

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Burning Bush Newsletter

Spring 2019



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519-843-3565



Upcoming Worship

Summer Worship at 10 a.m. begins on June 2nd until Sept 1st
June 2nd 10 a.m. Country Gospel Sunday and Holy Communion
H.E.A.R.T.S For Haiti Hot Dogs following worship
June 16th at 10 a.m. Sunday School Graduation
June 23rd at 10 a.m. Outdoor Service & Picnic is at Pine Meadows.
Pot Luck Picnic Lunch—Drinks supplied.
Bouncy Castle—Games—Fun & Fellowship
9 & 11 a.m. Worship resumes on Rally Day—Sept. 8th



Sports Camp August 12th—16th 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

This amazing camp is for kids ages 6-12. Cost is \$80 per child for the first 50 children and \$110 thereafter. Register on line at sucamps.ca/locations/st-andrews. Brochures are also available at the office. Our summer sports camp is a great witness for Jesus. Could you help out? We are looking for volunteers for billeting and running the camp. Speak to Chris for more info.



Youth Ministry

Jr High Grade 6-8 Every Tuesday 7 p.m.

High energy – games/activities – worship and teaching – special outings

Sr High Grade 9-12 Every Thursday 7 p.m.

Sports – canoeing – camping – biking – travelling to attractions – mission trips to Nicaragua

Sunday School offered at 9 & 11 a.m. every Sunday

– Fun and inspiring curriculum – caring faithful teachers – safe environment



Small Group Bible Studies

There are many Bible Studies and small groups meeting at St. Andrew's and in peoples' homes.

Call the church to connect with one that fits your schedule.



VBS – Summer Volunteers

Our summer VBS will be July 22–26th.

Speak to Christ if you might be interested in helping. We will begin planning for our VBS in May.



H.E.A.R.T.S for Haiti

We support the Cap-Haitien community through financial aid. Funding is sent down each semester to support food and educational programs at four schools with over 1000 students. The Lord has blessed this mission for over 20 years. We have monthly hot dog Sundays, different fund-raising events and opportunities to be a monthly donor. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Why not come out and find out more about this mission. Contact the office for more details.



Women's Retreat – Nicaragua

There has been some interest in possible adult trips to Nicaragua.

On June 21 to 30, PAN missions is hosting a Women's conference in Nicaragua. This event brings women from Canada and Nicaragua together to encourage one another in the Christian life and be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you have interest, be in touch with Annette Vickers at: annettevickers@panmissions.org



Coffee House

Friday May 10, 2019 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker: Doug Sargent Theme: "Experiences In Pastoral Care"

Music: Jeff Catto ALL WELCOME!



Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?

A congregation-wide dinner, hosted at various homes

Saturday, June 1st Sign up as a host, or a guest.

Host provides the main dish and beverages.

Guests provide side dishes and dessert.

You will be matched with participants, but won't know who until you greet each other at the door!

Please call Erica with any questions - 519-843-7794, and sign up in the fellowship hall. You will have a wonderful time!



Eye Glasses



Just wanted to say thank you to all who have donated glasses since January. I have received sixty pairs. Just think of all the people that will be blessed with improved eyesight in third world countries. Saying thank you on behalf of Medical Missions International. You can check out Medical Missions at www.mmi.org. Brenda DeJong

Hilltop Singers present

"Rising In Song" Sunday, May 12th 3 p.m. here at St. Andrew's. Join us for old and new favourites. A free-will offering will go towards purchasing music and for a local charity

The Door Centre Wellington Youth for Christ SPRING BANQUET

Sunday, June 2nd at Grand River Community Church, 7438 Wellington Cty. Rd 18, Elora \$30 tickets (\$20 tax receipt) for a Southern BBQ Dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets at St. Andrew's office or call 519-787-4700.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR: MISSIONAL IN 2019

by Duke Vipperman

Loneliness and lack of face-time community is a huge modern challenge. Immigrants to Canada feed rapid church growth, but the longer they live here, the less likely they are to remain in church. Concludes a Wycliffe College professor, "Just living in our society destroys Christian faith and practice". Some (many?) of the formerly urban newcomers to our area may not have yet feel welcomed to the delight of belonging to our rich Centre Wellington social fabric, much less church.

What is there about the way we do life that erodes faith? The distance we keep. The way people go about their daily lives minimizing contact and conversation with others. Portland Oregon pastor Sunia Gibbs describes that as the...

PRIVILEGE OF DISTANCE

"All the ways that our proximity [or lack thereof] to others keeps us from seeing, hearing, acknowledging or understanding their experience. We are so tempted to fill in the unknown with our assumptions instead of really listening or engaging".

... the affluent blaming the poverty on the poor.

...the status quo knowing nothing of the politically disenfranchised.

...from the comfort of home watching news of a disaster elsewhere in the world.

...neighbours co-existing yet feeling no need to know the other (this breaks down in crises).

... church conversations which never raise beyond the superficial because we pay professionals to listen

...The thoughtless transfer of families (by businesses) from "anyplace to anyplace" so that the family has no place called home and no relationships with continuity and trust." [McKnight, John. The Abundant Community (p. 100). Berrett-Koehler Publishers.]

Not running into your neighbours...

...at the movies because you have a big screen at home.

...at the library because you search the internet at home

...at the post office because your mail is delivered.

...at the local grocery store because you frequent a big box store in another community

...on the street because you are ALWAYS in your CAR!!!

A PAINLESS REMEDY?

People are suspicious of a cold-call "sales pitch" approach to the gospel. To consider what you say, they first need to know and trust you. How can we bring people closer together? At St Andrew's Day away (Sat. April 6) I suggested LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR first by being a presence. Spend more time walking your unique 'hood" What is that? Well, what is your "daily round"? Where do you go throughout your week? Walking you might encounter people on the way. Driving you might only encounter people once you get to the shop, or grocery store (hopefully not the OPP wanting to chat about your driving!)

REDUCE THE DISTANCE: DISCOVER YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Each of us walking more frequently and slowly that little part of where we live. Walk it with a friend, With a dog, With a social worker, With a public official, With someone from church. Then keep walking it, being open to chatting with any "person of peace" you meet (Luke 10:5-6); someone who welcomes you enjoying your company as much as you enjoy theirs.

It may not seem like much, but I know from many experiences this can make a huge difference in peoples lives – and their openness to talk faith. Seriously: who'd a thunk that getting fresh air and exercise could also make a healthier community? But its true. Try it...you'll like it.

Pastoral Care

Over the past few weeks, you may have noticed a mention in the bulletin about GriefShare, and have wondered what in the world that is! St. Andrew's has realized that we, as a Church family, ought to be doing more to support folks who have lost a loved one, or for some other reason, are travelling through the process of grief. At the present time, there is a group meeting each Wednesday afternoon to take part in a video series which oddly enough, is called "GriefShare".



This is a series where councilors, pastors, psychologists, along with people affected by grief, share by way of DVD, some emotional techniques and strategies to assist anyone who is making that journey of grief. This is a 13 week series, and the intent is that it will be offered perhaps several times a year. We recognize that grief is caused by many situations, one of them being the loss of a loved one. It is our hope that through these sessions, those participating will find the road to Peace a little smoother as we share with each other.

Perhaps you are experiencing grief of some shape in your life. Has something happened in your life that is presenting challenges for you to move through your days. It is our hope that you might feel encouraged to look into the next GriefShare group. It is part of a wonderful healing process when folks who have shared similar hardships come together in a group setting to encourage, support and lift up each other. Please watch the dates for the next session and plan to take part. For more information, please make contact with Brian Kennedy, Pauline Hall or Doug Sargent.

Women In A Mission

With April comes an anniversary for our group. Our first meeting took place in April of 2004 so we have now been knitting, crocheting, sewing and collecting baby items for 15 years. Our projects have multiplied over the years and have been supported by a faithful group of women. At each meeting, items made or donated for that month are piled on the table in the parlour. Without fail, the table is piled high and overflows. Following is some of what we have accomplished over the years:

Over 1300 babies in India, Africa, Haiti and Nicaragua have been covered with our pneumonia vests and over 2300 babies have had a hat to keep their head warm. Even in warm parts of the world, babies are susceptible to developing pneumonia, particularly during cooler, rainy seasons. 405 baby nightgowns have been sewn and sent mostly to Nicaragua. These are designed to be used in hospitals and are open in the front so medical personnel can easily check on the babies. 1686 heads and 557 pairs of hands are warmer in Hall Beach, Nunavut with hats and mitts sent from here. 700 teddy bears or comfort dolls are being snuggled by children in Nicaragua, Haiti and even Wellington County. 271 lap afghans are keeping laps and legs warm at Wellington Terrace and Fergus Caressant Care Nursing Homes. Twiddlemuffs are now being made to give to residents with restless hands at nursing homes and Groves Hospital.

In 2009 as our contribution to St. Andrew's 175th anniversary, a prayer shawl ministry was initiated. So many prayer shawls have been given out that we stopped counting. If you've experienced a loss or sickness in your life, you have likely been a recipient of a shawl. These shawls are made in prayer and meant to provide love and comfort as they are wrapped around your shoulders.

Milk bags have been recycled into 389 sleeping mats. Most of these have been sent to Haiti. The unfortunate fact is that there are people who don't have a bed on which to sleep. These mats keep them dry and protect from vermin.

This is just a sampling of what we have been doing over the last 15 years. We meet the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the parlour and invite anyone interested in our mission to join us.



Things You Might Want To Know

We have an on line **church directory** to help you get to know your church family. If you would like to be part of this and would allow the office to put your e-mail address in the directory, you can access it at



Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com. It will prompt you to create your own password. There is a spot for pictures as well. This really helps to recognize one another. For those who are already on the directory and haven't submitted a picture, now is the time to think about that. It can be e-mailed to Sandra at the office or drop it off to be scanned if that's easier.

If you would like to receive weekly bulletins, newsletters and all kinds of useful information, let the office know and we'll add you to our **Mailing List**.



Don't forget we have **Faith Mail** slots in the hallway overlooking the fellowship hall. You never know what you might find in your mail slot. No postage required!! If you don't see a slot for your family, let Sandra at the office know.

We have electronic availability here at this church. You can e-transfer right from your bank to ours, anytime. Secondly we are registered with **CANADAHELPS.org**, look for St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus and you will see our picture of our beautiful treasurer.