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Campbell's Soup Labels – for Education Programs
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*All of the above can be placed in the appropriate slots
in the container at the Welcome Centre and 'rinsed out'
Aluminum Cans placed in the appropriate holder in the
Church Hall*



**The Sacrament of
Holy Communion
will be held at St. Andrew's
on the first Sunday of
March, June, October and December.**

The 'INSPIRE' is a monthly communication resource of:

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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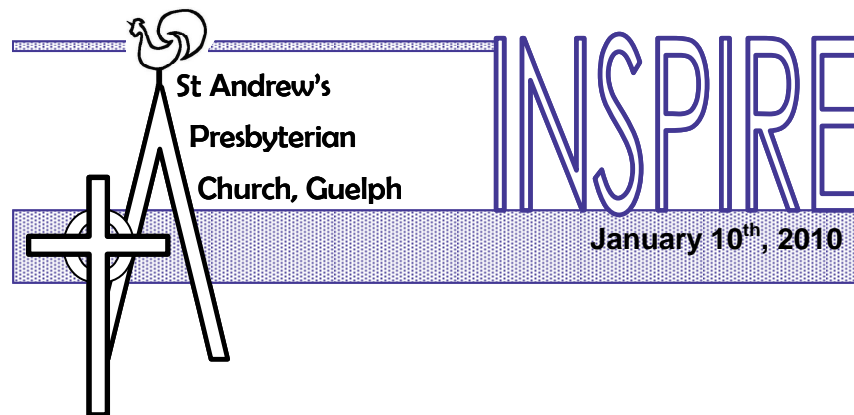
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Pastoral Staff

Rev. John Borthwick	revjohn@standrewsguelph.com
The Rev. Dr. Robert Spencer	Minister in Association
Matt Foxall	Director of Youth Ministry
Jenny Emerson	Church School Team Leader
Barbara Molengraaf	Knox Placement Student
Fred Gingrich	Director of Music
Margaret Blatherwick	Administrative Assistant
Ross Rowat	Clerk of Session

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m.



Happy New Year!

It is new year filled with expectation and hope and plans and anxiety and joy. Like any other year really... it just seems that when the calendar turns over we get a little more serious about things. Perhaps that is why January tends to be one of the most 'angst' filled months of the church year. Annual meetings are scheduled. The inevitable low after the high of Christmas hits hard. The winter blows in and harsh cold temperatures make us more like hibernating bears than humans. And restarting regular routines are as laboured as starting our frozen cars in the morning.

But it is a new year! It is a time for new adventures to begin. Perhaps a fresh start on things that seemed to go awry in the past year. It is a time for anticipation of new things. A chance to start again and leave the past behind. I'm excited about the opportunities that are before us as a congregation of God's people this year. I've mentioned before that I see us looking a little inward... taking stock of who we are, what we have to offer and what we could achieve when we put our best forward. I hope you will join me and the Session as we engage in this journey together.

I'm also excited about The Bible Trail 2.0 – The Gospels. It should prove to be very interesting for us to sit intently with the stories of Jesus over the next three years. If you weren't in worship on Sunday, I challenged the members to begin reading through the Gospels over the next three years. Starting with Matthew, read a gospel each month and repeat the process. I believe that you will find the experience transformative.

Happy New Year! May God's light of love shine through you and yours each and every day of the year.

John.

Shared Values @ St. Andrew's

These shared values are the soul of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church reflecting our Christian faith. These values are the cornerstone of our journey as a church community. They express that which we wish to become and how we go about becoming them. All our decisions and collective actions are measured by how such activities embody and bring life to our shared values by God's grace.

Living Faith

We believe that faith is a journey not a destination. We embrace change and meet its challenges with creativity and playfulness. We expect that the Holy Spirit will change us in the process.

Welcoming

We work hard to make our community feel like a place to call home. We see the image of God in all people, everywhere. Differences are valued and safe and open dialogue is honoured.

Joy

Following Jesus is something to celebrate. We believe it is the best way to live. We rejoice that we can express with gratitude and worship our acceptance of God's invitation to this way of life. We happily affirm that God is making everything new and we are a valued part of it.

Love

We believe that we were created to live deeply with one another, to carry each other's burdens, to share our possessions, to pray for and confess our sins to each other, to suffer and to celebrate together. It's in these honest, loving relationships that God transforms us into the people we were meant to be.

Hope

We believe that to be a part of God's work in restoring the world we are to offer hope in whatever way we can. Hope is created when our passion and compassion meets the needs and hurts of those we encounter. We are an oasis of hope in a world that desperately needs to drink deeply of its waters.

Partnership

Jesus modelled that we are not on this journey alone. We believe that we do our best when we work together. We seek to build lasting relationships of mutual respect and trust throughout God's creation.

News and Events

What's Happening – Construction Update

As you know, we have been enduring the construction that has been taking place throughout the city of Guelph and it is finally on hold until the warmer weather. We are happy to have Norfolk Street back. We have heard that many questions are being asked but unfortunately we don't have much to report that is certain. It is our understanding that when the construction is complete in the summer of this year that we will lose our Sunday parking on one side of Norfolk Street. Also, it appears that an 'accessible' ramp will be installed in front of the church steps but until we see what is created we can't say for certain that the city's idea of accessible and ours will match. Thank you for your patience throughout this disruption and your ongoing commitment to Sunday morning worship in spite of construction nightmares.

Here are the Gospel texts that we will be studying in worship

and on our Thursday morning Trail Parties in the coming weeks: **Jan. 17th – John 2: 1 – 11**; **Jan. 24th – Luke 4: 14 – 21**; **Jan. 31st – Luke 4: 21 – 30**; **Feb. 7th – Luke 5: 1 – 11**

Our first Trail Party of the

New Year is **Thursday January 14th @ 10AM** in the Parlour.

All are welcome.



Breakfast @ St. Andrew's

In 2008, we re-launched our Saturday morning breakfast program as "Breakfast @ St. Andrew's" and as you know invited the ladies of our community to join us. It has been a wonderful transition and we continue to enjoy the fellowship of each other and our engaging speakers. Our next Breakfast is **Saturday January 16th at 8:30am** in the church hall. Cost is

\$8/person. Our guest speaker will be our own Director of Youth Ministry, **Matthew Foxall**. He will be speaking on his trip to Louisiana with the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Youth in Mission.

His Bio: No stranger to working with kids and youth, previous to his position as our Director of Youth Ministry, Matt was heavily involved with Christian Education programming for both children and adolescents at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kitchener for 5 years. In his youth, Matt participated in a 10-day mission trip to Guatemala. Shortly thereafter he spent 5 weeks in China. Since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, Matt and his wife, Rev. Jacqui Foxall, have been heavily involved in restoration work in both Mississippi and Louisiana – initially leading a team from their home congregation, and for the last three years leading teams on behalf of "Youth in Mission" (a national missions branch of the Presbyterian Church in Canada). Matt and Jacqui currently reside in Oakville where Jacqui is the Associate Minister at Knox Presbyterian Church. They have a cat named Tookey who keeps them on their toes. In his spare time Matt is a passionate fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs and loves to play on his Wii.

Book Clubs (Friday Brown Bag and Good Food, Good Book and Good Nite)



Our book clubs continue this year at their regular times. Our book for January is **Twilight** by Stephenie Meyer.

The book clubs will meet on **Friday January 29th** @ 12:15pm for a brown bag lunch and at 6:30pm for dinner (please sign up for the dinner at the Welcome Centre). All are welcome and even if you haven't read the book we believe that you will find the conversation engaging and interesting.

Tangents are a key to learning.

Upcoming dates and titles:

February 26th – The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Youth Ministry Update – Matt Foxall

With the start of the new year there are always a few things that need to be said to wrap up what has happened over the past year and of course the need to share with you what is going to be happening in 2010. Let me start off though by saying thanks. Thanks to all the people who have volunteered in youth ministry (Cindy Bray, Brittany Jerse, Andrew D'Aoust, Dave and Nancy Nicol, Peter McCaskell, Peter DeVries, Glenn Emerson, Charlie Toth) over the course of 2009. Without your help and support Youth Ministry could not have been as successful as it was. Thanks to the parents, who brought their kids out night after night, event after event, in order to make this ministry flourish. Thanks to congregation for their tremendous support not only with our food drive in November/December but for your ongoing support of the youth and the programming that this church has to offer. Finally, last but definitely not least a big thanks to all the youth who continually come out to our events and who continue to bring out new faces and members that join us frequently, without all of you this ministry would not be possible. Thanks to all and here's to an amazing 2010.

Here is a quick glance at January in Youth Ministry:

- Youth Class resumes on Sunday, Jan. 10th and will run every Sunday starting at 10:30 up in the youth room. All those in Grades 6 and up are encouraged to attend.
- Youth Group resumes on Friday, Jan. 8th and will run every Friday beginning at 6:30pm in the youth room. Please note that on Friday, Jan. 15th we will be meeting at Westwood Public School for an evening of tobogganing and games back at Cindy Bray's house. Pick up is at 9pm.
- The Youth Drop In will continue on Tuesday, Jan. 12th with a Video gaming Party. Join the youth at 4pm up in the youth room for an afternoon of gaming on the PS3 and the Wii. Extra games will be rented and snack foods will be provided. On Jan. 19th starting at 4pm the youth will meet up in the youth room to watch the newest installment of the Harry Potter Series: The Half Blood Prince. Pizza will be provided.

The growth begins with becoming aware of our strongest or most comfortable spiritual style. We can recognize it by feelings of security and stability. It is where we feel at home and grounded. It is experienced as a Spirituality of Dwelling. In this we discover our own personal identity and build up our self-esteem. Our desire is to relate to people who have a similar spiritual focus. This level of spirituality defines the comfort zone where we enjoy being, and it is reached by Spiritual Formation - as we read, listen, study and pray. Our "I" is the centre of attention. This is called an adolescent spirituality, even though it is the level in which most Christians live and flourish.

Growth toward maturity involves us in what the chef Emeril calls "let's kick it up a notch". We need to focus on our weaknesses in the spiritual styles, our minimum factors where things may be dark. This is a Spirituality of Seeking, where you take risks and question the things that are familiar to you. It can feel like a foreign country. You seek out people who function with a different spiritual style from you even though they may be part of your congregation. You view yourself from the perspective of these other people, and you sense how much you need to be complimented by these others. This level of growth involves stretching your comfort zone, and is a Spiritual Transformation. It is not just focusing on intensifying the familiar, but on integrating that which is still strange to you. At this level of mature spirituality your perspective changes dramatically to where God is the centre, and you realize that you are just one among a multitude of people who all approach God in Christ, although in different ways.

The co-founder of Natural Church Development - Christian Schwarz writes: "In my work across many different traditions and styles, I have experienced that the approaches to spirituality that are the furthest away from your experiences always remind you of what is underdeveloped in your own faith. The challenge, then, is to not simply to take over this aspect from the other spiritual style but to re-invent it in the categories of your natural spiritual language." That is what growth in spiritual maturity is all about.

I look forward to engaging in this kind of a spiritual journey with others from St. Andrew's who seek such a spiritual growth. Please contact me.

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit continue to bless you on your spiritual journey.

Dr. Bob

Committees and Groups

Annual Report and Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will take place immediately following the church service on **Sunday, February 28**. In preparation for



the meeting and for the annual report, all committee chairs, and anyone else with a report to submit, should ensure that reports reach the church office, preferably in electronic format, **no later than Friday, January 22nd**.

News from Congregational Care

Following a risk-assessment survey by the Leading with Care Team, 'Connecting' was identified as a potentially High Risk ministry because some Connectors are visiting alone with vulnerable people. Though not everyone is visiting one on one, we are asking that all Connectors comply with the guidelines of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which will include having up-to-date Police Records, signing a Covenant of Care and participating in training, and Joan Bentley has agreed to join the Congregational Care team to assist with LWC administration....thanks Joan!

Many of us still question why all this is necessary, especially those who have been involved in visiting for many years. So, we've invited **David Phillips** who is the PCC Leading with Care Coordinator to lead a workshop for Connectors to explain the whys & hows. The focus will be on Connecting, but anyone who is interested is welcome to attend

LWC Connector Workshop
Saturday January 23rd, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Sign-up sheet at Welcome Centre

Opportunities

Update from Margaret Evans, Kenya

Over the next year or more, we will try to provide you with a regular update about Margaret Evans, a member of our congregation who is serving The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a volunteer missionary in Kenya. We will include excerpts from her e-mail journal.

“Sunday before Christmas:

The Christmas Service was absolutely amazing. WOW!! Just to get an idea, it was about 4 hours long and it seemed to just fly by. Every Sunday and Thursday I attend a bible study. I absolutely love going and I look forward to it every week. It is run taught by a group of missionaries from America. I have gotten to really know and love them. There are 4 of them... when I arrived in Nyeri... they were a very welcome sight.

The service started at 9:30am with an hour of bible study class. I am learning so much and am getting my spiritual food from this. Then we attended the regular service which lasted the remainder of the time. It was so amazing to see how they welcome the newcomers to the service. They call them to put their hands up and hand them a piece of paper to put their names on. Then they are all invited to a special tea time after the service just for them. As they were leaving to sanctuary, the pastor greeted every one of them. At one point during his welcoming, the local Bishop of the church said Margaret, come up here and greet the church. YIKES! There were over 600 people there and he wanted me to say something. I was racking my brains to try and think what Dr. Rick Allen had told me was the custom greeting in church but I couldn't remember. To this day I have absolutely NO idea what I said. All I remember was that at one point every hand was raised in the entire church and a resounding amen came from the people.

African people know how to worship their amazing God. With shouts of praise, dances of worship and songs of love they communicate with God in one voice. It was absolutely amazing!”

Bless you with the ability to see clearly your God-given talents. May you become a confident, joyful worker as the Holy Spirit develops your gifts. May you keep a servant's heart. May you allow God to fulfill His special purpose in your life as you make yourself available to be used for his honor. The fruit of your life will endure as you are rooted in Christ.

Father, we pray that each of us would learn more of abiding. We ask that our lives would reveal your presence. May we be as light in the darkness and water in the desert because you are our life. Thank you that you do not repair our old broken lives, but give us your new complete life. May this food nourish our bodies as your presence nourishes our souls.

Author Unknown
(submitted by Jennifer Marett)

Spiritual Maturity

In last month's article for "INSPIRE" I wrote about Christian spirituality and described it as a "personal antenna to God". It binds us to Christ and leads us through the power of the Holy Spirit to God our heavenly Father. Spirituality can be found in nine different styles, characterized by the diverse natural or native style of various people (sensory, rational, doctrinal, Scripture-driven, sharing, ascetic, enthusiastic, mystical, and sacramental). No one style is better than another; it is just a matter of where we are most comfortable. But there is also a matter of spiritual maturity.

We are well aware of physical and mental maturity that develops in us sometime in our late teens or early twenties. There is also emotional maturity, which for some can come earlier or for many much later. But there is also spiritual maturity, which takes a while to be recognized, and needs to be developed over a long period of time. We can think of it as a spirituality that, though it is found in adulthood, can be considered a spiritual "childhood". It needs to be consciously developed through "adolescence" and then on to "maturity". This development is not automatic or simple; many Christians do not reach spiritual maturity. It is a process that requires a lot of time. In fact it is a never-ending process of growth. The beauty is that God provides us the guidance and help to grow in this way.