

**PRESBYTERY OF HALTON  
FULL COURT, ERINDALE UNITED CHURCH**

**PAGE 09-091  
OCT 27 2009**

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**ROLL:**

**MINISTRY PERSONNEL:** Linda Appleby, John Benham, Diane Blanchard, Blair Corcoran, Gordon Dunbar, Sarah Fanning, Don Gibson, Jim Gill, John Hogman, Barry King, Evelyn McLachlan, Barbara Morrison, Amy Persons Parkes, Allison Playfair, Pegi Ridout, Dale Skinner, Carolyn Smith, Neville Smith, Cynthia Stretton, John Tapscott, Kathy Toivanen, Darrow Woods, (22)

**RETIRED MINISTRY PERSONNEL:** Ann Fleming, Peter Hoyle, Bob Nicholls, David Walker (4)

**LAY MEMBERS:** John Allan, Dianne Allum, John Ashfield, Shirley Bottaro, Ken Boulton, George Bradley, Nancy Brodie, Eleanor Christie, Don Featherstone, Marian Ferguson, Lloyd Free, Peter Hancock, Amy Hill, Moffat Hill, John Hurst, Amber Ing, Jim Joseph, Jean Keenleyside, Kim Mackenzie, Russell Martin, Emy Neufeld, Gretchen Greene O'Brien, Bob Panabaker, Mary Patterson, Morgan Perigo, Walter Sowa, Susan Stephen, Cathy Stevenson, Ed Swinton, Liz Tarczy, Margaret Vannest, Phyllis Walker, Harold Walton, Mary Jane Ward, Howard Wills, Jean Wilson, (36)

**CANDIDATES & GUESTS:** Charlie Hogg, Michelle Hogman

**REGRETS:** John Allsop, Shirley Bainbridge, Jane Brushey-Martin, Lexie Chamberlain, Chris Cheung, Bruce Dickson, John Fargey, Meg Grieve, Steven Huntley, Orville James, Jim Keenleyside, Joyce Pearce, Patt Robinson, Kim Shantz, Maryann Skinner, Pat Skinner, Sandy Skinner, Jeff Vannan, Bill West

**HALTON PRESBYTERY PERSISTENT FRIEND:** Lorna MacQueen, regrets

**4<sup>th</sup> at 4 – Did You Register?**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> at 4** this evening to hear Dr. Tom Axworthy numbered around 40 followed by dinner prepared by Erindale United Church. The Court assembled in the Sanctuary until after worship at which time we moved to table groups in the hall.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT** – Don Gibson, Chair Halton Presbytery  
Don thanked Erindale United for stepping in this evening to host Halton Presbytery. St. John's is almost there and will host presbytery in February.

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Ed Swinton, new representative from Applewood United, Mississauga

Bob Panabaker, new representative from East Plains United, Burlington

**VISITORS:**

**JOYS & CONCERNS:**

Please keep ALL our sisters and brothers in our prayers and continue to surround them with our love.

- Albion Wright has been appointed to the Permanent Committee on Finance of the General Council – Congratulations!
- Cawthra Park – the Transition Team has been working for about 1-1/2 years on a recommendation which was presented to the congregation in June, this recommendation was to close Cawthra Park United Church. A congregational vote was taken October 25<sup>th</sup> with the majority voting to keep Cawthra Park United OPEN. There is much work to be done! Please hold the Cawthra Park congregation in your prayers. Don Gibson led the Court in a prayer for the congregation at Cawthra Park United Church.

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**WELCOME:** A welcome to Erindale United was given by Brian Duckett, Chair of Council.

Erindale is a strong and active church, a growing congregation, church and property in good condition, well-funded by the congregation and school tenant. Has an active outreach program locally (hands on) and with the wider church. Erindale is working to increase their M&S giving's. Erindale's leaders have a history of good work in the wider church, Presbytery, Conference, the National Church and General Council. Some capital needs have been identified which they are hoping to address in 2010 probably through a capital campaign. Difficult issues have been addressed, and probably more to come. With an active church and an excellent leadership cadre, Erindale is up to the tasks and challenges ahead.

### **WORSHIP: Halton Presbytery Worship Team**

Worship this evening was led by David Walker and Darrow Woods focusing on Ruth's "Commitment of Love". Jean Keenleyside accompanied at the piano.

Amber Ing shared her personal testimony.

Anyone interested in being part of this team, please contact Darrow Woods.

### **GENERAL COUNCIL DELEGATE'S PRESENTATION:**

John Hurst, Sarah Fanning, Walter Sowa, Orville James, Amber Ing, Peggi Ridout along with Jeff Crittenden

**Orville James:** shared his thoughts on paper and these were available for pick-up.

**Amber Ing:** Intense, good experience, excellent food. I learned the importance of Worship and the need to make resources available in the many languages of the church and enabling the vision of an intercultural church. It was wonderful to fellowship with brothers and sisters from so many parts of our church and meeting our global partners from different parts of the world who have received support from the United Church of Canada. I global partnered with the director of Rural Ministries from Japan who learned much from GC40. We also learned from the sharing of their ministries abroad, their needs and their appreciation for the support from the UCC.

**John Hurst:** In the many things that attracted my attention at General Council, three stuck out for me and remain in my mind. First: the stories from First Nations persons who had personally survived the residential school scandal were heart-wrenching. To be taken away from parents at a very young age is difficult to fathom. Those stories, I think, had a very positive impact on us as we discussed issues of social justice and inclusion.

Second: the proposals to include in some way First Nations persons in our Basis of Union and also to in some way include first Nations on our Crest got a good hearing in the Court. Motions to create Task Groups to study these issues and report back at the next General Council easily passed.

Third: I was in the Commission that discussed the Israel/Palestine issue. While the plight of Palestinians is well known, aggression against Israel is also well known. In the end, more moderate language had to prevail, and although we accomplished only a small increment over a similar motion at GC#\* in 2003, the issue itself is very difficult, and General Council felt that our role as a Church is to insist upon the two parties meeting in some peaceful way to begin to sort out differences and a lasting peace. We understand that will be difficult and long-term, but we do not see aggression or one-sidedness as being appropriate.

**Walter Sowa:** First: HAM2 Hamilton Conference Proposal for a More Holistic United Church of Canada. This was a Halton Presbytery Proposal which had to do with making the first statement in Call to Purpose a priority of the church. After an amazingly tortuous path, the Hamilton Conference Proposal was adopted by a significant majority, with the amendment that the other three statements of Call to Purpose be added. We now had the wind in our sails and are on our way, Hallelujah!

Second: Two proposals that go together, One is GCE2 Revision of Basis of Union to include First People of Canada, and the other is GCE3 New United Church Crest. Both have been adopted by General Council and Task Groups will be established for each. We need to become more knowledgeable about this by the time we vote in 2012. We in Canada can learn to become a model for the nations of the world.

Third: A proposal adopted in the Atlantic Commission M&O1 "The United Church of Canada and Global warming – The Unavoidable Challenge." The proposal originated with Glebe-St.James United Church in the Montreal & Ottawa Conference. It is important. Canada is the second largest country by area in the world, what happens here affects the world. We are an Arctic country, the ice is melting now! our habitat is changing now! We need to know as much as possible, scientifically based, and adapt as best and as fast as we can.

**Peggi Ridout:** The Arctic Commission declared the United Church of Canada's opposition to discrimination.

Congregations will be invited to conduct an inclusively audit to identify ways they can be more hospitable. There are tremendous opportunities for the United Church of Canada to reach out:

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- to former Roman Catholics, particularly those who are French speaking.
- In intercultural conversation and interfaith dialogue.
- Through the pastoral care being offered on Wonder Café to youth.

In this gathering of 400 Commissioners and another 400 staff, guests and youth, I wish we had spent less time dealing with procedures, polity and Manual revisions and more time figuring out how to respond to and use our resources for these opportunities.

Peggi asked that the Court have 3 minutes to discuss what you have heard or read re General Council 40 and to share your concerns or positive reactions. If you have any questions ask one of your commissioners in person or by phone/email.

Don thanked, on behalf of Halton Presbytery all those who went to General Council as Commissioners for their time and volunteering on our behalf.

### SECRETARY'S TIME:

**MOTION:** Marian Ferguson/Gord Dunbar

That the minutes of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 be approved as received with a couple of minor changes, and that the Executive minutes of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 received for information only.

Changes: spelling of Evelyn McLachlan's name and add Peter Hobbes and Cam Fraser to the Visitors list.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Marian Ferguson/David Walker

That the Enabling Motions & Consent Docket be approved for this October meeting of Presbytery. This document can be found on the Halton Presbytery web site.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** from October 7<sup>th</sup> through October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- |     |  |                 |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| 1.  | General Council Office: "Giving Thanks for Abundance When Faced with Scarcity"               | to Exec, PC     |
| 2.  | Emmanuel Encounter November 11.09  | to WM           |
| 3.  | Gen. Secretary's Weekly Letter Oct. 01, Oct. 08, Oct. 15, Oct. 22                            | to PC           |
| 4.  | Upcoming Con Ed Events at Emmanuel College   | to Exec, PC, WM |
| 5.  | HamPack October 2009   | to File         |
| 6.  | McMaster Campus Ministries Council   | to Chair Elect  |
| 7.  | Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> bulletin stuffer   | to PC           |
| 8.  | Hamilton Conference "Living for the Earth: Choosing Creation Over Empire:"                   | to Exec, PC     |
| 9.  | Finance & Property Comm. Minutes Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2009                                 | to File         |
| 10. | The United Church of Canada Acting Exec. Secretary of London Conference, Rev. Heather McLean | to File         |
| 11. | The United Church of Canada Annual Reports   | to File         |
| 12. | Pastoral Oversight Minutes Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2009                                      | to File         |

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**All announcements to be posted on the Halton Presbytery web-site unless pertaining to this evening.**

Peter Hoyle reminded the Court of the **Intersection of Worship and Technology** workshop being held at Eden United Church on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

And

KYOTO plus: Creating a New Global Covenant – Climate Action Now!

Get your congregation to sign their Petition, photocopy for more signatures and return

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### CHAIR PERSON'S TIME: Don Gibson

**Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 3.00 pm - St. Stephen UC, 2258 Parkway Dr., Burlington**

"Between Being and Doing: Care of Body, Mind and Spirit for Ministry"

The Rev. John Buttars has had a very special ministry for 30 years at Harcourt Memorial, in Guelph, Ontario. Trained as a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition, John developed a ministry that sought to combine wide community involvement and intentional personal and communal spiritual practices.

Our monthly educational events have been focused around developing leadership to grow our ministries -- we are encouraging our folk to change the way they do ministry in order to reverse the decline that seems endemic to the United Church at the moment.

Effective church leadership is grounded in personal authenticity. Such leadership is exercised in a world and in a church that is filled with anxiety. Life-giving personal spiritual, physical and religious practices, both individual and corporate, are essential for the kind of leadership that God's mission requires. Such practices help maintain a healthy tension between the 'doing' of ministry and the 'being' of ministry.

Through Continuing Education at Emmanuel College, we are pleased to welcome John Buttars as a resource to our Presbytery.

**FOR THIS MONTH ONLY, THE 4TH AT 4 WILL BEGIN AT 3:00 PM.**

**John Hurst** brought to our attention that in the Executive minutes you will notice changes around the VIM loans and that this is moving forward.

**Also:**

Wellington Square are looking to borrow monies and have asked Halton Presbytery and Hamilton Conference to be a guarantor – answered NO. The National Office now is showing interest in being a guarantor for these loans and want Halton Presbytery to be aware of their intent. If these loans go sour the National are on the hook for these monies. We received this with hopeful expectations and wait further discussion between National and Wellington Square.

### BUSINESS ARISING from minutes:

#### REMITTS: Sent to all members of Presbytery.

1. Election of Lay Representatives to Presbytery -

**Question:** Does the Presbytery agree that it is the duty of the Congregation to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Congregation to the Presbytery.

**MOTION:** John Hurst/Barry King

**CARRIED**

2. "Appointed," "Chosen," "Elected," "Selected"

**Question:** Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect a consistent use of 'appoint' and 'elect', as follows.....:

**MOTION:** John Hurst/Bob Nicholls

**CARRIED**

**ALL PURPOSE BREAK:** Thanks to the congregation of Erindale United Church

#### Mission Development Officer/interview with Jim Gill

Honoring Jim Gill's 25 years at Walton Memorial United and the Walton growth story.

We congratulate Jim Gill as he celebrates 25 years at Walton Memorial United Church in Oakville and the wonderful things that are happening at Walton - 1983 until last year.

See Jim's full report on page 09-097.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ❖ **Candidacy & Vocations:** Amy Hill

**MOTION:** Amy Hill/Phyllis Walker

That Halton Presbytery on the advice of the Candidacy & Vocations Committee confirms the status of Lynn Hamilton, West Plains United Church Burlington, as a candidate for Ordained Ministry.

**CARRIED**

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**MOTION:** Amy Hill/Phyllis Walker

That Halton Presbytery on the advice of the Candidacy & Vocations Committee recommend Lynn Hamilton to Hamilton Conference Education and Students Committee for Ordination at the Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference 2010.

**CARRIED**

❖ **TREASURER:** John Hurst

**Signing Authority Update:**

Bank Accounts all changed.

**Assessments:**

Second Quarter assessments are all in. Third Quarter assessments were mailed, and approximately three-quarters of the remittances are in. I will begin sending out assessment invoices half way through the quarter starting with November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Payroll and Remittances:**

Payroll cheques and remittances to the Receiver General have been paid up to September 30, 2009.

**Current Financial Position:**

The September 30<sup>th</sup> year-to-date deficit is about \$9,000. See the Draft Budget report that comes with this report.

The September 30<sup>th</sup> Balance Sheet shows \$41,000 in cash, \$975,000 in short term investments, \$100,000 in long term investments, and inconsequential amounts of receivables and payables. In other words, the Balance Sheet is exceedingly strong.

**2010 Draft Budget:**

A preliminary 2010 Budget was presented to Finance and Property in September and the Draft 2010 Budget accompanies these minutes on page 09-096 .

As the report shows, we are forecasting a deficit of \$63,000 for 2009 which is \$10,000 favourable to the 2009 Budget and a deficit of \$75,000 for 2010 which is in line with current income and expenditure patterns.

**MOTION:** John Hurst/Peter Hancock

That this Treasurer’s report and Draft Budget be received for information.

**CARRIED**

❖ **Finance & Property:** Peter Hancock

**Mission Support Committee Grants** were transferred to Finance & Property Committee last year.

**Grants requested as follows:**

St. Paul’s Milton	- for Satellite Ministry	\$30,000.00
Mississauga Chinese	- for continuing support	\$13,800.00
Lakeshore Comm. Outreach	- for Life Skills	<u>\$17,000.00</u>
	Total	\$60,800.00

**MOTION:** Peter Hancock/Morgan Perigo

That Halton Presbytery adopt the recommendation of both its Finance & Property Committee and Executive and support the requests for Mission Support Grants to St. Paul’s Milton (\$30,000), Mississauga Chinese United Church (\$13,800) and Lakeshore Community Outreach Centre (\$17,000) for a total of \$60,800 to Hamilton Conference.

**CARRIED**

**NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Evelyn MacLachlan at 9:00 P.M.-

**John Hurst closed with prayer.**

**CARRIED**

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		<b>Halton Presbytery</b>					
	<b>October 6, 2009</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2010</b>					
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Revenue</b>							
	Congregation Assessments	212,200	186,600	139,978	186,637	188,870	244,327
	Donations	4,000	4,000	3,330	4,000	6,136	3,599
	Interest Income	32,600	37,400	20,602	43,000	65,300	25,502
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>248,800</b>	<b>228,000</b>	<b>163,910</b>	<b>233,637</b>	<b>260,306</b>	<b>273,428</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
	Assessment paid to Ham Conf	136,100	110,500	82,882	110,509	108,665	112,555
	Paid to Ministry Candidates	4,000	4,000	2,000	4,000	5,000	4,600
	Committee Expenses	21,000	10,000	4,483	20,950	5,668	4,008
	Presbytery Office	20,000	19,000	12,700	19,500	19,379	19,809
	<b>Mission Support</b>						
	Mississauga Chinese		7,200	4,750	7,250	8,000	8,000
	Allocated					57,409	58,250
	Unallocated (Contingency)	46,700	25,000		50,000		
	<b>Total Mission Support</b>	<b>46,700</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>57,250</b>	<b>65,409</b>	<b>66,250</b>
	HUCEC Grant	15,000	15,000		15,000	15,000	15,000
	Communications Consulting		20,000	6,150			
	Mission Development Officer	81,000	80,000	60,200	80,000	22,477	13,809
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>323,800</b>	<b>290,700</b>	<b>173,165</b>	<b>307,209</b>	<b>241,598</b>	<b>236,031</b>
	<b>Net Income / Loss</b>	<b>(75,000)</b>	<b>(62,700)</b>	<b>(9,255)</b>	<b>(73,572)</b>	<b>18,708</b>	<b>37,397</b>
<b>Assessments</b>							
	Conference	13.85	11.25	11.25	11.25	10.50	10.25
	Presbytery Operating Assess.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
	Presbytery Mission Fund	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	9.25
	<b>Total Assessment</b>	<b>21.60</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>18.25</b>	<b>22.25</b>
	<b>Number of members</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>10,349</b>	<b>10,981</b>
	<b>Total Assessment Amount</b>	<b>212,177</b>	<b>186,637</b>	<b>186,637</b>	<b>186,637</b>	<b>188,869</b>	<b>244,327</b>
<b>Notes:</b>							
1	Interest Income is lower because of lower rates. Budget for 2010 is 1.5% at maturities						
2	Assessments are based on 2009 formula and 2009 amounts.						

Question 1) – What would you find 26 years ago? And 2) – compare it to today?

- 145 - 2008 399 active envelope holders.
- 180 families – 2008, 550.
- Budget of \$66,000 – 2008, \$534,000.
- Total weddings, baptisms and funerals of 37 in 1983 versus 226 in 2008
- One service and 3 staff versus three services a week and 14 staff.
- in 1983 the building required major exterior repair, electrical updating, renovation and expansion. Over 25 years we had two major expansions in 1990 and 2000 plus significance renovations totaling well over a million dollars in 1990 and 2000 dollars. This was all paid off without any Presbytery, Conference or National assistance and we have money in the bank. The seating in the sanctuary was increased on three separate occasions. A four floor elevator and handicapped washroom was installed, all roofs have been replaced, a new organ installed, the parking lot paved and most of the building was air conditioned. We also successfully dealt with two major bearing wall failures in 1987 and 2004 in addition to the redevelopment of both the neighboring properties to the east and west where we rented them land for short term use not permanent use, believing you never sell off and land.
- Parish Nursing Ministry was introduced, prayer ministries like healing services started, an ongoing visitation program with volunteers and staff was created and a volunteer coordinator was hired. There is a choir program of 70, Sunday school and youth program of about 200 and we had 20 ministerial interns over 20 years. We have 3 websites, pod cast sermons and use a screen and projector in every service. A Nursery School and Daycare were both added. Our Auction grew to about \$24,000 in revenue each year and our Turkey dinner grew to feeding hundreds through eating in and the more recent idea of take out.

**3) My Attitude/ My Call** - everything I do I ask the question, will this grow the congregation spiritually or as a community, will it grow attendance and involvement and will it grow the congregation financially. If it does not meet those requirements I do not get involved. I have to see how it will make Walton prosper before I do something. For this reason I avoid meetings, conferences and events as much as I possibly can, focusing instead on local congregational needs.

- I believe I am the leader of the congregation and it is my job to make sure the congregation is healthy and thriving. I steer the ship and I am the day to day CEO. The Official Board sets overall policy while Committee chairs, staff and I run the Church day to day. I am like a franchise owner, entrepreneur or Coach and General Manger of a sports team. I do not see myself as an enabler, facilitator, social activist or prophet but intentional leader, pastor, fundraiser and builder
- I set the example by working harder, longer and with more dedication than anyone else. I tithe my income. My job description clearly says I work 48 hours a week and I usually volunteer about 15-20 hours a week more than that. There is seldom a day that I do not work at least part of it even on holidays and vacation.
- I believe I must not ask anyone, to do something I would not do myself except maybe sing a solo. If needed I fix toilets, shovel snow, carry chairs and work in the kitchen.
- I believe it is important to live, shop, eat, bank and spend lots of time in the community I serve.
- I live in a manse, which benefits the congregation, to have me 3 blocks away from the Church and to have raised my kids in the Bronte community having them attend the local public schools.
- I believe it is important to bloom where you are planted. Though I have had three offers this summer alone to go elsewhere I believe in long term ministry for myself and those around me. Get a good team in place and keep them. I realize the right staff in the office and Sunday School will build the church even more than what I can possibly do as Minister.

#### **4) How**

- 1) We are a Holy Spirit and prayer driven community of faith.
- 2) I preach the Bible, not discredit it. I preach Jesus Christ, who is my personal Savoir and He is who he said he is. I preach and teach Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. I promote the Basis of Union and Orthodox theology while being liberal on social issues. I am called to be a defender of the faith, not someone trying to rewrite it or discredit it. God is alive and at work in the world. Prayer is answered and the Holy Spirit does miraculous wonders in our time.
- 3) We hire the best staff we can who are organized, dedicated, reliable and give 150%. We have three staff with more than 25 years service, 3 others with more than ten. The same is true with our lay leaders. They tend to stay in their positions for years for we try to avoid a revolving door.
- 3) The Church never closes, the office never shuts, and I answer my own phone and email. I try to respond to most contacts in hours, not days. We do not have joint services with other congregations or close for certain Sundays in the summer. Outreach is aimed at being hands on rather than third party. We let the community know we are here for them. While we serve Oakville and Burlington we have regular attendees from Milton, to Port Dover, Ancaster to Grimsby, Mississauga to Hamilton.
- 4) The Church has open doors to anyone and everyone. We are not a social club for members only. We rent the building heavily and advertise, promote and publicize constantly. We are opening and welcoming.
- 5) We are not bound by the United Church tradition or thinking or current trends or fads in theology and practice. We keep focused on our goals and objections even if it is going against the current hot button concern, bandwagon or issue. We are not hung up on language, policies or procedures. If it works and produces results we will use it. We will beg, borrow or steal ideas or programs from any denomination in any country and from beyond the church community.
- 6) I daily attempt to make 10 contacts that are pro active networking, cold calling and prospecting which is on top of the normal day today pastoral care responses which are also given high priority.
- 7) We are always watching the bottom line and are very frugal. I need to be constantly raising money and promoting giving and stewardship. I watch the budget and expenses every week. We need to be conservative with money in everything we do.
- 8) I believe ministry is a calling, not a job or profession. It is not about me and my needs, issues or agendas but about making disciples and growing the church. While the United Church denomination is dying Walton does not need to die nor does any other local United Church. There is great hope and promise for the health of local United Church Congregations. Walton's future lies in the hands of Walton, not anyone else's. If we don't build it no one else will. Churches are built by, day in and day out, slugging year after year after year. It is hard work but it is a great calling to serve God.