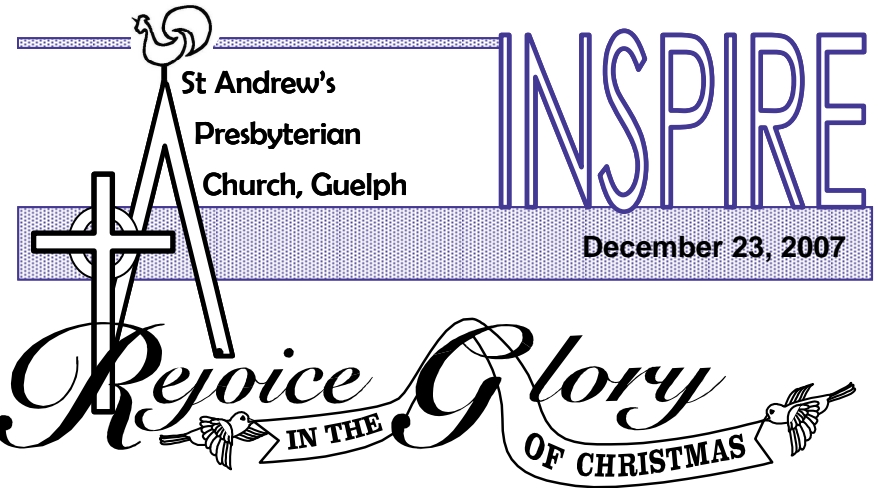


**HELP US BY SAVING YOUR:**

Used Postage Stamps – for Leprosy Relief  
Campbell's Soup Labels – for Education Programs  
Zehrs Cash Register Tapes – to convert to cash  
Aluminum Cans - to Habitat for Humanity

*All of the above can be placed in the appropriate slots  
in the container at the Welcome Centre and the Aluminum  
Cans placed in the appropriate holder in the Church Hall*



St Andrew's  
Presbyterian  
Church, Guelph

December 23, 2007

Rejoice IN THE Glory OF CHRISTMAS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
WILL BE HELD AT ST. ANDREW'S  
ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
MARCH, JUNE, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER.

Please note that the administrator's e-mail address has  
closed down. All e-mail correspondence should be  
directed to [mailbox@standrewsguelph.com](mailto:mailbox@standrewsguelph.com)

The 'INSPIRE' is a monthly communication resource of:

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

161 Norfolk Street, Guelph, ON N1H 4J8  
phone. 519.822.4772 fax. 519.822.3525

[mailbox@standrewsguelph.com](mailto:mailbox@standrewsguelph.com)  
[www.standrewsguelph.com](http://www.standrewsguelph.com)

**Pastoral Staff**

Rev. John Borthwick	<a href="mailto:revjohn@standrewsguelph.com">revjohn@standrewsguelph.com</a>
Karen Dimock	Student Minister
Fred Gingrich	Director of Music
May Goodwin	Administrative Assistant

**Sunday Services**

10:30 a.m.

**Celebrate the Newness that Christmas Brings!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and those you love! As we celebrate the birth of Christ, I'm often reminded of the new opportunities this special birth brings. Christmas is a time when we can begin again and decide to move into a new direction. The drama of the incarnation reminds us that new life comes out of the bleakest of situations. This is good news for the whole of creation! My hope for you this Christmas season is that you will experience the new things that God has planned and that you will find them enlivening and inspiring.

As you are well aware, newness abounds in the staffing of St. Andrew's as we enter 2008. It has been a joy to work with May Goodwin these last five years. I will miss her camaraderie and her unique spiritedness. She has been an integral part of making working at St. Andrew's fun and enjoyable. I celebrate with her as she embarks on the newness that retirement brings.

You will hear more about how we will be filling the void that May leaves behind in the January Inspire. At this moment, we are excited by the news that we will be welcoming three new staff in the beginning of the New Year. Two wonderful individuals have been hired to form our new administrative team (see it takes two people to replace May). And we have also engaged a new Youth Team Leader whom you will meet in January.

I'm very excited about our new staff coming alongside our current team. 2008, our 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, has the makings of a fantastic year in the life and ministry of St. Andrew's. I am certain that each one of you will be a part of celebrating our past, present, and future and making the saying true that St. Andrew's is a Place to Call Home.  
Yours in Christ, John

### Calling All 'Friends of St. Andrew's Past'!



180° (the Anniversary Committee) is looking for your help in making our 180<sup>th</sup> celebrations special. Over the year, there will be a variety of events that may appeal to those friends of St. Andrew's who have moved away or who for different reasons we have lost touch with. Maybe you still stay in touch with some of these people. They may still be in our database but you likely have their most current address. If you do, could you pass along their contact information to the Church Office? Don't worry if you think that we already have it, we will appreciate receiving it again just to make sure that we can include them in our celebrations. Thanks for your assistance in making this anniversary year great!

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

We celebrate with the following folks who joined St. Andrew's by Profession of Faith or Transfer: John De Vos, Dianne De Vos, Ryk De Vos, Vera Busshoff, Bill and Maisie McCrossan, George and Sharon Wain.

We express our deep and sincere sympathy to Doris Bower and her extended family who are grieving the sudden death of husband, father, grandfather and friend, Don Bower.

### MISSION CAPSULES: Kenya

Our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing ... support Dr. Richard (Rick) Allen, a community health physician helping the Presbyterian Church in East Africa (PCEA) do HIV and AIDS education in their churches and communities.

### In the Event of Emergency

You can leave messages on the church office phone anytime. Messages are checked regularly including on weekends. In a pastoral emergency, please call your elder, connector or a session member and/or leave a phone message with the church and the minister will return your call as soon as possible.

### Special Night for...

### Good Food, Good Book, and Good Nite

### featured book... Skipping Christmas by John Grisham



On **Friday December 28<sup>th</sup>**, after you've had your fill of turkey and family, join us for **Good Food, Good Book, and Good Nite**. We start at **6:30pm** in the Parlour. Seating is limited and reservations are necessary. Dinner is provided at cost. This Christmas evening was suggested by the 'regulars' and I know that they would love to have new people join the table. Reading the book is not a requirement. Rev. John leads the conversation. Please reserve your spot at the table by calling the Church Office (519.822.4772) or for more information, contact Rev. John.

### FOOD DRIVE

The first Sunday of each month (except when celebrating Communion) has been designated Food Drive Sunday. **January 6 will be the next date** (please mark this Sunday on your calendar as a reminder.) All food collected is given to the Guelph Food Bank and Chalmers Food Pantry. While all donations are welcome, each month there will be a suggestion for the 'food of the month' – **January is "personal products" month**. A cash donation would also be greatly appreciated. (You may use 3<sup>rd</sup> line on Offering Envelope). The Outreach Committee



## Celebrating 180 years

On behalf of St. Andrew's, the **180°** Committee is planning a number of events to celebrate our 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which begins on April 30, 2008, in many different ways. Each of these events revolves around themes of 'open', 'family', 'home', 'old', and 'new'. We will begin our celebrations by opening our church doors to everyone through "Doors Open" on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>, where everyone can learn a little of our history as Guelph's first church. The 'Doors Open' also coincides with our "Homecoming weekend", where we will be inviting everyone with a St. Andrew's connection to a dinner & dance event on the Saturday night. The next day we will have a celebratory Sunday morning worship service followed by a special lunch, an opportunity to see some of our archived church history, and a special tree planting ceremony. We will be mailing former members and adherents inviting them to these events.



One of the displays we are contemplating is to show on a large map where our church family has extended to around the world. We will be asking each of you to provide the city, province/state, and country of all children, grand-children, and great-grand children, and for some the great-great-grand children. You can start early by sending an email to the church.

The weekend of April 26<sup>th</sup> is just a kick-off to many more events. One initiative that we will champion and that will involve other churches in Guelph is to raise funds for a 'Habitat for Humanity' home, and to use our family labour to build the home in the Guelph area later in the anniversary year. We have asked the Session to adopt this as the anniversary year project.

Our church history includes John McCrae, and we are planning to hold a special event next November honouring John McCrae among others. A movie could be part of this celebration.

Throughout the anniversary year, a number of outreach and special fellowship initiatives are being contemplated, including a St. Andrew's-led curling bonspiel, bring a friend to church Sunday,

and bring a cake to church to celebrate your own special occasions during coffee hour.

Want to hear a St. Andrew's bell in the bell tower, how about a silent auction, or having John provide a bit of history and the singing of some old time favourite hymns, or gospel music, or sharing your own St. Andrew's experiences, or shiny new NRSV bibles in the pews, or lectures by outstanding scholars, or more multi-faith activities? Any ideas that you may have regarding ways to celebrate our 180<sup>th</sup> that is consistent with themes of 'open, family, home, new and old' let us know. Committee members include John Borthwick, Paul Evans, John Groenewegen, Anne Holman, Ross Pauli, Paul Pennock, and Julia Toth.

Submitted by John Groenewegen,  
**180°** Committee co-chair (Ross Pauli the other co-chair)



## Thank You

- **Christmas Shoe Boxes.** A big thank you to everyone at St. Andrew's who filled the shoeboxes for Chalmers Community Services Centre. We filled and delivered 13 boxes along with some crayons and a stuffed toy. On December 21, Chalmers will distribute 150 gifts to men and women who otherwise would not receive a gift this Christmas. It is through the generosity of community members like you, that Chalmers are able to serve individuals in need who live throughout Guelph. Thanks again, The Outreach Committee

**ST. ANDREW'S NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION.** All Welcome. 7:00 p.m. until ? Bring munchies to share, card and board games and an item or two for a snowball auction (everyone gets paper snowballs to bid on items up for auction). Call Nancy Nicol (824-1896) or Mary Rife (822-7858) for details.

## TRAIL PARTY RETURNS IN THE NEW YEAR!

On **Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, we return to the Bible Trail with the Book of Jonah. It is amazing how far we've come since September 2006. For those who are new to our congregation, The Bible Trail was launched in September 2006 as a way of increasing our understanding of our sacred scriptures. Our plan is to read, discuss and hear sermons on every book of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation over two and a half years. We are so close to finishing the Hebrew Scriptures and in late May of 2008 we will be beginning the New Testament with the Gospel of Matthew. The **Thursday Morning Trail Party begins again on January 10<sup>th</sup> covering Jonah and Micah**. We start at 10:00am and depending on discussion conclude around 11:15am. Hope to see you there. If you are interested in starting your own Trail Party, let us know so that we can advertise it and get others on The Trail. Keep on trekkin'.



## Friday Brown Bag... and Good Food, Good Book, and Good Nite... continues in the New Year!

### **Because of Winn-Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo



On **Friday January 25<sup>th</sup>**, our book clubs continue at their usual times. **The Brown Bag** starts at 12:15pm in the Parlour and all you are required to bring is yourself and a bag lunch. Rev. John provides the engaging conversation.

### **Good Food, Good Book, and Good Nite** begins at 6:30pm in the Parlour. Seating

is limited and reservations are necessary. Dinner is provided at cost. So far, these nights have been well received and we are always happy to welcome someone new. As with FBB, reading the book is not a requirement. Rev. John offers leadership at this group too. Please reserve your spot at the table by calling the Church Office (519.822.4772) or for more information, contact Rev. John.

## WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE FUTURE?

What do you love about St. Andrew's church? What do you think we as a congregation could do better? Is there something you feel that we should stop doing altogether?

Early in the New Year, a team from the congregation will begin a Visioning process. It is an exciting time to look forward to the potential of our church.

Basically, the steps involved in the process will be to:

1. Gather information from the congregation about what aspects of life at St. Andrew's are important to keep, what we should let go and what we would like added in the future.
2. Pull together this information
3. Assemble a Vision Team representative of the entire congregation to produce a Mission and Vision statement at a workshop.
4. Develop steps to implement the Vision.

We will need input from as many people as possible to create our common dream. **If you will be away for January and early February**, make sure that the church office has your contact information, so that we can send you a questionnaire to get your ideas.

Look for further announcements in January about this great opportunity to move forward into our 180<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation.

Vision Team: Sharon Ireland, Janet Dagleish, Malcolm McAlister

A **church photo directory** is planned for 2008 as part of the celebration of our 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The committee will be booking appointments in the New Year for pictures to be taken March 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. If you will not be available on any of these dates, please contact Anne Pennock at 519-824-4008

## REMINDER:

**The deadline for submissions for the Annual General Meeting to be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> will be January 21<sup>st</sup>. (Yes, it's that time already!)**

## ACG GIFT WRAP

Thank you to all the volunteers who were able to come out on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 to staff the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County (ACG) gift wrap station in Old Quebec Street Mall. Especially with everyone being extra busy, getting ready for Christmas and the holiday season. For those of you who couldn't come - thank you for your moral support.

Overall, I think it was successful: although there were quiet periods, we also had busy times - when the station opened at noon, one person, who had been patiently waiting, had enough gifts to keep all the volunteers busy wrapping for 45 minutes!

The customers were gracious and friendly and charitable. Many donated very generously for the gift wrapping. At day's end, donations totaled \$113.22 for the ACG.

A great day for awareness, fun and camaraderie, and community spirit! Merry Christmas! Mary Visser Kerr

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful party, which you held on December 20<sup>th</sup> to help me celebrate my retirement. So many of you dropped in to wish me well (and enjoy a glass of wine!), others who couldn't attend called to wish me good luck and many happy years of retirement. I am most appreciative of your attendance since I know that many of you are also grieving the loss of a dear friend.

I wish also to thank the friends who worked so hard to prepare the party for us. These folks, often in the background, are valued. Without them, the many celebrations at St. Andrews would not be possible.

I value the many gifts, which I have received from individuals. These gifts were chosen with care and designed to pander to my weaknesses - just let me say that the future holds for me many evenings enjoying Tim Horton's coffee, KFC and a good book while sipping on a "wee dram" of aged Glenfiddich.

The red envelope which you saw me receiving from the folks at St. Andrew's contained the possibility of more coffee at Tim Hortons, a day of pampering at a local spa and a most generous (overwhelmingly so) cheque. This bounty might be used to visit my daughter who will be in Sri Lanka for a few months or perhaps to Australia to spend some time with a cousin. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

I have enjoyed meeting all of you, of sharing a cup of coffee, of hearing about your joys and sorrows and sharing mine. You have been generous with your time - volunteering in many ways and assisting in the Church office - and making me look good. Thank you, May