



St. Andrew's

November 2015 Newsletter

Minister's Message

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane snow is glistening. A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a winter wonderland.

Winter is upon us. Though the snow is not falling blanketing the ground in its fresh white coat, the temperatures have dropped bringing hats and woolen mittens out of storage. Our walks are a little brisker as we feel the wind swirl about us.

As the church we have entered into a new year. The beginning of Advent marks the start of the church year. It is a season of anticipation as we look forward to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. However, it is also a busy time filled with gatherings of friends and family. The stores get a little busier as we ensure that our Christmas shopping gets completed.

Advent and the prelude to Christmas is a busy time. It is also the best time to slow down and pause. To take a step outside of the hustle and bustle and reflect. As we watch snowflakes drift down and busy shoppers checking items off their lists it is appropriate to pause and take a breath. So often we get caught up in the moment that we fail to take the time to enjoy the moment.

It is my prayer that this Christmas each of you take several moments to stop and enjoy the beauty of Christmas. To celebrate the hope, peace, joy and love of the season. To share the expectant hope that we have in Jesus Christ with those you encounter. To allow your presence to be the peace that so many need in their lives. To let your joy overflow in abundance to all you meet. That your love be a reflection of the love that God has shown us.

Rev. Ellis

Supporting St. Andrew's

At St. Andrew's we are blessed with a congregation which truly cares for the work that God has called us to. As we come to the end of 2015 we find that as a congregation we are in a healthy financial position. This year we did major renovations to our aging boilers and this was funded by a financial campaign which raised over \$10,000.

As we move towards 2016 and we look to the future beyond we know that there will be many exciting projects that we are called to be a part of. Currently we are engaged in supporting the relocation of refugee's through the *Better Together Refugee Sponsorship*. This exciting ministry has us working with many of the churches in the Cobourg area. It is an ecumenical project which is allowing us to live out the gospel.

If we look a little closer to home we know that our church facility is aging and will require constant love and attention in order for it to function as an open and inviting space to worship God. St. Andrew's is used by many organizations in the community which are vital to the health of Cobourg. Each week we serve upwards of thirty vulnerable individuals in our community a meal as part of our mission and outreach.

These activities are supported by many individuals who volunteer time and who pray for the ministries in which we are engaged. The financial contributions which are made by each member of St. Andrew's are vital in supporting God's ministry. There are a variety of ways which St. Andrew's can be supported financially. These include:

- Weekly envelope givings
- Pre-Authorized Donations (PAR Program)
- Capital Gifts
- Stock
- Gift Annuities
- Insurance Policies

If you would like to explore different ways that the work of St. Andrew's can be supported, please contact an elder or speak with Rev. Ellis.

CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT

BEST PRACTICES FOR MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN

Here is a short summary of the October Workshop led by Tori Smit, Regional Minister for Faith Preparation from the notes of Ruth Kerr. Other participants from St. Andrew's were: Joy Randall, Mary Jones, Carol Higgs and Braden Saunders.

1. Meaningful Participation in Intergenerational Worship – older children as readers in Worship; greeters with adults; participants in taking offering; joining congregation in sanctuary for Communion; - prayers to be specific, simple song or hymn to be repeated over several weeks during Advent
2. New Models for Church School – if very small number or none, then grandparents or parents can include prayers and talk at mealtime in their homes, readings, texting – an openness about faith; helping children learn the Lord’s Prayer so they can join in during Worship
3. Resources for Parents – church took over the role of school and parents, but parents are the most influential on spiritual development of children; organize a night for parents on how to do faith development at home; pray and eat together at table; give families gifts at Christmas, such as a book, instead of “candy canes” etc.
4. Stories of Our Faith – share with each other about how we grew in our faith; ask for prayers
5. Service Projects and Acts of Justice – involve children in giving or participating
6. Opportunities for Intergenerational Experiences – luncheons, music, suppers, concerts – the whole church together

Ruth Kerr

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Inspired by God’s promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

PWS&D is able to respond to almost any emergency situation around the world through ecumenical alliances and partnerships.

Many disasters and emergencies never make the world media headlines, but the needs are no less real and the impacts on families are equally devastating. PWS&D believes in reaching out to the most vulnerable with support that addresses both immediate needs such as food, medical attention and shelter, as well as long-term needs including livelihood recovery and psychosocial assistance to help overcome trauma.

PWS&D is seeking volunteers to provide assistance with refugee sponsorship applications for congregations interested in supporting refugees.

Volunteers must have:

- Basic administrative skills
- Keen attention to detail
- Preferably some knowledge with regards to the Canadian government's requirements for refugee sponsorship
- Access to a computer that can support PDF documents

Volunteers must also agree to respect the confidentiality of the information they are dealing with.

Time commitment: 5 to fifteen (or more) hours per week

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Rob Shropshire, PWS&D's refugee sponsorship co-ordinator, at [rshropshire @ presbyterian.ca](mailto:rshropshire@presbyterian.ca) or at 1-800-619-7301 ext. 249.

[Respond with us to the Syria Crisis – Donations matched until December 31](#)

On September 12, 2015, the Government of Canada announced the establishment of the Syria Emergency Relief Fund. For all eligible donations made until December 31, the Government of Canada will contribute a matching amount towards Canada's "Syria Emergency Relief Fund."

Other News:

- Nepal Earthquake Update
- PWS&D and Canadian Gov't Improve Maternal Health Program
- From Hope to Harvest - World Food Day October 16th
- Program Coordinator Vacancy
- Farmers Helping Farmers Overcome Hunger in Malawi

Thank-you for your prayers and generosity.

For additional information please contact the undersigned.

Bryan Baxter PWS&D Representative

Gifts of Change

The Presbyterian Church in Canada program Gifts of Change catalogue is available for those interested in purchasing these gifts as a Christmas present. These gifts include providing families with farming tools, livestock, medications, school uniforms, hygiene items, as well as constructing seed banks and deep water wells and many many more support items. There is something for every budget. These gifts change lives both here in Canada and around the world.

Give a gift that matters!

Pastoral Care Branch Joy Randall

We continue to meet and share and plan our activities and visits.

We also had some events in the last couple of months.

In September we were pleased to have Kristina Nairn- speak to our group as well as with Trinity and St. Peter's volunteers at their soup kitchen. This was on the relation of poverty on health, etc. Follow up: we may have another time to discuss housing concerns in our area....

In October- the Young at Heart Group had their third Alzheimer's Coffee Time with speaker Sarah Cook from Peterborough. We donated \$225.00 to help the care givers group in our area. Follow up- we hope to have the video "Still Alive" for our church members to see in January and learn how it is being carried out in Cobourg. Will let you know in early January.

Worship- Rev. Neil Ellis and Joy Randall usually go to the Golden Plough, Cobourg Retirement Residence every three months. In October we went to the Legion Village. Communion was greatly appreciated by our members there. Joan Kemp & Marg Johns, elders there were also present.

Devotional Books- with regular print and large print are available and we share them with visitors as well. We are hoping to have family devotional books in the new year. Get in touch with your elder if you need one delivered.

Library: There are many helpful books of many kinds. Please take a look. We appreciate the work the Coulls do there and maybe Jean will share some news about the various books with us.

Books for children- a new one "Still my grandma" is very interesting and helpful and you may borrow it anytime.

We will try to inform you of other books in the future.

Christmas plants will be delivered on Sunday December 6th by WA and Pastoral Care Visitors to those who are not able to be with us very often.

If anyone would like a visit from the minister, Rev Neil Ellis or a Pastoral Care visitor please contact the church or Joy Randall.

Marce L. Wood WMS Auxiliary

Our members continue to meet monthly and have changed our meeting day to meet the needs of some members. We plan to meet on the 4th Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Allen Room. We began the study on “Women” which will include women in Canada, the world, which includes justice issues, refugees, sex trafficking, etc.

WMS has two special projects – for these two years - “Together We Can”.

One is the **ARISE** programme under the East Toronto Presbytery that intentionally supports one of the cities most marginalized and victimized populations. ARIS ministry provides outreach, case management and pastoral care for women involved in or seeking to exit the sex trade. For those working the streets, we provide an outreach ministry and the start of a relationship. It advocates for the rights, goals and dreams of those who have become victims of the sex – trafficking. We will share more of this need with you in the future.

The other project is the **Maya-Mama Women of Guatemala**. In the western highlands of Guatemala, PWS&D is working to improve the livelihoods of indigenous Maya Mama women and their families. Programs are strengthening food security and nutrition by helping households improve agricultural practices, crop diversity and livestock production. Indigenous land rights, women’s empowerment and cultural identity are important themes that are being addressed through the program.

In October some of our members attended the Presbyterial Workshop with Tori Smit in Peterborough “Will our faith have children”. We learned various ways to improve our worship and children’s activities with our children and grandchildren today. Neil and the group will be working on some of these great ideas in our worship and church. We know you will enjoy them too.

We continue to send cards and make phone calls to associate members and friends of St. Andrew’s and have a prayer chain for the Presbyterial and our own members. This is part of our WMS purpose to encourage one another, to be involved in mission locally and in the world and be involved in prayer, study, service and fellowship.

Joy Randall

Women's Association

Greetings of the Season to all of you from the Women's Association.

We had a very successful Christmas Tea and Bazaar on November 21st. Thanks to everyone who helped or gave donations to it. The approximate profit was \$2,750.00 and more coming in. A cheque will be given to our church in December.

Again the group was happy to buy 25 + poinsettias from the Youth Group to give to the ones of our church who are not able to be with us very often. We remember them especially at Christmas with a plant. Our church school children make the cards to go with them. The WA and Pastoral Care visitors will deliver them on December 6th.

They are always appreciated by those in Nursing Homes or at home.

We have a request from the "Monthly Eat Up Senior Group in Cobourg" to book their June lunch out at our church in June 2016 at St. Andrew's.

We were sorry to lose dear members of the WA recently, Ruth Bolderstone, and Nancy Aird who were active members and supporters.

We appreciate others who continue to give us with stamps which we sell to the stamp club once a year. Along with that we also accept loose coins which all goes towards supporting our church.

Please remember to send a card or make a phone call to our friends when you remember them.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Years.

Prepared by Marg Johns

President W.A.

Young at Heart Group

We continue to meet each Friday morning at 10-12 and everyone enjoys the time of sharing and fellowship together. We have had some special lectures and the Alzheimer's Coffee Party mentioned in the report. We have learned a lot each time and there was a quiz this time to see how much we did know about the subject.

Our Christmas Pot Luck Lunch will be on December 11th, 2015 at 11 a.m. in Campbell Hall. Everyone is invited and we hope you will come and enjoy this special season with us.

If you need a ride just let us know!

Then we will start again on January 8th, 2016.

Concert

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was pleased to present Matt Williams & Alyssa Morrissey in concert. They shared their musical talent with us on Saturday November 14th. This performance supported the Better Together Refugee Sponsorship. Approximately 125 people attended and \$2000 was raised.

Thanks to Matt and Alyssa for a very enjoyable evening.

Ten Thousand Villages

Shopping at Ten Thousand Villages on Saturday December 5th will support two great causes! 10% of purchases made on Dec 5th will be donated to the Better Together Refugee Sponsorship. Additionally, by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages you will be supporting artisans in developing countries.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6:	Advent II: Peace
December 8:	W.A. Pot Luck
December 10:	W.M.S. Pot Luck
December 11:	Young at Heart Christmas Pot Luck 11 am
December 12:	SONG Concert 3 pm
December 13:	Advent III: Joy and St. Mary's singers
December 20:	Advent IV: Love and Cantata - "Were you There That First Night"
December 24:	Christmas Eve services - Children's/Family service 4:30pm & Traditional service at 7 pm