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ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Fall Edition, 2017



This quarterly newsletter is published the first Sunday in March, June, October and December. The next edition will be available December 3 and the **deadline for submissions is November 14**. Please respect the deadlines for submissions. You may email your articles and high-resolution photos at any time to StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com.

Minister's Reflections

Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”
Luke 4:18–19*

“This little church is called to be an outpost of the Kingdom of God!”

It is over a decade now since I first saw these words printed out and posted on a bulletin board in a small rural church just outside of Guelph. The paper had been there a while you could tell, but it wasn't coming down anytime soon. For that church it had been a call to inspiration and renewal in a time and place where they were almost ready to close. For me the words remain an inspiration in my understanding of what church is and who church is for.

As Huda and I have invited you to reflect on the Church as a sign of God's Kingdom this fall, our words to remember have come to us from Luke 4:18–19. Spoken by Jesus in the synagogue in Galilee they are words that almost got him tossed over a cliff! Can you imagine!

They were words after all that the people in the synagogue had heard before. They are in the Psalms, they are in Isaiah. They are the promises of God that had been the hope of the people for centuries. Passed down from parent to child, they believed that when God intervened, when the Messianic age began, this is what it would be like. The blind would see, the deaf would hear, it would be the year of the Lord's favour. Anyone who had ever had to sell

their land to pay debts would have their land returned to them. All debt would be forgiven. Life would be restored.

This was the Good News!

That God who had made the world for goodness would act to redeem it and Jesus, standing up in Nazareth, reading this good news from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah says to the people, that this promise is now fulfilled in their hearing.

What? They didn't believe it. This after all was Jesus, they had seen him grow up. He was an ordinary boy, Josephs' boy.

And so they pushed him away.

But even so, the Kingdom had arrived. In the days and years that followed, Jesus healed the sick, proclaimed good news to the poor, set people free from spirits that held them captive; he even forgave sinners.

This is what the Kingdom is like.

It is among us and while it is not yet fulfilled God is at work around us all the time bringing it to pass. This is what the church is for. Led by God's Word and Spirit, to be part of that. An outpost of the Kingdom if you will.

As Michael Frost writes in his book *Guide to Missional*, it is because we believe that in the Kingdom of God, the world to come, there is no hunger, that we help feed those who are hungry. It is because we believe that in the world to come, the Kingdom of God, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus is Lord, that we ourselves worship and praise. It is our belief that in the Kingdom of God every tear will be wiped away and our joy fulfilled, that we commit ourselves to offering comfort and pastoral care.

In the middle of the last century, theologians began to urge the church to see its mission differently. Not to think of itself as having a

mission of its own. But to see that it is God who has the mission. The work of God in Christ, bringing about the Kingdom. And the church, it is called to get on board, to be part of what God is doing. As the little church just outside Guelph put it, to be an outpost of the Kingdom of God.

Through the fall, Huda and I will be talking about sight for the blind, food for the hungry, good news for the poor. How are we called to be part of what God is doing in making these

things happen is a question we invite you to ask. I hope as you read the pages of the newsletter you will catch glimpses of that, foretastes of the Kingdom. In the care of our Special Communion Service, in the Joy of our Children, in our outreach to each other and to the world, it is there and for that I give great thanks as I begin what is now my fourth year among you.

May the Grace and Peace of Christ be yours.

Karen

News from Kirk Session

Rob R.



This summer was the celebration of 150 years of Canada's official existence. There were many, many events and for those who were here on Canada Day—many, many lines.

One of the events was La Machine. A giant Dragon/horse and giant spider roamed our streets in an epic confrontation. The crowds were huge and Long Ma (the Dragon) rested across the street from our church at the Supreme Court.

The crowds were so impressive that the designated viewing areas were not able to contain their numbers and that sadly spilled

into our gardens. The crowds sadly did not have the control to prevent the devastation of our gardens and the snapping off of our statute of a begging Jesus.

The damage was impressive and took long hours of work by James and Sean to clean up—not only the gardens but other refuse but still left our gardens crushed.

Now some people took action and Don Gowan sent a letter to our member councillor Riley Brockington. Our own councillor for downtown Catherine McKenney was also contacted.

Ms. McKenney's office was very prompt and caring in getting us in touch with people in charge of Ottawa 2017 who reacted with dismay, concern and genuine reaching out to help us resolve the damage.

Many contacts and e-mails were exchanged and led to some very positive developments. Elizabeth our steadfast secretary not only took many helpful pictures but fielded many calls of concern and offers of donations of plants to help us rebuild. (Yes Buddha was missing. Ask Elizabeth. ;)

Mr. Guy LaFlamme the head of Ottawa 2017 was courteous, caring and apologetic, but more than that truly helpful. (Loves our statute and was horrified to hear it was damaged.)

Mr. LaFlamme hooked up his Wendy Kane with our own Susan Pye who has cared for our lovely gardens and offered her time to help repair them, then they selected and delivered to us replacement plants to help overcome the damages. The results not only look good but they brought to our church volunteers from Ottawa 2017. Not a cheque but actual people, can we ask for more?



The statue was also a significant effort and Michael Nauth was kind enough to transport back and forth the statue from Ottawa Brass after other places could not handle the job. They were fast and efficient and it may even be better than new. The statue is not light and Michael with help was able to get it there and back and remounted.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of our people both staff and volunteers who worked so hard to get us back on track.

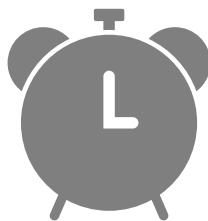
I would like to thank our councillors and in particular the staff at Ms. McKenney's office for such prompt and caring assistance.

Lastly and certainly not least I would thank Guy Laflamme and the entire Ottawa 2017 team not only for blessing our city with amazing events and attractions but for taking a truly proactive and caring approach to helping us get our gardens back to their deserved glory.

Warm, Welcoming, Intimate—the Early Service

Why come?

If you are awake early on Sunday morning, come to the 9:15 service. Parking is easy. And the rest of the day is yours.



If your son needs to be picked up at camp by 12 noon on Sunday, come to the 9:15 service. If your daughter has soccer practice at 11 a.m. on Sunday, come to the 9:15 service. (There is a one-room Sunday school-house for children during this service.)

If you want to have a Sunday downtown, and don't want to miss church, come to the 9:15 service.

If you have many things to do on the weekend and worry about missing a whole Sunday morning, come to the 9:15 service. You will be out by 10:15.

Why come?

The 9:15 service is warm, welcoming and intimate. We all sit together near the Minister. The service is relaxed and less formal. We can listen carefully to the words and ponder them. There are no distractions. The service is very peaceful and conducive to thinking.

Is there music? Of course there is. The organist is with us.

Why come?

We are a cheerful, friendly group at the 9:15 service. We care about each other. Has so-and-so been away for three weeks? Better phone.

We get a chance to talk to the Minister after the service when we enjoy tea or coffee in Grant Hall.

“What did you mean by this?” “Why did you refer to that?”

The message continues and expands.

And if you are very quiet, you can sit in the Sanctuary and listen to the choir practice at 10:30.

So—join us at 9:15. You will be most welcome. If you know of any students at university or college here in Ottawa, please extend an invitation to them to join us as well.

We hope to see you!

The 9:15 Group

Thank You

With your support, the congregation's generosity, financial gifts and offerings are achieving our goal of being 15% higher compared to this time last year.

What a difference this make!

With a congregation that is nearly 190 years strong and welcomes all, these givings have helped our church to:

- Welcome 30 to 40 children and youth each week to Sunday School
- Serve over 240 people communion in March 2017 during worship and the added joy of our Special communion service for St. Andreans for whom getting out is more difficult
- Celebrate Canada 150 with a series of events highlighting the role of St. Andreans in our country's history; Supporting women in leadership; Educating young people; Advocating and caring for Indigenous People
- Feed over 1,000 Carleton University students at the Pause Table during their exam period in April 2017

This is just a glimpse into the life and work of our congregation and the joy and hope it brings in Christ's name!

God Feeds Us! Two invitations to be part of God's work on October 15th!

The Bible is full of passages that show us how God feeds us. When we are hungry, body, mind and soul, God nourishes us and sends us forth to nourish others. As we head into Thanksgiving we invite you to reflect on your favourite Bible stories of God feeding us and to give thanks for that through responding to one of these invitations to be part of what God is doing to feed hungry people in our own community.

The Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

This is a ministry that we belong to through our participation in the Centretown Church's Social Action Committee (CCSAC; see www.centretownchurches.org). Bins collecting food are located in each narthex (or entranceway to the sanctuary) and there is also

a donation box if you want to drop in a loonie, toonie or perhaps more. We dedicate the collection with our offering on the last Sunday of each month and all donations are delivered to the Food Centre.

On October 15 at 2 p.m., CCSAC has invited its member churches to walk together to raise money and awareness for the Food Centre. We will gather at 1:30 p.m. in Jean Pigott Hall at City Hall. There are a variety of distances available for walking. More details and registration can be found on the CCSAC website. Interested in being part of this? Let Huda or Rev. Karen know.

The Open Table at the University of

Ottawa. This is another partnership with local churches. Each month we take turns providing a meal for students at the University and October is our month. Always a fun evening, this event as held at St. Alban's Anglican Church in the evening. Sign-up sheets to provide food and participate in serving will be located in Grant Hall.

St. Andrew's celebrates 150 years of Confederation, and commemorates the half millennium of Protestantism

Michel T., Co-Convener, Memorials Committee

Canada 150

Throughout 2017, St. Andrew's Church has hosted special events to celebrate Canada 150 and commemorate the church's history of involvement and contribution to community and country since Confederation. The last event of our year-long celebration of Canada 150 will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Honouring the Sacrifice of Our Veterans

To mark Remembrance Day, a talk, Honouring the Sacrifices of our Veterans and our War Dead, will be given in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; the talk will last about 75 minutes. St. Andrew's will welcome M. Dominique Boulais, Commemorations and Public Relations Manager of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Canadian Agency, for a presentation about the history and mandate of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its responsibilities within the Americas, and Dr. Tim



Cook, Historian of the Canadian War Museum. A reception will be held in Grant Hall following the talk.

Reformation 500

We have developed a program to commemorate the five centuries of Protestantism: Reformation 500. We will focus on the Reformation during the months of October and November. The apex of activities will be the 500th anniversary, Reformation Sunday, October 29 (the actual date is Tuesday, October 31).

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

Learning and Worship

Our Minister will offer a course on the History of the Reformation and how it continues to shape and form us today. It begins on October 18 and will be completed by November 29. The focus will be on the Reformation in worship and what it means to be reformed and always reforming today.

The Minister and the Director of Christian Development are planning a dramatic presentation for the Services on October 29, which is Reformation Sunday. A celebratory cake will be offered on that festive occasion.

Guest speakers:

The first guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald, has taught church history at Knox College, Toronto, where he is currently Professor of Church and Society, for twenty years. His areas of research include the reformation era, particularly the history of the Scottish Reformation. He will lead worship on Sunday, October 22. The theme of his sermon is: *What changed at the Reformation? Life, authority, and Bible*. After the service, Rev. Macdonald will lead a Lunch and Learn on the same theme.



The second guest speaker, Dr. Karin Maag, Director of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, will be with us during the weekend of November 17–19.

On Friday, November 17, at 7 p.m. there will be a Meet and Greet event at the church to give the congregation an opportunity to meet Dr. Maag.

On Saturday, November 18, Dr. Maag will lead a Workshop from 9 a.m. to noon. This half-day workshop will equip participants with a strong understanding of the ways the Reformation impacted the daily life of early modern Christians. The workshop will include a presentation by Dr. Maag on the topic *When the Reformation Came to Geneva*, group discussion, documentary clips, and a very-accessible role-play.

On Sunday, November 19, Dr. Maag will participate in Worship. She would, likely, provide a special focus on music in the Reformation. During the Lunch and Learn, Dr. Maag will lead the discussion on Worship in the Reformation era.

Music

We are delighted that Mrs. Tracy Staback has agreed to deliver the Reformation Concert that will present music pieces (secular and/or religious) of the last five centuries. The Reformation Concert is planned for October 21 at 7:00 p.m., with approximately 90 minutes of music and an intermission. Music will include vocal, choral, and instrumental pieces as well as hymns with audience participation.

Although the concert is free to the public, we hope to take a free-will offering for the Centertown Emergency Food Centre run by the Centertown Churches Social Action Committee. A reception will follow, from about 8:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., to allow members of the audience and the musicians to mingle.



Lasting testimony to the commemoration

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



Memorials Committee has invited other Session Committees to partner in the Reformation 500 Program. Christian Education is purchasing books on the Reformation for Sunday school children, as well as acquiring books for adults on the same topic for our Library, and Memorials will fund these purchases. Worship & Music has kindly agreed to partner with us in hosting the Reception after the Reformation Concert. Welcome & Fellowship will assist us in planning and in delivering the food and refreshments for the Receptions and the Lunch and Learn events.

I cordially invite all members and adherents of our congregation to participate in various events planned in the Reformation 500 program, to invite friends to join us in these events and to commemorate with Christians of all denominations the birth and development of a major renewal of the Faith and practices of Christianity.

Thank You

To my family of St. Andrew's,

As I sit to write this note to you, I have a full and grateful heart. When I told Kirk Session I would be leaving St. Andrew's to move to Edmonton for a job opportunity for Nicholas, it was with very mixed emotions. We're excited for the adventures ahead, and at the same time I'm very sad indeed to leave such a healthy and faith-filled congregation.

In speaking with Huda lately, I acknowledged that I am unable to put into words how much this church has blessed me. Watching this congregation care for the community and care for one another has taught me so much about what it is to be church. In the highs and the lows, this congregation is so full of love for God, and love for one another; I am grateful to have witnessed God's work through God's people here.

I am confident that God will continue to use the people of this congregation, and that I will be able to share the lessons of generous love and heartfelt support that I learned from you. I give God thanks for each of you.

Maureen R.

Calling all bloggers and non-bloggers alike!

Melanie A.

As many of you know, St. Andrew's has a blog. It is one of the most viewed pages on our website. Every week one of the congregation submits a paragraph or two, sharing their reflections on a part of the service that touched them: the music, the sermon, the children's story, or some other aspect of the morning which made them stop and think. We all have different perspectives and the blog is a unique way for us to share our ideas, enrich our churchgoing experience and grow in faith together. I'd like to take the opportunity to give a shout-out to all the volunteers who contribute to the blog. Many of us, myself included, look forward to your posts each Sunday. Your contributions are much appreciated. I'd also like to thank Maureen Renaud who created and then co-ordinated the St. Andrew's blog over the years. If you think you might like to share a post with us I would love to hear from you! If you're not familiar with the blog I invite you to check it out at <http://www.standrewsottawa.ca/blog/>.

A week of stories...



Taken from the blog entry of June 6, 2017 on the St. Andrew's blog.

Diana B.

It has been a full week, and it culminated for me in two events on the weekend, both affiliated with St. Andrew's. The first was the Kairos Blanket ceremony on Parliament Hill, wherein people gathered to learn through interactive storytelling, the history of aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples of Canada. Participants are led through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance periods. Blankets play the role of the land while we standing on them, playing the role of the Indigenous people. Waves of settlers and the influence they brought to bear on the native people of Canada was impactful when you play the Indigenous role, and watch as people are led away (off the blankets) because of a handshake or brushing of a Hudson's Bay blanket, that (inadvertently or deliberately) caused their death (smallpox, T.B.), or as others are led away to residential schools or reallocation sites, leaving you (if you are not yourself led away) on a much reduced blanket.

We hear of our 150th birthday for Canada, and recognize that for ten thousand years our Aboriginal brothers and sisters have lived here on this land. And our thinking about the celebration shifts a little.

On Saturday St. Andrew's hosted the Dr. Bryce exhibit. A man of conscience who, in addition to his leadership in the field of Public Health (writing Canada's first Health Code for Ontario, serving as president of the American Public Health Association and founding member of the Canadian Public Health Association) also worked as Chief Medical Officer for the federal government. He played the role of "whistleblower" and documented evidence of the rate of Aboriginal children who were dying in residential

schools.* (First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada).

He reported the schools overcrowded, poorly ventilated and made it clear to the churches and Canadian government that children were dying at an incredibly high rate. He demanded a remedy, which sadly never came. His own career jeopardized, and positions in the civil service blocked for him, Dr. Bryce was forced into early retirement. In 1922, he wrote a book *The Story of a National Crime: An Appeal for Justice to the Indians of Canada* outlining the government and churches' roles in creating and maintaining conditions that led to the death of large numbers of students.



Dr. Cindy Blackstock spoke on Saturday to Dr. Bryce's courage and his own inspiration to her as an Aboriginal woman and Child Health advocate. She told us that she looked purposefully for a good person. She felt there must be good people in the world and if she could find one, there must be more: people who have the moral courage to stand up for justice for the oppressed when it is unfashionable and potentially self-sacrificing. Dr. Bryce was such a person and she encouraged those of us attending, to unlearn or to relearn what we have been told about Aboriginal peoples and to learn the truth about injustices that still afflict their community and ours. For example, the underfunding of Aboriginal children's health care compared to the Canadian average, which insidiously in its inequity, intimates a lesser value/importance of the Aboriginal child. Knowing this should incite us, as good persons, to fairness and to stand up for all children in our country. We recognize too, the ongoing effect the residential schools and the forced assimilation of culture still has on the Aboriginal people today and their need for healing/health care, cultural renewal and 'just' hope.

Of course there was so much more to both of these events than I can write here...but on Sunday the sermon was about Pentecost.

James M. spoke at the Children's hour and told us his story, about a moment in his young life when time 'stood still' for him and he felt touched and directed by the Holy Spirit to work with refugees. A story of mission.

Karen spoke about how stories make meaning for us in our lives—and how who tells the story and how it is heard, matters. That stories are powerful and some stories are hurtful to others and damaging beyond generations. That our words are gifts to be used wisely and carefully.

Unintentionally and intentionally our stories shape our thinking. Often another person's story (perspective) can cause a shift in our thinking, and open our eyes to a truth not previously recognized.

Jesus used stories, like the Good Samaritan, to cause a shift in thinking of the people in his society to illustrate who in fact, is their neighbour. His uplifting of the Samaritan and his not uplifting of the priests who passed by, shifted the perspectives of the listeners, who may have had their own stories (stories that defended their priests' actions to avoid the robbed man who had been left for dead on the road to Jericho. (For example, to touch a dead person could render the priest unclean and unable to serve his congregation in the temple). It was a shift in perspective to see themselves (as chosen

people of God doing what they thought to be religiously correct), being the unjust and the Samaritan as being the 'good' in God's eyes.

It was a week of shifting stories...I personally became more aware of how stories I have been told have stuck and have never been challenged. Stories that raised my society or family, or self...and perhaps inadvertently belittled another. I am humbled by how powerfully these stories can limit and dictate my interactions with fellow humans (and creatures) and undermine both my and my community's ability to love fully and justly in the world. And I am glad that God's story shifts the context and opens the mind to an alternate truer reality.

I would urge you to read up more about the Dr. Bryce story on our St. Andrew's website and listen to the sermon from Pentecost Sunday and read about the Kairos blanket exercise on the Kairos website. I haven't done any of them justice here—but if you read and listen to their stories, it may just shift your thinking about your own stories and those you have heard.

Rev. Karen tied the Pentecost story (the infusion of the Holy Spirit on the people and the ability to speak in tongues recognizable to each other), into the idea of God's story in the world. How barriers are broken through Christ's death and resurrection so that we are free to be in the world and with one another in life and in hope. And as was so eloquently stated in Vanessa's post-baptism blog of a few Sundays ago: Jesus has freed us from cultural ties and has allowed us all to interpret love through His spirit.

I will continue to think on this...on my words and stories...and try to listen more carefully and intentionally to other 'tongues', stories and perspectives.

Most importantly, I will immerse myself more fully in God's Word and His story...and in it all, listen and pray for the Holy Spirit to make those appropriate shifts in me...that move me forward as a Christian, responsive to God, in the world.

The Globe & Mail printed an article on this topic as well: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/ottawa-needs-to-better-serve-indigenous-childrens-health/article35205050/>

The Presbyterian Church in Canada & the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's (PCC) involvement in the Indian Residential Schools system spanned almost 90 years, from the mid-1880s until 1969 when the schools became the full responsibility of the Federal Government. In total, the denomination

operated 11 schools, 9 of which were transferred to the United Church of Canada when it was formed in 1925.

Education was an early focus of the PCC's outreach to Aboriginal people in Canada. This began with day schools being established on a number of reserves but by the early 1880s, the Federal Government was replacing day schools on reserves with a system of off-reserve residential schools. The PCC agreed with this focus and began in partnership with the Federal Government to establish and operate these schools. In general the Church operated the schools and the Federal Government provided funding and oversight.

Assimilation was the primary reason behind the establishment of these schools; they were not voluntary. The historical evidence is that the Indigenous Nations preferred the day school on-reserve system. As a result of an amendment to the Indian Act in 1920, it became the law for First Nations children to attend residential school—until then it was voluntary—many of the schools were very short of students.

In 1907 Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce (1853–1932), Chief Medical Officer for the Federal government released a report highlighting the incredibly high death rates (often due to tuberculosis) and poor health conditions in the residential schools. This report was released to Members of Parliament in November of 1907 and an article on it appeared in the *Evening Citizen* (now the *Ottawa Citizen*). Dr. Bryce’s report was not well received and he was eventually forced into retirement.

By the mid-1980s, there was a growing recognition and awakening in the PCC of its part in the painful legacy of church, government and First Nations, including its involvement in the Residential Schools. In 1989 a national Committee on Native Ministry was formed and in 1993 a Residential Schools Working Group. Draft work on an apology to Aboriginal peoples was begun in early 1991 and in 1994 the PCC adopted the Church’s confession which was formally presented at the Forks National Site in Winnipeg in 1994. Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, received it on behalf of First Nations people.

In 2007 the “Residential Schools Settlement Agreement” came into effect. The parties to this agreement were the Government of Canada, the churches that ran residential schools, Indigenous organizations and representatives of Survivors of residential schools (former students). This Agreement included:

- compensation for those who attended a residential school/Common Experience Payment;
- the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) which would receive and adjudicate claims of physical and or sexual abuse from a claimant;
- funds to support commemoration ceremonies;
- health and healing services (provided a system of compensation to former students of the residential schools).

This agreement also led to the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

The PCC is part of the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. When the TRC held its National Events, the PCC provided financial support for the events themselves, and for Survivors and their families to attend the National Events. The PCC participated in every National Event of the TRC, except the one in Inuvik. In Inuvik, the PCC was represented by the Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk and by John Constant, an Indigenous person studying for the ministry. (Inuvik was the smallest TRC National Event and provided very few hotel rooms.)

The TRC released its Calls to Action (findings) in June 2015 and the full report can be found at www.trc.ca. Today the church is working to live out its commitment to walking into the future alongside the First Nations and Aboriginal People of our country by living out the Calls to Action from that report.

This sheet was produced with help from the article, *A Brief Administrative History of the Residential Schools and the Presbyterian Church in Canada’s Healing and Reconciliation Efforts*. It can be found at: presbyterianarchives.ca

Refugee Sponsorship Program

Terry C., Refugee Sponsorship Program Coordinator

Last December, Rana K., our current sponsoree, arrived in Ottawa to be welcomed by St. Andrew's Congregation. Rana settled in a townhouse with her sister's family, the T.'s, under our joint refugee sponsorship project with Knox Presbyterian Church.

At the end of September, Rana took an important step in her transition to independent living in Ottawa by moving into a one bedroom apartment in the Mooney's Bay Area. Rana is very pleased with her new accommodation and thanks everyone at St. Andrew's for their generous support and their prayers for her wellbeing.

Understanding Grief

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Ministry

We have all been touched by grief at one time or another. It could be the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job or the grief suffered by someone we love. At those times, we want to better understand the grief we or those close to us are feeling. We want to know what aspects are healthy and part of the normal process of dealing with loss. We also want to know when we should be concerned about what we or those around us are experiencing. And, if there are things we could do that would be of help.

We hope the Pastoral Care Workshop *Understanding Grief* will answer some of your questions.

The workshop is on Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be held in Grant Hall. It will be led by Ian Henderson of Bereavement Support & Education Ottawa. We will provide coffee, tea and light morning refreshments.

There is no charge for the workshop but we would like to make sure we are prepared for everyone so please let us know if you plan to attend.

For more information, jd@standrewsottawa.ca.

Compliments for Doors Open

The following note was sent as an email from a visitor who attended our Doors Open.

My wife and I stopped in to your church while in Ottawa recently. Something drew us in and we were welcomed with open arms by Elizabeth, like we were old friends.

She took us through your beautiful church with stories and attention to detail, which made it the most valuable experience of our trip. What a joy to see the stained glass and to hear the stories and history. What an ambassador to have for St. Andrew's.

Our look back as we left, to visit the Supreme Court had me asking my wife which of the three locations, or entities, the Supreme Court, the Bank of Canada, or St. Andrew's Church, was of greater significance to the world and to our visit. No question, it was your church.

Our trip to Ottawa was filled with some of the greatest privileges of my lifetime, with a press conference held in the Parliamentary Press gallery, followed by testimony to a parliamentary committee on finance, and yet both my wife and I are left with a feeling of awe and of appreciation for your church, and your Elizabeth.

Please accept our thanks for those treasures, and please look after both of them for us, until we can visit again.

Larry and Penny E.

Lethbridge, Alberta

This Summer's Open Door Programme

Luc D., Diane M.

From July 1 to August 30, St. Andrew's welcomed 4,112 visitors from more than twenty different countries into our Sanctuary for this summer's Open Door Programme. On July 1 alone, over 1,400 people climbed our steps to visit. We have been welcoming people into our church in this unique ministry since 1991—so this is our 26th year.

This year's visitors came from nearby Ottawa and Gatineau: "I work just down the street from your church, and I have always wanted to see inside..." As well, we had visitors from all over Canada. We also welcomed people from the United States, England, Scotland, France, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Visitors from South America came from Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Chile. We had several large groups from Mexico. We also greeted visitors from Asia: from China, Japan and Korea. We had a few from India, Jordan, and one family from Dubai.

Some came to learn the history of our church. Some came to sit quietly, to pray or to meditate. Many were amazed at the architecture, the beautiful stained glass and the woodwork. All were welcome. For some, it was the first time that they had ever been inside a church, and they had many questions: "What exactly do Christians believe?" Others belonged to a different branch of the Christian faith and wanted to know what made Presbyterians different. Still others identified themselves as Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu or Sikh – or atheist. They too asked many questions. One family from Barcelona, on the day after the attack, was moved to ask Luc to pray with them. Visitors from the Netherlands were always delighted to be in the church where Princess Margriet was baptised.



Visiting children were given a “Scavenger Hunt” paper with photographs of 15 objects in the sanctuary to find – that was very popular. Thank you, Elizabeth, for downloading and formatting those photos.

Some of the visitors signed the Guest Book and added their comments: “Beautiful”, “The Spirit of God is here.” “Very welcoming.”

It is marvellous that St. Andrew’s can extend this summer welcome to people from all over the world. We are enriched by their questions and their curiosity and their interest. As well, many visitors put some money into our collection box. We were able to donate those funds to the Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

We thank the staff at St. Andrew’s: James, Sean, Elizabeth and Maureen for their consistent, cheerful support of this outreach ministry. As well, we thank the volunteers who made our visitors welcome: Jeanie H., Jennifer P., Susan R., Judy D. and Ken Y., Janet and John B., Colin F. and many others.

Let us hope we may continue the Summer Open Door Programme for many years to come.

Nine and Dine

Richard L.

The annual golf event was held on June 14. We had 21 participants, with 16 for golf and 5 for dinner only. The event was changed somewhat this year by scheduling a Nine and Dine outing at Greensmere Golf and Country Club, west of Ottawa near the March Road. The weather cooperated and we were blessed with a fine, late afternoon golf experience involving a best-ball format to accommodate novice golfers and maximize the social opportunity. The team of Sim B., Jan L., Ian J. and Richard L. prevailed with a two-over par score. The gourmet-like meal options were very well received by all the diners as attested by the smiling faces in the photo below. Five women joined the men for golf this year as well as four additional women attending the dinner-only portion. This event was hosted by Men’s Fellowship and they invite all members of the congregation to consider participating next year in what was a thoroughly enjoyable outdoor and dining experience.



National Presbyterian Women's Gathering 2017

Jeannette L.

Last May more than 600 women from Presbyterian churches across Canada gathered in north Toronto for 3 days of song, worship, reflection, study and communing with each other. The atmosphere was welcoming, the company women of all ages from 16 to 95! Most participants were from Canada, but there were overseas visitors too, including Pauline B. and Caroline S. of Jobat, and President of the Diocese's Women's Society from Jobat, India. The theme was "ROOTED IN LOVE" from Ephesians 3:16–21. It was a wonderful experience, the speakers were excellent and interesting, the singing in 4-part harmony amazing and the TIME to reflect irreplaceable. From Ottawa churches there were about a dozen women, but only 3 from St. Andrew's: myself (with my sister), Diana B. (with her mother), and Stacey H.. The next Gathering will be in May 2020; we could encourage others to attend by fundraising and sharing of expenses. We have copies of the program for you to read, or visit: www.womensgathering.ca



Tuesday morning Bible Study: Wisdom and Proverbs

Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

Friends! A new year, a new study!

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, at 10:30 at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, which is located on Woodroffe Avenue just north of the 417. Join us there for study and fellowship, the parking is abundant, the coffee and tea are hot!

We will this year be discussing the wisdom tradition in the Bible, starting with a reading of the book of Proverbs. If you have questions please be in touch with Rev. Karen (kd@standrewsottawa.ca).

Looking forward to catching up and seeing you all soon and please, do invite anyone you think might be interested.

Student for Ministry! Alex Fels

On June 18 in worship we commissioned Alex Fels as he prepared to set out on the journey towards ordination to minister of Word and Sacraments. Since then Alex has moved to Toronto and into residence at Knox College where he has started the work towards receiving his M.Div. Back in June some of you asked for the words to the commissioning and

as we all committed to pray for and support Alex, here you go! The prayers and words we spoke in June:

This is a very exciting time in Alex's life and in ours as a congregation, as well.

Alex first arrived at St. Andrew's for the early service on the first Sunday of Advent in 2013. Warmly welcomed by Sheila Urquhart in the communion service Alex began a journey that day that led to his baptism and joining the

church, and his immersing himself in the life and work of our congregation.

Since then Alex has heard God's call through both prayer and discernment on his own and with others and he now desires to serve God and the Church by beginning studies towards ordination as a minister of Word and Sacraments.

Last fall Alex met with elders from the Kirk Session to share this desire with them after which the Kirk session forwarded Alex's name to the Presbytery of Ottawa.

After an interview with the Presbytery's ministry committee, the Presbytery of Ottawa, at their March meeting certified Alex as a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Since then Alex has applied and been accepted to the Master of Divinity program at Knox College in Toronto. This is a three year program. Alex will only be ordained to the ministry when he has finished this degree, completed other requirements of the denomination and received a call from a congregation to be their minister.

The years ahead are exciting ones in which Alex will grow and learn in faith and knowledge. During this time he remains part of our congregation, under our care and also under the supervision of our presbytery, even when he is away in Toronto studying and at other church's doing practicums and placements.

We are really glad that one of the ways we can support Alex is through the O. Mary Hill fund. This was a gift to our congregation in memory of O. Mary Hill that makes money available for students studying for the ministry. We are thankful for her family and for those whose generosity supports the education of the ministers and education in congregations.

The other support we offer Alex now is our encouragement in prayer and friendship as we commission him for this journey he now takes.

God calls each of us to serve using the gifts given to us: some to be prophets, some to work miracles, some to encourage and some to teach. Through the operation of God's Word and Spirit, the Church is gathered, equipped, and sent out to participate in this ministry. All members of the Church are called to share the Gospel with the world, and to offer worship to God. So that Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for ministry, Christ furnishes the Church with pastors and teachers.

Questions for Alex:

Alex you have spent time in prayer and study, you have met with elders and ministers and members of the congregation and together we have discerned that you are ready to begin the process of study towards ordination in our denomination and as we bless you and pray for you now we ask you this:

As God sends you on this journey, will you go with an open heart and mind, to study and learn and grow, to love God and God's people, to proclaim God's kingdom and to work diligently and faithfully with the Presbytery and the College and all who God gives to you in the coming year?

If so, please say: "I will".

Then the following question was asked of the congregation as we stood.

Will you support Alex with prayer and encouragement, with interest and compassion? If so, please say: "we will".

Prayer

Generous God, you have made us all with our own special gifts. Like a body that has many parts, we are a community with many parts. We

thank you for all the ways in which you interact with our lives.

And today we ask for your presence—your blessing for Alex.

We give you thanks for the time he has spent with us: from his first days in worship, through baptism and ministry with our young people, through his participation in worship.

We bless you for the richness that he brings to our common life, and we ask for your blessing upon him now.

Pour out your Spirit upon Alex, as we pray for him, and for Knox College, and for those who will be his teachers and colleagues in study there.

Guide Alex as he goes deeper in his study of your word.

Grant him discernment of your ways.

Expand his horizons and encourage his curiosity.

Give him wisdom and patience and compassion.

Help him to rely on you in all he does, and help us to be part of your love for him in these days ahead.

Inspire us all, O Lord, as together we seek to live out our baptismal vows, maturing as Christians in the church, and engaging in God's mission to the world.

In Jesus' Name

Amen

Elder's retreat

June 23



The National Restorative Justice Symposium

Rebecca B.

This Symposium is an opportunity to convene a national gathering of practitioners, lawmakers, academics and researchers, as well as other experts and stakeholders, to consider and to assess the innovative and transformative potential of restorative justice. This year's National Restorative Justice Symposium is being hosted by the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, and its affiliate, the CJEP (Community Justice Education Project) here in Ottawa. The Symposium is co-funded by Corrections Canada, the government of Canada, and community partners. Rebecca B., PCC delegate

to the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) is the CCJC's newly elected President, and she will be one of the MC's for the gala at the event.

It would be wonderful if you could consider attending some or all of the symposium, and could spread the word about it in your networks.

This year's theme is Global Innovation—Local (R)Evolution.

The event will feature remarks from Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, Supreme Court of Canada Justice Malcolm Rowe, international keynote presentations from New Zealand's Hayley MacKenzie and the United Kingdom's Christopher Straker, and the program is filling up with excellent workshop and training sessions, such as:

- Indigenous Ways of Knowing: “Sacred Circles”
- Working from a Victim-Centered Perspective: What, Why, and How?
- The F Word: Exploring Forgiveness
- Understanding Deep-Rooted Conflict, Structures of Violence & Power Imbalances
- Circle Up! Using Circles and other Restorative Practices with Youth in Community and Educational Settings
- Beyond Kale and Yoga: Strategies to Reduce Compassion Fatigue and Burnout as Teams and Individuals
- Restorative Parenting: It's Complicated

To register and learn more about the program, visit the [website](#).

Please note that the registration fee is not intended to be a barrier to those wishing to attend who might not financially be able to do so. A limited number of bursaries for individuals in need are available upon application. For more information, please visit the website.

To learn all about the latest updates to the program as they come in, follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.

Please share with your contacts who may be interested.

Hope to see you at the Symposium in November!

PWS&D in Malawi

Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) is the mission arm of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. There are two principal aspects to what they do. We hear from them when disaster strikes. They are on the ground and helping in times of crisis, this is one arm of what they do. The other is development

and relief work and Malawi is one of the areas we find them actively engaged, working with partners on the ground to make a difference.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Hunger, climate change and health issues, including malaria and the pandemic spread of HIV and AIDS, continue to undermine development and efforts to escape poverty. PWS&D has been in Malawi now for

over four decades. Currently, PWS&D works with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian's Blantyre and Livingstonia Synods to administer programs that work to address the root causes of poverty and hunger including maternal and child health.

In Malawi, 1 in every 100 pregnant women die, and nearly 3 in 100 babies die. These women and children are victims of a high rate of adolescent pregnancies, unskilled birth attendants, and poor emergency care. Into these appalling circumstances PWS&D has introduced a project financed by you, through the Government of Canada and PWS&D. This project supports community organizers to teach good nutrition and early warning signs in pregnancy. Men are taught about their responsibilities to their wives and newborns, and women are encouraged to move into hospitals weeks before their delivery dates, and if not, they are provided with bicycle ambulances to get them to the hospital for

delivery. Safe, private delivery rooms have been built, with good quality neo-natal care. The death rates have dropped dramatically. How often can any of us point to actually saving people's lives? Together, through PWS&D, we can say we have, carrying out the gospel's call for social justice and revealing the kingdom of God among us.

On September 30, teams from across Canada participated in the Ride for Refuge to help raise funds for maternal and child health in Malawi as well as Afghanistan. This is the second year that St. Andrew's has participated. Thank you for your support.

For more information on PWS&D and the work in Malawi please visit: www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/malawi/

Interested in visiting Malawi yourself with members of the PCC from across the country? Keep reading, and speak to the Rev. Karen Dimock.

My Trip to Emmaus

Colton B.

“So, how your trip?”

How does one respond to this question? You've been away for four life changing months, filled with experiences that have genuinely impacted your outlook on the world. You've met great people, witnessed things that uplifted you and left you devastated, overcome obstacles and challenges... but instead you simply reply:

“Oh, it was good.”

You keep it simple because you are still trying to make sense of everything you went through. You spare them the details, because how can you truly communicate everything you experienced, especially given they probably aren't interested in a full recounting of your adventures? Indeed, the significance of things you saw and did will be made clearer as you settle back into your “old life,” so for now it is best to keep it simple. Just tell them it was “good.”

I spent the summer doing an internship with ACORD, an African NGO, at their field office in Gulu, Uganda. Gulu is the largest town in Northern Uganda, a region that experienced decades of conflict. Simply passing through, it would be difficult to know what happened in the region; there are no monuments, intentional or otherwise, to the many lives lost during fighting between Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and government forces.

But the legacy of the conflict is there, in the guarded stories of people, their bitterness towards the government that forced them into displaced person's camps, and the countless NGO's who have set up shop in Gulu Town. To some extent the issues and fault lines that led to and resulted from the conflict in Northern Uganda have been glossed over, as the day to day struggle of life in a resource-deprived region continues apace.

Coming back from such an experience, there are some things you want to share with the people around you. You want to discuss the political contradictions, the social issues that hold people back, the big academic debates that you witnessed firsthand. You want to talk about the future of a region that is currently hosting over a million South Sudanese refugees, and is welcoming more each day. You want to talk about the personal connections you made with people who, while you settle back into the "old life" in Canada, struggle to pay school fees so their children can get a basic education.

And yet many of these discussions remain in your head. It is hard to find a person willing or able to sit down to be your sounding board as you talk through your experiences. Your friends tire of hearing your anecdotes all the time, and you don't want to be that person in class who always interjects with "well when I was in Uganda..." I'm grateful my wife got to spend a month in Gulu with me, as we have been able to discuss some of our observations and common experiences. But in many ways it seems like another world, another life, a half-remembered dream only made real by the photos and occasional calls from people back in Gulu.

It's a commonly held belief that every place you visit, and certainly every place you live, shapes you and leaves an indelible mark on your way of being. So how did four months in Gulu impact me? When answering this question, it would be easy to fall into the lazy tropes people trot out when talking about Africa (and it is always Africa, never the country or city itself). I could talk about admiring people's faith and joy amidst hardship. I could talk about their perseverance, their hard work in the face of countless obstacles. I could admire their willingness to unconditionally forgive those who wronged them in war, and work towards peace.

But are those my experiences, or are they sound bites from other people's "adventures in Africa"? What did I, Colton Brydges, experience in Gulu, Uganda in summer 2017?

Just as it is hard to respond to people who ask "how was your trip," I'm struggling to even answer the question I pose to myself. There is no way to adequately sum it all up, to define in three bullet points my takeaways from an important period in my life. I have a lot of great memories, a lot of hard lessons learned, and questions that I continue to grapple with. I have a burning desire to return, to fulfill my promise to "do my best to visit again soon." I have regrets about things I should have said or should have done, and regrets about things I did say and do. I've got some stamps in my passport and souvenirs to attest to the fact that yes, I really did that.

The time I spent in Gulu was an incredibly powerful and important time in my life. I am a different person than when I left, and hopefully I am a better person for having gone. I talk so much about all that I took from being there, but I hope I also gave something to the friends and colleagues that supported me.

So the next time someone asks me about my trip, I think I'll ask them if they want the short version or the long version. Ultimately, neither of them will give the complete picture, and neither has a takeaway or moral to the story. I guess that's why it's easier to simply say "it was good."

Mission Trips with The Presbyterian Church in Canada

More than an ordinary journey, a mission trip is also a spiritual journey that can transform your life. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Experience Mission program has been designed to help congregations and individuals accompany Presbyterian mission partners in Canada and overseas through short-term mission experiences. As you share in the mission and ministry of the church you will witness firsthand the impact of PWS&D and International ministries projects.

The following trips are available for 2018; please speak to Reverend Dimock if you are interested in participating.

- Malawi Mission Trip: April 8-26, 2018. Deadline for participation is December 1, 2017.
- Provide Ecumenical Accompaniment in the Palestinian Territories: Three-month opportunities starting quarterly. Applications are accepted year-round.
- Teach English in China: The application deadline for 2017 has passed. The program dates for 2018 will be posted soon.

For more details about any of these opportunities, please visit presbyterian.ca/im/missiontrips/

Malawi Mission Trip with the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Led by the Rev. Joel Sherbino, PCC Malawi Liaison, participants will:

- Visit and encourage PCC mission partners;
- Share worship and fellowship with Presbyterians in Malawi;
- See PWS&D's maternal and child health programs, funded in part by the Government of Canada;
- Learn how the prison ministry supported by *Presbyterians Sharing* is changing lives;
- And much more!

Space is limited. Applications will be accepted until December 1, 2017. Participant Contribution: \$4000 for travel cost, plus raising at least \$500 to support PCC programs in Malawi. Gifts made to support the programs will receive a tax receipt.

For more information go to presbyterian.ca/missiontrips, or contact Matt Foxall, Mission Trip Coordinator; mfoxall@presbyterian.ca • 1-800-619-7301 x259.

If you are interested in participating, speak to Reverend Karen, or to Rob R. who was in Malawi with PWS&D last year. He provides the following reflection:

“Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Hunger, climate change and health issues, including malaria and the pandemic spread of HIV and AIDS, continue to undermine development and efforts to escape poverty.



For over four decades PWS&D has been actively supporting development and emergency relief work in Malawi. Through its work, families receive conservation agriculture training, livestock and seeds to diversify their crops, improve their nutrition and increase their incomes. Health programs include work to reduce malaria through community education and counselling, testing and education for people living with and affected by HIV and AID, and installing shallow wells and boreholes and training community committees to sustain water sources for the long term in order to reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases.

Malawi is the largest beneficiary of PWS&D development funding as well as a significant recipient of emergency relief funding. As such it is the best country to visit to appreciate fully the scope and effectiveness of our work. As it is relatively small, visitors receive a well-rounded and diverse experience travelling from north to south along Lake Malawi, through the dry plains, and into the green mountains. And, its Christian tradition and the prevalence of English permit a rich interaction with our partners there. I recommend the trip as a chance to grow in knowledge and in commitment to our work around the world.”

Woman's Guild Fall Rummage Sale October 14

Jill C.

The time is fast approaching for another Rummage Sale! Please see what you can find to donate and bring your items to the church the week before the sale. The Sale will be on Saturday, October 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Guild relies on the money made to help us donate to many charities in our community. We gave to 13 charities last year. Keeping in mind our emphasis on helping women and children, the charities included Bethany Hope Centre, Caring and Sharing, Daybreak, Food Bank, Interval House, Ottawa Mission and Innercity Ministries, among others.

The Women's Guild of St. Andrew's is one of the major contributors to the outreach of St. Andrew's Church in the community. We make this impact because of the generous support of you, the congregation. Our tables are always laden with clean, high quality clothing, household supplies and books and our customers return year after year knowing they have a good chance of finding what they need. Thank you!

We also rely on loyal volunteers who help every year, as well as new volunteers who find it is a small amount of time well spent helping others. Ladies work however many hours they can from Thursday to Saturday, sorting, setting up and selling. As always, we need men at the end of the sale on Saturday to help pack up and take the remainders to charity drop offs. I would love not to have to corner people at Coffee Hour to conscript their help. Please call Jill now and volunteer!

Alpha Launch

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. The sessions comprise a communal meal, a video talk and a time for discussion. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. After a gap of over ten years Alpha has returned to St. Andrew's. The course got off to a really great start with thirteen participants and eight volunteers in attendance. Many of the participants are entirely new to St. Andrew's. There was very positive feedback about the



food and hospitality, people enjoyed the film and we had a good discussion afterwards. Alpha at St. Andrew’s is a part of a coordinated National Capital Region campaign. There are over 63 courses in and around Ottawa that have either already started or will be starting in the coming weeks. You may have seen advertising in Ottawa on the buses and very prominently with an enormous billboard at the corner of Trim Road and the 174, and doubtless elsewhere. The presence at our launch of so many participants with no St. Andrew’s connection whatsoever clearly demonstrates that the word has got out about Alpha. Alpha at St. Andrew’s will run on

Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. until the November 23, with a weekend retreat scheduled around the 28th of October. It’s not too late to invite someone to join the course. More information about Alpha is available online at tryalpha.ca or contact Bruce F.

Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

Barbara S.

By the time you read this article, Yvette will be back from her annual visit to Haiti on behalf of the Foundation. Yvette visited Haiti from August 29 to September 19, and was there when she experienced some of the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Thankfully, Haiti was not as severely damaged as some of the other Leeward Caribbean Islands, but it did experience strong winds, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding and losses of homes, trees and livestock, in some areas.

Soon after her arrival, Yvette, Julia and Marco were involved in a baptismal ceremony for five children/teenagers, who are part of Julia's effort to coach them in faithful practices and studies. Rev. Marco conducted the baptismal ceremony.

Over 100 children were provided with required school supplies, which Yvette purchased while in Haiti. Thirty two school supply kits, gifts of the C. family, notebooks from Peter S. and a few other donated items were taken by Yvette to Haiti.

Yvette and Julia also visited a number of families whose children are sponsored by the Foundation to pursue their basic education under its Child Sponsorship Project. Most of these students are achieving passable to good grades, which allow them to progress to higher grades,



except for two students who have failed: one of them is no longer being sponsored. Also, one student graduated from high school. School fees were paid directly to the students' schools, in most cases.

During her visit, Yvette was able to visit some of the students and families that are recipients of the Foundation's Nutrition Supplement Program. Food coupons were distributed to families, which allowed them to happily shop for basic food items (photograph shown).

A visit to Macary to meet with the occupants of two homes which were repaired/rebuilt was made possible with the loan of a vehicle and chauffeur from one of the church members in charge of the Methodist guest house. Both of the homeowners contributed some stones, wood and water, and assisted with the construction (photograph shown).

While it was not possible to visit Maro Verger, Yvette was in touch with a Methodist Church Engineer recommended by Marco, who agreed to oversee the completion of a house started before the sad accident of Etzer. From all reports this house is now completed, except for the painting.

Your interest, encouragement and support of the work of the Foundation is greatly appreciated. Please accept our thanks and prayers for God's continuing blessings.

Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar

The Women's Guild of St. Andrew's will be holding its major fundraiser on November 25, from 1–3:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the 2016 event were shared with Bethany Hope Centre, Caring and Sharing Exchange, Daybreak Housing, Elizabeth Fry Society, Emergency Food Bank, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, Hospice Ottawa, Interval House, Minawaashin Lodge, the Mission, Ottawa InnerCity Ministries, Salvation Army, and the Rape Crisis Centre. Money was also directed to cover the costs of the St. Andrew's nursery caregiver.

How can you assist this year?

- As a volunteer on the day of the Bazaar, or during the week leading up to November 25;
- Donating items: linens, books, art, "Attic Treasures", jewellery, crafts, jams and pickles;
- Providing home-prepared "goodies" for the Bake Table;
- Offering an item for the Silent Auction;
- Attending the tea and bazaar.

Thank you in advance for your assistance, and the difference it can make in the community.

Contact Gail Bowes (bowes125@hotmail.com) if you can help this year.

St. Andrew's Ringers

On May 25th, 11 members of the St. Andrew's Ringers travelled to Hamilton to participate in the Ontario Guild English Handbell Ringers biennial handbell festival. We were joined by a ringer from Vankleek Hill.

For two and a half days, 300 plus ringers participated in multiple workshops and ringing practices in preparation for a final concert on May 27, open to the public. The guest conductor, Michael Glasgow, a vibrant and talented composer, from North Carolina, shared his expertise with all.



Under the director of Lynn B., our choir was well-prepared with all the new music we played.

As the fall begins, we look forward to another year of ringing. In the spring we were fortunate to receive another octave of bells and lower range chimes, the latter given in memory of Andrew B., Lynn's husband, who played with the ringers for several years.

The choir practices on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, beginning September 26. We are always open to new ringers, especially to maximize the playing of the new bells and chimes. It helps if one can read music! Contact Lynn B. for more information.

Summer Reflections and Updates from Christian Education

Huda Kandalaft

Hero Central- Vacation Bible School

"Do good, Seek Peace, and go after it!"

St. Andrew's Children camp was a hit !

This summer, we had the most rewarding and fulfilling week at St. Andrew's Children Camp Hero Central. It was amazing to see 50 children, 16 young leaders, and 14 adult leaders come to church every morning excited to begin a new day of learning about God, to find their source of strength, to learn why they are called God's Heroes, and to spend time of adventures and fun together.

St. Andrew's Hall was turned into a space shuttle and an outer-space monitoring centre where children and leaders became super heroes (and yes—with capes, cuffs and shields too). We had several missions to accomplish. We had five goals to reach: God's heroes have heart, God's heroes have courage, God's heroes have wisdom, God's heroes have hope, and God's Heroes have power. We learned in our Bible centre with Heather, James, Susan, Sana, Karen and Alex about amazing Bible stories such as: Samuel, Abigail, Jesus when he was a 12 year old boy, the Beatitudes, and Pentecost. In our Crafts centre we were hard at work making some lovely crafts with Judy, Barbara and Laurie. These crafts remind us of the story each day. As for our Science centre, we almost believed that we are Einsteins as we studied with Liz , Xavier, Emma, and James what it means to have hearts and minds for God. We tasted the most delicious snacks prepared by Barbara and Love. In the Recreation centre we played outdoor games with our energetic leaders Nolan and Dana. In our Mission centre, with Christine and Sana we reached beyond our goals on some of the missions that we undertook as we collected 176 non-





perishable food items for the Centertown Emergency Food Centre. The CEFC was grateful to receive the food which will help many families in need.

It was indeed an awesome adventure. A big thank you goes to all the youth leaders who acted as shepherds guiding and caring for the kids throughout the week. This year we missed David B., who has been a great support every year. We pray that God will bring him to complete healing that he can join us next year.

Every summer we are blessed with children from the congregation and beyond—those who get to hear God’s word every Sunday at church, and those who hear it once a year or once in their lifetime. We are indeed grateful to God who used us to call the children to come to know God’s Love to them. Our prayer is that the children will remember it for many years to come.

July Wednesday Evening Studies and BBQ

These were held every Wednesday in July at 6 p.m. The studies were around the theme of Reformation 500. We studied the Reformation of Martin Luther, John Calvin, Anabaptist Reformation, and the English Reformation. We asked the questions: why was the reformation important? Is it still relevant and valid today? What reformations are happening today?

It was a good opportunity for study as well as fellowship and community building. There was a special program for the kids where they watched parts of the Children’s Movie: *Martin Luther*. Thanks to all those who led the sessions and helped in the kitchen or barbecued.



Church School Kick-off

We started another church school year, on Rally Sunday September 10. This is the day we go back to two services at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. Everyone enjoyed a delicious fall fair of soups, salads and corn after the 11:00 a.m. service and the children had fun with special entertainment by Rag and Bones Puppet Theatre telling the Canadian story of Felicity Falls! The stuffed animals tell stories about families—warm funny stories about small problems like a lost teddy bear or a leaky roof. These

stories made even the parents and teachers laugh at the all too familiar things that happen when one little rabbit can't sleep, in the imaginary animal village of Felicity Falls, somewhere in the Ottawa Valley. We thank the Memorials Committee who made it possible for young families to enjoy this time of special entertainment as we celebrate Canada 150.

Registration opened that day for Church School and the Junior Choir. Church School classes will run each Sunday at 11 a.m. and a one room church school at 9:15 a.m. (with nursery available for infants during both services).

School Teacher Training



Walk for the Centertown Emergency Food Centre

<http://centretownchurches.org/walk/>

This year, Church School will be supporting the Centertown Emergency Food Centre Walk on Oct. 15. St. Andrew's families are invited to participate in the Walk-a-thon to support the food bank either by walking or by providing financial support. The Centertown Churches Social Action Committee is celebrating 50 years of uniting downtown churches to serve the centertown community. The Food Centre is one of its primary ministries. This is the second year of St. Andrew's Church School support. The proceeds of the Church School offering have gone to support the food bank last year and it will this year too. The walk starts at 2 p.m. so we invite you for lunch together after church that Sunday before the walk begins.

St. Andrew's continues to collect for the food bank on a regular basis and include it in our offering prayers on the fourth Sunday of the month. We invite you to be part of how God is calling us to be a blessing in the community.

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir, under the direction of Tracey Stabback, our professional choir director, will began on Sept. 10 performing the song *In Everything* that they learned at the summer camp this year. We are so pleased that Tracey is with us again this year teaching the children the word of God through making music and singing hymns. The choir will practice every Sunday at 9.45–10:45 a.m. Alongside the regular performances at St. Andrew's, the Junior Choir will have several exciting off-site performances and social times planned for



this coming year.

Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons 12:45-1:30 from November 5 to December 17, & December 24 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Plans for this year's Pageant are underway. Rehearsals will begin soon as we get ready to present a service of staged lessons, carols and reflections. Tracey Stabback will be directing the play this year.



Rehearsals will begin on November 5 and will take place Sundays after church from 12:45-1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with a light lunch served at 12:15 in the Currie Room. Volunteers of all ages are needed, with both speaking and non-speaking roles available. Interested in helping backstage? We need volunteers there too. There is something for the whole family to do as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child once again. For more



information please contact Tracey at stabbackmusic@sympatico.ca. Pictures provided by the B. Family.

Kid's Church

We will meet on the fourth Saturday of every month beginning with the Kick off on September 23 at 4:30 p.m. A time specially crafted for preschoolers and their families: to make a simple craft in St. Andrew's Hall, worship on the carpet in the sanctuary and enjoy a potluck meal together. At the same time, older kids (7+) will be on a new mission—Local and international—at the Kids on Mission Program with their leader Lorna. Lorna and I welcome all families to join us on this year's journey together.

Youth Group

Youth are invited to the youth group every Sunday at 11:20 a.m. in the Currie room with their youth leaders Bruce F. and Aisling B. Together they will study the Bible Project this year!

The Reformation 500 drama for all ages is shaping up. We will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a drama that will review the history of the church and look into its future. It will take place on October 29 during the Sunday worship service.

Congregational Retreat in Gracefield

Mark your calendars for the annual congregational retreat in Gracefield, which will take place in the winter this year on February 10–11, 2018. It is a chance to explore the Canadian wonderland and take part in family-planned outdoor activities and indoor retreat time with friends. If you have not been to Gracefield before, this is the year to come and enjoy a weekend of fun and meeting others. I am sure your children will have a wonderful time too—snow showing, or skating on the frozen pool.

Registration will open in November.

Fall Wednesday Evenings

We will start on October 25 for 6 weeks, with three groups of study around the following topics:

▶ **Reformed and always Reforming?**

Leader: Rev. Karen Dimock, Minister

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Wonder what happened? What does it mean today? Come and join us for some theology, some history and a whole lot of conversation...

That's the plan for this six-week study led by Rev. Karen. We will cover some of the key figures and confessions, the denominations that emerged and how that continues to shape the world today.

▶ **Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?**

Leader: Huda Kandalaft, Director of Christian Development

Prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believer's day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. In this study, we will ask tough questions such as:

- Is God listening?
- Why should God care about me?
- If God knows everything, what's the point of prayer?
- Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent?
- Why does God sometimes seem close and sometimes seem far away?
- How can I make prayer more satisfying?

Join us as we study this timeless topic through Philip Yancey's book *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*

▶ **Home, James! A study of the Epistle of James**

Leader: Scott I. is a Teaching Assistant in Mathematics at Redeemer Christian High School, and a participant in the St. Andrew's monthly Bible study group. Prior to coming to St. Andrew's (about 6 years ago), he led a variety of Bible studies for high school aged youth at Rideau Park United Church.

Martin Luther was probably the most famous detractor of the letter of James, calling it "an epistle of straw." For some reason, that phrase brought to mind the house of straw in the children's story, *The Three Little Pigs*. But is the letter of James really like that—insubstantial and unimportant? Or is it more like the house of brick—solid and enduring? Explore this letter and decide for yourself.

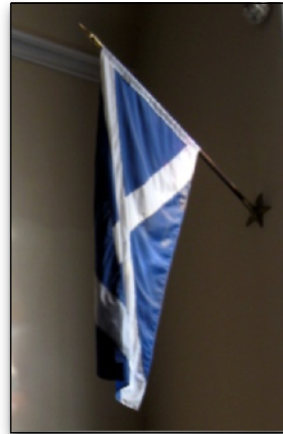
St. Andrew's Sanctuary Search and Find

Do you have good eyes? Can you find these objects in the Sanctuary? See how many you can find!

A red maple leaf



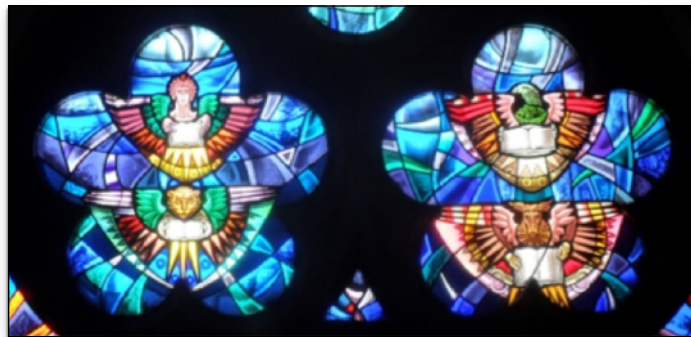
Two Scottish flags



An angel with red wings



The four evangelists



A pomegranate



An acorn

