

Port Dover - Woodhouse Pastoral Charge Newsletter

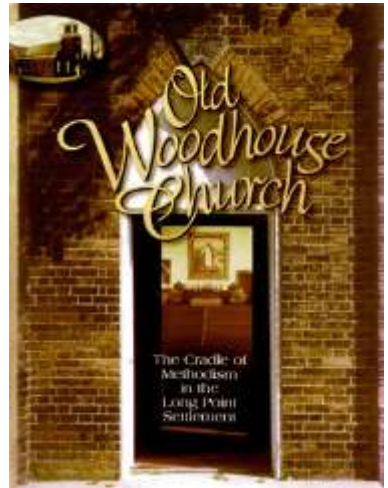
APRIL & MAY 2020

Women At Woodhouse

I was fortunate this week to have the use of a borrowed copy of Rodger Cruickshank's book, "Old Woodhouse Church". Woodhouse Church is some 47 years older than Grace Church and it would appear that Rodger used reliable archives from very early in their history. I've plucked from one part of his book some often amusing bits and impressions he wrote about in a chapter devoted to the work of the women at Woodhouse.

Rodger made the point that church leadership was an all-male bastion for at least 125 years. Women seemed to have no first names and were referred to only as "and wife" if necessary, and later as Mrs. (husband's name) or, Miss (last name) if they were unmarried. Yet, the ladies were not completely invisible. Though they were not named in the records, they were consulted at times in order to make arrangements for social and food-related activities. Rodger thought it possible that Mrs. Margaret Sheppard was their first elected woman steward (in 1962), and later an elected elder (in 1976).

The Ladies Aid Society was first formed in 1887, at the request of the Trustees of the church. Their meetings involved singing, reading of scripture, prayer, a reading of minutes, and then discussion and planning of upcoming social events. Their original chartered plan was to hold at least one social event each month, and there were usually more than that. They organized and held an annual New Year's Festival, sugar socials, strawberry socials, "At Home" socials (in someone's house), pink and white teas, taffy pulls, oyster suppers, chicken pie socials, egg socials, concerts, raspberry and peach socials, and special tea meetings. An admission was charged for each of these occasions, and as a result the funds the women accrued soon paid bills, bought wood and other supplies, and supported missionaries. In 1888 and 1889 the women of Woodhouse hosted the eating hall at the Simcoe Fair for the two days of the Fair. This realized a nice profit.



Cover image—
Old Woodhouse Church - The Cradle of
Methodism in the Long Point Settlement
, by Rodger Cruickshank

Also at this same time, the ladies were anxious to build a Sunday School addition onto the church and saved toward that a portion of their earnings. After ten years in discussion, this finally became reality. The trustees even gave the ladies the choice about whether their annual meeting and meal would be held at noon or at supper time, depending upon which the ladies preferred.

By 1906, the records show that the Ladies Aid was raising quite a lot of money and paying many of the costs of running the church and cemetery. In the early 1920's the Women's Missionary Society was born and took over the mission portion of the Ladies Aid group.



Rodger's account details first leaders of this group and stories about quilts they made and even who became owners of them. They too, packed bales during the depression years and had a "Sunshine Bottle" which collected coins for each day the sun shone.

In 1927, the Women's Association replaced the Ladies Aid, and some new responsibilities were added to their mandate. They co-existed with the Women's Missionary Society until 1962 when the unified United Church Women supplanted both groups. Through the 1930's easier travel and the depression combined to reduce the number of social events held at churches, yet over the years these women continued to support church projects (such as painting the sanctuary and meeting room), create and equip a kitchen by holding dinners, quilting, and the like. They also decorated the church for Harvest time and other special occasions and remembered the sick and shut-in with cards, visits, and flowers.

Uniquely, these gals had a "travelling coffee can", but they also had "bake-less bake sales" and real bake sales, a "cup-and-saucer shower" for the kitchen, a Tupperware party, a cookbook project, and sold Church-Crested plates and cups to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the church. They were also proud to support Jean Mosher, one of their number, as she pursued her studies and was Commissioned as a Diaconal Minister. At Port Dover the U.C.W. was proud to support Leota Werner, who was in the mission field.

2 Rodger's book includes much detail from the records. Actual dollar-and-

cents amounts are given for the profits of many of the projects, and likewise, exact costs are given for the items they bought for the church or donated to various other causes. These were many and varied, - too many to enumerate here. Suffice to say, as became the case in Port Dover, the work of the ladies at Woodhouse was critical to the thriving history of their historic church.

Many of you at Woodhouse will own a copy of Rodger's book. I invite you to re-read Chapter 10. Thanks Rodger, for this amazing book you have left us!

Contributed by Joan Smith

From the Ministry and Personnel Committee Resources Manual:

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts under the guidelines of The Manual of The United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the community of faith with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of the community of faith. If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees/lay volunteers, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action.

Port Dover - Woodhouse Pastoral Charge is blessed with staff who are committed to their work and we are thankful for this work in our community of faith. Presently serving on the committee are Kathryn Bannister (Chair) , Arlene Navarro, Pat Luton, Lisa Jo Malcolmson, Mary Edwards, and Mavis Cates.

Joint Activities

NOTE: CURRENT AS OF APRIL 9, 2020

• Grace & Woodhouse services and all in-person events held at the churches are currently cancelled. All community groups that meet at Grace United are cancelled until further notice.

We will announce when in-person events are able to resume.

**Should you have a need for prayer, please call:
Marg Lancaster 519.583.1981, Pat Tinney 519.583.1503
Wretha Demone 519.583.0021**

Bible Study - Every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom
Contact Rev. Kathryn to join. All Are Welcome.

Grace United Church

Deaths: Elva May Broker, April 2, 2020

MESSY CHURCH – Cancelled for April and May

What we've been up to.....

Thirteen candles were lit during our Memorial Candle lighting in March. In April we remembered: Ethel Rose Atcheson, Floyd Edward Bowman, Reginald Box, Elva May Broker, Laura Craigwell, Robert James Langille, Carmen Lawrence, Linda Jean Lindsay, Helen Margaret Long, Jane Mott, Travis Bruce O'Brien, Bryce Aldridge Stone, Evelyne May Waters, and Ina Bell Wilson

Bible Study - weekly, Tuesday 11:00am We discuss the coming week's scripture on zoom. Ask Rev. Kathryn for information.

Jim and Marjorie Dawson, Brenda McRae and Rev. Kathryn have been videotaping the weekly service and Jim has been uploading it to YouTube. It is available through the home page of our website

www.graceunitedportdover.org

What's coming up.....

May 17 - Memorial Candle lighting online service - this month we remember: Robert Antsee, Deborah Muriel Bennett, Jack Dossler, Frederick Flight, Mary Ann Galer, William Edward Innes, John Vernell Newhouse, Robin Lynn Pilgrim, Christopher Gaylord Powless, Audrey Joan Spencer, Faye Tisdale

Woodhouse United Church

What we've been up to.....

- Two candles were lit during our Memorial Candle lighting in March.

In April we remembered:

Carole Lee Moore and Florence Betty Erwin.

What's coming up.....

May 17- Memorial Candle lighting online service
This month we remember: Donna Eileen Healy

.....
TRIVIA: What did these people do in life?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. JOSEPH (N.T.) | 6. GOLIATH. |
| 2. SIMON PETER. | 7. MOSES |
| 3. MATTHEW. | 8. MARTHA. |
| 4. ZACHEOUS | 9. LYDIA. |
| 5. RAMSES II. | 10. JOB. |

Answers on page 11

HIDDEN TREASURE FOUND AT GRACE

You never know what you're going to find when you go looking in storage areas. I found a treasure in the space behind the choir loft. Banners! Lots of banners! All handmade several years ago. There seem to be banners for almost every church season and celebration. The worship committee and I went through them. Sadly, some were past their "best before" date and had to be discarded. Some others need to be recycled. But there are several that are still very good. We got Jeff to put a nail up over the door opposite the PowerPoint screen. Now we can display those banners, changing them with the seasons. What a gift they have been to this church. If you know of someone who made any of these banners, let us know. We would like to put a label on the back of them. We are sure you will appreciate the work that went in to them as you enjoy the large ones that will be displayed in the front of the sanctuary and the small ones as they are displayed on the bulletin board by the Chapman and St. George Street entrance. A treasure indeed!



Contributed by Rev. Kathryn

Interested in submitting something to our newsletter? Please contact Kathryn or Robyn for details. Recipes, jokes, photos from church events, artwork, creative writing -- share your talents with your community of faith!

From the virtual desk of....
the Port Dover-Woodhouse
Pastoral Charge Office



ROBOT CHATTER

Zoom, Skype, VOIP and more—it may sound like robot noise, but it is actually just a few of the many online meet-up options suggested in the past month as we practiced physical distancing. But nothing really compares to in-person get togethers, right? Until we can congregate again, as you read this newsletter delivered via Canada Post or email, think about your friends from church reading the same words at the same time.

— it reminds me of the lyrics from a popular 1980s kids movie:

*And even though I know how very far apart we are,
it helps to think we might be wishing on the same bright star.
And when the night wind starts to sing a lonesome lullaby,
it helps to think we're sleeping underneath the same big sky.*

From An American Tale—"Somewhere Out There"

Contributed by Robyn York

We need another member on our Christian Education Committee at Grace. Other committees would welcome additional talent too. If you would like to serve in any way within our churches please contact Marjorie Dawson (519-583-3328) or Dave Stone (519-426-5361) Thank you.

“Hey God, Hey John”



God: Hello.....

Me: I'm falling apart.. Can you put me back together?

God: I would rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because you aren't a puzzle.

Me: What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking down!

God: No - you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need anymore to fall off of you. Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you - **YOU AREN'T CHANGING!! YOU ARE BECOMING!**

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light and love, charity, hope, courage, joy, mercy, grace and compassion. I made you

for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off you. I love you! Don't change! Become! Become! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So...I'm not broken?

God: No - but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!

Submitted by Marjorie Dawson,
originally posted on "Hey God, Hey John" Facebook page



From **John Pentland** Reverend, Hillhurst United Church; Calgary

Submitted by Lynn Cornfield, originally published in [Globe & Mail Letters to the Editor, March 17](#)



THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH

Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time 25 minutes.

Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.

I've decided to give our church the \$500.00 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.

I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.

Forget the denominational minimum salary: let's pay our pastor so s/he can live like we do.

I love it when we sing hymns I 've never heard before!

Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!

Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA

1. CARPENTER.
 2. FISHERMAN.
 3. TAX COLLECTOR.
 4. SAME.
 5. RULER OF EGYPT.
 6. FIGHTER.
 7. SHEPHERD.
 8. MAID.
 9. SELLER OF FINE LINENS.
 10. FARMER.
- SUBMITTED BY STEVE
BRIGHTMAN

FROM M&P COMMITTEE

I am pleased to announce that Robyn York will be taking over the duties of Webmaster for the Grace/Woodhouse Pastoral Charge.

Please make sure you forward to Robyn at graceucpd@bellnet.ca your website updates. This includes committee news and event updates to share.

Last but not least don't forget to send her your event photos and tidbits. A big thank you to Robyn for taking over this task and keeping us all organized.

Stay safe, Stay healthy,
Kathryn Bannister, M&P Chairperson

Scripture Readings May 3—June 7



May 3 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 The believers share everything in common.

Psalm 23 God is my shepherd

1 Peter 2:19-25 Christ's example in suffering

John 10:1-10 Jesus the good shepherd and the gate

May 10 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 Stephen is stoned

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 My times are in your hands

1 Peter 2:2-10 A chosen race, a royal priesthood, living stones

John 14:1-14 I am the way, the truth, the life.

May 17 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31 Paul points the Athenians to "the unknown god".

Psalm 66:8-20 God preserved us.

1 Peter 3:13-22 Do not repay evil for evil.

John 14:15-21 The Advocate, the Spirit, will be with you.

May 24 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14 The ascension of Jesus

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 God makes a home for the poor.

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 Cast your cares on God. Be alert.

John 17:1-11 Jesus prays that his disciples "all may be one".

May 31 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 The coming of the Holy Spirit

Psalm 104:24-35*b* God the Creator and Provider

1 Corinthians 12:3*b*-13 One body with many members

John 7:37-39 Rivers of living water

June 7 - Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4*a* The story of creation

Psalm 8 Divine Majesty and human dignity

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Final greetings and blessing

Matthew 28:16-20 The commissioning of the disciples