

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

March Newsletter 2020



On Births and Rebirths

There has been a lot of excitement in our house for the last couple of weeks. A new baby girl arrived. But this excitement wasn't contained to our house only, it even spread across the Atlantic ocean all the way to South Africa. Around Wingham it also spread. Folks from church were excited with us. People were checking in every time they saw me to the wellbeing of mom and the new baby. There were quite a few cards in the mail celebrating Emma's birth. Dinners were brought over, actually dinners are still being brought over! And as the current head cook at 356 Summit Drive, I really appreciate this! As does the rest of the family - it is a way smaller risk to eat the food made by other people that can actually cook, than it is eating the food I attempt. Thank you for sharing in our excitement!

And this isn't even the important birth! This isn't Emma's important birth. We know that she will be loved by God (Exodus 20:6). So that is settled. But she still has to reciprocate that love at some stage. She has to accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him and trust Him with her life. She has to be **RE**born, and that will be her important birth.



³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

John 3:3-7

Just imagine if we get just as excited about someone committing their life to Jesus, getting reborn, as we got about the biological birth of a baby. Imagine sending cards of congratulations, imagine inquiring at any chance we get about the wellbeing of someone who has been reborn. Imagine bringing gifts... imagine the impact that all of this will have on someone that has just exchanged their old way of life for a complete new way, leaving a lot of familiar things behind. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we can have the same approach, as a church family, to the rebirth of some as we have to the biological birth of someone...how wonderful would that be?!

Carel

Groundhogs and the gospel

Thoughts from Rev. Larry



I was reminded recently about Groundhog Day. It was February 2. By the time you read this newsletter Groundhog Day will be long past and you will know how much winter is left. (Maybe!!) How a groundhog became so celebrated in our part of the world (There is a sign on Highway 21 near Wiarnton that says, "You are entering Wiarnton Willie Territory) I can't really comprehend. Every year the groundhog makes the news with his anticipated prognostication and we are left wondering what the difference is between six more weeks of winter and an early spring!

Fast fact: did you know that Groundhog Day falls almost midway between the winter solstice (approximately December 20) and the spring solstice (approximately March 20)?

At this time of year in the church calendar we are sandwiched between Advent and Lent. It is a quieter time, perhaps; maybe a time for the Spirit to move in, acting in measured but sure ways. The Holy Spirit acts to get us ready for Lent, for that time leading up to the cross and Easter. In preparing for the cross there is a question that God asks us to consider. It is not how much longer winter will be. It has nothing to do with a groundhog or snow or shadows. In the days leading up to the cross, Jesus asked His followers, "Who do you say that I am?"

That question, "Who do you say that I am" is not historical. In like manner, God asks us as believers the very same question Jesus asked His disciples. Who do we say that Jesus is? How we answer that question today is just as relevant as it was in first century Palestine.

If God is who God says He is, then we cannot ignore His beckoning call on our lives.

If God is who God says He is, then you can feel confident trusting your family and every single need that you have to Him.

If God is who God says He is, then we need not fear death.

If God is who God says He is, then we have an eternal home reserved for us in heaven.

Jesus wanted the disciples to get the fact that He was the Christ firmly in their heads BEFORE the events of the cross. After the cross, life would get confusing, perhaps complicated, even as the resurrection brought hope.

For us in 2020, living in this "in between" time, I encourage you to keep on following, to keep on trusting. Easter is coming. The facts arising from Easter are irrefutable. And the power emanating from the empty tomb is our life force, that is if we really believe that Jesus is the Christ. He is the Christ, "and upon this rock I will build My church."

Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wingham
Wednesday February 5, 2020

The Social Committee welcomed members and adherents with a cup of coffee and cookies prior to the start of the meeting. Thirty-five members and adherents plus Rev. Larry Skinner met in the Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew's, Wingham at 7:30 p.m. for the annual business meeting.

Rev. Larry opened the meeting by leading us in singing the chorus "*This is the Day that the Lord has made*" followed by a meditation on humility reading from 1 Peter 5:6
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Rev. Larry Skinner called for nominations for convener.

Motion by Grant Currie: seconded by Hugh Clugston that John Mann convene the meeting. John accepted. Motion carried.

Larry then called for nominations for recording secretary.

Motion by Joe Smith; seconded by Shelley Sullivan that Louise Bloemberg record the minutes of the Annual Meeting. Louise accepted. Motion Carried.

John Mann took the floor and asked for volunteers to act as scrutineers.

Arnold Taylor, Doug Conley, Hugh Clugston stepped forward.

In Memoriam

Dana Deans (McBurney's Funeral Home) prepared a video presentation of those who passed away in 2019.

Emma Henning, Evelyn Caslick, Bruce MacDonald, Myrtle Leggatt, Jessie Lapp and Clarence Henning.

John Mann then asked for a review of reports as submitted for 2019

Letter from Pastor Carel

Letter from Pastor Larry

Minutes from Annual Meeting held February 20, 2019

Session Report submitted by Hugh Clugston, Clerk of Session

Correction to the number of members removed from the role by death was 4 (not 5) ... total communicant members is 165 (not 164)

Worship Ministry Team submitted by Shelley Sullivan

Discipleship Ministry Teams

Powerhouse submitted by Heather Lyn Smith

Camp Kintail – Phill Smith

Library News – Stephanie Bloemberg - Marilyn Baird

Group Studies – Lorraine Clugston

Larry spoke to the effectiveness of the Bible studies.... thanking those who organized the morning and evening groups, Mary Campbell and Lorraine Clugston. Merle Underwood spoke to the evening Study that was well attended, that she enjoyed so very much led by Pastor Larry.

Outreach Ministry Team submitted by John Mann

Good Samaritan Fund – John Mann

Goforth Evening Auxiliary submitted by Karen Webster and Kathy Armstrong

Goforth Financial submitted by Lorraine Clugston

Social Committee – Verna Hodgins

Service Ministry Team submitted by Grant Currie

Trustee Report submitted by the Trustees of St. Andrew's

Trustee Report:

Grant Currie gave a recap of the trustee report as written.

The manse was sold in 2009 at a value of \$119,210.34. The Trustees look after this investment.

John Mann asked Debbie Currie to give an update on the newly formed Social Committee. Debbie made reference to the 10 minute training sessions that are scheduled in February (9th and 16th) after church for ALL members and adherents who will be using the kitchen.

Corrie Nixon expressed her appreciation to the Social Committee, congratulating them for a job well done as they transitioned from the Ladies Auxiliary, making positive changes.

Motion by Arnold Taylor; seconded by Joe Smith; to accept the Annual Reports as reviewed with corrections. Motion Carried.

Presbyterian Sharing:

2020 suggested allocation for St. Andrew's from head office **\$16,911**

Recommended allocation from Session \$13,000

Moved by Hugh Clugston; seconded by Tim Sullivan; that we accept \$13,000 as a target allocation for 2020. Arnold Taylor will report this to Head Office.

Arnold commented that to help meet our goal we should make the congregation aware of the purpose of Presbyterian Sharing.

Nomination for Trustees:

Grant Currie completed his three year term February 2020

Motion by Arnold Taylor; seconded by Lorraine Clugston that Grant Currie be re-elected as trustee for a three year term ending 2023.

Doug Conley moved that nominations be closed.

Grant accepted.

Margaret Stapleton and Arnold Taylor will serve as Trustees until 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Board of Managers 2019 report:

Erin Schiestel, Chair of the Board of Managers, captured the highlights of the past year.

Erin recognized those who were completing their term on the Board and expressed appreciation to each member for their service. Julia Norman, David Wall, Joe Smith and Shelley Sullivan.

(Erin stayed on as Chair of the Board and has completed her 4th year)

Erin also thanked Julia Norman, Rudy Bloemberg, and Joe Smith for helping to facilitate a very successful Fire Drill held in the fall.

Projects that were accomplished in 2019

- **Repairs in Fellowship Hall:** John Newell was hired to repair the wall along the south side of the Fellowship Hall. Joe Smith worked diligently with John to see this project completed at a cost of \$900 (included in Repairs and Maintenance) Walls were primed and painted. Curtains were washed, repaired and rehung. Erin expressed THANKS to the Board and others from the congregation who worked diligently to see this job to fruition.
- **Deteriorating Brick: Repair, replace and point, brick work on the north side of the church** (at the minister's office) Al MacDonald was hired to complete this project (costing \$1,870)
- **Seal Parking Lot: Liquid Night from Teeswater was hired** (\$725 included in Repairs and Maintenance). **Merv Baker arranged to have the lines painted.**

Election of New Board Members

The nominating committee consisting of Chair of the Board of Managers and one representative from each of the Ministry Teams met for the purpose of recruiting new Board Members. They were unsuccessful in their efforts to recruit 5 members to replace those completing their term.

Election of New Board Members

The nominating committee makes the following recommendation:

- Isabell Young and James Newson to serve a three year term.
- David Wall to extend his term for a 4th year ending 2021.
- Three Session members will attend a total of 6 meetings from February 2020 to January 2021. Clayton Baird, Doug Conley and Grant Currie.

Moved by Verna Taylor; seconded by Merle Underwood; that Isabell Young, James Newson and David Wall serve on the Board of Managers for the terms as stated above. Motion Carried

The upcoming board will consist of TEN members.

Financial Reports – 2020 Budget: Jeff Bloemberg

Jeff expressed his appreciation to Erin for staying on the Board for a 4th year

Jeff presented the financial statements along with the 2020 budget on behalf of the Board of Managers making note of some of the highlights; most significantly that we operated on a deficit budget again last year.

An ad hoc committee consisting of three Board Members, two Session Members and the ministers, met to discuss finances. Results were taken to Session. The Board has asked Session for advice on how to move forward.

Corrections to the Financial Report:

Pg 5 DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES - Session line two says Interim Moderator

It should read Safe Food Handling Course.

Pg 5 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE - Computer Office Equipment budget \$0 revised to \$2,000

(due to current need for laptop purchase to replace the Mac Book)

Pg 6 COMMITTEE MINISTRY TEAMS - Fellowship Ministry Team budget \$250 revised to \$200

Changing TOTAL BUDGET for 2020 to \$213,708.33 for a deficit of \$13,665.33

Motion by Jeff; seconded by Arnold; to accept the 2019 Financial Report including the 2020 Budget with corrections as noted above. Motion Carried.

Examining Church Books in 2020

Motion by Verna Taylor; seconded by Rudy Bloemberg; that Arnold Taylor examine the church books and financial statements for 2020. Motion Carried.

Motion by Arnold Taylor; seconded by Doug Conley; that Grant Currie examine the church books and financial statements for 2020. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Grant Currie thanked Louise Bloemberg for her time in preparation for this meeting.

Grant also thanked the Social Committee for their time and commitment to the new schedule.

Grant also thanked Jeff for his presentation of the financial report and budget and said he looked forward to working as a team going forward.... Grant also reiterated the need for good communication. We are strong as a church and will work through our financial challenges together.

Merle thanked our Ministers who give us spiritual direction. We are blessed to have the truth of God's word presented each week allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through our ministry teams. We have much to be thankful for.

Motion by Arnold to adjourn the meeting.

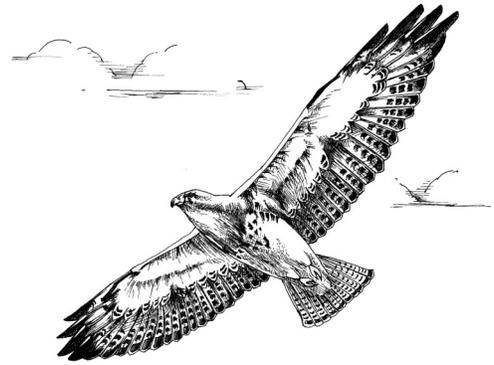
Pastor Larry closed in prayer.

Rev Carel Grundlingh did not attend the meeting.

A daughter, Emma, was born to the

Grundlingh family February 4, 2020

SESSION MEETING



SESSION REPORT

Communion- St. Andrew's will celebrate Communion on Sunday March 1, 2020.

Vacation Bible School

Session has decided that for the summer of 2020, St. Andrew's will invite Camp Kintail to conduct a "Kintail on the Road" Vacation Bible School for one week. Four staff members from Camp Kintail will come to St. Andrew's and conduct a VBS for children who have finished Jr. Kindergarten up to Grade six. This will be open to our Wingham community and will hopefully add to the number of children who attended last summer. Lorraine Clugston has been asked to form a committee of St. Andrew's people to work with the Kintail on the Road staff.

New Elders:

At the meeting in January, Session voted to ask the congregation to elect 2 new elders this spring. It is to be noted that elders must be Communicant members and can only be elected by Communicant members. We ask our congregation to pray for discernment in who should serve on Session.

Next session meeting-

The next regular session meeting will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Hugh Clugston, Clerk of Session



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).



WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

March 2020

These are members of our church who make up the Worship Ministry Team: Rev. Carel, Rev. Larry, Shelley Sullivan (chair) Jane Tolton, Michaela Tolton, Tim Sullivan, Merle Underwood and Louise Bloemberg.

“May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” - Psalm 20:4 (NIV)

The Team’s January 9th meeting began with acknowledging the New Year and a new beginning with renewed hope. We look to the Lord for strength and pray for guidance in all the challenges and successes we may experience throughout the coming year.

Special Music in 2019:

Joseph Smith	Elise Puska	Emily Bloemberg	Joel Snell and team
Joy Rutherford	Honour in Song	Carolfest Choir	

As in other years, Carolfest was a success for St. Andrew’s this year. Our choir, conducted by Nancy Skinner, performed two beautiful Christmas pieces. If you were fortunate enough to have heard the choir, you would have been inspired by their tribute to the season. Carolfest had a good representation of several churches in Wingham all performing wonderful songs of the season. Thanks to Merle Underwood for taking on the initial arrangements for St. Andrew’s choir and getting things off the ground. Thank you goes out to every one who helped in anyway with Carolfest.

Once again we would like to thank the families who participated in lighting the Advent candles and Christmas Eve candle in December. Thanks goes out to James and Laura Newson, Hannah Bloemberg and Mirjam Hoeven, Nicolle and Ryan Cook, Carel and Vena Grundlingh and family, and Leanne and Lucas Marks.

A lot of people came together to provide music throughout Advent and Christmas. We thank all the members of the different music teams for the “mass choir” performance on Christmas Eve. Also, the rendition of a favourite Christmas song, “O Holy Night” was sang by Pam Smith. Emily Bloemberg performed the amazing song, “Be Born in Me” which was so moving. Both solos were beautifully done and added a magical moment to the spirit of the season. Thank you to both Pam and Emily for these beautiful songs. The Worship Ministry Team expresses their gratitude for all the performers who gave of their time and talent on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday. We are blessed to have such talent in our church.

Our Team is currently reviewing and updating the Worship Statement to define a more comprehensive definition of the objectives. We will be spending a significant amount of time reviewing the document at our March meeting.

Plans have been made to have the organ tuned in May. Also, we are hoping to have a guest organist come a few times throughout the year to play the organ during worship. This is presently being looked into.

The computer that operates the sound system has needed to be replaced. It was quite old and owes us nothing. It was determined that purchasing a new computer (laptop) would be the best course of action for our sound system. Thank you to Nathan Laidlaw for his input into researching what was needed and for arranging for the purchase of the product. Nathan worked tirelessly and diligently to have the system up and running for February 9th.

The sound and visual schedule has been set to the end of March and plans are in the process for arranging the schedule for the next quarter, including Easter and Mother’s Day. Thank you to Jane Tolton for taking on this task.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM REPORT (con't)

Some preliminary discussion was held around a theme for Lent and Easter at our January meeting. Music for Easter Sunday is also being planned. Details are still to be established.

We received a request by an individual from outside our church, looking to either borrow, or to possibly purchase St. Andrew's set of handbells. After some consideration and discussion, **the Team decided that the handbells will not be for loan or purchase, and will be kept by the church.** It is hoped that sometime in the future, a group of individuals would like to learn how to play the handbells.

The Worship Ministry Team has agreed to add two new members to the Team. Recruitment is in progress and the new members will be determined shortly.

It is our goal to continue providing music within our church, to give praise and glory to our Heavenly Father. Thank you for your support and interest in the work of our Team.

Submitted by: Shelley Sullivan (Chair)



Outreach
Ministry
Team



OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Submitted by John Mann

St Andrew's has been faithful and its support of Tom Pettigrew in his work with Inter – Varsity Christian Fellowship over the past 10 years. Tom will be leaving his post as Director of Missions as soon, as his replacement is found. He is moving on to new challenges and asks for your support of inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Rebecca Sage is changing her location. She was in Bobcaygeon with Youth for Christ and will be moving to Lakefield in early 2020. The Outreach Ministry Team has voted to continue our support of Rebecca with a donation of \$500.

The team continues to search for a suitable missions speaker for 2020.

If you were born prior to 1970.....Ask yourself "what am I doing on Thursday mornings each month?" Check your calendar and if there is nothing marked for the second Thursday of the month, then write in "North of 50" and join us here at St. Andrew's for coffee and conversation at 10:00 a.m. Why not invite a friend to accompany you? You will be glad you did!



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Powerhouse Partners, Powerhouse kids and their families are invited to a Pizza and Make Your Own Sundae Party. Details to follow! We look forward to sharing this time with you!

There will be no Powerhouse during Spring Break on March 15th and March 22nd.

Submitted by Phil Smith (chair of DMT) and Lauren Sutherland, Powerhouse co-ordinator

STUDY GROUPS

The Bible Study group that meets at Marilyn Woods' house continues to study **New Testament characters**, studying a different character at each meeting. They are using the Lifeguard Series.

Prayer: does it make a difference? has been the subject of a 6 week Monday night study led by Rev. Larry Skinner. The study, based on a book by that name and written by Philip Yancey, began on January 13 and will continue until February 17. Nine people attend this study.

A Bible study of the **book of Acts** met at Clugstons' home in the fall when we studied Chapter One to Chapter Seven. We will resume that study on March 2 when we will pick up the story in Acts Chapter Eight and run for five weeks. If anyone has questions about these Bible studies or is interested in joining one, call Lorraine Clugston (357-2754)

Submitted by Lorraine Clugston

SAVE THE DATE!



Kintail on the Road

We have invited Kintail on the Road to lead a 5 day VBS program at St. Andrew's. Boys and girls who have finished JK to Grade 6, plan to attend this summer.

August 24 - August 28
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Coordinator: Lorraine Clugston 357-2754



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Submitted by Nancy Campbell

The Fellowship Ministry Team has been busy planning a number of events for your enjoyment. Coffee hours still provide a wonderful time of treats and conversation.

The "Welcome Brochure" has been completed and placed at both the side entrance and in the Narthex. This brochure is designed to assist guests with the layout of all church levels as well as provide information of the programs available.

Plans are in the making for an afternoon outing later this year. Watch for updates to ensure that you don't miss out.

Pulled Pork Luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 29th following the morning church service. Mark this special date on your calendar.

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

Saturday February 8th was our Annual "Fun Night" with the theme being "Come to the Circus." Interactive games challenging dexterity, interesting attire and the aroma of fresh popcorn popping added to the circus experience. The evening concluded with playing a variety of board games.



Over seventy people gathered in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a fun-filled evening at the circus. Many thanks to our youth: Emily, Hannah and Noah Bloemberg, Morgan Campbell, Mary Hawkins and Colson and Hunter Smith for their assistance in helping the games run smoothly. Also to Jacob Smith and Mary Porter for manning the popcorn machine.

We Appreciate You!

These "Clowns" organized a great fun night !



Phill the magician— “watch the hand William, watch the hand!”



Christiaan taking it one step at a time



Bloembergs - Hannah, Steph, Noah and Emily



SUSPENSE!!.....Al, John, Hugh and Joe



Wasn't easy to get this crew to stop the game long enough to take a photo!



Colson plays a mean game of crokinole!



Don't twitch Jackson, she's almost done!
Good Job Pam



Liz and guess who?



GOFORTH REPORT February 6, 2020.

Go forth into 2020 by **faith** was the challenge presented to us at our first meeting of the new year. And with that in mind we have a variety of activities in store.

We have Captain Edna Rowe sharing her testimony of God's leading, over many years in ministry in **February**, and Mrs. Joy Moores will be reporting on her missions trip to La Paz, Bolivia in **March**.

During **March** we will be asking the church family to help with donated items for the Stratford Mission Depot which some of us will hope to deliver in **April**. The depot has items (especially medical) available for those making short-term mission trips overseas.

A heads up notice too for the **June** potluck when our speakers will be from Change Her World. You can explore their work at www.changeherworld.ca

So, ladies, come along and join us at any or all of our meetings. You would be most welcome.

Submitted by Laura Newson.



SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

The Service Ministry Team completed independent yearend reviews with the Church Janitor and Secretary-Treasurer.

The Service Ministry Team will be working with the Board of Managers in providing a review of Leading With Care. This is to be completed by the end of the year.

The Service Ministry Team will be consulting with Ministers, Session, Board of Managers and the Ministry Teams in order to establish how we should be moving forward in attracting people to step forward and volunteer where needed at St. Andrew's.

Submitted by: Grant Currie, Service Ministry Team Chair

Board of Managers Report



BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

Submitted by Erin Schiestel

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Board of Managers Meeting Schedule

The Board of Managers held its first meeting of the year on January 8, 2020 and has scheduled board meetings on February 12, April 8, June 10, September 9, November 11, and January 13, 2021.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held February 5, 2020 in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting, the Board of Managers presented the following agenda items for discussion:

2019 Year in Review Report – Board Chair, Erin Schiestel provided a synopsis of the projects and activities that occurred throughout the year. This report is available for your viewing in the 2019 Annual Report on pages 25-28.

2019 Financial Report and 2020 Budget Review – Finance Committee member, Jeff Bloemberg presented and discussed the 2019 Financial Statements and the 2020 proposed Operating Budget for St. Andrew’s. A copy of these statements is available at the back of the 2019 Annual Report. **A motion was carried at the Annual Meeting to accept the 2019 financial report of St. Andrew’s, including the 2020 Operating Budget.**

New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, the nominating committee shared the challenges it faced in finding new members to go on the board. For this reason, the nominating committee, in consultation with Session, has decided that for the upcoming year, the board will consist of 10 board members. In order to keep the lines of communication open between Session and the Board, one Session member will attend every board meeting.

A motion was made to elect Isabell Young and James Newson for three year terms and David Wall for a one year term on the Board of Managers beginning February 2020. At the first regular meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting, the various committees (internal, external, financial and chair) will be nominated by the board.

Members completing their three year service include Julia Norman, Joe Smith, David Wall, Shelley Sullivan and four year term, Erin Schiestel. A big thank you goes to each of these individuals for their dedication and service to St. Andrew’s.