



# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Winter 2014-15 Newsletter

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Joy, Hope, Peace and Love are the words of the season.

These four words sum up the promise and expectation of the Christmas season. As we move into Advent our focus as a community of faith will shift and we will look forward to the wonder that is Christmas Eve. Just as we look to Christmas with expectation so do others outside our bounds. The church does not exist apart from the world, we belong in it. Indeed we are a vital and vibrant part of the social make-up in our community.

During this time of promise I pray that we can live with joy. As we look towards Christmas we do so with joy in our hearts. A joy that is renewed and rekindled when we visit with family and see old friends. Joy that is infectious and stems from a true desire to spend time with loved ones.

May we continue to live as people of hope. A hope that is founded in our love and understanding of Jesus Christ. The hope that Christ's birth represents for humanity, the hope that is found in the promise of new life. May we always live as people of hope and may that hope be seen in us by all we meet.

I pray that we allow ourselves to be people of peace. In a world which has known much conflict it is easy to bandy the word peace about. I pray earnestly that we devote ourselves to the practice of peace. In how we manage our relationships, in how we conduct ourselves, in how we deal with situations which frustrate and seek to overwhelm us. Let the peace of Christ rule the day.

Finally, let us love. Let us love deeply and richly. Let us love fully and completely. Without reservation and without fear. Let the love we have received in Jesus Christ be apparent in our every action. Let us live lives of love. We remember the words of Peter, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8.

During this season of promise and expectation remember to reflect on the joy, hope, peace and love that we have all received in Jesus Christ.

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Neil Ellis

# Parish Register

## **Baptism**

**November 2, 2014**

*Vienna Louise Marie Frybort,  
daughter of Taryn and Adam*

*Welcome into Christ's Church.*

## **Session News**

The Session is very pleased to have Rev. Neil Ellis as our Minister and Moderator of Session. We have met twice under his leadership where he has led us in Bible Study and Visioning - first by our members of Session with special emphasis on our needs as elders and also as the church. In the new year the congregation, as a whole, will be more involved as we travel down this path together.

The Church and the Session want to express our sincere gratitude for the faithful and hard work of our Search Team members, their diligence and swiftness, and reassurance that the Spirit was leading them to decide that Neil was the best candidate to be our minister. We want to thank their families who supported them during these long times of meetings and being away from home.

**Term Eldership** began last November and we have new elders and new ways of carrying out our responsibilities. Your elder hopes to develop a pastoral relationship with you. You are encouraged to share your needs or concerns with your elder. If you have a particular need and would like the minister to visit your family please tell the elder or Rev. Ellis directly. If someone in your family is ill or in the hospital and would like a visit, kindly let us know. Our fellowship wants to be aware of your needs and if you would like us to pray for you.

The **Branches of Ministry** were organized last year but we are only now getting some of them "off the ground". Members of the congregation, who are interested in participating are encouraged to ask how they can get involved. God has given us different gifts and we pray that you will feel called to use them. If so please talk to Rev. Ellis, Joy Randall or your elder.

## **Branches of Ministry:**

1. Worship
2. Nurture
3. Mission and Outreach
4. Finance and Operations
5. Pastoral Care

Joy Randall, Clerk of Session.

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## **Branch of Ministry - Nurture**

### **Leading With Care**

A document from our National Church mandates that all our committees, activities and facilities comply with this policies.

Our Finances and Operations branch has done a commendable job in ensuring that our building follows health and safety guidelines. We see this, for instance, in our kitchen, stairways and outside walkways.

Police Checks or Volunteer Screening Checks are required for the Pastoral Care Team, Soup Kitchen Workers and leaders for the Church School, Nursery and Youth, plus any other adults that work with a vulnerable sector of the population.

Other details, such as a fire drill, awareness of allergies, available first aid kits, clear glass windows in certain doors, to name a few, would be handled through the "Leading With Care" policy.

Regular reporting to the Session twice a year and annually to Presbytery is mandatory. Our present committee would welcome an additional representative from the Congregation. The reference manual and checklist we use are easy to follow. Perhaps this is the type of contribution to our Church family that would appeal to you.

Thanks for considering this.

Ruth Kerr and Joy Randall

### **St. Andrew's Church School**

It has been a delight to see more young families and their children participate in our program this year. The Nursery and Church School are busy places on a Sunday morning.

We are grateful for the support of our competent youth who assist and take initiative on a regular basis. Their contributions are invaluable and their skills as future leaders are evident. Together we are

learning and building relationships of care and trust, all with the goal of living in God's Way.

Now we are approaching Advent with some ideas for giving and receiving gifts. Your insights and observations are always welcome. The responsibility or privilege of passing on our faith belongs to everyone in the Church community.

Ruth Kerr

### Youth Group

**Poinsettias** will be on sale over the next few weeks. All orders need to be in by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth Group will also be selling hot chocolate on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> during the Cobourg Santa Claus Parade. Profits from this event will be split evenly between the Youth Group and PWS&D.

The **Mirror Ball Trophy** is up for grabs again this coming year. Let's see who can "out do" Nancy Williams.

We will have a **CHILI LUNCHEON** in the near. Stay tuned for more information. Get out your best chili recipes and let the competition begin!

John McDougall  
Youth Leader

### 2015 Presbyterian Church Calendar

The Presbyterian Church Calendar is now available.



Calendars will be available for purchase, from our Church School Youth, during Coffee and Conversation beginning November 16<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$3.00 each.

### **Branch of Ministry – Mission and Outreach**

#### NeighbourLink

We are most pleased to have Mrs. Janette Johnston as St. Andrew's representative to Neighbor Link this year. We are also thankful for the dedicated volunteers we have that serve our community through the Soup Kitchen each Thursday. Neighbor Link still has a great need for toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items for them to share with others in need. Please leave them in the basket in the Narthex,

#### Fare Share

St. Andrew's proudly partners with Fare Share to help keep the shelves stocked with food. Please keep this important ministry in mind when you are doing your own grocery shopping.

#### Presbyterians Sharing

As you know our goal for 2014 was \$16,000 and we are getting close to the end of the year.

As of October \$10,500 has been raised towards this goal. We still have a little way to go! If we all work together we can achieve this!

Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund that supports the mission and ministries we do together in Canada and around the world. Presbyterians are sharing in a wide range of ministries from encouraging and equipping congregational renewal and development, to supporting inner city, native, refuge, urban, remote and chaplaincy ministries in Canada and sending mission personnel to work with international partners. "Together we make mission & ministry happen!" The 2015 theme is **Disciples of Christ, empowered by the Spirit, glorifying God rejoicing in service!**

*By the power at work within us God can accomplish abundantly more than all we can ask for or imagine.*

Ephesians 3:20

#### Presbyterian World Service & Development

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.

#### We Respond Together

The following letter was sent to St. Andrew's by PWS&D Director, Kenneth Kim, in September.

*"Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. By making a thoughtful gift to PWS&D totaling \$3,614.00 between May and August, 2014, your congregation is helping make this vision a reality. Thank-you for your generosity.*

*Your gifts will be put to work immediately, supporting innovative development programs in agriculture, health, livelihoods and human rights. Your gifts are*

also providing life-saving relief in times of conflict and disaster.

*Thanks to your amazing support, smallholder farmers around the world are improving their nutrition, adapting to changing weather patterns, and renewing their commitment to environmental preservation for future generations. Farmers who depend entirely on small parcels of land are now growing enough to feed themselves, their families and entire communities.*

*In Nicaragua, Francisca Lopez is filled with thanksgiving for all she has received. With seeds, tools and agriculture training, she has been able to transform her once barren plot of land into a lush expanse of exotic fruits - banana, mango, passion fruit, lemon, oranges and cocoa. As plentiful vegetation sprouts from the dry soil, God's promise of abundant life is realized.*

*"We are able to sustain ourselves now," says Francisca. Because of this, we are very thankful for your support and for thinking of us as brothers and sisters.*

*As we respond to the world's pain and despair, we bear witness to the love of God among us, knowing that this work would not be possible without your prayers and support. Faithful to our calling, we respond together. With sincere appreciation*

Indeed, St. Andrew's can be proud of its response to this appeal. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### **Current Appeals:**

##### **1) Haiyan Survivors Moving Forward**

Reconstruction efforts across the affected areas have been hampered by both a lack of materials, as well as difficulties in obtaining available land in safe locations. The situation has made reconstruction challenging and has left millions living in temporary shelters. ACT Alliance members worked to secure safe relocation sites for many Haiyan survivors and are now constructing houses on them. With the support of Presbyterians, PWS&D has helped construct over 600 shelters—benefiting over 3,000 people—since the typhoon struck. Communities deeply impacted by the natural disaster are seeing great progress being made, even as much remains to be done. PWS&D will continue supporting long-term rehabilitation and livelihood recovery efforts through the generosity of our supporters.

##### **2) In South Sudan, a Mother's Plea Goes Ignored**

The African proverb 'when elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers,' is one that Victoria Loki, a mother of five in South Sudan understands only too well.

Thousands of South Sudanese are caught in the crossfire of a struggle between two powerful political leaders, President Salva Kiir, and his former Vice-President, Riek Machar. Roughly 10,000 have been killed and 1.3 million have fled their homes. "I don't know why they are fighting," says Victoria. "I don't understand politics. I only know that it is destroying our lives." The violence that led to the death of Victoria's son is nothing new in South Sudan, where political power is closely associated with armed militias. Peace is a process that will take time. But for 7.8 million people

facing hunger in South Sudan, help can't come soon enough. As Victoria says, "We're just mothers who are bearing and caring for our children."

Presbyterian World Service & Development is working with members of **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** to provide food to people until it is safe for them to go home.

#### **Be a Peacemaker**

Everyone deserves to be safe. Everyone deserves to be protected. Join us in responding to the terrifying human suffering caused by violent conflict. Help us raise \$100,000 for in response to violent conflict. Your gifts will help women and children facing hunger, displacement and unthinkable trauma. You can make a donation through your church offering, by mailing a cheque to the PWS&D office, calling us at 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291. Please mark your donation "Be a Peacemaker" or "South Sudan."

Thank-you for your prayers and generosity.

For additional information please contact the undersigned.

Bryan Baxter, PWS&D Representative

#### **Branch of Ministry – Finance and Operations**

##### **Stewardship**

PAR stands for "pre-authorized remittance" and it offers you an opportunity to support St. Andrew's activities financially by simply authorizing your bank to make an automatic monthly or weekly contribution to St. Andrew's. If you would like to participate there are pamphlets in the church pews and you can contact Cecilia Morris (905) 372-2007 regarding the form that needs to be completed. You are able to start anytime in the year. You can also designate how much of your offering is for St. Andrew's and the amounts for Presbyterian Sharing and PWS&D. You can change these amounts at any time, again by notifying Cecilia Morris, either to increase or decrease your commitment as your particular financial situation might allow or require. There are small offering cards in baskets in the narthex if you want to take one of those to put on the offering plate each Sunday so you feel you are still participating in making a response to God's call. Your stewardship and prayers are greatly appreciated. Members who participate in PAR help us meet our ongoing needs whether they are able to come to church each Sunday or not. The church is there for you in your need so please help keep our church going not only as a physical presence but as the spiritual center that surrounds us and supports us always!

## FundScrip

Our church began this fund raising project over three years ago and we are continuing to learn about it. This program allows you to purchase "gift cards" for use at a wide variety of stores. You purchase the card at St. Andrew's after church each Sunday at Coffee & Conversation in Campbell Hall. Bob Cleland has taken on this project for us and usually has many cards particularly for the food stores and gas places. He has many other gift cards on hand for you to purchase. If you would like a Gift Card for a particular store speak to Bob to see if it is available.

Each of the merchants where you use your gift cards contributes a percentage of your purchase (which varies from store to store), but is often as much as 3-7%. You can buy cards to use at the stores you would normally shop at and St. Andrew's benefits considerably from your participation. You can either give him cash, or pay by cheque (make it out to St. Andrew's Fundraiser).

- With **Christmas** not too far away, this would be a great time to purchase a variety of gift cards, either for your own use or to use as gifts to those nearest and dearest to you. Be sure to order them early so you will have them in time.
- If you are considering a large purchase (maybe a new computer) or (a larger building project) at a particular store it would be helpful if you give Bob an order earlier. He will order that specific card for a specific amount for you.
- For those who are not able to come to church we are enclosing a Fund Scrip order form. You could send this order with your cheque to the church office and give it to our secretary who will forward it to the person in charge of "Fund Scrip".

Bob Cleland

**GOOD NEWS!** We started this fundraiser in October of 2010 and so far St. Andrew's has earned over **\$9,000**. We appreciate all the faithfulness and hard work Bob has given to this project and encourage everyone to do "our part" and to continue to participate in this form of fundraising.



### Coffee and Fellowship

On Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 am a group of gentlemen from St. Andrew's will be meeting at the Dutch Oven for some coffee and a time of fellowship. We hope to see you there.

## Branch of Ministry – Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Visitors visit those in Nursing Homes and Retirement Homes, and others unable to attend church for various reasons but are still part our church. We would appreciate hearing from you if you would like a pastoral care visit. We would like to know your needs or suggestions of what you would appreciate us doing for you.

The Pastoral Care Team helps with the *Young at Heart Coffee Time* each Friday morning from 10:00–11:30 am in Campbell Hall. There are usually 16-18 friends for this time of fellowship and to support and care for each other. If you need a ride please contact Joy Randall. We held the Coffee Break supporting the Alzheimer's Society again this year and raised \$300. You are invited to our **Christmas Potluck Lunch** on Friday December 12th. Everyone is welcome!

### **Fellowship Time at Coffee and Conversation**

This is an important part of our church fellowship and time of sharing and caring for one another and part of pastoral care. We hope that as it meets your needs and that you will also reach out to others in need and especially to new members or to those who seem to be alone. Maybe each week we could try to have a conversation with a person we do not know quite as well and bring them in closer to our fellowship. We appreciate those who volunteer to prepare and serve us each Sunday. We appreciate the fair trade coffee that someone has generously supplied us with this past year and your donations to help the other costs. We are planning a few Sabbath Luncheons in the coming year.

Our greatest challenge is to have enough volunteers to help with the setup and serving each Sunday and would appreciate more who are willing and able to accept this as part of their "joy in serving" others.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The warmth of this shawl/blanket demonstrates our love and concern for those with a special need at this time. We appreciate those who are able to make these for us.



*The second annual Fair Trade shopping event for St. Andrew's will be held Saturday, December 6, 2014 at Ten Thousand Villages. Drop by the store any time from 10am - 5pm and 10% of your purchase will be donated back to the church.*

*Shopping Fair Trade means helping to make a positive difference in the lives of artisans in developing countries by providing them with a fair and dignified wage for the work that they do. A fair wage means healthy families and healthy communities.*

### **Marce L. Wood Women's Missionary Society**

Our group continues to meet the fourth Monday of every month from September – June. We are small but a faithful group that commits to learning more about the mission of our church both near and far away. Cecilia Morris is our president and new members are welcome to join us for this time of prayer, study service and fellowship. We meet at 1:30pm in the Allen Room. If you need a ride call Joy Randall

Our study this year is on Justice, Refugees, and Loma People of Romania.

We usually invite our Associate members for our Christmas & June Pot Luck Luncheons and you are welcome to join us any time.

Glad Tidings is the magazine of the WMS, published six times a year. It contains relevant articles, worship services, news of international partners, and celebrates events in the life of the WMS. If you would like to receive this magazine the subscriptions are made in November of each year. Please contact Marian Currelly to order the Glad Tidings or for more information.

Our Peterborough Presbyterial meets 3-4 times a year with various speakers and programs. CNOB Synodical will meet next April 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at St. Andrew's, Scarborough. Look at our bulletin board for further information from time to time. Joy Randall is our Synodical President and on WMS Council for Canada.

### **Women's Association**

Greetings from the Women's Association! Hope you had an enjoyable summer.

Our big event, the Christmas Tea and Bazaar was held November 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank everyone for their assistance in making the Tea and Bazaar a successful event in the life of the church. Thanks to Clara Manning for her Boutique Room of jewelry, scarves, etc. She will be donating her profits to the WA.

This year to date the W.A. has donated \$5000.00 to the Church General Fund and more to be given after the tea.

Thanks for your donations of used stamps, coins and Campbell soup labels. The Cobourg Stamp Club purchased our stamps in September and gave us \$40.00. Great! Keep collecting! The containers are in the Narthex.

The W.A. will be purchasing Poinsettias from the Youth Group to deliver to our members and friends that are in Nursing Homes or at home. Please remember these people all year long with a cheery card, note or phone call. It brightens their day! It tells them we care!

Our W.A. Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Allen Room. Anyone is welcome. If you need a ride call and someone will pick you up.

The W.A. welcomes Rev. Neil Ellis, Kate and boys to St. Andrew's. Kate attended our meeting and is becoming involved in our activities.

For more information about the W A. please contact Marg Johns 905 372 9287.

After serving our congregation faithfully for 25 years John Manning has advised us he wishes to retire at the end of November. The Congregation of St. Andrew's is grateful for his many years of diligent service and will miss him. In 2preparation for the transition the congregation is asked to advise Joy, Bryan or John Vickers of anyone they would recommend for this position.

**St. Andrew's Trustees**

The Trustees continue to invest the assets of the trust fund in a safe a prudent manner. The interest earned is transferred to the managers on a semi-annual basis to assist with the operation of our church.

We ask that you consider St. Andrew's Trust Fund with a memorial donation or a donation through your estate. By doing this you are ensuring the financial longevity of your church. Peter 4:10 *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

The sample cheque below shows how to make your cheque out.

Please feel free to speak to any one of the Trustees if you require any further information.

Joan Kemp, Chairperson

_____	Cheque No. _____
_____	Date: _____
Pay to <u>St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church</u>	\$ <input type="text"/>
_____	
Memo <u>"Trust Fund"</u>	
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# Upcoming Events

## November

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Christ the King Sunday, The Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 30<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Hope

## December

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



December 7<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Peace

White Gift Sunday - as we celebrate let us remember to make a special offering of food to help meet the special needs of Christmas baskets for our friends in the community. Church School families are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item that children like to eat.

December 14<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Joy

Cantata – *Sing with the Angels!*

White Gift Sunday - as we celebrate let us remember to make a special offering of food to help meet the special needs of Christmas baskets for our friends in the community.

December 19<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Caroling (information below)

December 21<sup>st</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Love

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 & 7:30 pm

*The offering on Christmas Eve goes to our Session Fund.*

*This fund is used to help those less fortunate, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.*

*As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, this Christmas, may we remember to share the Love of God with those we meet.*

### Bits and Pieces.....

- Soup Kitchen - Every Thursday
- Young at Heart - Every Friday 10:00 am - Noon
- Bible Study - Monday at 7:00 pm, Wednesday at 10:00 am (finished the week of November 17<sup>th</sup>)
- Visit the congregation's website at [standrewscobourg.org](http://standrewscobourg.org). Be sure to sign up to receive updates about the life, work and mission of the church.
- Join us on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Caroling. We will meet at St. Mary's Secondary School at 6:30 pm and carol through the neighbourhood. Afterwards everyone is invited to the McDougalls for refreshments. Be sure to dress warmly!