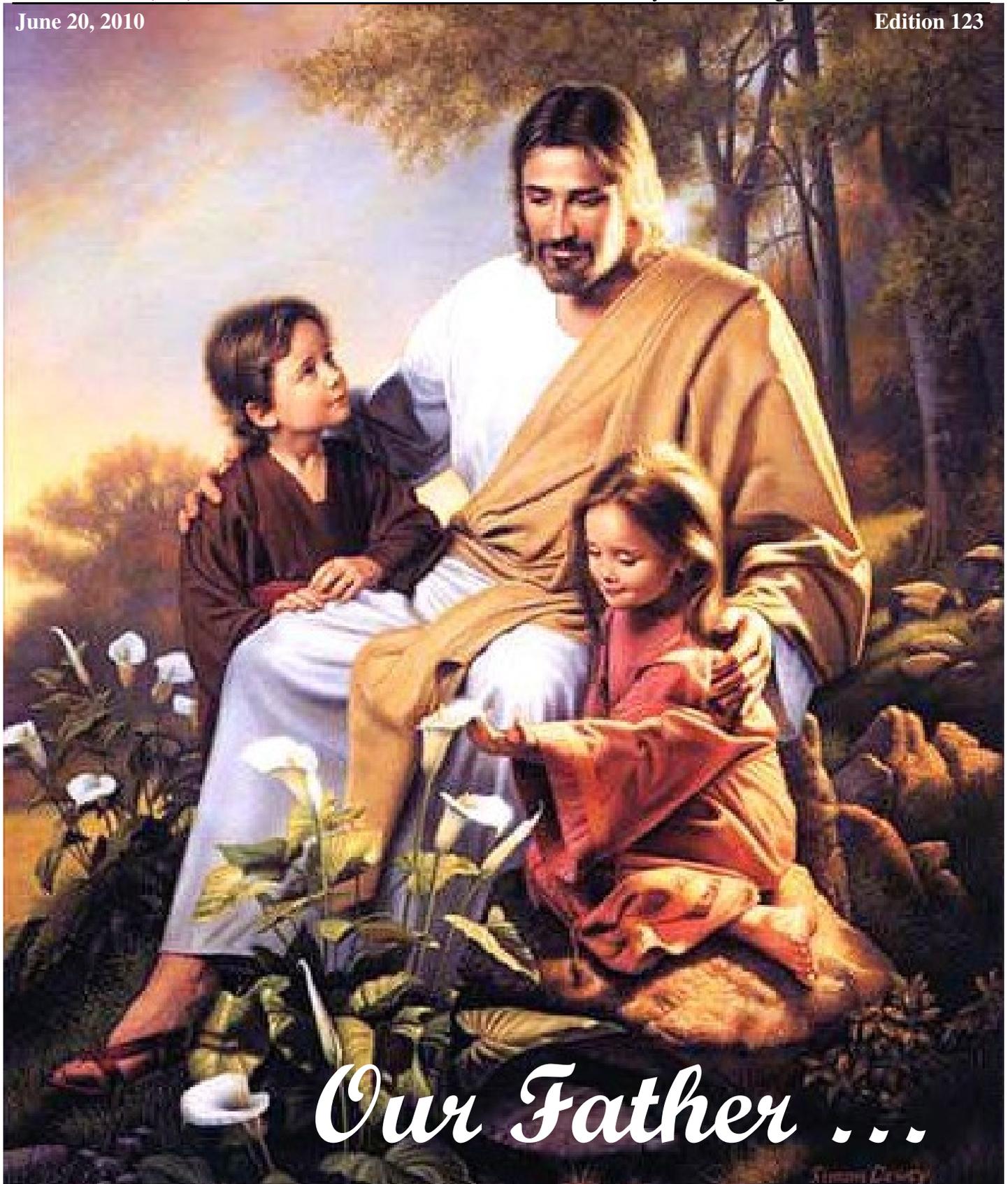


# FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church, 3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A9  
(416) 783-6503, Toll Free 1-877-226-2242, Email: asburyandwest@rogers.com

June 20, 2010

Edition 123



*Our Father ...*

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. For the past 32 years I have had the wonderful honour of being your minister. It is hard to find words to say how important your love and support have been to Heather and me. You have invited us into your lives, made us part of your family and given us a tremendous sense of belonging and place. I consider that God gave you to us as a great blessing.

One writer talks about how we remember the past as stories about what happened. I know that I think back on my ministry and I remember it as a series of stories. In May of 1966 I became the Student Minister at Sutherland Mission in downtown Winnipeg. One of the men warned me that the church was haunted; I laughed but he said it was true - that I wouldn't see the ghost, but I would hear him walking around, normally in late afternoon. About two weeks later I was by myself in the church and I heard someone walking up the stairs; I left my office, but there was no one there. I heard it a couple of more times that afternoon. I said something about it a couple of days later to another person who laughed and told me that the Sutherland Ghost was simply the heat coming out of the wood. That the building really did creak and groan in the summer. All that summer I listened to the Ghost walk about. I kidded that it was the ghost of sermons past.

In my last charge, the country church was heated by a wood-burning stove near the front door and a long pipe that went the length of the building and then outside. Just before Palm Sunday they decided to paint the stove and the pipes. Palm Sunday morning we came in and the entire church was filled by a silver fog of paint that was burning off the pipes. Literally, standing there you couldn't see the ten pews to the front. Palm Sunday consisted of singing two hymns, reading one scripture and taking up the offering. Ten minutes.

A couple of the Asbury and West stories I can tell. One Sunday morning, in the middle of the sermon a young boy walked right up to the front. I was in the middle of the sermon. He looked up at me and very politely said in a loud voice, "Excuse me, is there a bathroom here?" I might as well have stopped the sermon right there because I'm sure the congregation didn't hear another word I said that day.

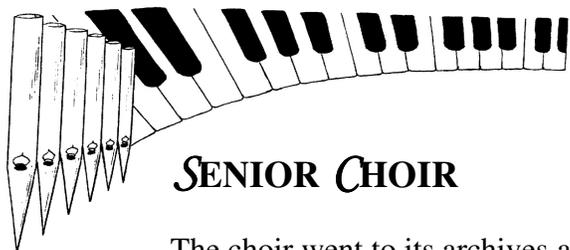
I will long remember the Saturday that I had weddings at 1, 3, and 4:30. The one o'clock bride was on time, but there was no sign of the groom. About 1:30 we heard that he had gotten tied up in traffic and would be very late. The bride and bridesmaids sat in the parlour until 6pm, after the other two weddings took place. Bill Shewalter, our organist, had to leave because of another commitment. The bride came down the aisle and someone started to hum the Here Comes The Bride and the congregation joined in.

All the stories involve people. I participated in a career day at one of the high schools. There were a few students who came to talk about ministry. I told them one of the reasons for considering ministry is that you are invited to be part of a person's life in ways that no one else ever is. You are there celebrating birth. You are sharing in growing up. You are part of their wedding. You see them when they are happy and when they are sad and you are there when they say goodbye. At times you will be the presence of God in peoples' lives. That can be pretty scary but also a great privilege.

You have allowed me to be part of your life. Thank you and God Bless. I look forward to what God will have me doing in my retirement.



*Peace, Joy and Hope*  
Rev. Douglas McKenzie



### SENIOR CHOIR

The choir went to its archives and has invited former members who are attending the Reverend McKenzie's farewell weekend to join in the choir on Saturday as well as Sunday.

The William R. Shewalter Memorial Organ Fund has reached \$34,312.55. All donations toward this fund are always welcome.

The choir's last practice is June 17th and will resume September 9th.

Wishing you a wonderful safe summer!



*Lou Rhoden  
Choir President*



### THE M&S FUND

Most of us know Shirley Holmes as a former member of our AWUC Choir. On a Sunday in March we saw another side of her. Since Shirley has moved to Milton, she has been very involved in the Lindsay Presbytery. Shirley, along with many others took a trip to Africa where she saw first hand what your MandS dollars are doing. In March, Shirley brought along a few of her travelling companions and as a group they told us about the hardships in the Congo. We sat memorized in our pew as she spoke about the plight in the Congo.

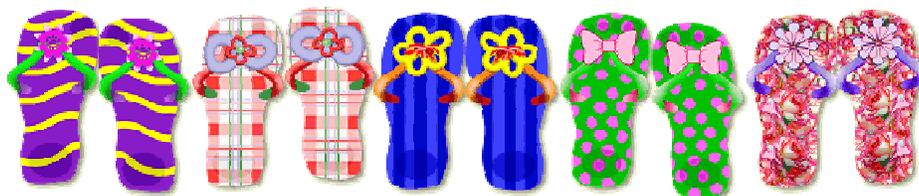
Our M and S gifts helped Shirley and others to help the Congo. Your M and S gifts will help many other people. Please give according to your means.

*Bob Stark (Honorary Chair)  
M and S Committee: Connie Shewalter, Isabel Robertson,  
Glenda McBroom, and Judy Gillingham*



### A MILESTONE

Asbury and West would like to wish Lily Jarman an early Birthday Wish! Lily will turn 100 years young on August 1st. All the best Lilly.



## MY DAD

Author Unknown



When I was just a tiny kid,  
Do you remember when,  
The time you kissed my bruise.,  
Or cleaned my soiled chin?

You scrambled for the balls I hit,  
Short-winded more than not,  
Yet, every time we'd play a game,  
You praised the "outs" I caught.

It seems like only yesterday,  
You wiped away my tears,  
And late at night I called your name,  
To chase away my fears.

Though time has changed your handsome grip,  
Your hair is snowy white,  
You gait's a little slower now,  
Thick glasses help your sight.

Oh, do I thirst for years gone by,  
To be that growing lad,  
Re-living all of the memories,  
Of growing with my dad.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On June 13, we held our Celebration Sunday. Congratulations to Caitlin Badley, Ralph Casdellano, Heather Davidson, Vaughn Francisco, Joseph Masih, Melissa Nielsen, Albert Paz, and Dan Villamayor who graduated and received their Bibles; and to Asher Barnes, Cassandra Cameron, Selina Cameron, Nicholas Cerajewski, H.J. Johnson, Kyla Marquez, Khrislea Marquez, Ethan McCalla, Hailey McCalla, Emma McKenzie, Julia McKenzie, Eleann Paz, Katrina Sison, Kyle Viernes, and Janelle Villamayor who received Recognition Certificates.

Looking forward – The **Kids For Christ:Summer Edition** (KFC:SE) program will run during the summer months. Thanks to the volunteers who help with the teaching. Church School begins September 12.

*Cheryl Holliday*  
Superintendent

## DO YOU KNOW OUR CHURCH SECRETARY ??

Lynn Moe, our church secretary, is also a busy wife and mother of two wonderful teens. They are members of St. John's United Church, in Scarborough, where Lynn is the Chair of the CE Committee. Lynn also works part time at a KUMON Centre, a program offering specialized tutoring in Math and English and is an AVON representative. Lynn and her family enjoy cottaging in Haliburton and taking trips to new places each year, having enjoyed whale watching in Quebec, Myrtle Beach and New York City. Most recently, Lynn is enjoying being part of the Asbury and West community.

If you haven't introduced yourself, please stop by the office and say hello!

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LRPC)



### Our Zoning Application

The suspense is dreadful! North York City Planning Department has not yet ruled on our zoning application. However, Councillor Howard Moscoe has informed the Planning Department that he wants to see the application presented to Community Council and then to City Council for their meetings in August. The August date is very important, since there is a civic election in September. Applications not approved before the election are not likely to be considered until the new council takes office in January, 2011. If we secure approval by August, we can expect to begin renovations by this time next year.

### The Heritage Question

Heritage Preservation Services still intends to request a by-law designating the '58 church building as a heritage site. This is puzzling, because the Urban Design Department have twice demanded that we move our entrance from the south, where the Heritage people told us to put it, first to the east side, and then to the north side. The Heritage staff has agreed to both moves, but refuse to acknowledge that these decisions have destroyed the "landmark" aspect of the church building.

The Heritage Designation Process is arbitrary and capricious, because only the opinion of the Heritage staff counts. In addition, there are no clear guidelines against which we can measure their decisions. James Bond on Avenue Road, a much older building than ours, was demolished. St George's Anglican on Yonge Street, a church about as old as ours, has been granted permission to build. We cannot understand how these decisions are fair.

### A Call to Action

The civic election will be in September. This is one opportunity for all of us to express our opinions. When candidates come to ask you for your vote, please tell them what you think of the situation at Asbury and West. Ask them for their position. If you are a writer or a telephoner, then write, email or call the candidates to express your opinion.

Then you can do it all again when the provincial election is called, because it is the Ontario Heritage Act of the McGuinty Government that gives Toronto the power to impose heritage designation on any buildings that they want to.

### Key questions:

Why does the City of Toronto designate churches with no compensation?

Who is picking up the extra costs of projects like food banks, Out of the Cold, support for battered women, single mothers and refugees when the city makes us spend money on bricks instead of people?

Our faith tells us to avoid spending money on material things. Doesn't forcing us to maintain an old building, also force us to disobey our faith?

*Alan McKenzie, Chair  
Long Range Planning Committee*



On March 25th the Young at Heart Seniors met at Roy Thompson Hall for noon concert performed by the Elora Festival Singers conducted by Noel Edison with Michael Bloss at the organ.

April 8th, the Seniors met for lunch and a video "The Glory of Easter".

April 22nd, the Seniors met for lunch then car pooled to Glencairn Bowlerama for bowling.

May 13th, the Seniors travelled by bus to Waterloo where they board a vintage train to St. Jacobs and had an excellent lunch at the Stone Crock Restaurant. It was a rather hot May day so not much walking in the quaint shops. They returned by train to Waterloo and then headed home.

June 10th - Pot Luck lunch and entertainment

June 24th - Picnic at Edwards Gardens

The Young at Heart members are getting fewer in number at our meetings. I would like to encourage you, if you are free for a few hours each second Thursday, to join us in our programs.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles  
Committee Contacts*



## FOOD BANK

Imagine going hungry, right here, in the wealthiest country in the world. It hardly seems possible but it's true. The reasons are many, but it doesn't make a difference what the reason is, hunger is hunger. The fact is, many Canadians in our community are at risk of hunger with many of them children and the elderly.

Every month your Food Bank at Asbury and West assist approximately 75 - 80 individuals and families. Without your help these families would find things a lot more difficult.

Your Food Bank is now closed for the summer and will reopen on September 8th. We have always been able to count on the generosity and support of our congregation and next year will be no different. Each one of the people who you helped over the last year owes you a debt of gratitude.

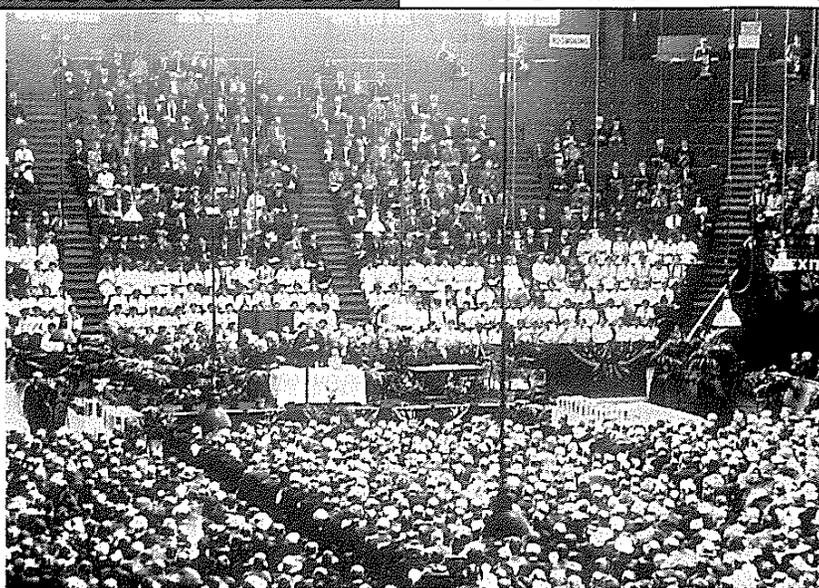
Thank you and may God bless you and your families with a safe and healthy summer.

*From the volunteers  
of the AWWC Food Bank*

We continue to collect old batteries. As was mentioned a few Sundays ago, as of April 25<sup>th</sup>, we have recycled almost 200 pounds of batteries rather than having them go into landfill. The box is out on the table in the narthex.



**THIS UNITED CHURCH AT A GLANCE**



The United Church's inaugural service at Toronto's Mutual Street Arena in 1925.

**The United Church of Canada celebrates its 85th anniversary**

On June 10, 1925, several thousand delegates gathered at the Mutual Street Arena in Toronto and ushered The United Church of Canada into being. This month, churchgoers across the country will mark 85 years of union.

Bearing the theme "Remember, Renew, Rejoice!" the planned events will enable congregations to celebrate locally while also connecting with the wider church. "We're looking at where we've come from, where we are and where we're headed for the future in our 85th year," says Mary-Frances Denis, staff co-ordinator for the anniversary. Here are key dates to keep in mind:

- On Sunday, June 6, many congregations will celebrate the anniversary during their worship services. A special liturgy has been created and distributed for the occasion. Congregations are invited to share in "one bread, one body" by serving Communion bannock created from flour milled from all 13 Conferences.
- On Thursday, June 10, the General Council Office at 3250 Bloor St. W. in Toronto will host an open house. Guests will be treated to a fair-like atmosphere where they can enjoy a Bible study, tours, workshops, music and 300 dozen cookies baked by General Council staff. A dinner buffet of barbecued chicken and cold salads will

be served (tickets are available at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)), followed by a worship service at Islington United. Very Rev. Bruce McLeod will preach.

• On Sunday, June 20, a special anniversary worship service will be held at Metropolitan United in Toronto. Moderator Mardi Tindal will preach. The service will be live-streamed to the Internet, and participants are invited to ask Tindal questions via Twitter at the end of her sermon.

—Sheryl Spencer

Taken from the United Church Observer (June 2010)

*This bread was baked by Pauline McKenize and enjoyed by all at our communion service at Asbury and West on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.*

**Bannock Bread**  
(as served at Communion on June 6, 2010)

**Ingredients**

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 tbsp. baking powder
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 cups water
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

**Method**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Combine all dry ingredients in large mixing bowl.

Add water and oil. Stir with a fork until a dough forms. (Mixture clings together.)

Turn the dough out onto a surface lightly coated with flour. Knead for about 3 minutes. To knead, press dough down, fold in half, press down. Rotate half way, then repeat.

Pat the dough into an oval shape about ¾ inch thick. Transfer to a well greased or parchment- covered cookie sheet. Prick the surface of the dough all over with a fork.

Bake 20 – 30 minutes until golden brown.

**Optional**

The bannock can be made using 4 cups of white flour instead of using whole wheat.



## RULES TO LIVE YOUR LIFE BY ...

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.  
 Life isn't fair, but it's still good.  
 Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.  
 You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagreements.  
 Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.  
 Try to make at least three people smile each day.  
 Dream more while you are awake.  
 Forgive everyone for everything.  
 Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.  
 Smile and laugh more. It will keep the energy vampires away.  
 Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your fiends will. Stay in touch.  
 No one is in charge of your happiness except you.  
 Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.  
 Spend more time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.  
 No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.  
 The best is yet to come.



## YARD SALE RESULTS 2010



The weather was perfect for the Yard Sale held on Saturday June 5th. Thanks to co-ordinators Yvonne Wright / Joyce Rhoden / Sheila Mascoll and their amazing team. Also thanks to those who brought in family members to help "man" the tables. Whether you donated items, sorted, set-up, priced or made purchases – many thanks.

*Yvonne Wright*

Attic Treasures	\$402.25
China & Glassware	\$256.60
Knick-Knacks	\$181.30
Kitchenware	\$266.55
Toys	\$67.96
Jewellery	\$337.75
Furniture	\$540.25
Electrical	\$416.81
Boutique / Clothing	\$705.09
Linens/crafts etc	\$214.41
Pictures & Wickers	\$132.66
Books	\$222.67
Bikes	\$140.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$3,884.30</b>
UCW Bake Table	\$341.00
Choir's Lunch Room	\$566.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,792.00</b>

## **Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions**

Author Unknown

**When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard.**

**My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.**

**When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away.**

**My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.**

**When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen.**

**My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.**

**When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk.**

**My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.**

**When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that.**

**My kids say, 'Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy.'**

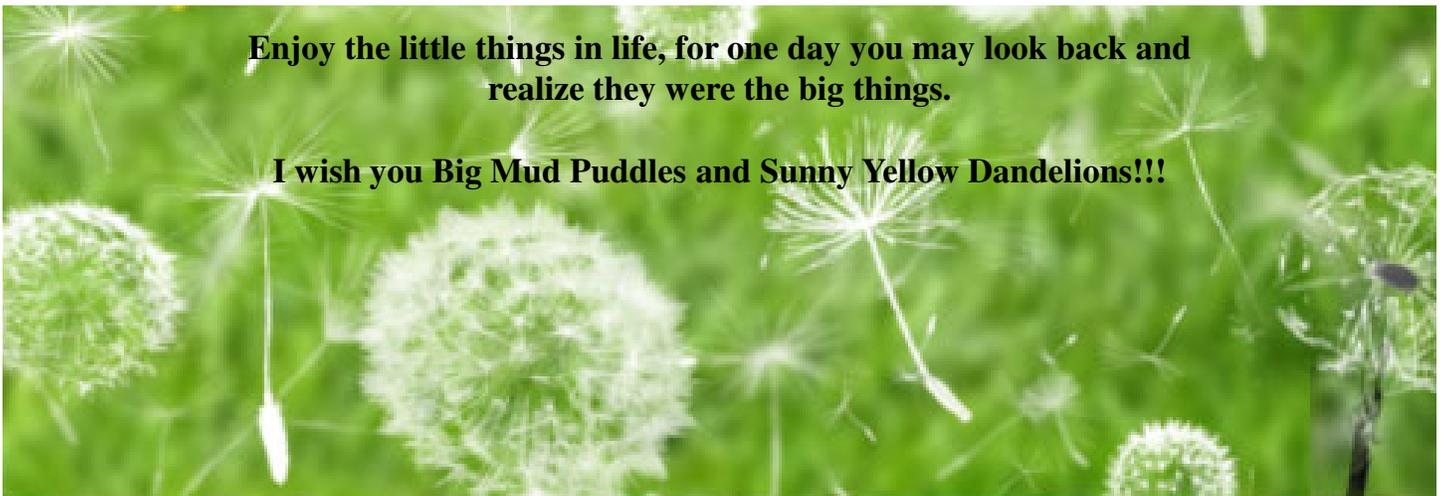
**When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.**

*I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from?*

*No wonder God loves the little children!*

**Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.**

**I wish you Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions!!!**





# KIDS' KORNER

While I sat in the reception area of my doctor's office, a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man sat there, alone and silent. Just as I was thinking I should make small talk with him, a little boy slipped of his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's, he said, 'I know how you feel. My mom makes me ride in the stroller too.'

\*\*\*\*

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 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?"



5-21

© 2008 King Features Synd. Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

"Grandma, this chili you made isn't chilly at all."



1-27

© 2009 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

"I wanna go to a college where the school color is pink."



7-28

© 2007 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

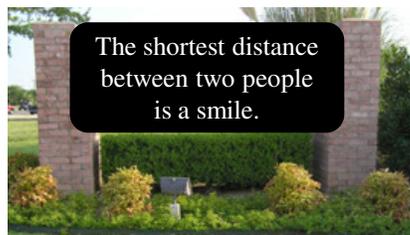
"If you don't look down, my room isn't so messy."



An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind



Angels do not harp at one another, they are in a chord.



The shortest distance between two people is a smile.



# Canada Day Celebration

Asbury and West United Church  
3180 Bathurst Street

JULY 1st 2010  
12:00 noon - 3:00 pm

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and  
enjoy live music by Roger Joycey!

*The music is free, but a donation of non-perishable  
food for our Food Bank would be appreciated.*

BBQ hot dogs and Strawberry-licious  
Shortcake will be available!

In case of rain, this event will be cancelled



## JUNE

- June 21 - Summer officially begins
- June 24 - Seniors Picnic at Edwards Gardens



## JULY

- July 1 - Canada Day
- July 1 - Canada Day Strawberry Social on the lawn with live music, 12noon to 3pm



## AUGUST

- August 1 - Lily Jarman's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- August 2 - Civic Holiday



## SEPTEMBER

- September 5 - Welcoming our new minister the Rev. Dr. Carol Geirak. She is the Past President of Toronto Conference and currently minister of Mayfield United Church. She and her husband Keith are living in Rosemont.
- September 6 - Labour Day
- September 12 - Grandparents Day
- September 12 - Sunday School begins
- September 23 - Fall officially arrives

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS



- Carelink - 4th Tuesday, in the Parlour at 11:00am
- Church and Sunday School - Every Sunday at 10:30am
- Choir - Every Thursday, in the Parlour at 7:30pm
- Craft Group - Every Wednesday, in the Parlour at 10:00am
- Food Bank - 2nd Sunday of each month – please be generous!
- Joybreak - 4th Monday, in the Parlour at 7:30pm
- Outreach - 3rd Wednesday in the Parlour at 7:30pm (as required)
- Seniors Club - Every 2nd and 4th Thursday (**except in July and Aug**) in the Parlour at 11:00am
- Session - 3rd Sunday of the month, in the Gym at 12:15 after church
- Stewards - 3rd Monday at 7:30pm
- UCW - 3rd Tuesday at 12:00 noon



*Have you taken a few minutes in the past week to pray for members of our congregation who are in poor health, who are shut-ins, who cannot get out to church? Take a minute to phone one or two, or call to make some personal visits, or send out a couple of cards just to let them know we care about them. They'll appreciate your thoughtfulness. If we have forgotten any persons -- please let the Editors or the church office know.*

*Due to the Privacy Act in Canada, we are no longer able to publish any personal information such as home phone numbers and addresses. If you wish to contact one of our "Home Members", please contact Rev. McKenzie.*



**HOME MEMBERS**

- |                             |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>George Breen</i>         | <i>Betty Enta</i>     | <i>Lilla Jaleel</i>   | <i>Aldythe Newton</i> |
| <i>Fran and Jack Cairns</i> | <i>Gloria Everson</i> | <i>Lilly Jarman</i>   | <i>Fred Sunahara</i>  |
| <i>Eleanor Clark</i>        | <i>Cliff Firmin</i>   | <i>Gerry Moore</i>    |                       |
| <i>Jacqueline Davison</i>   | <i>Linda Garland</i>  | <i>Audrey Mumford</i> |                       |



**Asbury and West United Church**

*When you need to get in touch with us . . .*

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A9  
 Office: 416-783-6503 / Manse: 416-783-3326  
 Office Hours: Tues - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00 pm, closed Monday & Friday  
 Toll Free 1-877-226-2242  
 Email: asburyandwest@rogers.com

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Rev. Douglas G. McKenzie  | Minister           |
| Lynn Moe  | Church Secretary   |
| Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson (416-239-5821)<br>Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457) | Flock Talk Editors |
| Thomas Schadl   | Director of Music  |
| Sheila Mascoll  | Health Coordinator |
| Rudy Simon  | Church Officer     |



Next Edition – **Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10, 2010**

Deadline – **Sunday, September 26, 2010**

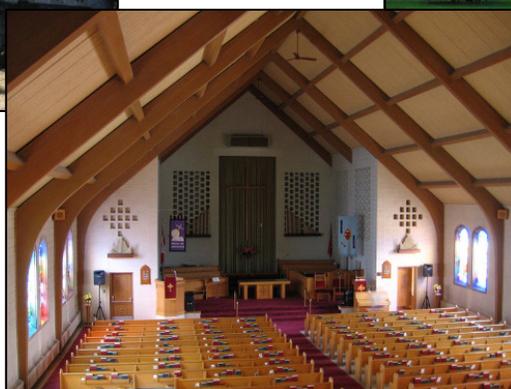
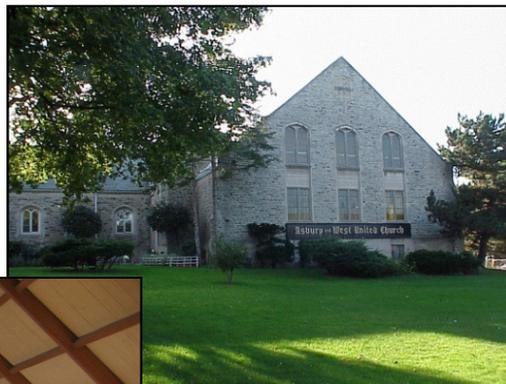
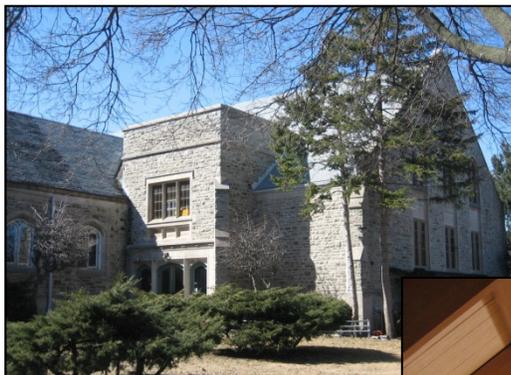
Material accepted ANYTIME (the earlier the better !!!).

Please place all materials in the "Flock Talk" folder on the Secretary's desk in the Church Office.

Articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.



# As Asbury and West Says Good-Bye to Rev. Douglas McKenzie





**Looking Back Through The Years  
at  
Asbury and West United Church  
1978 – 2010**

**Saturday, June 20, 2010**

Master of Ceremonies – Cheryl Holiday

Organist – Thomas Schadl

Welcome: Cheryl Holiday

Hymn: #642 "Be Thou My Vision"

Tribute: John Sullivan

Choir: "What A Wonderful World"

Poem: "Now Is The Hour" - Joyce Bullock

Tribute: Sheila Mascoll

Piano Selection: Dan Villamayor

Tribute: Rev. Malcolm Findlay

Filipino Ladies Choir

Tribute: Pauline McKenzie

Slide Presentation: "Through The Years" – Compiled by Ken Oleksiuk

Duet: "Moments to Remember" - Anne Ostrom-Orris and Lloyd Ostrom

Presentation to Doug and Heather – Melvyn Beckles

Hymn: #586 "We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection"

Closing Prayer: Rev. Bruce Roffey

All assembled are invited downstairs  
for refreshments and a social hour  
with Doug and Heather and friends



About 33 years ago ---I'm not sure exactly how long ago it was, Rev. John Moffat had just retired and although invited to prolong his ministry here, he declined and so the search for someone new began. Three people were appointed by the Official Board of this Church to find a committee who would be the Search Committee for a new minister. If you wonder why there had to be a search committee to search for a search committee., you've never tried to find a minister for a church. Clare Leroy was one of those first three, I cannot recall who the others were. Whoever they were, they selected ten members of Asbury and West for this very important role. Many dear friends who are no longer with us were on that committee, Jean Paul, Bill McCartney, Ruth Taylor, Frank Jaleel and Norman Winter. Today we're happy to see others who were there David Hamilton, Ken Kruger, Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, (Secretary of the committee) Irene Tuck, and myself. It was this group that extended the invitation on behalf of everyone here to Doug McKenzie to leave his post in Quebec and become our minister here on Bathurst Street in Toronto. Rev. Bob Stanford, minister at Armour Heights United at the time, was the Presbytery rep to that committee. The Presbytery rep sees to it that the final selection of a minister of a church is indeed done following the practices of the United Church of Canada.

And so a JNAC committee was formed a Joint Needs Assessment Committee. Procedures have changed a little since that time but basically "JNAC" still describes the first function of such a group. What does the church need in the way of leadership as it goes into the future? How important is preaching? Will there be teaching there? There are questions to be answered and discussed although there was no discussion about one question that soon came Doug's way. A little boy went marching down the centre aisle one morning and from the front of the sanctuary asked him during the middle of a sermon, "Please sir," he said, where is the washroom?" Without at all losing his train of thought Doug answered the little boy. Not many who were there that day can recall the topic of that sermon, but one child came away with the unconscious feeling that he indeed mattered, that someone accepted him as an individual in his own right. Rumour has it that wherever he is now, that lad feels that the less said about the incident the better. The kind of question to be answered by the minister is of course much deeper than that. Doug may not know that one of our former members, no longer with us, said to me a few years ago, "Whatever you do, make sure that you never lose our minister, he has helped me SO much!"

Doug and his family came to us the first Sunday in October of 1978. It was a communion service most fitting symbolically, it seems to me, for the launching of a new ministry. We soon became aware of certain special features that he brought to us. At that time his interest in children showed every Sunday morning during the "children's time" in the service just preceding their adjournment to Sunday School. Doug is a listener and this is a must for those who counsel, as does any minister. He's a very professional listener as he talks with people; whether as a counsellor or just in conversation and how this is appreciated by those of us who are older. So often it is so helpful to know that there is someone "there" who takes time to listen. No one is more aware of this than myself as I worked with him for several years as Clerk of Session. He is at home with all ages, all backgrounds, all situations. If ever word gets out about the questions you may have discussed in confidence, you can be sure that it was not he who revealed any secrets.. We have always welcomed his sense of humour. The costumes he sometimes wore on Amateur Night when it was part of life here have been a far cry from the usual clerical robe (a Hawaiian grass skirt comes to mind from one time, a kilt from another). Many are the happy times he has presided over during his ministry-- the weddings, the baptisms in which he has participated most meaningfully. Many are the sad times too, related to the funerals and memorial services over the years. Especially must this part of the ministry be difficult when close friendships have developed with the people who have passed away.

Doug has never been one to tell you all that much about his work, he just proceeds quietly with what has to be done and does it. But especially in these last few years have the demands on the time of the minister of Asbury and West been increasing, demands unrelated directly to worship. The discussions about the Saranac School, the deliberations concerning the Ina Grafton Gage dialogue, the time required to be chair of Presbytery a while back, and in the immediate past and the present, a dealing with the challenges of something called the Heritage

Continued ...

Act of Ontario these are only some examples of ways beyond preparing worship that Doug has had to look after. Doug has seen many changes during the last 32 years. Over half of the present congregation and adherents have come since Doug arrived. We have welcomed people from other nations as the bulletin board outside Doug's office in the main corridor indicates. Largely because of the leadership of the minister of this congregation we have welcomed people from beyond Toronto and have gained much from the enrichment they have brought with them. There have been over sixty different elders in these years, at least nine church secretaries, four music directors, many stewards, several Sunday School superintendents, many people looking after the plant. And so we are especially grateful to Douglas George McKenzie for his ministry here. Various people will thank him for various things. We thank him for his leadership in creating the framework in which these many aspects of this church and its outreach will be recalled and praised tonight. There has been comfort extended in the name of Christ to many a lonely family and individual, there has followed the very special gratitude of these people. For many it has just been reassuring to know that there is someone "here" ---someone who "cares". Our gratitude goes also to Heather. As someone constantly at Doug's side and as an active member of this congregation in her own right, we have gained from her wisdom on numerous occasions. and in numerous ways. We have eagerly accepted her constant outgoing friendliness for she has accepted each of us no matter who we may be. Doug and Heather, we wish you the best in the years to come, we will never forget you, and we hope that you will never forget us.

*John Sullivan  
Past Clerk of Session*



Heather McKenzie is a woman with a great sense of appreciation for life, for human kind and she has the ability to share her Christian witness without being fanatical. She is a wife who has retained her individuality – no easy feat especially for a minister's wife.

She is a gracious humble woman. Her sincerity is palpable; she engages you when she speaks. Her simple "how are you" elicits a response, even if she is busy.

Her colleagues in community work (outside of Asbury and West United Church) confirm my observations about Heather. They appreciate and admire her as a genuine individual.

Whatever arrangement Reverend Doug McKenzie made with his God, definitely worked out because God blessed him with an unique Heather as his wife and partner to complement him in ministry and in life.

Heather, I wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement as well as God's continued blessings.

*Sheila Mascoll*

"Almost 32 years ago 2 tall people arrived here. One was clean shaven and a little less in girth. I think that Heather decided from the start that she wasn't going to be a typical "Minister's Wife" and so she didn't go to the back of the church to shake hands with parishoners when they left but she soon became a valued member of the congregation. With her warm personality she looked out for newcomers and spoke to them to welcome them to the church and to give them the right person to speak with.

Doug had at least two main strengths - you knew that anything you told him stayed with him. I remember one time he mentioned "someone" who as ill and I asked Heather who it was and she said she had no idea since Doug never told her anything about individuals. I think he was afraid that he would inadvertently give out confidential information.

It didn't take long for Heather and Doug to become more than the minister and his wife - they became friends.

The other strength Doug had was his connection with people from other cultures. I miss it when a visiting preacher doesn't invite us to say the Lord's Prayer "in whatever language we are most comfortable with".

I think, coming from the Eastern Townships that Doug was quite comfortable with French - particularly when he suggested that we try to sing the French words to Hymns. The last few times we have sung it he didn't make the suggestion and I thought perhaps he was no longer as comfortable with the French but the last time we sang it he made the suggestion again.

When I was approached about saying a few words I was told I could sing if I preferred. Therefore I took the liberty of writing a few words to Now is the Hour. So here they are:



#### "Now Is The Time"

Now is the hour when we must say "adieu"  
 You are retiring - more time for curling dos.  
 When you are gone, we will remember you  
 For now we say "Bon Chance" to you and Heather too.

Now is the hour when we must say "Goodbye."  
 It can't be that long since we first said "Hi".  
 We have enjoyed so many years with you.  
 Now you are leaving we all say "Boo Hoo!"

*Joyce Bullock*

Doug, as you probably know, is a keen curler. I also used to be a member of the Minister's Curling Club. I would see Doug at the curling rink. There we would sometimes curl together or in competition. After the game there was time for friendly chit-chat.

But the person who brought us together as colleagues in ministry was Rev. Eddie Panganiban. At Saint Luke's, where I was minister, we had a growing number of Filipinos joining the congregation. In April 1990, Saint Luke's invited Rev. Eddie to become part of the ministerial team. Very quickly he developed a vision of outreach to Filipinos in the wider community.

His vision involved building a network with other congregations who saw the challenge of reaching out to new immigrants. Asbury and West United, Parkwoods, Saint Matthew's and College Street were drawn together with Saint Luke's to form a cluster of churches committed to multi-cultural ministry.

Under Doug's leadership Asbury and West became one of the stronger supporters of this ministry. I recall meetings and special events held here at Asbury and West. This initiative eventually became a joint Presbytery-sponsored project of Toronto South and Toronto Don Valley presbyteries. You'll recall that Rev. Eddie died suddenly in March 1996 and Doug presided at the funeral service held here at Asbury and West.

Over the years Doug and I continued our relationship and our commitment to multi-cultural ministry. We believe that God call us as people of faith to reach out to new Canadians and welcome them into our fellowship.

When Doug went away to Florida on study leave, he often asked me to fill in some Sundays for him. So through the years I have continued my relationship with Asbury and West. From time to time Doug and I meet for lunch and conversation.

On behalf of myself and my wife Mary I want to thank Doug and Heather for their gifts of friendship over the years. To Doug and Heather, every good wish, God's blessing as you begin retirement.

*Rev. J. Malcolm Finlay*





Founded 1985

Dear Heather,

Today, June 20, was a difficult day for us. For today we had to say goodbye to you, one of our dearest friends.

Heather, how do we say thank you for your dedicated work, help, inspiration and friendship over the past 25 years? How do we acknowledge your commitment for being our Secretary for 19 of those years; keeping excellent minutes as well as

maintaining our ever-changing membership list? How can we show our love, respect and appreciation? We found a way.

We were proud to present you with a Life Membership in Joybreak – our very first. As you know, we have never discussed the criteria for receiving such an honour. Yet we believe that you have set the example.

We'll miss you at our meetings, your keen interest in any program we had, your ability to answer any question about what we had done in the past, and what we should consider doing in the future. And yes, we'll miss your carrot salad, the Christmas parties at your house, and your delicious baking.

Heather, it saddens us to see you go, but we know you will be with us in spirit. We want you to know that we will hold you in our hearts. And until we see you again we bid you farewell, wishing that God's richest blessings be with you and Doug as you continue on life's journey together.

Love from all your friends in Joybreak,  
Cheryl, Irene, Janiss, Kim, Phoebe, Carole, Yvonne, Judy P, Judy G, Lisa, Pauline and Nidia

*Cheryl Holliday  
Contact*

Reverend Douglas and Heather  
McKenzie,

As Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, I would like to say it was a privilege to have worked with both of you for the past 31 years. It is now my pleasure to present to both of you on behalf of the congregation this token of our appreciation.

*Mel Beckles*



Did you know that during  
Doug's tenure at Asbury and  
West he has performed ...

Marriages 589

Funerals 267

Baptisms 571



We are trying tonight to sum up in few minutes, 32 years of faithful service by Doug McKenzie. How is that possible? Well, it isn't, really. However, I can give you a few impressions that may bring to mind some of your memories of Doug.

Our minister of 25 years has shown us constantly that he obeys Jesus' instructions to help the stranger, to feed the hungry, to visit the sick, to comfort the sorrowful. If you have been ill or bereaved, then Doug has visited and comforted you. You will have known that you were in his prayers. Over the years, Doug has officiated at many funerals for our families, and the funeral services have always helped us both to mourn and to celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

Perhaps you have noticed a stranger in the church, asking for Doug, seeking help. Doug clearly keeps in mind, "I was a stranger, and you took me in." Advice and material help come from Doug in a quiet and unobtrusive way, and the number of people that Doug has helped in this way cannot easily be counted. Perhaps you yourself have spoken with Doug about a difficult situation at home or at work and found help in thinking through your difficulty. If you have talked to Doug about something that was troubling you, then you know that your trust has been completely honoured. With Doug, "Confidential" is spelled with a capital "C". He has been both our counselor and our friend.

Doug McKenzie has also showed us that life is to be enjoyed, much like the Jesus who attended the wedding at Cana. He has helped us to celebrate the birth of children and grandchildren, baptizing them with tenderness and love, and showing an ongoing interest in them as they grow. Children are always eager to spend time with him; they know that he loves them. Doug has also officiated at hundreds of weddings – yes – hundreds in his years at Asbury and West, and I know that a special joy for him is the return of some of those couples bringing their babies to be baptized. Doug married our son Michael to Sandra, and has baptized all three of their daughters. I know that many of you have similar stories to tell.

No talk about Doug would be complete without mention of his passion for the sport of curling. He is a fierce competitor who relishes knocking an opponent's rock out of scoring position – I speak here from personal experience as one of his victims. However, true to his sense of fair play, Doug will also be quick to congratulate an opponent who makes a good shot, even at his expense. He shows us that play is an important way to bring balance to our lives.

Doug has been our minister for 32 years, and through all that time he has had a partner, Heather. Heather is clearly a partner in Doug's ministry, never more obviously than on Sunday mornings, when she always approaches new visitors to make them welcome, and seems to find out their immediate needs. Heather is often in the background and helping unobtrusively in all kinds of events. One of her projects has been supplying the cookies for Sunday refreshment; a typical Heather project, appearing small on the surface, but absolutely essential as a part of the glue that holds the congregation together.

We have been blessed by the ministry of Doug and Heather. And now there is a time for them to rest and re-create. We are here to say, "Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you, for your leadership, your teaching and your friendship. We wish you every happiness in your next adventure. May your years of retirement be blessed.

*Pauline McKenzie  
Clerk of Session*



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

For many weeks leading up to Doug's last day, the kids have been busy making individual and personal goodbye cards which they presented to him on June 20. Inside many of these cards are pictures, at different ages, to remind Doug of his time with them. It is difficult for them to say goodbye to the only minister they have known. They will miss his stories, how he gave them the opportunity to help with baptisms, and his friendly and caring chats with them. They have some wonderful memories. We all wish Doug and Heather the very best in their retirement.

Cheryl Holliday, Alan McKenzie, Kim Davidson, Jocelyn Villamayor, Carole Rambharat, Lydia Cariaga, Sheila Mascoll, Trissa Masih, Dorina Datt, and all the students and teachers, past and present.

*Cheryl Holliday*  
*Superintendent*



I was pleased and a little nervous to be asked to head up a committee to honour Doug and Heather, on Doug's retirement after 32 years at our church.

My committee of Cheryl Holliday, Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen, Ianthe Spencer, Shirley Beckles, and Glenda McBroom have helped me in every way in making the evening a success.

I must thank Joyce Rhoden for taking on the task of organizing the refreshments, and also Ken Oleksiuk for organizing the pictures for the slide presentation.

Thank you to our speakers, John Sullivan, Rev. Malcolm Finlay, Sheila Mascoll and Pauline McKenzie, for kindly accepting my request to say a few words about the McKenzies during the program.

Joyce Bullock treated us to a special poem, and Melvyn Beckles presented the gift to Doug and Heather. Thank you both.

Our music was led by Thomas Schadl and the Choir, followed by Dan Villamayor on the piano, the Filipino Ladies Choir, and ending with a duet by Anne and Lloyd Ostrom. Thank you all for your participation.

Lloyd and I will miss Doug and Heather. Doug baptized three of our grandchildren who are now 26, 23, and 20. He also married our daughter Anne and son-in-law Hobie twenty years ago. We have many good memories.

Doug and Heather we wish you both a very happy retirement.

*Dorothy Ostrom*  
*Celebration Coordinator*





## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

As the editors of Flock Talk we do not often take liberty in this newsletter. But every once in a while an occasion arises when we are compelled to speak. This is such an occasion.....

Thanks For The Memories!!!

The dictionary says that memory is the faculty of recalling to mind. So when we put our minds to work about Doug McKenzie and his ministry at Asbury and West many, many events surfaced.

One of us served on the Search Committee and will always remember the excitement felt on Doug's first Sunday as our new minister. A little prayer was said asking God to help everyone see in Doug what the committee members knew to be true.

Doug was our first minister who was married to a modern-day woman who worked outside the home and, to be frank, that was concern expressed by some. Was "the wife" going to join the UCW? Would she be involved? The Search Committee was committed to the notion that we were hiring the minister and not "the wife". What an added bonus we received in the gift of Heather. Her support and dedication to Doug and her partnership with his ministry in our church has been remarkable. We will remember Heather as a true role model in the life of the church and family.

As members of Session, we saw the leadership offered by Doug and his tireless efforts to include and involve all members. We will recall being encouraged to participate and serve on committees and to share in the responsibility of "tending the flock" of our church, from visiting with new members to serving the elements of communion.

Our spiritual life was stimulated though Doug's creative and effective services. What a wonderful change to the sacrament of baptism to include the Church School children welcoming their new Christian sisters and brothers. The use of a wooden cross and the Choir's red collars serving as Jesus' blood at Good Friday services is an image that will always be in our minds.

It is easy to recall Doug's integral role at special moments like the days we married Randy and Harvey, the christening of Melissa and the funerals of our dear loved ones. Just as precious are the memories of knowing the study door was always open, the confidence would never be broken, the truth would always be told, the choir was appreciated and Flock Talk was important.

Our memories of Doug will be forever linked to vibrant memories of our Father, the late Bill Shewalter. They were a Minister and a Minister of Music who worked harmoniously together to lead and inspire the members of the congregation. It was no coincidence that scripture, sermon, and song were so well woven together. They shared passionately and enthusiastically, supported and encouraged one another and had a mutual sense of humor about weddings. And it was no coincidence that they also talked about the changing church, parenting and The Blue Jays!!

Our lives have been intertwined with Doug at times of great joy and great sorrow. We have committed to memory Doug's generous gifts of grace and guidance, passion and patience, comfort and compassion, faith and friendship, strength and support, time and tenderness.

This short trip down memory lane has taught us an important lesson. The dictionary was wrong about memories being in the mind; these are the memories from our hearts.

We refuse to say good-bye. Instead, we pray for God to shower blessings on Doug and Heather as they start a new chapter in their lives. We wish you health, happiness and hearts filled with great new memories.

*Jocelyn and Sylvia*