and highly creative -- biblical writers; or by listening to the music of the most creative composers from many different eras; or by allowing our practices to be influenced by the creative disciplines of our ancestors in faith, to be a part of a living tradition opens us to some of history's most creative minds.

The challenge, of course, is to allow our appreciation of the creativity of others to serve as an inspiration rather than a deterrent to the exploration of our own creativity -- and the only way to meet this challenge is to do something creative. So, as these cold winter months unfold, try to find new ways to be creative -- in faithful imitation of the One who is the Creative Source of all.

*Will*



## Out of the Mouths of Babes...and Teenagers

Over the Christmas and New Year's holidays we attended a number of special gatherings with family and friends. When I come to think of it, we have not participated in as many activities this year as we have done other years. Is this a sign of "old age" or what? Believe it or not, on New Year's Eve we looked after two of our grandchildren so their parents could go out and celebrate.

I want to tell you about one of our outings. It was mostly family members present. I must say we had a great time. Everyone was enjoying an evening of fun, laughter, animated conversations and before the evening was over we managed to consume plenty of food and mainly hot apple cider.

Upon our return home that evening, the usual debriefing began. One of our grandsons, who is now a young teenager, wanted to know more about a particular person who was present that evening. He told us how he had asked this person a question, only to have that person stare at him and then left him standing there. We tried to explain to him that at times, we too had similar experiences with this particular person. At the same time, we went on to assure him that this particular person was very nice and lots of fun to be with. Whether or not he believed us, I don't know. Only time will tell.

Provided that you are still with me, I suspect one of your questions will be - what does this have to do with the New Year we have just entered? Isn't this the time when we make New Year's resolutions? Let us resolve not to judge a person by that first impression, simply because, behind that first encounter, which may turn us off, there may be a friendship for life in the making.

**"Look at the flower with no judgment  
and suddenly the heart of that flower  
will be open to you." -Pagito Dove**

May you have a great year!

Sincerely

**George C. Vais,  
Associate Minister for Adult Ministries**

### CATALYST

Catalyst is published four times annually for members and friends of St. Andrew's Church. The next issue is the Spring issue and the deadline for submitting articles is Sunday, April 18, 2010. If possible, articles should be submitted by email to both editors in Microsoft Word format.

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# St. Andrew's 180th Anniversary Banquet Saturday, March 6, 2010



**Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. W. (just west of Yonge)**

Reception - 6:00 p.m.      Dinner - 7:30 p.m.

**Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Cameron Brett,  
who will also be preaching Sunday.**

Tickets are \$50 each and will be available from Nancy Mathewson and Heather Dalzell during Coffee Hour until February 28. Alternatively, you can call Nancy at 416-298-1650 or Heather at 416-860-9244.

## Taking a Call In the Middle of the Night

*By Stephen Mutavdzija*

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures we read about people being called in all kinds of ways by God to serve in his redemptive mission for all creation. Some, like Moses, received a call by encountering a talking burning bush, while others, like Isaiah, received a call through a marvelous vision of the Lord sitting on his throne. However, not all callings are as awe-inspiring as these. In fact, most present day ministers do not experience their calling in amazing events such as these, at least not the ones that I've talked with.

Although I am currently a student minister, and still seeking the authentication of my call to Word and Sacrament, I find myself having more in common with the prophet Samuel than I do Moses or Isaiah. Samuel realized his call through the help of his community. He not only had God-fearing parents, but he also had a great mentor, that being, the high priest Eli. When Samuel was a young boy he had an experience where he was awoken by the Lord in the middle of the night. He heard his name being called and initially thought that it was the voice of Eli, so he made his way to Eli's bed and asked him what he wanted. Eli told him that he did not call for him and that he should go back to bed. Three times this happened and on the third time when Samuel came to Eli, Eli realized that Samuel wasn't just dreaming the whole thing up. He realized that the Lord

was calling Samuel to be a voice to the people of Israel for reform, and so he encouraged him to say "here I am, what do you need" the next time he heard the voice. And so, we are told, that is exactly what Samuel did, and by doing so, the Lord revealed his plans for Samuel's life.



During the past five months at St. Andrew's Church I have sensed a continuous call to ordained ministry but have also, at times, experienced uncertainty as to where this call is coming from. It has been encouraging to hear your feedback and advice, week after week, here at St. Andrew's Church. In many ways, your feedback and support has been the voice of Eli in my life that encourages me to seek God and ask him what he would have me do. I would like to tell all of you at St. Andrew's Church, thank you for allowing me the privilege to be part of your family and for making my field education experience exceed my expectations. Through your fellowship and kindness I have learned much about diversity and the social responsibility that the Gospel demands of us all. I look forward to serving Christ at St. Andrew's in the upcoming season!



### MMMM-MMMM Good!!!! and Was it Ever Good

By Nancy Mathewson

Jambalaya, lasagna, potato casserole, curried vegetables, barbecued chicken, chickpea salad, tossed salads, coleslaws, brownies, chocolate cake, shortbread, homemade cookies, cakes, and the

list could go on and on. This is just a sampling of the delicious food that was shared among our congregation for the annual Epiphany Pot-luck lunch. About one hundred people joined together in the Great Hall to share this feast.

This year, at the suggestion of Kristen Stout, we tried something new. Instead of arbitrarily assigning half the alphabet for main dishes and half for desserts, we asked people to sign up for the dish they wanted to bring. It was a stunning success. We even had a miscellaneous list, so people who don't cook could bring buns, butter, pickles, that sort of thing.

Those of you who shared the meal can attest to the quality of the food. Those of you who couldn't missed a wonderful time. Most of the main dishes were gone, and the remaining desserts were left to be used on Monday night for the Out of the Cold dinner.

Heather Dalzell and I, who coordinate these events, thank those who pitched in to help with setting up and cleaning up: Betsy Nieuwland, Kristen Stout, John Darling, Peter Price (perhaps the best dressed dish-washer around) David and Carol Wishart, Judy Neal, and Karen Ingram, who volunteered to take the table cloths home and wash them. Thanks also to all those who brought food, and thanks to all those who came to enjoy it and celebrate the community of St. Andrew's Church.



## St. Andrew's Photo Directory Report



Thanks to all of you who participated in our 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photo directory initiative.

We greatly appreciate your degree of enthusiasm for the project, and trust you

were pleased with any pictures that you ordered, which were promised and delivered before Christmas.

The anticipated arrival of the new directory is scheduled to coincide with our St. Andrews' 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend: March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

We cannot help but feel this effort makes a significant contribution to the continued expansion of our Church family, and hope you, too, agree.

*The St. Andrews' Photo Directory Team: Cynthia Humphries, Nora Lever, Karen Ingram, Nancy Mathewson and Rosemary Riley*



### A "Green" Initiative

In the interest of environmental stewardship and reducing postage costs, we invite you to receive our publications by email. To sign up, please send an email (including your name in case it's not in the email address) to the relevant email address below.

Catalyst.....catalyst@standrewstoronto.org

Educational events.....education@standrewstoronto.org

(seminars, meditations, etc.)

**Great Music**  
**Great Cause**  
**Great Place**



From 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on February 14, 2010, the sanctuary of St Andrew's Church will be transformed into "Preservation Hall North" for a thrilling concert of traditional New Orleans jazz celebrating Mardi Gras!

Internationally acclaimed trumpeter/vocalist **Jon Seiger** will join *Jordan Klapman's Hot Six* to perform many of Louis Armstrong's greatest hit songs, irresistible New Orleans street beats, and even a few "swing-along" spirituals!

The Musicians:

**Jordan Klapman, piano**  
**Jon Seiger, trumpet, vocals**  
**Tom Skublics, clarinet**  
**Rob Somerville, trombone**  
**Jamie Macpherson, banjo**  
**Jack Zorawski, bass**  
**Glenn Anderson, drums**

As well as a contribution towards St. Andrew's "88 Keys Piano Campaign", the profits from this event will be donated to the relief and support of the people of Haiti through the Presbyterian World Service and Development's **Haitian Relief Fund**.

Your ticket price also includes admission to a **Pancake Dinner** at 5:30 pm. Space is limited, however, so please purchase your ticket today!

Plan to be here -- and bring your friends!

All are welcome.

**Admission**

Adults - \$20

Family - \$50

Student - \$15

Financially challenged - free

**24 Hours  
That Changed the World**

During this Lenten Season and Holy Week, you are invited to reflect on the last 24 hours of Jesus' life based on a book written by Adam Hamilton in 2009.

**"No single event in human history  
has received more attention  
than the suffering and crucifixion  
of Jesus of Nazareth.**

**Each meditation is designed to help you  
experience and understand  
the significance of Jesus' suffering and death  
in a way you never have before."**

- Adam Hamilton

**Lenten Meditations**

Please join us and invite others to join with you as we try to see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death, and reflect on the meaning of these events for our life.

For more information, please refer to the Brochure included in this issue of Catalyst

**Wednesdays during Lent  
and  
Daily during Holy Week  
2010**

12 Noon  
Organ Selections

12:15 p.m.  
Meditation

12:45 p.m.  
Sandwiches



Welcome  
Our *New*  
Members

## St. Andrew's Welcomes New Members



### *Culver and Rosemary Riley*

*by Culver Riley*

In the Spring of 2008, we decided to "downsize" from our country Victorian house in Hillsburgh (just west of Caledon) to the Toronto/Danforth area in order to be closer to our four children (and three grandchildren).

Rosemary is a retired English

teacher, who does periodic seminars, and I am a retired insurance executive and town councillor.

Our minister in Hillsburgh, Reid Chudley, is married to Will Ingram's sister, Mary, so we were pre-ordained to join St. Andrews, Toronto! Our entire family occasionally attends with us, but our two elder grandchildren, Isobel, five, and Benjamin, three, are becoming "regulars". (In the summer, we become "Anglicans" while attending our little summer church on Eagle Lake, South River, where we have a cottage). We love everything about our new Church "family": the

building, congregation, choir, outreach programs, even the sermons!

We feel that we are contributing to our new life in the City: Rosemary volunteers at the Art Gallery, and is an active member of the IODE; whereas I am working with the East York Community Services as a volunteer driver. These activities, besides walking our two standard poodles and babysitting grandchildren, keep us very active.

Both of us have previously served on Session, and are willing to assist in those areas of the Church where we can be of help.

## DEAD SEA SCROLLS



*By Toshio Ushiroguchi-Pigott*

On December 12, 2009, members and friends of St. Andrew's visited the ROM to catch the last leg of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, which left Toronto at the

beginning of January. I was enthusiastic about the exhibit because I wanted to understand Roman conquest and early biblical writings. The Dead Sea scrolls date back to 250 BCE (Before Common Era) and were found after the Second World War. The exhibit situates these texts, written for several hundred years until 68 CE (Common Era, also known as Anno Domine) among other important landmark dates such as King David's rule in Israel, the first temple of Solomon, the

second temple, and the siege and resurgence of Jerusalem and Christianity. Relics such as the cap-stone of the South West corner of the wall surrounding the temple mount are situated and brought to light through the writings in the ancient scrolls written one thousand years before the oldest biblical manuscripts. This exhibit was very illuminating with all the building plans and reconstructions that recently have been undertaken in the PCC.

## A Session Minute

by Lori Ransom, Clerk of Session

*In the Presbyterian tradition, the meeting of the ruling and teaching elders -- who together form the 'Session' -- is a closed meeting; that is, in order to safeguard the confidentiality of issues that might be discussed, the meetings of Session are not open to non-elders in the congregation. However, much of what is discussed at Session meetings is not of a confidential nature. The following is a short summary of an important issue the Session has been considering in its recent meetings.*



Those who have attended the past couple of congregational meetings will recall that the Session was asked to make the congregation aware of the annual remits from the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to congregations. The full list of, and links to, the referred reports from the most recent General Assembly are available on the Internet at: <<<http://www.presbyterian.ca/ministry/generalassembly/referrals>>>. At the Session's November meeting, a report from the national Church Doctrine Committee was discussed on the subject, *Doing Weddings Better*.

*Doing Weddings Better* draws attention to the nature of church weddings as services of worship. The report also suggests ways in which congregations can be more supportive of those who are married in their churches. This includes how we may be more thoughtful about how to encourage those getting married to consider the benefits of joining our faith community, if they are not already regularly attending a church. The Session asked the Community Life and Christian Education Ministries to have further discussion on the report and make recommendations back to Session as appropriate.

The Session was pleased to approve requests to support two new local ministries using funds from the 2009 Outreach Budget. The St. James Town Ecumenical Coalition and Flemingdon Gateway Mission each were granted \$2,500.

The Session also reviewed a Special Report from the Board of Managers which provided very helpful information on the West Tower Restoration and a number of other significant and imminent future restoration projects. Included was an update on the bequest to St. Andrew's from the Estate of Mr. John Milnes. The Session agreed to establish a joint Priorities and Planning Task Force, with the Board, to discuss recommendations to be put to the congregation concerning the disposition of the Milne Estate funds and plans to fund, and fundraise for, projects deemed important not only to maintaining the building but also to advancing St. Andrew's ministry and mission. Members will be informed when a date is set to present recommendations to the congregation for discussion and approval.

### ***Would you like to become a member of St. Andrew's Church?***

New members will be received on Sunday, February 21st. If you are interested in becoming a member, or in learning more about life at St. Andrew's, please contact Rev. Ingram, one of the Elders or Judy Neal in the church office.



## 2nd Annual Compassionate Hearts Gala to support Evangel Hall Mission's Medical & Dental Clinics

Imperial Ballroom of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel  
Saturday February 6, 2010 at 6:00 pm

The Compassionate Hearts Gala supporting ehm's free health and dental clinic is Saturday February 6, 2010. The elegant evening will be in the Imperial Ballroom of the Royal York Hotel. The reception is at 6 pm and dinner is at 7 pm. We are blessed to have CBC's Mary Ito as our MC for the evening. The Royal York has generously offered a room rate of \$149 for those wishing to stay overnight. Please call 1-800-441-1414 and use group code EVAN0210, or mention that you are attending the Gala. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation, either financially or by volunteering your time as a doctor or dentist, or as a "runner" - bringing people down to the clinic for their appointments. To order tickets or make a donation, please go to our website [www.evangelhall.ca](http://www.evangelhall.ca) or contact Paula Aceto at 416-504-3563 x 231 or Kristen Stout at 416-504-3563 x 223.

*Evangel Hall Mission, which is financially supported by St. Andrew's Church through our Outreach Ministry, provides housing, food and support for marginalized people in the heart of Toronto*



## Gift Giving with Meaning

*Contributed by Zuzka Tatiersky,  
Communications Assistant, PWS&D*

You have the opportunity to give gifts that change lives and have a meaningful impact for others through Presbyterian World Service & Development. Make birthdays, memorials or weddings extra special by celebrating with friends and family in a true spirit of generosity.

PWS&D's sustainable development programs help communities around the world overcome poverty. You can be part of this work today. Your donations will support children and their families in developing nations by providing goats and rabbits, mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, skills training, clean water and education.

You can make a donation in someone's honour and we'll send them a Gift of Hope card. Call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291, or make your online donation and then send us an email at [donations@presbyterian.ca](mailto:donations@presbyterian.ca). Include the name and address for the gift recipient and any personal message you would like included on the card.

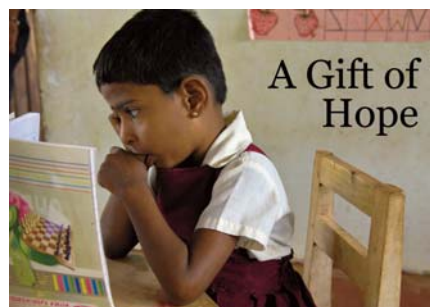
### Gift Options

- \$5** provides a mosquito net to help prevent malaria (PWHEA01)
- \$20** gives maize and beans to orphans (PWEDU01)
- \$30** provides a family with seeds to plant (PWAGR01)
- \$35** provides vitamin-enriched food supplements to orphans (PWHIV01)

- \$85** provides a family in need with a pig (PWAN01)
- \$90** supplies an emergency supply kit to a refugee family (PWREF)
- \$250** supplies a wheelchair for someone with a physical disability (PWTIDZ01)
- \$500** helps a women's group start a small business (PWBUS01)
- \$900** provides families in one community with pigs, goats, rabbits, chicks and guinea fowl (PWSSC01)
- \$1,200** builds a clean water storage pond (PWH20)

### How Does it Work?

Although actual costs fluctuate based on local markets and the country of work, the above examples give you an idea of what it costs to provide the listed item. The prices factor in additional expenses that are often overlooked, such as training a family on how to care for a new pig as well as how to build appropriate housing. We work with our international partners to provide funding and resources, and we rely on the expertise of our partners to carry out the goals of the program.



To find more alternative gift giving ideas, go to [www.presbyterian.ca/donate/pwsd](http://www.presbyterian.ca/donate/pwsd)

*Presbyterian World Service & Development is the development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.*



## "Friendly Visiting" Ministry

The Church Life Committee is interested in exploring the possibility of developing a "Friendly Visiting" ministry. This ministry involves caring for the sick, the lonely and the dying. This is not a ministry that is reserved for the clergy and elders of a congregation. No previous experience is necessary.



If you are interested, please contact Eric Reynolds.



### *Presbyterians Sharing...*

*Contributed by Karen Plater,  
Associate Secretary, Stewardship & Education for Mission*

*Your gifts to **Presbyterians Sharing** support the Reverend Jim and Ann Young as they minister with The Presbyterian Church of Grenada. Jim is working with the Rev. Osbert James at Belair Presbyterian Church, a small, rural church in St. Patrick's parish. Ann is teaching English and mathematics at McDonald College, a Christian Secondary School of the PCG. Below is a letter written from Jim on life in Grenada. Read more at their blog at [www.jimandannyoung.blogspot.com](http://www.jimandannyoung.blogspot.com)*

In August forty-four children and eight leaders were caught up in the sheer joy of Christian camping at our long awaited youth camp. The camp taught children and youth aged seven to seventeen how to "logon" to many of the important issues of life. I taught the senior youth, and in three days we covered stimulating topics from violence to AIDS to family planning. The discussion was honest and at times provocative. There was also lots of opportunity for fun: a sports day filled with friendly competition, a camp fire and marshmallow roast and a bus trip to one of Grenada's world class beaches. The social highlight of the camp was the banquet where the kids dressed up in their best clothes and were served by the camp leaders; a super evening with the camp cooks doing an exemplary job. Next year the kids would like a two week camp! We would like the energy to take part!

Now at Belair Presbyterian Church, largely due to the camp, we have confirmation classes underway for five of the youth and baptisms planned for two of the younger children. The youth group has also elected six of their members as a leadership team. The Spirit is alive and well at Belair!

The parishes of St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's are warm, welcoming, peaceful places. Still, life here is hard. As cold air blows over North America and Europe we will begin to see cruise ships again. Life will become busier but not easier for the folk whose livelihood depends on the somewhat fickle travel

industry, particularly in this time of economic uncertainty.

Ann and I are aware of how tough life is for people here but the path to the future has always been full of challenges as well as opportunities. Deep down we know what a rare place this is to live and to serve Jesus Christ. What a great place it is also to be and to stay in love with God! Do you know any other feeling in life that is more exhilarating and more positive than knowing and feeling that love?

Pray for us, for our ministry to the staff and students of MacDonald College and the people in Belair Presbyterian Church. Give God thanks for providing us with patience and a richness of understanding, both of those around us and ourselves.



## Getting to Know the Voices from on High

*This year, we are going to feature two members of the Choir in each issue of the Catalyst, so that we can get to know the people behind the voices.*



### **Steve Wadhams** **Tenor**

How did I become a singer? It's a bit of a long story I'm afraid. It wasn't something I inherited, that's for sure. My parents didn't much like

choral music, and they certainly didn't like opera, with all those "screeching sopranos", although my mother adored the famous English contralto Kathleen Ferrier. My father loved the symphonies and string quartets of Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert and Schumann. Later, on my own, I would find Mahler, Bruckner, Shostakovich, Faure and Ravel, but only the orchestral works. So no real exposure to singing there.

I didn't sing much at school either, just the annual Gilbert and Sullivan show. First I was in the chorus and then I got promoted - to Captain Corcoran in "HMS Pinafore". I liked the rollicking sailor songs, but I hated the limp solo that begins the second act. Fortunately my parents lingered too long in the bar in the intermission and missed it completely! But it didn't bother me. Singing was not really important. What mattered were brass bands.

I began in our local town band when I was nine. At my first rehearsal, the bandmaster gave me a cornet, showed me how to blow it, sat me next to Charlie Snell, who played fourth cornet and said, helpfully; "Just watch Charlie, when he puts his first valve down, you put your first valve down... when he puts first and second down...". Well you get the picture! Later I got some lessons and things improved. At 13 I was accepted by Britain's National Youth Brass Band, which meant two week-long music camps each year. Now I was surrounded by 100 other kids who could play well and the big fat gorgeous sound was something I'll remember for the rest of my days!

Then at 16, sitting in our front room alone, listening to a Brahms symphony on the radio (# 4 I think) I

was captivated again, this time by the beautiful, mysterious sound of the French Horn. That little epiphany led to a forty year battle with this most treacherous of brass instruments. I scored a few minor victories - a couple of performances of one of the Mozart concertos, passable stabs at the Brahms horn trio and the Beethoven sonata for piano and horn, and one brave and memorable performance of the dazzlingly difficult Schumann Konzertstucke for four horns and orchestra. But mainly it was orchestral playing, and as I got busier and busier as a radio producer at CBC (I began in 1974 and I'm still a full time producer) practising and committing to rehearsal schedules became harder and harder and slowly but surely my horn playing dwindled.

And what came to the rescue? Singing! And gradually a whole new world of music began to open up. Choral music. Unlike orchestras, in a large choir you can miss a few rehearsals and still sing the concert, so even with a busy and demanding job I could join a choir. I think it was 1981 when I began with the Toronto Orpheus choir and I sang happily with them for twenty years. But I didn't consider myself a singer; singing was just 'something I did'.

That would change suddenly in one of those mid life "look at yourself in the mirror" moments. The voice from the mirror said, "Life is short. You can do better than this". And from that moment on I found myself on a new and exciting journey. After a rather scary audition, I was invited to join one of Canada's finest chamber choirs, the Exultate Chamber Singers. (Diane also sings with this group). Talk about being back in that world of wonder I'd first experienced as a 13 year old in Britain's National Youth Brass Band. Once again I was surrounded by a smooth, silky, sumptuous sound. It was exhilarating, but I knew right away that my next step would be to find a voice teacher and start lessons! Nine years later, I'm still at it and the more I develop as a singer, the more I realize how much further there is to go.

*Continued on next page*

*Steve Wadhams, continued*

Joining the professional choir at St. Andrew's five years ago was definitely another turning point; it opened up other professional choral work and even some solo work. All this plus the weekly voice lessons has made its mark and finally allowed me to say without blushing, "I am a singer".

So what do I like to sing most? Well not the big stuff, the grand Masses and Requiems, not any more, although I do have a soft spot for the Brahms Requiem and Handel's "Messiah". I much prefer smaller works and ensembles where there's nowhere to hide! Two on a part as we have at St. Andrew's is great. And if the writing is for double choir - eight voices for eight parts - that can lead to richer harmonies and more interesting counterpoint.

Generally speaking I prefer the sacred over the secular, or at least music which has a spiritual intent: almost anything by Palestrina, Byrd, the religious works of Purcell; also I love the impressionistic sounding harmonies of Messiaen and Faure; and, maybe because of my English roots, most of the music by Herbert Howells, Arnold Bax

and Vaughan Williams manage to stir something in my soul. Gerald Finzi is another English composer whose gentle flowing music I never get tired of. And I mustn't forget the Estonian, Latvian and Scandinavian composers - Arvo Part especially.

I like close harmony, or 'Swingle Singers' type pieces with interesting rhythms, as long as it's good music. But I don't like 'clever' technical compositions or anything where it's obvious the composer has either no knowledge or interest in the beauty and the limitations of the human voice. And I have to say that this includes a lot of J.S. Bach, with all those leaps and runs which seem to me so much better suited to a keyboard!

My two favourite choral pieces? Ouch! So much to choose from and it all depends on my mood at the time. Actually it's odd because the two concerts that stand out most in my mind over the last ten years or so, featured composers I didn't list a moment ago. The first was the Rachmaninoff Vespers which Exultate sang at St. Andrew's, and the other was the Monteverdi Vespers of 1610. Glorious sounds. Both pieces are challenging to sing but they offer wonderful rewards.



**Diane English**  
**Mezzo-soprano**

*How did you become a singer?*

I can't remember a time when I didn't sing - in church, as a Girl Guide, in school choirs. I come from a musical family, so there was always lots of music making in the house. I started taking vocal lessons in high school and very quickly decided that I wanted to study music full-time. In first year university, I auditioned for my first choir and got a coveted position in the 16-voiced ensemble. I haven't looked back since!

*What type of music do you most like to sing?*

I love to sing all kinds of music - as long as it is challenging and rewarding. Chorally, I love the music of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. As a soloist, I love Baroque music - arias by Handel and Bach.

*What are two of your favourite choral pieces?*

It will be hard to pick just two favourite pieces, as much depends on my mood and what I've got on my Ipod at the moment. One of my current favourites is *Ave Maria* by Josquin des Pres. Josquin was a Renaissance Flemish master whose choral music is simply stunning - and we don't hear enough of it in North America. If I have to pick just one more work it would be the St. Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach. The combination of the moving text and Bach's musical genius brings me to tears every time I hear it .

## Restoring on foot

*Story and Photographs by Remmelt Hummelen*

I was the first "foreigner" ever to visit the village.

Home to about 2,000 people, it was only reachable by an eight-hour trek with weary donkeys and along vertigo-inducing cliffs. Little wonder this village's needs are insufficiently understood by government programs, NGOs or their donors.

There are over 33,000 small villages in Afghanistan, housing the majority of the population. Because of their isolation, these self-reliant communities have, in many cases, resisted the intervention of foreign powers which understand little about them. But that resolve has had side effects including poverty, drug abuse, poor sanitation and low crop yields. Addressing the struggles at the village and district level is, from my perspective, an important part of peace and justice in Afghanistan.



*Village meeting*

Afghanistan is about the same size as Manitoba, but it houses an estimated 28 million people to Manitoba's 1.2 million. Afghanistan is a place of rugged terrain, isolated communities and incredible diversity in tribes and languages. Besides the official languages of Pashtu and Dari, the Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani, Pamiri (alsana), Arab and other languages are spoken in the country.

Afghanistan is divided into 34 provinces, which are further subdivided into 398 districts. In many cases a district or province will have its own language. Each district generally has a centre that serves as the capital and as a market place where villagers can do their selling and shopping. These centres are a key part of Afghanistan's agricultural economy.

The district centre could also have a police post and medical services. More sophisticated services such as hospitals would, in most instances, be located in the provincial capital. Districts and villages form an important social network for families.

I have had the opportunity to work in Afghanistan on three occasions. I have visited 14 of the 34 provinces, and have seen countless villages, many with distinct cultures and languages.

In my travels, I've witnessed firsthand the hospitality of the Afghan people. Steaming cups of tea were in abundance, made fresh after our arrival, and springs of water quenched our thirst on the road. Most villagers are farmers sustained almost entirely by the work of their hands. Their crops include potatoes and vegetables, which are preserved for the winter months, and some poppy cultivated for its seed, buds and stalks which can be turned into oil, tea and fuel.

Irrigation is a problem for the farmers, as it is for many across the region. Water is often brought to the fields through irrigation canals, but these are inefficient; much water is lost on its journey. Once, trees with strong root systems helped hold canal walls together, but during 30 years of war and unrest, they were cut down for fuel. In the years since the Soviet invasion, there has been little or no replanting. New trees are desperately needed, but only one non-governmental organization is operating a tree nursery and experimental farm in the east part of the country and, unfortunately, this project has struggled to find funding. It seems the long life cycles of trees do not coincide with the shorter planning cycles of donors.

*Continued on next page*

During the years of post-invasion conflict, many villagers fled to neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Iran. Today, many are returning to find their communities in ruins. Those who stayed have struggled to maintain canals, roads, trees and other infrastructure components. Homes must be rebuilt, drinking water must be cleaned, and "community" must be reestablished. Effective support from international donors for this critical rebuilding is limited at best, so poverty and hunger are a constant reality.

When I visited the village of [Ishkashim](#) in northeastern Afghanistan, I stayed in the office of a local

clinic attached to a small detoxification facility. I woke on the first morning to the sound of babies crying—nothing out of the ordinary, except I soon learned these children were crying for opium, not milk. They had been born to addicted mothers. Opium is commonly used to quell hunger, and when there's no food for either mother or child, it's no wonder addiction is so prevalent.

There are currently 19 United Nations agencies based in Afghanistan and coordinated by the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan ([UNAMA](#)). Much of the aid provided is based on the donor nations' *perceptions of the people's needs*. Often, such perceptions are based on a limited understanding of the diversity and complexity of Afghanistan. Rarely are villages visited or their people consulted—an approach that flies in the face of the traditional *shura* governance model used by villages and districts. In the *shura* system, a decision is made by the hereditary or elected authority only after community members have spoken. Donor understanding of the real needs of villagers and districts will be deepened through links with these traditional governance models—it will provide a picture of what the villagers really need.



Elder

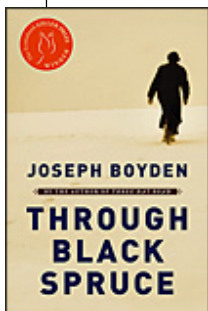
Districts and villages are the backbone of Afghanistan. It is here that real change should begin, and donor nations should decide what aid should be sent *in consultation with* the people who will be receiving it. Respect should be paid to the cultural and tribal systems' governing villagers, and to the needs and opinions of the villagers themselves.

All this requires an effort to learn about people in villages. Eight hours on a donkey may seem intimidating to some, but if it leads to the peaceful and thorough rebuilding of a shattered nation, I think it's worth it.

*Dr. Remmelt Hummelen, an active*

*participant in the life, work, and worship of St. Andrew's, has had the privilege of working in Afghanistan on three occasions, first in 1994 (pre-Taliban) to 1995 (with Taliban) with UNDCP (now UNODCC), second, in 2004 with UNDP as Programme Advisor for Law and Order Trust Fund (LOFTA) based in the Ministry of Interior, Kabul, working closely with the Deputy Minister and Minister and, third, in 2007 based in Jalalabad as Conflict Mitigation Specialist, part of Local Governance and Community Development Project (funded by USAID). He has also worked and lived in Pakistan for 4 years, as well as Iraq and Somalia. Dr. Hummelen also participated in the preparation of a brief produced by the Canadian Council of Churches to the Government of Canada re Afghanistan. The full brief may be found at: <<<http://www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Statements/CCCAfghanDec2009.pdf>>>*





## St. Andrew's Book Club

by Kristen Stout

December 3, 2009 saw the book club gather to discuss Joseph Boyden's *Through Black Spruce*. This is an interesting story told by 2 different narrators – Will and his niece Annie. Although a little confusing at first, most of us found that the two different voices added strength to the narrative. Both Will and Annie undertake journeys that ultimately lead to a realization of the inescapable ties of family.

Annie's journey takes her from Moosonee in far northern Ontario to Toronto, Montreal, and New York. She is searching for her sister and following her path but finds that she must actually follow her own. Will's journey, on the other hand, takes him farther into the bush. Both are, in a sense, trying to escape but then find that what they are really looking for are right there in Moosonee.

One thing that really appealed to me was the descriptions of Annie's travels through Toronto. I could very easily picture certain scenes that took place at the corner of Queen and Bathurst, since that is very close to where I work.

I think we would all recommend this book to other.

Our next book is still in discussion, as is the next date. Please watch for announcements in the bulletin, *This Week at St. Andrew's*, and on our website. Whenever it is and whatever we read, we'd love to have you join us!

## Congratulations to the Parish Nursing Graduating Class of 2009 Emmanuel College - November 21, 2009

by Sue Goodwin



L to R: Natalia Mayall, Susan Goodwin, Marian Leek, Yolanda Mau, May Tao, Gloria Luk, Zenaida Odense, Marilyn Pepper, Carmen James-Henry, Heather Thompson and Siegfried Krebs

Parish Nursing is a calling that some Registered Nurses respond to, assisting parishioners with their health and healing issues from a perspective that includes body, mind and spirit. While nurses find their niche in this specialized new form of nursing that requires additional training, they find employment in a part-time paid position, but more often they work on a volunteer basis.

The Parish Nursing Education Program is under the auspices of

the InterChurch Health Ministry (ICHM) and is held at Emmanuel College. It consists of three fall semesters on Saturdays for Health Cabinet members and clergy. While everyone attends the same lectures, the program is more rigorous for parish nurse candidates and includes a practicum. Some St Andrew's folk may remember Lynn Franklin who did her practicum with us. The practicum consists of a set number of hours in a church setting doing various tasks in order to graduate.

While it is wonderful to have to have graduated and to have leisurely autumn Saturdays to look forward to, I will miss the friendship, learning and sharing with other students and the lecturers. For additional information on the course, please feel free to contact me.



# Transitions

## *Births:*

**Elliot George Webster**, born May 30, 2009, was baptized Dec. 20, 2009. Parents are Andrea & Gordon Webster.

## *Marriages:*

**Adrienne Korzack and Geoffrey Scott** were married on December 5, 2009

## *Deaths:*

**Kay Mather** (Feb. 24, 1917 – Jan. 1, 2010)



## Metropolitan United Church Friday Night Lecture Series

### *Henceforth, in Fields of Conflict*

Christian Militancy in an Age  
of Decline.

*Is there something so vital in Christianity that to lose it would be detrimental for everyone? Is it time to fight for the common good?*

### **A Lenten Lecture Series**

Four Friday Nights in March  
7:30 P.M. at Metropolitan United Church

March 5:

The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair  
*Metropolitan United Church*

March 12:

The Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes  
*Yorkminster Park Baptist Church*

March 19:

The Rev. Will Ingram  
*St. Andrew's Church (Presbyterian)*

March 26

The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas Stoute  
Dean, *the Cathedral Church of St. James*

Each evening will consist of a lecture,  
a question period and refreshments.



## *Haiti Earthquake Appeal*

PWS&D is responding to this emergency situation through the *Action by Churches Together* alliance (ACT). PWS&D sent \$50,000 as a first response to support ACT members in Haiti as they assess the needs of survivors and transport equipment to build water purification systems and latrines to avoid the outbreak of disease. ACT has been working on the ground from the moment the earthquake occurred. ACT is planning to send a rapid support team of at least a response coordinator, a communicator, two water and sanitation experts and a finance expert. ACT members are also preparing to send water and sanitation materials, hygiene kits, and psychosocial workers to the devastated area.

***You Can Help*** - The people of Haiti need your prayers and financial support to bring hope and relief.

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to bring help to the situation by making a donation to PWS&D. Call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291, donate online, through our church, or mail a cheque to the office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. If you wish to donate through our church, please make cheques payable to *St. Andrew's Church*. Please mark all donations "Haiti Earthquake Relief."

## Calendar of Events



### Weekly Services and Events

- **Sunday Worship** - every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- **Senior Church School** - 9:30 a.m.
- **Church School & Nursery** - every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. - Second Floor
- **Coffee Hour ("Bide-a-Wee")** - every Sunday following worship - Great Hall
- **Bible Study** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. - Board Room  
- Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. - Board Room
- **Chancel Communion** - every Thursday at 12:15 p.m.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays - Great Hall
- **Out of the Cold Dinner** - every Monday from November to April - 6:00 p.m. - Great Hall
- **Out of the Cold Breakfast** - every Tuesday all year - 7:30 a.m. - Great Hall

### Fellowship Groups

- **Wine, Cheeses & Jesus** - Thursday, February 18, March 18, April 15  
- 2nd Floor Meeting Room
- **SAGA** - Friday, February 26, March 26, and April 23, 2010  
- Gather at 5:45 p.m., Pot Luck at 6:30, Program follows - Great Hall
- **St. Andrew's Book Club** - watch for announcements.

### Meetings

- **Session Meeting** - Tuesday, March 23 2010 at 7:00 p.m. - Board Room
- **Board of Managers** - Wednesday, February 24 and March 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. - Board Room

### Lent and Easter Dates to Remember

<b>Ash Wednesday service</b>	- Wednesday, February 17 - noon
<b>Lenten Noon Meditations</b>	- Wednesdays, from February 24 to March 24
<b>Holy Week Noon Meditations</b>	- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday March 29-31
<i>Please see enclosed brochure</i>	
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	- March 28
<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	- Thursday, April 1 - Holy Communion
<b>Good Friday Service</b>	- Friday, April 2
<b>Easter Service</b>	- Sunday, April 4

*Deadline for next issue of Catalyst - Sunday, April 18, 2010*