

St. Andrew Anglican Church & Retreat House Stronger Families – Healthy Communities www.standrewanglican.ca

Prayer MINISTRY



We have introduced two new Prayer Services.

TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 7 PM

1st Tuesday bring your bible

If you would like prayer support, you will be lifted up in prayer.

2nd Tuesday is Taize

A contemplative candle-lit service with music sung to gentle piano and a time of meditation.

3rd Tuesday bring your bible

If you would like prayer support, you will be lifted up in prayer.

4th Tuesday - Prayer & Praise

Uplifting hymns with inspirational visuals and a time of meditation.

WEDNESDAY 12 NOON MID-DAY PRAYER SERVICE

You also have the opportunity to pop into the church anytime during the week to be alone with God.

There is something comforting about lighting a candle for a loved one who may be struggling or sick.

There are some situations we cannot fix and often we can feel helpless ... to light a candle helps us to 'do' something important - to remember them in prayer before God.

By lighting a candle ... as the psalmist says ... is like incense rising to Heaven.

How often do we bring our burdens to God, only to collect them up again and carry them out with us as we leave? For some of us, that load we bear grows heavier over time. Lighting a candle is a way of leaving the care or worry in God's hands ... in God's house. The candle, as one walks back out into the world, is left burning as a silent vigil.

If you are able, as you light a candle, there is a little box where donations can be received. Many churches ask for a donation of only \$2 to light a candle, this helps enable them to purchase new candles. We also have a little donation box on our stand for the same purpose.

You are welcome during the week to come into the church during the day to sit, be still and talk to God your Father ... the church is open every day from 9 am til 5 pm.



If you have someone you would like prayer for, and would like them included in the 'Prayers of the People' during our Sunday Services ... contact Gloria Mullett through the church office.

If you have an emergency prayer request ... please contact The Reverend Kim McArthur.

We have seen many prayers answered this year.

God continues to show his faithfulness towards us in small and big things. All we need to do is ask.



THE SPIRITUAL CARE STEVENSON HOSPITAL TEAM strengthened

BY REVEREND DEACON PAM ALDERSON



In March, five of the local Alliston Ministers completed the training course for Spiritual Care Clergy Support as part of our Spiritual Care Program at Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

Wayne Lucas, Alliston Pentecostal Church Dan Tambeau, Alliston Pentecostal Church Jesse MacMillan, Alliston Pentecostal Church Amy Thompson, The Door - Youth for Christ Ministries

Toby Boyer, Knox Presbyterian Church

The course was led by The Rev. Kim McArthur with The Rev. Deacon Pam Alderson's assistance. This was a special group and we had many deep and moving discussions. They are now in the process of completing the hospital orientation requirements.

There is one more training component to complete before we will be able to offer an on-call schedule which means that the hospital will have a Clergy person to call on in an emergency situation. This strengthens the Spiritual Care Hospital Team which has been in place since 2012.

LAY PASTORAL VISITING

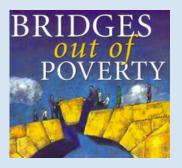
Thanks once again to the ACW, Easter lilies and Easter cards were delivered to those unable to come to our church services because of their health constraints.

Easter communion was also administered to those in Good Samaritan, Riverwood, Simcoe Village and new this year to a group in Kingsmere.

There were also several individual Home Communion visits during the Easter Season. Thank you to the group that assisted with these visits.



LEARNING 'WHO OUR NEIGHBOUR IS...' so that we may love them.



Rev Kim, Deacon Pam and France Young our Youth & Young Family Lay Pastor attended a seminar in January called 'Bridges Out of Poverty' Strategies for Professionals and Communities.

The seminar was held in the Cookstown Public Library. It was very well attended, with a myriad of diverse helping agencies from our community. As a result it was a great networking opportunity on top of being informational and helpful. We became aware of resource partners right on our doorstep and new friendships were formed.

It helped also, that there was a lot of interaction among the participants as they creatively facilitated their material.

The workshop focussed on economic environments highlighting:

- Generational poverty and situational poverty are different.
- An individual brings with him/her the hidden rules of the class in which he/she was raised.
- Schools and businesses operate from middle class norms and use the hidden rules of middle class.
- In order to build relationships of mutual respect between economic classes, we need to be aware of more than one set of hidden rules.
- The more we are open to how class affects us and are open to hear how it affects others, the more effective we can be.

It was interesting to hear about the driving forces behind the 'hidden rules':

- Poverty: survival, relationships, entertainment
- Middle Class: work, achievement, material security
- Wealth: financial, political, social connections

The seminar was enlightening in that it exposed the hidden rules that bind and constrict our ability to recognize and relate to others. And how our language and very nuances of our interactions impact others for good and for ill.

As we become more missionally minded as a church, we will need to know where to find help in resources, deeper training and referral partners. This was a great first step for us in some ways. God's plan continues to unfold.

THE CHALLENGE

The seminar organizers left us with a challenge as they asked us to explore:

What three ways can we improve our personal skills for working with individuals in poverty?

What three ways can we improve programming, theory, and structure to better serve individuals in poverty?

What three ways can we improve the community system to better serve people in poverty?

Girief Support workshops

HELD IN THE RETREAT HOUSE

Over the course of February, March and April we held two 8 week Grief Support Workshops in our Retreat House front parlour. We heard from our participants "I love it in here." "It is so peaceful". Our Retreat House is a valuable resource in creating safe space that is inviting and comfortable and helps to facilitate deep ministry.

The demand for this program was so great that we held two different sessions on Thursdays. One session was in the afternoon, and the other session was in the evening. There were six in the afternoon session, and eight in the evening session. Most, but not all, from our own parish.

The facilitator was Wendy Graham from Matthew House Hospice. Many from our parish may know Wendy from having been trained in their Hospice ministries, or possibly from having experience as a client with Matthew House. Wendy has a very gentle way about her, and is highly skilled at what she does. It has been said that one finds God's joy when one's passion and God given gifts are in alignment with their work. Wendy is living that joy!

It was interesting to watch and participate in the transformation that happened from the first session through to the last. When people were signing up ... many thought "wow, eight weeks that is a long time." It was a big commitment but they felt it was the right time and the right thing to do for themselves.

In the beginning there was a little anxiety and a lot of sadness. Over the course of the program, as trust and friendships were being developed, laughter began to creep in. And suddenly, the eighth week was approaching and everyone wondered where the time had gone.

As we brought our bouquets of roses and thorns each week, we could see how God was working powerfully within each one of us. The blessings often spilled beyond ourselves into our wider families. We learned so much about the grief journey, and what to expect. There were many moments of enlightenment where we had been experiencing different feelings ... and then to have those feelings explained ... helped us to see what was going on in our experiences, as well as now having a sense of what else to expect.

Our wonderful facilitator continued to 'normalize' the process. That was probably the most powerful learning - "you are normal", "what you are experiencing is normal."

These words we heard over and over again.

We will be following up the groups by meeting for a check-in a month from now.

A partnership was established a few years ago with Matthew's House Hospice, this shared Grief Program deepened it. We look forward to working more closely with Wendy and Matthew's House in the future, and we thank Wendy for her time and generosity of sharing with us in this way.



It Takes a Village!

It takes a village to raise a child ...

It takes a village to support a family ...

It takes a village to help marriages stay healthy ...

One step at a time!

We have recently begun talking about resurrecting the idea we talked about a few years ago ... of bringing children into the church as an after school program and being family to them.

What that would look like is ...

Teaching them skills - how to bake, cook, serve.

How to do crafts, like beads, embroidery, knitting, and sewing.

Help with homework.

And all kinds of other related helps to support and mentor little ones.

We are talking about starting in the summer with young school age girls who may not get a chance to enjoy a summer camp or other activity that costs money. This would be a half day program. In our early discussions we talked about offering a half day during each day of the week - Monday through Friday.

We are wondering who ... God is calling in our midst to come, help and be a part of this. Your involvement may mean 2 hours a week, or more ... depending upon your hearts desire.

If you are interested, and especially if you feel God prompting you to be a part of this ... please contact Judy Graham in the office: 705-435-9711.

God working through you... can make a difference in a little girls life!

Baptisms



Baptism of Ruby Michael Gambicourt in May.



God's goodness is evident as we have had new baptisms of adult members of the church. Parents of Sunday School children have now shared this sacrement with their children and it truly is wonderful to see! We look forward to scheduling more and encouraging families to enter into this Holy decision. We also had the privilege of a parent accepting Christ as their personal saviour and beginning their commitment to following Him. It truly is Gods grace evident at work.



Confirmation CLASSES

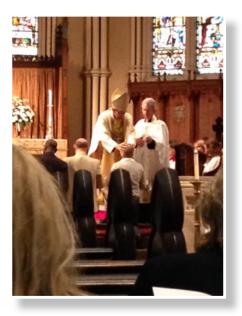
Youth confirmation classes are well underway, as we work through understanding the Trinity - God the

Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit, how to use the Bible, prayer, scripture memory verses and many other topics.

The youth confirmation class helped serve at the Pancake Supper and will soon be helping out with childcare for our Triple P Parenting course that will be held at our church on May 13th, 20th and 27th.

Learning 'service' is important and they have gladly responded and are a blessing to all. Upcoming conferences and youth training opportunities will encourage students to meet with other Christian students and be challenged in their faith on a larger scale. Confirmation students will be encouraged themselves to show Grace to others and to increase in faith with confidence.

Please hold our Youth in spiritual formation through confirmation classes in your prayers: Annemarie, Deanne, Deangelo, Katrina, Kiera, Shawn and Toby.



Confirmation of Dorothy Murphy at St. James Cathedral,
Toronto, Ontario.

AS Christians

We are Family - Christ's Body

Continually connecting with parents of the children and offering support and care is also a vital part of this ministry. Being available to be their community if needed so they recognize the importance of God's family is vital to our belonging and blessing on one another.

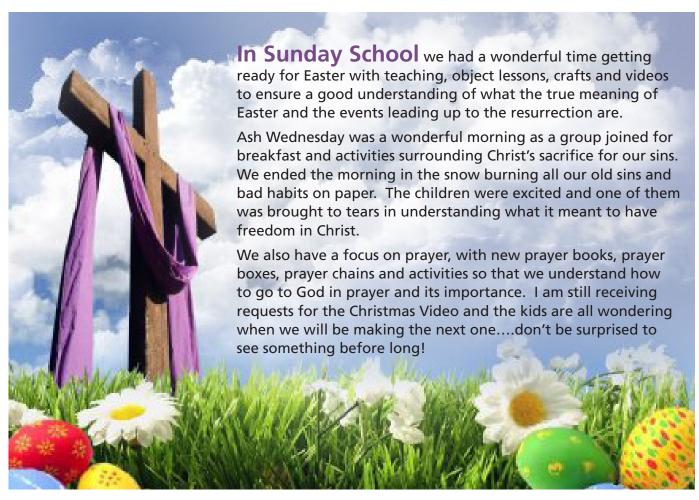


Nursery and Sunday School program has had the wonderful addition of beginning our time together with singing led by Mrs. Dickson. We sing songs and learn actions and it gives us a time for the words of truth to sink into our little lives.



BABY NEWS!

We welcome Annabelle (Annie) Grace McCabe to our nursery family and it is with Thanksgiving to God for His goodness that we celebrate this!



Our 2nd Annual Vacation Bible School currently in planning!



The Vacation Bible School materials have been ordered, received and reviewed. Our date was sent out very early to all the churches to avoid overlap in the community. We will be Climbing Mount Everest this year.

Many volunteers have recommitted and have marked their calendars for this July 13-17th and are already getting excited for the fun to begin!

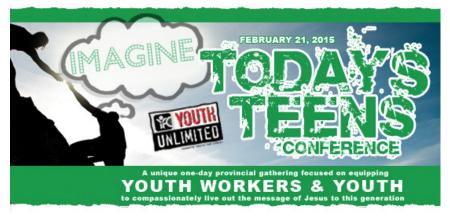
Group leaders have been selected and the meetings will begin in May. Last year we had room for 50 children. This year we have set our sights on 50-70 children. We anticipate filling up this year as we will be marketing materials and getting them out soon! I have made arrangements with some of my teens connected to our various groups to help out ... getting sets painted and creating visuals as part of the youth group and youth outreach program. It will be exciting to see the church transformed again!



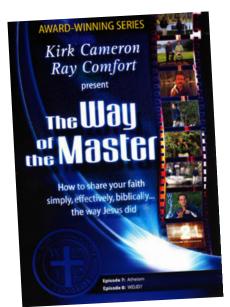
There will be a meeting on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30pm-7:30pm in Miller Hall.

Todays Teen Conference

was attended by France Young and another youth leader who were able to bring back some valuable tools for ministry. They look forward to bringing all the teens to the event next year to participate in the teen track. This is a wonderful tool with multiple speakers for seeds to be sewn into youth hearts in a culturally relevant way.







Sheila Dickson (our People's Warden and teacher at Banting), France Young and others from the Faith Community come together during the lunch periods at Banting High School and provide free lunch, Christian Education and Fellowship over both lunch periods.

We were viewing the I Am Second video series – testimonies of lives changed by God – and then following up with discussions. We are currently watching the Way of the Master series where students are challenged to share their faith as Jesus did. Discussions tend to be thought provoking and we continue to have approximately 15-25 students attend our luncheons.

As a result of France's involvement, she was asked by a Vice Principal if she could present at the school council what supports St. Andrew Anglican Church has as part of the community to support the families at the school. This was a wonderful confirmation from God that relationships and trust are being built. Although France was asked on the day of the presentation and couldn't be present, it is a sign that God's love is shining through!

At one of the Public Schools, France runs two groups on Friday – one regarding grief support and the other for older girls with self esteem and family issues. This too has been a bridge into the school and a blessing as she sees how hungry they are for truth and love. This is the beginning of a relationship with the school and she is encouraged to meet with the principal and look at more strategic ways the church can fill the gap for families in the future.



Grace



BY FRANCE YOUNG / YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILY LAY PASTOR

Grace is a word not often heard or used but it is at the heart of Youth and Young Families Ministries. Grace in our culture is more important than ever. In Phillip Yancey's new book Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News, he writes that as Christians we are to "... see to it that no one misses the grace of God and the rest is in God's hands." We are to see God's image in one who is not in our image. Meeting new community members, children, teens and parents, we hope that we are constantly extending grace of God and letting others know How much he loves them. Leaving the rest to him is where we struggle as a church and as Christians. But that is our calling as we come together, no matter who we are, where we have been, what we have done, where we might be heading and what we even might be believing at this time. To be the heart of God in our community.



In Canada many children are struggling with day to day life and sadly almost one in five children under the age of 15 struggles with anxiety or a variety of disorders. Which in turn means families struggle and we as a church can take the lead by stepping fully into our purpose as articulated by God. Breaking down in our response we will reveal what kind of kingdom children and families will be stepping into as we share God's love.

With this in the forefront of truly being a missional community and using three areas of ministry focus, it has been an exciting, challenging and extremely rewarding few months.

PROCLAIM THE 'GOOD NEWS' OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE WITNESS OF OUR LIVES."

Building Bridges from the Church into the Community, and back again ...

New Relationships

- In the Public High school, I have had the privilege of meeting with 8 youth directed to me by the school's Vice Principals and High School OPP officer. Along with others on a support team, I have been asked to be a mentor. Each youth has a unique situation and time spent with them has been rewarding as I have seen anxiety levels in life decrease, refocus on school success, decreased use of illegal drugs, re-integration into school and even with a team of concerned individuals. We were able to circumvent a young teen from being sent to jail, and instead she was offered a second chance. The rewards, as these teens know there is hope and that God loves them and is available to them, will hopefully be what encourages them to take the next step in trusting Him.
- In partnership with Brenda Powling, addictions counsellor from the Christian Fellowship Church, I have also participated in 4 weeks of Mental Health classes as part of the Physical Education curriculum. We are able to present materials around anxiety, depression, healthy and unhealthy cycles, suicide, affects of porn and media and even spirituality and its importance. This is a tremendous blessing as it is endorsed by staff and in this quarter approximately 7 classes of 30 students (210) were reached and were exposed to testimonies of Christians who have had their lives transformed.

INVOLVEMENT SHARED VOUTIGROUP

I have been co-facilitating this group with Brenda Powling from the Christian Fellowship Church, and Mike Barzo from The Alliance Church.



Static nights for children from grades 6-8 have been continuing at a local school gym and there have been great blessings and of course challenges presented.

It has been extremely eventful but God's blessings really shine when students discuss topics and we see the truth settling in!



ACTIVITIES AND TOPICS INCLUDE:

Wrestlemania = spiritual training,

Glow in the Dark Night = light in this darkness,

Minute to Win It = love of money,

Duct Tape Challenges = life's challenges and hope,

Diamond Smugglers = mystery of Holy Spirit and Christ's sacrifice.





Confirmation class for a few and attendance at a Young Teens Girls Conference based on Biblical living for young girls are next steps for some of the Static participants. It truly is wonderful to see teens show up weekly and respond to God's word.

As a result of our Christmas outreach to the hospital, fire fighters, policemen and retirement homes, we have had a wonderful response of appreciation and members being impressed by the caring of this group. As leaders we are praying that the seeds sewn are going to help these young people as they transition in life.

LAUNCH of International Parenting Program

Three individual seminars for parents/ caregivers of children 0 to 10 years of age

- The Power of Positive Parenting
- Raising Confident Competent Children
- Raising Resilient Children

Janet Humphries of Early Years Center will be holding a Triple P Parenting course at our church beginning in May. This is the first time they have offered it in a church instead of in a school. We will offer childcare and refreshments which is a first for the program. In partnership, we hope to provide this yearly so that once a year there is a parenting course in the community for parents who work during the day, with childcare provided.





You matter!

"I want to give to the Lord's work faithfully, but how can I do so if I'm not there?"

That's why Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) was developed. It's a way for you to give safely and consistently through monthly payments* securely debited from your account and credited to St. Andrew Anglican Church... so easy!

* You are able to stop or change the amount of PAG at any time.

If you would like to begin giving through PAG (Pre-Authorized Giving) or would like more information, please contact:

Barbara Burling, Church PAG Contact
through the church office at (705) 435-9711.

'In Christ Alone, my hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song!' (2001)

'Speak O Lord as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.'
(2012)

'When I fear my faith will fail, He will hold me fast.' (1907)

'Bless the Lord O my Soul, O my Soul, Worship His Holy Name!.' (2011)

'My worth is not in what I own, not in the strength of flesh and bone.' (2014)

'The Perfect Wisdom of Our God, revealed in all the universe.' (2012)

> 'The Lord's My Shepherd (I will trust in you alone).' (2006)

O Church Arise (2005)

Oh How Good It Is! (2012)

Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit
In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us.

CHORUS

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord And with one heart we'll live out His word Till the whole earth sees The Redeemer has come For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength
The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.

Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another
Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
And the Spirit.

OH How Good It Is!

What we sing affects how we think, how we feel and ultimately how we live, so as we sing together on Sunday mornings as the body of Christ, we continue to be mindful of the importance of our song choices.

It is a timeless truth that what we sing helps dictate what we become. You can see it in evidence in the work of Charles Wesley or John Newton, the writers of timeless classics that went so far in constructing a musical and practical theology. Their hymns helped the church become engaged in fresh ways with the surrounding culture.

Over this past season we have enjoyed singing the familiar songs that so many of us know and love from the depth and breadth of biblical truths explored in our hymnal. We have also been exploring some new material from some of the emerging great hymn and song-writers of today. As we continue to weave our tapestry of music together let's do as the writer of Psalm 96 asks us:

'Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD! Sing to the LORD; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.'

Psalm 96 v 1 & 2

Did you know that this year marks the 130th anniversary of 'How Great Thou Art'? Which of the new songs that we've introduced do you think will stand the test of time? Which do you think will the church be singing over one Hundred years from now?

Here are some of the first lines from songs we have introduced recently - I hope you're enjoying them as we celebrate the joy that is found in singing together as the body of Christ.

With grace and peace,

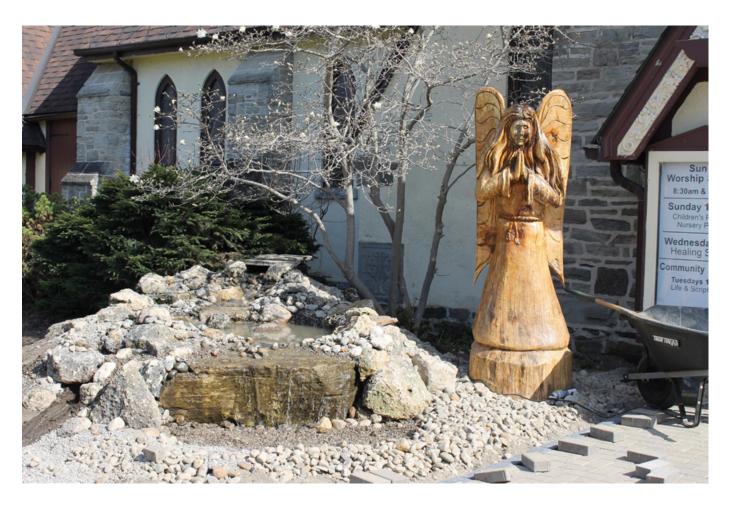
Joni McCabe

If you would like to be involved in encouraging the congregation in song, contact Joni McCabe, Music Director.



A MESSAGE FROM 'God's Dwelling Place' REGARDING THE OUTSIDE PROJECTS

BY SHEILA DICKSON / PEOPLE'S WARDEN



Is the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.

Psalm 42:1

During this next quarter, there will be much excitement as the project at the front of the church is completed. The angel has returned, after spending the winter inside a heated shed and has taken up residence by the pondless waterfall. Permanent wooden stairs have been built on the north east corner of the Parish House and the interlocking brick will be re-levelled.

Tenders are currently being submitted to re-furbish the verandas of the Retreat House and Parish House and install wrought iron railings at the Parish House.

Finally, we are beginning to move forward on the project for the back of the church. This project involves ensuring that there is sufficient and appropriate drainage for that area of our property as well as, paving both entrances and the parking area. More information will be provided once a viable plan is established.

With thanks to all of you for your patience and support;

Sheila Dickson (Peoples' Warden)



Building AND Property REPORT

BY GREG YOUNG / PROPERTY MANAGER

Thank you for your patience in helping me settle in to my new role as Building and Property Chairman. Many thanks to Sheila, Barbara and Judy for their assistance in helping me get settled and learn about the various responsibilities.

I would like to begin by making a huge thank you to Robert McMullen who faithfully and strenuously served our church this past winter in the clearance of snow and ice. Every day he ensured the pathways were cleared for parishioners and guests coming into the church. On Sundays he would be up long before the sun had dawned to ensure the snow was cleared, and the pathways salted. We all know how bitterly cold last winter was. If you see Robert, please say 'thank you' on behalf of us all. In addition, to this weighty ministry, Robert always comes in to fold the Sunday Service leaflets and special mailing pieces.

This past winter was relatively hard on the building and we are finding many maintenance projects to get done. If you would be willing to help out for some of our smaller jobs, like raking and watering lawns, planting, cleaning windows, etc. I'd love to hear from you!

We will be putting up a grass cutting schedule as well. If you are able to help in any of these capacities we'd really appreciate it.

We are currently working with contractors to get pricing for work on the house porches, a railing on the Parish House and some routine work on the main building.

We are looking forward to the work to be completed soon on the landscaping in the front of the church, with the return of the Angel ... many had been asking where she was.

We are also working with contractors regarding a projection display system that will be installed in the church. One of the items that came up at Vestry was that we needed to look for ways to become greener and save money. A suggestion was made that one way of doing that was to stop printing the Service leaflets, and inserts with music and scripture on them. With a projection screen you can get very creative with presentations of liturgy and teaching.

Because of our beautiful sanctuary we have to be so careful to not detract from it's natural beauty and historic ambience. As a result, of that aspect alone we have engaged in discussions with a number of experts asking their advice and requesting they submit plans and quotes ... so that we have ideas to compare and analyze. This is not something we will rush into. We will be entering into this analysis very carefully.

Many churches within the diocese have been encouraged by their bishop to look at installing these visual aids to augment their services. A number of those churches have submitted grants to the Our Faith Our Hope Committee for funding. Once we have analyzed which scenario would suit the architecture of our church, and our needs, we will see if we are able to apply for grant funding for this project from the Diocese. More details will follow.

Thanks and God Bless, Greg Young

Thanks to a generous donation, a stair lift is currently being installed from the front office entrance lobby to the lower level.



Financial UPDATE

A financial report as of Mar 31, 2015 has been posted on the bulletin board in Miller Hall. We are expecting to see the Audit Statements for 2014 within the month. Once we have received those Audited Statements, we will give two weeks notice through the weekly announcements of a meeting which will take place after each service one Sunday.

At this meeting, a motion will be made to accept the Audited Financial Statements and conclude our Vestry meeting for 2015. Any adjustments from 2014 that have been made by the auditor will then be incorporated into our 2015 books.

A quick overview of the Profit & Loss Statement will indicate that our Total Income for the first quarter was \$65,138.00 while our Total Expenses were \$69,488.00 for the same time period; resulting in a net income of -\$4,350.00.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Murphy (Treasurer); Sheila Dickson (Peoples' Warden)



Our team of Volunteers for the 2014 Valentine's Day Dinner in support of the David Busby Centre.

Faith Works/David Busby Centre Mission Fundraiser

As you are aware, the net proceeds from the Valentine's Dinner and the Alms collected during Lent were in support of the David Busby Centre located in Barrie.

We are happy to share the following report:

INCOME

 Dinner tickets & 	Dinner tickets &			
Silent Auction	\$ 2,582.27			
 Alms Jars 	\$ 1,753.61			
TOTAL	\$ 4,335.88			

EXPENSES

•	Dinner (food, tables, decorations)	\$ 968.76
•	Reusable Alms Jars	\$ 95.49
	TOTAL	\$ 1,064.25

TOTAL FUNDS COLLECTED \$ 3,271.63

These funds will be forwarded to Faith Works at the Diocese and then the Diocese will ensure that the David Busby Centre receives them on our behalf.



David Busby "Visibly Unseen" Exhibit "COURAGE"
Photographer: Ivy Shave, 2011



St. Andrew Anglican Church & Retreat House

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Parish Priest
The Reverend S. Kim McArthur
Deacon
The Reverend Deacon Pam Alderson
Honorary Assistant
The Reverend Earl C. Gerber
Youth & Young Family Lay Pastor
France Young