

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



I recently stumbled upon an article published in the **Review of Religious Research**, the official academic journal of the Religious Research Association – meaning this is not just an opinion posted on somebody’s personal webpage, but an actual volume of peer reviewed research. I was especially interested in this article because this was the first I found studying Canadian churches exclusively, with regards to this particular research question. I thought it wise to share with the good folks of St. Andrews!

The article in question, **Theology Matters: Comparing the Traits of Growing and Declining Mainline Protestant Church Attendees and Clergy** found that theological conservatism of both clergy and congregants are significant predictors of growth in this sample of growing and declining mainline Protestant churches in Ontario. This confirmed something I have believed for a very long time, and have been quite verbal about. Below I will share with you some statistics from this study pertaining to the beliefs of congregational members in both growing and declining churches, on some theological issues:

Beliefs	Growing (%)	Declining (%)
• “Jesus rose from the dead with a real flesh and blood body, leaving behind an empty tomb”		
Strongly disagree	5.0	11.5
Moderately disagree	6.7	11.9
Moderately agree	17.1	30.0
Strongly agree	65.9	37.4
• “Believing Christians have access to real, supernatural power in this life that is not available to non-believers”		
Strongly disagree	27.7	46.0
Moderately disagree	18.8	23.6
Moderately agree	23.3	13.5
Strongly agree	22.1	5.9
• “All major religions are equally good and true”		
Strongly disagree	34.4	9.2
Moderately disagree	18.4	15.3
Moderately agree	30.4	45.3
Strongly agree	12.6	25.0
• “The Bible is the product of human thinking about God, so some of its teachings are wrong or misguided”		
Strongly disagree	46.6	16.2
Moderately disagree	19.2	19.0
Moderately agree	23.3	40.9
Strongly agree	6.9	15.2
• “Only those who believe in and follow Jesus Christ will receive eternal life”		
Strongly disagree	15.7	32.3
Moderately disagree	19.0	25.4
Moderately agree	19.6	2.4
Strongly agree	40.1	12.8

We can see that in growing churches more people believe in a physical resurrection, the power of God and that Jesus is the only way to receive eternal life, and Jesus said the same verbatim! And the members of growing churches are holding firm to the authority of Scripture as God’s Word.

If you found this excerpt interesting and would like to read the full article, let me know and I can provide a copy.

Blessings,

Carel

HE IS WORTHY-

I heard a comedian one time making fun of God. “If God is completely self-sufficient, why does He want to be worshipped? Does God have an inferiority complex? Did He make us as ‘subjects’ just to bow down and worship Him? I think God has self-esteem issues,” he went on.

I must confess I have never thought of God as having self-esteem issues. Worship is what we do when we are confronted with the wonder of our Creator Redeemer God and know that there is nothing we could do to either create or redeem what we see. In the absence of divine worship human hearts shrivel and minds regress in the search for lesser explanations of life.

The disciple John on the isle of Patmos had a rare glimpse of Jesus in a post-ascension state. (Rev. 5) God is seated on the throne surrounded by twenty four elders. In God’s right hand is a scroll sealed up with seven seals.

An angel is shouting in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book or the scroll?” It is not a matter of strength to open the scroll for the angel is described as strong. Apparently he has been working out in the celestial gym. :)

“Who is worthy?” It is a question of rightness, of having been tested by God with the most difficult choice ever coming from the mind of God—that God the Son would willingly die to satisfy the hurt to God from the sin of all human kind. And not only that, but to render you and me blameless in our acceptance of His sacrifice.

That made Jesus Christ worthy to open the book and break its seals. John saw the Lamb which was slain, take the book from the right hand of the One Who sat on the throne, and immediately the whole place breaks into a new song of praise. Angels without number start to sing, “Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing.”

If that was the response of heaven in honour of the sacrifice made by the Lamb, Jesus Christ, how much more should we fall on our knees and pay homage to the One Who holds all life, our life now and forever in His hands?

As we at St. Andrew’s begin our fall activities, may we be reminded that In the spiritual realm Jesus is Lord.

Let’s make Him Lord in our hearts too!

thoughts from *Rev. Larry*

Session Report



Back row: Tony Foubert, Fred Summers, Ronald Shaw, Tim Sullivan,
Front row: Bev Foubert, Carol Shaw, Shelley Sullivan

NEW MEMBERS:

On June 23, 2019 the following people joined St. Andrew's by profession of faith; namely, Tony Foubert, Bev Foubert, Fred Summers, Ronald Shaw, Carol Shaw (re-affirmation of faith) Tim Sullivan and Shelly Sullivan.

INDUCTION: On September 22, 2019 - Grey-Bruce-Maitland Presbytery has inducted Rev. Paul Sakasov as minister of Word and Sacrament at Lucknow Presbyterian Church. He will also be the minister at South Kinloss Presbyterian Church.

COMMUNION: October 6, 2019 - The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated at St. Andrew's.

ANNIVERSARY: October 20, 2019 - St. Andrew's anniversary service. Rev. Paul Sakasov, Lucknow/South Kinloss will be our guest speaker. Rev. Sakasov was a former Youth Pastor at St. Andrew's.

JOINT MEETING: We are planning a joint meeting of the Board of Managers and Session on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7:00 o'clock.

SESSION MEETING: The next regular Session meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

Submitted by
Hugh Clugston, Clerk of Session



September 2019

Worship Ministry Team Members: Shelley Sullivan - Chair; Merle Underwood, Rev Larry, Rev Carel, Jane & Michaela Tolton, Louise Bloemberg, Tim Sullivan.

Psalm 126:5-6 “Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.”

The Worship Ministry Team has been kept busy during June, July and August. It's been an interesting time and with the Lord guiding us, we feel we have accomplished much.

In June, we took part in the Muskrat Festival in the Park and provided ushers for the event. Also, in June we revised & updated the description for the role of Youth Praise Team Leader, should it be needed in the future.

With funds from the Marilyn Vanderwoude Memorial, donated by John Congram and family, we were able to purchase a camera & system for projecting visuals to the front of the church on the large screen. This enables the congregation to better see events taking place. Everyone has enjoyed seeing Children's Time, baptisms, and Communion on the overhead screen. A very big, “thank you,” to Rev Carel and helpers for taking the lead in making this project happen.

We had two resignations from our music schedule this summer. Kamden Gillespie served as Youth Praise Team Leader for a period of two years and she has decided to move onto other things. We thank Kamden for her music and wish her well in her future endeavors. Also, Rita Hackett resigned from playing the piano and organ in our church after several years. Rita accompanied many performers over the years and we will miss her. We wish all the best to Rita as she settles into her new home in Goderich. We offer many thanks to Rita for sharing her talents to worship the Lord at St. Andrew's.

Also, Jamie Newson resigned from his position as secretary to the Worship Ministry Team which he had done for a number of years and we thank him for his dedication to the team. Jamie sings with the Belmore Choir and in our new music group of Jamie, Tim, Bev & Laura, who lead us once a month in worshipping our Lord.

As well, Dan & Heather Snell resigned from the Team this past summer and we thank them for their past commitment to the Worship Ministry Team and for all they had done for the church.

We'd like to welcome Jacob, Colson & Connor Smith as a new Youth Praise Band with Colson as manager of the band. Also, accompanying them are Mary and Wyatt Porter and Ben Pittock. The Worship Ministry Team offers their support and encouragement to these young people who have come forward to offer praise at St. Andrew's.

We held a special meeting in July specifically around recruiting new people who would be interested in learning the sound, visuals and recording systems, as a few spaces have become available. Praise to God for the people who have come forward to offer their help. Nathan Laidlaw has agreed to do training on the systems for those who are new. Some people have already started their training. We are so thankful.

We look forward to **Anniversary Sunday on October 20th** with special guest music.

Communion will take place on October 6th and everyone is invited to be part of our Communion service.

Carolfest will be held at St. Andrew's this year on Wednesday, December 4th. Please note the change from Thursday evening, to Wednesday evening this year. The Team is actively working in assisting in organizing this special event, along with Liz O'Neil and Karen Webster who are looking for choir members. If you'd like to sing with the choir, please let Liz & Karen know. We hope to have a full house to hear the sounds of Christmas through song.

Many thanks to our ministers, Rev Carel and Rev Larry for their continuing support of the Worship Ministry Team.

Philippians 4:6 NLT "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."

Submitted by: Shelley Sullivan



*Prayer
Chain*

If you wish to access the Prayer Chain or receive notice from the prayer chain please contact the church office (519-357-2011), Rev. Larry (519-492-0081) or Merle Underwood (519-357-2316).



*Stephanie Bloemberg
and
Heather Lyn Smith*

Campership fund

If you recall, during the past year we appealed to the congregation to consider donating to the Campership fund in the hopes that children would access the fund and have an opportunity to go to summer camp. You responded with your generous donations. We thank you! This summer seven children used the discounted code for Camp Kintail and received a discount on their registration fee. We at St. Andrew's paid for the remainder. However, this fund encompasses more than just seeing campers get a discount. We believe this fund should be used to respond to the needs in our community. Where there is need we want to respond whole heartedly with an attitude of love and generosity. We had such an opportunity this summer. Two elementary school children received a "full ride" to a 4 day, 3 night stay at Camp Kintail, which would have been impossible due to family financial constraints. When these two were told that they could go to camp, the screams and squeals erupted. Never before had they had such opportunity. After the camp was over, they were asked, "what did you like about the camp?" They responded by saying, "Everything! I want to go back next year!" At school they were asked, "what was your favourite part about the summer?" Yes, you guessed it. It was a resounding, "Camp Kintail".



You made this happen St. Andrew's.

You played a positive part in their life story and perhaps you even had a part in changing the course of their future journey. Either way, may you know that you made a difference.

Submitted by Stephanie Bloemberg

as part of the Discipleship Ministry team

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School

Blast! V.B.S. took place August 6-9 .

We had on average, 32 kids attend every morning. Each day had its own theme, with a special speaker, craft, and activities. The day's themes were: Missionary Day, Sports Day, Zoo Day and Camp Day.

Some highlights of the week were: making blankets for the Woman and Children's Shelter in Goderich on Missionary Day as well as a face painter. Playing parachute games on Sports Day.



A petting zoo on Zoo Day, and a scavenger hunt on Camp Day.

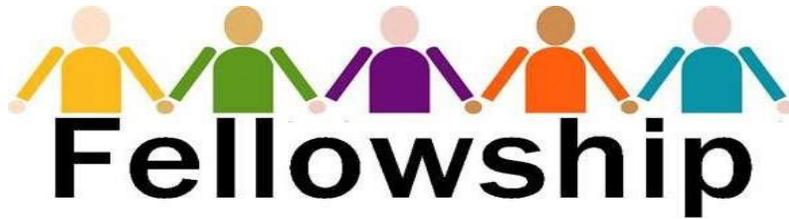
What a joy to see our church full of laughter and activity as we shared the love of Jesus with the children in our community!



A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this week happen. We couldn't have done it without you. From donating supplies to volunteering your time and talents, to praying faithfully.

Please continue to pray for the seeds that have been planted. Isaiah 55:11 says "God's word will not return void" and we believe this to be true!

Submitted by Heather-Lyn Smith



Goforth WMS is starting again this month after taking the summer off. First, we will be going to the Maitland Presbyterial Fall Rally in Lucknow. It will start at 10:30 a.m. and will include worship, a luncheon, fellowship and a presentation by Lucknow on their outreach program called "Messy Church".

Also in October, on the 15th, the regular meeting will have a Thanksgiving theme. Looking ahead to November 19th, the guest speaker at the meeting will be Barbara Clugston Shaw talking about her numerous trips to the Village of Hope in Zimbabwe.

The group continues to collect grocery tapes from Valumart. The latest recipient of \$100 from this program was Erin Gilchrist, a member of South Kinloss church, who works with Mama Hope in Kenya.

Our secretary, Reta Hackett has moved to Goderich. We will miss her but wish her well in her new home. Kathy Armstrong will be the new secretary.

Come out and join us at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.



SMALL GROUP STUDIES

We are planning to hold a 5 week home study on Fundamentals of Faith by John MacArthur. Topics will range from an introduction to Scripture to the attributes of God and the person of Jesus Christ. This is cornerstone to a church's discipleship program. We will begin on Monday October 21st and run until November 18th.

If you want to inquire about this, email clugston@eastlink.ca

Another study is being planned on characters of the New Testament. You may also inquire about this at clugston@eastlink.ca

Submitted by Lorraine Clugston

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 100TH

100 years young!
June 22nd, 2019

Friends and family gathered in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate this special lady.

Jo English



On the clean up crew - AND still smiling at the wonderful age of 99.

LEFT PHOTO: Jo English and Corrie Nixon

Passing the Baton -

Jo was nominated as treasurer when the Ladies Auxiliary was first established and continued to keep the books balanced until passing the baton to the newly formed "Social Committee".



Ladies Auxiliary Members: Verna Taylor, Jo English and Corrie Nixon and

Co-Chair of the Social Committee: Verna Hodgins

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

SEPT 2019

St. Andrew's Social Committee is an active committee in the church to provide lunches and meals for many different events such as funerals, special dinners and other celebrations.

The Committee convened in March of this year to continue the work of the Ladies Auxillary, which disbanded at the end of 2018. Because of very helpful information passed onto us from the previous Auxillary, we have had a pretty smooth transition.

Social Committee members are as follows:

Trudy Thomson, Co-Chair

Verna Hodgins, Co-Chair

Debbie Currie – Leader 1

Clayton Baird – Leader 2

Louise Bloemberg - Treasurer

Shelley Sullivan – Secretary

Purchasing - Clayton Baird & Rudy Bloemberg

We have a good list of volunteers from the congregation who we can call upon to assist us when needed. We are so grateful to these people for offering their help. A special thanks to everyone.

In May all members of the Committee completed a day-long course through the Huron County Health Unit with everyone receiving their Food Handler Training Certificates.

To date we have provided luncheons for four funerals over the past few months, assisted with a special 100th birthday party in honour of Jo English in June, and a roast beef dinner for Presbytery members in September.

We are excited to carry out this work at St. Andrew's, with camaraderie and most importantly, with the Lord's guidance.

Submitted by: Shelley Sullivan

BOARD OF MANAGERS



Submitted by *Erin Schiestel*

Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will counsel you with My loving eye on you."

Board of Managers Meeting Schedule:

September 11, November 13, January 8, and February 12, 2020.

Board of Managers Recruitment:

In the not so distant future, a Nominating Committee will have the responsibility of recruiting new members to serve a 3 year term on the Board of Managers. Please consider this role prayerfully. There is a need for people to serve in this rewarding role.

Spring Clean Up:

On May 11, 2019, a group of volunteers gathered for our annual spring cleanup. A big thank you goes to everyone who came to help with this important task. We had a larger group of volunteers that were able to contribute their time and energy this year, helping to complete a variety of important cleaning tasks both inside and outside the church.



Merv cleaning the storm drain



Larry and Jayne cleaning windows



Shaun and Bonnie ready for yard work

Internal Committee Report:

In May, the work began on repairing the walls in the Fellowship Hall. Joe Smith worked with John Newell to repair and plaster the walls. A big thank you goes to the members of our congregation who volunteered their time and energy, filling various roles to help complete this project:

Moving tables and remove curtains: Ralph Nixon and Joe Smith

Taping: Hugh Clugston and Joe Smith

Priming and Painting: Rudy Bloemberg, Louise Bloemberg, Pam Smith and Joe Smith

Washing Curtains: Louise Bloemberg, Karen Webster, Erin Schiestel

Hanging Curtains: Julia Norman and Joe Smith

Internal Committee Report (continued)

A **BIG** thank you goes to Joe Smith who was involved in this project from start to finish, working tirelessly to complete this task.

External Committee Report:

Parking Lot:

In July, Liquid Nite was hired to apply a coating to our parking lot. This will help to extend the life of the asphalt. Following this, new lines were painted in the parking lot.

Repairs to Brick Wall:

It was brought to the attention of the board that the brick on the outside wall on the north side of the church was in need of repair. Al MacDonald was hired and has made the repairs to the brick wall.

PAR Givings

By giving regularly to our church family you help nurture our congregation and support our church home.

Benefits of PAR

Receiving regular donations through PAR plan benefits our congregation in several ways:

- Provides a convenient and effective way to give faithfully, in a consistent manner, as you have determined;
- Allows you to think through their giving pattern;
- Increases regularity of offerings;
- Reduces the seasonal low giving periods;

Provides a substantial foundation for budgeting.

PAR giving also includes Presbyterian Sharing and Presbyterian World Service and Development. Through Presbyterian Sharing, your gifts help start new congregations, train new ministers, equip leaders and send mission personnel to serve partners around the world. You help translate the Bible, support leadership development, minister to remote communities, and reach out to native communities. These are just a few of the ways that Presbyterian Sharing is making a difference! Your gifts can also help Presbyterian World Service and Development respond to disasters when they happen and help people around the world overcome long-term poverty.

For further information concerning PAR Plan in this congregation, please contact Louise Bloemberg.

lbloemberg@hurontel.on.ca

Financial Report August 31, 2019

2019 Annual Budget	219,575.67
Year to Date Income	107,249.30
Year to Date Expenses	130,049.15
Monthly Target	18,297.97



The Service Ministry Team Members are Grant Currie, Arnold Taylor & Doug Conley

The Service Ministry Team will be completing year end reviews for the following positions: Secretary-Treasurer; Janitor

The Service Ministry Team does not directly supervise paid employee's, however, the SMT completes an independent review with employee's annually & provides information to the employee's supervisor.

The Service Ministry Team in conjunction with the Church Treasurer is setting up a committee to review Church finances and make recommendations to the Board of Managers and Session

Submitted by: Grant Currie, Chair, SMT

Missed Church?

You can hear the sermon you missed on Sunday as well as view our weekly bulletin and quarterly newsletter.

Find us at www.standrewswingham.ca



Minister	Rev. Carel Grundlingh carel.grundlingh@gmail.com	226 - 222-0051
Minister	Rev. Larry Skinner larryskinner@cyg.net	519 - 492-0081
Church office	standrewswingham@bellnet.ca	519 - 357-2011
Session Clerk	Dr. Hugh Clugston clugston@eastlink.ca	519 - 357-2754
Treasurer	Louise Bloemberg lbloemberg@hurontel.on.ca	519 - 357-2146
Church Website:	www.standrewswingham.ca	
Find us on Facebook:	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wingham	

FALL

N E E W O L L A H T A C V S P
E K A R P B E E S G W Q T Q F
W E U X X X B E A V W H W U Y
I E U X O Q V I X V A Z C A X
J D J H Y R L H Y N E Z R S E
A V B L A J V G K L V S F H E
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AUTUMN
HARVEST
PUMPKINS
THANKSGIVING
HALLOWEEN
LEAVES
SQUASH
FALL
HAYSTACK
RAKE