



St. Andrew's

December 2017 Newsletter

Minister's Message

Advent is here and with it a season of anticipation! In scripture the prophets spoke of the Messiah, the one who would come and restore God's kingdom. While Jesus may not have done this in the way people anticipated, it demonstrates that sometimes we need to look beyond our own limited horizons to try to see the bigger picture.

A passage that speaks to me at this time of year is from the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
On them light has shined. – Isaiah 9: 2-7

These words were written for the Israelite community living in exile. They spoke to a future promise, a promise which is realized in the birth of Jesus. These words are a reminder that God seeks goodness for us and encourages us towards the light.

We in the church are sometimes out of step with the predominant culture. To the rest of the world it is Christmas, a season of music and light. For us we are in Advent, a season where we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus and Christmas. As Christians we move through the darkness towards the light of Christmas, the season is understood as a journey. Of course, this does not mean that we don't enjoy the music or the lights, but rather we understand them differently.

I pray that as you journey through this Advent season that the promise of light and hope which is found in the birth of Jesus would be known to you and your family.

~ Rev. Ellis

Mission Branch Report

The Mission Branch has met several times over the course of the year. Much of our discussions have centered around what direction the congregation should go in over the 2018 year. Currently, our plan is to strengthen the work that is being done on homelessness and housing initiatives in Cobourg and Northumberland County.

In 2016 members of the congregation participated in the 20K Homes campaign and St. Andrew's was an interview site. The provincial government has determined that enumeration campaigns to gauge the level of homelessness in a community need to occur every two years. In the spring of 2018 another count will occur. Rev. Ellis sits on the Advisory Team for this process.

The Mission Branch plans to hold a conference in the Spring of 2018 focused on housing and homelessness. The conference will feature key-note speakers and several workshops that participants can attend. The focus of the event is educational, to raise awareness within the community about the issues before us. Look for more information as we move into 2018.

The Mission Branch is also the stewards of the money that the congregation receives from the Hope & Opportunities Fund. 50% of this money is designated for mission purposes. Money has been donated to the following places:

- Transition House \$1500
- Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre \$500
- Habitat for Humanity \$1600

The Mission Branch has also decided to take out a radio ad during the Christmas season as a form of outreach into the community.

On December 3, the Mission Branch invited the local chapter of Amnesty International to inform the congregation about the 'Write for Rights' campaign. Members are encouraged to sign petitions for a variety of human rights causes. This is the second year that St. Andrew's has participated in the Write for Rights campaign.

If you would like more information about the Mission Branch or if you are interested in getting involved please speak with Rev. Ellis

A Word from Scripture

Welcome to Advent, the beginning of the church year and a season of preparation. We anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with Us, the Prince of Peace. As you journey through Advent towards Christmas I would invite you to carry the words of Mark's gospel in your heart, where we read:

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

Who will prepare your way;

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

Make his paths straight.’” – Mark 1:1-3

Prepare for the way of the Lord, Advent is God's season and provides an opportunity for reflection as we prepare to welcome the Christ child.

St. Andrew's Summary Report
1 January through 9 November 2017

1 Jan - 9 Nov 17

Income

400 · Collections and Offerings	
401 · Envelopes	60,533.66
402 · P.A.R. Offerings	59,005.50
404 · Other Donations	10,011.19

Total 400 · Collections and Offerings 129,550.35

420 · Other Receipts

421 · Hope & Opportunity receipts	35,976.73
422 · St. Andrew's Trust receipts	6,350.97
424 · Miscellaneous fund raising	10,472.74
425 · Rental income	5,503.70
426 · Rebate of Sales taxes	3,426.16
427 · Fundscrip	2,072.05
433 · Boiler replacement fund raising	24,480.00

Total 420 · Other Receipts 88,282.35

Total Income 217,832.70

Expense

1001 · Office general expense	2,487.95
1002 · Telephone and Internet	1,128.90
1003 · Printing and photocopier	1,417.34

Total 1000 · Office Expenses 5,034.19

1100 · Other Expenses

1101 · Presbytery Assessment	2,925.00
1102 · Fund-raising expenses	5,461.86
1103 · Transfers to St. Andrew's Trust	320.00
1106 · Manse Trust Fund loan repayment	2,000.00

Total 1100 · Other Expenses 10,706.86

500 · Mission and Outreach

501 · Presbyterian Sharing	13,995.00
502 · P.W.S.&D.	11,186.74
503 · Donation to Other organizations	3,648.89

Total 500 · Mission and Outreach 28,830.63

600 · Employee Expenses 108,903.65

700 · Branches of Ministry

701 · Worship committee	180.67
702 · Pulpit Supply	1,400.00
703 · Nurture	728.17
704 · Pastoral Care	612.97

Total 700 · Branches of Ministrv 2,921.81

800 · Finance & Operations

801 · Heating Union Gas	6,717.94
802 · Electricity & Hot Water rental	3,803.65
803 · Insurance	4,679.60
804 · Maintenance Repairs & Supplies	11,934.19
805 · Bank service fees and interest	235.87
807 · Boiler replacement cost	44,654.85

Total 800 · Finance & Operations 72,026.10

900 · Music Ministry

901 · General music operating cost	6,099.54
902 · Tuning and maintenance	210.00
903 · Organist Supply	1,770.00

Total 900 · Music Ministry 8,079.54

1 Jan - 9 Nov 17

Total Expense 236,502.78

Net Income -18,670.08

Prepared by Rob Lenters

Annual Report Planning

Planning is already underway for the 2017 Annual Meeting to be held on February 25, 2018 after worship. Part of that planning is the compilation of the Annual Report. This year we would like to ensure that all submissions are made on time in order to reduce the amount of errors in the report.

With this in mind, packages will be emailed to group convenors to begin the process of completing the report. We are asking that the financial and written reports be submitted to Mary in the office by Friday January 26, 2018.

This will allow the report to be compiled in a timely manner and allow the examiner sufficient time to review the financial statements. With the exception of the Trust Fund and the Hope & Opportunities Fund, please do not submit any receipts or bank statements. If the examiner requires additional information he will ask.

Christmas Eve Services

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. During the morning service we will mark the occasion of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This service will be intergenerational, there will be no Sunday School, however there will be activities for the children to do which tie into and complement the service.

Later in the day we will hold a family service at 4:30 and an evening service at 7:00.

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends as we celebrate the day of Jesus' birth. These two services are also widely attended by members of the community and represent a wonderful opportunity to share the good news.

Finance and Operations

There is an old saying asking how do you eat an elephant? The answer is One bite at a time. The Finance and Operations Branch has been chewing away at major and minor problems around the church as they occur one bite at a time. The furnaces have been replaced with three modern units that are much more efficient than our old system. Bryan Armstrong has been adjusting the system to obtain the most efficient operation. Our system is based upon the concept of "zone" control. Individual rooms can be heated to specific temperatures, then the system resets the heat to a lower setting when the room is no longer being used. Last Saturday, the system automatically "fired up" during the late evening and heated the church sanctuary to a comfortable temperature then backed off the setting after the church service to the lower setting for the week. This represents a considerable cost savings. During the installation phase of this project, the gas water heater in the boiler room developed a leak and needed to be replaced. Fortunately, qualified workmen were readily available to do the job quickly.

Our thanks to folks who contributed to the boiler fund. Our target was \$50,000 to do the project, half from the congregation and half from the Hope and Opportunity Fund. The congregation came through and exceeded their half. This leaves more funds in the Hope and Opportunity Fund which pays a yearly dividend to the church.

You may notice that the roof in the upstairs hallway leading to the elevator is experiencing renovations. A leak in the flat roof required work to resurface a 10 x 10 foot area. If the patch was successful, a drop ceiling will be installed to complete the project.

During the year, two of the trees at the south end of the property needed to be removed.

A circuit board in one of the stoves in the kitchen needed to be replaced. The cost to have a service person remove and replace the board with a new unit was equivalent to the cost of a new stove. Fortunately, the WA came forward with the funds necessary to pay for the replacement stove. Once again the ladies of the church came through with a contribution.

We thank everyone for your contributions of labour (I.E. the piping in the boiler room which was done last year) and funds on the collection plate. One bite at a time keeps the place going.

Church School Report

This September our Sunday school has taken on a new format. Many people came forward willing to help part-time with this important ministry and so we created teaching teams that rotate monthly. I join the monthly team downstairs every week to provide consistency. This new format is allowing the children to get to know more adults in our congregation and experience different teaching styles as the teams rotate. The children seem to be taking to this new system quite well. Thus far, we have been keeping all the children in one classroom allowing younger and older siblings to feel connected throughout the lesson and giving every age of child a chance to benefit from the others. The older children are truly taking the lead and helping out the younger ones when needed. The younger ones are enjoying being surrounded by older children they can look up to, as well as bringing their own perspectives to the discussions.

Three teams have had the pleasure of working with the children so far. In September, the Williams/Frybort team led the children in lessons about honouring, caring for, and being grateful for the various aspects of creation. In October, the Robertson/Hoogendam team taught lessons about focussing our attention and worship on God through the stories of Moses leading the Israelites in wilderness. Then in November, the McDougall/Greenwood team helped the children learn about how to spread and share their faith as we discussed parables from the book of Matthew. Each week, I have been enhancing the lesson by leading the children in a song that relates to the theme of the week including “This little Light of Mine”, “Magic Penny”, and “Peace like a River”. As we come into the month of December and the season of Advent, we are looking forward to helping the children prepare for the birth of Christ in a meaningful way.

Prepared by Diana Carr

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met to propose changes to the upcoming order of service. It was agreed that the new format would be as follows:

To prepare for service:

1. The choir would assemble at the rear of the sanctuary
2. At the opening chord of the first hymn, the choir would join in singing as they process to the choir loft
3. During the closing hymn, the choir would process to the rear of the sanctuary
4. After the closing amen, the congregation would be seated and choir and congregation would sing ‘Go Now in Peace’
5. For communion services, the choir would remain seated in the loft and the serving elders would be seated in the first row of pews.

The worship committee would be pleased to receive feedback on these changes.

The committee established the following dates for communion:

January 14, 2018

March 29, 2018

May 6, 2018 (This is also our 185th Anniversary Sunday)

The group will meet at a later date with any feedback from the congregation on changes made.

Harry Knapper and Joan Kemp

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

Our pastoral care visitors meet regular to share our ways to reach out to visit friends in nursing homes, retirement residents and in their homes. Many appreciate our visits and phone calls. If you would like a visit from one of us the minister or your elder please let us know and contact Joy Randall.

Our minister and some members help with worship at the Golden Plough and Retirement Home on Division St.

We provide the devotional books for our members and friends and have large print devotional books for those who need them. Please let us know if you would like one.

We remember with cards on special occasions during the year. Marg Johns sent these cards on behalf of St. Andrew's to friends in the hospital, on special occasions or sympathy cards to families. We will miss her and our formal remembering her is under the WA in this letter.

The WA and Pastoral Care will be delivering Christmas plants to several members and friends early in January. Thus we will keep you in our hearts and prayers at this time.

“Young at Heart” group meets each Friday from 10-12 noon over coffee and snacks. We enjoy sharing on various topics, small groups and everyone enjoys a good laugh! We also have special events- most recently on “Home Share” under Cornerstone, and Our Canadian Flag with Alison Torrie Lapaire. Everyone is welcome to join us and have some fun and time of fellowship together.

Maybe others can make a phone call or drop a person card “thinking of you” or share what you enjoy about St. Andrews, new of events there or in the community that they might be interested in.

Coffee and Conversation Fellowship Sundays after our service is also a part of our pastoral care time. We appreciate the teams that have been involved with the preparation and cleanup. Everyone seems to enjoy that time together and a chance to meet new people. If you would like to join a team please contact Joy. We will be having a few special events during the winter months- at Advent Time and the famous /fun filled Chili Contest!

Joy Randall

Marce L Wood W.M.S.

WMS meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 12 noon with a time of fellowship before we start our meeting. We have continued with the studies provided by the national WMS on various projects and women’s issues related to justice and to our purpose of study, prayer, fellowship and service.

Our members are less especially with three of our members who died in these past 2-3 years and in particular Marg Johns the end of October this year. Marg was not well and stepped down from being our secretary. Her record of our meeting and studies was most helpful over these past years. Marg previously started out in WMS with our Centennial Group that disbanded and she joined the Marce L. Wood group. Marg shared many of her experiences with us during our discussions. She was always pleased to attend Presbyterial events and Synodical if it was nearby. She was always pleased to visit our previous members when they were no longer able to participate. Now we celebrate her life and thankful she is at peace with her Lord and family and friends.

Carol Higgs replaced Marg as our secretary. Cecilia continues as President and Louise Baxter as Treasurer.

Our Presbyterial Presentation was in Port Hope this past October was “Please Pass the Faith: Best Practices for Sharing Your Faith with Your Grandchildren”. Dr. Tori Smit was the presenter and there were 4 workshops held in the afternoon. – Celebrating Advent and Christmas at Home, Children’s Books for Families, Faith- filled Music for all generations and Worship Bags that engage children in Worship. 8 members of our congregation attended and gained many helpful ideas.

The National Women’s Gathering which took place in May 19-22, 2017 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, Ontario. The theme this year was “Rooted in Love”. St. Andrew’s had 4 people and had attended the previous two. If you would like to know more about it ask Cecilia or Joy to share their Glad Tidings magazine to read all about it.

One of the main events at the Gathering on the Sunday night was the Women of Faith Award and Joy Randall was the recipient of the one for “Lifetime Achievement” in particular for my 35 years of service in Taiwan and since I have retired at St. Andrew’s

and appreciated her name being put forward by the Session and Rev. Neil Ellis. What a surprise in that the chair person on the Board of Changhau Christian Hospital and the

Chair of the Pastoral Care Dept came from Taiwan to represent the church and the hospital. My family and friends came to the banquet and share in this special occasion. (more details in Glad Tidings magazine)

We keep many of you in our prayers at our meeting as well in our personal devotions and please contact us if we can be of any help, if you would like a visit or have a special prayer request. May God (Emanuel) be with you not only at this Christmas time but always.

Cecilia Morris & Joy Randall

Women's Association

As I sit here and think of what has to be said, my mind goes to our friend and leader Marg Johns. Marg has written so many updates to everyone with no hesitation. Marg has left a void in our group, and we did not realize how much she did as she did it naturally and with love. For those who were not at her funeral below is a copy of her eulogy.

We want to thank so many of you that have helped us during the past year. Our Spring Coffee Time, the Christmas Tea and Bazaar, Presbytery luncheons, and Funeral receptions, none of which would be possible if it wasn't for the donations to the various tables, baked goods and sandwiches. We also want to thank Clara Manning for opening up the Boutique this year; that room is a separate draw to the customers. The 2017 Christmas Tea & Bazaar made a total of \$4014.68. Money raised from these events is fundraising for our church.

This year the W.A. gave \$10,000 towards the cost of a new furnace which was raised over the previous two years. In Dec. we will have purchased a new stove (\$550.00) for the kitchen as the old one was going to cost as much to fix as it was to replace.

Please continue to collect your stamps and coins. This all goes toward our fundraising efforts.

Milk bags, flannel sheets, and card fronts are always welcome and passed on to "Helping Hands". Please check the bulletin board for their monthly updates as to the needed items.

Thanks to Community Care Dinners Club for making St. Andrew's an annual stop for a good meal. This is usually served in June. It is nice to see all the familiar faces.

In early December we helped the Pastoral Care team provide Christmas plants or fruit cake to our many faithful members who are not able to be at church with us.

Our group meets every second Tuesday of the month from Sept to June at 7:30 pm in the Allen Room. We have welcomed a few new ladies and anyone who would like to join in is welcome. It is a casual gathering, we get a lot accomplished and the fellowship and sharings make it complete.

Joan Kemp is the new president, Trudy Hunter is the secretary and Leota Dewell is our treasurer.

Yours in faith

Joan Kemp
President W.A.

St. Andrew's and Women's Association remembers Marg Johns

(Marg Johns Eulogy)

Joan and I (Joy Randall) are most pleased to be asked by Heather and Reg to give Marg's Eulogy at her celebration of her life.

Margaret was born in Montreal after they came to join her father who was already there. Later they moved to Cobourg and she lived the rest of her life here.

Marg did go back to visit Scotland and was always glad to join the pipers going there. She also shared her magazines from Scotland with her friends from Scotland.

Marg had many friends and belonged to a variety of groups. She was a member of St. Andrew's for over 75 years and an elder for many years. She was president of our Women's Association group for the last several years and a member of the Marce L Wood Women's Missionary Society and its secretary for many years. She was an active member of the Young at Heart group and a member of the Pastoral Care Team visiting many members over the years.

It will now take several of us to do the things Marg did. We are thankful for her faithfulness and commitment to our church for these many years.

Marg kept track of all the special occasions for our church to our members. Marg missed sending a card, visiting or phoning. She loved the little ones and sent cards to the babies in the Nursery and the Church School Children on their Birthdays.

On her 85th Birthday the highlight was the children giving her a card and they surrounded her helping her to blow out her candles. She thought that was the best.

Outside her church she was a member of the Front Road Club who were a group of women who lived on Highway 2 (front road at that time) who got together every month to enjoy a good meal and a cup of coffee. They all had one thing in common, family farming the land. Maybe related to this Marg entered many things in the Port Hope Fair and won several awards over the years.

Petticoat Lane was another passion of Marg's for over 40 years. She enjoyed working on cash and helping to keep the store organized. She will be missed by all.

Then there was Tim Hortons Club. She used to pick up or a few ladies and then in the last few years someone else would do the driving. Marg always mentioned how much she enjoyed everyone's company, jokes.

Dutch Oven table talk, where she regularly went for lunch with her friends and to catch up on what was new around town. She appreciated the kindness of the Dutch Oven sending her home soup and food at noon when she was not well. Often she was there early Sat morning with other friends.

She was often at Mr. Sub on Sundays after church and some of us would join her. They knew her order and what she liked best.

Then there was Smittys/Bob and Pat she would walk to get her winning tickets, winning because she was always lucky and always laughed that she had a winner again. Many of us knew if Marg had a ticket we probably did not have a chance. Many of us knew how she loved the ice cream there too.

Marg always had a puzzle on the go. She would supply our tea and bazaar with puzzles from Petticoat Lane and sometimes bought them back if it looked like she hadn't done it already. Reg and Heather kept her in good supply.

Marg was always a worker. She worked at Ontario Hydro till she left to raise Heather. Joan remembers her saying that she did day care as well for many families. She worked at Denton's Florist on the books and wherever she could help.

Marg spent many years walking back and forth from Green St. to the family farm on Highway 2 west to get meals ready for everyone at the John's farm.

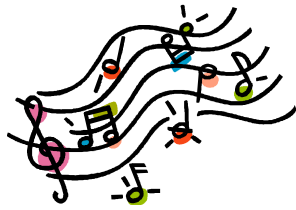
In later years she enjoyed walking the boardwalk at the park and talking with friends along the way.

Marg is now at rest with her family and friends that have gone before her. Em, her parents and her brother- Donald- "Scottie". Marg went on her own terms to her heavenly home as she did not look forward to leaving her family home and living somewhere else.

We will all remember Marg for her kindness, for her help, for the joy she always shared, her smile and sparkle in her eyes.

We are thankful for the special relationship we had with her over the years.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant."



Music Notes

With Christmas right around the corner, things are busy in the music department. Our very own handchimes arrived this summer and members of ChimeTime have been meeting every Thursday, learning new songs for the season. On Sundays after the church service you will most likely have heard the adult chimers practicing as well! It is so nice to have a brand new set of handchimes to work with and we are enjoying them immensely. The congregation has been very supportive in the purchase of the chimes with donations coming in from several members of the congregation in addition to donations in memory of Marian Currelly and Richard Randall. I want to thank Gwen and Diana who come out every Thursday to help with ChimeTime rehearsals and also Braden, who came out every Thursday last year before going off to school. A special thank you to Janet Leadbeater for making the beautiful covers for the chimes tables and pads.

Choir members have been working hard on the cantata “Joy” which will take place during the service on December 17. We also look forward to singing carols with the residents of Streamway Villa on Sunday, December 10.

If you like to sing Christmas Carols (and most of you do) please join us for a carol sing on Friday December 22. We will meet at Joy Randall’s home at 6:30pm and from there head on over to St. Peter’s Court to spread some Christmas cheer.

In closing I leave you with 10 commandments for the choir:

1. You shall make a joyful noise unto The Lord
2. You shall remember rehearsal time and keep thyself prompt
3. You shall have no other activities or committee meetings on Thursday evenings between 7-9pm
4. You shall not make unto the director any weak excuses for missing rehearsals
5. You shall not mumble your words
6. You shall not covet thy neighbor’s voice
7. You shall not steal the spotlight
8. You shall not blame the altos!!
9. You shall not have poor posture
10. You shall always open thy mouth to sing, not complain

Have a blessed Christmas, Carolyn

Marion's Gift

This past summer we booked a week's vacation in a century-old cottage in the lake country north of Kingston. In preparation of hot, lazy days on a long screen-porch overlooking the lake I visited a used bookstore in Kingston and left with an armload of reading. One of the books was entitled "The Collected Short-Stories of Somerset Maugham. Maugham was a prolific English writer who lived and wrote from the last quarter of the 19th century until the mid-1960s, most often setting his tales in the languid, tropical outposts of the then far-flung British Empire.

In my week at the cottage I read that entire collection but one story in particular drew me back to reread it several more times. That story is entitled "Sanatorium" and, set after the war, captures a short period of time among the patients and staff at a tuberculosis sanatorium in the north of Scotland. Some may remember, as I do, that most cities in Canada, the USA and Britain had such sanatoriums. Tuberculosis was a rampant and, an often fatal, disease and sanatoriums were buildings, some specially-built for the purpose, to house the tuberculosis sufferers and provide them with treatments. Some patients recovered and returned to their outside lives but many residents died in the sanatorium. In fact, my best friend in high school waved his last goodbye to his mother through a glass partition in the sanatorium hall which separated her, a TB sufferer, from her visitors.

The main character in the story is a fellow named Ashenden who has come up from London for the treatments and who is a keen observer of the human condition and all the small stories playing out around him. Through Ashenden we meet many of the TB patients but the focus really is on three of them.

The first is Henry Chester, an accountant from the City, married with children. He is in his mid-thirties and tuberculosis has come on rapidly and will be fatal, the doctors saying that he has at most two years left to live. His wife visits for one weekend every month but his mind is dominated by the seeming unfairness of his situation and he takes his misery out on his wife. He is inattentive to her and cannot resist resorting to spiteful cruelties. Eventually, one weekend, again forcing his anger upon her, he tells her he does not want her to visit anymore and that she should stop her visits.

The other two patients of interest are Ivy Bishop and Major Templeton. She is beautiful, unattached, prim 29-year old clerk who has had TB for over a decade but whose prognosis is quite good and it is expected that treatments will eventually cure her. She is a favourite of the other residents because she has such a kind and helpful nature. Major Templeton, on the other hand, is in his mid-forties and a confirmed bachelor and "ladies man". He has spent his days among socialites in a whirl of aristocratic parties and gatherings. He still dresses nattily and is a darling of all the older ladies. However, his TB is well-advanced and deemed to be incurable. Ivy and the Major are from diametrically opposed upbringings and inclinations. Nonetheless the two of them start chatting together and then going on long walks together and as the months pass it is clear to any observer that not only has she fallen in love but most certainly so has he. The Major's proposal of marriage is accepted and together they visit the Director of the sanatorium to seek his

consent for a wedding. He provides it but not until after cautioning them that the Major has at best two years to live and the exertions of married life may reduce that to only six months. Regardless they proceed and the wedding is planned at the lone church in the village nearest the sanatorium. One of the residents tells Ashenden that they are witnessing a “sacrifice for love”.

The wedding takes place and everyone from the sanatorium who is ambulatory attends. After the ceremony the married couple leave the church and as Maugham writes: “A cheer was raised as they drove away, as they drove away to love and death”. The crowd disperses and Henry, among the last to leave, looks over to the other side of the church and sees his wife standing there alone. The Director has asked her to come for the wedding. Henry walks over and takes her hand. With tears on his cheeks he states that he has been very unkind and asks for her forgiveness. He admits that he wanted others to suffer because he was suffering. And then he says an astonishing thing—he says that the wedding of Ivy and the Major have made him see things differently and that he doesn’t mind dying anymore. That the wedding has made him see “that death is unimportant and that only love is important” and that he loves her and is glad it is him that must die and not her—that he wishes for her all the good in the world.

It was in October that we learned that Marion, a long-standing member of our church and a fellow choir member had a fatal illness that would shortly take her life. At choir practice we were informed that Marion had asked as many of the choir who could attend to come to her hospital room the next day to sing hymns. Many of us went. Marion was in good spirits and sang many of the selected hymns with us and we all shared some laughter. At the end we all trooped out of her room but before I did I took the opportunity to tell her that I’d miss her. Without missing a beat she replied “I’ll miss you too.”

Out in the hallway one of her daughters caught up with me and told me that Marion had asked if I could return the next day after lunch to go over her will. I immediately agreed and the next day I arrived at the appointed time. All three of her daughters were with her. For about 10 minutes we discussed her concerns with the will. Then for the next full hour we told stories and we laughed. And laughed. And laughed. Finally, when I saw she was tiring, I took my leave. I went over to her bed, bent over her and spontaneously said “I love you”. Her head popped off the pillow, she kissed me on the cheek lightly and beamingly said “I love you too.”

I was crying as I closed the door. I was losing a dear friend, a brave friend who loved to laugh and appeared neither to feel sorry for herself nor waste her precious time on remorse.

Crossing the hospital parking lot it suddenly came to me. Marion had given me a great gift. She had, by example, shown me exactly what Somerset Maugham had told me – “that death is unimportant and that only love is important”. A very simple truth to consider. And every time I re-consider it a tangible comfort makes its presence felt.

Considering it further, is not that simple truth the central tenet of Christianity, the essential kernel of Christian teaching? – that death is an imposter which is unimportant and that while living we must value love above all else. And is it not just possible that a person who treats love as the goal and treats death as that imposter is a person who may well be looking at the door to the “kingdom of heaven”.

And taking that thought further still, and acknowledging that I myself do not know for certain, is it not probable that anyone who, without conscious thought, intrinsically lives that simple truth has, perhaps inadvertently, found the key to that door.

Rod MacKenzie - November 2016

You Must Trust

**You must trust when a loved one is taken
And anguish enfolds you each hour.
You must trust though feeling forsaken
That all lies yet in His power.**

**Trust that an angel was needed
And He spoke to your loved one alone.
And that it was a call she heeded
And that He called her home.**

**Trust that her candle is burning
Beyond sight, but burning there still.
Bringing light to someone in darkness**

Beyond sight, yet burning there still.

By Rod MacKenzie, June 26, 2005 – read at Marg John’s funeral

Calling Volunteers



St. Andrew's will be celebrating our 185th Anniversary in May 2018

We are looking for some people to join us to plan this celebration.

Please contact Joy Randall (905 372- 3746) or Bryan Armstrong (905-372-5908) if you are interested.

We would like to meet in early January 2018.

St. Andrew's Gardens

Daffodils

William Wordsworth

1770-1850

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:

I gazed – and gazed – but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:
For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Merry Christmas 2017

I am looking forward to spring 2018 and welcoming daffodils, tulips, alliums and a forsythia bush which were all planted in the central garden in 2017.

Many people, like myself, enjoyed our garden beauties which bloomed in our "wacky weather" such as a white iris bursting forth with 3 blooms!

Thanks to many especially David Leonard our caretaker. Wishing him a speedy recovery



A garden lover....Phyllis Smith

Word Search

Q E Z P V B B E A N R M C S V Z T F
W O N T R H C R U H C A D H W S K S
K B G O J I L A M V R A L A I V I C
C X M Y O M N U D O J J X R W L L H
O J J F Y Q D C L L J M H A E Q E R
B U H V T K U S E L F C Y N J K M I
Y G I G O I G B Y O S R T F L I L S
G K K P T D Y I G U F N B V Z S P T
S J W U H Q K L S T I P O H D I K M
K F Z Z E G C E C G O D E I U S H A
L F O H W W J X H Z U C M A T I K S
A P X K O B G T D O H M N A C P L F
D O G D R D Z Q G C A I N K Z E M V
V E F G L G X J B N F D A C V P H I
E K G L D S T X U Q R C C K M L N G
N B T P C N Q E O E Y T I V I T A N
T X J P L A L U W D S T I R X X T X
U W H J N T W S H D W U S K M T T X

ADVENT
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
CHURCH
IMMANUEL
JESUS CHRIST

JOY TO THE WORLD
NATIVITY
PRINCE OF PEACE
SILENT NIGHT
ST ANDREWS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 10: Advent II: Peace; Lessons & Carols
Carol singing Streamway Villa
- December 12: W.A. Christmas Dinner 6 pm at Joy Randall's
- December 14: WMS Christmas Pot Luck at Joy's at 12:30
- December 15: Young at Heart Christmas Pot Luck lunch 11:30am
- December 17: Musical Cantata
Advent III: Joy
- December 22: Christmas Carols to St. Peter's Court - meet at
6:30 pm at the Randall's
- December 24: Morning service celebrating Advent IV: Love
This will be intergenerational with NO Sunday
School however there will be activities for the
children
Family service 4:30pm and
Evening service 7 pm