

Awareness



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BARRIE, ONT.

EASTER 2017

From the Minister

I want to share with you a story I came across recently that reminded me of the value of self-reflection in the Lenten season. It comes from Ted Dekker, author of *The Forgotten Way*.

There was once a young girl who went to the river to draw water. Coming to the river, she saw a spider in the tide pool, drowning. So she set down her wooden bucket, dipped her hands into the water, and gently lifted the spider from certain death.

But the spider, being a spider, bit her hand causing her great pain. She set the spider down, drew her water, and went home, singing.

When she returned to the river with her bucket the next day, she saw the same spider, again drowning. Once again, she dipped her hands into the water and gently lifted the spider to safety.

Once again, the spider, being a spider, bit her.

The next day, coming to draw water, she saw the same spider, drowning yet again. So she dipped her hands into the water and once again lifted the spider to safety. But this time, the spider spoke to her. "Why do you save me, knowing that I am a spider who is poisonous and this is what I do?" it asked.

She set it down and smiled. "Because I am the daughter of my Father who is love, and this is what I do."

Many times we think of the Lenten season as a time for changing behaviours, or perhaps an opportunity to give up a bad habit.

"I'm giving up chocolate for Lent!" some have declared, as though this most minor of inconveniences might prod us to seem more Christ-like somehow in our attitudes. And then what usually happens is we forget our resolution by the sixth day and mindlessly consume a piece of a KitKat bar because a friend had a plate-full sitting dangerously close to our coffee cup!

But Lent is less a time about abstinence and sacrifice than a time to more fully discover who God has made and shaped us to be as growing disciples of Jesus. In all our listening and praying, reading and studying, praising and serving, what Lent helps us to discover is the new creation we have been evolving into as faith-journeymen. Like the girl who rescues poisonous spiders at personal cost, we learn that God has made us for a purpose, and that purpose is not self-interest but the care of and concern for others.

Jesus' Lenten journey brought him to a cross, not because he didn't know how to avoid it, but because the message of his love for us would be unmistakably clear through its intersection of heaven and earth.

May this Lenten season be for you a time of reflection and contemplation as we consider how God has blessed us all with life and hope and concern for one another.

Your minister and friend,

Rick

Rev. Dr. Rick Horst



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Focus on: Elders

At a Congregational Meeting held January 29th, 8 elders were elected for a 6-year term.

Cheryl Anderson, who has been an elder for 30 years, and Clerk for fifteen.

Jeff Campbell, substitute organist, choir member, and returning elder.

Andrew Douglas, St. Andrew's unofficial piper, and former elder at Knox Presbyterian Church, Stratford.

Jane Jackson, usher, grocery-card seller and counter, considers it an honour to have been elected an elder.

John Kenzie, member of the Stewardship Team and Men's Breakfast Fellowship, returns to Session following a short break.

Ruth Millar, chair of both the Membership and Refugee Sponsorship Teams, is also St. Andrew's Roll Clerk and a returning elder.

Wally Smith, Trustee, and member of the Endowment Fund Committee is eager to continue his service as elder.

Ruth Templeton, Stewardship Team member, catering manager of church dinners and returning elder.

Special thanks for their service to retiring elders Gary Bell, Ross Furzecott, and Anne Kapteyn.

Endowment Fund

Wally Smith

Through the generosity of the St. Andrew's community, the amount donated to the Endowment Fund, as of December 31th, 2016, is \$752,097.

Between 2008 and 2014, the \$122,822 in gains was used for various programs and ministries at St. Andrew's. In 2015 the Fund suffered a loss of principal of \$79,000. We are pleased to report that, as a result of the congregation-approved change in the investment policy, and a correction in the market during 2016, the loss has been restored.

We thank you for your continued support of the Endowment Fund.

Board of Managers

Vic Hood

We are in the process of repainting and replacing some of the fixtures in the nursery. Professional refinishing of the front door is scheduled for the spring. The kitchen fridge needs to be replaced. A new unit has been ordered and will be in place in the next few weeks. This is a good time to rework the cupboards and counter top to fit in the new unit. This work is scheduled. We have also replaced the upright freezer which serves our needs and has some space dedicated to Out of the Cold.

We have two or three Saturday work parties each year, which include a twice-yearly kitchen cleaning. The quality of the kitchen maintenance is high, but it has been pointed out that with increased use, it may be good to have a scheduled overall cleaning. Volunteers are urgently needed.

The Owen Street building is fully rented at this time. We continue to maintain and upgrade the building. The parking lot is serviced by a snow plowing contractor who comes as needed. Joining the lots and lot maintenance is sched-



uled for the spring.

According to the congregation's direction we are continuing to monitor and assess the lifespan of the sanctuary. We gathered quotes for a state-of-the-art, computer-generated measurement of the building, but found them to be not cost effective. We have arranged for a survey company to install small targets called "Telltales," which will enable them to measure any movement of the building.

The draft budget for 2017 is underway and will be ready soon.

The insurance has been renewed. We recently had a full inspection done by the insurance company which is expected to generate some recommendations. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's program "Leading with Care," which we follow, seems to take care of the insurance company's requirements for Liability insurance. There was some discussion about a sewer backflow valve and balcony railing. A worst-case scenario will be bothersome, but not insurmountable.

The Board members invite any questions or comments, and will be happy to discuss any concerns.

Membership

Ruth Millar

Greeters, Ushers, and Elevator Operators

In April, on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we will have the opportunity to extend our ministry of welcome and hospitality to everyone who will join us for worship. If you can help to greet, usher and/or be the elevator operator at this busy time, please speak to Arna Atkinson.

New Worshippers

Information packages are available on the table beside the elevator at the front door.

Long-term Members

On May 7th at our 168th Anniversary service, we are looking forward to recognizing the importance of membership at St. Andrew's, and especially those who have been members of the congregation for 50, 55, 60 years and more.

New Members Omission

Ellen Millar, *Awareness* Editor

As reported in the last issue of *Awareness*, on November 13th, 2016, we added new members to the roll. Missing from the list of names, however, was that of Chris Mayes. Welcome to full membership at St. Andrew's, Chris! and my apologies for the omission.



Givings 2016

The Audited 2016 Financial Statements and proposed 2017 Budget will be available in time for the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 12th, 2017.

Program Coordinator's Notes

Alanna Haughton

Church School

This year's church school Christmas presentation was a lot of fun! We were able to include a lot more speaking parts as many of our older students were ready and able to step up to the challenge! We had some wonderful organ support from Chris Bohdanowicz for our time machine sounds, and some entertaining congregational participation for our animal sounds! Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make this production possible this year. We had many helper volunteers and parents who got everyone dressed in costumes, and in the right places.

Our Church school has welcomed new volunteer teachers who have come forward to help this wonderful program continue to flourish. In the Fall we had decided to try a new approach with all of our students in one class with a multi-age curriculum. We have recently seen quite a few older students come out on Sundays which has prompted discussions of reopening an "older student" Church school class. Planning is in the works, but we have helpers already signed up, so stay tuned!

Vacation Bible Camp

Our planning for this year's VBC is just beginning as we look forward to another great summer camp! We are currently looking for volunteers who can help out during the week of July 17th—21st. Signup sheets will be available in the office, or you can speak to Alanna about volunteering. We hope to order the program soon, so sign up before March 31st!



November Christmas Bazaar

Last November we had our second Christmas bazaar where we sold handmade items, and had a few "White Elephant" tables. The funds raised went towards our Refugee sponsorship program. This event was incredibly successful, we were able to raise \$2,060 for the program, and it was a lot of fun! We hope to be able to do it again this year. We're going to be starting a lot earlier to collect handmade items and also encourage donations of individual, frozen, home-cooked meals as these were a huge hit with many seniors.

Mission & Outreach

Sherry Phillips

- ◆ Proceeds from our used book sale—over \$600, which we topped up from our remaining 2016 budget allocation to \$1,000 – were donated to two international projects being administered by Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D).
- ◆ Members contributed gifts to a family of five being supported by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions (formerly the Children's Aid Society).



- ◆ Holiday donation drives also included items collected for redistribution to clients of the Canadian Mental Health Association.
- ◆ The team also raised funds for PWS&D through the sale of 2017 calendars and our remaining stock of greeting cards.
- ◆ Plans are underway to hold a special breakfast event, with a guest speaker, before the summer.
- ◆ Look out for information about our early fall trip to the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford.

<http://www.standrewsbarrie.ca>

See the weekly bulletin and the announcements. Check out coming events including Art Guild courses, Bible and other studies held on Sundays and during the week, Men's Breakfasts, etc.

Pastoral Care

Arna Atkinson

This team provides support and encouragement to those in our congregation who might enjoy a friendly phone call, visit or card, as well as those who have recently had surgery, are experiencing illness or who have been bereaved. If you are aware of someone who might need our services, or if you would like to help with this ministry, please speak to me, Rev. Horst or call the church office.

With sadness, we note the recent passing of Isobel Haley and Barbara Kissick; our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

W.M.S.

Kathy Tutty

The ladies of the Women's Missionary Society meet in the church library at 1:30 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. If you are interested in prayer, study, service and fellowship, we would love to have you join us!

The World Day of Prayer service will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church on March 3rd from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Join other Christians from a variety of denominations for a wonderful service; the focus this year will be the Philippines.

The governing bodies of the W.M.S. will hold several meetings in the next few months. The Presbyterial meeting will be held on March 8th at 9:30 a.m. at Stroud Presbyterian Church; which will also host the Presbyterial Annual meeting on May 10th. Synodical will be held in Lindsay March 31st - April 1st.

The Barrie Presbytery will be meeting at St. Andrews on Tuesday, March 14th. Our group will be catering the dinner beforehand and will soon be asking for donations of pies.



Mission Awareness Sunday will take place on April 2nd. Details will be announced when they have been finalized. The members of the Mission and Outreach team and the ladies of the W.M.S. will participate in this service. Plan to attend: there will be cake! Cont'd...

Syrian Refugee Families

Ruth Millar

Ammar and Siham and their children are doing well. Their sons, Oudai and Ahmad, enjoy and are doing well in Grade 3 and Sr. Kindergarten. Over the Christmas holidays they enjoyed building a snow fort and learning how to make and throw snow balls with Laurie Watt and her son, James. The girls, Oula and Fatima, are enjoying the child care at the YMCA Immigrant Services. They are learning English and developing social and cognitive skills. Oula is smiling and talking, while Fatima, who is just over 1, is a delightful, outgoing child with a winning smile. They all walk to school every day and get to enjoy our Barrie winters.



Over the Christmas holidays, Ammar and Asmaa passed their G1 written tests. They took the test in Arabic and now they have their Ontario G1 licences.

Siham, Ammar, and Asmaa's English is improving. Ammar has moved up to the Level 2-3 class with Asmaa. We can now do most things without an interpreter.

Laurie helped Asmaa with her resume and to take it to stores and fast food restaurants near where she lives. She is looking for a part-time job in retail or fast food for after school and weekends while she works on her English.

Hamida, Asmaa's mother, is now studying English at YMCA Immigrant Services, too. We are working with Burton Ave. United Church on her settlement. We are making progress on Hamida and her husband's applications for permanent residence in Canada, as well as for her two sons.

Thank you for supporting our two families!

W.M.S. continued

Our group will once again be hosting the Day Apart event on October 14th. Please plan to attend this uplifting event and join other like-minded Christian women in presentations, activities, fellowship and lunch; all held in our local church. More information will be made available closer to the event.

Art Guild

Sandra Chanko

Art for the Heart – The Art of Paper

This 5-week module will focus on ORIGAMI and QUILLING, which are detail oriented, using repeat maneuvers.

We welcome Robert Marshall, who will lead two sessions in the art of origami. Participants will take a flat piece of paper and create three-dimensional paper sculptures.

Board member Sandra Chanko will lead three sessions, with L.A. Siegel as an assistant instructor. Focusing on techniques used when quilling. Participants will take away two instructed designs and one design of their own creativity!

March 21st – April 25th, 2017 (excl. April 11th)

Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

47 Owen St. Barrie

All levels of skill welcome

Registration Required

Cost \$35.00 for all sessions; supplies included.

(Cheques payable to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie)

Contact Sandra to register:

s_chanko@rogers.com



Men's Breakfast

John Kenzie

The St. Andrew's Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets on Saturday mornings once a month for breakfast, friendly conversation and a guest speaker. It gives the men of our congregation an opportunity to get to know each other better.



Things have been going well and we have been averaging 25 hungry men coming out to breakfast. We have an exciting lineup of speakers scheduled for the next few months.

March 11th - Keith Boyer – Kairos

April 8th - Speaker TBA – Hospice Simcoe

May 13th - Dave Mills – Barrie Baycats

June 10th - Rick Schaly – Concussions

We appreciate all the positive feedback we have received about our guest speakers.

There will no meetings in July and August.

You are welcome to bring along a friend, even if they are not from St. Andrew's. We take a free-will offering to cover our expenses. Breakfast's are held at St. Andrew's starting at 8:00 a.m.

For more information, or if you would like to assist in the setup and preparation of the breakfast, please call the church office or talk with John Kenzie or Don Tutty.

Life-long Learning

Aging Gracefully

Led by Mary Helen Garvin, a retired psychotherapist and Adult Education specialist, this is an 8-week supportive program for older seniors who face the changes of aging which, at times, are daunting. Held in the church library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., it will run from March 9th through April 27th. Please register with Mary Helen before March 1st at maryhelen.g@gmail.com; or call the church office.

Reclaiming Ritual: Making Meaningful End of Life Gatherings. Leader: Sheila Atkinson. Monday, March 6th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Bible Study

Join Rev. Keith Boyer as he leads a Bible Study class on the 4th Sunday of the month until summer. Held in the Gathering Hall, they will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end in time for a short break before the service begins.

Grocery Cards

Betty Boyington

After 7 weeks we have raised \$644.75. Cards are available for purchase every Sunday in the Gathering Hall.

St. Andrew's in Pictures



Thanks to Ruth Millar
for the photographs



Upcoming Events

Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services, 10:00 a.m.

- February 26:** Leader, Rev. Keith Boyer
- March 5:** 1st Sunday in Lent
Communion Service
- March 12:** 2nd Sunday in Lent
- March 19:** 3rd Sunday in Lent
- March 26:** 4th Sunday in Lent
- April 2:** 5th Sunday in Lent
Mission Awareness Sunday
- April 9:** Palm Sunday
- April 13:** Maundy Thursday
Service, 7:30 p.m.
Communion by Intinction
- April 14:** Good Friday Service,
joint with Central United, at
St. Andrew's
- April 16:** Easter Day Service
- April 23:** Communion by Intinction
- April 30:** Regular Worship Service
- May 7:** 168th Anniversary Service
Rev. Heather Malnick
- May 14:** Christian Family Sunday
- May 21:** Regular Worship Service
- May 28:** Ascension Sunday
- June 4:** Pentecost
Communion Service
General Assembly Sunday
- June 11:** Trinity Sunday
Congregational Picnic
- June 18:** Regular Worship Service
Church School Recognition
Awards
- June 25:** Regular Worship Service
Start of summer Church
School

Meetings and Events

Ongoing

Sundays:

Collection of items for St. Andrew's
Food Cupboard

1st Monday of each Month:

Women's Missionary Society, 1:30 p.m.

Mondays:

Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
Out of the Cold (to April 17)

1st and 3rd Tuesdays:

Prayer Group Ministry, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Quilters, 9:00 a.m.

1st Wednesday:

Stitchery Group, 1:00 p.m.

3rd Wednesday:

Organ Recital, 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays:

Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday:

Men's Breakfast Fellowship, 8:00 a.m.



Special Dates

4th Sundays, March through June:

Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. (see p. 6)

Tuesdays in March and April:

Art Guild, 7:00 p.m. (see p. 6)

Thursdays in March and April:

Aging Gracefully, 10:30 a.m. (see p. 6)

March 3: World Day of Prayer

March 12: Daylight Savings Begins Annual Congregational Meeting

March 14: Presbytery meets at St. Andrew's, 7:00 p.m.

April 17: Easter Monday

May 18: Deadline, Summer Awareness awareness@standrewsbarrie.ca Ellen Millar, Awareness Editor