

 <p>The Bazaar!</p>	 <p>Advent</p>	 <p>Guild 150th</p>	 <p>Music as Sanctuary</p>
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ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Advent, 2023

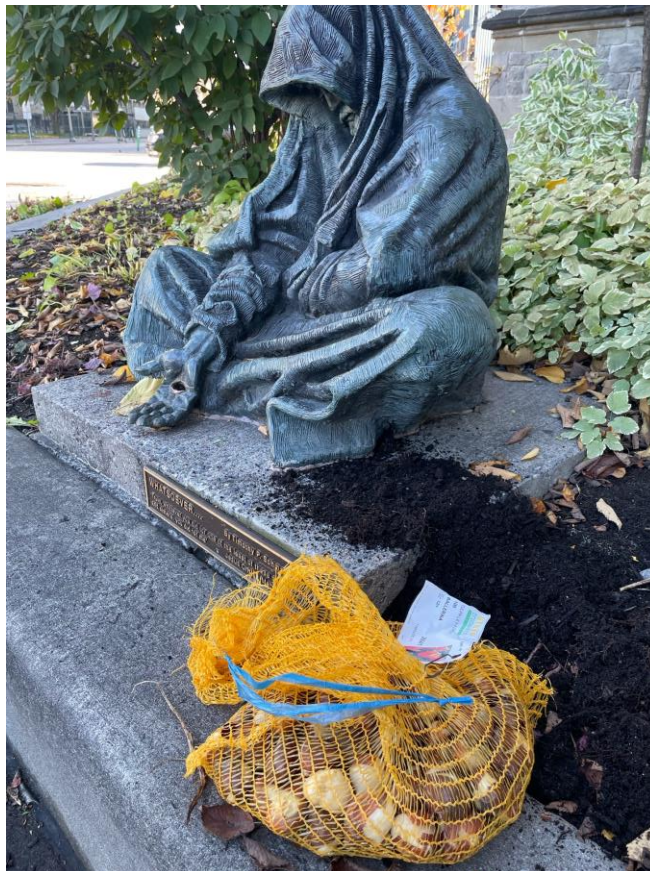


Photo Credit: Elizabeth Phillipson

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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

Keeping silence!

I am fascinated as I read the first chapter of Luke's gospel this year, that this is how it begins, with Silence.

Zechariah, an elderly priest of the temple is told that he and his wife are about to have the son they had long ago given up hoping for and he doesn't believe it. Even though the news is delivered to him in the heart of the temple, and by an angel, he doesn't believe it.

Have you ever been told something that is too good to believe? Maybe it was something you had given up hoping for long ago? Maybe your hopes have been disappointed so often that you no longer let yourself hope? Maybe whatever was offered was just too out of this world for you to believe it could happen or come true? Whatever it is, if you have had that kind of experience then you can likely sympathize with Zechariah as he protests "How can this be?"

In return for his asking this he is made mute, silent. Can you imagine? I have often thought of that as a punishment. What kind of priest can he be if he is silent? How can he lead worship or offer prayers, how can he care for other people. It's like his calling has been taken from him, or so I thought... until the Presbytery of Ottawa went on retreat.

The Presbytery is made up of the Ministers of the area and an equal number of elders (one, at least from each congregation). It is charged with the care and oversight of the local congregations as well as our common work and mission. The Presbytery meets as a whole about six times a year and its members see each other regularly in the meetings of its committees as well. Needless to say we spend a lot of time talking—its essential to how we conduct our business. Sometimes it is easy,

sometimes not so easy and in November of this year we did something new. We went on a retreat for two days at the Galilee Centre in Arnprior, a beautiful site along the Ottawa River.

Our spiritual leader for the retreat was Dr. David Sherbino. who is Professor of Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry at Tyndale University. He led worship, guided our spiritual time together and encouraged us in various forms of spiritual practice. On the first morning, after worship and a short talk, he invited us to spend the rest of the time until lunch in silence. It was about two hours.

I had not done something like this in a long time.

It sounds simple. It was profound.

Walking along the river, I came upon one of my colleagues and discovered keeping silence did not mean ignoring each other. In a strange way it made for a deeper encounter, beyond words. We were both stopped, looking at the river, and then acknowledging each other with a smile, we moved on.

As I kept walking, I discovered that when I am silent the rest of the world is not. I could hear the wind in the trees, the sound of the waves in the river. I felt the cold on my cheeks and at the end of my fingers, even in my mittens.

Praying without words; and as I kept walking I found God's presence to be very near.

Heading back inside I could smell lunch cooking and hear the sound of the cooks working away, and chatting in the kitchen. I felt more present at that moment than I would have if I was looking around for someone to greet.

Being freed from speaking opened me up more to what was going on all around me. It is

almost paradoxical isn't it? In a world where we depend so much on words for staying in touch, I felt more connected and present to the world, to others, to God and yes, to myself as well, in the keeping of silence.

And so we come to the start of the Gospel and the story of Zechariah, I am wondering anew about the silence that was forced upon him.

How did he experience the silence of those months?

What do you think? I am almost positive there would have been moments of pure frustration but I am imaging as well moments of invitation and the discovery of grace and wonder as Zechariah came to find himself dwelling in the presence of God and discovering what God can do among us and with us.

Friends, this is the Good News of Christmas is it not? The saving presence of God with us in Jesus.

And it begins for us this year with Zechariah. He is weary in his years as the telling begins, unable (unwilling?) to believe in the marvelous. His situation is, I believe, so real and so relatable for many of us as he greets the news that his prayers have been answered with doubt and skepticism. Silence follows, a silence which when it is finally broken, at the birth of his son, gives way to song. Among the words Zechariah sings are these:

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,*

*to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

Luke 1: 76 - 79

May this be true this year:

May the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from upon high break upon you,
May you discover anew the wonder of God present with us,

May you discover the grace your soul is longing for

And may you find yourself joining in the songs of the Zechariah and songs of the angels who sing at Christ's birth.

In his Love,

Karen

Greetings from the Kirk Session

*Heather Pilkey,
Administrative Clerk*

"Listen!

*Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.*

*When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes."*

Isaiah 52:8

I began writing this article in the days after the Bazaar and I couldn't help reflecting on the excitement and magic of our Scottish Tea and Bazaar and how it mirrors the season of Advent. Both are a journey of preparation and anticipation and both celebrate the joy of cherished traditions.

Although it has not been that many weeks since the fall issue of *St. Andrew's in Action* came out, it has been a busy fall and much has gone on. In October, we enjoyed a special service of thanksgiving and a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the work of the Women's Guild at St. Andrew's. It was such a blessing to be able to gather together and enjoy the tea put on by the Hospitality Committee, and

supported financially by the Memorials Committee.

When I look around the church on Sundays this fall, it has been lovely to see all the children who are coming regularly and enjoying Sunday School (and the snacks after!), as well as those we have welcomed, and who we are blessed to have returning weekly. As part of Kirk Session's commitment to revitalization, we will be working on the development and implementation of a plan for engaging with newcomers around worship and other events.

Advent is a time of reflection with the promise of something extraordinary yet to come, and I wish you all the wonder and glory of the season.

Checking in with the Revitalization Project

The Revitalization Steering Committee

Ray Boomgaardt

Jenefer Curtis

Reverend Dimock

Richard Lauzon

Ian MacKay

Althea Williams-Goodman

About a year ago, St. Andrew's embarked on the Revitalization Project with the intention of revitalizing our life and work as a congregation. Following the weekend spent with Rev. Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian of the Effective Church Consulting Group in October 2022, and the reception of his report in January, the Kirk Session (KS) created a tabled approach to work through it and formed the Revitalization Steering Committee (RSC) in March 2023.

Since then, in prayer and in collaboration with other key working groups, we have been charting a path forward for growing in faith

and in number, within the congregation and with the wider Ottawa community.

At a Congregational gathering in St Andrew's Hall last April, congregants expressed what they value about St Andrew's. The RSC distilled these comments down to the values of belonging, connecting, discipleship and location, which have since become the building blocks for the work of the Committee.

A central theme that emerged from all of this was: going deeper. First and foremost, we seek to deepen in relationship with God. The connections we have in the St. Andrew's family is a cherished strength of ours and we seek to deepen those relationships as well. And, as disciples of Jesus, we seek to reach out to others and spread our faith boldly.

Mission and Values Statements

Through the summer and into the fall, the RSC worked to discern how this theme and the four values might come together to inform and renew the church's mission and values statements.

After consultation with the KS, we set up a Saturday morning focus group in mid-November where we patiently and passionately came up with final statements that will guide and inform all church activities. These will be shared with you in the near future.

Getting to know our community

Over last spring and summer we interviewed leaders in our local community including at the YMCA and the United Way and a school principal. We asked them about their passions for the community and, where they saw potential for partnerships with the church.

One thing that emerged from these conversations: mental health is a key concern throughout the province and our city. In the New Year, St. Andrew's will be offering an evening discussion group that is aimed at

helping congregations understand and support mental health.

Vision

From all these discussions, the RSC has begun to form a vision for the coming years for our church that focusses on creating opportunities within the congregation and our wider community. In particular, our programming and ministries will focus on:

- ✝ building outreach through music
- ✝ engaging with, and supporting the faith of, families with children
- ✝ engaging teenagers
- ✝ reaching out to those living in the downtown area who are seeking community and faith.

So, where are we at now?

Since the spring, committees and members of the congregation have been at work on many fronts, including the following:

- ✝ **The Nursery:** Christian Education and Temporal committees helped clear out the room on the main hall that Rev Heather was using. This room will be our new nursery while Rev. Heather has moved into her new office across the hall.
- ✝ **Interior Signage and Clutter:** Temporal Committee members have put up clear signage for key church rooms and services. They are also taking an inventory of various rooms in the church and taking action to throw items out.
- ✝ **Parking at the Church (for cars and for bikes):** Temporal Committee members have met with City officials and parliamentary personnel with the goal of identifying more available parking, including around the Supreme Court and on Kent St. They have also confirmed good availability of racks for those locking up bicycles.

Discipleship Working Group

Early last summer, a short-term Discipleship Working Group was formed. It met many times over the summer to discuss and discern avenues for growing and spreading our faith in the coming year.

The key items coming out of this working group:

- ✝ **Volunteer Coordination and engagement:** Christian Education is currently at work formulating a proposal for a Volunteer Coordination position or committee that will help recruit volunteers so that their skills and talents are matched with the needs and opportunities at the church. This will include a more intentional process for welcoming and engaging newer congregants.
- ✝ **Creating small group ministries** within the church, such as faith formation classes that can offer fellowship that is more specialized or related to what part of the city you live in.
- ✝ We are going to pilot a **PA Day Camp** where children in schools near the church can come on PA Days.
- ✝ The Worship and Music Committee is exploring the potential for a new **service of worship** that would be offered at a different time during the week and with a different form and expression of worship.
- ✝ **Examining governance.** A mini retreat is scheduled by the Kirk Session for early January to focus on effective governance structure and pastoral care delivery.
- ✝ **Thanksgiving service 2023.** The RSC organized a special Thanksgiving worship service as an unofficial launch to the work of the Revitalization initiative. Mark Juane, who grew up at St. Andrew's, was our guest preacher and the service was inspired by Luke 5 and the story of Jesus' call to Peter and others to push out into deeper water. The service also featured a

litany of Thanksgiving where members of the congregation gave testimony and thanks for our faith, our church and the privilege of serving.

Communications

Working with a communications professional, the Communications Committee is currently engaged in formulating a strategy that coordinates our messaging through internal and external channels.

As an example, about 7500 postcards, inviting local residents to our 2023 Advent activities were mailed by Canada Post via targeted postal codes. The Christmas Bazaar and Tea were promoted on Facebook.

In gratitude

In conclusion, we wish to express our deep thanks to the great number of individuals and committees who have given their time to the Revitalization initiative over the past year and who are engaged for the future.

Mark your calendars!

- December 6: **Evening Choir Concert**
- December 10: **Congregational Christmas Lunch**, after worship
- December 13: **Christmas Trivia Night** at 6:30 p.m.
- December 20: **Blue Christmas Service** at 7 p.m., with refreshments to follow
- December 24: **Christmas Eve Pageant** at 5 p.m.; **Lessons & Carols** by Candle Light at 10 p.m.
- December 25: **Christmas Day Service** at 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education and Youth

Nursery on the Move!

Rev. Heather Paton
Christian Education Co-ordinator

The new nursery is shaping up to be a warm and welcoming space for young families. If you haven't seen the changes recently, the Christian Education office has moved across the hall to the old 'volunteer office' (with some organization still to come). The new nursery is being set up where the Christian Education office used to be, complete with a bathroom and beautiful view of the Supreme Court. This is a spacious and bright room that is on the same floor as the sanctuary.

It's going to receive a coat of paint and some new furniture to give a fresh and clean look in hopes that parents will feel



Nursery with a view

Photo: Michael Nauth

their needs are being met when they bring their children to the nursery. The talented Michael Nauth has built and installed a guardrail to give that extra level of protection on that big window. Thanks to Michael for all his work on this project. Thanks also go to the many other volunteers and staff who have helped clear out old files, toys and 'treasures' that were in both offices and the nursery.

Plans are still underway for the 'old nursery' but some storage space in the nursing room has opened up. We hope to have an official 'launch' of the new nursery early in the new year, but until then, we continue to use the downstairs space on Sunday mornings.

St. Andrew's has a history of providing excellent supervision in our nursery with a paid childcare provider. The search is on to fill this position once again. The role is for two and half hours on Sunday mornings 10-12:30pm. If you would like more information please contact Althea or myself.

Change is not always easy but with open minds and patient hearts we can trust the Holy Spirit to guide us into change together.

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Rev. Heather Paton

Christian Education Co-ordinator

The Sanctified Art team has provided a very meaningful theme for the Advent materials this year: 'How does a weary world rejoice?'. This theme is being used during worship, Visio Divina study, the devotional materials, among other things we can enjoy this season. A simple logo has been developed from the theme into a banner design seen here. The design, drawn on poster paper by Lucy Pilkey, is available for all of us to colour as an advent art project this season. Colouring something this big together has potential to be both community building and meditative. You can enjoy conversation or silence as we add colour at any age and all artistic abilities. We can all take part and say we made it together.

I wanted to share with you some of the artist, Hanna Garrity's, statement so we know some of the meaning behind what we will be colouring. The basic image is two people embracing the earth with overlapping hands. She says:

"Within the joyful rays at the top is the smoke from the incense Zechariah sees in the temple. The top circle represents the waters of baptism in John the Baptist's ministry and in the baptism of Jesus. The lower circle (the head of the lower figure in the logo) depicts the joy of crocus flowers blooming in spring. The weary anchoring the bottom of the design are composed of a pattern of hands in a praise pose depicting Mary's Magnificat."

I wonder how this image might speak to you as you look at it here, or colour it at the church? I look forward to hearing your reflections and seeing how it will turn out.





Cookie baking for Christmas – Many hands

Photos: Heather Paton



Other Christian Education Opportunities in Advent

Rev. Heather Paton

Christian Education Co-ordinator

Devotional booklets and countdown calendars are available in Grant Hall. Speak to your elder or Rev. Heather if you'd like one mailed to you. Visio Divina with the gorgeous artwork mentioned above happens on Tuesdays online at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School in Advent continues with two classes, the Sparks (ages 3-9) and the Flames (ages 10– 13). There has been a recent record of nineteen children on Sunday mornings for two weeks in a row! We continue to have a lot of fun learning about God's love together. Thanks to the Sunday School teachers and Laurie Mackenzie for keeping our records up to date.

The Christmas Eve pageant rehearsals are well underway! Please pray for all the participants and leaders involved in this year. It's going to be a wonderful service of sharing our talents to tell the story of Christ coming into the world for all of us.

Pastoral Care

Parking Update at St Andrew's

Richard Lauzon

on behalf of the Parking Workgroup

richard.lauzon@gmail.ca

One of the important activities in the Revitalization Report was to consider improvements to the parking situation for our church. A small workgroup consisting of Richard Lauzon, Nancy Johnson and Riley Brockington was formed to study the situation. The installation of bicycle lanes on Wellington eliminated all the parking adjacent to the church while construction at the Supreme Court removed parking around the periphery of the building. Both these restrictive measures were done without any contact with St Andrew's.

Communication from Riley Brockington to the Ottawa Traffic Department resulted in a partial restoration of about 6 parking spaces on the north side of Wellington immediately opposite the church. Richard and Nancy met in July with Ariel Troster, councillor for Somerset Ward as well as city officials to request further parking spaces. They promised to look into the situation which we described as essentially a "no-parking moat" around St Andrew's Church. Their response to date amounted to three more spaces being created on the east side of Kent Street.

In an exchange of letters in 2002 between Catherine Hilton, Clerk of Session and the Honourable Ralph Goodale (Minister of Public Works and Government Services), St Andrew's secured the right to park in parking spaces near the Supreme Court during non-working hours and weekends. The major limitation was the need to restrict parking for safety and/or security reasons. Recent communications with officials of the Science and Parliamentary Infrastructure Branch, Public Services and Procurement Canada – who control parking for the Parliamentary Precinct – have been unproductive to date. The Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada has indicated a risk and threat assessment

prevents us from parking around the Court building. It is under renovation at this time with scaffolding on the exterior.

Some of you may remember a time when St Andrew's had a parking lot just west of the church right up until the late 60's. Recent research at the Ottawa Archives has produced documents involving the purchase of the land, an agreement by federal authorities for a right-of-way access from Sparks Street, and the subsequent federal expropriation of the property around 1941. When the Supreme Court was built in the mid-thirties, it displaced a number of streets that supplied parking for the church.

We have asked both federal and municipal officials to meet with us to discuss increasing the availability of accessible, free parking. For our church, parking is more than a place to leave one's vehicle. Available parking is a way of welcoming congregants, guests, and attendees to our special concerts and events. The lack of parking is a source of major dissatisfaction for people coming to St Andrew's. It is a major factor in growing the congregation, and ultimately will be a major influence on the continued viability of the congregation and its magnificent structure.

The Commissionaires on duty on weekends have told us we can park behind the Archives building. These spots are accessed from the driveway leading to the west side of the Supreme Court of Canada and down a small slope to the west.

We are confident that there are a number of pragmatic solutions available to solve our current dilemma. This will require thinking outside of the box so that an important heritage congregation and its building will continue to occupy an important location on Wellington and Kent well beyond our 200th anniversary in 2028. We will keep you apprised of the progress on this initiative.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Parking Workgroup,
Richard Lauzon

Worship

Music as Sanctuary—World Class Music, Week Days in Down Town Ottawa

John Banigan

Can professional musicians perform their craft in Ottawa? Yes, but they need your help.

Most musicians naturally find greater opportunity in larger cities. But their love of Ottawa keeps them here.

Our Matthew Larkin is a friend and mentor to many of these talented artists. Indeed, many have known Matthew and performed in his choirs and concerts since their youth. Performances in Toronto and Montreal fill out their agendas but Ottawa is home.

What sort of venue? The full gambit for jazz to opera, traditional church classical to harpsichord. A different genre each Tuesday.

Music As Sanctuary. World class music right here in St. Andrew's beautiful and historic sanctuary.

Followed by a bowl of soup and a chance to meet the performers. There is a free will offering, so you pay as you are able.

Most recently, on November 27, we enjoyed an outstanding piano concert by Dr. Haewon Yang. Her musical selections included works by Naoumoff, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Scriabin. Haewon is a Canadian-American who calls Ottawa home. She is currently on faculty at University of New Mexico, Los Alamos.



Haewon Yang,
playing at Music As Sanctuary,
2023-11-27 5794

Photo: John Banigan



The Big Bell Ringers Team!

Mission and Outreach

Mubikayi Family Reaching for the Top

Jeannette Logan

Sylvie Mubikayi celebrated her birthday on November 19th and eight of us celebrated with her at Swiss Chalet. It was a festive atmosphere and all were happy to get together again since last spring.

In June we cheered when Litugard graduated from high school and was accepted at a local college. Now he is enrolled full time in a Paralegal program at Cité Collégiale, and works part time in student services and promoting the college to potential students. He plans to continue on to university and become a lawyer.

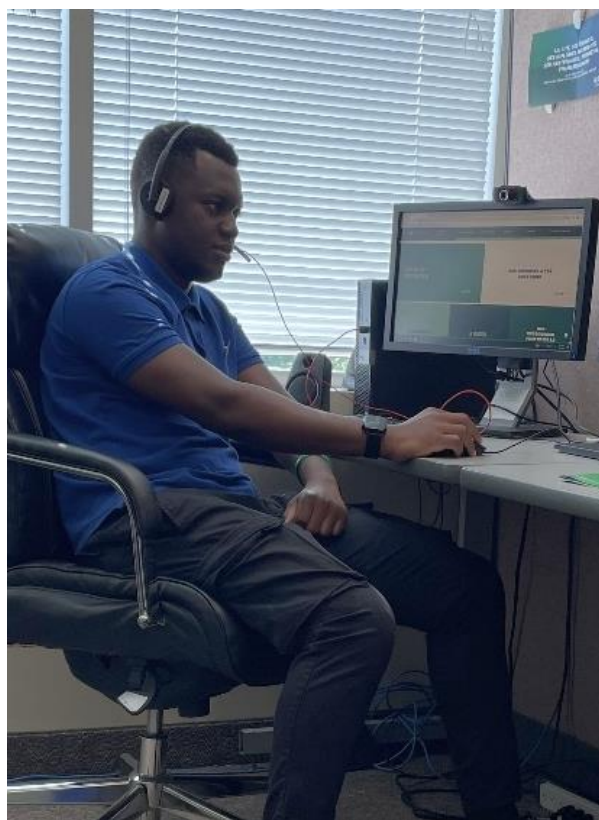


Keturah is now in Grade 10 and told us she got 90% in a math test! She is very talented in hair design and dance, and occasionally helps with the children at Sunday school.

Sylvie is following her love of cooking and enrolled at Cité Collégiale in a Food Preparation and Management program to become a chef. She continues to work on weekends at a retirement home in her neighbourhood.

From the family's arrival in Canada in March 2022, they have settled in to life in Ottawa and look forward to their futures.

It has been a significant transition for the family, who have risen to the challenge. We give thanks for them and for the people at St. Andrew's who have supported and encouraged them in their journey from Africa to Canada.



Our Heritage



Anniversary Sunday: a splendid high tea!

Photo: Elizabeth Phillipson

The Women's Guild is 150 Years Young!

St. Andrew's Women's Guild is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. On the occasion of the Guild's 140th anniversary, a series of articles were published in *St. Andrew's in Action* recounting the Guild's history to that date. This series will be reprinted in honour of this new milestone.

The articles were written by David Brearley and Sheila Urquhart, historians of all things St. Andrew's. This first chapter covers the years from the early days of St. Andrew's through 1873.

Part 2 – The Ladies’ Aid Society, 1874–1913

David Brearley and Sheila Urquhart

In 1874, their first year as an amalgamated Society, the Ladies’ Aid took full advantage of the new church’s basement to hold two successful literary evenings. The Sewing and Knitting Committees raised funds by making and selling aprons (including velvet ones), linen cuffs for men’s shirts, night dresses, pairs of drawers, mitts, neckties, afghans, chemises, quilts, plus knitted and crocheted items. In January 1875, the Society organised a concert by Mr. Butler and the Music Department of the Ladies’ College which raised \$106.75 for the St. Andrew’s Building Fund. They held an evening of readings in March, socials in April and August, and a Social and Literary Entertainment to benefit the Protestant General Hospital and the Women’s Temperance Home on December 10. Some ladies still hoped to put a bell in the tower, but there were greater needs in this time of unemployment and depression.

The Society spoke of the year’s work as a ‘Season’, and in the 1876–77 Season, they held four entertainments, charging 20 cents admission, and asking the ladies of the congregation to donate “tea, coffee or oysters” towards refreshments. About 400 people attended the first very successful event, a musical evening in November 1876 which raised \$127.26. In February 1877, the West End Glee Club entertained, and in March the Ladies rented the Orange Hall on Albert St. to present Music and Tableaux, beautifully lit by photographer William Topley. They chose to use the hall “as a feeling existed among many that Tableaux should not be held in the basement”. In April, they sold “coffee, ice-cream and fancy work” at the Spring congregational At Home.

The Quilt Committee met for most of the year each Thursday morning and worked until late afternoon. The Society’s committees included Poor Relief, Sewing, Socials, Readings & Music, and Purchasing. In the fall of 1877, Mrs. Gordon arranged for the Singer agent to lend a sewing machine for the sewing committee meetings. For some 30 years Singer lent the Society sewing machines at no charge. Over the years, on those machines, the Sewing Committee made hundreds of sheets, pillow cases, towels, even curtains for local hospitals and charity homes.

Each December, the Society gave St. Andrew’s minister money to distribute to the poor for Christmas cheer. In the early 1870s, the amount was \$25, but as hardship increased this rose gradually to \$100 in the early 1900s. The ministers of smaller Presbyterian congregations also had poor folks under their care but few resources, so they turned to St. Andrew’s Ladies’ Aid for help. For years, the Society gave “money for their poor” to the minister of the French Presbyterian congregation (which became St. Marc’s on Elgin St.), and later to Rev. Robert Eadie in Hintonburg and Rev. John Lennox in Aylmer.

In 1879, the Poor Relief Committee consisted of Mrs. Perley, Mrs. Smillie, Mrs. J. M. Taylor, Mrs. Elliot, Mrs. James Gordon and Miss McLean. The Committee met separately, so that cases were discussed by the few. In her 1924 history of the Ladies’ Aid Society, Mary Brough noted that committee members visited each home, and there was a personal touch between helper and those helped. She described “one case where Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon were sent late one evening. Mrs. Gordon stayed with the sick until Mr. Gordon brought in a doctor. The case was one of small-

pox. 'Were you not afraid?' I asked Mrs. Gordon. 'Why certainly not,' she replied, 'The poor woman needed help'."

The Society minded its pennies, and from the 1870s to the mid-1890s, they raised most of their funds through entertainments. To attract the public, they strove to make each one unique, and Ottawa newspapers carried full accounts. In his rave review of the January 27, 1881 church anniversary entertainment, the Ottawa Free Press reporter admired the program, the decorations, the flower booth, and the fancy goods. He noted that "Miss Stewart had control of an oatcake department", and that "Several young ladies tried to out rival the flowers in beauty by becoming flower-girls, assisting Mrs. Stewart and Miss Annie Stewart in the sale thereof... The cloak-room was in charge of Miss Patterson, Miss Sutherland and Miss King. And a gentleman remarked, 'The pretty smiling faces and bright eyes, appearing and disappearing at the wicket-window, were like living pictures'. Miss Elwood managed the Hebrew department, composed of 'sells'." A month later, the Protestant Hospital's treasurer listed in the newspapers the money received from groups and individuals, ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00, but the largest donation by far was \$200 from the Ladies' Aid Society of St. Andrew's Church.

A year later, on Thursday Jan. 26, 1882, a Citizen reporter attended the Anniversary Social:

"To visit the basement of St. Andrew's Church last night reminded one of the fairy tales of our childhood, so much so that the reporter thought for the nonce he was in wonderland. The decorations surpassed anything of the sort hitherto attempted by even the ladies of St. Andrew's Church, and those acquainted with their taste and artistic skill can imagine, as it is

beyond portrayal, the beautiful effect their nimble and willing fingers had produced. We do not for a moment imagine the Kirk sessions have been affected with the aesthetic scare, although the vestry last night did appear as if Oscar Wilde had descended on Ottawa, and of all places therein chosen as a resting place, the said vestry, as it had been transformed into the prettiest little parlour that ever one did spy, the lily and sun-bower having their representatives. Hung with delicately tinted lamps, pictures and other ornaments, neat but not gaudy, with a cheerful fire burning in the grate, and drooping flags for an entrance, the tout ensemble was about perfect. What attracted the writer's attention was a capital cabinet portrait of the minister, and made one long to have a copy".

In 1882, the Society said good-bye to their president and dear friend, Eliza Gordon, when her husband Dr. D. M. Gordon accepted a call in August to Knox Church, Winnipeg. Dr. Gordon had accompanied George Mercer Dawson's 1879 expedition to the west as secretary, and been struck by the great need for Presbyterian clergy in Winnipeg and the north-west. Of this time Mary Brough wrote: "Words cannot express the deep and general regret at the severances of that pastoral tie". At a farewell meeting, Mrs. Gordon was spoken of as being his right hand. 'Not my right hand but my arms', Dr. Gordon replied". The Society corresponded with Mrs. Gordon for years, and she returned whenever she could.

The new president, Mrs. W. G. (Georgina) Perley, served wonderfully in that capacity for the next 32 years. In November 1882, the Society voted \$200 to Session to pay for the furnaces and other basement improvements.

In April, the Society paid the \$400 owing to Mr. Slater on the purchase of the lot to extend the church property, and in November donated \$100 to the building of Stewarton Sabbath School.

In the first 2 months of 1885, the Society gave \$25 to the WCTU to help “furnish their rooms” and \$100 to the French Protestant Congregation who were building a church, and they held a Pink Tea which 700 people attended on the evening of February 19. The Citizen praised the musical and literary programme, “the attractive tables laden with all sorts of things for young and old”, the novel pink theme, and the fact that the entertainment was “calculated to do good - to raise funds for those in need.” On October 22, 1885, a special meeting was held to find another meeting room, as the basement was so cold that the ladies frequently took chills. They gratefully accepted an offer to meet at no cost in the WCTU rooms in Victoria Chambers on Elgin St.

In April 1886, the Society gave a wonderful entertainment, *An Evening with Longfellow*, a lecture given by the new minister Rev. W. T. Herridge. This was the first of a series, and the lectures always drew crowds. In December 1887, the Ladies were forced to postpone the Christmas entertainment “owing to the prevalence of typhoid fever in the congregation”. Water-borne typhoid fever was common from August, when the water levels were low in the Ottawa River, until freeze-up. Each year, many became ill, and some died. The annual outbreaks occurred until 1927 when the Lemieux Water Treatment Plant opened.

In October 1888, the minister suggested that the Society “cushion the choir gallery and provide psalm and hymn books”, and they did. He also wished for a new baptismal font, as he found the current one inconvenient, and “not in accordance or harmony with the pulpit”. It

would be another 10 years before the Baptismal Font arrived.

Some ladies still hoped to buy a church bell, as \$400 had been invested earlier for that purpose, but this wish was again set aside as the Society felt the pressing need for a Sunday School Hall with committee rooms, to be built on Sparks St. where the Manse then stood, and on the westward-extending lot which the Society had helped purchase. In February 1889, the Ladies wrote to the Temporal Committee offering \$1,000 in 3 annual payments towards costs, providing building began the following June.

No action resulted, but the Ladies forged ahead with an ambitious fund-raiser, ‘The Feast of Days’, in October 1889 which ran for 5 days in Harmony Hall on Albert St. and was extremely popular. Booths were named for the working days of the week, but the greatest attractions were the Cobweb Social and the music. Long strings were all tangled up like cobwebs, and for 10 cents customers, including adults, could crawl about to follow a string and find the prize attached to it; this was not only fun to do but hilarious to watch. The most delightful bit of music was ‘The Gardener and His Flowers’, a mini-operetta. A great curtain was painted with flowers, but the centres of the flowers were cut out, and singers poked their heads through to sing solos about the flowers they represented.

‘The Feast of Days’ raised \$650, and a bit of that was spent immediately on material for the sewing committee to make up sheets and night shirts for the Home for the Aged. Newspaper coverage had been so favourable that requests began arriving from churches in Pembroke and Kingston to borrow the curtain used for ‘The Gardener and His Flowers’; they asked for a reduced rate but the Ladies held firm at \$10 and express charges for delivery by train. In the fall of 1890, they engaged Mrs. Tupper to recover the pew cushions, and soon after Mr.

David, the church caretaker, asked them to provide curtains for the west windows in the church, as turning the cushions in the pews failed to stop the sun fading their sides. Curtains proved impossible, so the Society held a sewing bee to make cotton covers for the pew cushions, which Mr. David removed every Saturday and replaced every Monday.

In 1891 they signed “a petition to the Protestant General Hospital, praying that a maternity ward be opened in connection with the hospital, and giving reasons why it was needed”. When the ward didn’t materialise, Mrs. Erskine (Ella) Bronson founded the Ottawa Maternity Hospital in 1895. That year, Editha Bronson made an excellent suggestion, “That a few gentlemen’s names be added to the Entertainment Committee, constituting them Honorary Members”. They elected in absentia some 15 young men, later added a few more, and none seemed to mind.

In 1893 a new manse was purchased on Clemow Ave., which meant a move for the Herridge’s. That year the old Manse went down so that the new Sunday School Hall could rise. The Ladies’ Aid Society contributed so much to the raising and furnishing of the Hall, they viewed building plans, consulted with the architect, and chose the plain glass (not diamond-patterned) windows for the Ladies’ Parlours, which they furnished. They also donated 12 spring mattresses and pillows for the Ladies’ College, 18 white quilts for the Home for Friendless Women and 6 quilts for the Home for Aged Men.

On January 26, 1894, the Society met for the first time in their own Ladies Parlours, “so beautifully decorated by Mrs. Herridge and Mrs. Edward King”. For the grand opening of the Sunday School Hall, the Society arranged for the Lotus Glee Club to come from Boston. The first 2 rows of the Hall balcony were cushioned and the railing looped with garland, to suitably accommodate Lord and Lady Aberdeen. The concert was hugely attended

and wildly successful, but the Ladies had a concern, which Mary Brough described. “Mrs. Marshall in her number gave a few dainty dancing steps. Some of us had cold shivers. ‘What would the Session do or say?’ we thought. Would they think it a work we could not appropriately engage in?”

In November 1894, the Society marked its 21st year with a special Ladies’ Aid At Home attended by over 100 members. Music was by the Wimperis Orchestra, and in appreciation of their long-serving treasurer Mrs. Allison Scott, they presented her with a purse of gold. Mrs. Scott was not just a dab hand with figures, she and Mrs. Perkins “reigned supreme when any banquets were in order”, and “their strong helpful energy in all the Society’s undertakings will never be forgotten”. In December 1894, the Society installed, for the first time, a telephone in the church, at a cost of \$25 on a 3-year contract. They paid the cost of this much-needed telephone for years.

Mrs. Perley tried to resign in 1895, carefully stating her reasons, including the pressure of weekly meetings and the decline in funds from recent entertainments. This last was partly explained by the fact for years the Society was almost the only one in the city to give entertainments and attracted members of all denominations. By 1895, other churches were also presenting entertainments. Concerns were resolved when members voted to meet just once a month, and to encourage donations from the congregation by distributing special Ladies’ Aid envelopes. Then Mrs. Perley agreed to continue as president.

After her husband William died in 1890, Georgina Perley offered her beautiful home on what is now the Library and Archives site on Wellington St., to the city for a library. The offer was refused on the grounds that a library would be an unnecessary luxury, so she gave her home to become the Perley Home for Incurables, that is, people with mental

difficulties or disabilities. In February 1898, Mrs. C. C. Ray reported that “the committee on the Perley Home for Incurables had decided to furnish a room containing 3 beds at a cost of \$90 or \$100. The room was Mrs. Perley’s former sitting room and it would be known as the St. Andrew’s Church Ladies’ Aid Room”. The Society knew this room well, for they had often met there.

“Time and money in the winter of 1897-98 were principally devoted to The Presbyterian Ladies College, formerly Coligny College”, wrote Mary Brough. “Dr. Herridge, President of the Board of Management, laid before the Society the necessity of making the interior of the College more comfortable and attractive. A committee visited the College and the result of their investigations was that a dinner service, table linen, blankets, quilts, pieces of sheeting, towels, pillow cases, pillows and a carpet were at once donated.”

At their October 1898 meeting, a letter was read from Mrs. Perley saying “that when 5 years ago His Excellency Lord Aberdeen took her pew in the church, the sum of \$33 has been expended by the Society for upholstering and improvements upon it, and that in handing to the Society the above-mentioned sum, she wished the Society to accept it as a token of gratitude for having been spared to take the old accustomed seat which had become so dear to her in other and happier days.” (Georgina’s husband, William G. Perley had died in 1890; Lord Aberdeen was Governor-General from 1893 to 1898.)

Mr. Herridge suggested again that the Society place a baptismal font in the church “as the present bowl was somewhat inconvenient, especially where there were a number of infants presented for that sacrament.” At a special meeting at the close of the Wednesday evening prayer service, Mrs. Herridge reported that she and Mrs. Bronson had interviewed Messrs. Harris & Campbell in regard to the

Baptismal Font, and handed the Secretary a letter from the firm, along with an enclosed rough sketch of the Font which would cost \$35, and that one with less carving could be had for \$5 less, or a better one for more. The Society chose to order the one in the sketch, subject to Session approval. Mrs. Perley donated the cost to the Ladies’ Aid Society, which then gave the Font to the church.

In her history of the Society, Mary Brough told this Font story. “The Sunday it was first used, I walked home with a friend who like myself was a spinster. She was rather doubtful that the font was not leaning toward the ritual of the Anglican Church. ‘But my dear friend’, I said, ‘neither you nor I will ever need it, so why worry?’ Laughter on her part took the place of doubt and I never heard her express any doubts again”.

In August 1900, the Society mourned the loss of Mrs. William (Catherine) Stewart, a founder of the Protestant Orphans’ Home, a woman of great charity and faith, and so widely loved. In October a letter was read from Mrs. Perley asking the ladies to accept her resignation, but they didn’t and asked her to reconsider. In November she resumed her position.

The February 1901 minutes note that “The black cashmere used for draping the church during the past week was given by the Temporal Committee to dispose of - about 100 yards.” The cashmere had been used to drape the facade of the church following the death of Queen Victoria. They gave one piece to the Orphans’ Home and kept the remainder for consideration. General Assembly came to Ottawa in June 1901, and the Ladies had to organise billets for a good number of the 1,254 delegates, and supply all manner of things for the Garden Party at the Ladies College, including 9 gallons of ice cream and a man to serve it.

The Poor Relief Committee met just before the Ladies’ Aid, so the minutes carry details of

their work, such as these from October to December 1901: \$5 to Mrs. Herridge for a poor family living at Kingsmere; \$20 to the Rev. Scott of East Templeton, who had been burned out; \$5 to Mrs. Gibson each month for a family; \$20 to Mrs. Crannell for the B. family; \$2 to the VON for a special case in Hintonburg; \$5 to Mrs. Gibson for Mrs. N., half a ton of coal to Mrs. Mc.; \$50 each to Dr. Herridge for Christmas cheer for the poor, and to Rev. Leylaz for the poor of St. Marc's French congregation. They asked Dr. Herridge to appeal from the pulpit for clothing, which they collected and distributed. Through the winter, Poor Relief Funds were used for more loads of coal, basic needs, and the City Missionary's salary.

In 1902, the Society began canvassing the congregation each fall for home-made jams and jellies for the various Protestant Hospitals and Homes. This city-wide project for churches continued for years, and at St. Andrew's, Madge McRae was such a whiz at gathering jars that the number collected rose each year. The Society minutes for February 3, 1905 record the great loss the Ladies felt on the death of Mrs. H. F. (Editha) Bronson, "who has been so long connected with St. Andrew's, and who, while not able for many years to take an active part in the work of the Society, always remained a member".

In the early months of 1906, the Society sewed 6 dozen pillow cases for the Protestant Hospital, and 5 dozen for the Orphans' Home; sent turkey and cake to the Perley Home; meat and bread to the Orphans' Home, and 3 dozen plus 7 pillow cases, 26 sheets and 2 dozen table napkins to St. Luke's, founded in 1898 on Frank St. as a non-sectarian hospital.

At their October 1910 meeting, "A very pleasing interruption occurred when Mr. Blair, President of the Men's Association, came in and presented to the Society a very fine engraving of His Late Majesty King Edward VII, a gift from the Men's Association, which was very highly appreciated by all present".

The Ladies' Aid Bazaar, in December 1910, took the form of "A Carnival of Flowers", where the decorations were tissue paper flowers and garlands which festooned the front of each booth. Every booth had its specific flower, which the attendants wore: Flower Booth—Roses, Aprons—Scarlet Poppies, Candy—Buttercups, White Wear—violets, Peanuts & Popcorn—white and pink carnations. The ladies serving in the Tea Room were essentially Walking Daisies; they wore "white skirts, yellow bodices, pointed collars, caps of white posies with yellow tops. In place of the grab bag, there is a modern flower garden consisting of tulips, lilies and chrysanthemums. The paper flowers are planted in sand, the beds outlined with shells". The bazaar had ten booths and cleared \$1,069.56, designated for a new carpet for the church.

In these years, the Poor Relief Committee dealt more and more with tuberculosis patients. In March 1911, "Mrs. Herridge reported a sad and needy case, a lady suffering from TB at her home on Slater St. The Society sent half a ton of coal to this home, and asked Dr. Mary Bryson to go to the house and report on the case, and see if she needed to be taken to the Lady Grey Hospital." On December 16, 1912 Madge McRae reported the greatest success yet in the annual jam collection for hospitals: 332 jars from St. Andrew's.

Fellowship

St. Andrew's Women's Guild

*Jill Collins-Williams,
President*

This year we will be celebrating 150 years of Service by the St. Andrew's Women's Guild. Come to our monthly meetings — you will be warmly welcomed! Contact Jill with any questions.

Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar

*Gail Bowes,
Co-ordinator
bowes125@hotmail.com*

Outside the sun was shining brightly and the air was crisp. Inside St. Andrew's, the building was filled with warmth, voices and smiling faces as people checked out the various tables, and enjoyed their tea.

So many people helped to make this a great event for the Women's Guild. Volunteers helped to sort the many donations that came in, set up the various tables, baked for the Tea Room and the Cafe, produced apple crisps, and then all the clean up afterwards so that on Sunday, all areas were back to normal.

Proceeds from the tea and bazaar will be distributed to various charities, to be decided at the Guild's December meeting.

Thank you all.





Scenes from the Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar
November 2023



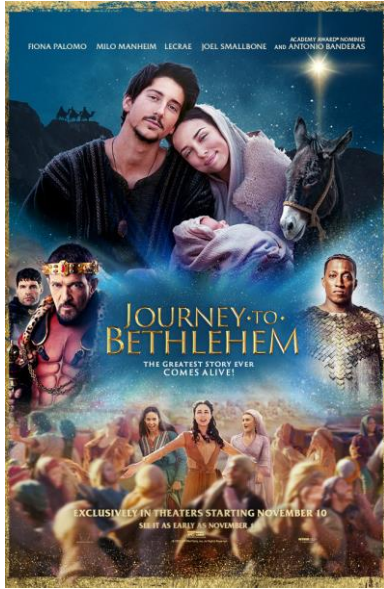


Remembrance Sunday: two of our veterans, Deborah Davis and George Stewart

Photo: Elizabeth Phillipson

Journey to Bethlehem – Review

Laura McGregor



Having seen advertisements for an upcoming movie which promised me a musical version of the nativity story, I got over my reluctance to visit movie houses and recently went to see *Journey To Bethlehem*. It is currently playing (as of November 24th) at the Landmark Theatre in Kanata and runs 1h38m. And I can truthfully say it runs for a WONDERFUL 1 hour and 38 minutes.

It caught my attention from the very beginning with bouncy musical numbers, vivid landscapes and scenery and costuming which is not lavish but tasteful. It is a very modern take on a very unwilling Mary who is promised in marriage to a Joseph she doesn't know, who is told she cannot pursue her own interests and career aspirations, who is visited in the middle of the night by a vision who is too beautiful to be real and told she will be a mother before she is even betrothed let alone married. It follows her struggles with all these things until slowly she comes to acceptance and the promise is fulfilled.

The movie itself has characters who are human and funny and stressed out, who move through their lives in much the same way we do. There are a few items which gave me pause such as costumes for the main characters which are far more modern and form-fitting than the rest of the cast but this may have been a deliberate choice on the part of the director to highlight the importance of these characters. Some of the scenes in which King Herod is featured are played a little too broadly by Antonio Banderas but then again, King Herod is a bit of a heavy. And both Mary and Joseph are perhaps a little more European than middle eastern but having said that, the music is delightful, the dancing gorgeous and the humour comes often. I found myself both laughing and moved to tears often within minutes of one another. On the whole, it reminded me of a very short *Fiddler On The Roof* in style and energy although, of course, the stories are very different from one another.

The scenery was rough and tumble as I thought it should be and really was a part of the narrative as well. Imagine my surprise to see in the credits the movie was shot in various provinces of Spain! But staying for the credits is definitely a part of the movie itself as there are outtakes and behind-the-scenes looks at practicing the dances. When I left the theatre, I didn't think I would remember any of the songs but have had one of the very first ones running through my head all week. On the whole, a very entertaining movie and one I would recommend to anyone, believer or not.

Notes from the Convoy Trial

Vivian Leir, Office Administrator

The winter of 2022 brought to St. Andrew's the usual snow, ice and cold but for three weeks we were also surrounded by "the Convoy". During this event my journey to the Church each morning was quite stressful and we were subject to noise, garbage, fumes and rude people. My job description expanded to include clearing foreign signs off our premises and requesting individuals to not use our

garden as a washroom. What a relief when the trucks were moved off and our Sanctuary could once again be a peaceful place.

During the weeks following I completed a police questionnaire that I was directed to from the law firm Champ and Associates. It did feel good to relay some of the experiences that we went through at St. Andrew's during the demonstration. I thought nothing more of it until I received an email while I was on vacation this past August from the Crown Prosecutor in the Barber and Lich trial. He was requesting me to testify and could we meet to review protocol and what to expect? This was a surprise but I felt it was important that I appear and tell my perspective. The Crown was clear that I was to answer on behalf of myself only and not include the experience of the Church as a whole.

Following a few delays, I met with the Crown Prosecutor, his assistant and a police representative on Zoom just before Thanksgiving. They were efficient and pleasant to work with and outlined to me what to expect in Court, including cross examination by defence. They did not advise in advance what they would ask me. This was not a Jury trial but had simply a Judge. "Just tell the truth" they told me! That seemed straightforward enough...

All weekend I reviewed in my mind those weeks and made notes. I had also chatted with Sean and he reminded me of a few other incidents and sent along some photos he had taken. I went over the contents of the original survey and also located the report that Arch Ritter had prepared detailing rental revenues we had to refund due to the protest.

The defence had filed an objection to local citizens testifying in Court but the judge decided on that Wednesday morning that our testimony could indeed be heard. I was scheduled to appear on Wednesday afternoon but technical delays meant that I was rescheduled for Thursday morning. This certainly added to my stress levels!

I walked to the Provincial Courthouse on Thursday morning. It is an attractive building located on Elgin Street. There were no protestors outside and I passed through security quickly. There are a large number of courtrooms in the building and we were in #5. As instructed by the Crown I sat quietly and waited but certainly took in my surroundings. The defendants were waiting nearby surrounded by their entourage. The Crown Counsel arrived and told me I was to be witness #2 so to expect about an hour long wait but this was drawn out and I finally went in to the courtroom late morning. The trial was open to the public but the courtroom was not terribly full. I took my seat in the witness box next to the Judge and swore on the bible – one had the choice not to. There was a microphone but apparently it was not working so I was told by the Judge to speak loudly!

The Crown Counsel questioned me first and questions centred on what I saw and heard and smelled. If I had a chance to add in detail I certainly did. Photographs and videos were used by both the Crown and Defence during my time in the witness box. For example, the latter endeavoured to discredit my testimony that the horns were blaring by presenting a video, selected by them, during which no horns sounded!

I was asked to leave the courtroom three times that day when objections were made by defence as to the line of questioning the Crown was taking. There was also a long lunch break so I dashed back to St. Andrew's to get some work done and be fed pizza by our kindly Women's Guild as by then I had worked up an appetite!

Once we resumed, the Defence questioned my use of the word "occupation" saying this was not an accurate depiction of what took place. I stood my ground and provided details as to why I described it

as an “occupation”. Note that there were two defence teams so I was questioned by both. I was amused when the second defence lawyer pointedly requested that I give only “yes” or “no” answers. Clearly I was providing “too much information”.

Finally the Defence finished their line of questioning and it was close to 3:00 p.m. These trials certainly are a drawn-out process! However, it was orderly and thorough and civilized and overall I felt things were well conducted. The Crown Prosecutor was gracious and thanked me profusely for appearing.

I was surprised by how much press coverage I earned but was pleased to receive support and kind words from St. Andrew’s congregants, friends and acquaintances across the country. My elderly Mum in Victoria was excited to see my name on the front page of her local newspaper! I did also receive a few vile emails from supporters of the Convoy, but this did not surprise me. These I passed on to my police contact.

We were a bit nervous that following my testimony that St. Andrew’s may have been targeted by these vindictive individuals but all remained quiet. I was gratified to hear that other local citizen witnesses had made many of the observations that I had about the protest. Without a doubt we were all on the same page.

It was a memorable experience and I eagerly await the outcome of the trial. However, I do note that I was happy to return to my peaceful job as St. Andrew’s Church Administrator!

St. Andrew’s Book Club

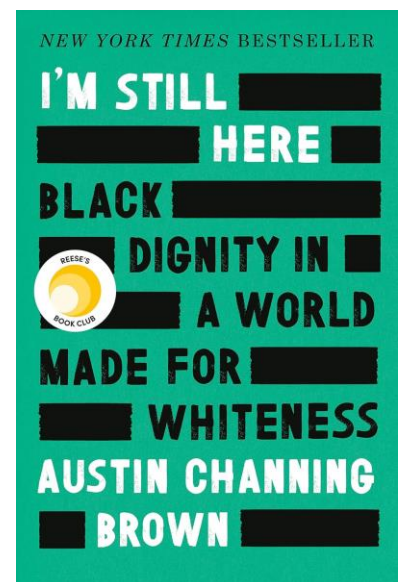
Laura McGregor

Here’s the books that we will be reading over the next few months:

- December 15: *I’m Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown
- January 19: *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
- February 16: *The Five Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand
- March 15: *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier
- April 19: *The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan
- May 17: *The Maid* by Nita Prose
- June 21: *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf

Copies of each of these titles have been procured for the St. Andrew’s library from local dealers where possible and all are now available to be borrowed. During the fall and spring months, we expect to host hybrid evenings with attendees in both the Pottinger Room and online. During the winter months, we will continue online only.

We welcome all members, both new and returning, and look forward to many productive and interesting discussions on these books. Please feel free to join us as you are able and to invite family and friends to join in the fun. For further information, please contact Laura McGregor (ljm9ostar@gmail.com)



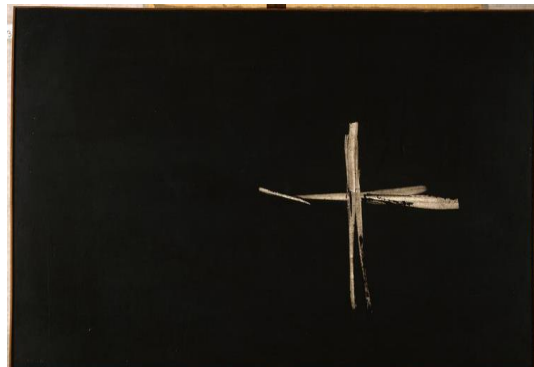
Men's Fellowship

Jim Paulin

Convenor of MF

The Men's Fellowship was pleased to have one of St. Andrew's former ministers, Rev. Andrew Johnston, speak to us this past September. Some ladies from the congregation joined us for the evening. Rev. Johnston spoke about a number of his experiences over many years that brought home how much community matters in worship and in life. His talk was inspired by a painting he saw in Paris entitled *Souvenir de l'avenir*: looking back as a way to look forward.

In October, we held the first of our two discussion evenings of the year, this one on the subject of how to encourage participation in the Men's Fellowship group. The evening was well attended and generated lots of so discussion which was also sometimes surprising. It left many of us feeling fortunate that we have a Men's Fellowship group at St. Andrew's.



Hantaï, Simon. *Souvenir de l'avenir*. 1957, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris



George Zimmerman speaking about the Mulli Children's Family Charity in Kenya, at the November meeting

Photo: Richard Lauzon

If you would like to know more about the Men's Fellowship, please feel free to contact the convenor of the group, Jim Paulin, at paulinjim@gmail.com.