



CATALYST

Autumn–September, 2008

St. Andrew's Church

75 Simcoe Street, Toronto, Ontario M5J 1W9 (416) 593-5600

"The people of St. Andrew's are called by God to serve in faith, hope and love in the core of Toronto."

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

or Why We Do What We Do How We Do It

A few years ago, I had a remarkable conversation with a young woman who, though having grown up in the Presbyterian Church, was attending a church that embraced a more relaxed approach to worship. She stated that she had never understood why Presbyterians seemed to 'always do things the same way' in their worship services.

I asked her if anyone had ever explored the 'movement' of Presbyterian worship with her. We talked for close to half an hour about the structure of worship, and at the end, she said that she wished that she had been able to have such a conversation long before. I don't know if she went back to her Presbyterian congregation, but she certainly expressed a greater degree of understanding about what was happening. Since then, I have sometimes lamented that we do not often talk about the way that we worship – and why.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul commends his readers to do everything, in their worship, 'decently and in order' (yes, this phrase proves that Paul was, in fact, a Presbyterian!). Paul was trying to encourage his readers not to allow the excesses and disorderliness which were plaguing their community to undermine their life together at worship.

But the way that we worship is about more than some static (or stately) order. Rather, one of the reasons why I deeply appreciate Presbyterian worship is that, in its best sense, it mirrors the soul in its relationship with God. This movement is often described as a 'four - fold' structure -- we

gather; we hear God's Word; we respond to God's Word; and we are sent into the world.

We Gather

We begin by being called to worship. This often includes a reading from Scripture which invites us into the worship of God. A hymn is often sung as a part of this time of being called and gathered. Theologically, this is quite appropriate. After all, to be called to worship – rather than raising ourselves into that experience – serves as a wonderful reminder that God calls to us before we call out to God.

As we ponder God's call to us, however, we experience a deepened awareness of our sins. Words of adoration lead into words of confession, which is followed by an assurance of pardon (it is important to remember that these words of pardon are an assurance of the offer of forgiveness from God --not from the minister!) The first movement of this four-fold structure, therefore, is that of being gathered – by being called, convicted and forgiven by God – so that we can move into a renewed relationship.

We Hear God's Word

This relationship is renewed in the second movement of worship -- that of hearing God's Word. We hear God's Word as we read and listen to

Continued on page 2.

Continued from page 1:

Scripture, as we are blessed by the wonders of music, and as we hear the sermon. In the Presbyterian tradition, great preaching is not about the eloquence – or lack thereof – of the preacher. Rather, it is about the faithful interpretation of the Scriptures. The duty of the preacher is to seek to ‘build bridges’ between the lives of the congregation and the texts of Scripture. When that happens, we begin to realize that the preached Word is using the written Word to point us toward the Living Word -- who is Jesus Christ.

We Respond to God’s Word

The third movement is the act of responding to God’s Word. We respond in a number of different ways. At St. Andrew’s, the creed is often stated following the sermon, which offers a wonderful way to respond to God’s Word through the confession of our faith. Creeds, when properly understood, are not meant to be ‘litmus tests’ of dogmatic allegiance. Rather, they are meant to be expressions of the church’s understanding of the mysteries of God’s grace and work in the world.

The celebration of Communion is another one of the most important ways that we respond to Christ, by sharing bread and wine – as a response to his invitation to remember him. When Communion is not celebrated, the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession serve as a way of responding – and giving thanks – to God.

Another one of the ways that we respond to God, in worship, is through our tithes and offerings. In offering the first-fruits of our daily labours during the act of worship, we are reminding ourselves -- and demonstrating -- that every dimension of our lives is a part of our Christian discipleship.

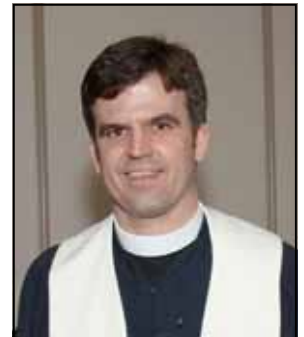
We are Sent into the World

The fourth movement is that of being sent out. We often sing a hymn which invites us to ponder our calling to go into the world as a people of faith. This hymn is followed by a charge and a benediction. In the name of Christ, and with the blessing of God, we are sent into the world to further the work of peace, justice, compassion and holiness.

Once we understand this overarching ‘structure’ of liturgy, it becomes obvious that such a structure is not limited to a particular style of worship. In fact, regardless of the style of worship or musical genre, this basic four-fold structure mirrors the soul’s encounter with God. Both as individuals, and as a community, God calls and gathers us; God strengthens and feeds us; God invites us to respond in faith; and God sends us into the world.

The act of worship, therefore, is more than simply a nice pastime that we participate in from time to time. It is meant to shape our lives, to inspire us, to guide us and to remind us, on a regular basis, of who and whose we are.

In Christ,

CATALYST

Catalyst is published four times annually for members and friends of St. Andrew’s Church. The next issue is the Advent/Christmas issue and the deadline for submitting articles is Sunday, November 2, 2008. If possible, articles should be submitted on disc in Microsoft Word format. All discs will be returned.

Catalyst Editor: Pat Reynolds - pareynolds@sympatico.ca

Design and Production: Judy Neal - jneal@standrewstoronto.org

Comments, Questions, Suggestions or Articles: Please contact the Editor the Church Office.

Website: www.standrewstoronto.org

Email: info@standrewstoronto.org

Telephone: 416-593-5600



THIS CONGREGATION OF OURS

One of the books I took the time to read this summer was *"The Book of St. Andrew's"* by Dr. Stuart C. Parker, one of its distinguished ministers. He was the one who served this congregation during the closing years of the first one hundred years of witness in the old city of York.

During Dr. Parker's time at St. Andrew's special centennial celebrations were held, and celebrated they did. Here is what the Prime Minister, W. L. MacKenzie King, whose family had a long association with the Church, had to say in part at the closing celebrations. **"The Church would have no place but for the world in which it finds itself. It is but one institution but it should be the central institution of all. Its missions to breathe upon the others the spirit of life."** [p. 141]

As I was reading this book, I found several aspects of the ministry and mission of St. Andrew's fascinating, interesting and noteworthy.

- Its carefully chosen ministers and the leadership of its members were eager to offer meaningful services of worship with relevant messages to the people of their time;
- They were determined to offer programs for all ages;
- They knew their community and came up with ways and means of reaching out;
- They started congregations in other locations, and established institutions to address the community's needs and beyond;
- When they were faced with problems, of which they had their share, they came together to deal with them and arrived at solutions that were best for all concerned;
- They had the courage to introduce new ways of doing ministry, and made several innovative and drastic changes in order to serve both the members and the community at large;
- The women gave leadership and initiated programs not only within the congregation but also in the community among the young and the old.

"When the climax of the celebrations came with Holy Communion on the morning of Sunday, 9th of March," these words were spoken at the evening service, **"We know that we have not done for the Cause of the Gospel all that we might have done....May God help us to be worthy of those who have gone before us, that, when another century shall have passed, men and women gathering here may look back with pride and affection to us as we look back to the pioneers of 1830."** [p. 142].

As we enter the closing years of our second century let Fosdick's hymn be our prayer—

*"God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient Church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour."*

Amen and Amen!

George C. Vais,
Associate Minister for Adult Ministries



BOARDING HOMES MINISTRY

By Heather Dalzell

St. Andrew's has a very well-established team of visitors, so when I expressed an interest in Boarding Home visits to Rodger Hunter, he found me a spot on the team from Willowdale Presbyterian Church. The other members are Lorna and Becky of Willowdale and Susan who joined after hearing about the ministry from a friend

Our home is in the St. Clair West area and we visit every other Wednesday afternoon. I couldn't remember how long I have been visiting and was astonished, on checking my journal, to find my first visit was in January 2002.

The people we visit sadly have been rejected on several levels and often feel isolated and lonely. In six years they have become my friends, and it is truly a privilege for me to sit with them, to share our treats and to have a sense of communion with them.

We lost a friend this past year. It was sad to see, on each visit, his slow decline and, in spite of visits to his doctor, no improvement. He was always very quiet, speaking rarely and had a gentleness and calmness that was pervasive. I remember one time, before he became ill, something happened during our visit which touched him and he laughed out loud. It was the only time I ever heard him laugh. What a joyful sound it was, and it touched me so deeply. The first visit after he was gone was not easy, as we felt the loss of his quiet, gentle presence.

It is difficult to put into words the sense of gratitude I feel for the privilege of sharing a few hours every other week with people who have become my friends and who have enriched my life so wonderfully.



HEALTH CABINET PARISH NURSING

By Maureen McNeish, Parish Nurse



Attacking Anxiety and Depression

Sometimes the stresses of life make it feel as though we are under attack. Life can become so distressing that one's energy becomes depleted simply trying to survive. Professional counselling can be helpful in finding ways to cope with the stress. For some, the cost and commitment of individual counselling is a concern. Others may want a supplement to their weekly therapy and yet they independently lack the tools to learn to overcome the distress of anxious feelings and distressing thoughts.

Attacking Anxiety and Depression is a fifteen-week self-directed course, which is available for anyone who is interested in managing their thoughts, reducing anxiety and learning important life skills. Dr. Philip Fisher, a medical doctor whose clinical experience has focused on treating those with symptoms of anxiety, depression and panic disorder, developed the course. Please speak to me, Maureen McNeish, parish nurse, for further information concerning how you might benefit from it. There is no cost to the participant.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL

by Mary Maiden

Sunday school reconvened after what seemed to be a very short summer. The students and parents came on September 7th refreshed and ready to begin. We had a small parent and teacher meeting before church in which lots of different ideas were brought forward and exchanged. The students had a quick review of last year by playing “pass the parcel” in which they had to answer questions like “Who is Zacchaeus?” and “Who did the pharaoh's daughter find in the basket” before they had unwrapped enough layers to get their rulers, bible bookmarks and markers.

Our nursery is well looked after by eight caring volunteers. These volunteers rotate their Sunday duty every 2 months. Barb Sargent will be coordinating the nursery volunteers this year.

Our primary class will be very active with seven regular students. Irene Faiz will be coordinating the staffing and teaching of this class while following the *Walk With Me* curriculum for Kindergarten/Grade 1 age children. Herbin Barrington will be teaching this September and Irene will teach in October.

Our Junior class is 4 students strong and will be challenged with the *Walk with Me* curriculum for Grades 4 to 6. After two years of Old Testament, they will now be studying the New Testament. Karen Ingram, Claudia Hepburn and Maureen Nolte will be teaching this fall.

Our senior class has potentially 6 students. We are still looking for a challenging and enjoyable curriculum for them. We also hope to teach a few sessions about the reformation. Brian Birdsell, Tom Kovats and Kate Agnew will be teaching this fall.

At our assembly every Sunday we will talk about the Ten Commandments. This will take the fall as we explore the background and meaning behind them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped teach and help in the nursery throughout the summer. We had participants almost every week--except the week I was there.

We look forward to an educational and fun year with the students. If you are interested in participating in this rewarding ministry as a nursery caregiver, teacher or class assistant (particularly for primary), please contact Mary Maiden at 416-425-0861 or mmaiden@sympatico.ca.

FALL SUPPER SEMINARS

By The Rev. Dr. George Vais
Associate Minister for Adult Education

The Fall Supper Seminar series will run on four consecutive Wednesdays, starting on October 15th and ending on November 5th. The theme is *The Art of Prayer: Responding to Icons as Christian Theology*, with Prof. Richard Schneider, Adjunct Professor, Trinity College, U of Toronto and Professor Emeritus, York University.

This series of lectures—with many illustrations from all periods and styles of icon painting—will show that icons are created to communicate the truths and theology of basic Christian faith, using a language which is accessible and readable by any believer with a solid knowledge of Scripture.

Sessions begin with supper starting at 5 p.m. Lectures and discussions are from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay the registration fee.



For more information please see the brochure included with this issue of the Catalyst.



Welcome
Our New
Members

On Sunday, June 15, 2008, St. Andrew's welcomed twelve people to membership in the church.

We are pleased to introduce eight of them here.

Andrea Charlton, Stewart Moracen, Lesley Jensen and Theo Caldwell will be introduced in the next issue.



CANDICE AND JOHN ARCHIBALD

by David Olenic

We welcome John and Candice to St. Andrew's, and of course one of the first questions that I asked them was what attracted them to our church. It turns out that it was a mixture of location and our current minister. Will had married them at Bonar-Parkdale Church, and they had also come to know the church through the Thursday communion services. As they have just moved to the Distillery District, getting here has become fairly easy as well.

John's originally from Sidney, N.S., and he obtained an undergraduate degree in Montreal, at McGill. He went back east to the University of New Brunswick to obtain his law degree, and then to Harvard to get a graduate law degree. He's currently working as a lawyer at McMillan LLP, and has been in Toronto for six years.

Candice was originally from Trinidad, and has her B. Comm. from the University of West Indies. She is currently pursuing her MBA from the Schulich School of Business, York University. She works as a new business underwriter for Lombard Canada Ltd. Candice has been in Toronto for ten years.

I could not resist asking her the obvious question of what she thought of Canadian winters. She replied that after ten years, she had gotten used to them.

Welcome to St. Andrew's, Candice and John!



CANDACE AND KENNETH GRANT

by Eric Reynolds

Candace and Kenneth Grant transferred their membership from Morningside High Park in West Toronto as a result of moving to one of the tall condos in downtown Toronto. They found St. Andrew's because they were looking specifically for a church that connects to the downtown community.

Both Kenneth and Candace are on the staff at Ryerson University, teaching and making their way through graduate programs in the field of Information Technology. Candace from Yellowknife and Kenneth from Scotland met in London, England and eventually found their way to Canada. They are world travelers: they combine travel, teaching and learning with family life. Married for 37 years, Kenneth and Candace have two sons who live in Toronto.

Candace is an active participant in the Wednesday morning bible study group. She also soaks up the other adult education activities – the Sunday Forums, the Wednesday speakers series in Advent and Lent, and some of the supper seminar series. She was a Tuesday breakfast OOTC volunteer for six months, until her teaching schedule made that impossible.

Welcome to St. Andrew's!

JANE MARTIN and LEE STRATTON*by Pat Reynolds*

Jane and Lee need no introduction to most members of St. Andrew's Church as they have been part of our family for many years.

Jane and Lee are both lawyers who met at law school at Queen's University in Kingston. When settling in Toronto, they were attracted to St. Andrew's by the friendly reception they received and a connection with Leila MacInnes, one of our elders. Lee had been organist at St. John's Broadview when Leila's husband Gordon was minister there.

Jane and Lee have two charming daughters, Elizabeth and Catherine, ages 15 and 12 respectively, who have kept their parents involved in the Church School. Both girls are attending Branksome Hall where, in addition to their studies, they participate in many extra-curricular activities.

Welcome Jane and Lee!

**HANNEKA VAN DER SLUYS**

Born in The Netherlands, Hanneke immigrated with her family to Edmonton, Alberta. Her father, a part time artist, passed away a few years after their arrival in Canada. Nevertheless, he was instrumental in influencing her to follow in his footsteps.

Hanneke received her B.Ed. (Art & Music major) from Calvin College, Michigan, and then a B.A. (Psychology & Sociology) from the U. of Toronto, after which she completed her first year M.S.W. at the U. of Manitoba. While studying in Winnipeg, Hanneke met her husband who was also a student. They moved to Montreal where Hanneke completed her M.S.W. at McGill. Their son Marcus was born soon afterwards.

Throughout her work Hanneke has combined two careers - artist and social work (addictions, mental health fields). She obtained her B.F.A. from Concordia U. in Montreal. She incorporated her art teaching skills at Douglas Hospital (Montreal) where she initiated an Artistic Expression Group with seniors. For over ten years she has been a gallery artist with Galerie Michel-ange in Old Montreal and with Gallery Christin in Toronto. Two years ago she took early retirement from social work in Montreal in order to move to Toronto where her son found a position following graduation with his M.B.A. from Queen's University. She continues to work as an artist for the two galleries mentioned above and works as a volunteer with the Boarding Homes Ministry. Her other hobbies and interests include: Interior Design, photography, art exhibitions, theatre, movies, cycling and swimming.

Although from the Dutch Christian Reformed background, Hanneke chose to become a member of St. Andrew's Church due to the similarities in church doctrine and proximity to Harbourfront where she lives.

Welcome to St. Andrew's, Hanneke!

**LORRAINE WONG***By Cynthia Humphries*

Lorraine was born in South Africa where she lived with her parents and two brothers. Subsequently, she moved to England with her mother who still resides in England. Her first home in Canada was Vancouver but she has lived in Toronto for the last 27 years.

Lorraine has a B.A. in Psychology from York University and a Masters in Counselling Psychology. Her work has included being a career counsellor at George Brown College and Ryerson University. Recently she received her TESL Certification and works part time as an ESL teacher and as a conversation partner in a private school. Lorraine does a lot of volunteer work at Harbourfront and at the Leprosy Mission Canada and when she has time, she enjoys theatre, movies and arts and crafts.

About two years ago Lorraine felt a need for spiritual support and growth and discovered St. Andrew's Church which is close to her home at Harbourfront.

Welcome to St. Andrew's, Lorraine!





WEST TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT

By David Wishart

As anyone who has been past the church will know, the West Tower Restoration Project has begun. The restoration team held its first meeting in early September. The scaffolding and protective hoarding are in place and workers have started removing stones that are in danger of falling. The team anticipates that the restoration project will be completed near the end of November, 2008. We will provide updates from the team as they become available.

On Sunday, June 22 the congregation voted to proceed with a major renovation project on the West Tower of the church building. Significant deterioration of sections of the West Tower led the Board of Managers to undertake an extensive inspection and consultation process.

Bids were solicited from a number of reputable firms, and the estimates ranged from \$749,000 to \$998,000. The following motions were presented to the congregation, and all were passed.

Motion 1: That we proceed with the West Tower restoration project and that Don Bolton and Graeme Hepburn be empowered to enter into negotiations with the two lowest bidders, Colonial Restoration and Roof Tile Management, to obtain the best possible price.

Motion 2: That we apply all the funds (estimated at \$300,000) from the 2003 Capital Campaign to the West Tower restoration project, with the result that the completion of the King Street restoration and the renewal of the Chancel will have to be the subject of further congregational approval.

Motion 3: That the Board of Managers recommend that the congregation approve the release of \$275,000 (representing a portion of the Frances Clark legacy) by the Heritage Trust to assist with the funding of the West Tower restoration project.

Motion 4: That the Board be authorized to borrow up to \$250,000 to complete the financing of the West Tower restoration project, to be secured by the guarantee of the Heritage Trust, and that steps be taken by the congregation at the earliest possible date to raise the funds to repay the borrowed amount.



Left: Restoration work begins--as seen from Pat and Eric Reynolds' condo in Symphony Place. *Right:* Photo from the 2003 Capital Campaign showing the extent of the deterioration of the base of columns and building.

A SESSION MINUTE

In the Presbyterian tradition, the meeting of the ruling and teaching elders -- who together form the 'Session'-- is a closed meeting; that is, in order to safeguard the confidentiality of issues that might be discussed, the meetings of Session are not open to non-elders in the congregation. However, much of what is discussed at Session meetings is not of a confidential nature. The following is a short summary of an important issue the Session has been considering in its recent meetings.



The Andrew Adair Window

The Session appointed a Task Force this past Spring to review St. Andrew's committee structure. This work has been the focus of recent Session meetings.

While committee mandates have altered and new committees have been formed since St. Andrew's adopted its six congregational goals in the early 1990s, there has been no comprehensive review of our committee structure since that time. The congregation confirmed the relevance of our goals at last year's Fall retreat. And, inspired by the ideas generated at that retreat, the Session saw a need to rethink how we are organized to carry out our ministries effectively. We also saw a need to simplify the committee structure to make it easier to communicate who has responsibility for the many activities which make St. Andrew's such a vibrant community.

Led by Sandy Aird, the Committee Restructuring Task Force worked quickly to produce a comprehensive draft structure which was tabled for Session consideration just before the summer holidays. This Fall, the task force is consulting with members of the Board of Managers to ensure the

new structure reflects all of St. Andrew's needs. The Session is eager to approve a new structure soon, and to begin recruiting many members of the congregation to bring their gifts to the service of our committees.

We have been blessed by the time and talent so many individuals share with St. Andrew's. Recently, two long-serving leaders moved on from roles in which they did outstanding work.

Bev Reynolds coordinated Special Events at St. Andrew's for many years, playing an instrumental role in establishing our reputation for elegant congregational dinners, stylish receptions, and enjoyable luncheons. A lot of behind the scenes work goes into making such events special. They can be logistical nightmares. Yet Bev brought such calm efficiency and grace to the task that our beautiful functions seem to materialize effortlessly.

Lenore Goodwin chaired our Christian Education Committee, a committee with a large and evolving mandate, responsible for guiding the development of new and creative educational programming each and

every year. Lenore shepherded the establishment of St. Andrew's bursary; supported George Vais in organizing our highly regarded Adult education programs; and provided valuable assistance to Sunday School Superintendents and Nursery Coordinators in including the organization of our yearly Christmas pageants. Lenore has diligently kept on top of everything, approaching her work thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Bev and Lenore, the Session and Congregation salute your terrific work! In you we have seen wonderful examples of how members of St. Andrew's serve in faith, hope and love in the heart of Toronto.

Lori Ransom
Clerk of Session



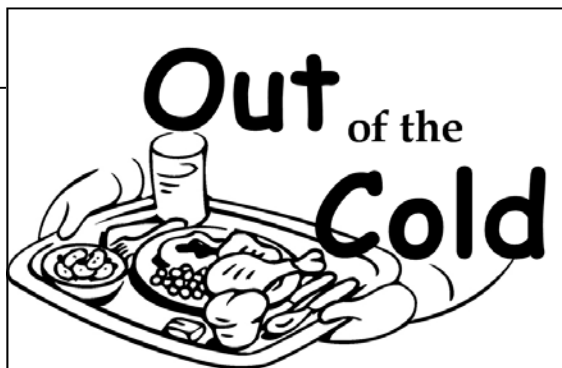
We're Getting Ready!

The 16th year of Out of the Cold is scheduled to open on Monday, November 3, 2008. In preparation for this new season, Will Ingram has called

a planning meeting for Monday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m. A light supper of sandwiches and salads will be provided, and the meeting will be finished by 8:00 p.m. at the latest. Please RSVP the church office.

An ongoing part of the programme is the boutique so please remember to bring good used casual clothing, paperback books, magazines and any other useful items. We would like to start the new season with a full cupboard!

In addition, OOTC will have a 'Sock Sunday' at the Sunday morning service on November 2, 2008. Socks are the item most needed on the first night of the programme and guests are very appreciative of receiving fresh clean socks.



The Tuesday morning community breakfast continues all year round and would welcome new volunteers. For those in the work force, you can assist with breakfast and still be at work on time!

Volunteer Grant

Our Out of the Cold programme recently received a generous donation from the RBC Volunteer Grant plan in honour of one of their employees who volunteers at OOTC. This plan makes grants to charitable organizations for whom their employees volunteer.

The volunteer in question forwarded this donation to St. Andrew's and his covering letter said, in part, "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer with a wonderful group of people."

If you volunteer in any programme of St. Andrew's and are in the work force, please enquire of your employers about such a programme.



DOORS OPEN TORONTO

On Saturday, May 24th St. Andrew's participated for the first time in the 2008 *Doors Open Toronto* event. *Doors Open Toronto* is an annual event which offers people the opportunity to tour a number of famous -- and infamous -- Toronto landmarks and buildings.

About 30 volunteers from St. Andrew's participated as hosts for the congregation, and welcomed 1605 visitors and guests -- just on Saturday!

A huge thanks is extended to David Wishart, who coordinated the event and our congregational volunteers; and a huge thanks is also extended to those who volunteered their time and their hospitable spirits to this event.

HOSPITALITY CONVENORS

We are very pleased to announce that Nancy Mathewson and Heather Dalzell have agreed to serve as the Special Events (Hospitality) convenors for dinners and other special social events in our congregation. We are profoundly grateful to Bev Reynolds for her many years of dedicated service in these tasks, and are thrilled that Nancy and Heather have agreed to take up these responsibilities.



Worship

The church lives to praise God.
We have no higher calling
than to offer the worship that belongs to God
day by day, Sunday by Sunday.

Through the preaching of the Word
and the celebration of the Sacraments,
in praise, prayer, teaching and fellowship,
God sustains the life of the church.

We worship God as Lord
offering ourselves in the service of Christ,
rejoicing that we have been brought
from darkness to light.

Worship draws us into the work of Christ.

Even now he intercedes for the world
to which he came and for which he died.

In union with him, the church prays
for the healing and salvation of the world.

Living Faith, [7.3]

FALL FORUMS

The general theme of our Fall Forums will center around the questions - "**How do we relate to people?**" More specifically, "**How do we enter someone else's world?**"

I think it's safe to say that most of us would do anything to avoid entering such a world. We would much rather talk about the weather, the kind of summer we had and the like, than enter some one's world of questions... concerns... pain... and loneliness....

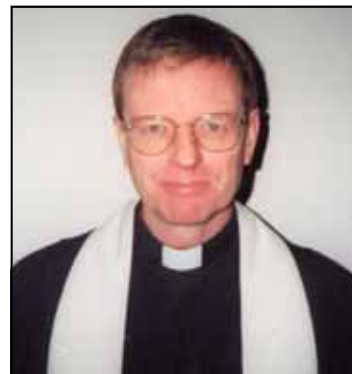
One good reason why we play it safe and choose not to enter someone else's world is because it may evoke or uncover something in us that is painful, something that we do not want to deal with.

It's safe to assume that everyone of us has needs. If that's the case, how do we encourage people to share their various needs, and when they do, how do we respond?

The first of three Forums will be held on Sunday, September 21st and will be led by **the Rev. Rodger Hunter**.

The Forums are held in the Boardroom from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.



GOOGLE CAN'T SATISFY EVERY SEARCH!

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God. (What a great assignment--to bring God into something they do every day!) Here are some of the results:

- God is like a Ford: He's got a better idea.
- God is like Coke: He's the real thing.
- God is like Hallmark Cards: He cares enough to send His very best.
- God is like Tide: He gets out the stains that others leave behind.
- God is like General Electric: He brings good things to life.
- God is like Alka-Seltzer: try Him, you'll like Him!
- God is like Scotch Tape: you can't see Him, but you know He's there.
- God is like Delta Airlines: He's ready when you are.
- God is like Allstate: you're in good hands with Him.
- God is like Maxwell House: good to the last drop.
- God is like Dial Soap: aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?
- God is like the U.S. Post Office: neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.
- God is like Bounty: He's the quicker picker upper. He can handle the tough jobs...and He won't fall apart on you.

God does not believe in atheists--therefore atheists do not exist.

--Sonny Manuel, Pastor, Palm Heights Baptist Church, U.S.A.

ENRICH YOUR LIFE BY GROUP BIBLE STUDY



By Olive Anstice on behalf of all the participants in the Sunday Bible Study Group

Sunday morning Bible study is held every week in the Boardroom commencing with coffee at 9:30 a.m. We study a book of the Bible and usually read and discuss one chapter each week. But there is no obligation to take part in the discussion. The group needs good listeners!

Currently we are completing the Gospel of John. It may seem strange to be moving in our study toward the trial and death of the Lord Jesus, when in our church life we will soon be celebrating His birth. But really, the two are inevitably linked. As T.S. Eliot say in his perceptive poem *Journey of the Magi*:

'...were we led all that way for Birth or Death?

There was a Birth, certainly,

We had evidence and no doubt.

I had seen birth and death,

But had thought they were different; this Birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like Death..."

We are a friendly, relaxed group, always happy to welcome new comers. WILL YOU JOIN US? Please do!

FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS



By Marc Buist, Treasurer

After an enjoyable summer period the Board of Managers will resume their regular meeting schedule again

to deal with the financial matters of St Andrew's Church.

We are thankful to report that as of August 31, 2008 our Congregational givings exceed our budget expectations and Revenue from other sources and Expenses are in line with our Budget.

Just a reminder that we do have an automatic bank deduction plan available for those who find it convenient to have their contributions deducted from their bank account on a monthly basis. You can contact Doug Pearson or me for further information and authorization forms.

You can notice that our church sanctuary and premises underwent a real cleaning job. Everything smells clean and is ready for new action, thanks to our church manager Doug Pearson and our custodians Jim, Arnaldo and Stewart.

The restoration of the West Tower has started and the stone experts are hard at work. David Wishart's report is on page 8 of this issue.

As I entered the church grounds one day recently, some bystanders asked

me what was going on and I was able to inform them. Many Toronto citizens love this historic building and are very pleased to see that it is being preserved; maybe we should let it be known more and the tremendous costs involved. Just a thought. David Wishart and Don Bolton and the Board of Managers will keep you informed about the progress of this undertaking.

"WINE, CHEESES & JESUS"

Wine, Cheeses and Jesus is a group that meets monthly for fellowship, learning and occasional outings.



We are pleased to announce that Lori Anne Comeau and Alison Rose have offered to take over the role of coordinators for the *Wine, Cheeses and Jesus'* events and keep these lively fellowship events moving forward. WCJ will be on the third Thursday of each month. All are welcome.

On September 18 the group met to hear about Lori Ann's China adventures as an ESL teacher for the Christian charity, Amity. It was a lovely evening of learning, laughter, friendship and refreshments.

A Message from Pat Baird

I've learned that people will often forget what you said, people will often forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel" -- Maya Angelou.



Thank you to all of you at St. Andrew's for your prayers, love, and support at this most difficult time. My family is also very appreciative. There are no words to express what your friendship has meant to me over the years and especially right now. "Friends are the flowers in the garden of life".

One of my most favourite hymns, *Amazing Grace*, really speaks to me now..."Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come; 'tis grace that brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home."

God has many paths for all of us, but ultimately they all lead back to him, and hopefully, we will all meet again in the kingdom of heaven.

God Bless you,
Patricia Baird and family.

Editor's Note: It is with regret that we announce that Pat died on Saturday, September 13, 2008. She leaves a daughter Heather, son-in-law James Brinias, two grandsons, Dean-Douglas and Thomas. She is also survived by her sister Roberta Baird and brother Douglas Baird. A service of celebration of Pat's life was held on Sept. 22nd.

Agape Love is Alive in China

By Lori Ann Comeau

A Canadian team from the Presbyterian Church of Canada shared a unique experience this summer. Not only did we learn to work together, we learned so much about ourselves as we shared in humility, acceptance and the abundance of agape love offered to us in China.

My adventure started in Shanghai. I wondered, what was I doing going to a place where I didn't know the language in a vast city with a population of unofficially 25 million. I needed to find a taxi and make my way to the Green Tea House Inn. This was an adventure all in itself. Thankfully, one of the volunteers from my team, Victor Kim, waited for me at the airport and we safely arrived at the Inn 45 minutes later.

One day of exploring Shanghai, and we were off to Nanjing to meet the staff at the Amity Foundation and attend a five-day conference.

The Amity Foundation was China's first charity and it is a Christian based organization. Since 1985 Amity has provided healthcare, education, emergency relief, housing and rural development programs to the country and its people. Through its relationships with Christian churches around the world, Amity delivers these programs and can build a school in rural China for \$60,000, or as it did this year, send 55 volunteers to teach English in rural areas of eastern China.

Volunteers came from Canada, U.S. and the United Kingdom. We were eager to learn more about the Summer English Program (SEP) and start fostering our newfound relationships. There were five Canadians: four from the Presbyterian Church (Victor Kim, a Minister from Calgary, and Anne and David Phillips, who work at the national church office, and myself), and Brenda Donner from the United Church. The conference was packed with information, workshops, seminars and an abundance of food with which we learned the etiquette of Chinese dining.



Amity's volunteers, Tom, Kyle and Ling, English Majors at Nanjing University, coordinated and hosted the SEP volunteers as we explored Nanjing in between afternoon breaks from our detailed conference schedule. We enjoyed the view of the city from a Buddhist Temple, walked the longest and oldest city wall, and stopped in to visit some of its social and educational programs at the Home of Blessings. As many of the family St. Andrew's are aware, my brother Harlan is developmentally challenged. I wanted to assess China's support for people who need special assistance and care. It was a cherished moment as volunteers and clients of an adult development program shared in singing 'If You are Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands' and 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'. I didn't realize this would be the start of my singsongs in China. It was a happy and tearful moment for me to share this experience. Afterwards we toured a bakery as part of a workplace-training program. When we arrived at the bakery three clients and volunteers from Nanjing University were making bread. The ratio of client support was 1:4. The clients prepare a variety of breads and cookies, which are sold to the community to help cover operational expenses of the program.

Afterwards we toured Nanjing Autism Centre. The government donated the building and last year, the Centre started to provide education and social support to about 25 young children. One little boy joined our tour of the Centre. He seemed content to take me around by the hand until his father showed up to take him home for the day. The talents of the clients at Home of Blessings, be it at the adult development program, bakery or Centre, were bountiful. English was not their mother tongue but they all spoke it.

One of my newfound friends, Karen Ferguson from Washington state, said, "Isn't it amazing that given the millions of people in this world, 55 of us came together to volunteer for the Summer English Program." After pondering her observation over a hearty lunch I realized how quickly I formed lifelong friendships in such a short amount of time and the gift, which was given not only to me, but the other volunteers. Each of us had so many stories to share with such little time too share it and even now, we are making arrangements to visit one another over the next year.

Anxious and excited, the Presbyterian team arrived in Fuzhou. We were warmly greeted by our host, Janice Tian, at the airport along with a supply of bottled water and fresh jasmine as we started our drive to the Fuzhou Education Institute. The team's reaction to sitting or standing on the Fuzhou Highway for two hours as we waited for the equivalent of CAA to show up and change a flat tire proved to expand our openness to the experience in China, accepting its offerings with love and laughter.

There were eighty students teachers in the Fuzhou SEP. They would stay in the institute's dormitory during the week and return each weekend to their families. Some teachers would travel 2 hours by public transportation each Sunday to attend class the following morning. We shared our cultural learnings and each evening after class we explored the city as my way of seeing it while helping the student teachers improve their oral English. There were lots of adventures -- Ming River Park, watching hundreds of people sing classic Chinese songs; being taught Tai Chi in White Horse Park, or sharing their first BBQ at the Forest Park. My time was devoted to the student teachers. We laughed and at the end of the program we cried.

The generosity of love and friendship from the student teachers was overwhelming. They gave of themselves as I hope I did.

Reflections on the 134th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

By Marc Buist

It was indeed a rewarding and enriching experience for me to attend this Assembly as your representative and delegate for Toronto East Presbytery.

I arrived in Ottawa on Friday, May 31st. Who does not feel a sense of pride looking at the Houses of Parliament landscape and surroundings? It added a special touch to the Assembly. The next day I attended the Pre-Assembly workshops by the Elders' Institute. "*Sparks of Faith*" was the theme, and as elders from across Canada, we met and discussed our Christian calling and Vision for the Church without the watchful eyes and ears of our ministers. A lively discussion took place, in which we often stated how blessed we are to have faithful and hard working pastors and teachers who work among us with their God-given talents and how we have to support them with our prayers and cooperation.

On Sunday night the Assembly opened with a resounding praise at Knox Church, Ottawa. Outside you could hear city buses passing, but inside this beautiful neo-Gothic church there was capacity crowd of enthusiastic Presbyterians from far and wide. The service was hosted by the Presbytery of Ottawa and was led by the local clergy. I felt a deep sense of joy and celebration that evening and I think it set the tone for the Assembly. Representatives of different Churches in Ottawa were invited and celebrated communion with us. The worship was followed by the First Sederunt, at which The Rev. Cheol Soon Park, of the Toronto Korean, was elected and installed as Moderator for the 134th General Assembly. The music for the evening was great and represented the breadth and diversity in Presbyterian worship today. Thanks go out to the congregations of Ottawa for their warm hospitality—it was great; they sure know how to plan and organize.

What does the Lord require of you? Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. Yes, to seek justice, and love

kindness and walk humbly with your God. We sang and said this every morning and it was a lesson for us all, and I am sure the Holy Spirit through this theme worked among us in our deliberations and discussions.

Briefing sessions took place Monday. These briefings are intended to assist the commissioners, young adults and student representatives to understand the reports more fully. I was particularly interested in the Church Doctrine, Life and Mission and International Affairs reports and found the reports interesting and informative.

Monday evening was special: we were the guests of the Ottawa churches at a banquet in the Great Hall at the Museum of Civilization. If you have never seen this Museum, plan to visit it on your next visit to Ottawa—it is beautiful and majestic. It was a great evening with much music and laughter and great food. As the evening progressed, suddenly a double rainbow appeared through the huge windows and somebody at my table remarked "God is smiling on us today!"

The Sederunts are intensive meetings that are preceded by worship services by the local Ottawa Churches. They were inspiring and the music by the youth of the church was lively and even got the more reserved commissioners clapping their hands and raising their voices. With the new technology things have become easier and your motion flashes on the big screen in minutes and is ready to vote on, so I had to have my yellow card ready to go. Sometimes the vote is so close we had to stand and be counted. This was not a problematic Assembly: discussions were sometimes frank and emotional, but we listened to each other and reached out, and that is so important. The Interfaith Relations committee mandate received a lot of attention. There is concern about our approach as to the uniqueness of the saving work of Jesus Christ. Personally I stressed the importance of our Confession of Faith in which we confess what we believe, when we talk to others, which it is our duty to do, without lording it over each other.

Tuesday evening was very special. Our aboriginal brothers and sisters

spoke to us about their past. It was very emotional and we all realized more fully the pain and anguish they endured. Our Lori Ransom is doing so much for the healing and reconciliation and she needs our prayers and support, as we now enter this path of Truth and Reconciliation. It was a very moving moment when the Moderator rose and officially apologized to our aboriginal brothers and sisters and made this very evident with a big hug. Yes, things went wrong also in the Presbyterian Residential Schools, which shows we are not a perfect church: far from that, and we had to ask for forgiveness. This is an evening which will stay with me forever.

Old timers at the Assembly told me the face of the Assembly has changed. From staunch Scottish Presbyterians we now see brothers and sisters from every tribe and tongue and nation. Hallelujah! The church gathering work of our Lord Jesus Christ took place in our midst. New voices and faces and diversity are noticeable, but our Lord remains the same: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

I was particularly impressed by our young adults and students at the Assembly: they spoke so well and are well informed. It was refreshing to talk with them.

In conclusion, I may say the Presbyterian Church is alive and well in our country. Yes, there may be a decline in numbers, but as one of the speakers said, "as long as there is an increase in hope and faith and works of love, our Lord will bless us and take care of His Church." *Presbyterian World Service and Development* and *Presbyterians Sharing* do tremendous work in all corners of the world where there is so much need. Also, the many international visitors are so thankful for our support and spoke of the hope that lives in their hearts.

Our Eric Reynolds reported on the Pensions and Benefits and I felt honoured to move a motion to accept his report seconded by Michael Barnes former minister of St. Andrew's. As Eric steps down from this position, the Moderator thanked him for a job well done.

It was good to be there! May our gracious Lord bless the Presbyterian Church and make it a blessing in this great country of ours, Canada.

TRANSITIONS

Births

William Wildman, son of **Amy Cameron** and **John Rowley** was born in Toronto on May 10, 2008, weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz.. William is the first grandchild for delighted grandparents, **Stevie** and **David Cameron**, elders of St. Andrew's Church, and nephew for Aunt Tassie Cameron.

Wyatt Lewis, son of **Sara** and **Ian Charlton**, was born on May 21, 2008. Wyatt is a baby brother for Abigail, Sam and Lucy and the fourth grandchild for a delighted grandmother, **Joan Charlton**, elder of St. Andrew's Church.

Spencer Ethan, son of **Heather** and **David Croft**, was born on August 29, 2008, weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. Spencer is a baby brother for Jordan Oliver and the second grandchild for **Beth** and **Ian Croft**, members of St. Andrew's Church.

Baptisms

Shane Charles Matheson, son of **Heather** and **David Matheson**, was baptized on Sunday, June 8, 2008. Shane is the second grandchild for **Joan** and **John Matheson**.

Kyra and **Ashley Deane**, daughters of **Kathleen** and **James Deane**, were baptized on Sunday, June 8, 2008.

William Ross Charlton Willson and **Katherine Eleanor Sims Willson**, son and daughter of **Andrea Charlton** and **Jonathan Willson** and **Thomas Michael Fullilove**, son of **Gillian** and **Thomas Fullilove** were baptized on Sunday, June 15, 2008. The children are the descendents of former St. Andrew's minister Rev. D. J. Macdonnell.

Samuel Timothy Graham, son of Susan and Paul Graham, was baptized on Sunday, July 27, 2008. Sam is the 6th grandchild for **Pat** and **Eric Reynolds**.

Eleanor Claire Neal, daughter of Lisa Jeffrey and Radford Neal, was baptized on Sunday, September 28, 2008.

Marriages

Andrea McCarthy and **Gordon Webster** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

Grace Sa and **Mark Lee** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

Amanda Damtsis and **Jonathan MacLeod** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, July 5, 2008. Jonathan is the son of **Maureen** and **John MacLeod**, members of St. Andrew's Church, and the grandson of our former minister, the Rev. Douglas Stewart.

Kirby Boychuk and **Christopher Taylor** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, July 19, 2008.

Roanna Kim and **Sam Chung** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, September 13, 2008.

Slavka Kullova and **Michael Hills** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Friday, September 26, 2008.

Priscilla Mouzakiotis and **Bryan Nykoliotion** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

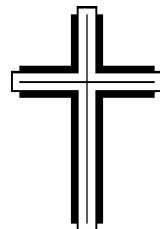
Deaths

Eleanor Carrie Copeland, wife of Dr. Gerald P. Copeland and mother of Linda (Bricker), Susan and Andrew, passed away on Friday, September 12th at Princess Margaret Hospital. A service of remembrance and celebration of Eleanor's life will be held at St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m. Eleanor served as an elder and was a former member of the Board of Managers of St. Andrew's.

Patricia Ann Baird, mother of Heather, and grandmother of Dean Douglas and Thomas Brinias, passed away at Bridgepoint Health Centre on September 13th. A service of remembrance was held at St. Andrews on Monday, September 22nd.

Mileposts

Members of St. Andrew's Church who remember Hazel McKergow will be interested to know that her husband, Chester McKergow, died on August 18, 2008 in his 97th year. Chester studied at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario and served in the Governor General's Foot Guards in the Second World War. He leaves many nieces, nephews and godchildren. Hazel is remembered for her lifelong involvement in St. Andrew's Church which included teaching in a large Sunday School and working tirelessly for the Women's Association.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study Group	Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.	Board Room
Wednesday Bible Study Group	Every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.	Board Room
Noontime Chancel Communion	Every Thursday from 12:15-12:45 p.m.	Chancel
Morning Worship <i>Sacrament of Baptism</i>	Sunday, Sept. 28 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Out of the Cold Planning Meeting	Monday, Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m.	Great Hall
Morning Worship <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	Sunday, Oct. 5 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Sunday Forum: Rev. Rodger Hunter	12 noon	Board Room
Morning Worship, <i>Thanksgiving</i> ,	Sunday, Oct. 12 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Fall Supper Seminars	Wed. Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m., Seminar 6 to 7:15 p.m.	Great Hall (see enclosed brochure)
Wine, Cheeses and Jesus	Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:00 p.m.	St. Andrew's Centre, 2 nd Floor Meeting Room
Session Meeting	Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7:00 p.m.	Board Room (refreshments 6:30 p.m.)
SAGA Meeting	Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.	Great Hall (pot luck dinner at 6 p.m.)
Morning Worship, <i>Reformation Sunday, Sacrament of Baptism</i>	Sunday, Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Sunday Forum: Ms. Purple Yip	12 noon	Boardroom
Board of Managers Meeting	Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m.	Boardroom
Chris Vais Memorial Event: <i>The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll</i>	Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Knox College
Morning Worship, Sock Sunday	Sunday, Nov. 2 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Catalyst Advent/Christmas Issue <i>Deadline for articles</i>	Sunday, Nov. 2	Church office or Pat Reynolds
Out of the Cold commences	Monday, Nov. 3	Great Hall
Morning Worship, <i>Remembrance Day Service</i>	Sunday, Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Annual Congregational Retreat <i>The Rev. Karen Horst</i>	Saturday, Nov. 15 - all day	The Old Mill Inn
Session Meeting	Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7:00 p.m.	Boardroom-refreshments 6:30 p.m.
Wine, Cheeses and Jesus	Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m.	St. Andrew's Centre, 2 nd Floor Meeting Room
Morning Worship, <i>Reception of new members</i>	Sunday, Nov. 23 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Sunday Forum	12 Noon	Boardroom
SAGA Meeting	Friday, Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m.	Great Hall (pot luck dinner at 6 p.m.)