

THE ELM LEAF NEWSLETTER

The Parish Church
of St. Peter

May 2007

For many years we have had garage sales at St Peter's. They used to

be called "rummage sales", but rummage isn't quite as appealing to the modern consumer! In many ways the one that we have just completed was like the ones that went before - lots of people having a good time getting to know one another during the sorting, pricing, selling and even during the dreaded clean-up. But something was very different this time. The money raised did not have to go to support the operating costs of the parish. Instead we were able to allocate all of the income to one of the parish Outreach Projects - the Partnership for Life program of PWRDF, which responds to the needs of those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa.

This is a wonderful development in our parish life. It is the fulfillment of a goal that we set for ourselves 10 years ago at the parish conference called "Connections". At that time we were very dependent on fundraising in order to meet our budget. This was recognized as a potential problem and we decided to make a strong effort to move towards reliance on regular offerings. So we became more intentional about financial stewardship and began to emphasize the concept of proportional giving. There was a gradual and significant increase in giving to the extent that we were able to balance the budget (just!) when two major fundraising projects came to an end within a year of each other. Pub Nite and the Plant Stand raised \$10,000 to \$12,000 between them and all of a sudden they were gone. So our goal to rely on stewardship rather than fundraising was more prophetic than we had imagined!

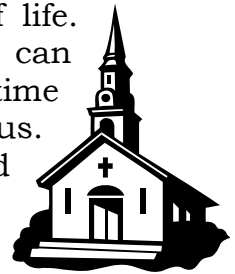
Then two years ago we had our first Consecration Sunday and there was a remarkable 20% increase in envelope offerings during the following year - partly as a result of significant increases in personal giving and partly through new members. This brought us to the point of being able to allocate all of our

special project income to our outreach priorities rather than relying on them to support general operation of the church.

It's interesting that the other two goals that we set 10 years ago were "to be a more integrated community" and "to be a parish concerned about outreach". There has been good progress in all of these areas and it indicates how helpful it is to have an overall sense of purpose and direction. In our life as a community and in our lives as individuals it is important to seek God's guidance and direction. This doesn't just happen by itself. It takes some intentional work to do this. For the "Connections" conference there were house meetings for discussions and then an all day event to enable us to work and plan together.

If we are looking for guidance and direction from God, then we have to be prepared to take the time to do it. So often we seem to be so preoccupied with the demands of everyday life that we find it hard to take time to listen. The summer may offer us a more relaxed pace of life. There is certainly more opportunity to be outside or to go for walks or a bike ride or simply to sit and enjoy the beauty of Creation. These times can provide a good opportunity to do some reflecting on our life and our relationship with God and to get some sense of where God might be leading us. This is not necessarily a solitary journey either. In fact it is good to do this in community. As a parish we set our goals together after prayer and discussion and discernment. As individuals it is important to share with someone else, or perhaps a group, our sense of God's guidance. They may have insight or support to offer.

As a parish and as individuals we go through different stages of life. Throughout our journey God's guidance is available for us and we can choose whether we seek it or not. When we do seek it, and spend time listening, we will be able to sense God's purpose and direction for us. Over time we can look back and see the path we have walked and God's hand in it.



May God continue to bless us on the journey.

***** Phil Barnett *****

We all have the power to turn toward the future and away from the past. It is a critical first step toward a better life.

- Arthur Caliandro with Barry Lenson from
Simple Steps: Ten things You Can Do to Create an Exceptional Life
McGraw-Hill -

ST. PETER'S WEBSITE

The work of a small but enthusiastically competent group of parishioners has culminated in the creation of St. Peter's own web site, www.stpetersanglican.ca. The site will provide information on groups in the parish, news about coming events, reports on their activities, and more. The team has captured all of the St. Peter's groups identified in the most recent brochure. The "barebones" descriptor for the group (without the contact person) has also been included but we know that each group will have more to say. We encourage each group to improve your part of the website with a one page article on what you are about. This can include clip art or photos (although permission is required to post people in photos). See the Casserole group for an idea. Submit articles to submissions@stpetersanglican.ca and they will be posted quickly.

The group is also establishing a set of criteria for web postings. For example, photos will be posted only with permission of the people in the photo. Names of people will not be given, unless the person is already a public figure, e.g. 'Bishop Don Philips and the confirmation group', etc. Any submissions will be reviewed to make sure they meet the criteria. Final decisions will rest with the Corporation (wardens and rector).

You're invited to submit information for posting. Together we'll keep our web site current, lively and dynamic.

St. Peter's Webteam:

Ian Chalmers
Jill Chongva
Jim Daun

Karen Sawatzky
Rebecca Tataryn
Ray Temmerman

ST. PETER'S LIBRARY

The library at St. Peter's has been an underused resource, which we would like to expand and make more relevant to our journey of faith. The first step is to take an inventory of the current collection, and I would like to ask anybody who has books from our shelves to let me know, so that the titles can be included in our catalogue. You do not need to return the material. Please either call me at 488-3845, or put your name and phone number on the list which I will place on the bookshelf, so that I can contact you.



We welcome both donations and suggestions for titles: again, please call me or talk to me after the 10.30 a.m. service any Sunday. I hope that we will develop a really useful collection ... watch this space for further details!

*** **Marie Chalmers** ***

ST. PETER'S VOLUNTEERS AT RIVERVIEW HEALTH CENTRE

Four Sundays each year (three in the spring, and one in the summer), folks from St. Peter's volunteer at the Sunday morning worship service at Riverview Health Centre. We assist residents in getting to the chapel—pushing wheel-chairs for some, and just walking along-side others. During worship, we may help people find the right page in the hymn book, and those of us who sing well do that too. When worship is over, we help people return to their residential floors.



This enables residents, many of whom have attended Sunday worship all their lives, to continue this important part of spiritual life.

A big **thank you** to our volunteers! The time needed for this service is about one and one-half hours, and we can usually be back at St. Peter's for the 10:30 a.m. service in our own parish.

We are scheduled to help again on July 15 - a time many of us will be busy with holiday plans. If you can volunteer at Riverview that day, please phone Virginia at 488-8330.

P.S. Teens who need to do some volunteering as a part of school or other programs are most welcome. The older folks really enjoy a visit from youth.

Getting Ready to Say Goodbye

Many of you know that 15 years of my ministry have been as a hospital chaplain. The people with whom I journeyed during those years taught me much about living and leave-taking. I continue to reflect on the truths and wisdom that so many showed by the way they lived their life and their dying. I have talked with the Wardens and Phil about “getting ready to say goodbye”, and they have asked me to write this article for the *Elm Leaf*.



As Phil prepares to retire, and we both face the fact that we will be leaving St. Peter's, and the members of St. Peter's look ahead to the time when we will be gone, it occurs to me that this is in many ways like preparing for the death of a family member. All of us are experiencing to a greater or lesser degree what is called “anticipatory grief” – getting ready to say goodbye, preparing for a future in which the person will no longer be present. Phil is preparing for the time when he will have to leave this community which has been such a significant part of his life for so many years.

We are already moving through a series of “last times”. I know at least one person has said she suddenly realized on Easter Sunday, that this was Phil's “last Easter”.

We (members of St. Peter's, and Phil and I) have the opportunity to move through this time in a way that respects our feelings. We can consciously choose to say what we need to say to each other.

One writer has expressed the tasks ahead in very simple terms. He says that there are only five things that need to be said:

- Thank you
- Forgive me
- I forgive you
- I love you
- Goodbye



Clearly these kinds of conversations take time, and they are going to be different for each person, or group of people in the parish. While some members of the parish may have loved having Phil as parish priest for so long, there may be others who have found his leadership difficult. In the midst of the sadness that some may be experiencing, others may have a sense of relief. I have to say that is true for me – I have some real sense of relief that St. Peter's will no longer be the "other woman" in our marriage, occupying Phil's time and energy, and a large part of his heart! At the same time, I am sad to think about leaving good friends and a lively healthy faith community.

Doing this work is a mutual responsibility. Phil will be intentionally making time to meet with individuals and groups over the next few months to do his work of leave-taking openly and caringly.

It is also the responsibility of members of the parish, or for groups, to call him to invite him for tea, if you feel you would like to sit down and talk with him about what you have each meant to each other during your years at St. Peter's, if you have "unfinished business" with him, or if you want to say thank you and goodbye in a more personal way.

I know that the Wardens will be planning other opportunities, both to talk seriously together about leave-taking, and to celebrate all that has been.

**** Barbara Barnett ****

By the time you're 80 years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it.

- George Burns (1896-1996) Comedian -

Let us permit nature to have her way; she understands her business better than we do.

- Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592) Essayist -



From the Garage Sale With Love



When they say **recycling benefits everybody**, they are right! We had an amazing day Saturday, April 28 at our annual, giant "All in the Hall" garage sale. We were able to find new, enthusiastic owners for a wide range of still usable clothes, books, toys, hardware and household items. We enjoyed getting to know fellow parishioners better as we worked side by side. We welcomed the neighbours into the church building. We got a week's worth of exercise without going to the gym. We took the "Second helpings" (the remainders after our sale) to MCC, Goodwill and Salvation Army thrift shops where they will provide further opportunities for "bargains" and revenue for worthy causes

....**AND**.... we raised more than **\$1949** for PWRDF Partnership For Life. Often PWRDF is able to get matching grants, so that means our work may indeed amount to nearly \$4000 in benefits to HIV/AIDS projects. The work that PWRDF supports through the Partnership For Life program includes:

Peer educators talking about how HIV *is* and *is not* spread

Volunteers providing quality home-based care for the sick

Church leaders calling for an end to stigma and discrimination

Communities assisting families to care for orphans

Widows supporting and encouraging each other

Organizations providing small loans and training to help people help themselves

Farmers finding innovative agricultural and nutritional options for people to stay healthy

Advocates working to secure that health care is available for all who need it.

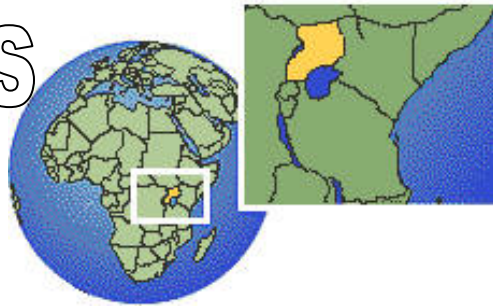


For more information: <http://www.partnershipforlife.ca/our-work/#c840>

So – thank you to everyone who brought/bought items, set up/cleaned up, sorted, priced, sold, and transported items to/from the sale. It was a huge effort by many, many people, but the benefits will be felt right around the world! God bless you all for caring. See you next spring!



Outreach News



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR CAMPANION PARISH

Lynda Daun writes to our companion parish, St. Mark's Church in Bujubi, Central Buganda, Uganda on behalf of St. Peter's. We recently received a hand delivered letter from a member of the diocesan group who visited Uganda this past winter. The original is filed in the binder on the outreach table in the narthex.

St. Mark Bujubi Church of Uganda
P.O. Box 1200 Kanoni Gomba
3rd Feb. 07

Dear Lynda Daun and the people of St. Peter in Winnipeg:

Greetings from the people of Anglican Church Bujubi in Central Buganda Diocese. We thank you for your letter dated July 5, 06. We apologize for having delayed to reply your letter.

Last year has been a very busy year where by we have been renovating our church putting on a verandah, halfbricks, new paint, killing bats using local thorns, setting up projects like coffee plantation and acalptus. Our church choir together with the congregation made fundraising in order to buy a keyboard. We also made a fund raising in order to buy a motorcycle for the parish priest. We are sure that we shall work upon the above mentioned together all Christians. Pray for us. Besides that many young and old Christians were baptized and confirmed.

Challenges which faced us last year.

1. Our school buildings were blown off by strong wind therefore our children now study from under trees outside but we are in struggle with the community to put up new buildings so put us in your prayers.
2. We have a water problem at the school and the church.
3. Our area has problem of malaria which is caused by mosquitoes and this has made people not to go to their work and worship.
3. Our parish is very big with twelve local churches but the parish priest finds it difficult to fulfill his services due to lack of transport and he sometimes goes there by footing which takes a lot of time so pray for us
4. We have a problem of HIV/AIDS which has brought many orphans but the church tries to look after them.

We thank the communication and the co-operation which shows togetherness as a Christian family.

We are remaining in Uganda praying for you and you pray for us.

Yours faithfully,

1. Nakamate Pross the secretary
2. Kafuluma Willy Head of Laity
3. Rev. Benon Tendo Kibirige MM p/p"

St. Peter's Anglican Church Demographic Survey 2007

As we move towards a period of introspection and evaluation after Phil's retirement next year, it is very important that we understand the make-up of our parish and how we all fit into the various ministries, groups and committees that keep St. Peter's an active and vibrant Christian community. As one of several activities designed to prepare us for this period, vestry has asked that an updated demographic survey be conducted. The survey itself is found on the two pages immediately following this explanation.

We ask that each family in the parish take the time to fill out this survey and to return it to the box that will be established in the Narthex. Results will then be entered into our Access database over the summer by our parish secretary, Eleanor Pennington. Please note that provision of any information in this survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to give your email or date of birth or occupation, please don't. But also remember that the results will be kept confidential within the parish, and even then individual results will only be seen by Eleanor and the Rector, Wardens and those within the parish designated to view results and evaluate them. Summary results will be made available to parishioners as we move into our period of discernment. (Phil has agreed not to use this data to announce birthdays etc. relying instead on the current word of mouth system).

One of the most important aspects of this survey is discerning the involvement of parishioners on the multitude of ministries, groups and committees that keep this parish alive. We are asking you not only to indicate those areas in which you are currently involved but those in which you have been involved in the past and those in which you might have an interest in finding out more and possibly becoming a part of in the future.

Filling out that part of the survey might be confusing so an example is given below.

Say a family has two adults, Joe and Mary (designated A1 (Joe) and A2 (Mary) in the survey form and one youth Bill (designated C1). Joe is involved with Administering Communion. They would fill out the line as follows:

		Past	Current	Interested
Ministries	Administering Communion		A1	

Mary and Bill are interested in the Creation Care Committee. They would fill out that part of the form as

		Past	Current	Interested
Creation Care				A2, C1

Your filling out the form will help us immensely in keeping St. Peter's a wonderful Christian community, both in the short term and well into the future. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Jim Daun (489-5519), Debbie Ackland (487-1458) or Bill Harwood (477-4310).

St. Peter's Anglican Church Demographic Survey 2007

Please Print Clearly

Family Name:		Occupation A1	
Address		Former (if retired)	
Postal Code			
Phone			
Cell Phone		Occupation A2	
Work Phone		Former (if Retired)	
Email			

	Names of Family Members	Birthdate (dd/mm/yyyy)	Baptized y/n	Confirmed y/n
Adults (over 18)	A1			
	A2			
	A3			
	A4			
Youth	C1			
	C2			
	C3			
	C4			
	C5			

Please insert the appropriate identification number(s) in the spaces i.e. A1, A3

		Past	Current	Interested
Ministries	Administering Communion			
	Altar Guild			
	Choir and Music			
	Coffee Making			
	Communion visitor			
	Driver			
	Greeter			
	Healing Prayer Team			
	Home Visitor			
	Hospital Visitor			
	Intercessions			
	Meditation			
	Officiating			
	Pew Minister			
	Prayer Chain			
	Reading Gospel			
	Reading Lessons			
	Server			
	Sidesperson			
	Sunday School Teacher			
Warden				

Please insert the appropriate identification number(s) in the spaces i.e. A1, A3

		Past	Current	Interested
Committees and Groups	Bible Study			
	Book Club			
	Building Maintenance			
	Casserole Program			
	Congregational Development			
	Consecration Sunday Committee			
	Creation Care			
	Dinner Group			
	Faith and Daily Life			
	Family Worship Planning			
	Finance			
	Kitchen Guild			
	Labyrinth			
	Meditation			
	Men's Breakfast Group			
	Nursery			
	Outreach Committee			
	Parish Caring Ministry			
	Phoning Committee			
	Planned Giving Committee (Wills, bequests etc.)			
	Seniors in Action			
	Strategic Planning Committee			
	Vestry			
	Website Group			
Women's Friendship Group				
Worship Committee				
Youth Group				

Special skills and interests we would like to offer: (e.g. musical instruments, hobbies, special training).

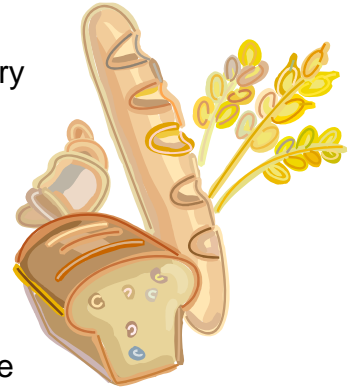
The information in this survey will be used for St. Peter's Church developmental purposes only. Information on individual participants in this survey will not be released to individuals either inside or outside of St. Peter's Church other than those individuals within St. Peter's Church authorized by the Corporation of St. Peter's Church to evaluate the results of this survey.

BREAD OF LOVE

DURING A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY, a young woman decided to eat her lunch in the park. On the nearest bench sat an old beggar who clutched an empty paper bag. His clothes were unkempt and he looked as if he had not eaten in days. So, the young woman sat next to him and offered him half of her sandwich.

With this act of kindness the beggar was transformed into a clean-shaven, well-dressed man. The empty bag he once held was now filled with three loaves of bread. "I am no beggar, but a genie here to reward your act of kindness with a gift," he said. "I have three loaves of bread and you may have one. But choose wisely. A bite from one will give you unlimited success, to eat from another is key to never-ending wealth, and a taste from the third will ensure undying love."

The young woman thought for a moment. With success, she would always have a good job, but with wealth she would never have to worry about money or a career. Then she thought about her parents, grandparents, and friends – and how much they meant to her. "I will take the bread of love," the young woman answered.



The genie handed the young woman the bread. After she took a bite of it, he handed her the remaining loaves and said, "You have chosen wisely. The bread of love bestows endless wealth and countless success upon those who possess it. Go in peace and share your gifts with the world."

WE SOW OUR THOUGHTS,
AND WE REAP OUR ACTIONS

WE SOW OUR ACTIONS,
AND WE REAP OUR HABITS.

WE SOW OUR HABITS,
AND WE REAP OUR CHARACTERS.

WE SOW OUR CHARACTERS,
AND WE REAP OUR DESTINY.

- Author Unknown -
