

THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2009

175 YEARS

St. Andrew's United Church, 32 Main St. N., Markham, ON

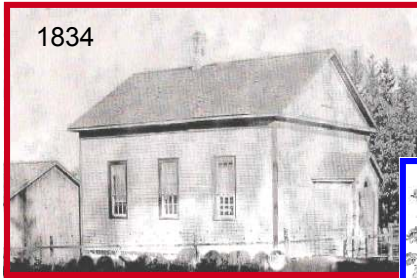
From Vinegar Hill to Main Street....175 years of Dedicated Service

In 1834, in the Reesorville home of William Marr, the congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society Church, met to raise funds for their first church to be built on Vinegar Hill. 175 years later, we celebrate this early beginning of St Andrew's, recognizing the unwavering faith of our ancestors that brought us to where we are today .

This anniversary is a special, once in a life-time event that needs the full support of all the congregation. The Anniversary Committees need volunteers to help them with the many tasks before them. We hope that every member will become a part of this historic celebration. Here are the four major Anniversary events planned by your committees:

Living the Legacy- 175 Years of Ministry, 220 years of History

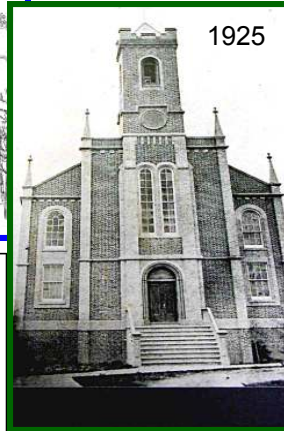
For the past year, Rev. John Niles has been burning the midnight oil researching the history of St Andrew's through libraries and archives and has now finished his book **"St. Andrew's United Church: The Church that makes a Difference"**. This book promises to hold some interesting insights into the character of the early church and will be available in July through the church office. Full story on p.7.



1834



1862



1925



2009

175th Celebration Weekend October 24-25

This weekend is planned to be a reunion of all former members and ministers who will receive invitations to the events. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities of this special weekend.

Oct.24 5:30pm & 7:30pm
Roast Beef Dinner
6:30pm Vintage Fashion Show

Oct.25 Renowned guest speaker (TBA)
Guest soloist
Anniversary Luncheon following the service
See full details on page 5

Property Launches 175th Anniversary Flooring Fund

The Property Committee has initiated a new Building Fund drive to replace worn-out floor coverings in the east stairway as well as the carpet in the lower Sanctuary in time for our October celebrations.

The Committee is asking the congregation to help them raise these funds as part of the Anniversary celebrations. Details on how to contribute inside on page 5.

St. Andrew's Opens its 175th Anniversary Doors

To help us celebrate our 175 years in Markham, we will be participating in **Doors Open Markham** on August 29 from 10am to 1pm.

At that time, Markham residents and visitors are invited to tour our church and learn about our 175 year history in Reesorville and Markham from well-informed church volunteers. For more details on how you can help, see page 9.



JOHN'S JOURNAL

Plans for You



Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know My plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

As we bring another year to a close, I can't help but be shocked that I am approaching completing five years with you as your minister. We have come through so very much and accomplished so many great things. I can't help but be overwhelmed with gratitude to the Lord for everyone who has worked so very hard to make St. Andrew's United a "Church that Makes a Difference". It is because of your faithfulness and dedicated service that this dream has come true. I know what Jeremiah said so many years ago truly applies to St. Andrew's "For I know My plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

As I complete my 5th year at St. Andrew's and celebrate my 20th year in the ministry; I look forward to celebrating with you our 175th Anniversary as a Church as we look forward to "Living the Legacy".

God Bless you all,

John

Notes from the Choir Loft

by Emilja Neufeld.

Organist and Choir Director

As difficult as it may be to believe, Trinity Sunday is "just around the corner" (June 7th this year). Spring's arrival also heralds the conclusion of another choir and recital season in the church.

The choir is very pleased to have welcomed Lisa Harrison into the Alto "ranks". Lisa's enthusiasm and literate talents are already a tremendous asset to the group.

Our noonday organ recital series concluded last week (May 29th) with soloist Andrew Adair, Associate Organist at The Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto. Andrew is not only a highly polished performer (especially for his young years) but he also possesses the most delightful personality! He is about to finish his graduating year for the Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Toronto. From there, the "the sky is truly the limit" for Andrew and we will be hearing a lot about his work in the future.



Grace Anglican's Patrick Dewell returns to the bench in September.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Rev. Niles will be on vacation for the month of August.

Emilja Neufeld will be on vacation June 28, July 5, 12, 19

Nancy Coe will be away Jun. 29– July 3 and a week in August TBA.

CHURCH SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Chapter 21 Mon-Fri. 9-3
St. Sammuell Coptic Church
Sat.9-12 , 5-7 Sun.9-2
Destiny Gospel Church
Wed.7:30pm, Friday 7pm
Sun. 12-3
Playschool Camp
July6-August 14 8:30-12
Baby Sensory Tuesdays 1-3pm

Rev. Dr. John Niles Marks 20 Years in Ministry

by Lisa Harrison

It's fitting that Rev. John Niles has authored the 175th anniversary book for St. Andrew's, since this year marks a special anniversary in his own life: 20 years in ministry. But had it not been for Rev. Niles's mother, we might have had to attend a Catholic church to hear his sermons.

When Rev. Niles first considered ministry, he was attending Catholic school. His father was Catholic, his mother was Protestant. While Rev. Niles began life in public schools, his father was unhappy with the way in which they were run and young John moved over to the local Catholic school. "I loved it," recalls Rev. Niles. "The priests and nuns were wonderful. I felt very much at home there, and that's where I started thinking about going into the priesthood. But his mother had other ideas – namely, grandchildren. So when it came time to begin his theology studies 24 years ago, Rev. Niles enrolled in St. Andrew's Seminary in Saskatchewan. He was officially ordained in 1989.

While Rev. Niles felt the call on his life to minister, the decision was still not an easy one. "The education terrified me," he recalls. "I had my diploma [a B.A. in sociology and psychology], but you need a Master's degree. I left it in God's hands." He told God that if He wanted John in ministry, then John would need His help to make it happen. "Those things happened: every time a door opened, I walked through it." Twice, as a matter of fact. To his original bachelor's degree Rev. Niles added both the Master's of Divinity degree and a Doctorate of Ministry in pastoral psychology.



Rev. Niles began his work as a student minister on a five-point circuit in Saskatchewan. With wife Liane pregnant with their daughter Sarah, they would begin at 4 a.m. to reach the first church for 10 a.m. service, and so on. He and Liane now have five children – Aaron, Nathanael, Sarah, Alyssa and Tabitha – and have cared for more than 1,200 abandoned and abused children, a humanitarian service for which they were awarded the Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal in 2004.

After four years of service as a student graduate minister in little churches around Ontario, Rev. Niles was ordained and moved on to serve the Township of Matilda Pastoral Charge in the Ottawa area (Brinston UC and Hulbert Valley UC) for three years and Victoria Park UC in Scarborough for 13 years, arriving at St. Andrew's in 2004. All three of these parishes were declining, but two have grown and one has chosen to hold on with a certain status quo.

St. Andrew's is in the former category. When Rev. Niles arrived, Sunday attendance ranged from 35-50 people according to observers. Presbytery had prepared him to close down the church, but he had other ideas, and the leaders at St. Andrew's agreed. "Everyone in leadership of the church was all for moving forward", says Rev. Niles. Now regular attendance numbers are closer to 130, with as many as 250 attending at Christmas and Easter. Many of the new members are in the 20-40 age range, which bodes well for continued growth and new life for the church. Rev. Niles gives great credit to the St. Andrew's Board and congregation for the turnaround, and says that for his part, it has all been worth it. "My worst day at St. Andrew's is still better than my best day in any other ministry."



Brinston United Church –1988

So this month, 20 years after he was ordained, Rev. Niles celebrates his anniversary in a denomination that he almost didn't choose and in a church that almost didn't exist long enough to see the day.

We can all thank God for opening those doors.



First manse, Brinston, Ontario– 1988

Camp Big Canoe

by Bev Davis

Camping has been an important part of our church's ministry for more than 100 years. United Church camps in the Toronto area date from 1912 (Sparrow Lake), 1925 (Lake Scugog), 1932 (Camp Big Canoe—formerly Camp Ashunyoong), and 1949 (Camp Simpresca). Ryde Lake Camp for girls was founded by the CGIT in 1952. The camps are operated by volunteer boards on a non-profit basis.



Camp Big Canoe is located on a 240 acre wooded site surrounding Hart Lake in the Muskoka District. Modern buildings provide showers and dining facilities. Campers and counselors live in large airy tents on raised wooden floors, with bunks.

The camp offers a wide range of activities designed to promote physical, intellectual, and spiritual development. An emphasis on earth studies and out-tripping give the camp its reputation as a leader in environmental awareness. But the typical camper's day is also filled with sports, drama, campfires and camp-craft.

In 1968 Camp Big Canoe pioneered Unit Camping. Groups of six campers and two counselors live, plan their activities, play and go on trips together. They join the larger camping community for meals and other activities. This approach to community building allows both campers and counselors to learn and teach leadership skills.

St Andrew's has long supported this camp with board members, supplies, campers and counselors. Every June the UCW Presbyterial has a camp meeting wherein all the local churches bring craft materials, cookies and other donations to be used that summer. Our own UCW makes a regular donation of money in addition to the above and for the passed three years has sponsored a child to attend the camp.

The June 8 Presbyterial meeting is the traditional time for gathering camp craft supplies such as:

Musical instruments, clothes as well as hats and shoes for costumes.

Craft items include

Elastic bands	paper towel rolls	Paint brushes	500 ml peanut butter jars
markers	Coloured paper	crayons	clean margarine and yogurt containers
Craft paint	magazines	Bristol board	with screw top lids
Construction paper	Scissors	fake flowers	

A conversation with.....Jim Wicks

Jim Wicks has been a member of St. Andrew's almost his whole life. He has belonged to several organizations in the Markham community, being actively involved in each one---the Lion's Club, Camp Big Canoe, The Family Life Centre and has been on the Board of Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church for over twenty years, spending much of that time as chairman.



To quote the United Church manual—"Each congregation has one Board of Trustees, the majority of which shall be United Church members. There should be not fewer than three or more than fifteen. Their duties are to look after real estate, the trust estates and the cemeteries." St Andrew's and Elmwood Cemeteries across from each other on Hwy#7 fall under their care. The Trustees look after the investments of the cemetery monies which come from the selling of the plots and which pay for the upkeep of the property at a cost of \$35000. a year. As previously reported in the Messenger, the Heritage Dome Columbarium has been erected for cremation urns and is now half sold. There are plans for another to be built.

Jim is well versed in the board's activities and has done an excellent job in overseeing the assigned responsibilities of that body for the United Church of Canada. Jim has lived in Markham all his life, on Ninth Line (now the Markham-Stouffville Hospital) where he farmed. Sometime ago, he moved to 19th Ave where he & his wife Barb enjoy their home away from the town bustle.

Jim Wicks is very much a people person and has many stories to tell of the growth of Markham. It is not surprising that he is the Lions official historian and was instrumental in installing the new Markham Lions history display at the Markham Museum.



CELEBRATION, FINE FARE & VINTAGE FASHION



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009

Please join us as our year of celebrating **St. Andrew's United Church's 175th Anniversary** culminates in a weekend of fellowship and fun. We promise something for everyone - the young and the young at heart - on Saturday, October 24, 2009.



This milestone in our church's history will be marked by a delicious, traditional St. Andrew's Roast Beef Dinner prepared and served by our renowned church ladies (and men of course). Between the two dinner seatings you will be entertained as we take a look back at fashion over the decades that our church has been worshipping in Markham. Some very special historic treasures from our congregation dating back to the late 1800s will be displayed, while others will be modelled by our very own models. This is no ordinary fashion show! We can promise that even the men in the audience will wonder how 45 minutes could pass by so quickly.

Tickets which include one of the seatings for Dinner and the Fashion Show must be pre-ordered. Don't miss this important celebration! Spread the word around! Invite friends and former members to join you! Contact Nancy Coe at the Church Office to order your tickets.

Dinner: First Seating :5:30 p.m Second Seating: 7:30 p.m

Fashion Show: 6:30 p.m.

Adults: \$20 (includes choice of dinner seating & fashion show) Children under 10: Free

Property Committee Announces Summer Projects

In an effort to improve the condition of the church building, the Property Committee is tackling three major projects this summer:

- The Narthex roof will be replaced this summer after 40 years of service and a continuous repair program over the last five years. The cost will be about \$30,000 and will be paid out of the Building Fund which currently stands at \$35,000.
- An audio/video system will be installed in the Sanctuary in late August. This system will have a screen at the front of the church with a full audio/video projection and transmission capabilities to remote monitors in other rooms of the church. The costs will be covered by a generous donation from a church member.



- In celebration of our 175th Anniversary, the Property Committee has initiated a Building Fund drive to replace some of our worn and aged floor coverings. In September, the stair-treads and the flooring on three landings will be replaced in the main east stairway and new carpeting will be installed in all the downstairs Sanctuary. The cost will be \$20,000 and the Committee is asking the congregation to help them raise these funds as part of the Anniversary celebrations.

Donations can be made to the Building Fund using the Building Fund envelopes in the pews.



Thank you for Grounds Clean-Up

The Property Committee appreciates the help they received from church members Larry Tod, Vivienne Tod, Peggy Garach, Greg Garach, Genie Gilchrist, Don Middleton, Don Attridge, and guest, Doug Fetter to give our church grounds its annual Spring Clean-up. Special thanks also to Chapter 21 for their contribution in cleaning the front lawn and the parking lot.

Rev.Niles has found in his research that before 1834, a choir leader accompanied the Methodist circuit rider and led the congregation in singing. When the 1834 building was moved into Markham, a choir loft was added to it. So throughout our history, in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and later St Andrew's, music and an active choir have been an integral part of our church life. We have always been blessed with members that gave their time and their voices to enhance the worship service.

Here are the faces and names of some of the choirs from the thirties to the present with evidence that the choirs were not only full but were active in performing operettas and winning awards at Music Festivals.



1932

Back Row J.Todds E.Boulton C.Lehman W.Pipher A.Empringham T.Hunt H.Jones S.Pipher F.Pringle J.Whetter H.Hisey A.Stover F.Nighswander

3rd Row Mrs.Jerman Mrs.Law E.Reesor Mrs.Burkholder Mrs.lewis Mrs.Hore Mrs. Hisey Mrs.Wilson J.Morrison Cary Brown

2nd Row V.Gowland J.Brown P.Todds E.Woods Rev.Auld Mrs.Auld A.J.Woods M.Pringle A.Lewis R.Robinson E.Brown

Front Row D. Stonehouse E.Roffey M.Davis R.Empringham I.Williamson B.Pringle R.Hore D.Hunt E.Grove

Back Row Scott Creighton Norval Bonisteel CharlieWhittaker ?? Alex Dockerty John Whetter Alex Allen Arn Cousins Jim Creighton

1949



3rd Row Lynn Reesor Bob Shaw Lachlan Cattanach Howard Vaughan Frank Robb David Stalter Eleanor Whetter Catherine Whetter Margaret Houghton Ms. Alexander Mabel Reesor

2nd Row Fern Campbell Ann Stalter Donna Houghton Louise Ryan Aileen Murison Joyce Campbell Edna Jerman Jean Creighton Isabelle Murison Joyce Carr Lillian Seebeck Maude Mingay

1st Row Faye Reesor Jessie Nobbs Isobel Whittaker Innis Campbell Olive Harrington Catherine Mingay Marian McCowan Mabel Reesor



The Pirates of Penzance 1953



St Andrew's Choir singing and leading the congregation in Choplin's *Come Touch my Robe* Cantata

Back Row Ilon Bergshoeff, Adam Alfsen, Willie Watt, Don Middleton, Paul Reid

Front Row Peggy Garach, Vivienne Tod, Guest Soloist Monique Baker, Genie Gilchrist, Ann Styles, J. F. Watt, Yvonne Weston

Inset Emilja Neufeld, Organist and Choir Director



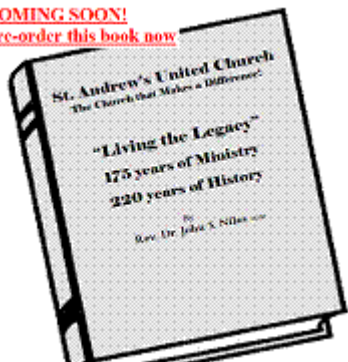
2009

Celebrating 175 years of ministry – the new St. Andrew's history book

by Lisa Harrison

Did you know that Egerton Ryerson, described as the founder of the Canadian education system, served as a minister for our church – twice? Or that if it wasn't for another of our ministers, John Taylor, the Mormon church would not exist?

COMING SOON!
Pre-order this book now



These are just two of the many fascinating facts compiled in *St. Andrew's United Church: The Church that Makes a Difference*, researched and written by Rev. John Niles. Subtitled "Living the Legacy – 175 Years of Ministry, 220 Years of History", the book explores the history of the church – that is, the church as congregation – from its original roots in Wesleyan Methodist traditions.

Although the church was seeded by the first Methodist circuit riders in 1793, the first official date recognized is 1801 when the Markham circuit was established formally. In 1818 the church took its next official step when William Marr, converted by a circuit rider, assumed the necessary role of class leader, working with the minister and the circuit rider. The congregation met in Mr. Marr's home.

In 1834 the congregation gathered funds to establish a formal Methodist church. From this date St. Andrew's began marking its anniversaries. The original church was built on Vinegar Hill, north of Highway 407. The current building was constructed in 1862.

Writing of *St. Andrew's United Church: The Church that Makes a Difference* is complete, and congregation member and graphic designer Paul Reid is assembling the photography and artwork. The book is scheduled to be published in time for our official 175th Anniversary celebrations in October...at which time we'll have the answers to questions such as why the Mormon church would not exist today without the efforts of one of our early ministers.

We have exciting reading ahead! Don't miss your opportunity to own this exclusive documentation of St. Andrew's history. If you haven't already pre-ordered your copy, the order forms are available online at www.standrewsmarkham.com), or Nancy Coe in the church office..

York Presbyterial Annual Meeting, April 27, 2009

St Andrew's was host church to the 47th annual meeting of York Presbyterial. There were 118 UCW members and many special guests, most of whom wore hats, both old and new and plain and elaborate. Here are some of the meeting highlights:

- In 2008 UCWs across Canada donated over \$2,000,000 to the M&S.
- In recognition of the UCW's importance in the life of the church they have been asked to create and serve a vesper service for General Council in Kelowna.
- Melville UCW arranged for \$10,000 from the sale of their church go to the Emmanuel College Bursary Fund.

Cora Brodie gave a moment of remembering by lighting a candle in memory of the women who have gone before us. She also took part in the worship service, which was based on one she had written for the 35th anniversary of UCW.

The lunch provided by St. Andrew's was, to quote the minutes, "a delicious buffet of salads and cold meat that left us replete and feeling we had been treated as royalty". The beautiful anniversary cakes and table bouquets were a special gift from Cora Brodie.

The afternoon program included skits, which took us through our UCW history. A special presentation of the York Presbytery banner—"from saddlebags to satellites" was presented to all 13 past presidents.

Rev. John Niles conducted the communion service. June 8 is our Camp Big Canoe meeting at 6:30 at King City, which is a time to collect moneys for the cookie jar and craft supplies.

CHURCH REGISTRY

Baptism



Chelsea Patricia Gearing, Daughter of Kelly Raymond and Kris Gearing, with brother Kaleb

Confirmations



Leigha Chartrand and Callum Faulds

New Members



Marlo Chartrand and Michael Campbell

DOROTHY WORSLEY

We are sorry to report that Dorothy Worsley suffered a fall at the cottage around the end of April and broke her leg. After a lengthy stay at Ross Memorial in Lindsay for repairs and therapy, she is now at home in Port Perry. We wish Dorothy speedy recovery and return to her daily activities.

Our condolences go to Bob and Tricia Majowicz, on the passing of Bob's father.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MICHNAS

Marilyn and Steve Michna are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild. A little girl, Shea Elizabeth, was born to their daughter Michelle and her husband, Dave McDowell, on April 23rd. Our best wishes are extended to all!

MONEY MATTERS

by Bonnie Atkins, Finance Chair

As summer approaches, it may be worthwhile to consider signing up for PAR to avoid lapses in your contributions while away on vacation and to ensure that you are donating what you are intending for the year.

The April financial statements have now been completed and presented to the Board of Directors. It appears that St. Andrew's has not been able to escape the impact of the recession.

It was anticipated that by this time of the year, our finances would have been better by about \$4,500. Where are our shortfalls? Primarily the shortfall lies in the regular contributions. **Our donation shortfall is just over \$1,000 per month.** The anticipated amount budgeted for regular contributions as of April 30, 2009 was \$33,000 based upon a meager 2% increase over last year however to-date we have only received \$30,000 resulting in \$3,000 of the \$4,500 shortfall to manage the day to day operations of the church. If projected to the end of the year, the shortfall in regular donations can be anticipated to be in excess of \$10,000. Unfortunately, this overall shortfall may be greater as the expenses related to the gala have not all been accounted for, nor has the contribution to Sleeping Children Around the World been made. A truer picture will be presented as the year continues to march on.

We should still show a surplus at year end in spite of this shortfall in contributions however, this is mostly due to income from the rental of the church property and other fundraising initiatives. PAR is a great way to minimize the negative impact on your contributions throughout the summer and keep the church operations going.

The Markham Food Bank's "Wish and Need" List

Tinned: Salmon and tomatoes, yellow & green beans, fruit and fruit juices, sardines, spaghetti, ravioli, pork and beans

Drinks: that require water for reconstitution (powdered milk, hot chocolate, instant powdered creamer, fruit drink crystals, tea)

For School lunches and recess snacks: cookies, puddings, jellies "snack packs of cheese and crackers (no meat) small containers of juice.

For Babies: baby formula, baby cereal, baby food, health care products

For Families: juice, hamburger or tuna helper, muffin mix, pancake mix and syrup, cookies, cake mix, pudding mix, jellies, and personal care products (facial and toilet tissues). Large boxes of cereal suitable for children.

General: Plastic, re-usable or cloth bags are needed. Cheques for perishable items are very appreciated. Receipts for money are sent to you at year's end.

Thank you for being so supportive.

Mary McLean



St. Andrew's opens its doors to Markham and beyond

by Lisa Harrison

St. Andrew's will participate in this year's Doors Open Markham event for residents and visitors, and the Special Events committee is looking for volunteers to help tell our story.

The church will open its doors on **Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** for tours, refreshments and sales of the church's new 175th anniversary book by Rev. Dr. John Niles.

Volunteers are needed as guides for short tours of the church. Guides will be provided with a handout that outlines the church's history, stories and various other talking points.

Doors Open Markham is part of the Doors Open Ontario program organized each year by the Ontario Heritage Trust to showcase heritage buildings and sites across the province. Participation in this event is yet another way in which St. Andrew's is celebrating 175 years as a dynamic, effective presence in the Town.

If you would like to volunteer as a guide, please contact Special Events committee chair Matthew Moore.

For more information on Doors Open Markham, and to view the St. Andrew's entry, go to www.doorsopenontario.on.ca, click on "Events" and search under "Markham".



The United Church Mission and Service Fund

Members of the United Church give generously to local congregations, to outreach, and to the wider church. Most of the finances for the work of the church come from voluntary gifts to the Mission & Service Fund.

What exactly does this fund support? First it supports our worship life—our resources for congregations large and small, our ethnic ministries, our theological schools and our intern ministers. Our United Church voice, 600,000 strong is heard on social issues, through peace and justice advocacy and in our appeals for the care of creation. Our presence around the world is felt through the work of our partners. Some of these partnerships have evolved from overseas mission work, which started in the late 19th century and some from recent collaboration.

Each year emergency funds are allocated for response to special appeals like hurricane relief, the Beads of Hope in Africa and the tsunami disaster.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a food aid and development organization that collects donations of grain, cash and other agricultural commodities for distribution to the world's hungry. It is owned by 13 Canadian church agencies, that work with international partners. They pool resources, both human and financial and work together in a Christian response to hunger. Over 1,000,000 metric tonnes of food go to people throughout the world. The United Church has been a member since 1984.

In 2008 the M&S received \$29,715,106 from church gifts, UCW groups and individual donors. St. Andrew's contributed \$2152 from the congregation and the UCW contributed \$1000.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FELLOWSHIP

by Genie Gilchrist

An indoor picnic was held on Sunday, May 31st following the church service and was enjoyed by all. We also celebrated Dr. Rev. John Niles' 20th year in ministry. Congratulations John!

I would like to recognize the continuous dedication of the Fellowship Committee, Coffee Hour Volunteers and "Goody" Volunteers. Thanks to all of you!

Beginning June 14 refreshments will be served under the church canopy following the church service (weather permitting). A sign-up sheet will be posted on the kitchen bulletin board for "Summer Refreshment Volunteers" for preparing/serving or donating some goodies. Frozen drinks and cookies will be stocked for the summer refreshments.

Have a good summer!

OUTREACH

by Mary Webster

At this time I would like to thank all of the committee members of the Outreach Committee: Andrea Crockford, Gene Gilchrist, Marva & Albert Massey, Mary McLean, Judy Bell, Diane Mason, Mary Bell Graber, Marilyn Matheson and Marilyn Webster. Everyone has worked hard to make St. Andrew's Outreach into the community and the world.

The committee once again worked with the York Region Neighbourhood Services and Mrs. Claus. Through this organization 13 families had a better Christmas through our support. The White Gift and Mitten Tree Sunday in December was the place where everyone brought in the articles and gifts that they had purchased. What a wonderful sight. Mrs. Claus the representative from York Region Neighbourhood Services came the next day to pick everything up and was overwhelmed.

In April, we had a guest speaker from World Vision who talked to us about our children and the area that they live in. At the service we had a collection to raise money to sponsor our two children for another year. We raised enough money for our two children. Congratulations.

Another project was once again "Sleeping Children Around the World". The response was wonderful. We are especially pleased with the young people of the church who raised enough money for 10 bed kits.

If anyone in the congregation has a project that they would like the Outreach Committee to consider please let us know and we will look at it.

Thank you to everyone in St. Andrew's for your support in the Outreach of our church.

PRESBYTERY

by Beth Langhorst

Our presbytery is finishing a year of transition (from July 2008 to June 2009). As of next month, York Presbytery will cease to exist. The ministry and history of York Presbytery will be celebrated at a special dinner and worship gathering on the evening of Tuesday, June 9 at Thornhill United Church.

Much of the work of presbytery in this transitional year has been focused on the resolution of outstanding matters before its close in June 2009. Some of these concern our neighbouring churches: the disposition of proceeds from the sale of Melville and Carrville Churches., the sale of Whitevale United Church, the amalgamation of Oak Ridges U.C. with Aurora U.C., the creation of a "Marketplace Ministry" at Brown's Corners U.C. and renovations at Heritage U.C.

In July, the focus shifts to our much larger "Living Waters" Presbytery, made up of the former York, Simcoe and Muskoka Presbyteries. Its office is to be at Guthrie United Church, south of Orillia on Highway #11. This immense change in presbytery structure is designed to better serve congregations by moving former Toronto Conference staff to the presbytery level and to save costs by reducing duplication.

What does this mean for St. Andrew's? Hopefully, the former Conference staff will be in a position to give our congregation more staff support in the areas of personnel, programming and property. Although fewer meetings will be held each year, our church's representatives might have to travel quite a distance to meetings, perhaps to Barrie, Parry Sound or Huntsville. As new commissions start their work, the ability of presbyters to form new working relationships and to attend meetings at such a distance will be tested.

UCW

by Peggy Garach

Our UCW has had a great array of interesting programmes this past year. We are fortunate to have Brenda Wareham (chair), Carol Attridge and Bev Davis who work hard to make this happen.

This past month was no exception. Vivienne Tod's sister, Barbara, came replete with wonderful jangling belts and mysterious veils to teach us some belly dancing moves that she used to get seniors moving in a bellydancersize class. We had a lot of laughs and exercise too. Believe me, it is hard work!

Our next meeting will start with a potluck dinner. It is on Monday, June 15th at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to come out to wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

GALA 2009...Making a Difference for the Children of the World

by Brenda Wareham

On Friday, May 8th, the Crystal Fountain Ballroom rocked for many reasons. Our second biennial gala was finally here! With the leadership of Denise Reid and Daisy Del Vecchio, all the many details were polished and it was all systems in place.

Prior to the arrival of the Honourable David C. Onley, 28th Lieutenant Governor, guests gathered for hors d'oeuvres and punch and to take time to buy raffle tickets and sign up for the many spectacular items displayed in the Silent Auction. When the Lieutenant Governor Onley arrived, he took the time to informally meet many of the guests. A special mention that our honoured guest had once been a student in Russ Matheson's business class at Midland Collegiate.



The Town Crier, the famous John Webster, introduced the LG and he proceeded to bring greetings from the front of this large and appreciative crowd. Following grace, we all enjoyed a sumptuous meal! Between courses, Susan Brown sang "I had a Dream" and "Climb Every Mountain". The backdrop screen showed many pictures of the children who were recipients of the bed kits. This moment in the program was, for me, unforgettable!



The time had come for the introduction of Dave Dryden, Chairman of the Board, who would speak on behalf of his family and the Sleeping Children Around the World charity. Dave gave some background of the organization,



applauded the work of St. Andrew's and then introduced his granddaughter, Anaka Will-Dryden, who spoke of her experiences traveling to India with SCAW. We were pleased to have Ken Dryden, brother of Dave and MP for York Centre attend the gala. Frank Scarpitti, mayor for Markham, was also in attendance and brought words of encouragement from his council.

Presentations from Marilyn and Russ Matheson, on behalf of St. Andrew's and from Jack McBride, on behalf of Markham Lions Club, ensued.

They were 'Kodak' moments!

Not to forget the raffle draws and eventually the Silent Auction winners, the evening then turned to dancing and informal conversation. That disc jockey did a great job of mixing the music and pleasing the crowd.



The proceeds from the evening topped over \$25,000. As planned, 80% will go to Sleeping Children Around the World and 20% to St. Andrew's UC's Make a Difference Fund. Hats off to Denise and Daisy and Rev. John Niles, and of course, their committee of volunteers. You did it again!

SPOTLIGHT ON

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE



The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee is an active group of members that look after the needs and concerns of all the congregation while focusing on new members and the shut-ins. One of their prime activities is to have an up-to-date knowledge of the members that are not well, in the hospital or shut-in at home. A sub-committee headed up by **Nancy Rowe and including Ralph Pyle, Phyllis Burton, Jean Clark, Dorothy Harris, Pam Wirch** visits all the members that are shut-in or in hospital on a regular basis.

The duties and responsibilities of this Committee are:

- Encourage all members and adherents of the congregation to share in the life and work of the church.
- Keep informed of new people in the community and develop programs for welcoming these people.
- Seeing to the well being of church members & adherents and visitation of those in crisis, shut-ins, newcomers and others as possible.
- Ensure the maintenance of Membership Roll, Record of Transfers, Baptism, Marriage and Death & congregational mailing list.

If you are interested in being a part of the Membership and Pastoral Care Committee please contact Committee Chair Vivienne Tod through our church office.



Mimi O’Leary, Vivienne Tod, Nancy Rowe
Dorothy Middleton, Lorraine McBride, Mary McLean

IN-DOOR ANNUAL PICNIC

On Sunday, May 31st, the Fellowship Committee invited us to an Indoor Picnic. The yummy sandwiches were accompanied by coleslaw, pickles, cheeses and crackers. All ages (about 80 of us) enjoyed the opportunity for fun and fellowship. After a presentation to Rev. John Niles, on the occasion of 20 years in the Ministry, dessert was served. Fruit, pie, ice cream and a celebratory cake finished off the picnic. To the gals on the committee, you never cease to amaze us. It was delicious!



2009...a Banner Year for SCAW Donations

As the Sleeping Children around the World campaign drew to a close in May, it was obvious that the St Andrew’s congregation had opened up their hearts for the ” Sleeping Children around the World”. Our members and Sunday School children had once again shown a deep concern for the street children of the world by donating generously to provide clean sleeping mats at least for some of these unfortunate children.

St Andrew’s donated 192 bedkits in 2009 bringing our total contribution for the 17 years of our involvement to \$65,695 which has provided 2157 bedkits. In addition this year, the SCAW Gala will be donating approximately \$20,000 to the fund to provide an additional 571 bedkits.

This is a remarkable achievement that all of the congregation, the Sunday School children and the Gala workers, should be proud in knowing that they made a difference in the lives of 763 children somewhere in the world. The Outreach Committee thanks all those that donated so generously to this year’s campaign.



Thank you!!

The Communication Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their many favorable comments and encouragement on the publishing of the Messenger. The editorial team thanks all the members who have contributed to the Messenger during the year. It is only through your support that the Messenger becomes a meaningful vehicle of communications at St. Andrew's.

We welcome all ideas on how the Messenger can be improved and any suggestions on subjects to be covered. Members who are interested in writing and publishing are welcome to join the Messenger team at any time by contacting a committee member.

"The Messenger" is published monthly by the Communications Committee of St. Andrew's United Church, Markham, for its members and adherents. Communication Committee members are Janice Timbrell, Beatrice Volino, Lisa Harrison, Paul Reid, Bev Davis, Brenda Wareham and Jack McBride, Chair. Any questions regarding the publication can be directed to Nancy Coe in the church office at 905-294-0351 or unitedchurch@bellnet.ca, or to the co-editors Brenda Wareham and Jack McBride. The next newsletter will be distributed June 7th. The deadline for submission to the office of news items or notices of events is May 27th.... Email with attachments or on computer discs using Microsoft Word are the preferred method of submission. If you wish to receive your copy by email or have an address change, please contact Nancy in the church office.