

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Burning Bush Newsletter

Fall 2019



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From Peter's Desk

Every year when Thanksgiving rolls around, I remember the strangers who helped us one summer night.

We had been visiting friends and got away later than we had hoped, we were about an hour and half from home. About half an hour into our trip I realized we were not going to make it home on the gas we had. So, we stopped in Exeter, ON, in hopes of getting gas. We went into a corner store to ask where we might find gas and were told all the stations were closed for the night. We had a sleeping 4-year-old in the back seat, what were we going to do?

A man who had come into the corner store to buy cigarettes overheard the conversation and said he had some gas in a Jerry Can back at home. He would go get it and bring it to us. Off he went. A very long time passed, and I had given up hope that he was going to come back. But then there he was. He poured what he had into our gas tank. I asked him what that would cost and he refused to take any money. And off we went, headed for home. Part way through the last 45 minutes of the trip the gas light came on, but we made it safely home.

Even though we were strangers, they helped us. They showed us hospitality, opening their hearts and their lives. I am thankful they were willing to help us, strangers that we were.

The people of Israel had a harvest ritual, part of it is described in Deut. 14: 28, 29: "At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

The people were to bring their tithe, a tenth of their crops, into special storehouses in towns around Israel. The food stored in these places was to be distributed to those who had limited access or no access to land, functioning like food banks. Those specifically named as needing access to this food were: the Levites (a tribe of Israel with no land rights), orphans and widows (who lived in constant risk of sliding into poverty), and foreigners (strangers who came from another country and were living in Israel). These groups were to be shown hospitality and care for no other reason than that they needed hospitality and care.

Around us are people who could use our hospitality and our care. People who are new to the area, coming from a different part of the country, or from a different country. People who are just passing through Fergus. In some cases hospitality will be simple words of welcome, in others it may be offering directions so people can find what they are looking for, still others may require us to give them gas in the middle of night.

The writer of the book of Hebrews said: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Heb. 13:2) The man who offered us gas in the middle of the night felt like an angel to us. As we offer hospitality to others, we may discover that we are far more blessed than we could ever imagine.

Upcoming Worship

Contemporary Worship 9 a.m. Traditional Worship 11 a.m.

Nov. 3rd Phil 3: 1-11 (To know Christ—His resurrection and His sufferings)

Nov. 10th Phil 3: 12-4:1 (Christ Jesus has made me his own)

Nov. 17th Phil 4: 2-23 (Think about these things)

Nov., 24th Christ the King Sunday

Dec. 1st Advent 1—Communion—Hope not fear

Dec. 8th Advent 2 Humility not power

Dec. 15th Advent 3 - History not nostalgia -Sunday School Pageant 10 a.m.

Dec. 22nd Advent 4 Wholeheartedness not distraction

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve 7 p.m. Candlelight Service

Dec. 25th Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.

Wed. Dec. 25th Christmas Day Worship 10:30 a.m.



Advent Study – Living with Hope in an Angry World



Starting on Monday, Nov. 25 there will be a four-week study series led by Peter Bush on how to live with Hope. Hope being one of the great themes of Advent. The Study will be offered twice -- 10:15 am and repeated again at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. The studies will run about 90 minutes and discussion will be encouraged.

Youth Ministry

Jr High Grade 6-8 Every Tuesday 7 p.m.

High energy – games/activities – worship and teaching – special outings

Sr High Grade 9-12 Every Thursday 7 p.m.

Sports -canoeing – camping – biking – travelling to attractions – mission trips

Youth Retreat to Camp Medeba – Nov. 15th to Nov. 17th

Sunday School offered at 9 & 11 a.m. every Sunday

– Fun and inspiring curriculum – caring faithful teachers – safe environment



Small Group Bible Studies

There are many Bible Studies and small groups meeting at St. Andrew's and in peoples' homes. Call the church to connect with one that fits your schedule.



Getting reacquainted with the Lord's Prayer

If the Lord's Prayer is just something that runs by you as a matter of course every Sunday, come to this workshop on **Nov. 27th at 7 p.m.** We'll look at the elements of the Lord's Prayer and hope that the study will make it more meaningful giving us a solid example for our own praying, be it spoken out loud in a group or in personal silence.

Valentina Gal

Prayer Group

Every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. a group of faithful prayer warriors get together in the Prayer Chapel downstairs. We've been doing this for more than 15 years. It has been an honour and a privilege and we are reminded of God's faithfulness through other people's belief in the power of prayer. People praying in unity has an amazing power. Agreement is a powerful thing. You are always more than welcome to join us or if you have a prayer request, let Sandra at the office know or contact Pastor Bush. All prayer requests are strictly confidential.





Morning Prayer – Wednesdays at 8 am

Each Wed. morning at 8 am starting on Wed., Nov. 6, there will be a brief prayer service in the sanctuary. The gathering is open to all, it will be about 15 minutes long, and will include scripture reading, unison prayers, bidding prayers, and silence. The gatherings will be led by Peter Bush.

St. Andrew's Prayer Project

The Prayer Project consists of four prayer teams. Each team spends a few minutes one Sunday a month praying in the Prayer Chapel (room 7) between Services. The teams consist of members of the congregation. Prayers are offered for the many aspects of St. Andrew's Church.

Personal requests can also be made. During months where there are five Sundays the Tuesday night prayer group handles the prayers on the fifth Sunday.

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry and participate with one of our teams, please speak to Pastor Chris to be placed on a team. It's a short individual commitment one Sunday a month between the Services, but corporately we offer a strong prayer to our God on behalf of St. Andrew's. The Discipleship Team



"Advent Sessions '19" Concert

Join us here at St. Andrew's with Terry Posthumus – Dec. 1 at 7 pm. Terry has been to St. Andrew's before and did a great concert. A great way to start the Advent Season. Mark your calendar now. Terry Posthumus is an innovative Canadian singer-songwriter, speaker and worship leader. Terry is known for lyrics that are introspective, inspirational and insightful. Tickets are \$20.00.

WOMEN ON A MISSION

Since 2006, our group has been sending warm hats and mitts to Hall Beach, Nunavut. This year's shipments in October included 282 hats, 29 scarves, 7 cowl type scarves, 19 pairs of mittens, 38 vests, 26 wristlets, 3 knitted baby sets, 7 pairs of socks, 7 children's sweaters, 1 pair of slippers, 7 baby blankets, and 2 headbands. This makes a total of 428 items. We were able to take advantage of free shipping by Canada Post of one parcel each Tuesday in October. It is estimated we saved \$400-500 in shipping costs. Two large garbage bags of gently used hats have gone with a group to a safe injection site in Toronto where the group ministers to the homeless and needy. They bring lots of God's love to these ones that God loves but who have so much difficulty in our society. There is also a need for clean winter coats and socks. If you would like to help, call Helen Mills 519-843-3944 or e-mail at doughelen@wightman.ca We are making izzy dolls (or comfort dolls) to be included in the shoe boxes being filled by our Sunday School children. This will continue until the first week of November. We have a need for 1/2" or 1/4" bias tape and twill tape in any colour which we use in making baby nighties. If you have any to donate, please leave in the closet by the parlour.

The milk bag mats will be going to Haiti on a Joy and Hope for Haiti container at the end of November. If you leave milk bags for us to recycle, please make sure they are clean, dry and left flat. Scrunched up milk bags take a lot of unnecessary time to prepare for cutting. Our meetings are the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the parlour.

Coffee House – Friday October 25th

Join us for our fall coffee house, featuring music by the Caravan Friends, and reflection by Duke Vipperman. The theme of Duke's talk will be *It is well with my soul*.



Overcoming Addictions Workshop

On Wednesday November 13th, St Andrew's will host Esther Allison to speak to us about overcoming addictions. Esther has a local counseling practice, and will approach the topic from a Christian perspective. All who are interested are welcome. Our gathering begins at 7pm on the 13th.



St. Andrew's Angels

Our goal is to adopt families at Christmas time who have pre-registered with the Centre Wellington Food Bank or Children's Foundation. Children who are registered are the Angel's. Each child adopted will have a profile with a list of needs and wants. This will be available in the fellowship hall. Items will be delivered the second Wednesday of December to the distribution depot. Please contact Melanie Fegan (519) 731-4612 or mfegan22@live.ca for more information.

Missing In Action?

Have you noticed that you have not seen one of your friends at church lately? If so, could you give them a call to make sure they are ok, and to let them know we miss them? Or, please contact the Pastor Care Committee – Doug Sargent at 519-807-2238 Or, if you meet someone new, please let us know so we can all welcome and celebrate with them.

St. Andrew's Annual Fall Yard Clean Up

We are scheduling the clean up day for Saturday, November 2nd at 9 a.m. with a rain date of Nov. 9th. All volunteers are warmly welcomed! No experience necessary!!



Congregational Breakfast

Sat., December 7th, 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All Welcome! The speaker will be Peter Bush!

Sign Up in the Hall



We have settled back into a routine for choir. Practice is each Thursday at 7 pm. We are in need of sopranos!!! If you would like to sit in the best , most comfortable seats in the church - the choir is for you.

If you would be interested in a short term sessions — that would be most helpful. (ie Advent and Christmas, Lent, Easter etc). If this might be a way in which you could “Serve” please come and see me after service or call 519 843 3329 or email joanbobw@xplornet.com

WE WANT YOU! SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP TO HAITI!

Men for Missions Centre Wellington is sending a team to Radio 4VEH in Cap-Haïtien to begin the very much needed renovations on the radio station building - January 23 to February 4, 2020. We are looking for a few more people (men/women) to participate on this mission trip.

Do you want to join us and be a part of what God is doing in Haiti?

"The harvest is *great*, but the workers are *few*. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to *send more workers* into his fields." - Jesus

(Matthew 9: 37-38) Have questions? Need information?

Please contact Brad Buzza call/text 519-831-2981



H.E.A.R.T.S for Haiti



We support the Cap-Haitien community through financial aid. Funding is sent down each semester to support food and educational programs at four schools with over 1000 students. The Lord has blessed this mission for over 20 years. We have monthly hot dog Sundays, different fund-raising events and opportunities to be a monthly donor. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Why not come out and find out more about this mission. Contact the office for more details



Old Time Country Christmas The Scott Woods Band

Wednesday, December 11th 7:00 p.m.

Join us for seasonal songs, family humour, sensational stepdancing and much more! Tickets \$30 Adults \$15 Children available at the church office during the week or in the Fellowship Hall after Services. Proceeds to support The Children of Haiti.

Christmas Gift Program

Honour your friends and family on special occasions. Give gifts in their name to help Haitian children. Your tax-deductible gift will make a lasting difference of these children who live in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. There are different selections for specific gifts ie: Nutritious meal for 1 student each week, tuition for the school year. Stop by the church office to see what is available. A gift card will also be provided. As you bless the Haitian children, we pray that you also will be blessed. Lape Bondye avek ou. (The peace of God be with you).



Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child

We are ready to begin the Shoebox drive. Boxes and pamphlets can be found outside the church office. The due date is November 17th!!



Help Needed

We're looking for folks who would like to share some of our Sunday duties. We have wonderful opportunities for serving: Greeting at the door, preparing refreshments following worship times or assisting the counters with the offering, reading scripture and taking part in the worship services. Call Sandra or Chris at the office if any of these awesome prospects appeal to you. Amazing rewards!!!!

Volunteers for Funeral Reception Set Up

We also need folks we can call on to set up tables and chairs to help the W.A. when preparing funeral receptions. Call the office if you would be willing to be added to the list. Thanks so much.

Things You Might Want To Know



Instant
Church Directory™
Online

We have an on line church directory to help you get to know your church family. If you would like to be part of this and would allow the office to put your e-mail address in the directory, you can access it at **Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com**. It will prompt you to create your own password. There is a spot for pictures as well. This really helps to recognize one another. For those who are already on the directory and haven't submitted a picture, now is the time to think about that. It can be e-mailed to Sandra at the office or drop it off to be scanned if that's eaier.

If you would like to receive weekly bulletins, newsletters and all kinds of useful information, let the office know and we'll add you to our **Mailing List**.



Don't forget we have **Faith Mail** slots in the hallway over looking the fellowship hall. You never know what you might find in your mail slot. No postage required!! If you don't see a slot for your family, let Sandra at the office know.

We have electronic availability here at this church. You can e-transfer right from your bank to ours, anytime. Secondly we are registered with **CANADAHELPS.org**, look for St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus and you will see our picture of our beautiful treasurer.

Always remember to note if you want to support something special and receipts are prepared at the end of the year. Less paper work and more devices, they are a great tool in our everyday. Thank you, anytime.