

the fairview

LINK

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Easter 2010 Issue 107

THE “LINK” STAFF

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Thank you to all those who contributed articles for this publication. Your Editorial Team would encourage all members of the congregation to submit any reports they may have to team members or the Church Office for publishing in the Link.

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Renew Your
Faith
This Easter



From Rev. Barrie's Corner

Easter Brings Us Up Close and Personal

There are at least two times in the course of the year when we become intentional about closing "The Gap" between ourselves and God. These are Christmas and Easter!

There is something very unique that enhances our sense of spirituality around these high points of the Christian year. The family-experience of Christmas worship, here at Fairview is such a blessing for us all. Now, just three blinks in time, past winter or spring or whatever season this is; the anticipation of Easter Sunday, April 4th, is on our doorstep.

Easter invites us to celebrate the truth: that God's love is available to all and that through Christ, everyone who seeks it, can have a life-changing experience!

I have mentioned on many occasions, how closely intertwined are the events and the people of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Consider with me the question: "Just how can we roll away the stone?" So often in life, we experience a physical barrier that simply prevents us from going any further. In the account of that first Easter, as we read the early verses in Mark 16:1-5; we see how the stone placed in front of the entrance to the tomb had been moved away.

"When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back".

Here at Fairview, we have had a large stone that has been preventing people from entering our church. This stone has been in the form of "a challenging past." Sometimes, our personal health,

(...continued on page 7...)

From the Board Chair

As we move through the Easter period we can reflect on the sacrifice made by Christ as he departed our world, leaving us to become His disciples and to spread the word of His teaching.

As I enter my first year as chair of our congregational board I can anticipate some of the challenges facing us. Last spring as we were preparing to do a visioning process, it was indicated that our first step should be a congregational Joint Needs Assessment. The JNA Committee worked hard to define what we are as a congregation and rank our needs, helping to suggest a pathway into our future. The report, as you may have read by now, indicates that we do need to proceed with a visioning process for our congregation.

Churches in Canada are struggling with a life style that is abandoning structured religion. We have become busy doing so many things that we seldom take time to be together as a family. In some households more than half of all meals are now consumed away from the home. The time of family gatherings is being replaced by other activities. It is increasingly difficult to assemble everyone at the same time and place. We become separated by distance and time.

This is true for our Sunday service of worship. As the younger generations are bombarded with multiple activities, it seems as if attending and supporting a church fellowship is easy to drop. We here at Fairview are blessed with a small but dedicated and active core of young families. Our largest membership segment is certainly in the golden years. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to deliver traditional church programs. With a strong Girl Guide group meeting at Fairview, we only attract small numbers of Guiding families to our Sunday activities. A once strong Scouting family of over 100 members no longer exists. *(...continued on the next page...)*

An active part of our outreach recently has seemed to focus on providing facilities to community groups who require easy access to a hall or sanctuary - which we have. Can we make this a road to increased membership?

Our challenge as we move through 2010 is to follow a path that will keep Fairview United Church an active and strong congregation and a welcome community partner servicing all family stages.

Bob Scott,
Incoming Board Chair



**Fairview
Prayer
Chain**

Fairview has an active prayer chain that meets on the first Sunday of each month during coffee hour. If anyone is interested in this prayer ministry we would welcome you to join us. Please contact Brenda Weeden at 519-756-2847.

We would like to thank Cheryllynn Lio for blessing us with her wonderful gift of artistic talent. Once again we have beautiful paintings on our outside doors, for the Fairview Family and all those passing by to enjoy.

Outreach

A few months ago, the Outreach Committee decided to take an inventory of the many outreach activities offered and supported by our own members. What exactly is outreach? Well, the Canadian Oxford Dictionary states that outreach is, “the activity of an organization in contacting, educating, and providing services to people in the community, and especially outside its usual centres.”

We have done just that. Some of our “reaching out” is the activities of the Outreach Committee. Many, many more “reaching out” activities are projects of our other committees and groups.

We have reached out to our own Fairview family. Our shut-ins are visited. We gathered together for fellowship last September for a BBQ and just a few weeks ago we gathered for soup and sandwiches.

One of our community projects was to learn about the Ontario Christian Gleaners. They are an interdenominational Christian organization that collect, process and donate surplus agricultural produce to relief organizations to be distributed where needed around the world which has included: Haiti, Malawi, Romania, Ghana, Mozambique, Liberia, and the Philip-pines.

Hunger and malnutrition are the #1 risk to global health. Each of our local produce growers will discard their surplus or slightly blemished produce including over 1000 boxes each of tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower and cabbage each year. The volunteers



at the Gleaners' facility wash, dice and dehydrate the vegetables. The dried vegetables are then combined into a nutritious soup mix. In the Gleaners' first year (Sept. 2008-Sept. 2009) in the Cambridge (Galt) facility, 16,250 bags – that's 1,625,000 servings of soup were bagged. In 2009, 25% of the produce was shipped to Haiti. Since the earthquake, over 1 million servings have been shipped to them.

**Tours are available on March 23rd,
April 8th and 28th at 10:30 am**

For more information on the Gleaners or to make a donation go to their website: www.ontariogleaners.org

Fairview's outreach efforts are now displayed in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board. We would like everyone who uses the Hall to be aware of our numerous outreach activities. If we have missed any activities, please let us know!

Stayed tuned for an update on, 'Wells for Haiti' in the next Link.

Cheryl Mann
Outreach Committee



In Memoriam



Marilyn Watson
November 26, 2009

Laurence Jennings
December 7, 2009

Richard Redwood
January 19, 2010

Kathleen Thompson
February 7, 2010

Marion Bell
February 17, 2010

Garage SALE



The Tranquility
Unit is planning
a Yard Sale for
Thursday, May 6, 9 am to 5 pm
Friday May 7, 9 am to 5 pm
and
Saturday, May 8, 9 am to noon.

*Donations gratefully accepted. Also,
if you would like to help get the sale
set-up, or help during the sale itself,
your help would be appreciated.*



HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

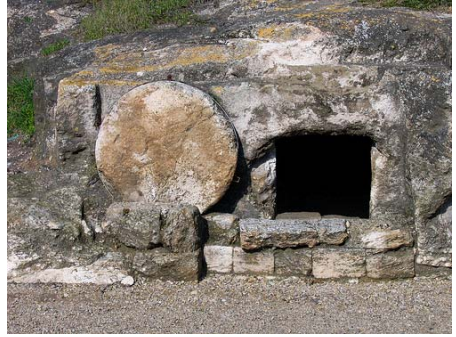


SPECIAL EASTER SERVICES

- Thurs. April 1, 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion
(in the choir loft)
- Fri. April 2, 10:30 am Good Friday Service
- Sun. April 4: 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service
Followed by breakfast
- Sun. April 4: 10:30 am Easter Sunday Service
- Sun. April 11: 10:30 am Easter Communion

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a demanding work schedule, or changing family dynamics has the same effect as a stone blocking the entryway to a significant “Life Experience.”



There is both a renewed interest and energy present in the minds of many as we strive to roll away the stones that prevent us from going forward in our home, church and community life. Let’s work together to continue Fairview’s transformation and make the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection a reality for the many people who come to Fairview on Sundays for worship, mid-week activities and Study Groups. Together, we can remove **“This Speed-Bump”** that disturbs the faith-journey of many travellers.

I recently attended a Supervision Education Event at Wesley United Church in Welland where the closing worship experience concluded with the singing of the hymn **“Deep in Our Hearts.”**

The words of verse 4 provide such an excellent descriptive of what it means for us as members of this Fairview Church Family to work towards a deeper sense of harmony and vision.

**“Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
Telling Creation that we are one.”**

I give thanks to God and the people of Fairview that now is the time that we can truly make this a reality.

Blessings upon you, as we work together glorifying God’s name this Easter and honouring all the people of God’s creation!

Celebrating Easter in God’s Service!!!

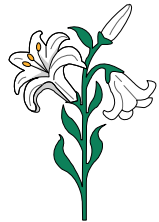
Rev. Barrie J. Bain

**Posted on the January 26th, 2010
Emerging Spirit website by Norm Seli.**

“For most churches, it's annual report time. This is the time when we find ourselves weighed, measured, and often found wanting. Did we make money? Did membership go up? "Membership" numbers alone are not truly indicative of a healthy, successful, vital church. Attendance may be a way to judge, but it needs to go beyond Sundays at 10:30. In short, it is not so important how many belong to your church, but to how many your church belongs!”

In our annual report I wrote, “I am very thankful for all of the energy, enthusiasm and wisdom shown by all the members of the committees and board. We should be very proud of the members who participate in our church life in this way.” This leadership by so many allows us to reach out to the community and say we are here for you. We are blessed to have the resources both in time, talent and money to be able to do this. It is not always easy but we are a Welcoming community.

We have just started another year and financially we have started the year on a positive note with our bank account having a balance of \$3,923.04. In addition our expenses have only exceeded our income by \$68 as of the end of February. I am hopeful that this year may be one with less worry about our financial position and one where we can discover new ways we can grow and share Christ’s love with each other and the world.



~ Sherrie Milla, Chair of Finance

Summary	Current Month	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
Total Income	15,525	39,315	34,566	207,393
Total Expenses	17,059	39,384	36,277	217,661
Excess Income/ Expenses	(1,534)	(68)	(1,711)	(10,268)

Children in Church

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service, "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bed-time story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

