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ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Winter Edition, 2017



This quarterly newsletter is published the first Sunday in March, June, October and December. The next edition will be available March 4 and the **deadline for submissions is February 13**. Please respect the deadlines for submissions. You may email your articles and high-resolution photos at any time to StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com.

Minister's Reflections

Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

Just this week as I was driving home, it was night and I became aware of the first Christmas lights. Adorning people's homes and trees, sparkling and shiny, some clear, some coloured, they were light in the darkness, and it was very beautiful.

Over the years I have written sermons and spent devotional time reflecting on all the things that light does for us: it shows us the ways, reveals what lies ahead, keeps us safe... but suddenly I found myself gazing in sheer wonder, suddenly aware that light is in and of itself, very beautiful. The feeling I had, it recalled to me the power that I find in the beginning of John's gospel, the vision, the beauty, the promise it offers. Jesus Christ, the very heart of beauty, goodness, truth and grace, the only begotten son of God.

It is his coming into the world, his light that we are looking for in Advent. None of us have ever seen God but we know God best in Jesus. He

came into the world, small and vulnerable, far from the centres of power, in an out-of-the-way town, and in a stable because there was no room for his parents at the inn. As he came so long ago, he will come again, and we pray this year that he will be born anew in our hearts this year.

It is in this child, Jesus Christ, in his life and death and resurrection, that we are given the power to become a new creation, to be born again of the spirit, to become children of God and yet...even as we contemplate the invitation, the beauty of the light it offers, we are so very embedded in the ways of this life. His invitation makes no sense at times and in fact it is almost offensive. We spend our lives striving to get ahead, and this child comes into the world inviting us to start moving down the ladder we have been climbing. To begin loving those who offend us, to see everyone as our neighbour. Born again of the Spirit? What does that mean? It sounds like something we cannot control and yet...I cannot let the vision go. This child, this Jesus, from the moment of his birth he challenges the very reality in which we live, but where else would we go now? For we have seen his light! He is the Holy One of God.

And so the movement begins again! From darkness to light, from fields to the manger, we listen for the angels, we follow the star...

Welcome to Advent, and a Merry Christmas to us all!

Unwrapping the Gifts: Our invitation to you this Advent and Christmas

Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

One of the things I love about Christmas is the gifts. The planning, the shopping, finding just the right thing for that special person. Wrapping paper and ribbons, Christmas stockings, the excitement, the anticipation, I love it all! For sure there are times when the gift giving becomes overly commercialised and the focus drifts from where it ought, but the giving of gifts is the very heart of Christmas. The shepherds who brought the good news that the angels sang, the wise men and their

gold, frankincense and myrrh, the innkeeper who offered a place to rest and the animals who shared their manger. So many gifts that first Christmas and the greatest of them all, God's gift, God's son, Jesus Christ.

Unwrapping the gifts is going to be our theme in worship this year. Huda and I are looking forward to unwrapping different gifts from God each week during children's time and sharing them in the sermons. There are also lots of opportunities at St. Andrew's for you to give gifts this year: White Gift Sunday, the Mitten Tree, our Christmas offering. You will find many of those in the pages of this newsletter.

Looking forward to celebrating in joy and wonder with you this Advent and Christmas

Christmas Offering Envelopes

As we wait to celebrate God coming to us in Christ, we are called to consider what we might do for others in Christ's name. Mission and Outreach will be naming three charities for the Christmas Offerings Envelopes, one international, one national and one local.

M&O would like everyone to consider one or all of the charities and lend support.

White Gift Sunday

Jeanie H.

This year on December 10, St. Andrew's will support R. E. Wilson School for White Gift Sunday. We will welcome Todd Saunders, Principal, at the December 10 services to tell us more about his school. Robert E. Wilson Public School is a Kindergarten to Grade 6 English school located in the heart of Vanier on McArthur Ave. The school, with a population of 200, has many students that have recently arrived in Canada from other countries such as Syria, Colombia, Afghanistan and Somalia. There is also a large First Nations, Metis and Inuit population. Many of the students come from difficult family situations including poverty and single parent homes. Despite the challenges many of the students face, the students arrive everyday with smiling faces ready to learn with the school's incredible staff. It is a school with a very caring staff and community. They strive to provide as many opportunities and experiences for the students as possible by using the school funds and donations from community partners to access all of the wonderful opportunities the Ottawa area presents.

Please check the bulletin boards in Grant Hall and St. Andrew's Hall for the 'wish list' for R. E. Wilson and bring in your book donation in time for the December 10 service.



The Congregational Christmas Lunch will be held December 10, in St. Andrew's Hall after the 11 a.m. service. Enjoy fellowship and good food. The meal will be followed by carol singing.

The Blue Christmas Service



The Blue Christmas Service is often referred to as the Longest Night Service. As the name implies, it is normally held on the longest night of the year. It is a service that is different than the very joyous services common during Advent and is designed to honour that not everyone feels joyous during this season.

Many of us may feel joy at the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ, but it also can be a time when we feel a loss most keenly. Sometimes, as we watch others preparing for happy family celebrations we feel only a sense of loneliness or isolation. Sometimes, even though we look forward to a happy time, we are also even more aware of someone who is no longer part of our life the way they once were. Sometimes, the approach of the end of another year is a reminder of hopes and dreams still unrealized.

For all of those reasons, the traditional joyous services during the approach to Christmas may be difficult for us, or not a complete acknowledgement of our mixed emotions. The Blue Christmas Service is designed to speak to these very real losses and hurts. The service is quiet and contemplative, and brings a message of not only the baby in the manger but the God who loves us, shares our pain when we are struggling, and provides comfort when we are suffering.

This year, our Blue Christmas service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20. After the service, there is time for quiet reflection or fellowship over warm cider and a cookie. If you or someone you know would appreciate the opportunity to acknowledge that sometimes Christmas can also be a time of sorrow, please join us.

Christmas in the Stable

December 17, 3:00 p.m., Wesley Clover Park

A great Presbytery-wide event, hosted by Trinity Presbyterian in Carp and held at Wesley Clover Park. This contemporary staging of the Nativity Story in an actual stable is held one evening during Advent and requires a lot of volunteers to make it a success.

We need volunteers—a great opportunity for youth and adults to celebrate the Christmas season in a fun way!

Trinity is looking for:

- 2 men (Innkeeper and Wiseman)
- Stable choir
- Musicians
- Hospitality people
- People to set up & take down
- Greeters
- Parking lot attendants, etc.



Contact the Trinity office for more details or to sign up.

Five Questions!

Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

At Pentecost when the spirit of God moved among the people one of the first things they asked was “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). The answer they got came from Peter and it went like this: “Repent and be baptised.” And repent—if they asked, “What does that mean?” it means turn around! Change your ways!

In September, I attended a Presbyterian Church in Canada gathering of lay people and ministers, indigenous and non from all across the country. For three days we met and learned and listened. We laughed and cried together and we shared what our congregations are doing. Most of us went home from this time convinced that the spirit is moving in new ways in our country and our denomination and so we also went home asking ourselves that question that the arrival of the Spirit provokes, “What are we going to do now?” How will our lives turn in response to this experience?

For myself I have started by committing to doing something or sharing something with the congregation every month this year. In September I asked you to wear Orange shirts to church for Orange Shirt day which many of you did, thank you! In October I submitted to *St. Andrew's in Action* an article about the PCC and the history of the residential schools. Last month, November, I started making available in the congregation little books that contain both the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Ask me, I have one for you!

For the spring, along with the Mission and Outreach team, I have started planning how we will mark Truth and Reconciliation Sunday in May and Aboriginal Day in June, but that is still a long way off and so for this month, December, what I have for you are five questions.

These questions are not my own. They come from Ry Moran. He is the director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg. This is where the records, reports and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are housed. (Check out the website at www.trc.ca.) Ry Moran was one of the speakers at the event I attended in September and late in October one of you forwarded me a link to an interview with him on CBC. It occurred on October 22, and during the interview when asked how people can get involved in the work of reconciliation, what can they do, he suggested these five questions:

1. Do I know any Indigenous people? If not, why?
2. Have I ever participated in ceremony? If not, why?
3. Am I able to name the traditional territory I stand on? If not, why?

*St. Andrew's Choir and Soloists
present the annual Christmas
Candlelight Concert and Carol Sing
on Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m.
The Choir is joined by a string
ensemble and brass under the
direction of Thomas Annand in
baroque music of Bach, Buxtehude,
Chapentier and Handel.*

*As always, admission is by freewill
offering. Bring your friends and
neighbours.*

*Christmas Eve Service at 10 p.m. is
another chance to hear choral music
by candlelight, carols and seasonal
readings.*

4. Have I meaningfully engaged in deep conversation with Indigenous people? If not, why?
5. Have I read an Indigenous author? If not, why?

I think these questions are both easy and hard all at the same time. Easy because they are direct and up front in their first part but hard because they lead into some tough questions about ourselves and the culture we live in.

As I think about these five questions, I think they are the kind of questions that can be adapted for other situations where we are wondering what to do in the cause of justice and mercy, when the Spirit is moving us, but for now let's spend some time contemplating them as they are printed here. I am looking very forward to the conversation they might provoke.

The spirit is moving in our denomination, it is moving across Canada. What shall we do?

The Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar took place on November 25. Despite the damp weather, many people came to enjoy the wonderful "tea" and browse the various tables. Many went home with great finds. Close to 80 people volunteered on the day, and more in the weeks and days leading up to the event. Craft items, jams and preserves are still available for sale in Grant Hall. At the December meeting of the Women's Guild, the proceeds of the tea and bazaar will be dispensed, most of it to support local community agencies. Thanks to all who supported this event!

Stewardship News

Commitment Card initiative concludes

Commitment cards will not be distributed to the congregation this year as this initiative has drawn to a close. These cards had been distributed to the congregation annually during the month of November and were collected during that month's Covenant Sunday service.

We wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the individuals and families who have participated in this initiative since its inception several years ago. Indeed, your participation has made a big difference in our community, for which we are very grateful.

Use cash or cheques less and less? No problem!

Although many members of our congregation use cash or a cheque on Sundays during the offering, we realize that increasingly people use cash and cheques in their daily lives less and

less frequently than ever before. For this reason, we have a way for people to make a financial offering to our church that does not involve the use of cash or a cheque.

If you are someone who would prefer to not use cash or cheques if given that option, you can choose to give to St. Andrew's through an automatic monthly withdraw from your bank account. Simple to set up, over 50 households within our congregation use this easy method of financial gift giving every month.

Would you like to start using our automatic monthly program, which goes by the name PAR? If so, you can obtain more information from the church office, your elder or the Stewardship team about PAR. They are at your service.

St. Andrew's commemorates the half millennium of Protestantism: Reformation 500

Michel T., Co-Convener, Memorials Committee

As stated by one of our guest speakers, the Rev. Dr. Stuart MacDonald: This year marks the 500th Anniversary of a key moment in European history and the life of the church—Martin Luther's *Ninety-five theses against indulgences*. The controversy over indulgences was a small point yet as a result of this protest, massive changes occurred, not the least of which was the splintering of Western Christendom. What changed as a result?

As the Protestant world marked the half millennium, we too, at St. Andrew's, wanted to commemorate the five centuries of Protestantism. The Memorials Committee proposed a Reformation 500 program that focused on the Reformation particularly during the months of October and November as the 500th anniversary was on Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

Learning and Worship:

Our Minister offered a course on the History of the Reformation and how it continues to shape and form us today, that started on October 18 and was completed on November 29. The Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock used a video on the History of the Reformation to illustrate the topic of the course: a focus on the Reformation in worship and what it means to be reformed and always reforming today.

Reformation Sunday, on October 29. The Minister and the Director of Christian Development, Huda Kandalaf, planned and presented a dramatic presentation during the

Service on the 20 centuries of Christianity, key dates such as the era of the Martyrs in the first three centuries, Emperor Constantine's 313 Edict of Tolerance, the 1054 dispute between Western and Eastern churches, 1095 and the beginning of the Crusades, 1517 and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, the present time...and beyond! Members of the congregation, adults and youth, did a very credible interpretation of historical figures. A celebratory cake was offered on that festive occasion during the coffee time after the Service.

Guest speakers:

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald, Professor of Church and Society at Knox College, Toronto, participated in Worship on Sunday October 22, as he preached on the verses of Scripture that led to Luther's theological stand which ushered in the Protestant Reformation. After the Service, the Rev. Dr. MacDonald led a Lunch and Learn on the theme, *What changed at the Reformation? Life, authority, and Bible*, that was very interesting as he described life in 16th century Western Europe before and after the Reformation; his comparison of religious practices of that era with contemporary professional sport was striking, but also very effective.

Dr. Karin Maag, Director of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, spent the weekend of November 17–19 with us. On Friday, November 17, a Meet and Greet was held in Grant Hall to give the opportunity for the congregation to meet Dr. Maag.

On Saturday, November 18, Dr. Maag led a Workshop in the morning on the topic *When the Reformation Came to Geneva*. She described the politics and society of Geneva before 1536, the year Geneva opted for the Reformation, and after, the role of the French Reformers, such as Guillaume Farel who

convinced Jean Calvin to stay in Geneva, and the religious structures that were put in place in the town after 1541, such as the Consistoire enforcing “proper” religious behaviour, and later, the Académie to teach future pastors. A highly successful, and very-accessible role-play, highlighted the ways the Reformation impacted the daily life of mid-16th century people of Geneva.

On Sunday, November 19, Dr. Maag participated in the Worship. She led the congregation in singing a psalm, “Geneva-style”. During the Lunch and Learn, after the Service, Dr. Maag led the discussion on Worship in the Reformation era. She explained how music, and psalm singing, became widespread in Protestant Europe.

Music:

On October 21, the Reformation Concert, Celebrating 500 years of Reformation Heritage, was performed. Tracy Stabback planned and delivered a musical event with vocal, choral and instrumental music, hymns and audience participation, which presented music pieces (secular and/or religious) of the last five centuries. About fifty of Ottawa’s best musicians performed: it was pure delight for the audience, about 220 people, for two hours long. While the concert was free to the public, we suggested a free-will offering for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre run by the Centretown Churches, and almost \$1,400 was collected. A Reception followed for about an hour to allow members of the audience and the musicians to mingle around a nice buffet.

Other Committees have participated:

Memorials Committee has invited other Session Committees to partner in the Reformation 500 Program. Christian Education has purchased books on the Reformation for the children of Sunday school, as well as acquiring books for adults on the same topic for our Library, and Memorials will fund these purchases. Members



of Worship & Music have kindly agreed to partner by ushering the Reformation Concert. Welcome & Fellowship, Lyn and Noral R. have assisted us in planning and in delivering the food and refreshments for the Lunch and Learn events. Members of Session, Barbara S. and Yvette D., kindly assisted us by catering the receptions after the Reformation Concert, the Meet and Greet, and the Workshop.

Lasting testimony to the commemoration:

The church has acquired digital photos of paintings, displayed at the International Museum of the Reformation in Geneva, of three Reformers: Martin Luther, Jean Calvin, and John Knox. Our three portraits are displayed just before the entrance to the Currie Room. Hopefully, these portraits would be a legacy of our commemoration of the 500 years of Protestantism long after we are gone.

Reformation 500: Live action

Huda Kandalaft

St. Andrew's commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with various activities and also during worship on Sundays in October and November. On Reformation Sunday Oct. 29, we celebrated with an inter-generational worship service. I am very pleased that we included a Reformation drama which I wrote in 1999 for the week of prayer for Christian unity. I translated the text from the original Arabic and adapted it to



suite our celebration of the 500th anniversary. Thanks to all the skilled characters who played their roles with great enthusiasm, and were able not only to contribute to St. Andrew's commemoration of a great historical event, but also to remind the congregation that at the heart of the Reformation movement lies an invitation to see things—including the future of the church—differently and through the lens of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

My thanks goes to Karen for helpful guidance and leadership, to Tom whose creative hands always amaze us and add a lovely touch to the worship services, and did so for the Reformation drama. Thanks to Jeanie and Barbara who helped during the rehearsal times. Thanks to Paul M. for the sound system and Matt B. for recording the play. Thanks to James who is always there to help in so many ways. I would like to thank Elizabeth P., our office administrator, for help in printing the special bulletin and the characters information list of the drama. Drama is an effective educational and worship tool, and I pray that the message presented that day will have roots and bring fruits.

Reformation 500 celebrations in the Presbyterian Church in Homs Syria. This church was rebuilt last year after it was destroyed in 2012 during the war in Syria. St. Andrew's sent funds in 2013 to help this congregation rebuild. Today it is a witness and testimony of the life of Christ through His church. Indeed, the gates of hell will not overcome it!



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

To Bob F., Michel T. and the Memorials Committee

From all of us

This has been an exciting year at St. Andrew's. From Canada 150 to Reformation 500, the Memorials Committee has been more than busy, blessing us with an exciting series of speakers and events. We have found ourselves partnering with organizations across the city and making new friends as we go. We have delved into the history of our country and our own place in it. We have commemorated the roots of our denomination in the Protestant Reformation. In doing all this we have rediscovered our legacy and been encouraged and inspired for our future.

We are grateful for the vision and planning of Bob, Michel and the committee. Their creativity and persistence, their collegiality and the fun they brought to the planning and the events. We thank as well Bob's friend Kate L. who was a big part of realizing many of the Canada 150 plans and who has become a new friend to us. Maureen R. did a lot of the work on the website; the historic timeline and lives remembered are still up and available for viewing there (www.standrewsottawa.ca). Jonathon M. helped write press releases and spread the word locally. Tracy Stabback put together the marvelous concert in October and Huda Kandalaft wrote the drama for worship. Robert C. and Alec T. took the photos. Paul M. did the critical work of managing the sound system. Elizabeth P. was behind the scenes all the time helping bring things together and keeping us connected. Jide A. and Rebecca B. skillfully MC'ed different events and Hugh D. worked the visuals for another. Many committees and teams in the congregation lent a hand in hosting the receptions for all these events. Countless individuals were involved. What a year it has been!

Thank you Bob and Michel! Thank you, thank you!

News from Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

Gracefield is pleased to welcome a new Executive Director, Bruce Howard. Bruce comes to Gracefield after seventeen years with Trinity Western University in British Columbia where he facilitated leadership development and team building programs. He has worked with both on and off campus student and athletic programs as well as organizations such as Canadian Border Services, Fortis BC, Samsung and Nike. He has also served in congregational ministry in the role of Christian Education Director leading children and youth ministries at churches both in British Columbia and Ontario.



Bruce completed his Master of Christian Studies in leadership and equipping at Regent College in 2008. He has a background in outdoor education with diplomas in Parks and Recreation and Ecotourism Management and has served at camps and outdoor centres across the country and internationally.

Bruce started at Gracefield on October 1, 2017. A BIG welcome to Bruce. St. Andrew's is looking forward to meeting you in February.

Looking Ahead: Gracefield Retreat Weekend



This year's Gracefield Congregational Retreat will fall on a wintry weekend in February! We will gather as members of St. Andrew's in the Gatineau Hills over a Saturday and Sunday to spend time together, in fellowship and learning, at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre. Everyone is invited to attend.

The program this year will take place February 10–11, 2018, featuring various members of St. Andrew's; as a group we will reflect on how we can live out our faith. The theme this year is "The Wilderness of the World". Speakers from St. Andrew's will share stories of hope. There will be related activities for children and youth. Of course, there will be plenty of time to enjoy skating on the lake, cross-country skiing, and tobogganing...and maybe even a bonfire. It is wonderful to get to know one another and grow in Christ in a more informal setting.

If you are thinking of attending, registration forms are available at either narthex or speak with Aisling B. If you are willing to help out, please contact Huda Kandalaft, who can explain to you what each job entails.

A perfect interlude in cold mid-winter!

PCC Youth conference —Canada Youth 2018

July 2-7, Brock University

CY 2018 is coming!

Youth, young adults and youth leaders gather together for worship, recreation, small group discussions, faith exploration, joyful celebration and lots of fun!

There are four tracks this year:

- Youth track (must have graduated from Grade 9)
- Discipleship track (up to 25 years old)
- Youth Ministry Training track (18 years old and older)
- The Next Track (for congregational leadership)

The cost is \$565 plus travel. We will be fundraising, and burseries are available! Speak to Huda for more information.

Grade Four Bibles!

On October 22 this year we presented six students in Grade Four with Bibles. This is a tradition in St. Andrew's that we keep on or around Reformation Sunday. It reminds us of the centrality of God's word in our lives. Aisling B. spoke to the children during the presentation, showing them the Bible she had received when she was in Grade Four.

“When I was in grade 4 in Church School I received a Bible from St. Andrew's. As you can see, it has been well used and loved. It has a paper cover, but the hardcover on the inside has fallen off.

This Bible is nice, but I have a second Bible that I consider to be ‘mine’. It was given to me when I was a teenager by a member of St. Andrew's named Adel. She actually gave both me and one of my best friends the same Bible, so that we could read it together. I remember that summer my friend and I would phone each other to discuss a passage or verse we had just read which we loved. And on a trip to her cottage we stayed up late at night to read the Bible together.

This is a Bible in which I have written notes, and in which I have tons of bookmarks marking the passages I love. I like reading it and knowing that these are the same stories that my parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents have read and learned from; I like that I can sometimes hear God speaking to me in the words I read; I like that Christians around the world read the same stories; I like that some verses hold memories of Sunday School teachers and friends far away. I can turn to it when I'm joyful or bored; and when I feel lonely or sad I know I will be comforted by the words I read.

I hope you learn to love reading your Bible...and maybe you'll turn to it so often that the cover wears off.”

Amkhut in the Autumn

Aisling B.

This past fall has seen busy and eventful days for the people of Amkhut. During the Indian holidays set aside to celebrate Diwali the congregation invited us, and the youth of the surrounding diocese, to a retreat which took place October 19–22. The theme was “Let us come...renew your strength” and approximately 450–500 youth attended the four-day event at what they all consider to be the “mother church.” A preacher was invited from Gujarat as well as a singer and praise band. By all accounts the youth had a wonderful time together. It was also the first time that the newly elected Bishop had ever been to the Diocese of Bhopal, which was quite an honour for the congregation. I have added pictures of the event to the bulletin board in St. Andrew’s Hall.



On a disappointing note, the school next to the church is not doing well; when I ask questions about it I get a very vague answer that the Diocese has taken the running of it away from the congregation and instead to a man who is not known for his Christian charity, though he calls himself a Christian. The teachers are not getting paid and the children are not receiving a proper education. I tell this to you for a reason: in August the entire congregation (some members coming from many kilometres away) attended a church service where this man was supposed to be promoted from deacon to pastor—the congregation showed their unity by opposing this promotion and even blocked his entrance into the church. It is quite an accomplishment for them to oppose the Diocese and stand together.



Advent services are being planned and the last Sunday in November has been set aside to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. The first Sunday in Advent will be “Sunday School Day.”

Looking forward to summer 2018, there is a Canada Youth event organized by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The PCC’s International Ministries is aware that St. Andrew’s is willing to host young people from India prior to the event, if they are able to get their visas for Canada.

Memorials Committee Archives Project

St. Andrew’s is blessed to have in its possession a wealth of archival material documenting every aspect of the church’s history from the earliest days to the present. We can thank many people past and present for this important heritage, including Sheila U. and David B. who have spent so many hours researching and recording St. Andrew’s past.

Until 2015, the bulk of our archival records were held at Library and Archives Canada. However, in that year they were transferred to the City of Ottawa Archives in Nepean with whom we now have a

formal 'Deposit Agreement'. There are also microfilms of key documents such as Session minutes and baptismal rolls at PCC Archives in Toronto. Archival documents are also stored in various locations at the church including the Pottinger room 'archives cupboard'. Last and definitely not least, we are fortunate that Sheila and David have created hundreds of 'notes' recording many aspects of church history from a variety of sources including newspaper clippings.

Library & Archives Canada developed a 'finding aid' (index) of the St. Andrew's material back in the 1980s, but that only covers a portion of what is now at the City Archives. There are also indexes of the contents of the archives cupboard and the history notes, but they too are incomplete. Other material at the church awaits organization and indexing, and possibly being transferred to City Archives.

The Memorials Committee has established an archives project to put our historical records in order. Ken Y., Sheila C. and Elizabeth P. have kindly stepped forward to assist with this work. A key objective will be to update the finding aid for the material at City Archives and the indexes of the archives cupboard and history notes, and then to put those indexes up on our web site so that everyone can see what is available and where. We want to ensure our historical records are properly maintained, but where appropriate we also want to make them accessible to church members and the public. It's quite a story.

Celebrating a Long Service Award for Hospital Volunteering

Bob F.

In 1967, Canada celebrated the 100th anniversary of Confederation, Ottawa saw the opening of the new Riverside Hospital, and Dorothy S. became one of the hospital's first volunteers. At its peak, the Riverside had 400 volunteers.

How could Dorothy have imagined that 50 years later on October 3, 2017 the Ottawa Hospital—now including the former Riverside—would recognize her as its longest serving volunteer at a volunteer recognition event? And imagine her delight when she received from the Governor General an award for volunteering in April 2017.

She enjoyed her time spent at the hospital, usually 3 days a week until increasing to 5 days after the passing of her beloved Roy. By this time her daughter, Sharon, was living elsewhere with her own family.

Perhaps you might have seen Dorothy working in the Eye Clinic, Nursery or Gift Shop, training Candy Stripers, or decorating for Christmas? Behind the scenes she assisted with menu services, including the making of tray favours for patients' food trays on special occasions and helping to deliver food to patients, and being a "patient" in a mock disaster.

One of Dorothy's proudest achievements was her training of a young girl with Down's Syndrome as a Candy Striper despite misgivings from some of Dorothy's cohorts. Subsequently



this training enabled the young lady to work in a paid position at McDonald's. And one of her funniest moments was one Hallowe'en when she and others dressed in costumes; she was a clown. Unfortunately, she cut herself

while there and needed stitches—her attending doctor said she had been his very first clown!

Dorothy seems to have always been a volunteer. First in her native Brantford as a young girl and then as a member of St. Timothy's Church before joining St. Andrew's in 2007. Here too she has been a willing volunteer, working for a time with Alice C. to assist Elizabeth with the

Sunday bulletin. Like so many folks at St. Andrew's Dorothy has actively supported her Church home and community at large.

And as I write this Dorothy is looking forward to celebrating her 96th birthday on November 22.

Congratulations and thank you, Dorothy!

Open Table, Open Arms

Laura M.



St. Andrew's once again was the host church for the Open Table evening on Sunday, October 15. Although the heavens opened up and dampened more than a few backs, our spirits were not dampened in the least. It was a great pleasure to welcome and feed around 60 people this year consisting mostly of students and all of them professed themselves delighted with the choices offered. Jeanie brought greetings from the elders and congregation followed by a short word of prayer and then it was all hands to plates and dishes. It was wonderful to hear and see so many

reconnecting with one another and the hub-bub in the room was a joy to us all. Once again, the highest compliment was paid to our chefs for the evening, since so many bring containers to be filled with "leftovers" to be enjoyed the next day. All in all, it was a wonderful evening filled with food and chat, the joy of service and the blessings of God. Thank you so much to Huda, Jeanie, Rod and Beulah, Scott, Judy, Yvette, Barbara, Elizabeth, Michael, John and Janet, Althea, Nolan, Duygu and Colleen. Such willingness to provide food and comfort is so appreciated! If I've forgotten anyone, please do accept my most sincere apologies and know that you are truly a blessing.



Golden Anniversaries

The year 2017 marked the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation.

For Rod and Beulah P., as well as Mary and Don G., 2017 also marked the 50th year of their marriages, both of which took place on the same day—August 26, 1967!

It was 5 years ago, while taking part in a spring clean-up at Bruce House, that Don and Rod discovered that they (and Mary as well) were graduates of McMaster University and that they were both celebrating their 45th anniversary that year. They were even more amazed to discover that their respective weddings had not only occurred in the same year but also on the same afternoon. Beulah and Rod were married in Trinidad, while Mary and Don were married

at West Flamboro Presbyterian Church (Mary’s home church while growing up), about 6 miles west of Hamilton.

Coincidentally, Rod and Beulah also migrated to Canada that year and move to Hamilton where they lived for four years!

August 26, 1967 was a Saturday, as was August 26, 2017. Beulah, Rod and their family marked this milestone with a special Thanksgiving

Service, held at the Mafeking Presbyterian Church in Mayaro, Trinidad, followed by two receptions—one at the church and the other at their home. Meanwhile, Heather Fraser and her sister, Elizabeth Gowan, with assistance from Andrew, Mary and James F., held an afternoon reception at the F. residence in Riverside South. It is occasions such as these which provide a wonderful reminder of how we have been, and continue to be so blessed.



150 Years later! Celebrating with the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago

Beulah and Rod P.

The Presbyterian church of Trinidad and Tobago belongs to the System of church government founded by John Calvin in the mid-sixteenth century. Trinidad, a British colony in the West Indies, was important for its sugar production but after the abolition of slavery in 1834, the resulting labour void necessitated importation of indentured labourers. However, after several unsuccessful attempts of cheap labour, the colonialists finally decided to indenture labourers from India from 1845 and thousands of Indian men and women were

arriving and working in the sugar cane fields. They were contracted to work on the estates for five years in return for the cost of travel and lodging, after which they could extend their contract or return to India.

Around the same period, American Presbyterians arrived (in 1836) and established a small mission in South Trinidad but this attempt lasted for a while and then was abandoned.

It was in 1864, that the Rev. John Morton, a minister from the Presbytery of Nova Scotia, travelled to the West Indies while recuperating from a throat infection and there he became aware of the East Indians on the island. Responding to the Great Commission “Go then to the peoples everywhere and make them my disciples” (Mathew 28:19), he offered himself as a Missionary. On January 5, 1867, together with his wife and daughter, the Rev. Morton was

duly inducted as a member of the Presbytery of Trinidad, taking over the failed mission of the American Presbyterians, and thus planted the roots of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Rev. Morton and his friend the Rev. Kenneth Grant, who arrived two years later, were proficient in the Hindi language, and started their work among the East Indians, translating the Bible, as well as conducting services, into Hindi. The early growth of this Canadian Mission was propelled by evangelistic outreach and an educational network. As churches were built in the Pastoral Region, so were schools—primary and secondary. The Presbyterian church of Canada sent out a steady stream of ministers, women workers, educators and administrators.

By 1975, the PCTT had developed into a church with 23 Pastoral Regions, 107 congregations, 72 primary schools, 5 secondary schools, 1

teachers' College (closed later), 1 Vocational school for girls (now a pre-school), and a Theological College.

After 150 years, the sapling planted by the Rev. Morton has taken root and grown, contributing to the economic, political, educational, social and cultural and sporting development of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Each year, students from our Presbyterian High schools continue to excel in all area of study, dominating National Awards for excellence.

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago is self-supporting, independent and self-governing and continues to seek in its service, administration and mission, the celebration and empowering of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

References:

The History of the PCTT, by archivist the Rev. Ken Kalloo

How many errors can you find in the Christmas Stories?

Huda Kandalajt

Every Advent and every Lent, church school teachers turn to creative ways in order to teach the story to our children. I write the curriculum for these seasons every year based on the rotation model which focuses on the multiple intelligences such as musical-rhythmic, visual-spatial, verbal-linguistic, logical-mathematical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic. This theory was originally developed by Howard Gardner who proposed this model in his 1983 book *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*.

So church school lessons will turn into active centres again this Advent season. Some of the centres will include among others: The “Shepherds of the field pie” cooking centre, and Christmas Trivia Game show centre.

We will use creative ways to listen to and learn the Christmas story. I would like to share with you these three paraphrased Christmas stories from our Advent rotation at church school this year. They provide a fun way to talk about the Christmas story this season with your children and grandchildren. Have fun and Advent blessings.

The texts are paraphrased biblical verses used for the purpose of including errors in the story so the children can find out the correct story.

Based on the story found in Matthew 1:18–25:

Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother Elizabeth was engaged to be married to Peter. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Peter being a bad man told her the engagement was off and was about to disgrace her publicly. While he considered this, Peter fell asleep. In his dream a sheep by the name of Fluffy came to him and told him that he was still to marry Elizabeth as the child was from God. Fluffy told him that she would have a daughter and her name was to be John for she would save her people from sin. All this happened to fulfill what the prophet Jeremiah had said. “Look a virgin will have a son, named John who will also be called Emmanuel meaning God has left us.” Peter awoke and did as the Lord had commanded, taking Mary as his wife. She gave birth to a daughter and they named her John.

Based on the story found in Luke 1:26–38:

In the sixth month of Mary’s pregnancy, the Lord sent the sheep, Fluffy to Ottawa, Ontario to a virgin named Elizabeth. She was engaged to be married to a man named Peter, a descendant of Noah. Fluffy appeared to her and said, “greetings favoured woman. The Lord is with you.” Mary was scared and frightened, as the sheep spoke. The sheep said “Don’t be afraid for God has blessed you. You will have a baby girl and she shall be called John. He will be very great and the Son of the most high God. Elizabeth asked how she could have a baby because she was way too old. The sheep told Mary that God can do anything and the Holy Spirit would come upon her. Mary responded “Can’t God choose someone else for I have things to do, and I am busy getting ready for my wedding. Doesn’t God know that this could end the marriage and I could be disgraced publicly?”

Based on the story found in Luke 2:1–20:

At that time the Russian emperor, Donald Trump, declared that a census should be taken of all the Russian Empire. This was the first census taken when Julie Payette was Governor General. All returned to their own towns to register for this census. And Moses, being a descendant of King David had to go to Montreal, Quebec, David’s ancient town. He travelled to the village of Mont Tremblant in Galilee. He took with him, on the bicycle, Sarah his fiancée who was pregnant at the time. And while they were there the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the bassinet because there was no room for them in the Holiday Inn.

That same night some construction workers were out building highways. And suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in an airplane and the radiance of the Lord shone all around them. They were frightened, but the angel said, “Don’t be afraid for I bring you Good News of great joy. The Saviour, yes the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in the city of Montreal, the city of the Justin Trudeau. And this is how you will

recognize him, he will be wearing a crown of gold and lying in a gold bassinet wrapped snuggled in a blue and silver flannel blanket. Suddenly the angel was joined by a vast number of shepherds praising God and saying “Glory to God in the Highest Heaven and war on earth to all whom God favours.” Then the angel and the shepherds returned to the fields to watch their sheep. The construction workers looked at each other and said, “Let’s go to Montreal to see this wonderful thing that we have been told about.” The construction workers told no one what had happened and many wondered where the construction workers had been all night. But Sarah being the mother, treasured all this in her heart.



Calling All St. Andrew's Women!

We would like your help in planning future women's gatherings. Please share your ideas to help in our planning for 2018 and beyond.

Please fill out this short survey and leave it at the church office.

Thank you!

1. What shape of a meeting would you like for future gatherings?
 - ▶ Morning breakfast
 - ▶ Day retreat
 - ▶ Evening meeting
 - ▶ Other- please specify.

2. When works best for you?
 - ▶ Weekends
 - ▶ Weekdays

3. Which time of the day works best for you?
 - ▶ Evenings
 - ▶ Mornings

4. Are you interested in a
 - ▶ Monthly gathering
 - ▶ Every other month
 - ▶ 10 times a year
 - ▶ 4 times a year

5. What do you like to see included in the meeting?
 - ▶ Speakers
 - ▶ Devotions
 - ▶ Bible studies
 - ▶ Discussion themes
 - ▶ Service projects
 - ▶ Social justice issues
 - ▶ Fellowship and care
 - ▶ Crafting
 - ▶ Other ideas like:

6. Would you be interested in assisting in planning and organizing future gatherings?
 - ▶ Yes
 - ▶ No
 - ▶ Regularly
 - ▶ Occasionally

Thank you for taking the time to fill the survey. Please leave your completed copy with the church office.