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Hope in brokenness

On the outskirts of Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, lies Cateura: the largest garbage dump of the South American country. The landfill receives 1500 tons of waste daily. About 2,500 families live in and from this slum. There is no electricity or running water. Life is marked by hopelessness and poverty. Every day, the poor people from this community search the landfill for food for their own survival and recyclable material, which they sort and sell for a few cents. Poverty keeps kids at risk there for its handmaidens of crime, gangs, drugs, and violence, and hope is not an easy thing to come by. This specific community is also world renowned for their orchestra. It is not an ordinary philharmonic orchestra with expensive Stradivarius violins, but a children's orchestra playing on instruments crafted from garbage.



Instruments made entirely out of recycled garbage.

Favio Chávez, ecologist and musician worked on a recycling project in Cateura. He was horrified by the conditions in which children were living. Chavez opened a music school and created the Recycled Orchestra. They had no instruments at first, but before long there was a cello made from an oil can and a flute made from small cans. You can listen to their music on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D9Y4WFFcSw>.

Jesus left his heavenly throne room to come to the garbage dump of the earth. He gave up perfection, for brokenness and pain. As Chávez brought hope through music to children in a place where poverty, despair and struggle are a daily occurrence, God also wants to give us hope in our grief and brokenness again.

Maybe it feels like you're sitting on the garbage dump today. You may have lost your business during Covid-19, perhaps you are going through a divorce, lost a loved one or are suffering from a serious illness. I have good news for you, we read in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5: 4: "Happy are the mourners, for God himself will wipe away their tears." It sounds like a paradox, you can't be happy or blessed if you grieve! However, God will not waste your pain or let you down.

If you feel like you can no longer cope, as if you have come to the end of yourself, you can experience God's presence and comfort as never before. He is just a prayer away. I read the following on Facebook the other day: "When you're hanging on by a thread, make sure it's the hem of His garment."

Does God really care?



Background
story in
Mark 5: 21-43

*“With all of the
other important
things on God’s
mind, God still
takes time for
you.”*

Let me say firstly that it feels really weird writing to you all without the experience of seeing and being with most of you for the past two months. A number of people have remarked that although they really appreciate the on-line connection, they miss meeting in person. By God’s grace and our own care in isolating, hopefully we can be back in worship soon.

I trust that you are finding joy and new life in our spring season even though we are still restricted by the threat of COVID-19. As you are well aware there are still new cases arising and there is still death because of the virus. The father of an acquaintance recently passed away in hospital. For many years he had been a patient in a long term care facility after suffering a stroke. About two months ago he contracted the virus, went to the hospital, recovered, but then relapsed only to succumb in a matter of days. Yes, people, loved ones, are suffering because of the disease. And people are asking, “Does God care?”

Many years ago, Jesus answered this question when He was asked by a church Elder to come and heal his daughter. There was a large crowd. The people were so close, they were pressing on the Lord. On the narrow, winding street to Jairus’ house, a woman reached out and touched the hem of Christ’s outer garment. She had had severe internal bleeding for twelve years. Her thought was, “If I can just touch His cloak, I will be made well.” When her finger met fabric, immediately, the flow of her blood stopped. And so did Jesus. He asked, “Who touched Me?” Trembling, the woman came forward and spilled out her

whole story. While Jesus was speaking to the woman, people came from Jairus’ house and told him that his daughter had died. “Why trouble the Teacher any more?” Jesus heard but continued on to Jairus’ house.

If you read that whole story, you realize that it is two stories wrapped into one. There is the ailing woman who is down to her last straw and there is the daughter of Jairus on her deathbed. One might think that for the little girl time was of the essence. Jesus needed to hurry. Jesus needed to get to her house. But then there is this whole incident with the unnamed woman grasping for hope herself. Does God care? Did God care? Jesus was on a mission to heal the daughter of the synagogue official. When you are on a mission, you have a tendency to shut out distractions. You have one thing on your mind. Don’t get bogged down along the way. Not only did Jesus get bogged down, He stopped the whole procession of people to hear the woman’s story and to identify with her personally. God cannot help but care. God is so drawn to our sufferings, that He singles us out from every other person in the world to hear and understand our particular story. With all of the other important things on God’s mind, God still takes time for you.

During this unusual segment in the history of the human race, you may be wondering if God really cares about you. You may be the little girl in Mark’s gospel. You may be the ailing woman. You might be in the crowd. Be assured, wherever you are, God sees and knows you. Grace and peace to you all at this time.

Rev. Larry

Session

Submitted by Hugh Clugston, Clerk of Session

On May 13, 2020 our Session were able to meet by the use of ZOOM on the internet.

On Sunday, June 7 Rev. Larry Skinner will lead in Communion. This will be done online. Please prepare your bread and grape juice ahead of time. We will join together at that time for the Lord's Supper.

The Wingham Muskrat Festival has been cancelled for this year. Therefore, there will not be a community service in the park.

The joint service with the Wingham United

Church has been postponed for a year.

The Outreach Ministry Team will be designating 2 Sundays in June for us to donate to the Teeswater Cropshare project. They have planted 20 acres of corn.

Election for 2 new elders has been postponed at least until this coming fall.



Communion, Sunday 7 June

Fellowship Ministry Team

Submitted by Nancy Campbell

**“BIND US TOGETHER, LORD,
BIND US TOGETHER, LORD,
BIND US TOGETHER IN LOVE”**

Even though we have been unable to meet for coffee hours and luncheons following Sunday services, the Fellowship Team has been very busy. We have been connecting with our church families by telephone calls and personal contact while out walking (respecting social distancing). What a joy and encouragement it is to hear that so many continue to watch the weekly church service as well as Carel's timely morning check-ins.

In the space of one month over two hundred twenty-five friendly calls have been made by our team's members. This venture will continue until we are reunited in church.

With cautiously optimistic hope the Fellowship Team is also anticipating future events. Sometime in the future (possibly Saturday, October 17 our church anniversary weekend) preparations are being made to host a Potluck Supper and Talent Night. We are excited about this event and hope to unearth some hidden talents as well as known talents. More information will come as our ability to meet becomes more certain and safer.

The Fellowship Team would also like to welcome Vena Grundlingh to the position of church secretary and to thank Louise Bloemberg from the bottom of our hearts for posting our up-coming events as they occurred. God has truly blessed our church with these dedicated ladies.

“In the space of one month over two hundred twenty-five friendly calls have been made by our team's members.”



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).

Worship Ministry Team

Submitted by Shelley Sullivan



**A Verse for Hope
& Healing**
~ Psalm 107:19-21

"Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress. He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind."

The last time we congregated together at church was March 15th. Then everything changed. Covid-19 had come to Canada. There have been many challenges and decisions to be made since then, but the Lord has blessed us in so many ways. We offer many thanks to our ministers for bringing Sunday services into our homes, via live broadcasts from our church. Thank you to Rev. Carel for his expertise in technology and for making the broadcasts possible.

Music Worship: We also want to acknowledge those who have provided music during the live services. The Smith Family has performed beautiful and powerful music on several different Sundays over the past eight weeks. The Marshalls have also led Sunday music worship. Their music with the guitar, flute and beautiful vocals is much enjoyed. Over a few Sundays, Laura & Jamie Newson have provided many lovely Christian songs, with passion and grace, much to our enjoyment.

We offer our most enthusiastic thanks to each of the above who have led us in music worship during this time. We also thank the dedicated volunteers who operate the sound system each week. Thanks and praise to God for all His blessings.

Our last Worship Ministry Team meeting was held on March 4, 2020. At that time we discussed the possibility of Honour & Song performing again at our church in November. Also, we still plan to have an organist coming to play the organ at the church, a few times a year. Of course, verifying both of these, have been put on hold for now.

We had planned for the Glister Children's Choir to perform on April 26th and it was cancelled. We pray that with the Lord's blessing we will be able to make

arrangements with each of these again in the future.

Fundraising: The idea of future fundraising to cover the cost for a special project or area of need in the church was presented to Session by our team, and it was felt that this would be acceptable. Some ideas to raise money were to possibly put on a concert or something similar. Any money raised will not be used for general expenses of the church.

Pro-Presentor: An updated Pro-Presentor program and new laptop are up and running. A couple of glitches have been worked out and everyone is pleased with the new equipment. Thank you to Nathan Laidlaw for his talent in working with the new equipment to keep it running smoothly.

The remaining money from the Congram memorial donation has gone toward the CD player and laptop used for sound & visuals.

Youth Ministry Team: Tim Sullivan, Worship Ministry team member, keeps in contact with Coleson Smith, Youth Praise Leader, to offer support and mentoring.

The Smith family are willing to play music on multiple Sundays in a row if needed. The ministers reach out to Coleson regarding music for church services, so the band can practice in advance. Tim and the Worship Team are very pleased with Coleson and band members.

Thanks to Jane Tolton for keeping the music schedule updated until the end of June. Jane will also contact one other person who may be interested in helping with visuals for our church services in the future. ▶

Lent & Easter Services: Our plans for Lent & Easter including worship music, was cancelled due to Covid-19. However, Rev Larry announced at our meeting, that the Lenten theme would be based on the Chronicles of Narnia. The sermons and video segments during Lent were much enjoyed. Thank you to Jamie & Laura for leading worship on Good Friday and for the Smith family on Easter Sunday.

Worship Ministry Team Mission Statement: The team worked together to

review and revise the Mission statement for our team, which was in need of updating. The wording in the statement was simplified and each point written more clearly. The revised copy was taken to Session for approval.

On behalf of the Worship Ministry Team, we pray for your health and safety and ask the Lord for his love and care during this difficult time.

Discipleship Ministry Team

Submitted by Lorraine Clugston

Powerhouse will be distributing care packages to each of our Powerhouse Families. Fun activities and a message of hope and support will be given to each family as a reminder that St. Andrew's cares and is thinking about them at this time.

It's never too early to introduce kids to God's Word! These 26 flash cards-one verse for each letter of the alphabet-will help make learning Scripture as easy as ABC for your children and grandchildren! Download it for free today at : <https://info.focusonthefamily.ca/biblememory>

"It's never too early to introduce kids to God's Word!"



Camp Kintail

Camp Kintail

Camp Kintail has sadly announced that due to the coronavirus, there will be no on-site or day camping at Camp Kintail this summer. This affects any of our children who had planned to attend day camp or a week of camp at Kintail this summer. It also affects our fund called the Marilyn VanderWoude campership fund. Although we have \$879.65 sitting in our account at St. Andrew's to assist children in attending camp, we will not be able to assist children in enjoying camp at Kintail in 2020. We will have to wait until 2021 when hopefully



Sadly there will be no on-site or day camping at Camp Kintail this summer, but Kintail on the Road has not yet been cancelled.

camp is up and running again.

Kintail on the Road

This program has not yet been cancelled. St. Andrew's has booked **August 24-28, 2020** for 3 staff from Kintail to run a VBS program at our church. This would need assistants and volunteers from St. Andrew's. We will watch how the virus proceeds over the spring and listen to the advice from our health professionals before we decide whether we can have this VBS or not. Meanwhile save the date, for kids finishing JK to Grade 6 to attend and we will be in touch through the church bulletin.

Outreach Ministry Team

Submitted by John Mann



Collecting
June 7, 14
& 21 for
this cause.

The **Outreach Ministry Team** has had to curtail our Thursday “North of 50” coffee hours during this time of physical distancing. We hope to engage a missions speaker but with the restrictions on gathering it is difficult to plan.

Please remember the North Huron Food Share. While we cannot collect items at the

church you can always support them with a monetary donation or perhaps find a way to drop off items safely.

We have just learned that the group in Teeswater has planted 20 acres of corn in a new field for this year’s Food Grains Bank. The Outreach Ministry Team has set aside June 7, 14 and 21 to collect for this cause. Simply place your donation in your envelope and mark **Food Grains** on the line Special Other.

Let us hope that we can soon gather for worship in our sanctuary but in the meantime, keep that physical distance, wash your hands and join in the virtual services available electronically.

“While we cannot collect items at the church you can always support the North Huron Food Share with a monetary donation or perhaps find a way to drop off items safely.”

Good Samaritan Fund

Submitted by John Mann

The **Good Samaritan Fund** continues to serve individuals in our congregation at St. Andrew’s as well as in our community. During these trying times you, or someone you know, may be in need of assistance. Please call one of our ministers, or a member of the committee (Clayton Baird, John Mann or Paul Tolton). All information is held in strict confidence.

Service Ministry Team

Submitted by Grant Currie

In February, the Service Ministry Team received notification from the Church Secretary, that she was resigning from the position, however, she would like to remain as Church Treasurer, if possible. The Service Ministry Team met with the Church Secretary, the Board of Managers and the Ministers. All were in favour of maintaining the Treasurer position.

A hiring committee was set up, responsible for the hiring of a Church Secretary. The committee consisted of one from the Board of Managers (Jayne Collina), one from the Service Ministry Team (Grant Currie) and a Minister (Larry Skinner).

Applications were received during the month of April. Interviews were held and a Church Secretary was hired. We are pleased to advise that Vena Grundlingh has accepted the Offer of Employment as Church Secretary at St. Andrew’s, Wingham and will commence her duties May 12, 2020.

We would like to thank Louise Bloemberg for her dedication & expertise during her time as Church Secretary and look forward to working with Louise in her position as Church Treasurer.

Goforth WMS



Synodical & Presbyterial meetings have been postponed

“Test Positive for Faith, Keep Distant from Doubt, Isolate from Fear, Trust God through it all.”

“Postponed” seems to be the key word for the season! Speakers for March (Joy Moores) and May (Ellen Waldock) have been asked to “hold that thought”. We hope to catch up with them at a later date when restrictions re group meetings have been eased. Synodical meetings (April) have been postponed until October. Presbyterial meeting (May) has also been postponed until the Fall.

On a more positive note we would like to extend our thanks to the congregation for the donations that were made pre-pandemic to the Stratford Mission. Delivery is – yes, you guessed it – postponed until a later date (which gives us more time to donate more items). Karen Webster will receive anything you have available at any time during the year.

Some of the ladies have taken advantage of the isolation to produce some prayer shawls. If you know of anyone who would benefit from knowing that we are praying for them through a difficult time please pass their name along to a member of the executive.

At present it is uncertain whether we will have our annual pot luck in June. Unlikely but....watch for further information in the weekly bulletin.

Submitted by Laura Newson & Lorriane Clugston

A friend sent this Covid-19 advice from her pastor’s desk: “Test Positive for Faith, Keep Distant from Doubt, Isolate from Fear, Trust God through it all.”

Hoping your Summer is full of blue skies and sunshine.

Remember when.....?

The year was 2003. Mary Campbell was President of Goforth and it was Maitland Presbyterial's turn to host the WMS Synodical of Southwestern Ontario. The host church was St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Wingham. We fed 181 people for the Tuesday lunch and 201 people for the Tuesday dinner. On Wednesday we fed 139 for lunch. Evaluation comments indicated that we had way too much food for the snacks and meals. The parking lot was a continual congestion due to people dropping off food.

On a positive note, the Synodical of Southwestern Ontario provided 40% of mission money raised by the WMS in Canada. Those were the days!

In 2020, synodical was to be held in London at New St. James Presbyterian Church. Due to the coronavirus , Synodical has been postponed to October 20, 21 2020.

Submitted by Verna Hodgins



“Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”
1 Peter 5: 7

Social Committee

Although it was our intent to hold upcoming social events, COVID 19 initiated a different plan for all of us!

Once provincial guidelines are lifted the committee looks forward to

serving our church family at planned social gatherings.

Until then, continue to practice social distancing and remember that God will carry you through every storm and give you the strength to make it.

Trustee Report

Submitted by Grant Currie

The Trustee's received a request from the Board of Managers/Treasurer as follows:

The board of Managers would like the Treasurer to have the option of transferring money from the Trustee Account to the General Account to cover expenses "if required".

The request was sent to Session & the response is as follows:

I am writing to you to share the Session's response to the Board of Manager's request for to be able to have the trustees sign over money to the Board from the Manse Fund.

It is passed by Session as follows -

Moved and seconded that the Session authorize the trustees of St. Andrew's to transfer money from the Manse

Fund to the Board of Managers general account. The amount transferred would be as needed by the Board of Managers to pay the bills. The above was amended to include that the hope is that this decision would be homologated by the congregation at a congregational meeting at a later stage when we are able to meet as such a group again. The motion was passed as amended.

It is my understanding that when the Board has a shortfall that you contact the trustees and tell them how much is needed to pay the current bills and they will transfer that amount into the general account. If you have any questions don't hesitate to phone me.

*Hugh Clugston,
Clerk of Session*

Board Of Managers

Submitted by David Wall

Oh thank the Lord for he's so good! His loving kindness is forever - Psalms 118:1

We have been so blessed that none of our St. Andrew's Congregation have been inflicted with the Covid 19 virus to date.

Our board of managers continue to function mainly by email and telephone as we have not been able to meet since February.

We welcome Vena Grundlingh as church secretary starting May 12. Thank you to our former church secretary Louise Bloemberg for her term in the position. She will continue as church treasurer and secretary of the board of managers.

We thank Noah Bloemberg for taking on the task of cutting our church lawn for the summer.

Thank you to all those who have continued to financially support our church during this period while we are not able to attend services in our church.



Teams Reported In This Newsletter

SESSION 2020 (p3)

Carel Grundlingh (Minister)
Larry Skinner (Minister)
Hugh Clugston (Clerk of Session)

Clayton Baird	Phillip Smith
Douglas Conley	Arnold Taylor
Grant Currie	Jane Tolton
John Mann	Paul Tolton
Joe Smith	Merle Underwood

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM (p3)

Nancy Campbell (Chair)
Kathy Armstrong (Vice Chair)
Hugh Clugston
Liz O'Neil
Laura Newson
Corrie Nixon
Joe Smith
Verna Taylor
Karen Webster

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM (p4)

Shelley Sullivan (Chair)
Merle Underwood (Vice Chair)
Rev. Carel Grundlingh
Rev. Larry Skinner
Louise Bloemberg
Tim Sullivan
Jane Tolton
Michaela Tolton

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM (p5)

Phillip Smith (Chair)
Heather-Lyn Smith (Vice Chair)
Stephanie Bloemberg
Lorraine Clugston
Shannon Gillespie
Jordan Sutherland
Lauren Sutherland
Tanya Toll

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM (p6)

John Mann (Chair)
Debbie Currie (Vice Chair)
Mack Armstrong
Clayton Baird
Mary Campbell
Pat Gaunt
Audrey McKague

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND (p6)

John Mann (Chair)
Clayton Baird
Paul Tolton

GOFORTH WMS (p7)

Laura Newson (President)
Bev Foubert (Secretary)
Lorraine Clugston (Treasurer)

SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM (p6)

Grant Currie (Chair)
Arnold Taylor
Doug Conley

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (p7)

Verna Hodgins (Co-Chair)
Trudy Thomson (Co-Chair)
Shelley Sullivan (Secretary)
Louise Bloemberg (Treasurer)
Debbie Currie (Leader 1)
Clayton Baird (Leader 2)
Marilyn Baird
Verna Norgate

BOARD OF MANAGERS (p8)

David Wall (Chairperson)
Louise Bloemberg (Secretary-Treasurer)

Merv Baker	James Newson
Jeff Bloemberg	Verna Norgate
Rudy Bloemberg	Jordan Sutherland
Jayne Collina	Isabell Young
Murray Lapp	

Session Representatives

Clayton Baird
Doug Conley
Grant Currie

TRUSTEES (p8)

Grant Currie
Margaret Stapleton
Arnold Taylor

Church Website:

www.standrewswingham.ca

Find us on Facebook:

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Wingham