

**Wesley Male Choir—20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On October 25, 2009 Wesley Male Choir led the singing at the evening service at Wesley exactly 20 years from their very first appearance. Most of the hymns sung during the service were those sung at that first service and the featured soloist, Brian Johnston, was one of the original 18 members and soloist during the 20 years. Membership has increased over the years and at



one point there were over 50 members; it is currently at 46 and many of these men are from other religions. Led by Gordon and Jim Cousens, new members are always welcome and anyone who loves to sing is encouraged to join in the fellowship and the joy and fun of singing - there are no auditions!!

Apart from providing the music for the evening service on the last Sunday of each month at Wesley, the Male Choir has provided outreach with their Ministry of Gospel Music throughout the Province. They have been invited to Churches of most religions in the city and have also traveled to many communities outside St. John's and have ministered to many facilities, mostly Seniors Nursing Homes.

During the 20 years they produced six tapes/CDs and these were popular purchases by the congrega-

tion members and friends. Music from their tapes/CDs is used quite frequently by VOWR and is sometimes used by our Fellowship Team's exercise group.

*Congratulations to Wesley Male Choir on their 20 years of outreach!*

**Mystery Photos**

The Mystery Photos in our Spring Newsletter were of: Roland Inkpen, Chad Stride and Paul LeDrew (our thanks to Roland, Chad and Paul)!

Now, can you identify the people featured in this newsletter's mystery photos? (Hint: The dress the little girl in the middle photo is wearing was made from a set of drapes that she says came in a



*It is the Christmas season  
To celebrate Christ's birth  
To rejoice in knowing He came  
Bringing peace throughout the  
earth  
He came a tiny baby  
Then grew to be a man  
The savior of the world  
With healing in His hands  
So celebrate this season  
With joy and expectation  
For Jesus is so worthy  
Of our praise and adoration*

*By M.S. Lowndes*

**Wesley Men's Service Club Brings Christmas Joy to Waterford Hospital Patients/Residents & Staff for Twenty-Two Years**

(By Rev. Bill Bartlett, Executive Secretary, Newfoundland and Labrador Conference)

Congratulations to Wesley Men's Service Club and the congregation of Wesley United Church who for twenty-two years have provided a wonderful Christmas dinner and party for the patients/residents and staff of the Waterford Hospital! I was the first Director of Pastoral/Spiritual Care at the Waterford Hospital from 1983 to 1989 and during those days, I discovered that the Waterford Hospital was indeed "home" for many of the patients and residents and they ate all their meals on the wards or in the cafeteria.

Sr. Marion Power (Roman Catholic chaplain) and I talked about trying to find a church community in St. John's who would be willing to invite some of the long-term residents out for a Christmas dinner. I wrote all of the churches in and around St. John's and presented the proposal. I had been a member of the Wesley Men's Service Club from 1975-1981 while on the ministerial team of the church and knew of their interest in outreach ministry. Maisie Young, who was librarian at the Waterford Library and a member of Wesley United Church; also became passionate about our proposal for a Christmas dinner and she advocated on our behalf. We were so pleased when we heard back from Wesley Men's Service Club that they would host the first dinner in December, 1987.

It was the genesis of a wonderful tradition for the Waterford Hospital and Wesley United Church! Arranging for the patients and residents to leave the hospital took good co-operation from a number of departments at the hospital; including Administration, Occupational Therapy, Recreation, Nursing and Pastoral / Spiritual Care. I still remember the anxiety experienced by the people from Wesley and the patients/residents and staff during that first Christmas dinner. Over the years it has been a delight to see that anxiety and fear dissipate on both sides!

Over the years the special Christmas dinner has become a much anticipated event in the lives of the patients/residents and staff of the Waterford Hospital and the faithful congregation of Wesley United Church! The turkey dinner with all the trimmings is always delicious and the visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, gifts, mummies and the Christmas Carol sing-a-long brings great joy to all.

I extend a big "thank you" to the Men's Service Club, United Church Women and congregation of Wesley United Church for continuing this wonderful outreach ministry over the past 22 years! Thank you also for your kind invitation to attend the dinner with my family; it has become a rich part of our Advent and Christmas traditions.

P.S. Lesley Oke is a member of the staff at the Waterford and she shares her thoughts on the Christmas Party:

*"I have been involved in the Outpatient Therapeutic Recreation program at the Meeting Place, Waterford site for only 10 years. When September rolls around and fall programs are put in place, a client is bound to mention Christmas, wondering do we know what functions we will be invited to. Wesley Church dinner is one of the first mentioned by them. They do so enjoy it. The wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings, the sing along and even a visit from mummies and Santa is such a treat for them. Santa even brings presents. Our clients are so appreciative of anything that is offered to them. Staff also enjoy the evening too. I would like to thank the Wesley Men's Service Club, the United Church Women's Group and Wesley Church for all the wonderful times the clients and staff have had there. It has been a wonderful tradition that I hope will be continued for years to come."*

\* Unfortunately the Waterford Christmas Party had to be cancelled this year due to concerns related to the H1N1 pandemic. We all look forward to getting back on track next year!