

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

FEBRUARY 2018



ACM

THE THREE LITTLE LETTERS EVERYONE THINKS THEY HATE

We get it! Business meetings are boring. There's a budget, and reports go out to get discussed. Every year the church needs more money, and we're told that we need more people.

And that would be true if this were an AGM.

A General Meeting is a business meeting. It's where nominations to the board happen and where profit sharing is discussed. General meetings are where a budget is approved.

But St. Andrew's doesn't have a General Meeting anymore.

Once a year, we hold a Congregational Meeting to put up for discussion all of the issues that affect us as a whole church. And yes, one of those items will be a budget. But understanding that this is a Congregational Meeting makes that item one piece of the whole rather than the whole itself.

So what can you do?

First, **you can attend!** The ACM is open to everyone --- member, adherent or newcomer alike. Everyone gets a voice, and everyone gets a vote.

Then,

Submit questions anonymously: Don't know how something works? Ask! In the foyer for the whole month of February, there will be a box with notecards for you to write any question for the ACM. Every question -- every single one -- will be dealt with at the Annual Meeting.

Make recommendations to Session: Presbyterians are led by Session, and that's not going to change. But the ACM is the chance for the congregation to hold Session accountable. The ACM is where you have a voice in recommending that Session take a look at something that matters to you. (Continued next page)

Learn how the work we do impacts our mission: We're a missional church, but have you ever wondered how something fits into our Mission Statement? The ACM is your chance to learn about what makes St. Andrew's St. Andrew's.

Build community with people you don't see often: One of the challenges of having two worship services is that there can be a lot of people who never get to see each other. It happens all the time that people don't even know the other members of our faith family. The ACM changes that. Not only do we all worship together in the morning, but we all share a delicious meal afterward, and the ACM is where we all get to share our voices together.



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

Walk with us on Saturday, February 24, 2018 in the Coldest Night of the Year, a super-fun, family-friendly fundraiser that raises money for the hungry, homeless, and hurting across Canada.

The WALK provides each participant the opportunity to:

- - walk 2 km, 5 km, or 10 km.
- - fundraise much-needed money for a local, hard-serving charity.
- - feel a hint of the challenge faced by those experiencing homelessness --- particularly during the winter.

Sign up on the following website: <https://canada.cnoy.org/location/calgary> and search/join our team, called **Walking Humbly**. Our team has committed to walking 2 km, and the event will go from approximately 4:00 – 7:00 pm and includes a light, warm meal following the walk.

Participants 13 years and up must commit to fundraising \$150 for adults or \$75 for youth to support the Mustard Seed. Or you can choose to pay a \$25 registration fee. Children (12 and under) are free!

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Rowe (403) 281-6243 or Beth Miller (403)585-8743

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Rev. Jared Miller



WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT GOD, WHAT COMES TO MIND?

Maybe you picture an image of Jesus that hung on the wall in the home you grew up in. Maybe it's a picture of a man with a long, flowing beard surrounded by heavenly clouds and angels. Maybe you see God in everything around you, and maybe God is in the quiet moments when you're alone.

Whichever best describes him for you, great!

Nearly a thousand years ago, one of the theologians of the church, a teacher named Anselm of Canterbury, put forward the definition of God that has stood the test of time: "God", he said, "is a being greater than which no greater being can be conceived."

Basically, what Anselm was asking us to do was to take our conception of God and see if we can make it a little bit bigger.

When Paul preached in Athens, he asked the same thing of the people who came to hear him. He understood that they had a perception of God, but he wanted them to see that their God was too small. So he challenged them with the idea that in God "we live, and move, and have our being."

There is more to God than we currently imagine, and there always will be. But in that is the remarkable reality that, if we're in God, then we're going to experience reality in a bigger way.

All of a sudden, there's more to the universe than we can see, taste, touch, smell or feel. God is bigger. All of a sudden, there is more to Christianity than our traditions and expectations. God is bigger. All of a sudden, there is more to being part of the family of faith than being who we have always been, because God is bigger.

Paul's words to the people of Athens are both a challenge and an encouragement to the church of the twenty-first century.

If our God is a being greater than the greatest being that can be conceived, there is no challenge too great for that God to tackle.

If our God is a being greater than the greatest being that can be conceived, there is no end to the amount we can grow to become one with that God.

In either instance, the promise of Paul to the church in Athens, and to the church of St. Andrew's, is that God is both calling us to, and equipping us for, **more**.

More Life. More Action. More of God in us.

More.

Blessings,



Rev. Jared Miller

WHAT IS A COPTIC?

You're going to hear that word a lot over the next little while, so we thought it would help to know what it is we're talking about.

The Coptic Church belongs to the Oriental Orthodox family of churches, which has been a distinct Christian body since AD 451, when it took a different position over Christology (namely, whether Jesus and God were of one substance or similar substance) from that of the rest of the Christian Church. According to its tradition, the Coptic Church was established by Saint Mark, an apostle and evangelist, in the middle of the first century (approximately AD 42).

According to Christian tradition and canon law, the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria only ordains men to the priesthood and episcopate, and if they wish to be married, they must be married before they are ordained. In this respect they follow the same practices as the Eastern Orthodox Church and Syrian Orthodox Church.

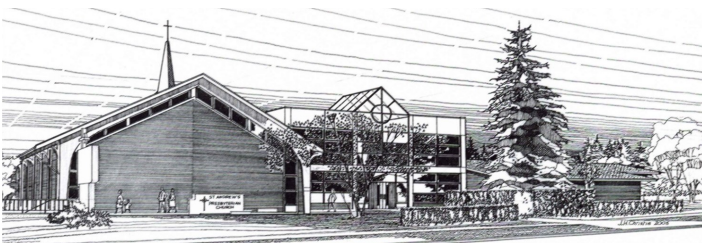
Traditionally, the Coptic language was used in church services, and the scriptures were written in the Coptic alphabet. However, due to the Arabisation of Egypt, service in churches started to witness increased use of Arabic, while preaching is done entirely in Arabic. Native languages are used, in conjunction with Coptic, during services outside Egypt.

The liturgical calendar of the Coptic Orthodox Church is the Coptic calendar (also called the Alexandrian Calendar). This calendar is based on the Egyptian calendar of ancient Egypt.

While Copts have cited instances of persecution throughout their history, Human Rights Watch has noted "growing religious intolerance" and sectarian violence against Coptic Christians in recent years, and a failure by the Egyptian government to effectively investigate properly and prosecute those responsible. Over a hundred Egyptian Copts have been killed in sectarian clashes from 2011 to 2017, and many homes and businesses destroyed. In just one province, 77 cases of sectarian attacks on Copts between 2011 and 2016 have been documented by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. Today, they are among the most persecuted Christian groups in the world.

Starting this spring, St. Andrew's will be welcoming the Coptic Church of St. Mary and St. Paul to use our space for worship. As a missional church, St. Andrew's seeks to support the global church with the best resources we have. Today and for the next while, that means space.

St. Mary and St. Paul will be in the building Saturday and Tuesday mornings, as well as Tuesday and Friday evenings. We know there will be some growing pains as both groups learn how to live together, but we appreciate your support and generosity in opening our building.



OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES

THOMAS JAMIESON MILLAR



“Thomas Jamieson Millar passed away peacefully on Friday, January 19, 2018, a few months shy of his 88th birthday.

Tom was born in Scotland and was the only child of a shopkeeper. He left school at age 15 and worked with his Dad and studied to become a master grocer. At 18, he was conscripted into the Royal Army Service Corp, where he served two years in Germany just after World War II. At the age of 25, Tom married his loving wife of 62 years, Christina, and together they raised Rob, James and Jane. After following in his father’s footsteps as a local grocer, and trying his hand at local politics, Tom courageously decided to move his young family abroad. By the simple flip of a coin, Tom chose Canada over Australia, and the rest is history. Everyone mentioned above

has benefited from that decision to immigrate to Canada as all descendants [including nine grandchildren] are healthy and happy. We will all deeply miss our dad, grandpa, and loving husband. He was a gentleman, a mentor, a fun guy to be around, and eternally devoted to his family.”*

Funeral services were held at McInnis & Holloway on Friday, January 26, 2018.

*Courtesy McInnis & Holloway.

VELMA RUTH BRYANT



“Velma Bryant (née Kvigstad) passed away peacefully in Calgary on January 29, 2018 at the age of 90 years. She follows her husband Dan, who predeceased her just six months ago.”

“Velma was born to John and Ruth Kvigstad on November 3, 1927, the seventh of nine children. The family farmed in the Metiskow region, and Velma told stories of a happy childhood playing with her sisters and helping on the farm. She went to Edmonton as a young woman, where she met and married Dan in 1950. Although she enjoyed her time working at Birks once all her children were grown, she often said that her greatest pleasure in life was to be a mother to her four children. [The family later grew to include 12

grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.] She took great strength in her faith, which saw her through the past few years of challenges with her health.”*

A funeral service was held at South Calgary Funeral Centre on Friday, February 2, 2018.

*Courtesy South Calgary Funeral Centre.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH:

- ◇ Mark Rowe and his family on the death of his father, Sam Rowe, January 15, 2018

WE CELEBRATE:

- ◇ The birth of Adryann, daughter of Jamie MacRae and Ryan Keating, born January 26th, 2018.

WHAT! NO MORE COMMUNION CARDS!

Some background information:

The District Visitor Team is part of our Pastoral Care ministry. Members and adherents of St. Andrew's are all part of a district that is served by a Visitor. The role of the Visitor is to connect and build relationships with the people in his/her district, share information about the life of St. Andrew's and, when needed, refer any pastoral care concerns to the Minister of Congregational Care.

In 2017, the District Visitor Team reviewed the current district visitor system. To be responsive to meeting the changing needs of our congregation, the team has made recommendations to reorganize the districts into visiting districts, phone districts and email districts. Visitors contacted the families in their districts to establish the preferred contact method. We currently have 52 districts. If you would like to be part of the team of visitors, we invite you to contact the church office.

The Cards:

St Andrew's has had a long tradition of using communion cards. You may be interested in the history of how communion cards came about. Communion card use was established in the early 1900's to replace the communion tokens. Communion tokens were suggested by John Calvin "to prevent the profanity of the Lord's table". Presbyterian Church leaders in Scotland began issuing the tokens for admission to the Lord's Supper, and those without a token were not allowed to take communion. In later centuries, ministers and elders gave a token to members whom they deemed worthy to partake in communion. By the early 1900's churches that still used tokens had largely replaced metal tokens with cards. The District Visitor Team reviewed the reason for continuing the use of the communion cards at St. Andrew's. At St. Andrew's communion cards were intended to be used as a means of connecting with families, and are not serving a specific purpose other than tracking attendance. The District Visitor Team made a recommendation to the Session of St. Andrew's to discontinue the use of communion cards in 2018. This recommendation was approved. Visitors continue to be committed to connecting with the families in their districts regularly throughout the year. We will have sign-in sheets on communion Sundays for the purpose of attendance records.

Respectfully submitted by Inge Murray, Co-Ordinator

Pastoral Care's District Visitor Team



*REMEMBER TO SIGN IN ON
COMMUNION SUNDAYS*

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

I am currently participating in the Stephen Ministry training along with another 10 members of our St. Andrew's congregation to prepare and train us to care for people in distress. So far we have covered four modules. We meet each week for instruction, group interaction and feedback.

It is kind of like learning to ski —starting on the green bunny slopes so that we can advance into more trying and challenging situations without causing harm to either the care receiver or ourselves. While we are still at the basic stages of the training, I am hoping that future sessions will advance us further "up the hill" and equip us with more skills and experience to be really effective in our community.

Sincerely, David Platt

SESSION NOTES – JANUARY, 2018

- ◆ Thanks to all who contributed to our Mitten Tree – we were able to provide 317 items to those in need this winter.
- ◆ In 2017, seven new beds were provided to needy families at Claire Building, Acadia Place, and two other buildings we support. More beds are to be delivered soon.
- ◆ Ten people from St. Andrew's are participating in the Stephen Ministry Training.
- ◆ Two Aboriginal Awareness evenings are being planned by the Mission Team in April and September, 2018, the theme focusing on "Reconciliation in the Urban Setting".

Session approved:

- that we offer the use of our facility to the St. Mary & St. Paul Coptic Orthodox Church of Calgary. Terms are being determined by St. Andrew's and St. Mary/St. Paul representatives.
- that one worship service be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018, at 10:30 am, followed by a lunch.
- that the Annual Congregational Meeting be held February 25, 2018, at 1:00 pm.
- that the 2018 budget be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting

The Facilities Team has designated Friday, Feb 23 and Saturday, Feb 24 as a "Clean-Up" weekend for our building. The church is no different than our homes, in that space is always at a premium, and we need to "let go" of things no longer needed, and tidy up and organize the things that need to be kept.

Debby Dorcas
Clerk of Session

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Alfred MacRae, Ryan Keating, Bob Shaw and Bill King for their help with the setup and take down of the nativity scene in December, 2017. We could not have done this task without the help of our strong men of St. Andrew's.
Welcome & Fellowship Team

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

New Photo Directory: It is in the final stages of editing, and we anticipate its arrival in a few weeks.

Reserving the back pew, just inside the door: Should you arrive late, and just want to "slip in", we have a special place for you. Or, if you need to attend to other activities during the service (like an upset child in the nursery), please feel free to sit in this reserved pew.

Locking the doors: If you are the last to leave the church, could you please ensure that all the outside doors are locked. Once again, there have been issues with the double doors in Trinity Hall.

Parking: When there is snow, our parking area is further reduced. Please do not waste space between vehicles and remember that Visitor Parking is for visitors to our church and Accessible Parking is by permit.

St. Andrew's Men's Fellowship

GOURMET

PANCAKE SUPPER

Pancakes

Sausages
Ham

Scrambled
Eggs

Fresh Fruit
Whipped Cream



Wed. February 14th - 5:45pm
Trinity Hall



FOLLOWED BY
Ash Wednesday Service
in Sanctuary at 7:30

Tickets

\$5.00 each or
\$15.00 - Family

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON

Jan 28th, Feb 4th and Feb 11th in foyer

NEWS FROM THE MITTEN TREE

St. Andrew's congregation has outdone themselves! A BIG thank-you to everyone who contributed to the mitten tree collection this year; you beat last year's collection with 317 items in total (compared to 251 items last year). Of interest, this year the majority of items were socks with 102 pairs of men's socks, 21 women's and 10 children's. The men's items have been given to the Drop-in Centre, the women's and children's items to the Sheriff King Home. The children's items were donated to the Women's Shelter this year, because they reported having over 30 children at the center who were in great need of winter items!

The total breakdown of winter items included 150 items for men, 97 items for women and 70 items for children. The items included socks, mittens/gloves, hats/headbands/earmuffs, scarves, blankets, one pair of winter boots, a bath kit and two hair accessories. WELL DONE, ST. ANDREW'S!

Kathy and Kerrie Slimmon



All are invited to the "Scottish Night" Potluck Supper being held in Trinity Hall on Saturday, March 17, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Bring your entire family along with a salad, main dish, or dessert of 8 - 10 servings. The delicious shared supper will be followed by Scottish dancing and music. There is no cost, but please preregister at the volunteer centre in the foyer. Come out and join us on Saturday, March 17, for an entertaining evening of food, fellowship, and fun. See you there!



Help Keep St. Andrew's Alive for Future Generations

Have you considered supporting our church in your will or estate plan? Get information on how you can leave a legacy that will benefit St. Andrew's for many years to come. Brochures are available at the welcome desk, or check out the "Planned Giving" information under the "Resources" tab on The Presbyterian Church in Canada website: presbyterian.ca.

Stewardship & Planning Team

Editorial Team of NFTP

Rhonda Mullan, Norah Finlay,
Terry Zimmer, Judie Coleman,
Linda Haines, Rev. Jared Miller

Articles may be submitted in the mailbox in the Karl English Lounge or emailed to :
newsletter@standrewscalgary.ca

NEXT DEADLINE: February 15, 2018

*The editorial team may edit your submission due to space limitations.

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