



Rally Sunday Returns!



Rummage Sale Returns!



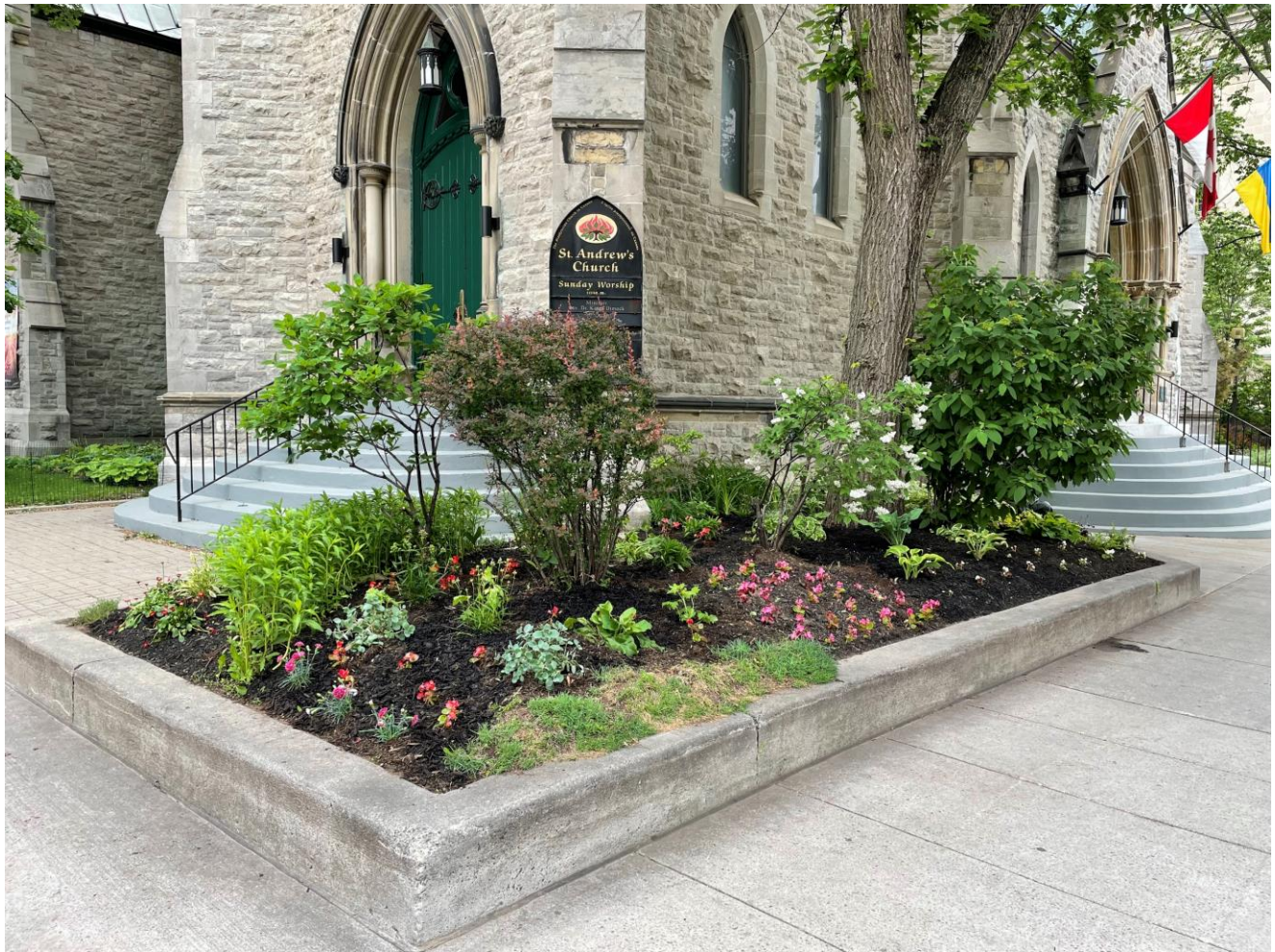
Gracefield Retreat Returns!



In-Person VBS Returns!

ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Summer, 2022



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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.

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.

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Messages

Minister's Reflection

I have been thinking about Peter getting out of the boat in rough seas lately. It's a story we find in Matthew 14:22-33. The disciples are out in their boat, the waters are getting rough and when they see Jesus coming towards them, walking on the water, they think he is a ghost! I think I would too. "Don't be afraid, it's me," says Jesus and Peter (I love the things Peter says), Peter says, "if it is you, then command me to get out of the boat and come to you on the water."

You can look up the passage and see how what happens next is described. Basically Peter gets out of the boat and finds himself walking on water! Wow!

Then the storm and water rise up and get rough, Peter becomes afraid and begins to sink and Jesus, Jesus extends his arm and raises him up.

I love this story for many reasons and am usually drawn to that image of the hand reached out. I see in that a model for ministry: Hands held out to help, hands extended to heal, hands giving food to another, hands holding hands as people travel together through life... ministry in Jesus' name is very much about hands, isn't it? I see that every time I read this passage, the hands held out, lifting up Peter in his fear but you know what else I see this spring as I meditate on this story? I see Peter getting out of the boat.

Peter is a fisherman... and I am almost certain that before the events of this day, he had never in his life thought about getting out of a boat in a storm or rough seas. But there is Jesus, and

when Jesus walks into your life, new things can happen! You might even find yourself contemplating and doing things you never would have imagined doing before.

One of the elders of our church once said to me, in describing Jesus, that he is the one who brings new opportunities. That is for sure isn't it? Life from death? Sight to the blind? Fishermen who get out of the boat in a storm... what does that look like for you?

Remember about six weeks ago in worship when Matthew encouraged us and led us to sing "seek ye first in a round?" I don't think I have sung so loud or with so much delight in a long time. Afterwards some of you said how

good it was but then remarked "I didn't think it would work". We had not after all done that before. We had never perhaps considered it but we did it and it worked. In some ways that is what getting of the boat can look like.

It has been over two years now since the pandemic began and this spring we can all feel the hope that comes with vaccination and the lifting of restrictions. I feel it as well in the planning we are doing at

the church. For two years so much of what we did was conditioned by whatever the COVID situation around us was. We pivoted, and we pivoted again. We went day by day, and we cared for each other and worked on staying connected. We couldn't physically touch each other but we did find ways to reach out.

Emerging from the pandemic restrictions comes with its own challenges. Each one of us will navigate it in our own way. Being out and



about again after two years of pandemic restrictions is different for each of us.

Travelling again when trips to the grocery store were the biggest outings we made for the longest time... Being in groups... Going to the movies, getting on a bus... We all take our time and find our comfort level individually based on our own needs and those we are closest too. At the church we continue to offer worship both online and in person and to develop the capacity to do this with other events when the fall comes.

In the last few months planning has begun for the coming months and it feels wonderful! VBS, the Gracefield Retreat and the return of the Rummage Sale are all coming in the fall. On Thursday evenings some of us have been gathering to contemplate the ways we gather as a community and how we might rebuild and nurture the connections we have among ourselves, and also how we might increase our visibility in the city and build new relationships in our neighbourhood. One thing we have been focussing on in our planning is listening to people. Who do they care about? What are their hopes and concerns? What matters most to them?

Revitalization

When October comes we will be welcoming a consultant, Rev. Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian of Effective Church to be with us for a weekend, to lead us in an exercise designed to revitalize our life and witness as a congregation. The Kirk Session engaged Bill over two years ago and then we had COVID so we are really excited that he is now coming.

During his time with us Bill will be meeting with the leadership of the church and its committees as well as the staff. There will be evening gatherings on Friday and Saturday with the congregation so that Bill can talk with us about church and future direction. He will attend worship on Sunday and present a summary presentation on Sunday evening with action items for moving ahead and

growing as a congregation, in faith and number.

Your voice matters, we want to hear from you so please put Friday October 14 to Sunday October 16 on your calendars and watch out for more details that will be coming before the end of this month.

Ahead of Bill's visit we will be gathering information about the congregation and the neighbourhood and city we are located in. Some of you might already have been recruited to help with this and those of you who attend worship during the four weeks ahead of Bill's visit will be asked to fill out a brief survey regarding your experience. The more times you come the more you fill it out!

But all that is in the fall and before that there is the summer.

Intermission

In my reflections for worship on June 12 I pondered the question, where do we go to meet God and where does God meet us? It is a good question to be asking and for ten weeks this summer I am going to be taking what is called in the Presbyterian Church in Canada an intermission.

The term itself was chosen as it seemed to describe best what is proposed: A time to get in touch with the Holy Other in our lives. This is done in repose, in line with Jürgen Moltmann's comment about God: "The true completion of creation, however, is on the 'seventh day', the day when God takes up active repose wherein the creation is contemplated, blessed, enjoyed and pronounced 'very good'."

I had planned for this in 2020 and at one time thought I might walk the Camino de Santiago. That was before COVID. With the pandemic I postponed the intermission for two years and am now going to spend part of the time travelling and the other part of the time with family. Rest is important and there are many ways to rest. Hugh and I are going to

Newfoundland where we can hike and spend time in creation which I find very healing. In the rest of the time I am going to focus on family, particularly elderly members and my mom who has dementia. Days are precious.

My last Sunday is June 26 and I will return after Labour Day.

While I am gone Reverend Tony Boonstra will lead worship each week. There is an introduction to him elsewhere in this newsletter.

Reverend Heather Paton, our CE coordinator, is going to preside over a baptism in my absence and she will be covering some pastoral care as will Reverend Jim Pot from Knox, Reverend Meg Patterson from St. Stephen's and Reverend Doug Kendall from Stittsville. And there are also your elders. Please stay in touch with them. Don't wait for a crisis. They try to make calls regularly but they really like to get phone calls or emails from you as well, not just when there is a crisis but when there are celebrations too and also on ordinary days when you just want to say hi.

I have never done this before. It feels like I am getting out of the boat. There is so much going on at St. Andrew's that is so good and I care deeply for all of you. But I do discern that Jesus is beckoning and it is time.

I will be praying for you through the summer and ask that you do likewise for me, with the greatest of love and affection

I am yours in Christ's service,

Karen

Greetings from the Kirk Session

*Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk*

*"From the rising of the sun to the place where
it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised."*

Psalm 133:3

As I write this, clean-up continues from the May 21st storm. I know many remain affected, whether it's having to restock your fridge and freezer, organize tree clean-up or begin repairs to your homes. These are stressful events, and there is assistance available from the church should you require it. You are very welcome to speak to Karen in confidence. In the meantime, I know we are all lifting each other up in prayer.

Although we have been able to be back in the sanctuary for worship since March 6, I still feel immense gratitude each time I walk in, in particular for those who make this possible each week. One new addition since Easter is the resumption of coffee hour. For many of us, the social and spiritual connections of church are intertwined and it is through the work of the Welcome and Fellowship Committee that we are able to enjoy a time of fellowship again.

Although we are moving into summer, traditionally a slower period in the life cycle of the church, groups will continue meeting as desired, the work of the revitalization committee will continue, and for the first time in three years we are anticipating an in-person VBS!

The Kirk Session meets on Tuesday, June 14 for its last regularly scheduled meeting before the fall, and as always, we will keep the congregation updated.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Update from the Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion Committee

Stacey Huber

Our committee continues to meet monthly. Our co-chairs are Peter Zanette (zanette@magma.ca) and Kethy Sosso-Kolle Sangaré (kethyosso@yahoo.ca).

We have been extensively discussing the role that ushers can play in promoting diversity and inclusion since they are the first point of contact for service attendees. One of our goals is for ushers to be equipped to more actively welcome members and visitors from diverse communities. We are going to start off by ordering special pins for ushers to wear. More details on these pins will follow.

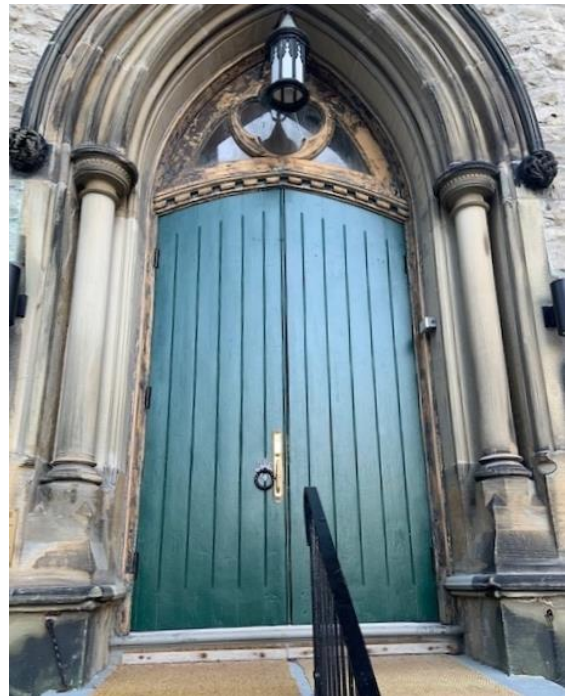
We are also working on fostering partnerships with other congregations that reflect the diversity of our city. We reached out to Emmanuel Apostolic Church and received a positive response from their senior minister, the Rev. Bryan Williams. We are also hoping to engage with their youth committee. We hope to arrange for Reverend Williams to speak at St. Andrew's this fall. We have also been in touch with one of our own members, Jidé Afolabi, who has offered to see if his father, Bishop Jacob Afolabi, would be interested in speaking at St. Andrew's! We have also been in touch with the new PCC moderator, Rev. Dr. Bob Faris to see if he would be available to speak to our congregation.

We encourage all members of the congregation to come forward with any ideas / initiatives you may have to promote diversity and inclusion at St. Andrew's by contacting either of our co-chairs at the email addresses listed above.

Reverend Dimock's Intermission

*Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk*

Karen will be starting her intermission June 27, providing her with a time of much needed rest and restoration. Rev. Tony Boonstra will be with us for the summer, for which we are very grateful. If during this time you are in need of support, please do not hesitate to reach out to your elder or to one of the clerks (Heather or Jide). We will welcome Karen back September 6, and in the meantime, I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer.



Christian Education and Youth

Welcome Heather, our New Christian Education Co-ordinator!



The Rev. Heather Paton has joined St. Andrew's as our Christian Education Coordinator. Heather and her family have been worshipping with us since they moved to Ottawa a year and a half ago.

Heather comes to us with over 20 years of experience developing and implementing Christian Education programming and was the Minister of Word and Sacrament at Dorchester and South Nissouri Presbyterian Churches in London, Ontario until 2018.

You may have seen Heather leading the music segments for our online VBS programme last summer.

Let us all welcome her into our St. Andrew's family!

Vacation Bible School is Back!

Rev. Heather Paton
Christian Education Co-ordinator

Are you ready to cook up some fun? We are having a Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School this year!

August 15–19 (in-person).

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Before and after care available.

Contact ce@standrewsottawa.ca for details.

<http://www.standrewsottawa.ca/vbs-2022>



Save the Date: Fall Rally Kick-Off!



September 18—Join us for the kick-off to the “new year” at St. Andrew’s! We will enjoy lunch together after the service, and a special performance by the Junkyard Symphony. They are an eco-entertainment company that reuses junk to create music and fun for all ages. Invite your friends!

Women’s Retreat 2022

*Jen Curtis,
Retreat Organizing Committee*

This year’s Women’s Retreat took “New Beginnings” as its title, chosen for the freshness of spring, the sense of breaking out of the confines of the pandemic, and of course Christ’s re-birth. It was held on April 30, 2022.

We enjoyed beautiful solos by Pat Beckett and Beth Gilles as well as a yoga break led by Kethy Sosso Kolle that left us refreshed and relaxed. The organizing committee provided devotionals that stirred our emotions and our sense of humour. Karen offered prayer and leadership, as well as her ongoing inspiration as we forge new ground in the grey area of “moving out of the pandemic”.

Our speaker this year was Suzanne Le, Executive Director of the Multi-faith Housing Initiative in Ottawa who opened our eyes to the challenges that minority and low-income groups have in finding housing—a most basic “new beginning”. We enjoyed Suzanne’s enthusiasm and benefitted greatly from her knowledge.

Many thanks to this year’s organizers: Jeanie Hicks, Laura McGregor, Mary Gowan and Janet Banigan—aka The Big Font Ladies.

Mission and Outreach

The Mubikayi Family—Moving into their New Home

On May 1, the Mubikayi family were finally able to move into their new home. They had lots of help from the congregation, as you can see:



Left: the family is just arriving at the apartment complex. Sylvie Mubikayi is in the beige sweater (the fellow in the blue jacket is a cousin).

Below: Nathalie directing traffic. That's Litugard Mbaraka in the back.



The News from Amkhut, India

Aisling Boomgaardt

Life is pretty much back to “normal” for people in the region. They have stopped wearing masks, and are attending church, school, and movie theatres. Most do not seem too concerned about catching Covid.

During Lent the youth of First Church Amkhut planned a Good Friday drama for the entire community. It was a lot of work, by all accounts, with new costumes and sets being made. Even new wireless microphones were purchased! The amazing production lasted three hours and when I asked if children sat still for that length of time, I received the comment: “It’s the first time my son did not move from his seat.”



This past month of May has seen record-breaking heat temperatures of 43C. Temperatures that high are not usually seen until later in the summer. People were concerned about the heat wave happening during the first Jobat Convention in two years, which was held May 19–22, 2022. It was impossible for people to sleep inside at night, so if they could, they moved their beds outside onto terraces.

At the time of writing, it is the eve of Dr. Pauline Brown's 97th Birthday! It is amazing to remember that Pauline heard Christ's call at the age of 23, while nursing in Ottawa. Soon after, she was commissioned by her childhood church of St. Giles, in the Glebe, to minister in India. She always says, "why me?" but anyone who has met her can guess that it was because God knew that her childlike curiosity, thirst for knowledge, ability to cut through nonsense, and unending patience would be assets in the jungles of India. The people of the Vindhya-Satpura region became Pauline's family, even as she ministered to them as a nurse.



The Marco Depestre Foundation at Work

Yvette Depestre

Despite the many challenges faced by Haiti in 2021 including the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating August earthquake and the ongoing political instability compounded by gang violence, the Marco Depestre Foundation has been blessed. Resources received from our members, donors, and friends, including many who form part of the St. Andrew's family, allowed the Foundation to support most of its projects.

Agroforestry: This project, established in 2017, has twin aims of reinforcing unstable land while providing a source of revenue for families in designated areas. Although it has been impossible for Mr. Herno, the Agricultural Technician to travel to the Violet nursery since the last quarter of 2021, we have been successful in distributing more than 34,000 seedlings of fruit and other trees to small-scale farmers. There was also success in Furcy where more than 14,000 seedlings were distributed. Mr. Herno was able to carry out soil conservation activities to protect the land where the nursery is located by planting bamboo seedlings which help prevent erosion.

Child Sponsorship: The number of children receiving support for the payment of their school fees has increased from 46 to 50 during 2021. Ten of the students ranging from kindergarten to Grade 10 are faithfully sponsored by our Church family at St. Andrew's. In general, all the children are healthy and growing, with average grades. In addition, one youth is now enrolled in a two-year auto-mechanics course through the generosity of a donor who responded to the need for help expressed on his behalf at the end of our annual general meeting last year.

My sister Julia Depestre, the Child Sponsorship Monitor, organized two Annual Meetings where sponsored children participated in health awareness sessions, one dealing with the food pyramid and the other on hygiene, including a talk with the older girls about feminine hygiene, female sexuality and reproduction. The younger children received a talk on appropriate behaviour.

Child Sponsorship: Nutrition Supplement: This project, which our dearly departed friend Barbara Sawh encouraged the Foundation to initiate, continues its goal of helping children improve their grades through better nutrition. Currently seven families receive a monthly voucher of \$25US for the purchase of nourishing food. As a result, their health, stamina and school performance have improved or remained stable.

School Supplies: School supplies were distributed to over 1,600 students in various needy communities. The beneficiaries are grateful for these important tools which facilitate their studies.

Christmas Meals: We salute the good work carried out by Julia Depestre and her team, who despite numerous difficulties, were still able to carry out the 2021 Christmas meals serving some 1,500 parents, children and teachers who received food kits, toys, sweets and sanitary items. These



*Seedlings growing at the Furcy Nursery
April 2021*

activities took place in 10 different locales including two in the earthquake area. In one case, navigating treacherous roads through heavy rains in the earthquake area took an entire day. The deliveries brought smiles to the faces of children who would have not otherwise received anything during the Christmas season. We are very thankful for the generous support of donors for these activities.

Humanitarian Aid: Our Humanitarian Aid project was used more than ever to respond to various needs, particularly due to the August earthquake and torrential rains in the Southern region and Les Nippes. For example, where a school was destroyed a shelter was built in St-Louis du Sud. Tarps and essential items were distributed in Latiboliere.

Four of our sponsored children confided they were often hungry, going to school on an empty stomach. Thanks to donations, they benefitted from a monthly food provision. The smile on their faces tells it all.

A few have also benefited from extra classes to improve their grades. Again, the funding was made available by compassionate donors who were aware of this need.

Other Activities: We also had firsts, such as giving three cell phones and three laptops to sponsored individuals. Mrs. Targuette, the unemployed mother of a sponsoree, received a loan of 25 000 gourdes (around \$325) to start a small business. This was for us a first foray into the micro-credit business. Mrs. Targuette has faithfully been respecting her contract, by reimbursing the agreed-upon monthly amount. The Goat Project continues in Fondoux where 30 goats are cared for by children under the supervision of their parents.

Les Messagers de Laboule 12, a group of youngsters, established and directed by Julia Depestre, received an oven as well as tables and chairs from our dearly departed friend, Rob Robertson. Les Messagers meet after school on Friday afternoons to learn to prepare basic foods, like sandwiches, cookies, tarts, pizzas and cakes. They also sing and learn God's Word, presenting them in skits in churches once a month.

I thank the Lord for His grace, protection and providence that has enabled our organization to continue useful activities for the benefit of Haiti's neediest.

On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to thank our minister, Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock, the Mission & Outreach Ministry and the many members of the congregation for their continued vital support of the mission and work of the Foundation.

May the Lord richly bless the congregation of St. Andrew's for their generosity and support!

"Be kind and compassionate to one another" Ephesians 4:32



*Students of 'Sur un nuage' School
with their Christmas meal
St-Louis du Sud, December 24, 2021*

Worship

Welcome, Tony!



Rev. Tony Boonstra will be with us for the summer, while Karen is on Intermission. Some in the congregation will remember Tony, he used to do pastoral visiting for us many years ago. He has done some pulpit supply over the years and most recently he and Karen together officiated at the funeral of Joshua Odai. Tony was the Odai's minister in Edmonton.

Tony immigrated to Canada at the age of 8, from the Netherlands with his parents. The family lived in Alberta first, then moved to British Columbia. At the age of 22, Tony began his undergraduate studies at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduated with a B.A. in Education. During this time he met and married Bonnie Brown.

A few years later, Tony decided to change careers and in 1975 enrolled at Presbyterian College at McGill University. Tony graduated in 1977 with his Bachelor of Theology and in 1978 with a Masters of Divinity. Tony was ordained in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Carleton Place.

Later he received an appointment by the Board of World Mission to do church extension work on Vancouver Island. He and Bonnie and their six children moved to Parksville. During the next eight years Tony served at St. Columba Presbyterian.

Then the family moved to Edmonton where Tony accepted a call to St. Andrew's, a church in the inner city, where he served for eight years. The family then moved to Richmond, Ontario, where Tony was the minister for eleven years.

For the past number of years, Tony has done interim ministry at St. Andrew's in Stittsville, Paterson Memorial in Sarnia, Calvin Presbyterian in North Bay, St. Andrew's in Carleton Place, and St. Andrew's in Kingston. Most recently Tony served as Interim Minister for St. Giles.

St. Andrew's Ringers

*Jill Collins-Williams,
Bell ringer*

The Bell Choir had its final practice with Lynn Boothroyd conducting on May 10, 2022. At that same practice we recorded a beautiful piece entitled *Gladness and Grace* which the congregation will hear at an upcoming service. Now we must bid farewell to Lynn and wish her well in her move to Nova Scotia. Lynn has a cottage and family there, so she will feel right at home, but we will miss her greatly! Please come, if you can, to the Sunday service at St. Andrew's on June 12, when Lynn will be honoured for her many years of service to the music ministry of our church. Lynn grew and enhanced the bell choir, attracting new members every year from across the city by her wonderful reputation. She taught us well and we now perform even difficult pieces with confidence. So far, no new director has been found for the St. Andrew's Ringers. Please spread the word and help us find a qualified leader for September. We do not want to stop ringing!!

Fellowship

Memorial Minute – Edward (Ed) DuCharme

Bob Ferris

November 11, 1933–January 9, 2022

Member of St. Andrew's – September 21, 2003–January 9, 2022

Elder at St. Andrew's – May 15, 2005–May 7, 2012

I am honoured while saddened to prepare this memorial text about Ed DuCharme. I first met at Ed at Knox Church in 1974.

Like all lives, Ed's life was marked by many changes – some unforeseen, some planned. His joining St. Andrew's was the result of one change. We all benefitted from his presence and commitment although his time with us was only during his later years.

Change came early in Ed's life. He was born in British Columbia but raised in Alberta. Subsequently he moved east to Ontario as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force in the 1950s. Ed did not train as a pilot but in the field of telecommunications. When he began his training he certainly could not have imagined that this would lead to a 39-year career of public service in the field of telecommunications. Imagine the changes which he experienced and contributed to in telecommunications which evolved from transmission by short wave to satellite. He was often among the delegates who attended international conferences, including those of the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva.

In his early Ottawa years, Knox Church was his home congregation. There he participated actively in its life and work. His commitment to his Christian Faith and to the principle of service to others led him to be ordained as an Elder. As a new young resident of Ottawa and Member of Knox in 1974 I soon recognised and appreciated Ed as a role model for commitment and service.

In the early 1980s Ed decided to move on from Knox. He eventually settled into congregational life



Ed and Monique Ducharme in 2009

at Westminster Church where he became a Member who faithfully attended worship services. This period was the busiest for Ed's public service career. He chose not to take on congregational responsibilities. Knowing Ed, I expect he used this time to further nurture his personal relationships and Faith.

In late 2002, not longer after I had become a Member of St. Andrew's, Ed and his wife, Monique, along with their close friends – Don and Carol Schell first attended a worship service here. What a happy day it was to have seen them in the pews. Subsequently on September 21, 2003 all four of them joined St. Andrew's. On May 15, 2005 Ed was elected as an Elder of St. Andrew's. This began Ed's seven years of service on Session. During this time he served his District well, was a member of the Stewardship Committee – including a period as Convenor, and provided wise counsel at Session meetings.

After his demission from Session on May 7, 2012 Ed scaled back his activities at St. Andrew's, however his Faith and commitment to St. Andrew's remained strong. Ed and Monique were even among the 200 people who attended Communion on March 1, 2020 – the last Sunday before St. Andrew's was closed due to the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

We thank God for Ed and for all that he has done for and meant to so many people during his 89 years – a life well lived.

Notes from a Group Discussion: Why has our society become so polarized?

*Men's Fellowship meeting,
conducted via Zoom
25 April 2022*

Rev. Karen Dimock presented a devotional that was based in part on the parable of the Good Samaritan and related this to the topic of societal polarization. In the parable of the Good Samaritan: As we look at the broken body of the man on the road between Jericho and Jerusalem, as we consider Christ's broken body and the many other broken bodies we see in the world today, I am compelled to consider what it means when we say we believe in the resurrection of the body. What kind of future do we believe in? What kind of future are we part of creating? How do we discern the Spirit of God at work in this regard?

Peter Lamont moderated the group discussion. He noted that we would be using Chatham House Rules: When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

The Lead-off speaker introduced the topic by suggesting that polarization is a deep emotionally-charged division of opinion and not a simple disagreement. A major characteristic is how polarization drives out a consideration of the "middle", and he evoked the concept of a magnetic field as a visual representation. He stated that polarization is different than tribal or ethnic divisions, being more about fundamental beliefs and values, and often involves either winning or losing. More recent polarization seems to be about the political or societal camps of being considered either progressive or conservative. He listed a number of societal issues as examples of current polarization: gun laws,

abortion, drug laws, censorship of the internet, US politics, etc. The moderator then invited commentary from the participants in the meeting.

Group discussion comments

- ✦ Initially thought polarization was similar to polarized sunglasses, that let in only half the light. There is a sense that polarized individuals only listen to half of the comments. Some social media like Google seem to survey your choices for information, then continue to feed you only similar opinions thereafter.
- ✦ Strong feelings about issues are not necessarily bad and can be a good thing by focusing attention on important issues. Same goes for demonstrations. The disagreeable part is when such feelings generate ad hominem attacks (i.e., an argument or reaction directed against a person rather than the position they are maintaining). It's imperative that opinions be expressed in civil ways. In a democracy, the majority opinion should not always win—there is a need to accommodate the minority view as well. Too often in disagreements, we are not talking with each other but yelling at the other side.
- ✦ Another view of polarization is the degree of social cohesion today and the need for folks be willing to trust others.
- ✦ There was a reference to a US article on polarization (Ref: Jilani and Smith. https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what_is_the_true_cost_of_polarization_in_america). Over the past 15 years or so, there has been a greater migration of folks into various camps. Now, those without power are demanding a say in how things operate in society. They feel they have been marginalized much too long. The challenge is how to foster a more civil approach in our disagreements today. We require the ability to disagree without being disagreeable. It appears that listening skills are in decline. A big problem is when people who disagree with you are considered “evil”. This appears to be fostered often by social media.
- ✦ One person commented that cultural divisions occur when we lack understanding and tolerance about others rather than celebrating our cultural differences. Another noted that some polarization developed not as a strong opinion about a topic but as a way to be part of a group.
- ✦ A contributor said that the internet supplied the ability for some groups to mobilize and seek out supporters. It is now possible to find media broadcasts sympathetic to one's position. Mainstream media employ the perceived conflicts as an entertaining way to attract viewers. Democracy presumes that we all have access to the facts. Unfortunately, with 24-hour newscasts being available, there seems to be an overload of facts and opinions on any given topic. While it is hoped that the best ideas are adopted regardless of the source, this does not readily occur. Social media have definitely helped to bolster various “alternative facts”.
- ✦ Bridging the polarized camps requires each side to be more empathetic to the other side's position. There is a need to de-escalate the divisions. Highly polarized divisions are not a new phenomenon. Society throughout history has always been polarized, sometimes more fractious than our current experience.
- ✦ Is truth today more malleable? Is polarization necessarily a bad thing? Can emotionally charged divisions ever be good? Do we not need a way to dissent? Who defines what is the “right thing”? Is there more polarization today? What has changed, in society among our polarized groups?

- † One contributor felt that, among polarized groups, there is a greater likelihood in the belief “the end justifies the means”. The “false facts” phenomenon prevalent in some media have unwittingly promoted a growing number of conspiracy theories and their believers. An example was offered about a local politician. There was another comment noting that polarization in Quebec between anglophone and francophone was now greatly diminished.

Summation

Rev. Dimock began by posing the question: Are we our brother’s keeper? As Christians we should be replying in the affirmative. As we have become attracted to “healing” in today’s society due to our pandemic experience, we need to be conscious of the opportunity to reduce and resolve conflict by “sticking to the topic” when dealing with divisive issues, and avoid calling people names. It’s essential we remember that the other person is a human being too. As we ponder polarization in its many manifestations, we should be willing and encouraged to ask ourselves, “How am I contributing to the problem?”

Looking Ahead: Gracefield Retreat

Aisling Boomgaardt

Each fall, on the first weekend after Labour Day, we have our annual “St. Andrew’s Retreat”, traveling up into the Gatineau Hills and spending time at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre.

The program this year takes place September 9–11, with sessions in both the morning and afternoon, learning together as a church family and enjoying fellowship with one another.

The Gracefield congregational weekend is an opportunity for rest and reflection and a wonderful way to begin a new church year with others from St. Andrew’s. Come and join in times of quiet reflection, study, song, worship, fellowship and fun.

Whether you are newer to the church, or have been attending for years, come and be a part of this event.

Registration forms can be found online. Please note that there is an early bird rate! If you have any questions, or would like to help organize, speak with Aisling Boomgaardt.



The Temporal Committee—What we do

*Richard Lauzon, Chair
Temporal Committee*

The Temporal Committee is the custodian of all physical and financial assets of the St. Andrew's Church, except for those funds administered by the Glebe Trust. The Committee meets monthly (except during July and August) to review progress with the annual budget and to monitor the activities surrounding the maintenance and repair of interior and exterior church structures. Temporal also attends to many issues influencing church participation and enjoyment of the church facility such as personal security, organ maintenance, furniture, parking, etc.



We've had a very active agenda during the pandemic and exciting developments have taken place. Most recently, the exterior doors on Wellington and Kent Streets have been refurbished, re-set and re-painted and door locks have been upgraded. During the past winter and fall, new church lighting has been installed on the exterior and steeple. Windows over the doors have been re-caulked and resealed. The front steps have been re-configured to make it easier and safer to enter the main entrance. The audio-visual technology used in broadcasting the service has been significantly enhanced, as well as the quality of the recording of church services. We experimented with improving the indoor quality of the air within the sanctuary by installing air purifiers. We expect to purchase more of the latter so other rooms can benefit from the purifiers. We are indebted to the significant contribution and expertise of Michael Nauth in all of the building-repair contracts and work-supervision activity. We would be remiss not to acknowledge the maintenance work of our church officers, Sean Twomey and James DeVries in keeping our facility attractive and in proper working order week to week throughout the year.

In the weeks ahead, the gardens surrounding St. Andrew's will be worked on to repair damage from the winter, and from the Freedom Convoy related damage. We've benefitted from the committed work of volunteers, and we've recently secured the promise of help from the Horticulture Department of Algonquin College. Work has begun to look at the feasibility and operation of a Zoom Room within the church to facilitate hybrid meetings (face-to-face participants along with internet / Zoom attendees). Our rentals and accommodations activity based upon volunteers to date will also have some paid help to attract outside groups to our facility. The upper window frames and sills will be repaired and re-caulked as soon as we can secure the expertise and the equipment to complete the work.

The Temporal Committee is an enjoyable committee to work on as it is able to take on projects that impact the congregation, funded by the Heritage funds set up by insightful leaders of the past to look after our facility. We would welcome new members and would encourage you to consider joining us in our ambitious plans for the future. Richard Lauzon has been recently installed as the Chair, and Kendall Wheaton as the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

St. Andrew's Film Group

Jen Curtis

St. Andrew's Film Group

jcurtis@magma.ca

We are a group of congregants (and a couple of friends) with diverse views who are not shy about sharing those views. In most cases, the film or TV series we view is not liked by everyone. But such is life with an art form like the movies!

What have we been watching? We spent March and April watching the CBC series *The Porter*—the true-to-life story of the CP Rail workers and their battle for a union in the 1920s. It was engaging and authentic (maybe a bit too authentic as we found it violent) but succeeded as a reminder of the deep biases that marred our own country's past and that of one of our most high-profile companies.

In May, we discussed the movie *Late Night*, starring Emma Thompson and Mindy Kaling and explored issues around race, ageism and a one-dimensional focus on one's career. We applauded this movie for being able to make some astute points about race all the while making us laugh. Bravo producer Mindy Kaling!

Some of us headed to the theatre (!) to see *Downton Abbey: A New Era*, which we enjoyed more than we thought we would, given the mediocre reviews. It was highly entertaining, especially for DA fans.

We always seem to find spiritual elements in these movies, especially from the people who are battling fear, loss, hardship or deep joy. And we are often fascinated how churches, bibles and Christianity are portrayed in movies.

Going forward, we will continue discussions on Zoom at the same time as having some outings to the cinema. We welcome new participants!

St. Andrew's Women's Guild

Jill Collins-Williams,

President

The Women's Guild will end its year with an outdoor tea party on June 2—our first in-person meeting in over two years! We are thrilled! Meetings will begin again in September, also in person, we pray, and we have tentatively scheduled a Rummage Sale for September 24. We also hope to have meetings once in a while on Saturdays to allow more women of St. Andrew's to play an active role in the Guild. We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer and hope to see you in the Fall.

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.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD ENTRY FOR WORLD LIMERICK DAY

SHEILA URQUHART

AT ST. ANDREW'S, A GUILD OF STRONG WOMEN
CONVENED EVERY WEEK AT THEIR CHECK-IN.
ONLINE? YES IT WAS,
AND THAT WAS BECAUSE
PANDEMICS NECESSITATE "SHUT-IN".



Jeannette Logan adds that on June 2 Sylvie Mubikayi joined our Women’s Guild for its recent, and only, picnic lunch at the home of Cathy and Ian Jarvis. Great hospitality, good homemade food and fun times were had by all.

Front L–R: Jeannette Logan, Sylvie Mubikayi, Nathalie Bradbury, Mary Gowan

Back L–R: Irene Milanovic, Cathy Jarvis, Gail Bowes

Men’s Fellowship

*Richard Lauzon, Coordinator,
Men’s Fellowship*

Typically, Men’s Fellowship (MF) takes a summer break after our end of May meeting. The latter will feature Rev. Heather Paton, the new Christian Education Coordinator. In addition to a brief résumé of her background, Rev. Paton will be speaking about her views with respect to the importance of Christian Education ministry in general, as well as what she sees as her initial priorities going forward.

The May meeting will also be the last one for Richard Lauzon as Coordinator of Men's Fellowship for the past many years. Jim Paulin has been voted in as the next Coordinator of MF. Jim has been responsible for the first two successful group discussion sessions at our meetings, held in November 2021 and April 2022. Depending upon interest, there may be one or more casual Zoom sessions during the summer months to stay in touch.

Several MF participants have volunteered to assist at the St. Andrew's picnic on June 5 either as grillers, servers or clean-up. There are also tentative plans to host a BBQ near the end of August as in years prior to the pandemic. A couple of photos from previous years are attached.

We've enjoyed several stimulating speakers and group discussions over the past program year from September of 2021 and look forward to a continuance of this forum to engage the men of the congregation, as well as to invite the women of the congregation to join us for some of the events being planned for the next program year beginning in September. Jim Paulin would like to encourage anyone who has not participated in the past to contact him (paulinjim@gmail.com) to be placed on our email address list to receive information about future events.

Our modest fund-raising activity does enable MF to support 2-3 agencies or projects during the year, as well as to volunteer from time to time to assist other church groups with their activities.



The Men's Fellowship BBQ is a long-standing tradition. Here's the group from 2018.

