

 <p>Retreat</p>	 <p>Advent</p>	 <p>Guild 150th</p>	 <p>Pride Week</p>
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ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Autumn, 2023



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Phillipson

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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

Gratitude

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
 Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
 The Lord is near.
 Do not be anxious about anything,
 but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
 let your requests be made known to God.
 And the peace of God,
 which surpasses all understanding,
 will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
 Finally, brothers and sisters,
 whatever is true,
 whatever is honorable,
 whatever is just,
 whatever is pure,
 whatever is pleasing,
 whatever is commendable,
 if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
 think about these things.
 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me,
 do them,
 and the God of peace will be with you.
 Philippians 4: 4 – 9 “*

These are beautiful words are they not? Paul’s final words in his letter to the church in Philippi. There are times when I read something or hear something or see something that resonates deep within me. It’s like there is a light or flame within me that is being kindled. Something deeper encouraged into life. I have experienced it at times in the midst of a hymn and in worship but it can come as well in bright bursts of colour on dreary days, in the smile of a stranger, the welcome of a friend... It comes as gift, is often unbidden, a deep feeling of joy, a stirring of the Spirit. In such moments I feel joined to a presence that is “greater and more,” beautiful and full of hope. Thanksgiving can come easily in moments like this but it is sometimes just as easy to brush them aside.

We have all felt, I suspect, the tyranny of “not enough”. I don’t have enough time or money or resources. Each one of us feels this at some point or another and from there, and too easily, we even begin to suspect that we are not enough. There are endless needs to fill and we feel too acutely the scarcity of it all. We hold what we do have, our things and our selves, closely. Dissatisfaction, negativity, criticism, these and other things, creep in and the joy we were made for and offered slips through our fingers.

This Thanksgiving I have been reminded of something I first read a few years back in Adel Ahlberg Calhoun's *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*. That thanksgiving is possible not because everything goes perfectly but because God is present.



This is how Jesus lived, Adel Calhoun pointed out. When his disciples pointed out the great crowd around him and how very little bread and fish they had, Jesus did not moan the lack of it. Instead he took that bread and fish, he gave thanks to God for it and he gave it away, he shared it and there was more than enough for everyone. This is, I find, one of the most encouraging stories in the Scriptures. The miracle of it still comes true. Even, and maybe particularly, when I feel small and with very little to give, when I reach down deep within, past my anxiety and fear about having enough time or money (or whatever else is needed), and give thanks that I have it and then share it away, somehow God blesses it and it is enough. I am enough. This is grace. God is good.

Thanksgiving makes such a difference. It opens us up to the miracles all around us. Life itself feels sacramental, resonant and full of God's presence. I think many, if not all of us, have at times been caught up in moments like this by surprise—but the practice of gratitude and thanksgiving is how we cultivate them with intentionality. These can include making a practice of saying thank you and sending notes. Making a list at the end of the day of what you are most grateful for. Beginning a meal (or even a meeting) with thanksgiving for those you are with and what you are about to share. What would you add?

With Gratitude and Thanksgiving,
Karen

Greetings from the Kirk Session

*Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk*

*“The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”
Isaiah 40:8*

Another church year has begun, and it was very good to be able to celebrate Communion with so many of you on October 1. Although I love summer and the opportunities it brings for rest and relaxation, it is always nice to gather once again as activities and events start up.

The Kirk Session has met twice so far this fall, with much of our focus turning to the work of revitalization. This will once again be an ongoing activity throughout the year, with focus now on:

- ✚ an examination of term service and the current size of the Session;
- ✚ the drafting of a statement of need for a comprehensive communications function for the church;

- ✝ the creation and implementation of a Pastoral Care strategy exploring the renewal of the Connectors Network, ways to identify and support mental health issues and the feasibility of establishing a Pastoral Care Coordinator;
- ✝ the development and implementation of a strategic plan for engaging with newcomers around worship and other events.

Apart from revitalization, church life continues apace, with a wedding and baptism to rejoice in this fall, a special service of thanksgiving this month and a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the work of the Women's Guild at St. Andrew's.

With so much to commemorate, October truly is a month of Thanksgiving!

Mark your calendars!

- October 12: **Reinterment Service Honouring the Individuals of the Barrack Hill Cemetery.** at 2 p.m. This is the final ceremony at Beechwood for early settlers in Bytown, who were buried in the Barrack Hill Cemetery and whose remains were not moved when that cemetery was closed and were then recently uncovered during excavation of the LRT. The event is open to the public and there is information on the website (standrewsottawa.ca) for those who would like to attend.
- October 14: the **Women's Guild Rummage Sale**
- October 17: **Ukrainian Refugee Benefit Concert** at St. Andrew's, details are on the website.
- October 18: **Living the Questions Study Group** begins – Wednesday evenings on October 18, 25 and November 8, 15, 22 and 29. Come for dinner at 6 p.m., discussion begins at 7 p.m. Starting with a discussion on *Taking the Bible Seriously* this series is an invitation to questions and exploration together.
- October 20: a Friday evening outing to ***A Meaningless Hour***. Hosted by St. Giles Presbyterian Church this is a theatre presentation by Tom Sherwood on the Book of Ecclesiastes. It is an insightful and humorous view on life from the perspective of King Solomon. It will be an enriching evening for participants of all ages on Friday, October 20, at 181 First Avenue. There will be snacks and refreshment from 6–7 p.m. Theatre presentation starts at 7 p.m. Freewill offering is appreciated, with proceeds going to support the Multifaith Housing Initiative. Speak to Reverend Karen if you would like to attend together.
- October 22: Our celebration of the **150th Anniversary of the Women's Guild** and **195th celebration of St. Andrew's witness** in Ottawa. Sunday morning Worship followed by a celebratory High Tea.
- October 29: **Reformation Sunday.** The children in Grade four will be receiving the gift of a new Bible. Rev. Dr. Roland DeVrie, who is principal at Presbyterian College, will be preaching.
- November 1: an **Evening Service for All Saints.** This is a particularly poignant evening of remembering those who have gone before us as well as the continued faithfulness of God with us.

- November 5: **Remembrance Sunday**
November 12: **Pageant Rehearsals** begin!
November 25: the **Bazaar!**

Advent begins December 3

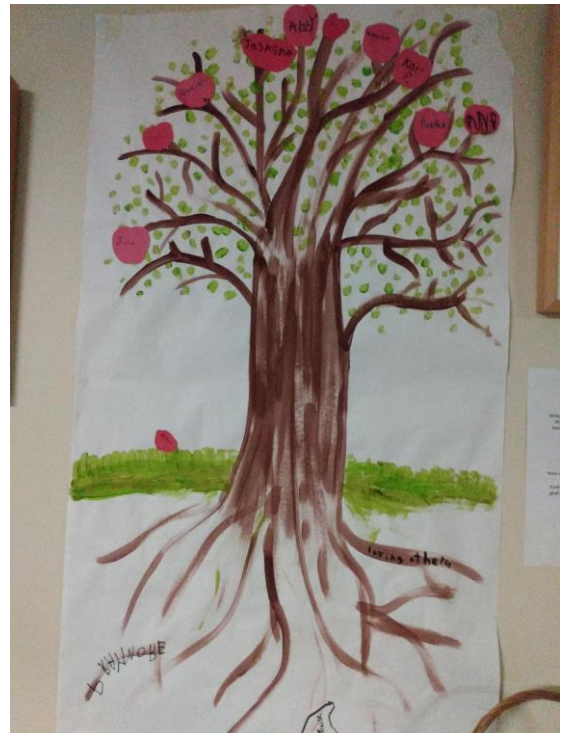
- December 3: **Evening service** at 7 p.m.
December 6: **Evening Choir Concert**
December 20: **Blue Christmas Service** at 7 p.m.
December 24: **Christmas Eve Pageant** at 5 p.m. and Carol Service by Candle Light at 10 p.m.
December 25: **Christmas Day worship** at 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Heather Paton
Christian Education Co-ordinator

*And I pray that you,
being rooted and established in love,
may have power,
together with all the Lord's holy people,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep
is the love of Christ
Ephesians 3:17b-18*

Trees have always had spiritual meaning for me. I feel closest to God in nature and the beauty of the trees is what often connects me the most. They symbolize strength and resilience, peace and community in the ways they branch out and reach up to the light. I have been thinking most recently about tree roots as we explore, as a congregation, the call to go deeper with God and with each other. The tree's roots need to be cared for to keep the tree growing. They need water and healthy soil to feed the rest of the tree. The deeper they're able to go into the soil, the stronger they will be.



This image from Ephesians about being rooted in love is helpful as I picture St. Andrew's as a forest of Jesus' disciples in life and ministry together. I often think that love is this obvious part of being a Christian, that it comes naturally to churchy folks. Yet going below the surface kind of love into that grace and compassion that Christ has for all of us, reminds me what this church stuff is all about. The deeper we grow into the radical love of Christ the stronger our roots are in the midst of uncertainty,

the more understanding we can be during change. Surrounded by the Godly love that roots us we can be forgiving, patient and understanding with each other even when we disagree.

Being rooted in the love of Christ connects us together as a congregation too. As the fall season begins we have celebrated these connections well. We continue to grow roots in our Sunday School program as we learn the stories of Jesus' love and offer opportunities to share that love with each other. Over the summer there were regularly a dozen Sunday Schoolers each week who were learning about and sharing the love of Jesus at St. Andrew's. As a Christian Education committee we offer opportunities to experience that love in activities like Rally Sunday where we eat and play together as a community to reconnect after the summer. And at the Gracefield Retreat we got a sense of that love over a longer, more intense period of time as we live and worship together in God's creation. You can't take too many steps on that holy site without stepping on one root or another and being reminded of how interconnected they all are.

There is a mural up in Grant Hall that is meant to help us think about this image of being rooted in Christ's love. I encourage you to put your name on an apple and write down, on a root, one area or practice in which you are going to go deeper with God this fall season.

Christmas in July

Laura McGregor

Picture this, if you will: you've set up the perfect Christmas tree and now you're searching for the right decorations to make it shine. You've hung up the stockings with care, you've draped the streamers, blown up the balloons, found your elf hat, set out a feast of goodies, planned the games and activities and now you're only waiting for people to show up. And picture all this on a hot sunny afternoon at the end of July and that's how you celebrate a second Christmas.

Imagine walking down Kent Street to be greeted with chalk drawings on the sidewalk inviting you to enter into the fun and a doorway lined with huge Christmas-wrapped presents. Who could resist?

We had the joy of welcoming so many children from the community surrounding the church as well as their parents and grandparents. As with all good parties which are planned so carefully, this one was a wild success with kids running around pumped up on the excitement of the day (not to mention a little sugar) and enjoying a frozen dance or a scavenger hunt or an angel craft or a beanbag toss or a face-painting adventure.

For one little girl, however, toting around one of the gifts wrapped and put under the tree was what made her happiest. What a great way to introduce ourselves to those who might otherwise only have known us as that big grey building on the corner. A huge thank you to Rev. Heather and her volunteers for the



The Craft Leaders at Christmas in July

Photo credit: Heather Paton

planning and executing of a super day. And as with that “other” Christmas — you know, that one we celebrate in December — you know you’ve enjoyed the party when the volunteers and all those who attended left tired but happy.

Rally Day 2023

It was a gorgeous Sunday afternoon for our 'back to Sunday School' celebration on September 17. We commissioned eight Sunday School teachers and two fabulous choirs for the season of ministry ahead. Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart gave an inspiring sermon on following Jesus. The courtyard was filled with laughter afterwards as we enjoyed apple-themed activities and lunch. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve lunch and all the activities afterwards.



Allan, Bessi and Abigail try their luck at bobbing for swinging apples

Photo credit: Heather Paton

Pastoral Care

Living with Dementia

Pauline Schneider

The Dementia Support Group continues to meet virtually on the last Wednesday evening of each month at 7 p.m. It's a great opportunity for attendees to check in with each other, learn together, share observations and ask questions.

Recently, we have been working our way through a series of Dementia Checklists of things to be aware of in the Early, Middle and Late Stages of the disease. We continue to share tips for caregivers and resources for people living with dementia. Music is always present as a reminder of its power to delight, comfort, motivate and be a means of expression for all of us.

As we approach the time of year when families are more likely to come together,, we will be sharing some ideas for adapting and coping with those times. We continue to explore strategies for bringing dementia friendliness to our church events and facilities.

The Dementia Support Group warmly welcomes anyone who is curious about this topic, living with dementia or caring for someone who does. Feel free to contact our support group team: Laura McGregor (ljm9ostar@gmail.com), Jeanie Hicks (jh1948@hotmail.com) or Pauline Schneider (gas@swcp.com). The link for our meetings can be requested from the church office.

Worship

Music as Sanctuary

Every Tuesday from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m., there is an excellent music program arranged by Matthew Larkin, our Custodian of Music.

An outstanding program is lined up for the fall season, featuring local and visiting artists as well as Matthew himself. The details can be found at the St. Andrew's website – www.standrewsottawa.ca/music-as-sanctuary.

A free will offering collects money for the performing artists. And a seasonal soup prepared by Patricia Wilson follows in the Currie Room.

Some come each week, some come when they can.

Some stay for the hour, some stay for part of the hour.

Some watch on line. Some stay for soup.

You can decide what suits you best.

But all of the audiences are delighted. And we are proud to welcome visitors to our beautiful and historic sanctuary in downtown Ottawa.

Join us when you can and bring a friend.



Ralitsa Tcholocova and Joycelin Mosley

Photo credit: John Banigan



On September 26, the audience enjoyed the performances of Ralitsa Tcholocova, violin artist, accompanied by pianist Joycelin Mosley. Garth Hampson introduced them and Matthew thanked them.

After the performance the artists joined the soup lunch and mingled with the audience members. An enriching experience for all.



Handbells at St. Andrew's

Maila Gray

Both handbell choirs have kicked off the fall season and rehearsals are now in full swing! Did you know that St. Andrew's has not just one, but two handbell choirs? Well it's true, we do. The Belson's Ringers (directed by Rosaline Lees) are a beginner handbell choir which practice on Monday evenings and the St. Andrew's Ringers (directed by Dominique Moreau) rehearse on Tuesday evenings. Our handbell choirs are a talented group of musicians but we also are a caring community of people who have a lot of fun together.



The Handbell Choir at *It's About Time*

After a four year hiatus, it was wonderful to attend *It's About Time* — a handbell festival which took place during the first weekend of June in Kingston, Ontario at St. Lawrence College. The handbell festival is organized on a yearly basis by the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers. This year's festival included over 250 participants from various handbell choirs all across Ontario. The festival included many unique workshops and an opportunity for ringers to learn new techniques. Be sure to 'tune' in for our next performance during the worship service on October 15.

Mission and Outreach

The Presbyterian Pride Table— A Big Success at Capital Pride

Peter Zanette

Convenor, Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee
inclusionstandrewsottawa@gmail.com

Many people thanked us for being there, and said it was important to tell everyone that all are welcome in our churches, and in particular that members of the LGBTQ+ community are welcome. A few wanted to confirm that we were actually saying that members of the LGBTQ+ community were welcome in our churches. Some were surprised to hear this. A few people said that they were Presbyterians and were happy to see that we were there. Rev Blair Bertrand's son made a point of coming over to say thank you for being there, and how important it was for us to be present.

Some others talked about being from other churches (e.g., United), and also said it was important to ensure that the message that we are open to all is loud and clear. Some noted that there were no other churches represented at the Pride displays. Many people were surprised to hear that members of the LGBTQ+ community are able to be ministers or hold other positions in our churches, and were pleased to hear this. A few people asked about having gay marriages in our churches, and we assured them that our churches are open to gay marriages.

A few people who were familiar with the Presbyterian Church, including a minister's son, were glad to see us there. One member of the LGBTQ+ community wanted to confirm that we were indeed a "gay friendly church" and told me he had just moved from Toronto and was looking for a church. Another individual wanted to confirm that both Knox and St. Andrew's perform LGBTQ+ marriages and was provided contact info. A few other individuals came by simply out of general interest. A few kids also came by to exchange stickers with us. Our banner was a hit and many took pictures of it.. You wouldn't believe how many people stopped to take a photo of it. Many people were satisfied more with the dialogue and discussions about what the Presbyterian church's policies are on LGBTQ+ inclusion.

The stickers were popular. One person was surprised to see support of the Pride festival by the church as she thought all churches considered homosexuality a sin – we corrected her understanding.

One was struggling with his Catholic faith and wondered how the Presbyterian faith is different – we described some of the main differences and gave him information from St. Andrew's and Knox.

A female looking for a church was impressed that St. Andrew's had a female Minister.

As a result of this collective outreach we will have our first same-sex wedding in October.

Thanks to: Noral, Heather, Stacey, Neil, Pat and Peter from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Ottawa, Dave, Aldo, Julie, Bob and Marg from Trinity Presbyterian Kanata, and Jo-Anne and Joan from Knox

Presbyterian for volunteering at the 2 day Capital Pride Information Fair.

A special thanks to our wonderful Vivian, Kaitlyn and Heather Paton for designing and getting the great banner that will be used throughout the year.





Joan from Knox and Stacey from St. Andrew's
at the Presbyterian Pride Table

Photo credit: Heather Paton

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. For more information, contact Gail Bowes (bowes125@hotmail.com).

Open Doors at St. Andrew's, Summer 2023

Diane Munier

*“But the stranger that dwelleth with you
shall be unto you as one born among you,
and thou shalt love him as thyself.”*

Leviticus 19:34 (KJV)

St. Andrew's Open Doors had a most successful summer. From July 1 to September 3, we welcomed close to 1,000 visitors, even though we were open on Saturday and Sunday only. On Canada Day alone, we greeted nearly 300 people.

Our visitors came from every continent except Antarctica.

We had guests from all the provinces in Canada except Prince Edward Island. Americans from many states visited and we greeted quite a few visitors from Mexico, St. Lucia, Colombia, Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

The British Isles were well represented and we welcomed guests from all over Europe: France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Italy, Norway, Chechnya, Romania, Lithuania and The Canary Islands.

We greeted visitors from Africa: Algeria, Cameroon, Morocco, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. We were pleased to greet people from Asia: Burma, Beijing, Vietnam, Korea and India and The Philippines. We had at least one visitor from Australia.

What a wonderful mix of nationalities! The visitors were struck by the beauty of the Sanctuary and the stained glass windows. One man entered the Sanctuary because he saw the Pride Flag flying outside, and knew he would be welcome. Everyone enjoyed putting “their” pin on the map of the World.

We had lots of questions:

“Is this a Catholic Church?”

“What is a Presbyterian?”

“What is the difference between a Protestant and a Presbyterian?”

“Is this the Church of Alexander Graham Bell?”

Many, many thanks to those who volunteered their time and energy to greet our visitors: John and Janet, Irene, Adel, Riley (and Katie), Aisling, Ray, Peter, Deborah, Joan, Jeanie, Elizabeth, Musi, George, Don and Mary, and Jennifer.

A huge “thank you” to Karen, Vivian, Sean and James, who make it all happen. I do hope that I have not missed anybody.

I am looking forward to next year's Open Doors.

Join us!

Music Old and New, by Canadians for Canadians

John Banigan

Our Custodian of Music, Matthew Larkin, delighted over 300 visitors to our church for a noon concert on Canada Day. The program began with the National Anthem sung by RCMP Staff Sergeant (retired) Garth Hampson. Ottawans remember Garth as the “singing Mountie”, as well as his son, Brad, who followed in his footsteps.

Garth and Eleanor Hampson have two grand daughters, Abby and Jessica Wilson, who sing in our choir and were amongst the performers on Canada Day.

Matthew mounted a varied program for Canada Day, as readers will see below. Classical and church music as well as contemporary popular

music by Gordon Lightfoot, Corey Hart and Jodi Mitchel. Many Canadian and international visitors appreciated the Gordon Lightfoot music in particular, remembering his long career.

Country singer, Drake Jensen, from Cape Breton, shared his interpretations of Lightfoot music, accompanied on the piano by Matthew.

Benjamin Mallory, also a choir member, played one of his compositions, *L'Ardeur du Soleil*. And Ben and some other choir members sang an arrangement of Lightfoot hits.

An outstanding musical celebration of Canada in our historic sanctuary at the foot of Parliament Hill.



Matthew Larkin

Photo: John Banigan



Garth Hampson,
the singing Mountie

Photo: John Banigan



The poster for the Second Annual Canada Day Music Celebration

The Marco Depestre Foundation

Yvette Depestre

As autumn begins and the leaves transform to beautiful shades of orange and red, we are reminded of the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. It is the season of Thanksgiving! Our brethren in Haiti are very thankful for the assistance provided to them by the Foundation, supported so generously by the people of St. Andrew's Church.

Due to the dangerous situation in Haiti, many of the Foundation's activities have had to be curtailed or halted. I am pleased to report however that it was still possible to carry out some of the Foundation's work, albeit in a somewhat limited way.

Child Sponsorship: We are very grateful to the members of St. Andrew's congregation who support 7 of the 49 children sponsored through the provision of funds which are used to pay school fees, uniforms and other necessities. In some areas such as Cite Soleil, Carrefour Feuilles, Bolosse and Frere where for the most part schools attempt to remain open, it is too dangerous for many children to attend school. The situation is slightly better in Furcy though several children have

missed school due to colds and flu. In Laboule 12 several families have been forced to flee their homes. Some have returned but most do not feel it is safe to do so.

A few children are attending school sporadically due to security problems but in some cases also because of lack of interest and/or personal problems. It was difficult for schools to provide report cards in a timely manner as teachers were absent due to the turmoil. To date we know that 40 children were promoted (including one NS4) and 7 failed (including 2 NS4). NS4 is the last year of high school. Given the challenges many of these children have faced this year, it is not surprising that some failed their school year.



Julia handing school supply kits to children in Laboule 12, on September 16, 2023

In late August, two annual general meetings (AGM) organized by Julia Depestre, the Child Sponsorship Monitor, were held with sponsees and their guardians in preparation for the start of the 2023–2024 school year. One was held in Laboule 12 which included families from Furcy; the second was held at the Centre de Formation Musicale Marco Depestre Sr. We are very grateful that both meetings were carried out successfully and without incident.

The AGMs included a presentation on a relevant health-related topic. In Laboule 12, the health talk was extremely relevant to the dangerous times being experienced in that area. A psychologist spoke on *How to Conquer Fear*, providing many

concrete ways for parents and children to deal with their anxiety in the face of violence and gunfire.

Nutrition Supplement: In early September it was possible for 5 of the 8 families who benefit from the Nutrition Supplement to use their food vouchers, assisted by Julia. Everyone is grateful beyond words for this help.

Distribution of School Supplies: School supply kits were distributed to 252 grateful school children in the KAV parking lot in Laboule 12.

Humanitarian Aid: Humanitarian Aid funds were used to provide food to a family who escaped with their lives and were now living with a friend, safe, but in cramped quarters. Funds were also provided to an elderly lady who was in desperate need of medication. They were very grateful for the help received.

Bomplan Methodist Church received funds for the repair to the roof damaged by hurricanes and the 2010 earthquake. The Congregation is very grateful for this support which now allows them to worship, well protected from sun and rain.

Agro-Forestry: The nursery in Vialet distributed most of the 5,000 seedlings left at the beginning of the year; they have begun to grow. In Furcy, the 4,700 seedlings left from last year were distributed to farmers during the rainy season, however there has not been any activity there yet this year.

Virtual Concert: In June, the Foundation held its annual fund-raising concert broadcast on YouTube. The opening prayer and kind words by Rev. Dr. Karen Dimmock provided a most fitting beginning to this year's concert which featured Mr. Matthew Larkin and the Church Choir and the St. Andrew's Ringers. The Foundation much appreciates the Church's assistance in helping us raise funds for our humanitarian aid projects in Haiti.

Conclusion

The Foundation is extremely grateful to St. Andrew's congregation and in particular to Mission and Outreach for their ongoing support. We are so appreciative of all your prayers. Wishing all of you a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

Walk in support of the Centretown Community Food Centre!

The St. Andrew's Striders were out on October 1 for the Walk for the Centre, walking together for food security in central Ottawa. The proceeds go to the Centretown Community Food Centre, which serves over 1,000 people a month, offering food and hope to all.

If you wish to support the Striders with a contribution, there is a link on our website:
<http://www.standrewsottawa.ca/sunday-school-online>



The new roof installed on Bonplan Methodist Church, September 2023



Our Heritage

High Tea

Come celebrate St. Andrew's 195th anniversary and the Women's Guild anniversary of 150 years of service to church and community.

On October 22, High Tea will be served at 12:30 p.m. following the Sunday service in St. Andrew's Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be on sale in Grant Hall October 1, 8 and 15, as well as through the church office.



The Women's Guild is 150 Years Young!

St. Andrew's Women's Guild is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The Guild will be honoured on October 22 during the church service and at a following Tea, announced above.

On the occasion of the Guild's 140th anniversary, a series of articles were published in *St. Andrew's in Action* recounting the Guild's history to that date. This series will be reprinted over the next four issues in honour of this new milestone.

The articles were written by David Brearley and Sheila Urquhart, historians of all things St. Andrew's. This first chapter covers the years from the early days of St. Andrew's through 1873.

St. Andrew's Women's Guild, Formerly the Ladies' Aid Society, Marks 140 Years of Service

David Brearley and Sheila Urquhart

In 2013, St. Andrew's celebrates 140 years of service to our church and city by the Women's Guild. The history of St. Andrew's Ladies' Aid Society, which changed its name to the Women's Guild in 1930, is a record not just of achievements, but also of kindness and devotion. These women were organised, inventive, and gracious, and aware that they followed in the footsteps of the first women's committees of this church.

Through 14 decades, the women of St. Andrew's have planned, sewed, baked, and organised sales, bazaars, teas and creative entertainments to raise funds to serve the church and those in need in the wider community. Today, the Women's Guild continues to serve the church in multiple ways, and distributes several thousand dollars each year to local charities, particularly those which aid women and children.

For some 35 years BEFORE the formation of the Ladies' Aid Society, the women of St. Andrew's did precisely the same work, at first through the Dorcas Society, formed in 1836 from ladies of all denominations. By the early 1840s, women's committees of our church were active in charitable efforts within the congregation as well as for the poor of Bytown. In 1847, Catherine Stewart was one of those from St. Andrew's who worked tirelessly for the Irish immigrants suffering from the typhus epidemic, the same epidemic which claimed the life of St. Andrew's beloved third minister, the Rev. William Durie in 1847. Typhus lingered in Bytown right through to the autumn of 1849, and in that year a committee of ladies raised 16 pounds, plus clothing and provisions for typhus victims.

We don't have the precise date of the initial meeting in the 1850's of the Poor Relief and Tract Distribution Committee, itself a merger of two earlier committees, but the meeting is recorded by Miss Mary Brough. It was held in Mrs. William (Catherine) Stewart's home, "a white cottage that stood in a garden on the corner of Wellington and Lyon Streets". Those attending were "Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. (Ann) McKay, Mrs. H. F. (Editha) Bronson, Miss Amelia Grant, Miss Hamilton, and Miss (Isabella) Stewart, the latter so lovingly called by all her friends Auntie Stewart". (Mrs. Spence was the minister's wife and Isabella was the sister of William Stewart. The quote is from *The Story of The Ladies' Aid Society*, written by Mary Brough for the Society's Golden Jubilee Celebration, February 15, 1924, and carried in the March 1924 issue of *The Message*, published by the St. Andrew's Men's Association.).

The Committee met weekly for many years, and each member had several families or individuals under her care. The Poor Relief work was done quietly, continuously, discreetly, and delivered directly. The need was ever there, the recipients' dignity was always preserved, and the help was practical: groceries, wood or coal for winter fuel, blankets, other necessities, or even cash in times of need. As Mary Brough noted, "the helper knew the helped" in those years. (The April 26, 1900 obituary in the *Ottawa Free Press* of Catherine Stewart refers to Mrs. Thomas McKay as the first Convenor of the Poor Relief Committee.)

In 1861, in Mary Brough's words, "the Committee, along with other ladies of the congregation, held a bazaar, the proceeds of which were to assist in building a spire to the church; in that spire there was to have been a bell. A bell, however, whose tongue never sounded though it caused many a discussion for the then Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Lees who for a long time held fast to the opinion that that money must be kept for that object alone."

The spire was never built, as the congregation anticipated building a second larger church, so the Ladies invested the bazaar proceeds. In her history, Mary Brough remarked that "it must be remembered that in those days (the 1860s) a dollar was not ashamed to stand up and be a dollar", and quoted an extract from the first published annual church reports in 1869 including that of the Temporal Committee, written by its chairman, Edward McGillivray, a well-known merchant, an elder and former Mayor of Ottawa 1858-60. The extract follows, with a reference to Andrew Drummond who was the manager of the bank of Montreal, an elder, and within a year the chairman of the Building Committee for our second larger church:

"It will be within the recollection of most of us at this (annual) meeting, that about eight years ago in 1861, a bazaar was held by the ladies of this congregation for the purpose of raising money to assist in building a spire to this church, but during the long period of time that has elapsed, nothing further has been done towards that object, on the contrary from all that can be learned from the action of the Congregation, it has been abandoned.

Such being the case, it became an interesting question, what was to be done with the money so raised for the benefit of this church by the members thereof.”



Spire-less St. Andrew's, in 1872

To answer which a meeting of the ladies connected with the bazaar, called by notice from the pulpit, was held recently at which meeting, resolutions were passed unanimously by the said ladies that the whole of the proceeds of the bazaar referred to, amounting in all to \$639.73 was to be placed in the hands of E. McGillivray, out of which he has received \$331.65; for this he has given his note payable to the order of Andrew Drummond, to be held in trust for the ladies, it being their desire that it be invested in this way, and he has again lent it to your Committee at same rate of interest in order to assist them in reducing these liabilities for the improvements made last summer.”

Your Committee feel they owe a debt of gratitude to the ladies of the congregation for their exertions heretofore in getting up the bazaar already mentioned for the purpose of

improving this church, notwithstanding that particular object (the Spire) then aimed at, has since been given up, and they have again to express their warm acknowledgement for the renewal of their efforts in having decided to hold another bazaar in May next for the purpose, not only of paying off existing liabilities, but with the surplus to commence a fund in aid of the cost of building a New Church suitable to this congregation.”

Mary Brough added “It was further stated the \$331.65 borrowed from the ladies through Mr. McGillivray was used to reduce the debt of \$1,134.41 on the manse (built of stone in 1842 facing Sparks St. at the south end of the church). I am sure you will all agree that this extract shows these ladies to have been canny, Scotch women of wide vision. *Let us not forget them.*”

In September 1869 the Rev. Daniel Miner Gordon, minister of St. Andrew’s since December 1867, delighted the congregation when he married Eliza MacLennan in Halifax, then returned with her to Ottawa. The record shows that on her first Sunday at church in the minister’s pew, it was difficult for some in the congregation to focus on the sermon. Eliza Gordon immediately joined the Poor Relief Committee, and her organisational skills and lovely personality quickly endeared her to all. In 1870, the ladies raised \$1,554 more at their bazaar.

The next decade proved difficult. The summer of 1870 was hot and dry, and forest fires burned in the countryside around Ottawa. In August, what became known as the Great Fire swept through Lanark and Carleton Counties, destroying thousands of acres of virgin timber, crops and buildings before reaching Ottawa’s doorstep. Thick smoke made steamboat navigation impossible, and train travel stopped when the wooden coaches, rails and telegraph poles began to catch fire. With fire consuming Hog’s Back, a work party of 100 men cut through a dam on Dow’s Lake and the water rushed out to create a water barrier, flowing down Preston St. to the Ottawa River. Many of Ottawa’s buildings lay charred; many people lost their homes, here and in the countryside.

During the terrible winter of 1871–72, ‘the winter of distress’, the Poor Relief Committee, along with ladies from other congregations, started a soup kitchen on LeBreton Flats which distributed 300 to 400 quarts of soup each week. The soup kitchen would need to operate right through the 1870s.

Despite hard times, in a great leap of faith, St. Andrew’s new church began to rise, after the dismantling of the first stone church, begun in June 1872. The congregation moved for Sunday services to Gowan’s Hall on Sparks St., though communion services were held at Bank St. Presbyterian Church (later Chalmers Presbyterian) at Bank & Slater. By March 1873 the basement of the new church was sufficiently finished that Sunday worship could be held there.

By the fall of 1873, St. Andrew’s second church neared completion. On November 4, the various St. Andrew’s women’s committees (including Poor Relief, Sewing, and Knitting) met to amalgamate and form the Ladies’ Aid Society with Mrs. D. M. (Eliza) Gordon, as president, Mrs. Henry J. Thompson as vice-president, Miss Drummond as Secretary and Mrs. Alison Scott as Treasurer. The membership fee was 50 cents or a dollar, and these expenses were recorded at the inaugural meeting: \$1.47 for lambswool and needles; \$4.45 to Miss Kenley for wool, including .45 for mitts; \$16.05 to Hunton, Son & Co.; \$11.44 to Elliot & Hamilton; \$1.50 for ribbon.” Payments for sewing orders filled were noted in the account book: “Bloomers, Mrs. H. Thompson—\$1.50; pinafores—\$3.00; 2 Dolly Vardens¹, Miss McLennan—\$2.00”.

¹ Dolly Varden was a central character in Charles Dickens’ 1841 novel *Barnaby Rudge*. She dressed colourfully and her name became attached to various articles of colourful clothing, including a floral print dress with a fitted bodice and a skirt cut away in front to show a complementary-coloured underskirt. However, the

Others joined soon after, but the minutes for the inaugural meeting in November 1873 list these ladies as present: Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Cassells, Mrs. D. Scott RR, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. W. D. Waddell, Mrs. A. Scott, Miss M. Scott, Miss Van Cortlandt, Mrs. Jas. Gordon, Mrs. J. Cameron, Mrs. Alex Taylor, Miss J. Taylor, Mrs. McNutt, Mrs. Dr. Logan, Miss B. Stewart, Miss King, Miss Kenley, Mrs. Sandford Fleming, Mrs. Dr. Grant, Miss A. Skead, Mrs. Bronson, Miss Sutherland, Mrs. Mather, Mrs. C. C. Ray, Mrs. M. Patterson, Miss McLean, Mrs. Larmonth, Mrs. Hugh Ross, Mrs. Andrew Drummond, Mrs. Lang Sr., Mrs. George Lang Jr., Mrs. Eastwood, Miss Bronson, Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Miss Angus, Miss Hopkirk, Mrs. R. Angus Jr., Miss Clegg, Mrs. J. D. Robertson, Mrs. Stockand, Miss Nellie Angus, Mrs. Alfred Russell, Mrs. Suger, Miss Wilson, Miss Reid, Miss McLennan, Mrs. Fleck, Miss Fleck, Mrs. Andrew Wilson, Miss Hamilton, Mrs. D. M. Gordon, Miss Jane Peacock, Mrs. LeSueur, Miss Grant RR.

The Society's purpose was clear and consistent through the decades. In the 1873 annual church report, their duties were listed as "meeting every Wednesday afternoon with a program related to Poor Relief, congregational hospitality, and other labour such as ladies can appropriately engage in." They soon changed their meeting day to Thursday, and after a few years, to Friday.

Through the years, the Society's purpose was regularly re-stated. In 1904, each issue of the church magazine *The Message*, published by the Men's Association, set out the aim of the Society in this way: "Relief of the poor, the maintenance of the church parlours, the management of church socials, and the care of china, linen etc., needed in connection with the entertainments held by the different societies of the church." In his history *St. Andrew's Church, The First Hundred Years, 1828-1928*, J.G. Macphail wrote: "The aim of the Society has always been to aid the Church in social as well as philanthropic ways, and to render assistance to charitable institutions both within the city and elsewhere." These principles, somewhat enlarged, were also stated in each issue of *St. Andrew's Church Magazine, 1946-1956*. "Started in 1873 as the Ladies' Aid Society, the work of the Women's Guild is directed to three objects: first to furthering the work of our own congregation; second, to aiding the work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; and third, to assisting the charitable work of the city".

In December 1873, exactly one month after the Society's formation, Kirk Session asked the Ladies' Aid to provide carpeting for the church. By then, the church was mostly complete except for the top section of the tower. Some of the \$75,000 cost of the building had come from the Ladies' Aid Society, including the earlier 'spire fund'. [The basic cost of the second church, \$60,000, included the cost of purchasing adjoining land; however, the congregation chose certain desired embellishments, which amounted to \$15,000 more, for a total of \$75,000.]

With joy, the Sanctuary was dedicated on Sunday, January 25, 1874, with three services, three distinguished visiting ministers, and wonder of wonders, a great Samuel Warren organ up in the loft.

On the following evening, Monday, January 26, 1874, the Ladies' Aid Society organised 'St. Andrew's Church Opening Soiree', held in the beautifully decorated basement and featuring music, and remarks by several ministers.

Here's how the Ottawa Citizen described it: "On Monday evening, a soiree was held in the basement of the Church, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion with wreaths and festoons of

Canadian Oxford Dictionary describes a Dolly Varden as "a woman's large hat with one side drooping and with a flower trimming", so the Sewing Committee may have been making stylish felt hats.

evergreens, flags, etc. The attendance was very large, every seat in the spacious room being filled. The soiree commenced at 7:30 p.m., when refreshments were served. While this essential preliminary was in progress, some of the ladies of the congregation, with an eye to business, opened a little bazaar in one corner of the basement and drove a profitable trade during the evening... The intellectual treat commenced at 9 p.m., with an introductory address by the pastor, Rev. D. M. Gordon.”

The completed basement of the new church expanded possibilities wonderfully for the Ladies’ Aid. No longer did they have to rent a hall on Sparks St. for bazaars and sales. Now, in church premises, they could offer high teas and exceptional entertainments which never failed to attract people from beyond the congregation. The ladies did all this with considerable flair.

In her history of the first 50 years of the Ladies’ Aid, Mary Brough wrote: “I wish I was a magician so that I could bring before you the pictures I have in my mind of days gone by. One that comes to me very vividly is that of a young girl sent with a message to the President, Mrs. D. M. Gordon. The child was shy, almost afraid to open the door of that room in the South East Corner of our present basement—a room called the Bible Class room, its only furniture a table made of boards resting on trestles, plain wooden chairs, on the floor a brown drugget carpet. At the table sat the President, Secretary, and several ladies. At the other end of the room was a quilting frame where busy fingers made those quilts that every family in the congregation at one time possessed. When the child came out she said to herself, with a sigh, I wish I was grown up and could be a member of the Ladies’ Aid Society.”

Fellowship

Wish you were here...

Jeannette Logan

That was my thought as we began our weekend together at Gracefield. Warm sunny days were predicted. I had just shared the drive with two Saint Andreans whom I had never met: Afua and Cindy. Wish you were here...

In case you don’t know, Gracefield Camp offers a variety of accommodations: White Pine Lodge has two floors of rooms with attached bathrooms. The dining room, offices and activity room are all in White Pine. The original lodge of the Billings family near the lake is cozy. Jolly Roger and woodland cabins are also available. Some people have trailers/campers on site, or sleep in a tent. There are several options for family groups.

Lac du Castor (Beaver Lake) is beautiful – swimming, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boat/boards – all available for water fun.

Friday evening included welcome “speeches” and fun games. Reverend Heather is an amazing camp leader. We all got to know each other better and laughed a lot.



Summer classic –
Kids and canoes

Photo credit: Heather Paton

Early Saturday morning some of us gathered by the lake for quiet time and shared devotions. The lake was like a mirror, the sun was shining, and I saw a loon.

And after breakfast, we did a scavenger hunt in the nearby forest looking and listening more closely for God's creation. I found it peaceful exercise.

The theme for the retreat was "digging deeper" into our faith and commitment to living in Jesus' image. The questions Heather posed to us allowed small groups to explore our faith together. Everyone contributed as they felt able and comfortable.

Two musicians arrived from our congregation: Ian and Peter. We raised the outdoor roof with song – what fun!

Saturday afternoon brought many to the lake for the traditional swim "across the lake". About 10 participated – all ages. Aisling and I canoed alongside the swimmers, as did others, to monitor their progress and safety. Everyone got back to shore. A round of applause everyone. The waterslide was popular, as were the canoes and the paddle boats. Many went swimming.

Saturday evening included the campfire, sing song and marshmallow treats. With flashlights to read the words, we produced an harmonious sound of joy to be together.

Sunday morning we celebrated communion outdoors at the Woodland Chapel. The service was led by Reverend Heather assisted by Anna and Abigail and others who contributed. Our donations went to Gracefield Camp.

A hearty brunch followed. Prayers to thank God, and everyone who contributed to the weekend's success led me to reflect on my feeling of gratitude for Gracefield, the community of our fellow Saint Andreans, and the time spent in a peaceful setting. I hope to see you next year.



Janice McFarlane and her granddaughters, Ellie and Anna, enjoying the music

Photo credit: Heather Paton

Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar

Gail Bowes,
Co-ordinator
bowes125@hotmail.com

The date this year for the annual Tea and Bazaar is November 25, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Once again the halls will be festively decorated, and tables will be laden with items to buy. There will be the usual sections with crafts, jewellery, attic treasures, books, art and linens. There will be a separate table for gently used Christmas items. We are looking for donations to any of these tables, as well as to the Silent Auction.

Items can be left at the church during the week preceding the bazaar.

The Tea Room will be open for a place to sit, and enjoy a cup of tea and sweets.

Volunteers are always needed to make this event happen. If you have some time to help out in some way, the week of November 25, or on the day of the Tea and Bazaar, please let me know.

This year the Women's Guild is celebrating its 150 years of service in the church and the community. Proceeds from the tea and bazaar will be distributed to the church and local charities.

St. Andrew's Women's Guild

*Jill Collins-Williams,
President*

The Fall Rummage Sale is October 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and includes gently used clothes, household goods, linens, books/cds/dvds, and toys.

Donations should be brought to the church during the week before the sale and left in the basement kitchen. No furniture, outdated electronics, large appliances, old textbooks, etc.

Please keep in mind, donations should be useful and easily carried home by our customers. Many do not come by car.

Please contact Jill Collins-Williams (613-526-6250) with any questions or to volunteer.

This year we will be celebrating 150 years of Service by the St. Andrew's Women's Guild. Come to our monthly meetings — you will be warmly welcomed! Contact Jill with any questions.

St. Andrew's Book Club

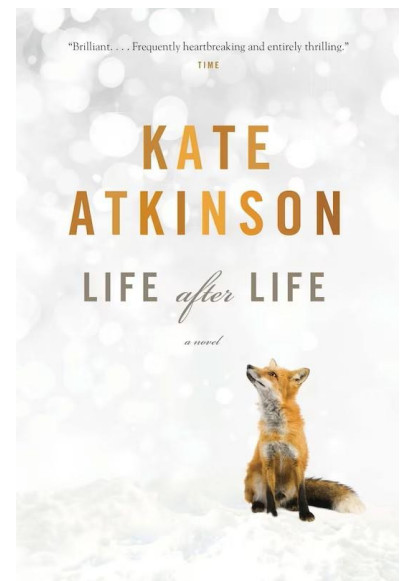
Laura McGregor

After a couple of months' hiatus—and we hope you found some good reading in the suggested summer reads titles—to misquote what that little girl in that horror movie once said: we're baaack!

We had some excellent suggestions made for titles to consider. I always find it a shame we can't read everything proposed but needs must that we limit it. After some discussion and a couple of rounds of voting, we've settled on the list of the ten books we will be reading over the next ten months and here they are:

- September 15: *Silence* by Shusaku Endo
- October 20: *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson
- November 17: *The Eye of the Needle* by Ken Follett
- December 15: *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown
- January 19: *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
- February 16: *The Five Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand
- March 15: *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier
- April 19: *The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan
- May 17: *The Maid* by Nita Prose
- June 21: *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf

Copies of each of these titles have been procured for the St. Andrew's library from local dealers where possible and all are now available to



be borrowed. During the fall and spring months, we expect to host hybrid evenings with attendees in both the Pottinger Room and online. During the winter months, we will continue online only.

We welcome all members, both new and returning, and look forward to many productive and interesting discussions on these books. Please feel free to join us as you are able and to invite family and friends to join in the fun. For further information, please contact Laura McGregor (ljm9ostar@gmail.com)

Men's Fellowship

Jim Paulin

Coordinator of MF

This past May, the Men's Fellowship was treated to a tour of the church's audio-visual facilities by Ken Parlee and Hugh Dimock. This was followed by an introduction to the newly-installed Zoom Room. St. Andrew's is very fortunate to have Ken, Hugh and their team to help design and install the impressive array of technology we now use to keep us all connected, and to run it Sunday by Sunday.

At the end of August, we held our annual 'Men's Night Out' at the ALE restaurant in Stittsville. Unlike the previous year's thunderstorm, it was a fine evening to eat on the balcony overlooking the golf course, and catch up with each other after the summer.

Our new speaker coordinator, Arch Ritter, has a fine year of events lined up for us. Plus, as is now our custom, we will take a couple of meetings to discuss topics chosen by the group. We are always happy to welcome new members!

My thanks to Forrest for booking the restaurant for us. It was a fine evening on the patio overlooking the golf course, unlike last year's rainstorm.

