

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

ST. ANDREW'S CALGARY

OCTOBER 2016



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November Deadline—October 17th

## The Search is On

Over the summer, at the direction of Session, we worked with a small group of elders to re-align the position descriptions of all 3 ministers to meet the goals of ministry at St. Andrew's. In keeping with the congregation's strong history of team ministry, as well as the unique leadership dynamic of a 3-person team, the renewed position descriptions are a good blend of gifts to be shared among the ministerial team, while at the same time providing a unified approach to the overall vision of St. Andrew's. Jan and Jared have been a part of the process, and are thankful for the outcomes. The Session is working on a communication plan to be sure the whole congregation will be informed about the roles and responsibilities of each minister.

The Search Team has been named by the Session and we have begun our work to find the one who will serve as Minister, Vision and Direction. We are excited to work with a fabulous group of people who represent the diversity of St. Andrew's. The members of the Team are Shelby Cole, Bob Fuenning, Yvonne Kangong, Hugh McFadzean, Loran McVittie (Convener), Cathy Miller (Vice-Convener), Paul Rowe, Sylvia Shaw, Jennifer Stolee, Marlyn M Townsend, Brent Werle, Rhonda Wishart, and John Young.

As you know, the process takes time but we are off to a great start. We will be looking for a minister who is committed to developing a strong team and who has exceptional gifts in preaching, administration, and casting a vision for the future.

Due to the sensitive nature of our work, as we consider potential candidates, all members of the Search Team have signed a confidentiality agreement so that we would keep our conversations to ourselves. Please don't ask any specifics of your team, as they won't be able to answer you. You are welcome to share your hopes and dreams and any concerns you have with any of us.

We will keep you posted on our progress.

Rev. Jean Morris and Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw, Presbytery Representatives  
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## *From the Minister's Desk:*

### **One Church, Many Voices**

Some of you will recall that way back in the before time – long, long ago before summer was upon us, a theme was announced to carry us through this time of vacancy.

It was a theme that Jan and I arrived at after a day of prayer contemplation and intentionally seeking to hear from God. It was a theme that encompassed our hopes and goals for the future and gave us a direction in which to move, and a way to move in that direction.

Forward, together.

Today, our church year is well under way. Things are up and running and, as is often the case in a church this size, take on a life of their own – so much so that it might be easy to lose sense of the scale of our vision in all the busyness of our own little corners of St. Andrew's.

So I'm happy to announce that as part of our overall theme for this year, this fall, our work and worship will be guided by the simple truth: that we are **One Church, Many Voices**. Foundational to our identity as Presbyterians is that we believe that God speaks best when he speaks loudest. And so for hundreds of years, Presbyterians have sought to discern God's direction by listening to each other – by sharing insights, even when and if we disagree. We believe that by hearing each other, we are able to hear God.

So this fall, we're going to try and hear in a couple of different ways.

On Sunday Mornings, we will hear God speak through *lectio divina* (divine reading). *Lectio* is a practice that Christians have been doing for more than a thousand years, designed to attune us toward listening with more than just our ears. It challenges us to Reflect, Respond, and Rest in the word of God. In practical terms, that means that on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, the same passage of scripture will be the centre piece of our worship time. But **One Church, Many Voices** reminds us that Fiona, Frank, and I (respectively) will each come at the same passage from different perspectives, and bring our varied experience and views to bear.

The other way is through our Elders. To be Presbyterian is to depend on Elders, so each of our Session meetings this fall is going to begin with a simple Word-Share Prayer, designed to centre our work around hearing God speak. Once the elders are comfortable with this way of listening, they can begin to teach it to the various groups around our church - always with the goal of listening together.

James 1:19 says this: "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." As we seek to move forward together, let's strive to listen and speak the way James invites us.

~~~ Rev. Jared Miller

## AROUND & ABOUT US



### Sheila Kirkland & Frank Breisch

People get married every day and have anniversaries every year --- but for Sheila Kirkland and Frank Breisch, their wedding and now tenth anniversary have been a long time coming. Sheila and Frank met when they both worked on various committees of Presbytery 30 years ago. They were friends and knew each other's spouses. Then Bob, Sheila's husband, died in 1986, and Frank's wife, Dort, in 2003.

In 2004, Frank was back in Calgary from Winnipeg where he was serving as interim minister. He decided to attend a C.P.O. concert and asked Sheila to accompany him to dinner and the concert. They began seeing each other often, and all seemed to be going smoothly for a time. Then one day, Sheila was to phone Frank when she returned from an out-of-town vacation. Frank mournfully comments, "she never phoned." It seems she was phoning the wrong number! Nevertheless, Sheila and Frank were married in a joyful ceremony attended by both families and many friends on September 23, 2006.

On his retirement two years ago, Frank had completed 63 consecutive years of ministry. His first years as a minister were in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Oregon. He was in Calgary in 1974 and Banff 1981-1995, then minister for Hospice Calgary. He served as interim minister at various times in Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg and Lethbridge. After 2007, Frank was chaplain for the Bethany Care Society. He came to St. Andrew's when Rev. Peter Coutts left, and retired in 2014. Thankfully, Frank still serves St. Andrew's when we need him (which is often lately).

Sheila's career was as a professional singer in Montreal and Toronto, later directing choirs in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Coming to Calgary in 1983, she has served St. Andrew's in a variety of capacities: as representative elder from St. Andrew's to Presbytery from 1987 until this month, and as choir director for 18 years. Sheila still directs "The No-tables", a group of women who enjoy singing, and who perform at many nursing homes, seniors' facilities and for other

occasions. Together, Frank and Sheila conduct worship and a hymn sing at the Chinook Care Centre once a month.

Sheila has one daughter and one son, two grandsons and three great-grandchildren. Frank has two daughters and one son, eight grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Both Sheila and Frank express strong faith that God has been instrumental in bringing them together and directs their whole lives. Sheila says, "God has led us all the way." Frank adds, "We are greatly blessed and deeply grateful."



### George Simpson

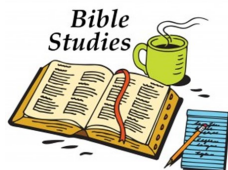
Ninety years ago, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, in a stone house on an estate called "Mains of Orton" two miles south of Elgin, northern Scotland, a baby boy was born. His name was George Simpson. It was after WWI, and his dad was working on the large estate. Two years later in 1928, 17 families from that area came to Canada; among them the Simpsons with George, an older brother and two older sisters. They settled on a farm facing the ocean just east of Moncton, N.B.

The Simpson family attended a little church close to their farm, "but", recalls George, "come Communion Sunday she made sure we went the 10 or so miles to the Presbyterian Church."

George was 14 during WWII when his dad and brother enlisted in the army, so he and his mother and sisters worked the two farms they had acquired by that time, including 60 head of cattle. After the war ended and his dad and brother returned home, George worked at several lumber and fishing camps and as a deck-hand on a tug boat. ....continued next page







## JOIN US FOR A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS

A four to six week course, led by Rev. Frank Breisch,  
on Thursdays at 2 pm and 7:30 pm beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>.

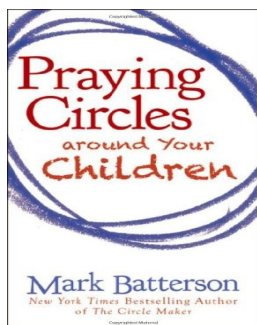
(Note: The afternoon course is filled)

Why study the Book of PSALMS?

- It was the worship book of the Hebrew Bible
- It has had a massive impact on the Christian Church
- It is part of our Presbyterian Heritage
- It contains some of the most precious passages
- It can help you and I in our Christian Life.

Please sign up in the narthex, taking one of the work sheets.

Each session will last about an hour and homework will be assigned!



## JOIN US FOR A BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, October 24,  
7:00-8:30PM

"Mark Batterson shares a perfect blend of biblical yet practical advice that will revolutionize your prayer life by giving you a new vocabulary and a new meth-

odology. You'll see how prayer is your secret weapon. Through stories of parents just like you, Batterson shares five prayer circles that will not only help you pray for your kids, but also pray through your kids. Batterson teaches about how to create prayer lists unique to your family, claim God-inspired promises for your children, turn your family circle into a prayer circle, and discover your child's life themes. And he not only tells you how, he illustrates why. As Batterson says, "I realize that not everyone inherited a prayer legacy like I did, but you can leave a legacy for generations to come. Your prayers have the power to shape the destiny of your children and your children's children. It's time to start circling." .....From the Publisher.

Contact: Anna Braun at [asabraun@shaw.ca](mailto:asabraun@shaw.ca) to sign up or for more details.

## Get Involved

On Sunday, September 11, we welcomed back persons returning from summer vacations, with one last taste of summer—free hot dogs and ice cream. Representatives of various groups within St. Andrews, such as the Choir, Ladies Guild, Men's Fellowship, Session Teams and many others were available to explain how you could become involved in the life and work of our church family. God asks each of us to strengthen our faith by using our individual gifts to serve Him to the best of our ability. Should you wish to participate by greeting, singing, teaching or in other ways, please discuss with the church office staff.

## JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL POT LUCK LUNCHEON

The MISSION MATTERS (WMS) group within St. Andrews is being 'retired with honor.'

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.

We particularly invite anyone who has been a WMS member in the past to join in the celebration of four decades of commendable service. A brief, specially written service for such occasions will follow the meal.

Any former members are asked to contact Barb English, 403-278-8577 [english.bk@shaw.ca](mailto:english.bk@shaw.ca) so suitable seating arrangements can be made.



## Financial Update from your Stewardship & Planning Team

As of August 31, 2016, 2016 Congregational Givings (envelope and PAR) were **\$340591** compared to a budgeted amount of **\$36711** leaving a **short fall** of just over **\$26,000**. Please prayerfully consider what YOU can do to reduce the shortfall and bring us closer to budget by year end.

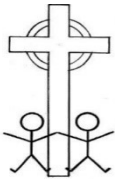


## ART ROOM AT THE BAZAAR

Calling all ARTISTS

All art forms are welcome. Some examples would be photography, textile art, painting, mixed media and sculpture. If you are able to donate 1 - 3 pieces of ORIGINAL ART, please contact Carolyn Jerrard at cdjerrard@gmail.com

## Calling all Bakers!



### Side by Side

Do you like to bake? If you answer yes to that question, you have an opportunity to make a difference! As everyone knows, fellowship is always better over food! Sharing in a meal or even over coffee or tea brings us closer together in the bond of Christian fellowship. Stories are shared and connections are made as the Holy Spirit ministers in our midst. Fellowship at Side by Side is no exception!

If you like to bake, and have a heart for families living with dementia, consider using your baking talents to add richly to the Side by Side fellowship and respite ministry--sign up to bake a couple of dozen muffins! Please check out the sign-up sheet at the sign-up centre. If you have questions, please call Alice Post at 403-861-0781.

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...."* from 1 John 3:1

# ONE MONTH TO GO!



## ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN

### Christmas Bazaar

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

10:00am - 2:00pm

We welcome donations of gently used items including books,

CDs, DVDs, children's toys, collectibles & baked goods

Odds and Sods/Toys

Books & Media

(No textbooks, encyclopedias, Readers Digest condensed books or magazines please)

Bake Table and Preserves

(Call Ida Du Toit (403) 266-7551 to volunteer for canning work bee)

### Craft Room - Craft Work Bees in September

Call Judy Roberts (403) 251-1024 or

Kathy Slimmon (403) 256-5074

Craft Ideas Welcomed! Happy Crafting!

### Volunteers needed for Set-up & Pack-up, Tea Room,

### Bake Table Room, Craft Room

### Volunteer Sign-up coming soon

\*\*\*\*\*



The bazaar bake table would appreciate donations of jams and canned vegetables

If you are interested in a canning work-bee please contact

**Ida du Toit** H: 403-266-7551 or email: jadutoit@shaw.ca

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

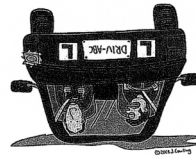


**Did you know that our sanctuary roof has sprung a few leaks? .....**

**Watch for the "Spring" for the Shingles campaign.**

**It's coming soon!**

**LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN... we need 15 people to make it a go!**



That's a fail, huh?

**Heritage Seniors & AMA Presents:**

## **Senior's Refresher Driver Training Course**

- October 13, 20, 27
- Thursdays @ 1 p.m.
- Cost: \$50.00 each
- At St Andrew's

**Please sign up ASAP, Cheques to Ron Howard by Oct 1.**



## **BAGS, BABIES & BEYOND 2016**

**Friday, October 14, 2016  
2:00 - 8:00 PM**


**Saturday, October 15, 2016  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

at

**Marda Loop Communities Association  
3130 16th Street SW, Calgary**

- Our Famous handcrafted bags
- Book bags for children and adults
- Children's clothing and toys
- Christmas items
- Sweaters, hats, scarves, jewelry, slippers, shawls and other accessories
- Many exciting surprise items for your home or for gift giving

Proceeds to The Stephen Lewis Foundation

 UJAMAA GRANDMAS  
[www.ujamaagrandmas.com](http://www.ujamaagrandmas.com)



## **SENIORS HOUSING TRANSITIONS**

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Starting at 10 am, speakers will discuss:

Understanding housing options for seniors such as long term care, assisted living, income based and affordable options. An expert panel will be looking at home support programs as well.

Information booths will be open from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Hosted by Heritage 50+ Seniors and the Calgary Seniors Housing Forum Society, the event will take place at St. Andrew's.

Please call 403-255-0001 to register.



### DID YOU KNOW . . . . .

Thanksgiving has been officially celebrated as an annual holiday in Canada since November 6, 1879, when Parliament declared a national day of thanksgiving. On Thursday, January 31, 1957, the Parliament of Canada made a proclamation stating: "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed - to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."

### DID YOU KNOW . . . . .

St. Andrews will be celebrating Thanksgiving with special services, Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and 11:15 am. Please join the congregation with your family and friends to celebrate our Blessings.

### THANKSGIVING PRAYER

For each new morning with its  
light,  
For rest and shelter of the  
night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness  
sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-  
1882)

