

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Mission

June 2017 | *Sharing the Love & Joy of God*

484 Water Street, Newmarket, Ontario

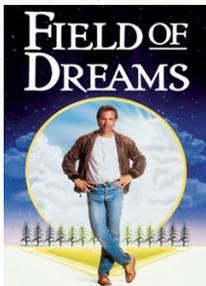
www.standrewsnewmarket.org

(905) 895-5512

An Important Message

Please Read It!

This edition of our church newsletter has one key theme. It is about the mission of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newmarket and about us being, and continuing to become, a missional church.



Some of you will remember the movie "Field of Dreams" (1989). It was the story of an Iowa farmer named Ray, played by Kevin Costner, who heard a mysterious voice one night in his cornfield. The voice said, "If you build it, he will come." Ray feels the need to act, and despite people taunting him that he was crazy, he builds a baseball diamond on his land way out in the country. Afterwards, the ghosts of great players start emerging from the crops of corn to play ball led by "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and members of the disgraced 1919 Boston Black Sox, who although acquitted of game fixing in court, were permanently banned from playing by Judge Landis, the first Commissioner of Baseball.

The story unfolds as a story of sacrifice and redemption, and ends with hundreds of cars approaching the baseball field to fulfil the prophecy that people will once again come to watch baseball.

The iconic line from the movie, "If you build it, he will come." has often been restated in church terms as "If you build it, they will come." In other words, if we build church buildings, people will come. If we offer good programs, people will come. If we have a good preacher in the pulpit, people will come. This model of doing church has become known as the "Attractional Model" and for a long time it did work. In fact, it has been the dominant model in the Western Church for centuries and it worked very well when the movement between culture and the church was easy, and did not take a great deal of effort. This was the era called Christendom, the time many of us grew up in, where the Church was pretty much in the center of society and had great influence in almost every area of life.



Continued on next page

“If we build it, they will come” no longer works. As Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, the attractational model has lost its effectiveness, and in many ways is now self-defeating. By that, I mean that our failure to recognize that the attractational model no longer works, means that we are often spending energy in church activities that no longer attract anyone but those already within our congregation.

Henry Ford famously said, “If you always do what you’ve always done, you will always get what you’ve always got”. His point was that often people want to change the end result (e.g. church decline, congregational stagnation) but they don’t want to change the processes that have led to the decline. We don’t want to risk, to change, and to step out in faith. We become too invested in the status quo. And so the seven last words of a dying church are said to be, “But we’ve never done it that way before” .

The reality of the Canadian Church, in every denomination, is that the gap between our culture and the church is very quickly becoming a chasm. People no longer naturally find their way into the church and if they do it is not a gentle step from our culture but a giant leap. Our culture no longer understands “church”. It is increasingly ignorant about what Christians believe. And it is, at best, apathetic and at worst antagonistic. Christendom

now only exists in the minds of church folk. The age of mission is once more upon us. So as the people of a missionary God, who came to live us in Jesus Christ, we ought to engage the world the same way our God does—by “going” out to engage the world rather than expecting the world to come to us.

The Vision Committee of our Session, along with our Session, Board and congregational leaders have spent much time in the last 18 months exploring what it might mean for St. Andrew’s to engage our community “missionally” by building



bridges into our community that are more relationship based than program based, that are more collaborative than congregational, and that are more innovative than traditional. Please understand this is the beginning of a journey, not the end of one. This is learning to “Do” church and to “Be” Church in a whole new different way – or perhaps to be the church we read about in the New Testament who were commanded by Jesus to “Go into the world and to make disciples”.

So enjoy this edition of our newsletter! Read, pray, engage, act. “If we go, He will come”.

YIM Ghana Trip



The YIM team meets with Rev. Michael, District Minister for Garu, and the choir at CB Bot Presbyterian Church in Garu, Ghana.



The YIM team met up with the Rev. Dr. Abraham Berinyuu in Tamale, Ghana.

Abraham won the PCC’S E.H. Johnson award in 2013 for his work campaigning for disability rights and ethnic reconciliation.



Members of the YIM team are greeted by hearing-impaired students who receive support through PWS&D’S Community Based Rehabilitation Program in Garu, Ghana.

Youth In Mission



Trip To Ghana



The YIM team asks the village chief in Gambaga for permission to visit the PWS&D-supported Gambaga Go Home Project in his community. (He said yes!)



The YIM team proudly shows off the latrine they helped build at the PWS&D-supported Gambaga Go Home Project in Ghana.



PCG Host, Esther, in traditional Ghanaian dress



The YIM team worshipped at Kanshie Presbyterian Church in Accra, Ghana on Mother's Day.

Here they are with Kanshie congregation's youth choir.



The YIM team, pictured here
with the entire Gambaga Go Home
Project participants and staff.



Reflections on the Gambaga Go Home Project

A few days ago, the Youth in Mission (YIM) team got the amazing opportunity to visit the Gambaga Go Home Project that is funded by Presbyterian World Service and Development. This fantastic program helps women who have been accused of witchcraft. They provide the women a safe place to stay, and help with education in their home communities, so that they can safely return home, if possible. If not, they remain in their new community in Gambaga and treated as family. Upon entering the village of Gambaga, we first had to meet with the chief. He had granted us special permission to meet with him on a Friday, as he is Muslim and Fridays is their day of rest and therefore normal meetings would normally not be given, because of the value he put on our partnership with The Presbyterian Church in Canada. To greet the chief the proper procedure is to squat down and clap your hands, he then asked us to rise and shake hands. He was incredibly gracious in welcoming us to the community. We entered the village, and met with the women of the program in a small building. The women greeted us with a song and dance, we all introduced ourselves, and they told us some of their stories.

One woman was accused of being a witch by her own grandson, who said he had a dream of her harming him. She had to flee her home for her own

safety. She was integrated back to her community, but had to leave again when her grandson tried to kill her by strangling her while she slept. Upon arrival both times she was welcomed by the chief and the other women, where they now take care of her as she is elderly (90 years old). To this day her family refuses to help and accept her back into her community. Amidst all the darkness she has faced in her life and having to leave her home forever she remains strong and is happy because she has food to eat and is in a safe place. To use her own words, "I am grateful for this program for without it I would be dead."

The women are incredibly strong. They still have very little but are very grateful for the program which gives them a safe place to live. One of the women told us that she had not eaten supper the night before as she had chosen to feed her children, instead of feeding herself. This speaks volumes to how selfless these women are and how much they deserve a safe place to live with their children. It also shows that there is still work to be done both in the Gambaga program and in the tribal communities still dealing with witchcraft. These women are an inspiration to us and we are so thankful, and honoured that they shared their stories with us.

Laura Ingle & Rachel Lindsay

Vision Committee Update

In the fall of 2014, the Vision Committee of Session began a process of discerning the future direction of St. Andrew's.

We began with gathering members of the Session and Board together for a workshop built around the theme "The Missional Church". The workshop content was based on the book "Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard of the Church" by respected church consultant Reggie McNeal.

The next step was for us to conduct a second Natural Church Development Survey (NCD). This took place in April 2016. The first survey was held in May, 2009. The NCD Survey is a well tested instrument that uses a representative sample of church members to determine the overall health of a congregation. St. Andrew's, once again, scored higher than the average congregation in all eight congregational characteristics that were tested. In the fall of 2016, we gathered the Session members and the survey participants together and invited our Synod Mission Consultant Rev. D. J. P. Smit to help us interpret our survey results.

On January 14th of this year the Vision Committee gathered the Session, Board, Christian education staff and other church leaders together for a second missional church workshop. This was focused on how we could, as a congregation, engage the community outside the walls of

St. Andrew's, and especially how we could engage those in the downtown area. This was a wonderful morning of sharing ideas and seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The ideas generated at this workshop were then reviewed by the Vision Committee and in February the ideas were shared with the congregation one Sunday after worship and those present were invited to "vote" on the ideas they felt we should pursue. These "Missionary Projects" are listed in the following pages. In the near future we will be recruiting different teams to implement each idea. We especially want to encourage those who are not presently involved in a ministry at St. Andrew's to become involved in one of these projects.

A key part of our missional church direction is to recruit two "Community Ambassadors", one whose work will be to build contacts with Local Seniors and one who will build contacts in Downtown Newmarket. Anyone interested in learning more is asked to contact our ministers or the church office.

The following pages outline the above in more detail. We wish to stress that this is simply a beginning, but a beginning that we believe will be transformative both for St. Andrew's and for our community.



Volunteer Opportunities

The Focus on Mission: *“Many churches talk about the importance of mission, but where truly missional churches differ is in their posture toward the world. To be missional means to be sent into the world; we do not expect people to come to us. As the people of a missionary God, we ought to engage the world the same way he does—by going out rather than just reaching out.”*
Alan Hirsch, co-founder and associate faculty for the M.A. in Missional Church Movements at Wheaton College (Illinois) <http://www.alanhirsch.org/>

Our Progress to Date: The 2016 Annual Report highlighted the wide range of missional work that has occurred in our congregation. With a focus to move from outreach to engagement, the Vision Committee sought input from Church Leaders, and the congregation at large, for new ideas and suggestions on projects that build on our work as a missional church in the community. This process has resulted in 10 new project ideas that received the greatest support from our church members. To move forward, we now need volunteers to act as Project Leads to turn these ideas into actual missional work.



Community Ambassador

Roles & Responsibilities:

To move forward, we now need 2 volunteers to act as Community Ambassadors, one for each of these communities: Local Seniors and Downtown Newmarket. The Community Ambassador will identify community groups to engage with, have knowledge of existing church work in their focus area, attend meetings and events, identify opportunities for members of the congregation to further assist these communities and report to Session on progress and resource needs as required. The Community Ambassador will be coached by a member of the Vision Committee during this journey.

Missional

Roles & Responsibilities:

Volunteers will form a project team and select a Group Leader. The Team will be responsible for creating an action plan based on the missionary project concept, obtaining the necessary resources (people & financial), launching the project and reporting on the outcomes to Session and the congregation. The Group Leader will be coached by a member of the Vision Committee during this journey.

To Volunteer Contact:

Rev. Neal Mathers (nealmathers@standrewsnewmarket.org)

Rev. Laura Duggan (lauraduggan@standrewsnewmarket.org)

or Call the Church Office at (905) 895-5512

Missionary Projects

Community Mittens and Hats Donation Drive:

Expand the annual Mitten Tree event by encouraging the community at large to donate winter mittens and hats that will be donated to individuals and organizations in need. Consideration will need to be given to identifying those in need and the logistics of collection and distribution. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Provide Nativity photo-opt for families outside the church:

Set up a photo booth for a Nativity scene in conjunction with the hot chocolate service during the Santa Claus Parade. Use existing church costumes and props or add new ones. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Become part of the Business Improvement

Area (BIA): Serve as the Church member of the BIA and identify opportunities for the church to participate in activities, events and lobbying efforts. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Have a Music Night, host Hymn Sing and also non-Christian music.

Create music events that can be hosted in the community (not just in our building) including performers, venues, sales and stage management. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Sponsor Soccer Team – year-end party, and be present a Soccer Fest.

Identify a team that St. Andrew's can sponsor and host an annual celebration. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Prayer Request Box placed outside for public – with follow-up:

Arrange to have a collection box built and installed with support of the Board of Managers. Establish process for reviewing request and create a team of church members who can say a prayer and respond to the person requesting it. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Work with a local restaurant to allow people to purchase a 'token' to be given to a person in need for meal/coffee:

Develop a recommended plan to implement this concept, identify local restaurant(s) for participation. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Become part of the rotational downtown church to offer lunch for the homeless:

Identify a volunteer team that can prepare the meals and coordinate with the downtown church community for selection of dates. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Visitation to nursing homes by lay people from the church:

Identify a list of homes to visit and a team of church members to conduct the visits. Plan and schedule the visits. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.

Children/youth to create cards for Senior's in apartments/nursing homes:

Work with the children's education leaders to plan for card making days and develop a plan to distribute the cards to selected locations. Secure approval of any funding requirements from Session.



“Rooted in Love”

The National Presbyterian Women’s Conference “Rooted in Love” held on May 19-22, 2017 in Richmond Hill, Ontario, brought together over 450 women from all over Canada and international guests from India, Japan, Ghana and Nigeria to share in music, love, fellowship and praise. We participated in bible studies, dance, music and awareness workshops and were treated to a slew of inspirational speakers!



Rev. Hugh Donnelly led us in songs of praise as we became one large amazing choir glorifying God in a few different languages mostly acapella style. The experience was out of this world! Magnificent and beautiful! We learnt many new hymns from our very own Hymnal, which are rich in message and are very touching to the soul. The Ghanaian Presbyterian choir and praise band

One of the main highlights was to learn the extent of mission work done by Presbyterian women internationally for over 180 years. One of the programs highlighted this year was “Save the Mothers”, an organization based in Uganda to improve the health of mothers and babies. In Haiti we support a program to aid vulnerable women and girls and put an end to gender based violence.

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Professor of Social work at McGill University delivered a powerful message on the disadvantage of the health care offered to First Nations Children in Canada. Many children and youth die due to poor health. We remembered two youth who lost their lives recently. We were reminded that our very own Presbyterian Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, despite criticisms from his counterparts, advocated for the health and well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth. This summer, we were invited to create a heart garden to honour and remember the children lost to the Indian Residential School system.

Locally, St. Andrews Presbyterian church in Whitby Ontario has a very vibrant community outreach program. They provide non-perishable food items, grocery gift cards, personal hygiene items, infant and childcare items, household cleaning supplies on an ongoing basis to people from the community. They also provide income tax services, a community meal, supportive work placements and a birthday box to anyone who needs it.

The Presbyterian Church in Paris, Brant, Ontario runs a raw carrot soup program. This program employs individuals on social assistance or individuals who have barriers to traditional employment and prepare carrot soup which is sold to the community. The program celebrates inclusivity and diversity and proceeds fund the salaries of the people who makes the soup.

It was a weekend of inspiration, learning and sharing. For me, it was the best Presbyterian function I had attended in 20 years! This conference takes place every two years so I invite you to start planning for 2019.

Christine Samuel



News Around The Church

Prayer Shawl Group

This missional group began in January 2016 with 25 members. We meet weekly every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00pm in the Church Lounge. Our mission is to provide hand knit or crocheted prayer shawls to anyone who needs God's love, prayer and comfort. To date we have created 240 shawls and distributed 224.

In addition to providing prayer shawls to young and old individuals in need, we have also provided shawls to the Deaf Blind Ontario Services, Doan house Hospice, Southlake Hospital, Fairy Lake Gardens, Maple Health Convalescent Center and victims of the Fort McMurray fire.

If you wish to join us, yarn, patterns, needles and hooks are provided along with coffee, tea, hot chocolate and lots of laughter and fellowship! If you are aware of anyone who could benefit from a "warm prayer shawl hug" from the Prayer Shawl group, please feel free to contact us!

Lynn Hoath, Heather Cromie, Jennifer Maddock



Retirement of Rev. Dr. Neal Mathers

On Tuesday May 16th, the Presbytery of Oak Ridges granted our Minister permission to retire from full time ministry and from his position at St. Andrew's, effective December 31st of this year. The announcement was made to the congregation on Sundays May 21st and 28th.

Neal was licensed as a minister by the Presbytery of Paisley in Scotland in June 1977, and was Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan on August 4th, 1977 and will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination this August 4th. He has served the congregations of Carragana-Sylvania, and Circle West in the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan; Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Barrie, and has been Minister of St. Andrew's since September 1st, 2011.

Neal and Debbie will be retiring to Collingwood, ON. Retirement plans include more time with their family and travelling. Debbie plans to continue painting, and Neal plans to write.

St. Andrew's Bible Camp "Hero Central"

July 10-14, 9:00am-Noon



Join Us for an epic adventure alongside biblical heroes where you discover qualities that make you truly heroes in God!

Please remember to register on our website for our fun filled week!



The Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee has been tasked by session to formally name many of the rooms and spaces throughout the church building. We shall honour those who over the last 183 years have not only built with bricks, but also built with a faith rooted in God's love, allowing St. Andrew's to minister to our community and beyond. We shall keep you posted as to those whose names will be used and to the date of the formal dedication of the rooms.

Diane Hamilton

St. Andrew's 2017 Calendar



Date	Time	Event
Sun June 4	10:00am	Pentecost, General Assembly, Communion, Flower Planting, Sundae Sunday
Sun June 11	10:00am	Awards Sunday & Church Picnic
Sun June 18	10:00am	Father's Day, National Aboriginal Day & Summer Sunday School Begins
Sat July 1		Canada Day! Happy 150 th Birthday Canada!
Mon July 3		Church Office Closed
Sun July 9	10:00am	Bible Camp Sunday: Discover Your Strength in God!
July 10-14	9:00am-Noon	Vacation Bible School "Hero Central"
Wed July 19	7:00pm	EPIC Mid-week Service Begins
Mon Aug 7		Civic Day Holiday, Office Closed
Fri Sept 1-3		Outback Camping Trip
Mon Sept 4		Labour Day Holiday, Office Closed
Sun Sept 10	10:00am	Recovenanting Sunday
Sun Sept 17	10:00am	Regular Church School Begins
Sun Sept 24	10:00am	Presbyterians Sharing Sunday
Sun Oct 1	10:00am	Worldwide Communion Sunday
Sun Oct 8	10:00am	Harvest Thanksgiving
Mon Oct 9		Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Sat Nov 4	8:30am-1:00pm	St. Andrew's Bazaar! Come one, Come All!
Sun Nov 5	10:00am	All Saint's Sunday, Daylight Saving Time ends, clocks go back 1 hour
Sun Nov 12	10:00am	Remembrance Day Sunday
Sun Nov 26	10:00am	Communion, Christ the King Sunday
Sun Dec 3	10:00am	1 st Sunday in Advent Worship
Fri Dec 8	5:00pm-8:00pm	Children's Christmas Celebration, Ages 4+, Fun & Pizza
Sun Dec 10	10:00am	Mitten Tree Sunday, 2 nd 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 rd Sunday in Advent
Sun Dec 24	10:00am	4th Sunday in Advent Worship Service
Sun Dec 24 Christmas Eve	5:00pm	Christmas Service for Young Children & Families
	7:00pm	Family Christmas Candlelight Service
	9:00pm	Lessons, Carols & Communion
Mon Dec 25		<i>Merry Christmas from St. Andrew's!</i>
Sun Dec 31	10:00am	1 st Sunday after Christmas
Mon Jan 1		<i>Happy New Year 2018!</i>