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# ST. ANDREW'S IN ACTION

Spring Edition, 2017



## Ministers reflections

*Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock*

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us- 1  
John 4:12.*

As I sit to write this week, I look out at a world covered in snow. Snow like I haven't seen it in years. Like a great white blanket, it covers the earth and in our backyard. It comes all the way up to the level of our outside table. We have had to shovel out a pathway for the dog because the snow is as deep as he is high in so many places. As I watch him make his way around the back yard I am sometimes

reminded of how when John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus he talked about making our paths straight. Making level the roads so that Jesus could pass. I look at the dog, grateful for the path to navigate the yard, and I think about what John the Baptist was saying and I wonder... whose way are we called to pave in Jesus' name today? What are the obstacles in their way?

It has been quite a time since I last sat to write for St. Andrew's in Action. Advent and Christmas have come and gone and now we are almost at Lent. One of the things we discussed through all this is Light. In Advent, we lit the candles on our wreath. In those days, even as the nights were getting longer, Hope, then Peace, Joy then Love were lit in the sanctuary as we looked to the coming of the greater Light in Jesus Christ. We lit the Christ candle on Christmas Eve as we celebrated the revelation of God in Jesus.

In early January we read in John's Gospel (John 1:18) that no one has ever seen God, but we see God most fully in Jesus. That is what we mean when we talk about the revelation of God.

Throughout the season after Christmas (Epiphany), we have been continuing to light the Christ candle each week and inviting the children to take light from it as they go out to Sunday School. I enjoy the symbolism of that. There is a light in Jesus that calls forth light in us. I have been thinking about us taking that light with us each week, to the places we live and work and play.

It is a time when that light is very much needed in the world.

As Christians, we go out into the world to do a lot of the same things as other people. We sleep and rise, we eat and work, but as we do these things we understand them *in light of Christ*. We begin each new day grateful for the gift of starting new. For forgiveness and love that holds us close through whatever the day will bring. When we eat, we say thank you, grateful for the gifts of life and in prayer for those who are hungry. We end our day as we go to sleep, entrusting ourselves to God.

Tom Long in his book *Testimony, talking ourselves into being Christian* says this as well about Christians:

*"All human communities have to figure out what to do when a stranger shows up: fight or flight or something else? The Christian community, knowing that we were welcomed by Christ when we were strangers to God, tries to show this same kind of hospitality to others."*

This is how we shine the light of Christ.

We welcome, we make way, we watch our words, we share what we

## About St. Andrew's in Action



The quarterly newsletter is published the first Sunday in March, June, October and December. The next edition will be available June 4 and the deadline for submissions is May 16. Please respect the deadlines for submissions. You may email your articles and photos at any time to [StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com](mailto:StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com).

have, we keep our eyes open, we look to see Jesus in the face of others, even strangers. We care for them as those made in the image of God.

Back in Advent we put up a map of the world in St. Andrew's Hall inviting people to put a pin in the part of the world they came from. We discovered that thirty-nine nationalities worship here (and maybe more, the map is still up, you can add to it if you haven't yet). In the last couple of weeks, we have put up another map. This one has the National Capital Region on it. This time you are invited to put a star where you live and work and go to school. All those places that we are called to take the light of Christ in our ordinary lives.

Our words to remember in February were from 1 John 4:12.

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.* Just think. That just as God was revealed to the world in Christ, so now God seeks to be made known in the body of Christ, the Church.

To go back to the scene outside my window. I am sure I have never seen snow like this. On a sunny day, it reflects a brilliance that is almost blinding and every day as I look out I am struck by the beauty of the world. Evergreens cradling the latest snowfall. The stark outline of the maples against the sky. And underneath it all I think about the tiny roots and shoots that even now are getting ready to grow again come spring. Beneath the things we can see, God is at work, the forces of life are strong. The world is a powerful testament to the glory and wonder, the love and tender mercy of God.

May it be so with us!

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## Update on St. Andrew's Refugee Sponsorship Program

*Barbara S. and Terry C.*

As we roll through winter, we mark two milestones in our refugee sponsorship initiatives: welcoming the arrival of Rana K. to Ottawa on December 28; and the completion of the sponsorship period of the A. family who have been with us for twelve months.

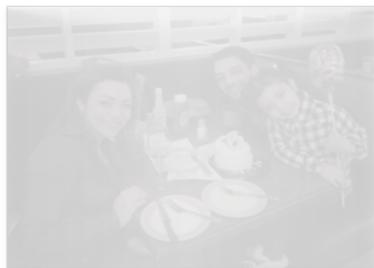
We congratulate Rasha and Issa A. on the success of their transition to life in Ottawa. Issa has been recalled to the position of Field Sales Manager with Kognitive Corporation responsible for hiring and training sales representatives for the sale of Canadian Tire cards in 15 area stores, after his assignment promoting TD Bank Cards. Rasha completed her Conflict Resolution Diploma course at St.

Paul's University, with financial support from St. Andrew's. Her graduation was a happy occasion for Rasha and those who were present. Impressed by her performance in the course, Rasha has been given opportunities to work as an official observer with the course facilitators for the Conflict Resolution and Deep Conflict courses, and further opportunities are planned, which will provide her with valuable experience in her field. She has almost completed her three-month internship at the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre, and is actively



looking for full-time employment which will build on her career goals.

Bushra continues to do well at school, and she was delighted to have the chance to participate in the Christmas Pageant as one of the adorable shepherds. Her grandparents in Syria were overjoyed to be able to view Bushra and the other children's performance through St.



Andrew's uploaded video service. On December 28, Bushra happily celebrated her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday with her parents at Swiss Chalet.

Family members and St. Andrew's congregation eagerly awaited the arrival of Rana K. On December 28, Rana arrived in Ottawa to join her sister Reem and her family, the T. family, who had just arrived a few weeks previously, and move into a townhouse in Nepean. We have been working with Knox Presbyterian Church for the past two years in joint sponsorship of the T./K. families. It has been a co-operative effort to find suitable accommodation and furnishings and to assist the five members of the T. family and Rana. We are now working with Rana to help her access Ottawa medical services to meet the health

challenges she is facing to deal with a degenerative condition similar to Parkinson's disease. We are setting up an e-mail support group of people who would be interested in helping Rana on this journey. We would welcome the assistance of a few members of the congregation who could, for example, help drive Rana on an occasional basis to her medical appointments. Please contact Nathalie Bradbury at nbradburyjost@outlook.com, or 613 733-6907 (home) or (613 864-6907 (cell).

A final note celebrating the integration of the A. and T. families into Canadian winter life.

Through the generosity of family members of a local minor hockey team, Issa and Bushra A. and George and Lour T. attended a Senators hockey game, and the nine-year-old members of that hockey team shovelled snow to raise funds to equip nine-year-old Lour with skates and a helmet and to provide skating lessons.

We pray for continued success for Rasha, Isaa and Bushra in meeting their aspirations, and in our addressing the needs of Rana K. and the Tayar family as they integrate within our community.

The Refugee Sponsorship Program relies on the generosity of church members and friends through their donations of time and money. This allows our congregation to meet its commitment to help alleviate the plight of refugees in a very personal and meaningful way.

## Vision 2020: Growing our Givings with Compassion and Hope is in full swing

*Craig S. H., Convener*

Over the course of 2016, the Stewardship Team has invited you to give generously because we believe in this congregation. We believe that its life and ministry make a difference not just in the lives of those who attend but in the wider community and world as well. Steadfast in these beliefs and the teaching of our Lord, we have invited all St. Andreans to embrace **Vision 2020: Growing our Givings with Compassion and Hope**. Launched in October 2016 and to continue through the year 2020, the purpose of this campaign is to place our church on a sustainable financial path so that we can continue to sustain and grow our mission and ministries into the future.

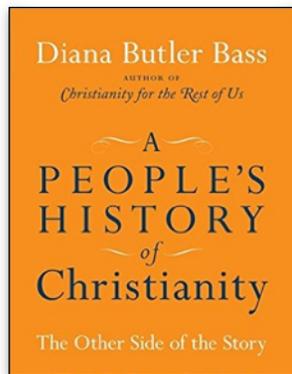
At this time, we wish to express our gratitude and thanks. We are thankful for those who welcomed an Elder into their homes to learn why the Vision 2020 campaign is necessary. We are thankful for those Elders who shared the news of Vision 2020's goals and objectives with their neighbours and friends. We are grateful for everyone who attended one of the Vision 2020 information sessions, a demonstration of the love you have for our community. We are grateful for those who have decided to continue to give financial gifts to St. Andrew's mission and ministries in 2016 and for those who have decided to increase their support in 2017.

Energized by your generosity and love of our church, the stewardship team is looking forward to another year of putting **Vision 2020: Growing our Givings with Compassion and Hope** into action.

## Seven New Books for the Library

*A People's History of Christianity* by Diana Butler Bass.

This was one of the books that the Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock used as a reference for our History 101 Discussion group last fall. An easy-to-read piece that covers the history of the church through the lens of the commandment to love God and love neighbour. Diana Butler Bass describes the devotional and worship practices of the church from the death of Jesus to the current era.



*The End of Hope – The Beginning: Narratives of Hope in the Face of Suffering and Trauma* by Pamela McCarroll.

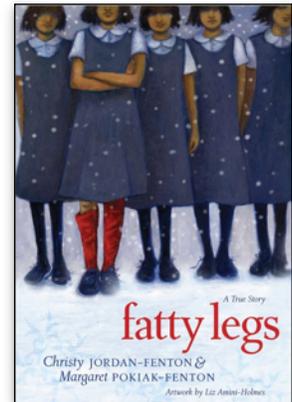
Pam McCarroll was the guest speaker at our women's retreat last spring. A professor at Emmanuel College and before that Knox College, she is Minister in Association at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Toronto. Pam's research focuses on the lived experience and possibility of hope in contexts of suffering and in this book she shares five stories of finding such hope.

*Children of the Broken Treaty: Canada's Lost Promise and One Girl's Dream* by Charlie Angus.

This is the story of one of the largest youth-driven human rights movements in the country's history, a movement that was inspired by Shannen Koostachin, a young Cree woman.

*Fatty Legs* by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton.

This is the story of young Margaret Pokiak leaving her home in the high Arctic to attend residential school. The ridicule she faces and her courageous meeting of it. Written for young readers it is a story of human dignity and courage.



**And for Lent:**

*The Screwtape Letters* by C S Lewis,

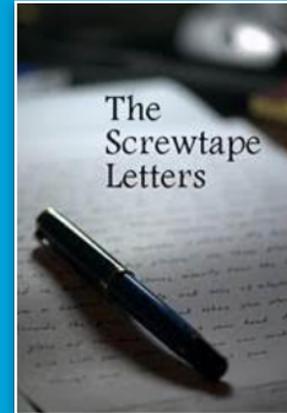
*The Broken Way: A daring path into the abundant life* by Ann Voskamp

*One Thousand Fifts, A dare to live fully right where you are* by Ann Voskamp

## Online study: *The Screwtape Letters*

Join us through the Lenten season as we explore C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. We will look at this book both as a daily Lenten devotional, accompanied by relevant scripture passages, for each of us to read, reflect and pray over as part of your journey to Easter, and as a group discussion where we can share reflections, thoughts, and ideas about the themes and issues raised in the book. In this way, we get the best of both personal and community reflection to feed us through Lent.

Visit [StAndrewsOttawa.ca/blog/screwtape](http://StAndrewsOttawa.ca/blog/screwtape) or speak with Alex F. for information on logging in to be part of the discussion.



## Early Morning Service Time Change

*Andrew M.*

This past November, the Worship and Music Committee undertook a series of focus group meetings and email surveys to gather information from members of the 9:30 a.m. service, and the 11 a.m. service, as well as the Minister and the Director of Music. The objective of holding these meetings was to better understand how these stakeholders of St. Andrew's experience the worship and music services each week as well as to gather information to better balance the needs of these various stakeholders.

As convener of the Worship and Music Committee, I personally led these group discussions and brought forward the resulting information to the committee for discussion. As I am sure everyone can appreciate, Sunday mornings can be quite busy with the services that we offer, and time is a precious commodity. There are, at times, competing demands for time from various parties and some long-standing requests to address these concerns have been discussed at length by the committee. In reviewing these and discussing a variety of possible options - a proposal was put forward to the Kirk Session from the Worship and Music Committee that we felt offered a balanced solution for the various stakeholders of St. Andrew's and would address the majority of these concerns without causing a major change to the worship and music services that we provide each Sunday. This proposal specifically affects the 9:30 a.m. service and its timing, in that our recommendation was to change the start time of the 9:30 a.m. service - to begin 15 minutes earlier each Sunday. After discussion by the Kirk session, this recommendation was agreed to and passed.

This change is not immediate. The early morning service will move to its new time of 9:15 a.m. on the first Sunday after Easter, this will be Sunday, April 23rd. This new time will allow for more coordination, practice and fellowship time in between our two services that will be of immense value. I recognize that this change may not be an easy one for everyone. To this end, I will be available to answer any questions. There will also be more reminders during announcements and in writing before April is upon us to ensure that everyone is aware of the upcoming time change.

## The Governor General's Visit

*Joan R.*

While it was typical in many respects, this morning's service had an extra spark, as St. Andrew's kicked off its Canada 150 activities with the attendance of Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada and Mrs. Sharon Johnston.

As I was helping a bit with preparations for the kids' Canada birthday cake event, I was struck once again by how much we, as a community, enjoy doing this. From ushers to musicians to the refreshment prep team, I met no one who wasn't smiling and a tiny bit excited. (Well okay, the various gentlemen in dark suits with microphones in their ears looked pretty serious!) We love our community and our church and we genuinely enjoy getting things in place so that events run smoothly.

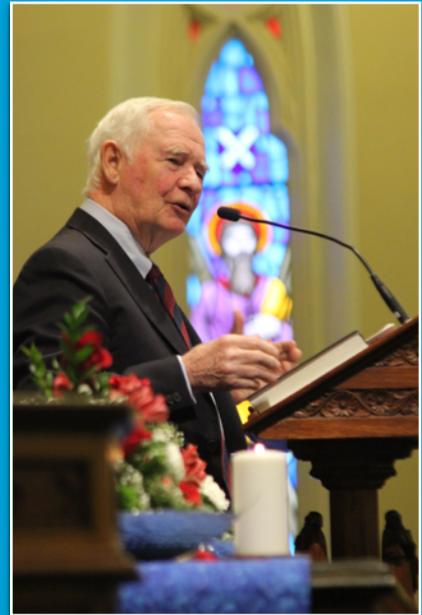
On a much more profound and spiritual level, this notion of service was an underlying theme this morning, as both the Governor General and the Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock delved into parts of the sermon on the mount.

To the delight of the kids when they arrived, the pews were covered with red paper hearts with words from various Beatitudes on them (mine was "Comfort those who mourn") and these sayings would be their focus at Sunday school.

The sermon was entitled "Bearing the Light of God!" and Karen began with the context around the sermon on the mount, of how Jesus's talk to his early disciples had been watched by a curious crowd. Karen pointed out that those disciples had given up everything conventional in their lives, leaving their families, their jobs and their status in their communities to serve with Jesus. In front of the crowd, Jesus was honouring them and offering nothing less than a new world view. He rewrote Old Testament ideas of restriction and prohibition ("Thou shalt not ...") to instead honour their humility, faith and compassion ("Blessed are ...").

Jesus told his followers that they were the light, and they needed to use that light to illuminate places of hardship and suffering.

Karen's sermon enlarged upon the scripture readings of

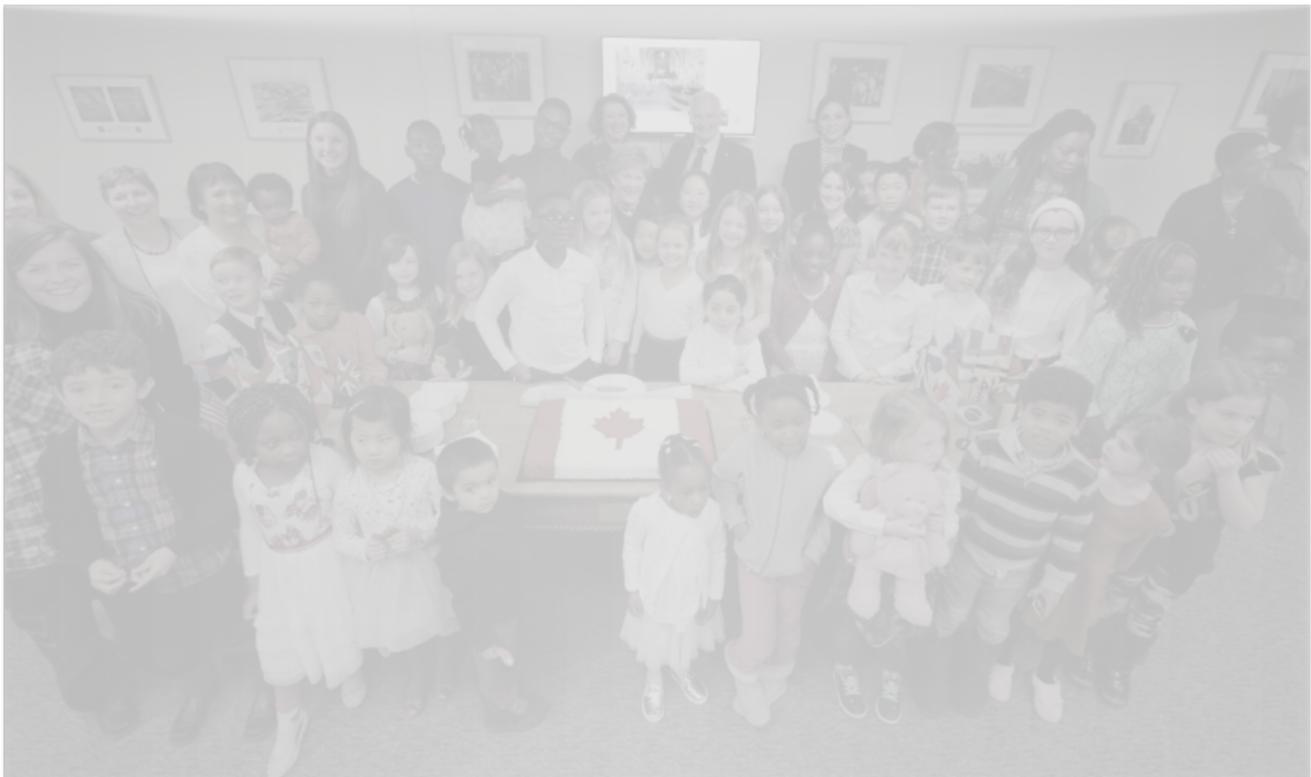


Matthew 5:1–16, which had been read by the Governor General. He had singled out Matthew 5:9 in particular: “Blessed are the peacekeepers, for they will be called children of God.”

He recounted to us his most recent trip to Israel, noting that he had visited the spot at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem where, 3,200 years ago, King Solomon had stood calling all tribes to come and find peace.

Sadly, peace is not a steady presence in that part of the world, but we, as Canadians, have an opportunity to become peacekeepers in our country. The Governor General explained that he saw Canada as being a 150-year experiment in diversity and at this milestone anniversary, it is up to us to reflect upon our past and gird ourselves for the future. As peacekeepers, we too can be the light and work to make sure that our Canadian experiment succeeds.

On that note, it was wonderful after the service to see the flags representing all our congregation’s countries of origin flanking the Canada birthday cake in Grant Hall. Their Excellencies met many of the kids, and as he was heading downstairs to meet the congregation, the Governor General was heard to say to one little boy that he had to go play with the adults now, and he hoped they would be as much fun!



## Flowers in the Sanctuary

*Jill C.*

The Women’s Guild wants to thank everyone who has honoured someone or celebrated an occasion by providing the flowers we all enjoy in the sanctuary each Sunday. An \$80 contribution covers the cost of the flowers at the front of the sanctuary and a note is put in the bulletin, if the giver chooses,

announcing the person or event being remembered. We would like to encourage more St. Andreans to consider choosing one Sunday a year, apart from Christmas and Easter, as a time to honour, celebrate, or remember by placing the flowers in the sanctuary with a donation of \$80. Two families or more could certainly join together and share the cost as well. You can place a note and cheque in the Women's Guild mail slot outside the church office, check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards, or phone Betty J.

When flowers are not donated, the Women's Guild pays for the arrangements, and the flowers are always sent via their elder to people who are sick or shut in after the service is over. If someone in your family has ever received one of these arrangements, please consider being a donor yourself.

The Guild thanks all of you who participate in this ministry.

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## Uniting Against Racism

From Sunday, November 20, 2016.

*Diane M.*

Over the past 6 days, hateful, racist messages have been spray-painted on five places of worship in Ottawa: Parkdale United Church (for the second time since January), a synagogue, the home of a rabbi, a mosque and a Jewish Community Centre.

Yesterday, Karen and I and other members of St. Andrew's joined hundreds of others at the Machzikel Hadas Synagogue for a solidarity gathering. Muslims, Jews and Christians came together to respond to this vandalism. As the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey of Parkdale United Church said: "Such behaviour must never, ever, be the norm – for any group."

As part of this service of solidarity yesterday, the whole congregation stood and read these words together, affirming our united stand against racism and our commitment to love, peace and acceptance.

Today, congregations all over Ottawa will be reading these words together as well. Please stand with me, if you are able, and let us here at St. Andrew's read these words together.

Here are the words of solidarity, written by members of the congregation of the Machzikel Hadas Synagogue.

*Expression of Solidarity and Gratitude*

*Congregation Machzikel Hadas*

*November 19th, 2016*

We gather together as a united community to express in words what we feel in our hearts. Painful events of the past week have proven a number of important points. Words of concern and empathy are more powerful than graffiti. Expressions of love are more potent than expressions of hate. The power of togetherness is stronger than the power of divisiveness. A community standing together negates evil intentions. Words of comfort heal the wounds of verbal assault. A common commitment to everyone protects against an attack on anyone. We are strong because we are resolute in our togetherness. We are even stronger because we are cooperative in our diversity. We gather to focus on the good that inheres in all of us. We gather to extol the mosaic that defines who we are. We gather to celebrate the beauty of our community. We gather to express our gratitude for the wonderful people who comprise this great city, our Nation's Capital. We gather to be thankful for living in this caring country, Canada. We resolve, individually and collectively, to do all within our power to assure that this is the Canada that our children and theirs will inherit.

Amen.

# Why did Jesus, Moses, Buddha and Mohamed Cross the Road?

Book by Brian MacLaren, Conversation at St. Andrew's this Spring

*Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock*

Brian MacLaren is one of the more engaging theological writers of our current era. Even though this book came out several years ago, I find it particularly relevant and challenging for today. I have ordered copies for our library and invite you to join me in a discussion about it this spring.

I would like to use this book and our discussion of it as a starting point for exploring our own context and the question of what it means to live faithfully as followers of Jesus, alongside and even in partnership with people of other faiths.

I am planning the conversation for four Wednesday evenings beginning after Easter but am open to being flexible with the timing depending on the availability of those interested in attending. Please let me be in touch and let me know your interest in being part of this (kd@standrewsottawa.ca).

I have included the publisher's description of this book:

“In his most important book yet, widely acclaimed author and speaker Brian McLaren proposes a new faith alternative, one built on “benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility.” This way of being Christian is strong but doesn't strong-arm anyone, going beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with the other.

Blending history, narrative, and brilliant insight, McLaren shows readers step-by-step how to reclaim this strong-benevolent faith, challenging us to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own. And in doing so, he invites Christians to be more Christ-like than ever before.”

Looking forward to the discussion.

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## Wednesday Evening Studies

Starting March 1, join us for six weeks of study and fellowship. A simple supper together at 6 p.m. and your choice of study from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. Register on the sign-up boards in Grant Hall, or online at [StAndrewsOttawa.ca/studies](http://StAndrewsOttawa.ca/studies)

### Lament & Joy: A musical journey to Easter - Led by Ian M.

Lament and joy are deeply human expressions of our journey of faith. During Lent, we intentionally take time to recognize what conspires to separate us and the world from

God's love. When we emerge at Easter we celebrate with joy the reality that nothing separates us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. Over six weeks we will explore lament and joy through multi-media presentations of new and traditional church music and we will alternate between listening to others sing and lifting our own voices in song.

### Reading the Bible 101 - Led by the Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock

A broadly-based discussion group led by the Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock that focuses on knowledge and skills used in biblical interpretation of the Greek Testament. We will

study a different passage each week. Topics will include ancient texts and different versions of the New Testament, the cultural context of the Greek Testament, both the Greco-Roman world and the Jewish context of its time and the various forms of literature we encounter in it.

### Spiritual Practices - Various leaders

Spiritual practices help us to make room in our lives to experience and become aware of God's presence and activity. The participants will determine their own personal spirituality type with a survey and then as a group 'practice' a variety of Christian spiritual disciplines to draw close to God: Sabbath keeping, loving hospitality, Lectio Divina, personal and community discernment, confession and forgiveness in community and prayer.

### The Refugee Experience – Mission & Outreach

- The climate and politics that leads to Refugees. (James M.)
- The PCC acceptance of Refugees. (Rob Shropshire of the National Office)
- Our church acceptance of Refugees. (Terry C. our Coordinator of Refugee sponsorship)
- The PWS&D outlook on Sponsorship. (Rob R.)
- Refugee experience. (T. Family, with Huda translating)
- The future of Refugee Sponsorship. (Discussion group)

## The Women's Missionary Society

*Judy D. with much help from Sheila U.*



Several years ago, when I began attending St. Andrew's regularly, one of the first people to approach me about becoming more involved was Jessie B. "You should come to a WMS meeting" she said in her always warm friendly way. My response was "just what is the WMS". "Come to a meeting and see." Those of you who knew Jessie know she was hard to resist, and so I went to a WMS meeting.

I learned that the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) is made up of women who not only provide financial contributions but sincerely want to understand more about challenges faced by people in various parts of the world both within and outside of Canada. But at the time, I had no idea of the rich history of witness and service that is the St. Andrew's WMS.

The WMS began life at St. Andrew's as two separate organizations - the Women's Home Missionary Society founded in 1887 and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society founded in 1893. The St. Andrew's Home Missionary Society was the first of its kind in Canada and was started in response to growing concerns for both the settlers who were moving into the west and native communities whose way of life was being disrupted. The society raised money for "missionary objects in our own land". There were fifty-one original members.

On March 21, 1876, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society formed at the national level of the Presbyterian Church, and soon after the 'Ottawa Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Mission Society' was organized in 1878 with a sizeable St. Andrew's component. By 1887, there were five area

Auxiliaries (in Ottawa, South Russell, Aylmer, Chelsea and Metcalfe), and one Mission Band. Six years later, 'St. Andrew's Church Auxiliary to the Women's Foreign Missionary Society' formed, with Dr. Herridge presiding, on Dec. 1, 1893. This energetic and committed group met monthly to hear news of, and lend support to the Presbyterian Church of Canada's mission efforts in Central India, North Formosa, and China.

It was in 1914, after much thought and care that the Women's Home Missionary Society and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society merged to form the Women's Missionary Society. Throughout the many years that followed, the members of the WMS continued to undertake projects and activities that informed our congregation and supported the missional work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. As recently as the last few years, our group has held a cake walk in support of grandmothers facing the AIDS crisis in Africa to Bread for the World dinners that helped us learn more about the difficulties faced by Christians in Syria and India.

From the very beginning, there was a very important fellowship component to the group. We look forward to the meeting's social time as well as the learning time. As with all things Presbyterian, there were always sweets (way more than we could eat) and lively conversation. For many years, a favourite event was the June outing to the M. family cottage at Norway Bay. The hospitality was always wonderful.

At our upcoming March meeting, we will very likely decide to close our chapter of the WMS. While it is very tempting to feel the sadness of an ending I prefer to think of the 130 years of amazing service that has been the gift of the WMS to the life of our church. The WMS will be missed but we will always have the stories of the many remarkable women who loved the WMS.



*Women of Faith*  
*Learning from the women of the Bible*



**Women's Retreat**  
 April 29th 10-3  
 (9:30 check in)  
 Speaker: Manon Campbell  
 St. Andrew's Stittsville (2 Mulkins St.)

Details & Registration: [standrewsottawa.ca/womens-retreat](http://standrewsottawa.ca/womens-retreat)

## Book Review

Sheila S.

### *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America* By Thomas King

“Don’t start with Columbus.” is Helen’s advice as her husband Thomas King set forth to write *The Inconvenient Indian*. Helen often pops in with comment in this conversational account of history of Indians in North America. Oh yes, Mr. King keeps referring to our First Nations people as Indians, not politically correct nowadays but clear and convenient.

Mr. King is careful to explain this narrative is not a history. It is more an explanation of history. History being not so much the past as the stories we tell about the past. The reader quickly learns these stories are not always a true reflection of facts. Take, for example, Custer’s last stand at Bighorn, a detailed legend in art and story but only the outcome of the battle is actually known. However, it did happen! What about the 1861 massacre of 295 white people at Alamo? Never happened according to King, as there is absolutely no evidence of it in the documentation of the time. Still again, his summary account of the Riel Rebellion is comprehensive and non-confrontational.

Here are a few things to think about from the smorgasbord of ideas and information put forward:

- When we look at Native/non-Native relationships, there is no great difference between the past and the present.

- Settlers had unexamined confidence in their superiority.
- Whites were demonstratively more successful at massacres than Indians.
- Indians were of great assistance showing Europeans river systems and trade routes and welcoming them as friends.
- Removal and assimilation policies have been used to dispose Indians of their lands and resources for nearly two centuries.
- Sovereignty and tribal membership are two of the key issues tribal communities need to be able to manage to assert control over their futures.
- King’s claim “If you understand nothing else about the history of Indians in North America, you need to understand that the question that really matters is the question of land. Land is the basis of meaning for Native cultures in the Americas: the foundation of history, religion, sustenance, identity.”

As has oft been said, the victors write history. How many of us have considered Aboriginal history from an Aboriginal perspective? King, who is part Cherokee, has packed this book with facts, but he provides information about both sides of issues and some good laughs. His writing style is engaging and, after reading this book, I feel I have a better understanding of both North American colonial history and the situation of our First Nations people today. I encourage you to read, enjoy and learn from *The Inconvenient Indian*!

## Have you seen what's new in the Currie Room?

*Bob F., Co-Convener, Memorials Committee*



A beautiful needlework of the Last Supper now hangs on the wall of the Currie Room which is located at the end of the hall with the washrooms and offices.

This needlework was lovingly and skilfully created by Driesje P. It was given to our Pastoral Care Team as a kind recognition of the Team's work and the care of congregation. The Team reached out to the Memorials Committee to arrange and pay for its framing. It is a wonderful addition to the many gifts which we have received over the years. The quality of the framing will ensure the security and well-being of the needlework for years to come.

I wish to thank Driesje and everyone who assisted in its framing and installation.

## Robbie Burns Supper January 28



## The Generosity of the Bazaar

*Gail B., Tea and Bazaar convener*

The 2016 St. Andrew's Scottish Tea and Christmas Bazaar is well behind us now, but many local charities are benefitting from the proceeds at this time.

Close to \$13,000 came in, and \$10,000 was dispersed at the Women's Guild December meeting. Donations were made to Bethany Hope Centre, Caring and Sharing Exchange, Daybreak Housing, Elizabeth Fry Society, Emergency Food Bank, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, Hospice Ottawa, Interval House, Minawaashin Lodge, the Mission, Ottawa InnerCity Ministries, Salvation Army, and the Rape Crisis Centre. Money was also delegated to cover the costs of the St. Andrew's nursery caregiver.

Many people are involved in making this annual event such a success. This year about 80 people volunteered their time on November 26. Many others were busy throughout the year, craft-making, knitting, making jams, preserves and Christmas puddings. The church is always bustling in the week leading up to the bazaar with sorting the many items that have been donated to the various tables, pricing items, setting up in the various areas and decorating St. Andrew's Hall.



Consider how you might contribute to the 2017 Tea and Bazaar, which is scheduled for November 25. Books, linens, jewellery, art pieces, attic treasures, preserves, baking items and crafts are happily accepted. Think of what you might donate to the silent auction. And of course, we can always use more help. Would you consider working as a co-convener?

Thanks for your contributions in 2016. Mark your calendar for November 25, 2017.

## Reformation 500: St. Andrew's commemorates the half millennium of Protestantism

*Michel T., Co-Convener, Memorials Committee*

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses," attacking papal abuses and the sale of indulgences, to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg: the Reformation started on that day in history. The Memorials Committee has developed a program to commemorate the five centuries of Protestantism: Reformation 500. The focus on the Reformation will be during the fall months of 2017. The apex of activities will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Reformation Sunday, October 29 (the actual date is Tuesday, October



31). Reformation 500 is a multi-pronged program.

### Learning and Worship

In the format of a six-week series, a course will be offered on the history of the reformation and how it continues to shape and form us today. It would likely begin on October 18 and be completed by November 29. Through late October to mid-November, our Minister will be exploring in our worship services some of the history of the reformation and how being “reformed and always reforming” shapes the theology and practice of the church.

### Guest speakers

St. Andrew’s will receive two guest speakers. The Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald, history professor at Knox College, will lead us in worship on Sunday October 22. Dr. Macdonald will also speak at either a Saturday evening event or Sunday lunch-and-learn event on the topic of what it means to be reformed today. This focus on reformation in worship will continue through to the visit of Dr. Karin Maag, director of H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin College, during the weekend of November 17–19, 2017.

### Music

We will have two concerts, one of Psalms (as singing psalms was the only musical expression allowed in the early years of reformed churches), and one on selected music (secular and/or religious) of the last five centuries. One

concert would be in September and the other one in October.

### Lasting testimony to the commemoration

We hope to purchase the portraits of three reformers (Luther, Calvin, and Knox) from the boutique of the International Museum of the Reformation in Geneva.

### Invitation to Session Committees to partner

The Memorials Committee has invited other Session committees to participate, and will fund any activity that would be done in the context of the Reformation 500 program. As well, with inputs from other Session committees, a list of books on the Reformation will be prepared and purchased by the Memorials Committee.

### Communication

The Reformation 500 program will be posted on our website. We should also “let it be known” here in Ottawa but also throughout the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), through the media of the PCC, what St. Andrew’s Church, Ottawa is doing to commemorate the Reformation.

I cordially invite all members and adherents of our congregation to participate in various events planned in the Reformation 500 program, and to commemorate with Christians of all denominations the birth and development of a major renewal of the faith and practices of Christianity.

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## Empathy Project Featured on 100 Huntley Street

Rebecca B.

*God is the all holy One; the all powerful One is also the One full of mercy and compassion. He is not a neutral God inhabiting some inaccessible Mount Olympus. He is a God who cares about His children and cares enormously for the weak, the poor, the naked, the downtrodden, the despised. He takes their side not because they are good, since many of them are demonstrably not so. He takes their side because He is that kind of God, and they have no one else to champion them.*

- Desmond Tutu

On February 17, 2017, representatives from the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC), including the Presbyterian Church in Canada representative Rebecca B., appeared on the show *100 Huntley Street* in an interview about the CCJC's Empathy Project. The interview can be viewed online at the following URL: <http://www.standrewsottawa.ca/blog/the-empathy-project>



Since 2014 the CCJC has been working collaboratively with providers in a variety of institutional locations across Canada's prison system to deliver a victim-impact program to inmates. The idea of the curriculum is to cultivate and foster empathy and growth in inmates by helping them to consider the impacts of their offences on a range of victims, as well as on themselves, and to reflect on how forgiveness might be possible.

This began in 2014 with a small pilot project run by the CCJC in Collins Bay Institution. With its success, in 2016, CCJC brought our Empathy Project to 7 institutions and a total of 83 prisoners completed the program. The CCJC has now trained a total of 18 facilitators; including chaplains in federal institutions, provincial chaplains, staff from government and community agencies, and prison volunteers. All 7 institutions now have the capacity to continue to operate this program. The project continues to evolve and we continue to offer resources and support to those interested in running the program. There is a waiting list for the program.

Founded 44 years ago, the CCJC is an ecumenical organization composed of 9 member denominations.

The CCJC mission statement is: "To serve as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections." Our work is faith-based: our motivation compels us to provide opportunities for empathy with victims, and to nurture empathy in places and among people who society would rather not entertain, such as federal offenders. When we help offenders to recognize their own victimization, we enable them to develop empathy for victims and take responsibility for their actions. The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) is a national and bilingual voluntary organization incorporated in 1972 with by-laws and letters patent. We are a non-profit organization with charitable status.

As representatives of faith communities, we believe that together we can be a voice for healing justice. We affirm each person's dignity and worth through fairness, equity and trust. We believe in non-violent conflict resolution that is person centred. We believe we can help guide all communities responding to the effects of crime and thereby contribute to a healing process: naming the harm done, attending to the healing of all parties involved, encouraging social responsibility and developing and exploring resources for all communities.



**COMING THIS  
SUMMER FOR  
KIDS 4+**

**AUG 14-18**

*DO GOOD! SEEK  
PEACE AND GO  
AFTER IT! PSALMS  
34:14B*

**REGISTER ONLINE AT:  
WWW.STANDREWSOTTAWA.CA/SUMMERCAMP**

## The 3 C's – Who are we?

The Christian Communications Committee is your committee mandated to provide leadership in the design of communications strategies and practices to keep you the congregation and the community, well informed.

Our responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- To oversee the design, editing and functioning of the St. Andrew's website;
- To implement the congregation's web-based presentation of worship services;
- To assist the Minister, staff and committees in designing and implementing effective communications strategies;
- To oversee the production and editing of selected congregational publications;

- To assist in appropriate messaging and displays in the church outside the sanctuary;
- To ensure appropriate messaging and displays outside the church building;
- To encourage the community learning about St. Andrew's, including through their visiting the church and greeting them when they do;
- To facilitate the dissemination of information from the national church and its agencies;
- To co-operate with the Temporal and the Worship and Music Committees in the purchase and functioning of effective audio and video equipment in the sanctuary.

2016 was a successful year for our committee. We received an expanded role by changing from a Christian Ministry to a Committee status. Along with that restructuring, our membership has also expanded.

Project wise, we purchased and installed a signage TV in Fergus Grant Hall for displaying announcements during church hours. The signage is a success to the extent that an additional one has been purchased and is pending installation in the North Narthex area.

Other projects include preliminary research for an electronic display outside the sanctuary. This is a big project which will involve partnering with other committees.

The broadcast initiative is going well. Enhancements are still required. We are planning to purchase a high-resolution camera to give our audience a better view.

Facilitating communication channels as well as placing advertisements in various media for church events and special occasions.

The website remains our single most important repository for information about our church. Updates are therefore continuously being made. We are also continually looking for volunteer helpers.

Another form of communication that has a large audience is the St. Andrew's in Action quarterly newsletter. Over the past year, the newsletter has taken a new, better face, thanks to Katherine B. If you have any feedback (what you'd like to see more of, or less of) please let us know ([standrewsinaction@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsinaction@gmail.com)) so we can continue to make this newsletter something that serves the community. Articles and photos can be submitted any time by email.

We are also responsible for overseeing the Summer Open Doors. Many initiatives are currently being ironed out to make this program a success. Luc D. has graciously offered to assist organizing the summer open doors program next season, which up until now has been wonderfully run by Sheila U.

We are a committee looking for your help. Volunteering on a committee can provide you with the opportunity to learn new skills (always great for building your resume!). Maybe you'd like to gain more web site experience, or maybe you want to improve your writing by helping out with editing and marketing copy. Perhaps you are a whiz with online video streaming. Or maybe you just want to meet new members of the congregation and find a way to give back to your church. Our committee meets only once or twice a year in-person, so it is perfect for busy schedules (we are a committee who works collaboratively online). If you would like to be a part of this wonderful work, please do not hesitate to speak with Maureen R., Paul M., Farid A., Vladimir C., Heather P. or Katherine B. We'd love to have you join us!

*The Adult and Children's Choir sang together during worship January 29.*



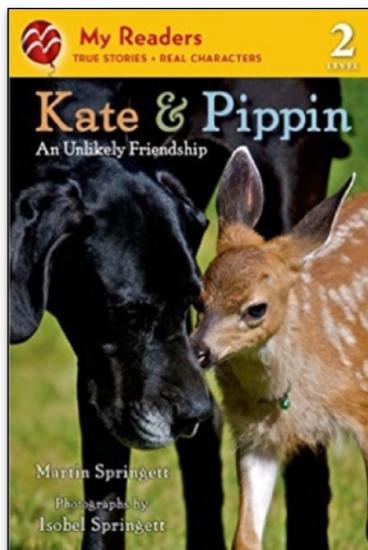
## White Gift Sunday

*Jeanie H.*

For the past number of years, St. Andrew's has extended the Christmas spirit by giving to community schools. In December, St. Andreans place their books wrapped in white paper into baskets for the school. Each school provides a 'wish list' of books for their library and the books are delivered by elves from St. Andrew's. In the past, books have been delivered to Centennial School, Cambridge School, W. E. Gowling School and Connaught School.



For the second year, St. Andrew's supported Queen Mary Street Public School on White Gift Sunday. In January, we delivered all the mittens, scarves and toques that had been placed under the Mitten Tree in December.



On Sunday, February 5, Principal Cindy Beauchamp and Librarian, Petra A., attended the second service and spoke to the congregation about their school and thanked St. Andrew's for supporting them through the White Gift Sunday. Cindy spoke about the intricate process of choosing the perfect mitten from the St. Andrew's Mitten Tree! She also spoke about the many ways that St. Andrew's and the Women's Guild have supported the school: "Our school community continues to have needs that many other schools don't have to worry about as much." After the children's time in the sanctuary, they joined in the church school opening assembly where Petra read the book, *Kate and Pippin: An Unlikely Friendship*, which tells the story of a friendship between an orphaned fawn and a Great Dane.

We look forward to visiting Queen Mary Street School this month for the exciting 'unwrapping party'. Check for photos!

## Amkhut Partnership

*Aisling B.*

St. Andrew's children who participated in November's "Mission Possible" and Kids' Church created Christmas cards which were mailed to our partner church in Amkhut. Mail to that region always takes longer than one recalls, so the congregation at First Church finally received our greetings January 8.

Our brothers and sisters in India celebrated during Advent and Christmas with great joy. During the week between Christmas and New Year's they even had a full day cricket competition. Then on December 31 they had midnight worship to ring in the New Year.

At the time of writing, the congregation in Amkhut is busily preparing for their annual 5-day convention, taking place February 15–19, when they host upwards of 1,000 people for a spiritual retreat. Earlier in the month as part of the preparations, youth from various churches in the region travelled to Amkhut to clean and tidy the sleeping and dining areas.

This year's convention theme comes from Isaiah 61:10: "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God." The guest preacher is from Nagpur, Maharashtra and the praise and worship leader is from Punjab. We are always enthusiastically and warmly invited to this annual event by the congregation.



On a final note, those of you who have had the opportunity to see the movie *Lion*, which tells the story of Saroo Brierley who rediscovers his Indian birthplace by using Google maps, may be interested to know that Saroo's birthplace is about 280 km from Amkhut, so the scenes from that area are a good indication of what Amkhut is like. (Dev Patel has received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Saroo, and Nicole Kidman a nomination for her portrayal of his adoptive mother.)

## Christine's Reflections

*Christine Ball, Interim Director of Christian Education*

My time at St. Andrew's has passed so quickly. It has been a real joy to join you in ministry for a short while. I have learned a lot during my

time with you and I will take with me many wonderful memories.

I will remember St. Andrew's as a congregation who strives for excellence in worship.

I will remember the commitment of St. Andrew's to mission and service in the community and around the world.

I will remember the joy of singing hymns accompanied by organ and choir.

I will remember the church school – the “words to remember” and many new ways of saying welcome.

I will remember the smiles and hugs of children. I will miss all of you dearly. I will even miss the ones who so gleefully point out that they have grown taller than me in the 18 months I have been with you.

I will remember the fun of VBS and the music and dancing. I even find myself singing the songs.

I will remember the crazy humour and laughter of youth class and of course the skills of making homemade pizza and chocolate!

I will remember retreating together in the beautiful setting of Gracefield.

I will remember the many people who volunteered: teachers, committee members and those who shared the gift of hospitality. Your service is incredible and so very necessary for the ministry of St. Andrew's.

Most of all, I will remember the camaraderie of being a part of such a wonderful ministry team.

Thank you for welcoming me into your midst.

I promise I will never forget!

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## Kids' Church and Mission Possible Kids

In January, Kids' Church heard the story of Jesus as a child. It is hard to imagine Jesus was a little boy who had many of the same experiences as children do today. He laughed, played, worked, and shared with his friends. The Bible says that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. The children made a growth chart to take home as a reminder that they are growing in height and in faith.

Mission Possible Kids undertake a new mission assignment each month. Past missions have included collecting and sharing Halloween treats with

seniors, making Christmas cards for our partner church in Amkhuk, India. This past month the children collected used clothing to help those less fortunate and to help the environment by re-using and not throwing the old clothes away. Each month we celebrate missions accomplished and welcome new agents who wish to make the world a better place. After working on our mission, the families join the Kids' Church families for a pot luck meal.



## Youth

On January 22 families were invited to join the youth class for lunch. Together we reflected on the experience of the youth and the various activities they are currently involved in at St. Andrew's. There are many ways to be involved: church school, worship, intergenerational worship and events such as

Shrove Tuesday, Maundy Thursday, Advent family event, pageant, reading the psalms, volunteering in church school, VBS and at the bazaar, choir, confirmation, LIT at Gracefield, Canada Youth, Presbytery youth events, devotion materials for home, mission opportunities, fellowship activities such as pizza and movie night and the chocolate making workshop. ...the list can go on and on.

*The question is:*

*Why do we as a congregation think it is important to include and support youth?*

Our purpose cannot be solely to entertain, protect or keep the youth in the church. The real goals are to support the youth as they grow in faith. We want to share the joy and life we receive in our relationship with God. We want them:

- To know that we are created by God and belong to God forever.
- To know that they belong to the community of faith
- To know that faith itself is a gift
- To become familiar with the Bible as a means to knowing God
- To trust that the Holy Spirit gave us what we need

*We invite you into the continuing conversation about Youth Ministry.*

*How will you be a part of this important ministry?*



*Chocolate Making  
Workshop,  
December 11, 2016*



*Thank you Alyssa and Sarah  
for cleaning up the craft  
cupboard!*

I'm a  
VBS HERO!

**AUGUST 14-18**  
**REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
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