

REJOICE

THE VOICE OF ST. ANDREW'S Fall Issue; September 2014

Minister's Message

Often summer is a slower time of year, but this summer at St. Andrew's we have been as busy as ever. Back in the late spring we received the report of our Long Range Planning Task Group comprised of Alan Shugg, Art Deane, Sheila Brown, Doug Taylor, Tony Robbins, Rob Churchill and Angelee Zon. The report, compiled by national church consultant Joel Den Haan showed that we had the capacity to move from being a stand-alone church with tenants to a community-hub model where we could be in partnership with Pilgrim's Hospice, Little Friends Preschool Program, and City West Childcare and Community Support Society.

We decided as a congregation to pursue this plan, and Evan Welbourne of Roundhill Consulting in Calgary was hired to create a financial and a real estate plan for the project, and he will be reporting back to the Long Range Planning Task group by early October. We were grateful that we were able to receive CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Funding) for this part of our work.

This summer Ebenezer United Church formally decided to amalgamate with St. Andrew's. Many of the Ebenezer folks had joined us for worship services in the spring, and we are glad that they have chosen to make their new home with us. We will begin the formal amalgamation process this fall with a view to having Ebenezer join us by July 2015.

Our office was busier this year thanks to the presence of Sharon Kabatesi. Sharon is a 15 year old high school student and she spent 7 weeks of the summer with us helping Jennifer prepare for the "Draw the Circle Wide" program, updating the church databases and helping us catch up on many of the other tasks that there are simply not enough time to do. We were able to hire Sharon through the Federal Canada Summer Works program so the cost of Sharon's employment was minimal to St. Andrew's, while the benefit we received from Sharon's presence was great!

We also hired Heather Miller on a part time basis to be the new Communications Coordinator for St. Andrew's. Heather is now responsible for creating the Sunday Order of Service and PowerPoint presentations, sending out the weekly email correspondence and will be responsible for updating the new website. Shirley Wilfong-Pritchard is hard at work creating a new website for St.

Andrew's that reflects where we are now as an evolving congregation and we hope to have that up and running by the early fall. Congratulations to all who made it such a positive experience for the children of St. Andrew's and the larger community.



August 23 we hosted "Jazz on the Cob" a community concert and BBQ on the East Lawn of the church featuring Jazz singer and pianist Barb Myers. The weather was perfect, the music and the food was great and we had a good turnout from the neighbourhood and other Edmonton Churches. We had a wonderful organizing team lead by Chris Standing and Jennifer Postma, and a great time was had by all. And we also enjoyed hosting a BBQ with our neighbours at Canora Place in August.

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Our summer worship was truly inspired this year. Rather than seeing summer worship as a lesser version of what we do in the other seasons, we decided this year to make the summer a more experimental time. We learned some beautiful new hymns from New Zealand and Australia that will become part of repertoire, and had a variety of different musical accompaniments. The children in the Draw the Circle Wide church camp program all helped lead the worship on Sunday August 17 and what a job they did! Those who were there for our Gospel Hymn Services on July 26 and August 24 will never be put on hold again without thinking of "The Royal Telephone"!



And so to fall. Our fall start-up will be September 21 and we will have our first community meal, a pancake brunch, after the service on October 5. Thanks again to all who made this summer such a rich and rewarding time, and welcome back to all!

Board Matters

While the world is in conflict with chaos in Gaza, crisis in the Ukraine, and terror in Libya, it is great to know that the house of St. Andrew's is in order. Things are happening! Even the summer months saw exciting new initiatives. Jazz on the Cob welcomed the Crestwood Community and many others to join members of the congregation on the lawn and celebrate the mission, ministry and partnership that we share with our broader community. What a great way to welcome everyone to a new year of our Church at work.



Even before this we opened our doors to a week of summer camp – embracing our youth and the future of our Church and Community. This week allowed for a celebration of the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Self-Control, Goodness, Kindness, Joy, Patience, Peace, and Gentleness. Our youth are playing an increasingly active role in the overall life of the Church and it is great to see that programs and time are dedicated to support and encourage this. I would encourage all members of the congregation to take some time to work with these amazing young people and to further encourage this growth of their involvement. If you have some ideas or are willing to lend yourself to activities already planned – please speak to

Jennifer Postma who co-ordinates this work. Going into this new church year, I am pleased to welcome members of Ebenezer United Church to the St. Andrew's family. Currently we are working with members of their Board and various committees, as well as with representatives of Presbytery to cement this union of Faith communities. We are absolutely thrilled that they have chosen to join us. We are also continuing to work with Pilgrim's Hospice to shape the future of both the Church and the important outreach work done by the Hospice.

A number of activities are in the planning stage as we go forward. An ad hoc committee of the Board started to look at new events and fundraisers for the year and I would encourage each of you to take a few minutes and respond to the survey of interests either online or by paper copy found elsewhere in this newsletter. The results of this survey will help to prioritize what we can offer in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the work of Christ at St. Andrew's – is the work that all of us do together as descendants of the original disciples carrying on God's work. As Chair, I am honoured that you have given me another term and I would encourage you to contact me any time you wish to discuss the work of the Church. You can leave a message in my mailbox at the Church or you can phone me at 780-461-0261.

For your reference, I have also asked that a complete listing of the names of Board members and their positions as well as a complete listing of our ministry team and their positions be included in this newsletter following my remarks. I look forward to a great year – working with you in furthering God's work through the joint congregations of St. Andrew's United, Ebenezer United, and St. James United.

Submitted by Ed Butler, Board Chair

Chairs of committees, Board of St. Andrew's: Ministry and Personnel, Art Deane; Worship, Sheila Brown; Presbytery Representatives, Heather Miller, Mark Nicoll; Finance Rep, Mark Postma; Stewardship, Brent Roy; Building and Property, Rob Churchill; UCW, Molly Jenkins; Memorial/Historical, Arlene Fowlis; Contact and Caring, Chris Churchill; Members at Large, Jennifer Postma, Maureen deRegt; Board Secretary, Andrea Pheasey. **Trustees:** Betty Deane, Ross Gordon, Chris Standing, Carol Pernarowski. **Ministry Team:** Rev. Dr. Geoff Wilfong-Pritchard, Helve Sastok, Hazel Burn, Jennifer Postma, Chris Standing, Heather Miller, Anne King

Building and Property Committee Activities

The April to August 2014 period may have seemed a little less busy than usual, with both typical maintenance and repair projects plus a few one-offs, but there was enough to keep us busy over the spring and summer. While the church property redevelopment study has resulted in a moratorium on upgrading projects such as completing the replacement of aging fluorescent fixtures in the CE Building with new, more energy efficient units, it has also resulted in requests to B&P for data, information and copies of drawings of the existing buildings. Toilets continued to leak (there are 13 in total), but thankfully for not more than a few hours thanks to the monitoring system developed and implemented by Ian Burn in 2013. There was an outbreak of mould in a Kitchen storage room, which was quickly eradicated and has not recurred. (Thanks to B&P alumnus Malcolm McCorquodale for his help with that issue.) Building security during concerts was enhanced by installing locks on three interior doors. On a Saturday in June, B&P held a Saturday walking seminar through the buildings and about the grounds on the utility systems and other aspects of building operation, to broaden the familiarity of members with the location and operation of key equipment. This was followed by a wind-up BBQ.

While by no means a comprehensive list, projects and jobs undertaken by Building and Property members during this period have included:

- ⤴ unclogging drains, urinals and toilets
- ⤴ replacement of fluorescent fixture ballasts and bulbs
- ⤴ restarting the elevator when it quits
- ⤴ participating in the long-range planning task group
- ⤴ provided long range planning task group with information about the church buildings, including estimates of costs of required future upgrades
- ⤴ downloaded sanctuary recordings of services and concerts to Inner Office PC
- ⤴ removed mould from walls and ceiling of small kitchen storage room
- ⤴ providing building dimensional data and drawings for building insurance evaluation
- ⤴ responded to several water flow alarms
- ⤴ operation of sound and lights for worship and memorial services and two concerts.
- ⤴ monitoring and adjusting of water in hot water heating system for pH, nitrite, and copper
- ⤴ assisted in setting up the children's garden
- ⤴ cleaned up area between City West playground and parking lot by removing weeds and laying down bark chips
- ⤴ installed locks in upper and lower CE hallway doors and boiler room, for added security during events such as concerts. Also rekeyed lock to outdoor storage room
- ⤴ arranged for maintenance for floor scrubber
- ⤴ installed speaker in babyfold room
- ⤴ installed bookrack with dividers on book display in lobby
- ⤴ removed drinking fountain from upper CE Building hallway
- ⤴ negotiated 2014-2015 rent with Little Friends
- ⤴ adjusted building thermostats for comfort, economy and time changes
- ⤴ troubleshooting of problems with telephone lines (Telus equipment problem)
- ⤴ took various items of waste to Ecocentre
- ⤴ hired contractor to deal with wasps nesting in CE Building roof by City West playground

Building and Property members include: Ian Burn, Rob Churchill (chair), Larry Dobson, Davis Farquharson, David Hamilton, Roland Tomuschat, Brian Walker, Phil Vogan and Bruce Woodhouse (Member Emeritus). Anne King is an Honorary Member.





Programs Resume: With the arrival of fall, St. Andrew's is bustling with activities again: The first rehearsal this fall of **St. Andrew's Hand Bell choir** will be September 24th at 5:30 pm. If you have ever wanted to play in a musical group, learn a new instrument or just have fun making music please join us. We rehearse once a week in the auditorium of the church. We play on a four octave set of Malmark hand bells and explore various types of music, both sacred and secular. We play during the church service every eight weeks or so. There are no auditions, no music costs and all instruments are provided. It helps to be able to read music although this is not a stipulation. For further information please contact Hazel Burn at 780-487-4471.

The **Chorale** returns to regular practices on alternate Wednesday evenings on September 10 – watch the bulletin to specific dates. Singing and performing with others is an inspirational way to participate in worship! The **Film Club** meets the first Friday of the month at 7:30, with *October Sky*, a good old-fashioned, inspirational coming-of-age drama set in 1957 in a small US mining town, being the movie for September 5. Watch the bulletin for next month's selection. There's always a great movie, snacks and fellowship. The **Children's Program** begins again on September 21, with the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. The children will continue to care for the garden until frost when they will turn over the soil to prepare it for the spring. From the garden the children will help decorate the sanctuary for thanksgiving and share its harvest with the congregation. And along with the Sunday children's program, **Family Movie Night** will return the third Friday of the month, with *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* being the first selection on September 19 at 6:45 pm. Wear your jammies and bring a teddy – including the adults too! The **Book Club** meets the second Thursday of the month, so mark your calendar for October 9.

Church Bridge resumes with fun and fellowship on September 12 at 7:00 and continues the second Friday of each month. What a great way to keep your brain active and enjoy a pleasant social evening as well!

Study and Discussion Group: enjoy stimulating conversations about a variety of topics on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. Later on

Wednesdays, at 1:00 pm, the **Recycled Card Group** meets to enjoy fellowship and creativity. And the **Quilters** welcome anyone

interested in crafting beautiful creations on Tuesdays at 9:30. They will hold their annual **Quilt Sale** on Saturday, **October 18th** from

10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase beautiful hand-made quilts, afghans, and comforters! These are just a

few of the many activities that are here at St. Andrew's, check your bulletin each week for more information.

In addition, a two-page insert in this newsletter lists all St. Andrew's programs and some possible ones which may be offered in upcoming months. Please check off any that you are interested in as well as those in which you are already involved and place it in a designated envelope in the church office. St. Andrew's is a happening place!



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www.saintandrewsunited.com; follow us on Facebook!

Staff and volunteer staff:

Rev. Dr. Geoff Wilfong-Pritchard

Office & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Anne Chorley King

Music Director: Helve Sastok

Children's Program Co-ordinator: Jennifer Postma

Handbell Director: Hazel Burn

Congregational Co-ordinator: Chris Standring

Communication Co-ordinator/Newsletter Editor: Heather Miller

Would you like to participate in a new program at St. Andrew's? Join an existing group? Please check off the activities below that you'd be interested in and stand by for further developments. Put your form on the collection plate or hand into to the office. Be prepared to enjoy fun and fellowship!

Activity Area	Program/Course	Interested
Music collective/jam session	Form a music group, guitars, hand drums, keyboard etc.	
	Attend sing-alongs – favourite hymns, contemporary songs	
	Join the Chorale and be part of Sunday morning worship	
	Join the Hand-bell Choir	
	Others you might suggest:	
Life-long Learning	Cooking for One (or Two)	
	Nutritious 30 minutes meals for busy households	
	Preparing for/and transitioning to your retirement	
	Knitting/crochet circle – learn a new skill and enjoy social time	
	Writing from the Heart: preserving your family history; an opportunity to share memories with others and create a record of remembrances for your family to cherish.	
	Playing cards – whist, bridge	
	Quilting	
	Recycling Cards – creative and fun	
	Men's fellowship group: creating a place for connecting and conversations in sharing challenges of life	
	Women's activities – fun, fellowship, learning	
	Children's Sunday program, movie nights, community opportunities	
	Others you might suggest:	
Faith Studies and Conversations	The Gospel of Mark – Jesus and his miracles, parables, death and resurrection	
	The Book of Acts – the early beginnings of Christianity	
	Introduction to Christian Scriptures	
	The Relation of the Old Testament to the New: why do Christians have two books?	
	The Lost Gospels: Mary, Thomas, Peter, Truth, Philip, Judas, Hebrews?	
	Faith in the Public Square – how politics and religion have formed our society	
	The Emergent Church - what it is – where it's going	
	The Old Story and the New cosmology – the relations between faith and science	
	Others you might suggest:	

Activity Area	Program/Course	Interested
Recreation	Global Dining/casual dining – monthly or bi-monthly dining at local restaurants	
	Newcomer’s brunch and/or dinner	
	Book Club	
	Movie Nights	
	Suds and Songs – hymns and beer!	
	Pancake Breakfast	
	Shrove Tuesday Dinner	
	Others you might suggest:	
Speaker Series	Going to Galapagos Islands	
	Roaming Around Russia	
	Summer in the Sierra Nevadas	
	What’s in the Future – takeover of the world by artificial intelligence	
	Conversation evenings – a variety of topics! Examples: Life stories: aboriginal, new Canadians, social issues	
	Others you might suggest:	
Fundraising	St. Andrew’s Night of the Arts – after Christmas to tie in with a “return of light” theme, possibly an international event	
	Bedding Plant Sale in Spring	
	Others you might suggest:	