

St. Andrew's
"A Family Friendly Church"

In Touch & In Tune
June 2014



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Robert's Reflections

If you turn past the pages of the Gospel writers, (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) you will find that the focus of the Bible moves from the story of Jesus to the stories of His followers. Beginning with the book of The Acts of the Apostles right through until the vision of John in Revelation, Scripture tells the stories of those who were faithful witnesses to the message of Jesus Christ.



Luke wrote the book of Acts as a companion piece to his Gospel to demonstrate that the Holy Spirit, as promised, is responsible for building up a spiritual “kingdom”. Within the first two chapters of Acts, Luke describes three significant events. The first is the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven. The second event is the choosing of Matthias to replace Judas as one of the twelve disciples. And the third event is the coming of the Holy Spirit. All three events are interconnected. After all, it was God’s plan to raise Jesus from the dead but not to leave Him upon earth. During a forty day period after His resurrection, Jesus made several appearances to prove that He was alive. And when His followers asked, “Lord, are you now going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?”, Jesus said, “The times and occasions are set by my Father’s own authority, and it is

not for you to know when they will be. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me....” (Acts 1:6-8)

And who would that next witness to be? A few days later there was a meeting of the Jesus’ followers – about 120 in all. It was there, by the drawing of lots, that Matthias was chosen to join the other 11 apostles “as a witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 1:12-26)

To assist Matthias, the other apostles and believers God sent His Holy Spirit upon them. Known as the Day of Pentecost, it was at this time that the Spirit arrived from the sky “sounding like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.”

What the believers witnessed that day was something amazing! With visions of “tongues of fire” all about them they were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit that enabled them to speak to one another even though they did not know each other’s languages. This was the defining moment for the church. For the first time ever, all people, regardless of their ancestral background were able to converse and be fully understood. This moment in time created the necessary “building block” that allowed the Good News of Jesus Christ to be universally shared.

Beyond the pages of the book of The Acts of Apostles we are able to read Paul’s letters to other witnesses in the original 7 churches located in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae and Thessalonica. His words of encouragement, direction and wisdom helped to shape Jesus’ followers’ ministry to a longing world. Paul’s personal letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon also provided both support and advice to those who he was able to call friends as they assisted him in his missionary journeys.

More than that, the author of the letter of the Hebrews along with James, the half-brother of Jesus, Peter, John and Jude all made faithful contributions in building up and encouraging the work of Jesus’ ministry. Their letters, addressed to those learning to walk together as part of “The Way”, became invaluable seeds to the creation of Christianity.

As with the early Christian congregations, we too, need to share our faith and to encourage one another. We must support our sister and brother in their times of need through our fellowship, worship and service.

The master plan was set by God to make Himself known through Jesus, to teach, to heal, to love and to forgive before dying upon the cross for our sins. And upon His resurrection, Jesus provided the proof that “He was alive” before leaving this world so that God could come again as the Holy Spirit.

And that has happened. Believe that God is with you. He is here, right now, as the Holy Spirit to assist you! Call upon Him as millions upon millions have done before. Ask the Lord to aid your life as you continue in the Way of faithfulness as a witness to the life of Jesus Christ.

Reverend Robert

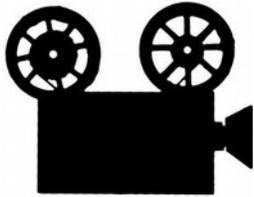
“Jesus said, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of Men”



Events at St. Andrew's

At the Movies

In March and April the Faith Formation Committee invited us to a night out at the movies. We experienced faith stories in the traditional, unconventional and mysterious manner.



Our first film was based on the HBO television series, **Son Of God**. It presented the life of Jesus leading up to his death and resurrection from a traditional viewpoint. There were no big surprises here except for the film director's choice to begin the story through the eyes of John the Apostle which lasted for about ten minutes.

John's Gospel is richly crafted using some of the Bible's best poetic imagery. Consider this:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” (John 1:1-5)

No other gospel writer chooses such imaginative descriptive imagery. Great hope stirred within me that this film version of Jesus' life would present a fresh look at the words of our Lord and Saviour. But I was soon disappointed as the rest of the film presented Jesus through the traditional views of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Although seen through the witness of John, nowhere did the unique accounts of John's gospel appear. After all, it is through John, that we understand that the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. It is only John who records that we must be born again. John also paints the picture of Jesus as being the true vine and His followers as the branches. It is in John's gospel that we read Jesus is the Bread of Life. Through John's record we learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit and how Jesus declared that we will not be abandoned. And it is only in John do we find Jesus described as the Good Shepherd – a pastoral description that has served the church well for centuries. Yet none of these uniquely John portrayals of Jesus appear in the film. Instead we are treated to the traditional imagery as found in the synoptic gospels of the other three writers. While the movie was good it didn't capture John's vision of the most influential man who changed his life and indeed the world.

Whereas **Son of God** was traditional in its approach, our next movie was certainly unconventional. Any film treatment of the story of **Noah** is going to be a challenge. But in this case the director decided to challenge both the storyline and its viewers. The most unconventional element may have been the introduction of 'mud monsters' or 'stone angels' which rise like today's animated "Transformers" to help and assist Noah against an angry mob not prepared to let the Ark float without them. The film imagery of these creatures may have left many viewers dismissing the film as a piece of science fiction but the Old Testament account of the flood is not without its own fantastical creatures. What are we to do with this selection of scripture?: “When mankind had spread all over the world, and girls were being born, some of the heavenly beings saw that these girls were beautiful, so they took the ones they liked.....In those days, and even later, there were giants on the earth who were descendants of human women and the heavenly beings. They were the great heroes and famous men of long ago.” (Genesis 6:1-2;4)

Yikes! This selection of scripture would be a challenge to most ministers on any given Sunday morning. But despite the loose translation of the Biblical story (with a dash of a “Lord Of The Ring” flavouring) Noah recaptured the age-old story of when evil meets goodness with the inevitable desire for forgiveness.

The final film in our trilogy was “**Heaven Is For Real**”. It is based on the true story of a 3 year old, Colton Burpo, who claims to have experienced heaven while being operated upon. The storyline challenges all of our notions about heaven as being a place where Jesus’ resides. Colton is clear that what he saw is the real thing. Of course, for those of who “have not seen”, it takes a great measure of faith to believe. This was true for Colton’s dad, a minister, who needs to not only accept his son’s words but defend them within his ministry.

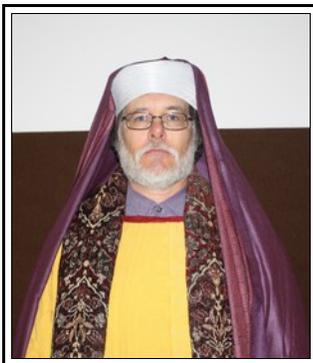
Heaven is a difficult concept for most of us, but through the innocence of a child, the reality of such a place opens the possibility of coming to terms with death while receiving the promise of an everlasting life.

Maplefest Bazaar

In the spirit of community co-operation, the ladies of the AMJ Muslim congregation were invited to our recent Maplefest Bazaar. Joining the ladies of St. Andrew’s, St. Mark’s, Anglican and St. Margaret –Mary Roman Catholic the four congregations had a successful fundraising event.



Palm Sunday Choir Presentation



*Charles Banhardt as Caiaphas in the Musical Drama
“A Picture Of Calvary”*

Actors in costume, powerful meditations and inspiring music were all part of this years’ Palm Sunday presentation. Breaking from past traditions, our organist Charles, encouraged the Choir to perform a musical drama rather than a Cantata leading into Holy Week. Dressed as Caiaphas, Charles led a cast ensemble that included Judas, Pilate’s wife, the three Mary’s, Lydia, a child, a soldier, and John as each character reflected upon the betrayal, arrest, denial, acceptance and crucifixion of Jesus. The musical was emotionally moving and set the tone for personal spiritual reflection as the congregation anticipated Easter morning and the joy of our Risen Lord.

Our Growing Family - Baptisms



March 30
with Rev. Robert

Tahlia Evelyn

daughter of

Jill &
Kyle Cashman

May 25
with Rev. Hilary

**Evan Matthew
Gordon**

son of

Cindy &
Scott MacKay



George & Amy's Anniversary

The picture on the left was taken on the actual date of their 65th Anniversary, April 23, 2014 at their daughter Pam's house. It shows the certificate from the Queen and some of the origami cranes which were offered to those who attended the celebration at Saint-Louis Residence on May 5th.



Bev Weber Honoured At Presbytery

During the March meeting of Ottawa Presbytery Bev Weber of our congregation was honoured for her congregational leadership in worship. Invited to the meeting were representatives from Edge – a Church in Mission Unit of General Council- who places a focus on new and renewing ministries within United Church congregations across Canada. They made an interesting presentation to Presbytery about new and exciting methods of reviving church activities.

Prior to the March meeting, Presbytery had sought names of those people who made a difference in congregations with innovative ideas. Reverend Robert nominated both Bev Weber and Blake Smale for their development of Grandparent Sunday. Unfortunately, Blake was away at the time so that only Bev could attend the gathering.

A certificate was presented to Bev for her creativity in presenting an annual event to children and grandchildren in an innovative and exciting way.



We, at St. Andrew's, are grateful to both Bev and Blake for their continued ministry with our children in a way that makes a difference in their young lives.

Looking Forward

- Sat. June 7 10:00 a.m. -- Computer Workshop led by Mike Austin
- Sun. June 8 2:30 p.m. -- Annual Dale's Cemetery Service
- Sun. June 15 10:15 a.m. -- Father's Day Intergenerational Worship Service
- Fri. June 20 6-8 p.m. -- Men's Club Strawberry Social- freewill offering
- Sat. June 21 4:00 p.m. -- "Cumberland School Reunion,
To be held at Canaan Lea Farm, 3424 Watson Road, Sarsfield, ON.
For further information, contact Kevin Morrow, 613-764-0735 or
mandkmorrow@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE. CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE!!!

UCW Report for June 2014 Newsletter

- Fri March 7 Participated at the World Day of Prayer at St. Mark's Anglican Church. In March we helped fund the trip to Haida Gwaii for Eric Villeneuve.
- Sat April 5 The UCW hosted the Annual Maplefest Bake Sale with the other congregations of the community.
- Sat May 3 The General UCW held their meeting and enjoyed muffins and coffee.
- Sun May 4 Flowers were taken to George and Amy at their 65th Wedding Anniversary celebration.
- Sun May 11 The UCW provided the evening lunch for the Hymn Sing.
- Tues May 27 Mother's Day, the carnations were provided by the UCW.
- The UCW are paying to have the carpets cleaned in the church hall.
- On Sundays: The UCW provide coffee, tea, juice and light food for the fellowship following the service. If any Sunday you wish to bring cookies, etc. please add your name to the list posted at the kitchen door.

We are planning to work at the Farmer's Market again this year but dates have not been finalized.

Past President	Carol Corcoran
President/Coordinators	Unit Leaders
Secretary	Elaine Findlay
Treasurer	Gerri McLeod
Unit Leaders:	
West Unit	Carol Corcoran
Village Unit	Marjorie Lawrence & Ena Hayes
East Unit	Sylvia Williams
Flower Committee:	
Sunday	Bea Lehman
Visiting	Lois Thomas
Nominating Committee	Fran Stronach & Margot Pygas



for the Easter Flower delivered by Margo Pygas.
It is always much appreciated.

Joyce & Mac MacCrimmon

Our Thoughts and Prayers

We always thank God for you all and always mention you in our prayers.

***For we remember, before our God and Father,
how you put your faith into practice. (1 Thess.1:1-3)***

Rev. George & Amy Tomita, Catherine Canning, Isobel Hodges, Alice Wilson, Charlie Briggs, Mac & Joyce MacCrimmon, Ella Lewis, Linda & Vic Uhler, Marion Martel, Florence Bertram, Ken & Ena Cook.



St. Andrew's UCW Farmers' Market Canteen
Dates for running the canteen: Sept. 13, 20, 27 & Oct. 4.

Please mark your calendars as we will be looking forward to working together at this congregational endeavour. We will have the sign-up sheets ready early in Sept. for helpers and/or baking. Your help, as always, is very much appreciated.

Your market canteen committee: Denise Beaton, Evelyn Beaton, Carol Corcoran, Judy Hayward, Joan Lancaster & Roberta McIntee

Fundsrip A Success at St. Andrew's - One Year Later!

At the end of our first year of the Fundsrip Fundraising program the congregation earned more than \$1,500. The Gift-Card fundraising programing was launched on May 26, 2013 with over 40 people showing an initial interest. On a regular monthly basis we have between 14 and 19 supporters with 32 people supporting the program at least once in the last 12 months.

Our average group order for the month is \$4,100.00 while we have had orders as high as \$5,545.00. The total value of gift cards ordered during the past 12 months is over \$51,000.00. This volume of sales has allowed St. Andrew's to have an additional church fundraiser which brings new money into our general funds. And the best part is that nobody had to cook, bake, quilt, sell tickets or set up tables.

Fundsrip is the easiest way for parishioners to contribute to the life and work of the church without spending more. By simply purchasing a gift card from one of 170 retailers, our church family enjoys the financial rewards.

Come join us in this profitable fundraiser.

Sign up for Fundsrip today!



SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH.....WITHOUT GIVING MORE!

Now you can financially support St. Andrew's while keeping your regular shopping patterns.

Fundsrip is a national fundraiser offering a percentage return to our church every time you use one of their pre-paid credit cards from one of 170 goods and services. Everything from groceries to gas, fast food to fashion may be purchased while earning our church between 3 to 10% return.

Do you shop at IGA, Sobeys, Food Basics, Metro, M&M meats, Esso, Petro Can, Ultramar, Canadian Tire, Giant Tiger, Winners, Payless, Shoppers Drug Mart, Home Depot, Home Hardware, Boston Pizza, Subway, The Keg, Wendy's, East Side Mario's, Red Lobster? All of these and many more retailers will help our church to earn money.

This is the perfect way to help your church while you simply keep on doing what you always have done! Sign up now and start getting the benefits of Fundsrip gift cards. Orders are taken on the first Sunday of each month. Please contact Reinhard Pees at reinhardpees @gmail.com or 613-833-7435 to place your order.

Over 170 Participating Retailers

St. Andrew's United Church Officers --- 2014

Minister:	Rev. Robert Merritt
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. George Tomita
Volunteer Assoc. Minister:	Rev. Hilary Merritt
Church Secretary:	Ena Hayes
Church Council Chairperson:	Reinhard Pees
Secretary:	Ena Hayes
Co-Vice Chair:	Margaret and Blake Smale
Organist & Choir Director:	Charles Banhardt
Lay Presbytery Delegate:	Judy Hayward
Trustees:	Mark Beaton, William Edwards, <i>Alternate – Ethel Findlay</i>
Financial Examiners:	David Sharkey, Ethel Findlay
U.C.W.:	President – Vacant Secretary – Elaine Findlay Treasurer – Gerri McLeod Library – Denise Beaton Flower Committee – Lois Thomas, Bea Lehman, Phyllis Chiviendacz
Unit Leaders:	West – Carol Corcoran East – Sylvia Williams Village – Marjorie Lawrence & Ena Hayes
Men's Club:	Chair – Ches Mills Secretary – Rev. Robert Merritt Treasurer – Keith Corcoran

Standing Committees

Worship:	Elaine Edwards, Blake Smale, Sheila Clark, Beverly Weber, Roberta McIntee, Judy Sharkey, Rev. Robert Merritt, Charles Banhardt
Membership:	Judy Hayward, Ena Hayes, Gladys Eggert, Margot Pygas
Membership Associates:	Carol & Keith Corcoran, Bill Edwards, Sylvia Williams
Property:	Ross Shortill, Kim Taylor, Allan Findlay, Terry Beaton, David Sharkey, Roy Brown, Paul Hannas
Stewardship:	Mark Beaton (Treasurer), David Sharkey (Envelope Secretary), Bill Edwards
Faith Formation:	Sylvia Williams, Roy Brown, Jessica Brown
Communications:	Evelyn Beaton, Keith Corcoran, Mike Austin, Patricia Hill
Ministry & Personnel:	Blake Smale, Denise Beaton, Andy Clark, Margaret MacIntosh
Nursery & Sunday School:	Rev. Hilary Merritt, Kathleen Hamilton, Judy Hayward
Spiritual Direction:	Chairperson & Facilitator – Lise Baxter
Newsletter:	Patricia Hill (Editor), Joan Lancaster (Copy & Distribution)
United Church Observer Rep:	Gertie Hodges