



ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Advent and Christmas, 2022



Mary, Diane and many others made a success of the St. Andrew's Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar, back again!

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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

Minister's Reflection

*Come let us walk in the light of the Lord
Isaiah 2:5b*

This is the season of Advent, a time of waiting and a time of revelation, a season for slowing down not speeding up, days given to us for listening and watching, discovering and beholding. It is during Advent that we remember how Christ came in the past, that we look forward to his coming again and that we see as well, how even now, he is here.

I love Advent and the awe that comes with it. As the days outside become shorter and the nights longer, we, in our sanctuary begin to light candles. As the light outside dims the light within grows, and we kindle among ourselves once more the good news and the promises of Emmanuel, God with us, which is one of the names of Jesus.

This year our Advent theme is from Generation to Generation... And how appropriate that as we began last week, we did so with the ordination of new elders and a reading from Matthew 1:1–17. This is the genealogy of Jesus, beginning with Abraham and working its way through the ages, all the way to Joseph, Jesus' earthly and adoptive father. It's a long list of names, one we might ordinarily skip over or rush through, but this is Advent and we are called to slow down and linger with it.

Jesus' family tree is quite a remarkable genealogy. It contains good kings and bad kings, some famous people and some we have never heard of, men and women, friends and strangers. Whole sermons could be written about each of these people and the Hebrew Scriptures is the first place to start to learn more about them. Considering each on their own we might have difficulty seeing it, but taken together and lined up as a genealogy, we

have revealed to us the great story of God's faithfulness and purposes at work down through the generations.

Beginning with Abraham, God made promises of blessing to this family, so that through them the world would be blessed. This is God's plan for redemption, working with and through humanity and it is remembered in these names: from Abraham to Moses and David, through the exile to Babylon and return. There were times in this story when it seemed like the promises of God had faded and even been lost, times when it might have felt like hope was fading, but time and again the faithfulness of God brought forth light in the darkness and in the fullness of time, Jesus comes.

I have been blessed by our beginning of Advent with this list of names.

It recalls to me our service on Remembrance Sunday, a month ago when Captain (Navy) Bonnie Mason joined us to preach and Christa Lowry and Brad Hampson joined their instruments with the voices of our choir and the organ. What a service that was and at the heart of it the silence and remembering of names. Those members of our own congregation who died in the wars and who are still part of who we are. The slow and careful reading of names is important.

The reading of names and Jesus' genealogy on the first Sunday of Advent took on even more meaning for me this year as we ordained and inducted new elders to the Kirk Session. Each one of them during that service signed their own name in the book that all elders of St. Andrew's sign when they are inducted into Kirk Session. The book goes all the way back to the very beginning of our life as a congregation and with blank pages yet to be filled it speaks both of the generations that have passed on the faith to us and our hope for the future as well.

Genealogies and the names we remember are like this, they do this. They remind us who we are and where we come from and they remind

us of the part we have in generations yet to come.

The genealogy of Jesus that begins with Abraham is ours as well. In faith we are numbered among the descendants of Abraham, part of a great story that is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. And so I wonder who are the people who passed on the faith to you? How did their life and living plant seeds that are bearing fruit in your own life? And how are you in your turn passing on the Good News?

As we begin Advent the writers for the Sanctified Art materials that we are using in our Wednesday studies and worship say this: *“From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won’t let you go!”*

Come let us walk in the Light of the Lord!

Greetings from the Kirk Session

*Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk*

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down
from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows.”
James 1:17*

As I write this we are beginning the journey of Advent—a journey of preparation and anticipation.

At St. Andrew’s we are embarking on a similar journey. In October we met with the consultant, Bill Tenny-Brittian, and we are now anticipating his final report. In the meantime we have the opportunity to think about what Bill said during his Sunday evening presentation and reflect on what the future might look like at St. Andrew’s. This period of reflection and preparation will take time and will not always be easy, but it is necessary. Once we receive the report we can begin our forward planning, but in the meantime, thank you all for your participation.

The Session has met once since the last issue of St. Andrew’s in Action came out, and while much of our focus continues to be on the revitalization project, the regular operation of the church continues, with committees meeting, and activities and events being undertaken.

On November 27th it was a pleasure to welcome our new elders. Aisling Boomgaardt, Gail Bowes, Riley Brockington, Elizabeth Phillipson and Althea Williams-Goodman were ordained and Tim Patterson was inducted (meaning that he has previously been ordained but is being inducted as an elder at St. Andrew’s). This service was to have happened quite a while ago, but due to the pandemic it was postponed until now. It is very good to be able to welcome them officially into Eldership at St. Andrew’s!

There are many activities and events happening, both online and in-person and I wish you all a safe, healthy and blessed Advent season.

Service of Ordination



A service of ordination was held on November 27, 2022.

Having been elected by the congregation, Riley Brockington, Tim Patterson, Althea Williams-Goodman, Gail Bowes, Aisling Boomgaardt and Elizabeth Phillipson were ordained/admitted.

Update from the Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee

Peter Zanette

Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee (ADIC) convenor

On October 30, St. Andrew's volunteers in conjunction with the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society welcomed participants of the walking tours that started at Beechwood cemetery. This is the first annual St. Andrew's event of this type.

Of note is past church member Peter Bryce whose 1907 report highlighted the staggering death in residential schools. More information on Dr. Bryce is available here: fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/dr._peter_henderson_bryce_information_sheet.pdf

The ADIC has been working on a Diversity Calendar. It highlights celebrations/commemorations throughout the year. It is to be used by all church committees as a launching point for self-education and diverse/inclusive action. You don't have to adhere to the dates listed to highlight a particular diversity because are all diverse 365 days of the year. We will launch this Diversity Calendar in the new year.



Worship

Advent at St. Andrew's

Our Advent theme this year is *From Generation to Generation* and for this we will be using resources from the Sanctified Art group.



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They take their inspiration for this theme from Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her song of protest and praise: *“Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. (Luke 1:48b–50)”*.

Despite all the challenges she faced and her own vulnerability, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth.

May it be so for us as we journey through Advent together this year!

Note: Advent Devotionals and Calendar are available at church or through the church office. For more details contact office@standrewsottawa.ca or check out www.standrewsottawa.ca/advent-worship.

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS AT ST. ANDREW'S: MORNING, NOON AND EVENING

To receive Zoom links please RSVP your attendance for all Zoom events to office@standrewsottawa.ca

- ✝ **VISIO DIVINA** at 8:30 a.m. from November 23 until December 21 on zoom and led by Reverend Karen Dimock. Visio Divina, which is Latin for Divine Seeing, is a meditative form of Scriptural interpretation that interacts with the passage for the day and a piece of art inspired by it.
- ✝ **ADVENT WORSHIP** at 12:10 from November 30 until December 14: A peaceful service in the sanctuary, led by Reverend Karen and Custodian of Music, Matthew Larkin. Each week in Advent there are two Scripture readings, one from Isaiah and one from the Gospels. While we read both in each service, the meditation on Wednesdays will focus on the reading from Isaiah while on Sundays the readings from the Gospel.
- ✝ **BIBLE STUDY** at 7:00 p.m. beginning November 23 until December 21 on Zoom. Exploring our theme of *From Generation to Generation*, giving thought not only to the faith we have received but what we are birthing and passing on. Led by Reverend Karen Dimock and Reverend Heather Paton.
 - ✝ November 23 There is room for every story
 - ✝ November 30 God is with us when we are afraid
 - ✝ December 7 We can choose a better way
 - ✝ December 14 We see God in each other.

MUSIC AS SANCTUARY: Weekly concerts at 12:10 on Tuesdays, followed by a seasonal soup lunch

- ✝ December 6 Carson Becke, Piano: *Memories of Tosca*
- ✝ December 13 Matthew Larkin, Organ: Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur*
- ✝ December 20 Caroline Leonardelli, Harp: *The wonder of Christmas*

ADVENT REFLECTIVE CRAFTS for all ages: Join Reverend Heather after the church service on December 4th as well as during the Congregational Lunch on December 11th to make some beautiful crafts that reflect the themes of the day and give you something beautiful to pass on for Christmas's to come.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF READINGS AND MUSIC FOR ADVENT: Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m., with the St. Andrew's Church Choir!

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY is December 11 and we are again this year collecting gifts of new books for the library and Queen Mary Street Public School. A wish list of books is found on the [website](#).

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH: December 11, after worship

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING PARTY: December 18 at 2 p.m.! This is an all ages and out of doors event carolling from the church steps and down Sparks Street before returning to St. Andrew's for hot chocolate and treats.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR! Ways to share the joy of Christmas this year through the ministries of St. Andrew's and its Mission partners – Check out the website for more details on each of these opportunities, at www.standrewsottawa.ca/loving-our-neighbour

The **CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS** this year includes:

- ✝ The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa, for Disaster Relief in Haiti
- ✝ The Kenora Fellowship Centre, a Presbyterian Church in Canada ministry with Indigenous People
- ✝ The Community Laundry Coop in Ottawa

The **FAIR TRADE TABLE** is open after worship on Sundays for Christmas gift purchases of coffee, olive oil and soaps. Proceeds raised go to the Refugee Resettlement Fund. Cash only please.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: Wednesday December 21, at 7:00 p.m.

A service of light in the darkness on the longest night of the year. Christmas can be difficult, surrounded by lights and holiday festivals many of us are also experiencing grief and loss.

This service is hosted by the pastoral care team and will be livestreamed. As we gather, in our homes, in the sanctuary or wherever else we may be, we know that some of us could be feeling alone, hopeless, heavy-hearted, lost, saddened, scared and weary.

On the longest night of the year, we invite you to come together as individuals yet children of God, where you are invited to lay down your troubled and tired minds, body, and soul and find comfort and rest, even for a little while.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES: Saturday December 24✝ *Christmas Pageant* at 6:00 p.m.✝ *Service of Lessons and Carols* at 10:00 p.m.**CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP:** Sunday December 25, at 10:30 a.m.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Service marking the **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** will be held at St. Andrew's this year on January 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Christian Education and Youth

Sunday School Update

*Rev. Heather Paton**Christian Education Co-ordinator*

What an interesting time to be involved in youth and children's ministry as we all re-learn what it's like to be together after being apart for so long. It is a slow process for families returning to the church in-person and we are grateful for every moment that we get to be together. Numbers in Sunday School are growing and we continue to meet during worship on Sundays in St. Andrew's Hall. Some highlights from recent weeks are making hairy Esau arms to remind us of the story of Jacob and his twin brother and making biscuits after reading the story of the widow and Elijah. We have been singing 'Rockin' Jesus Loves Me' and 'He's my Rock, my Sword, my Shield' that we shared in worship recently. We are building relationships with God and each other as we explore the scriptures each week. If you are interested in being part of the teaching team, please let me know.



The Youth Group carved pumpkins,
and made cookies



Advent Calendar

The beautiful and meaningful Sanctified Art resources include a unique Advent Calendar that has been sent out to families and is available for pick up at the church. It involves colouring, a sticker nativity scene and some helpful reflective questions for all ages. A version of this will also be available on the website, something new to click on for each day of December. There are also devotionals available for pick up in Grant Hall or from your elder. These have unique artwork, poetry and journalling ideas all focusing on the Advent theme of 'From Generation to Generation'. There is something for everyone in these thoughtful booklets.

We'll also be using this curriculum for the crafts that we'll be doing after worship on December 4 and 11. Instead of doing a big start of Advent event, we decided to offer two smaller opportunities to gather for creativity and community. The crafts will connect to the themes of worship and bible study from the week and will have questions to discuss or reflect on as you do them. They will be appropriate for all ages and easy to find during coffee hour and the Christmas lunch. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Caroling

An idea that came from the Church Matters discussions in the spring, we'll be going caroling on December 18 at 2:00 p.m. We invite everyone to come out for an afternoon of sharing the joy of the season in song. You don't have to be a stellar singer to come along. Dress warmly and come for a fun time of singing our seasonal favourites for folks walking by. Hot chocolate will follow.

Invitation to New Members

Interested in Membership at St. Andrew's? On January 29th after worship, Reverend Dimock and the Ministry of Hospitality, will be hosting a lunch and discussion on Faith Matters. All are welcome, whether you have been here a short time or long. Please RSVP to the church office so that we have enough food and know if you have any allergies or sensitivities. Two more lunch time sessions will follow in February as we look forward to receiving new members in March.

Pastoral Care

Dementia Care

The pastoral care team is organizing a series of three evenings on Zoom on the topics of living with dementia, caring for the caregivers and becoming a Dementia-Friendly community. The first of these is a workshop at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11 with Agatha Park from the Dementia Society. Stay tuned for more details as they emerge.

Mission and Outreach

Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar

Gail Bowes

After a 3-year hiatus the Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar took place on November 26. There were lots of wonderful donations made to the Attic Treasures, Silent Auction, Jewellery, Art, Books and Craft Tables. Many people participated in the Christmas basket initiative, and beautiful, themed baskets were then created. Homemade sweets were made for the Tea Room. The bazaar opened with Jamie Boyes playing the bagpipes and Rev. Karen Dimock welcoming those waiting at the door to begin their search for the perfect gift or to enjoy a wonderful scone and sweets with tea.

A new addition this year was a “cafe” where one could buy a coffee to go, and a homemade cookie. Although we did not have a Bake Table this year, individual apple crisps were made the morning of the bazaar, and sold out very quickly. For those unable to attend the bazaar, or want another opportunity to browse, some unsold items will be for sale in Grant Hall following the Sunday morning services until mid-December. Proceeds from this Women’s Guild fundraiser go to local charities and our own church.

Thanks to the many people who participated in some way to making this tea and bazaar a great success.



The ever-popular Scottish Tea

News from Haiti

Yvette Depestre

President, The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

As we rejoice in the peace and beauty of the Advent Season, it is with sadness I report that our brethren in Haiti are facing more challenges than ever before. My beloved country is in lock-down, schools are closed and food and fuel are scarce. There are cholera outbreaks. Gangs block the roads so necessities cannot be delivered to those in need. Many children and their families live in fear with the sound of gunshots piercing the air at all hours.

Child Sponsorship: Of the over 50 children sponsored, 7 are supported through the generosity of members of the St. Andrew's congregation. In spite of the dire situation in Haiti, Julia Depestre, the Child Sponsorship Monitor, is doing her best to keep in touch with the sponsored children, though she has not been able to contact two siblings who live in a very dangerous area. Only in remote Furcy, where schools are still open, 7 sponsored children are able to attend.

Thankfully just prior to the intensified deterioration of Haiti's situation, Julia was able to hold annual general meetings in Laboule 12, Furcy and Petionville where children listened to and participated in a health-related presentation and received hygiene items followed by a snack. Children with good marks received a gift.



Rose Béa Clermont, one of the sponsored children



At the Annual Meeting in Furcy, August 17, 2022
Julia with the families

Despite a tenuous security situation thanks to the diligent work of Julia and her helpers the meetings took place without incident. I am pleased to report that 2 of our graduates are completing their second year in Auto Mechanics and another one of our graduates is following a two-year course in computer science.

Child Sponsorship – Nutrition Supplement: Eight families are supported as part of the Nutrition Supplement program. Food vouchers were provided to these grateful families. This

program was initiated by our dearly departed friend Barbara Sawh who saw a great need to be fulfilled.

School Supplies: Although 200 kits were distributed in Laboule 12 on September 1, the majority of school supplies will be distributed when school resumes.

Virtual Concert: The Foundation held a virtual *Variety Concert 2022* in support of its humanitarian aid projects. The on-line audience was treated to beautiful music, dance and recitation. We are most grateful for the support provided by St. Andrew's Church which contributed in large part to the success of the concert.

Agroforestry: This project has been ongoing since 2017 with the goal of providing a source of revenue for families and reinforcing unstable land. Mr. Herno, the Agricultural Technician who oversees the project visited Furcy regularly until the end of August when over 1,100 seedlings such as avocado, coffee, and pine were distributed. He has not been able to visit Vialet this year but thanks to a guardian and the Fondoux School Principal, 2,250 seedlings of mango, coffee and cocoa were distributed to 25 matrons (rural midwives) and 217 school children and teachers in April.



A beneficiary of a Sarmen seedling that is growing well—Furcy, April 2022

Christmas Appeal: Over the past few years, we have been able to provide nutritious meals to over 1,000 people in need. For many, this Christmas meal was the only full meal of the year. This year there is no question of organizing gatherings to share a meal. As soon as it is safe to do so, our volunteers will purchase and distribute non-perishable food items (rice, pasta, beans, peas, smoked fish, etc.), drinking water and other necessities to many needy families. During this especially tumultuous time in Haiti, I hope you will find it in your hearts to contribute generously to our Christmas Appeal.

Other Activities: Renovations of a house damaged during last year's earthquake is almost complete but currently on hold in Les Cayes.

Due to the danger of bandits and kidnappers, activities in Laboule 12 have been curtailed. This has included the much-enjoyed group called *Les Messagers*, established by Julia Depestre to teach children life lessons. In after-school get-togethers youngsters are taught God's word, sing songs and learn how to prepare various foods.

We are grateful that St. Andrew's selected the Foundation again this year as the recipient of the St. Andrew's International Mission Partner for Disaster Relief in Haiti. We are heartened by the continuing support from many in the St. Andrew's family.

On behalf of the Foundation and my family, I would like to thank our Minister, Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock, the Mission and Outreach Committee, and the many members of the congregation for their continued vital support of the mission and work of the Foundation.

Wishing you all of God's blessings and a joyful Christmas.

'O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good for his mercy endures for ever'
Psalm 136:1 (NKJ)

Atiqput and Project Naming

Beth Greenhorn

Atiqput, which means “Our Names” in Inuktitut, celebrates Inuit naming practices and through them, honours Inuit culture, history, and storytelling. According to Inuit Elder, Piita Irniq:

“Our names - Atiqput - are very meaningful. They are our identification. They are our Spirits. We are named after what’s in the sky for strength, what’s in the water ... the land, body parts. Every name is attached to every part of our body and mind. Yes, every name is alive. Every name has a meaning. Much of our names have been misspelled and many of them have lost their meanings forever. Our Project Naming has been about identifying Inuit, who became nameless over the years...with Project Naming, we have put Inuit meanings back in the pictures, back to life.”



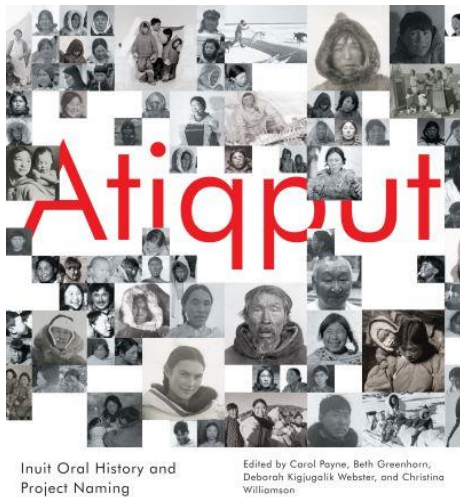
Martha Kasudluak, Inukjuak, Nunavik, 2017
with photographs of herself taken in 1947–48

Photo courtesy of Johnny Kasudluak

In February 2020, I was invited to speak about [Project Naming](#) at a Lunch and Learn event at St. Andrew’s. Project Naming is a community engagement initiative involving the identification of Indigenous Peoples depicted in the photographic collections held at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). It began in 2002 as a partnership between Nunavut Sivuniksavut (NS), a college for Inuit in Ottawa, the Government of Nunavut and LAC. The project originally focussed on photographs of Inuit.

In 2015, it was expanded to include First Nations and the Métis Nations, and the other three regions in Inuit Nunangat (the Inuit Homeland in Canada), which includes the Inuvialuit, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. I had the privilege to lead the project from 2003, when I began working at LAC, until 2017.

In March 2017, I co-organized the 15th anniversary of Project Naming with Carleton University Professor Carol Payne. The event took place over two days and included presentations by Inuit Elders, former NS faculty and students and community collaborators.



Many of the conversations that took place during this celebration were adapted and are featured in *Atiqput: Inuit Oral History and Project Naming*, co-edited by myself along with Carol Payne, Deborah Kigjugalik Webster and Christina Williamson. Narratives by Inuit Elders, including Sally Kate Webster, Piita Irniq, Maniok Thompson, Ann Meekitjuk Hanson, and David Serkoak, form the heart of the book, as they reflect on naming traditions and the intergenerational conversations spurred by the archival photographs.

Other contributions present scholarly insights and research projects that extend Project Naming's methodology, interspersed with pictorial essays by the Inuk artist Barry Pottle and Inuk filmmaker asinnajaq. *Atiqput* was released last month, and marks the project's 20th anniversary.

Atiqput is published as part of McGill-Queen's University Press's Indigenous and Northern Studies Series. More information about the book is available at www.mqup.ca/atiqput-products-9780228011057.php.

Fair Trade Table

Gail Bowes



Fair trade coffee, chocolate and more! These are gifts that multiply in their giving. Proceeds from the products sold at the Fair Trade Table in Grant Hall on Sunday mornings support St. Andrew's Refugee Fund, as well as providing fair compensation to farmers who produce them. And....the coffee, chocolate and olive oil make wonderful gifts at Christmas. For more information, contact Gail Bowes (bowes125@hotmail.com).

St. Andrew's Striders on the Podium



The St. Andrew's Striders represented us on the annual Walk for the Centre on October 2. The Striders won the prize for the team with the most participants and supporters! Congratulations to all the team!

The walkers and their sponsors raised over \$36,000 for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. The Centre is operated by the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC).

The CCSAC is a collective of twenty-two churches in downtown Ottawa, including St. Andrew's. It has undertaken many initiatives on behalf of people who are socially and economically disadvantaged in our community. CCSAC advocates for social justice, especially for issues relating to poverty. Its main project is oversight of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

White Gift Sunday—December 11, 2022

Jeanie Hicks

This year, St. Andrew's will again support Queen Mary Street Public School on White Gift Sunday. The goal of White Gift Sunday is to reach out to community schools and support their libraries. On December 11, please drop off your books wrapped in white paper in the bins in each narthex and Grant Hall. You may prefer to provide a gift certificate or a monetary donation instead. Many local bookstores will give a 20% discount to schools. Donations can continue during the month as the books will be delivered in the new year. Please check the attached 'Wish List' from Petra Alinec, Librarian at Queen Mary.



Queen Mary Street Public School Mission Statement

‘Reaching for Excellence in a caring, inclusive, and engaging learning environment.’

This governs every aspect of school life.

Queen Mary Street PS has an enrolment of 150 students, representing many countries and speaking over 25 languages, giving richness of culture and diversity to the school. The main languages spoken are English, Arabic and Somali. When our Grade 6 students leave Queen Mary, they either go to Queen Elizabeth Public School or York Street Public School. We are thrilled to offer French Immersion Full Day Kindergarten with an educator team comprised of a teacher and Early Childhood Educator.

Staff members are dedicated, experienced and talented in a variety of areas such as athletics, music, drama, visual arts, computers and professional dance and provide a wide range of extracurricular activities.

Petra Alince, Librarian at Queen Street Public School has arranged the books in order of priority - with diverse books at the top.

She also let us know that cash or gift certificates would be wonderful as well. Chapters and most independent bookstores give schools a 20% discount. Petra has been using Books on Beechwood for school purchases but Perfect Books also gives the discount.

- ✦ I Forgive Alex – Kerascoët, Cosset and Pommepuy
- ✦ The Peace Book – Todd Parr
- ✦ My Name is Malala – Malala Yousafzai
- ✦ Wishes – Muon Thi Van
- ✦ Still This Love Goes On – Buffy Sainte-Marie
- ✦ This Is A School – John Schu
- ✦ Home – Carson Ellis
- ✦ Over and Under the Snow – Kate Messner
- ✦ Over and Under the Pond – Kate Messner
- ✦ Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt – Kate Messner
- ✦ The Pigeon Has Feelings Too – Mo Willems
- ✦ Leaves – Robert Munsch
- ✦ The Sour Grapes – Jory John



- ✦ Bilal Cooks Daal – Aisha Saeed (chapter book)
- ✦ Omar Rising – Jasmine Warga (chapter book)
- ✦ Elephant and Piggie Books – Mo Willems
- ✦ The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster – Mo Willems
- ✦ The Pigeon Loves Things That Go – Mo Willems
- ✦ Diary of a Wimpy Kid #17 (Diper Overlope) – Jeff Kinney
- ✦ InvestiGators – (graphic novel series for younger readers)
- ✦ Wings of Fire (graphic novel series)

The Saleems are Moving, One More Time

Terry Collins-Williams

Basima and Salem Saleem together with their then teenaged children Rami, Rimon and Rita arrived in Ottawa in spring 2014 from Iraq via an extended stay in Syria, as refugees sponsored by St. Andrew's. The Saleems made their new life in Ottawa living in a house in Gloucester.

In September, Rita, their daughter married and moved to Windsor. The rest of the family members have decided to join Rita and many of Basima's extended family in the Windsor/Detroit area. We wish them well in their new home.



Frances Isaac and Terry Collins-Williams
with Basima and Salem Saleem

Our Heritage

The Ceremonial Trowel

Elizabeth J. Phillipson

In the previous issue of St. Andrew's in Action we began our perusal of the treasures hiding in the Fergus Grant Hall curio cabinet with the story of our collection of Communion Tokens.

Now then, what shall we look at next? Let's turn our attention this time to — the Ceremonial Trowel.

The story begins in the year of Confederation, 1867. St. Andrew's Church was a growing, dynamic congregation, and it was fitting that it call to the pulpit the Rev. Daniel Miner Gordon, a young and energetic preacher and most fittingly, the first Canadian-born minister to occupy the post.

His first challenge was the St. Andrew's church building itself. It had been erected in 1828, in the days of the building of the canal and of the domination of the lumber trade. It was the oldest Protestant church in the growing Bytown, and although the building was enlarged in 1855, it became just too small and

St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa— 195 years and counting!

Elizabeth continues her examination of the items in the display cabinet in Fergus Grant Hall.

Elizabeth is a member of the Memorials Committee, and an accomplished archivist here at St. Andrew's, building on the work of wonderful historians Sheila Urquhart and the late David Brearley.

She hopes that these articles will intrigue and interest you, and inspire you to have a look inside the Grant Hall cabinet next time you are at the church.

antiquated to serve the 200-strong congregation. The Kirk Session also wished to replace the organ with a larger one, which required more space.

And so in 1871 the congregation decided to proceed with a new structure, and instructed the Temporal Committee to borrow adequate funds. The Building Committee had raised \$31,000 of the needed \$60,000 (part of which would secure additional land on the church's west side), and the women of St. Andrew's had begun raising funds for a spire on the new church.

The final service in the old church was held on January 21, 1872. Rev. Gordon preached from Joshua 24: 26-7. "Behold this stone shall be the witness unto us."



Photo: Elizabeth J. Phillipson

The cornerstone of the new building was formally laid on June 14, 1872, again by Rev. Gordon. You can see this stone in the north narthex, on your left-hand side as you enter via the Kent St. entrance: have a look for it the next time you worship with us!

A copper box was placed in the corner stone, containing the old coins from the original church when its corner stone was removed, as well as current coins; copies of the Free Press and other city papers, copies of *The Globe*, and *The Mail*; a large number of 'other papers'; Church papers, et cetera [ref. *Ottawa Free Press*, Saturday, June 15, 1872].

When the new foundation stone was laid, Edward McGillvray, President of the Temporal Committee, presented Rev. Gordon with the silver trowel, which bore the inscription:

"Presented to the Rev. D. M. Gordon by the Temporal Committee of St. Andrew's Church on the occasion of laying the corner stone of St. Andrew's Church, Wellington Street, Ottawa, 14th June, 1872."

In his remarks, Mr. McGillvray stated that the edifice of which he (Rev. Gordon) was about to lay the corner stone would be a large one, and when finished would be a credit to the congregation and to the Capital.

The new church was formally dedicated on January 25, 1874. The pews were not yet installed, the tender for the work sought a month after the dedication. Six weeks later, 'pews of warm local pine to seat over 700 had been contracted, crafted, and installed, expedited no doubt by the commitment of

several of Ottawa's lumber barons who were members of the congregation and their skilled craftsmen' (John Moir in *Unto the Hills Around*).

And what of the Ceremonial Trowel, you may ask?

As you can see, we have part of the trowel: at some time during the intervening years the handle has been lost. The inscription, however, is still crisp.

In the notes written in 2015 by Sheila Urquhart and the late David Brearley for Heritage Sunday in February of that year, we see that the trowel has had quite the history. When in the early 1980s it was deemed necessary that the old Church Hall be demolished (to be replaced by St. Andrew's Tower that stands today attached to the church), everything in the old hall had to be removed, passed on, sold, or stored. Many members took things home with them, and as the years passed, many items were put away and memory faded.

One such member was Jim Mackie, who had carefully boxed up the trowel blade and stored it at home. Many years later, his widow, after liaising with various members of our Memorials Committee, ensured that the trowel came home to St. Andrew's in early 2015 with Mary and Wally Cook in time for Heritage Sunday, February 15, 2015.

Sheila and David summed it up so well when they wrote:

"The trowel played an important part in June 1872 when our corner stone was laid with reverence, hope, and prayer, and those present remembered their 'beloved friend' Thomas McKay, whose Scottish stonemasons built our first church to his design on this corner in 1828. When the renovations are complete, the trowel blade will be placed in the Grant Hall corner cabinet."



Photo: Elizabeth J. Phillipson

Well, it may have taken until 2022, but the Ceremonial Trowel has finally made it into the cabinet. Please have a good look at it when you are next at the church, and remember the history that has surrounded it.

If you are enjoying this perusal of the cabinet, please drop me a line at ejphillipson@gmail.com.

Sources:

MacPhail, John Goodwill. *St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa: The First Hundred Years, 1828–1928*. Ottawa: St. Andrew's Church, 1932.

Moir, John M. *Unto the Hills Around: A History of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa*. Ottawa: St. Andrew's Church, 2003.

And as for the historical information on St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa researched by Sheila Urquhart and David Brearley over so many years: I could not have written any of this without their faithfulness and dedication to their beloved St. Andrew's.

News from the Temporal Committee

Richard Lauzon

Chair of the Temporal Committee

The Temporal Committee continues to look after our beautiful church to ensure it remains an attractive and a safe environment within which to worship. A recent addition to the exterior has been several security cameras covering the periphery of the property. This should assist us in deterring vandals as well as capturing video evidence of any damage or theft of church property. Entry steps were recently painted which help to showcase our new doors and entries.

We were pleased to read the excellent report of November 7 from the Glebe Trustees who manage the investment funds that contribute to helping finance our physical asset and operational activity. I would highly recommend its reading as it supplies a comforting message in the volatile markets we are experiencing today. With its responsibility for the Operating and Capital budgets, the Temporal Committee members are grateful that the investment funds we rely upon are managed so well.

This past summer we engaged Sean Twomey as the Rentals Manager by adding onto his responsibilities as a Church Officer. Following up on the excellent work of Arch Ritter, we continue to earn healthy revenue from the use of our facility by external groups. We have benefitted from the activity of our Custodian of Music, Matthew Larkin to attract talented individuals and groups to our church. We do hope that such rentals will increase in the future. We also welcome Nick Turcotte hired to assist Sean Twomey and James deVries on an as-needed basis.

Early in the new year, the work to transform the Pottinger Room into a Zoom Room should be completed. This project has been managed by Ken Parlee and Kendall Wheaton (Vice-Chair, Temporal). In addition to enabling any church committee members who are unable to participate in



Photo: Elizabeth J. Phillipson

person at their meetings, we hope that this capability on our part will also attract some external users to rent the room during times when church committees do not require it.

The 2023–2024 Budget will occupy much of the time of our Temporal Committee members for the next few months as we respond to declining membership revenue this year while studying the impact of inflation on our future activity. In addition, we will be addressing recommendations from the Revitalization Project Report that will be delivered in mid-December.

I invite any member of the congregation to volunteer with the Temporal Committee. The work of this committee is very satisfying, and we are blessed with members who are talented and committed to contributing to the immediate and long-range needs of the congregation. We would welcome interested individuals. Please contact me (richard.lauzon@gmail.com) for more information about this important church committee.

Fellowship

St. Andrew's Women's Guild

*Jill Collins-Williams,
President*

St. Andrew's Women's Guild members worked hard this Fall with invaluable help from the congregation and it felt good! We were able to offer a Rummage Sale in September and our traditional Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 26. Attendance was down from pre-pandemic levels, but customers were enthusiastic and grateful for the return of these events.

A little over \$9,000 overall was raised and the Guild will prayerfully use much of this money to support local charities, especially those dedicated to women and children, and to support St. Andrew's initiatives such as the Nursery and flowers in the sanctuary. We are full of gratitude for all the help we received in these opportunities to resume Christian service to the community.

The Guild is an active and dedicated group who would welcome your presence and participation. Please call Jill Collins-Williams (613-526-6150) to learn more.



Cathy Jarvis preparing Christmas baskets from the great submissions of items by the congregation.

Men's Fellowship

*Jim Paulin,
Coordinator, Men's Fellowship*

This past October 24, the Men's Fellowship held its first discussion evening of the year. The topic we tackled was "How do we as a Men's Fellowship respond to the preliminary recommendations of the revitalization consultant?". Jidé Afolabi led off with an excellent review of the consultant's preliminary recommendations, while Rob Sheffield kept the reins on the ensuing discussion. There was no shortage of different points of view, with the result that we seemed to run out of time pretty quickly. It was a stimulating evening.

The speaker for our November 28 meeting is Balkan Devlen, a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, whose topic will be "The world of Putin and Xi: What it looks like and how to avoid it."

Burns Supper—January 21

We have been working hard planning for our Burns Supper that will be held in St. Andrew's Hall on Saturday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. The Supper will feature an Immortal Memory focused on several well-known Burns songs presented by John Young and Sandy Scott. Tickets will be available soon in coffee hours for the modest price of \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Christmas Congregational Lunch

Gail Bowes

Come join us for the Christmas congregational lunch on December 11, following the morning service. There will be lots of food, fellowship and singing of carols. For those who need to be at pageant practice, we will make sure you don't do it on an empty stomach.

Calling all Movie Watchers!

Jen Curtis

The St. Andrew's Film Group continues to meet, both on Zoom and occasionally in person to view and discuss films of all kinds. Thanks to the curiosity and enthusiasm of group members, the discussions are robust, enlightening and causing laughter. Recently, we discussed the films *Mr. Harrington's Phone* (ghostly but a good commentary on the smart phone) and *Harriet* (on activist Harriet Tubman). On the schedule for December is *Miracle on Highway 34* which is available on Kanopy and an outing to see the movie *She Said*.

We welcome all St. Andrew's folk!

Putting the Garden to Bed

Elizabeth J. Phillipson



On a lovely day in early November, Jeanie, Michael and I got together to put the church garden 'to bed', while Sean painted the Kent Street stairs in time for Remembrance Sunday.

The next weekend Sean and I planted the tulip bulbs gifted annually to the church by the Dutch Embassy. Hopefully the local squirrels won't get them all!

We got it all done just in time for the first snowfall of the season.

