

St. Andrew's Summer Newsletter



June 2017

From the Minister's Office

As I write this, a workman is installing a ceiling fan in the women's washroom. The one that is being replaced is an older model. Usually, you can just buy an insert to replace the fan. In this case, a new insert could not be found. This meant that a totally new fan had to be installed. As you can imagine, putting in a new fan is not as easy as one might think. A person has to step back and think about how to do it. This is the same thing we have been doing at St. Andrew's with respect to the worship services.

In April, we filled out ballots concerning Second Sunday. It showed that changes needed to be made to the Second Sunday of the month. If you were at the May "Second Sunday," you will notice that there were some changes made. I anticipate in the future more improvements will be made. Thanks for your support while this is happening!

I mentioned at the meeting on Sunday, April 30th that the ordinary worship services will also be modified. This will be a more gradual process. In terms of hymns, there are many things we can do. There are some older hymns that are not in our hymn book which we will be singing. At the same time, we will be introducing some of the more modern hymns. Many of the hymns we love in the hymn book will be sung.

What I would like from you are the hymns (whether old or new) you would like to be singing. We will try to include these hymns and songs in the worship services. When this will happen will depend upon what the theme of the service is. Whatever hymns or songs we sing, may we do so out of love for our Saviour and God.

It was with sadness that I heard that Pat Christie resigned as Music Director. Pat has done much for St. Andrew's in the past fourteen years. For myself, it was wonderful to have a consistent person as a Music Director. In many of the congregations, I have served I have not had this privilege. For many of us, Pat was more than a Music Director, she was our friend. We will miss her and Ken!

One never knows what the future holds but we do know that it is God who is in control. In other words, there will be some things that will happen which we may not be happy about. However, we can be confident that God has His hands in it. What we have before us is an opportunity to follow our Saviour!

This is my first day back from my last week's vacation from 2016. It was good to take some time off. In doing so, one is renewed both in body, soul and mind. I appreciated the opportunity of standing back and seeing things in perhaps a way I have not seen it before.

The summer months are approaching quickly. It will be the time for vacations, visiting families and being outside. Enjoy the summer for it seems like a long time in coming. Take time out for worship (wherever you may be) and thank God for being so good to you!

Your servant in Christ,
Harvey

Pastoral Emergencies

Should you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Harvey at (226) 738-0627, (519) 328-3494 (cell), or your elder.

Rev. Harvey's email - hosborne77@gmail.com

Church email - st_andrews@cogeco.net

Website - www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Session Report

The Congregational Meeting to assess the impact of Second Sunday was held on April 30, 2017. For the three Sundays leading up to the meeting an opinion poll was conducted to help session gauge how the Second Sunday style of worship was being received by the congregation. Of course, everyone has an opinion, but until we saw the numbers there is no way anyone could do an accurate assessment of the situation. In addition to the poll, attendance and financial data had been tracked from the beginning of September 2016 to April 2017 and were presented at the meeting. The figures are reproduced here for reference:

Results of the Second Sunday opinion poll:

There were 53 ballots returned:

- 22 Second Sunday should be continued
- 14 Second Sunday should be discontinued
- 17 I prefer traditional service but feel Second Sunday should go on in an attempt to increase attendance.

Also, the most comments were made about the music. (There were 11 comments about the music.)

What the numbers tell us:

- 1) 39 out of 53 respondents feel 2nd Sunday should continue. (22+17).
- 2) 31 out of 53 respondents prefer the traditional service. (14+17)

Conclusions:

2nd Sunday should be continued

2nd Sunday needs changes/improvements to make it more palatable to the 31 people (out of the total of 53) who prefer the traditional service.

Attendance figures for Second Sunday vs traditional service (From Sept 1 to April 10):

Average attendance for a Traditional service is 39.
Average for Second Sunday is 45.

Sunday School: Average attendance for traditional is 2.68
Average for Second Sunday is 7.62

Financial data: According to figures provided by Katharine, the average weekly deposit (excluding PAR) for a traditional service is \$1,188.95 from September to April. The weekly average for Second Sunday is \$1,012.78 excluding PAR and the private donations which fund John MacIntosh' s salary. (Weekly PAR= \$927.98.)

Conclusions: Attendance totals have not been changed much with 2nd Sunday, however, since more young people attend on 2nd Sunday and more of the older generations come to Traditional service the total number of people involved in St. Andrew's services has probably increased.

2nd Sunday does not appear to be having much of a financial impact on the church.

The clerk would like to thank all those who took the time to fill out the opinion poll and to attend the meeting. It is a healthy sign that there was such interest. We are planning to have a feedback session in the near future with John MacIntosh and will be looking at more ways to improve the services at St. Andrew's.

On another note, April 30 was the day that Pat Christie handed in her resignation to me. Pat has provided many years of dedicated service at St. Andrew's. Her many contributions to this church both musical and otherwise have been of great value to the congregation. We wish her the best in her future endeavours.

I am pleased to report that Leslie Levesque has agreed to fill in on piano for June through August. Many of you will remember that Leslie served as our organist years ago. Leslie's playing is delightful and not to be missed.

Finally, at the last session meeting it was decided to form a new 'music task force' that would:

- 1) Seek a long term organist/pianist.
- 2) Look after the weekly/monthly booking of temporary fill-in pianists until a long term replacement is found. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to serve on this committee. Please speak to Gladys or Tom if you are interested.

Tom Walter
Clerk of Session



Connect

We have been enjoying our time together at Connect! We meet every Saturday evening to enjoy a coffee together and watch videos with a variety of speakers. We will be taking a break for the summer, but would love to have you come and join us in September when we "connect" again! For more information please contact Pam and Mike Belan, or Dick and Gladys Ottens.

Property Team

The property team has been busy on a couple of items recently.

A new toilet was installed in both the men's and ladies washrooms. There had been leakage causing some moisture damage behind those toilets. This has been repaired. A new exhaust fan has been installed in the ladies washroom along with new ceiling tiles as the old ones had had some water damage. Though the ladies washroom is not handicap accessible we've taken the opportunity to install some grab handles in both stalls. Everyone is reminded that the men's washroom is handicap accessible for both men and women. It has a lockable door for privacy.

Dick Ottens

Financial Group

St. Andrew's is currently just over 7 weeks behind budget in weekly contributions. If you would like to go on automatic withdrawal payments (PAR), or if you wish to increase your PAR donations, please contact Katharine at the office.

Prayer Group

The world around us is changing fast, and most of us would agree, not for the better. But one thing that does not change, is the power of prayer. We invite you to join us at 9:30am each Sunday morning to experience the power yourself! Remember that prayer requests can also be left in the prayer box situated in the narthex.



Spring Fundraiser Report

Due to a dearth of available committee members, it was decided that we would only sell baked goods and hotdogs during the town-wide garage sale weekend. We were open for sales from 9am -1pm on Saturday, April 29th.

With thanks to everyone who so generously donated baking and bought their lunch at the church, we were able to raise \$1253.11 for the church, with an additional \$200 being donated to the Pathways Children's Centre in Sarnia.

Cash donations received from church members (before and after April 29th) covered ALL our expenses, so every item sold went into our profits.

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold to BBQ hotdogs, chopped & fried onions, and labelled, priced, & sold baked goods.

A special thank you to Sue Walter for coming forward to help organize the event and to Melba McRae for rallying so many bakers.

Marianne Hyatt



What's Happening

Sunday School

Since the last newsletter, the children have been hearing stories about the Old Testament characters, following the theme of The Heroes & Villains of the Bible. They've learned about: the unlimited power of God as demonstrated in the Creation story, the deceit of Satan via the serpent in Eden, the jealousy of Cain and its tragic result, the steadfast faith of Noah despite ridicule, the holiness of Enoch and his ascent into Heaven, and the vanity of the builders of the Tower of Babel. We then took a little break in the curriculum in April to learn the religious meaning behind many common spring and Easter symbols, participate in an Easter-story-themed scavenger hunt, and baked "Resurrection Rolls" for the congregation to sample. The children continued with the Heroes & Villains unit by learning about Job's unshakable willingness to bless and honour God, both in times of prosperity and after much personal loss and suffering. We've recently begun a series of lessons on Abraham and his family: learning how Abraham unquestioningly followed God's command to leave his home and wander the countryside for years; how God stayed true to His promise to provide Abraham with a son despite the passage of several decades; how God was quick to punish the wicked inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, yet still showed mercy to Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family by providing a rescue by two angels. For the remainder of the year, the children will learn about the stories of Abraham's descendants: his son Isaac, his grandsons Jacob and Esau, and begin the story of his great-grandson Joseph.

Sunday school lessons will continue through the end of June, with an end-of-year wrap-up on the 25th of that month. If any children or grandchildren will be attending church in July or August, I would be willing to supervise a craft and/or a short lesson with them during the worship service. Please feel free to call or email me ahead of time to be sure I'll be there that day!

Marianne Hyatt hyattmj@aol.com (519) 908-9669

The following are happening each week until July, unless cancelled in the bulletin:

KNITTING FOR A CAUSE – Mondays at 10 am
 TOASTMASTERS – Tuesdays at 7 pm
 BIBLE STUDY – Thursdays at 7: 30 pm

COMING EVENTS AT ST. ANDREW'S

Thursday, May 25th – WMS Spring Rally at St. Andrew's, Sarnia

Sunday, May 28th - 159th Anniversary Service with Rev. Barry Van Dusen as guest speaker

Saturday, June 3rd – Men's Breakfast (8 pm)

Sunday, June 4th – The Lord's Table

Sunday, June 11th – Second Sunday (John MacIntosh Speaking)

Sunday, June 11th – Knox, Dawn Anniversary (7 pm.) John MacIntosh Speaking

Monday, June 19th – Session

Tuesday, June 20th – WMS Congregational Luncheon at Nick's (Sarnia) 12:30 pm

Wednesday, June 21st – Presbytery at Paterson Presbyterian Church, Sarnia

Sunday, June 25th – Last Day of Sunday School

Sunday, July 2nd – Canada Day Worship Service

Thursday, July 6th – Camp Kintail's Cake by the Lake

Monday, July 10th to Monday, August 7th – Rev. Osborne's Vacation (4 weeks of 5 weeks)

Sunday, July 16th – Rev. Barry Van Dusen Speaking

Sunday, July 23rd – Pastor Tim Brown Speaking

Sunday, July 30th – Pastor Tim Brown Speaking

Sunday, August 6th – Rev. Barry Van Dusen Speaking