

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 '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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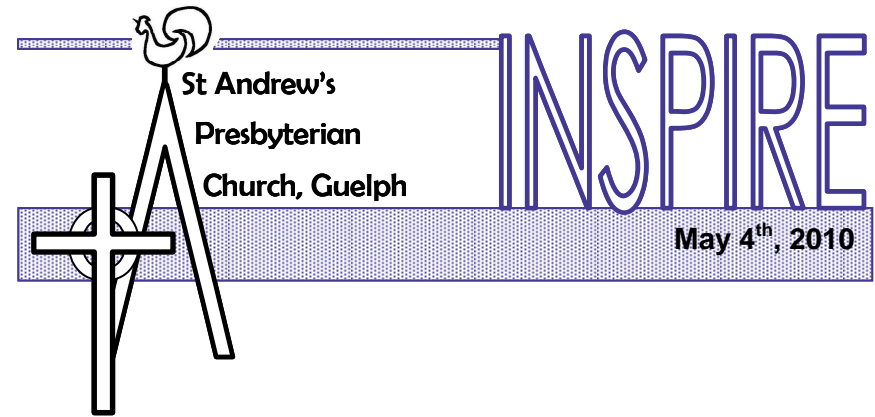
Administrative Assistant

Ross Rowat

Clerk of Session

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m.



Be 'Hope' in the Flesh

Last week, I attended two conferences along with Matt and Jacqui Foxall. The first was hosted by Princeton Theological Seminary and is called the Princeton Youth Forum. While the focus is purportedly youth ministry it became clear quite early on that much of what I was digesting was widely applicable to the diverse life found in the church. Its theme was actually, hope. The other event I attended was in Washington, DC and had a flavour of hope in it as well. It was a gathering of folks who are 'doing church' in very different ways and are attempting to bring hope to those who have lost it within the walls of the institutional church. I returned from this time away deeply convicted to be an embodiment of hope in myself, my family, my relationships and in my church community. For some time now, I have sensed that the greatest message that God has attempted to get across to God's created beings is one of hope, hope lived without anxiety and fear. God and God's messengers are often found delivering a message that is prefaced with "Do not be afraid! Fear not!" It seems to me that the 'best practice' that we can be doing in the church is continuing to speak that message to others. We are an anxious society, and a culture that is fueled by fear. If Jesus has called us to a new way of living, it would appear that refusing to be corralled by fear and anxiety would be one of the trademarks of living into that calling. So I would invite you to be 'hope' in the flesh to those you know. Remember hope isn't some pie in the sky kind of Pollyanna way of thinking. Christian hope is living with the confidence that things don't have to be forever what they appear to be. In this season of sports playoffs, I think one of the speakers said it best this way: "God controls the final score so we don't need to worry about scoring points."

Fully Hope-Filled, 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.

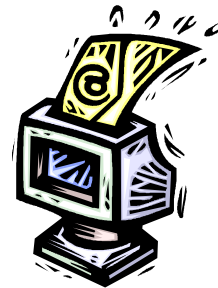
Partnership

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

Last Inspire until September

Today is the final edition of the Inspire until the Fall. Rev. John, the main creator and editor of its content will be away in June at General Assembly followed by vacation so it seemed that it would be appropriate for the Inspire to go on an early holiday too.



In the Fall, the Inspire distribution will undergo some changes. We have heard your concerns and feedback and have decided to send the majority of the Inspire out by e-mail (perhaps through our newest and 'awesomest' communication tool – Prayers and Blessings). This will save an incredible amount of paper and time in our Church Office. Initially, we will still print 100 for visitors and those without e-mail but we will review this depending on how many are left over. And we will continue our practice of mailing several copies to our shut-ins and those who are unable to attend worship for a time. Let us know what you think of this plan as it is implemented in September. We are attempting to be responsible stewards of God's resources while continuing to ensure effective communication with our community of God's people.

Michael House - Baby Bottle Fundraiser

If you have not already done so, please return the baby bottles to the office no later than June 20th. Thank you.

John Galt Sunday (August Long Weekend)

Just some REALLY advanced notice... the Annual John Galt Sunday service will be hosted by St. James the Apostle Anglican on the Civic Holiday Weekend in August. St. Andrew's will be closing their doors to attend what has become a significant community worship gathering. Hope you will plan to attend. See the bulletin for more details in the months to come.

Here are the Gospel texts that we will be studying in worship and on our Thursday morning Trail Parties in the coming weeks: **May 16th – Luke 24:44-53**; **May 23rd – John 14:8-17,(25-27)**; **May 30th – John 16:12-15**

We meet in the church parlour on Thursdays at 10AM. We will meet until May 27th. All are welcome.



Committees and Groups

Summer Sunday School in G.R.A.C.E.land

We are currently seeking volunteers to help us run our summer Sunday School program upstairs in G.R.A.C.E.land. We have purchased a program (Hooked on the Bible) for this summer which is very user friendly and does not require much time in preparation for the weekly lessons. We require two volunteers each Sunday in order to comply with Leading With Care. Where we have the required leadership, we will have classes. If you are able to help us out for even one Sunday during the summer months we would greatly appreciate it. You will find a sign up sheet with all the dates for the summer at the Welcome Centre. Please prayerfully consider joining us upstairs and get to know our youngest church family members a little better this summer. For more information please contact Jenny Emerson (Church School Team Leader) or Marnie Kerr (Chair, Christian Education committee). Thank you.

Youth Ministry Update (Grades 6 and higher)

Here is a quick look at what is happening in May:

Youth Drop In

Join us for our last three drop ins of the school year on Tuesday, May 18th, June 1st and June 15th. All Drop ins begin at 4pm and run until 7pm. More Info about what will be happening on those dates will be released shortly.

Youth Group

Regular Youth will be held on Fridays (May 14th – Jays Trip for those who signed up, May 21, May 28, June 4, and June 11) Check your altered or youth news for the different start times of these events.

Youth Class

Youth Class resumes on Sunday, May 19th and will continue until June 13th. Please meet at 10:30am up in the youth room

Special Events

Friday, June 4 – Vault Party in the Park. Join us at 7pm at Riverside Park Band shell as we party together. Bands Hello Kelly and Too Tell will be performing. The event is absolutely free and there will be a BBQ for you to purchase food and drinks at.

Friday, June 11 – June 12 – Laser Quest Youth Lock In – Join us at 6pm at the church for this evening of laser questing and most likely lack of sleeping. RSVP ASAP. Pick up is 11am at the church on Saturday.

June 26 – Year End Party – We will be having a yearend party at the Emerson's again. More details will follow. Please mark this date off in your calendar.

Please note that I will be away from Friday, May 21st to Sunday, May 30th, 2010 leading a mission trip to Louisiana through Youth in Mission in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Should you require assistance in my absence please contact any member of the Youth Leadership Team (Nancy Nicol, Cindy Bray, Brittany Jerse or Kate Borthwick) and they would be glad to assist you.

In Christ, Matt Foxall Director of Youth Ministry

for each of them, and with a commitment to each other. Small groups should be about 5 to 12 in number and set their own covenant or guidelines.

Let's pick up the challenge, and then we will find that as in the early church, so today the Lord will add to our number those who are being saved.

May God enfold you in love and fellowship,
Dr. Bob

Update from Margaret Evans, Kenya

Today marks five months that I have been in Kenya. When I sit here and contemplate that fact I think two things; has it really only be five months? and WOW, this has been a LONG five months. Then a third thought comes to mind. How is that possible to think those two things at the same time? When I figure that one out I will let you know.

As for my work, things have been picking up. I received a large package of soccer balls from Glenview church in Toronto that have been such a blessing. When people come into the office they usually comment on them. With it being the rainy season, most people avoid being outside in the mud so they've only been used briefly. I am still working on planning a large educational football tournament focused on HIV/AIDS where they will come in very useful. My music classes are going surprisingly well for someone who is not educated in teaching music. I have more and more students every week and they seem to pick things up quickly. The weekly feeding program and Home Based Care are becoming more and more straightforward since I am, more or less, able to follow conversations now. I enjoy the feeding program moms and their babies whom I usually hold while they eat and I still, occasionally, bring nail polish so they can feel pampered.

I am still waiting to hear back from the Alien Registration Department of the Government of Kenya as to whether or not I am an official alien with a Kenyan visa yet. It's awesome to have so many names. Margaret, Wanjiku, Mzungu, Alien... I wonder what is next. On a serious note though please continue to pray that the visa comes through in time! T-minus one month until the other permit expires.

Thank you all for your support and prayers. It seems like yesterday I was saying goodbye so it will be no time at all when we will say hello!

Peace, Margaret

Resignation of Jenny Emerson as Church School Team Leader

This information was announced in worship on April 25th.

It is with regret that we announce that Jenny Emerson has resigned as our Church School Team Leader effective June 1st. Jenny has held this position for the last four years in both volunteer and paid capacities. The Session accepted Jenny's resignation with regret and deep thanks for her valuable contribution to our Church School program and our children. Session has referred the matter to the Human Resources Committee. A formal recognition of Jenny's work and ministry will be held in worship on May 9th.

Church Library update...

More than 400 new titles have been added to the Church Library since January, 2009. A complete list is available, on paper, for consultation, on the display table just inside the door of the Library.

Breakfast @ St. Andrew's

On behalf of all those who plan and prepare for Breakfast @ St. Andrew's each month, we want to thank everyone who came out to be a part of this engaging program. A big thanks to our kitchen crew who ensures that the toast is buttered and the dishes are cleaned up, our custodian Don who sets up the room, and to Rev. John who ensures that we have an interesting speaker to listen to and dialogue with each time we gather. We couldn't do it without their efforts. See you in October.

The Friday Brown Bag Recommends...

The 2010 Summer Reading List

Margaret Atwood's *Payback*

Mary Ann Shaffer's *The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society*

Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

Mary Swan's *The Boys in the Trees*

Lisa Genova's *Still Alice*

Joseph Boyden's *Through Black Spruce*

Donna Woolfolk Cross' *Pope Joan*



The Friday Brown Bag & Good Food, Good Book, and Good Nite return on Friday September 24th at 12:15pm & 6:30pm respectively with **Margaret Atwood's book (Massey Lecture series), Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth.**

As always, thanks to those who have joined us over the past year for our book clubs. The community that comes together to read a book always leaves with a healthy dose of whimsy and a generous helping of food for thought. Hope to see you at the next book club.



Opportunities

The Bases and Blessings of Small Groups

We have been encouraging you all to gather in small groups for listening to and talking with God. Of course, we can engage in Bible reading and prayer in private, and participate in corporate worship. So what is so special about doing these things in an ongoing small group? Rev. Richard Meyer ¹ has spent many years in such groups and is committed to them for several reasons.

- 1) **Small groups are biblical.** Jesus began his public ministry by forming a small group of 12. Likewise the early church continued in his example as the followers gathered regularly in each other's homes for learning from the apostles in small group fellowship.²
- 2) **Small groups allow us to rub shoulders with people of differing views.** We are challenged and stretched beyond our own ideas and experiences.
- 3) **A small group gives us a place to talk about spiritual things.** A church related small group that meets on a regular basis provides an atmosphere and opportunity for such dialogue around Scripture.
- 4) **A small group helps us to experience the power of prayer.** Regularly sharing of prayer concerns and praying for one another keep us in touch with the power of prayer and the grace, mercy and wisdom of God who answers prayer.
- 5) **A small group provides us with much needed support and encouragement.** We need a handful of people with us, especially when we fail and when we dream. The World can be very tough on failures, and our dreams are very fragile. We need a nurturing small group to see us through.
- 6) **A small group keeps each of us accountable.** When God's word challenges us to engage in some action or ministry, we sometimes need a small group of cheerleaders and other times we need a kick in the pants.

The object of this small group formation at St. Andrew's is not to build a bigger and better group, but to build many small groups who meet together in Christian fellowship at a time and place that works

¹ Rev. Richard C. Meyer "One Anothering – Biblical Building Blocks for Small Groups" Augsburg, 2004

² Acts 2: 42