



ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Summer, 2021

ST. ANDREW'S SPONSORS REFUGEES

*You are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people.
(Ephesians 2:19)*



 STANDREWSOTTAWA.CA

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St. Andrew's in Action is the congregational newsletter of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa.

Please email your articles and photos (highest possible resolution, please) at any time to StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com.

NOTE: In the case of adults, it is the practice of *St. Andrew's in Action* to use the full name of those submitting material and those pictured. In the case of youth, only the initial of the last name is used to ensure privacy in the online edition. This practice can be adjusted for anyone who does not want their full name used. Such requests should be sent to StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com.

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Messages

A Letter from Karen

As the summer stretches out ahead of us I have just reached that tipping point in my garden where I no longer feel like I am on top of the weeding!

After the hours spent planting and coaxing, watching tender plants emerging from the ground and listening for frost advisories, looking at the calendar and anxiously wondering if the hydrangeas are going to come back this year, the garden has now taken on a life of its own. Plants seem to grow inches overnight, the lilac blooms have come and gone, as have the tulips and today I noticed that the day lilies have put up the stalks on which they will soon bloom.

And the weeds—oh the weeds! They come out of nowhere and sometimes... surprise, surprise... they are not weeds at all. I have a fern growing this year where I did not plant ferns and a clump of what look to be Black-Eyed Susans have taken root in a bare patch by the side of the house.

I am reminded that I am not the only gardener in my yard and my plans... well, I have reached the tipping point in the season where I find myself yielding to surprise, tending where needed, pruning a bit here and there but much of the time just enjoying all that is going on... all by itself!

Spring has passed and summer is here! And in the church we find ourselves in a new season as well, the season of ordinary time.

Ordinary time follows Pentecost, when we remembered the birth of the church, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and it lasts all the way to the end of the church year. This year I have been reflecting on the gift of this time for considering what we call the ordinary means of grace. The way that God works through

ordinary human beings to achieve God's purposes in the world.

Just like summer, ordinary time can be a time of growth and surprises as we realize that in our ordinary living we are part of the world that God has made and more than that, we are part of what God is doing to bring forth life and light, hope and love.

What is better we might ask than an ordinary day?

As I write the number of COVID-19 infections continues to drop across the country and within our city. More and more of us are vaccinated at least once if not twice and as the summer stretches out ahead of us we begin to hope for a return to ordinary things that are now more precious than ever.

What is better than an ordinary day indeed?

An ordinary day doing ordinary things: laughing and crying, caring and sharing, learning and reflecting, looking and listening, experimenting and changing, reading and thinking, forming new habits and giving up old ones and all the while reflecting and growing.

Ordinary time lasts a long time. From late May until late November, it is the longest season of the church year. Time beckons us forward and like a garden, planted in soil that has grown rich over the years and tended with love, we are planted in this community and tended with the love of God, we grow and we change and we bear fruit.

In hope, faith and love, we have come a long way together this past year. And this year my friends, this year I pray that we might have a very ordinary summer indeed!

May God bless us and keep us all,

Karen

Greetings from the Kirk Session

Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Romans 12:12

I have always liked this verse and as I was turning my mind to my entry for *St. Andrew's in Action* and reflecting on the church year past, I was struck by how aptly it describes our congregation. It has been a long journey to get to where we are now, but throughout it all, the people of St. Andrew's have never wavered. Our faith has remained strong and our prayers have been steadfast, and as we enter the summer there is much reason to hope.

The Kirk Session met on Monday, June 7 for its last regularly scheduled meeting before the fall. As we head into summer, there is some news to share with you.

Andrew Moir's term as Recording Clerk comes to an end on June 30 and I welcome this opportunity to express my gratitude for the very fine job he has done. It has been an extraordinarily challenging time and I am very grateful to have been able to call on Andrew's calm and level-headed wisdom these past 21 months. Andrew was always available to listen, discuss and offer suggestions about whatever we were dealing with, large or small and I look forward to continuing to work with him in other areas of church life.

Last month, Karen and I reached out to Jidé Afolabi regarding this position, and it is my great pleasure to announce that he has agreed to take on the position of Recording Clerk commencing September 1. I have known Jidé for a number of years and have always been impressed with his strong faith, the care he takes when making decisions and his genuine desire to always work for the good of St.

Andrew's and its people. I know Jidé will be an excellent asset as Recording Clerk and I am looking forward to working with him.

At the March meeting of Kirk Session, Elders approved a motion recommending that Ottawa spend at least 3 weeks in the yellow zone before consideration be given to re-opening the sanctuary. However, the province is no longer using this colour-coded pandemic framework, which means the decision made in March can no longer be used. With Ontario moving to a re-opening road map which uses steps instead of colours, coupled with the news that we will be entering Step One on June 11, a new decision was needed around our re-opening framework. At the June meeting, it was decided **that the Parameters (Weekly Incidence Rate per 100,000, Positivity Rate and Reproduction Number) that had defined the limits for the former yellow zone be retained for determining when PTI would consider re-opening the sanctuary for worship services.** This means that once these parameters have been met, Ottawa must stay within them for three weeks before PTI and Kirk Session consider re-opening the sanctuary.

Kirk Session does not typically meet during the summer, however for the time period between our June 7th and September 7th meetings, PTI has been granted the authority by Session to make any decisions necessary regarding the re-opening of the church building. All decisions will be made in accordance with the parameters already approved by Kirk Session and Ottawa Public Health guidelines. Rev. Dimock is on vacation from July 5–25, so any re-opening plans regarding worship will begin after that.

As we move through the summer we will continue to stay in touch and provide updates as we have them.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Interfaith Service to Remember and Grieve

Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

On June 5th, I was part of an interfaith service to remember and grieve the 215 children whose bodies were discovered in Kamloops the week before. Held at the Human Rights



Credit: Rev. Meg Patterson

Monument, at Lisgar and Elgin, it was organized by Fareed Khan who is a member of the Muslim Community. It brought together leaders from the United Church (Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole & Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian), Anglican (Rev. Hilary Murray), Baptist (Rev. Fred Demaray) and Presbyterian Churches (Rev. Jim Pot and myself), as well as an Imam Zijad, Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton and Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg.

Reverend Teresa Burnett-Cole from Glebe St. James United, who is Mohawk, led the liturgy while speakers offered remarks. Through the course of the evening 215 small felt orange shirts were hung up on a clothes line tied to the monument, with a bell rung as each one was placed. It was a moving service and I wanted to share with you the remarks I offered as well as a couple of photos taken at the vigil by Rev. Meg Patterson of St. Stephens Presbyterian. For information regarding what the church has done and continues to do please consult the denominational website

www.presbyterian.ca and visit the Social Action Hub.

My remarks:

I am a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and tonight I come tonight with the weight of knowing that I am part of a denomination that participated with the federal government in the running of 11 Residential Schools.

We know that people are right to be angry about this.

I have visited some of the sites of the schools that the Presbyterian Church ran and have been remembering this past week being in Kenora a couple years ago, at the second site of the Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School. The school itself has been torn down but from where it once stood, we looked down a green hill towards a lake surrounded by trees. And it would be very beautiful except that, we were told, is where they think children are buried.

As the discovery of the 215 children whose remains were discovered in Kamloops fills the nation with grief, this is only the beginning.

Truly, there is much work yet to be done in implementing the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission including gathering the names of these lost children, discovering where they lie and honouring their lives.

It is hard to put words to the depth of pain that losing a child inflicts on a family. In the case of the schools it was children—whole generations of them. Whole communities torn apart. And churches actively participated with the Federal Government in the running of the Residential Schools the children were taken to.

How can one even speak of healing or reconciliation this week? I don't have any real answer to that tonight except to say that it does start with telling the truth.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada confessed in 1994 that among other things, we presumed to know better than Aboriginal people what was good for life.

In our attempts to assimilate Indigenous children into a European culture, among the many things we did, we banned important spiritual practices by which Indigenous people know the Creator.

We inflicted incredible pain.

Children died.

Generations continue to suffer.

All this and more we have confessed.

And as remorseful as we are, as a church we know that these are only words if we take no action and so we continue to work towards right relations, seeking to walk a different path than we have done. We do this we hope in humility, and with a commitment to listening to and learning from Indigenous wisdom and experience. We recognize that walking with Indigenous people towards healing and

wholeness does indeed involve confronting the truth and the intergenerational cost of the residential school system on Indigenous communities.

This is an evening to remember and mourn.

To bear pain in solidarity and witness to the lives of the 215 children and many more who never returned home from the residential schools.

To pray together:

- ⊕ for the children, their families and their communities;
- ⊕ for all those whose own wounds were opened up again this week;
- ⊕ for all the people who are still waiting to know what happened to their children, their siblings, their loved ones;
- ⊕ and to pray as well that from out of our grief will come a continued commitment to bringing truth to light, new understandings of our history and new commitments to the way we live and walk in this land.

Congregational (Household) Districts for Elders

Bob Ferris

St. Andrew's continues the Presbyterian practice and tradition of assigning Elders to connect with the over 300 households in our Congregation. Each Elder is assigned a few of these households.

The households are found throughout the National Capital Region, from Aylmer to Rockland and from Chelsea to Carleton Place.

The arrival of new Elders on Session in early 2021 presented a perfect opportunity to review the Districts. In April Elders received their new or revised Districts. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, they cannot meet with people in their Districts.

We all look forward to seeing each other again when it is safe to do so.

Recording Attendance at Communion Changing

*Bob Ferris
Roll Clerk*

For decades St. Andrew's has followed the accepted Presbyterian procedure of recording the attendance of Members and Adherents at Communion. This assists Session/Elders with the responsibility to ensure the Roll or list of Members is current.

At St. Andrew's, Elders have traditionally distributed Communion Cards to Members and Adherents prior to the celebration of Communion on the first Sundays in March, June, October and December.

Session decided at its May 2021 meeting to no longer distribute the Communion Cards but will use another method to record attendance. This other method will likely involve asking the people attending the service to please check off their name on a list at each Sanctuary entrance. An Elder will be present to assist. Other congregations have used this method.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has prevented in-person Communion but they will resume at some point. As that time gets closer, Session will distribute more information about the method.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about this change please contact me (Bob Ferris) via the Church Office.



Photo: Elizabeth Phillipson

Christian Education and Youth

Even a Pandemic...

Laura McGregor

...doesn't stop Christian Education Wednesday Evening Study planning! Jeanie Hicks and Laura McGregor arranged to meet to continue the planning for our July studies but with our latest lockdown, couldn't meet at the coffee shop as originally arranged. So with the help of Sean Twomey, a card table and chairs were located, placed in the shelter of the church overhang on Kent Street and served as our outdoor safe space. Coffee was consumed, plotting and planning was done, laughter and joy experienced, and we've come up with a program we hope everyone will enjoy. And the bonus? A chance to say hello to Vicky who acted as our photographer (you can see her reflection in the glass). Looking forward to seeing everyone in July! For more information visit the website, contact the office (office@standrewsottawa.ca) or Laura (laura.mcgregor@corel.com).



Vacation Bible School—Compassion Camp 2021

August 16–20

Sydney, Camp Director, and the VBS team!
sj@standrewsottawa.ca

Register for our FREE Vacation Bible School below!
 Happening virtually August 16-20th, 2021.

Thanks so much for your interest in signing your family up for our FREE Vacation Bible School. Our theme this summer is *Compassion: Changing the World with God's LovingKindness*.

Compassion Camp is a program where kids and families explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world.

As we look around the world, our deep need for compassion becomes more evident with each passing day, perhaps now more than ever. Compassion Camp's goal is to cultivate compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world. We



will examine different places in our lives where we can cultivate compassion. Using each of the Compassion Camp components, we'll explore themes of compassion as they relate to each session's scripture.

What happens if you choose to sign up? Our Camp Director Sydney will contact you via email and leading up to the week before the program begins your family will receive enough materials for all the children in your family that would like to participate.

The VBS helpers will be delivering and mailing your packages to make sure you get them before the week begins.

Registration will close on August 2, two weeks prior to the camp beginning: so don't wait to register!

We will have up to 50 spots available this summer. Invite your friends to join as well.

Our camp will be largely virtual, watching pre-recorded videos together on Zoom or on your own at your family's pace. The curriculum is accessible for all ages but is geared for children between the ages of 4–12 years old.

We hope that we will be able to meet in person outdoors but that will be determined by COVID safety guidelines and weather permitting.

We hope to see you this summer.



Women's Gathering 2021: "Silver Linings"

Jen Curtis

Christian Education Committee

When we say "look for the silver lining" we are generally suggesting that a person identify the comforting or hopeful aspect—that may not be immediately apparent—in a situation that is sad or difficult.

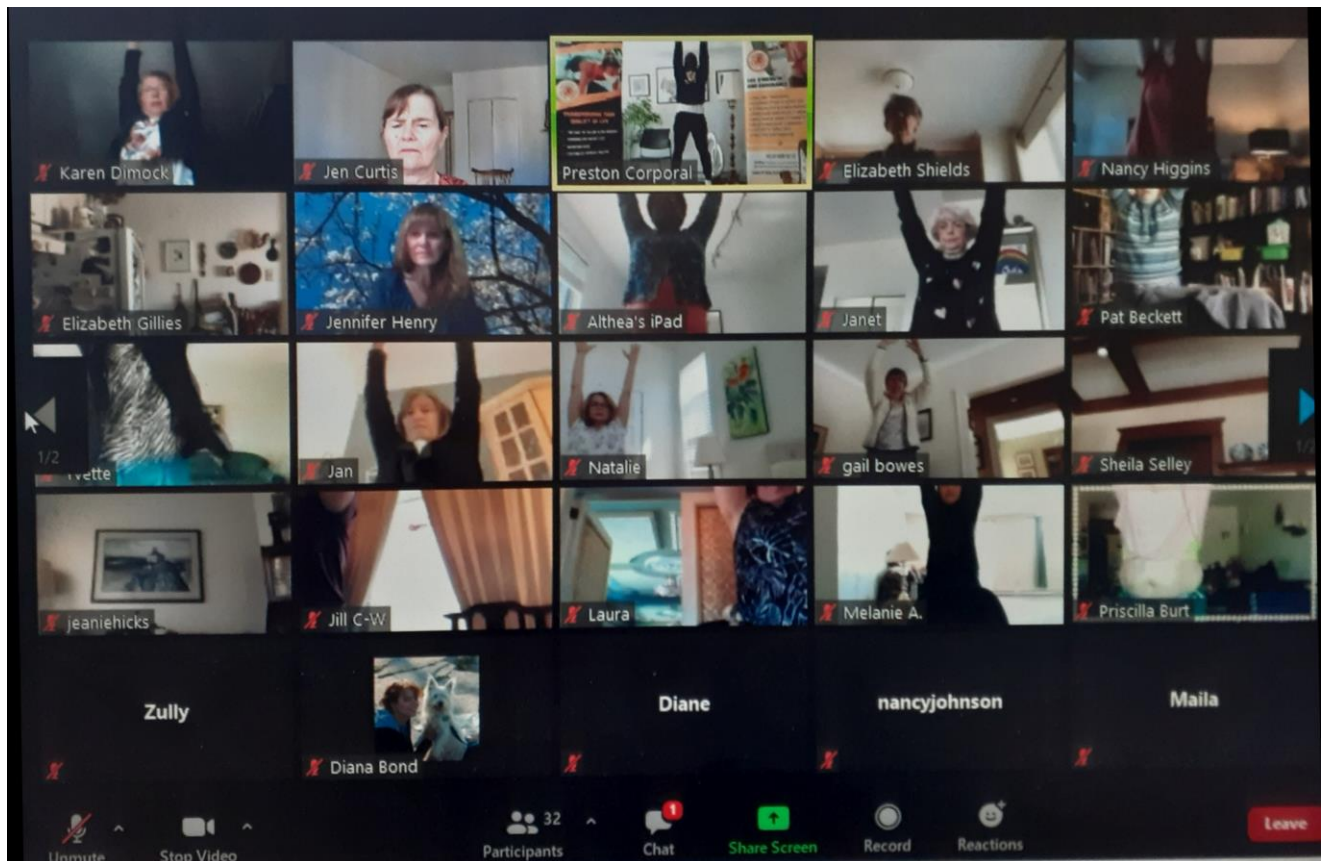
The theme *Silver Linings* was a natural one for this year's Women's Gathering given the overall loss, anxiety, and isolation that most of us have endured over the last 15 months and the new attitudes and sources of resilience and hope we have been forced to find within ourselves and in our communities.

Most importantly, many of us have used this time to refresh our relationship with God.

The planning for the Gathering began in late January when myself, Laura McGregor and Jeanie Hicks from the Christian Education Committee (CEC) managed to convince Mary Gowan, Janet Banigan, Nancy Higgins and Diana Bond to be part of the "brainstorming" for the event. Our regular Thursday night meetings became times of joy, pep talks, laughter with a wee bit of planning thrown in there.

The result, on April 24, was a smooth event that drew about 35 women, most of them St. Andreans, along with some family members or close friends.

There was music, thanks to soloists Pat Beckett and Beth Gillies who both sang beautifully. There was personal reflection thanks to the Committee members who gave devotionals around their pandemic experiences. The ice-breaker helped us get to know each other. Thanks to trainer Preston Corporal we had a 15-minute “desk” workout (see photo below) which worked wonders to refresh us and get our heart rate up!



Jennifer Henry, a feminist, activist and former Executive Director of KAIROS was our main speaker and her talk *Pandemic Miracles* brought more insight about resilience and hope to the morning. “The pandemic has put a magnifying glass on inequalities,” she said, setting the tone for her talk. Re-examining these inequalities, why they exist and how to change them is one of the silver linings of the pandemic, she suggested. We all enjoyed break-out rooms where we reflected on Ms. Henry’s talk.

Thanks to Reverend Karen, the event was fuelled by wonderful and reassuring prayers.

In her opening remarks Althea Williams (who co-chairs CEC with Laura) quoted Susan B. Anthony: “Wherever women gather, failure is impossible.” I would add that this is doubly true with the women of St. Andrew’s, whose hearts and brains seem to grow by leaps and bounds every year.

To end, I will again borrow from Althea’s remarks. To quote Proverbs 31:26: “She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” As women, we think before we speak and when we speak it is with kindness and good intentions.

To all who participated, hope to see you again next year when we gather, God willing, in person!

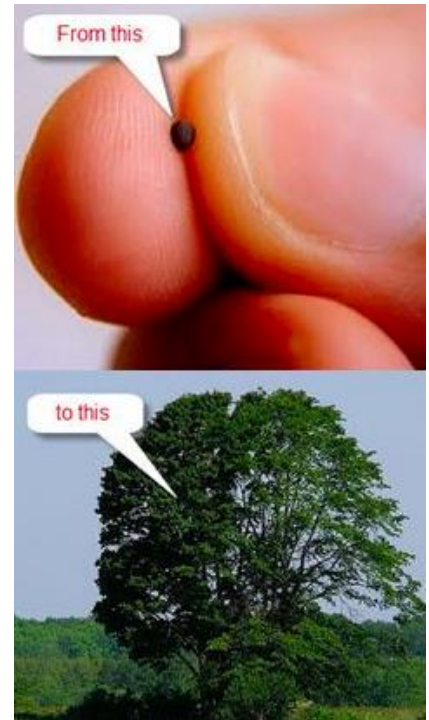
Kids' Church Update

Sydney McIntosh
 Christian Education Coordinator

Kids' Church is a program geared for families to attend and have fellowship through a fun bible story, craft or activity time together. When we are able to meet in person we gather over a hot meal and enjoy dinner together. We are hopeful to resume meeting in person when safe to do so. This past year we met virtually, and I am extremely grateful to the families that continued to attend. It was such a joy to spend time with your families and hear what was going on.

In our last Kid's Church in June we played fun Inuit games together to celebrate Indigenous culture, sang songs and learned about the Parable of the Mustard Seed. How something so small can grow so big! Just like our faith, the more we nurture and care for it. We will be taking a break for the summer and meeting again in the fall. Our next meeting will be on a Saturday in September. I have included an Indigenous Prayer as we celebrate Indigenous History Month in June. Please pray it with me.

With love, Sydney



MORNING PRAYER

We raise our hands, heart, and mind with saying a prayer this morning.

Leaving behind yesterdays energy and mind set, and making room for new energy and mind sets ahead.

We center ourselves, being present, and letting creator show us the beauty in today. Everyday is an oppertunity to learn, grow, and change.

Lets start today with focusing what is ahead and have positive energy towards it.



Celebrating Graduates and Sunday School Teachers

Sydney McIntosh and the CE Team

We give thanks for our Sunday School Teachers and graduates this June. The teachers were celebrated with the gift of a herb garden and the graduates will be receiving a postcard chocolate bar in the mail from Alicja Confections made right here in Ottawa. Yum!

Please join in us in celebrating the teachers:

Tim, Elinor, Jide, Johanna, Koko, Sana, Nadnajna, Laurentine, Laurick, Julie, Afua, Stacey, Joshua, Lynne, and Aisling.

As well we celebrate the graduates:

Asher, Joyce, James, Erlau, Curran, Alexander, Mary, Katherine, John, Nomusa, Aerin, Myrina, Jessie, Isabelle, Nicole, Charlie, Alex, Jack, Sarah, Heather, Maggie, Jamie, and Ernest.



Praise God!

Teacher Gathering for Fellowship and Thanksgiving

In the evening on Sunday, June 13th the Sunday school teachers + I were able to gather together by zoom and have a time of fellowship and thanksgiving for all the lovely Sunday School teachers. Together we celebrated all their hard work and dedication and spent time exploring our favourite bible passages, what has been our best pandemic purchase and chat/caught up on what was happening in each other's lives. We are blessed at St. Andrew's by our dedicated families and volunteers who attend and help with Sunday School each week. The Holy Spirit is alive and at work among us. All glory to God!

Sydney McIntosh

Thank You, Christian Education Committee!

Sydney McIntosh

A warm thank you to all on the Christian Education Committee as we come to a close on spring, and launch into our summer programming. A special thanks to co-convenors Laura McGregor and Althea Williams-Goodman, who continue to keep us up and running with amazing programs throughout the year. God bless you. We couldn't do it without yours and God's help!

Sunday School Time Change

We're moving to 10-10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

Thank you to all the families who have attended virtual Sunday School. We will continue to meet on zoom throughout the summer months, and have families lead us during our time. Sunday School has been

going well with between 7–10 families attending each week virtually to gather and sing songs, read a story and do a craft or activity together. Our last bilingual Sunday School was in June and will resume on Sunday, Sept 13. Thank you to Koko for the wonderful idea and the families who have been helping to organize and run our time together in both French and English once a month. Throughout the summer months we will be meeting an hour earlier, at 10–10:30 a.m. each Sunday for a time of fellowship, songs and activities centralized around a bible teaching. Please contact Sydney McIntosh at sj@standrewsottawa.ca for more information.

Wednesday Evening Studies in July

Laura McGregor

As you are aware, the Wednesday Evening Studies program took a moment to assess what to do and how to do it a little better than 14 months ago when the world paused for COVID. Since then we have presented programs every Wednesday online, starting with the Netflix presentation of *Messiah* and working our way through *Ted Talks* on various subjects, Sunday Sermon discussions, *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton, an Advent program (*Light of the World*, by Amy-Jill Levine) and Lenten programs, looking at Psalms, Paint Nite, and now we come to WES in July. In the past, we've celebrated with July BBQs or Theology on Tap but this year we continue to be constrained by public health and safety concerns. We are delighted, however, to announce our subject matter for our July 2021 studies which will continue to be held online. While leadership is still being sought for each week (please feel free to volunteer...it is not onerous), we will be talking about:

Faith
Hope
Love

What's Next???

We will be looking at each subject (one per week) in the context of three “sparking” questions. The same questions will be asked each week and we hope that you will find they spark your thoughts and ignite a passion to share. If you find you can attend only once or twice, no worries; you are more than welcome. If you are not already a part of our Wednesday Evening Study program, please register either with the office (office@standrewsottawa.ca) or with Laura McGregor (laura.mcgregor@corel.com). We look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts.

The General Assembly

Indigenous Prosperity Promoted Thanks to St. Andrew's Initiative

Rob Robertson

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada has agreed to an initiative of St. Andrew's Ottawa to invest tens of millions of dollars in indigenous enterprises. The Assembly directed the Church's Trustee Board to invest 5% of the rich Consolidated Fund in the Indigenous economy over the next 3–5 years and explore the feasibility of investing 10% as an appropriate benchmark for the long term.

The idea began in St. Andrew's Kirk Session in 2019 as a progressive use of the Church's wealth, one that would encourage economic growth in indigenous communities. It is a logical extension of the church's past emphasis on providing social assistance directly to indigenous peoples. The investments will encourage indigenous entrepreneurship and technical innovation, while at the same time

providing the church with good investment vehicles that also reflect our emphasis on social justice.

General Assembly Votes on Gender, Marriage and Ordination

Peter Lamont

At its annual meeting in June of this year the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada dealt with two large issues of presbyterian doctrine and law. By significant majorities the Assembly voted to allow ministers to perform same-sex marriages, and also to permit lesbians, gays, transgendered people and people of other sexual minorities to serve the church as ordained ministers and elders.

These two decisions follow a long process of discernment that goes back to a 1994 report from the Assembly's Committee on Church Doctrine that specifically condemned homosexual behaviour as contrary to God's will. Then in 1998, the General Assembly overturned a decision of the presbytery of Montreal to ordain a gay man as a minister. The issues crystallized in 2003 when gay marriage became legal in Canada. Almost immediately the Clerks of the General Assembly formally warned that any minister who conducted a same-sex marriage under the new law would be liable to church discipline.

In the years since, protracted and difficult discussions ensued and a small library of theological position papers and academic studies accumulated as the church wrestled with the questions of gay marriage and gay ordination. Public opinion seemed to be changing in Canada and elsewhere, and the Kirk Session of St Andrew's Ottawa made a notable contribution to the debate. Following extensive deliberations, including study sessions with the congregation on two

occasions over the summer of 2008, the Session made a formal request to the General Assembly, known as an “overture”, to clarify the law of the church by permitting same-sex marriage while also allowing freedom of conscience for those whose understanding of scripture prevented them from officiating at a same-sex marriage ceremony. The General Assembly in 2009 declined to deal with the overture from the Kirk Session.

Nonetheless, the effect of the 2021 decision of the General Assembly on same-sex marriage is similar to what was contemplated by the Session in 2008. The decision states:

“The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds two parallel definitions of marriage and recognizes that faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centred, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult persons.

That congregations, sessions, ruling and teaching elders be granted liberty of conscience and action on marriage.”

On the question of gay ordination, the formal resolution of the General Assembly reads:

“That congregations and presbyteries may call and ordain as ministers and elect and ordain as ruling elders LGBTQI persons (married or single) with the provision that liberty of conscience and action regarding participation in ordinations, inductions and installations be granted to ministers and ruling elders.”

These two resolutions, known formally as “Remits B and C”, were approved by the General Assembly in 2019. But the General Assembly cannot make a change in presbyterian doctrine or law by itself. Under an old Scottish law called the “Barrier Act” the

resolutions were referred to the 45 presbyteries across Canada to approve or disapprove these proposed changes in doctrine and law. Over 2019 and early 2020 the presbyteries voted, by a double majority of both presbyteries and of individual presbyters, to approve both Remit B on gay marriage and Remit C on gay ordination. (The presbytery of Ottawa voted, by slim majorities, to approve same-sex marriage, but disapproved Remit C.)

The decisions by the General Assembly last month were the final steps under the Barrier Act. The long process of discernment is now concluded and the law of the church is settled.

Both decisions allow for individual conscience on the questions of gay marriage and gay ordination. So there is room for disagreement among Canadian Presbyterians, as well as continued opportunity for all of us to worship together whatever our views on these issues. Our freedom of conscience though is subject to the authority of scripture as we come to understand it through the Holy Spirit. And the freedom of conscience referred to in the resolutions of the General Assembly is not a license for homophobic statements or actions. The church has repeatedly and unambiguously condemned homophobia of any kind. As the Social Action Handbook of the Presbyterian Church in Canada states “The church as a whole must repent of its homophobia and hypocrisy. The church is called to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving and supporting community, a true church family, where all are welcomed, nurtured, loved and supported.”

The decisions reached at this year’s General Assembly last month should be seen as a concrete expression of this sentiment.

More information on the proceedings of the General Assembly can be found on the website of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, at www.presbyterian.ca.

Mission and Outreach

Spring Variety Concert 2021: Songs and Dance

Yvette Depestre

President, Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

Dear friends,

Spring has arrived bringing warm, bright and promising days. This is a wonderful time of the year when simple pleasures bring us happiness. On that note and to maintain its tradition, the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa is pleased to announce its annual fundraising event, the Spring Variety Concert 2021: Songs and Dance. We cannot offer, as we had hoped, an in-person experience amid the pandemic. However, we are glad to be able to connect even in challenging times.

I am very pleased to invite you to a Virtual Concert which will



Image credit: kaiwegner, openclipart.org

be held on Saturday June 26 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will be accessible via a YouTube link on the day of the event and thereafter. The cost is \$25.00 per ticket.

By contributing to our fundraising virtual concert, not only will you experience the magic of the show, you will also make a significant difference in the lives of our disadvantaged sisters and brothers in Haiti, giving them an opportunity to be healthy and to realize their potential.

We look forward to sharing this special event with you. We invite you to encourage your family, friends and colleagues to support our cause by purchasing tickets, or simply making a donation to the Foundation. All proceeds from this activity will be allocated to the “Humanitarian Fund” which is used to support the mission of the Foundation.

You can purchase tickets or make a donation by:

- ⊕ Cheque payable to the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa;
- ⊕ PayPal;
- ⊕ CanadaHelps.org (mention ‘Virtual Concert’);
- ⊕ Electronic transfer, using our email address: marcodepestrefoundationofottawa@rogers.com

On behalf of the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa, thank you for participation in our virtual fundraising concert. We are most grateful for your support, which is the cornerstone to the success of MDFO’s humanitarian mission in Haiti.

For Your Entertainment!

Tracey Stabback, Soprano;
 Duplan Methodist Church Choir
 Poem by Clarens Renois
 Natouchka Fley, Soprano & at the violin
 Les Messagers de Laboule 12
 Christiane Depestre, Soprano
 Ballet performance by the students of
 KAV Academy
 Piano recital by Frédéric Lacroix

PWS&D Responds to India's COVID Crisis

Rob Robertson



India is experiencing a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, threatening its healthcare system and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis. Over 300,000 cases are being diagnosed daily and death rates are soaring.

Immediate needs are access to health care, medical supplies and medicines, particularly oxygen. There is an urgent need to educate people on risk prevention and address vaccine hesitancy. Vaccine supply is insufficient and inaccessible to many, leaving herd immunity out of reach.

PWS&D is responding with its partners and ACT Alliance members in India to support people that are sick or quarantined at home with cash to buy medicines and provide for other emergency needs. Additionally, we will work with communities to share messages on infection prevention and control, as well as information on vaccines.

PWS&D has been working with partners in India for decades. These partners are on the ground, actively assessing the situation to determine how best to respond. Our Christian partners in India reach out to all those in need, irrespective of their faith, as Jesus called us to do.

To date, PWS&D has raised \$55,000 through this appeal. You can make a donation to support PWS&D's response to the India COVID-19 crisis through the PWS&D web site (include "India COVID Crisis" in the designation field) or calling 1-800-619-7301.



Walk for the Centre—Save the Date



Update on Refugee Sponsorship

Nathalie Bradbury
Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator



Refugee Sponsorship at St. Andrew's now has a webpage! It's on the St. Andrew's website, where you will see the picture above.

Just follow this link for information on our latest sponsorship of the Masanka Mubikayi family:
www.standrewsottawa.ca/refugees

In terms of news on the family, the Canadian immigration office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has reopened and has reconnected with Mrs. Mubikayi, which is hopeful news. The family is having a hard time in the refugee camp, but they are staying resilient and hopeful through the challenges. Below are some words that I received from Mrs. Mubikayi after Easter (translated into English):

It is with joy that I have just read your message, which strengthened me a lot and gave me hope; I am really delighted that you shared this Easter preaching with me.

Despite the difficulties, the atrocities, the suffering in the camp, the pandemic is like a shipwreck, a storm, a hurricane, the children and I will have to persevere.

As the Bible says in Hebrews 10:36, - For you need perseverance, so that after having accomplished the will of God you may obtain what he has promised.

Romans 5: 4—Perseverance leads to victory in trial, and victory in trial nourishes hope.

Romans 5: 3—And more, we even glorify afflictions knowing that affliction brings about perseverance.

We pray for you every day, God has placed on our journey the coordinator for sponsorship of refugees Nathalie Bradbury (note: and her team).

May the God of orphans bless you abundantly, who crowns you with love and fills you with happiness, throughout your existence.

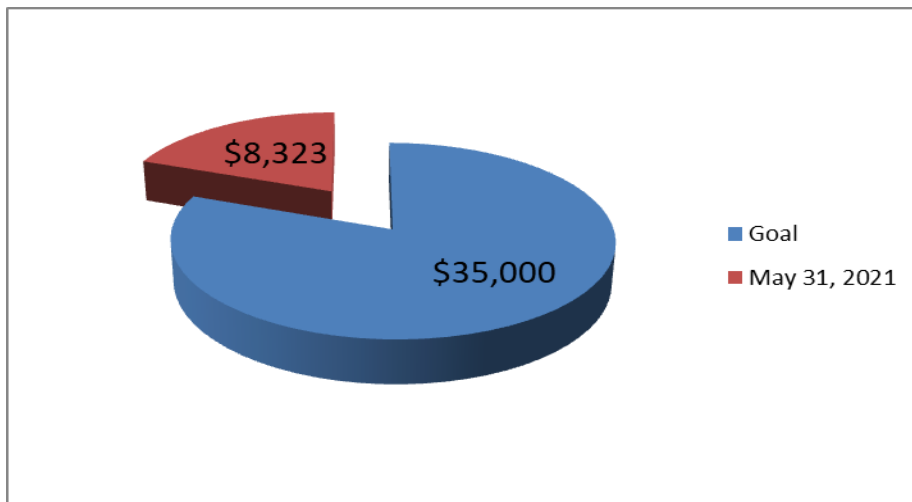
Despite all the delays and challenges of the pandemic, we may see the Mubikayi family before the end of the year so we need to be ready.

OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR THE REFUGEE FUND IS \$35,000.

St. Andrew’s needs to raise \$35,000 to care for this family’s needs for one year. This includes their rent, their groceries and other basic necessities. This fundraising goal does not have to be too onerous for our church congregation and its many friends and supporters.

With \$8,323 already raised in our Refugee Fund, we need another \$27,000.

**Refugee Fund goal and contributions received
as of end of May 2021**



We need sponsors to pledge their contribution by Christmas 2021!

St. Andrew's Refugee Fund goal: \$35,000 by Christmas 2021	
\$25 a month for a year will raise \$300	\$50 a month for a year will raise \$600
90 donations of \$300 will get us to our goal	So will 270 donations of \$100
A donation of \$800 could provide for groceries for one month	A low-income bus pass costs \$58.25 per month
100 donors who pledge \$250 each will total \$25,000 bringing us very close to our goal	
No amount is too small	
You may choose to give as a one-time cheque or email transfer, or in monthly giving through PAR, or by credit card	
\$8,323 already raised through your generosity, including the Fair Trade Table	

Your contributions can be mailed to the Church office or sent by Interac electronic transfer to donations@standrewsottawa.ca and specify that the donation is for the **Refugee Fund**. Donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt.

All the ways that you, or your friends and family, can give are outlined on the GIVINGS tab on the St Andrew's website: More Giving Options — St. Andrew's Ottawa (standrewsottawa.ca).

No matter which method you use, please *be sure to specify that the donation is for the Refugee Fund*.

Please let us know of your contributions! Please sign up on the commitment form that you will find on the Refugee Sponsorship webpage www.standrewsottawa.ca/refugees under fundraising.

If you would like to get involved with the resettlement committee or to help out in any way, please do get in touch with me via the church office at office@standrewsottawa.ca. The time of the family's arrival is getting closer, and more hands make light work!

In closing, I invite you all to pray for the health and wellbeing of Mrs. Mubikayi and her children as they wait in the refugee camp in Uganda and work through the application process to come to Canada.

Pastoral Care

Active Listening

Jim Paulin, June 2, 2021

St. Andrew's kindly sponsored my participation in a session of the Basic Pastoral Care Training course this past spring. The basic course is part of the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program (OPCTP) which is affiliated with the Christian Council of the Capital Area. In addition to the basic course, which has been offered since 1975, an advanced course and continuing education events are also available. Further information about the OPCTP may be found at ottawapastoralcare.com.

The basic course ran for 9 weeks with about 20 Zoom participants. We were led by Hilary Murray, a priest at Christ Church Cathedral, Bob Orr from St. Bartholomew's, and Terri Skuce, the OPCTP administrator. The weekly sessions included devotions, presentations, short videos, and small group work with role-plays. There was also a good deal of discussion.

The over-arching theme of the course was 'Active Listening'. We were taught to be constantly focused on the person being visited, and to limit our own comments and advice. Not surprisingly, this is much easier said than done as the role-plays made clear. Some of the other themes were understanding spiritual needs, ministering to the grieving and the dying, the aging process, and the role of caregivers.

It was gratifying to participate in a course with so many dedicated people who I've no doubt will bring much comfort to many.

Pastoral Care Training – Fall Session

*Colleen Ferris,
Pastoral Care Convenor*

The 9-week basic pastoral care training program will be kicking off its Fall session on September 20 and will run until November 22 (excluding Thanksgiving Monday). Sessions are offered Monday afternoon (1–3 p.m.) or evening (7–9:00 p.m.) via Zoom. If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to Colleen Ferris (colleen.gushue@yahoo.ca). Please note that this training typically fills up quickly.

Our Heritage

The St. Andrew's Ottawa Glebe Endowment: The General Fund

John Banigan

What is now known as the General Fund is the principal of the original fund. It was monetized about 100 years ago as land holdings were gradually sold.

But what is the origin of the word “glebe”? It is an archaic word originated in 14th century England meaning a garden or cultivated lot or a place to raise chickens. It appeared in poetry in that era, sometimes linked to a parsonage.

In the Constitution Act of 1791 (called the Canada Act) which constituted Upper and Lower Canada, the Governors were empowered to establish clergy reserve lots to support ministers of the Established (Protestant) Church. One in seven land grants were set aside for the clergy and the term “glebe lots” appears.

The Scots (in the settlement which later became known as Bytown) convinced the Governor of Upper Canada that the Church of Scotland had equal status with the Church of England. And there was no Church of England congregation in the community at that time.

After many years of debate, the clergy reserves were finally bestowed in 1837 to some 57 parishes across Upper Canada. The Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, Reverend John Cruikshank was awarded the St. Andrew's Ottawa glebe lot, together with a few of the original elders.

The St. Andrew's Church glebe lot was located in an area now know as being bound by Bronson, Carling and Fifth Avenues and the canal. The glebe constituted 178 acres of land, having severed 22 acres for the construction of that part of the canal.

For many years, little income was earned from renting the land for farming. For example, net revenue of 19 pounds sterling was earned in 1853.

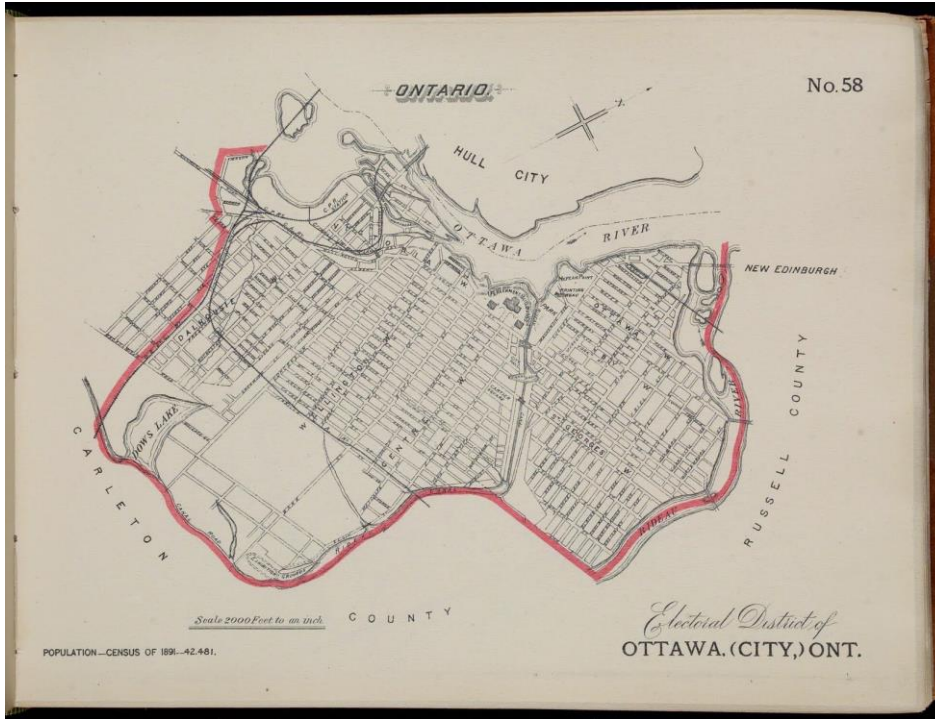
The Temporal Committee of the church was created by legislation in 1868 and that body became responsible for the glebe lot. The title of the land passed to the church following settlement with the then minister, Reverend Alexander Spence.

In 1874, the church was empowered to sever, sell and mortgage the Glebe land. This greatly increased its value and the church began to sever and sell building lots for home construction in the new suburban neighbourhood of the Glebe.

A message from the Glebe Trustees

If you have ever wished to be better informed about St. Andrew's Glebe funds, now is an opportunity. The trustees have put pen to paper to provide a series of articles describing some of the funds, how they originated and what purpose they serve to St. Andrew's. The first article written by John Banigan appears in this issue and delves into the very original Glebe fund now called the General Fund. Subsequent writings will cover the Heritage and Bequest funds. We hope you enjoy finding out more about the Glebe trust funds.

*Ian Jarvis
Chair, The Glebe Trustees*



In 1895, the Glebe lot was still more agricultural than residential. There was little housing south of Isabella Street.

Legislation created the Glebe Trustees in 1890 to administer the Glebe lot for the benefit of the church and its minister.

Over several years, building lots were sold to individuals to built houses. Initially, lots sold for \$150. Details of lot sales are not known but over half of the glebe land was sold by 1916. Unsold lots were leased without charge to needy families during World War One as garden plots.

The net proceeds in 1946 when the last building lot was sold totalled \$600,000. The capital was retained and the income it

produced from investing in government bonds was passed annually to the Temporal Committee. This capital remains intact today invested in high quality securities, including but no longer limited to, government bonds.

That was a substantial amount in 1946, but after decades of inflation, its purchasing power is much less today. And imagine how much a 50 by 100 foot building lot in the Glebe would fetch today.

St. Andrew's has been very generous with the Glebe endowment over the years. Land and cash were donated or loaned for establishing and expanding several new Presbyterian congregations in Ottawa and the surrounding region. Up to the early 1980s, much of the income earned by the Glebe endowment was shared with other congregations.

The original glebe land grant from the Crown in 1837 is now an investment fund called the General Fund. It is one of three main funds administered by the Glebe Trustees, the others being the Bequest Fund and the Heritage Fund. Future articles in St. Andrew's in Action will discuss these other two funds.

The purpose of the General Fund is to provide revenue to the church for its operating expenses over and above givings from members and adherents. All of the income earned by the General Fund is paid to the Temporal Committee. The principal is to be held in perpetuity.



A National Capital Commission plaque recognizes the role of St. Andrew's Church in the development of Ottawa and the Glebe. The plaque is located across from the rear-side Queen Elizabeth Driveway entrance to Lansdowne Park.

Photo: Sandra Fraser

This is how the Ottawa neighbourhood of “The Glebe” got its name. You can share the story of the word “glebe”, a significant part of the history of our church and our city.

A New Addition to the Long History of St. Andrew's

Thomas Znotins

Back in February, St. Andrew's received a call from Antoine Babinsky, a retired member of the RCMP and local art lover, who was moving to Montreal and offered to donate to us a painting he had of the Church. After a quick consultation between Karen and Heather, and with ample help from Vivian, the wheels were set in motion and the painting, shown below, is now part of St. Andrew's.

It is entitled *Ottawa Morning*, measures roughly 3 ft by 6 ft in size, and dates from 1984. The artist is Don Connolly who, after distinguished service in the Royal Canadian Air Force, took on a four-decade-long second career as a painter of vintage aircraft and whose work hangs in numerous museums in Canada and the US. He also painted a number of cityscapes of which this is one. What first drew Antoine's interest to the painting was the juxtaposition of old and new—our almost 150 year-old church surrounded by all of those modern office and hotel towers.

Little did the artist know what a snapshot in time it would be, as plans were already in place in 1984 to greatly alter that view. The old Church School building, a portion of which is visible on the right side of the church, was torn down the following spring, to be replaced, of course, by the building of St. Andrew's Tower over the next two years, along with the view that we see today.

According to the appraiser, the painting is even more stunning in real life, adding that "The work is an excellent example of the artist's professionalism and mastery of the medium." For the time being, it is safely tucked away in a corner of the Currie Room and we look forward to formally displaying it when circumstances next allow.



Ottawa Morning, by Don Connolly

Celtic Cross Update

We have our new Celtic Cross in place! The new granite cross was custom made for us and kindly donated by Patrick O'Shaughnessy of Laurin Monuments.



Worship

St. Andrew's Audio-Visual System Upgrade

Hugh Dimock

The new audio-visual system has been installed!

With the recent high-speed upgrade to our church internet and installation of new cameras and improvements to our sound system, we are one step closer to being able to produce high quality videos and reliably livestream any event at St. Andrew's.



During April and May, technicians from Applied Electronics installed two cameras in the organ loft, another in the north loft and yet another near the soundboard to capture scenes throughout the sanctuary. Upgrades to our wired and wireless microphone systems were also implemented.

With the installation of a new high quality graphics computer and dual displays at the soundboard, we anticipate the ability to accurately capture and reproduce sounds and scenes within our sanctuary. New VMix video editing software will give us the ability to do many things such as “stream in” guest speakers, control systems remotely and generate professional quality productions. We also purchased a TV monitor on a moveable cart to begin to build our capability to display video in the sanctuary.

The new system will allow us to livestream services to our congregants unable to attend in person, as well as give us the capability to record and/or livestream all types of events in the sanctuary.

If you are interested in learning more, volunteers for our audio-visual team are welcome!

Fellowship

St. Andrew's Church Film Group

Jen Curtis

Christian Education Committee

The Film Group continues to meet monthly on Zoom to discuss a pre-chosen film. We are missing the theatres, but we are grateful for the opportunity to be together to reflect and share comments including about the spiritual elements of the film. We rarely all have the same interpretation, but that's what makes it interesting!

We've discussed mainstream films like *The Dig*, *The Trial of the Chicago Seven*, old favourites like *Casablanca* and *The African Queen*, indie films (for example, *Hearts Beat Loud*) and documentaries. The Netflix documentary *My Octopus Teacher* is our next film—for our June 27 meeting.

Gathering time is usually a Sunday evening at 6 p.m. We'd love you to join us. If you've any questions or wish to receive the Zoom link for the next event, contact me, Jen Curtis, at jcurtis@magma.ca.

After all, there's nothing like the movies!

Indigenous Authors Book Review

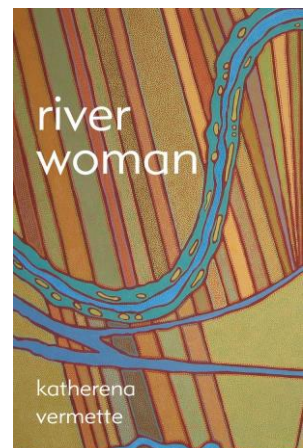
Stacey Huber

My name is Stacey Huber. I have been a member of St. Andrew's since 2008. Today I am going to be discussing three books by indigenous authors.

I became interested in indigenous authors after participating in the PCC 2019 Truth and Reconciliation Mission Trip that involved visiting Northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. It was an amazing trip that changed my life. I have since read a good number of books by indigenous authors.

The first book I am going to review is *River Woman* by Katherena Vermette. She is Metis from Winnipeg. We spent several days in Winnipeg during the mission trip, with a particular focus on the north end of the city, so I am familiar with the setting of the book. The river in the title is the Red River which flows through the heart of Winnipeg. The book consists of over thirty poems that cover a range of topics including spiritual connections, the colonial legacy and connections with nature. There is even a poem about ghosts that is quite interesting.

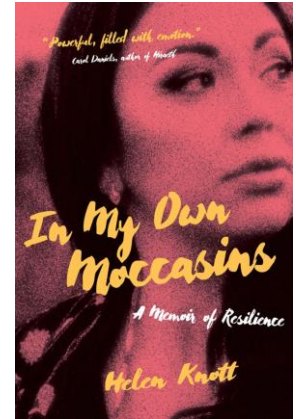
The poems are very moving and although the subject matter tends to be serious, the book proves to be a rather relaxing read that encourages meditation.



I was fortunate to meet the author at the 2019 Ottawa Writers Festival and I was able to get an autographed copy. It was a special experience.

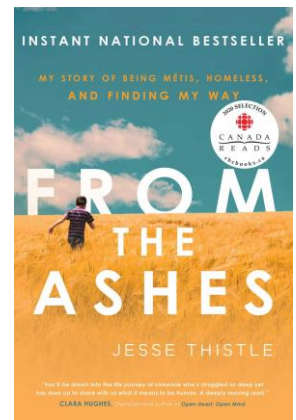
If you like the book, you may enjoy *The Break*, which is a novel by the same author that is also set in Winnipeg.

The second book is *In My Own Moccasins*, by Helen Knott. She is Dane Zaa, Nehiyaw and mixed European descent from Fort St. John, B.C. This is her memoir. It chronicles her life struggles, which include abuse, sexual violence, addiction and the challenges that result from living a transient lifestyle. What makes her story fascinating is how it starts off in a very dark place, but we see how gradually over time she moves on a path towards healing and love. The book has a happy ending. What is also interesting is that the author shares her story in a frank and straightforward manner without victimizing or blaming others.



I was lucky to also meet this author at the 2019 Ottawa Writers Festival. Her inscription in my copy of the book is very special since it is written in her own indigenous language.

You have probably heard of the third book, *From the Ashes*, by Jesse Thistle. It was featured on the CBC Canada Reads list, was a bestseller and has won several awards. The author is Metis-Cree from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. This book is also a memoir. The author shares his entire life story from childhood to the present day. He covers similar subjects to Helen Knott, such as abuse and addiction. The author experienced several periods of homelessness, and he lets us in on what life is like on the streets. This book also has a happy ending. The author is now an assistant professor of Metis studies at York University.



Something that was of particular interest to me was that while living on the streets in Ottawa, the author received services from Harvest House while out on bail for some petty crime. Harvest House is a rehabilitative centre in Ottawa that I am very familiar with since I work at the courthouse. By the time I arrived at the courthouse in 2010, the author was well on his way to earning a university degree. I was fortunate to meet the author at a book signing in February 2020.

I hope you enjoyed these book reviews. When we are able to meet again in person, I would be very welcome to loan out these books to you.

Your Book Club Recommends

Laura McGregor

The St. Andrew's Book Club has been meeting online since last year and has had the opportunity to discuss a great variety of authors. Reading has been one of our guilty pleasures as, during this time of restrictions, books have freed our imaginations and taken us places undreamed of. We've sampled different foods in our reading of *The Sin Eaters*, we've relived the difficulties of two cultures clashing in *Two Solitudes*, laughed with C.S. Lewis in the reading of *The Screwtape Letters* and learned that Miracles can indeed change lives.

After our final read in June (*Fahrenheit 451*) we will be taking a two-month hiatus but we didn't want to leave you without a summer reading list so here's what YOUR book club recommends (in no particular order):

The Push—Ashley Audrain
 A Gentleman in Moscow—Amor Towles
 American Dirt—Jeanine Cummins
 The Great Alone—Kristin Hannah
 The Lions of Fifth Avenue—Fiona Davis
 On The Road—Jack Kerouac
 River Woman—Katrina Vermette
 A Tree Grows in Brooklyn—Betty Smith
 Stranger in a Strange Land—
 Robert A. Heinlein
 Split Tooth—Tanya Tagag
 Small Great Things—Jodi Picoult
 Vox—Christina Dalcher
 The Nightingale—Kristin Hannah
 Sufferance—Thomas King
 The Rose Code—Kate Quinn
 The Library of Legends—Janie Chang
 A Fine Balance—Rohinton Mistry
 The Gift of Years—Joan Chittister
 The Break—Katrina Vermette
 Wait With Me: Meeting God in Loneliness—
 Jason Gaboury
 The Hidden Staircase—Carolyn Keene
 They Left Us Everything—Plum Johnson

The Beauty of What Remains—Steve Leder
 There There—Tommy Orange
 Solace Island—Meg Tilly
 Our Homesick Songs—Emma Hooper
 The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell—
 Robert Dugoni
 It's Not Supposed to Be This Way—
 Lysa TerKeurst
 Blue Like Jazz—Donald Miller
 A Fatal Lie—Charles Todd
 In My Own Moccasins—Helen Knott
 The Ministry of Utmost Happiness—
 Arundhati Roy
 Too Much and Never Enough—Mary L. Trump
 The Dying Hour—Rick Mofina
 If Angels Fall—Rick Mofina
 Barometer Rising—Hugh MacLennan
 When All Is Said—Anne Griffin
 News of the World—Paulette Jiles
 The Woman Who Smashed Codes—
 Jason Fagone
 From the Ashes—Jesse Thistle
 Fire in the Stars—Barbara Fradkin
 Markings—Dag Hammarskjöld

We hope you will find something to challenge you or titillate your imagination. These recommendations are only a jumping off point, of course, and you may find an author whose works fascinate you enough to explore other titles.

We look forward to coming back together again in the fall (hopefully in St. Andrew's but if not, back online). You are always welcome to join us for one or two or all our meetings; we meet regularly on the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m., resuming again in September. Or please feel free to contact me for further information (laura.mcgregor@corel.com).

Men's Fellowship

*Richard Lauzon, Coordinator,
 Men's Fellowship*

Our group has had three interesting and engaging speakers over the past months. At the end of March, Nancy Johnston of our congregation toured us through the Galapagos Islands as she spun a tale of her thrilling visit to one of the world's unique ecosystems. At our April meeting, Mark

Hamilton, Managing Director of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre spoke to us about Christian camping in the midst of a pandemic, as he described the adaptations needed to continue offering a nature-focused respite during these challenging times. At our last meeting before our summer hiatus, Oliver Ing, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Presbyterian Church of Canada described several financial initiatives related to the operations of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. These sessions offered many opportunities to tender questions to our speakers to probe further into their topics. Women of St Andrew's were invited to participate in some of these Zoom sessions.

Men's Fellowship is usually dormant during the summer months, although we do respond to requests from other church committees for help in their respective ministries. We will resume our activity in September, meeting on the last Monday evening of the month. Usually this would involve a meal, a short business meeting and a speaker in St Andrew's Hall, but this will depend upon the protocols dictating whether we are able to meet once again in face-to-face meetings. We do pray for a return to our "normal" operating procedures, but will continue with Zoom meetings should we be unable to do so. Notice of future meetings are published in the weekly church Bulletin, and further information may be found on the St Andrew's website.

Permit me to take this opportunity to invite men of the congregation who have not yet participated in our monthly meetings to contact me (Richard Lauzon) to be placed on our email mailing list for notice of future meetings.

Words to Remember for June

Throughout the next few months we will be working verse by verse through the wonderful Psalm 23. Please join us in memorizing these words and writing their truth upon your heart.

