



St. Andrew Anglican Church & Retreat House
125 Wellington St. W., Alliston, ON L9R 1H8

The Pretty Little Church in the Heart of the Village

Parish Priest
The Reverend S. Kim McArthur
Deacon
The Reverend Deacon Pam Alderson
Honorary Assistant
The Reverend Earl C. Gerber

Fall 2015 Newsletter



All in God's time... BY REVEREND KIM MCARTHUR

Everyone get ready!!! It is about to begin all over again. Christmas is not that far away ... imagine!

When I meet people in their time of need ... they often pray for patience because whatever it is they are going through ... they want to pray that the process will be quick, pain-free, healing and productive ... with the hope and prayer coming out the other side ... stronger and better."

That often gives the impression that 'time drags' in God's Kingdom, a lot of waiting ... and that we need patience to endure the dragging of it.

But ... in 'that time', God works. And God's work within us can't be rushed. We're not robots, rather, we are precious children of the King of Kings, each one unique, delicately and wonderfully made.

Sometimes our tired ole body parts need a good rest. And at other times ... motion is lotion and gets rid of the rust; and helps to keep the mind sharp.

I have found, since my vocation with God started sixteen years ago, that 'time in God's Kingdom' goes far too quickly. Lately though, it feels like I am watching a miracle unfold in milliseconds. There is no better demonstration than that of life.

In the past few years, two budgies have taken over my mudroom. They have the whole room to

themselves, housed in a large parrot cage - door open so they can fly and perch on a fig tree, I've owned and cared for over 40 years.

I have been watching these budgies, wondering how long they are going to live ... because I have my sights on getting this mudroom back. It sure would come in handy ... being able to store those mucky boots and stinky barn clothes after coming in from doing the chores. But ... no, these little birds - a white one, and a blue one ... look healthier than ever.

One day a week or so ago ... I noticed the blue budgie (the oldest) in a feed dish bowl - in a weird stance. I thought 'oh my, it's moving on, into eternity ... not too long now til I can reclaim this ground!' Next thing I knew... it had three little eggs in there with it.

Now this bird has laid eggs and left them all over the cage before... without caring for them. So I figured, nothing would come of these new little ones.

But, she seemed to spend an awful lot of time in there. And low and behold, one of the eggs hatched. Have you ever seen a newborn budgie bird?

It looks like it has been born premature - a translucent pink. No feathers, eyes not yet open, awkward movements, laying on it's back ... chirping once in a while.

ST. ANDREW ANGLICAN, ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Jesus HOPE for humanity

FINDING HOPE
SUN NOV 29 | 8:30 am & 10 am

COMFORT OF PEACE
SUN DEC 6 | 8:30 am & 10 am

REDISCOVERING JOY
SUN DEC 13 | 8:30 am

LESSONS & CAROLS
SUN DEC 13 | 10 am

RECEIVING LOVE
SUN DEC 20 | 8:30 am

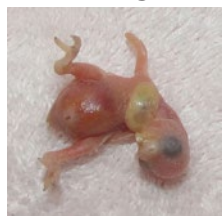
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
SUN DEC 20 | 10 am

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE
THURS DEC 24 | 4:30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
THURS DEC 24 | 7 pm & 9 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
FRI DEC 25 | 9:15 am

I worry, does the blue bird know how to be a mother? Should that baby be laying on its back? What about the spastic movements ... is something wrong?



I don't like disturbing the nest as it were, so I try to only go in there once or twice a day ... ok, maybe three or four times a day. Lately, I've been flipping the little thing over ... it just looks so

helpless on its back.

There are still two eggs in there with this baby, I worry about what will happen when they hatch. Does this new mother know how to handle triplets? For all of us, who have worked in nature, and with animals, we know this scenario can go in many directions.

Little baby birds seem so helpless and fragile. Their growth and development can't be rushed. It is all God's design. We can stick our fingers in ... but that doesn't help ... in fact, truth be told ... it can hurt the situation. But it is hard ... isn't it ... to keep our fingers to ourselves.

For my own comfort and peace ... how I would love to see the little thing up and walking around with a full body of feathers ... chirping and eating. Instead it lays there, spastically moving ... and slowly and steadily developing ... being cared for by its mother.

How does a baby budgie relate to our church?

Although the parish of St Andrew Anglican Church is 140 years old, in many ways we are still very young ... growing and developing into the life God is calling us into. You can see that as you look around, ministry areas that are deep but thin ... we need more people involved.

In that involvement (service to God) people grow, as does their faith. We have a lot of opportunities open for ministry - check out the back page of this newsletter.

God isn't finished with us yet! In fact, for some of us He is just getting started ... in a whole new way. God has each one of us here for a reason - it is His reason - and He wants to do a great work through you and me. God wants to bring Glory to Himself through you and me.

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

When we look at scripture and what we are called to - we see how integral it is that we are

called to pass on what we've been given. It's the Great Commission that Christ left us. It is the very essence of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ - a Christian.

"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"
Matthew 28:16

So, I ask you ... what were the commands?

You and I may not go to all the nations, as the apostles did ... but we are called to do 'that' here - in our town of Alliston, and in our sphere of influence.

Some may think ... well, that doesn't really apply to me. Someone else is doing 'that' ... it's covered. **But is it?** When we get to the gate ... can we say to St Peter, "oh yeah ... Martha in the church did that ... so I didn't have to." ... I wonder how that will fly?

In our society today, many will write a cheque to a 'good cause'. But, as a follower of Jesus Christ we are called to much more than that. We are called to 'give of our life, and the fruits of our lives ... to the widow, orphan, the sick, to poor and the lonely.' And Jesus said, when you have 'done unto one of these, it is like you have done it unto me.' And ... your reward awaits in heaven.

You see, to do as Jesus did, means to look into the eyes of those downtrodden, love them, heal them and bless them. As we love our neighbours as ourself ... we share with them the bounty we would share with our own family. What has been given to us, including the skills and opportunities to make our living ... is not ours to hoard ... it is ours to hold, to invest and to return a profit on ... in Kingdom work (remember the parable of the talents).

For those who have stepped into Kingdom work with sacrificial giving - of themselves, of their resources ... there is an indescribable joy. You feel God's joy as you share in His redeeming work ... bringing light and hope into our dark world.

Becoming a Healing Church

Six years ago God called us to become a healing church. That sounded good. It's a biblical imperative, it fits. And we responded. In truth we had no idea what that meant. We thought if we could 'love people and walk with them' ...

it would bring healing. There is an expectation there, of reciprocity - humanity's brokenness is messy, and we are all broken... and life is complicated and nothing is as simple as it seems. There are spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical implications at play. How does one walk into that with good intention ... without stepping on land mines and causing more harm?

Our God is a supernatural God. We read in scriptures that we live in a world with spiritual forces - for good and for ill. We would come up against that, and we continue to. God provided what we needed ... in the form of teachers, healers and helpers, and graciously they came to our aid. God taught us how to have eyes to see, and ears to hear. We are still learning. God isn't finished with us yet.

Little did we know that ... God would need to heal the church.

Our healing ministries, like so many of our ministries is not something that can be rushed. Just like the baby budgie - we are developing in time, slowly and surely, with God leading each millisecond.

"So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Matthew 9:38

Jesus said ... Come and see, follow Him. We have programs developed to equip and train for our ministries ... we need you and don't worry, you will not walk alone, we learn together. You will find ... it is God who trains and blesses you.

This is 'God's Church', He 'has it' and 'you and me' in His Hand. God is drawing us closer to Himself. One vital thing we have learned the hard way, is that in our desire to love and serve God, there is a danger that we can get caught up in the mire of people pleasing ... to God's detriment. Like me, sticking my finger into the bird dish to flip the little guy over because he looks uncomfortable. Growing is uncomfortable.

For all things we are to go to God in prayer, discerning God's Will, but when you have very capable people with skills ... we easily slide into auto pilot, and can get caught up in 'our wants of how things have always been, or our own personal opinion on the way it ought to be done ...'

Personalities come into play, and 'what people think' can get more sway than God's thoughts. The sacred balance may have tipped more times than we would like to count.

In the trying, testing, refining and strengthening ... He has shown us that in our striving we were

working under our own steam a lot of the time, and this is called 'works' or 'walking in the flesh'.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. Isaiah 55:8

God Challenged Us and Continues to Do So

God examined our hearts, and continues to do so - testing our reliance on Him, our trust in Him alone, how well we are listening to Him and His Will, walking in His Ways. Some say it is easier to start a new church, than it is to revitalize a 140 year old church. I don't believe that is the case - this church is filled with wisdom, vast and deep experience and beautiful grace-filled people. I don't know about you ... but with God working within that ... just imagine what is possible!

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

The power of prayer, our relationship with God has to be at the very centre of every thought and movement of His church and our lives. This is His church, we are His people, you and me, we are His precious children.

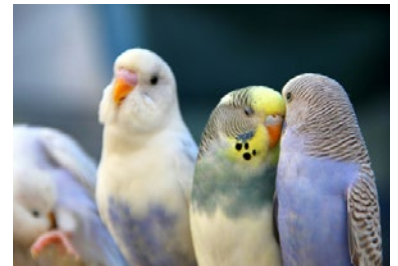
In our new awareness and faithfulness we are seeing lives transformed. God is calling more and more people into ministry and service. Some are responding, and some of you are holding back. You know which ones you are. For every matter under heaven there is a season, and your season is coming. If you are feeling God stirring you ... please come and talk to me.

Rest assured, but not passively ... God is breathing new life into this parish church in a very powerful and deep way ... and He is going to use 'us ole birds to do it!'

The doxology we pray together at the end of our Sunday Service says,

"Glory to God whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus." Amen.

Did you know 'Amen' means 'so be it'? Let us say, together 'Amen'!



the life OF A DEACON

BY REVEREND DEACON PAM ALDERSON



When I was ordained a deacon in May 2014, St. Andrew had gone through an extensive learning program as to what a deacon's role was.

Some questions asked were – whether St. Andrew needed a deacon and would they support one in the parish? The answer was “yes”, they would support a deacon being raised up from within the parish members. That was

when the discernment process began in earnest, and when my name went before the parish as a candidate I received unanimous support.

Following formation and after completing all the various diocesan requirements I was ordained on May 14, 2014.

In recent weeks I have been asked some questions about my role and responsibilities. Here are some answers.

The role of deacon varies a lot in different parishes depending on the deacon's gifts and calling, and the parish needs.

My training as an x-ray technologist prepared me to care for people and I am called to support and assist Rev. Kim and to care for the sick.

A deacon is not an associate priest, however a deacon does assist the priest in the services on Sundays by reading the gospel and leading the prayers and occasionally preaching when invited.

Deacons are not allowed to celebrate a Holy Communion service in church but may in Nursing homes and peoples own homes. A deacon can lead Morning Prayer but so can a lay reader.

I look after pastoral care and visiting in the nursing homes taking communion service to Kingsmere and Simcoe village and assisting Rev. Earl at Good Samaritan and Riverwood.



Deacons are to be out in the community more than in the parish and bring the needs of the community into the parish's attention.

Another part of my work in the community is to co-ordinate the Spiritual Care Visiting program at Stevenson Memorial Hospital. Rev Kim and I also meet with the group once a month for education and support.



With the help of the Rev. Don Shields, Markham Stouffville Hospital chaplain, we have just finished training some of the other ministers in town to be able to provide on-call emergency spiritual care assistance. With Rev. Kim and myself there are currently 4 of us trained to respond with another to be trained soon.

The hospital is very excited to be able to utilize this emergency on-call service, and continue to be very grateful for the spiritual care support our trained lay people team is providing day in and day out.

My commitment to the Parish

When I was ordained I signed a covenant with the parish and with the bishop saying I would give 20 hours per week, at least half of those are to be in the community. I attend clergy functions and conferences and the local ministerial association.

I have seen God at work in my life on many occasions in the past 18 months. A couple, however, stand out in my memory. Like the time when I was asked to take my first funeral service—which I thought would be small—and Drury funeral home was full.

Then one Sunday morning I received a phone call at 6:00am—Rev. Kim was sick and Rev. Earl was out of town. I was to take both morning services in church. God equipped me and enabled me on both occasions to bring glory to God and to lead his people.

Since the last newsletter I have started a new group at Kingsmere. This is a Holy Communion service once a month. In August I challenged all the ladies to share their faith and invite a friend to the next service so I am looking forward to seeing the results!

On September 1st Rev. Earl and our team resumed our Holy Communion Services at Riverwood and Good Samaritan after our summer break. This ministry is shared with the other local churches. We lead the first Tuesday of each month.

I have also shared communion at home with a few people over the summer. **If anyone would like to receive communion because they are unable to come out to services**, please call Judy in the church office at (705) 435-9711, and we will arrange that for you.

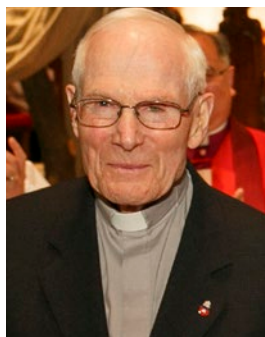
September is here and God is working noticeably in this community of St Andrew. I encourage you to take advantage of the teaching that we are offering to move closer in your journey with Jesus; remember also those quiet moments of devotion and prayer time. Jesus gave us the example of “Come away to a quiet place”

Blessings in Christ

The Rev. Deacon Pam Alderson

The Examination

VOWS OF A DEACON (BAS pg 655)	VOWS OF A PRIEST (BAS pg 646)
<p>N, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood, directly under the authority of your bishop.</p> <p>In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.</p>	<p>N, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Saviour and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world.</p> <p>Now you are called to work as a pastor, priest and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.</p>
<p>As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the holy scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them.</p> <p>You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live and work and worship.</p> <p>You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.</p> <p>You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship, and in the ministration of duties assigned to you from time to time.</p>	<p>As a priest, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts.</p> <p>You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.</p> <p>You are to preach, to declare God’s forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God’s blessing, to preside at the administration of holy baptism and at the celebration of the mysteries of Christ’s body and blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.</p>
<p>At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ’s people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.</p>	<p>In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ’s people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.</p>

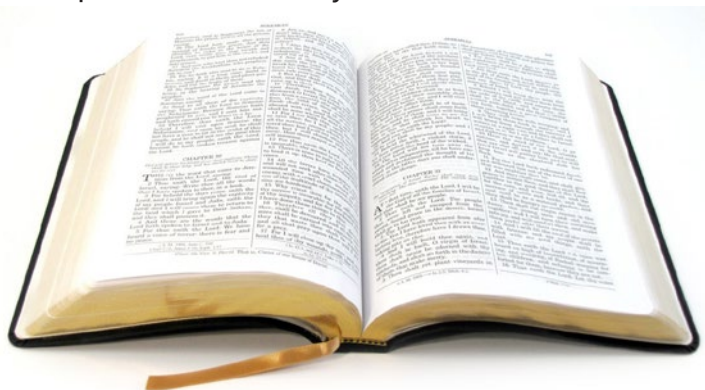


the Bible AND YOU

BY REVEREND EARL C. GERBER

Twenty years or so ago at one of our Diocesan Synods, a Lay Member from Port Hope (Cobourg?) was reporting on the warm reception a new Bible Study group was receiving in their parish. She began her report by remarking "As you know, Anglicans are not noted for their familiarity with Scripture." The whole assembly broke up in laughter...agreeing 100%!

We can only conclude that Anglican Biblical illiteracy is a standing joke in some Anglican circles. Why this is so, is not clear, since in nearly every service of worship, four passages of Scripture are invariably read.



To me, God's Word written is like the Owner's Manual to every car owner in the country. If it is left untouched in the glove compartment, then sooner or later there is going to be a huge major repair bill crop up for that automobile, to say nothing of poor performance on the road.

It has been, therefore, for me, a very gratifying experience to lead the Wednesday night Bible Study weekly for the past four years (with breaks over Christmas, Easter, and the summer.)

Fourteen faithful fellow students join me each mid-week in the front room (lower floor) of the Retreat House, to field questions, share puzzlements, and discuss thorny daily issues arising from the Bible text. This takes place regardless of rain, shine, snow, or fog!

Together we have explored one hundred passages from Genesis to Revelation, as assigned by our basic text, The E100 Challenge, which is published by Scripture Union.



More correctly, we have studied 98 passages, and #s 99 and 100 await us, (hopefully) to study before we break for the Christmas Season. It has been a great adventure!

When one of our members was forced into the Rehab Centre in Newmarket for many weeks, his enterprising spouse brought her Iphone to our meeting, and dialled up his number in Newmarket, at the outset of class. He was with us verbally and phonetically for most of the sessions while he was confined to his ward down in Rehab!

Like our members, I have made some significant discoveries over the four years, discoveries about God's Truth, about God's world, and about myself.

We have all been on a learning curve!

Where we will go, material-wise, in the New year, has yet to be decided by the group members (possibly St. Mark's Gospel?).

One thing is certain, we will all be "growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Although our meeting-room is crowded, there will always be room for 2 or 3 (or 4?) more. So those of you who have been considering joining, come along, you will be most welcome!

Rev. Earl

Team Teaching - Sunday School



Sunday School began on Back to Church Sunday. This fall we are using a curriculum called **"Living Inside Out"**. A curriculum that: **"dares kids to live out their faith 24/7"**.

In the first unit: **"Vertical Edge Working for God"**, the children learned Bible stories that re-enforced the key Bible verse **"Work willingly at whatever you do." Colossians 3:23**.

We are currently into the second unit called: **"Imperial Palace: Obedience"**. The key Bible verse is, **"Submit to governing authorities." Romans 13:1**

During each lesson the children sing, dance, recite the Lord's Prayer, play games or make a craft to re-enforce the Bible story and the main point of the lesson.

Below is a summary of the second unit:

Date	Bible story	The main point of the lesson
Oct 25th	Saul Disobeys God	We obey God's commands!
Nov 1st	Church Hospitality	Be kind and show your love to others!
Nov 8th	Remembrance Day Service	Let us never forget the sacrifice of others!
Nov 15th	David Plays His Harp	We trust God's timing!
Nov 22nd	The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon	We show others what God is like!
Nov 29th	Esther Goes to the King	We do brave things with God's help!

*On the first Sunday of every month, the Sunday School children provide hospitality for the congregation after the 10:00 service. During the time usually spent learning a Bible lesson, the children are involved with baking, and setting up for coffee time. They help during the coffee time and then help to clean up. It is a wonderful time for the generations to mix and an opportunity for both the children and the adults to show their appreciation of one another.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Dickson

We have been blessed by having ten adults respond to God's call to help with this very important Ministry.

We are adopting the 'team teaching' approach, which means that there are at least two adults teaching the Sunday School lesson and one adult in the Nursery.

Please contact the Church office or speak to Sheila Dickson if you would like to join our team and help either with the Sunday School or the Nursery.



At St. Andrew Anglican Church, we've developed an after-school program that we believe can change the trajectory of young people's lives.

Our 'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child' program ensures that a safe person who cares is by their side, journeying with them ... through thick and thin, teaching life skills that will enrich their lives:

Homework Help

School Project Help

Baking/Cooking

Sewing

Computer Skills

Knitting

Crocheting

Woodworking

Jewellery Making

Photography

Prayer

Music



We will teach them to pray so that they know they are never alone. And that God has a plan and a purpose for their life. And that purpose is to help them prosper and give them hope. We will walk with them as they discover 'who that wonderful person is that God created them to become.'

A mentor helps young people explore and discern the world in which they live, to do so authentically, with appropriate behaviours and morals conducive to building strong healthy self esteem.

This is an opportunity to make a positive impact in someone's life, pouring the blessings of our lives ... into 'little lives'

and sharing in that abundance. As we connect and listen, we will help young people to navigate through life and the issues they will face.

With a trusted mentor by their side, it just may change their life's trajectory in a positive way.

We become the safety net. We become the 'village it takes to raise a child'.

When young people are able to solve their problems with reasonable success and feel increasingly confident in their own abilities to cope, periods of struggle gradually become less frequent and less intense.

They begin to trust themselves and draw upon the solid resources and coping skills they have learned and nurtured within themselves.



Mentoring has a positive effect on lowering levels of absenteeism with students.

(Kennelly and Monrad 2007)

Mentoring has a positive effect on reducing recurring behavioral problems with teens.

(Thurlow Sinclair and Johnson 2002)

It Takes a Village to Raise A Child

cont'd

Program Development is underway. We are speaking with some retired teachers in the community looking for a strong organizational coordinator.

We are thinking we will run the program for 16 weeks at a time. That way we can experience the first one, evaluate and tweak as we go. So the program times will probably run from February to May, and then the next program will start in September and run until December.

The 'It Takes A Village to Raise A Child' program will be held once a week. We're calling it "The Village Kids program". We will endeavour to put our finger on the pulse of the community, in order not to book a day where the community programming is already heavy, so as to avoid overlap.



We are only asking the volunteer mentors to commit to a four week period. We have several learning groups planned. The first program we will launch will be for 'girls only'. Once we get our feet wet, we will begin to plan the 'boys only' group.

Each learning group will comprise of - four girls - and two mentors. The mentors can be male and female. It was felt that it is advantageous to 'model' healthy role models in both sexes.

We are also developing the 'application process' regarding 'intake', as well as contingency plans should behavioural issues arise. Areas we are looking at and developing involve boundaries, commitment, matching mentors to giftedness and the supplies and resources we will need.

The learning groups are:

- Homework Help
- School Project Help
- Baking/Cooking
- Sewing
- Computer Skills
- Knitting
- Crocheting
- Woodworking
- Jewellery Making
- Photography
- Prayer
- Music

There will be a group of girls and two mentors who will prepare a healthy and wholesome dinner each program night. This will teach the young girls how to cook with healthy whole foods.

They will learn to set a table, serve, clean up ... and we also have a gentleman who trains butlers who is willing to come in and 'teach good manners'. Everyone in the mentoring age who hears about that 'good manners and table setting' lesson says *'oh, I want to be in that group too!'*.

We are planning to have a lot of fun. We are also planning to have a lot of mentors so that the workload is light and there are no unhealthy co-dependancy issues that arise.

Stay tuned for more information. If you are willing to offer a few hours from 3pm to 6pm one day a week for four weeks of your life to pour into a little girl's life - call Judy Graham in our office. Judy will be playing a key role in this program as well.



SHE'S MADE IT!!!!!!

Deanne Rose on the Sr. Women's Olympic Soccer Team

We are so excited to announce that Deanne Rose is training with the Sr. Women's Olympic Soccer Team. Deanne is headed to Vancouver on Saturday for 10 days for testing and then it's off to Brazil.

In Brazil there will be 20 days of competing in a Four Nations International tournament, in Natal, Brazil. This is a friendly warmup tournament.

On November 23rd it is scheduled for the draw to see who Canada will play against to qualify for the Olympics.

The Canadian team will be required to qualify for the Olympics in either Houston or Dallas, Texas, beginning February 10th through to the 22nd, in a CONCACF tournament.

Deanne will be training up until the Olympics. As a grade 11 student her school work will be sent to her on a Google blackboard via computer.



In a phone conversation to her daughter this morning, AnneMarie reminded Deanne that God doesn't give us more than we can handle.

A Mom's Prayer Request... to her church family:
Heavenly Father, please keep my Deanne safe, keep her focused, remind her You are always with her, watching over her.
Help her to feel Your presence with her.
Help her to know that You are her strength, her protector, her wisdom and her guide.
In Jesus name we pray.



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



What a great night it was!

John Sands In Concert

We were blessed with beautiful music, entertaining stories and lots of laughs on Saturday, October 24th.

Special thanks go out to Betsie Gerber for all the planning that went into it, to the ACW ladies and to Rev. Earl for being such a great host.

What will our Parish response be for the Refugee Situation?

Our challenge as a parish is to discern what God is calling us to do within this situation. The Primate of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, has information for us to read and reflect upon on the Anglican Church of Canada website...

www.anglican.ca/primate.

Our own Diocesan Bishop Colin Johnson is encouraging parishes to respond...

www.toronto.anglican.ca.

AURA is the Anglican (Church) United (Church) Refugee Association. You can find out more information about them by going on to their website... www.auraforrefugees.org.



When Ian McBride, AURA's Executive Director came to talk to us on Remembrance Day it was not lost on anyone how hard he has been going for these past few months, and how tired he appeared ... as he has been out to in excess of 60 Anglican parishes in the past couple of months to talk about options.

Prior to his coming to us, in preparation for his talk ... I had mentioned to him that we didn't have coffers in the bank and that we had other initiatives underway - so that he was here to meet us, plant seeds and we would pray to see where all of this will go. I may have inadvertently hamstrung him ... with him not wanting to overstep ...

He is willing to come back to the parish and speak to a group who are interested in following

through on an initiative. He says there are a lot of different options - and not all of them involve money, and yet are very helpful.

I understand from conversations I'm over-hearing, that there will probably be refugee families put up in Base Borden while they are being vetted. I do not know this for a fact ... however, with the Prime Minister's push to bring 25,000 people in before the end of the year, we should know more very shortly. On the national news there was also talk of housing a great number of them in the PANAM game complexes in Toronto. That was speculation they said, but an option being bantied about.

St. Andrew is at the information gathering stage

There is a lot of information gathering to do ... a great deal of praying ... discerning - asking God for His prompting and leading.

Anne Fraser and Liz Hanna have agreed to be a part of that discerning committee for our Parish and are open to anyone with a heart for this ... to join them.

Right now as a Parish we are in the information gathering phase. We do have an Anglican organization AURA, as well as the Primate's World Relief Organization, out of respect for our denomination we must explore our own avenues prior to making any decisions.

Anne has had some involvement in the community as there are some in other churches that have begun an initiative.

Some information from Anne Fraser

A community group was started in October by Lisa Morgan to bring a refugee family to our area from the Middle East crisis.

This group has met three times to date and along with community members a number of churches from our area are represented. We have started the process to bring one family over and are hoping that we can sponsor a second family.

It has been decided by Refugee Rescue South Simcoe group to use the Mennonite Central Committee Ontario. The MCCO is able to have the paperwork processed quickly and we can have a family here by 3 weeks to 4 months.

To get started we need \$10,000. The total amount needed is \$30,000. The group is expected to support the family for a year, helping to get the family set up and become established in the community. The Alliston Christian Reformed Church has agreed to be the legal signing party.

Our next meeting is on December 2, 2015 at the Christian Reformed Church.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Anne Fraser at 705-435-3432.

We can make a difference!

All Saints, Memorial Sunday

On Sunday, November 1st we celebrated the lives of our loved ones who have joined the 'cloud of witnesses' of which the apostle Paul speaks in our New Testament.

It was a beautifully moving service – 103 candles were lit.



Wendy Graham was our guest speaker and spoke about hope and that hope is found within our faith.



Creating Anglican Prayer Beads

Retreat House Retreat

*Facilitated by Deb Reilly, Christ Church Anglican, Stouffville
Hospitality provided by Judy Graham*

It was a great day as we learned about the origins and significance of the Anglican Prayer rosary.

Deb shared with us some of the history of St. Theresa of Avila ... as it was her Saint day.

We chose from an assortment of beautiful beads and crosses and were instructed in how to put it all together. Each participant created 3 or 4 rosaries. At the end of the day we got to choose our favourite and keep it as part of the fee for the day.

The remaining beautiful and unique rosaries have been left in the Retreat House and are being sold for \$45 each.



Check out the rosaries for sale at the Retreat House.

Prayer Booklets are coming soon!

Bishop Fenty chose his favourite and was quite excited to receive it. He'd been away at a Bishops conference a week or so before and the Primate had talked about his own Anglican rosary. When our area Bishop heard we'd made these he was really looking forward to choosing one.

We will also put the rosaries on the website hoping to sell more that way ... in so doing expanding the conversation beyond our walls on prayer and the blessing of using sacred rosaries to help people stay grounded in their prayer experience.

The retreat itself was a wonderful time of creativity, fellowship and learning. Stay tuned ... Two more retreats will be held in January and February. **Be sure to get your name in quickly - there is limited space - you won't want to miss this opportunity.**

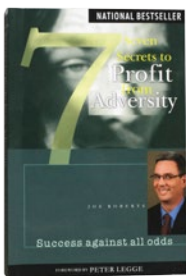
Joe's life and testimony confirms...

how vitally important and timely our "It Takes a Village to Raise A Child" truly is! We are called to become the much needed safety net for vulnerable children – helping them to find hope in the God in which we place our own hope.



From Skidrow to CEO "The Push for Change"

On Sunday October 4th we were very fortunate to have Joe Roberts come and speak to our congregation. Joe spoke very openly about his life and the hard times he has been through since the age of nine. Without the safety net of family and friends he fell and fell hard and that ultimately led him to live on the streets. Joe shared with us the promise he made God to pay it forward if he would only help him!



In his book he writes, "in 1989 I left the streets of Vancouver, BC. Canada a broken, homeless drug addict. For over 10 years I lived a substandard life then something changed and my life began to get better".

His book is a collection of his beliefs, stories and most of all, his philosophy for successful living. He says, "nothing happens without a dream. In 1989 all I could do was dream and dream I did. I dreamed of a day I would no longer suffer the pain and degradation that had been my life.

Today I am living proof that nothing is bigger than the spirit to win and reach for a better life.

Despite all the obstacles we face, we can overcome, and live the life we imagine. We can truly profit from adversity.

I learned that life doesn't give us what we deserve – it gives us what we negotiate.

My mission with this book is to help you negotiate what you want out of life. My hope is that it moves you, in its own way, in its own time, toward the change you want. They say change happens in an instant, a flash, in a moment. As you read this book may you have many such moments as the God in me touches the God in you".

In 2011 Joe Roberts and Dr Sean Richardson formed "The Push for Change." The idea was to create an engagement strategy that would help End Youth Homelessness. Joe is now making good on his promise to God. On May 1, 2016, Joe Roberts will push a shopping cart 9,000 km across Canada. The trek will start in St. John's NL and end 517 days later in Vancouver BC, on September 30, 2017.

Joe and his shopping cart will be stopping at St. Andrew on Christmas Day 2016.

We have pledged as a church to hold a rally here to show church and community support for this much needed cause.

We need to tell everyone and anyone who will listen about this fantastic event so we can fill the church and the hall and the streets in support of this great cause.

There will be more information available as we get closer to the event.

This would be a wonderful way of sharing family time and teaching our children how to support those in need. Hope to see you all there!



The Holy Spirit is moving...

and we are privileged to be a part of what He is doing. I'd like to encourage you to join in with the river of worship whenever you can and as often as you can. Jump in!

It's so important to go to the depths of the river... the edges of the river... the beginning of it – explore it's heights and depths. Ephesians 3-18 (NLT) reads "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is"

We have had a wonderful season – engaging with and being led in song by visiting artists over the summer while I was visiting family in Ireland, and we look forward to more of that in the coming months.



BY JONI MCCABE / MUSIC DIRECTOR

What a privilege it is to be leading God's people in worship - Thank you for providing people like me the opportunity to do that.

It is exciting to see our choir growing also – may that continue so we can fill the sanctuary with the sound of our voices. The Bible talks a little about how our praises enthrone God – that's an amazing thing to think about as we sing our praises at church! Psalm 22 v3 NLT reads "Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel."

We are looking forward to the next season's "Tuesday night Taize and Praise services" which are opportunities to rest in God's presence and the monthly music meetings where we eat and drink together to build community and sing the richness of the gospel – songs old and new – familiar and unfamiliar – all parts of the river!

Culminating on Sundays when we join together as the body of Christ to exalt our Saviour through song and community together.

We look forward to the beautifully joyful, fun Christmas season with anticipation.

Will you be in the river of joy?

Our Faith Our Hope Grant Request Successful \$30,000

Enhancing technology and improving new and innovative forms of communication while re-imagining the Church of tomorrow.

We are looking forward to introducing:

- Live video footage of our weekly worship services with the following text and graphic elements mixed in:
 - Song Lyrics, Liturgical responses, Readings,
 - Inspiring, emotive and comforting videos and images, Skype conferencing with missionaries, pre-recorded testimonies from congregation members,
- Live Christian concert events.
- Movies that inspire and point people to the gospel. Family movies to create community - and Family Nights out in the Parish.



JUMP INTO THE RIVER!



And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them.

But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

Matthew 19:14

COMING SOON!!!



"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:37



7 WEEK PROGRAM

cleansingstream a journey of discovery

We are all on a journey. We embarked on this journey the moment we called Jesus 'Lord'. As Jesus takes our hand along the way, the terrain is ever-changing. Sometimes our steps are easy and other times quite challenging. And, as with all relationships, walking with the Lord involves discovery.

Almighty God has a special plan for you to be blessed through this Cleansing Stream experience in phenomenal ways. Your responsibility will be to show up, persevere and stay the course. God will do the rest.

TESTIMONIALS

Hi. My name is Ken and I would like to speak to you about my adventure with the seven week Cleansing Stream Workshop and one day Retreat.

During the seven week workshop, I felt like God was really trying to communicate with me. Every week there was something said that really hit home with my being and direct feelings towards my life as I was living it at that time.

As the eighth week and retreat day arrived, I was still very uncertain what God was really trying to tell me.

When I arrived at the Community Church early Saturday morning, I met up with three persons also attending the retreat.

The more we talked about the day and maybe what we wanted out of this day, I began to pray to the Lord to open my mind and eyes to all that He wanted me to do.

At that time, a warm feeling came over my whole body. The warmth wasn't just on the outside, but it was heating my body from the inside out.

At the retreat, we sang great songs, listened to a talk and afterwards we would be invited to come up to the front for healing prayer. Normally, I would be very reluctant to do this, but for some reason, I couldn't get up to the front fast enough. I had this tiny voice or feeling telling me it would be okay.

It wasn't until that second time up at the front, when I was being prayed for, I heard the Lord tell me I was forgiven for all things.

When this happened, I once again was surrounded by a very warm feeling and I knew that He had heard all my prayers.

I then began to pray, not for me, but to forgive others who I had held some form of hatred for.

If anyone has been thinking of going on a Cleansing Stream Retreat, I hope you attend and hear the Lord as I did.

Can't wait for the next one!

- Ken Fulford

The Cleansing Stream course has been the best foundational bible study that I've ever done.

Oh how I wish I did this study when I became a Christian years ago. It really helped me understand how much our Father truly loves his children.

I learned how to better walk in the Spirit, speak words of life and how to commit everything to God.

At first, I was intimidated by the size of the workbook and the cleansing retreat at the end. But once I got into the study I couldn't stop highlighting and making notes. It motivated me to dig deeper into the Scriptures and definitely increased my intimacy with the Lord. I felt God speaking through His Word and it enhanced my communication with Him.

It's a study that I will go back and do again because there are so many vital teachings that I need to be reminded of.

As for the retreat at the end... For me, it was an awesome day of passionate worship and deep cleansing. Even though it was really hard to dig up past and present sins and it was an uncomfortable

process of asking for forgiveness, it was definitely worth it!

I feel truly forgiven and much freer. This experience will help remind me about the extreme importance of repentance.

One of my deepest prayers and desires is for God to have ALL of me and cleanse every nook and cranny so that MORE of His Spirit would dwell within me.... My spirit shouts 'I am a coin in your pocket, spend me as you will, Lord!'

The best part of this study is that I feel closer to God in a tangible way.

I encourage all to go through this study and give it your best. I promise that God will show up and you'll not be disappointed!

- Jessica McCabe

Isaiah 1:18 (NLT)

"Come now, let's settle this," says the lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool."

CLEANSING STREAMS TESTIMONIALS cont'd

I found the cleansing stream program a wonderful instrument for learning who God is and how he wants me to understand why he is with me through good and bad times. That he is a forgiving God and that Jesus is by my side always. It has taught me to be forgiving of others. I have also learnt that temptation is a tool of Satan and with God's help he can be defeated. With prayer and assistance from other true Christians my life will be a testament to God's importance to my life ahead.

- Doug Petrie

Spiritual Labyrinth completed

This past summer we were able to enjoy our new prayer Labyrinth. It is attracting our neighbours as well, as they come to sit beside our pondless waterfall in the quiet.

On Tuesday nights a group of people would gather and walk the Labyrinth, going into the church to pray and meditate afterwards.

THURSDAY MORNING Bible Study

JOAN JORDAN



Our bible study meets Thursday at 10am at the Retreat House. Although small in numbers we have good discussions after going over the piece of scripture we have studied that particular day.

We have just finished the book of Ruth and seen how she had shaped her life by walking in God's way. Also how God is in control of every situation we face.

Through all scripture we see how God loves and directs those walking in the Spirit.

Together we search our hearts and continue to grow through the written word. We would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us with no experience necessary.

The group is loyal in attending each session and within each session we experience the knowledge of God's love for us and our love for one another.



Stewardship



The entire inside of the now 'Retreat House' was renovated and updated, original hard wood flooring was stripped and refinished, new ceramic tiling installed, the whole house painted, new windows, the delapidated front porch was removed and replaced with a brand new porch including the brick work, railings and pillars.

This was a massive undertaking and back then we had a team of men from our own parish who came in and virtually did almost

Eight years ago the 'Retreat House' didn't exist. It was meant to be the home of the Incumbent, but Rev. Kim lives on a farm with a menagerie of animals ... so that wasn't going to work. Rev. Kim and her husband Rick stayed on the farm with her animals and the Manse, Rectory, whatever you want to call it was rented out to strangers. It is against diocesan policy to rent to parishioners. This policy is in place for some very good and solid reasons.

Unfortunately, the tenants who were very nice people, had challenges and were constantly in arrears - the parish inadvertently had to begin to subsidize their living arrangements. Not only did the parish find itself having to come up with their monthly rent, the tenants were not caring for the home. It was in a state of very poor repair, in the coldest months of winter, windows were left wide open for days on end. Not only were we carrying their rent, we were paying to heat the outside.

When the people moved out, because we did not renew the lease, they owed months of back rent that we never saw ... the house was filled with garbage left behind. The entire kitchen was literally wall to wall garbage, that went as high as the ceiling. We can't remember how many runs to the dump it took to get rid of the garbage ... and then the hard work began.

all of the work. And miraculously, they got it all done in less than four months!

We knew God had His hand in this project because it only took four months, and the whole house was furnished with beautiful furnishings provided by parish members as well as people from the wider community. Even the Archbishop came up for a grand ceremony of blessing our new 'Retreat House Ministry'. Only God could make all of this happen in only four months.

Now for the past six years, every year we see over a few thousand people come through the doors of our Retreat House, and the donations offered through the cafe more than carry the costs of this ministry. We have wonderful volunteers host, cook and serve weekly and some of them not even from our own parish. Our volunteers have blessed us, and the community powerfully!

Our volunteers are wonderful people, who develop deep friendships not only with one another but also with the regulars who come in weekly. We are always looking for more volunteers if you want to come out, have some fun and serve in the name of our Lord God!

The diocese was about to launch a "reimagined church" campaign called "Our Faith, Our Hope" and they were looking for their parishes to prayerfully reimagine church in today's culture

Stewardship cont'd

and context. When they saw the efforts of our parishioners and how we were actually ahead of that in our missional thinking of reaching out into our community with the gospel imperative of healing and hospitality, they awarded us with financial help.

They did this to take pressure off of us so that we could focus on 'ministry' and 'equipping our people for ministry', instead of worrying how to raise funds for a new driveway to fix the drainage issues around the buildings, as well as, to fix the tripping hazards with respect to the uneven cement out front of the church.

The diocese asked us for a 'wish list' of property related 'fixes'. They looked at our ministry plans for the future, took those plans before several committees and departments at the diocese ... took a vote, and cut a cheque in support of our work on this little patch of God's Kingdom.

They did not do this to improve the curb appeal of the church. They did it to help us to have a church facility conducive to great ministry.

The money we received for these property enhancements is almost gone now. It was all **designated funds** - the money could be used only for the purposes for which we had indicated on our 'wish list'.

It could not be used to shore up our 'operating expense budget'. The ongoing operating expenses of any parish are the responsibility of its members - that is you and me.

If you have been in this parish for any length of time, you will know that we often eat as they say 'hand to mouth'. We are not a parish with a lot of money which is perplexing in some ways... because we know that God has provided - this raises a question of the depth of our faithfulness.

We really rely on your regular givings in order to pay the bills monthly.

There is a good portion of our congregation, and it is pretty symbolic of many today, that don't come regularly - and this puts a financial strain on the parish.

When we participated in the Our Faith Our Hope campaign, it was to raise funds to have in the bank ... again, so we didn't have to worry

about money but rather, so that we could focus on building the ministries in the church, thus strengthening its sustainability.

That campaign is now over and we no longer are receiving monies from it. We thank everyone who took part in it - we greatly appreciate your support and love of this church and the mission with which it seeks to 'live the faith we are called to by our Lord God'.

I met with a couple of ministers in town last week and both of their churches have substantial bank accounts through 'gifts from estates', and when we were considering how to respond to a specific crisis - they both said - their churches don't like to spend their money. They prefer to have a bank account for a rainy day.

I apologized that we didn't have any money to contribute - that we were currently in a deficit situation. The ministers wondered if living as lean as we do ... if it helped our parish to be more risky when it comes to ministry' - I said, 'no, I don't think so ... it just causes some to have sleepless nights.'

Many within our parish as well as outside of it have looked around at enhancements made to the parish of St Andrew, and may have thought we have money in the bank ... and are sitting in a good place financially. But that is not the case. The money spent was a gift of grace from the diocese - taken from a bank account, from the sale of churches who weren't able to sustain themselves and eventually had to close'.

We are now reaching out to our parishioners, asking them to prayerfully consider their 'offerings' to the 'work of God through our church' and respond as God is calling us to.

It has been said that our personal giving rhythm and amount is an indicator of our spiritual health. When we consider that everything we have comes from God, how grateful are we? How do we show that gratitude?

We appreciate your beautiful hearts, your wonderful spiritual testimonies, the exciting calling that God has upon your life, and your generosity in sharing that which God has given you to hold, nurture and share.

Financial Update

As mentioned at the end of June, St. Andrew needs your continued financial support to meet its operating budget. Please see the comparison of the envelope offerings for 2014 & 2015, and prayerfully consider increasing your offerings.

Thank you, Sheila Dickson, People's Warden.

Jan - Oct 2014:	\$132,555.83
Jan - Oct 2015:	\$114,298.25



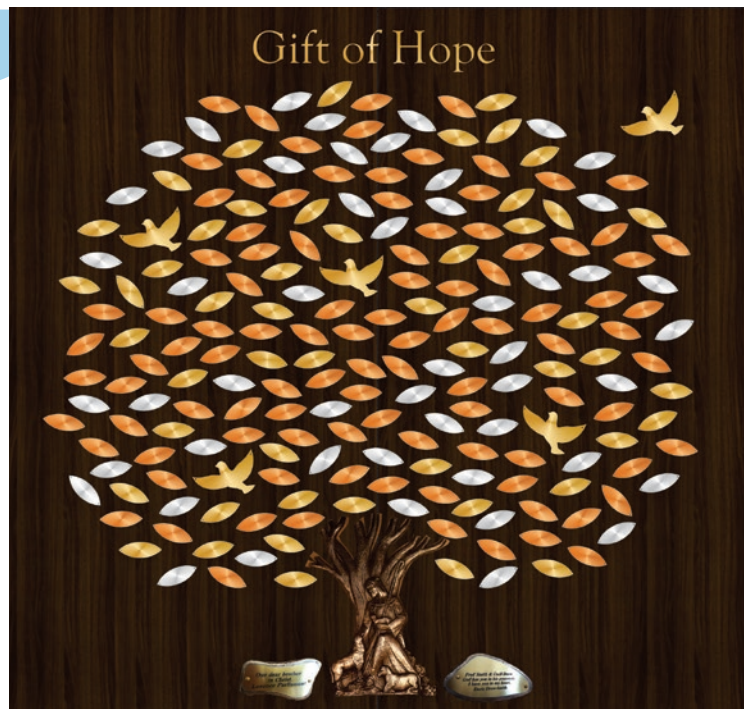
"One of the most important things we can leave behind us is to have made a difference in someone else's life."

Donor Recognition "Gift of Hope" Tree

Support of the Healing Ministries of St. Andrew Anglican Church & Retreat House is an investment in our mission to reach and support the spiritual health of a vast number of people who are alone, hurting, overwhelmed, depressed, frustrated and confused in our community.

Each charitable contribution impacts our community and its future generations. These donations reflect a legacy of giving.

Community benefactors have made an important difference in the lives of those we seek to reach and see their lives transformed.



THE FOLLOWING GIFT PLANS ARE PRESENTED FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

TOTAL SACRIFICIAL PLEDGE		FIVE ANNUAL PAYMENTS	TEN SEMI-ANNUAL PAYMENTS	TWENTY QUARTERLY PAYMENTS	SIXTY MONTHLY PAYMENTS
Animal	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$833.34
Dove	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$416.67
Gold Leaf	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$83.34
Silver Leaf	\$2,500	\$500	\$250	\$125	\$41.67
Bronze Leaf	\$1,500	\$300	\$150	\$75	\$25

☐ Other. I would like to make a total gift of \$_____ with payments.

☐ Annually ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly



Building AND Property REPORT

BY PAUL MORRISON

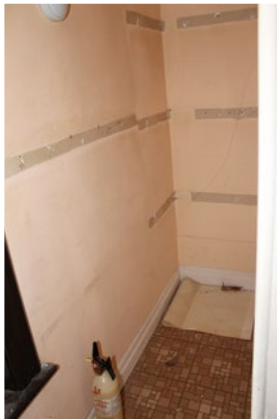
The Parking Lot behind the Church and Retreat House

The asphalt paving and line painting of the church parking lot has been completed by the contractor, Crown Paving Ltd., and it looks amazing!

There are 3 handicapped spots allocated: 1 to the left of the back deck of the Parish House, 1 next to the kitchen stairs entrance, and 1 beside the back door ramp of the Retreat House.

Work underway at Parish House

Another project in progress is repairing and redecorating in the upper apartment of the Parish House.

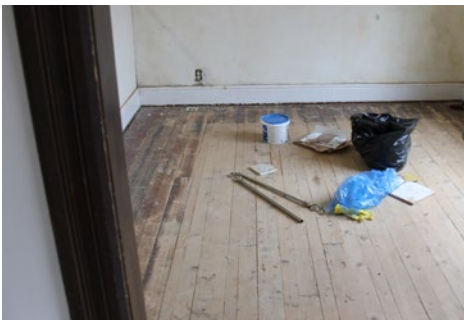


A dedicated group of volunteers including Sheila Dickson, Dorothy Murphy, Ken Fulford and myself, spent several days in August removing existing carpet, stripping wallpaper, washing walls and patching holes in rooms where the existing plaster is still in acceptable condition.

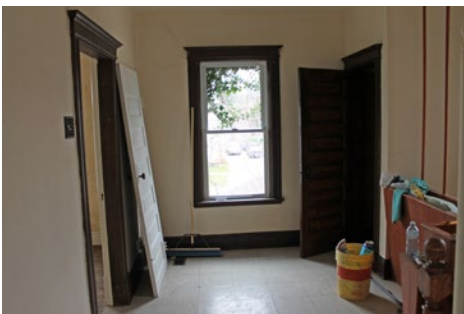
We are currently inviting quotations for repairs to walls in worse condition; patching in some areas and installing drywall where patching is not feasible.



Also to be quoted is the installation of new flooring throughout and electrical upgrading as required. Bathroom fixtures and kitchen cabinetry will be replaced.



The heating system has been upgraded. Prior to this, there was one thermostat in the upper apartment controlling the temperature in both apartments, which was less than an ideal arrangement. While looking for ways to allow independent temperature control for each apartment, it was found that each apartment had a separate duct system from the furnace. By replacing the existing 25 year old furnace which is not suitable for control by two thermostats with a new furnace which is and installing control dampers in the ductwork as required, separate control could be achieved. From the quotations we received to make these changes, Right Temp Mechanical was selected to do the work. The installation of air conditioning is also part of this upgrade.



LISTEN is GOD calling you?

LIFE & GROWTH IN GOD'S KINGDOM

LOVE

- Hospital Visitation
- Hospitality:
 - Funerals
 - Retreats
 - Retreat House Café
- Visiting & Listening Ministry
- Shepherding

WORSHIP

- Altar Guild
- Scripture Readers
- Shepherds
- Sidespeople
- Lay Readers
- Musicians
- Preachers

SERVING & GROWTH

- Cleansing Streams
- Alpha Program
- It Takes A Village
 - Homework Help
 - School Project Help
 - Baking/Cooking
 - Sewing
 - Computer Skills
 - Knitting
 - Crocheting
 - Woodworking
 - Jewellery Making
 - Photography
 - Prayer
 - Music
- Teaching
 - Bible Studies
 - Sunday School
 - Men's Group / Women's Group
- Leadership Training & Discipleship

Opportunities for Ministry WE NEED YOU!!



**St. Andrew Anglican
Church & Retreat House**

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The Reverend S. Kim McArthur
Deacon
The Reverend Deacon Pam Alderson
Honorary Assistant
The Reverend Earl C. Gerber