

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



Spring Newsletter
2019

If you follow the news, you might have read about the violent protests that erupted about a month ago in the city of Haifa, Israel. The reason behind the protests: a sculpture displayed in the Haifa Museum of Art. The sculpture, known as **McJesus**, was created by Finnish artist Jani Leinonen and displayed as part of the museum's "Sacred Goods" exhibition. It depicted a crucified Ronald McDonald, the colorful fast-food mascot nailed to the cross, slumped in an attitude recalling Jesus Christ.

I have to concede, that at first, I also felt offended for the blatant mockery of our Saviour. But it turned out that this was not the intention of the artist. The exhibition organisers explained the scope of the art on display, McJesus included, on the museum's website: "In the contemporary context, the artists participating in the exhibition employ religious symbols to criticize the encroachment of the consumer culture on our lives in general, and on the religious sphere in particular. The artists also criticize the way religions use consumer values and practices in order to prosper in the contemporary reality." Furthermore, according to the artist himself, he was criticising the search for, and offer of instant gratification in religion, and in this particular case, in a particular strain of Christianity. He could have done it in a less offensive way perhaps, but would people have taken notice?

We are used to instant foods, instant solutions, drive in lube services for our cars which guarantees a fifteen minute service while you wait. We have become accustomed that we can get everything instantly and easily. Unfortunately, it spilled over into our spirituality. It has been said in today's instant society that evangelism has never been easier, it is so easy to reach people with the Gospel, but that discipleship has never been harder. Discipleship takes time. Discipleship can never be instant. Jeremiah learned that following God's direction is never instant, nor easy.



The prophet Jeremiah's life can be summed up in one word: a hard road! For more than 40 years he had to tell Israel that the wind from Above was blowing against them. They were on the way out. Their enemies, the Babylonians, would conquer their land. Israel's temple would not survive. These words quickly made him a very unwelcome figure in Jerusalem. Assassination attempts, house arrest, corporal punishment and wooden blocks were his fate. No wonder Jeremiah's faith was described as "a long obedience in God's direction" by Eugene Petersen. Day in and day out this brave prophet had to learn to keep his eyes on God and not on his terrible circumstances. He had to keep on seeing God while everything around him was falling to pieces. Such faith is faith that makes sense. It is not a type of "quick fix" faith where God has to sort out your circumstances so that you can continue on your way untroubled instantly. It is faith which trusts in God regardless of what happens, and relies on God's timing.

Maybe the offensive and controversial McJesus sculpture should remind us more that faith can never be instant or easy, rather than offend us because of its existence.

Carel

THOUGHTS FROM REV. LARRY

Give it up!

The idea of giving something up for Lent is not talked about much any more. At one time, even people not seriously associated with the church were aware when Ash Wednesday kicked off forty days of preparation for Easter. It was on the radio or you read about it or somehow it came into conversation. The question was, “what are you giving up for Lent?”

In a way, Lent parallels Advent. Advent is getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Lent is getting ready for the death of Jesus. The birth and the death of Jesus are the two most important events in the Christian calendar. But most of us get more excited about the birth of a baby than we do about death. During Lent we are meant to identify with the Lord Jesus as He contemplates the cross. In the days leading up to Jerusalem, the tone of Jesus’ ministry changed.

In Luke 9: 18, the Lord asks His disciples, “Who do the multitudes say that I am?” After the answers of John the Baptist or Elijah or one of the prophets, Jesus refocuses the question precisely on them. “But who do **you** say that I am?” Eight days later, Peter and John and James accompany Christ up the mountain to a special meeting with Moses and Elijah. Their appearances are white and flashing like lightning. The three disciples are awestruck. They are completely lost for words. They tell no one of their experience.

Lent provides an opportunity for both believers and seekers to hone in on the claims of Christ with a view to making a decision to follow Him or not. Jesus’ ministry was in excess of two years. Followers had many opportunities to see the Messiah at work. But there came a time for them to answer for themselves whether He was God or not. If the answer was yes, the inevitable next question was, “what are you going to do about it?”

Jesus laid it on the line in verse 23: “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” Jesus was asking His disciples to give up self. To “give it up” or deny self is the hardest action we can ever do on earth. It goes completely against our desire for self-preservation and yet that very subjugation is the doorway through which Christ fully enters our lives.

In Luke’s account, three of the disciples were given an inside look at heaven immediately following Jesus’ challenge. We can bet they were convicted and altered by this “proof” of sorts. Even as Jesus gave Peter and John and James special insight into a life fully dedicated to Him, God will give each of us unique assurances of His presence and genuineness.

During Lent, I encourage you to meditate on this passage from Luke, chapter nine. Ultimately, you will be challenged to “give it up.” As we identify with the inner struggle Jesus felt about His inevitable death on the cross, may we also be filled with the assurance that surrendering to Him is the very best decision we can ever make.

SESSION REPORT

Submitted by Hugh Clugston, Clerk of Session

SESSION MEETING

New Elders



On January 13, 2019 two new elders were ordained at St. Andrew's. Paul Tolton and Jane Tolton were ordained as elders by Rev. Larry Skinner.

Ladies' Auxiliary Disbanded

As of December 31, 2018 the Ladies' Auxiliary has disbanded. Session has formed an ad hoc committee that will determine the interest within our congregation to form a group that will carry on the existing function of the Ladies Auxiliary with the idea that the new group will be under the responsibility of one of our existing Ministry Teams. Rev. Larry Skinner, Clayton Baird and Doug Conley have agreed to be on the above ad hoc committee.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on March 3, 2019.

Session Meetings

Session is called to meet on March 20, 2019 and May 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Submitted by: Shelley Sullivan



Worship Ministry Team Members: Shelley Sullivan - Chair; Merle Underwood, Rev Larry, Rev Carel, Jamie Newson, Jane & Michaela Tolton, Louise Bloomberg, Dan & Heather Snell, Tim Sullivan.

Isaiah 25:1 NIV “Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.”

Prior to Christmas we enjoyed some special music by the group, “Honour in Song,” on November 25th.

Also, for those who were not able to attend the Carol Fest in December, our own choir here from St. Andrew’s did an outstanding job. The mass choir at the end of the evening, sang a beautiful, moving piece entitled, “Child of the Promise,” reminding everyone of the true meaning of Christmas.

The month of December is always such a joyous time as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. We praised God throughout the season, filling the church with Christmas carols. One song in particular, “Prepare Him Room,” was sung throughout the month with its message of the coming of the “One True Light into this World.” On December 16th we were truly blessed with a Christmas concert and music provided by the Powerhouse children. Thank you to the leaders of Powerhouse for their dedication to the children and their families.

Also, thank you to Rev Carel for his sermons of, “Christmas in Narnia - Wonder” an analogy to the story of the birth of Christ, which was presented throughout Advent. A lovely Christmas Eve service with meaningful songs and readings provided everyone with the message of the birth of our Lord Jesus. Thank you to Rev. Larry & Nancy for their beautiful pieces of music, accompanied by their daughter, Kathleen Skinner on the piano. Jamie Newson and Shelley Sullivan delivered the readings. The service ended with holding lighted candles and singing, “Silent Night.”

We’d like to thank the following people for their worship in song over the past several weeks. In no particular order: Kamden Gillespie & the Youth Praise Team, Shaun & Bonnie Marshall, Phil

Main, Reta Hackett, Marian Eadie, Tim Sullivan, James & Laura Newson, Louise Bloomberg, Bev Foubert and Marg Beard. If we have omitted anyone, please accept our apologies.

The Worship Ministry Team is working on planning music for the upcoming weeks and looking ahead to the Easter services in April.

Please note: "One True Light into this World" is quoted from the album, "Prepare Him Room."

ONLINE SERMONS



MISSED CHURCH?

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

Head over to
www.standrewswingham.ca

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Submitted by Nancy Campbell



The Fellowship Team has been busy planning a variety of events. Coffee hours on January 27 and February 24 were well attended. Also at the February coffee hour a free-will offering was received in support of Camp Kintail's "Cup for Camp". Monies raised from the various churches go towards camp expenses.

Our annual Fun Night on February 2 took the format of a beach party and what a party it was! Seventy people shook off the winter blues to enjoy an evening of beach activities, lots of laughter and a variety of board games. Young and young at heart donned beach attire to enhance the atmosphere of the evening. And what is a beach party without an ice cream sundae with all the

trimmings and lemonade to quench the thirst? The committee would like to thank Parker Gillespie, Mary Hawkins, Hunter Smith, Coleson Smith, Keagan Simonsen, Jonathan Snell and "Young" Kathy Armstrong for assisting with the beach games. A great night was had by all!



At the time of writing this report we are hoping there will be enough snow for our Family Fun afternoon of snowmobiling, tubing on the hills, skiing and walking the trails in the bush. This is always a fun afternoon with hot apple cider or hot chocolate and cookies to warm us up. Many thanks to hosts Heather and Dan Snell for making this event possible.

Events coming - Save the Dates!

- **Pulled Pork Luncheon-** Sunday, March 24th following the Sunday service
- **Singing at Braemar** - Sunday, April 14th. All are welcome to join us at 1:45 pm at Braemar Nursing Home for an afternoon of sharing gospel songs with the residents.
- **Country Gospel Musical** - Saturday, September 28, 2019 @ 2:00 pm.

The Fellowship Team is planning an "afternoon outing" at St. Jacobs Schoolhouse on this Saturday for a very popular Country Gospel Musical. We have reserved 26 tickets for this event. Tickets are \$39.00 per person for the show. Following the performance we will travel to Crossroads Restaurant for supper. We plan to meet at the church, then carpool to St. Jacobs. Watch for a further update in April. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.



Our oldest member, Erma Fitch, celebrated her 104th birthday on January 5, 2019. Congratulations Erma!

Congratulations

GOFORTH

Submitted by Karen Webster



Goforth continues to minister to the Braemar homes on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome to participate; please contact Lorraine Clugston.

In an effort to assist the homeless ministered to by Evangel Hall in Toronto, Goforth sponsored a collection of new socks and underwear in February.

Grocery tapes from Dean's Valu-Mart are still being received. The latest donation made from this source is to the Marilyn VanderWoude Campership Fund. Collection containers are found in each entry way.

Members are looking forward to the Synodical of Southwestern Ontario's 2019 event to be held in Goderich on April 23 and 24. One of the keynote speakers will be Jean Aitcheson, who was the guest speaker at Goforth last June.

Put June 18th on your calendar as Goforth holds its third annual potluck and speaker event. We are thrilled to announce that the guest speaker will be Kathy Whatley of Ethnos (formerly New Tribes Mission).

MAITLAND PRESBYTERIAL SPRING RALLY

"Our work in missions is service" Monday May 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

How do milk bags become mats in Haiti? Pastor Kenneth Craig of Kincardine will share his experiences of a mission trip to Haiti. We will learn of many service projects that are part of our work in missions. Plan to attend our WMS Spring Rally at Knox Presbyterian Church and be encouraged in our mission work in WMS.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Submitted by Phillip Smith



POWERHOUSE

Please take note that there will be no Powerhouse on the following dates

- March 10
- March 17
- May 19



Merge Grades 5-8



Powerhouse grades 3 and 4

POWERHOUSE PARTNERS

The following events have been scheduled:

- **March 31 at 9:45 a.m.** - a Powerhouse Partners get together. Please wear something purple for Lent.
 - There will be a special Easter surprise for each Powerhouse family on **April 21**
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BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

Submitted by Verna Hodgins



“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

Upcoming Board Meeting Schedule

The Board of Managers held its first meeting January 9, 2019, and has scheduled regular meetings Feb 13/Apr 10/June 12/Sept 11/Nov 13/Jan 8 and /Feb 12/20. At the time of writing this report, the Feb 13th meeting had not been held due to the re-scheduling of the Annual Meeting.

2018 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was to have been held February 6/19 in the Fellowship Hall. Due to weather conditions, the meeting was rescheduled to February 20/19. At this meeting the Board of Managers proposes to present the following agenda items for discussion:

1. **2018 Year in Review Report** - Board Chair, Verna Hodgins will provide a synopsis of projects and activities that occurred during the year. This report is available for your perusal in the 2018 Annual Report (reference pages 23-25).
2. **2018 Financial Report and 2018 Budget Review**- Finance Chair, Shelley Sullivan will present and discuss the 2018 Financial Statements and the 2019 proposed Operating Budget for St. Andrew's. A copy of these statements including summaries of the various activity accounts is available at the back of the 2018 Annual Report.

A motion will be presented at the 2019 Annual meeting to accept the 2018 financial report of St. Andrews, including the 2019 Operating Budget.

3. **2019 Capital Projects** - External Committee Chair, Scott Gillespie will inform those present, that to date, the Board had not set a 2019 Capital Budget for presentation. Scott will outline various projects that require prudent consideration and costing before being presented and approved.
4. **Reserve Account** - A summary of the income and expenses relating to the Reserve Account will be presented. A copy of this summary is found in the 2018 Annual Report- Financial Statement 2018- page 2.

New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, a proposed motion to elect new Board of Managers for a three year term commencing February 2019 will be presented. These include; Rudy Bloomberg, Jayne Collina, Jeff Bloomberg, Jordan Sutherland and for a one year term Erin Schiestel. At the first regular meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting, the various committees (internal, external, financial, chair) will be nominated by the Board.

Members completing their three year service include Carol Shaw, Judy Lyons, Scott Gillespie, Erin Schiestel and four year term Verna Hodgins. **Thanks to each of these individuals for their dedication and service to St. Andrew's.**



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).