



Ash Wednesday



Lynn & the Ringers



Youth Walk



Sydney

# ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Spring, 2022



Kids at Queen Mary Street Public School, with their white gift books

*Photo: Sydney McIntosh*

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*St. Andrew's in Action* is the congregational newsletter of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa.

Please email your articles and photos (highest possible resolution, please) at any time to [StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com](mailto:StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** In the case of adults, it is the practice of *St. Andrew's in Action* to use the full name of those submitting material and those pictured. In the case of youth, only the initial of the last name is used to ensure privacy in the online edition. This practice can be adjusted for anyone who does not want their full name used. Such requests should be sent to [StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com](mailto:StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com).

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## Messages

### Minister's Reflection for Lent

The world has shifted... again. From the pandemic to the protests downtown and now to war in the Ukraine. The news unsettles, distresses and even angers me. Like many others, I sometimes feel helpless in the midst of it. I don't always know what to do or what to say but as we journey through Lent together this year, I do find myself profoundly moved by the Scriptures for this Season and the Love that they speak of, the Love that gives so generously of itself for the sake and well being of others.

One of the most meaningful images for me this Lent comes to us in Luke 13:31–35. Jesus, warned of the threat that King Herod is to his life, states his intention to persist in the healing and work he is called to do. He will not stop, he will instead continue to set people free from the powers that bind them and the illnesses that hold them back from life and life abundant. And as he says and does these things we hear him as well lamenting for the city of Jerusalem saying “how often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wing...”.

I have in times of difficulty evoked this image of God as mother hen in my own prayer life. Closing my eyes, entering the darkness, feeling the wings of God coming down over me and drawing me up close to the beating heart of God... the nurture, the mothering love, the protection as God in Jesus comes between me and all that would threaten...

In these days the image of the mother hen, sheltering her precious chicks and facing down any threat that comes against them moves me to tears. She is both vulnerable and fierce in her defence of those she loves.

This is the love that we hunger for, that we pray for, for the people of Ukraine, for people

all around the world, for our own children and yes, for ourselves. The love that cares for us so deeply, that gives its life for us, the love that when it takes root in our lives inspires us to give of ourselves as well.

In this season of Lent I see this love in the image posted all over Facebook these days, of a platform in a train station where Polish Mothers have left strollers and buggies for Ukrainian Mothers fleeing for safety with their children.

Where do you see it? Where is it beckoning you?

Friends, the vision of the love of God upheld in the Scriptures, the voice of Jesus, they invite us to be a new creation. In this Lenten Season, the pain of our current day makes clear to us once how important the choice of discipleship is, of following Jesus and choosing the ways of his love. Yes, it takes us to the cross but beyond that it takes us to Easter and the triumph of love over all things. Where else would we go? Who else would we follow now?

May God bless and keep us all this year,

Karen

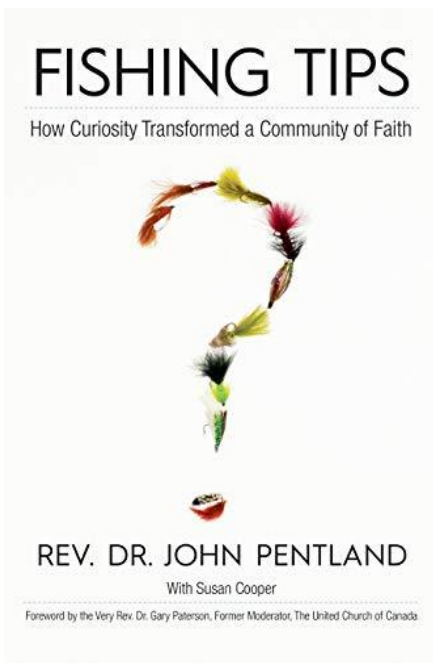
### Fishing Tips

For three Thursdays in February and March, I invited members of the Kirk Session and Temporal Committee to join me in discussing this book that is written by the Rev. Dr. John Pentland. He is a United Church Minister in Calgary who has led his own church through a significant period of growth and discovery, nurturing curiosity and trying new things. Over a ten-year period, worship attendance increased from 80–100 people a week to 350–400 and the Sunday School from less than 10 a week to over 100. It's a great story and in



inviting the leaders to participate in reading it together our question became why not St. Andrew's?

The book itself is not a "how to manual". John Pentland shares his congregation's story not so that we can do exactly what they did but as an invitation to think and explore along new lines.



When those members of temporal and KS who attended were asked to name five great things about the discussion that the book afforded us they said the following:

- ✦ The brainstorming that it inspired and the ideas we came up with, it felt spontaneous and natural
- ✦ We like how an external voice and experience can help us see new possibilities ourselves
- ✦ The conversation was focussed on future and possibility
- ✦ It helped us visualize who we might become
- ✦ The participant size was small enough that we felt like we were in genuine conversation with each other and not just lining up to share opinions

Together we decided we would love to continue having conversations like this. It helps warm us up and get us ready for the revitalization exercise we will be embarking on as a congregation next fall.

I have ordered ten more copies of Fishing Tips to put in the church library and when they come, I will let you know. All I ask is that if you pick one up to read you let me know you have done so and if you are open to being part of a small group conversation about the journey it might inspire in us.

Grace and Peace

Karen

## Greetings from the Kirk Session

*Heather Pilkey,  
Administrative Clerk*

As I look outside at all the snow surrounding my home, it seems hard to believe that we have moved into March, into Lent and (almost!) into spring.



Mason and Lucy P.

When I stop to really think about it, however, it is maybe not so hard. We are constantly moving forward, whether it's through the day, the month, the season or our own

circumstances. As I take this even further, I like to think that as we move forward, we are doing so in faith. It might seem like an easy conclusion to come to, but moving forward can be difficult, especially when we are pushed to do so by forces outside of our control. One such force, of course has been the pandemic. It has changed the way we live our lives and its reverberations will be felt for a long time.

Moving forward in an effective way requires discernment, and that's not always easy to do. Discernment takes time and energy and forces us to take a good, hard look at who we are and who, what and where we want to be.

St. Andrew's is in a time of change, and where we end up will have a lot to do with the work we put in now. To that end, the Kirk Session has engaged the services of Bill Tenny-Brittian, of the Effective Church Group. Bill will be working with St. Andrew's to help us grow an effective church and engaged congregation.

There is much to look forward to as we move into Spring. The promise of the Resurrection lies before us, reminding us anew of God's grace and love.

As we move forward, it is important that we not become intimidated by the opportunities which lie ahead of us. When that happens, the seeds of doubt are planted. Rather, I would urge us to move forward together one step at a time. For as it says in Ephesians 2:10

*"We are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

## Sydney: Thank You

Saying the words "thank you" to someone is not only important, it is necessary. Silent gratitude does no good for anyone.

Sydney, today, on behalf of St. Andrew's Church Ottawa, we want to make sure we are vocal in saying "thank you" for your contribution to Christian education and church life at St. Andrew's.



You started with us three and a half years ago as Christian Education Co-ordinator.

During that time, you touched many in the church individually, and you touched everyone as a congregation.

You worked with Karen and the Christian Education Committee to create, and maintain programs for all St. Andreans—children, youth and adults.

You did so with your Christian faith always clearly evident and leading the way.

We thank you for your warmth and your inviting nature, which made everyone you came into contact with feel seen, valued and included.

We thank you for your collaborative spirit and your dedication to serving St. Andreans.

You did this during normal times and during extraordinary times.

- ✝ We thank you for your time with the children in the sanctuary each Sunday morning, when you brought to life bible stories in a way that allowed our children and adults to understand and appreciate the message of love and hope.
- ✝ We thank you for your dedicated efforts that ensured Vacation Bible School continued in person, and then virtually during the pandemic, and allowed families to continue to enjoy activities from their homes.
- ✝ We thank you for the introduction of activities that kept our youth and children engaged and connected by Zoom, with activities such as group crafts including Advent wreath-making sessions.
- ✝ We thank you for putting other initiatives in place such as starting Forest Church to hold outdoor activities that connected children, youth and adults, last year.
- ✝ We thank you for the work that you did with the Church Superintendent, teachers and parents to continue to hold church school classes so that our children could continue to grow in faith during the pandemic.
- ✝ We thank you for your work in coordinating events such as Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, and Rally Sunday—which included coordinating volunteers and preparing and mailing out packages of material to households so that they we could celebrate milestones in the Christian calendar.

Sydney, no matter where you go or what you do, I know that you are going to thrive.

We will remember you with warm thoughts and appreciation.

We wish for you and Tim all the best in your new adventure. Please keep in touch.

Blessing,

Your Friends at St. Andrew's Church Ottawa





## Farewell to Lynn Boothroyd

*Gail Bowes*

Lynn Boothroyd has been a part of this congregation since she began directing the St. Andrew's Ringers in September 2008, almost 14 years ago. She has been a great teacher for those who were new to handbells and encouraged and challenged all of the ringers in advancing their skills.

She has taken the handbell choir to provincial and national festivals where the St. Andrew's banner has been proudly displayed. She has been an instructor at various workshops and has been a mentor to many choirs in eastern Ontario

Through the generosity of the church and directed bequests and Lynn's legwork, the number of handbells and hand chimes has increased to 5 full octaves.

The past 2 years have been extremely trying, as it has been for many of us. Practices were scheduled, then needed to be cancelled. Fortunately, this past fall the handbell choir was able to resume practicing, and music was taped for use in various Sunday services. We are hopeful the full choir will resume practice this coming week.

I have mixed feelings saying thank you to Lynn, because we are also saying goodbye. Lynn is moving to her home province of Nova Scotia in June. We will miss her for sure. Whenever the bells are played, we will think of Lynn, and how instrumental she was in getting us here.

Thank you, Lynn.



## Introducing the St. Andrew's Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee

By Stacey Huber

I am a member of the St. Andrew's Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee. The committee is composed of 10 voting members and one ex-officio member, who is our Minister. The committee is composed of a mix of elders and non-elders.

Our mandate is to effectively be the eyes, ears and voice of the congregation with respect to anti-discrimination and inclusion. We will act as the eyes of the congregation to ensure that no one is excluded from the congregation in terms of our communion and outward service. We will act as the ears of the congregation to encourage diverse voices and to listen both inside and outside the church on matters that concern anti-discrimination and inclusion. We will act as the voice of the congregation by teaching and advocating with the objective of ensuring that everyone is welcome at St. Andrew's.

We meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. So far, we have held three very productive meetings. We have some big and exciting plans in store for you! Some ideas that we have been discussing include, but are not limited to, the participation of the ushers in promoting diversity and anti-discrimination, promoting greater diversity within the choir, and organizing pulpit exchanges and lunch and learn sessions. As for myself, I am starting to organize a roster of ministers who would be interested in speaking at St. Andrew's.

One matter of importance that comes up frequently in our discussions is that diversity should never be tokenized. For example, we need to be supporting, learning from and engaging with the Black community 365 days a year as opposed to just during Black History Month. The same goes for the LGBTQ community, indigenous persons and other marginalized groups.

I hope this summary gives you a satisfactory introduction to our committee.

I look forward to providing you with future updates.

## Christian Education and Youth

### Church Movie Night in January—*Encanto*

*Sydney McIntosh,*  
Christian Education Coordinator

Thank you to the families who attended the church movie night. It was so lovely to enjoy a movie together with popcorn as we watched the beautiful Disney movie, *Encanto*. I would strongly recommend it if you have time. There were about 10 families who attended the movie night, of all ages. It was lovely to gather together, pray, watch the movie and discuss what it stirred up in each of us. It was interesting to hear how people connected the relationships in their lives to the movie, especially how the connected their relationship with Jesus with it.

*A few themes discussed in the movie were:* Humility, Perfectionism, Family connections worth the work.

Here's a good article to read about it: Search online for "Muddy Church Encanto" or go to [www.muddychurch.co.uk/single-post/encanto-and-the-church](http://www.muddychurch.co.uk/single-post/encanto-and-the-church)

If you do decide to watch the movie, I have included some questions for your family to wonder about. I hope you enjoy it.

God bless,  
Sydney

#### Discussion Questions

##### For all ages:

Talk together about Encanto's messages. Wonder about:

- ✝ I wonder what your favourite part of the movie was? I wonder why?
- ✝ I wonder how can we go about embracing each other's differences?
- ✝ I wonder what are some ways we could rethink weaknesses and strengths?



✝ I wonder why you think it is important to work together as a family?

### For older ages:

Talk about the family dynamics in the movie.

- ✝ Why does Mirabel feel like she has to prove her worth to her family? How does she display courage, empathy, and teamwork?
- ✝ Why are those important character strengths?

## Visio Divina Morning Meditations

*Sydney McIntosh,  
Christian Education Coordinator*

These are some of my most treasured moments. Time spent together with others who love Christ and time meditating on the word of God. Each Wednesday morning in Lent we will continue to look at a piece of art inspired by scripture.

This practice is called Visio Divina, “divine seeing” and is a form of mediation, reflection and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. This blend of visual mediation and prayer is very powerful and an intentional time to meet with God.

I hope you will join us. All are welcome. We gather from 8:00–8:30 a.m. each Wednesday morning. Please reach out to me, Sydney at [sj@standrewsottawa.ca](mailto:sj@standrewsottawa.ca) for more information about how to get involved.

## Dinner and Devotional, an Intergenerational Event for Lent

*Sydney McIntosh,  
Christian Education Coordinator*

On the evening of Ash Wednesday, Rev. Karen and I led an Intergenerational service for all ages to gather for dinner and time spent in prayer and reflection together. We looked at the Lent devotional for families that was given out for this Lent and we went through the Ash Wednesday activity together. We talked about the background of Ash Wednesday with the families and did a labyrinth activity. It was lovely to see 2-year-old interacting on Zoom with the older generations of the congregation after being apart for so long.

Everyone has changed and gotten older. We may not even recognize one another but we know that we are loved and cherished by our church and especially God. Everyone shared what they were looking for in the coming months as spring approaches. Many shared that they saw each day as gift, younger children remarked how they were looking forward to birthdays that were to come, March break and time spent with family, flowers growing in the garden and much more.



I wonder what are you looking forward to?

God bless,

Sydney

p.s. I have included the recipe that was shared for families to make for our Ash Wednesday dinner together. Chili and cornbread. Please let me know how it turns out if you decide to make it.

## Chili and cornbread recipe

Note: the ingredient list is for two peoples worth. Double or triple the recipe for your family's needs.

### Chili Recipe

#### Ingredients:

- ✦ 1 package of ground meat of choice (please amend if vegetarian)
- ✦ 2 cans of beans of choice (make sure to rinse before putting in pot)
- ✦ 2 peppers diced
- ✦ 1 can of crushed or diced tomatoes
- ✦ 1 can of corn (rinse before using)
- ✦ 1 package of mushrooms diced
- ✦ 1 can of tomato sauce
- ✦ 3 tbsp of chili powder
- ✦ 2 tbsp of paprika
- ✦ 1 tbsp of garlic powder
- ✦ salt, pepper and chili flakes to taste (we do about 1 tsp of each)

#### Instructions:

1. Precook the ground meat, add to a large pot, crock pot or instant pot.
2. Add rest of ingredients pre-diced, and mix together.
3. If cooking on stove top allow to simmer for about 1 hour if you have time, less time works as well. Crockpot or instant pot follow cooking directions. Google online if unsure of time.

### Cornbread Recipe—by Bless this Mess Please

#### Ingredients:

- ✦ 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ✦ 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- ✦  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup granulated sugar
- ✦ 1 teaspoon salt
- ✦  $3\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder
- ✦  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup neutral oil or melted butter
- ✦ 1 large egg
- ✦ 1 cup milk

Instructions:

1. Grease a 9-inch round cake pan or cast-iron skillet well and set aside. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, add the flour, cornmeal, sugar, salt and baking powder. Whisk to combine well.
3. Make a well in the center of your dry ingredients and add your oil or butter, milk and egg. Stir just until the mixture comes together and there are only a few lumps remaining.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 20–25 minutes until the top is a deep golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
5. Serve hot.
6. Bonus! You can also make these into muffins or double the recipe and toss it in a 9×13-inch baking pan. You'll just need to adjust the baking time if you are making muffins or doubling the batch. Muffins take around 15 minutes to bake and a doubled recipe takes 35–40 minutes to bake.

## Youth Group Walk for Coldest Night of the Year

*Sydney McIntosh,  
Christian Education Coordinator*

Thank you to the youth that walked with Aisling and myself on February 26, as we raised money and awareness for those facing homelessness. The church was able to reach its goal of raising \$5,000 for the Ottawa Mission. Praise be to God! We gathered together bundled up on a sunny and chilly morning to walk around the New Edinburgh, Rockcliffe neighbourhood for a 5km walk. It was so nice to see one another, connect and enjoy hot chocolate on Aisling and Ray's porch at the end of the walk. Big thank you to Aisling for arranging the event and for hosting us.





## Online Sunday School Continues—Thank You to Teachers

*Sydney McIntosh,  
Christian Education Coordinator*

It has been two years of online Sunday school. Wow. It has been hard and challenging to continue to meet on Zoom when we long to be together again in person. I am grateful for the technology that allows us to continue to meet and spend time together. I am especially grateful for the wonderful Sunday school teachers who have made the effort and time to continue teaching Sunday school online. They are a wonder. I hope you will praise God and pray for these teachers as they minister to the children at our church.

✝ Afua  
✝ Joshua  
✝ Lynne  
✝ Johanna  
✝ Koko  
✝ Jide  
✝ Laurentine  
✝ Laurick  
✝ Sana  
✝ Stacey  
✝ Tim  
✝ Aisling

Thank you for your ministry. You are loved.

Sydney

## Thank you + Goodbye from Sydney McIntosh

Children of God,

I am thankful for you and my time at St. Andrew's Ottawa. What a blessing it has been to learn from you in my 3 years of ministry at the church. This was the church I came to know and love your families, to get engaged and married, to work with some of the most humble and caring people I have ever known. I will miss you all greatly and hold you in my prayers often. It is bittersweet as I write this to know that this will be my last annual report on Christian Education at St. Andrew's, but I am grateful for all the last year has held for us as church.

This past year has been a time of reflection and connection with God for me. A time of challenge and hardship. A time of great joy and new friendships. I have been blessed to have more time to dig into the word of God as we work from home and have spent time working through one book in the Old Testament and then flipping forward to a book in the New Testament during my devotional time.

I wanted to share this passage with you from the gospel of Mark:

*“Love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’  
And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’” Mark 12:29-31 (The MSG)*

In the bible we read scripture about what it was like to be in Jesus' presence and how his capacity to love and be with people is transformative. You can see it in the way he listens, shares food, spends time, weeps, walks, touches, responds and cares for others. Jesus enjoys being with people. Jesus enjoys being with God. My prayer is that we as a church would love the Lord our God and love others. That Jesus' transformative power would be at work in our community and that we would take notice of God's presence in our daily lives. That we too would listen, share food, spend time, weep, walk, touch, respond and care for others as Jesus did.

I would like to thank:

- ✝ Our dedicated and supportive Christian Education Committee. Especially Koko, church superintendent, Laura + Althea our convenors, and Aisling who continues to help to run youth activities with me. I am forever grateful.
- ✝ For our minister, Karen Dimock and working alongside her as we navigated ministry for the congregation during a pandemic. She continues to show me God at work in my life daily through our conversations.
- ✝ For my lovely and kind supervisor Heather Pilkey, who is always there to help when needed and listen. A constant support for the direction of Christian Education at St. Andrew's.
- ✝ Thank you so much to all the Sunday school teachers who have continued to teach and minister to our children during the last year online.
- ✝ For everyone who were so welcoming and helpful during my time at St. Andrew's.
- ✝ All the amazing kids I got to know and love!

I cannot wait to see what plans God has for you and who you will become. God bless you.

Farewell for now dear St. Andreans. I will see you soon.

Much love,

Sydney



## Mission and Outreach

### Update on the Arrival of the Mubikayi Family, our Sponsored Refugees

*Nathalie Bradbury,  
Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator*

Due to positive Covid tests, the Mubikayis' arrival has been postponed, however we are confident they will be here soon. Karen, Bruno and I are ready and waiting to greet them at the airport with their winter coats, tuques and mitts. Masanka tells me that the weather in Uganda is currently a balmy 26 °C to 28°C, what a shock it will be for them to discover what it is like at -5°C or even -15°C and under a foot of snow or more!

**Quarantine:** We have a location ready where their generous welcome kits await them. Irene, Bruno and I will be in touch with them daily to check on their health and Covid symptoms, and to facilitate anything else they might need. With Lorna, Bruno and Laurentine, we are planning on filling the fridge and pantry with groceries and pre-cooked meals when the time comes. We have received a grocery gift card and more of these would be very gratefully received. When they are cleared to leave quarantine, we will need a house cleaning crew to clean the place and return it to how it was before.



Some of the welcome items prepared by the Men's Fellowship, Women's Guild and the Youth Group which are waiting for the Mubikayi family



**Housing and Move:** We are narrowing our focus on some apartment buildings in Centretown and Alta Vista neighbourhoods where there are ongoing vacancies. We are confident we can sign a lease at the right time. Now is the time to start planning for Move Day, when we will need a number of volunteers.



We will need (1) a strong outdoor team to pick up furniture and household items and deliver them to the apartment and (2) an indoor team to unpack boxes and organize things in the kitchen, bathroom and other parts of the apartment. We will also need someone comfortable with a step ladder to set up curtain rods and curtains for each room. We welcome high school students who want to help, and we'll sign for their volunteer hours. *See the table below where you can help.*

**Household donations:** Thank you for all your generous donations. Some items still needed are in the table below. Many household items are being held in a church school room at St. Andrew's, and that will be the main starting point to pick up items to deliver to the apartment. As such, if you have small items only, no larger than a grocery bag, you are welcome to bring them to St. Andrew's, and church staff will ensure they are put in storage. For larger items, please hang onto them until the move.

**Important**—*If you are holding large items, please let Nathalie and Jeannette know as Nathalie is compiling a list of all pick-up items and places.* This is also very helpful for auditing purposes—we have been asked to keep track of all items received in kind as part of our record-keeping for IRCC and PCC. (This list for our financial records will not be itemized, it will be a total value of all items received in kind).

Summary list of how to help and what to give:

Volunteers needed	Name and contact info	Items to donate	Name and contact info
House-cleaning crew to empty and clean the quarantine apartment when they leave		Gift cards for groceries, boots and shoes, clothing, toiletries, hardware etc.	
Outdoor move team – pick-up and delivery to apartment		Serving dishes, platters, Corning ware or glass baking dishes	
Indoor move team – unpacking and organizing		Laptop, printer and paper, wastepaper baskets, laundry basket	
Set up of curtains, curtain rods etc.		Curtains & rods	
		Any larger items, or furniture, please keep at home for now	

Please let me know if you can help with any of the requests above. You may contact me through the church office or at [nbradburyjost@outlook.com](mailto:nbradburyjost@outlook.com)

Blessings to you all,  
Nathalie

## White Gift Sunday 2021

*Jeanie Hicks*

St. Andrews look forward to White Gift Sunday each December when we donate books (wrapped in white paper) to the library of a community school. 2021 was a very different experience!

On March 1, 2022, CE Coordinator, Sydney McIntosh and I had the pleasure of finally delivering White Gift Sunday books and knitted items to Queen Mary Street Public School. We express thanks to Sydney for freeing the bins and bags from St. Andrew's where they had languished since December 2021. Additional cheques and gift certificates were also delivered to the principal, Kelly Haslam.

We were excited to be allowed into the school and the Grade 3/4 students were ecstatic to be back in the library with Librarian Petra Alinec. They presented a wonderful group thank you for us and had made thank you bookmarks which revealed their creativity and love of colour!

Kelly and Petra expressed their sincere appreciation to St. Andrew's for their support.



*Photo: Jeanie Hicks*



We acknowledge that this year was difficult and challenging in many ways. As a result, book donations were down significantly but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the students as they ripped open the wrapping to see the books that would soon be on their library shelves.

Thank you to everyone who supported White Gift Sunday.

Blessings

Jeanie Hicks and the Christian Education Committee

# Worship

## Update from the Search Committee for the Director of Music

*Ian MacKay, Convenor  
On behalf of the Search Committee*

In December 2021, Kirk Session approved the formation and mandate for the Search Committee for a new Director of Music. The members of the committee are Frances Isaac, Rosaline Kalu, Jonathan Kim, Ian MacKay, Pauline Schneider and Kuawa Williams.

The committee constituted itself in early January after confirming membership and started its work reflecting on the history and strengths of the music ministry at St. Andrew's over the last 50 years. The committee celebrated the contributions and legacies of Carman Milligan, Anthony King and Tom Annand and the many volunteer singers, musicians, ringers, children and others who have supported music at St. Andrew's under their collective tutelage and direction and encouragement. We also noted the importance of music in worship over the course of the pandemic, beginning with Tom, the contributions of the choir soloists and other guests, and then latterly under the skillful and creative hand of Matthew Larkin and his effort to reconvene the choir under challenging conditions.

The committee then set to work thinking about the current and future needs of the music program and what leadership is required to carry music at St. Andrew's into the future. We acknowledged that like many churches and denominations, the pandemic and other forces have created opportunity and space to think about the future, priorities and possibilities. Indeed, the terms of reference from Kirk Session specifically asked the committee to

explore not only what St. Andrew's might consider as important but also to create dialogue with prospective candidates about what they might be able and called to create with us. To that end, the committee met to think about what a great music program might look and sound like without any parameters. That exercise concluded with the development of a draft work description, which outlines not only week-by-week duties but also room to explore musical programs and activities to encourage, grow and support the congregation in its worship, praise and service. The committee also acknowledged that St. Andrew's is blessed to be in a prominent location, has enviable work spaces, and important and significant instruments—all of which creates a firm foundation for the future for any new Director of Music and what they and the congregation might want to realize in music ministry.

A key thread that runs through the draft is that we want to balance weekly music activities with programs that put down roots to sustain music ministry for the future. Our hope, as we work to finalize the work description and application package, is that candidates will be inspired to offer their experience, training and skills in the context of a unique calling to St. Andrew's Church.

As for the schedule for the work of the committee, we expect to finalize the work description before the middle of March 2022, and then compile the application package, and decide on the scope of advertising within various professional circles. We expect all of this work will be complete by the end of



March. The plan will then be to give candidates until the end of April to submit applications. The committee will review and screen applications as they are received and if applicable, create a short list of the best candidates for in-person interviews in May 2022. If all goes well, we hope to have a final recommendation on the best candidate for the meeting of the Kirk Session in June. And again, if all goes well, negotiate a start date in September 2022.

In the meantime, the Committee will be busy as we continue to think about the future of the music ministry at St. Andrew's as we formulate questions and challenges for candidates. To that end, the committee welcomes input from the congregation at any point. Perhaps you have thoughts, reflections and ideas? If so, we want to hear from you. To make that input as practical as possible can we suggest that you consider the following questions about the past, present and future of music at St. Andrew's?

✝ Thinking about the music ministry at St. Andrew's over the past 50+ years, spanning the tenures of Tom Annand, Anthony King and Carman Milligan: name three events, features or moments that stand out for you as being particularly meaningful?

✝ Thinking about the current ministry of music over the course of the pandemic: describe three events, features or moments that stand out for you as being particularly meaningful?

✝ Thinking about the future of music at St. Andrew's: describe three features, events or moments that might epitomize a successful and inspiring music program within the larger mission and vision of the congregation?

Please submit input to:  
[mackay\\_sap@hotmail.com](mailto:mackay_sap@hotmail.com) (note the underscore \_, please)

I turn often to John Rutter's words describing the joy of creating music in praise of our Creator, for the church and her servants and indeed for anyone who would hear. Here are some of those words again:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for music,  
Blest gift from heaven to all your servants here  
on earth:  
In time of joy a crown, in sorrow consolation;  
Companion through our days of tears and  
mirth.

We give you thanks for every sound of beauty:  
For sweetest harmony that echoes in our  
hearts.  
For melodies that soar on high like birds at  
morning...  
For voice and instrument in all their parts.

As we are blest, so may our gifts bless others:  
May hearts be touched and spirits lifted up  
anew.  
Let music draw together those who live as  
strangers  
Bring joy to those we love, in thankfulness  
true.

## Ash Wednesday Noon Service

*Sydney McIntosh,  
Christian Education Coordinator*

On March 2 we gathered for the first time in weeks to be together and worship. I cannot tell you how amazing it felt to be back together. The service crafted by Rev. Karen and Matthew Larkin, custodian of music, was so lovely and meaningful. Matthew played both the organ and the piano as we actually sang hymns together! I had not heard anyone sing in a church for almost two years and it was so special. I am looking forward to gathering in person for three more services before I say farewell to St. Andrew's as my husband Tim and I prepare to move. I have included a longer goodbye letter, but I wanted to note that it was so lovely to experience in-person services before we left. I will miss you all so much.

This was my first Ash Wednesday service and I believe a first for many others as St. Andrew's normally has a Shrove Tuesday Pancake event the day before. I found it very moving to listen to Karen's prayer as Matthew played quietly on the piano as she spoke. There is something so moving and powerful about music. I think that is why we have craved being able to be sing together again for so long. Now that day has come it makes me treasure the experience that much more. It is a blessing to be able to gather together to worship our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. Amen.



Richard and Jan's Chili

## St. Andrew's Ringers

*Jill Collins-Williams,  
Bell ringer*

Like all groups at St. Andrew's, the Bell Choir has been hit hard by forces beyond our control.

The last time we were all together, we finished taping music for services in December and for the OGEHR virtual Christmas Concert. Then Omicron arrived and we were once again not able to practise at the church. There was great rejoicing in mid January when six ringers plus the Director were allowed to begin preparing ensemble pieces at the church. Two, just two practices later, the so-called Freedom Convoy of truckers arrived on Wellington Street and it was no longer safe to come downtown and practise at St. Andrew's.

The protesters have left and Omicron is on the wane, so the full choir will be allowed to meet again in March and make joyful music unto the Lord. We look forward to performing soon for the congregation, and hope our bell ringing will bring you pleasure.



Hugh and Ken, our great audio-visual team. *Photo: Lynne Current*



St. Andrew's Ringers, well-masked!

*Photo: Lynne Current*



In June we will be saying farewell to our wonderful conductor, Lynn Boothroyd. After sixteen years leading St. Andrew's Ringers, she has decided to return to her roots on the east coast, and live near extended family in Dartmouth, NS. We will miss her encouraging leadership as well as her friendship and hope she comes back to visit often! (Please see a separate article in this edition about Lynn written by Gail Bowes.)

## Fellowship

### St. Andrew's Women's Guild

*Jill Collins-Williams,  
President*

St. Andrew's Women's Guild continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM, while keeping our hopes high that we will be able to meet again in person sometime soon. Vaccine passports, masking and distancing have become a way of life, so a bit of courage and many prayers will be a part of any return to the normal activities of the Guild. We dream of Rummage Sales and Bazaars!

The beginning months of 2022 have seen our AGM in January, a wonderfully researched and personalized talk about British Home children by our own Nancy Higgins, and our planned guest speaker for March is Matthew Larkin.

Poinsettias in memory of loved ones graced the sanctuary during the Christmas season. Some talented members of the Guild have continued to create flower arrangements for the communion table, and a display for Lent is in the planning stage.

We are an active and dedicated group who would welcome your presence and participation. Please call Jill Collins-Williams (613-526-6150) to learn more.

### Men's Fellowship

*Richard Lauzon, Coordinator,  
Men's Fellowship*

Our most recent Men's Fellowship Zoom meeting speaker in February was Dennis Burnside, a Senior Consultant with The Capital Hill Group. His presentation was an opportunity to hear an inside perspective surrounding constitutional and inherent First Nation rights, the nature of the "Nation-To-Nation" treaty relationships and the ways in which these rights and relationships are playing out in Canada. Recently he has been representing the Cowessess First Nation where 751 unmarked graves were discovered near the former residential school.

The next Men's Fellowship meeting speaker will be Tim Patterson who is member of our congregation and a Professor of Geology in the Department of Earth Sciences at Carleton University. The title of his presentation will be "In search of the Anthropocene: a scientific and political controversy". A new geologic epoch to be named the "Anthropocene" has been proposed to demarcate

the start point for when human activities became so pervasive that a tipping point was crossed, and these impacts are now forming a permanent part of the geologic record. The Anthropocene Working Group has controversially proposed that the initiation of widespread nuclear testing in the early 1950s, which also corresponds to the massive post-WWII impacts of the “Great Acceleration”, be designated as the start point for the new epoch. Tim’s research group is working to have the unique sedimentary record of annually deposited laminations draping the bottom of Crawford Lake, near Milton, Ontario, designated as the type locality or “Golden Spike” for the new epoch. Crawford Lake is the leading candidate amongst 10 world-wide sites under consideration for this honor.



Tim Patterson and his students conducting research at Crawford Lake in Milton, Ontario

In April, we will once again offer a moderated group discussion coordinated by Jim Paulin on the topic: Why has our society become so polarized? The first discussion group in November studied the reasons for declining church attendance and membership, and how to respond to this challenge. We would invite anyone in the congregation who is interested in leading off the April meeting discussion with a short opinion item to contact Jim Paulin ([paulinjim@gmail.com](mailto:paulinjim@gmail.com)).

The Men’s Fellowship group is looking forward to the time when we are able to meet face-to-face, share a meal and engage in a casual setting within St. Andrew’s Hall to connect with each other. Please consider this news item to be a personal invitation to participate in our meetings, held on the last Monday of the month usually at 7:00 pm. Contact Don Gowan who will coordinate our March meeting ([dgowan@rogers.com](mailto:dgowan@rogers.com)) and Richard Lauzon who will host the April meeting for further details.

Best regards,  
Richard

## St. Andrew’s Film Group—We welcome all perspectives!

*Jen Curtis*  
*Christian Education Committee*

As the organizer of the Film Group, I never ceased to be amazed at the directions our discussions take. I look forward to these meetings as I know I will get a new perspective on a film.

Last month, we discussed *Don’t Look Up*, director Adam MacKay’s satire of the way America handles science-based crises. One person disliked the film so much, they did not attend the discussion. A few people loved the film, finding its premise clever and the scenarios captivating. One of our members reminded us of the important lesson in science and public policy that the film carried and we took some time to unpack this lesson.



In December, we were taught about author Charles Dickens and how and why he wrote *A Christmas Carol* in the movie *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. We reveled in Christopher Plummer's portrayal of Scrooge and waxed philosophical about whether or not people can change on a dime as Dickens so famously brings about in *Scrooge*.

As I write this, I've just finished an episode of CBC TV's excellent new series *The Porter*, which will occupy us in March and April. The series depicts the history of Black Canadian and African-American men who worked as Pullman porters in the 1920s.

We remain grateful for the artists who create these shows the parts of human experience they reveal to us. In this way, there is always a spiritual element to ponder!

## Dear Sydney,

Three and a half years ago you walked into the church with your enthusiasm, your faith, and your smile. You jumped right into planning Kid's church, ordering dozens of pumpkins and inviting families to decorate them with drawings and words, describing all the things they were most thankful for. Taken home they became not just table décor for Thanksgiving dinners, but also a prompt to pray and rejoice in life and family, friends and whatever else was written on the pumpkin! Today I am quite sure it would take more than a few pumpkins to write down all the things we give thanks for as we celebrate your ministry among us and with us.

You have cared for our children, teaching them to pray and know Jesus. You have encouraged the youth, listening to their questions and shepherding them as they made the decision to join the church. You have led Wednesday evening studies and introduced us to the practice of Visio Divina. You participated in the Healing and Reconciliation Tour and came home and invited others into this journey of justice and healing.

And then there was COVID... and there you were... Online Vacation Bible School, virtual Christmas Pageant, phone calls to families, weekly Zoom Sunday School and Virtual Children's Time. You were the glue that held much of this together. You connected with newcomers and made them welcome. You stuck things out, you learned and we learned together. You had some of the best ideas: "Why don't we send every child a Christmas present from the church you said in 2020?" And so we did! And now the *Growing in God's Love* story bible can be found in the homes of all St. Andrew's children. You loved our children and they love you right back.

Sydney we will miss you, I will miss you.

You are kind and faithful, generous and encouraging. You love life and beauty, Jesus and church and you have opened us up to enjoy all these things in new ways ourselves.

It was a wonderful privilege and blessing to conduct your wedding to Tim. To be there as you made your vows to each other and pledged to live your lives loving each other and loving God. As together you take this next step in your journey I pray that the love of God continues to bless and encourage you, I pray for your new home and new friends, for all the possibilities that God holds out before you now.

God bless you and keep you,  
Karen



**WORDS TO REMEMBER FOR MARCH**

**I tell you, love your enemies. Help and  
give without expecting a return.  
You'll never—I promise—regret it.  
Luke 6: 35 (The MSG)**