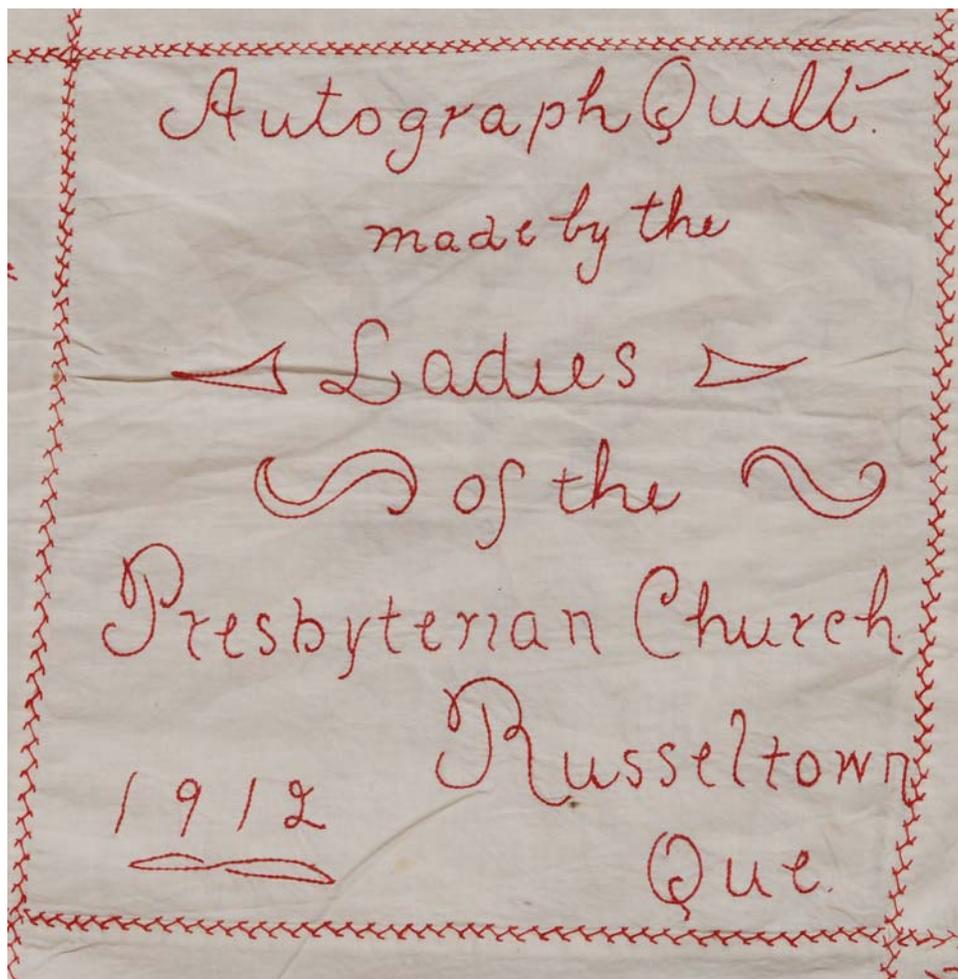


**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Russeltown Flatts Church
181st Anniversary
July 29, 2007 2:00 p.m.**



(Photo : Jeff Taylor)

**Officiating Minister : Sally Meyer
Musical Direction : Leslie Orr, introducing Marc Tannahill**

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Russeltown Flatts Church
181st Anniversary
July 29, 2007 2:00 p.m.

Sally Meyer, Officiating Minister

Quilts of Love

God's Threads Gather

Welcome

Gathering Hymn : *How Firm a Foundation*

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer (Responsively):

Let us call upon the One who knows every thread in the fabric of our lives.

God of every seam and stitch, Gather us, mend us.

Let us call upon the One who embroiders new design, who weaves new
textiles with patience & delight

God of every seam and stitch, Gather us, mend us.

Let us call upon the One who patches worn places with compassion.

God of every seam and stitch, Gather us, mend us.

We are the tapestry of God. Each strand important to the pattern,
Each frayed end worth the mending, Every thread a treasure.

May we hope in these words, may harmony be our mending. Amen

Hymn : *Blest be the tie that binds*

God's Threads Engage Scripture

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scriptures:

Isaiah 43 : 5 – 7

Psalm 139 : 1 – 14

Sermon : **The Quilt's Journey – Our Journey**

God's Threads Respond

Hymn : ***Blessed Assurance***

Dedication of Memorial Plaque (Muriel Edgerton) & Announcements (Tribute to Leslie Orr ; Signing of the St.Chrysostome Gold Book by Mary Helen Fasano)

Special Musical Performance

Offering

Offertory Hymn:

*We give thee but thine own, What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O God, from thee.*

Prayers of the Heart & Lord's Prayer

God's Threads Go Out Strengthened

Hymn : ***Lead on, O Cloud of Presence***

Closing Prayer : (unison)

**O God, Keeper of stories and Weaver of dreams:
empower us with your love,
Open us to welcome new yarns that we might
together spin your tapestry with confidence & grace.**

Closing Hymn : ***Blest Be The Tie That Binds***

Blessing (Unison):

May God's compassion clothe us, May God's presence mend us. May the colors of God's promise be woven into our hearts & into this world. Amen

Triple Amen

A cordial welcome is extended to all who have come to visit and worship in this historic **Little White Church**. Please remember to sign our guest book.

The offering was collected by Eric, Rachel & Tania Gilmartin – grand-children of Lyman Roberts.

Following the service, there will be light refreshments provided through the efforts of volunteers who so kindly contribute to the table.

The Church celebrates the quilt made in 1912 by the Ladies of this Church. At that time, its accomplishment clearly represented the strength of community spirit. Several hundreds of people from all walks and denominations participated in the realization of this project – truly an amazing show of support at any point in time.

The homecoming of this quilt on its 95th birthday demonstrates the depth of the roots and spirit of this Church. Details of its journey to Connecticut may be a matter of circumstances, but its return today is a truly miraculous event. We are enlightened by the people whose names appear on this quilt. One can imagine the celebration and buzz in this very building 95 years ago when the finished quilt was unveiled. Like today, people gathered around it to see where names appeared. Their spirits are alive again today as we remember them, and as their support for this Church endures.

A very special thanks to Mary Fasano – as an infant, her great grandmother (Mary Helen Moore Leggett) entrusted her with this quilt. The wisdom of that choice was well served. Mary (the 1st) has provided a surge of spirit and excitement to our Church. She has also provided her great granddaughter with a quest that has brought her to her roots. These roots might never have been found were it not for the quilt. Here in our cemetery lies Elizabeth Duncan Moore – the mother of Mary Helen Moore Leggett, who died when her daughter was just 5 years old. Elizabeth's father was James Duncan, founder of Ste-Chrysostome, and she is related to Dr. Moore