

Awareness



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

ADVENT 2017

From the Minister

With the fresh arrival of the Advent season, we enter again into a time of year, which, if given the space, has the potential to wind us up and spin us in a thousand directions! I regularly hear people talk of how busy their lives become as they travel toward Christmas. This is, of course, because they let them. Shopping, baking, grandkids, driving, performances, church, parties, yada, yada. It is what we let it become.

I know of a husband and wife who recently covenanted with each other not to use the word "busy" to describe their daily and ongoing activities. I applaud them. We live in a world that more and more falsely values "busyness" as an indicator of success or achievement. But what we ought to be striving for, I believe, is a "comfortable" pace of life which is far more likely to bring a sense of peace and lasting contentment. When we get too busy, we lose sight of the quiet moments that can soothe our soul and nurture our deeper values.

This Advent season, how about choosing to actually slow down a little? Make time instead to be more present with loved ones. Say "no" to a few things you might otherwise have agreed to reluctantly or even resentfully. Don't say it out of a cavalier disregard for what someone was asking for (they will get over your refusal

soon enough), but out of a genuine effort to put value back into things that deserve to be more deeply appreciated. Like relationships that have been taken for granted, or the special achievements of those who often get overlooked, or the quiet care of someone who is often forgotten.

The birth of our Saviour holds so much more meaning when we've actually taken some valuable time to anticipate and plan for it. Just think: God chose to be with us. So this Advent, why not choose to truly "be with" God?

As Your minister and friend,

Rick

Rev. Dr. Rick Horst



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Focus on: Farewell & Thanks

Dear St. Andrew's,

You have before you the last edition of *Awareness* with me as its editor. Rev. Carolyn McAvoy asked me to take on the role back in February 2003. Fifteen years, and 60 issues of the newsletter, later I have decided to retire. Editing the *Awareness* has given me the opportunity to not only keep up-to-date with the news and events of our church, but also to meet and get to know so many of you.



While I was the face of the newsletter, I could not have done any of it without a great deal of assistance. Thank you to:

Rev. Dr. Horst, who never missed an issue;
The Membership Team, under whose responsibility the newsletter falls, for offering advice, assistance, and availability for back-up distribution;

Ruth Millar, for her support as Team Chair and regular contribution of photographs;

The authors of the articles you have read over the years, for their regular contributions and understanding when I had to remove the extra adjectives to keep each issue within 10 pages; without them the newsletter would have been much shorter;

The Friday morning assembly crew, who copied, folded, stuffed, labelled, and alphabetized the envelopes for Sunday-morning delivery;

Church Secretary Barb Drummond, for her unwavering support, bulletin reminders, e-mail distribution; and last, but certainly not least, a heartfelt thank you to my family, for synonyms, proofreading, courier services, and sympathetic ears.

Sincerely,

Ellen

Ellen Millar, Editor, *Awareness*

Board of Managers

Vic Hood, Chair

Your Board of Managers meets regularly to maintain the building and grounds, as well as manage and monitor the budgets and financials for presentation to the Session and congregation.

The rental buildings are fully rented at this time. We continue to maintain and upgrade the buildings.

We had a small turnout at our fall work party and would like to thank those who came out to help.

A new light has been installed to brighten the parking lot at the east exit.

There is a problem with unauthorized use of the parking lot. We will be changing some of the signage, but we are very reluctant to have the perpetrators towed or ticketed. We do have some windshield stickers in the office. They are quite unobtrusive and tasteful and, if placed on the windshield, will allow us to identify the full extent of the problem.

The Board invites questions or comments. Any member will be happy to discuss any concerns.



Givings

Stewardship Team

Our givings to both our Operating Budget and to Presbyterians Sharing are right on target for the year to the end of October. We thank you for your steady generosity and look forward to your continued and sustaining gifts as we approach the end of the year. We look forward to a successful financial outcome for 2017, thanks to your faithful giving going forward.

"The end of the 2017 tax year is nigh."

Staff Relations

Susan Stott-Hood

It's that time of the year, when the Staff Relations Team meets with staff to conduct the annual performance reviews. This is a time to recognize their contribution to St. Andrew's and talk about ways we can support the work they do. We feel blessed to have such a committed staff.

In alphabetical order, our staff includes: Chris Bohdanowicz (Director of Praise); Barb Drummond (Secretary & Treasurer); Russ Gingell (Custodian); Alanna Haughton (Church School Leader); and Rev. Dr. Rick Horst (Minister). Please reach out and connect with our staff over the Christmas season and let them know how they have made a difference in your church experience at St. Andrew's.



Website

We encourage you to visit our website: <http://www.standrewsbarrie.ca>.

We are continuing to improve and add new information and pictures regularly to our web site. If you are putting notices about programs and events at St. Andrew's in the Sunday bulletin, please ask Barb to post them on our web site too!! Check us out when you are on Facebook and "like" us!!

Membership

Ruth Millar

Our *Awareness* Editor is retiring!!

We would like to give a big thank you to Ellen Millar for being our editor for St. Andrew's newsletter, *Awareness*, for 60 issues and 15 years. This is quite an accomplishment, and we have appreciated her care, commitment, and competence in editing our newsletter for these many years. We wish her all the best.



Ushers, Greeters and Elevator Operators

Would you like to help with this important welcoming ministry? Can you help at our Christmas Eve services?

To become part of this ministry, please call or speak with Arna Atkinson.

Thank you to everyone who has been offering to help with our welcoming ministry on Sunday mornings.

Mission & Outreach

Mary Helen Garvin, Interim Chair

Christmas is just around the corner and once again we are thinking about folks in our community for whom Christmas is often a lonely time, without all the gifts and Christmas trees that so many of us take for granted in our homes during this season. Trish McCallum has kindly taken on the responsibility of organizing the receipt of gifts for the CMHA, and you should have already received the orange strips in your bulletins. As well, you will soon see the Christmas trees decorated with gift suggestions for our CAS families. Please take a "suggestion" (or two) and bring a gift to put under their Christmas trees.

The annual decorating of the Mitten Tree with mittens, hats, scarves for those who will need them during this cold winter season will take place on December 10th.

Mission & Outreach cont'd

We were privileged to have Rob Shropshire from PWS&D as our speaker for the annual Mission worship service in October. We now have a little better understanding of all that goes into arranging for refugees who are sponsored by Presbyterian congregations across Canada to come here.

When you are doing your Christmas shopping, may we remind you of the *Gifts of Change* bulletin that is published by PWS&D? We will have them on hand during the next few weeks in case you have folks on your list to whom you do not know what to give. A gift to PWS&D in their name is a wonderful way to give more than one gift! We have ordered only 10 Presbyterian Calendars this year, so if you want one, let Anne Kapteyn know as soon as possible. They will be \$5.00 each.

Finally, we have had to postpone our trip to the Residential School and the Woodlands Cultural Centre in Brantford because of repairs being done on the school. Watch for the dates in the spring of 2018.

The team joins me in wishing you all a wonderful Advent Season and a joyous Christmas.

Pastoral Care



Arna Atkinson, Chair

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

We note with sadness the recent passing of Mrs. Beulah McBride.



Lifelong Learning Winter Events

The St. Andrew's Speaker Series

Following the successful launch of St. Andrew's speaker series this fall, the Lifelong Learning Team is planning a Spring 2018 series with the theme *I Used to Think...* Three guest speakers will describe how and why their positions on three current issues underwent transition. The series will be held on the 4th Wednesday of March, April and May at 7:30 pm.

March 28th - Broadcaster/Journalist Michael Coren will tell the story of his change in attitude regarding same-sex marriage as described in his recent book *Epiphany*.

April 25th - Nurse Practitioner and environmental activist Catherine Jones will address how she became convinced human beings contribute to climate change and why immediate action is required.

May 23rd - Meredith Whitehead, Director of the Inter-Professional Practice Department at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, will describe how she has come to work with medical assistance in dying as an end of life option.

Further information about the speaker series will be provided in the new year, but reserve the dates now.

Issues in Aging Gracefully

Mary Helen Garvin is developing a Thursday morning follow-up to the popular *Aging Gracefully* program offered earlier this year. It will be open to all who attended the program and any others who are interested. Specific topics (e.g. Eating Alone) and dates will be announced in January.



Winter Study Series

Begins Tuesday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Living the Questions is a video-based study featuring presentations by 30 of today's leading religious voices. As the title suggests, LTQ does not attempt to offer answers to every question of faith. It encourages independent thinking and a sharing of differing points of view. Each session will begin with dessert, followed by a video introduction of the evening's topic. Participants receive a binder to which weekly background worksheets and a devotional reflection are added.



The fall series of LTQ was well attended, with participants describing their experience as: provocative, broadening, inspiring, informative, reassuring, challenging and encouraging. The winter series topics include: The Prophetic Jesus, Evil, Suffering & a God of Love, The Myth of Redemptive Violence, Practicing Resurrection and Honouring Creation. Rev. Keith Boyer and Rev. Dr. Rick Horst share leadership of the series.

CareNotes Ministry

The *CareNotes* Ministry Display in the Gathering Hall has been well used. Sixteen helpful booklets regarding issues of life and faith are available to church participants and community users of our building. Brochure titles change monthly. They are designed to offer words of encouragement, guidance and comfort. Current titles available are: Getting Through the Holidays When You Have Lost a Loved One, Overcoming the "Blues" at Christmastime and Letting Faith Help You Handle Stress. Marilyn and Alex Carman are managing this ministry on behalf of the Lifelong Learning team.

WMS



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 each month. If you have an interest in Missions – locally, nationally or internationally – come out and join us as we study and raise money for a variety of mission projects.

We are presently deciding on which Mission projects we will support this year. In the past, we have supported: the Leprosy Mission; Sleeping Children Around the World; Youth Haven; RVH parking; Grannies in Malawi; PWS&D; and the WMS projects. Currently, the WMS is supporting the Kenora Fellowship Centre and Gender Based Violence in Haiti.

At our last meeting, the ladies brought toiletry items which were donated to Youth Haven. We provide this service twice a year, in May and November.

On October 14th, we once again hosted the "Day Apart" for the presbytery ladies. The theme was "Encouraging One Another." Presenters Alexis McKeown, from Church Offices, and Colleen Woods, our *Glad Tidings'* editor, led us through some entertaining and informative activities. Our group catered a delicious lasagna and Caesar salad lunch which was enjoyed by all. The day's activities culminated in a communion service led by Rev. Peter Ruddell.

Our Christmas potluck luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 12:30 p.m. All church staff, ministers, and their spouses are invited, as well as spouses of the ladies of the WMS.

There is always room for more ladies in our group. If you enjoy study, fellowship and working with great people, this is the group for you!



Refugee Sponsorship

Ruth Millar

Just a brief update – Mohamed Shukri Alasaad arrived in Canada on September 26th and is starting to settle into life in Canada. Shukri's wife, Hamida Kharshid and his son, Anas, his daughter, Lala and her son, Ayman, along with Ruth Millar and Jim Curtis, were there to welcome him to Canada. We hope that things go well for him and for his family.

Ammar has his G2 license and is looking forward to driving in Canada!!

At our last meeting we reflected on how we have done with our families: we have helped them, and they have worked hard to become independent and to capably manage their lives in Canada!

We also would like to thank Rob Shropshire for his continuing help and support. Best wishes to our Syrian friends!!!

Men's Breakfast Fellowship



John Kenzie

St. Andrew's Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets on the 2nd Saturday each month for breakfast, friendly conversation and a guest speaker. Our purpose is to give the men of our congregation an opportunity to get to know each other better.

We continue to have a variety of interesting speakers. On January 13th, Bob George will give a presentation about Peacekeepers Park in Angus. Our February 10th speaker will be Ken Kirk from Habitat for Humanity.

There will not be a meeting in December.

We hope you are able to come out and join us for breakfast. Coffee's ready at 8:00 a.m. and breakfast begins at 8:15 a.m. See you there!

Autumn 2017 in Pictures



Alasaad Family & R. Millar



Fall Speaker Series



Psalms of the Cosmos



Stewardship Soup Sunday



Mission Awareness Sunday



The Joy Bells



Fall Speaker Series



Remembrance Day Service

Upcoming Events

Services

Sunday Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

- December 3:** First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion
Reception of new members
- December 10** Second Sunday of Advent
Mitten Tree & White Gifts
- December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent
Church School Presentation
- December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Special Music of the Season
- December 25:** Christmas Day
(No service)
- December 31:** Regular Worship Service
New Year's Eve

Christmas Eve at St. Andrew's Sunday, December 24th



- 6:30 p.m. Family Service**
**8:00 p.m. Traditional Service with
Communion by intinction**

Meetings and Events

- November 25:** Christmas Bazaar,
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- November 26:** Congregational Meeting,
Following Worship Service
- November 28:** Packing Cheer Bags, TBA
- November 30:** St. Andrew's Day
- Sundays:** Collection of items for St.
Andrew's Food Cupboard
Grocery cards available
- Mondays:** Out of the Cold, 6:00 p.m.
Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
- 1st Monday of each month:** W.M.S.,
1:30 p.m.
- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays:** Prayer Group Min-
istry, 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays:** LTQ Study Series, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays:** Quilters, 9:00 a.m.
- 1st Wednesday of each month:**
Stitchery Group, 1:00 p.m.
- 3rd Wednesday of each month:**
Organ Recital, 12:00 p.m.
- 4th Wednesday, Mar., Apr., May:**
Speaker Series, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursdays:** Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- 2nd Saturday of each month:** Men's
Breakfast Fellowship, 8:00 a.m.



Wishing you all the joys of the Christmas Sea-
son, and the very best for the New Year,
Ellen Millar, *Awareness* Editor