

# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

*October 2016*

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Newmarket, ON L3Y 1M5  
(905) 895-5512  
[www.standrewsnewmarket.org](http://www.standrewsnewmarket.org)



## **Mark Your Calendar**

**10.21&22**

Scrapbooking Event

**10.23**

Hymn Festival

**11.06**

Daylight Savings Time Ends

**11.12**

St. Andrew's Bazaar

**11.27**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**12.4**

Mitten Tree Sunday

## **Neal's Natter**

It never fails to amaze me how busy the summers are at St. Andrew's. Yes, the rhythm is a different one than in the fall, winter and spring but they are not "quiet" months.

During the first week of July, ten of our youth and their leaders attended Canada Youth 2016, an event that brings hundreds of Presbyterian youth and young adults together from across Canada.

The following week we held another very successful Vacation Bible Camp from July 11th - 15th. This exciting children's ministry draws children both from our congregation and from the wider community. You would be amazed at how much work both staff and volunteers invest in this event.

Every Sunday, of course, worship still happens. Although our choir takes a break, our organist is busy arranging and rehearsing special music; our ministers are preparing for worship; summer Sunday school takes place, our usher and technology teams are still hard at work and our staff go about their daily responsibilities.

E.P.I.C. Worship, our Wednesday night service, provided a more relaxed worshipping opportunity from mid- July to the end of August and have been well attended. E.P.I.C. will return in the fall.

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# What I Did This Summer – by Laura Duggan

This summer, I got to go to away Camp, again!

As we drove up the long gravel road that takes you into Glen Mhor, we were greeted by a group of L.I.T.s (Leaders in Training) who were waving and welcoming us home. As we drove further along the road, staff welcomed us home and helped get us oriented. We were told where to register and were taken to cabins. Then the games began and strangers quickly became friends. A community was formed.

Days began early, finished well after sunset and consisted of a lovely relaxed rhythm with God at the very centre. In the morning we gathered on the playing field to sing, to pray and to reflect on the theme for the day. Before meals, we asked a blessing in song and cabins took turns leading a spoken prayer. Mid-morning, campers gathered to sing, hear a story about faith and courage from the Bible and to reflect on what that story might mean for them today. We created responses, we talked and we prayed. In the afternoon, the L.I.T.s had their Bible Study. There were big questions asked during these studies. On Tuesday, they asked me to talk to them about discernment. After dinner, the staff had their Bible Study time. They filled out gratitude journals as they reflected on the day. There was lots of singing and many, many, more big questions. We talked about God's grace one evening. Another evening they asked to put me on the "hot seat" and so many deep and important questions about faith were asked very quickly and pondered together. After evening programme, the whole Camp gathered for Worship. It was relaxed and joy-filled. There was more music. (I am in awe of the musical talent and leadership!) We prayed and we told stories. On Friday night, we gathered at the beach to hear the story of Jesus and the fishermen until it rained – really rained hard. Worship was quickly moved to the Lodge. Each day, as a community, ended with thanking God for the day and friends for their part in it. The week ended with a time of remembering, of looking forward and giving thanks.

Throughout the week Campers took part in art and drama. Some played ukuleles and even let me try. There were adventures on the high ropes and low ropes and archery field. There was swimming, kayaking and canoeing. There were duties and laughter. Because it was "Outrageous Week", there was ice-cream for breakfast, pies in the face and a jump in the lake while everyone was fully dressed.

Camp is an interesting place that has structure and rules, fun and tradition. At meals, someone from each table needed to "hop" the food from the kitchen and then take the dishes back. Meals often ended with everyone standing on the benches and chanting a variety of silly songs. Then staff, wearing incredible costumes, would run into the lodge and make silly announcements about what was happening next. There is a measure of independence and responsibility for the campers that is very interesting to watch.

Camp is also wonderfully filled with support and affirmation. Things done well are praised. Attempts are praised. Potentially challenging situations are offered dignity and made into something fun which speaks so much of the leadership! They are an amazing group of faithful, caring and talented people who are willing to do what it takes to make things happen and to laugh at themselves in the process. The Campers, the Camp and we as the larger Church are blessed to have them serving in these roles.

There is a wonderful, vital and important ministry taking place at Camp Cairn. Thank you for allowing me to go and be a part of it for a week this summer! I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity!!



## Prayer Shawl Group

We just wanted to let you know what goes on every Tuesday afternoon 1:00-3:00 pm in the Lounge off the sanctuary.

In the past 6 months 23 members have created (knitted or crocheted) 103 prayer shawls of which 78 have been delivered mostly by the members in person. Of note, 15 were sent via a friend of Robynne Hutton's, to Fort McMurray after their devastating fire.

We come together to pray for each person (who knitted or crocheted) and to bless each shawl created by reciting a prayer together with our hands on the shawls.

The shawls are usually delivered by group members to people in need - for example, who may be sick, receiving medical care, in hospital or who have lost a loved one.

A huge "Thank You!!" to the congregation who has supported us through donated yarn and funds. Thanks go to the Session of St Andrew's for their support of this mission and outreach program and the funds supplied from the Mission & Outreach budget.

If you know of anyone in need of comfort and support, who might like a prayer shawl please let us know!

*Lynn Hoath, Jennifer Maddock & Heather Cromie*

## Neal's Natter Continued ...

This summer our Prayer Shawl Group continued to meet. It is amazing to learn that over 100 prayer shawls have been lovingly made and distributed. Laura and I recently delivered these to three of our senior members and adherents and they were overjoyed to receive them and to know our congregation cares for them.

Our Boarding Home ministry team also continued their bi-weekly visits to Botsford House. I know how much the residents would miss these visits if the team took a summer break.

Progress has also been made in our building renovation program. The new pew cushions have been installed throughout the sanctuary. The downstairs hallway and ceilings have been repainted as has the area under the old sanctuary, which was cleaned out in late spring. Some regular maintenance was also done at the Manse. Thank you to all those who contributed their time and labour to these projects.

All of the above simply means that St. Andrew's is a vibrant and blessed congregation. For this we continued to declare, "Thanks be to God!"

## Canada Youth Reflection

Canada Youth is a jam-packed week of fun, sharing laughs, finding new friends and connecting with old ones. CY really feels like home. It's a place where you can be yourself and be accepted for who you are. Not only do you have a blast, you grow deeper in your faith. As we reflect back on the week, many lessons we learned include deepening our faith, how to start new relationships and strengthen old ones, finding a home in Christ, and we also experienced a little of what it is like to be a refugee.

We were sorted into small groups called CASA groups, where we read scriptures about Ruth and Naomi. From that, we learned what it would be like to be alone and not have a home to go back to. We also played games and developed strong friendships in our micro groups.

During worship, we sang songs with the live band *Twain's Jackrabbit*. We watched live interpretations of the scripture, and listened to inspiring sermons.

We almost always felt God's presence in worship. Every night after worship, there was a themed games night. It was really fun to play games and meet and hang out with new people.

One day was dedicated to experiencing what it is like to be a refugee. Even though our simulation was nothing close to the experience of a real refugee, we learned how hard and uncomfortable it would be. To lose your home, family and friends, and then try to find a new home and be accepted there would be extremely difficult.

Overall, Canada Youth was so much fun. It was really great to be able to get together with youth from all over Canada. Thank you for your support and we really look forward to CY 2018.

# Ghana with Youth in Mission

*In Ghana, people living with disabilities and women suspected of witchcraft face many barriers to living healthy, happy and dignified lives. Misunderstood for their differences, they are neglected by their communities and have limited access to employment or education. Presbyterian World Service and Development is working with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to overcome these barriers and empower vulnerable people to build brighter futures by advocating for human rights, inclusion and understanding in their communities. By teaching important life and vocational skills, people with disabilities discover their abilities and outcast women are reintegrated into their communities free from discrimination.*

Taken from the PWS&D website

In the spring, I listened as the school choir at Phoebe Gilman P.S. asked, "Hey, do you want to go to Ghana?" I smiled and maybe even giggled to myself a little. The Church School talked about Ghana during their Partners Study, this past winter, as they learned about the "Possibility of Chocolate". The students had also focused on Ghana and the work of our Partners there a number of years ago as they learned about the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre. This country in Western Africa keeps popping up in the most interesting, surprising and thought provoking ways.

Not so long ago, a group of young adults at St. Andrew's gathered together and decided that they would like to do something to effect change, and to learn about the work of the larger Church. We talked

about ways to be involved in and through our congregation. We talked about larger ideas and the possibility of going on a Youth in Mission Trip. After great conversations and prayerful reflection, it was decided that the group would travel to Ghana in May of 2017.

"Hey, hey, we want to go to Ghana! Hey, hey, we want to come along," the song continued.

We will have the opportunity to visit the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre that the Church School learned about and raised money to help. We will have the privilege of seeing the work that our Partners are doing to offer dignity, livelihoods and a new understanding of abilities and what is possible. We will also have privilege of visiting the Gambaga Go-Home Project, where women who were shunned after accusations of witchcraft are offered a place of safety and dignity while work is done to educate them and their communities so that they can go home.

We will see the amazing life-affirming things happening through the partnership of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Ghana. We will have the opportunity to see God's love shared and hear about lives being changed.

I can only wonder how this trip will change the lives of those traveling to Ghana.

I can only wonder how the stories that will be shared will change the lives of people at St. Andrew's.

## Let My People Sing! 2016

Preparations are well underway for the Senior Choir's 2016 Let My People Sing! presentation that will be held in our sanctuary at 7:00pm on Sunday October 23.

This inspirational and spiritually uplifting event featuring beloved hymns with exciting new musical settings, a large community choir, brass and other instruments, timpani, and congregational participation will be presented as a fund-raiser to support the 2017 St. Andrew's Youth In Mission trip to Ghana.

Be sure to mark your calendar, and bring your friends!

# Camping Trip

Travelling by canoes into the forests of Algonquin Park takes you back to the time of explorers. Ten people set out on July 29<sup>th</sup> heading into an adventure and finding things that could challenge them. The destination was a great campsite on Ralph Bice Lake. It is about team work. You know the only way to really have a successful trip is to work together. Being one with God's creations is always comforting especially since there was no cell phone reception.

Experienced adult campers organize and accompany the youth on this excursion. Some of our youth are really quite experienced as well now. Erica Maddock and Harrison Clementson plan and lead the worship service on the Saturday night. God's Light was their theme. The adults prepare the hearty meals but the youth do the clean-up. Any books that you have read about pioneers cleaning their kitchen equipment and plates are pretty close to how we do it. The youth will tell you that the mantra for the weekend is "eat, eat, eat".

Activities varied from swimming, fishing and a canoe trip around the lake. The weather was excellent. The youth decide what activities they would like to do. Safety throughout the weekend is always a priority as well as fun.

Plan for a challenge next year! We will be travelling again next year on the August long weekend.



Flat Jesus  
went  
Camping too!



## St. Andrew's Adult/Child Spirituality Retreat

For adults (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles)  
of all ages & children ages 5-12

**January 20 & 21 at Jackson's Point Retreat Centre**

Cost: \$60 for adult and child

This includes overnight accommodation,  
breakfast & lunch

Registration is limited to 15 parent/child groups

Please register soon!



# LET MY PEOPLE SING!

## HYMN FESTIVAL

Beloved hymns in exciting new musical settings accompanied by mass community choir, congregational singing, brass, timpani, and other instruments.

In support of St. Andrew's

Youth in Mission Trip to Ghana

**Come, Sing, Listen, Rejoice!**

**Sunday October 23, 2016 at 7:00pm**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
484 Water St. Newmarket

All Welcome

Freewill Offering

Refreshments to Follow

## ST. ANDREW'S CREATIVE RETREAT

Scrapbooking & Card Making  
for Everyone!



**Friday, October 21:  
6pm - 10pm**

**Saturday, October 22:  
9am - 4pm**

Reserve your space today!

Call the Church office at (905) 895-5512, or  
e-mail

[info@standrewsnewmarket.org](mailto:info@standrewsnewmarket.org)

**Please register by: Tuesday October 18**

## ST. ANDREW'S BAZAAR

**November 12 | 8:30am - 1:00pm**

Join Us  
as we gather for a time of Food, Fun & Fellowship!

There will be Baking, Crafts, Knitting, Greeting Cards, Avon,  
White Elephant Items, a Tea/Coffee "Room"  
and More!



## Rooted in Love

**National Women's Gathering**

**May 19-22, 2017**

**Sheraton Parkway Hotel,  
Richmond Hill, Ontario**

**VISIT [womensgathering.ca](http://womensgathering.ca)**

# Good News From St. Andrew's Survey

In April of this year, St. Andrew's conducted what is called a "Natural Church Development" (NCD) survey. Our first such survey was in 2009 and the results allowed Session to set its priorities for the last 5 years.

The NCD survey is approved by The Presbyterian Church in Canada to assist congregations to determine their congregational health.

As required by the survey parameters, the Session invited 30 people to complete the 90 question survey as a representative sample of the congregation. These persons all met the survey criteria. In June the survey participants and members of Session received the first results.

The following is a brief summary of these results:

1. St. Andrew's scored higher than the average congregation in ALL eight of the characteristics that were tested.
2. The survey suggested that SERVICE comes most naturally to us as a congregation, FELLOWSHIP occupies the middle ground and FAITH comes less naturally to us. However, this is understandable given our commitment to live out our faith through our serving and caring ministries, and the fact that Presbyterians tend to be reserved when it comes to talking about their faith.
3. The survey also revealed that gift based ministry, empowering leadership and effective structures come most naturally to us; that loving relationships and holistic small groups occupy the middle ground; and that need-orientated evangelism, passionate spirituality and inspiring worship services do not come as naturally to us. Again, the same caution as given at the end of 2) above applies.
4. When our results are compared to other Canadian congregations it was found that we place in the top 15% health wise of all Canadian churches.
5. Our Synod Mission Consultant, whose task it is to analysis these results has already commented, *"I cannot begin to express how encouraging this survey is."*

In October our Synod consultant John-Peter Smit will meet with Session to give his further analysis, and then the Vision Committee of Session will suggest some priorities for ministry at St. Andrew's for Session to consider.

## The Presbyterian Record To Cease Publication

*The Presbyterian Record* magazine which has faithfully served the church in Canada for 140 years has announced that, due to falling circulation and financial concerns, it will cease publication as of December 2016. This is a significant loss for our denomination but many print magazines with a targeted audience are facing the same reality today.

In order to continue facilitating communication within the

denomination, and to build upon the Presbyterian Record's legacy, the Life and Mission Agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada will begin publication of a new resource that will merge some of the news and features once covered in the Record with educational and informational materials produced by the ministries, committees, and agencies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

While the frequency and focus will be significantly different from the Record's, the purpose of this new publication will be to further equip leaders, connect congregations and missions, facilitate communication, and highlight denominational work—strengthening our denominational ties across the country.

It is expected that refunds for unrealized issues of *The Record* will be refunded once full details are known.

## St. Andrew's October 2016 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sun Oct 2	10:00am	Worldwide Communion Sunday & Presbytery Congregation Visit
Sun Oct 9	10:00am	Harvest Thanksgiving
Mon Oct 10		Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Oct 21 & 22		Scrapbook & Cardmaking Retreat at St. Andrew's
Sun Oct 23	7:00pm	"Let My People Sing" Hymn Festival
Sun Oct 30	10:00am	All Saints / Reformation Sunday
Sun Nov 6	10:00am	Remembrance Sunday, Daylight Saving Time -Clocks Back 1 Hour
Sat Nov 12	8:30am-1:00pm	St. Andrew's Bazaar! Come one, Come All!
Sun Nov 20	10:00am	Christ the King Sunday/Communion
Sun Nov 27	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Celebration
Sun Dec 4		Mitten Tree Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Sat Dec 10	9:00 & 10:00am	Pageant Rehearsal: 9am Choir, 10am Full Cast
Sun Dec 11	10:00am	Church School Christmas Pageant, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Fri Dec 16	5:00pm-8:00pm	Children's Christmas Celebration, Ages 4+, Fun & Pizza
Sun Dec 18	10:00am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent
<b>Sat Dec 24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Service for Young Children &amp; Families</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Family Christmas Candlelight Service</b>
	<b>9:00pm</b>	<b>Lessons, Carols &amp; Communion</b>
Sun Dec 25	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship. <i>Merry Christmas from St. Andrew's!</i>
Sun Jan 1	10:00am	Epiphany Sunday Worship. <i>Happy New Year 2017!</i>
Sun Jan 8	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord
Sun Jan 15	10:00am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany
Mon Jan 16		Annual Reports are due into the Office -Thanks!
Jan 20 & 21		Adult/Child Spirituality Retreat at Jackson's Point
Sun Jan 22	10:00am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany
Sun Jan 29	10:00am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany
Sun Feb 5	10:00am	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, PWS&D Sunday
Sun Feb 12	10:00am	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany
Sun Feb 19	10:00am	Heritage Sunday
Mon Feb 20		Family Day Holiday
Sun Feb 26	10:00am	Transfiguration Sunday
Wed March 1	7:15pm	Ash Wednesday, Midweek Lenten Services Begin
Sun March 5	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent