

# 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

November 2015

## Inside this Issue

Minister's Message	1
Election of Elders	3
Worship Schedule	4
Small Groups	5
Youth Mission	6
WMS	6
Fireside/Dress up Nativity	6
Wheels to Meals	7
Fourth Friday	8
Carol Sing	8
Harvest Happening	9
Property Projects	9
Financial	10
Library	11
Refugee Update	12
Session Report	13
Pantry Update	14
Remembrance	14

## Minister's Message

I am writing this as I look out my window as a clear, blue, sunny day in the beginning of November. I took a lunchtime walk outside with no coat on and breathed in the fresh, fall air. There are still leaves on the trees across the street, yellow and orange flapping in the breeze. It is hard to imagine that soon the air will change, the gentle breeze will be transformed into a biting wind, and our Christmas manger scene on the front lawn (which the men's work crew put up with dedication and hard work!), will find itself standing in inches of snow. It's hard to imagine feet of snow, cold winter winds, slippery roads, and hundreds of ice huts out on the bay on a day like today. Even so, barring the return of Christ, the landscape will change just as surely as the sun will come up tomorrow. As much as I love winter (and I do), I'm not quite ready for it yet. So, I'm holding on to the beauty of today, even as I anticipate the joy on my children's faces as they careen down the 9<sup>th</sup> Street tobogganing hill, even as I look forward to a peaceful ski through the woods, or curling up with a book and my family in front of the fire (in my spare time...).

It's a tricky tension between relishing the beauty of a day like today, while still looking forward to tobogganing and skiing and

fireplaces, isn't it?

One of the ways that tension is managed is by making preparations for winter. Christmas baking. Checking the insulation on the windows or putting the storm windows up. Refitting snow suits and winter boots. Making plans for family dinners and scheduling visits with long-missed friends. We anticipate and we prepare.

As fall shifts into winter, the season in the church also changes. Advent: the season

*"I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love." (Isaiah 63:7, NRSV)*

of waiting, anticipation, joyful expectation and hope. Waiting for God's long-sought answer to prayer – for rescue, for salvation, for wholeness, for justice, for peace. Anticipating the new thing that God is about to do in coming to dwell among us. Joyfully expecting the fulfillment of God's covenant promises. Faithfully and actively hoping for God's kingdom and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Just as we anticipate winter and Christmas, so too there is work to be done as we

wait through Advent. In our own lives and in the life of the church, we make room to receive God. We pray for eyes to see His coming. We allow our hearts to be opened by the Spirit so that we can receive God's very self. We look for the transforming work of the Spirit to guide us more deeply into God's mission and ministry in the world.

Here at St. Andrew's, it is fitting that as we approach Advent, we find ourselves in the midst of anticipating and waiting, and hoping and preparing for how God is continuing to shape us as His body, whose King and Head is Christ himself.

As you wait and prepare through Advent and the changing of the season (outside and inside), perhaps, as you wait for that next batch of shortbread to come out of the oven, you might spend a few moments in prayer, anticipating God's faithful answer. As you put up your storm windows or clean out the eaves, perhaps you might spend a few moments thinking about the new thing that you long for God to do in your life and in our church. As you bundle up your kids or grandkids in winter layers, perhaps you might think and pray about how God is calling this next generation of disciples to be his people in the world they will raise their own families in. As you rake the quickly multiplying leaves in your yard (and your neighbour's), think about what needs to be raked up in your own life – in what ways does God want to prepare your "inner garden" for what is to come. As you come to worship with this congregation each week, perhaps you might look ever more closely for the transforming work of the Holy Spirit that is powerfully at work among us.

This work of anticipation and waiting is good and holy work, for in it we prepare for what is to come. We hold on to the beauty of today, and the goodness that God has worked in us through the past. And we look forward with anticipation, joyful expectation, and hope, for the shift in the season that we know is coming, confident that just as God orders and sustains the rising of the sun and the changing of the seasons, so too he sustains His Church, His people, His children.

#### ***On another note...***

Over the past many years, my passion for Christ's church and the shape of its future in our world has continued to expand. As I think about the state of the "North American" church, and specifically of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, I am eager to explore more deeply *where* God might be leading us, and *how* he might be calling us to go there. In an effort to discern more clearly the re-forming shape of Christ's Church, and to acquire greater knowledge and ability to be effective in leading the church, I will be pursuing a Doctor of Ministry program at Pittsburg Theological Seminary. The program offers ministers and other church leaders an opportunity to investigate more intentionally what *being* and *doing* church could look like in our contemporary culture, what kinds of models are appropriate for the church in this age, what kind of leadership (pastoral and otherwise) is needed in order to support the church as it explores how to be church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and what kinds of cultural changes will need to take place within the church itself. I am deeply concerned that unless we (Christ's body) are willing to explore how to make this shift into a new age, while honouring and learning from our historical roots, our congregations will continue to decline, and our churches will find it increasingly difficult to participate in God's saving mission in the world. Ours is an ancient faith that needs to be constantly renewed in the contexts in which we live. As I settle into my fourth year here at St. Andrew's, I believe that I have been called here by God to not only support and encourage the faith and growth of our members, but also to lead our congregation through the difficult, but exciting process of transition.

The program is structured in such a way that courses will be done through distance correspondence throughout the year, supported by two, two-week residency periods each year. Residency periods occur for two weeks in January and two weeks in June. I have already begun preparations for the January 2016 residency (January 10-22, 2016), and am excited to meet and collaborate with other ministers who are passionate about the life of the church in this age.

As your teaching elder, I believe this is a journey of growth for all of us, and I invite you to join with me, prayerfully discerning God's will for our church family and for Christ's Church in the world.

Together with you in Christ's Service,  
Rev. Dana Benson



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## Election of Elders

Session is working on the process and timing for election of elders. We are working toward having elections by the annual meeting in February. Because St. Andrew's has implemented term eldership (term of 6 years) we are required to rotate 1/3 of session members off every 2 years. We also have some vacancies due to elders resigning and taking leave. Therefore we are in need of 7 or more elders.

Only communicant members are eligible to be elders and only communicant members are able to nominate and elect elders.

Communicant members that live in the Owen Sound area, received a booklet with their "Fire from the Bush" explaining what it means to be an elder. Please read the booklet and start thinking and praying about who you would like to nominate for eldership. A list of communicant members eligible for nomination will be posted on the bulletin board in the office.

If you are not a communicant member and are interested in learning about what an elder does, ask for a copy of the booklet titled "Becoming and Elder" at the church office. If you wish to become a member so that you have the opportunity and privilege to be a voting member or possibly serve as an elder, contact Rev. Dana Benson.

Respectfully,  
Ed Renaud (elder)  
Ken Robinson (elder)



## **Worship Schedule**

With a few exceptions, we will be continuing our study of Living Faith – examining our faith, what makes it alive and how we are becoming more “*Whole in Jesus Christ*”!

November 22<sup>nd</sup>: 2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Theme: Welcoming the Stranger

November 29<sup>th</sup>: First Sunday of Advent

2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30

White Gift Sunday – please bring a donation and/or a non-perishable food item for our pantry ministry

Living Faith: God comes to us in Jesus Christ (Living Faith 3.1)

December 6<sup>th</sup>: Second Sunday of Advent

**1 SERVICE @ 10AM** – in the Sanctuary with Communion

Living Faith: Jesus is truly God (LF 3.2)

December 13<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday of Advent

2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Living Faith: Jesus is truly human (LF 3.3)

Annual Family Christmas, Potluck, Fireside, and Dress-Up Pageant

December 20<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Service of Song and Scripture

Living Faith: Jesus is Saviour and Lord (LF 3.4-3.5)

### **Christmas Services:**

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve

Family Christmas Potluck @ 5:00pm, followed by 1 Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30pm (please remember our Christmas dress-up Pageant, *Christmas According to the Gospels*, will be held at our annual Fireside Event December 13<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome!

December 27<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Sunday

**1 Service @ 10:00am**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Epiphany

**1 Service @ 10:00am**

Living Faith The Bible: Revelation of God's Work in Christ (LF 5.2)

January 10<sup>th</sup>: 2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Living Faith: The Bible: Necessary, Sufficient, and Reliable (LF 5.2)

January 17<sup>th</sup>: 2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Living Faith: Our Life in Christ: Discipleship (LF 8.1)

January 24<sup>th</sup>: 2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Living Faith: Our Life in Christ: Love (LF 8.3)

January 31<sup>st</sup>: 2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Living Faith: Our Life in Christ: The Christian Family (LF 8.2)

February 7<sup>th</sup>: **1 SERVICE @ 10:30AM**, followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting (with lunch).

Living Faith: Our Life in Christ: Justice (LF 8.4)

February 14<sup>th</sup>: First Sunday of Lent

2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Living Faith: Our Life in Christ: World Peace (LF 8.5)

February 21<sup>st</sup>: Second Sunday of Lent

2 Worship Services @ 9 & 10:30am

Scout Sunday Celebrated @ the 10:30 service only.

February 28<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday of Lent

Living Faith: The Church Reaches Out Doing Mission (LF 9)

### ***Small group activity underway.....***

At this time we have a Small Group meeting twice a month. The group is comprised of David Kirkpatrick, Debbie Doyle, Peg Archibald, David and Lisa Trimbee, Ken and Nancy Robinson, Craig and Ellie Breen, Jim and Jill Scott, Dick and Sandra Lee Hibma. The group has undertaken the study of Living Faith, coordinated with the section that is being examined during our Sunday worship of the week.

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. Watch for this Small Group in the latter part of January at a worship service near you!

This type of meeting is very much modeled after the early Church where groups of believers met in homes and small gatherings to strengthen and encourage one another in faith in Christ Jesus as the risen Son of God. 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 any one of the people listed above to get their thoughts about what Small Group is doing in their life, or contact Ruth Barwell or Dick Hibma. Talk to your friends, or someone you might want to get to know better, about getting together. It might change your life.



***Join us.....we moved the date for The Christmas Pageant!***

**Here is YOUR chance to take part  
in a light-hearted Christmas Pageant.**

**The Pageant is called:  
The Christmas Story According to the Four Gospels**

**WHEN: December 13th**



**Our Youth Missional Group are going to be preparing for the Pageant at the same time as Family Christmas Crafts from 3 pm. to 5 pm. You may volunteer to help them with props or to perform. Warning, you may be invited to help. Please be prepared to do a part!  
There will be no rehearsal.**

**After our Pot-luck Supper, at approximately 6 pm., the talents & skills of the Youth Missional Group plus their able assistants will be show-cased as we enjoy the light-hearted Christmas Story According to the Four Gospels.**

**Fireside follows the Pageant.**



### ***Youth Mission Group***

The Missions Youth group is meeting Wednesday nights at 7 pm at the Whitehouse's. Some activities we are involved in: vol-

unteering at Central Place, discussing issues related to our faith, exploring how we can help the new refugee family feel welcome, preparing for the Christmas season, and having fun. Oh, and we eat lots of good food. All teens are welcome.

### **Flower Committee**

We will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas and Advent, once again this year with the help of the Wiebe's, who put the tree up for us.

We only have ten active members at this time, so if you would like to serve on this committee we would love to have you....just call Gerry Langlois at 226-664-7455. We have enjoyed having Emelia Ikone from the Women's Fellowship group in Camaroon with us this year.... and wish her all of God's Blessings when she returns home in January

### **WMS Report**

This year our WMS group lost two of our beloved members; Sheila Lamb and Ken Barker. Their names have been engraved on a plaque and placed on our WMS memorial offering plate, which honours those who have been WMS members.

This year's "Together we Can" projects, which are done through PWS&D, are for Maya-Mam Women in Guatemala, to help them improve their livelihoods and ARISE Ministry in Toronto, which helps women wanting to exit the sex trade.

Donations can be sent to:

WMS  
50 Wynford Drive  
Toronto, ON M3C 1O7

We would be very pleased to have you as part of our group which meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 1:45 in the lounge.



## WHITE GIFT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Last year St. Andrew's White Gift Fund donations totalled @2,027.00 and these funds were distributed as follows:

### INTERNATIONAL

Foster Child	300.00
Cropshares	300.00
Sleeping Children	200.00
Presbyterian	200.00
World Service	

### LOCAL COMMUNITY

G&B House	250.00
Union Place	250.00
Crisis Pregnancy Centre	300.00
Safe N Sound	227.00

It turns out that our actual yearly cost for our Foster Child Sponsorship including a financial gift at Christmas is \$500.00 so we will correct our budget amount for 2016. The remainder of the White Gift distribution will be decided in December 2015 or January 2016 depending on the amount donated.

We know how much the White Gift donations are appreciated by the organizations who receive them and ask that you continue to give generously as you have for many years, to the White Gift Fund.

## Wheels to Meals Old Fashioned Hoedown

Only the clop, clop of horses' hooves was missing when a group of dedicated Wheels-to-Meals volunteers held their eighth annual fun-filled event in St. Andrew's Church C.E. hall. In a colorful setting of red (to replicate barns) and yellow (to replicate ripening crops in autumn) the packed auditorium was a blaze of colorful yellow sunflowers, red tablecloths, cowboy hats and scarves, hay bales, even a pitch fork and cowboy boots. Where else might you be served edible haystacks? Where else might you enjoy line dancers, kicking up their heels, and instrumentalists strumming out much loved, and well remembered, melodies. The piano was utilized to provide background music for a good old-fashioned hoedown sing-along.



It hardly seems possible that the eighth annual Wheels-to-Meals event, launched to honour church members unable to attend services regularly for health reasons, those who are lonely, and those who simply enjoy capturing the memories that historically have made St. Andrew's special in their hearts and their memories.

The hoedown theme was in marked contrast to the previous year when the theme was, "Let's Pretend It's Christmas" and even Santa arrived to reinforce the spirit of the season of love and giving.

Although much of the food for the noon meal, including homemade pies, rolls, and tea biscuits, is provided each year by the volunteers, the Session has endorsed the event as a significant outreach program for seniors and has contributed financially to its success.

If you've never been to Wheels-to-Meals in its eight year existence, if you've never captured that moment in time, and memory, then watch for it next year. It is always a Friday, it is always mid-September and it is always a wonderful launch to the beauty and wonder of autumn.

Ann Kelly,  
Chair.

# Up and Coming

## 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:

**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!*



### **Please note....**

- The Annual Meeting date is February 7, 2016, and will be a "meet and eat" after church.
- 2015 Annual Report submissions are due by January 4, 2016
- If you are heading south for the winter please let the church office know where your tax receipts can be sent.

## Christmas Carol Evening

Hi Carolers,

When you are moved to sing "Silent Night" do you ever wonder about Mary who gave birth to baby Jesus "Away in a Manger" in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago? There's no denying that birth has brought "Joy to the World" over all these years.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", or so we are told. The carols of Christmas continue to gladden the hearts of those who sing them and those who enjoy hearing them sung.

If you are interested in being part of a caroling group on Dec. 15, please call Ann Kelly, 376-8474 or e-mail her at [ackelly@wightman.ca](mailto:ackelly@wightman.ca) to reserve a seat for you on the bus.

We meet the bus behind city hall at 5:45 for take off promptly at 6:00 P.M. We travel a carolling route which brings us back to the church at 8:30 for hot cider and Christmas goodies which carolers bring to share.

We like to keep numbers at 25 so book early, bring your best singing voices and your biggest smiles knowing you are brightening the lives of those who love the music of Christmas.



## Memorial Tree Lights

You can donate a light on the tree in the front garden in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a person or special event in your life. Donations can be made at the church office by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and these will be recognized in the church bulletin on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Donations will go to either the Memorial or Refugee fund, pending the decision at December's Session Meeting.



## HARVEST HAPPENING 2015

Saturday October 24 saw a steady crowd of happy people make their way through the wonderful offerings at Harvest Happening 2015.

The spirit of fellowship and community once again marked this very enjoyable day. Whether you sat for a coffee and a muffin, or other goodie, at the café or had a delicious lunch in the CE Hall, conversation and laughter could be heard. Old friends, new friends or families, all were in the spirit of our church and it was evident that again this was a very special day.

Sales totaled \$9,531.40 as of this edition of Fire from the Bush. A small amount of money is yet to come in. That is a remarkable amount and due to the very hard work of many people.

At our post HH meeting a number of targets for some of this amount was able to be identified and agreed upon: replacing broken plates, cups and saucers in the kitchen; carpet cleaning for the chapel halls (3 times /year) and lounge (1 time); 10% to capital reserve; 10% to our refugee family; sewage back up valves and battery backup for the blower in the furnace room (as recommended by our insurance company) if there is no place in the budget for these; carpet replacement in the vestibule; new sink for hand washing; repaint the CE Hall. Once these are priced action will start to get them underway.

Thanks again to everyone who made any kind of a contribution to HH 2015. Please keep in mind joining us next year if you missed out this year. We'd love to have you with us!



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### Property Projects

Some of you have indicated that you feel that the church facilities need some maintenance and care. Some of the projects brought to my attention are: repairing the ceiling and painting the sanctuary, painting the CE hall, painting of the exterior wood trim, improving accessibility by installing button activated doors for the handicapped and replacing faded carpet in the Sanctuary vestibule.

Each of these projects will be expensive and need considerable time, care and effort to implement. As we currently only have one person overseeing property and maintenance at this time, these projects won't be implemented unless **you** (the interested party) step forward and take the lead. If you wish to see these projects completed, let me know that you are interested in serving. If we have 2 or 3 people

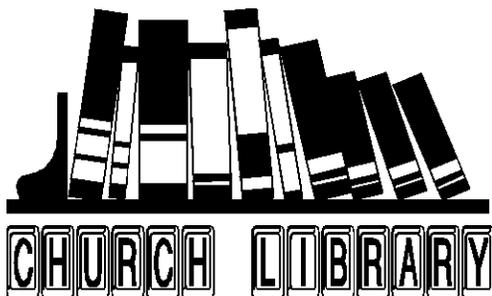
interested in each or any of these projects, they can get started on defining the work to be done, obtaining quotes, deciding on materials and colours, presenting to Session for approval and requesting funds from the financial trustees (the Anne Nash estate has provided money for maintenance, repair, upgrading and enhancing of the physical building, equipment and grounds).

Currently all maintenance items are being handled by the Session Property Liaison and the Wed. morning work crew. The Wed. morning crew is doing a great job taking care of general maintenance, but do not have the capacity to take on major projects.

Sincerely

Ken Robinson (Session Liaison Property)

*Financial Update October 2015*



# CHRISTIAN HEROES: THEN & NOW

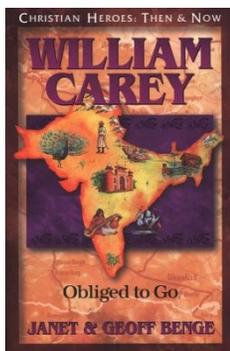
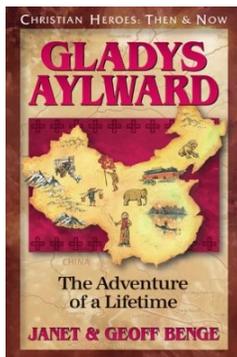
By Janet and Geoff Benge

**A NEW STANDARD HAS BEEN SET IN CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY!**

These exciting, challenging, and deeply touching true stories chronicle the lives of ordinary men and women whose trust in God accomplished extraordinary exploits for His kingdom and glory. Written specifically to challenge readers with the powerful lives of missionaries who have profoundly shaped history, these books answer today's call for positive role models and for opportunities to see how God works through the lives of those who follow him.

The exciting life stories of these heroes will inspire the readers as they witness the drama of faith and character being tested under the most extreme circumstances.

Readers of all ages love these fast-paced adventures that take them to the heart of a nation, an era, and what it means to live a life dedicated to serving God and those He loves. Parents report that even kids who have never liked to read have eagerly read all of these - sometimes more than once! (by publisher)



**Adoniram Judson: Bound for Burma**

**Amy Carmichael: Rescuer of Precious Gems**

**Betty Greene: Wings to Serve**

**Cameron Townsend: Good News in Every Language**

**Corrie ten Boom: Keeper of the Angels' Den**

**David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer**

**Eric Liddell: Something Greater Than Gold**

**George Müller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans**

**Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime**

**Hudson Taylor: Deep in the Heart of China**

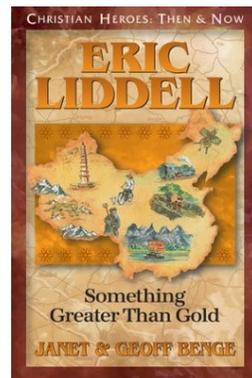
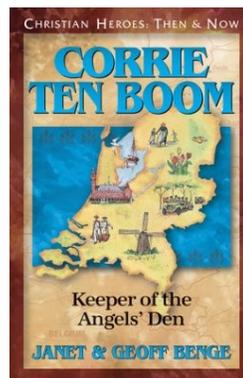
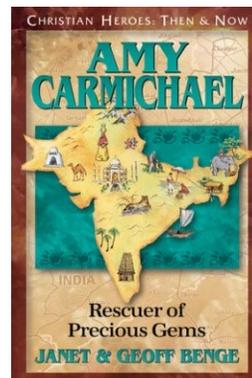
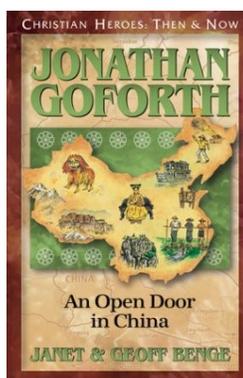
**Jim Elliot: One Great Purpose**

**Jonathan Goforth: An Open Door in China**

**Lottie Moon: Giving Her All for China**

**Mary Slessor: Forward Into Calabar**

**Nate Saint: On a Wing and a Prayer**



These 16 books were donated to our church library in honour of Rev. Ken Barker some years ago. Please check them out. They are good reading for both youth and adults.

Dee Renaud, Church librarian

## ***Refugee Sponsorship Update***

As a result of the heightened awareness of the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflicts in the mid-east, and particularly the photo of the young child drowned in his families attempt to escape the conflict in Syria, a Refugee Sponsorship committee has been formed here at St. Andrews. The committee has met a number of times to confirm their individual commitment to help address the need for refugee families to be granted a new place to begin their lives, and to begin the process of sponsoring a family to come here to Owen Sound. Some members of our committee have also been involved in a broader community Refugee committee to learn from the experiences of others, and to seek opportunities to partner with others in supporting a refugee family when we get one here.

The Session of St. Andrews has endorsed the efforts of the Refugee Sponsorship committee through a motion at their October meeting.

We are working through the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and PWS&D to identify a family for relocation from a refugee camp to our community. We would be responsible for provision of financing to cover travel, accommodation, furnishing, and food, as well as supporting the settlement and orientation of the family into our community. The cost is anticipated to be in the range of \$25,000 and we will be looking for your support in raising or pledging this amount before we can move forward.

During our meetings we have had much discussion about what refugee family we might wish to bring here, from what country, what ethnic group, and what religious affiliation. Having become aware of the extent of the refugee crisis, and the fact that there are millions of refugees who have been encamped for literally decades, our decision is to not focus solely on the Syrian crisis. Although worthy of our support it is simply a more recent crisis. Further, we have decided that we will not discriminate based on religion. If one seeks to rescue someone from a fire or a flood you don't ask their religious affiliation prior to rescuing them, so we felt the same approach was appropriate here. We are guided in this decision by Matthew 5: 43 - 48 where Christ teaches about loving our neighbours as well as our enemies, as well as Luke 10: 27 - 37 where Christ teaches us about loving our neighbour through the parable of the Good Samaritan.

We welcome any and all to get involved in this effort. The need is overwhelming but we can do something by starting with one family.

For further information you can speak with Doug Umbach or Dick Hibma as Co-Chairs of the St. Andrews Refugee Sponsorship committee.

### ***Latest Update:***

***The Refugee committee is very excited to tell you that we have been assigned a family from the PCC list, they are travel ready and can be here within 1-2 months, after our money has been raised and paperwork completed.***

***The family consists of a single Mom with four children. (3 boys and one girl). They are from Eritria.***

***We would ask that for your financial support and prayers as we seek to be God's hands and give this family a new life.***

*"No one is a refugee by choice."*

## Report on behalf of Session - Edith Wright

Through the Fall months, Session has been diligently meeting, discussing, and discerning how God is moving in this congregation. We meet the first Tuesday of each month. We spent two to three+ hours per meeting, addressing many areas of church life, including (but not limited to!) congregational care, congregational faith formation, property and maintenance, and finances. Since September, Session has been a bit short staffed with Gladys on leave and Aird resigning for personal reasons. Dee has been very ably serving as Deputy Clerk but at her request she is stepping down from that position to serve as recording secretary. Session has approved Ed Renaud taking on the role as Clerk.

In response to the many questions we have around worship, at the September Session we decided to hold a congregational meeting to give the members and adherents the chance to express their ideas about the direction of worship and what that might look like given the resources we have. Many attendees filled out the pink slips with offers to share their time and talents in a variety of activities needed to make church possible. We are **all** the body of Christ, and are pleased that so many people offered their gifts to strengthen our community in worship.

The green worship survey sheets provided some positive and helpful suggestions, many of which we are already integrating into our worship services. Sadly, a few people used the anonymity option to put forth unhelpful, and rather spiteful comments which were inappropriate in the context of worship. The Session is working hard to keep the communication lines open so we can move forward together in building up this community in love. If you have comments or concerns you wish addressed, please speak directly with a session member, or submit them in writing, signed, to the Clerk of Session. Unsigned correspondence will not be read or received. If we don't know to whom to speak, we will be unable to address your concerns in any meaningful way. If you have a specific complaint against a member of the church, the session, or the minister, please review our policy on how to make those complaints so that they can be properly addressed and we can work toward resolution and reconciliation. You can find those guidelines in the Book of Forms 324-333. If you are not willing to have your concerns addressed in an open and honest manner, please refrain from gossip, which is divisive and destructive to the church. We can choose to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

In response to the congregational meeting held on September 27, Session approved a trial run of a blended service to be held on the first Sunday of each month. The first of these was held on November 1 in the CE hall. Approximately 120 people attended. Although the service time was well advertised, we apologize that some people may have been confused about the service time and location. Over all the feedback concerning the service was that it was a spirit filled and uplifting experience. The time and effort of all involved in the preparation and set up was exceptional. We know that trying something new can be daunting for many people, and we sincerely appreciate your willingness to come together in a fresh context, ready to worship together and be encountered by God in a new way. Next blended service will be at 10:00 on Dec 6 in the Sanctuary.

In other Session News...

We continue to look for ways to increase our care for those in hospital, in retirement homes, and in Long Term Care facilities. Historically we have had a dedicated team of hospital visitors, and we hope to expand our visiting team to incorporate regular visiting in some of these other areas. If this is something you would like to offer your time and gifts in, please contact Jill Scott, and she would be delighted to speak more with you about this wonderful ministry opportunity!

In response to the global refugee crisis, and in keeping with our call to love and serve our neighbour, Session approved the sponsoring of a refugee family, through the Mission and Outreach Committee. Please see the report from Mission and Outreach for more details.

The Session of St. Andrew's is honoured to serve you and to provide spiritual leadership to this small part of the Body of Christ. We look forward to what God has for us in the future, even as we work hard in ministry and service. "But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you." 1 Samuel 12:24 NIV

## News From the Pantry.....

The Pantry is full again! Thank you to those who brought food and to those who generously donated money; we can once again give to those in need.

To those who are unaware, we have a cupboard (just outside the Judy Young room), which is stocked with non-perishable food and comfort items. Frozen dinners, bread etc are also kept in the freezer in the CE Hall. The Pantry serves 20 - 30 people per month at a cost of roughly \$100 per week to keep up. There are many weeks when the Pantry is empty after just three days.

We are very grateful for your donations of either food or money, so that we may continue to serve others in this way. Thank you.

Jennie MacKenzie



### Remembrances

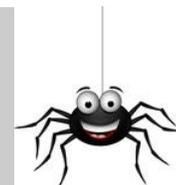
The following people who were associated with St. Andrew's have died since the August Fire From the Bush.

- Robert Donald McKerroll
- Brian Armstrong
- Dave McKay
- Betty Davidson
- Ken Barker



### Check out the Church Website.

#### You'll find.....



- Our Mission, Vision and Values
- The Bulletin and the Sermon are both posted every week. Anyone who missed a service can still get the announcements and any other church updates that the bulletin contains
- A monthly Calendar of Events is posted which can be printed out if you have your own printer at home
- Faith Formation - Children & Youth, Adult Education, Small Groups
- Our newsletter, Fire From the Bush, is posted on the website every 3 months
- Upcoming events such as Fourth Friday Schedule, Bible studies, VBS, Garage Sales
- Rev. Dana's blog and
- Worship Resources
- Mission and Outreach
- Links to other websites, both local and international, such as OSHARE, RAY Ministries, PWS&D, PAN Missions
- Photos of church events

**[www.standrewsowensound.org](http://www.standrewsowensound.org)**

*If you take any pictures of a church event (please make sure that you have the permission of the people in the pictures) or an announcement of a coming event that you would like posted, please call Dee Renaud at 519-422-2616 or send her an e mail at [eddeerenaud@gmail.com](mailto:eddeerenaud@gmail.com)*

### Sandwich Makers

The SANDWICH MAKERS have sadly lost one of our group this past summer. Sheila Lamb believed strongly in helping those in need. We sure miss her but continue to enjoy Jim's help and company each Tuesday morning. We still make 8 loaves with a variety of fillings from egg salad and peanut butter & jelly (their favourites!), to sliced meats with lettuce and assorted canned meat. It's what we'd enjoy ourselves!

Thank you for your ongoing donations of cash, bread and other supplies!

*Sincerely, Billie, Lou, Marjorie, Joan, Bill & Sarah, Jim and Joan*

