

# *The Spire*

*News and Views of  
Chalmers-Wesley United Church  
October to December 2007*

## **A Message from the Editor**

**Shirley Nadeau**

This page normally contains a message from the minister of our church, however, since the end of May this year, the Rev. George MacDonald, has been on extended sick leave. We hope and pray that he will be restored to full health as soon as possible.

Since the end of May we have been managing to obtain the services of various people to lead us in worship each Sunday, either ordained ministers, lay worship leaders or members of our own congregation.

It has been a difficult and, at times, amazing time for us, as you can well imagine. The very first Sunday after we were notified by George that he would be unable to lead us in worship, we thought we would simply have a hymn-sing type of service with the usual prayers and scripture readings we have each Sunday. Well, a miracle of sorts walked through our doors about 15 minutes before the service – a United Church Chaplain who was serving with the Canadian Navy on board HMCS Halifax which happened to be visiting the Port of Quebec that weekend.

## **The Navy to the Rescue!**

An “angel without wings” as Carol Bircher called him, dressed in a T-shirt, jeans and sneakers attended the service with another crewmember and, after we explained the circumstances we were in, he quite readily agreed to lead us in worship. He spoke to us so kindly and appropriately and led us in prayers for the congregation. Those who were present that day will never forget the occasion. To express our appreciation, we presented him with a copy of our history book, “Remember All the Way.”

So, on a wing and a prayer and with many willing helpers, we will continue our worship services every Sunday. Until further notice, if you or a member of your family should have need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 692-2640 or your Elder.

## **PAST EVENTS**

Our **Summer Open Doors** program was very successful this year, in no small part due to the excellent work of the four guides we hired. Sophie Mokas, Anthony Labbé, Brendan Green and Andrej Skoko are all university students and they brought their youthful exuberance and welcoming skills to their work for us. Of course, we would not have been able to hire these four young people if it were not for the financial support of the Ville de Québec and the Province of Québec (Ministère de Culture, Communications et Condition Féminine), and le Consistoire Laurentien.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Jacques Ayotte who worked with me to interview and train the guides and help supervise them during the summer.

Shirley Nadeau, Summer Open Doors Committee



Our former organist, Vija Kluchert, and her husband Abe (Rolf), also visited our church in August and left the following message in our Guest Book: “Finally made it back ‘home.’ The church looks lovely, however, our national capital is exquisite as well. For eg: Museum of Civilization, Art Gallery, etc. Love to the choir. Great idea ‘exposing’ the organ for concerts!”

## **A REPORT FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

### **A FINAL WRAP-UP PROJECT**

If we look back at the records of the restoration projects at Chalmers-Wesley, one can hardly be anything but impressed. Impressed in the sense that it is now more than 12 years that the congregation decided to take the bull by the horns and get on with the restoration job. Perhaps in those first days we were only partly aware of the long-term implications and the lengthy journey ahead. However, the congregation, and in particular the Property Committee, slogged on in successive steps, first with one project and then with another. Today we are faced with still one more and I hope final major project, that of the *steeple area*. But before we get to that, let me take a moment to recapitulate.

Our first major project was on the roof of the church which was in rather bad shape and leaking at the time. The work of reinforcing the roof structure and covering it with copper was completed in 1996 at a cost of about \$85,000. At about the same time, there seemed to be enough funds available to paint the outside windows and frames at a cost of about \$25,000.

Four years later, in 2000, a second even more major project was undertaken on the masonry of the church. This included all the church walls, the main pinnacles and buttresses, the front steps and the stone work in the steeple. The sanctuary of the church was also painted. Although this project was estimated to cost \$800,000 - only \$600,000 was available at the time. This meant that some radical down-sizing had to be done, and as a result some of the stonework on the back wall and on the walls of the organ annexe was left undone, and the covering on the steeple was repaired and painted, but not replaced – a temporary stopgap measure.

In the succeeding years from 2002 to 2004, some \$25,000 was put into the stained glass windows to complete their repair and refurbishment. In 2006-2007 a fourth, mixed bag project was completed for \$100,000. This included those parts of the back walls not completed in the 2000 project, and also the installation of a new electrical entrance and refurbishment of the furnace room to make it more secure against fire.

The fifth, and we hope, final major undertaking will be the steeple project. This will include replacing the steeple covering, which will have to be done in either copper or stainless steel. Further repairs are also required to the steeple’s windows and pinnacles. The estimated cost will be about \$500,000, of which 70% will be paid for by the Religious Heritage Foundation (conditional to our project being funded). Some additional funding could be forthcoming from the city, but obviously a *major* effort will have to be made in the fall and winter of 2007-2008 by our Fund-Raising Committee.

In conclusion, as the Chinese adage goes, every journey begins with the first step and I suppose we could add, ends with the last one. This project represents for me a final step in our restoration efforts. Hopefully we can rise to the occasion.

Grant D. McConnell,  
Member, Quebec/Chaudière-Appalache Committee  
Religious Heritage Foundation

## SUMMER ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

by Shirley Nadeau

Well, for those of you who were not at the Sunday at Six Organ Concert held on August 5<sup>th</sup>, you missed an exciting evening. Organist Sylvan Doyon, performed magnificently, however that was not the only exciting part.

First the BAD NEWS - we were robbed during the concert! A woman seated at the back of the church fainted and her boyfriend with her was asking for help for her, water, etc. At the same time, another man who was standing at the door took advantage of this distraction to grab the offering plate on which people who had come to the concert had left their donations as they arrived.

I heard the commotion at the back of the church, as did Joan Shea. We turned around just in time to see this man grab the plate full of money and run out the door. I took off after him crying "voleur" as I went out the door. There were several people outside who had seen him come out the door and run through the parking lot. I followed him in time to see him throw down the plate after pocketing the money, jump over the fence at the end of the parking lot and run away down rue d'Auteuil. I gathered up what little bit of money he had dropped in the parking lot and returned to the church.

Another member of the audience who had seen the robbery ran around the block in the other direction but did not see where the thief went. He and others gave us a good description of the thief. The girl who "fainted" and her boyfriend were still in the church acting as if she was really ill, totally unconcerned about the robbery. There was a nurse in the audience who had come to her aid who sincerely believed she was ill and was trying to help her. Eventually, the girl "recovered" and with the help of her boyfriend left the church. We were rather suspicious of them but couldn't prove anything.

The concert stopped at that point because everyone in the audience had turned around to see what the commotion was. I went to the front of the church and explained to everyone what had happened and asked that Sylvan Doyon continue with the concert. The police eventually came and we gave them all the details. They drove around the neighbourhood looking for anyone who might fit the descriptions we gave them but they did not find them. Later, other members of the audience told us they had seen the three of them together outside the church before the concert, which confirmed our suspicion that it had all been deliberately planned.

At the end of the concert, following the encore (Sylvan did a great job) and the door prize draw, I told the audience that we estimated the thief had taken about \$100 from the offering plate at the door and appealed to them to dig into their pockets and make another small donation to help cover our expenses for the concert. Everyone was very sympathetic and gave generously. One man who had put a donation in the form of a cheque on the plate said he would replace it with another cheque. Mr. Claude Lavoie, Sylvan Doyon's former organ teacher, said he would send us a cheque in the mail.

And finally, the GOOD NEWS!!! - after we totalled all the money, we made over \$250. Better than the two previous concerts, maybe the best of the summer! Maybe we should organize a robbery every week! I shouldn't joke about it, however. It was a very upsetting experience for everyone involved. Andrej, the guide who was responsible for the table with the money on it, felt terrible about it. It happened so quickly, a moment's distraction to help someone who seemed to be ill was all it took. Since then we have changed our procedures at the door so a similar incident won't happen again.

All in all, it was a very successful season for the Summer at Six Organ Concert series. Our music director, Alain LeBlond, is currently planning something extra special for next summer's concert series to coincide with the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ville de Québec. Details next year.

## CHOIR CHIRPS



Choir practice is held on Friday evenings at 7:30pm and we usually finish by 9:00pm at the latest. If you are interested in joining the choir, you would be most welcome. Please speak to our music director, Alain LeBlond. We welcome a new choir member, Mary Thaler, from Ontario. She is studying biology at Université Laval and should be with us for at least three years.

## IN MEMORY OF AGNES LEMIRE

Funeral services were held at Chalmers-Wesley on August 25<sup>th</sup> for Mrs. Agnes Lemire (1910-2007) who passed away on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. At age 96 she was the eldest member of our congregation. Mrs. Lemire was the widow of Armand Lemire; they were long-time members of our congregation. We extend our sincere condolences to her son George and daughter Eleanor and her two grandchildren, Jean-François and Alexandre. Internment took place at Mount Hermon Cemetery. The Reverend V. Martyn Sadler officiated at the service.



**EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH** is temporarily renting space in our church building while they are looking for a permanent place of worship for their congregation as the building they had been using was recently sold. Their minister, Grant Freake, will set up his office near the Sunday School area. They will hold their worship services in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Rev. Freake has also offered to lead us in worship once a month while our minister is on sick leave. He has led us in worship occasionally in the past when we have had need of pulpit supply, so he is well-known to us. This is a short-term arrangement. They hope to find a permanent place of worship within a few months.

One of our Elders, David Baker, reminded us that this is not the first time that our church has been shared by the English-speaking Pentecostal congregation. Sometime back in the 1970s they were welcomed to make use of our building while they searched for a place of their own, and we are happy to do so again now.

## CHILD CARE IN THE NURSERY

We have a new young lady, Audrey-Anne Abel, who has been taking care of the younger children on Sunday mornings since September 16. Audrey-Anne is 13 years old, has taken a Baby-Sitting Course, has three years babysitting experience, and is fluently bilingual. We hope you can be with us on Sundays to enjoy the worship service while your child is being well taken care of downstairs in the Nursery by Audrey-Anne. If you have any questions or concerns about child care on Sunday mornings, please do not hesitate to contact Shirley Nadeau at 649-5394.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, October 14 – Following the worship service**, which is being led by the Rev. Doug Stewart, with Holy Communion, we will be having a **Pot Luck Lunch**. Now, I know an “organized” Pot Luck defeats the purpose of the expression “Pot Luck” but we would really like to know what people are planning to bring so that, if we see we’re going to be short on main courses or desserts, we can make sure someone else brings an appropriate contribution. An e-mail message will be sent to all who are “branché” and Joan Wheeler will call all who aren’t. Please, if you receive an e-mail and are planning to come, call Joan at 6269135 and let her know what you will be bringing.

The **Chalmers-Wesley Women's Group** will meet next on Wednesday, October 17, at 7:00pm in the church hall. Tea, coffee and dessert will be provided. Please come and bring a friend. The theme??? Fun and Games! (date & place to be confirmed)



A message from former C-W member Paul Dorion, now living in Iqaluit, who says . . .

“I want to send you all a little traditional Irish blessing and a little aphorism that appeared for the first time about 15-20 years ago. This is just a little note to say that I DO think of you even though you may not hear from me very often. You are fond and dear to me and I wish you all the best.

May there always be work for your hands to do;  
May your purse always hold a coin or two;  
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;  
May the hand of a friend always be near you;  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Work like you don't need the money.  
Love like you've never been hurt.  
Dance like nobody's watching.  
Sing like nobody's listening.  
Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

### **Thank God for Children Saying Grace...**

Recently I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!" Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart," the man replied. Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."

### **EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**

What!? You haven't purchased a copy of "***Remember All the Way, the History of Chalmers-Wesley United Church***" yet?! Treat yourself and friends to this wonderful record of our religious heritage. The book is available at the church on Sunday mornings for the most reasonable price of \$30 (no sales tax). If

you wish, you could purchase a copy at *La Maison Anglais* bookstore in Place de la Cité (\$30 + sales tax). And, if you live out of town, you can mail us your order with a cheque payable to Chalmers-Wesley United Church for \$30 plus \$8.00 mailing expense (within Canada) (\$10 – USA, \$14 – overseas) and we'll see that it gets to you before December 25<sup>th</sup>.

## SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES & SPECIAL EVENTS

October to December, 2007 - Sunday Worship services begin at 11:15am  
unless otherwise indicated.

<b>October 7</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> - worship leader - Mr. Keith Whittall
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Communion Service</b> - worship leader – Rev. Doug Stewart <b>Pot Luck Lunch</b> following the worship service
October 17	Wednesday at 7:00pm – Chalmers-Wesley Women's Group
<b>October 21</b>	(date & place to be confirmed)
<b>October 28</b>	Reformation Sunday
<b>November 4</b>	Peace Sunday
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Remembrance Day Service</b> – Venue to be decided - at the Cenotaph starting at 10:30am or at the church at 11:15am. Possibly both!?
<b>November 18</b>	
<b>November 25</b>	<b>7:00pm – Sing-Along Messiah</b> (date to be confirmed)
<b>December 2</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> of Advent</b>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent</b>
<b>December 16</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent</b>
<b>December 23</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Advent</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm, Monday.</b> A joint bilingual service with <i>église unie Saint-Pierre</i> with a special time for children. Fellowship and refreshments in the lower hall following the service.

If you have any news that you feel would be of interest to our readers, please contact the editor Shirley Nadeau at 649-5394 or [cashnadeau@videotron.ca](mailto:cashnadeau@videotron.ca) and she will be happy to include it in the next issue. The editor reserves the right to edit your text to fit the available space.

We appreciate very much the donations we have received recently from our out-of-town readers to help offset the cost of printing and mailing *The Spire* to you. It costs us about \$5.00 per year to provide this service to you.

**Save a Tree!** If you prefer to receive *The Spire* by e-mail at NO COST to you, please advise the editor (see above).

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS & E-MAIL ADDRESSES

<b>CHURCH OFFICE</b>	<b>692-2640</b>	The secretary, <b>Shirley Normand</b> , is available on Tuesday,
Fax	692-2481	Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am to 11:30 am
Kitchen	692-0431	but you may leave a message at any time.

**E-mail address:** [chalmerswesley@qc.aira.com](mailto:chalmerswesley@qc.aira.com)  
**Web Site** [www.chalmerswesley.org](http://www.chalmerswesley.org)

**MINISTER - the Rev. George T. MacDonald** (currently on sick leave)

CHAIR of the OFFICIAL BOARD - Anna Baril 627-0937

CLERK OF SESSION - Joan Shea 651-3647  
and Envelope Steward

*The Spire* Editor - Shirley Nadeau cashnadeau@videotron.ca 649-5394

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FINANCE CHAIR - Carol Bircher 5cents@videotron.ca 657-2574

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Alain LeBlond aleblond@lascauxx.com 683-9194

CHURCH OFFICER - Michael Keane 692-2640  
(Hours - Monday - Friday, 10:30am - 1:30pm + Sunday morning) or 692-0431

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78 rue Ste-Ursule, Quebec, QC G1R 4E8

United Church Web Sites: United Church of Canada - [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)  
Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery - <http://qspres.org/news.php>

Église unie Saint-Pierre – Sunday services in French at 9:15am

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e-mail eustpierre.qc.aira.com	home	628-0725