



# St. Andrew's

June 2018 Newsletter

## **Minister's Message**

After a winter I felt was going to last for ages summer has arrived. Gardens are in bloom and the crisp breeze coming off the lake reminds us of the goodness of God's creation. It has been a good year and together we have overcome the challenges before us.

Thank you for being a part of this community of faith. For the work you do, both in action and prayer, that makes a difference in the lives of so many. Community is central to how we operate as followers of Christ. I take great joy at the friendships I see between you all and the conversations which are struck up. These are bonds that bind us together and ensure that our community is richer for our involvement in it.

This year we celebrated 185 years of service to God as a community of faith. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner and celebrated at worship which was led by the Rev. Barry Van Dusen. During the service we were reminded of our historic roots in this community. Today we look forward and recognize that we are still a mission post celebrating the Good News. The work we do in our community has a deep and lasting impact. Running a soup kitchen, advocating on behalf of the homeless and vulnerable, hosting the Girl Guides and local AA groups. Each of these and more has an impact on the lives of people in our community.

I am thankful for the service of the elders at St. Andrew's. Those individuals who serve on the Session and help discern where God is leading this community of faith. Also, for those who sing in the choir, teach Sunday School, provide refreshments after church and all the other small tasks which are seen to. It is a pleasure to serve as minister to this community of faith.

I pray that the summer months are a time of blessing for you and yours.

Rev. Ellis

## What's Up With Stewardship?

The Stewardship Committee formed in early 2018 to look at the church's financial health, both currently and for long-term sustainability. The team's members include Joan Kemp, Rob Lenters, Jenny Neutel, Suzanne Kerr, Taryn Frybort and Rev. Ellis.

During its initial meeting the team discussed the deficit budget the church was looking at for this year and considered ways to mitigate debt. The team created a letter asking members to prayerfully consider increasing their weekly giving by 10% (or \$5-10 more per week) and consider joining the "Pre-authorized Remittance Plan" (PAR Plan). Thank you to everyone who have taken the time to consider and update their giving.

There was also a Special Offering as part of the 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations on May 6, which received over \$10,000. Thank you for your generous support of the life and mission at St. Andrew's!

In addition to considering ways to increase and sustain giving at the church several team members are excited about creating meaningful fundraising opportunities that provide a way to create more fellowship while raising money for the church. The first initiative the team organized is taking St. Andrew's famous hot dog and sausage booth to the Country Wild Music Festival. The team thanks Matt Williams, who organizes the festival, for the opportunity to be part of this special event. Also a huge thank you to Ross Robertson for his leadership with logistics and overseeing the operations at the event.

Looking at the fall, the team will be organizing a special **Harvest Dinner** at the church on Saturday, Sept. 22. This will be a wonderful time to enjoy a delicious meal and one another's company. Information about ticket sales will be forthcoming. **Save the date** and stay tuned!

## Financial Report

First, the good news ... thanks to the steadfast generosity of our congregation, we currently have no overdraft debt. In the first five months of this year, the envelopes have brought in \$28,676 and pre-authorized remittances (PAR) have brought in \$29,799. The special anniversary donations totaled \$17,405, including a \$6,000 donation from the W.A. We have a lot to be thankful for. As of May 31st we have a positive bank balance of \$3,465.

However, once all the cheques written have cleared, our accrual balance will be -\$3080. If you have not already done so, please consider joining PAR. I understand that many people prefer to enjoy tangible giving by putting something in the plate each week. It doesn't have to be all or nothing. You could use PAR for the general St. Andrew's expenses and weekly envelopes for Presbyterians Sharing and P.W.S. & D.

Contact Cecilia Morris/office if you want to begin using PAR or if you wish to update your monthly PAR amounts.

In Christian love,

Rob Lenters

4:30 PM  
2018-06-11

## St. Andrew's Summary Report

January 1 to present

	<u>Jan - Dec 18</u>
<b>Income</b>	
400 · Collections and Offerings	
401 · Envelopes	31,651.80
402 · P.A.R. Offerings	29,799.00
404 · Other Donations	14,158.10
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Total 400 · Collections and Offerings	75,608.90
420 · Other Receipts	
422 · St. Andrew's Trust receipts	3,141.98
423 · Manse Trust fund receipts	74.94
424 · Miscellaneous fund raising	1,640.25
425 · Rental income	4,961.68
426 · Rebate of Sales taxes	5,671.79
428 · Women's Association	6,000.00
430 · Sunday School & Youth Group	1,886.47
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Total 420 · Other Receipts	23,377.11
<b>Total Income</b>	<hr/> <b>98,986.01</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
500 · Employee Expenses	51,064.30
510 · Office Expenses	
511 · Office general expense	952.55
512 · Telephone and internet	564.45
513 · Printing and photocopier	845.84
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Total 510 · Office Expenses	2,362.84
700 · Branches of Ministry	
701 · Worship committee	650.57
702 · Pulpit Supply	200.00
703 · Nurture	333.78
704 · Pastoral Care	454.77
705 · Sunday School Youth Group	52.77
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Total 700 · Branches of Ministry	1,691.89
800 · Finance & Operations	
801 · Heating Union Gas	4,365.00
802 · Lakefront/Utility, electr, water	1,875.00
803 · Insurance	2,721.55
804 · Maintenance Repairs & Supplies	12,037.21
805 · Bank service fees and interest	214.90
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Total 800 · Finance & Operations	21,213.66
900 · Music Ministry	
901 · General music operating cost	763.66
902 · Tuning and maintenance	502.50
903 · Organist Supply	175.00
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Total 900 · Music Ministry	1,441.16
920 · Other Expenses	
924 · Presbytery Assessment	2,493.00
925 · Fund-raising expenses	1,781.25
930 · W.A.	25.00
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Total 920 · Other Expenses	4,299.25
950 · Mission and Outreach	
951 · Presbyterian Sharing	6,577.00
952 · P.W.S.&D.	5,800.10
953 · Donation to Other organizations	767.55
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Total 950 · Mission and Outreach	13,144.65
<b>Total Expense</b>	<hr/> <b>95,237.75</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<hr/> <b>3,748.26</b>

## **Mission Update**

In June St. Andrew's hosted a screening of the feature length documentary *Pushback*. This film tackles issues of poverty and homelessness in Peterborough, Ontario. *Pushback* is centered around the Warming Room, a shelter in Peterborough, and some of its residents. We were fortunate to have Matthew Hayes, the films director, on hand that evening for a Q&A session afterwards.

Rev. Ellis continues to serve on the Northumberland Affordable Housing Committee (NAHC). The committee hosted a breakfast highlighting Canada's National Housing strategy at the Best Western. Politicians, community partners and interested citizens attended the event. Recently, the committee hosted an All-Candidates meeting for the upcoming Provincial Election on the subject of Affordable Housing.

Look for more information from the Mission Branch in the Fall. If you would like to get involved with the Mission work that St. Andrew's is involved with speak with Rev. Ellis.

## **Finance and Operations Committee**

On the plus side, the major portion of the Boiler room upgrade has been completed. There are two small upgrades to go which should be completed as funding becomes available from the Finance and Operations budget. Several of the thermostats are going to be serviced and some of the valves on the rads need to be assessed. This is a normal operating procedure and will be done over the summer. The cold water line which runs through the church from the south east corner to the boiler room has been replaced as the line was deteriorating. This was a preventive measure as we did not need a water line leak which would need to be repaired on an emergency basis.

Back in the early 1970's I can remember holding an Every Person Visitation meeting in Rev George Malcolm's study. One of the features in his office was the large plastic pail catching rain water from the hole in the roof. We have been having roof problems with the flat roof for almost sixty years. They have been occasional but they have been happening. We need to do something that cleans up the problem. The session is currently looking at options and will, hopefully, cure this problem.

This year, we experienced a flood as the roof drain plugged and the pool of water went over the flashing on the west side by the sanctuary roof. This lead to a flood in the upstairs east hall. The insurance company has been assessing the damage and, hopefully, will help us cover some of the cost with the repairs. In addition, we believe that due to the amount of surface water left over a period of several days, the north wall of the Rhodes room flooded. The elevator was closed down for several days and the flooring in several areas needs to be replaced. We are hoping this was a once in fifty year event and will not reoccur for some time. We will be watching this closely over the next few years.

Our congratulations to the congregation on the 185th anniversary fund raising event. This has taken the pressure off as summer is coming.

The Finance and Operations Branch thanks everyone for both the financial and physical assistance given to the church. Helping with one or two events, such as Coffee and Conversation or assisting with the waterfront festival food booth, does not appear to be much, but every little bit helps. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

John Vickers

## **Church School Report**

As this Sunday school season comes to a close, we reflect on the changes that have occurred this year.

The Sunday school teaching teams are working well. All six teams have had two month long sessions to teach and seem to have come in stride with the curriculum. This seems to be beneficial to the children and the teachers as they get to know each other better and each person, young or old, is able to learn and grow in their faith through shared experiences of stories, music, crafts. The children have demonstrated their understanding recently as they surprised the teachers with very thoughtful and detailed responses during discussions including but not limited to: examples of Jesus' miracles that are some of the lesser known stories of healing, as well as touching personal experiences of how they have treated others with God's love through helpful, caring gestures at school and at home. We have been collecting offerings weekly since the start of advent. During our classes we have had several discussions of how and where we could donate our money to help others in need, but have not made any formal donation decisions at this time. We look forward to finalizing our decisions in the early part of the next Sunday school year.

This Sunday School year has had it's challenges as we adapt to the new system of rotating teachers monthly, but seems to be proving effective as children and adults in our church family appear to be closer and more connected as a whole. Let's continue to grow our church family through this important ministry.

Diana Carr

## **Presbyterian World Service & Development**

For over 70 years, PWS&D has been working with partners overseas and Canadians here at home to make positive changes in our global village. PWS&D has a wide variety of programs that work to help communities overcome poverty, recover from emergency situations and provide new futures of hope for vulnerable people.

PWS&D works with churches and organizations seeking to transform their communities by promoting justice, peace and the integrity of creation. PWS&D supports people and communities according to their need and regardless of faith.

With the generous support of Presbyterians in Canada we are working with local partners around the world to address the root causes of poverty and create new futures of hope and opportunity through programs addressing:

### **Food security**

Communities are learning innovative and sustainable agriculture practices to increase crop yields, improve nutrition, and build resilience to environmental changes.

### **Livelihoods**

Families are empowered to meet their basic needs through education, skills training and small

business development. When one person becomes self-reliant they are able to improve their quality of life, shape their future, and lift up others in their community.

### **Health**

By ensuring mothers and children receive the medical care they need, caring for people affected by HIV and AIDS, and providing access to water and sanitation programs, families and communities are growing healthier and stronger.

### **Human rights**

Injustices are combated through a shared commitment to human rights, with a special focus on promoting and protecting rights for women, children, workers, subsistence farmers, persons with disabilities, and refugees.

### **Refugees**

No one is a refugee by choice. By sponsoring refugees to Canada, and advocating for and supporting refugees and displaced people around the world, families are able to rebuild their lives without fear of persecution.

### **Emergency relief**

In the aftermath of conflict and disaster, immediate and long-term relief ensures the most vulnerable people have access to food, shelter and medical attention, and are able to recover from economic loss and emotional trauma.

There are over 65 million refugees in the world, fleeing war, famine or persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group.

Refugees are part of our human family and entitled to their rights to peace and protection.

**World Refugee Day is June 20**—a day to honour the strength and courage of refugees and reflect on ways to help uprooted women, men and children on their journey to find peace.

The plight of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people has become the world's fastest growing refugee crisis.

Since August 2017, unthinkable suffering caused by escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state has forced over 700,000 Rohingya refugees into overcrowded settlements in Bangladesh, where necessities like food, shelter and sanitation are extremely limited.

The approaching monsoon season will worsen an already dire living situation—flooding and landslides could demolish temporary shelters and exacerbate illness.

**This World Refugee Day, stand with Rohingya refugees.** Pray for their safety and help ease their suffering by supporting relief efforts that address food, water and sanitation, shelter, emergency medical care and psychosocial assistance.

## **Pastoral Care Branch**

Our pastoral care visitors continue to visit friends in nursing homes, retirement residents and in their homes. We need a few more members on our team as some are not able to continue and Marg Johns did her fair share of visiting. We appreciate her and John McDougall who is no longer able to do this. His little dog was on his visits with him to the Golden Plough often. So many will miss him.

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 our people with cards on special occasions during the year. Joy Randall now sends cards on behalf of St. Andrew's to friends in the hospital, or sympathy cards to families. Ruth Kerr continues to send the young children of the nursery and church school Birthday cards. We sent Easter cards and they appreciate hearing from us on your behalf.

Many appreciate our visits and our phone calls. Maybe you would like to phone or send a note to some of the ones who are not able to get out much to tell them how much we miss them.

If you would like a visit from a pastoral care visitor please contact the minister or

Joy Randall. 905 372 3746

## **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee meets on a semi annual basis or as a need arises. The committee consists of Rev. Neil Ellis, Carolyn Hyma, Harry Knapper and Joan Kemp. We set the dates for the Communion Services and various other services during the year.

Chocolates and fruit snacks were handed out on Mother's Day and Father's Day as a thank you to all for the part you play in the Christian life of your family and friends in the community and beyond.

Blessings

Joan Kemp

## **Coffee and Conversation Fellowship**

Sundays after our service is also a part of our pastoral care. We appreciate the teams that have been involved with the preparation and cleanup. Everyone seems to enjoy that time together and also a chance to meet new people.

I, personally, will not be continuing with the organizing of this after the end of June. Thus, the Session and Neil are looking for another person to be responsible for this.

If you would like to join a team please contact them.

We do have some special occasions and everyone enjoys the surprises we have for the snacks. The Children served the adults on Mother's Day and continue to be happy to be part of our times together.

See what the future holds for everyone as we share with others at this time of fellowship.

Joy Randall

### **Marce L. Wood WMS Auxiliary**

WMS meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 12 noon with a time of fellowship before we start our meeting. This year we have been studying "the Twice-Promised Land of Palestine" written by Noel and Dorcas Gordon which includes much of the history and details of events from 1918 to the present especially from 1967 to today. We will continue to study in relation to the Bible and the Land of Palestine. If you are interested and would like to join us we will continue this in September.

We have discussed other women's issues related to justice and to our purpose of study, prayer, fellowship and service.

Our members were not able to attend our Synodical Annual Meeting in April but Joan Smith, our Peterborough Presbyterial president shared many things of interest and concern with us at our June Pot Luck Lunch.

We did not have our Mission Awareness Sunday in April this year but we hope to have a WMS Thankoffering in the fall.

We were hosts to the Presbyterial Annual Meeting in May when Bob and Ruth Kerr shared with us their journey on St. Jame's Way. We were pleased that several members from our congregation joined us. It was most interesting and very moving when Bob and Ruth shared their spiritual experience on this journey. Cecilia inducted the Presbyterial Officers during the closing worship.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings and contact us if you need a ride.

Cecilia Morris & Joy Randall

### **Women's Association**

Here we are half way through 2018 and lots of good weather ahead.

The Christmas Tea was a huge success and brought in just over \$4,000. Thank you to all for your donations to the bake table and the many other tables we had.

In April we hosted the First Annual Spring Crafters Market and Bake Sale. Local artisans and crafters rented tables and sold their items. Thank you again for the donations to the bake table. We have so many repeat customers; they truly love the baking of St. Andrew's. Profit from this event was \$2,300 which enabled the W.A. to combine these funds and make a

donation of \$6,000 to the 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Offering. This was achieved with the help of everyone.

Every year we cater to the Community Care Seniors. This event will take place in June. They enjoy a meal and friendship as we serve them a hearty dinner and desserts.

On Oct 20<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a second Crafters Market. This one should be larger than the spring event as it will be presenting their Christmas Ideas. More details to come after the summer.

Plans are in the works for our special Christmas Tea and Bazaar on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Save your books, puzzles, and miscellaneous items and as always don't put away those recipes as we will be calling you for your specialties.

Blessings to you all from your Women's Association

Joan Kemp

### **Young at Heart Group**

Young at Heart group meets each Friday from 10-12 noon over coffee and snacks. We are a little smaller but we enjoy sharing on various topics, and everyone enjoys a good laugh! We also have special events and invite others to join us. Please come join us when you are able.

Have a great Summer.

Joy Randall

### **Rev. Ellis' Summer Reading List**

This summer it is my hope to read a trio of books that consider both the state of mainline Christianity and the rising secularism we witness in society. My hope is to gain appreciation for the changing elements in society and develop an approach to reach people who have never heard the Good News. To this end I will be reading the following books, included is a synopsis of what each book covers. As a small side note the first book I will be reading is written by one of St. Andrew's former ministers, the Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald.

*Leaving Christianity: Changing Allegiances in Canada since 1945.* Brian Clarke and Stuart Macdonald, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2017.

Canadians were once church-goers. During the postwar boom of the 1950s, Canadian churches were vibrant institutions, with attendance rates even higher than in the United States, but the following decade witnessed emptying pews. What happened?

In *Leaving Christianity* Brian Clarke and Stuart Macdonald quantitatively map the nature and extent of Canadian's disengagement with organized religion and assess the implications for Canadian society and its religious institutions. Drawing on a wide array of national and denominations statistics, they illustrate how the exodus that began with disaffected baby boomers and their parents has become so widespread that religiously unaffiliated Canadians are now the new majority.

Canada's civil society has historically depended on church members for support, a massive drift away from churches has profound implications for its future. *Leaving Christianity* documents the true extent of the decline, the timing of it, and the reasons for this major cultural shift.

*Becoming Atheist: Humanism and the Secular West*. Callum G. Brown, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2017.

The Western world is becoming atheist. In the space of three generations churchgoing and religious belief have become alien to millions. We are in the midst of one of humankind's great cultural changes. How has this happened?

*Becoming Atheist* explores how people of the sixties generation have come to live their lives as if there is no God. It tells the life narratives of those from Britain, Western Europe, the United States and Canada who came from Christians, Jewish and other backgrounds to be without faith.

This book moves from statistical and broad cultural analysis to use frank, humorous and sometime harrowing personal testimony. *Becoming Atheist* exposes people's role in renegotiating their own identities, and fashioning a secular and humanist culture for the Western world.

*A Secular Age*. Charles Taylor, Harvard University Press, 2007.

What does it mean to say that we live in a secular age? Almost everyone would agree that we – in the West, at least – largely do. And clearly the place of religion in our societies has changed profoundly in the last few centuries. In what will be a defining book for our time, Charles Taylor takes up the question of what these changes mean – of what, precisely, happens when a society in which it is virtually impossible not to believe in God becomes one in which faith, even for the staunchest believer, is only one human possibility among others.

Taylor, long one of our most insightful thinkers on such questions, offers a historical perspective. He examines the development in 'Western Christendom' of those aspects of modernity which we call secular. What he describes is in fact not a single, continuous transformation, but a series of new departures, in which earlier forms of religious life have been dissolved or destabilized and new ones have been created. As we see here, today's secular world is characterized not by an absence of religion – although in some societies religious belief and practice have markedly declined – but rather by the continuing multiplication of new options, religious, spiritual, and anti-religious, which individuals and groups seize on in order to make sense of their lives and give shape to their spiritual aspirations.

What this means for the world – including the new forms of collective religious life it encourages, with their tendency to a mass mobilization that breeds violence – is what Charles Taylor grapples with, in a book as timely as it is timeless.

### **Rev. Ellis' Summer Vacation**

Rev. Ellis will be on vacation from July 3 through July 29 and August 27 through September 2. The Rev. David Cooper will provide pulpit supply throughout the summer months. For pastoral concerns during this time please contact Joy Randall 905-372-3746

A reminder that Mary McPhee our church administrator is also off during the summer months but phone messages will be checked often.

### **Fare Share Food Bank**

Following is a message from the FareShare food bank concerning their needs for the summer:

***Thank you St. Andrew's for thinking of us!***

***We are in need of canned vegetables and fruit, peanut free granola bars, condiments (nice for summer BBQs), milk alternatives (soy, almond), tea, instant coffee, shampoo, canned chili or stews and sidekicks. And anything else you'd like to donate!***

***Also if anyone in your congregation has reusable grocery bags that they don't want, we love to have them.***

***Thank you!***

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 30 - July 2 - Waterfront Festival fundraiser

September 6 - Choir practice resumes

September 12 - Finance and Operations 7 pm Allen Room

September 14 - Young at Heart resumes

September 22 - Harvest Dinner

September 25 - Session

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

#### JULY

July 8 Rev. David Cooper  
July 15 Rev. David Cooper  
July 22 Rev. David Cooper  
July 29 Rev. David Cooper

#### AUGUST

August 5 Rev. Neil Ellis  
August 12 Rev. Neil Ellis  
August 19 Rev. Neil Ellis  
August 26 Rev. Neil Ellis  
September 2 Rev. David Cooper

### Church Bulletin Bloopers

The Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.