

Fire From The Bush



St. Andrew's

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

BECOMING WHOLE IN JESUS CHRIST

MAY 2016

Minister's Message

Over the last few months we have been exploring what it means to be church together – essentially what it means to be a vessel through which God works out his mission in the world. As I have reflected on this topic it has become more and more clear that there isn't just one way of participating in the *mission dei* (mission of God). It is more like a liquid than a solid, flowing in and around our lives together and then flowing out into the world around us.

We feel the gentle wave of the Spirit guiding us and giving us discernment, building us up as the body of Christ, and imparting to us the gifts we need to both grow as disciples and proclaim the good news to the world around us.

But like water, being church can sometimes be hard to get a hold of. Just when we think we have a handle on it, it drips

I [Paul] beg you [plural – the church] to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and God and Father of all, who is above all and in all.

through our fingers. I wonder if maybe that's not such a bad thing. Most of the time when we think we have a firm

He himself [Christ] is before all things and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 1:17-18

grasp on the answers, we end up clinging so tightly that we squish it or find that our grip has seized up and we can't let go. When we think we know how our music ought to be done, how our praise ought to sound, what words we must use in prayer, how we keep ourselves organized, where to invest our time and talents and treasure, we quickly find ourselves settling upon *the* answer. And then we find our life together is governed by *should's* and *ought's* rather than by the life-giving movement of God's Spirit among us – which is a spirit of transformation, of new life, of creativity, and of intimacy with God and with each other.

For this edition of Fire From the Bush I would like to offer some more "fluid" ways of considering what it means to be church. Please take some time to pray and reflect on the scriptures, poems, and songs printed here. You might even decide to keep a God-log as you consider how God might

"Grapes" by Ruth Burgess

You need the grapes to make the wine

the grapes to grow together on the same stem

drawing the same life-giving sap from the vine

tended by the same vinedresser but growing together touching

ripened by the same sun.

Together – in a bunch shielding each other

protecting each other supporting each other

yet each grape a complete unity

a whole fruit.

These are the grapes that make the wine

the joy

the celebration –

these grapes that grow together.



Busch-Leflar Bursary Applications

Please note that the Busch-Leflar Bursary Applications are due September 5, 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.

be working to deepen your faith and trust in him and his work with us – this local expression of the body of Christ in the world.

Rev. Dana Benson

Only because the message concerning Jesus Christ must still go forth and find believers, and because our task is not yet perfected, does God in His patience continue to sustain us with His good gifts.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

in



Snapshot of a Small Group

Our small group continues at St. Andrew's, meeting Sunday evenings, twice a month. We are working through a study titled Reframe: Connecting Faith and Life. The most recent session was so compelling that we went through it a second time! We've found that the study is indeed reframing how we look at our day to day living in the context of a deepening Christ-led life of disciplining.

We are also learning more about one another through our conversations and fellowship, as well as learning to care for and support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We encourage you to consider getting involved! If you're interested, speak to Dick or Sandra Hibma, David Kirkpatrick, Craig Breen, Ruth Barwell, or leave your name with Nancy Robinson at the church office.

WHAT DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 18 - 22, 24

9:00 - 12:00 noon (drop off beginning at 8:30)

**@ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Grades JK - Grade 6**

**Come for a week of fun mornings with stories,
songs, crafts, games and snacks.**

Register at the church office. 519-376-7886

Cost for the week: \$15.00



Summer Worship Schedule:

Worship Services:

Upcoming Communion: Our next communion service will be on Sunday June 5th, 2016 at both services. This service will be led by the Rev. Alex McCombie, as I will be away at the 142nd General Assembly in Toronto.

Summer Worship Services

Summer Worship Schedule: June 26^h – August 28th – 1 service @ 9:30am. “Style” will vary from week to week!

Our summer schedule this year will begin **Sunday June 19th** with our **CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC**. Following the worship service, there will be games, lunch (bring some sandwiches to share), and our congregation will be given an opportunity to meet our new Canadian family.

We will resume our regular 2 service schedule (9am & 10:30am) on September 4th, 2016.



Summer Sunday School

Children who attend Worship this summer will find a warm welcome at Sunday School in the Chapel. We meet to consider God's love for us and our response.



June 19th

Church Family Picnic - Fellowship Lunch

Worship in the C.E. Hall at 10:30 followed by a Fellowship Lunch, then games. Please bring a loaf of Sandwiches to share. Dessert and Beverages will be supplied. Come for the FUN!

We'd love to see you there- young or old!



Session News

Our new Creative Worship Coordinator, Erika Mills, started leading the Sundays @ 9 worship services on Sunday, March 6th.

Renovations were carried out in the CE Hall in February. The brick walls were power washed, the painting was completed and the acoustic panels were taken down, and cleaned. Floor repairs and the new floor were completed. The acoustic panels were put back up.

A memorial plaque reading:

2016
CE Hall
Renovation
Anne Nash Estate



was purchased and mounted in the CE Hall.

A search committee consisting of: Peter Middleton, John Brown, Dorothy Jellicoe, Kelly Danard, David Kirkpatrick, Mary Louise Cameron, Bryan Barbour, and Dana was struck to search for a Sanctuary Music Director for the 10:30 worship services.

Session has begun discussing the Body, Mind and Soul Guide on human sexuality and sexual orientation in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Another Session meeting is planned for May as well as an opportunity for members of the congregation to discuss the matter.

At our April meeting, Session voted to have alternate services @ 10:30 during the summer, beginning on June 26th to August 28th. A traditional service one Sunday in the sanctuary followed by a contemporary service in the CE Hall the following week.

The following individuals were elected to serve as Elders for a 6 year term; Pat Bell, Dick Hibma, David Kirkpatrick, Mike Mervyn and Bruce Price.

All of our church records – Session Minute Book, Baptismal Roll, the Communion Roll were attested by Presbytery in April.

Youth Missions Group

The **Youth Missions group** has been busy during the first four months of 2016. We have continued to visit and play games with the residents of Central Place every 2 months. We have continued watching and discussing a video series by Rob Bell. We are having lots of fun building our relationships with one another, eating, and exploring our relationship with God while serving in our community. We are planning a retreat at the Whitehouse cottage for a weekend in June. Our small but mighty group is always happy to welcome new members.



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.





Major Technological Breakthrough

Introducing the new Bio-Optic Organized Knowledge Device, Trade-Named BOOK.

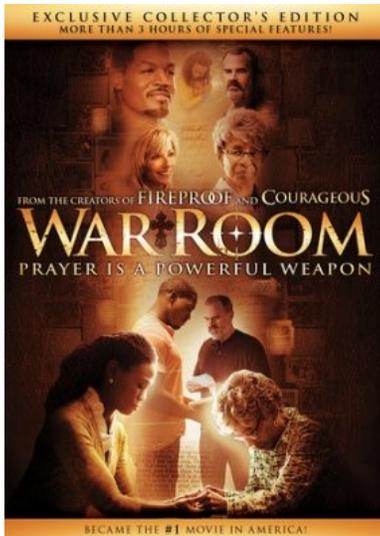
BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use, even a child can operate it. Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere – even sitting in an armchair by the fire – yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-Rom disc.

Here's how it works. BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper, called pages, each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder, which keeps them in their correct sequence. Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the pages, doubling the information density and cutting costs. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, BOOKs with more information simply use more pages. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next page.

BOOK may be taken up at any time and used merely by opening it. BOOK never crashes or requires rebooting, though, like other display devices, it can become unusable if dropped overboard. The “browse” feature allows you to move instantly to any page, and move forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an “index” feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval. An optional “BOOKmark” accessory allows you to open BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session – even if BOOK has been closed.

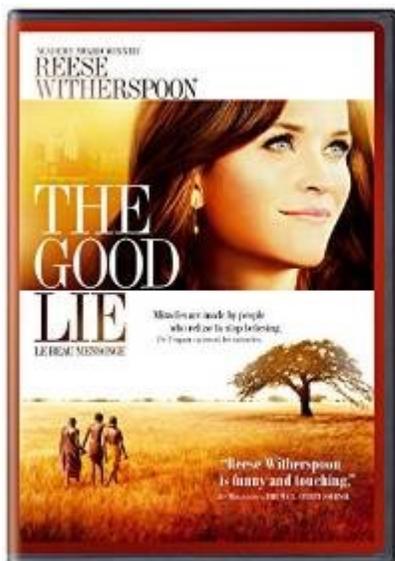
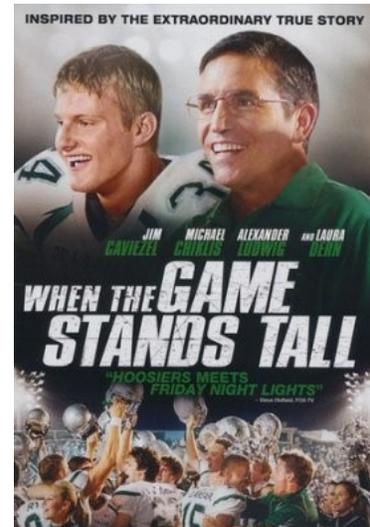
(This bit of humour received over the internet, author unknown)

Check out these newest DVDs in your church library:



Tony and Elizabeth have it all---good jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream home. But their marriage is crumbling, and Tony is flirting with temptation. When Elizabeth meets her new client, Miss Clara, she's challenged to establish a "war room" and a battle plan for prayer. What will happen if she steps out in faith?

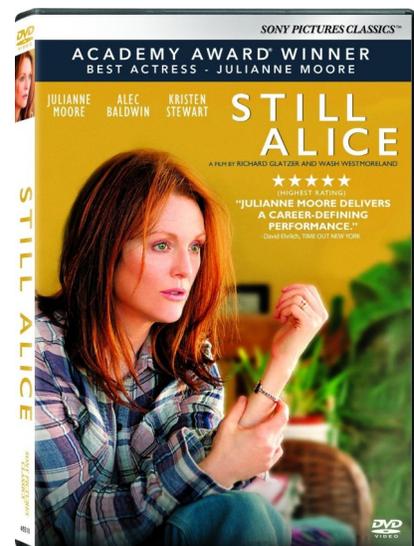
Inspired by a true story, *When the Game Stands Tall* tells the remarkable journey of legendary football coach Bob Ladouceur (Jim Caviezel), who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a 151 game winning streak that shattered all records for any American sport.



Academy Award-winner Reese Witherspoon joins an incredible ensemble cast of Sudanese actors in the film critics are calling "a deeply touching story about survival perseverance and hope."

In 1983, orphan of the civil war in Sudan, known as The Lost Boys, traveled nearly a thousand miles on foot, enduring unspeakable circumstances in search of refuge. Over a decade later, a humanitarian effort would bring thousands of these survivors to America. *The Good Lie* is the uplifting, true-to-life tale of our friends' journey from their devastated homeland to the foreign world that is modern America, and the people who help empower them to begin again.

Alice Howland, happily married with three grown children, is a renowned linguistics professor who starts to forget words. When she receives a diagnosis of Early-Onset Alzheimer's disease, Alice and her family find their bonds thoroughly tested. Her struggle stay connected to who she once was is frightening, heartbreaking, and inspiring.



Dee Renaud, Church librarian



New Canadian (Refugee Family) Update....

It has been almost three months now since "Our family" of New Canadians arrived from a refugee camp in Ethiopia where they had lived for almost 7 years. Life in Canada has been challenging, but we are all learning so much as we move ahead. Abdo and Ali , the two older boys, are attending OSCVI and currently enjoy being part of the school's soccer team. Hussen and Halima attend Bayview School and have just learned to ride bikes and are taking swimming lessons at the YMCA. Hawa, their mother, is able to attend ESL classes which are made available daily at the Alliance church.

We are blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers who have spent countless hours helping our family to navigate the ins and outs of life in Canada. From spending hours sorting through paperwork, walking the younger children to and from school daily, teaching the basic skills to maintain a home, taking the family shopping for groceries and all their essential needs, helping them to understand the school system, banking

system, the phones, internet, ensuring they are aware of basic safety precautions....the list is endless! Our group has tackled each challenge as it comes along; laughing when we don't quite get it right, celebrating the small triumphs each day and all the while thanking God that we are able to make a difference in this family's life.

Our New Canadians support group meets on Monday nights for anyone who is interested in helping our family. There is still much support needed and your time is welcome. New volunteers will be paired with a "veteran" in order to get to know the family.

Below you will hear from a few members of our team.

Jenny Meloche.....Spending time with the family is one of my favourite things to do. Whether we are grabbing some fresh produce for school lunches, playing at the park, swimming at the Y, walking along the harbour wall, doing laundry or cleaning the apartment, I have enjoyed every minute of getting to know each and every one of them. Halima and Hussen are budding artists. I love sharing in their excitement when they show me their latest piece of artwork. Halima especially can hardly contain her enthusiasm as she tells me detail by detail about her beautiful creations. The first piece she shared with me was a self portrait. We sat together on the couch and chatted about all of the wonderful colours she had included in her piece. Her smile is so contagious. Her fabulous portrait is framed and hanging in her bedroom. I look forward to watching her collection grow.



Nancy Robinson..... I brought my 4 year old granddaughter, Peyton, along with me to meet the 2 younger children and walk them home from school. On coming out of the school and first time meeting each other Peyton immediately went up to Halima, looked up at her and said "will you be my best friend?" Halima grinned. I'm sure she had no idea what Peyton had said. It didn't matter. The two of them went off skipping, hand in hand and grinning away.



Gerry Langlois.....A few weeks ago after walking Halima and Hussen home from school Hussen held the outside door open for me ..I said "Thank you"... Then Halima held the inside door open for me and again I said "Thank you"...she also held it open for Hussen ..and he said "Thank you" and they both laughed!! Think they were both very proud of themselves for mastering these two very important words....and I was very impressed with these two delightful children.

Nancy Umbach.....Walking Halima and Hussen to and from school has been a daily occurrence for our committee since the younger children have been enrolled in Bayview School. Last week I was walking Halima and Hussen to school in the morning and they decided that we would take a short cut and walk up the "goat" path near their Ryerson apartment. This is a narrow steep, muddy, root covered path. I felt like I was walking a trek like I did in Nepal several years ago. Hussen looked over at my worried face and quickly took hold of my purse and then my hand, all the while reassuring me that everything was OK. Even when Halima went up a steeper side path, he urged me to take the easier more gentle path better suited for an old lady! I felt well cared for and wondered who was helping whom.

Leslie Hallett.....The past two months have been quite a learning experience for me. With only a few months of preparation, I, like most of our group members, jumped enthusiastically into welcoming our new Canadian friends on February 25, without any true understanding of the undertaking we were taking on, or the drastic life changes we would have to gently encourage our new family to embrace as their new norm. While prior conversations and collaboration with other local groups who had welcomed new Canadians before us was invaluable, it in no way prepared me for the feelings that were going to overcome me in the months following their arrival.

To reflect on my past two month's journey with Hawa and her four children, compares to asking a new mother to articulate how her first few months of parenthood instantly changed her life. The emotional journey of caring about and nurturing just one new family member is so simultaneously rewarding and exhausting, but in the case of embracing a family of five with a complete language barrier and whose very survival may have been attributed to their persevering and tenacious qualities is almost indescribable.

Since our family's arrival, I have felt excited, scared, heartbreak, exhausted, overwhelmed, inadequate, inexperienced, frustrated, disappointed, proud, impressed, loved, embarrassed, excited, fulfilled, guilty, hopeful, hurt, unappreciated and optimistic.

On a single week, our team will grocery shop once or twice, greet our family before and after school to ensure everyone is up, dressed appropriately for the weather, check lunches, help pack backpacks, walk the kids to school, then Hawa to ESL, arrange rides to and from school activities, support academic programs and attend meetings at Bayview, OSCVI, and the Alliance Church ESL program, teach laundry skills, finance, budgeting and make bank trips, buy computers, phones, phone cards, arrange utilities, complete and ensure all legal documents are in order,



teach through modeling how to clean the apartment, drive kids to and from extra-curricular activities including the Y and Mosque, arrange for and take family to medical appointments, collect, sort and search for donated goods/toys, help teach appropriate socialization skills, support the children when they argue, model authoritative parenting, contact translators to help us address concerns, teach community safety, and spend time getting to know our family through daily visits, trips to the park, or excursions. And then we meet together weekly for at least two hours to discuss the week, challenges and next steps.

Our family has experienced quite a culture shock between their previous village life in the Ethiopian Refugee Camp. I know that it must have been such a difficult decision for Hawa to leave her friends and family behind to find a new and safer life for her children in Canada. I want her to appreciate that we have come together as a community to support her on this journey, and that, just like a parent, we need to guide and push everyone to take on new challenges that presently likely seem so very overwhelming and unfair. There is much progress in babysteps, and I feel very honoured to be part of such an extraordinary team of caring people.

Craig Breen..... *On April 20, I was at OSCVI with Doug Umbach working with Abdo and Ali in Mrs. Mackay's Period B class. We volunteer on Wednesday mornings assisting the boys in Math, and generally I work with Abdo and Doug works with Ali.*

The topic of the day was order of operations, and Mrs. Mackay provided work sheets to assist in this topic. Abdo was extremely keen on being successful with this work, so much so that we established a pattern of exchanging "high fives" for each problem, once when Abdo completed each problem, and then after he checked his rough pencil work with his calculator to find himself correct. As the period progressed, the high fives became increasingly loud and violent. Mrs. Mackay asked me late in the period if my hand was hurting – indeed it was, but the pain was worth seeing the joy on Abdo's face as he experienced success in his math studies. Our boys really do desire to learn.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Financial Update

WMS Report

On April 7th our WMS Group hosted the 102nd Annual Meeting of WMS. The weather co-operated and 12 churches in the area sent delegates. Our guest speaker was Lawrence Pentelow, the director of Crieff Hills, who gave us the history of Crieff and told us about the many retreats that are held there.

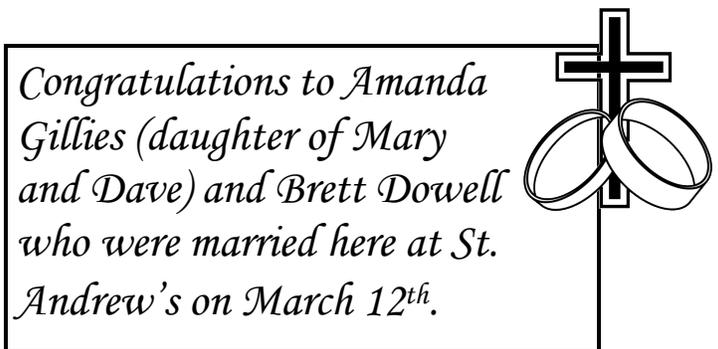
Our dear Dana helped us organize both services for Mission Awareness Sunday on April 24. Our guest preacher was Rev. Nicholas Pavel who has recently graduated from Knox College in Toronto after doing his previous ministerial work in Romania.

We thank you for supporting our two "Together We Can" projects...ARISE Ministry which helps women get out of the sex trade and the Maya Mam Women of Guatemala.

Please pray for all those individuals our church has working in Mission Areas around the world.

We pray that God will bless you and yours in the months ahead. Peace Be With You.

Respectfully submitted ...Gerry Langlois.



The Pantry

We continue to receive your gifts for the 'Pantry' with deep thanks. Our numbers are increasing; 40-50 visits per month; so we know the need is real.

Your prayers and gifts are much appreciated. We thank you.

Matthew 25:37-40 (J.B. Phillips)...Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food?...I assure you that whatever you did for the humblest of my brothers you did for me.

Jennie McKenzie

Our Congregation

Deaths:

Ted Kean
Marion Henderson
Myrle Norris

Joyce Bumstead
Marg Annis
Bud Rourke
Mac McKerroll
Aline Kingsbury



Property Report ~ May 2016

The CE Hall (Christian Education Hall) revitalization project is nearing completion. Thanks to the foresight and generosity of Anne Nash we have been able to redecorate and clean the room without impacting the general operating budget. Helen Meneray and Ken Robinson planned, acquired quotes, hired contractors and supervised the completion of each contract. The cost of each item has been approved by Session and Financial Trustees and the funds have come from money left to St. Andrew's by the late Anne Nash. Anne left the money to be used for "the maintenance, repair, upgrading and enhancing of the physical building, equipment and grounds of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church."



Itemized list of work done and cost.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Painting of all woodwork and cement block by Adam's Painting | \$ 2247.00 |
| Removal and re-installation of Sound Baffles by MB Contracting | \$ 621.50 |
| Power wash all brick work by MB Contracting | \$ 1604.00 |
| Cleaning of Sound Baffles by CleanCare Services | \$ 565.00 |
| Repair all cracks and epoxy coat floor by Extreme Coatings | \$16,947.51 |
| Purchase ScreenFlex portable divider from SchoolHouse Products | \$ 2204.14 |
| Storage closet for ladders and chairs by Wed. morning work crew (budget) | \$ <u>3000.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 27,189.15 |

Automatic Door Installation East and West

The contract for the Automatic doors at the East and West office entry doors has been assigned to Allen-Hastings Limited of Owen Sound. The installation work will be completed by Owen Sound Glass. Total cost of the project will be \$25,635.00 and work will start the week of May 2, 2016.

Giving through PAR

PAR, or Pre-Authorized Remittance, is a direct debit program that allows people to support their church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. The United Church administers the program, at no cost to the giver. Once a month, a pre-determined amount is debited from the givers' account and the total, less a service fee, is electronically transferred to local church accounts. If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay for insurance, cable TV, taxes, fuel, or a mortgage, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year which allows the church to plan ahead.

