

Special Easter Service in Wentworth 2012



Pastor Darryl Dykens, Rev. Brian DeLong, Claire Patriquin, and Debbi DeLong oversee a Passover Seder meal at a special Easter Service in Wentworth in commemoration of the Last Supper. (Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Recently at the Wentworth United Church, members of the United Church and the Baptist church paid their respects to the Last Supper which Jesus had with his disciples by having a Passover Seder meal. The Passover Seder meal tells the history of the Israelites, their slavery in Egypt and their escape to freedom as they crossed the Red Sea. From the Seder meal comes the Christian doctrine of Holy Communion and the Eucharist.

As a background to the Passover Seder meal, a copy of the Last Supper painting done in the 15th century by Leonardo da Vinci hangs on the church wall. Arranged in the downstairs church hall were tables for the congregation, a head table for the two ministers, Rev. Brian DeLong, United Church minister, and Pastor Darryl Dykens, Baptist Church minister, and two readers, Claire Patriquin and Debbi DeLong, and a single table for the prophet Elijah.

At each table setting, there were reminders of the Israelites escape from slavery into freedom due to divine intervention: Matzah means the unleavened bread which symbolizes the Israelites escaping slavery in Egypt so quickly that there was no time for the bread to rise; Charoset, a mixture of apples, honey and nuts, represents the clay and straw used by labouring slaves to make bricks for buildings in Egypt.

The salt water means remembering the tears shed by those suffering slavery; Maror, a bitter herb (horseradish), represents the terrible experience of slavery;

Pesach, meaning roast lamb, is a reminder of the lamb sacrificed by the Israelites the night before they escaped Egypt; Karpas, (parsley), represents the 600,000 Israelites fleeing across the Red Sea to freedom while being pursued by the Egyptian army and remembering that the battle for freedom begins in suffering; the four cups of wine (fruit juice is used instead at this service) mean the joy of escaping slavery into freedom.

As selected members of the congregation read from the Haggadah order of service at this Passover Seder meal, we learn the meaning of Urchatz and Rohtzah as hand washing rituals and of Chamitz as leavened bread which has to be searched for and taken away before the Passover Seder meal begins. While in the Jewish tradition fifteen steps are gradually done during the Seder meal, this Seder meal at the United Church is done in twelve steps.

The two ministers, Rev. Brian DeLong and Pastor Darryl Dykens, and other readers follow the twelve steps. After all the Chametz (leavened bread) has been removed and an introduction said, all the Passover candles are lit at each table and a spiritual song is sung: "Let there Be Light." The congregation members drink the First Cup of Sanctification and Freedom, and then a washing ritual of hands is done. Next comes the ceremony of the eating of Karpas, the green vegetable parsley, dipped in salt water as a reminder that life is a mixture of hardships, but also of joy, love, deliverance and freedom. The Matzah is broken into parts, with one part saved, the Afikomen, which will be eaten later. The

belief that a Messiah is coming in the future is stressed.

The Magid, the telling of the Passover story from Exodus and Deuteronomy, is begun with the asking of four questions about why this night is different from other nights, and at this time the questions are asked by Amelia Dykens and Perry Dykens. The story of the Passover is told in length and detail by the two ministers and selected readers in the congregation: Matzah, Maror, Karpas, Charoset are lifted up at selected times and then eaten by everyone, symbolizing the entire story of the Passover from the bitter times of slavery to joy, and deliverance with the hope that all people will have freedom.

At this time "Let My People Go" and "Amazing Grace" are sung and all drink the Second Cup of Deliverance. During this time, the Matzah is eaten, the Maror is dipped into the Choroset and eaten, and the Koreich (sandwich) consisting of the Maror being placed between two pieces of Matzah is eaten, and with this ceremony the story of Passover is told once again.

Now time is taken for a recess from the Seder meal in order to eat a traditional church potluck supper consisting of casseroles, beans, salads, desserts, tea, coffee, and fruit juice prepared by the congregation and time to have a period of fellowship.

Upon returning again to the Passover Seder meal, Rev. DeLong finds the missing part of the Matzah, called Afikomen, the broken bread of redemption, which is a sign of finding freedom from sin. Organist Betty Curry opens a door for the prophet Elijah in case he comes to the Seder meal and announces the coming of the Messiah.

The service has shifted into a Christian interpretation of what is happening. Elijah is no longer waited for, as Jesus, the Messiah, has come. The Afikomen, the bread of redemption, is eaten, and all drink the Third Cup of Redemption. A hymn of praise is sung, "And Can It Be That I Should Gain".

Before the drinking of the Fourth Cup of Thanksgiving and Hope, the congregation gives thanks to God by saying the "Lord's Prayer" and by looking towards the future with hope and faith in God. After the Passover candles are extinguished at each table, the Seder meal ends with a remembrance and respect that we have observed a Jewish tradition and gained knowledge and wisdom from it.

Learning about the symbols of a Passover Seder and hearing its message about freedom and redemption is an edifying experience and a wonderful way of bringing people together.

Bass River and Economy FIREFIGHTERS TAKE LIVE FIRE TRAINING

By Peter Christensen

Well the heat was on in the house tonight folks. Just got back from Bible Hill, where the team from your brigade took part in LIVE fire training. The team consisted of Dave, Becky, Alex, Terry, Andrew, Chief Alfred, and with us tonite, the team from Economy Chief Jason, Shannon, and Jeff.

For the training you entered as a team, one holding the nozzle, the other holding the hose, you entered the back of the trailer and as soon as you got in, the darkness enclosed your view, the heat hit your senses. The hose was hard to maneuver in the closeness of the inside of the four foot hallway that you were crawling through .

ON YOUR KNEES, ON YOUR KNEES, was all I could hear as my team mate Becky, pushed towards the heat and the fire being generated by the propane tanks. Then you get to see the ceilings light up as the flames do a rollover, where the fire and smoke super ignite and the flames roll over the ceiling, looking like a brilliant sunset that is cascading into a line of clouds and dust, flowing red and scalloped like a fish scale on the ceiling above you.

Then the heat begins to sink into you, as you become self aware that, heh, this is as real as it gets. Though it was a practice, it was high alert as well.

Then as we get one fire out, you can feel the heat start to penetrate your back, as you realize another fire has sprung up in the room to your left back. Now it is time to retrace our steps on your knees, because heat rises and it is cooler at the floor.

Backing up with a fully charged fire hose in full turnout gear and a breathing apparatus that feels like it weighs eighty pounds. It is not easy and when the hall turns forty five degrees, and you lose another two feet of space, you can certainly feel the tightness of it all .

We were only at the session for four hours. I believe it was a great idea to go. Thank you to our training officer Dave Macfarlane for setting it up.

This past week has been crazy busy at the hall. The nights were filled with training. On Monday night, we had fire sessions with John Dunbar from Valley-Kemptown Fire Brigade. We talked on subjects related to the study of fire scenes and the types of turnout gear available for brigades.

The Tuesday night training was filled up with taking the pleasure craft operator training. It was a good idea, since we now have a water craft to assist in the rescue of folks in trouble along our part of the shore.

A good turnout for sure and everyone passed the exams. Congratulations to all who took part.

Now tomorrow we will get ready for our Pancake Brunch on Sunday at the hall. Lots of things to do, but it will be well worth it. And Holly Grue will be there helping, just as she has done at any function she was able to attend.

And music will ring out on Sunday, with Carl Elliot and friends coming together to play as they always do. A pre-thank you to the folks who lighten our tired hearts and souls with the music they grew up with.

The next big thing this month will be the dance with Sweet Revenge at the hall on April 28. The first dance since the sun went away and the cold became our enemy and our only thing we griped about all winter.

Ah, but now the sun is our friend, lighting our early morns as we rise to face another day, and the grass fires begin anew.

The sun, which warms old bones and sends new growth through the limbs of the trees and flowers of the gardens. And it also removes the ice from Gamble Lake, so on the first Saturday of June, the water on the lake will be ready for the Fishing Derby. June 2, is the day, so get your poles ready and bring some water to drink and have a good day, just fishing.

Well i must get ready to go to town, and buy the staples for the hall. Maybe some refreshments, some bottled water would be good. We used a bunch tonight at the live fire training. It is pretty easy to get water when it is all in a plastic bottle. Although it is not to be mistook for a drink of good mountain water that is for sure. And the plastic bottles are worth five cents at the recycle depot.

That is all from the hall. Hope the wood is getting split soon, so it can dry out for the winter. See you at the hall, be safe and if you are relaxing in the sun, just keep hydrated.



It's not hard to tell the 2012 race season will soon begin. Each year R&D Performance, Lower Onslow kick off the pre-season by having a booth at the Castrol Radical Speed Sport Show in Moncton. Shown here is their display at the 38th Annual event. (Rees Photo)

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Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
Bible Study – Mondays 10 a.m.

Gospel Coffee House
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