

# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

484 WATER STREET

NEWMARKET

(905) 895-5512

WWW.STANDREWSNEWMARKET.ORG

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017



## Neal's Natter

It hardly seems possible that we are entering the Advent season again, and that Christmas Day is only a few weeks away.

It hardly seems possible..... That theme appears throughout the Christmas story.

When Mary was told by the angel that she would be the mother of Jesus, she wondered how that was possible because she was a virgin.

When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant he must have wondered the same thing. How is it possible that my life is being changed in this way?

How is it possible that the King of Kings was born in a stable in a small backwater village, and not in a palace in the capital city?

No doubt the shepherds had never considered the possibility of angels appearing to them with the good news of the birth of the long awaited Messiah.

And how is it possible that well educated people such as the Magi would risk a long journey by following a star in the sky?

It hardly seems possible! But as the angel reminded a questioning, yet obedient, Mary, *"For with God nothing shall be impossible"* (Luke 1:37 KJV). Or as a more modern translation puts it, *"For every promise from God shall surely come true."* (TLB).

This is the faith Advent calls us to. To believe in God's promises. To build our lives on them. When we do, even in the tough times of our lives, we are never disappointed.

Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas.

Neal





# Laura's Letter

Using only two words, Antoinette Portis tells the wonder filled story of a mother and young child who are on their way to the subway. The mother tells her son to hurry but he keeps asking her to wait as he notices so much happening all around them. There is a dog that needs petting. There is an ice-cream truck with pictures of delightful treats. There are fish and flowers to admire and a butterfly that inspires awe. Ducks need to be fed and rain drops need to be tasted.

The mother's word, "Hurry", relates the urgency of their journey. They have somewhere to be and a certain amount of time to get there.

The young child's word, "Wait", relates that there is so much to see and to do along the way. The child pauses to marvel at the world around him, to enjoy the journey.

At the end of the story, while the subway train sits in the station loading passengers, the boy once again says, "Wait". He has noticed that there is a double rainbow in the

sky. His mother stops and looks. She agrees that they should wait and enjoy the beauty of the rainbows rather than hurry.

This story speaks to me of the push and pull of life. So often our word is "Hurry" – so often our word needs to be "Hurry" – yet there are moments that call us to wait, to slow down and notice the people and the world around us.

We are entering a time of year that is filled with the word "Hurry" and yet we are invited in the Season of Advent, perhaps even called, to wait. We are invited to slow down and linger in the story. We are invited to notice the wonder of God breaking into the world and take time reflect on what that meant to the people who were there when Jesus was born and what it means for us today.

As we enter the Season of Advent, may we find moments where our word is, "Wait".

*Merry Christmas! Laura*

## ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Services**

**10:00am** Sunday Morning Worship  
**5:00pm** Celebration for Young Children  
**7:00pm** Family Candlelight Service  
**9:00pm** Lessons, Carols & Communion

### **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas**

**10:00am** Sunday Morning Worship

484 Water St., Newmarket 905-895-5512  
[www.standrewsnewmarket.org](http://www.standrewsnewmarket.org)

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!**  
**EVERYONE  
WELCOME!**





# What a Bazaar!



## OVER \$5,000 RAISED FOR THE CURRENT ACCOUNT!

Over 50 members of the congregation working throughout the morning greeting, selling, and having fun! What a tradition that began many years ago under the faithful watch of our Women's Association.

It may have happened on a Saturday morning in



November, but there were countless hours spent by those who organized the day, those who collected and stored articles, and those who made the many edible and non-edible goods that were sold.

We continue to be blessed with so many willing volunteers who provided this wonderful outreach to the community.

The Session & Board of St. Andrew's extends their heartfelt gratitude to all who made this event such a great success!

*Merry  
Christmas*



## Bluegrass Gospel

### RHYME 'N REASON

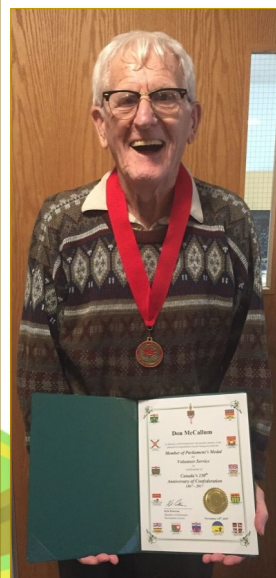
Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful evening of Bluegrass Gospel Music at St. Andrew's, featuring award nominated group "Rhyme 'N Reason".

Our thanks to the Men's Fellowship Group for sponsoring this great evening. \$1,900.00 was raised to support our community meal mission project.

## Congratulations To Don McCallum

The congregation of St. Andrew's extends its congratulations to Don McCallum who is one of the recipients of the Newmarket-

Aurora Member of Parliament's Medal for Volunteer Service which is given to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. Don received his award at an award ceremony on November 14<sup>th</sup>.



Don has a long record of service to the community, as well as his service to St. Andrew's as an elder, usher and long serving board chair.

An honour well deserved. Well done good and faithful servant!





## Meet Our New Ambassadors

As part of our missional church strategy the Session has appointed a Community Ambassador to represent St. Andrew's in our Community, and especially in the downtown community of which we are part. We have also appointed two Seniors Ambassadors to work with seniors in our community, as we have many opportunities to do so in the vicinity of our church building.

Our Ambassadors were commissioned at a recent worship service.

### COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

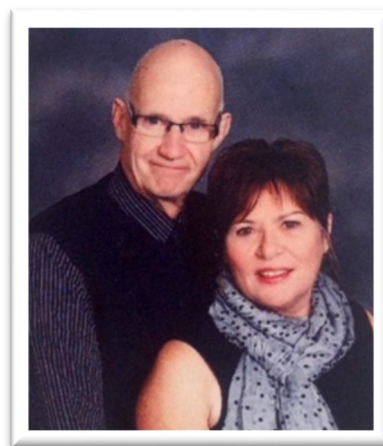


Allen Kirkpatrick retired from professional sales & management career in the packaging industry at the end of 2014 and in 2016 accepted a part-time position as director of the Canadian Association for corrugated packaging industry.

He moved from Oakville to Newmarket in 1996 with his wife Betty Lou, and two daughters, Kristy & Allison. In Oakville the Kirkpatrick's were members of Trafalgar Presbyterian Church in Oakville where Allen served as an ordained elder and Church School teacher.

They transferred their membership to St. Andrew's in 1997, where Allen has taught Sunday School, participated in the Wednesday evening Bible Study group, and served on the Heritage Committee.

### SENIORS AMBASSADORS



Bill and Sheila Stephens, having lived in Ottawa for 56 Years, moved to Newmarket to be close to their children Shawna and Paul and to their 5 grandchildren.

Bill was sent to Toronto to establish and manage a wood mouldings warehouse as an expansion for an Ottawa company. Having been a carpenter for many years it was a perfect fit.

Sheila has spent 32 years of her working career in hospitals, first in Ottawa and then in Markham.

In Ottawa, Bill and Sheila were involved in setting up, and working with a church group, to visit regularly in a seniors retirement home. At St. Andrew's Bill and Sheila quickly became active in the congregation in many different ministries, including the Senior Choir, Coffee Break Bible Study, Church Bazaar, EPIC Worship and Board. They are now looking forward to being involved in the role of Seniors Ambassadors for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.



## Loaves & Fishes Thank You

### We Welcome Our New Minister of Music

On September 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed to St. Andrew's our new Minister of Music Thomas Schadl.



Thomas is very accomplished at the organ, piano and directing. Thomas hails originally from Vancouver B.C. where He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance.

Thomas has an ARCCO from the Royal Canadian College of Organists (Vancouver) and an ARCT in Piano teacher with The Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto-Vancouver. He served as organist and choir director from 1988 till 1999 in Vancouver.

Thomas came to Ontario in 1999 and served as Music Director at Ashbury West United Church in North York until 2011. Before coming to St. Andrew's he was Music Director at Woodbridge United.

*We Welcome Thomas to St. Andrew's!*

### Thank You to Nancy Pak



The Session and congregation gratefully acknowledge the ministry of our interim-music director Nancy Pak, and marked her contribution with a presentation and, of course, a cake!

Nancy is a skilled church organist as well as a member of St. Andrew's, and her passion for choral ministry, and her skill in directing choirs, made the transition period between our organists a wonderfully productive time.

Thanks also to her husband Chris who probably thought his days of carrying Nancy's music were over!!!

We again thank the congregation for their generous support of our Loaves and Fishes project in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, an agency that is a Christian response to help families around the world get enough to eat.

Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017 \$41 million dollars was raised to fund 127 projects in 35 countries in the world where hunger is a particular problem. Around 1 million people benefited from this program during this period.

This was the first year we ran this project without the guiding hand of our friend Merv Jessop, who has now moved to London. Merv first introduced Loaves and Fishes to St. Andrew's and is an enthusiastic advocate for the program.



In tribute of Merv's service the Session recently

made a donation to Loaves and Fishes in his honour. In response Merv has written "*I cannot think of a greater gift than a donation to the Loaves and Fishes....It was such a great joy working with people in Session, Missions, Church School, Bible Study and other activities. My prayers will be with you.*"





## Nativity Tour: December 3

Last year, on the first Sunday in Advent, we invited the congregation to bring their nativity sets to display and share during coffee hour. Each set was different and many had interesting stories attached to them – where they had come from, how they were made, or how they had been purchased or received.

This year we would like to extend an invitation, again, for you to bring your nativity set, or nativity sets, to display on the first Sunday in Advent (December 3<sup>rd</sup>). Tables will be arranged in the Hall and we can go on our “tour” during Coffee Hour. You are also invited to write any stories connected with your nativity that you would like to share.

It was a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season last year and it will be a lovely start to our Advent once more this year.



## Mitten Tree: December 10

When we first began decorating the “Mitten Tree”, it was something done by the children. Since that time, we have included some of our Elders, Grandparents, the Senior Youth Group and members of the Senior Choir.

Each year, the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary is covered from the top to the bottom with gifts of warmth and caring. (Some of our Choir members are also decorated, as well....) It is a time of laughter, celebration and anticipation as the decorators aim for the top branches. It is also a time of incredible generosity. Thank you!

This year, “Mitten Tree” Sunday is on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Donations of new hats, scarves, gloves and mittens will once again cover the Christmas Tree and then these gifts, that we have such fun giving, will make their way to people in our community who need help staying warm this winter.



## Choir Cantata: December 10

The choir, under the direction of our Minister of Music Thomas Schadl, will be presenting a 20 minute cantata during worship called “*Night of Wonders: The Christmas Story in Song, Carols and Scripture*” featuring seven wonderful anthems. Our Choir has grown in numbers in recent months and we look forward to their first presentation.

## New Heritage Signs

With the completion of renovations under the old sanctuary, the Heritage Committee of St. Andrew's has received Session approval to install heritage plaques at certain points in our building to mark those persons who have made a significant contribution to the development of St. Andrew's. The new signs will also enable those attending activities at St. Andrew's to better find their meeting area.

The new signs will be dedicated on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> during which family members of those being recognized are being invited. Please plan on staying for a time of fellowship, celebration cake, hot chocolate, and to view our Nativity displays.

*Here are the names of the rooms:*

**McGillivray Hall:** The fellowship hall will be called McGillivray Hall. Reverend Angus McGillivray, minister at St. Andrew's 1984 - 2001. He oversaw the growth of St. Andrew's ministry and the building of the new sanctuary in 1992.

**McIntyre Wing:** The newly renovated wing under the old sanctuary will be called the McIntyre Wing. Reverend Dr. Dugald McIntyre, minister at St. Andrew's 1927 - 1940. After the impact of the 1925 United Church of Canada Act, he rebuilt the congregation spiritually and materially.

**The Mark Room & The Brown Room:** The two rooms in newly renovated wing will be called The Mark Room and The Brown Room.

Reverend Harold Mark, was minister at St. Andrew's 1959 until his death in 1962. He oversaw the purchase of the property east of the church, site of the current sanctuary. Reverend John Brown, was minister at St. Andrew's 1854 - 1875. He worked to unite Newmarket's Free and Old Kirk Presbyterians into one congregation on this site.

**The Gordon Library:** The library/lounge will be called The Gordon Library. Reverend Henry Gordon, minister at St. Andrew's 1834 - 1837. Our first resident Presbyterian Minister, he oversaw a new sanctuary "The Old Kirk", at Timothy and Church Streets. It was dedicated in 1837 as St. Andrew's.

**Elizabeth Sharpe Archive:** The archive room will be named the Elizabeth Sharpe Archive. Elizabeth Sharpe, a member of St. Andrew's who served as the first woman on the Session and Board - a dedicated keeper of records and preserver of St. Andrew's history.

**The Little Choir Room:** The Choir room will be named The Little Choir Room. Nellie and Len Little were active leaders with long time service to the choir, the Church School and the life of St. Andrew's.

**Old Sanctuary:** The area we call the Old Sanctuary will formally be named as such. Built in 1875 after the growth and union of the Free Church of Scotland with the Presbyterians of the Old Kirk. Architect: J. T. Stokes

### My Birthday Story: December 17

Come join the Sunday School on December 17<sup>th</sup> as they tell the Christmas story. We all have a story of our birth. What would Jesus say if he were telling his birthday story? What did he see, think and feel as an infant. Join us as we discover Christmas through the eyes of Jesus. Our discovery begins at 10:00am. *We look forward to seeing everyone there.*





## Exciting Announcement of A New Ministry Community Lunch

In the spring of this year, and as part of our Missional Church emphasis, St. Andrew's adopted five new mission projects. One of those projects was to investigate joining the rotation of churches and other groups that provide a community meal for those who are in need of this.

We are delighted to announce that God has brought this project to the point where we will be able to launch it in January, 2018.

The plan is to provide a lunch on the first & third Thursday's of every month as no lunches are available on this day in our community, and so we are meeting a real need.

The initial goal is to serve up to 50 people at each lunch. The menu will include a soup, sandwich and fruit.

The Session has approved initial funding from the Mission and Outreach budget to cover start-up costs and the cost of each meal, estimated at \$100 per meal. To date, 19 people have signed up to be members of our Lunch Team, and will serve on a rota basis.

As future needs become known we will make those needs known to the congregation. Please pray as we step out in faith in the name of Jesus!



## A Retirement *Thank You!* "When All is Said & Done"

One of my favourite contemporary Christian songs is by Irish musician Robin Mark. It is called "When All is Said and Done." It begins with this refrain:

*When it's all been said and done,  
there is just one thing that matters;  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for You?*

As you all know by now I am retiring from full time ministry, and from my position as Minister of St. Andrew's on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, with Christmas Eve being my last Sunday. This will bring



to a close 40 years and five months of full time ministry, all of which I have served in four congregations, in three different Presbyteries. As I reflect on all those years, I really do believe the words of that song. "God, when all is said and done, there is just one thing that matters...Did I live my life for You?" This has certainly been the goal I have always strived for in ministry and in my life.

I wish to thank you all for being part of my ministry journey. I believe God kept the best to last! Debbie and I love you with all our hearts, and will carry so many wonderful memories of our time together with us for the rest of our lives.

It has been my privilege to serve alongside Laura, who brings such value to ministry at St. Andrew's, more I think than we sometimes realize. Robynne, our Administrator, accomplishes more in a day than any other administrator I have ever worked with. Thomas is settling well into his position as Minister of Music and I appreciate the commitment he brings to his work, as did Edward before him. I will miss our fun loving caretakers Gord & Barry, and deeply appreciate all they do.

As well as a wonderful staff, let me acknowledge the commitment of our elders,

board members, and committee and ministry leaders. It is no surprise to me that the strength of our church leadership was recognized in our recent NCD survey as one of the greatest strengths of St. Andrew's.

Debbie and I are retiring to Collingwood, and we hope you will visit with us if you are in the area. Our immediate plans are to spend more time with family, and to travel. Debbie plans to continue painting. I plan to write a family history, and then turn my attention to writing worship resources for the modern church, especially along the lines of our EPIC services.

May God bless and keep you as a congregation. May He bless your new minister, whoever that may be, for God is already raising that person up. "When all is said and done"

– to God be the Glory!



## Introducing Our Interim-Moderator

When a minister leaves a congregation, even if there is another minister in the congregation, The Presbytery appoints what is called an "Interim-Moderator". This person is a minister who has a special responsibility to advise the Session and Search Committee during the vacancy, to moderate Session meetings, and to keep Presbytery updated on the life of the congregation as the search process progresses.

The Presbytery of Oak Ridges has appointed Rev. Dr. Dan Scott as Interim-Moderator of St. Andrew's. Dan is no stranger to our congregation having served in this capacity in 2001 & in 2009.

### Rev. Dr. Dan Scott

I am excited to be the Interim Moderator at St. Andrew's once again. As minister at St. John's, Bradford for the past two decades, it has been my privilege to work with you as Interim Moderator on two other occasions.

What does an Interim Moderator do?

The first thing an Interim Moderator does is make a formal notification that the pulpit or position is vacant. In the case of St. Andrew's, Newmarket, the position occupied by the Rev. Dr. Neal Mathers will become vacant upon his retirement at the end of the year. Early in 2018, I will declare the position vacant using wording from the Book of Forms (Appendix A-33). It will also be my privilege to preach the sermon and assist in leading worship on that day.

The second thing is to ensure that the life and the work of the congregation continues in good order. Under the capable leadership of Rev. Laura Duggan, the ministry at St. Andrew's will continue. Together we will ensure the pulpit is filled and

that pastoral care is provided. I am confident that things will go very well. St. Andrew's is blessed to have very capable leadership in the Session and within the congregation.

The third thing that an Interim Moderator does is to assist in Searching for a new minister. Although the Interim Moderator attends all meetings of the Search Committee, it is recommended that a member of the committee convene the meetings. In the next while, the Search Committee will be formally struck and assist in the preparation of a congregational profile and begin to examine candidates. In due course, the Interim Moderator will deal with perspective candidates and assist in the processing of a call to a new minister.

Let me say that I am honoured to serve as Interim Moderator at St. Andrew's once again. I look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

*God Bless.  
Daniel Scott*



## Adult-Child Spirituality Retreat

The adult-child spirituality retreat has become a tradition at St. Andrew's. It began as a gift from Dorothy Henderson, who remembering a spiritual retreat with her son Daniel when he was a child, set out to offer a similar experience to families in our congregation. She reflected that at the retreat she attended there were; engaging stories, lively music, beautiful crafts, and smoky campfires. Best of all, she had an opportunity to focus on one of her children and he had her all to himself without the competition of work, his siblings and father, the pets and laundry.

This year, again, there will be engaging stories, lively music, beautiful crafts and a smoky campfire. There will be a walk to howl at the moon a tradition at the retreat. There will be good food, time to slow down, time to talk with each other, to talk with God and to listen.

The Retreat is for children ages 5 – 12 and a parent, grandparent or other significant adult. (A few years ago we had an adult cousin join us with one child) It takes place January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Jackson's Point. The cost is \$60/adult-child pair.

Please speak with Laura, if you would like to take part this year.





# St. Andrew's 2017 - 2018 Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sat Nov 18	10:00am	Santa Claus Parade -Youth Hot Chocolate & Popcorn Stand
Sun Nov 26	10:00am	Christ The King Sunday, Communion & New Members
Sun Dec 3	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent, Nativity Tour, Hot Chocolate Bar, Heritage Signs
Sun Dec 10	10:00am	Mitten Tree & Choir Cantata, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Sat Dec 16	9:00 & 10:00am	Pageant Rehearsal: 9am Choir, 10am Full Cast
Sun Dec 17	10:00am	Church School Christmas Pageant, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
<b>Sun Dec 24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Worship</b> (Rev. Dr. Mathers Last Sunday)
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Celebration 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>
Mon Dec 25		<i>Merry Christmas from St. Andrew's!</i>
Sun Dec 31	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas
Mon Jan 1		Happy New Year 2018!
Sun Jan 7	10:00am	Interim Moderator Preaching, Neal's Farewell Party
Sun Jan 14	10:00am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord
Mon Jan 15		Annual Reports are due into the Office -Thanks!
Jan 19 & 20		Adult/Child Spirituality Retreat at Jackson's Point
Sun Jan 21	10:00am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Camp Carin Sunday
Sun Jan 28	10:00am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany
Sun Feb 4	10:00am	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, PWS&D Sunday
Sun Feb 11	10:00am	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Transfiguration Sunday
Wed Feb 14	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday, Communion
Sun Feb 18	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, Heritage Sunday
Mon Feb 19		Family Day Holiday
Wed Feb 21	7:30pm	Mid-week EPIC Lent Service
Sun Feb 25	10:00am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent, St. Andrew's 184 <sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary
Wed Feb 28	7:30pm	Mid-week EPIC Lent Service
Sun March 4	10:00am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Communion, Annual General Meeting After Worship
Wed Mar 7	7:30pm	Mid-week EPIC Lent Service
Sun Mar 11	10:00am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, Daylight Saving Time Begins, Clocks forward 1 hour
Wed Mar 14	7:30pm	Mid-week EPIC Lent Service
Sun Mar 18	10:00am	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent
Wed Mar 21	7:30pm	Mid-week EPIC Lent Service
Sun Mar 25	10:00am	Palm Sunday
Thurs Mar 29	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday, Communion
Fri Mar 30	10:00am	Good Friday
Sun Apr 1	10:00am	Easter Sunday, Festival of the Resurrection
July 9-13	9:00am -Noon	Vacation Bible Camp "Rolling River Rampage" -Save The Date!