

the fairview

# LINK

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**Fall 2010 Issue 108**



# 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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## From Rev. Barrie's Corner

### Geocaching 101 The Treasure Hunt that Never Ends!

I cherish those times in my life and in the lives of others when our sacred connection with "God's Love" is indeed "Treasure in the Heart".

This past Saturday, I was introduced to a very intriguing "Electronic Treasure Hunt". This new sport and adventure hobby can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Some of you will remember from your high school geography classes, the concept of lines of latitude and lines of longitude. These are imaginary lines that circle the globe in either a north-south direction (longitude) or an east-west direction (latitude). Using measurements along these lines—divided into degrees, minutes and seconds—we can pinpoint our location anywhere on the earth. Geocaching uses these measurements to tell us where a treasure is hidden. It's our fun job to hunt down the treasure using a GPS or Global Positioning System. Once we've found the treasure, known as a cache, we can sign the book and trade in a trinket if we want. One can also use an iPhone to seek out the treasure-cache. My prize in this new to Barrie adventure-sport was a little grey plastic elephant. I hope this helps me to remember which way is north!!!

The prophet Jeremiah writes:

*"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people". Jeremiah 31:33*

*...continued on next page...*

A new feature of the promised covenant is this: “It was not to be written on tablets of stone, but rather on the hearts of the people”. In the Old Testament, the heart was more than the seat of feeling, but also the seat of understanding and the will. People would accept, love and obey God from and with the heart—in all sincerity and with a total devotion.

When God is loved with the heart, there is no need to teach someone who God is. The person will know God instinctively. To know God is not a mere intellectual exercise or understanding, but an ultimate relationship based on trust. To effect this New Covenant, God must forgive the people’s past sins; in order that they might begin anew in their relationship with God as though nothing had ever happened. God not only promises to forgive, but to forget. This is calligraphy for the heart as only God can inscribe.

Have you invited God to write His love in your heart???

The inscription of LOVE begins the moment that you make an unconditional surrender of your life and dedicate the remainder of your lifetime into God’s keeping.

I wish to conclude this message with the following true story that was shared with me by a friend in the Anglican Church. “Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5 year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to

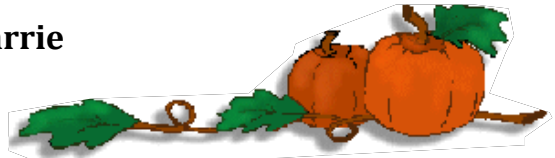
give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, “Yes, I’ll do it if it will save her”. As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled as we all did, seeing the colour returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, “Will I start to die right away”? Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought that he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

What a wonderful true story to remind us that—

**God’s Love IS Treasure in the Heart!**

**Love and blessings to each and every one!**

**Rev. Barrie**



**Stitch and Chatter**

It has been awhile since we had a note in the link. Four of us are still quilting, and we are looking for more quilts and quilters to join us. We quilt every Tuesday and Thursday, from one until three or three thirty.

We have a quilt on now for one of our church members. We have had a few hot days but we still quilted. A couple of us spent some time at the cottages this summer but 2 others kept quilting with no holidays (dedicated)! We enjoy our fellowship together!!!

## Fairview Board

The Board of this congregation has been dealing with the mandate of the congregation from the 2009 annual meeting to move forward with a **visioning process** as a directive of the Joint Needs Assessment Report. Judith Johnston, a Minister for Congregational Support from Hamilton Conference was invited to attend the June board meeting to facilitate moving the visioning process forward. Judith has worked with our congregation as a facilitator at previous workshops and was a good choice to help us address our current mandate.

As a result of this meeting a committee was struck to meet further with Judith over the summer to establish a process and time line to work on the visioning project. The committee members are Alexander Rey, Lee Thorsen and George Weeden with support from Rev. Barrie. They were able to meet with Judith on August 17 along with Liz Ryan as note taker and myself as board chair.



From the meeting, a process was developed and is to be presented to the board on September 21. The recommended process would include a congregational meeting with a light lunch following an abbreviated World Wide Communion service on **October 3**. The format would be to have a brainstorming session with

groups around individual tables. The input from these discussion groups would be reported back to the meeting as a whole. Input would also be collected from our shut-in members and the youth group. From these inputs we would anticipate a sense as to what a vision statement might include. The input would then be reviewed by a board task force and summarized for the October board meeting. We would hope to be able to refine a statement that could be confirmed by the board by November and presented to the congregation. It would then go before the 2010 annual meeting for confirmation. Judith will be in attendance to facilitate our way through the brainstorming session. We anticipate this process would be completed by 1:30.

When the visioning statement has been generated and confirmed by the congregation we will then be able to move on the Joint Needs Assessment Report and work towards a framework for the future that most closely fits with our vision statement.

Attendance at this special congregational meeting by as many members as possible would help us create the most suitable vision for our congregation.

Bob Scott  
On behalf of your board



## FINANCE REPORT

### August 2010--General Account--Income and Expense Statement

<i>Summary</i>	2010 Year to Date	2009 Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
Total Income	137,929	127,190	138,262	207,393
Total Expenses	136,651	136,345	145,107	217,661
Excess Income/Expenses	1,278	-9,155	-6,845	-10,268

- ⇒ Bank account balance is \$1,702.86
- ⇒ Income is in line with budget for the year, with contributions from the memorial fund offsetting chancel renovation costs
- ⇒ Expenses are down compared to budget due to the timing of travel expenditures and the furnace has yet to be replaced.



## Faith Formation Committee



Sunday school classes for ages three and up began on Sunday, September 12 and we welcomed back our returning young people, as well as all newcomers. Youth group for grade seven and up gets underway on

September 17 at 7:30 p.m. with a planning session for an exciting upcoming year – details to follow. The united United youth will hold their kick-off barbeque on Sunday, September 26 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Andrews United Church – all interested youth ages six to seventeen are invited to attend. The group will also host an “un-Halloween” party at Fairview Church on Sunday October 31. Plans for adult bible study in the 2010-2011 year are actively being discussed. We look forward to another busy and active year with all of our youth, youth leaders and adults interested in furthering their Christian education.

## Fairview Prayer Chain

Fairview has an active prayer chain that meets on the first Sunday of each month during coffee hour.

If you have a prayer request for yourself or a loved one, please call the Prayer Chain so they can be included in prayer.

Due to privacy concerns and confidentiality issues, we are not able to print the names of those who are ill or in hospital in our bulletin each Sunday. However, be sure to let Rev. Barrie know of any who are ill or in need of help.

If anyone is interested in this prayer ministry we would welcome you to join us. Please contact Brenda Weeden at 519 -756-2847.

## House System

I am so thrilled to be Chair of this Committee. There is a high level of dedication among our House Leaders and everyone in the Fairview Family assists where needed.

The House System at Fairview is unique in that we are able to assist with our Sunday Service and some outreach to our members in a very gentle manner. Each member or persons showing an interest to help is assigned to a certain month of the year which is referred to as a House. The House Leaders, with the assistance of their members, volunteer for such duties as Lay Reader each Sunday, Greeters at each entry door, Ushers at each door into the Sanctuary and of course, hosting our fellowship time following the service. There are members who do extra things to help out such as assist in the Nursery, visit fellow House members who may be ill or just in need of a friendly visit and some take Sunday Bulletins to those who could not make the service.

If you are not on a House Committee and would like to be involved, please see Jane Baxter during the fellowship time following each Sunday Service.

Thank you to each and everyone House member for all your volunteer time.

Jane Baxter  
Chair, House Committee



## Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee has met 3 times this year to make plans for the upcoming fall campaign. We were pleased with last year's response to the "intended givings" and "volunteer" forms and plan a somewhat similar campaign this year.

In addition, the committee is looking at introducing a new focus centred on "bequests" and "special gifts". We hope to develop a program which incorporates estate planning that specifies bequests of an "enduring nature". Emphasis will be placed on the fact that all bequests and special gifts, large or small, will be appreciated as all are helpful. To recognize those who have given bequests, names are engraved on a plaque in the narthex. This program is presently in the planning stage.

We also wish to have our visioning program include a means of including "shut-ins". Programs such as visitation are opportunities to keep them connected to our church as well as keep them informed in the ways their support is being used.

The committee plans to hold the regular fall campaign in November with the intended givings and volunteer forms being distributed on Sunday, November 14.



## Wells for Haiti Update

In April 2005, a cheque in the amount of \$5,800 was presented to Roy Sheldrick of the Ancaster Rotarians, for Wells for Haiti, from the members of Fairview.

Many people in Haiti have no electricity, no running water, and no telephones. A well handle will change their life.

The Water for Life Program is one of the major charitable projects of the Ancaster Rotary Club. More than \$1.2 million has been raised to bring clean, safe, and accessible water to the people of the Artibonite Valley, Haiti. Each year, more wells are drilled and new sources of clean water are tapped.

In 2005, the 100<sup>th</sup> well was drilled. Reports say the wells have made a vital difference in the health of the Haitians in the Valley.

In 2006, a 7000 foot pipeline was built to bring to bring water from a mountain spring to 10,000 people in the valley. Roy travelled to Haiti for the official opening.





In December 2007, Roy Sheldrick and others took a trip to Haiti to visit the Albert Schweitzer Hospital and to attend a Rotary World Water Development Conference. This hospital has four wells.

By the end of December 2007, a total of 150 wells had been

drilled. Wells have been installed in school yards, church yards and medical centres.

In April 2010, the Rotary Club of Ancaster celebrated the **200<sup>th</sup> well** being drilled for the Haiti Wells for Life Program. The well was drilled in the school yard of Ecole Pelican.

After ten years of fundraising, clean water has been brought to 200,000 residents. When asked by the Ancaster News, "What does clean water do for a village?" Mr. Sheldrick stated, "It just changes everything. When children are healthy, families are stronger."

Thanks for your partnership!

Submitted by:  
Cheryl Mann  
Outreach Committee

# An Interview with Mother Nature



by *Shane Martin*

With Earth Day upon us and Mother's Day on its way, it seemed well-suited that an interview with Mother Nature would be appropriate. She's not a huge fan of telephones, faxes, the Internet, or other technological advances, so it was a little difficult to get a hold of her. But eventually we tracked her down and got an interview while she was taking a short break from her duties.

Not being much of a public figure, we were surprised that she would want to talk to the press, but apparently there were some pressing issues that she felt should be addressed.

"I remember the early years," she began. "It was a simpler life back then. No cities to deal with, no smog. Things were so easy going I even took a bit of time off; just covered everything in ice for a few millenniums." Times quickly changed for Ms. Nature though. She cited, of all things, the invention of the wheel as the starting point to the downward spiral.

"I wasn't too concerned with the whole wheel idea at first. It helped the human population get from A to B, and carry stuff in the process. But soon they were soliciting other animals to pull them around, making roads, and eventually the whole self-propelled concept came into play." Things apparently started going astray around that lime. "If they would have stayed with their horse drawn carriage idea, things might have been alright. But when they started the automobile craze, everyone and his brother wanted one. Then we got into the whole factory and assembly line thing. Don't even get me started on that!"

For fear of upsetting one of the most powerful entities in the known universe, the topic of factories and assembly lines was dropped. Human greed and gluttony was the next topic to be tackled. After a long list of facts and figures, like the number of overtime hours she has to put in to decompose a pop can, she got down to her personal opinions. "I wish there was a way that I could teach

you people that you don't need to try and improve on me." Although she expressed a little fear of sounding egotistical, she added, "I've been doing this job effectively since the planning stages. Just let me do my job."

Once again, the topic was dropped for fear of her venting her frustrations with a monsoon, or something to that "nature". Not everything that she had to say about the human race was bad, however. She expressed great gratitude to those doing their best to help her out.

"The Support that I've been getting lately is so refreshing. I'm starting to regain a bit of faith in mankind. But I must admit, every time you build a bigger skyscraper, a faster car, or a more "productive" factory, I hang my head in disbelief."

Ms. Nature also expressed great pleasure in our reduce, reuse, recycle idea, and was pleased to see it being put into practice. And on a personal note, she wished to thank her Cochrane confidant, Mrs. Elaine Kolomeitz, and wanted to remind her that she'll be taking a break for a coffee and exchange of weekly environmental notes next weekend.

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from the author  
(grandson of Louise Martin)*



Ralph Speck  
March 21, 2010

Evelyn Borthwick  
April 19, 2010

Bob Bayne  
May 4, 2010

Bill Dickie  
May 21, 2010

Lynda Butler  
July 10, 2010

Annie Cole  
August 9, 2010

Dennis Barton  
August 13, 2010

**Do you know your HYMNS?**

Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns

Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises

Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I Might See

The IRS Agent's Hymn..... I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn..... Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn .... Send The Light

The Shopper's Hymn ..... Sweet Bye and Bye

The Realtor's Hymn ..... I've Got a Mansion  
Just Over the Hilltop

The Doctor's Hymn..... The Great Physician

