



THE ELM LEAF NEWSLETTER

The Parish Church
of St. Peter

September 2007

St was a beautiful fall day today, sunny and warm. For many people this is the

favourite season of the year. The colours are lovely and the light has a wonderful quality, especially towards the end of the day. But for some the fall is not a particularly welcome time because it signals the approach of winter and that seems to overshadow any of the beauty that they might otherwise enjoy. In the parish, we will be moving into a new “season” when I retire in February. There is some uncertainty about what the future will hold, and perhaps some anxiety too. It may be that this uncertainty about the future overshadows the present and takes away from the enjoyment of, or engagement in, the life of the parish in the present. I seem to be coming more aware, though, of how important it is to enjoy and appreciate the present moment.

I had a learning experience about this today when I was looking after my 3 year old grandson Elijah. One of our regular excursions is to the pet store. I got everything ready to go in the car, but Elijah wanted to walk. It would take a lot longer, but it was a nice day and that was what he wanted to do, so off we went. Not ten feet down the road he paused to examine some stones on the roadway. This was interesting stuff and we spent a few minutes admiring the various colours and shapes and sizes. A little further along he stopped to watch some geese flying overhead – they were in an A-shape, he pointed out. Then it was balancing on the curb, followed by running up and down a slope. Then he spent ten minutes exploring the possibilities of the hitch and safety chain on a tent trailer that we passed. I soon came to realize that the purpose of the walk was not to get to the pet store, which was my agenda. The purpose was the walk itself, and all that happened on the way was just as interesting as the destination, maybe even more interesting. So I settled in and relaxed into the experience of the journey.

In our journey as a parish, people are wondering what happens after February. Answers to some of those questions are provided in other articles in this issue of the Elm Leaf. Briefly, there will be an interim priest for a period of up to two years before the next rector arrives. In terms of my Elijah story, that could be the arrival at the pet store. There will be some who will want to hop in the car and get there as quickly as

possible, thinking surely it shouldn't take that long. But there is much to experience, much to discover and much to enjoy in the journey itself, and it need not be hurried. You miss a lot when you drive in the car, and it's amazing what you see when you walk the same route. In the car you don't get to play with the stones or run up and down the slopes or explore the possibilities along the way.

And stretching the analogy a little further, the journey continues after the pet store. There is the walk home and the varied experiences of that part of the journey too. So the parish journey is full of potential at each step of the way. In the saying goodbye, in the grieving, in the letting go, in the process of discernment, in the movement into ministry with a new priest, each moment can be lived for its own sake, rather than simply being something that we have to get through before moving on to the next thing.

As we move through this new season of parish life may we have eyes to see, and take the time to appreciate, all that is to be seen and experienced on the journey.

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

A smile is a curve that sets a lot of things straight.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PHIL LEAVES?

This is a question that many people at St Peter's are asking. On September 7, Jim Daun, Bill Harwood and Betty Currie met with the bishop to ask questions, to learn and to clarify concerns.

We were also able to tell him of some of the activities that Vestry has already planned such as:

- A Parish Dinner on January 18th, 2008
- A book of selected sermons that is being compiled
- Hiring Glen Horst, introduced elsewhere in this issue of the Elm Leaf
- A Story Telling Lunch on October 21st after church
- An Advent Labyrinth Walk in December
- A service of thanksgiving and blessing on February 3rd, the first Sunday without Phil, and beginning to prepare ourselves and our space to welcome an interim priest.



The following is some of the discussion that we had with Bishop Don:

What is Intentional Interim Ministry?

After Phil leaves, the Bishop will appoint an interim Priest who is trained in this specialized ministry - a ministry that is intentional in assisting congregations in the transition from one priest (incumbent) to another.

The stages for a congregation to work through are:

- grief – saying good bye and letting go of the person leaving
- discerning who we are without that person
- who is God calling us to be
- what kind of an ordained leader are we looking for

Although there is no definite time frame, studies indicate that working through this process in a healthy manner takes time – usually about 2 years.

Who, How and When do we get an Interim Priest?

The Bishop appoints the interim. He told us that he always confers with the archdeacon (Norman Collier) and the parish wardens in the process of choosing someone. The wardens also meet with the person before the appointment is made. The Bishop is just beginning to consider who might be available and interested in St Peter's. We hope that person will join us in March.

What authority does an Interim Priest have?

Bishop Don said that interim priests don't come in and change the way things are done in parishes. The authority of the Interim is in asking the tough questions in motivating us to look at who we are and where we want to go. Besides caring for the pastoral needs of the parish, the Interim assists in helping the congregation to prepare a parish profile and to consider what qualities it is looking for in a permanent priest. Then the Interim helps the congregation prepare to receive and welcome that person.

When do we start looking for a permanent priest and what happens?

Again, this takes time. Usually, toward the end of the first year of the interim period,

- a parish Canonical Committee is formed consisting of wardens and synod delegates.
- meetings are held with the parishioners to begin to create a parish profile.
- when this is completed and approved by the community, the profile is given to the Archdeacon and Bishop who share it with other archdeacons and the Dean.
- the position is advertised through the Bishop's office and all applications are shared with the parish canonical committee and with a Diocesan advisory committee comprised of the parish wardens, the bishop, area archdeacons and 2 lay Synod delegates appointed by the bishop from outside the parish.
- the applications are short listed; the parish interviews the candidates and chooses.
- the Bishop contacts the chosen candidate and appoints to the position.

The process from being chosen to taking up the post takes at least 3 months as the successful candidate has to resign, move etc.

We are very grateful to Bishop Don for spending time with us and for patiently answering our many questions. He was impressed that we have already begun to plan and work through saying good bye to Phil and Barbara and he assured us of his continued concern and support for us at St Peter's during this challenging time.

Another question that many people are asking is:

Will Phil &/or Barbara, if invited, take part in sacramental services at St Peter's e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals, after they leave?

The answer is no. Once they leave, the Interim is our priest and that person will be responsible for all sacramental services.

We know that many are struggling with this time in our life together. We need to remember that we are a strong community that cares deeply about one another. We know that we can grow spiritually and emotionally through this period and Vestry is committed to helping us do that in a healthy manner. Let us pray that God will bless and walk with us as we continue forward.

If you have concerns, questions or comments please don't hesitate to speak with one of the wardens or with a member of Vestry.

Swallowing your pride seldom leads to indigestion.



PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Do you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? This fall we are going to produce a photo directory of our parish families.

The photos will be taken at the church. The photography and viewing will be done, by appointment, in the one visit and the directory pose will be selected by the family at the time of viewing. There is no charge to families or to the church and each family photographed will receive a **FREE** directory.

If you are thinking of photos as gifts, additional studio quality portraits will be available at the time of viewing. Portrait packages are custom-designed to meet family budgets. However, there is no obligation to buy.

Photo dates and times are: **Wednesday, October 31st** 1:00 – 5:30 pm
Thursday, November 1st 2:30 – 8:30 pm
Friday, November 2nd 2:30 – 8:30 pm



Some dress suggestions are: Long sleeves
Medium or bright colours
Colour co-ordinated wardrobes
Solid colours or subdued prints

This is an excellent way to connect names to faces, to use as a communications reference for our parishioners and to have as a lasting keepsake. Let's have a full parish response.

Please call Eleanor, 488-8093, to book your appointment SOON.

A day hemmed with prayer seldom unravels.

VOLUNTEERING AT GENERAL SYNOD, 2007

In June, the Diocese of Rupert's Land hosted the 38th General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. This gathering meets every three years in different parts of Canada. The last one held in Winnipeg was in 1986 when Michael Peers was elected Primate.

The Synod theme this year was *Draw the Circle Wide, Draw It Wider Still* which was very appropriate given the many issues facing our Church today.

I was one of around 300 Rupert's Landers (several from St Peter's) who volunteered to help host the many activities. The meetings were held in the Marlborough Hotel and there were over 400 people attending – voting delegates, invited observers, companions (partners of delegates) and international guests. As well, throughout the hotel, there were displays from different groups, organizations and networks connected with the Anglican Communion and, of course, the media.

Being a part of this huge 'happening' was an amazing experience for me and one that I will remember for a long time. There was an excitement and energy that was palpable. It was wonderful to see and meet Anglicans from our Diocese, from all parts of our country and from many parts of the world. With the exception of the opening and closing services, most people dressed casually. One could not tell bishops and archbishops from delegates and visitors. The bishop's ring was the clue!

The delegates' days began at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast and prayer group meetings. Plenary sessions were long and the agendas, full. Their work and responsibilities were

exhausting. I was amazed that after evening prayer, always after 9 pm, so many were then ready to take in the entertainment provided each evening.

Besides the energy of the whole event, some lasting memories for me will be the enthusiasm of the Pep Rally and Orientation that was held in early June for all volunteers, the chats and food in the Volunteer Hospitality Lounge, the excitement and tension of the Primatial election at Holy Trinity, the anticipation, shock and disappointment for so many over 'The Vote' (the blessing of same sex unions), the farewell dinner and celebration for the Hutchinsons, the humidity, heat and splendor of the installation of the new Primate at the closing service at St Matthew's and the Pig Roast and celebration honouring all volunteers at the Cathedral two days after it was all over. Those at the Opening Service will remember the torrential rains that appeared as everyone was leaving the Cathedral, walking thro' the cemetery!

This was a wonderful opportunity to see the Anglican Church of Canada 'in action' without having any of the responsibilities of a delegate. I learned a lot, met so many interesting people and felt very much a part of the larger whole. I was proud to be a Rupert's Lander and am grateful for the opportunity to have been involved. When it was all over, it felt like I'd been in a time warp for 8 days. But I'd had fun!

*** **Betty Currie** ***

IS GOD YOUR STEERING WHEEL OR YOUR SPARE TIRE?

Environmental Justice Camp

Mending Creation

May 13th – 19th 2007

The words had jumped out at me from the website: transform, inspire and challenge. Immersion groups and fun. Hands on combined with theological reflection, academic study and community building. A mix of experienced advocates with energetic younger participants. It was made for me! Most of all, however, was the focus on Environmental Justice. The words "how to mend our ways in order for Creation to mend itself" spoke to the advocate within me.

It was later that I grasped the camp is the vision of the Eco-Justice committee of the National Anglican church and is following closely on the heels of the 2006 Ottawa Advocacy and the 2005 Winnipeg Food Justice camps. These camps aim at half of the

80 participants being under 30; half from the host province, others from across Canada. Lyn and Rosie, both environmental activists in the Anglican Church in Australia, joined us from New South Wales.

Pre-reading material presented on the website had grabbed my attention before leaving Winnipeg. Writings from North America, South Africa and Australia focused on aspects of environmental justice, sustainability and spirituality, forming an inspiring introduction to the camp.

Arriving on Vancouver Island early provided me with the opportunity to slip into the service at the Church of the Advent and catch the flavour of creative worship and the love for justice which flows through the congregation. Ken Grey is priest, musician and co-chair of this year's environmental justice camp. Later that day I joined Irene, Jonathan, Justin, and Jennifer who had also arrived early from Waswamipe Reserve, I was fascinated to discover about life on the reserve seven hours drive north of Montreal. This may well become the centre for next year's justice camp.

It was these relationships, together with many other participants that formed much of the week's learning. The structure of the camp was facilitated so we learnt both from each other's experiences, from the program itself and from local people. Different churches hosted us every evening, providing local food and entertainment, on occasion using drama or storytelling that further related to local environmental issues.

The camp started with community building and awareness raising. Justice can be fun, a place where passion meets the needs of the world. The first evening found us outside the Interfaith Sacred Space at Victoria University, surrounded by brightly blooming rhododendrons and azaleas. Colour was further added to the evening when we were joined by a group of bright yellow "CO₂ molecules". With great good humour they mocked us for the work we were doing, and invited us instead to join them. Later, Mr. Floaty, a 7 ft costumed turd complete with top hat joined us, showing us one way that awareness was raised to Victoria's huge problem - much of the city's raw sewage is disposed into the ocean. Yet, this is not only Victoria's problem when I read that the equivalent of about 38 Olympic swimming pools of raw sewage has been dumped into Manitoba's waterways during the past year.

We further explored our relationship with the environment through creative writing and in practical exercises in groups and individually, participating in some excellent presentations by those active in environmental work on Vancouver Island.

Three days of the camp were then spent in a more in-depth exploration of one of eight pre-selected immersion groups. These focused on visits in and around Victoria where environmental work was active. The choice was broad: land and forests, coastal waters, oceans, community and planning, inland waters. Three further choices related to exploring the impact of transport, power or buildings on climate change.

I chose inland water mainly because of the Lake Winnipeg crisis and because I discover I am one of six million people who live in its watershed and believe I can still make a difference. The first day was spent in the pristine land around Sooke reservoir, Victoria's state-of-the-art water conservation plant. I was conscious how principles of water conservation in Victoria are so closely integrated into the city's community, raising a closer relationship between water users and the water source itself. The last two days of our immersion group exploration was spent on a Stream Keepers course, partly theoretical and partly spent up to the top of our gum boots recording stream habitat and becoming familiar with aquatic invertebrates as a measure of pollution in streams.

A personal highlight of the camp was the introduction to the Earth Bible Series through daily theological and biblical reflections developed by Chris Lind from the University of Toronto. Reading scripture through the lens of the six ecojustice principles developed by Earth Bible theologians from across the world has begun to open a new perspective in reading scripture. This is one I welcome as it takes seriously interpretation of scripture in the light of the ecological crisis of our planet, shedding new light on some of those difficult passages through awareness of a different relationship with the earth.

Reflecting on the week, I sense that the vision of the Justice Camp is a "pearl of great price" in our church today and I am grateful for the support of St. Peters and of the Diocese of Rupertsland for making it possible. I am looking forward to discovering how the next camp will unfold and would be very willing to talk with anyone who is considering participating.

*** **Fenella Temmerman** ***

One thing you can give away and still keep is your word.

Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait.

People do odd things to get even.

Get rich quick! Count your blessings!

INTRODUCING GLEN HORST

As some of you will know, Vestry has been looking at ways that we as a community can say good bye to Phil & Barbara and move through this difficult time in an emotionally healthy manner. One of the things that we have done is to hire Glen Horst as a consultant for the next few months.

Glen retired earlier this year from many years as the director of pastoral care at the Riverview Health Centre. As he says in the following article, his doctoral research was on how people experience transitions of loss. We are grateful that he has accepted our invitation to walk with us as we work through this time in our life together at St Peter's.

*** **Betty Currie** ***

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

Harvested gardens and fields, changing leaf colours, crisp morning air, and the smells of fall announce that we are in a season of change. September is a month of endings and new beginnings. Relaxed summer schedules and vacations with families and friends are over. Students and teachers are back to school; new projects require attention; old projects are picked up again after being neglected over the summer. As we move from one season to another, we may feel sadness about summer being over, but we may also feel excited about the new opportunities and challenges that come with the faster pace of autumn.

This transition from summer to autumn is keenly felt in the life of a parish. Programs are suspended over the summer months. Attendance and offerings drop as members wander off into their summertime activities and delights. Then the summer Sabbath ends and church life kicks into high gear again. People reemerge. Stories about the summer are shared; worship becomes more robust; programs and committees are active once again and members take on old and new responsibilities. The community feels the goodness and challenges of its life together. The activities and relationships have a familiar feel to them. The parish is back to normal after the dispersion of summer!

Sometimes though, normal doesn't return that easily. Bigger endings and beginnings may keep us in transition for a longer period of time and cause parish life and members to feel off balance at times. With St. Peter's parish priest leaving at the end of January, 2008, this next year may feel like one big ending and new beginning.

This is a big transition that brings with it big feelings and reactions. You are saying goodbye to a priest who has been an important part of your personal and communal life for a long time. Sadness is certain to be a part of this goodbye. Gratitude and

thanksgiving are likely to be part of it too as you remember and celebrate what you have experienced in the parish while Phil has been your priest.

Goodbyes are sometimes complicated. Many factors influence how we handle goodbyes. Although goodbyes are seldom easy, we can feel deeply satisfied when we do them well. This is a time for reflecting on your own way of saying goodbye to significant people in your life and of deciding how you want to do it with Phil and Barbara.

Saying goodbye and saying hello go hand in hand. Sometimes we are reluctant to say goodbye to someone because we worry about the future without that person. We want to hang on to what we know rather than move into the unknown. The interesting thing is that when we say goodbye well we open our hearts to the future and are better prepared for whatever it brings us.

There are many at St. Peter's who have a sense that this is an important time of change for the community here. The vestry knows that much is at stake and is providing leadership to help the members of the parish move through this change. I feel honoured that they have given me the opportunity and privilege of being a resource for this process.

As a chaplain in a long term care centre for over twenty years I have been fascinated by the transitions that patients and families experienced in that setting. I had the privilege of being a companion to people who were going through huge changes and losses in their lives. Sometimes the transition involved coming to live in the centre because of serious health problems. Sometimes the transition faced was the biggest one of all – the end life as we know it on this earth. My doctoral research was about how people experience these transitions and can use ritual to help them through it.

I look forward to getting to know many of you in your time of transition this year. I hope that I can be a supportive resource for you so that you can live through St. Peter's current season of change tenderly, hopefully, and faithfully.

Some of the events that have been planned to assist parish members in this transition process include the following:

- A Storytelling Lunch after church on October 21st in which you can share memories of Phil's ministry, feelings about his retirement, and hopes and concerns about the future;
- An Advent Labyrinth Walk for members to meditate on their individual sense of loss with Phil's retirement and to kindle trust in the guidance and presence of the Holy One who slips afresh into the world in the darkest season of the year to light our way;
- A service of thanksgiving and blessing on the first Sunday in February (the first without Phil) in which members can give thanks for Phil and Barbara's ministries

and bless the spaces that are left empty by their leaving so that they will be welcoming and safe spaces for the Interim Priest.

If you feel that you would find private consultation helpful in working through the feelings you have as the parish prepares to say goodbye to Phil, I am also available to meet with you for confidential conversation. You can arrange this by contacting me at 231-3164 or at pghorst@shaw.ca.

I will hold you in my prayers as you make your way individually and together through this season of change.

*** *Glen Horst* ***

The 50th Anniversary Quilt



“I thought”, said Barbara, “that we should make a quilt for St. Peter’s 50th anniversary.” Thus began a 20-month odyssey for a team of parishioners. It was a journey fraught with surprises, obstacles and complications. It is a well-known aphorism that a camel is a horse designed by a committee, and there were many moments when we wondered, quietly and not-so-quietly, whether we were creating the horse or the camel. Now the finished product is to be dedicated on October 28th, and the general consensus among those who have seen it is that not only do we have a horse, but we have a thoroughbred!

The intention of the wall hanging was to celebrate in fabric the large number of diverse groups and organizations associated with St. Peter’s at the time of the 50th anniversary. We came up with nearly 50 – a testimony to the rich and varied life that we enjoy in our parish. With a little judicious grouping, we reduced the number to the 45 blocks that you will see in the quilt. It is an interesting mix of designs: some are representational, others are abstract. Some you will identify immediately, others may need some explanation. All contribute to the whole in their own unique ways, just as all our parishioners contribute to the fabric of our church life.

We hope that our efforts will provide you with pleasure and inspiration as we all see a visual reminder of what has been achieved in the past 50 years.

This would not have been possible without the hard work of the wonderful quilt team. Grateful thanks to all who contributed to the project: Barbara Barnett, Ruth Cadick, Ian Chalmers, Mary Chalmers, Bob Cook, Sally Cranston, Lynda Daun, Mary DeGrow, Cori Dorrian, Stephanie and Sapphire Giberson, Ginny Kellington, Elizabeth Pate, Thelma Penteliuk, Susan Sprange, Maureen Tate, Fenella Temmerman, Vera Sim and Eileen Young.

*** *Marie Chalmers* ***

A CD LAUNCH ?? AT St. PETER'S??

Yes, that's right. You heard correctly.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday 28 October

"My Heart is Moved" will be launched in a community concert at St. Peter's. Admission is free. The cost of the CD is \$20.00.

Who are the Singers?

Over the past year a singing circle of about 20 women from Winnipeg and beyond has gathered in the parish hall to learn music composed by Carolyn McDade, Norma Luccock and Nancy Nordlie, inspired by the words and spirit of the Earth Charter "*My Heart is Moved*" was recorded by 80 women from across North America in Boston in June 2007. And two of the recording artists are members of St. Peter's.

What is the Earth Charter?

The Earth Charter is a United Nations declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. After a global consultation process, the "final" version was approved at UNESCO headquarters in March 2000. (www.earthcharter.org).

Our Earth Charter is a beautiful document, the first of its kind. It states principles, guidelines, values for living together as a planetary community. It is the weaving together of the wisdom of the world's cultures and religious traditions, of our human physical and social sciences into a work of art, poetry, a beautiful symphony. It inspires and invites us to a necessary change of mind and heart, to become conscious participants in this sacred moment of evolution, to actualize what we Christians call "the reign of God"

Who is Carolyn McDade?

Carolyn McDade has been a social activist for many years. She lives on Cape Cod. She is committed to the power of the human voice singing and speaking truth to move society to just and liberating transformations. Over the past 30 years she has gathered circles of women to give voice together. "*My Heart is Moved*" is the 13th recording of her music. Through song and singing she helps us deepen human consciousness and understand ourselves as part of a living planet. Singers have gathered across North America to sing this music into being. It has been an opportunity to respond to the deep call of earth and humanity to live in relationship with one another. (www.carolynmcdademusic.com)

Please come to join us in this wonderful music, which gives voice to our love and longing for our beloved earth.

OUTREACH IS FOR EVERYONE

Are you an everyday activist?

Fall is a time for renewal and change. Many of us start new activities in the fall – take a course, start a fitness program, join a study group. Or, we resolve to read more books and watch less TV, or spend time in prayer and meditation.

Why not build an outreach activity into your fall routine? Here are just a few suggestions from your Outreach Committee:

St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry has long been the focus of our parish local outreach work. Here are a few ways to support the ministry:

Volunteer at the Community Ministry – the drop in resource centre offers a ministry of hospitality in this area with many low-income residents. Phone 774-3957 to see how you might help work for a just community for these folks.

Contribute non-perishable food items to our food box at St. Peter's. We deliver it to the Community Ministry. Canned soups and fish, as well as pasta and other canned goods, are always welcome.

Like to knit? The mitten tree will soon be installed in our narthex. Mittens, scarves and toques decorating it will go to the Community Ministry.

The Thelma Wynne Project is also located at St. Matthew's. Volunteers record donations of new and used baby clothes, store the donations, and make up layettes, Phone Zelda at 772-8803 to see how you might help.

Remember to include the people of St. Matthew's Maryland in your prayers.

PWRDF is the primary way Canadian Anglican work with our partners overseas.

Plan to use PWRDF cards this Christmas. Ann Harwood will order them for our parish; phone her at 477-7310.

Send cards to honour the memory of a friend, or celebrate a special occasion such as a birth or wedding, with a donation to the Primate's Fund. These cards are also available from Ann.

Learn more about the work of PWRDF around the world, especially in areas where HIV/AIDS causes great suffering. www.pwrdf.org has excellent informational resources.

Pray for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Please consider other ways to reach out to those in our local community and parish as a part of your fall schedule:

Meals on Wheels always need volunteers. Phone 956-7711 to ask how you might help.

Make a casserole (or two) for our casserole program. Containers are available in the supply room. Bring back your contributions and store them in the freezer in the supply room.

Deliver a casserole to someone who is ill, awaiting surgery or recovering from it, or going through a bad time.

Offer to provide rides to others for worship or other parish activities. Speak to Peter Gould at 888-2605 to find out who needs this service.

Continue your support for the Right to Housing Coalition, which is still (after nearly three years) advocating for the use of empty military homes on the decommissioned base in our neighbourhood. Phone Virginia Platt at 488-8330 for an update and to find out how you may help.

Learn more about global climate change. Kairos, our Canadian ecumenical social justice coalition, will launch a campaign, **Re-energize: Time for a Carbon Sabbath**, this fall. Watch for more information from your Outreach Committee and from St. Peter's Creation Care Committee. Learn what you can do!

Pray for those in need, for justice in our community, and for the health of our planet!

Finally, share your ideas for outreach with our committee and the parish!

Vera Sim told us this summer about a project begun by women from the Diocese of Ontario. Crocheted and knitted dolls can be used as packing materials for medical supplies and other items shipped overseas; groups receiving the supplies distribute the dolls to children in the communities where they work. Ask Virginia (488-8330) for a copy of the directions for creating the dolls, but talk to Vera (489-5109) if you have questions about the instructions. (She has now made more than 40 of the dolls!) Vera also has information on groups that can make use of the dolls.

Thank you to all who support outreach in our parish. Please think about how outreach can be part of your everyday routine!



A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, ``What does love mean?''

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

“Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.” (Karl – age 5)

“Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French Fries without making them give you any of theirs”. (Chrissy – age 6)

“Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.” (Danny – age 7)

“Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.” (Terri – age 4)

“Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss.” (Emily – age 8)

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.” (Bobby – age 7) WOW!

“If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.” (Nikka – age 6) (We need a few million more Nikka’s on this planet)

“Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.” (Noelle – age 7)

“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.” (Tommy – age 6)

“During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn’t scared anymore.” (Cindy – age 8)

“My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.” (Clare – age 6)

“Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.” (Elaine – age 5)

“Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Brad Pitt.” (Chris – age 7)

“Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.” (Mary Ann – age 4)
