

# the *Seventies* pendulum

LOOKING BACK · MOVING FORWARD



A SERIES OF PERIODICALS CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOREST GROVE UNITED CHURCH · MARCH 2009

## *Anniversary Sunday a sparkling affair!*



The choir in full voice, on 50th Anniversary Sunday, February 1, 2009.

Like all big occasions much time and effort is put into the preparation, the invitations, the food, etc and, like all occasions, the success of the day is determined by the people who come. And the people did come, lots of them. Our sanctuary was filled, the sun shone and there was joy in the air.

Guests wore their name tags (which was a good thing!) Many friends from years back were reunited. The “kids” of the early years brought their kids and the grandparents proudly showed them around. There were a few walkers and canes and smiles everywhere. It was special to have several of our charter members and former staff join us.

In the sanctuary the choir was augmented by alumni and the sound was lovely. A beautiful floral arrangement from our Korean partners added to the setting.

Robbie, the dragon puppet, got into the mood of the day with balloons and soon the front of the church was decorated. The communion table showed off the children’s banner which read What My Heart Hopes For.

Our guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas from Memphis, TN. Dr. Thomas is a professor at the McCormick Theological Seminary

in Chicago where James is studying. He spoke in the “southern preaching” style where the congregation is an active part of the sermon. With lots of humour he encouraged us in our responses of loud AMENS. Can you imagine us, self conscious Canadians, catching on to that! His threat of keeping us until 4 o’clock helped loosen things up and soon we were all engrossed in the message. Using a text from Isaiah, Rev. Thomas spoke of the openness of the Christian philosophy and how none of us has a “right” to Christianity. Our membership must come from who we are and how we act.

After the service a beautiful buffet was waiting in the Harvest Room. More balloons, this time golden and white with 50’s on them. The tables were set with many choices including even some Tibetan treats. There was a large cake decorated, believe it or not, with an exact copy of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Plenty of food for everyone.

By the end of the day about 200 hundred people had signed the guest book and as we said farewell we all agreed – that was quite the celebration!

And now, we’ll see what the next 50 years bring.

by PHYLLIS O’BRIEN BARROW, CHAIR, 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

# TALK RADIO

The second in a series of talks given over radio station CBL, Toronto, by Rev. John E. Hunter, Minister of Forest Grove United Church, in May 1964, on the program **PLAIN TALK**. The general theme is – Expressions of Common Speech Which Are Plain Talk To Us All.

## **Have you got any money?**

Each morning this week we are considering a phrase of common speech that we all use every day. For the plain talk of our lives reveal some deep meanings about ourselves.

Sometime today – if not already, you will say, or have someone say to you: “Have you got any money?”

It may be your wife as she counts what little is left in the family budget. It may be your son as he suggests his allowance be paid. It may be a friend wanting to borrow from you, or an investment agent trying to sell to you. All these and others say “Have you got any money?” The Church says it, the tax-collector says it, the store-clerk says it. In a hundred different ways this day you will hear the same old question: “Have you got any money?” Now we get so used to the inquiry that we hardly realize how we prepare to meet it. As we get dressed we slip our wallet into our hip-pocket, or take our purse out of a drawer and off we go about the day’s work. But let a man, right now, driving to his place of business, feel for that purse and discover it is not there. He will have a moment of panic and a sense of lostness. To be down town without a purse – what could be worse? “Have you got any money?”

The first thing this piece of plain talk suggests is that we live in a money culture. Money pervades everything in modern life. It gets mixed up with hospitals and colleges and race tracks and taverns. The United Nations and Canada’s senate. Money is society’s best tool, we couldn’t exist one day without it. Someone asked a boy “What two books influenced his life most?” He replied “My mother’s cook book and my father’s cheque book”. Money is a wonderful thing to have. And since it is so necessary to our living, and because we are going to handle it today, and since someone is sure to ask us “Have you got any money?” let us think a little more about it.

Consider this. Our money talks. And it talks about us. You may feel like the chorus of the old song that went like this: ‘If money talks, all it every said to me was ‘Good-bye.’ That’s understandable. But money talks mostly about the kind of persons we are. It becomes, as we spend it, an expression of our real selves. Philip Guedalla wrote a biography about the Duke of Wellington. He said it was easy to find out what the Duke of Wellington did, what he said, and where he went. But the real problem was to find out what kind of man Wellington was. Then, by a stroke of luck, the biographer came across the stubs of Wellington’s old cheque-books. By examining the

expenditures, he could discern the interests of his life and the nature of his character. May I suggest we sit down with our cheque-book sometime and let it tell us all about ourselves, the interests of our life and the nature of our character. One thing it will tell us about ourselves is our sincerity, our personal sincerity. A man says he loves and trusts his wife, but let the chequebook tell how he budgets the family finances and how generous is his love. A man says he cares for his children, but let his cheque-book tell how well he provides for their future and insures their security. It is good for us, at times, to listen while our money talks.

A second consideration is that money lives. The money in your purse now, is but an extension of your own person. Give some of it to the United Nations Children’s Fund and you are immediately feeding children in India. Money has power and life which is almost magical.

A minister tells of standing by the bed of a girl who was dying of tuberculosis. The doctor came and the minister said: ‘I followed him downstairs and asked him “What chance has she?” He replied “None at all, as long as she remains in this slum”. Then I asked the inevitable question, said the clergyman: “How much?” He said about \$150.00. I went out and got it and it became like a magic wand. I waved it in the air and a taxi came to the door, a ticket for a railway compartment appeared, a sanatorium with a bright room, a special nurse and a doctor all came into being - for \$150.00. Yes, money has life and power. It can cure sickness, relieve misery, dispel ignorance, uplift friendships, excite the discouraged and transform human hearts and homes. What a beautiful thing money is when it talks about precious values and lives for noble uses. I hope today, when that person says to you: “Have you got any Money?” that you will be quiet for a minute, and let your purse talk and let it live.

It is interesting to note that when Jesus of Nazareth went into the magnificent and sacred temple of Jerusalem, he went directly to one place and took a seat. Where do you think he went? Not to the Altar, or to the Ark, nor to the Pulpit, nor lectern, nor prayer desk. Jesus went into the temple and sat down opposite the treasury. As a teacher, he had talked more about money than any other subject. It was plain talk then, and it is plain talk today. “Have you got any money?” What does it say to you? How does it live?



Kindergarden Sunday School in the 'new' C.E. Wing, 1963.

## Regarding the design and location of the Christian Education Wing

by HARVEY BEECROFT, ARCHITECT

*In the last issue of The Pendulum Harvey Beecroft related the story of the Building of the Church. While the Christian Education Wing was added in the late 60s, I decided to focus on the early history of the 'Sunday School' in this issue, about the 70s. The following is an excerpt from Harvey's article relating to the CE Wing. – DG*

We soon realized that with 300 children in the Sunday School that we needed a Christian Education Wing. A Building Committee chaired by Howard Eubank was formed and Weir Cripps and Partners Architects (Harvey Beecroft was part of the firm – DG) were selected as architects. Drawings were prepared to include church offices, choir rooms, a kitchenette, social room, classrooms and a gym. The social room included a fireplace and thus became the Hearth Room, well used for receptions and social events. The Gymnasium on the Lower Level is used for basketball and now a play area for the Montessori School. An additional lot on Forest Grove Drive was purchased to provide more parking which was planned on two levels. Bob Gordon of our congregation did the grading and paving. A cedar hedge shields the lot on the street side.

Now that other congregations are sharing our building and appreciating the facilities and the architecture, we as a congregation can be very proud of our achievement.

## I remember...

I think that my Confirmation was in 1978 – the class included Jeff Engel and John Lougheed, probably Sarah Sheppard and maybe Becky Rose... It's hard to remember. I do remember it being lead by Ann Gilbert and Eg' Young. I particularly remember Eg' because he surprised us all. Initially, our group of teenagers looked at this 'old' man and dreaded the idea of a Confirmation Class – what could he possibly offer us? Where was the connection?

And then he started to tell stories... and we were captivated.

He spoke to us as intelligent interesting people... and were included.

He spoke of God and his own faith journey... and we were engaged.

I think that we all came away from that Confirmation Class feeling privileged to have been so intimate with Rev. Young and I know that he made an impact on many young lives. At Eg's funeral, many years later... I sat with Jeff Engel, John Lougheed and Bruce Rose... all former young people who had been engaged and empowered by this "old" man who really crossed generations to share the love of God with us.

Personally, I recall my Confirmation Interview. Eg invited me into his office – I sat in a low round chair and he sat behind his desk and we spoke. We talked about Forest Grove, about the United Church of Canada, about Faith... he asked me about school and my family... then he asked me what I wanted to be when I got older. I told him that I wanted to be a United Church minister... He almost fell off of his chair he was laughing so enthusiastically. Not sure what kind of sign this might be, I decided to take it as an affirmation... and proudly follow in his footsteps, a minister in the United Church of Canada.

REV NORM SELI

I have many wonderful memories of Forest Grove... Sunday services, cubs and scouts, sisters' weddings. One story I could share goes back to a Sunday school class when I was 8 or 9... I was in a class of about 10 and just as the teacher was about to begin the class, Rev John Hunter stepped into the classroom, in his colours and robe. He was welcomed and introduced by the teacher, and we were invited to ask the Reverend any questions we might have. I remember being quite in awe of this man in the black formal robe, and thinking the Sunday service was part time work, I asked genuinely of John Hunter "what do you work at, from Monday to Friday?" John smiled and said graciously, "the care and ministry of this congregation is a full time job, my work is here... all week". And so I had my first understanding of the call and work of a church minister.

Just a small story, but one of many treasured memories. The older I get the more I realize and appreciate the wonderful environment that we were raised in ...our church, our schools, our families and friends; all safe, and rich with opportunity and encouragement... a lot to be thankful for.

ALEC CAMPBELL



Confirmation Class Barbeque, 1978.

# ANNIVERSARY



Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas preaching at the 50th Anniversary Service



A Buffet feast in the Hearth Room following the service.

Subject:

## Really enjoyed the service Feb. 1st.

Hi Marilyn:

John and I really enjoyed the service last Sunday – we thought the Rev. Frank Thomas was very dynamic. It was good to connect with everyone again; it was as if the last nine years never were!

It was great seeing you again. I enjoyed checking out your office. John and I intend to come back to Forest Grove from time to time to worship.

It was lovely to be invited back. We plan on coming to the FG jazz concert next Friday evening.

We are off to Panama for two weeks leaving March 2nd. It will be nice to leave winter behind!

Ann and John Blewett

Subject:

## Anniversary Celebration

Thank you very much for the invitation to join in the celebration of Forest Grove's 50th anniversary in the Bayview Village community. I wish I could be there to take part in the festivities, but that is the day the Mount Hope-Case Pastoral Charge leads worship and serves dinner at Wesley Urban Ministries, the United Church's mission in downtown Hamilton. My parishioners are counting on me to preach the Word – and run the dishwasher! If it were not for that prior commitment I would happily hurry home to Forest Grove to sing and celebrate and greet old friends and neighbours.

I do indeed think of Forest Grove as one of my "home places." I have fond memories of my years of growing up as part of the congregation. I remember walking to church with my family and how pretty the church looked perched on the edge of the ravine. I remember Dr. Shepherd's joyful song-leading in the Sunday School. I remember the "rodeo retreat" and the "winter olympics" with the youth group led by Pete and Sue Short and Scott and Laurie MacDonald. I remember the friendship and good times with the "Life After Twenty" group.

I am thankful for the example of faithful lay leaders and students and ministers and for the opportunities I was given to explore my faith and share my gifts. I am especially grateful for the wisdom, encouragement, and support that I received from the wonderful committee of lay people who walked with me during my candidacy for ordained ministry. I have always felt that Forest Grove was a place where I was known and welcomed and accepted, and that has made a difference in my life.

I hope you have a joyful celebration and a glad reunion with the many people who call Forest Grove home. May God bless you and your ministers, James and Vivian. May God continue to work through you to touch the lives of individuals, both within and beyond your doors.

with love, in Christ, Ann Stafford



A full Sunday school class in 1963

# GREETINGS!



Balloons and Joy at the 50th Anniversary Service.

BOTH OF THESE NOTES ARE FROM LAURA SUNDBERG

Subject:

## Happy Anniversary Forest Grove

Hi Marilyn and James

I am sending this to both of you, since it is so close to Anniversary Sunday.

Please send my Anniversary greetings to the congregation.

These next few months look like a fun time. Wish I could be there.

Subject:

## Dear Friends at Forest Grove United Church! Greetings from Regina!

It seems like a long time ago that I spent a couple of years in ministry with you as a student minister. In fact, it was! I am shocked that it is probably 18 years ago now that you opened your doors to me, to work in team with Jim Moulton.

I remember learning so much in those years. There were the worship learnings: having the Christmas Eve Family Service from hell when everything went wrong; and the Holy Week series when we had something on each night (what was I thinking!!) I still remember the evening when we had a clown come to lead small group worship. The clown was going to

be a surprise and he was waiting in a dark room for his cue to come in. One of the pre-schoolers wandered into the darkened room and left screaming, having encountered this "frightening" character. So much for the tender moments when the clown was to help the group feel the pathos of Holy Week. The child's terror was probably more in line with the disciples' fears in those last days.

I have fond memories of the youth group of that time, of Sunday School and of all of you who shared your lives with me.

My life has taken many unexpected twists and turns since graduating from Emmanuel. My husband Bill and I moved to Wolseley, Saskatchewan, where we lived for 5 years. I served two rural congregations, about 15 km apart. In 1998 we moved to Regina, where I spent a year working for a non-profit organization, and then answered a call to team ministry at St. James United Church.

Over the 9 years that I have been at St. James, I have had two breaks.

In the spring of 2004 I participated in the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel. I lived in Ramallah with 3 other EAPPI team members, and taught English in a Refugee Camp, made friends with several people in a Lutheran Women's Group and supported the group pastorally, visited churches in the city to hear about their struggles living under Israeli Occupation. I also travelled to different places in the West Bank where the EAPPI is accompanying Palestinians who need protection from either Jewish settlers, or who need advocates at check points with the Israeli Military. We also travelled in Israel, to hear about the work of the Israeli Peace Movement, and to go places like the Dead Sea and Galilee.

In 2007 I travelled to China and adopted a 3 year old there, and had an 8 month parental leave. My daughter's name is Pamela Wenyi Sundberg. She is an amazing kid, a natural leader, empathic, bossy, high energy, fun, loves a party, a natural soccer player and swimmer. She will be 5 in late February. She is my teacher these days about kids, life, spirituality and what pushes my buttons!

In 2000 my marriage broke down, and in 2001 Bill and I divorced. In 2008 I married a retired computer technician named Darwin Dopson. He has two daughters in their 30's so now I have 3 daughters.

**Laura Sundberg**

FORMER STUDENT MINISTER EARLY 1990's

# MORE ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS!

Subject:

## 50th Anniversary

We, Harv & Louise Schweyer want to thank you for the invitation for the 50th Anniversary of Forest Grove United Church on February 1. Unfortunately we will not be able to attend.

I have many fond memories of my 12 years working as the Church secretary. The people I met were special and I did feel a part of the congregation even if we were members of Hillcrest United. We are now members of Marshall Memorial United in Ancaster. Robin Wilkie is our minister – the son of John Wilkie a previous minister at FGUC. We are enjoying our retirement at Twenty Place in Mount Hope, spending some time each summer in Winnipeg and Calgary where our kids are, and heading south in the winter.

Our congratulations to all your members on this a special Anniversary. We will keep your list of events for the celebrations and may be able to attend one of them – possibly the dinner in April when the date is announced.

Louise & Harv Schweyer

Subject:

## RSVP

Good Morning,

We, unfortunately, can not make the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Forest Grove United Church. I would be amiss although if I did not mark the occasion with a few thoughts.

We came to Forest Grove in the early 90's as a young family looking for a church home and we were welcomed with open arms! We all have very warm thoughts of our time there and in particular the people. I have great memories of the Christian Education committee lead by, the unstoppable, Daniel Gaito. Liz Elliott, whose work on Fellowship, built bridges and friendship through the differences.

We left Toronto in the summer of 1995 for Belleville, Ontario, where we still reside. Our time at Forest Grove was too short but very memorable.

From our family, Erin, Kenzie, Haley, Mark and myself, to yours, we wish Forest Grove United Church all the best in the future.

Sincerely,

Marlene Pelton

Subject:

## Anniversary

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you for the invitation I received to attend the 50th anniversary of Forest Grove United Church.

I will not be joining you that day, but send congratulations and wish you a great day of celebration. I will hear from my F.G. friends how well everything went.

Yours sincerely,

Marjory Wilkie

Subject:

## Anniversary

Dear Forest Grove Friends,

Please accept our congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. We are honoured to be invited to the festivities and regret that we will not be able to be with you. We have carried with us an important legacy from Forest Grove for 30 years; a legacy of faith, community and service for which we are grateful and by which we are encouraged today. Although it may not be clear to you, the people of Forest Grove have had a wide and deep influence in The United Church of Canada and in the landscape of faith and mission in this country. And although it may not be exactly a gospel value, you have every right on this occasion to be proud of what you have given and achieved together over the past half century.

May the Spirit of God continue to accompany and inspire you in the days ahead; may your memories be blessed, your hopes encouraged, and may the joy of this important anniversary fill your hearts.

Sincerely,

Peter and Sue Short, FREDERICTON, NB



3 and 4 years in Sunday School, 1967

# THE DECADE OF THE STORMY 70s

COMPILED BY BARBARA MACLAREN

In 1970 the average cost of a home was \$26,600, by 1979 it had reached an average of \$71,800.

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1970

- 1st Jumbo Jets enter service, each able to carry almost 500 passengers
- 1st Fiber-optic telephone lines allow direct-dialed transatlantic calls
- Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix die
- Floppy disc introduced
- New Young fashion trend the Army Navy Look, new words preppie, hassle, fast food, rip off.
- Meyers youngest daughter Cathy baptized at Forest Grove



Rev. Pentland with the Children at the 20th Anniversary service, 1979

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1971

- USSR launches Salyut 1, first of a series of permanently manned orbiting space stations
- Voting Age lowered from 21 to 19
- New words – Hot pants, gross out, demo and Right
- Daniel & Barbara MacLaren get married at Forest Grove by Dr. Wilkie

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1972

- Eleven Israeli athletes murdered by Arab gunmen at Munich Olympics

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1973

- Recession begins across Europe after OPEC oil-price rises.
- Pet Rocks become new fad

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1974

- Richard Nixon forced to resign after Watergate scandal.
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner developed in US
- Leading Russian ballet dancer, Mikhail Baryshnikov, defects at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto.
- Jack Benny, Dizzy Dean, Duke Ellington, Chet Huntley and Ed Sullivan died

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1975

- American troops leave Vietnam. South Vietnam regime falls. End of Vietnam War.
- VCR Betamax makes 1st appearance as well as 1st disposable razor introduced
- Cannonball Adderly, Aristotle Onassis, Rod Sterling died

## MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1976

- CN Tower, Toronto becomes world's highest building at 1,815 ft (553 m)
- 21st Olympiad opens in Montreal. Twenty four nations boycott the games in protest of apartheid in South Africa
- 2 amateur electronics enthusiasts develop the Apple Computer in a California Garage
- Mike & Barbara Panterescu get married at Forest Grove by Dr. Wilkie

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Rev. Pentland at the 20th Anniversary service, 1979



The Choir performing at the 20th Anniversary service, 1979

– CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

### MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1977

- Science fiction goes high tech with release of Star Wars.
- Charles Chaplin, Bing Crosby, Guy Lombardo, Groucho Marx and Elvis Presley die

### MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1978

- Camp David Peace Treaty – Egypt makes peace with Israel
- Navstar Global Positioning System (GPS) inaugurated by US Department of Defense.
- 1st test tube baby is born in Manchester England
- Pope John Paul I dies after 33 days in office. Karol Wojtyla from Poland is elected new Pope John Paul II.

### MILESTONE EVENTS OF 1979

- US suffers worst-ever nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania
- Margaret Thatcher elected prime minister in Britain.

### TOP MOVIES TOP TV SHOWS

1970	Love Story	Marcus Welby
1971	Billy Jack	All in the Family
1972	The Godfather	All in the Family
1973	The Exorcist	All in the Family
1974	Blazing Saddles	All in the Family
1975	Jaws	All in the Family
1976	Rocky	Happy Days
1977	Star Wars	Laverne & Shirley
1978	Grease	Laverne & Shirley
1979	Kramer vs Kramer	60 Minutes

## the pendulum EDITOR'S NOTES

Life happens...

This is the second issue of The Pendulum. It has taken longer to get to you than any of us originally intended. Moreover, there will not be as many issues as originally envisaged – for both of those facts you have my apologies. We planned to have 6 issues – one for each decade plus one for the future – we are now planning on 4 issues. The material in the archives, the memories of the congregation, plus life along the way, have meant that 6 issues won't be able to fit into the time left for our Anniversary Celebrations.

This issue has events of the 70s as planned, more on the Sunday School and the CE Wing and news of the 50th Anniversary. Anniversary Sunday itself was a great success, as you can read and see elsewhere in this issue.

Two events which we had planned will not happen. The visit by the Lieutenant Governor was not able to be fit into either His Honour's schedule or ours during our Anniversary Celebrations. Accordingly it will not occur. Once again due to schedules, the Congregational Dinner will not be held during the Anniversary Celebrations – we expect that a dinner may be held in the fall.

The last two issues will be "Yesterday" – focused on the events of the 80s and 90s, and "Today and Tomorrow" looking at the 00s and the future. We welcome your contributions to either of these issues. Please contact me at Daniel.gaito@ttc.ca with your thoughts and contributions or leave them in the office with Marilyn.

*Daniel Gaito.*

## Coming Events

40th Anniversary Golf Tournament – May 23 – Bushwood Golf Course, Reesor Road near Stouffville. Breakfast; lunch; cart; golf; prizes! \$125 by 1 April 09, cheques payable to Forest Grove United Church  
Contact Dan MacLaren – 416.222.2858 or bgmaclaren@msn.com