Easter 2006

Welcome

Welcome to our churches in your community
Vanneck and Melville
Layered in years of history
And now we are here to carry on that fine legacy

Our minister, Reverend Pam Tolmay
Leads us through her preaching
To understand better, the lesson of the day
To follow Jesus’ example, so sit awhile and pray

Our churches are a busy place
Throughout the hectic week
4-H, Brownies, other groups
Occupy our space

The U.C.W. Women’s group
A backbone of our being but hesitant to boast
Quietly working – baking, quilting, planning
Showing compassion through visits, cards and gifts to those who need it most

Our Sunday school teachers
And leaders of our youth
Help prepare our children for life and
Study the Bible’s truth

Our choirs lead us in hymns of old
Which tell of faith and hope
And contemporary hymns
Resound with words that our dear Lord spoke

Our outreach to our community
Ailsa Craig food bank, Women’s Resource Centre
Our firm resolve to help the Aids Relief in Africa
To mention just a few
Our world needs all the help it can get
The world needs you!

Of the many challenges facing us here and there
Many can be helped by effort and fervent prayer
You’re welcome to join us in our spiritual journey
Come be with us in any church

On a Sunday morning. We welcome you!
(See the info in this newsletter, to get the information better)
SPECIAL DAYS, SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

PALM SUNDAY April 9th - We remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and the events of the week before his Passion - We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

THE SEDER SUPPER - Maundy Thursday April 13th - 6:30 pm at Vanneck - this will be a potluck meal. Please bring a Main Course - i.e. a casserole of meat or vegetables and salad or dessert.

Since this is a festival meal that we have inherited from our Jewish brothers and sisters, please refrain from using any Pork Products out of respect for the Jewish tradition of not eating pork.

On Maundy Thursday the church traditionally commemorates the institution of the Lord’s Supper / Eucharist as well as remembering Jesus’ symbolic gesture of washing the disciples’ feet.

The Last Supper (Jesus’ last Seder meal) took place during the time of preparation leading up to the great yearly celebration of the Passover. The meals, which took place during this time period, were all very symbolic and full of rich and joyous ceremony as the Jewish people prepared to retell and celebrate the story of their deliverance from Egypt. Some will argue that this dinner lies at the very foundation of Christianity. The Haggadah or “retelling” of God’s mighty acts of love and redemption can certainly be seen as the basis for the Great Thanksgiving which is an essential part of every service of Holy Communion.

A Seder meal is a ceremony conducted by rules and regulations that have been preserved through custom and convention. While the first and second century Christian Church undoubtedly celebrated the Seder regularly and was familiar with its customs, (see Acts 20:6) it has been almost lost to most of us. Fortunately, our Jewish brothers and sisters have maintained this custom and tradition and we have been able to turn to them for guidance.

Hopefully the celebration of the Seder / Passover meal will, once again, become a well-loved practice within the Christian Church.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 14th - 7:30 pm at Vanneck - Margaret Ryan from Wesley Knox United Church (London) will be with us and guide us through the Stations of the Cross using visual images taken from Classical works of Art. The service will include anthems and hymns along with prayers appropriate for the observance of the Passion of our Lord.
SPECIAL DAYS, SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS (cont'd)

EASTER SUNDAY - April 16th - We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism in Vanneck when Abraham John Chapman and his son Logan Bernard Joseph Chapman will be baptized. Logan is the son of Tracy Chapman and grandson of Jo and Mary Marshall.

Jason Richard Joseph, Leanne Donna Judy and Alex Gary Richard Tencinger children of Richard and Donna and grandchildren of Judy Richards will also be baptized.

Please remember them all in your prayers as they prepare to make their Baptismal promises.

In the early church the 40 days of Lent were used as a time of fasting and preparation for those who would be baptized on Easter Sunday Morning. Baptism symbolizes for us our rising to New Life with Christ and our commitment to be his followers as members of his Body on earth, the Church.

This is why Easter Sunday is a most appropriate time to celebrate this Sacrament.

THE SEASON OF EASTER - THE GREAT 50 DAYS
April 16th to June 4th

Easter is more than a daylong celebration. Easter lasts 50 days, and so we name the Sundays in the season as Sundays of Easter, rather than Sundays after. For 50 days we gather to hear stories of the Risen Christ. For 50 days we gather to be revitalized by remembering the growth and the struggles of the early church. For 50 days we gather to reflect again on the impact this joyous news has on our lives, and our life together. Such an all-embracing task needs a full season of celebration.

During this season of the year readings from the Hebrew Scripture are set aside, and we read instead from the Book of Acts, Luke’s account of the beginnings of the church. The vigor and commitment of the first Christians is inspiring and the issues their communities faced are not always different from the challenges facing us.

The second readings are drawn from 1 John, which urges its readers to live their lives faithfully, remembering that love must find expression in our actions and our lives in community.

The gospel readings are mostly from the Gospel of John highlighting Jesus’ promise to send the Spirit to empower us to live our lives in the power of the Resurrection.

The Colour for the Season of Easter is White signifying purity and New Life.

The Season of Easter culminates with the celebration of the coming of the Spirit and the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday.

Sunday, April 23rd - COMBINED SERVICE OF the UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONS of NORTH MIDDLESEX at MELVILLE UNITED CHURCH at 10:30 am.

We join with our brothers and sisters from the following Pastoral Charges: Ilderton/Birr, Ausable, Ailsa Craig/Brinsley/Carlisle, Lucan, Ivan and Granton/Wesley for a celebration of New Life on the First Sunday in the Season of Easter.

There will be a combined choir and the service will be followed by a Potluck finger food lunch of sandwiches, veggies and squares or cookies. (Each church will be responsible for bringing as much food as appropriate for those attending from their congregation.)
SPECIAL DAYS, SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS (cont'd)

May 14th  CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

May 28th  INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE - “The Story of Joseph”

June 4th  PENTECOST SUNDAY - We will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

June 11th MELVILLE's 120th ANNIVERSARY - 10:30 am

Presenting:

FAITH STORY

with Rev Dr. Barry Moore, Past President - Fanshawe College
(Commentary and Trumpet)

and Alan Davidson (Piano and Organ)

This is a presentation about the birth of Judaism, Christianity and Islam using the spoken word and music. It is aimed primarily at Christians, many of whom have a very limited knowledge of Islam. Alan Davidson and Barry Moore have performed FAITH STORY more than 20 times in United, Anglican, and Roman Catholic Church settings. They are pleased to indicate that significant numbers of Muslims have attended recent performances and have found FAITH STORY both accurate and powerful.

The main purpose of FAITH STORY is to underline the common roots of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is particularly important for Christians in our region to know how much they have in common with Muslims since the London area has such a significant Muslim population.

Bring your friends and neighbours - this service will be followed by a meal being served in the basement of the church.

SUMMER SERVICES - 10:00 am
At VANNECK: July 2  July 9  July 16  July 23  July 30
At MELVILLE: August 6  August 13  August 20  August 27
September 3

FALL SERVICES at both churches resume September 10, 2006
OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

VANNECK’S BEEF BBQ - August 5th at Poplar Hill Park

MELVILLE’S CHICKEN BBQ - September 9th at Poplar Hill Park

Easter Word Puzzle: Try to find 50 Easter-related words or names. Enjoy and have a Blessed Easter. A few words appear twice. Answers are on Page 7.

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Ivan Youth Group

The Youth group at Melville has had a series of speakers since January. They have learned about their personality colours as well as proper nutrition and exercise for their age group.

On April 2, Blue Wolf - Aboriginal Officers Drum, Const. Luke George and friends will share traditions of the native people through singing, drums and discussions. This event takes place at Melville at 1:30 pm and all are invited - Young and Old.

Baptism will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 16th (at Vanneck).
United Church Women (UCW)

Let’s Go To India by Janice Hyde is the theme for the April 3 meeting at 7:30 pm.

Pie and Perennial Sale: The ladies of the church are busy making pies for the Pie and Perennial Sale to be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9 am to 12 noon. We would appreciate if some ladies of the church could help with the pie making. Also fruit that was picked and frozen last year would be graciously accepted or a monetary donation for supplies would be appreciated. This is a church project.

Guest Night: Our May 8th UCW meeting is Our Guest Night. The theme for the evening is “Quilts”. Shirley Bobier of The Marsh Store will be our speaker.

Garden Tour: June 5th meeting will be a tour of a garden.

We invite all women of the church to attend our meetings on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. This is your organization. If you have any questions contact Jean Campbell, President at (519) 666-1579. Hope to see you at some of our events.

Vanneck Pancake Brunches: Thank you to the surrounding community - from London to Strathroy to Sarnia to Windsor to St. Thomas and beyond - for supporting our Pancake Brunches. Special thanks to the Vanneck congregation for all the hours spent preparing and serving our new successful menu.

Ric Hodgson

Vintage Fashion Show: Vanneck presents a Vintage Fashion Show on Wednesday, July 19 at 7:00 pm. at the church. It will be from the personal collection of Marion Kernihan's original antique clothing with items from 1870 to 1950.

Marlene Hodgson

After 9: “After 9” is a ladies group within Vanneck United Church that was formed about 20 years ago when many had young children and could not get together until after 9 pm. Some of you will remember, but our name is unique, and always prompts questions.

Anniversary Cookbook: Over the years we have had many projects for our church. We are now leading up to the 150th anniversary (2010) of our church, and the After 9 group has decided to compile a cookbook of our family favourites. Although this occasion is a few years away, our goal is to have all recipes gathered and printed by the end of 2006.

We still need recipes for appetizers, beverages, sauces, soups, dressings, muffins, and preserves. Contributions should be forwarded to Alma Robb, Bev Carruthers, Nancy Long or Nicky Easton.
Outreach

The Outreach Committee is planning ahead for various projects as well as celebrating our past successes. Some of these are listed here.

Gertie's Garden: Pam, on her recent study trip to South Africa, hand-delivered the Gertie's Garden funds raised by our pastoral charge. Now called Vumani Garden, the project grows fresh vegetables in support of improved nutrition for persons inflicted with HIV/AIDS. Vumani means, "to uplift". Pam and Gertie both appear to be uplifted in the photo of the funds being turned over.

Ailsa Craig Foodbank: Collection of food and toiletries for the Foodbank is ongoing at both churches.

Canadian Foodgrains: A fundraising event with dinner and entertainment is being planned for the fall. It is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Sunday, October 29, 2006. Please mark your calendars.

Koins for Kids: This will be a follow-up to the Gertie's Garden collection. This time our coin collection will be in support of a daycare in South Africa which tends to 150 two to five year olds, many of whom are HIV positive, have AIDS or are orphans where the guardians are older siblings or grandparents. More information will follow.

"Give to the world the best you have
And the best will come back to you."

Easter Word Puzzle Answers

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Melville: Spring cleanup of the church grounds will take place on the morning of Saturday, April 29. This is the same day as the plant and pie sale. The Stewards invite all who are able to help us with tidying up.
Welcome to our churches. Sunday morning services for adults, youth and children are open to all.

Vanneck United Church  
22651 Vanneck Road (at Ilderton Rd)  
*Sunday Service at 9:30 am*

Melville United Church  
(hamlet of Ivan)  
24159 Nairn Road  
*Sunday Service At 11:00 am*

Our Minister: Rev. Pam Tolmay  
(519) 245-7598  
email: pjtolmay@rogers.com

The arctic crèche above is just one of numerous nativity scenes that were on display at Melville's annual "No Room at the Inn" tearoom and display in November.