

ST. ANDREW'S CONNECTION

Newsletter Summer 2020

"Keeping In Touch"

A Note from Rev. Emily

Minister's Message

Water can be described in many ways: refreshing, cooling, soothing, peaceful, powerful, rushing, or still...but I've always admired the stubbornness of water. When I was a small girl growing up on the farm, one of my favourite springtime activities was "helping" the snow-melt water drain away from the barnyard. Rubber boots on and stick in hand, I'd dig little channels to direct the water this way and that, pulling sticks out of the way and watching it go with a whoosh...and sometimes, I'd make little mud-dams just to see what the water would do to get past them. I discovered that water always finds a way. Whether it has to go around or under or over the obstacle, or stubbornly persist in working its way through, water finds a way. And so have we!

Among all the many changes and restrictions that have affected us these past months, the separation from our church family and our beautiful church home has been particularly challenging. And yet, we have found ways to still support one another, to be present in one another's lives and encourage each other, to pray for each other, to grow in our faith and knowledge of God, and to safely worship together in our homes. Through phone calls, video conferencing, cards and notes, emails, worship online and on TV...we've discovered a new way to be the church and to keep being united as one in Christ, despite the obstacles we've faced. And newness is always a sign of life.

As our summer unfolds – together apart – I hope you and your loved ones will all stay safe and healthy, and find time to recharge and renew your minds, bodies and spirits. May you feel Christ's gracious presence in your hearts, and may His peace bring wholeness and love to every part of your lives.

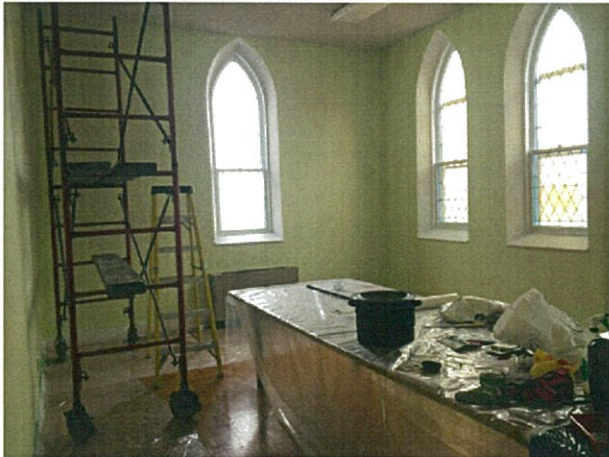
**Yours in Christ,
Rev. Emily**

Church Building News

Although our building has been closed, our staff have not been idle! The sanctuary has been deep-cleaned from entry to balcony to choir loft: pews and surfaces tidied and polished, hymnbooks, psalters and Bibles dusted and wiped down, carpets cleaned and upholstery steamed. The Ladies' Parlour, library, nursery and office carpets have also been steam-cleaned, and all the cupboards and shelves in the kitchen, library and administrative office have been turned out, de-cluttered and organized. Our historical baptismal and wedding records have been databased electronically for easy searching and to protect the fragile books. The chairs and tables in Wenino Hall have been scrubbed clean and had all the nuts and bolts checked and tightened, and even the basement has had a good spring-cleaning and clear-out. And if you're passing the church, drive slow so you can see how beautiful our gardens look!

Having applied for and received a generous grant from the Catherine Wilson Foundation, the Board of Managers has decided to take advantage of our summer closure for some much-needed work in Wenino Hall. New cost- and energy-efficient LED lighting will be installed to replace the fluorescent tubes, as well as three 56" commercial ceiling fans to improve air circulation.

During the update.



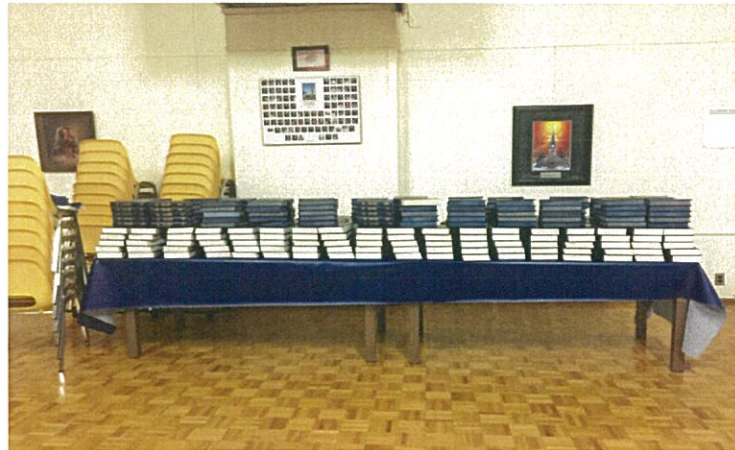
The Pathways to Faith group has completed their renovation of the Board Room. Luckily, the hard work of steaming, scraping and scrubbing off the wallpaper happened before the pandemic, and the patching and painting was finished by Easter.

The updated meeting room.



The attached bathroom and entryway also received a fresh coat of paint and some updated finishes. It's now a light and bright space for meetings and Bible study. Thank you to Yvonne, Susan, and all the volunteers who pitched in! Thank you.

Ready for the congregation to return



Growing our Faith

St. Andrew's first online Zoom Bible study was a great success. Using free videos from the Bible Project, we explored different themes and ideas as they appear through the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Held over twelve weeks from April 14th to July 2nd, our topics included generosity, justice, the way of the exile, the Holy Spirit and more. From May 21st to 31st, we also participated in the global prayer movement Thy Kingdom Come, along with hundreds of thousands of other Christians from around the world. And our email daily devotional series has grown from twenty of us at the beginning of Lent to nearly 70 daily recipients and even more through Facebook. That's over 130 days and counting of reading and reflecting on Scripture together!

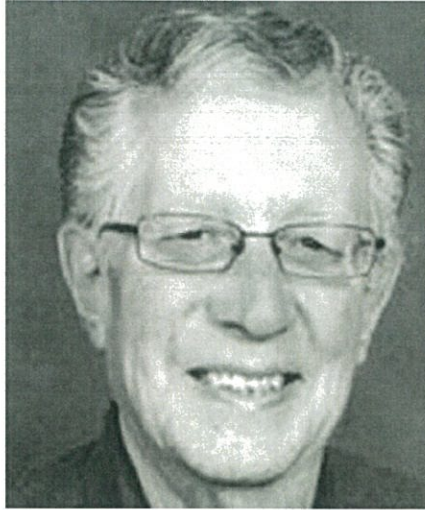
Church Finances from January 1st to May 31st 2020

Income		Spending	
Giving	\$53,666.50	Worship & Ministry	\$31,397.49
Special Days	\$680.00	Building	\$21,122.34
Fundraising	\$1,300.25	Office	\$19,813.15
Other	\$643.42	Christian Education	\$222.37
Interest	\$3001.27		
Total	\$59,291.44	Total	\$80,560.75

In Memorial

During the past few months we have lost some cherished friends. We would like to express our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.

Peter Cassel May 5th, 2020



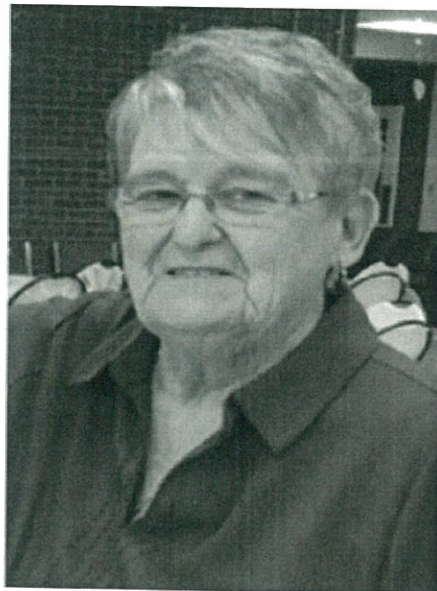
Sheila Murphy – May 9th, 2020



Benjamin Robert “Bob” Hillman -June 22nd, 2020



Edgar E. McKenney – July 3rd, 2020



Pat Edwards – June 7th, 2020. Pat supported St. Andrew’s Seniors by being the caterer.

We asked the congregation what have you been doing to pass time during the pandemic and here are a few replies that were received

The biggest problem I find with this situation, is the cancellation of all of the social events of the year. I don't enjoy being looked at like when getting groceries, or lining up to get into any of the other usual commercial outlets that we use, or being told that you are going the wrong way in some store. Also if I have to go to the bank, and be greeted by someone saying "what do you want"? Well gee! let me see, I'm at a bank, maybe to do some BANKING? I felt like telling him, I'd like a medium dark roast with one cream and two sugars. Now that I'm retired, I don't have to put up with all the nonsense imposed on those I left behind, and I'm grateful for that. I have not developed any solo new hobbies, other than becoming a Youtube addict, and of course we ALL watch too much TV. I DO enjoy being out in my backyard, and going through the drive through at Tim's and bringing it home.

We will look forward to the time when the words I hate, (Social Distancing), are remembered no more.

**Take Care
Bill**

The Judy and Mac MacDonald Covid Report

New to us

Lots of reading - Judy (books, thanks to my neighbour's wonderful library), Mac (radio, Kindle books, thanks to BBC on Sirius radio)

Church service on TV, daily bible study on email - great job, Rev. Emily!

Meetings on the telephone (Zoom) - Mac's Kiwanis and coffee group, Judy's bridge club.

Phone calls from Margaret each day! Wonderful chats!!

Time for lots of cards and letters sent and silly jokes on the email.

Sadly missed hugs, hand shakes, church in church, happy and sad gatherings, seeing family from away.

Looking forward to being together once again, going to a restaurant for dinner, hugs, etc.

I returned home from Florida three weeks early due to the urging of the Federal Government. I completed the fourteen day mandatory isolation, friends and family provided groceries for me which I was very grateful. During my quarantine I sorted out my family pictures and put them in piles for my children. Sure glad to have the time to do that task. After the quarantine I utilized curb side pick up for groceries. I sure like that service. The only problem was when you order bananas they give you the biggest bunch. Needless to say I've never ever made so many loaves of banana bread. After a month of curb side pickup I ventured into the grocery store with a mask. When the warmer weather arrived I spent considerable time in my gardens.

Sharon Emmett is so kind to phone me every week to check up on me. I looked forward to her calls.

I'm visiting with friends one on one, sometimes we meet under the bridge for coffee.

Penny is still in Florida, she continues to isolate and wears a mask. Not too sure when she will be able to get to Canada with the border restrictions. We celebrated her birthday with her family on the House Party app.

I miss my Church family and attending Church. I'm enjoying Rev. Emily's service and daily devotionals. In due time we shall be celebrating once again. May everyone stay healthy.

God Bless.

Dick

I found my time during the pandemic both of loneliness and joy. My loneliness stemmed from living alone and not being able to visit or hug my mother as she is at Trillium Villa. She is getting remarkable care in which I am eternally grateful. I planted a garden with a bird feeder outside her window and added notes to her window to let her know she was thought of and not alone. Friends wrote her letters which she enjoyed. Visits on a regular basis outside her window helped, though there were days of tears on both sides. Finally got to visit her on my birthday after getting tested and passing but my mom had difficulty hearing me with the mandatory mask wearing. We now talk by FaceTime once or twice a week which is provided by the home. So blessed. My joyful time was having a birthday marked by signs on my front yard, balloons and a drive by parade of friends. I have missed Church and seeing the people and I can hardly wait until September. Holli Griffith



In response to the email as to what we have been doing, every day that we both wake up we are grateful for life. Do to the COVID we still feel grateful that we have food, we have our home, and most important of all so far we have our health. We have spent our time making coffee in the morning and watching Trudeaus briefing so we know where Canada is and also medical reports to make sure we follow the rules set forth. We listed to Premier Doug Ford so we know how Ontario is doing.

We mainly stay home and spend time looking after our flowers and sitting out in our gazebo. We only socialize with family but follow the guide lines. We cook at home, and can't forget that we take our little dog for a walk but only on our street so we can self distance.

With that being said we are doing great but do miss the church family but Rev Emily keeps our faith together.

Not much to complain about!

Ellen McDonald

I am blessed to have a friend in the apartment next to me, she is 87 and I am 94. So we go for a walk in the park across the road as weather permits in order to keep our legs exercised. My balcony overlooks the park so I can see when it is not busy and easy to have social distancing,we wear a mask in case anyone gets in our space.

Margaret Laurie and I have put together several puzzles (1000) pieces. We are doing alright, we miss church but appreciate the daily devotionals and the Sunday services on T.V.

Etna Shaw

What a great idea of doing a Summer newsletter and asking for everyone's experiences during this long self-isolation period. We can hardly wait to read it and see how things are going with all those who respond and are thinking about and missing all of our St. Andrew's family. So, here's the scoop from Myrna Burwell and Jan Ryan (or as our family and friends call us "The Sisters of Afton"):

Myrna and Jan had time to do a thorough housecleaning inside and out (decluttering, sanitizing, pressure washing, waterproofing etc.). We made meals and delivered them with supplies to friends. Sadly we have a dear friend who was admitted to Hospice and we helped pack his belongings before the sale of his house. He insisted his entire DVD collection go to us, so we are now currently enjoying a new movie every day after cooking and yard chores are done. The most daring thing we did was on Mother's Day - we cut our own hair! Luckily it is growing back in nicely but we won't have to see a professional until probably

Thanksgiving. As the days go by we keep in touch with family and friends by phone, mail, email, text and FaceTime and have read dozens of new books, worked on hundreds of crosswords and Sudokus and knitted dozens of security blankets for the Animal Shelter. We anxiously await reuniting with our St. Andrew's family, wishing everyone well, and are truly grateful for Rev. Emily's daily email devotional and weekly sermons that Bob Cook records and edits for broadcasting on YourTV - awesome job Bob!!
Myrna and Jan



And a little humour – submitted by Cathy Hampshire

The Scottish Painter

There was a Scottish painter named Jack who was very interested in making a pound where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a little bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

Eventually the Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches. Jack put in a painting bid and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles and putting up the planks, and buying the paint and...yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with the turpentine.

Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jock fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn.

Now, Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty Voice spoke, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Top Hymns for Old Folks

- 1.) Precious Lord, Take My Hand . . . And Help Me Up
- 2.) It Is Well with My Soul . . . But My Knees Hurt
- 3.) Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
- 4.) Just a Slower Walk with Thee
- 5.) Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One
- 6.) Go Tell It on the Mountain . . . But Speak Up
- 7.) Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
- 8.) Blessed Insurance
- 9.) Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah . . . I've Forgotten Where I Parked

A bored young man decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?" This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

Some Prayers and Meditations:

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross:

**If we make our goal to live a life of compassion and unconditional love,
Then the world will indeed become a garden where all kinds of flowers can bloom
and grow.**

God Comes Into Our Places of Pain

**I do not want ever to be indifferent to the joys and beauties of this life. For
through these, as through pain, we are enabled to see purpose in randomness,
pattern in chaos. We do not have to understand in order to believe that behind the
mystery and the fascination there is love.**

**In the midst of what we are going through...I have to hold on to this, to return to
the eternal questions without demanding an answer. The questions worth asking
are not answerable. Could we be fascinated by a Maker who was completely
explained and understood? The mystery is tremendous, and the fascination that
keeps me returning to the questions affirms that they are worth asking, and tat
any God worth believing in is the God not only of the immensities of the galaxies I
rejoice in at night when I walk the dogs, but also the God of love who cares about
the sufferings of us human beings and is here, with us, for us, in our pain and in
our joy.**

By Madeleine L'Engle

A Prayer for Courage (author unknown)

**God make me brave-
Let me strengthen after pain
As tree strengthens after the rain,
Shining and lovely again.**

**As the blown grass lifts, let me rise
From sorrow with quiet eyes,
Knowing Your way is wise.**

**God make me brave – Life brings
Such blinding things!
Help me to keep my sight,
Help me to see aright-
That out of dark- comes Light!**

Stay connected with St. Andrew's!

What are you looking for?

Sunday Worship is available three ways: video, audio podcast or text.

You can WATCH on local cable Sunday mornings or anytime on YouTube.

You can LISTEN on our SermonNet Media Centre.

You can READ or PRINT a copy on our website.

Daily Devotionals are emailed every evening and posted on Facebook.

Want a printable copy of one of our past devotional series?

Email sapc.communications@gmail.com

Small Groups Online returning in August!

Our twelve-week video Wednesday Bible Study has concluded, and small groups are on hiatus for the month of July. But we'll be starting something new in August

Not sure how to Zoom?

Call 519-332-2662 or email sapc.communications@gmail.com for Wednesday morning tech support!

Physical distancing doesn't have to mean alone.

Although home and hospital visiting are still not advised, there are other ways to receive care:

You can REQUEST PRAYER for yourself or a loved one.

You can CALL or EMAIL to arrange a pastoral phone conversation.

If you are in need of financial assistance, CALL or EMAIL to speak confidentially with Rev. Emily about our benevolence fund.

Please continue to support the ministry of St. Andrew's and to encourage one another.

Although how we minister to and spend time with one another has changed, the need for Christ's hope-filled and life-changing Good News is as great as ever, and so is the need for Christian friendships.

Here's how you can help:

You can PRAY for one another or with one another over the phone.

You can PHONE your church friends for physically-distanced coffee and conversation.

You can INVITE people to church by sharing our online worship and devotionals with your email contacts and Facebook friends.

You can financially support our church by mail or ONLINE GIVING.

Check us out on:

YouTube

Facebook

Website

WHERE THERE
IS HOPE,
THERE IS *faith.*

WHERE THERE
IS FAITH, *miracles*
HAPPEN.

Next Issue

The next issue will be this fall. At that time there will be reports from all the teams featured.