


 <p>September 8-10</p>	 <p>Revitalization</p>	 <p>First Sunday</p>	 <p>Remembering</p>
--	--	---	---

ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Summer, 2023



Ali cooking in the Community Kitchen

In This Issue

Messages	3
Minister’s Reflection	3
Greetings from the Kirk Session	4
Church Revitalisation Implementation Committee	4
Update from the Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee	5
Celebrating the Life and Witness of Pauline Brown	6
Christian Education and Youth	8
First Sunday	8
Community Easter Egg Hunt	9
Children’s Festival	9
Summer Snippets	10
Thank You, Laura!	12
Pastoral Care	13
Living with Dementia	13
Mission and Outreach	13
Community Kitchen at St. Andrew’s	13
Fair Trade Table	15
Our Heritage	15
Remembering	15
195 Years #4: The Pews of St. Andrew’s	17
Look how the garden grows!	22
Fellowship	22
Explore Gracefield This Summer!	22
St. Andrew’s Women’s Guild	23
Men’s Fellowship	24

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.

Karen Dimock — Editor (ACTING ONLY!)
kd@standrewsottawa.ca

Ken Young — Technical Support

The Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock — Minister
kd@standrewsottawa.ca

Matthew Larkin — Custodian for Music
music@standrewsottawa.ca

Rev. Heather Paton — Christian Education
Co-ordinator: ce@standrewsottawa.ca

Vivian Leir — Church Office Administrator
office@standrewsottawa.ca

www.StAndrewsOttawa.ca

facebook.com/StAndrewsOttawa

82 Kent Street, Ottawa K1P5N9

613.232.9042

Messages

Minister's Reflection

*"For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea."
Habakkuk 2:14*

What a beautiful world we live in!

When Hugh and I left for vacation at the start of May the garden was only just beginning to come alive and as we return three weeks later, what a difference! What was largely bare earth with small shoots peeking up is now a full and lush garden, the grass is green, and the trees are fully in leaf. The beauty of creation is a miracle every year but sometimes we miss it when we are here every day and the change slowly arrives among us. What a gift to have been away and come back, to be startled and surrounded by such amazing change.

I wander in the garden, smell the lilacs, and watch the buds develop on the peonies, I sit to eat lunch on the back step and feel the warmth of the sun in the dog's fur. This past week has been full of moments like this that call me into the fullness of the present moment. I find a grace and peace in them that holds me in such a way that I can simply be. In that moment, I don't need to jump forward and plan the next thing or be taken up in sorting out things of the past. Held in the beauty of God's holiness and love, time seems to be less a task master holding me to account and more a gift to savor, a promise unfolding before us.



Unlike last summer when I was on intermission I am here in Ottawa and at work this summer. It is going to be fun to have the opportunity to enjoy the summer and growing season together. Stay tuned to the bulletin and weekly email because I hope you will join me in some of the things I want to do to explore and enjoy the city through walks and visits to local events and places.

In the church we call this season ordinary time and truly, what could be more beautiful than to wake up in an ordinary day and enjoy the gifts it brings.

God bless you and keep you.

Karen

Greetings from the Kirk Session

*Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk*

*From the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

Psalm 133:3

How nice it is to feel the warmth of the sun again! As the days lengthen and the temperature rises, everything is coming back to life. This is truly a season of renewal.

For the first time in almost four years, we have been able to receive new members. On April 30, Deborah Davis, Musi Ndah and Nicole Barber were welcomed into the St. Andrew's family. As well on April 30, the congregation had the opportunity to participate in the first of the revitalization exercises, and although there is much work ahead of us, it is good to have begun.

I am happy to announce that the current Recording Clerk, Jide Afolabi has agreed to serve another term. I have also agreed to another term.

Although we are moving into summer, traditionally a slower period in the life cycle of the church, groups will continue meeting as desired and I would invite you all to continue to check the website, our Facebook page and the bulletin for summer events and activities, either at St. Andrew's or in the community.

The Kirk Session meets on Tuesday, June 6 for its last regularly scheduled meeting before the fall, and I know we are all looking forward to some time to rest and recharge before we move into the fall season.

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

Church Revitalisation Implementation Committee

Ian, Ray, Althea, Richard and Karen

The goal of the Church Revitalization exercise is to secure the future vitality of our congregation and the faithfulness of its life and work.

This being the first report through this newsletter from this committee, we start with a review and some background to its creation. Early in the New Year the Kirk Session received and shared the report and recommendations from the Effective Church Consulting Group. The full report was shared with the congregation at that time and in February so too was the draft summary subsequently produced by the Kirk Session. Also created at that time and available upon request was a tabled approach to working through the report. This work will need to involve the whole congregation but to lead us forward an Implementation Committee was formed that includes Ian Mackay, Richard Lauzon, Ray Boomgaardt and Althea Williams along with Reverend Karen Dimock.

As a committee we have been busy. Meeting six times since early March we have familiarized ourselves with the report of the consultant, hosted a congregational gathering on April 30 to discuss values to guide our mission and vision and begun working with the various committees of the church on some of the areas of hospitality that the consultants report identified. These include but are not limited to upgrading the nursery, improving interior signage, dealing with church clutter, and creating a welcoming worship service that is easy for those who are new to navigate.

Concerns around parking are being addressed. We know that with the changes in Wellington Street there are now added concerns about

available spots on Sunday. Richard Lauzon is the contact on this committee looking for parking opportunities both during the week and on the weekend. Thanks to Riley Brockington who has been helping us in communications with the city.

Through the coming months we will continue to work with the feedback received at the congregational gathering on April 30 to distill and discern a focus for guiding the ministries forward. We will be reporting to the Kirk Session in early June about that. With Reverend Dimock we will also be approaching local organizations, leaders and mission groups to learn more from them about both their work in the neighbourhoods around the church and what they see as areas of need. This should bring us to the end of the first phase of the Revitalization by the end of June, giving us a clarified sense of identity, mission and focus for outreach.

Discussions about governance, pastoral care, and initial growth strategies will follow as we enter the second phase of implementation. Intentional pathways of faith formation and discipleship will also be part of this. These are major and consequential concerns that will involve close work with the Kirk Session, Temporal Committee, Glebe Trustees and you the members of the church.

Currently the committee has room for two additional members and is particularly seeking someone with project management experience and skills to track the many aspects associated with this project.

We welcome feedback in all things and have been glad to hear from a good number of you already. Please do hold our common work of Revitalization in your prayers.
Grace and peace

Update from the Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee

Peter Zanette

Convenor, Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee

inclusionstandrewsottawa@gmail.com

June is Pride month that celebrates the 2SLGBTQ+ communities across the country. It is centred around the historic event in 1969, known as the ‘Stonewall Riots’ where activists and allies pushed back against New York police harassment at the Stonewall Bar.



Many Pride celebrations now occur throughout the spring, summer and fall. This includes Ottawa, that in the last week of August celebrates the historic ‘We Demand’ march on August 28, 1971 to Parliament Hill demanding gay rights protection.

Join us at our Ottawa ‘Presbyterian Pride’ table on August 26 and 27 for Capital Pride. If you are in Toronto on June 25 do watch the Toronto Pride parade and the ‘Presbyterian Pride’ group marching. For more info on the Toronto events contact

Gods.love.includes.everyone@gmail.com

Celebrating the Life and Witness of Pauline Brown

*‘Then I heard the voice of the
Lord asking:
Who will I send? Who will go
for us?
I said: Here I am. Send me.’
Isaiah 6:6–8*

Aisling Boomgaardt

Following her Navy service from 1943 to 1946 Pauline graduated from the Ottawa Civic in 1950 as a Registered Nurse, earning a diploma in Public Health and a B.Sc. in Nursing and a Master of Health Care Practice from McMaster University. In those days as a young nurse she met and developed a lifelong friendship with St. Andreans Gordon and Molly Armstrong, who both worked at the hospital.

In 1952, at the age of 26, Pauline learned that the Women’s Missionary Society was recruiting missionaries to go to India. She felt God’s call and applied to travel to what was then known as the Bhil Mission Field in Madhya Pradesh. She was commissioned by her home congregation of St. Giles in the Glebe.

She once described her ordination as, ‘like a wedding’ because she walked down the centre aisle and the church was full, with members celebrating the commitment she was making. Her family and friends doubted Pauline would last even one year of the five that were required before she would be allowed to return to Canada for sabbatical. Pauline herself had little idea of what lay ahead. But “My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways’ says the Lord’ (Isaiah 55:8), and Pauline went on to live and serve in the heart of India for more than 70 of the following years of her life.

When we learned of Pauline’s passing in Jobat, India on April 1, 2023, members of St. Andrew’s who had visited her home shared memories of her. She always wanted to ensure that Canadian visitors, some with culture shock, felt welcome and comfortable for at least one meal of the day, usually breakfast. Maggie Keith reminisced about Pauline’s homemade peanut butter and her insistence that the best-tasting bananas could only be found in India.

Another moment of comfort that I recall is when Diana Bond, Gail Bowes, and I called on her in her bungalow one rainy afternoon, only to find her relaxing on her sofa, watching ‘Pretty Woman’ on tv, complete with Hindi subtitles. Of course, she invited us to sit and watch with her. Pauline was thoughtful and loving, and she maintained connections with friends around the world. In the 1970s she knew Rev. Andrew Johnston as a teenager, visiting his parents back in Canada after mission service in Nigeria. Personally, I was incredibly touched when she arranged for flowers to be sent to my home upon my mother’s passing during the pandemic.

Of course, Pauline was not a saint, and she would be the first to tell you that. A few years ago, one of her nursing friends shared this funny story: In the 1960s they were part of a delegation at a formal event where they were in line to meet Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Pauline (very loudly) declared to her friend that she couldn’t ‘wait to shake his chubby little hand!’ She delighted in her first taste of wine on the plane rides home to Canada. She encouraged every Canadian visitor to go to the Taj Mahal, because she herself had waited eight years before making the trek to Agra, and once she saw its imposing grandeur she exclaimed to herself, ‘You fool!’ for waiting so long to see one of the wonders of the world.



In 2001 Pauline received the Order of Canada for her dedicated service, and Knox College recognized her ministry with the degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa). She served as Director of Jobat Christian Hospital and as a teacher at the Graduate School for Nurses in Indore.

Pauline's first family lived in Canada, but she also had her Indian family, whom she loved deeply, and who in turn loved and cared for her. She would say, 'I leave home to go home,' whether she was travelling from or to India.

Pauline's refrain when sharing stories of her life, trying to make sense of it, was 'Why me?', and her answer was always God's grace and her response was to live with grace. It brought to mind Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in

Matthew 5:16: 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

As Diana Bond notes, 'It was evident to me in my brief experience over in Jobat/Amkhut that Pauline's dedication and life was greatly enhanced and mirrored in the devotion and dedication of the community that surrounded her, and that it was together in Christ that so much love and hard work transformed a people toward new hope and life, as God's beloved servants in the world.'

After a long and rich life of 97 years, Pauline was peacefully laid to rest in the graveyard in Jobat.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, 181 First Avenue, on June 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

If you plan to attend it would be helpful for catering if you could RSVP before June 3 to

office@stgilesottawa.org. The service will be livestreamed on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84221078140?pwd=To1pakYvMUgyaEsyTitlMVVoboVCQTo9>

Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Heather Paton

Christian Education Co-ordinator

Happy Pentecost! It has been a joy to see the Holy Spirit moving at St. Andrew's these past few months. From youth group outreach projects to a potluck breakfast, it has been a season of gathering in and witnessing to God's love at work in this church. I look forward to opportunities this summer to continue to gather and share together.

As we complete another school year, we thank God for all the Church School volunteers who have offered their time, talents and faith with the children of different ages. I hope you will attend worship on June 11 as we recognize Aisling, Nic, Koko, Josh, Lynne, Stacey, Jide, Heather, Lucy, Mary, James and Keturah for their teaching efforts this year. We also pray for all those graduating and starting at new schools in September.

The month of June can often go by in a blur with all the end of year festivities. It seems appropriate that we start it off in the church season of Pentecost that reminds us that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. When we are weary or overwhelmed, God gives us the courage we need. The Spirit accompanies us on all our journeys and guides us with love. May you sense that comforting and empowering presence as you go into this summer.



First Sunday Youth

First Sunday

Miriam Lougheed

On the first Sundays of the month in 2023 youth in grades five and six have gathered for food friendship and fun. In May we handed out free popsicles and granola bars as an act of kindness to the community. Miriam Lougheed says:

'The Junior Youth Group (First Sunday) is a great way to start off the month with lunch and team-building games. It helps with relationships. It is a fun way to learn interactively and play with people our own age. it is always something to look forward to each month, and it somehow makes education fun'.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

On April 1, the church opened its doors to children and adults alike for our first Community Easter Egg Hunt, where all types of Easter eggs were hidden, and then found, in both Grant Hall and the Sanctuary. While it was a bit odd to see streamers in the Sanctuary and see a couple of the St. Andrew's men wearing bunny ears, it was heartening to hear excitement from the participants in the Hunt, especially small children.

The heroes of the day were the 25 or so volunteers, many of them children and youth, who came early, left late and found novel ways to hide eggs in church pews! Without a doubt, at day's end, they were eggs-hausted.

The attendees also showed a lot of interest in the 'stations' that were set up in St. Andrew's Hall. There was face-painting, crafts, colouring, Pin the-Tail-on-the Bunny and snacks. Again, overseen by volunteers, the booths were popular with the approximately 54 adults, youth and children who attended the event.

A shout out to the planning committee: Aisling Boomgaardt, Gail Bowes, Jen Curtis, Laura McGregor, Jeanie Hicks, Heather Paton, and Heather Pilkey. Pretty good chance there will be an Egg Hunt in 2024!



Children's Festival

*Rev. Heather Paton
Christian Education Co-ordinator*

On May 13 a group of seventeen St. Andrew's folks attended the Ottawa Children's Festival at LeBreton Flats Park. We saw an all-ages acrobatic show from Australia called 'A Simple Space' and it was incredible! This group of seven super strong people and a talented percussionist had us gasping at, laughing with and applauding for their spectacular feats of balancing, jumping from body to body and standing on shoulders three bodies tall!

This event took place thanks to a memorial donation from the late David Brearley who wanted to give opportunity to children to experience the arts. We were all so grateful for this experience to share in this performance together and make connections with each other. Thank you, David and the Memorials Committee.



Summer Snippets

Aisling Boomgaardt

Hamburgers, Hotdogs and Bubbles!

The Congregational Picnic is June 11 after the service. Join us for hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and more! There will be games and bubbles! We are happy to receive salads if you would like to contribute, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Family Fun Day

Join us on Saturday, July 29 for an afternoon of games, activities and crafts led by St. Andrew's youth in our church courtyard. Invite your friends and neighbours to this exciting mid-summer community event. Youth in grades 5–12 are encouraged to speak to Rev. Heather if you'd like to be involved in this outreach activity.



Looking Ahead: Gracefield Retreat, September 8–10

Each fall, on the first weekend after Labour Day, about 40 members of St. Andrew’s travel up into the Gatineau Hills and spend time at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre for the annual St. Andrew’s Retreat.

The program this year takes place September 8–10. You are welcome to join in the fun, as we learn together as a church family and enjoy fellowship with one another. There will be activities for all ages, led by members of St. Andrew’s.

The Gracefield congregational retreat is an opportunity for rest and reflection and a wonderful way to begin a new church year with others from St. Andrew’s. Come and join in times of quiet reflection, study, song, worship, fellowship and fun.

Whether you are newer to the church, or have been attending for years, come and be a part of this event.

Registration forms can be found in either narthex or online. Please note that there is an early bird rate! If you have any questions, speak with Janice McFarlane. If you would like to help, please speak with Rev. Heather Paton.



Save the Date: Fall Rally Kick-Off!

Join us for the kick-off to the ‘new year’ at St. Andrew’s on September 17! Lunch will include fall staples like corn-on-the-cob and soup. Bring a salad or dessert to share!

Thank You, Laura!

Althea Williams-Goodman
Co-Convenor, Christian Education Committee

This is a special Thank You to Laura McGregor.

Laura, on behalf of St. Andreans, 'thank you' for your significant contribution to Christian Education and church life at St. Andrew's.

Thank you for your work as Convenor and then co-Convenor of Christian Education over the past six years. While you have made the decision to step down as Co-convenor at the end of June, you continue to be generous with your time and energy, and will remain as an active member of CE.

You have been working with Karen and the Christian Education Committee to create, and maintain programs for all St. Andreans.

We thank you for bringing your Christian Faith, energy, thoughtfulness and caring for others to everything you do. And, you do a lot!

You did this during normal times and during extraordinary times.

- ✦ We thank you for your work in coordinating the Wednesday Evening Studies for many years. In particular, between 2020 and 2022, you coordinated and often led approximately 88 Wednesday Evening Studies. You did this as a way of keeping St. Andreans connected and growing in faith at a time when we were not able to gather in person, and needed each other even more than before.
- ✦ We thank you for your dedicated efforts behind the scenes, where some folks in the Congregation may not be aware of your generous acts. This includes your work in supporting Vacation Bible School and Rally Sunday.
- ✦ We thank you for your work in making sure events happen, such as the annual Women's Retreat, the Book Club that you lead, and so much more.
- ✦ We thank you for the hands-on work you do such as packaging up and mailing out of Advent booklets during the pandemic, helping with food preparation and clean up of the kitchen at events such as the Congregation Picnics, Advent Dinners, and so much more.

On top of all of this, we often see you on Sundays by the South or North Narthex, as you greet us cheerfully with kind words of welcome and a warm smile. You also actively participate in many of the activities in the church, to support the work of others.

Laura, we thank you for your collaborative spirit, your generosity, and your dedication to serving St. Andreans.

Thank you. Your Friends at St. Andrew's Church Ottawa



Laura McGregor (on the right)
sitting with fellow CE member, Jeanie Hicks

Pastoral Care

Living with Dementia

Pauline Schneider

As a follow-up to the three Dementia education sessions offered this past winter, a monthly support group has begun. Our first meeting was held online on May 24. We will be trying out a hybrid meeting option on June 28 at 7 p.m. using the church Zoom room for those preferring to meet in person and maintaining the virtual option for others.

We will continue to have an educational component to each session that will include a practical tip and a resource. We will invite speakers, share related media and handouts and there will be time each session for attendees to share about their dementia journey and to provide support to each other. Church members Laura McGregor, Jeanie Hicks and Pauline Schneider make up the facilitation team. We have identified four broad subject areas to address:

1. Managing symptoms and living well
2. Identifying goals and priorities
3. Accessing supports and services
4. Thinking about the future.

We will also give thought as we go along to how can we as a faithful community make our congregation a welcoming and safe space for persons living with Dementia.

Please plan to join us if you are a care partner for or someone living with Dementia. You will be warmly welcomed!

Mission and Outreach

Community Kitchen at St. Andrew's

Rob Sheffield

The idea is that we can support refugees that have recently come to Canada and are living in local hotel and supported by the government, by providing a kitchen space so that they would be able to prepare foods to which they are accustomed. This was first brought up by the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC) in February 2023. Three churches signed on in various locations in the core of Ottawa: Glebe St. James, First Baptist and St. Andrew's. The advertising for the program was mainly through Centretown Community Health Centre (CCHC) and originally started at the Overbrook Recreation Centre.

A team of a dozen St. Andreans have volunteered to welcome and set up the cooks in the kitchen. Gail Bowes, Diana Bond, Jeanie Hicks, Cathy Jarvis, Jan Lauzon, Vivian Lier, Ian MacKay, Laura McGregor, Michael Nauth, Jennifer Pfeifer, Laura Smith and Sean Twomey. This should allow the program to run through the summer months.

The following is a report given by Ian MacKay who was on hand when Ali Arun came to cook on May 4.

'No problem at all. Lovely young fellow. We had a nice chat and I offered to help but he was super organized and efficient. I wouldn't have minded helping him but he found everything easily, and then cooked, I think, three dishes and cleaned up everything putting everything back to how he found it.

He's from Ghana. He's been here since January. Looking for work and permanent accommodation. He told me that this was the first time he was able to prepare and eat food and dishes from his country and tradition and he remarked how happy he was to do that after 5 months here in Canada. He expressed his sincere thanks.

I talked with him about various grocery shops where it is easy to find ingredients he might be looking for that are not normally carried by Metro etc. I told him if he wants to come to cook again, we could meet and I could drive him to one those stores to shop. They are not easy to get to by bus. Let me know if he registers again and I can look after that day and take him shopping.

I don't have any other advice. It was very simple. I checked in on him, showed him where the salt was but other than that it was very straight forward. I was able to work and do some reading in the Hall and check in with Vivian upstairs, which meant that I was busy and not hovering over or near him so he was able to just go about his cooking at his leisure.

Thanks for the opportunity to help out. It was a pleasure and clearly a blessing to him. For us it's such a small but powerful gesture to help someone in such a meaningful way.'

St. Andrew's started offering the service mid-April with a couple of Thursdays where people had requested to use the kitchen but did not show. The other churches started a month earlier and have had several cooks using their kitchens and have reported the same experience that Ian had. Lately there have been fewer refugees coming forward to cook as experienced by the other churches.

I received this report on May 18 from Martha Musgrove:

Centretown Churches Social Action Committee

COME COOK AT OUR PLACE!

TUESDAYS
GLEBE-ST. JAMES
UNITED CHURCH
650 LYON STREET SOUTH
12PM-3PM
CALL 613 236 0617
TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT

WEDNESDAYS
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
140 LAURIER AVENUE WEST
11AM-2PM
CALL 613 234 3261
TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT

THURSDAYS
ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN
82 KENT STREET
12PM-3PM
CALL 613 232 9042
TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT

We are opening our churches to community members who don't have a space to prepare and cook meals for themselves and/or their families. We supply the cooking equipment and some basic ingredients (lentils, rice, cooking oil, seasonings). You bring the food you want to prepare and containers for taking your prepared meals home.

‘Several of us have been wondering why more people are not using the community kitchen, given that the few who have been coming seem to really like the service. Allison and I got a partial answer today from our regular, Nerlende, a lovely mother from Haiti who has been put up by the federal government in the Novotel with her husband and two kids.

Nerlende said that when she told other refugees at the hotel about the kitchens, a few said they would like to come but were only free in the evening. However, she then went on to say that the federal government is closing the Ottawa shelters for refugees anyway and moving people to other cities, including Kingston. The number of irregular crossing refugees has been reduced with the closing of Roxham Road, and no doubt hotels in Ottawa want their rooms freed up for the tourist season. Nerlende thinks she can get an exemption from removal because one of her young sons needs to be close to CHEO for treatment. So, use of our kitchens by refugees may cease because the number of refugees has declined.’

I am hoping this will evolve into a program where we could see several families using the kitchen on a weekly base.

The refugee program is a part of Mission and Outreach Ministry. Any comments or suggestions should be directed to Rob Sheffield.

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).

Our Heritage

Remembering

Karen Dimock

For 12 days this May, Hugh and I journeyed through the Netherlands on a bus, with a pipes and drum band representing the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. It was a journey first planned for 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. Due to the COVID pandemic it was postponed three times and finally this year we were off. Two bus loads of folks tracing the route the regiment took 78 years ago.

There were many very special moments and we have lots of stories to share but there is one in particular to be shared with St. Andrew's.

Two days before we left, on April 29, I conducted the funeral for Ken Kerr. Many of you were there. Ken was 99 years old when he died and one of the things I think many of us remember best about Ken is how important Remembrance Sunday was for him every year. Ken was a veteran of the Second World War himself and his brother Clifford had died in the war. To be in church and hear his brother's name remembered by the congregation meant so very much to him and reminded us all of how important it is.

Thanks to the work of Sheila Urquhart, David Brearley and the Memorials Committee, St. Andrew's has kept a very faithful record of our war dead, not just names but some history and the location where they are buried.

And so on May 8, the day before Ken Kerr would have turned 100, we found ourselves standing in front of Clifford Kerr's grave at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten. He was 23 years old when he died and he left a wife and baby boy. So many years given up.

The pipe major of the band we were with is Andy Kerr, who is a cousin of Ken and Clifford. He played a lament by the grave, I said a few words, we left a Canadian Flag.

Remembering matters and God remembers.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, one of the men crucified beside him asked him to remember him when he came into his Kingdom. Jesus' reply was that the man would be with him that day in paradise. Being remembered by God does not mean simply that God is thinking of us but that God is drawing us into God's own presence.

When we remember we do something similar. We bring forward into the present the lives of those who have gone before us. Their lives continue to touch ours, their presence continues to journey with us. Their stories, the way they have loved and given of themselves persists.



Wherever we went in the Netherlands people remembered the war dead. It was humbling and in this kind of remembering I find great hope.

Our remembering of Clifford is part of the friendship Hugh and I share with Andy Kerr. It is part of what we will continue to do each year at St. Andrew's when we speak his name on Remembrance Sunday.

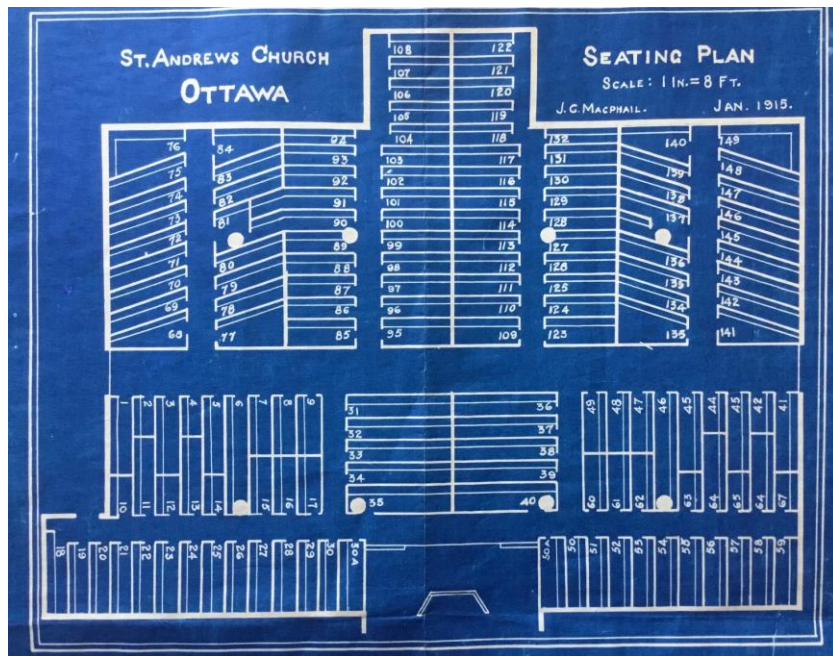
195 Years #4: The Pews of St. Andrew's

Elizabeth J. Phillipson

(on behalf of The Memorials Committee)

In the Lent and Easter 2023 issue of *St. Andrew's in Action*, as we continued our perusal of the Grant Hall curio cabinet, we discovered the history of the 1929 Anniversary Cake Server. I have decided to take us out of Grant Hall and into the sanctuary this time, although we do begin with an object within the cabinet...

Have you wondered what this particular metal printing plate represents? Look closely, and you will see that it is the seating plan of the sanctuary in 1915, and that the pews are numbered (we'll get to that later).



As we discovered in a previous article (*St. Andrew's in Action*, Advent & Christmas 2022), the pews of our current church are of local pine, constructed in just six weeks in 1874, and seated up to 700.

The configuration of the pews, surrounding the pulpit on the side rather than at the end of a long aisle, began with the monastic tradition of monks sitting against opposite walls, facing each other. From this, seating evolved for the common worshippers, who would bring their own chair here, a bench there, a mat on the floor. By the 16th century, pews were common, separating the people from the clergy and liturgy, dividing the church up and keeping the laity at bay.



The Grant Hall curio cabinet. Note the seating plan.

Photo: Elizabeth Phillipson

The Reformation placed the emphasis on hearing, not seeing, and so the lush visual elements of worship became more unwelcome. There was a renewed emphasis upon the sermon and the repositioning of the pulpit into the center of the sanctuary, better symbolising the centrality of God’s Word (and allowing for better acoustics). The pulpit now became the dominant feature in the sanctuary, usually standing above and behind the Communion Table. Where it was free-standing, the baptismal font shifted to the side or front of the pulpit, as did the lectern. This plan was adopted by the Presbyterian and Episcopal Scottish Kirks, and is the one you see in our own sanctuary, in true Reformation style.

Now we return to the reason the pews in our sanctuary are numbered: pew rents. These were the primary source of income of the church, paid according to the depth of the pockets and for the best seating location of the lessee: the better the seat location, the higher the annual rents. These were either set fees, or ones established through bidding.

At St. Andrew’s, communicant members and adherents could rent sittings in a pew, (women also being allowed to rent a pew on their own behalf). Renting a pew was the prerequisite for election to the Temporal Committee (first established in April 1833, incorporated by the first St. Andrew’s Act in 1868).

As stated in the 1833 *Rules and Regulations for Proprietors of the Church in Bytown, U.C., in Communion with the Established Church of Scotland*:

‘Every person having purchased a Pew or Pews in the said Church and paid for the same, and who shall produce a Deed, duly executed by the present Trustees or their successors in office, is a Proprietor, and shall be qualified to vote for and be chosen a Member of the Committee, or appointed to any other Office relative to the direction or government of the Church... Every Proprietor of a Pew or Pews, present at the General Meeting, shall have one vote.’ *

If the annual pew rent was not paid, the right to vote would be revoked, the pew ‘sold’ to the highest bidder. Pew rents and other revenues supported the Minister and other costs associated with maintaining the church (as stated in the signed pew contracts). **

The Annual Report of 1868 states the rents collected were \$1365.33 and made up more than half of the revenue that year (with rents of Glebe lots \$181, the sale of burial plots \$90, among other revenue). In the Annual Meeting for 1872, since the new church was still under construction and the services were being conducted in the basement (and having received much complaint by the pew holders), it was decided (bylaw #6) to reduce annual pew rents by about two-thirds to \$50, \$30, and \$10 until the church building was completed (1874).



The sanctuary in 1972, with pews in place in front of the pulpit

It is interesting to note that the Annual Reports until 1945 printed the details of pews held and by whom, number of sittings, rents paid, arrears owed. In 1946 the pew rents paid were amalgamated with all contributions paid (by name).

A couple of tidbits:

During World War 2, there were complaints of some pew renters who found their seats occupied by 'strangers', as the city filled with military and visiting folk.

During the Great Depression the Kirk Session of St. Andrew’s again discussed ending pew rents; the unexpected expenses in 1931 of heating and in 1937 of organ repairs put that idea on the back burner once again. After 140 years (and discussing it for forty!), pew rents were finally abolished in 1969, after a vote at the 1968 Annual Meeting.

Now we get back to the pews themselves. This 1972 photo (when the new Book of Praise was presented at the national service of dedication held at St. Andrew’s) shows the original configuration in the sanctuary.

With the great Reconstruction plans of the 1980s, including the tearing down of the old church hall, building of St. Andrew’s Tower, and refurbishment of the sanctuary, it was suggested that the pews in the centre section of the sanctuary right in front of the pulpit be removed. This would allow more space for dramatic and musical presentations, weddings, baptisms, and the seating of elders at communion services; this is how you will find the sanctuary today.

A wonderful resource for information on this whole period is *The Road to Reconstruction* by O. Mary Hill, copies of which are available at the church.

Another pew was removed some years ago near the door into the north narthex to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and the like.

In closing, I will draw your attention to just a couple of other things.

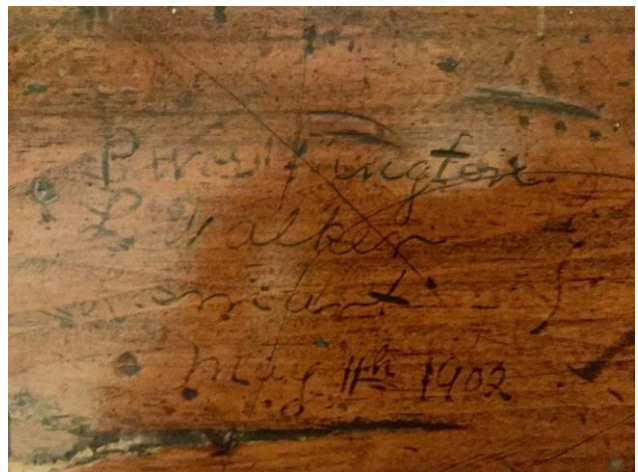
First, I discovered a few years ago something rather amusing in the north balcony while helping our Church Officer Sean dust down the woodwork after the sanctuary had been repaired, plastered and

**St. Andrew’s Church,
Ottawa**
195 years and counting!

This article continues Elizabeth’s 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.



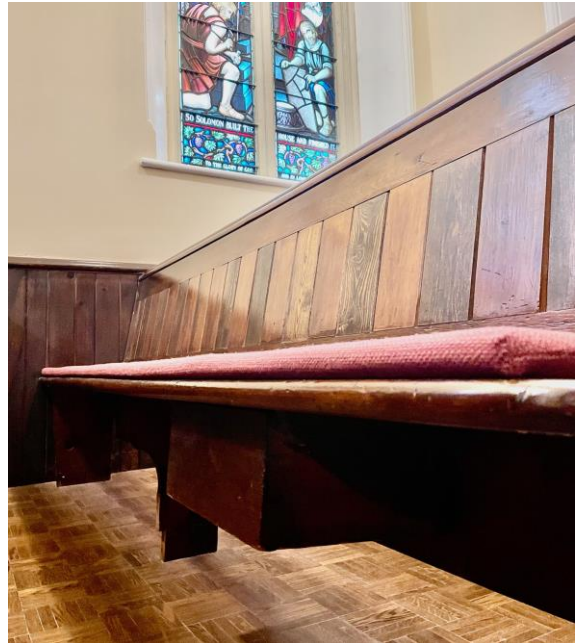
Graffiti on railings in the north balcony

Photo: Elizabeth Phillipson

painted: dozens of carvings made into the railings from past inhabitants (and some junior choir members from years ago, according to one of our long-standing members!). Here are just an example or two of what I discovered; have a look sometime for yourselves.

Next, go to the northwest corner of the sanctuary, two pews up from the St. Andrew window, and look underneath the pew. Yes, there is a drawer, perhaps tucked in there by a family renting the pew long ago. A place to store their Bible? Hymnal? It is the only one and was pointed out to me by one of our former Church Officers Peter Vroemen (I was still the church office administrator back then).

Peter also said something that I have never forgotten. We spoke often about the feeling that would overcome us when we spent time in the sanctuary, especially in the late afternoon, the sun streaming through the stained glass and the clerestory windows: the peace, the calm, the prayerfulness. What was that? Peter replied that it was the souls of all of the faithful people who had sat in those warm pine pews all those years, speaking to us over the decades.



Pew with drawer
 Photo: Elizabeth Phillipson

*Whatsoever things are true,
 whatsoever things are honest,...
 whatsoever things are pure,...
 think on these things.
 Philippians 4:8*

Notes:

* See John Goodwill MacPhail, *St. Andrew’s Church Ottawa: the First Hundred Years*, appendix V.

** In the Temporal Committee report at the Annual Meeting of 1879, the subject of unpaid pew rents was brought up once again; for the preceding four years, the unpaid rents were \$2156: ‘No business that comes before the committee is so perplexing as how to deal with defaulting pew holders.’

Sources:

St. Andrew’s Church Ottawa Annual Reports of 1868, 1873, 1879.

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

Hill, O. Mary. *Fifty Years at St. Andrew’s: 1928–1978*. Ottawa: St. Andrew’s Church, 1978.

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

Kenton A. Anderson. *The Place of the Pulpit, Church & Preaching*, Sept 7, 2017.

Waugh, Barry. *Church Pews*. May 12, 2014. <https://www.reformation21.org/articles/church-pews.php>

Pew History, in *Antique Church Furnishings*: <https://churchantiques.com/pew-history/>

The extensive files of our late, and dear, church historian David Brearley.

Look how the garden grows!

Karen Dimock

The tulips are blooming, the grass has been seeded, the beds tidied and tended—the gardens at St. Andrew's a welcome sight to those passing the church! Many thanks to Michael, Kendall, Helen, Jeanie, Sean and Vivian!

Fellowship

Explore Gracefield This Summer!

Aisling Boomgaardt

Gracefield Christian Camp is open for summer registration. This is our local Presbyterian camp offering summer overnight camp experiences for youth ages 7–16 as well as a leader-in-training program for those aged 16–17. This summer there is even a Music, Art, Drama, Dance (MADD) Camp, for campers to express their creativity! Camperships and financial support are available; please speak with Rev. Karen Dimock. For more information, go to gracefieldcamp.ca



St. Andrew's Women's Guild

*Jill Collins-Williams,
President*

This year we will be celebrating 150 years of Service by the St. Andrew's Women's Guild.

As you can see, we have a lot of fun! Come to our monthly meetings. You will be warmly welcomed! Contact Jill Collins-Williams with any questions (614-526-6250).



The Women's Guild in Action

Above: Easter mini fundraiser
Left: Easter breakfast team
Below: Fall Rummage Sale

Photos: Elizabeth Phillipson

Mark Your Calendars!

The annual Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar will take place Saturday, November 25. During the next few months, as you are moving things around at home, consider what you might donate to the sale.



Men's Fellowship

Jim Paulin

Coordinator of MF

St. Andrew's own John McNee spoke to the Men's Fellowship at our February meeting on the topic of 'Living together with diversity: A defining Challenge of the 21st Century'. After a distinguished career with Global Affairs, John served as the first Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism in Ottawa, which is a jointly supported by the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada. In a world full of identity politics, John's talk was a welcome perspective. For all of our flaws, John said Canada can make a contribution to respect for diversity.

Our March speaker was Dr. Doug Ritter, a retired orthopaedic surgeon. Doug has volunteered some weeks of his time every year for the past 20 years in Bhutan helping them develop orthopaedic surgery skills and performing operations. He presented us with a marvelous slide show depicting many aspects of life in Bhutan, such as its widespread devotion to Buddhism, in addition to his hospital work.

This was followed in April by one of our periodic discussion evenings where we tackled the question: 'How do we identify and approach fictional or metaphorical stories in the Bible?' While the subject was not an easy one, the general sense was that the discussion was helpful, even encouraging. Once the evening was formally concluded, many stayed for a while to continue the conversation informally. As usual, the Bible rewards however much attention we pay to it.

We are looking forward to our final event of the season on May 29 at which Ken Parlee and Hugh Dimock will give us a tour of the Church's upgraded audio-visual system.

The Men's Fellowship did not expect to make much, if any, money from the Burns Supper we hosted in January. But thanks to some cost-saving decisions and donations of food we wound up turning a profit. So the group decided to make donations of \$250 to each of the following four causes, for a total of \$1000:

- ✝ The Canadian Veteran Service Dog Unit. This charity was recommended by Sandy Scott.
- ✝ The Knox Ottawa Out-of-the-Cold program, recommended by John Young who sang at the Supper.
- ✝ The Gracefield Camp fund-raising campaign for bed mattresses.
- ✝ The Centretown Emergency Food Centre.