



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

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September 2nd, 2018

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It's been a Summer to remember. Our sanctuary has been shut down for the month of July as it underwent **its transformation**. Our intimate parlour worship was certainly a different experience – and not as hot as I expected (although it probably helped that the services were a little shorter than usual). If you've been away all Summer, **you may not recognize the place!** And we aren't finished yet. The Board are actively working on replacing our old boiler heating system. Yes, sadly the 'haunting banging' on those cold wintery Sunday mornings will be a thing of this past from now on. It is hoped that this project will be completed within the next month or so. And, if you cast your gaze upwards you may notice that the Steeple has had a little bit of a freshening up – the wood louvers have been painted too. In the months ahead, you'll probably notice a few other projects happening around St. Andrew's as we spruce up our historic building and property. **A huge thanks** to the members of the Board for overseeing these projects and the volunteers who have helped make these activities go smoothly. And I'd be remiss to not again thank you as a congregation for **your generous support** of the Rejuvenate 190 Campaign. We couldn't have done it without you! **THANKS.**

And **WELCOME BACK** to St. Andrew's... we have an exciting Fall ahead. We begin our new season with our **Welcome Back – "Corn and Dogs" event (Sunday September 9th)** – a real crowd pleaser and a nice way to get back into the swing of that Back to School spirit. The next week, we are participating in the **Moms in Prayer International "Bless Our Schools Sunday"**. Join us as we pray for our children as they return to school and those who support and mentor them in the school system. We will also be celebrating our Church School leaders and marking some transitions for our Church School Children on that Sunday too. Jesus encouraged us to **"become as little children"** to experience the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst – what a way to start the Church Year by embracing our child-like spirits and celebrating our children and youth!

Here's just a sampling of **what is coming up at St. Andrew's** in the coming months...

- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** will begin again at 10am in the Parlour on **Thursday September 13th**. **Sunday Morning Bible Study with Dr. Bob** will be starting up again too (Check the bulletin or the website for details).

- **On Sunday September 30th our Annual Knox-St. Andrew's Pulpit Exchange** will take place. Rev. Johan Olivier and I will exchange pulpits to deepen our relationship with our Presbyterian neighbour at the end of the boulevard. It has been fun to be a part of this annual tradition. I'm sure that you'll make Johan feel very welcome as usual.
- **Communion** will be celebrated on **Sunday October 7th**.

As you may be aware, I'm starting a **new sermon series** in September. We will be journeying through **The Acts of The Apostles**. I've never had the chance to go deep on this book but I'm really enjoying the process so far as I prepare to share some insights with you this Fall. Being able to ponder how the early Church experienced reaching out with the Gospel to a disinterested and at times hostile world may offer us insights in **how we embody the Body of Christ in 2018**. I also invited folks to share their **#ResurrectionHappens** stories with me and I'm looking forward to sharing a few of those with you on Sunday September 9th as we begin our series on Acts. Thanks for sharing such powerful stories of new life!

One **new initiative** that will begin this Fall is our **St. Andrew's Guelph Facebook Bible Study**. This idea came from some conversations that I had with a few of our members who are not able to come out to worship or weekly activities at St. Andrew's. It was also something that was raised as a part of our Director of Seniors Ministry Pilot Project earlier this year as Diane Boyd conducted her visits. People would love to participate in conversations about the Bible but aren't as able to get to a set Bible Study experience at St. Andrew's. **So virtual we go**. I chose Facebook as it is a platform that many folks are using regularly (though I'm not very active on it at all) and it is already set up for managing group conversations. I'm looking forward to launching this experiment in September. **It will go LIVE on September 12th**. SIGN UP at our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsGuelph>) so you don't miss out.

There are a few more ideas percolating as we approach the Fall... check **our newly launched website** and Facebook page regularly to stay informed. I'm excited to see what this season brings for St. Andrew's Guelph... I wonder what God has in store for us!

Have fun,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Borthwick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Rev. John Borthwick