

ST ANDREW'S CONNECTION

"Keeping in Touch"
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

A Message from Rev.Emily Webb

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, we often embrace the idea of waiting as part of our Advent worship. Just as God's people waited for their Messiah, so too do we wait for Christ to come once more. Each Advent season, we re-enact that waiting as the nights grow longer and the days colder before the burst of light and warmth that is Christmas. In the same way that so many aspects of our lives have been different this year, Advent and Christmas will be different, too. We'll need to limit our travelling, stay physically-distant, wear masks and keep our gatherings small. None of these things make our celebrations easier or brighter, but they are necessary expressions of love for our neighbours and our families. Our precautions are sacrifices made as we wait for a future Christmas when we can gather and celebrate and worship together once more.



But the season of Advent is not just a time of waiting; it's also a time of preparation. John the Baptist found his own calling to announce the arrival of Jesus in the ancient words of Isaiah:

“In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain.”

This wonderful image reminds us that the advent of Christ requires some advance preparation to make things fit and ready for our Messiah. Through our Bible study, daily devotional and worship services, I hope that you'll join me this Advent season in preparing our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus ever more deeply into our lives this coming year.

May the peace of Christ be with you all!

Rev. Emily



Advent Bible Study and Daily Devotional

The online Advent Bible Study "A Distant Light: Isaiah's Prophecies of Hope" will begin on November 30 and run for four weeks. We'll be looking at the prophecies of Jesus' birth in the magnificent and massive Old Testament book of Isaiah. The Bible study will be emailed and posted on Facebook on Mondays, and will include a Scripture reading, an audio podcast, questions for reflection, and a Bible Project video. A Zoom discussion will follow on Tuesdays at 7:30pm, starting December 1. The Advent Daily Devotional "What Child is This?" will begin on November 29. If you would like a printed copy instead of the daily email, please pick one up after worship on Sunday or call the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

Longest Night Worship Service

We will be holding a Longest Night Service on Monday, December 21 at 7pm. Longest Night is traditionally held on the longest and darkest night of the year. It's a reflective, quiet Christmas service for those struggling with loss, illness, grief or a difficult year. There will be prayer, candlelight, Scripture readings, music and time for reflection together. This service will be in-person only, and all are welcome. Please contact Rev. Emily for more information.

Christmas Eve

Because of increased COVID-19 risk at Christmas due to travel and visiting family, we'll be celebrating Christmas Eve at home this year instead of holding an in-person worship service. We're making take-home worship kits for Christmas Eve for every St. Andrew's household, and Rev. Emily is recording an online audio podcast for the worship service. The "Home for Christmas" kits include Scripture readings, hymn lyrics and prayers to use alone or to follow along with the podcast, candles to light during the liturgy, tea, and candy. If you've got little ones at home or visiting, we'll tuck in a children's colouring and game pack, too. You can pick up your worship kit from December 13th to December 21st at the church, or call to arrange a delivery.

Bazaar Report

It certainly been a different and unusual year for the Bazaar team. Thanks to the continued generosity of St. Andrew's congregation, the silent Bazaar has raised \$3,859.95 o date.

As you know, we chose to assemble and print a St. Andrew's cookbook. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed and to Mary Strong for typing all the recipes. These will be on sale in early December for \$15.00, so be sure to pick yours up (as many as you like)....they are a great Christmas gift idea or stocking stuffer.

Noel Dundee and Fred Maxim have been busy in the kitchen making delicious soups and stews for sale at \$5.00 each - a real bargain!

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and may 2021 find that cure for COVID so we may be together again.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Yours in faith,

Rex Hillman, Sharon Emmett and Team

Mission Report

St. Andrews family, you should be so proud of yourselves. Your continued generosity in giving to our community is amazing. Our three Missions offerings went to the Water project, Pathways and the Huron Boys Home. If you have any suggestions for the 2021 Mission offerings, please contact one of our Team members.

This pandemic has kept us physically apart but spiritually we are fortunate enough to keep in touch due to modern technology and Rev. Emily's expertise. Many thanks goes out to Rev. Emily for continuing to guide us in our spiritual journey!

The Mission Team wishes everyone the blessings of the Christmas season and may 2021 be a better year! Stay safe, stay healthy.

Sharon Emmett and Mission Team



MANDEY FAMILY - December, 2020

Dear St. Andrew's Friends,

We have known the Mandey family for 18 years! They were members of our congregation for 2 years - when they came to Sarnia, Angie was not yet 2! They were denied refugee status in Canada in October, 2004, and they returned to Indonesia with our help. We continued to support them twice a year.

Last Christmas, Sulastri let us know that they were managing well on their own. They loved having our support but "It's OK if you don't give us gift anymore. You have been so nice to us for years. We are doing fine even though we are struggling. We are respect you and everyone at St Andrews but we don't want to be a burden."

We sent our last gift Christmas, 2019.

In January, Indonesia suffered a typhoon and the water ran hip high in the streets. Then Gusti's work shut down for Covid. It resumed recently, but he was not rehired.

Sulastri was rehired by the Japanese firm which built the rapid transit system, but in the General Affairs Department. She and her boss make up "General Affairs" . She is the worker. He earns 30 times her wage... Fortunately, she can now work from home and also has been making some money baking (Angie helps) for others. One of her recipes is in our new cookbook. Gusti delivers her baking and sells a friend's dimsum in the market. It is hard for him.

Andrew is in grade 9 - he received 86% in Grade 8! I think Angelina is being very careful with Covid. She finished her barista course.

Sulastri's mom, Maria Marguerite, is in her 70's. They live with her in a 2 bedroom house. Andrew sleeps in the living room on a cot.

Christmas cards:

Jln Peninggaran Barat III/39 RT 008/RW 011
Jakarta 12240
Indonesia

Judy MacDonald

FROM THE CHURCH KITCHEN

Pathways to Faith Group Chefs!

The Pathways group is planning on providing fresh (not frozen) meals, starting in January 2021. The cost will be \$10 per meal.

The meals must be ordered and paid for ahead of time.

Order and payment can be put in an envelope marked "Pathways Meals" and dropped off at the Church Office. Order forms are attached to the Sunday Announcements and in the Newsletter OR can also be picked up at the Church Office.

JANUARY- ordered by Jan.6.

1) Baked Tortellini with vegetables 2) Ham, scallop potatoes & vegetable

Drive Thru Pick up Jan 21st between 10 & 12 at St. Andrews Church Kitchen Door

FEBRUARY – ordered by Feb. 3.

1) Vegetarian Chili 2) Baked pasta with meat sauce & vegetable

Drive Thru Pick up Feb 18 between 10 & 12 at St. Andrews Church Kitchen Door

MARCH – ordered by Mar. 3.

1) Cabbage casserole 2) Chicken, cheesy potatoes & vegetable

Drive Thru Pick up Mar 18 between 10 & 12 at St. Andrews Church Kitchen Door

APRIL – ordered by Apr. 3.

1) Meat loaf, potatoes and vegetable 2) Lasagna

Drive Thru Pick up Apr 22 between 10 & 12 at St. Andrews Church Kitchen Door

Thank you for your participation in this fundraising project, which will go to further the work of the church.



W.M.S.

Women's Missionary Society meets in the afternoon on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We had a long spring break which really wasn't enjoyable, but many changes were needed worldwide and daily to keep us healthy and ward off Covid 19. We have learned to tolerate wearing a mask, self discipline re: distancing between one another and realize we have so much to be thankful for. We resumed meeting together for October and November and I feel we have adapted to some changes. W.M.S. in worship and mission gives us an inside view of many far away places in our world. The country may be in turmoil and needing rain or have recently had too much rain. Men especially are being taught how to grow crops and which ones would be best. Many women learn and work in a community and develop a cottage industry of making and marketing products which they can sell. This all helps them to feed their families.

Please feel welcome to come and be a part of this wonderful organization and what we can do to help, to teach and to encourage the people and their willingness and desire to help themselves by learning new skills and caring for one another.

We wish each one and your family a truly blessed Christmas season and may Love, Joy and Peace reign in your heart.

Anna Mae McCrea
Secretary



The Worship & Music Team

The Worship & Music Team has been meeting as usual even though the music portion of the services requires little arranging at the moment. The Thanksgiving food drive was extremely successful this year with 230 lbs. of food being collected and taken to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. The Team thanks all who donated and Art George for delivering the items. The Remembrance Day Service was held November 8th and although we were unable to sing, the words of the hymns, the poignant reading of the Honour Rolls and "In Flanders Fields" by Fred Maxim, and special Prayer of Remembrance read by Linda Caughlin made it a moving service. We were able to pin poppies on the cross as we entered the sanctuary. Once again we were unable to sing at the combined Anniversary /Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service on November 22nd. We did however have Eddie Babcock as our piper, Norrie as Tartan Marshall with Bearers though reduced in number, and a decorated church. The hymns were be familiar with the final one being Amazing Grace on the organ and pipes. New this year will be a "Longest Night" service on December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

This service is for anyone who doesn't feel like celebrating Christmas because of grief, loneliness, unemployment, depression, etc. and is open to anyone in the community. Christmas Eve will be different this December as, due to the pandemic, there will be only an on-line service at 7:00 p.m.

The Worship and Music Team would like to pay tribute to Kay Robertson who resigned from the team in the fall after many years of devoted service. The Team presented Kay with a Scottish pin as a thank you for her service and would like to send her good wishes in her retirement.

Doug Norcross



Interesting Facts



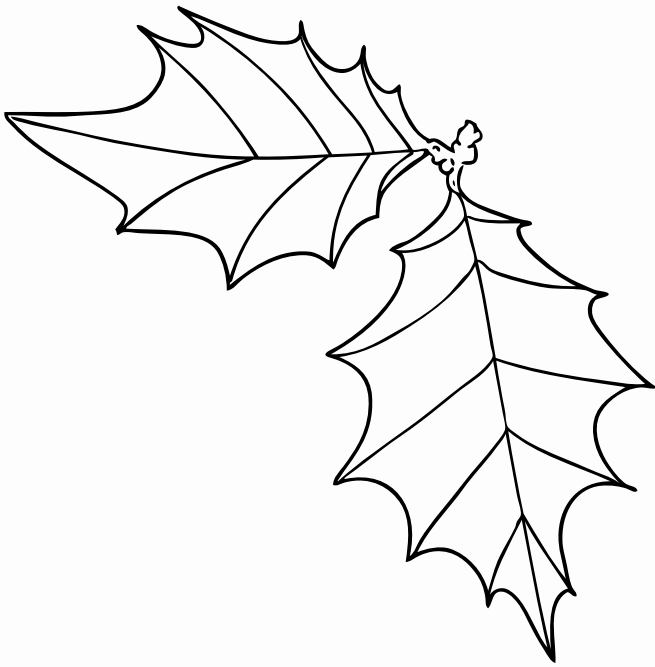
The fairy at the top of the Christmas tree was originally a little figure of the baby Jesus. In late seventeenth century Germany this became a shining angel. In Victorian Britain, little girls would take the angel down after Christmas and dress him in dolls' clothes. Eventually the angel turned into a thoroughly female fairy, complete with wand. The transformation was boosted by the pantomimes that became popular in the Victorian era - and, naturally, included a good fairy in the cast. Cherubs hung on trees, represent the angels who heralded the birth of Christ. The star, which forms one of the most important ornaments of the Christmas tree, indicates the guiding star which led the shepherds and the magi to the new born Jesus Christ in the stable in Bethlehem. Stars have knocked angels off the top of the nation's Christmas trees. The demand has fallen so much that some street retailers have dropped angel tree toppers from shops this year. A decade ago angels were still outselling star tree toppers but now stars outsell angels more than 10-fold.

Did you know...The Twelve Days of Christmas....

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today.

A Reminder of the Real Christmas Story

It all started with the Angel Gabriel just over 2000 years ago. The Angel Gabriel proclaimed that Mary would have a very special baby and that the newborn would be called Jesus. If we move forward to Bethlehem, Mary and her husband Joseph, went to town to pay their taxes. Unfortunately, there was nowhere for them to stay, so they took shelter in a stable. There in Bethlehem, in a manger, the baby Jesus was born. A bright star in the East guided wise men to the stable. They brought with them gifts Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. This informal ceremony has extended to the celebration of Christmas as we know it today.



We Remember

Dr. Gert Hendrik Gabriël Schlebusch

April 13, 1946 - August 12, 2020

Alda Ingibjorg Narfason MacKenzie R.N.

April 6, 1932 - November 15, 2020

Nada Cynthia Court

October 25, 2020

A friend through Beginning Experience



Income Statement

	Month to Date As of October 31, 2020	Year-to-Date As of October 31, 2020
Receipted Income	\$16,583.83	\$144,241.50
Non-receipted Income	\$3,467.95	\$5,898.49
Interest/Rebates	\$1,479.63	\$9,591.34
Total Income	\$21,531.41	\$159,731.33
Total Expenses	\$16,234.03	\$173,055.27
<i>Net Income (Loss)</i>	<i>\$5,297.38</i>	<i>(\$13,323.94)</i>

