

January 14, 2004

Dear Friends,

Thankfully, I'm often the recipient of stories, anecdotes, and jokes that people find worthy to pass on. Such was the case of the story of 'Grandma Ruby' found in someone's daily devotional calendar and taken from the book 'Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul'

This story is about Ruby, mother of 6, grandmother of 13. Ruby is the embodiment of gentleness, patience and love. One Christmas, all the children and grandchildren were gathered as usual at Ruby's home. Just a month before, she had bought beautiful new white carpeting after living with the 'same old carpet' for over 25 years. Ruby was overjoyed with the new look it gave her home. Now it happened that son-in-law Arnie, had just distributed his gifts for all the nieces and nephews - prized homemade honey from his beehives. They were excited. But, as fate would have it, Sheena spilled her tub of honey on Grandma's new carpeting and trailed it throughout the entire downstairs of the house. Crying, Sheena ran into the kitchen and into Grandma Ruby's arms. 'Grandma I've spilled my honey all over your brand new carpet.'

I pause for a moment in this story to suggest that most of us will already have formed the ending in our minds. Most of us I dare say are thinking along the lines of: Grandma Ruby looked tenderly into Sheena's eyes and said: 'don't worry sweetheart, the carpet can be cleaned.' Right?

Aah, but this story has a twist - Grandma Ruby knelt down, looked tenderly into Sheena's eyes and said: 'don't worry sweetheart, we can get you more honey.'

Total, selfless, unconditional, forgiving love.

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16 This is our prized gift. How excited are we? In this new year, 2004 let us find ways to tell and share our stories and experiences, our joys and our sorrows.

'Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Let us encourage one another all the more.' Hebrews 10:25. May God's abundant blessings be with you all.

In Gods ways, always...

MINISTER'S REPORT

IN MEMORIAM	Margaret McClymont	January 12, 2003
	Robert Stirling	February 25, 2003
	Lowell Mount	April 10, 2003
	Bert Coleman	October 19, 2003

They are not lost, our well-beloved, nor have they travelled far, just stepped inside God's loveliest room, and left the door ajar.

MINISTER'S REPORT continued

BAPTISMS Dean, Robert Joseph Hayter was baptized on July 20, 2003
Dean is the son of Jason & Lisa Hayter and little brother of Lauren

Lelayna Lee Hayter was baptized on September 21, 2003
Lelayna is the daughter of Mike and Suzie Hayter

WEDDINGS Nancy Webster and Todd Gregg - May 24 at Bayfield UC
Greg Keys and Charlene Manson - May 31 at Zurich Mennonite
Kim Taylor and Evrett Smith - June 7 at Brucefield UC
Maryanne Hayter and Jeff Turner - August 23 at Brucefield UC
Tracey Hayter and Jamie Benneweis - September 20 at Seaforth
Heather Beierling and Jeremy Pilkey - September 27 at Bayfield
Leanne Keys and Mike Colclough - October 4 at Brucefield UC

COMMUNION DATES: April 13, Palm Sunday, June 15, Father's Day
October 5, World Wide Communion
November 30, 1st Sunday of Advent
December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

ADDITIONAL WEDDINGS: Kelly Regier and Scott Rathwell - June 14 at residence
Leisa Mustard and James Rook - July 26 at Brucefield UC
Heather McKercher and Sean Roberts- October 11 at SeaforthUC

Funeral and Memorial Services: Feb 5 - Charles Scotchmer, Bayfield
March 11 - Nancy Louch, Dashwood
March 21 - Greta McKercher, Seaforth
April 29 - Melvin Greer, Bayfield
May 31 - Wayne Chappel, Exeter
November 5 - Monica Keys, Exeter
December 9 - Alice (Simons) Tisdale, Tillsonburg

ANNUAL PICNIC SERVICE

The Picnic Service, July 27th was held at Stanley Park at the lake with the Exeter Community Band as our musical guest once again. The Band joined us for the first time in 1999, also at Stanley Park on the invitation of Harry Van Bergen a member (Harry played the drums) and they enjoyed themselves so much they've been back every year. To hear the band playing favourite hymns such as 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, 'Faith of Our Fathers' and 'Rejoice the Lord is King' is quite stirring. This year's message focused on stewardship with Deb Rathwell and Joe Laurie adding their drama skills. The children's story was about water balloons and leaky buckets and Carol Simons and Elly read a paraphrased version of Psalm 104 - 'In Praise of the Creator'. And of course everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch and great fellowship after the service. Jennifer and Leanne Keys and Mike Colclough led the children in some water and relay games to end the afternoon.

SIMPLE FARE LUNCHEONS

Over the course of the year three Simple Fare Luncheons were held following Sunday morning worship. The idea of these lunches was two fold: to raise awareness that many people in our world do not have the variety and abundance of food that is our experience here and to raise funds for various charitable causes. The lunches also have the added promoting fellowship within the church family as we sit across the table from one another. A number of people were asked to donate a pot of stew or a casserole or loaf of bread for the lunches and a free will offering was designated to various causes.

Jan. 19 - Goshen - beef stew and homemade breads lunch funds raised for Beads of Hope
March 9 - Varna - macaroni & cheese, garden salad lunch funds raised for Beads of Hope
March 31 - Goshen - chili lunch funds raised and matched by the UCW for Camp Menesetung
April 27 - Goshen - hot dogs and potato chips lunch funds raised for the CFGB

NOTE: This venue is open to anyone who'd like to raise funds for the charity of their choice.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER BIBLE STUDY

A Bible Study in preparation for World Day of Prayer was held at the Goshen Church on February 19th. The World Day of Prayer focus for 2003 was the Women of Lebanon. Readings from John 14:26,27 and Acts 2:1-4 were studied. The women of Lebanon had chosen the theme of 'Holy Spirit Fill Us' because it encourages, equips and challenges us in our ministry as followers of Jesus Christ, as we continue the work Jesus began. The Gospel of John 14:26,27 speak of Jesus' promise to send an advocate - helper to teach and guide us. The Acts reading is the Pentecost reading where the Holy Spirit came in the form of tongues of fire and touched each person, empowering them. We spent time discussing both passages and reflecting on how we have experienced God's presence through the Holy Spirit in our lives and what ways we have personally felt empowered by the Holy Spirit. Following the study and discussion a soup and sandwich lunch was shared. The Varna UCW hosted the World Day of Prayer service at 8pm on March 6th at the Varna Church.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The roots of World Day of Prayer date back to 1812 when Christian women of Canada and the US initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world. World Day of Prayer has become a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and, who in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The 2004 theme will be 'In Faith, Women Shape the Future and will focus on Panama. The Goshen UCW will be hosting the service.

MISSION and SERVICE FUND

The M&S Fund celebrated it's 75th anniversary in 2003
The National M&S Fund Objective for 2003 is \$30,600,000
Varna-Goshen's M&S Fund Objective for 2003 was \$9000 - we raised \$9167.47!!!

Daily Vacation Bible School Brucefield - Kippen - Varna - Goshen

A very successful Daily Vacation Bible School was held once again in the Brucefield United Church, from 9:00 a.m. To 12:30 p.m. on August 5 to August 8, 2003. Total Registered :61
Number of Classes: This year we had a seven site rotation with the children moving to each. We did various activities such as prayer, story telling, drama, games , music and crafts.

(B) Brucefield Church and Community: 22 (K) Kippen Church and Community: 13
(V) Varna Church and Community: 6 (G) Goshen Church and Community: 4
(O) Other - Community :16

Classes: Preschool: 18 students Kindergarten: 6 students
 Grade 1 & 2 : 19 students Grade 3 & 4 :18 students

Support Staff: Angie Rott, Sue Faber, Nancy Bicknell, Greg Dowling, Caroline Klaver, Kim Preszcator, Helen Faber

Coordinator and Secretary- Treasurer : Lauren Love (Kippen)

Music Leader: Trish Mac Gregor

Worship Leaders: Dan Dowling (B-K) and Elly Van Bergen(V-G)

Summer Youth Team: Brett Townsend, Joel Brodie, Colton Preszcator, Danielle Love, Genelle Reid, Kim Broadfoot, Matt Chaput, Brittany Chaput and Natalie Klaver.

"Cookie Break" Suppliers: U.C.W.'S of Brucefield, Kippen, Varna and Goshen

UCW from each Church prepared and served the cookies and refreshments each morning.

The offering collected each day from the children and leaders will go towards meeting all our cost of running the VBS and will also be shared with a portion going to the Camp Menesetung.

Thank you for the great support given by all churches and the community. Lauren Love

Blessings In Our Lives: the children came up with the following for a Blessing Acrostic

B bike, baseball, Bible, bugs, boys, Builder Bob, bunny, broccoli, bananas, bubble gum,
L lion, lake, love, lemon, life, lollipop, Lord, Laura, legs
E elephant, eggs, eyes, ears, eagle, eating, earth, everyone
S summer, snake, sister, Shelby, sausage, Sasha (dog)
S Simon, soccer, Sarah, staples, squash, spices, Snoopy
I ice cream, Ian, island, ink
N nuts, Nicole, news, never -as in never ever going back to school nails, Nintendo
G God, games, Grant, girls, giving, garbage dump, grandparents, grass, green, Graham

2003 Brucefield Kippen *** Varna Goshen Vacation Bible School

Receipts

Opening Balance		305.94
Interest (Jan., Feb., March)		.03
Interest (April, May, June)		.03
Interest (July, Aug., Sept.)		.03
Interest (Oct., Nov., Dec.)		.02
Goshen U.C.W.		200.00
Brucefield U.C.W.		150.00
Varna U.C.W.		250.00
Gist Refund		29.47
Kippen U.C.W.		250.00
Registration		305.00
Offering	Augsburg Fortress	78.40
Refund		37.45
Total Receipts		1606.37

Expenses

Camp Menestung Donation		100.00
Postage Return Expense		6.85
Ausburg Fortress (Curriculum)		950.00
M & M Meats (juice)		35.61
Lauren Love (craft supplies, CD'S)		255.12
Candy for Helpers Sugar & Spice (paid cash)		20.42
Flowers for Teacher thankyou's (paid cash)		18.41
Extra cd's used (paid cash)		11.49
Total Expenses		1397.90
Ending Bank Balance		208.47

Total 1606.37

Report prepared by: Lauren Love

VARNA-GOSHEN WEB SITE - <http://varnagoshen.tripod.com>

Thanks to the computer wizardry of Jentje Steenbeek we have our very own website, designed entirely by Jentje who always keeps it current and up to date. Have you checked it out - have you checked it lately to see the recent changes to the format. There's lots to read and see - your picture may be there as is: Joe's, Willi's, Deb's, Linda's, Cameron's enjoying the Simple Fare Lunch. Forgotten an announcement detail - it's there, or you can link onto the Presbytery or Conference sites. There are interesting pieces to read, word searches to down load and opportunities for you to contribute - take a look at the 'Pastor Elly's' welcome letter and find out what I really wanted to do when I grew up. Please make sure you sign the guest book before leaving the site and let Jentje know he's doing a great job!

VARNA-GOSHEN, BRUCEFIELD-KIPPEN TRENDS AND TEENS YOUTH GROUPS

2003 brought about a unique situation with the youth groups - all of our Trends suddenly moved into the age category for Teens. At the same time all of our Teens have moved on to their senior years at highschool and because of increased academic loads and for some, part time jobs they have less free time. So both groups are in a transition period.

For the first half of the year, the Trends enjoyed the many activities from bowling to crafts or video nights. This group of girls have a tight friendship so they really enjoy getting together. We will on occasion be meeting with the Clinton youth group of the same age, so that some new friendships might form to ease the social shift when they start highschool in the fall.

The senior Teens met more sporadically last year as their schedules were already adjusting to more time needed for studies. Both Carol Coleman and myself hope that we will still be able to get together with the senior youth from time to time as we have certainly come to value and appreciate the friendships we've developed over the past few years with them.

Thanks to Carol Coleman for her continued help in leadership with the Teen group. Special thanks to Nancy Bicknell for her patience and her skills of channeling the hyper energy of our Trends group and hopefully she will be able to come back on board once we re-organize.

VARNA GOSHEN SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

This year, we had 14 children receive certificates and seals in recognition of their journey of Christian education.

Many thanks to the Varna and Goshen UCW for their continued financial support of the Sunday School program and to the volunteer teachers, Lori Merner, Mavis Govier, Kim Armstrong and Linda Keys. Stacey Consitt has been helping as well for her volunteer hours.

In conjunction with the 911 Memorial Service, we had a visit from Dave Roy a Volunteer Fireman with the Brucefield Fire Department. Dave reinforced some fire safety rules for the children. Dave has invited us to come for a tour of the Fire Hall which we hope to do in the Spring. Again this year we enjoyed a hike at Bannockburn and were challenged to find the Bible names in the New Testament. The children shared their musical talents with the congregation on a few occasions.

Submitted by Brenda Consitt V-G Sunday School Superintendent

FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Balance - **241.27**

INCOME

Collections	69.25
Donation	<u>50.00</u>
	119.25

EXPENSES

Supplies	123.04
Awards	<u>33.37</u>
	156.41

Closing Balance - **204.11**

Report of Presbytery 2003

All United church members who find themselves as patients in any of the London Hospitals can receive visits from the London Hospital Visitation program provided by two London Conference Pastoral visitors. An individual's presence in hospital, and desire to receive visits, can be made known to these visitors in two ways. When admission forms are filled out, a person can indicate that his/her religious affiliation is 'United Church' and thus get on the visitation list. The other way is to phone the pastoral visitors directly by calling the Health Sciences Centre at 519-685-8500 and accessing the voice mail for Betty Thornton (#55228) or Brenda Smith (#50104) or dialing their pager numbers: 19632 for Betty Thornton or 14323 for Brenda Smith.

Huron-Perth Presbytery approved three petitions to be sent to the General Council of the United Church of Canada through London Conference. In an attempt to help defray the cost of the annual audit of a congregation's financial records by an outside professional accountant, Petition #1 proposed to broaden the policy of the United Church of Canada to include "Review Engagements" by an outside professional accountant as an optional method of financial review. NOTE: this petition was sent on to General Council with concurrence. Petition #2 urges General Council and members of all congregations to write to the Minister of Justice and Members of Parliament to thoroughly re-examine the Steven Truscott case within a reasonable period of time with a view to ensuring justice for Mr. Truscott. with concurrence

Since the United Church does not presently have a clear policy concerning the use of alcoholic beverages at church functions, Petition #3 recommends that a clear statement regarding the use of alcoholic beverages at all gatherings and programs of United Church congregations be established. This petition was sent on to Gen. Council without concurrence (for information only)

Huron-Perth Presbytery agreed to support Mission Support Grants to:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) Huron Safe Homes For Youth | \$2200 |
| (2) Stratford Area Access to Independent Living | \$6000 |
| (3) Huron-Perth Centre for Children and Youth | \$3000 |

In order to meet new provincial requirements for water purity (which have an August 7, 2004 deadline for compliance), Presbytery has increased the budgets of both Camp Bimini and Camp Menesetung by \$5000 each for next year.

Presbytery approved that a minimum limit of \$10,000 be set for renovations to real property of a pastoral charge and that anything over \$10,000 must be approved by Huron-Perth Presbytery.

A review of the membership of Huron-Perth Presbytery for the last four years is as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003
12575	12615	12171	11671

Despite a decline of almost 900 members the budget has maintained fees (\$14.00 per member) by reallocating reserve funds.

Rev. Bob Biggar and Pastor Elly Van Bergen were appointed Huron-Perth Presbytery representatives on the Blyth Joint Needs Assessment Committee.

Pastoral Charges are to encourage and aid their youth to attend the February, 2004 meeting of Presbytery at Mitchell. Supper will be geared to the preferences of teens and a special youth workshop is planned.

Joe Laurie, Presbytery Representative, Varna

FIVE ALIVE

The Five Alive Committee met in the spring to plan the joint Conference Sunday Service at Kippen United Church. Bob Heywood, our guest speaker, also sang and played his accordion. Lori Peck, with her guitar, led a delightful children's choir, while senior singers from the five church choirs sang two anthems.

The committee met again in the fall to make arrangements for an Olde Tyme Dance to be held at the Betty Cardno Centre in Clinton, on Friday, October 17. Once again, The Blenders provided the music, and there were door prizes as well as a lunch with cider and pop and coffee.

As a result of these two events we were able to support Camp Menesetung in the spring with \$280.00 and later the Children's Aid Christmas Bureau with \$250.00.

We sincerely thank the people who so generously support the events that we plan. We welcome your input at any time to give us new ideas about events we might undertake to foster friendship, fellowship and fun among the people of our five churches.

Goshen: Linda Linfield - secretary
Helen Keys

Varna: Willi Laurie
Deb Rathwell

Bayfield: Don Brodie and Ted Dunn

Brucefield: Dorothy McGregor
Cathy Mustard

Kippen: Helen Faber - treasurer
Ruby Lefaive

report submitted by Linda Linfield - secretary

FIVE ALIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receipts:	interest	.05	
	Conference Sunday	271.00	
	G.S.T. Rebate	3.78	
	Olde Tyme Dance	363.70	
TOTAL		638.53	
	Bank Balance Jan. 1/03	106.76	\$745.29
Expenses	Camp Menesetung donation	280.00	
	Advertising	83.76	
	Willi Laurie - dance - pop	47.04	
	Family & Children's Service	250.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		660.80	
	Bank Balance Dec. 31/03	84.49	\$745.29

Submitted by Helen Faber - Kippen - Five Alive Treasurer

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK GROWING PROJECT

In January 04 we received two receipts from the CFGB headquarters in Winnipeg - \$4178.93 for cash donations from the Varna, Goshen, Stratford Centennial United Churches and \$4669.50 for wheat sold from the VGS Growing Project on Hill and Hill Farms. These donations matched 4 to 1 with funds from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) increase to a donation of \$44242.15.

Gifts of cash and grain in fiscal year April 1, 02 - March 31, 03 totaled \$8.1 million, the highest level in the bank's history.

19 countries received food assistance and seed totaling 48,223 tonnes. Major initiatives were undertaken in response to drought in Ethiopia, Southern Africa and Afghanistan, economic problems in North Korea and ongoing work in India and Bangladesh. Food security and nutrition cash projects, designed to improve people's self sufficiency and health, were supported with \$1,028,346.

Your committee members are both pleased and excited to be associated with this Christian Response to Hunger. We CONGRATULATE AND THANK EACH AND EVERYONE WHO HAS ASSISTED and recommend continuing with the VGS Growing Project.

Gordon Hill, Chair

Ron Keys, Treasurer

VARNA-GOSHEN MINISTRY and PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The M & P Committee met two or three times in 2003 to consider and make recommendations to the Official Board concerning our minister's salary and terms of employment for 2004 and into 2005. As a Lay Pastoral Minister with five years of experience, she is in Category 'C' and entitled to \$29,922.00 per annum.

Our pastor Elly, is a perfect fit for the Varna-Goshen charge. We thank her for leading us so capably and for challenging us to define our faith while still being one of us and a friend.

Please be patient with us, Elly, as we seek with you to discern the path God has in mind for us.

Submitted by Linda Linfield - chair,
committee: Joyce Armstrong, Blaine Stephenson, Brenda Consitt and Sjoukje Steenbeek

VARNA-GOSHEN CHOIR

We have an enthusiastic dedicated group of Varna & Goshen choir members who assist with worship through song every Sunday. This group (usually 8 - 12 members each week) present an anthem every week with rehearsals held an hour before service each Sunday. As organists we appreciate their dedication.

Special thanks to our own young people who contribute their special talents throughout the year, Erin, Julie, Cara, Alysha, Graham, Valerie & Heather. Our choir's Mother/Daughter quartet made up of Joyce Dowson, Brenda Consitt, Mona Stephenson and Deb Rathwell sang during the Covenant Renewal Service. Thanks to them and we hope to hear them many times again next year!

Our joint choir participated in the Five Alive Service at Kippen United Church on Conference Sunday. Special music and song were presented at the Good Friday Service and Elly's Covenant Renewal Service by Belva Fuss & Carol Gascho, also a local group known as 'Sundown' performed several numbers for the Goshen Anniversary Service.

Special Varna anniversary music was presented by Devan Martene & Gerry Smith. Goshen anniversary music was presented by the talented Romijn Family. A special thank you goes to our friends from the Exeter Community Band who once again led the music at the Picnic Service at the lake on July 27th.

With three organists working together, we can help one another on occasions. Thank you.

Submitted by: Shirley Hill , Anna Keys, Floyd McAsh

VARNA-GOSHEN MANSE COMMITTEE

A decision was made not to undertake any major projects at the manse for 2003 in light of the amount of work completed in 2002 - 5 windows replaced and a new deck built at the back. A new motion sensor light was installed above the office door. Pastor Elly reported that she has thoroughly enjoyed the new deck over the past year.

VARNA SESSION

We are pleased to welcome Shirley Hill as a member of Session. Shirley replaces Bernice Reid who has stepped down. Thanks to Bernice for her years of service. The session met quarterly in 2003 in conjunction with Goshen United Church. Communion was observed several times during the year. There were three weddings, four deaths and one transfer to another church.

In March we held a Simple Fare macaroni and cheese luncheon following the church service with the proceeds going to Beads of Hope.

We dedicated the painting of the sanctuary on June 8th. All family members who made donations to the memorial fund were invited. The guest soloist was Wayne Miner.

In September we held the second annual "911 Day of Remembrance" honouring all local fire fighters and emergency personal. Dave Roy, a local fire fighter, was our guest.

On November 2nd we gathered for a Renewal of Covenant Service to celebrate the five years of our ministry together (see below). Dave Williams, Chair of Huron/Perth Presbytery officiated. Steve Hildebrand was guest speaker with special music by the Mothers and Daughters Quartet: Deb Rathwell, Mona Stephenson, Brenda Consitt and Joyce Dowson and also by Belva Fuss and Carol Gascho.

A Remembrance Day service was held in November during which Charles Reid, Bill Dowson and Floyd McAsh laid wreaths at the cenotaph.

The Varna United Church Anniversary service was held on October 5th with special music supplied by Devan Martene and Gerry Smith. Elly Van Bergen was the speaker.

A Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service was held at 8 pm which was enjoyed by all.

2003 has been a busy year for our congregation and I trust that with God's help and Elly as our inspiration we will go forward as a United Church family in 2004.

Submitted by Sharon Chuter, Clerk of Session

COVENANT RENEWAL PROMISES

MINISTER: (Elly) I further commit myself to the Christian ministry within this pastoral charge of Christ's people promising to encourage them in their work and witness. I will continue submit to the discipline of Presbytery, and, together with its other members be responsible for the Church's life.

CONGREGATION MEMBERS: As members of the Church of Christ, we will support and encourage Elly, as she serves among us. We promise to continue to work with her in faith and prayer for the honour of Christ. We also promise by working and worshipping together to prepare ourselves to serve Christ in the world.

PRESBYTERY CHAIRPERSON: We have heard the promises and intentions and responsibilities of the minister and congregation and presbytery, to work to together in this ministry. As we stand with these symbols of ministry gathered before us - a stole for leadership and guidance, a Bible for teaching and sharing, water and candle for the celebration of Baptism and renewal of Baptismal vows, and bread and wine our mark of unity through Christ Jesus, let us respond together by saying:

ALL: May the Lord continue bless this covenant and sanctify this ministry to God's glory. Amen.

VARNA STEWARDS REPORT

Painting, repairing walls, ceiling of church - \$3925.00

clean up after - May 28th - thanks to: Deb & Don R. Mona Ralph S. Joe & Graham L.
Ruby H. Pat & Barry T. Elly, Ron C. and caretakers Wayne and Hazel

Clean up of the church yard, end of April - Don, Deb & Darcy R. Don & Barry T. Doug, Joanne
Blake & Bernice R. Joe, Graham & Cameron L. Ron C. Klaas & Sjoukje S. Elly, Blaine S.

Pork Barbecue June 18 - approximately 1100 tickets sold - profit 7392.00

Submitted by Barry Taylor - secretary Chairman: John Dowson

MEMORIAL DEDICATION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 8th a special memorial dedication of the newly painted sanctuary was part of the morning worship service. Special music for the service included solos by Cara Stephenson, who sang 'Angel' and Wayne Miner who sang 'The Lord's Prayer'. Sharon Chuter, Clerk of Session presented the list of names dedicating the painting of the sanctuary in memory of:

Iona Blake - September 20, 1999
Victoria Ann (Torry) Coultis - September 27, 1999
Ivan Coleman - March 20, 2000
Bill McAsh - August 22, 2000
Harry Van Bergen - January 10, 2001
Ed Heard - March 18, 2001
Ann (Ostrom) Neilson - December 19, 2001
Margaret Dowson - January 25, 2002
Ida Godkin - February 18, 2001
Ford Johnston - January 2002
Dorothy Ostrom - August 8, 2002
Marie Kumm-Dorcich - February 16, 2001
Marg McClymont - January 12, 2003
Robert Stirling - February 25, 2003
Lowell Mount - April 10, 2003

and also to the glory of God from: George and Lynda Smith

DEDICATION PRAYER: Holy God, with gratitude we accept this memorial gift of our freshly painted sanctuary, and we dedicate it to your glory, for the beauty of this holy place and for sake of all your people. We thank you for all that was beautiful and good in the lives of those named here today. We thank you for their example in faith and hope, and for their love of your church. Amen.

DEDICATION HYMN: (tune O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing)

This house O God, kept to your praise, we dedicate to you.
Accept the work of many hands, the plan and pur-pose true.

Here may your love be clearly preached by pulpit and by pew.
May we unite in hymn and song to covenant with you.

PROPOSED OFFICERS FOR VARNA UNITED CHURCH - 2004

RECORDING SECRETARY:

ELDERS: Sharon Chuter, (Clerk of Session) Gordon Hill, Jim Kirton, Shirley Hill

HONORARY ELDERS: Charles Reid, Bill Taylor, Ivan McClymont, Paul Consitt

TRUSTEES: Barry Taylor, Ralph Stephenson, Charles Reid

STEWARDS: John Dowson, Barry Taylor, Don Rathwell, Don Taylor, Scott Consitt,
Joe Laurie, Doug Reid, Klaas Steenbeek, Barb Consitt (UCW rep.)

TREASURER: Willi Laurie

FINANCIAL REVIEWERS:

ORGANISTS: Floyd McAsh, Shirley Hill

MANSE COMMITTEE: Jim Kirton, Deb Rathwell,
Gordon Hill, Shirley Hill (as well as 3 from Goshen
and Goshen UCW rep)

MINISTRY, PERSONNEL & EDUCATION:

Blaine Stephenson, Brenda Consitt, Joe Laurie, Sjoukje Steenbeek
(as well as three from Goshen)

CHRISTIAN ED: Blaine Stephenson, Sharon Chuter, Ruby Hill

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: Brenda Consitt

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK COMMITTEE:

Gordon Hill (Chair), John Dowson,
(as well as five from Goshen)

FIVE ALIVE COMMITTEE: Deb Rathwell, Willi Laurie
(as well as 2 - Goshen, Brucefield, Kippen, & Bayfield)

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE: Joe Laurie

CARETAKER: Wayne Miner, Hazel Simpson and family

FLOWERS: Joan Beierling, Margaret Hayter, Ruby Hill, Pat Taylor, Mona Stephenson

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: Session

VARNA U.C.W.

We began the year of 2003 off quietly, but with sadness as we mourned the loss of Eleanor Coleman and Margaret McClymont. At our February meeting we invited our Goshen UCW friends to hear our speaker: Linda Burns on Pro Life & Family Life Style. The quilters got together once again for Arc Industries, Community Living at Ruby Hill's. We celebrated a former member's 89th birthday - Beatrice Taylor!

The community quilters worked hard in March to make a beautiful quilt as 'Varna Opens the Door in 2004'. In March as well, we hosted the World Day of Prayer with Goshen UCW where we heard about the women of Lebanon.

In April we got serious and house cleaned the church basement. (found treasures for our yard sale) In May we enjoyed hearing Faye Carnochan Murray speak and show us methods of relaxation. In June we heard about the 'Gardens of Life'. In August we once again treated ourselves to dinner in Bayfield - then onto Grand Bend Theater to enjoy a great show - 'The Buddy Holly Story'.

October we celebrated Thanksgiving and decorated for fall. In November we met to prepare for a new year, as well as to write to our sponsor girl in India. We hosted Elly's 5 year Covent Renewal Service. The year ended with our Annual Christmas Dinner and meeting where our members and former members enjoyed our guest speaker Carol Coleman.

Throughout the year we attended special meetings and Thank-offerings at surrounding churches. We faithfully support our Sunday School, Bible School, Camp Menesetung and Five Alive. We also support many worthwhile agencies in the community and area. We held our 1st yard sale (of course it rained), but we did raise \$500 - not sure if this will be an annual event.

As a caring and faith community we collected for 5 women and 3 men for upcoming weddings. As a UCW we catered to 1 retirement lunch, 1 wedding dinner, 1 wedding reception lunch and to 4 funerals. We gave Life Membership Pins to Mary Ostrom (Mary recieved Dorothy Ostrom's pin) Bonnie Roy, Marilyn Kalbfleisch and Brenda Constitt (Brenda received her Grandma Margaret Dowson's pin). We are so fortunate to have Brenda as she shows her dedication and support for our Sunday School Program and her commitment to our children - the future of our Church.

Special thanks as well to those special UCW ladies who supply cookies for our coffee time before worship.

Once again many thanks to our Supper Committee - Shirley Hill and her committee (we couldn't do without them) for all their dedication and hard work and to ALL our members for their support and co-operation.

All the best to Varna in 2004! Submitted by Deb Rathwell, U.C.W. Rep.

According to elementary school children....

What would it take to make your Mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
 2. I'd make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it, not me.
-

PROPOSED OFFICERS FOR GOSHEN UNITED CHURCH - 2004

RECORDING SECRETARY: Marg Robinson

ELDERS: Steve Keys (Clerk of Session), John Robinson, Marg Hayter

HONORARY ELDERS: Elmer Hayter, Arnold Keys, Bruce Keys, Anson McKinley

TRUSTEES: John Eckel, Art Bennett, Gerald Hayter

STEWARDS: Bob Hayter, Norm Eckel, Ron Keys

TREASURER: Gerald and Marg Hayter

FINANCIAL REVIEWERS: John Eckel, Marg Robinson

ORGANIST: Anna Keys

MANSE CMTTE: Allan Hayter, Jim Keys, Karen Ratcliffe, Jean Armstrong, UCW President
(as well as five from Varna)

MINISTRY, PERSONNEL & EDUCATION: Linda Linfield, Joyce Armstrong
(as well as three from Varna)

MISSION OUTREACH:

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK COMMITTEE: Art Bennett, Jean Bennett, Jack Eckel, Ron
Keys, Steve Keys, (as well as five from Varna)

FIVE ALIVE COMMITTEE: Helen Keys, Linda Linfield
(as well as two from each of Varna), Brucefield, Kippen, & Bayfield)

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE:

BLUE WATER REST HOME REPRESENTATIVE: Jean Armstrong

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: Elders & Anna Keys

GREETERS: Chair - Ervin Keys, Steve Keys, Greg Keys, Graham Keys

BELL RINGERS: Dan Keys, Jennifer Keys

An ad for one Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which
the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads,
"For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

GOSHEN SESSION

In 2003 the congregation of Goshen United Church had a busy year with weddings. Our congratulations goes out to Greg & Charlene Keys, Jeff & Maryanne Turner and Mike & Leanne Colclough. With God's help we wish the newlyweds many happy and joyous years.

John Finlay resigned from being an elder as he and his family moved to Auburn. We wish John, Carol, Julie and Bill much happiness in their new home. Marg Hayter took John's place as elder. As we could not get a 4th elder we combined the Varna & Goshen elders as one.

NOTE: Decision of Congregational Meeting September 7th, 2003: that Varna-Goshen adopt a combined but not necessarily equal elder system with a minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 elders. A view that we should endeavor to work more as a one Pastoral Charge rather than two churches was expressed.

Two Simple Fare lunches were held with the proceeds going to Beads of Hope, the United Church's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to Camp Menesetung.

Dean Hayter was baptized on July 20. Dean Hayter is the son of Jason & Lisa Hayter. Lelayna Hayter daughter of Mike & Suzy was baptized on September 21. We celebrated communion throughout the year as well as having board meetings every three months.

In our Christmas Service we were blessed to have Mike & Suzy Hayter as Mary & Joseph and little Lelayna as baby Jesus. It is great to have a real baby take part in the Christmas Story. With God's help and Elly as our minister and all our church family I'm sure we will have a great 2004 in our church.

Submitted by Steve Keys, Clerk Of Session

GOSHEN UNITED CHURCH highlights of the minutes - Annual Meeting - Feb. 16, 2003

Recording Secretary: Marg Robinson Chair: Steve Keys (in John Robinson's absence)

Attendance: Steve & Linda Keys, Linda Linfield, Margaret Elliot, Jim & Kate Keys, Art & Jean Bennett, John Finlay, Hugh McBride, Bruce & Anna Keys, Elmer, Norene, Gerald & Marg Hayter, Jean Armstrong, Elly Van Bergen,

- meeting opened at 12:40 following a potluck lunch of sandwiches and squares
- welcome and open with prayer and scripture verses from Micah 6 - what does the Lord require
- minutes of the last annual meeting were read and adopted

Officers for 2003 - Gerald H. retiring as elder, announcement to be placed in bulletin for 2 weeks with balloting 2 Sundays in March

- presbytery rep and Mission Outreach person needed for Goshen

REPORTS: Minister - refer to page 1 & 2 of Annual Report

M& P - as salary recommendations were not presented to the Official Board in the fall and confusion of the timing for such recommendations rising from the Varna Annual Mtg Elly left the meeting while a discussion took place and a decision was made that Elly's salary would

GOSHEN highlights of the minutes - Annual Meeting - Feb. 16, 2003 continued

continue at scale without the increase suggested by Varna - the two different recommendations will require an Official Board mtg NOTE: the Official Board ruled with Elly's consent that in lieu of a raise in salary that Elly be given an extra week vacation to be taken in August of 2003

FIVE ALIVE: Linda Linfield gave an estimated financial statement - approx \$300 raised from both events and donated to Camp Menesetung and the Christmas Bureau

CHOIR, VBS and SUNDAY SCHOOL: reports as printed

YOUTH GROUPS: thanks to great helpers; Nancy Bicknell with the 8 - 16 Trends and Corol Coleman with the 5 -6 Teens

CANDIAN FOOD GRAINS BANK: wheat is planted for next year - this years proceeds \$11440 plus amount raised multiplied by four means more than \$55,000 raised by VGS project !!

PRESBYTERY: VG one of five charges that pays its dues at start of the year - Goshen needs rep

MANSE: Allan Hayter's name omitted by mistake - all windows now replaced new deck great!

SESSION: Thanks to Elly for writing John Robinson's report!

STEWARDS: no report

TREASURER: many thanks to Gerald H for all his work - books reviewed Marg R. and John E.

UCW: Anna challenged people to give generously to Simple Fare lunch in March - UCW will match donations for Camp Menesetung - septic system upgrade debt approx \$30,000

OFFICERS: elders serve a 4 year term, clerk of session 2 years
moved and approved that Anniversary Sunday be the 3rd Sunday of October
bell ringer - Jennifer Keys
greeters - Elly to draw up list

OTHER BUSINESS: fuel tank to be inspected close to June 2004 deadline
- several names need to be added to memorial plaque which is full, Darren Keys to make a new plaque with brass tabs to be engraved
- moved and approved that members be encouraged to continue M&S givings at resent level or higher

Blue Water Nursing Home: Jean Armstrong reported that money will need to be raised locally to meet required standards re: bathroom, water & sewage before the provincial government will release funds to assist

ADJOURNMENT: moved by Art Bennett

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?
People recite at a play and play at a recital! You can ship by truck and send cargo by ship!

Should folks who grow up speaking English be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane!!

GOSHEN UNITED CHURCH - CONTRIBUTORS 2003

Hayter, David	Linfield, Linda
Armstrong, Dean & Kim	Hayter, Elmer & NoreneMcBride, Hugh
Armstrong, Jean	Hayter, Gerald & MargMcBride, John & Mary
Armstrong, Joyce	Hayter, Jason & LisaMcBride, Peter
Beaver, Dave & Jane	Hayter, JeffMcBride, Wes
Bennet, Art & Jean	Hayter, Mike & SuzieMcClymont, Ivan & Marg
Colclough, Mike & Leanne	Hill, Gordon & RubyMcKinley, Anson & Evelyn
Diechert, Phylis	Keys, Bruce & AnnaMcKinley, Bob & Audrey
Eckel, Norm	Keys, Arnold & NoraMcKinley, Olive
Eckely, John & Geraldine	Keys, Ervin & HelenPeck, Larry & Lori
Elliott, Marg	Keys, Greg & CharlenePeck, Elva
Finlay, John & Carol	Keys, Jim & KatePeck, Gladys
Goshen UCW	Keys, Ron & PeggyPeck, Dale & Dianne
Hayter, Allan & Marj	Keys, Steve & LindaRobinson, John & Marg
Hayter, Bob & Sandi	Lang, Jim & MarilynVan Bergen, Elly

This poem was written by a terminally ill young girl in a New York Hospital. She had 6 months left to live, and as her dying wish, she wanted to tell everyone to live their life to the fullest, since she never will.

SLOW DANCE

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?
You better slow down. Don't dance so fast. Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask How are you? Do you hear the reply?
When the day is done do you lie in your bed
With the next hundred chores running through your head?
You better slow down. Don't dance so fast. Time is short. The music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die
Cause you never had time to call and say, "hi"
You better slow down. Don't dance so fast. Time is short. The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere you miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day, it is like an unopened gift.... thrown away.

Life is not a race. Do take it slower Hear the music Before the song is over.

'19 Ways To Bore The Backsides Off Your Parishioners'

OR: how to rate your minister by Ralph Milton

1. Be tentative. Be hesitant. Start every assertion with the words, 'I think perhaps... or I'm not sure, but...'
2. Under no circumstances state anything with conviction. It helps if you mumble.
3. Don't ever use any theatrical skills. They only add life and vitality. You wouldn't want your sermon to be entertaining, would you?
4. Use lengthy quotations in the *original* Aramaic or Greek with lots of condescending translations.
5. Be sure the folks know how scholarly you are and how dumb they are by including lots of erudite quotations from biblical scholars.
6. Use only the King James Bible. More up-to-date translations tend to add clarity.
7. Lower the voice to an inaudible level at the end of every sentence.
8. Frequent reminiscing of early childhood experiences: "Ahhhhhh when I was a boy.....my...my.....my..."
9. Say 'what more can I say?' and then say a lot more.
10. Say 'and in conclusion' when you don't really mean it (doing this more than once really drives 'em bonkers!)
11. Use the traditional 'stained glass window' voice. You know the sound. Lower your voice to knee level and add a hollow reverb.
12. If you see there is not as much time as expected, read only every other line of the manuscript. It will not make sense but it will let you know how many are really listening, by the look on each face. Sorry. That might prove *too* interesting.
13. Ad lib little tidbits that you assure everyone is going to be funny and forget the punchline or mumble it so no-one hears it.
14. Use lots of statistics or long quotations from obscure poets.
15. Keep your eyes on your hand-scribbled text at all times.
16. Speak 'extemporaneously' with lots of hand waving and emotion, without actually saying anything.
17. Never, ever, reveal your own humanity or vulnerability.
18. Assume that everyone has heard or read the lections and knows the background of each of them.
19. Never enjoy your own sermon. If you enjoy it, the congregation might too.

GOSHEN U.C.W.

Goshen UCW met four times and attended the World Day of Prayer Service at Varna. We assisted with Simple Fare Lunches and supplied cookies for Camp, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School and coffee times before worship.

Some of us visited neighbouring churches for special meetings and also attended Presbyterian events.

We collected for Greg Keys and hosted bridal showers for Kelly Ratcliffe, Maryanne Hayter and Leanne Keys.

We had our usual Goshen UCW Turkey dinner in October and planned and helped with the Co-Op Christmas Banquet.

For our December meeting we went to Millington's. Twenty-one were present. The group in charge planned a special evening for us.

We made various donations through the year as are listed in the UCW Treasurer's report.

Thanks again to everyone!

Submitted by Anna Keys, U.C.W. President