

Fire From The Bush



St. Andrew's

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 865 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound • 519.376.7886 • www.standrewsowensound.org

BECOMING WHOLE IN JESUS CHRIST

February 2016

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Minister's Message

In the traditions of the church, the season of Lent has been observed as a time of penitence, fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. It is about returning to the desert where Jesus spent forty days preparing for ministry. It is a time of opportunity: to reflect on how we travel the road to the cross with Jesus. It is a time of challenge: to consider whether our own complacency of the cross has rendered our discipleship inert. It is a time of joy: to emerge out of the darkness of sin's winter as a repentant and empowered people.

As I consider the first steps of this Lenten journey, I am reminded of one of John the Baptist's first words – "repent". He didn't preach a word of morality or piety. He preached a word of death and transformation, through the waters of baptism. "Like the prophets of old, John's word strikes abrasively against the easy certainties of the religious Establishment. He will let us take no comfort in our rites, tradition, or ancestry. Everybody must submit to be made over. Everybody must descend into the waters." As William Willimon discusses the event of Jesus' baptism, he links baptism and cross together as the beginning and ending of the same road – the road that we are all called to travel on as we follow our Lord.

He says, "That day at the Jordan, knee deep in cold water, with old John drenching him, the Anointed One began his journey down the *via crucis* [way of the cross]. His baptism intimated where he would finally end. His whole life was caught up in this single sign. Our baptism does the same."

And along that road from baptism to cross, we find that we must be transformed, we must repent, turn around, walking in *his* di-

rection if we are going to be true followers of Jesus. It is true that Jesus accepts us just as we are, but he doesn't expect us to stay that way! "The needs of the world are too great, the suffering and pain too extensive, the lures of the world too seductive for us to begin to change the world unless we are changed... The status quo is too alluring. It is the air we breathe, the food we eat, the six-thirty news, our institutions, theologies, and politics. The only way we shall break its hold on us is to be transferred to another dominion, to be cut loose from our old certainties, to be thrust under the flood and then pulled forth fresh and newborn. Baptism takes us there."

Throughout this season of Lent, I would invite you to consider your baptism, and the road that it got you started on. Consider the transformation along the way – you aren't the same person now, the same disciple now, as you were when you started. Consider the moments along the way where you have felt the flood wash over you and when you have been pulled out fresh and newborn. Consider the moments of cross bearing along the way. As we anticipate cross and resurrection let us begin with the repentance: death and transformation of baptism. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Dana Benson

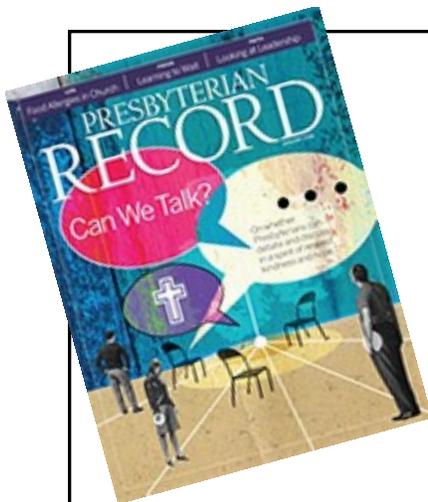
** Quotations are taken from *Repent* by William Willimon, in *Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter*. Orbis Books, New York. 2012. pp.7-10.

Over the past several years, there has been renewed conversation and question around human sexuality, sexual orientation, and the church. This subject was a significant focus of the 2015 General Assembly, the PCC's highest court. As a result of this focus, the church has asked congregations, sessions, and presbyteries to think carefully, talk together, and prayerfully consider this subject. To aid that process, a study guide has been developed for congregations, sessions and presbyteries to use:

***Body, Mind, and Soul:
Thinking together about human sexuality and sexual orientation
in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.***

The session of St. Andrew's will be working through the study guide in March, but the wider congregation is also invited to give this topic careful consideration. Through study, and with your input, we hope to offer a response to the PCC, for inclusion in the next steps of this process. A copy of the study guide is available on the PCC website: www.presbyterian.ca - right on the front page. Printed copies can be made available upon request in the office. Through open and honest conversation, we hope to "better understand the Word of God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, and discern together the Holy Spirit working in our midst".

Adapted from the Introduction to Body, Mind, and Soul.



Presbyterian Record

***Time to order your subscription to the
Presbyterian Record!***

The Presbyterian Record is a monthly magazine from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Each magazine includes articles written by the editor, the moderator, news from the community, the world, mission, plus book reviews, photos etc. Cost for a yearly subscription is \$38.36.

Please make your cheque payable to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. You may bring it into the church office or leave it on the offering plate. Subscriptions are due April 3rd.

Church Finances

The budget for 2016 was approved at the Annual Meeting on February 7, 2016, with one change. The funds designated for an organist were increased from \$18,250 to \$24,250. For complete details you can pick up a copy of the Annual Report at the main office.



Worship Services:

March 6th – Communion both services (9 & 10:30)
March 20th – Palm Sunday - 1 Service 10:30am with Palm Parade
March 25th - Good Friday service @ 10:30am
March 27th – Easter Sunday
 7:30am – Easter Sunrise Service at Inglis Falls
 8:00am – Easter Breakfast at the church
 10:30am – Easter Celebration Service – sanctuary



Living Faith Sermon Series:

Back in September we began our series on *Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief* (adopted by the PCC in 1984 as our central affirmation of the great truth that, “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.” So far we have looked at who the Triune God is as Creator, Ruler, Saviour, and Lord, and how the Holy Spirit shapes the community of faith into one that reflects the glory of God in the world. We have also spent some time thinking about how this glory-reflecting community welcomes the stranger and shows compassion. More recently we have briefly considered the role Scripture plays in our faith lives today, and how we can manage some of the doubts and questions we might have. See *Living Faith* sections 1-6.

As we move into Lent, we will be continuing our Living Faith series, we will be looking more broadly at how living “in” Christ (and He in us) moves us toward greater discipleship, greater love for God and one another, the pursuit of justice and peace, and increased hope for God’s Kingdom to come (*Living Faith* 8). If you haven’t already read through *Living Faith*, you can pick up a copy in the office!

Small Groups

The purpose of Small Groups is to encourage faith development in a small community of believers seeking a deeper relationship with God and with one another, growing in faith, in developing their gifts, and in seeking ways of service as disciples of Christ.

The Small Group has started up again on Sunday evenings with some additional members and we are sharing social time and video time and then breaking into two smaller groups, to facilitate full involvement in the discussions and to encourage growth in relationships and leadership opportunities.

We are using a book and video series titled Reframe, which aims to help us live out our faith in everyday life, encouraging us to encounter Jesus afresh, and allow His story to shape our lives.

We want to expand this practice of Small Groups here in St. Andrew's, so we invite you to consider if you might be interested in becoming involved. We can provide assistance in getting a group or groups started, and training can be provided to develop leaders for the groups. If you want to know more about Small Groups speak to Ruth Barwell, Dick or Sandra Lee Hibma, David Kirkpatrick, or Craig Breen. Then talk to your friends, or someone you might want to get to know better, about getting together. It might change your life.

Respectfully,
Dick Hibma



Mark your calendar

Simply Worship Concert

Praise and Worship Music

Saturday April 23, 2016

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

This is a Fundraiser for RAY Ministries

Cost: Donation



Fourth Friday Come join us!

Who? Fun-Loving Seniors (55 +)

Where? St. Andrew's

When? The 4th Friday of every month for a couple of hours

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 for the spring will be:

Jan. 22 Jim Merriam speaking on humor

Feb. 26 Wayne Richardson on India

Mar. 18 John Ballad on the Rail Museum

Apr. 22 Bev. Wilkenson Magnetic Field Therapy

May 27 Waterfalls

June 24 Bryan Barbour and music

Give us a try!

For more information contact Liz 519-376-6525



Saturday

30th

April

Remember St. Andrew's Rummage and Garage Sale when you are cleaning out your closets. Good, new-like clothing is especially needed. Jeans are always a big seller. Do you have extra garden tools? Bring them in. Other suggestions are sheets, dishes, toys, blouses, men's pants, children's clothing, baby clothes, spring jackets, etc. Bring your items in during the week. Please....NO suitcases

8:00 until noon in the CE Hall

Women's Missionary Society

The Bruce - Grey WMS Presbyterial will be held at St. Andrew's on April 7, 2016 from 9:30 to 3:30.

The theme is "*Renewing Our Soul*".

The guest speaker will be Lawrence Pentelow, Director of Crieff Hills. Lunch will be provided for \$8.00. If anyone is interested in attending please let Gerry Langlois know at 226-664-7455.



Parting the Sea Adventure Day

Thursday, March 17, 2016

9:00 to 4:00

Drop off begins at 8:30 am

**Sign up at the church office by March 13.
Cost is \$5.00 and includes lunch and snacks.
For grades JK to 6**



@ St. Andrew's

Church

Presbyterian

Sunday School at St. Andrew's

We continue to offer opportunities for children to worship in Sunday School at both the 9 am. Service and the 10:30 am. Service each week.

The dedication and creative efforts of the following teachers and helpers allow us to minister to children on Sunday mornings:

Penny Fenwick, Nancy Robinson, Heather Reid, Nathan Clare- Green, Brenda Neilson, Gae Trinkwon, Edie Wright and Karen Aspinall. Special thanks go to Laurie James who comes to lead the children in singing each week.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to these wonderful people who make Sunday School possible.

Please keep Sunday School in your prayers.

Pat Bell
Sunday School Co-ordinator





The Value of Books

Books can be:

- **building blocks in developing character**
- **friends to bring us companionship and inspiration**
- **teachers to instruct us**
- **gates through which we enter new adventures**
- **links with past generations**
- **bridges from one mind to another**
- **tools to help us with our tasks**
- **exercise for our minds**
- **food for our spirits**
- **missionaries to help us share the Gospel with others**

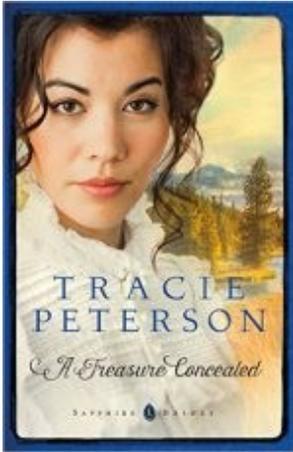
Books also:

- **provide wholesome and needed relaxation and recreation**
- **help us develop ideals and values, bringing lessons from the past, hopes for the future, and helps for living in the present**
- **give us understanding of other people and insight into our own needs as we learn how God has worked in other lives and what He can do in ours bring**

**“You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.”
(C.S. Lewis)**



Coming Soon!



Bestselling Author Tracie Peterson Launches Exciting New Series Set in 1890s Montana

A Treasure Concealed – Coming March 2016!

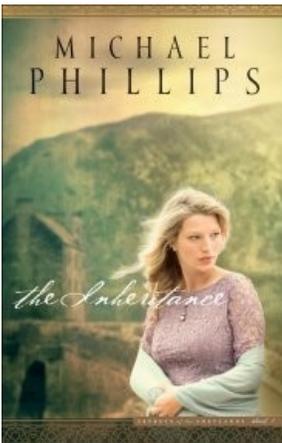
Book 1 in the *Sapphire Brides Series*

Emily Carver wants a home where she can put down roots instead of following her gold-hungry father from one mining camp to another. She also longs for tenderness and love, both of which are missing in her life. Yet when she realizes she's losing her heart to the intriguing new man in camp, she fiercely fights her feelings, afraid that love will only result in disappointment and heartache.

Caeden Thibault, a young geologist, comes to Montana to catalog minerals indigenous to the state. He's a serious and guarded young man trying to escape the pain of his past. He has avoided all romantic entanglements, fearing he might become like his abusive father. But something about Emily Carver has caught his attention, something he never expected. . . .

Will these two broken souls allow God to bring healing and hope to their hurting hearts?

(Publisher's description)



Dramatic New Series from Michael Phillips

The Inheritance – Coming April 2016!

Book 1 in the *Secrets of the Shetlands Series*

The death of the clan patriarch has thrown the tiny Shetland Islands community of Whale's Reef into turmoil. Everyone assumed MacGregor Tulloch's heir to be his grand-nephew David, a local favorite, but when it is discovered that MacGregor left no will, David's grasping cousin Hardy submits his own claim to the inheritance, an estate that controls most of the island's land. And while Hardy doesn't enjoy much popular support, he has the backing of a shadowy group of North Sea oil investors. The courts have frozen the estate's assets while the competing claims are investigated, leaving many of the residents in financial limbo. The future of the island--and its traditional way of life--hangs in the balance.

Loni Ford is enjoying her rising career in a large investment firm in Washington, DC. Yet in spite of her outward success, she is privately plagued by questions of identity. Orphaned as a young child, she was raised by her paternal grandparents, and while she loves them dearly, she feels completely detached from her roots. That is until a mysterious letter arrives from a Scottish solicitor. . . .

Past and present collide in master storyteller Phillips's dramatic new saga of loss and discovery, of grasping and grace, and of the dreams of men and women everywhere.

(Publisher's description)

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study Group

The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study Group meets on Wednesday afternoons in the Judy Young Room from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. We are a very informal group who likes to discuss the topics openly. Anything shared in our group is kept confidential. We use a study book and, if time permits, people will look at the chapter we are studying the week before. We have between 10 and 14 people attending our studies and anyone is welcome to join us! Information about each Bible study is announced well in advance in the church bulletin and also on our church website.

From January 6th to April 13th we are studying “End Times” with 2 weeks off at Easter.

Do you wonder about the "end times"?

When it will come?

What it will be like?

What will happen to you?

The 13 sessions include:

Part 1: Understanding the End Times

The Last Days are Here!

He Will Come Back

Signs of the Times

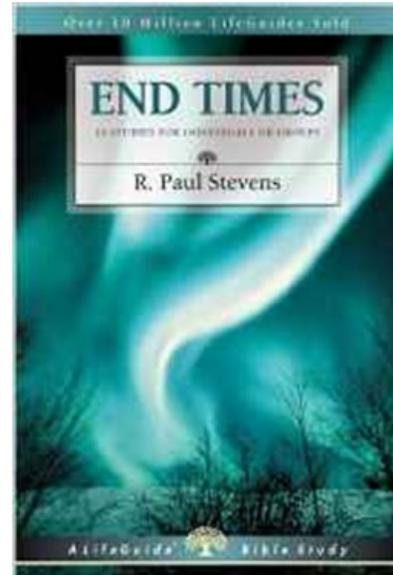
Grappling with Radical Evil

God's Timing – and Ours

The Future of the Human Person

The Beautiful Judgement of God

Imagining the New Heaven and the New Earth



Part 2: Living for the End

Waiting With Hope

Speeding the End

Making Forever Friends

Investing in Heaven

Going to the Lamb's Wedding

Harvest Happening 2016

Are you bored yet from the gray of winter? Or the incessant falling of snow? Maybe it's time to get out that sewing machine or knitting needles and start on your projects for Harvest Happening. We always love to see the results of your work during the winter.

Our needs for next year are fully lined bib aprons, hand towels for Kitchen Korner; knitting noted that novelty slippers, matching toques and mitts did really well. They do not need dish cloths.

If you can help with any of these it will be most appreciated.

Stay safe and warm!!

Diane Lewis



Christian Education Hall Renewal

What is needed to renew a church space?

Volunteers: Two individuals volunteered; Ken and Helen

Ideas: Had lots; painting, cleaning, hiding ladders, flooring

Price Quotes: Got 3 for painting, 1 for the floor, 1 for baffles, 1 for brick cleaning (each quote meant a meeting and sometimes 2)

Decorating Advice- Krista came twice

Money: Ken presented Session with information about the work to be done, complete with cost estimates and quotes.

With Session's approval, Ken requested funds from the Ann Nash estate that is to be utilized for "maintenance, repair, upgrading and enhancing of the physical building, equipment and grounds".



The cleaning of the brick, baffles and painting are complete at this time. The new flooring is to happen later in February.

We continue to research and ponder how to camouflage the ladders and chairs etc.

We are looking forward to the new look of our gathering/worship space.

Did You Know?

♦ ***Rides are available to church!***

If you do not have transportation to church, you can call Bayshore Taxi at **519-371-5555**, tell them you are going to church at St. Andrew's, and Bayshore taxi will bill the church for your ride.

♦ ***We have a Congregational Visiting Nurse!***

We have a congregational visiting nurse who is available for support, advice and tips for navigating the health care system and homecare. Please phone the church office and talk to Nancy if you would like to set up a visit or a phone call.

♦ ***St. Andrew's has a camper fund!***

The Fred Miller camper fund was set up to help children and young people looking to take part in a camp experience. Please contact the main office to find out how you can apply for a subsidy.

♦ ***St. Andrew's has a web site!***

Check it out at www.standrewsowensound.org

Our Refugee Family is due to arrive on February 25th!

This is when 'church' becomes meaningful - when a group of people seek ways to be the hands of Christ unto others out of no other motivation than to reflect how much God loves and blesses us every day!

To that end, we have an apartment rented and furnished for our family of 5, a mom, her 3 boys, and 1 girl. They are from Eritrea, but have spent years in a refugee camp in a neighbouring country. At the time of writing this report, it's like Advent, waiting with so much anticipation for the coming arrival. We know their names, and ages, and have just received notice as to when they will arrive. We are excited about the opportunity to meet them, to get to know them, and to help them start their lives over, here in our community.

At the same time we are anxious about the challenges we and they will face. The language barrier needs to be bridged, the cultural differences may prove challenging, and very few of us will ever be able to fully comprehend what their lives have been like to this point. But God's grace, and willing hearts and hands will prevail.

Our congregation and friends throughout the community have been generous in meeting our needs for financial support, and in furnishing the apartment. For that we are deeply grateful.

Our needs going forward will be in your time and support as we spend time accompanying the members of this family around the community, helping them to get settled, acquainted with the required services, accessing schools, health care, shopping, banking, English language lessons, and all the things we do as a matter of routine.

We invite you to consider how you might help out. Check the St. Andrews Owen Sound website, check in with Nancy at the Church office, or talk to Doug Umbach or Dick Hibma, Co-Chairs of the Refugee Committee.

In light of the magnitude of the refugee numbers across our troubled globe, our work is only beginning, and our joy in this work can only multiply!

In Thankfulness,
Doug Umbach and Dick Hibma



In Remembrance

The following people have passed away since the last edition of Fire From the Bush:

- ◆ Kay Scott
- ◆ Alton Cunningham
- ◆ Marjorie MacDonald
- ◆ Ted Kean
- ◆ Marion Henderson
- ◆ Myrle Norris



Tuesday Morning Sandwich Makers

Our group is 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.



Cuba 2016 World Day of Prayer

**"Receive Children
Receive me"**

**March 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm
St. George Anglican Church**



Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cuba