

THE FISHERMAN'S LOG

St. Andrew's Anglican Church's Newsletter

May 2010

Vol. I, No. 1

A New Format – The newsletter has a new look, a new outreach vehicle for the parish. We have a number of ways to communicate: our website which is updated frequently, telephone messaging, email correspondence, letters, “at a glance” weekly notices sent via email. But we all communicate differently. So this newsletter is intended to be a journal, a log, a record of the doings of the parish as well as to inform the parish and the community what we are up to at St. Andrew's. Let us know your thoughts. Please, give feedback to the editor.

a bon mot from jo+ – The great 50 days of Easter come to an end with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost – a red day for us all. The red of Canada maple leaves abound in our 2010 Olympics shirts, but it is the Flames jerseys that hold more symbolism for Pentecost, I think. We are on fire with the Holy Spirit at St. Andrew's. And St. Andrew's is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's will.

In the first century and before, Pentecost was first an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of the first fruits. It was the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover. In New Testament Pentecost refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We, the church, are the body of Christ, and during Pentecost we are drawn together and given new life by the Holy Spirit.

With the spring comes new life, new growth. And that is what is in store for St. Andrew's. Yes, the colour of the Day of Pentecost is red for the fire of the Holy Spirit, but green is the liturgical colour the remainder of the season of Pentecost – green for life, green for growth.

For most of the summer and autumn we will live our life together in the church in Pentecost. Sometimes this is called “ordinary time.” But it can be extraordinary if we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to bring life and growth to the church.

If you are traveling this summer and early fall, keep a journal, a log of what you are doing. Bring a church bulletin from where you worshipped while you were on holiday and post it on the bulletin board. And bring back your stories back and share it with your parish family. There will be a column in the newsletter for that purpose. Another forum to share your travel log is our parish breakfasts. I think you might be surprised to see where the Holy Spirit is at work, for you will take us with you on your travels.

What are the gifts of the spirit? There are seven gifts of the spirit correspond to the seven virtues:

- The gift of wisdom corresponds to the virtue of charity.
- The gift of understanding corresponds to the virtue of faith.
- The gift of counsel (right judgment) corresponds to the virtue of prudence.
- The gift of fortitude corresponds to the virtue of courage.
- The gift of knowledge corresponds to the virtue of faith.
- The gift of piety (or reverence) corresponds to the virtue of justice.
- The gift of fear (or wonder and awe) of the Lord corresponds to the virtue of hope.

I see the gifts of the spirit and also the virtues of the people of St. Andrew's because the Holy Spirit resides here. Ω

Popham

The Rev'd Jo

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Outreach is Alive – and Outreach brings life to the church, as well as to those we serve.

Calgary Drop In and Rehab Centre: The lunch bunch will continue to serve lunch during the summer on the third Thursday of the month. Our numbers are dwindling a bit, so if you are interested in joining the group, or just working occasionally, please contact Carole Thomson. Between travel and serving, it is about a two hour commitment. There is also a benefit package: a lovely, clean white apron for you to wear! 2009 Statistics from the DI: over one million meals served; 413,000 bed nights provided to people who had nowhere else to go; 12,000 clients served; 112 people graduated from the Certificate Training Initiative; 61 seniors attended the DI's Day Program daily; 37 DI clients passed away (average age 49); 1318 people dropped off at the DI by CPS, EMS or Calgary Transit; 896 calls for CPS and EMS assistance.

If you would like to be a part of this vital and vibrant group, call the office or meet at the church on the third Thursday. And we at St. Andrew's donated 700 lb. of potatoes to the Drop-In Centre for Christmas

- We also have a significant relationship with St. Edmunds, a close neighbouring Anglican parish where twice a week needy people can come for food and clothing. Many of our parishioners take part in this ministry. At Christmas the parish contributed hundreds of dollars towards turkeys for their Christmas hampers in The Very Rev'd Fabian Hugh's name.

St. Edmund's Garage Sale: Just a reminder that St. Edmund's Garage Sale will be held June 12th from 9 to 5. They are gratefully taking donations at this time – see the bulletin for a list of acceptable items.

Please note: there will be a hiatus again this summer re: grocery bag donation starting the middle of June. The St. Edmund's basket will return in the Fall.

Calgary Meals on Wheels –from Pam Harris. Pam has delivered Meals on Wheels for about 20 years and would like to encourage anyone who has a couple of hours to spare in the middle of the day once a week to volunteer their time to be a driver or courier to deliver meals throughout the city or to work in other capacities. Recipients usually receive a hot meal and also a bagged lunch (soup, sandwich, fruit and dessert). The volunteer who delivers the food may be the only personal contact the client has that day. The organization also runs a bag lunch program for the Drop in Centre and a hot soup program for certain elementary schools. For more information please phone 403-243-2834 or email info@mealsonwheels.com. or check the brochure on the bulletin board downstairs.

- Stephen Ford is the chair of the Refugee ministry for the Diocese of Calgary and is an active member of the parish which leads to easy integration of members interacting with the refugee community. However, several parishioners have had long-term mentoring relationships with the program for years. The Ladies Group recently had a “shower” for the new refugee family from Iraq.

- The parish “adopted” a family new to Calgary by setting up their household, from furniture, to bedding, to clothing, to kitchen appointments, to food in the pantry. At Christmas we provided Christmas for them by way of an Angel Tree.

“Let there be music!”

From the Music Men & Women

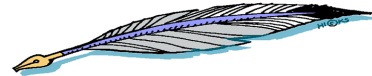
- If you have musical skills or simply like to make a joyful noise, come praise God through music at St. Andrew's.

- The choir has a new director Bryon Seeley who welcomes happy voices. They rehearse Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m and would welcome new voices.

- The Jubilation service musicians headed up by talented guitarists and gifted vocalists led by Cindy Hand lead the evening Sunday service on first Sundays.

- Jazz Vespers is a service led by our resident jazz musician Dave Klinger twice a year that everyone in Calgary looks forward to.

- Our resident composer Dave Klinger has written responses and accompaniment settings for all of the Psalms for last year and is continuing to do the same for us this year.



Parker's Pen

By the time this edition of The Fisherman's Log is published we will be past the seasons of Lent and Easter, but they are so fresh in my mind as I take up my 'pen' that I feel I must make comment.

I was looking forward very much to Lent, determined to do my best to follow the Ash Wednesday invitation to observe it by 'self examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God' – but must admit I didn't manage to do anywhere near as well as I'd planned.

But what a glorious Easter.

Full marks to Jo for her tireless organizing to bring us not only meaningful Lenten instructions but a busy week leading up to Easter Sunday the likes of which I certainly hadn't experienced before.

Palm Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, twice on Saturday, and then the joyful resurrection day were good for the soul.

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I had the pleasure of reading the part of Jesus on Palm Sunday and being blessed with - or troubled with - the kind of mind that pays attention to more than one thing at a time, I was troubled reading the line, "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing."

Surely he was addressing the Jews, and I was thinking of how the church has not forgiven and the many examples of cruel punishment meted out over the centuries.

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One thing I did manage to stick to during Lent was reading and I must thank St. Andrew's library for providing me with one of the most thought provoking and uplifting books I've ever had the pleasure to study.

A Season for the Spirit is a book of daily readings and meditations for the days of Lent, written by Martin Smith, SSJE, former Superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, an Episcopalian monastic community located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In discussing the catholicity of the church in its universal scope of the totality of Christ's redemption, Smith says, "the church . . . cannot rest until the gifts and the special character of every different race and culture are incorporated into its life, transforming and enriching it. I cannot call myself a catholic Christian unless I embrace this mission."

Don't wait for next Lent to borrow it from the library.

I had a wonderful experience with men of another faith

when I was invited by a Hindu gentleman to dinner in his home. A wonderful spread but as we were about to tuck in another Hindu guest asked if he could say grace? I was very moved by his simple, "Lord we thank you for bringing us together in fellowship to talk about our mission to build a hospital for the poor in India, please bless our fellowship and this food. Amen."

The next day I emailed my new friend to thank him for arranging the wonderful evening and also for his prayer. He replied that he wasn't very good at praying but felt moved to give thanks to God for our time together.

We have had dinner again since then and I have been blessed to meet another Hindu businessman who embraced me with kindness as he told me about his project to build a hospital in the Punjab. He has done well here and is using his time and talents and money to provide our standards of health to the poor in his hometown.

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No matter the faith of another where there is God there is love and I believe it so important to rejoice with those who rejoice; to celebrate good deeds opens us up to experience a wonderful sense of joy.

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I've been reading an interesting book on Olea Europea - the olive tree - that has a history almost as long as that of Western civilization. Here's some interesting trivia that you should know about the olive that was already growing in abundance in Canaan in biblical times where olives and olive oil were used for food, cooking, oil, medicine, lamp fuel and ointment. In Exodus 33: 22 the Lord tells Moses to make anointing oil using about four quarts of olive oil.

The dove returned to Noah carrying an olive leaf; Jerusalem was founded on the slopes of the Mount of Olives; and Gethsemane means oil press.

Little wonder it has such culinary virtues.



St. Andrew's Log - a retrospective look at the life of the parish

The last year and five months brought change to the parish. CHANGE? Oh the horror! Anglicans CAN change, and we can even enjoy most of the changes.

- The New Year of 2009 brought us a new leader – The Rev'd Jo Anne Popham who has served as our Interim and now as our Priest in Charge. As she read the parish family we read her. As a congregational growth and development minister at a sister church, she came with skills we did not know we needed. The wardens interviewed her seeking someone to help the parish heal. So initially Jo spent much of her time listening to our story and loving us back to health. In early spring the parish gathered with the Bishop and Wardens at an evening meeting in a safe environment where we made a covenant to ask hard questions and to listen and to speak in love. And the parish turned a corner in our life together that evening and healing turned to growth.
- We have partied together at two Pub nights in 2009 and 2010. We were entertained by fine local talent from within the parish and were treated to delicious meals.
- During Lent many of us took part in two Lenten series where in 09 we were introduced to and practiced new spiritual disciplines. In 2010 we embraced our Jewish roots. The sessions were offered twice each Wednesday, in the afternoon and in the evening, with Evensong and a soup meal between. Attendance was between 22 and 26 but with a great turnout of 45 people at the last of the 2010 series.
- Holy Week was observed with reverence throughout the Triduum, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday services both years. There was the annual pilgrimage to Entheos after the Good Friday services both years, but 2009 was special as we gathered to dedicate the new plaques for the Way of the Cross that the St. Andrew's members had created for Entheos. We observed Passover by holding a Christian Seder in 2010 with 51 in attendance (counting Elijah...). We added the Great Vigil of Easter this year with a trumpet fanfare and percussion sound effects added to the readings. And Easter Day brought our second annual Easter egg hunt.
- In 2009 the Sunday School celebrated the school year end with a fabulous pizza party on Pentecost after the presentation of Bibles to the oldest members of the classes the same Sunday that the parish treated Jo and her entire family to an Ordination Lunch after her first Eucharist.
- A new congregational growth group was formed in the summer of 2009 to reach out to the neighbourhood.
- Our parish breakfasts have been well attended due to the fine organization but also because of the great speakers including our own Finn, the wonderdog and his Guide dog trainer Nancy Klinger. In April, Katie and Sharon Brown, great nieces of Doreen Catley and Melba

Marsden spoke movingly about their experiences with short-term mission projects; Katie was on the Pauingassi First Nation reserve in Manitoba and Sharon in Mexico and Uganda.

- Last Fall an adult Education series *Sacred Meets Secular* was presented twice on six Wednesdays to the Kaleidoscope group at noon and again in the evening to a crowd of seekers. On average 25 people attended.
- In 2009 our extended community at the Colonel Belcher began monthly celebrations of the Eucharist followed by fellowship time over tea and cookies.
- A new service OddSong – now called JUBILATION, a celebration of song and supper – was added in the Fall on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Contemporary and international music is led by parish musicians. A pasta supper follows the more informal interactive service.
- During coffee hour we celebrated the ministry of our choir director Pat Barton after her retirement; 45 years of music ministry of a choir member Jim Stewart, and numerous birthdays and anniversaries.
- Our Spring Jazz Vespers led by Dave Klinger took on a distinctive New Orleans flavour with the choir second-lining in and out to great jazz; the Fall Jazz Vespers featured Opera Baritone Alan Monk singing spirituals with our choir. And in 2010 we were treated to a five-piece brass ensemble for Jazz Vespers.
- We celebrated 40 years of ordained ministry of Fabian Hugh, one of our retired honorary assistant priests, with a sumptuous breakfast, gifts, and two Eucharists.
- Throughout the year our Ladies' Group offered extraordinary hospitality to the parish for special events and services. The Christmas Tea and Bazaar was spectacular last year and in spite of a snow storm a good sum was raised to support specific outreach projects voted on by the Ladies Group. \$1170 raised from the Lenten Lunches will be donated to the Diocesan Refugee Committee.
- The church is sporting a new roof with ample insulation – part of our intentional efforts to be more “green.” Construction was completed just in time for the winter snows.
- The Canonical Committee to seek our new Rector worked throughout the year to write a new parish profile with the input from the entire parish. With the leadership of the Wardens the committee they also wrote a comprehensive vision for the next five years based on the visioning work of the Vestry in 2008.
- In 2009 parishioners traveled together on buses to the Passion Play in Drumheller in the summer and to Zoolights at the Calgary Zoo in the winter – brrrr.
- Life Events – Many Baptisms and Marriages and Renewal of Marriage Vows and Funerals were celebrated marking the life passages of the parish

throughout the year.

- Advent brought new traditions with congregational projects after each service in Advent. The children, their teachers, and the choir led the entire congregation in a lessons and carols full participation pageant. Ω

LENT 2010 AT ST ANDREW'S

This Lent we at St. Andrew's embraced our Jewish roots by using the DVD series of Bruce Feiler's *Walking the Bible* as the basis for the first three weeks of discussion. Another evening was spent on the history of Jerusalem. Rebecca Levant, a Jewish Cantor, instructed and demonstrated the art of leading worship and praising God through song and this was a truly memorable presentation, which linked us to our Jewish roots in a very moving way. Each week we enjoyed fellowship with a shared meal lovingly prepared by Jo.

Our series concluded with a Christian Seder on the Wednesday of Holy Week, which was attended by 50 people and led by the Rev. Joanne Popham and the Very Rev. Fabian Hugh. We were instructed through the traditions and prayers and then enjoyed a feast of lamb. I know all present enjoyed this memorable and a meaningful evening of education and fellowship.



Breaking the Matzah at the Seder

St Andrew's Book Discussion Group

Formerly known as the Reading Circle, this group meets several times a year to discuss books chosen by those interested. The aim is to challenge the growth and development of the participants' values, thoughts and spiritual life. Anyone can attend and participate according to their comfort level. This past year the books have been Marina Endicott's *Good to a Fault*, John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, Andrea Levy's *Small Island*, and Wm.P. Young's *The Shack*.

Each has provided lively discussion and of course the opportunity for fellowship over beverages and goodies provided by the host.

Some thoughts on our monthly **JUBILATION!** service.

Our monthly evening service has been held for eight months. Thanks to an energetic and insightful committee called Community Growth, we started off with *Odd Song* in September. The original intent was to offer an evening service twice a month on the odd Sundays – thus the name *Odd Song* as opposed to Evensong. It was quickly realized that to hold two services a month would be too draining on the people generously offering their time.

The service has now evolved to being held once a month on the third Sunday throughout the year with the exception of July and August. With this firm format one can be confident of the timing. It has also been renamed **JUBILATION!** - an apt name indicating the mood of the service - a joyful celebration and a place where participants feel and express joy in the worship of our Lord. It is our hope that through word of mouth and through advertising in the community we will continue to attract people from beyond our congregation as well as our own members.

I have attended most evening services since their inception. I enjoy the informal atmosphere of the worship and praise singing, which also includes communion. The service is held downstairs where a child-friendly atmosphere has been created. Both parents and children feel comfortable with the arrangement. There is also an opportunity for voluntary interactive participation. I also enjoy the hot pasta meal provided following the service and the camaraderie that goes along with sharing a meal together.

If you have not yet come to **JUBILATION!** come along sometime bring a friend or relative.... spread the word. Earmark your calendar for the third Sunday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Help us to continue to make **JUBILATION!** a means of growth for both for the church and the community.

Ginny Betty

Know thy Neighbours

Jim and Lorna Stewart • Laura White and Gord (in memoriam) Biographer Doreen Catley

Jim and Lorna Stewart

Jim was born in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. His father, Joseph (Milton) and his grandfather, also Joseph, had come to the west from Ontario in 1907. After working in a lumber mill near Fernie, they homesteaded 7 miles N. of Shaunavon in 1908. In 1923 Milton married Vi Christianson, the daughter of Icelandic parents who emigrated from North Dakota in 1910. Jim had 2 older sisters, Doris and Jean. Jim's Grandfather Joseph was a fine carpenter, mechanic, farmer, horseman, a good cook and a crack rifleman and all round handyman. Because of this the Stewart farm performed well until Joseph's death in 1925 when he was 71. Jim's dad Milton took over the farm at that time and although he was adept with numbers, he was definitely not a farmer. The farm started to deteriorate and went downhill drastically with the depression and drought of the '30's. Milton died in 1940 – yet another farmer destroyed by hard times on the prairies of Western Canada. The mortgage Co. took over the ¾ section farm and the family went to live with Grandmother Anna Christianson on a small farm at Semans, just N of Regina. Jim's Mom, who had no formal training, went to work for some of the farm neighbours as a live-in housekeeper for \$5.00 per month plus room and board. After his stay with Grandma Anna, Jim went to live with an aunt and uncle until his Mom took another housekeeping job in Alberta and in 1947 at he age of 15 Jim joined her at the small Hamlet of Iddesleigh, just N of Medicine Hat. He

attended high school at Bow Valley Central in Cluny from 1947-1951 returning during the summers to Iddesleigh to work for the C.P.R. doing track maintenance work. His Mom gave him what few dollars she had and Jim was off to U of A in Edmonton to study Petroleum Engineering. He graduated in 1955 and was immediately employed by the Shell Oil Co. receiving training in Calgary, Regina and Weyburn, Sask. before a 9-month training experience in Texas. In the spring of 1957 he was transferred to Edmonton where he worked on the Athabaska Tar Sands at Fort McMurray. He also worked on many wells that Shell drilled in Northern Alberta. Jim also worked 4 years with Lewis Engineering Consulting, 18 years with Dome Petroleum Ltd. and 11 years at Pan Canadian Petroleum Ltd., retiring in 1995. For many years he sang with the Barbershop chorus, and he was involved with Little League Baseball in Calgary spending many summers as an umpire.

40 years ago Jim became interested in his family genealogy and is proud to have traced his lineage to ancestors who were United Empire Loyalists, a group of people who did so much for the settlement of Canada.

Lorna was born in High River, AB. Her parents Wilfred and Marion Little were living in Royalties at the time, but High River had the nearest hospital so that was her home for the first few days of her life. She has an older brother, Jim and 2 younger sisters, Susan and Janice. In 1944 they moved from Priddis to Calgary to a house still standing on the N.E. corner of 19th St. and 24th Ave. N.W. There was a cluster of houses around this

corner; otherwise they were surrounded by open prairie. This was Lorna's backyard and she chased butterflies, caught gophers, picked crocus and buttercups and built "play towns and roads" in the sandy dunes of the prairie. She walked across this prairie trailing behind her brother as they went to school, he to King George and Lorna to Capitol Hill Cottage School, a 2 story 4 room school with the first graders on the main floor and the second graders on the upper floor and about 40 children in each grade. This school was built in 1921 and is now the St. Cyprian's 31st Scout Troop hall. There was no fear of letting children walk alone in those days and they trudged along together, coming home most days for lunch, no matter what the weather was doing!

By 1948 Shell Oil was ready to establish the first drilling rigs in New Brunswick and the family flew to Montreal, then on to Moncton to join Lorna's dad who was already there. They lived in Sussex Corner and later in Moncton and it was there that she encountered French for the first time. They traveled for 3 days on a train in 1951 to return to Calgary, and stayed with their Grandma and Grandpa Olsen in Riverside for a short while. Moving to the North Hill, on 24th Ave. once again but this time just off Centre St. Lorna attended Queen's Park Elementary and Balmoral Jr. High before the family excursion to Grande Prairie in the summer of '54. They drove all the way to Northern Alberta in a day, about 15 hours, traveling the old route through Lesser Slave Lake on dusty, gravel roads. Lorna's mother Marion had just passed her driving lessons from the

AMA in Calgary and was driving their personal car with Lorna and her baby sister Susan while dad drove the Shell company car accompanied by Lorna's brother. Upon arriving in Grande Prairie Marion applied for her driving license. Grande Prairie was a great place to grow up. The population was under 5,000 so there was a great feeling of community. The only paved road was 4 blocks long and ran through the middle of town. School, the skating rink and the swimming pool were much the centre of social activities. Lorna enjoyed picnics, swimming in the lakes, picking saskatoons and blueberries, country dances and social gatherings at friend's homes where they sang, danced and played cards. By the summer of 1958 they were transferred to Edmonton where Lorna took Gr. 12 at Ross Sheppard High School. She graduated just days before her sister Janice was born. Sadly, in May of 1960 her father was killed in a work related accident. Although she was working at the time, Shell offered her a job, which she accepted. It was there that she and Jim met and became engaged.

After Jim and Lorna were engaged they were both confirmed into the Anglican Faith. They were married at the Cathedral of the Redeemer on May 5th, 1962 by Dean Noel. It was at their wedding that they celebrated not only their union, but also their first communion.

In the fall of 1962 Jim accepted a job with Lewis Engineering and they moved to Calgary. It was with relief that they realized they would likely be staying in one place! In March '64 they moved into the house they had built in University Heights where they still live. Lorna was thrilled when she was surrounded by the prairie, listening to the meadowlarks as she once again walked among the gophers, crocus and buttercups! They joined St. Andrew's parish in 1964 after

having checked out several Anglican churches. They recognized at once in St. Andrew's a happy and caring community. Many people and ministers have come and gone but this love of fellow parishioners remains to this day. Their 4 children Sheila, Jeff, Rebecca and Lorraine were all baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew's, all attended U of C and are all living in Calgary. Jim and Lorna now have 7 grandchildren.

Lorna and Jim have done so much over their years in our parish family that it's almost impossible to list them all. Jim worked tirelessly keeping things in order in the church. He was People's Warden under Alf Bell and Ted Weare, has served on the vestry more than once, replaced the original basement lights with fluorescent fixtures, did Christmas decorating for 40 years, sang in our choir for 45 years, put wheels on the basement cupboards for mobility, re-mounted all the choir and congregational pews after new carpet was installed and arranged for chancel and sanctuary lights. Lorna says she has always 'helped Jim with church maintenance' and besides all the above, she has been involved in Sunday school, Vestry and the Ladies group. She also sang in the choir for many years, arranged for the red carpet in 1983, and the blue carpet in 1998, varnished tables, chairs and cupboards in the basement, put up shelves with pictures in the narthex and office hall. We all know the hours she put in during the recent church addition when the much needed elevator was installed. Together they arranged for alterations and improvements to the kitchen, sacristy cupboards, altar rail, choir area, Narthex cupboards and coat cupboards. We should all be very thankful that Jim and Lorna chose our parish for their Church home. We pray that they will be around for many more

years. They are truly a blessing to all who know them.

Laura White (and Gord in memory

Gord was born in Toronto and Laura was born in Natal (now known as Sparwood) B.C. Laura had an older brother Leslie, who passed away in 2004. Gordon had 1 brother who died at birth. Gord did all his schooling in Toronto while Laura attended a small one room school north of Cowley known as Olin Creek. She took grades 7 through 12 in Coleman, and then went to business school in Calgary. They were both working at IBM, Gord as a Customer Engineer and Laura as a receptionist, bookkeeper in a one gal office when they met. They were married in the United Church in Coleman on March 2nd 1957. Just a year after they met!

Gordon moved to Calgary in 1956 to work at IBM and Laura came here when she finished High School – circa 1950. Laura admits that is an educated guess. They started to attend St. Andrew's Church when John Pilling was the rector. John had just had some surgery on his foot and couldn't stand for very long so asked Gord if he would come to assist with the service, probably about 1993 – but again it is a guess. At this time there had been a change in Clergy at St. Mark's – the parish they were attending at the time – and they were not very happy with the change. They were in the process of finding a new parish and their experience at St. Andrew's – the friendship, warmth and positive attitude – convinced them that this was the parish for them. They have found everyone very friendly and happy and what really surprised Laura was the way everyone joins in to sing the hymns. Traveling the diocese with Gord during his years

as lay reader she found that most parishes do not sing and it is a real treat not to be the only one offering up praise in music! Gord worked tirelessly at St. Mark's parish for close to 20 years. He received his first license from Bishop Calvert in February 1960 and was authorized in 1973 by Bishop Goodman to administer the chalice. He was licensed a Diocesan Lay Reader in 1984 by Bishop Curtis. As such he was asked by the various priests to do services all over the diocese and they spent many summers traveling with the children and a picnic basket. Laura thinks that they went to every church in the diocese. Gord went to the church in Balzac many times alternating with Rev. Fabian Hugh. Like the rest of us, Laura would love to see more young families joining us. She does realize however, from her own family, the young parents very are involved with activities their children are in, and they are mostly on Sundays.

Laura and Gordon are the proud parents of 3 children. David, Carol and Michele. They are also blessed with 4 grandsons, Carey, Tyler, Scott and Daniel. David is an engineer with Nexen while his wife Sheilah is the CEO of a health related company. Their son Scott is taking a year off to decide what he wants to do for the rest of his life, and Daniel, is in Grade 11 at Ernest Manning High School. Carol is a nurse in charge of Home Care for Banff, Canmore, and Didsbury etc. Her husband Burke is a safety officer for the Canmore, Kananaskis region. Their son Carey is a student at Mount Royal University and Tyler is at the U of C hoping to become an engineer. Michele is a Project Manager and is very active in marathons. She has done the Iron Man in Penticton. David and his family and Michele make their homes in Calgary while Carol and her

family make their home in Canmore.

Laura loves to read, make music and bake. She bakes her own bread, cookies cakes etc. It all goes out the door very quickly! She always has something in the freezer in case company drops in, which I'm sure happens often when they know they're going to get home baking! She is a real homebody and loves to be at home doing her own thing. She was in our choir for a short time but found it difficult to get to choir practice. She also discovered that she enjoyed sitting in the congregation. She had been choir director at their previous parish about 20 years and found it nice to not be so involved. Laura was treasurer for St. Andrew's for 2 years during John Pillings tenure. She had a hand in the 50th Anniversary celebration of our church, organizes the hymn picking for our enjoyment and plays the organ whenever needed. Laura has sung with the Festival Chorus for many years and is involved with boards and committees with the diocese, chairing the Administration and Finance Board, which means attendance at other committees, and is on the Executive and Management committee of the diocese. She loves to visit with family and friends. She has lately become involved with various committees in the condo where she now lives.

Gord retired early from his computer related jobs at IBM, University of Calgary, Mount Royal University (then College) because he wanted to do more in ways of helping people. He did courses on Pastoral Care at Rockyview and Foothills hospitals, went to courses and seminars both in Calgary and other centres. He did Pastoral Care at Rockyview and Foothills hospitals and when needed, he visited people in their homes and other care centres.

Since he was a licensed lay reader he was able to give communion when requested by those who did not have a home parish. Gord was very active with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and went through all the chairs. His main interest while in the Lodge was the committee that looked after eyesight.

It was a true stroke of fate that the Whites knew the Pillings and Gord came to help John out. We are all very fortunate to have had them join our congregation for so many years. Laura works very hard picking hymns for us that correspond with the lessons or the Psalm (that takes a great deal of reading and planning on her part!) and she is a lot of fun at the Hymn Pickin'. I know she also does many other things behind the scenes, going quietly about the business of being a good Christian. Sadly Laura and her family lost their beloved Gord on August 6th, 2006. He was a wonderful, caring son, husband, father, grandfather and friendly parishioner and is greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Ω

