

The

Mountaineer

www.mzlc.ca

A Publication of Mount Zion Lutheran Church

Volume 6 No. 6 Summer 2010

news from Mutual Ministry Committee:

Bedrest ordered for Pastor Tanya

Just few weeks ago, after announcing her family would be expecting their second child in October, Pastor Tanya Ramer thought she was flying to Nova Scotia for a vacation. Instead, she found herself heading to hospital in Kitchener – and then right back home to bed.

Pastor Krister Ulmanis advises “that’s where she is now: on sick leave instead of vacation, and trying to follow medical orders,

not an easy task for someone with Tanya’s energy.”

He also reported to the congregation (at services on May 16) that “Tanya and the baby are fine, but she has had some bleeding, and there is a blood clot that has not yet been explained. And basically, until it is, strict bedrest, tests and monitoring have been prescribed. So...whether Pastor Tanya likes it or not, she is on sick leave for

the time being.” Pastor Krister said he had assured Pastor Tanya of the support of the ministry team, and that “all pastoral cares will be taken care of in her absence. I’ve also told her the congregation will be thinking, and praying, for her and her family...just as we look for news from her in the days ahead...”
For pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Krister Ulmanis or Parish Nurse Betty Behm through the Church Office: (519) 886-5820.

Church Council service a rewarding experience

by Gerry Roeder

Based on my personal experience, I believe one of the most rewarding times in store for a member at Mount Zion is serving on Church Council. Being elected to be a part of the events and actions of the Church at this level is truly a great honour. But it’s also an opportunity for learning, for contributing, and yes, for enjoying.

As we move through the 2010 year, four Councillors are beginning new three-year terms of office. On behalf of **The Mountaineer**, I asked each of them to tell us a little about themselves. My questions

revolved around: “Where are you from, and what brought you to Mt. Zion?” “Why have you remained at our Church?” and “Why did you choose to serve on Church Council?” They took it from there. Here’s what they shared:

David Heldman

A long-time Kitchener resident, Dave attended St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in his youth, and later became a member of Christ Lutheran in Waterloo. He eventually transferred to Mount Zion after being invited to attend by friends. He was immediately impressed with how he was welcomed. In 2008, he was

invited to serve on the Call Committee which he described as a very refreshing experience. He also got to know many other committee members. One of them was Chris Kosumovic (then Congregational President) who encouraged him to think about serving on Church Council. Thinking turned to action when he agreed to fill a one-year vacancy on Council in 2009. That experience led him to election to a full three-year term at this year’s Annual Congregational Meeting. In April, Council elected him to be President of the congregation. Dave, who brings many years of congregational service – as well

as an accounting background - to his new role, says his main goal “ is to deal with the Church deficit”.

Adam Ramer

Adam arrived at Mount Zion through his brother, Matt, who was studying at the University of Waterloo. Matt told Adam how much he enjoyed attending services here, and suggested he should also give it a try. He did, and he’s still here as an active member of the congregation. (He also gained a sister when Matt and Mount Zion’s Pastor Tanya were married.) Adam and Matt grew up in the Owen Sound area where their family attended St. Peters Lutheran Church in Warton. It wasn’t surprising the brothers would investigate Mount Zion when they came to study in Waterloo. Their parents held good memories of Mount Zion - and their Mom’s parents, Harry and Kaye House, were charter members of this congregation! Adam found Mount Zion very welcoming, the services very much to his liking, and he decided to make this his church home. Adam has since volunteered many times and often serves as an assisting minister. He says he is looking forward to contributing to the work of Church Council. Now graduated from university, Adam

lives in Kitchener and works in Mississauga.

Adrian Marshall

Adrian immigrated to Canada from Trinidad/Tobago in the late 1980s. He started attending Mt Zion when he met Rosalind Eidt. Rosalind, the daughter of long-time members Doug and Rosalie Eidt, grew up and was confirmed here at Mt Zion. Adrian found the congregation to be welcoming, and when he and Rosalind were married at the Church he became a member. He says that over time he’s come to know a number of people in the congregation, and he now feels at home when he attends. He’s also joined one of the ushering teams. Now, he looks forward to being more involved as he serves on Church Council. Adrian and Rosalind have a daughter, Nyah.

David Murison

David started attending Mt Zion thanks to his parents, Sandy and Margaret. They had made Mt Zion their home and invited David to join them. Five years ago, David and his wife, Wanda, joined Mt Zion and found they enjoyed being here. David said he discovered he wanted to do something more for the Church than just attend Sunday services, but he wasn’t sure what. Then he was approached about serving on Church Council. He felt this was a great opportunity for him to

give something back to the Church, so he agreed. David says he looks forward to assisting with the many important issues facing our Congregation. (David is following an excellent tradition. His late father, Sandy, served on Council – and as Congregational President.)

When we look at the comments, and the talents, of these individuals who are beginning their terms as elected representatives of our Congregation, I believe we can be proud, and grateful for their sincerity and commitment. We know they will be welcomed, supported and mentored by nine other Councillors who are already into their terms. They are: **Loa Zilles Julie Joza, Betty Schelter, Helga Juergensen, Jeremy Van Hemmen, Ed Riegert, Marg Tupling and Kirk Swanson.**

We appreciate the faithful service of our Church Councillors, and hold them, and our ministry team, in our daily prayers as we move into a new chapter in Mount Zion’s history.

Pssst...looking for a challenge? Look into serving on Church Council! Talk to a current Councillor to see what it’s all about, and what it could mean for you.

HOW DO YOU PAY FOR YOUR GROCERIES?

Let us help you to make it easier!

You are invited to celebrate Open Sesame’s 40th Anniversary by purchasing a Grocery Gift Card. These cards can be bought by using cash or cheque, made out to Open Sesame Headstart Preschool. They are available in \$50.00 or \$100.00 for both Zehrs and Sobeys. The Zehrs cards can also be used at Value Mart and the Big Canadian Super Store. They can be purchased from Mayda Scoins (576-7711) or Ann Crossman (884-3077) after service or anytime by giving them a call.

We are hoping to add new supporters to our Open Sesame fundraiser. There will be an opportunity for you to purchase Grocery Gift Cards following the worship service on June 6th. To celebrate our 40th Anniversary, if you would prefer to make a donation, your cheque should be made out to Mount Zion Church and specified for Open Sesame.

Church? It's always in season

by Pastor Tanya Ramer

There's an old adage, "Out of sight, out of mind."

Unfortunately, I think that's the reaction pastors and church councillors are sometimes too quick to have when we notice church attendance numbers dropping off during the warm summer months. We find ourselves asking "where did all the people go?"

And of course, we know where "all those people" are. It happens every year. People are off to their cottages on the weekends; long-awaited summer vacations take families to new places, and there are day trips to a beach or to visit relatives and friends.

Everyone enjoys a week, a weekend, or a Sunday, off, but that doesn't make that old adage true. Temporarily out of sight does not equate with out of mind, particularly in a church family like ours that doesn't stop being – for summer or any other season.

During the summer months, lively worship continues – and yes, we do welcome our share of travellers and visiting summer worshippers. Our various committees still work and meet to assess the outreach needs of our congregation and community; to explore worship and learning opportunities for the fall; to keep on top of building and property needs, and to wrestle with finances and how we're going to deal with that pesky budget shortfall come fall.

In the wider church, pastors and parishioners will also be busy with the Eastern Synod Assembly, which will be held at the end of June. (That's when pastors and lay people from across our Synod gather to discuss ministry beyond our individual congregations.)

In July, Pastor Krister will attend a Mission Renewal Event in Minnesota. Discussion will focus on continuing education, and on how to create excitement in congregations to continue to grow in faith and mission to the world.

In August, several Mount Zion youth will participate in *Hands on Clay*, the Anglican/ Lutheran National Youth Gathering being held in London, Ont. Our young people will join with about 2000 others from across Canada to explore their faith through music, drama, conversation, service - and fellowship with one another.

So while the Church's pace may change somewhat during the summer, that pace isn't necessarily slower for everyone. And "Church" itself – like faith - is really never far from sight or mind. In fact, summer brings new and different opportunities for us to examine, explore and refresh our faith. We can do that in so many ways:

- by taking in God's wonder in nature - enjoying those beautiful Sundays "off."
- by spending weekends with family and friends - nurturing the gift of relationship, a reflection on God's relationship with us.
- by being physically active - recognizing our own need to have physical renewal.

Or perhaps we just need to take Church and faith out into the world with us, no matter where we are or what we are doing. After all, one of the tenants of faith in the Lutheran Church is proclaiming the Good News of God, through Christ Jesus, to the whole world. And most of the whole world is not sitting in a pew on a summer Sunday morning!

When I began this article, it was my fear that I might end up making people feel guilty about not being in church on a Sunday morning. I don't think I've done that. Writing this just reminded me – as I hope it has you - that God truly is *always* at work in the world, in the church, and in each and every one of us.

Our church and our faith stop for no season, but they may take new directions for growth and fulfilment. Just because we are not in a pew on a particular Sunday morning, does not mean anything has stopped for us. Rather, we worship and experience faith differently...as we commune with nature, with friends and family, or in the quiet time with God on a sunny day. May your summer season be rich in all the spiritual blessings you find, as you experience God in the world.

***See the Mount Zion Website
www.mzlc.ca
for up-to-date calendar
information during the summer***

Summer Reading Suggestions

It is summer and is our practice, the Mountaineer asked several of our members to tell us what they have been reading, in hopes that you might add one or more of their suggestions to your summer time reading.

The Natashas – The New And Global Sex Trade by Victor Malarek **Reviewed by Lynn Swanson**

The Natashas – The New And Global Sex Trade by Victor Malarek is a non-fiction piece that explores a worldwide issue that many people are unaware of. Human trafficking involves the recruitment of human beings through fraud for the purpose of prostitution and continues to be the third most profitable business, following drugs and firearms, in the world today. Based on his own field research, through which he gathers information through firsthand interviews with the pimps as well as the victims, Malarek details the process by which these vulnerable young women are lured overseas by the promise of escaping poverty and obtaining jobs as waitresses or nannies, or as glamorous as models, and the conditions that they endure when they are kidnapped by traffickers, smuggled across borders, and sold into the sex slave industry. Malarek outlines how the very system set in place to ensure the safety of citizens contributes in a direct or indirect way to the perpetuation of this industry and explores the factors, such as globalization and the internet, that enable criminals to exploit some of the most vulnerable members of society. This book provides a disturbing but fascinating and informative account of a serious world issue.

What the Dog Saw by Malcolm Gladwell **Review by Jeff Harris**

What's the difference between a mystery and a puzzle? Why do some people choke under pressure, while others panic instead? If a picture is worth a thousand words, does ever improving imaging technology tell us more about what we're seeing?

In the preface to this his most recent bestseller, author Malcolm Gladwell says, "good writing does not succeed or fail on the strength of its ability to persuade. It succeeds or fails on the strength of its ability to engage you, to make you think, to give you a

glimpse into someone else's head". A collection of Gladwell's articles from his day job as a writer for New Yorker magazine, *What the Dog Saw* does just that.

Employing both recognizable, real life illustrations, along with lesser known yet fascinating figures, Gladwell will engage you, guide you to look beyond the surface, and provide some revealing insights about the subjects and the events surrounding them. Often challenging conventional wisdom, over its 400 pages, *What the Dog Saw* will cause you to think, and often think twice, about human behavior and what's happening on the inside.

Upon completion of this book you might find yourself thinking differently about things – that Enron was not a case of fraud, that homeless shelters are not the solution, that banning pit bulls is wrong; and yes, you will learn what it is that the dog actually saw.

In *What the Dog Saw* you can see the genesis' of Gladwell's other popular books, the Tipping Point, Blink, and Outliers. While you won't want to put this book down, as a collection of discrete articles, you can if necessary, and come back to it sometime later – making it ideal for those like me whose reading for pleasure is often confined to short sessions with days in between.

If Life Is Just A Bowl Of Cherries – What Am I Doing In The Pits? By Erma Bombeck (1978) **Reviewed by Kerry Joy Townson**

Was the family of the 1970's really that much different than families of today? Perhaps, not so much. This author spent years writing about her experiences as a wife and mother and became one of the most renowned columnists, humourists, and authors of her time.

This particular book has an intriguing title and is full of real-life experiences viewed from the "lighter side". The author discusses her married life, relationship with

her children, and just surviving in suburbia. Bombeck wrote: “Children are becoming an endangered species, energy has reached crisis proportions, marriages are on the decline, and the only ones having any fun anymore are the research rats”. She speaks of one of these “research rats” who lived with a family and dropped dead after just three months. Apparently, it went for a car ride with the sixteen year old who just got his learner’s permit. The rat died of a heart attack.

She even jokes light heartedly about her invisible child called “I. dunno”. Whenever she asks one of her children “Who broke the dish, who ate the banana, or where is your missing homework?”, the answer is always “I. dunno”.

Regardless of our hi-tech world, relationships and family have not really changed that much. This book is an especially good fit for families on the go. Pick it up – put it down – or read it right through. Enjoy.

The Masada Scroll, Paul Block and Robert Vaughan, New York, Forge ©2007

ISBN #9780765351845

Reviewed by Tim Ehrlich

A Catholic priest, an American scholar, and a nice Jewish girl mull over the significance of an ancient document unearthed at the site of Masada, the historic fortress of Israel’s last stand against the Roman occupation. The premise is that this could well be the mysterious “Q” document upon which the earliest Gospels were based. It is presented as an eyewitness account of the ministry and crucifixion of Jesus by the son of Dismas the “good thief” who was crucified along with Christ.

The story is presented in parallel fashion giving the imagined historical story of the scroll’s origins which suggest that Jesus left a sign indicating that there are three paths to God – Judaism, Islam and Christianity. A desperate present day race ensues to preserve the scroll from an extremist Catholic group that wants to suppress the controversial content of the scroll. The “historical” account of Dismas bar Dismas does a fine job of drawing the reader into the time period of Christianity’s infancy, nicely capturing the enduring message of love as preached by Jesus. This book is available at the Waterloo Public Library.

Mount Zion Women’s 25th Annual Retreat

Twenty two women from ten different congregations gathered at Camp Edgewood April 23rd to 25th for a “Superb, Wonderful, Awesome” weekend. Those glowing words came from our evaluations, which each retreator completes at the end of our weekend together.

We were so “blessed” to have Pastor Tanya with us as she guided us in our theme “Engage in Creation”. Thank you, Pastor Tanya for leading us through scripture focusing on God’s power in the forms of wind, fire and water. Our outdoor worship on Saturday evening, using Holden Evening Prayer, the fire in the fireplace and candles in the shape of the cross was a highlight for everyone.

A Big Thank You also to pat Edwards, Pam Buchan and Sandy Dotzert for organizing our delicious meals and to Helen Weber, our craft leader from St. Mark’s, who led us in making 3D greeting card which we all enjoyed making and probably will never want to give away.

Those attending from Mt. Zion this were: Pastor Tanya, Anne Woolner, Pam Buchan, Pat Edwards, Melissa Dolbeer, Judi Harris and Carol Ziegler, our Den Mother. Please speak to them if you would like to hear more about our wonderful Retreat.

Trek 4 Kids

The Trek 4 kids went very well. I walked the 9km with Margaret, David and Wanda Murison walked the 9 km. Representing Mount Zion, the Murison Team raised \$908.00 plus the \$250.00 from the Service Committee giving us a grand total of **\$1,158.00**. In total the House of Friendship has raised \$25,000.00 for this project.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your wonderful support of Margaret, David and Wanda in this fundraising to send underprivileged kids to camp.

Thoughts on Pentecost

Symbols of Pentecost

By Tim Ehrlich and Pastor Krister



In our continuing series of looking at the symbols of Christianity we come now to Pentecost. To put things into context we'll briefly look at the history behind this festival.

Pentecost (also called The Feast Of Weeks) took place seven weeks - fifty days after the Passover (hence 'Pente' meaning 50). This joyful festival occurred during mid-summer and marked the end of the barley harvest. It would seem that beer did not make the short list for symbols of Pentecost. Even though it lasted for only one day, many Jews came to Jerusalem to join in the ceremonies in the temple. Two loaves were made from new grain and offered to the Lord. There was much dancing and singing of psalms and all the men joined in.

It was fifty days after the Resurrection. On the Feast of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and filled them with an earnest desire to share their new found faith in the risen Lord. This marked the birth of the church and to this day, Pentecost is recognized and celebrated as the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples effecting profound change, keenness and boldness. Pentecost is celebrated as the birthday of the church.

One of the most common symbols is the white dove. Luke 3, verse 22 states "and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove." The dove is a prominent motif and the colour white is used extensively. The other most recognizable symbol is the "tongues of fire." In Acts 2 we are told that, on the day of Pentecost, tongues of fire came to rest on the disciples and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Dancing flames in red colours depict the power of the Holy Spirit. Again, the colour red is widely used. In their own way, colours themselves are symbols; in this case, red and white.

There are seven gifts of the Spirit. These are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, inward

strength, knowledge, true Godliness, holy fear(reverence and true religion.) You might remember hearing most of these listed in the Baptismal liturgy. These are often symbolized by seven lamps. There seems to be a theme of "sevens" developing here so we'll suggest seven could also be a symbol.

The pomegranate is said to resemble the Church because of the unity of many seeds in one fruit. The pomegranate can be found as an architectural adornment in many old churches and chapels. A sailing ship is also often used as a symbol of the Church. Some of this symbolism probably derives from Jesus' protection of the disciple's boat on the stormy Sea of Galilee. St. Peter is often depicted as the helmsman of the ship of the Church.

Finally, we have the font. If Pentecost is celebrated as the birthday of the Church, it seems only natural that the font, a symbol of our baptism into the Church is also a symbol of Pentecost.

Open Sesame's 40th Anniversary Celebration June 5 - 6

Open Sesame Headstart Preschool will be holding and Open House Saturday, June 5th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in our auditorium for past and present Open Sesame children, their families, volunteers and supporters of Open Sesame.

You, the members of Mt. Zion are all supporters of Open Sesame through your benevolence offerings and so you are invited to the Open House as well. Come and meet the present and past teachers, plus our many volunteers from Mt. Zion and community.

On June 6th at 10:00 am, please plan to attend our special worship service celebrating 40 years of Mt. Zion's "Mission for Others" through Open Sesame Headstart Preschool. A time of fellowship will follow the worship service.

Pentecost – The Coming of The Spirit Began A New Humanity

By Gerry Roeder

Seven weeks after Easter each year, Christians celebrate Pentecost. Along with Easter and Christmas, it is one of the three major Christian festivals.

Pentecost is a Christian event celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on all of Jesus' followers. Many feel this was the true beginning of the Christian Church.

Christ promised his followers that the Spirit of God would descend upon them following his death and resurrection. Some 50 days after Good Friday and Easter, this promise was fulfilled.

The story of Pentecost is found in the second chapter of Acts where it describes the Spirit came upon the community with the sound of a "rushing wind" and with "tongues of fire" resting on each of them. Then we are told the followers of Jesus, now "filled with the Holy Spirit," began to speak in "other tongues."

As it's told, at this time in Jerusalem there were many devout Jews gathered from every nation under heaven. Upon the Spirit's arrival they were all bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in each others own language. The Galilean followers of Jesus were now able to communicate with the Jewish people about Christ being our Lord and Saviour. Jews marvelled at this and asked, "How is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language"? While some were amazed others were mocking and saying "They are drunk with wine".

Peter standing with the other disciples lifted up his voice saying "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, these men are not drunk. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know – this Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you

crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it ..."

Those who received this word were baptized, and there were saved that day around three thousand souls. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common – they sold their possessions and distributed them to all who had need. They attended the temple together each day, sharing the breaking of bread in their homes while praising God and having favour with all the people. The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The day of Pentecost essentially was the creation of a new humanity of which we at Mt Zion are part of today. Let us joyfully celebrate this day together.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of Your love."

Hosts required for Summer Fellowship

Starting June 13

Summer Fellowship will be held each Sunday following the liturgy during this summer season. We are looking for "hosts" to prepare coffee and juice each week, to provide munchies of some kind, and to clean-up afterwards. Can you help us out? A sign-up sheet is on the narthex bulletin board.

Adult Education Sessions are planned for October. Watch for more information coming soon.

Supportive Housing of Waterloo (Show) Update

Interviewing the Homeless, a Humbling Experience

By Barb Barnes

With the SHOW building at 362 Erb Street West nearing completion, the task of interviewing the potential tenants has geared up. This has been a humbling experience for this writer. Each individual gave me more insight about what it is like to be homeless...all the road blocks, and walls they encounter every day as they live on the streets striving to survive.

Word on the streets had given folks some idea what the new building had to offer but, when we listed all the amenities they were all very surprised. Statements like “You’re kidding”, and Wow! Wow! Wow! were repeated a number of times.

Security was another word I heard over, and over. The idea that they could lock a door, sleep in a real bed with sheets & a blanket was really big. “I feel my stress leaving already” was one gentleman’s comment.

Much to my surprise, the other room that was met with delight was the kitchen. I got a few brief cooking lessons and some advice on where to shop and save. Meals planned are chili, port cutlets (if available at a fair price), rice, and lots of pastas. When we told them that the kitchens would be equipped with not only the appliances, but also pots and pans, cooking utensils, dishes etc.; the eyes lit up and ear to ear smiles appeared.

As each session ended comments like “I now have hope”, “I feel the stress leaving”, or “Why are you (SHOW & Out Of The Cold) doing this for us?” were just some of the comments. There were also beautiful smiles and a lot of thank yous. I think the two most memorable were “Wow it’s just like Christmas”, and one individual who crosses their fingers, looked up, and said “I shall pray a lot”.

When you are at home, or just ready to go to bed, stop, and take a minute to look around. Drink in everything you can see and touch, I did, and truly realized how very blessed I am.

SHOW– Stuff The Truck

THANK YOU to everyone for contributions for Stuff the Truck event for SHOW. Between Mount Zion and Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church, we had a total of 3 truck loads of furniture, bedding, microwaves, TV’s and tons of towels, and other linens all needed. This ministry has the support of others as well, thanks to all who spread the word. On Sunday people from St. Johns Lutheran, and St. Andrews dropped articles off before they went to their churches. Your support with this project is appreciated.

Late Breaking

An Open House of the SHOW building is now planned for Wednesday, June 16, 6:30 - 8:30.

The Mountaineer

Mount Zion Lutheran Church

29 Westmount Road, South Waterloo, On N2L 2K4

Phone/Fax (519) 886-5820 e-mail: mtzion@mzlc.ca

www.mzlc.ca

Pastors: Rev Tanya Ramer., Rev. Krister Ulmanis

Editorial Committee: Dennis Eaton, Karen Gastmeier, Jim

Widdecombe, Tim Ehrlich, Gerry Roeder, Dave Heldman

Please send your comments, ideas and updates to

gastmeier@rogers.com

The next issue of the Mountaineer will be the September edition.

Have a good summer

Deadline for September issue

August 15, 2010

Highlights of Church Council Meeting, April 27, 2010

What's on Council's Mind?

Council continued the visioning process and took some time to the question of leadership in the congregation

Elections for Council Executive

Using secret ballot the following elections and acceptances took place:

Dave Heldman elected as Council Chair

Kirk Swanson elected as Council Vice Chair

Julie Joza elected as Secretary

Report from the Finance Committee

Current account shows a \$27,078 deficit as of March 31, 2010. Several invoices arrived later than expected (e.g., snow ploughing bill of \$4,758, but this is an annual cost and will not require payment for another year) as well as heating costs have increased

Discussion arose concerning the increasing deficit and what can be done to cut expenses. Dave reported the expenses have been day-to-day operations and there has been no overspending and unfortunately not much can be cut from the budget but, as reported, payments do need to be controlled. A suggestion was made to ask the Finance Committee to identify ways where costs can be cut even if these cuts are modest. Dave reported that Congregational giving is increasing but this needs to continue. A suggestion was made to consider a special mailing to members who are not regularly attendees. Other suggestions included asking members to consider receiving an email/web version of the newsletter in place of a paper copy; some people may like this option and it would reduce mailing costs.

New Treasurer

New Treasurer has been hired, signed a contract, and started work on April 20, 2010. His name is Hank Bax. Hank has worked as a church treasurer in the past therefore his experiences were well suited to the Mt. Zion position.

Property Report

Betty Schelter, council rep. on the Property Committee, presented information on the storm water management fees that are now being required by Waterloo residents and businesses. The fee to Mt. Zion is \$3.22/month for 3 meters in 2010 but will increase incrementally to \$17.22/month in 2014. These fees will be incorporated into the Mt. Zion operating budget. Repairs to the Dawson Street homes are being completed as requested.

Conestoga Mechanical will be doing a maintenance check of the heating and air conditioning in the coming weeks.

Complaints were received about the extreme heat from some users of the fellowship hall. This was due to a delay in the heat not being turned off and patrons attempting to adjust the thermostat themselves to turn on the air conditioning. Property Committee will be installing a box to cover the thermostat in the fellowship hall so adjustments by individual users cannot be made.

Bylaw #1 - Update

Pr. Krister reported that the Bylaw update has been sent to Synod for review and approval. The update has been received from Synod but their AGM is not scheduled until November for the Committee to review the proposed change. The Committee may meet in June where the request will be reviewed, but there are no guarantees.

April Food Drive

THANK YOU for your support of the Food Drive organized by the Service Committee.

This year we collected 112 lb / 50.8 kg of food and \$545.00 in cash donations. (remember, \$1.00 buys \$8.00 worth of groceries)

Supporting our Ministry

As of April 30, 2010

By Jim VanHemmen
Interim Chair, Finance Committee

As you can see from these numbers, the current deficit has now grown to over \$30,000. While the growth of the deficit for April slowed, this is mainly due to the Easter offering. We need to do more to reverse this trend or we will soon need to find other ways to replenish the current bank account. There are a few immediate options for the congregation to help.

Increase normal weekly givings. While these economic times may not make this easy, we need to find a way to do more.

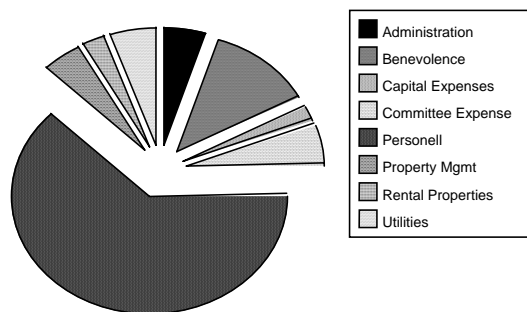
Fill and return the film canisters which were distributed early in the year. This can just be the **Signup for PAR.** While this would not necessarily immediately bring in more money, it would allow for a more stable cash flow throughout the year.

At the annual meeting, we discussed the challenges we knew we would be facing and the budget was approved accepting these challenges. It is now time for everyone to step up and meet these challenges head-on.

<u>CURRENT</u>	2010	2009
Income	93,516	83,665
Expense	124,036	87,666
Balance	-30,520	-4,001

<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>		
Synod	11,101	10,605
CLWR	2,248	1,955
Open Sesame	2,830	4,015
Other	16,445	9,556

<u>CAPITAL</u>		
Income	4,427	5,188
Expense	7,469	14,449



Summary of 2010 Budget

what we have approved to spend and how it compares to the rest of the budget

MINISTRY	TOTAL AMOUNT	% Operating Budget
Administration	\$ 18,270.00	4.7 %
Benevolence	\$ 48,000.00	12.4 %
Capital Expenses	\$ 7,000.00	1.8 %
Committee Expense	\$ 21,845.00	5.7 %
Personnel - all	\$ 242,121.00	62.7 %
Property Mgmt (Maintenance)	\$ 17,863.00	4.6 %
Rental Properties	\$ 10,241.00	2.7 %
Utilities	\$ 21,100.00	5.4 %
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET:	\$ 386,440.00	100 %