

March 1999

I recently attended the National PWRDF committee meeting in Toronto. It was our first meeting after the death of the director of the Primate's Fund, Robin Gibson. I had been asked to prepare a memorial service as part of our opening worship and I was fortunate to have Barbara's resources to call upon. One of the books had a ceremony using candles and there was one part of it which I found particularly interesting.

A candle has its allotted span to burn. (So a human life has its allotted span of years to live.) Yet while it burns – for a short span or a long span of time – it radiates light and heat. And flame kindles flame; life begets life. The glow and heat, the passion of life, are passed on; so long after the candle is extinguished or consumed, the fire of life and love still burns. A human life also continues in the lives it has both engendered and influenced.

Stare at the flame, then look away (or even shut your eyes). As the eye remembers the light, so the mind remembers a person who has died.

Though the flame of Robin's life has been extinguished, our memory's eye still sees the person; and our mind remembers the power of his personality – how Robin walked through his time and world; how his life touched us and shaped our lives.

(From "In Memoriam" by Edward Searl)

The imagery is very powerful and rings true. Candles often evoke strong feelings for people, and perhaps the quotation explains why. For those whose loved ones have died, there are many memories which remain. Memories which are both joyful and sad. The memories help us to keep connected with the person and help us to continue to celebrate their life and all that they have meant to us.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, our thoughts turn to Jesus and his followers. After his death on Good Friday, the disciples were in shock. The light that Jesus had been for them had been snuffed out. They would have been in so much grief that the memories that they had would only have been at the edge of their consciousness. They were simply too concerned about their own feelings of loss to think much about their master and friend who had been killed.

Three days later, though, the situation was very different. Jesus had been raised from the dead and their grief was turned into astonishment and then into joy. Now their memories could begin to function again and the light that Jesus had been for them could continue to burn. I wonder if they did have the experience of a candle's flame

bringing to mind the light and the life that Jesus had been for them. Certainly in later years a candle's flame came to symbolize the presence of the risen Christ. In the ancient ceremony of the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit as a sign of the presence of the risen Christ. Its flame calls to mind and makes present all that Jesus is - all that he said and did during his life on earth, and all that he is as the risen Christ.

The Paschal candle is a powerful symbol, especially in the way that it is used in the Easter Vigil. When it is brought into the darkened church, there is a very real sense of the power of the risen Christ to overcome the powers of darkness. We are reminded that Jesus' victory over the forces that would draw us away from God is made present for us. His light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. The disciples certainly were aware of that reality. But then, they had actually met and touched the risen Christ. We seem to need the symbols and sacraments of our faith to remind us of that same reality. The Paschal candle is one such symbol. I encourage you to come and experience its light, and the light of the one that it represents, at the Easter Vigil this year.

I also encourage you to come to the Seder and Good Friday services. Holy Week is the richest part of our liturgical year. Many people have said that they find Easter far more rewarding when they have experienced all that Holy Week has to offer. Perhaps it is because as we participate in the services we are calling to mind those memories which Jesus' disciples had of him. As we do so we make him more present and real for us, in much the same way that the candle's flame is described as doing in the quotation.

May this Easter bring to each of you a deeper awareness of Christ's love and living presence in your lives.

*** *Phil Barnett* ***

To multiply your joy, count your blessings.

**ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
THE WORSHIP SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

Maundy Thursday

The evening begins with the Seder supper, which re-enacts the final meal which Jesus had with his friends. It is based on the traditional Jewish Passover meal with its rituals and symbols. The meaning of the symbols is explained during the course of the meal. The meal itself is a pot-luck supper provided by those who attend, with the addition of several traditional foods including a serving of lamb. At the end of the meal we process

into the church for a brief service celebrating the Institution of the Eucharist. The evening ends with the Stripping of the altar and removal of all adornment from the sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday. The Seder supper is very much a family event. We invite everyone in our Parish family to make this evening part of their preparation for Easter. Please sign the poster on the bulletin board or phone the church to have your name added on the list. If you require a ride, please call the church arrangements will be made to enable you to attend.

Good Friday

We reflect on the events of the Crucifixion and the significance of Christ's death for us today. The reading of the Passion is done with readers taking the different roles in the story and congregation acting as the crowd who supports the decision to crucify Jesus. Following a meditation, we offer our prayers in the Solemn Intercession. The Meditation on the Cross is perhaps the most moving part of the service, where we are reminded of the many ways in which we, as a church and as individuals, have contributed to Christ's pain.

Holy Saturday

The impact of the symbols of darkness and light makes this one of the most powerful services of the Christian year. The Easter Vigil begins in darkness at the doors of the church. A fire is lit and the Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire. The procession into the church is led by the Paschal Candle, which signifies the presence of the risen Christ. The congregation's candles are lit and an ancient hymn called "The Exultant" is sung. The scripture readings recall God's acts throughout history, culminating in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Everyone then gathers around the font to renew our baptismal vows and the service ends with a joyful celebration of the Eucharist.

The oil of courtesy takes the friction out of life.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

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| March 28 | Palm Sunday
10:30 a.m. – Liturgy of Palms and Holy Eucharist |
| April 1 | Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m. – Seder Supper and Holy Eucharist |
| April 2 | Good Friday
10:30 a.m. – Celebration of the Lord's Passion |
| April 3 | Holy Saturday
9:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil |

MY JOURNEY TO ST. PETER'S

When you are sitting in church on a Sunday morning, have you ever “studied” a particular person and asked yourself, I wonder what brought him/her to St. Peter's? This idea occurred to Joanne Conger -- so I agreed to write a little story.

I was born, baptized and confirmed an Anglican. My parish church was St. Jude's in the West end and I sang in the choir for a time. The great joy of my life was choral music. I was a member of the Philharmonic Choir. Our conductor was Dr. Filmer Hubble, who was not only a superb musician, but also a true Christian Gentleman. He was organist and choirmaster at St. Stephen's – Broadway United Church.

One summer afternoon, I chanced to meet him in front of Eaton's and he said quite brusquely “Are you doing any church singing these days?” When I replied in the negative he said, “Be at my church the first Friday in September. I need another first alto.” I went, and the result was some 35 years of fine church music, plus some excellent ministers. Inevitably, changes come, and the day arrived when I realized I should return to my Anglican roots.

From the window of the Grant bus, I had noted St. Peter's, so I decided to attend one Sunday morning in 1996. I entered and two parishioners came over, asked my name and introduced themselves, and welcomed me. Then Don Fraser arrived – we have a mutual friend, Rev. Brent Danham. I was surprised that the Book of Common Prayer was no longer used, but the service was familiar (Thee and Thou had become You and yours, the Holy Ghost had become the Holy Spirit). The choice of hymns was great.

In the Parish Hall afterwards a lovely lady came over and said “Hello May”. It was Gladys Oelkers – we grew up on the same street. I sang in St. Jude's Choir with her brother. Our sisters went through Guides together. Then I saw Lil Shadbolt – we attended the Seniors Classes at the University of Winnipeg. Before the coffee was finished I was told a couple who lived near me (Reg and Betty Lawrence) could give me a ride on Sundays. I left the church that morning with a warm feeling of contentment. I truly feel I was “guided” to St. Peter's.

.*** May de Wet ***

WHY ST. PETER'S?

At the end of August 1984 we decided to move from Edmonton to Kenaston Boulevard. When we told our friends Agnes and Don in Edmonton of our plans, they said, “We know just the church for you two.”

This seemed rather surprising but a few weeks before they had been at St. Peter's for the funeral of Don's cousin, Tom Owen. Agnes is a Presbyterian and Don a Baptist, but neither of them attends any church let alone supports one. Consequently, we quietly wondered what gave them the expertise to make such a strong recommendation for our benefit.

In September we packed up and moved and were undecided as to which local church would have the most appeal for us. We had been to a Christmas Eve service a few years previously at St. Mary's and it could be a good choice. We had also heard about St. George's from an acquaintance at our Edmonton church. She said her parents went there and we would be sure to like St. George's, very traditional, frightfully English you know).

Now we had a third choice, even if the source of the recommendation was of somewhat dubious qualification.

So early in October we decided that we would worship in each church in turn and then make a decision. The first to be visited would be St. Peter's. In retrospect it was probably Agnes and Don's rather unlikely recommendation that was the deciding factor. However, we decided to be completely objective and open-minded and would visit St. Mary's and St. George's in turn. No sudden rash decisions.

We walked in the Elm Street entrance that first Sunday and were immediately greeted by "Good morning! I'm James Brown; welcome to St. Peter's."

In Edmonton we always sat about half way down the church on the right hand side of the aisle, so it seemed quite natural to sit in the pew behind Betty Ross and Marjorie Stewart. They took us under their collective wing and got us coffee after the service. They also introduced us to Orié and then to Rupert and Fred. So in the space of an hour and a few minutes we gained five new friends.

In the subsequent fourteen and half years we have been involved in many ways and have had much happiness and satisfaction in doing our bit in St. Peter's. This includes vestry, sidesperson, reader, sometimes as organist, the Fellowship group, Pub Nites, Seniors in Action and many other worthwhile activities. We are also immensely grateful for the concern, prayers and comfort so many friends provided after the death of our daughter and in times of sickness and hospitalization.

St. Peter's has a wonderful identity as a Parish family. We have moved to many cities in the fifty years we have lived in Canada, but no other parish that we have joined has been so friendly and caring. One could say St. Peter's is outstanding if not almost unique.

St. George's and St. Mary's? We have yet to get around to checking out these good churches. Maybe we will one day, but I rather doubt it.

*** *Betty and Reg Lawrence* ***

When you are dog-tired at night maybe you have growled all day.

WHY WE CHOSE ST. PETER'S

I have been requested to respond to the question of why our family came to St. Peter's and why we stayed. Of course, we came because of the caring people and that is why we have stayed. Our first visitor in our home was Freda McCrimmon. She was a member of the Visiting Committee. So began a firm friendship with many of the community of St. Peter's.

This was a very short reply and many stories came to mind. I would be glad to elaborate another time.

I was also asked to tell the story of the Christmas Scene and of the other additions added to our church by my husband Tom. Many of these were built in memoriam of love ones at the request of families.

I think planning of the Font was the masterpiece. This was at the request of the McCrimmon family in memory of Freda McCrimmon – wife of Ken McCrimmon and mother of Karen McCrimmon.

Tom also built the stand for the candelabra, the Paschal Candle, the flower stands, the plaques for the hymn numbers, the shelves for the hymn books/collection plates, the shelf for the church pamphlets. He also built the enclosed shelf at the back of the church for the book of listed gifts in memory of loved ones. The leaves of the book were designed and silk-screened by Bonnie Culdieth. Extra leaves were left for future use.

The MacDonald family asked to have an area for a bookcase. It had to be moved at the building of the new hall.

The Christmas scene was started by Mary Gateson and Hilda Holland. They had done all the figures and contacted Tom to design the stable and any other articles which would add to the design. It was first put in the front of the Church, but was not easily seen. Someone had the idea of asking if we could use the platform Tom Young had built for the Easter scene and this made the scene more visible to the children and the rest of the congregation.

Hilda Holland had been Church Secretary for years. Mary Gateson was our first President of our Women's Auxiliary.

The Credence table was also built and designed by Tom.

Of course, in writing this, many more memories have come to mind.

*** *Sincerely, Orie Owen* ***

FOLLOW-UP:

We are sure you will agree that there is so much history of our church that needs to be told. Thank you to those who have already shared with us all through the Elm Leaf. We look forward to learning more about this church and our church community.

WELCOME

On February 14th,

Sarah Anne Barnett
Britney Elizabeth Evans
Charles David Andrew Evans
Shelby Emma Olivia Evans

Became new members of the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
Congratulations!

A well-timed silence is more eloquent than words.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- A. Our Committee was pleased once again to coordinate the Christmas Hampers. We had a great turn-out for “Sherry, shortbread & song” on December 10, 1998. Everyone contributed generously to the hampers and enjoyed a relaxing, festive evening at the folk group “Prairie Thistle”.
- B. **10 Days for Global Justice.** This year the theme is Fashioning Freedom. On January 31, 1999, our committee presented the Wear Fair campaign in the form of a fashion show which highlighted the issues of a need for a living wage for garment workers and the need for codes of conduct for industries. This ecumenical initiative urges us to speak with retailers and store managers about the origins of their merchandise and to ask their companies to address workers’ rights for improved conditions and wages. This Global Justice theme is closely tied to the global Jubilee 2000 campaign – Release from Bondage – the release from virtual slavery conditions experienced today in parts of the global garment industry.

The prophet Isaiah tells us true worship involves losing the bonds of injustice. There is a strong Biblical call to justice – those who do the work of justice and those who act for justice are blessed by God. At times, the Good News of the Gospel is difficult and uncomfortable for us to hear. Our committee’s method of addressing injustice in the garment industry was not usual for worship, but we were grateful for the opportunity to confront some very powerful concerns by being a part of our worship service.

Our committee is especially thankful for the kind assistance of several members of the River Heights 10 days Ecumenical Committee including Yvonne Naismith, Virginia Platt and Andrey McClelland.

A special thank you to the participants in our presentation. They included: Megan Sprange, Susan Sprange, Marian Waller, Tracy McCluskey and Ian Barnett who ably modelled various clothing labels. Thanks also to Glen Finlayson for providing several articles of apparel for the models and thanks to Betty Currie who supervised the music.

We repeated the presentation at Oxford United Church on Sunday, February 14, 1999 and received positive support from that congregation.

Our ecumenical group plans to continue our cooperative work.

- C. **Outreach Committee.** We are always open to having new members join our committee. Members are Phil Barnett, Jim Daun, Rupert Ross, Sheri Kowaski, Marian Waller, Susan Sprange and Karen Fraser. Loving God, help us to join all people all over the world in working for positive changes and a real Jubilee.

*** *Karen Fraser* ***

Prejudice is a lazy man's substitute for thinking.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group over this past year has really blossomed. There have been about four to five new people coming to our weekly meetings.

This year, the Youth Group has had two really successful Youth Services with another one hopefully coming in May. The youth enjoy the participation and enthusiasm coming from the congregation and would especially like to thank them for that in particular.

The Youth Group year comes to its close in the middle of May. Before that time, we are taking part in the Bishop's Bonspiel and we will be having a huge overnight towards the end of March.

At the end of April, St. Peter's is hosting a folkmass. We have never held one here but are quite excited. This event will be held on April 18th at 7 p.m. in the church. The invitation is open to anyone who would like to come and worship. The Youth Group will sure be there.

All in all, this past year has been quite successful. The Youth Group has started to take part in more Diocesan activities and will continue to do so. I am looking forward to next year and all the Youth events that have already been planned.

*** *Sheri Kowaski* ***

Trying times are times for trying.

ST. PETER'S SENIORS

At our February meeting a minute's silence was observed to honour the memory of our late member, Elsie Attwater.

President Don Fraser called for the various reports. A goodly number of excellent suggestions was made for Spring and Summer outings.

A fund is being established for installation of "bars" in the Parish Hall windows – following a break-in. We voted to contribute a donation.

An extremely interesting program was given by one of our parishioners, George Green, whose hobby is rock hunting and collecting. We were able to handle many samples of rock and were amazed at the huge variety of colours.

He specially mentioned the Tyndall stone (from the Garson Quarries). This can be seen in our Legislative Building.

Periodically the Seniors "dine out". February 9th a happy choice was the Village Connection Greek Restaurant. The stark white walls had wide bands of a heavenly blue – reminiscent of the buildings and sky of Greece itself. The food was excellent.

Sophie Mulla advised the February Health and Well Being talk was entitled, "The Many Joys of Being Alive":

Our March speaker was Mr. Dan Trochim who has been a St. John Ambulance Volunteer for 33 years. Recently, he was decorated with a special medal by the Governor General.

He gave us an excellent talk on the protocol of the order, also many very practical hints as to handling every possible mishap or accident. A donation was given.

The March 3rd Community Health and Well Being program was entitled "Options on Housing for Seniors".

All were invited to attend a 70th birthday party for Sophie Mulla on March 14th.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome.

*** *May de Wet* ***

On these dreary rainy days, do you not wonder why anyone save up for them?

1999 PARISH QUESTIONS UPDATE

On Sunday, January 24 during sermon time, we completed a questionnaire compiled by the Faith & Daily Life Committee asking for our thoughts and ideas in the areas of Pastoral Care, Outreach & Community, Adult Education as well as in a number of General areas. This has been done every two years for the past six years and is of great help in planning for the future of our parish.

86 questionnaires were completed, the information compiled by the Faith & Daily Life Committee and submitted with re commendations to Vestry. Copies of the results and recommendations have been posted in the Narthex and there are extra copies for those who are interested. More information will be available as the recommendations are carried out.

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT WEEKEND AT ANGLICAN ISLAND SUMMER CAMP

Friday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday, May 30, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.

Or

Saturday, May 29 at 11:00 a.m. to Sunday, May 30, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.

Come and join us for our 4th annual weekend in the beautiful Lake of the Woods. This is a wonderful opportunity for rest, relaxation, reading, hiking, canoeing, bird-watching, wall-climbing, discussion and fellowship. Some of us just like to sleep and be quiet.

Rates* for the weekend:**

\$62.50 per adult

\$32.50 per child (ages 4 – 17, no charge for children under 3 years)

\$185.00 per family

* These rates include all food, boat transportation to and from Keewatin and 7% GST.

** Rates for those arriving Saturday (staying one night only) will be half of the above.

Meal service will include: Mug-up on Friday evening; Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Mug-up on Saturday; Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall in May. Please keep this in mind as you plan your weekends. For more information, call **Betty Currie** at **885-7438**.

Those who cook up stories will get into hot water.

THANK YOU

To the Men's Breakfast Club for once again hosting a super Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16th.

Those who work for the Lord knows the pay isn't great but
the retirement is out of this world.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please note: to parents of the Sunday School children that there will be no Sunday School on Easter Day, Sunday, April 4th.

*** *Sylvie & Brian King, Sunday School Superintendents* ***

Flattery is like chewing gum, enjoy briefly, but don't swallow it.

IN OUR MAY ISSUE

- Watch for profiles of our newest members of the Corporation.
- Do you know anyone from St. Peter's who will be graduating or completing courses this May or June? Please forward their names to Joanne Conger (453-2767) so that they can be included in our "Recognizing Achievements" page.

The more we work at what we should be, the less we'll need to hide what we are.

NEXT ISSUED ELM LEAF

Our next Elm Leaf will be out on Sunday, May 23rd. All articles are to be in by May 16th. Because there will not be any Elm Leaf through the summer (first fall edition is September 19th), we ask that each committee or group let us know about their summer plans and their September schedule so that we might include these in the May issue.

*** *Joanne Conger* ***
