

Organizational Changes

This has been a year of Session “feeling its way”, with the new Term Service model which was introduced in September of 2005, along with a smaller number of Session members. Some committees were disbanded and others formed to reflect the new direction which Session was taking.

Committee Activities and Changes

- Session formed an Archives Committee to oversee the arrangement and cataloging of the church’s documents. Through the efforts of Bill McKinnie, Jim Rife, John McAllister, Ian Millar, Glen Mclsaac and Stewart Blair, a new floor was installed. With new shelves, the appearance of the room improved immeasurably. Work on organizing the material in the room is ongoing.
- On November 19th, at the morning service, the Archive Room was dedicated to the memory of The Rev. Dr. Peter Darch, our former minister, who was a great student of history and who took a keen interest in the archives.
- A Leading with Care Committee was formed, under the leadership of Nancy Nicol, which has representatives from various areas of the church. This committee is responsible for putting in place the Leading with Care policy, as well as overseeing the ongoing adherence to the policy by members and groups within the church family. This policy has resulted in the placing of windows in all doors, tabulating those who deal in any way with others (seniors, children, etc.) and requesting a police check for all those involved in teaching, leading or interacting with others.
- A group led by Don Bower undertook a review and revision of the manual Eldership@St. Andrew’s and completed the task over the course of the first few months of the year.
- The Human Resources Management Committee, Session Support Committee and Welcome Committee, not having met for some time, were disbanded by Session.
- Our monthly newsletter, the “*nonamenews*” was renamed the “*INSPIRE*” and given a logo created especially for it.

Session/Elders

- This year, Jack Mooney found it necessary to resign from Session and from the committees of which he was a member.
- Session and the congregation were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Allan Austin, who had been an Elder for more than 35 years.
- The Fellowship of Elders, those Elders not serving on Session, met with Session for a potluck supper in March. Afterward, small groups met to discuss matters relevant to the church and it was agreed that this was a useful endeavour.

Theology Students

- We were thrilled to learn that Karen Dimock stood first in her class at Knox College this year and had received 7 awards.

- Dan Scott, a McMaster Divinity College student, continued his work among us until the end of June, under the supervision of Rev. Jan Hazlett. We are grateful for his contribution to the life of St. Andrew's.

Music and Worship

- The choir presented a Lenten Cantata on Maundy Thursday.
- Lenten ecumenical services were held on 3 evenings in downtown stone churches with St. Andrew's participating by providing a lay reader at one, Rev. Jan preaching at another and by acting as host for one.
- Services of contemporary praise entitled "Side Door" were conducted by Rev. Jan with the assistance of Fred Ferwerda and Peter Devries.

Our Ministry Team

- Rev. Jan was asked by The Presbyterian Church in Canada to be the female chaplain for Canada Youth 2006 at Brock University in July. She and her daughter ran a half marathon in Iceland in August, in aid of diabetes, and were supported by many in the congregation.
- Rev. John was appointed to the Board of Directors of the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County.
- In September, Rev. Jan informed Session that she would accept a call to St. Andrew's, Calgary, and would be leaving us sometime later this fall. Her last Sunday with us was on November 5th, following which she was the guest at a farewell luncheon. We are thankful for her ministry among us, we are sorry to see her leave and we wish for her and her husband John the very best.

The Bible Trail

- Rev. John and Rev. Jan put together a Bible reading series entitled "The Bible Trail", which lays out a series of readings of the entire Bible. This will take approximately three years to complete. Discussion groups relating to the readings are held weekly and the ministers preach on these books of the Bible at the Sunday Worship Services.

Breakfasts

- These meetings, called Men's Breakfast for the men and Morning's Light for the women, continue monthly and prove to be popular. They afford an opportunity for fellowship and for listening to an interesting speaker.

Towards a World Without AIDS Program

- The Presbytery HIV/AIDS Walk, held in October, raised approximately \$31,000. Some 50 - 55 people from St. Andrew's participated, among them Rev. John, who wore his "coat of many colours". Mary Rife expended a great deal of effort on this project.
- Mary also organized the garage sale this summer, held in the Church Hall, proceeds from which went to HIV/AIDS.
- Missions sponsored a concert by Peter McGillivray, the son of Rev. Angus and Kathleen, with the proceeds going to 'Towards a World Without AIDS' Program.

Missions and Outreach

- Outreach requested and obtained permission to place a grocery cart beside the Communion Table in the Sanctuary once a month to highlight the need for food donations to the Food Bank.
- Anne Holman agreed to work with the Outreach Committee to see if a St. Andrew's policy towards environmental issues could be formulated.
- At the request of the Missions Committee, Session agreed that only "fair trade" coffee be served at the Sunday coffee hour. The A.K.D. Circle offered to increase its contribution to cover the increased cost of the "fair trade" coffee.

Ushers and Greeters

- An *ad hoc* group reviewed the instructions and guidelines for ushers and greeters, making some changes. An important one was that the North door greeter is to tour all floors of the building (washrooms and classrooms) after the sermon to check that all is well and, if so, sign a log located in the upstairs hallway. The back door is to be locked once the service begins.

Special Services

- Anniversary Sunday was April 30th and an anniversary cake was part of the celebrations. The Rev. Dr. Charles Fensham from Knox College was our pulpit guest for the occasion.
- The annual outdoor service and picnic was held at Riverside Park on June 18th.
- Rally Sunday was held on September 10th, along with an open house and orientation of the Bible Trail.
- On April 23rd, a celebration of the women of St. Andrew's, past and present, was held and the ladies were served lunch by men of the congregation.
- Also, on April 23rd, two stained glass panels were dedicated at the rear of the Sanctuary. Funded by the WA, in memory of all women in St. Andrew's, past and present, they depicted the event of the Loaves and Fishes.
- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed at quarterly intervals, as well as at other times at Oxford Lodge, the Elliott Community and Riverside Glen. Attendance was as follows: March – 185; June – 177; October – 162; December – 204.

Session extends its thanks to:

- Rev. Jan and Rev. John, for their ministry to us. Their inspiring sermons, as well as their comforting words in times of sorrow, have been a great benefit to us all.
- Anne and John Holman, for their efforts in continuing the Koinonia monthly meetings which are so important to a number of our church members.
- John Hazlett, for his assistance in installing the library computer.
- Christine Orme, who takes responsibility for having Scripture readers each Sunday, and also coordinates the Oxford Lodge services.
- All those who serve on committees, thereby contributing to the life and work of the church.
- The church school teachers, for their important work in teaching the children of the church.
- Ushers and greeters, who welcome visitors as well as members each week.

- Malcolm McAlister, Colin McGuffin, John Kerr, John McAllister and Peter Devries, who look after the sound system and the recording of services.
- The organizers of the Men's Breakfasts and the Morning's Light Breakfasts.
- The Congregational Life Committee, for arranging a skating party, a movie night, the corn roast at Duff's in the fall and then the Advent activities.
- Fred Gingrich, the choir and the bell choir, for their wonderful contributions to our Sunday services throughout the year.
- Doris Bower, for continuing her ministry of sending baptismal anniversary cards to children baptized at St. Andrew's.
- The Pastoral Care Team for their continuing involvement in caring for our congregation.
- Those who volunteer and use their gardening skills about the church to make our church building look more attractive.
- Ross Rowat, our Representative Elder to Presbytery.
- The Nicols and John McAllister for organizing the poinsettia display each Christmas season.
- Those who fold the calendars each week.
- May Goodwin, for being a very able Administrative Assistant.
- Darlene LePage, for keeping the church clean and tidy.
- Andrew Lesniewski, for arranging tables and chairs, clearing the walks in winter and for the other unseen tasks which he performs.
- The volunteers who staff the nursery each week.
- The women's groups, who contribute so much to the congregation.
- The Board of Managers, for managing the church's finances and for the upkeep of the church property.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Pennock,
Clerk of Session

SESSION FUND

Financial information not posted on website