



TRINITY NEWS

May
2007

HAROLD STEED

BEACONS OF LIGHT.

60 years a Minister!

Ordained for 60 years! In May we will be able to congratulate Rev. Harold Steed on such a milestone. He was ordained at Emmanuel College in 1947. Much precedes and much follows that date which made Harold Steed the much respected and loved United Church minister that he is.



Harold followed in the footsteps of his father Rev. J. Arthur Steed who grew up in a poor Welsh miner's family. There was little money, education or prospects. But there was a Sunday School teacher who taught by Christian example. Arthur learned the lesson not to retaliate but rather to nurture with love and respect. Even though education was lacking, Arthur's ability and enthusiasm for telling of God's love shone through. Many supportive hands helped Arthur get an undergraduate degree at Montreal's McGill and a divinity degree at Congregational College. Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Steed and young Robert Arthur and baby Harold went to the Congregational Mission at Chessamba, Angola. And so, young Harold grew up in Angola.

When the family returned to Canada Rev. Arthur Steed ministered at Drayton United and Harold began his first formal schooling at Drayton High School. Later, a degree from Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, facilitated his eventual return to Angola to help them with better farming practices. After O.A.C. and a brief time in the army, Harold, like his father and older brother, chose the ministry. After ordination at Emmanuel, Rev. Harold, wife Lillian and daughters Joy and Kathryn were off to Angola to the same

I'm reflecting back on my whirlwind trip to Kenya to see Katherine and Noël and visit their home and workplace of the past ten months. Many images cross my mind - the searing heat of the sun, the deep ruts and potholes in the dirt roads which made driving and walking a challenge, the experience of sleeping in a hut with no running water or electricity, the magnificent starry sky, the necessary "hole in the ground" outhouse, the incredible ability of everyone to look fresh and clean all day while I sweated and wilted.

But above all, three words sum up my experience - a caring community, resilience, and joy.

On Sunday I worshiped at St Paul Methodist Church whose lay leaders are also the leaders of the community - the Ugunja Community Resource Centre, the Health Clinic and the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC). Do you find our worship service too long? Are you wanting to get home for lunch? We began gathering at 10am, worshipped until 1pm and then split into fellowship groups for a further hour. Lunch was finally taken after 2 o'clock! I met with the youth group under a tree - ages from 15 to 35 and learned of their Saturday programs for the OVC's (orphans and vulnerable children) to build up their self-esteem and gain some social skills.

Some of the women I met illustrate the resilience and hope of the people of Kenya. Mary is the wife of Aggrey, the executive director and driving force of UCRC. She was our host mother and we joined the family for supper late each night. She is also one of the AIDs counsellors and a member of the Women's Fellowship. With her I visited the cow they had been given and the field where the women were hoeing napier grass to feed it - then joined them for their meeting over the inevitable cup of sweet, milky tea. How do you divide up the duties of caring for a cow between 40 women? And who gets the milk? Such a gift from the Developed World creates many complications for the recipients in Africa.



MINISTER'S COMMENTS

from the Rev. Jack Paleczny

Just this week, Dianna Lynn and I were returning from a brief vacation. We were racing down the runway at over 600 miles an hour, the scenery on the ground flashing past us, the vibrations of the runway felt throughout the plane. Faster and faster. And finally lift off! To what? To our hoped for destination or tragedy?

I thought of Trinity. The congregation is working hard to get both wings in place in **ministers** chosen for roles which have been well thought-out, designated and prioritized. The body is being made ready for flight through the discussion of **governance structures** and the search for **new models** of leadership, worship, pastoral care, Christian education, stewardship, and outreach to our local community and our world. Everything may be shaking and rattling, but we are moving at tremendous speed, and we are ready for take off!

We are flying towards the VISION of Trinity which has been dreamed of and enunciated over the years – the *Church on the Marketplace*, the *hands and voice of Christ* - right up to the recent **JNAC report**, the current discussions of the **future of the United Church in K-W**, the vision of the **Four Churches** project, the preparation for and opportunity of **Emerging Spirit**. With so much happening we could feel overwhelmed. But there is in Trinity a spirit of excitement

and a belief that to rise to the challenge is to embrace the future. We have the courage to see challenge as opportunity, change as growth, and letting go as an expression of hope!

And so, we are not dwelling on what's not perfect among us, and neither are we obsessed with holding on to what we feel is perfect! We are not letting negativity exhaust our energies and drain our enthusiasm. We see ourselves called to a leadership of service. Our desire is to be there with and for all the members and adherents of our congregation and all the people of the United Church in our area. We have faith that we can find a way to be the Church of Jesus Christ in our area, our nation and our world in a new era. We will worship in a place and an expression that meets personal needs, desires and preferences. Together, we will do tremendous good for others in outreach that touches the needs of people in our own region and the needs of our hurting world at so many levels.

The vision continues to be large enough to draw us to lift our wheels off the ground and look to the far horizon and zoom forward with the trust that it is the Lord who is *the wind beneath our wings!*



FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Marguerite Johnston, Chair

One of the strengths of each of our Council Members continues to be their ability to dream the dreams that carry us into the future of this United Church of ours. And I continue to be uplifted and strengthened by the ideas that this group supports and brings forward from conversations with other Trinity Members and Groups.

Our most recent Council Session focused on visioning discussions in two overlapping areas – Governance and Emerging Spirit. Discussion centred on four different questions, from the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair to changes

in how, when, and where Council and the various Committees of Council meet, to next steps in the Emerging Spirit movement at Trinity, to potentials for Committee amalgamations.

The discussion was lively – the ideas flowed freely. The role of Chair is seen as one of enabling decisions and visioning, of facilitating decisions and actions. This often involves detailed steps that could be shared by the Vice-Chair, lightening the load. One potential for simplifying

(cont'd on pg. 6)

Harold Steed (cont'd from pg. 1)

mission and house where Harold grew up. Imagine Harold singing the old Welsh hymns with the Africans, remembering his father doing this. After 10 years Harold and family returned to Canada so the children could get formal schooling. Harold became the minister at Moorefield and filled in at Drayton for six months.

From Leaside United Harold Steed went to the dual charge of Troy and Linden for eight years. Then the Steeds moved to Niagara-on- The-Lake and St. Catherines. When he retired, they came to Waterloo to be near their daughter Joy. Harold helped with the Lowville Spirituality Seminar. There he got to know Gail Summers who brought his name to Trinity when we were seeking a successor to Rev. Harry Herlihey as visiting minister.

With a warm heart and sunny smile Harold visited the elderly and sick and lifted seniors' spirits by playing piano to lead singing and added meaning to many a program. Harold retired from that visiting position in 1995. Meanwhile he was preparing hymn books for the Angolans in Unbundu

He has not stopped being actively involved at Trinity. That Welsh singing ability still allows this 88 year old to contribute in the choir. In fact, being involved with the choir is Harold Steed's passion. He is a respected mentor and loved by all of them. While Harold and the rest of the choir can sing the old hymns with gusto, he and they sing new hymns with equal energy and enthusiasm. Alan Whitmore has opened that opportunity.

New church music is not the only new Christian aspect of Harold's interests. The new frontiers of Christianity have been explored with eagerness. John Spong and Marcus Borg's books and ideas are no strangers to Harold Steed. Old colonial superiority went to Africa (and elsewhere) to hand the native peoples our "superior" religion. Some Christian leaders have seen this as wrong. The Steeds held the humbler view. And ever since, Harold Steed has sought the new frontiers of Christianity - 60 years of it as an ordained United Church clergy.

SPRING CALLING/ VISITING

It's that time of year again, for the Care-liners and Pastoral Visitors to phone and/or visit people from Trinity. Because of limited resources and also the fact that some active members had indicated that they didn't need a call, not everyone will be phoned. If you are fortunate enough to receive a phone call, we hope that it will be appreciated.

You may or may not know the caller by name but we invite you to become acquainted. Phone calls will be made between now and June 3rd, with the intention of informing you about Trinity's services and activities, assuring everyone a warm welcome if you wish to attend. However, the main reason for the call and/or visit is to keep the "lines of communication" open, enabling information to be exchanged in a spirit of confidentiality, and follow-up by our ministers to take place, if so desired. Because there is sometimes oversight of address changes, etc., these statistics will also be verified. The "bottom line" is that we are a church "family" and this is one way that we can demonstrate our care for one another. Just as the callers will be sharing something of themselves, we invite your enthusiastic response, thereby assuring that both parties have felt the experience worthwhile. Enjoy!

Submitted by Joan Gugeler

Congratulations Flighty

Flighty Otika was admitted as a new member to Trinity United Church in May 2006. Since then she has been extremely busy, especially with her education. The Canadian Federation of University Women, Kitchener Waterloo Chapter recently awarded Flighty the Hildegard Marsden Award, an award for receiving high marks.

What a distinction!

Beacons of Light (cont'd from pg. 1)

Pamela is one of 25 volunteer community health workers located in smaller communities in the area. Katherine and I went out with her on two home visits. They were living in great poverty. Both were young women with at least one young child, and both were clearly dying of HIV or AIDS unless they could get further treatment. . Pamela checked their drugs and tried to give them and their caregivers hope and encouragement.. She told us that cases just as bad as these had made good recovery with proper treatment, but I could not see how that would be possible in these circumstances..

Francesca is the chairperson of another women's group some 80 strong. Both this group and the St Paul Women's Fellowship do much pastoral and supportive work, visiting the widows and elderly in their area, meeting their basic needs for food and care, enabling the orphans to stay in the community. In return I told her of our church involvement with Out of the Cold and Busy Babies, and indicated that, in general, we were not needed to meet people's basic survival needs, but tried to support the work of others through our financial givings. My discussion with the youth and the women made me realise once more how rich we are, both in material ways and the resources to which we have access.

The last person I met, just three hours before my flight home, was Philomena. She runs an organisation called TEMAK - Teenage Mothers Association of Kenya in the nearby city of Kisumu. Passionate, lively and determined, she has developed a centre to rescue girls and young women from the slums, to give them self-esteem and life skills. The centre is self-sustaining and the girls earn some income from the crafts they make and the trades they have learned. Her dream is to build a City of Hope, where there will be proper daycare facilities and a halfway home for girls leaving the slums. With her drive and energy I am sure she will achieve this dream.

I am excited because this visit did not occur in a vacuum. There are now strong connections with the Kitchener - Waterloo community, as a group of us with ties to Ugunja meet and explore ways to provide ongoing support. When Katherine and Noël return in June there will be many opportunities to explore these connections further.

Newspapers are filled with negative stories about Africa and other parts of the world. In contrast, imagine a world viewed from outer space, where all the communities which are working for justice and sustainable development are lit up. It would truly be a world filled with beacons of light.

submitted by Barbara Bitzer

Library News

If you enjoyed the *Living the Questions* series and want to explore further some of the ideas presented by the video facilitators, visit our library.

Some recent additions are books by new authors, including Marcus Borg and John Spong. Check out these and other recent additions displayed on the shelves.

The DVD of *Living the Questions* is also available for personal use upon request.

If the library is unknown territory to you, you will find it opposite the Hearth Room on the lower corridor.

Drop in any time.

Services planned by families

Mark these special events.

May 13– Christian Family Sunday, also known as Mother's day

June 17– Annual service and Picnic at Steckle Heritage Farm

Both services are being planned by a small lay group. Expect lively drama or dialogue, and upbeat music for all ages.

WHY GOD MADE MOMS

ANSWERS BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Why did God make mothers?

- She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
- Mostly to clean the house.
- To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

- He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
- Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
- God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

- God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
- They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other Mom?

- We're related.
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your Mom?

- My Mom has always been my Mom and none of that other stuff.
- I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
- They say she used to be nice.

What did Mom need to know about dad before she married him?

- His last name.
- She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
- Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your Mom marry your dad?

- My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.
- She got too old to do anything else with him.
- My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

- Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
- Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
- I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

- Moms work at work & work at home, & dads just go to work at work.
- Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
- Dads are taller & stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.
- Moms have magic. They make you feel better without medicine.

What does your Mom do in her spare time?

- Mothers don't do spare time.
- To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your Mom perfect.

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

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

- She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
- I'd make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
- I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on her back.

from the Internet.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.

So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. For the life of me I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this...they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

from the Internet

Church Council (cont'd from pg. 2)

Council business might be in greater use of email communication, electronic updates, and more extensive sharing of information prior to meeting times.

What about alternatives for the regular monthly Tuesday evening Council Meetings? Council members discussed the merits of organizing Council and Committee meetings around a single Family Night where all might be invited to come together for a fellowship event followed by a common meeting time.

When it comes to visioning around Emerging Spirit, the ideas came pouring forth – ideas like alternative worship services, bring a friend to Church day (for worship or a different event), workshops on social issues, greater use of advertising for special events. And then there were those in favour of wine and munchies at non-worship events...

One of the most promising potentials for governance restructuring may be to simplify our Committee structure with fewer core groups, and greater numbers of functions being performed by members reporting in to Committees, but not attending regular meetings.

Following up on these discussions, Council agreed to continue these discussions electronically. What do you think? If you have any thoughts or ideas on any of these issues, we'd love to hear from you. Just speak to any Council Member or email me at mwjohnston@golden.net.

Council will continue to take the lead on trying new ways of doing the business of Trinity. Our next meeting will be held following worship on June 10th, and will combine a meeting with a lunch. Why not consider joining us? This session will highlight the many different ways your Committees are carrying out the mandates approved for the 2007 year. Come out and hear what plans are afoot, what's been happening, and what's in store for the rest of this year. Please make your intentions known to me, so that lunch can be provided.

Give our photocopier a name contest

The winners of the "Name Our Copier" contest were two of our staff members, Jane Ballantyne and Ken Summers. The name is **Monk**. If you get The Record and look at editorial caroons you will remember the one about photocopiers. FYI, the cartoon is mounted above the copier.

AROUND TRINITY



EASTER BONNETS!



WE EAT AGAIN! O WHAT FELLOWSHIP!



COFFEE AFTER VOLUNTEER COVENANTING SERVICE

MYRTA RIVERA

It is some thing for which she has been training for all her life, Myrta says, as she embarks on a journey to join the residency chaplain programme at St Mary's Hospital. Already she works two days a week as an on call chaplain. She leaves her position as the executive director of the K-W Multicultural Centre in June, where she will be sorely missed. The chair of the board has worked with Myrta for over 10 years and complements her on a sense of pastoral and compassionate skills, her sense of justice.

In her position in the Multicultural Centre she was instrumental in finding a new home for the centre and she left her mark in the relationships she built in the community over the years. In the Covenanting Service held at Trinity United Church on April 15th, 2007, evidence of those

relationships were seen, for not only was she surrounded by family and friends but virtually the whole staff from the Centre. The local MPP and MP were also there to be present at this time of her covenanting.

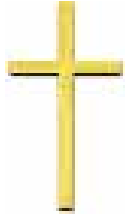
Myrta has equipped herself with two master's degrees, one in theology and one in world religions and has taught religion classes at the University of Waterloo. It was there that she realized she was cut out more for helping others.

She came to the Centre at a time of transition as they began to expand on social services for immigrants. Her loss to the Centre

is offset by the gain to St. Mary's Hospital. Her love for people and meeting their needs will continue to shine in Kitchener.



*Submitted by Clif Dobson
Information also obtained from **The Record**.*



THE CHURCH FAMILY

DECEASED

Norman Lanktree

April 17, 2007

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	“New” Spring/Summer Office Hours
May 24 - 26		Hamilton Conference at the University of Guelph
May 26	4:00 p.m.	“New Ministries Service” - admission of Rev. Jack Paleczny into Ordered Ministry in the United Church of Canada
May 27	10:15 a.m.	Pentecost - Morning Worship
June 3	10:15 a.m.	Trinity Sunday - Service of Holy Communion
June 10	10:15 a.m.	Children/Youth Musical “Malice in the Palace”
June 17	10:15 a.m.	Worship and Congregational Picnic at Steckle Farm
June 24	10:15 a.m.	Morning Worship - Farewell to Rev. Roy Holton

SUMMER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

July 1, 8, 15	Highland Road United Church
July 22, 29, August 5	Trinity United Church
August 12, 19, 26	Zion United Church

Opportunity Sale

Friday, May 4 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Spring and Summer sale items only, please.

Donation may be dropped off at the church

Tuesday, May 1 - Thursday, May 3.

Volunteers needed for sorting and on sale dates.

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