

# Fire From The Bush



**St. Andrew's**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

865 2nd Avenue West, Owen Sound • 519.376.7886 • [www.standrewsowensound.org](http://www.standrewsowensound.org)

BECOMING WHOLE IN JESUS CHRIST

August 2016

## Minister's Message

*"The man on the rock had pitched five outs in the losing game, and had given up two runs on a single. But he'd inherited loaded bases. The story of his life. The story of all our lives."*

— David James Duncan, **The Brothers K**

I've always liked baseball. I even made it to one of the Jays World Series games back in 1992. I was a really good hitter in elementary school, but I think that's just because I was bigger than everyone else. I know – hard to imagine now... A few years back I played a couple of summers of recreational softball. They put me mostly on second base. I think that was because I wasn't a good enough catcher for first base, a good enough thrower for third base, I couldn't throw from first to third and I most certainly couldn't throw the ball into the infield from the outfield. But despite my lack of skill or experience, it was still lots of fun.

Baseball isn't a particularly fast game. There is a lot of standing around waiting: waiting for the batter to get ready (in between each and every pitch), waiting for the catcher and the pitcher to communicate in their odd series of gestures, waiting. But it has its moments of intrigue and excitement. Like when a runner slides into a base and just makes it by a hair. Or when someone hits a pop fly and everyone holds their breath wondering if the outfielder will catch it or not. Or, when the bases are loaded and there are already two outs and a fresh batter comes up to the plate. And then the crowd goes absolutely wild as the batter hits a home run and everyone struts around the bases to home plate, waving at the crowd, taking it all in.

It might be a bit of an awkward analogy, but I think there is something about baseball and the Gospel that's worth talking about. When it comes to thinking about our relationship with God and who we are as God's mission partners in the world, we have all inherited loaded bases in some sense. God has done the hard work of getting us here: to a place of anticipation and excitement about what could happen next. The next step is full of possibilities and potential. Everything is set and ready to go. All we need is that final push to bring it all 'home'. And home could be any number of things – for us personally and for the church. It could be becoming part of a new ministry initiative within our community. It could be finding a place of belonging and inviting others to share in it. It could be extending the love of God to yet unseen places. It could be discovering the unfailing and unconditional love of God in Christ in our own lives.

We have inherited loaded bases, and we have the privilege of stepping up to the plate and trying to do something with them. But in a more profound sense, and I think in a much more important sense, it isn't our feet that step up to that plate to finish the game. It's Jesus who steps up hits it out of the park. That's when the crowd goes wild and that's when we all get moving. We get moving into whatever or wherever that 'home' is for us personally and as a church.

But too often the church in North America experiences any number of challenges with respect to getting in on this pretty exciting thing that God is doing in the world. One of the challenges we face is that the church often just stands

## Busch-Leflar Bursary Applications

Please note that the Busch-Leflar Bursary Applications are due September 6, 2016. This bursary is open to any member or adherent of St. Andrew's who is pursuing a post secondary education. For more information or to pick up an application form, please contact the church office.

→ DON'T  
FORGET!

around on the bases waiting for something to happen – waiting for the batter to make a move. But Jesus has already hit a home run, he has made ministry and mission and relationship with God and love and justice in the world all possible, and he has run off around the bases making it all happen, and we stand around and watch him run by, cheering him on, but not finding ourselves part of the game anymore.

Another challenge we face is understanding what ‘home’ is. Much of popular Christianity has filled our heads with those horribly un-gospel like words, *this world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through*”. We have bought into the idea that our lives here really don’t count for much because what really matters is what happens when we ‘go home’ to be with God in heaven. There is absolutely no basis for this in scripture. What scripture does teach us is that God is making all things new: the new heaven and the new earth. And in Jesus Christ, we are a part of that new creation – the new creation of God’s Kingdom (2 Cor 5:17; Rev 21:5). That’s *home*. The kingdom of God is home. And that kingdom has come near to us in Jesus Christ, who is still present with and among us here and now by his Spirit (Matt 12:28, Mark 1:15). Yes, things will look different when that new creation is finished and the new heaven and the new earth are complete. But we have a taste of that here and now as we look to what Jesus reveals to us about God’s kingdom reign.

The reality that we have all inherited in Christ Jesus is that God is reconciling the world to himself in Jesus (2 Cor 5:19). Because God has reconciled us to himself in Jesus, there is nothing to hold us back from being co-workers with God as he continues this work throughout the world (1 Cor 3:9), sharing his love and his justice and his faith with our neighbours, our families, and the world. This is the reality we inherit, and this is the opportunity that God presents us with each and every day: the opportunity to bring it home.

Jesus is running up ahead, and by his Spirit working in the church, he is continuing the work that he started while he was here on earth: healing the sick, tending the lame, befriending the outcast, challenging the status quo, working for justice, laughing and mourning with friends and family, building communities of trust and relationships, proclaiming the nearness of God’s reign, teaching God’s ways and pouring out God’s love on the world. Let’s strut those bases, shout out to the crowds, and get in on the action as we run after Jesus. Let’s ask ourselves what exciting adventure is Jesus taking us on next? What ministry opportunity has he loaded up the bases for and is just waiting for us to run with him? As we move into a new season of ministry, mission, teaching, preaching, prayer, community, and fellowship together, let us be moved by God’s Spirit to consider that what ‘home’ God is making among us and in our community?

Together with you in Christ’s service,  
Rev. Dana Benson



The WMS Fall Rally will be held on **September 15th at Tolmie Presbyterian Church in Port Elgin**.

The guest speakers will be Rev. Randy Benson and Rev. Theresa MacDonald-Lee.

Registration and refreshments begin at 9:30 am.

Lunch is provided for \$8.00.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Donna Cain at 519-832-2663 by September 9th.

## Fall Worship Themes and Special Dates

\*\*\*Weekly 9 am & 10:30 services resume on **Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**\*\*\*



### Special Sundays:

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Welcome Back Sunday

- Special Fellowship Time with TREATS between the services!
- Sunday School will be offered at both services for children JK – grade 5.

October 2, 2016 – Communion at 9 & 10:30am

### New Canadians Update



It's hard to believe that our new Canadian family of Hawa, Abdo, Ali, Hussen, and Halima have been part of our community now for 5 months already!

I hope that many of you have had an opportunity to see them out and about, going to school, or soccer, or around town shopping, etc.

The experience we've shared so far has been challenging at times as we struggle to understand why they do some of the things they do! And why they don't seem to learn to do some of what we're trying to teach them! But then we pause, and think about things from their perspective. What are these crazy white people trying to get us to do? And why? It doesn't make any sense!

They arrived in the cold of winter, utterly dependent on us to provide food, and shelter, warm clothes, and nurture, and with so much to learn about their new home and way of life. It's kind of like raising a collection of 5 children to a state of independence in the time span of 12 months. Something that takes most parents at least 25 years! And I dare say there isn't a parent around who hasn't experienced a few challenges and frustrations in raising a child.

However, there have been many blessings throughout these past 5 months in seeing the joy on the children's faces when they experience something great for the first time, when you hear the laughter between them, and with you as they demonstrate their sense of humour. There have been times when they have demonstrated overwhelming generosity in sharing their meals with us (from their meager supplies). And we have grown together as we learned about the gifts we have to offer in this service.

We have much more to learn, and to teach over the remaining months, so your prayerful support would be very much appreciated. Pray that God would grant us wisdom, and patience, grace and love (along with all the other fruits of the Spirit!) as we continue our efforts.

Thank you for your support so far from Doug and Nancy Umbach, Dana and Randy and William and Alice Benson, Jill Scott, Jenny and Hannah and Nic and Sam Meloche, Lesley Hallett, Gerry Langlois, Carol Hopper, Tena Van'tfoort, Gae Trinkwon, Nancy Robinson, Susan and Ken Avery, Sandra Barker, Craig Breen, Linda Breen, Debbie Doyle and Peg Archibald, Joe Rutter, Ann Fleming and Cliff Renfrew, Eric Busch, Jim Howitt, Shane Jolley, Margaret Brown, and Sandra Lee and Dick Hibma (and probably a few others that I've shamefully forgotten to include!)

## Session News

The following elders were elected & ordained on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

Dick Hibma  
Bruce Price  
David Kirkpatrick  
Pat Bell  
Mike Mervin



Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of Edith Wright, effective May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

The following elders completed their term of service in June, 2016:

Sandra Lee Hibma  
Jill Scott  
Peter van der Meer  
Kathleen Barker  
Doug Umbach  
Gladys Pennacchietti

We thank these individuals for their dedication and commitment of their time and talents in leading this congregation over their 6 year term.

### Here is our current Session:

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Rev. Dana Benson, Moderator     | Ken Robinson      |
| Ed Renaud, Clerk                | Elizabeth Lamont  |
| Dee Renaud, Recording Secretary | Dick Hibma        |
| Mary Louise Cameron             | Bruce Price       |
| Ruth Barwell                    | David Kirkpatrick |
| Carol Hopper                    | Pat Bell          |
| Mike Mervin                     |                   |

The Men's Work crew worked diligently in May enclosing the ladders and the stacking chairs at the rear of the CE Hall. A screen was also purchased for the front area to enclose the music stands, digital piano and stools. Many thanks to Bill Davis, Ed Renaud, Ken Robinson and Brian Lamont for all of their hard work in completing this project. Owen Sound Glass has installed the automatic doors (1<sup>st</sup> Ave and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave entrance) and a Memorial plaque has been placed in each vestibule:

2016 Automated Door installation  
Anne Nash Estate

Lesley Hallett has been filling in as Interim Music leader for the 10:30 worship services until the end of August while we continue to search for a permanent Sanctuary Music Director.

# Become Involved.....



## Harvest Happening



Here it is mid summer with sun aplenty to relax in and enjoy, to watch your garden grow magnificently and to think of HH 2016. Have you been able to make some extra jars of jam or pickles for our Preserves table? How about those beautiful flowers that you might dry and make into an arrangement? Or are you organizing yourself and your time for the knitting and sewing you would like to do? Please do what you can as it truly does make a big difference to the success that we always hope for from HH.

Have you given some thought to joining the ranks of the super volunteers who make this event such a success? If you would like to help us out please let Nancy know or give me a call . Diane 372-0599 You will really have a terrific time.

Hope to see all of you soon.  
Diane Lewis-Abernethy



## Small Groups

As I submit this the Small Group that has been meeting in the first half of this year is looking forward to a potluck gathering next week (early August) at Ann Fahrun's house to enjoy each other's company, and food, and to view the last session of the study that we followed. You see, we are very accommodating about people's schedules.

On behalf of the group I would suggest we find these studies and fellowship time together to be spiritually enlightening, mentally engaging, and excellent at deepening relationships.

If this sounds appealing to you then get in touch with Ruth Barwell, Craig Breen, David Kirkpatrick or Dick Hibma. Once everyone gets settled into routines in September we'd love to get started up again with one or more groups.



## Help.....We need your ideas!



We have volunteered to 'work' on 'the sanctuary'. It does need painting and carpeting but we also wonder if we do not need to make other changes. It would be very helpful if you could share with us some visionary ideas of what future worship might look like for you. It would be great if we can make changes NOW to accommodate our future.

Think on this and submit your ideas to the office with the priority needs for both the sanctuary and yourself as you worship in a meaningful way.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Debbie Doyle and Helen Menary

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
General Operating Funds  
July 2015

## *A New Group is Starting....*

*As your Congregational Care Nurse, it has been a busy year already with advocacy and “Companionship through Grief” being the main tasks.*

*There are presently 2 Good Grief Groups in session. GGG #1 has been meeting since October 2014 and GGG#2 since March of 2016. In total we have had 36 precious people join us on the way.*

*We are going to start another Group in September for those who are caring for someone in a declining state of health (oops that is all of us) and need some support in answers and walking the journey with them. If you recall that was the main principle of Stephen Ministry. We plan to keep it simple and find answers for your many questions.*

*For example:*

- *When is it time to think of a nursing home?*
- *When and where do I get some extra help?*
- *Have you talked over funeral plans while they can decide?*
- *Are you able to plan out the plot location and picture yourself talking or yelling to it when they are gone?*
- *Do you know the costs involved? What does cremation cost vrs. Burial?*
- *Why is it so hard to say the word death?*
- ***Do you know how to say.... Honey I will miss you??***

*These are the real questions that you think of at night but are often afraid to ask. Now is the time to talk them over. You may even end up laughing as you discuss many of these topics. So often the answers come from someone who has lived it and can see the tenderness of the reply.*

### ***COME AND SHARE AND LEARN AND TEACH.***

***Where ? Chapel at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Owen Sound***

***When? Every Thursday pm 2 – 4 pm Starting September 8 2016***

***Learn, Laugh and Love with fellow journeyers!!***

***Banish fear with good planning and great faith.***

***I think we will call it “THE NO FEAR GROUP.” Every one is welcome and bring a friend.***

***Wings on !!!!***

***Bev Wilkins WIP, R.N., N.D.***



# Fall 2016 - What's New for Sunday School

## Offered with BOTH Services

When our Faith Family returns to 9 a.m. and a 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Services on Sunday, September 4th, Sunday School/ Worship for Children will be available for children who attend either or both services.

### Bibles for Grade 4 age students.

According to custom, this year students of our Sunday School born in 2007 will be presented with a Bible during a Worship Service in September. Six of our kids will be encouraged in daily Bible reading with a copy of the Spark Bible (NRSV).

### Curriculum

At Easter 2015, Heather Reid and Pat Bell began using a curriculum called Children and Worship. If you have been upstairs to the Sunday School room directly behind the Sanctuary you will have seen the shelves containing wooden models used to present various Bible Stories in class. Members of our congregation and another church donated all those materials on the shelves.

Recently the church purchased three new story sets that are difficult to make at home. If you visit the Children's Worship Center now you will also see:

### Noah's Ark.

An Old Testament Temple with it's artifacts; Ark of The Covenant, Table of Shewbread and twelve loaves of unleavened bread, Menorah, Laver, Altar of Burnt Offering, Altar of Incense, tent coverings and a linen fence.

A model of Mount Sinai and materials to show and tell "The Ten Best Ways to Live". a presentation of the Ten Commandments.

We will use the new story sets this fall.

### ***This is your invitation....***

Children of all ages are invited to Sunday School. The Bulletin announcement usually states Sunday School is for children up to Grade 4 because we accommodate preschool and older children in one group. The themes and lessons are designed to encourage faith formation for anyone.



# Did you know?

## Fluoride Research

Dr. A. K. Susheela from New Delhi, India is an internationally known Fluoride Researcher. She will be speaking at St. Andrew's on Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. She is an authority on sources of fluoride and its effects on the whole body. Chronic Fluoride Toxicity and Skeleton Fluorosis are now recognized as serious health concerns for all ages from infants to seniors and is of especial concern in Owen Sound.

This is a free event. Invite your friends and neighbours

## News from The Pantry

Here we are at September again. This adds new items needed for the Pantry – school snacks. They must be peanut free and nutritious. Along with these snacks, we're always looking for peanut butter, chunky-style soup, juice, cereal and bread.

Any and all items are gratefully received.

Jennie MacKenzie

## Have you seen the bed mat?

Draped over a chair, under the coat rack, across from the Reception Desk of the office you may have noticed an adult sized woven bed mat made from recycled plastic milk bags.

In the past year more than 3000 of the outside plastic bags that come when you buy 4 liters of milk were collected, flattened, packed and sent to a woman who made that mat. A Mennonite charity distributes the mats made from milk bags we collect here in Owen Sound.

Bed mats are a wonderful example of very good things that grow from the efforts of many. Thanks for your donations of milk bags and help with packing. Keep the bags coming.....

## Choir Members

Autumn will soon be upon us and with that the return to our fall activities. St. Andrew's choir will begin our fall choir practices on September 8 at 7:15 p.m. As we await a decision to be made about our choir director, we will continue to provide music at the 10:30 service. If you are interested in joining our group we would be

more than happy to have you come out to our first rehearsal. No experience is necessary. Please contact Laurie James if you are interested.



## In Remembrance

The following people associated with St. Andrew's have passed away since the last Fire From the Bush :

- Gordon Rendell
- Cal Breen
- Rex Harrison
- Peg Atton
- Gordon Jackson



**Library**

**Library**

# If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat : A Six-Session Journey on Learning to Trust God

You're one step away from the adventure of your life!

In this six-session small group Bible study by John Ortberg, you'll learn how to move beyond fear to discover God's unique calling for your life!

Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus' invitation to walk on water is for all of us. But walk on water? What does that mean?

Walking on water means:

- Facing our fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word
- Discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on our lives
- Experiencing the power of God to accomplish what we would not be capable of doing on our own

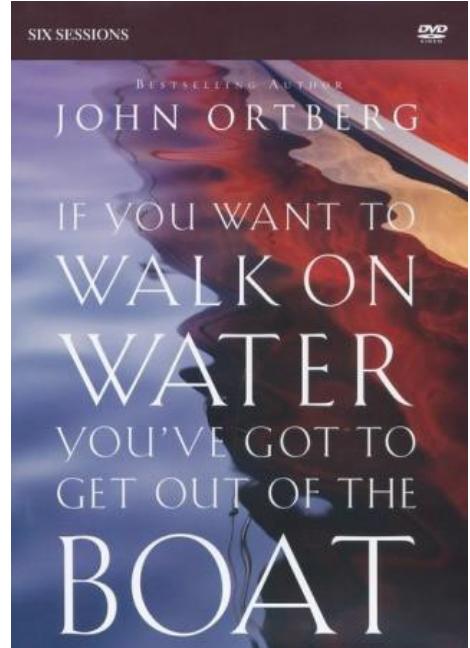
**If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat** helps you and your group answer Christ's call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing Him. Relating the story in Matthew 14 to life today, teacher and bestselling author John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zones. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God.

What dormant gifts and dreams does God want to revive? What new visions does He want to kindle? What practical acts of obedience does He want to challenge you with? Discover the possibilities! Get to know Jesus as only a water walker can, aligning yourselves with God's purposes for your lives. There's just one requirement: **if you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat.**

Using testimonial interviews to illustrate his talks, Ortberg teaches participants the skills essential for "water-walking" in faith with God.

The six small-group sessions on DVD include video clips and group discussions:

- **Session 1, What's Water-Walking?** through the story of Peter walking on water, you will discover how you too can get out of the boat to experience the power of Jesus.
- **Session 2, The Tragedy of the Unopened Gift,** focuses on using your God-given gifts for his glory.
- **Session 3, Find Your Calling and Get Your Feet Wet,** helps you discern God's calling on your life and how you can know whether you are on a mission from God or have simply made a foolish decision.
- **Session 4, Facing Our Challenges, Conquering Our Fears,** learn how to have resilience in



- the face of trauma and trials and how to deal with the unexpected.
- **Session 5**, *Good News for Cave Dwellers*, focuses on what happens when you fail and turn to withdrawing after loss.
- **Session 6**, *Learning to Wait on Our Big God*, discuss what happens when you have to wait on the Lord and discover more fully how big God is in your life.

The participant's guide is filled with insights, questions for discussion, and applications that will help you connect a new way of thinking to actual deeds and a different approach to life.

***Discover the voice of Jesus calling you out of your safe boat and into the risky waters of faith for the adventure of your life.***

### **Author Bio**

John Ortberg is a teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. John's teaching centers around how faith in Christ can impact our everyday lives with God. He is author of the best-selling *Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them*, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, *Love Beyond Reason*, and most recently, *All The Places To Go*. John teaches around the world at conferences and churches, writes articles for *Christianity Today* and *Leadership Journal*.

(taken from John's website & the cover of the kit)

When: beginning Wednesday September, 14th to Nov. 2nd (no study on Sept. 28th)

Where: Judy Young Room

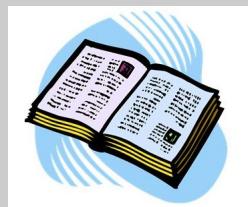
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Who: Everyone is welcome!

Please contact Ed or Dee Renaud OR the church office as soon as possible, so that we know how many will be coming and how many studies we will need.

### **Monday Morning Ladies Bible Study**

*The Monday Morning Ladies Bible Study will begin again on September 12th at 9:30 am in the Judy Young room. We will be continuing our study of the Minor Prophets. We always begin with coffee and conversation and a time of prayer. New people are always welcome. For more information, contact Pat Edwards at 519-376-0451.*



# Mark your calendar



**October 1, 2016  
8 - 12**

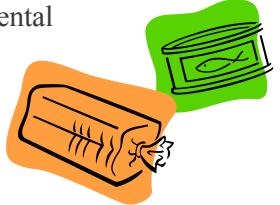
Clean out your closets, garages, storage rooms and donate your “never to be used again” articles to St. Andrew’s Sale. Items can be dropped off at the church during the week of the sale.

### **Needed:**

Someone to co-ordinate the sale this time. This is a small, one time commitment. Most details are already in place but remaining would be: putting out the signs on 10<sup>th</sup> street early Saturday morning, arranging with the church’s treasurer for a float, arranging with Value Village for acceptance of unsold articles and making sure leftovers go to the dump that day.

## Tuesday Morning Sandwich Makers

Our group of 8 are still making 8 loaves of sandwiches for Union Place (Canadian Mental Health drop-in brunch program). Our most needed items are bread and canned meat. We thank you for your donations.



## Prayer Chain

The Prayer chain takes requests for extra support during difficult times. If you have prayer requests you may phone these people who are on the prayer chain:

- Pat Edwards 376-0451,
- Sandra Barker 371-7552,
- Dee Renaud 519-422-2616 or email her at deerenaud25@gmail.com
- or the church office 376-7886.

This group of people will pray for you or someone you know. These are kept confidential.

Individuals who would like to join this prayer ministry are always needed



## **Fourth Friday Come join us!**

**Who?** Fun-Loving Seniors (55 +)

**Where?** St. Andrew's

**When?** The 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month for a couple of hours , starting in September

**Why?** To be served a delicious luncheon at 12 noon, costing \$10.00

**Entertainment by:** a musical group or a travelogue or an interesting, informative subject.

Entertainment this year will be:

**September 25:** Sweet Adeline

Quartet

**October 30:** Azores, Bruce Price

**November 27:** Food Bank Alice Wannan

**January 22:** Humour, Jim Merriam

**February 26:** India, Wayne Richardson

**March 18:** Rail Museum, John Ballard

**April 22:** Magnetic Field, Bev Wilkins

**May 27:** Grey Bruce waterfalls

**June 24:** Music with Bryan and friends

### **Give us a try!**

For more information contact Liz 519-276-6525

