



CATALYST

Advent – November, 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 heart of Toronto."

A Vision for Mission...

St. Andrew's Church has a wonderful mission statement. It is concise, memorable, visionary and clear about what we are here to do -- "the people of St. Andrew's are called by God to serve in faith, hope and love in the heart of Toronto".

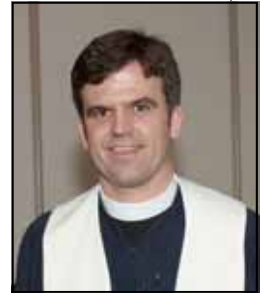
This has been the congregational mission statement for a number of years, and as a relatively new participant in the life of this community, I have found it to be a helpful summary of what St. Andrew's understands itself to be.

There are a number of interesting dimensions to this mission statement. First, it is a statement that reminds us that it is the people who are called into ministry in this congregation. This is not a mission statement that is intended only for the ministers and staff, but rather for all of **"the people of St. Andrew's"**. The success of our mission is dependent upon the involvement of all of the people of this community.

Second, it is a theological statement. It is not rooted in some slick analysis of market needs or some desire to respond to demographic shifts. Rather, this mission statement clearly reveals that the motivating force behind our mission is a belief that we **"are called by God"** to be involved in the ministry of this congregation. It is both fascinating and humbling to remember that it is God's desire and intention that there is a community of faith at the corner of King and Simcoe.

Third, it is a statement about servanthood. We are not called simply *"to be a congregation"* in this place – we are called **"to serve in faith, hope and love"**. Our existence, and our mission, is rooted in this call to

service, aligned with the three cardinal virtues of the Christian life according to 1 Corinthians 13. Our service to others defines our identity and our mission. If we exist simply for ourselves, we are neglecting the essence of our identity.



Fourth, it is a clear statement about the context for our work. We are called to serve **"in the heart of Toronto"**. While the interests of our congregation may extend beyond this particular area, it is good to remind ourselves that our primary responsibility is to serve in the heart of this city. We are called to constantly ask ourselves how the priorities and initiatives of our mission will have an impact in the heart of Toronto.

But there is another wonderful way to understand this final phrase. The "heart" of a city is a wonderful symbol for the core of a city. But a heart is also a symbol of vitality, of life, and of compassion. What does it mean for us to be a community that enhances vitality, life and compassion in this city?

Over the past few months, the Session has been reviewing this mission statement and seeking to make important adjustments so that, together, we can better accomplish our mission. As we move into the new year, we look forward to implementing this new structure in the hope that it will help to strengthen our community, enhance our mission, and offer new opportunities for all of the people of St. Andrew's to fulfill our calling, from God, to serve in faith, hope and love in the heart of Toronto.

Stay tuned for more!



Celebrating Christmas in a Secular Society

By George Vais, Associate Minister

How do we celebrate the Christmas Event in a world that is becoming increasingly unfamiliar with the essence of Christmas?

“Happy holidays” has replaced “Merry Christmas”; the “Christmas Tree” has become the “Holiday tree”; the “Christmas Concert” in some schools is now called “Winter Concert”. Moreover, the people that crowded our sanctuaries only a generation ago, on Christmas Sunday and the Christmas Eve services, are not going out of their way anymore to do so.

Fourteen years ago, I had the privilege of representing our Church among the Reformed Christians in Cuba. During our stay there, Faith and I had a delightful visit with a young couple in a small village called St. Nicholas. Following lunch, they took us to their church of which they were so proud. They were anxious to tell us what their congregation had done during the previous Christmas Season. They told us that they had acted out the Christmas Story on the front steps of their Church - a daring thing to do in secular Cuba. They had to repeat the presentation five times because more and more people kept coming back to listen to the Christmas Story.

How do we celebrate Christmas in an increasingly secular society?

St. John writes: “**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost, but should have eternal life.**”

How do we share this Good News Story today, either as individuals or as a Church, in a world of people who are looking for that missing link, and are hungry for meaning and hope in their life? How do we promote peace on earth and goodwill among its people?

This is precisely what we have asked our guests to address at our noon sessions during this Advent Season.

I encourage you to invite others to come with you as we look for more relevant ways to celebrate God’s love for us and for the world in which we live these days.

Merry Christmas!

Associate minister.

CATALYST

Catalyst is published four times annually for members and friends of St. Andrew’s Church. The next issue is the Lent/Easter issue and the deadline for submitting articles is Sunday, January 11, 2009. If possible, articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word format by email to either of the editors.

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West Tower Restoration

by Don Bolton

The restoration and repairs to the stone and cast iron fabric of the West tower are proceeding as scheduled. As is to be expected in an old structure, there have been some surprises.

Some broken and eroded stones, a few intricately carved as foliage or animal heads, have been removed and will be replaced. All the mortar joints have been prepared for repointing. Different mortar mixes are being prepared for colour selection.

The cast iron columns and arches are being refinished in place, not removed as previously planned. They are also being anchored more firmly to the structure. Some of their original fastenings were corroded or missing.

The cast iron has been repainted many times. There is ongoing discussion among the conservationists about its original colours. The final result will be closer to the various stone elements, more attractive than the existing beige. The stepped parapets at the top, which were in poor condition, are being rebuilt with stonework more consistent with that of the original church and tower.



West side arches do not include decorative exterior dental pieces, and the columns are simpler.



Load bearing piers.



Load bearing arch.



In several places the column base appears to have lifted from the stone base.



Column and arch system may be unstable.



Some decorative arches are not connected to plates below.

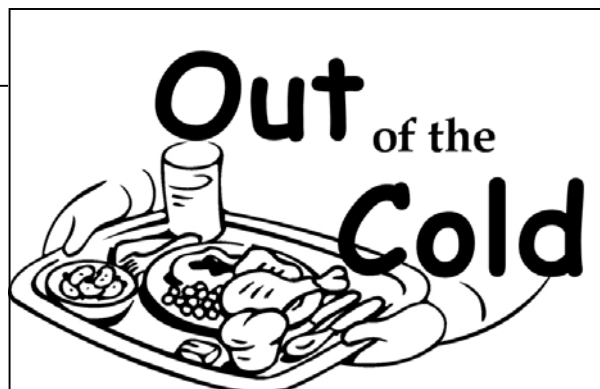


Many connection bolts are corroded or do not exit between L-plate and column capital plate.

Photos by:

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We are delighted to announce that Lorraine Irvine has agreed to take on the position of coordinator of the Out of the Cold (OOTC) programme.



Lorraine and her husband Mike are well known to the congregation of St. Andrew's and have worked tirelessly for many years in OOTC. They were married at St. Andrew's in 1985. Lorraine has served on the Session and as Clerk of Session as well as on two ministerial searches and has been editor of *Catalyst*.

Lorraine and Mike combine all these volunteer activities with very busy full time jobs in the energy sector. Lorraine is Vice-President--Safety, Wellness and Total Compensation for Ontario Power Generation. Mike is Senior Technical Officer, Bruce Power.

A strong team has been assembled for OOTC again this year. Joan Matheson is co-ordinating the Monday evening volunteers. Joan writes: "Thanks to all the people who have offered to volunteer. The response has been very much appreciated. We have a great group of volunteers. Even though it can be very busy and hectic at times, we actually have a good time while giving our guests a wonderful hot meal or an article of clothing. From previous experience, I know the guests love the food and the volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome!"



Robin Young and David Alderson are coordinating menus and meal production and Joe-Anne Roberts is again delighting us with her newsy e-mails about Monday nights. David Wishart is assisting with fund raising and Liz Hodgson, Tassie Cameron and colleagues are organizing a fund raising event scheduled for December 4, 2008. Darlene Treen is again in charge of the clothing boutique. Donations of clothing continue to pour in from many sources from our very, very generous donors.

Our Tuesday morning Community Breakfast programme serves a hot breakfast to approximately 80 - 100 people every week of the year, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers who show up between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m. to cheerfully make coffee, orange juice, fried eggs, pancakes, toast and bacon, sausage or ham for our appreciative guests.

It looks as though the 2008/09 season is off to a very good start!



Volunteer Team Opening Night, 2008



Clothing Donated by Residents of Windfield Terrace

Greg Furmanczyk, Peter Treen & Darlene Treen
with truck load of clothes they picked up from
the donors.

Photos: Top, Tom Kovats, bottom, Judy Neal

Save the Date! Thursday, December 4, 2008



Dear Friends,

We are writing to ask you to save the date of December 4, 2008 to attend our fundraiser, *A Moveable Feast*. Now in its second year, the purpose of the event is to raise funds for Out of the Cold, a hot meal program, run out of St. Andrews Church at King and Simcoe.

Last year's event was a soaring success, raising almost \$20,000. This marks a significant portion of the Out of the Cold program's budget which, for the past 17 years, has provided delicious, hot, nutritious meals for homeless men and woman. The program is run by volunteers and depends on donations of time, money and food.

Similar to last year's event, "*A Moveable Feast 2008*" promises more winter-warming cocktails, appetizers prepared by Chef Rodney Bowers, one of the city's top gastronomes, entertainment and a silent auction spilling over with just-in-time-for-Christmas bargains. All proceeds go to buy food for the Out of the Cold program at St. Andrew's.

More event details and ticket purchase information will be available on the St. Andrew's website. Looking forward to seeing you all there...at Ritchies Auction House, 380 King St. E., from 7 to 10 p.m.

Best Regards,

A Moveable Feast Hosts:

Tassie Cameron, Liz Hodgson, Cathie James, Grazyna Krupa, Margaret Sims, Crystal Asher, Leigh Gravenor and Nicole Bergot.



Welcome Our New Members

*On Sunday, June 15, 2008,
St. Andrew's
welcomed new members.*

*In this issue, we introduce
Stewart Moracen.*

By Marc Buist

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to welcome Stewart to St. Andrew's. Stewart has been attending St. Andrew's for over one year and became a member on June 15th. He began his experience with St. Andrew's by teaching Sunday School and assisting with the Out of the Cold program. Recently he has taken on a new role: part-time Church Officer, which Stewart says is a completely new experience for him, but one that he is enjoying very much.

Stewart lives near the church in one of the new condominiums on Grand Trunk Crescent, conveniently located one block east of Simcoe Street.



Stewart was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he studied classical ballet, jazz and tap and had a wonderful career dancing both for the British stage and television. His touring opportunities have taken him to France, Italy, Switzerland, Egypt, the Jersey Channel Islands, the Grand Cayman Islands in the Caribbean and, most recently, Canada, where he obtained his permanent residency in 2005.

"I am so blessed to have found a church like St. Andrew's" Stewart says. "I have always tried to look to God and trust in His ways. St. Andrew's gives me the opportunity to meet so many loving people. I hope I can make a good contribution to the church." He told me he was a bit nervous at first taking on the Sunday duties and tried not to dance his way around the pews. He is very thankful for doing his part in the wonderful worship service and thanks God for being a part of the flock.

We wish Stewart a blessed place in our midst, and yes, again, "Welcome to St. Andrew's, Stewart!"

Catalyst Co-Editors Take the Helm

Peter Price, Convenor of the Communications Committee, is delighted to announce that Jane Martin and Kristen Stout will be taking over as co-editors of *Catalyst* from Pat Reynolds, who has completed 10 years as editor. The change will take effect with the first issue in 2009. Both Jane and Kristen are well known to the congregation.



Jane, Lee and their daughters Elizabeth and Catherine, have been attending St. Andrew's for many years. After completing a masters degree in English, Jane went into law in Kingston, where she met Lee Stratton, and now practices in Toronto in the area of insolvency in her own firm. Lee is a corporate lawyer.



Kristen has been active in St. Andrew's for many years, beginning in her teens when she came with her mother Nancy and her late father, Rev. Robert Mathewson. She graduated from McMaster with a degree in history. Kristen was married in St. Andrew's Church to Graham Stout who, sadly, died in February, 2008. For the past six years, Kristen has worked at Evangel Hall, which operates a housing program and a drop-in centre. Kristen began there in administration but her duties have expanded to include accounting. In her spare time, Kristen enjoys the hobby of genealogy.

In the future, contributors to *Catalyst* should send articles to Jane and Kristen (see the Masthead on page 2 for their e-mail addresses) with a copy to Judy Neal in the office. We look forward to future issues of *Catalyst* with Jane and Kristen at the helm. Welcome aboard!



We extend a very special thanks to Pat Reynolds for her incredible work as the editor of *Catalyst*. Pat has done a remarkable job on this newsletter for many years and we are deeply grateful for her dedication.

What has early Rome to do with Toronto?

By Olive Regina Anstice

During the later Fall, the Sunday Morning Bible Study Group has been reading and discussing the short letter of JAMES. Luther questioned its inclusion in the biblical canon and even called it "an epistle of straw"! It appears not to agree with Saint Paul's writings and has only two references to Christ.

We have, in fact, been challenged in how we should behave as Christians, and after all, it is pre-eminently on our behaviour that non-Christians judge us. In addition, we have noted many echoes of Paul's writings, particularly of statements he made in his epistle to the church at Rome.

Now that was a letter which Luther loved! It was while reading it that he rejoiced to learn that we are accepted by God on the basis of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and not on the basis of our "good works". It was then that Luther

became the forerunner of the Reformation. As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Calvin, it seems very appropriate to read the Epistle to the Romans and that is what we intend to do after Christmas. Why not come and join us at 9:30 a.m.? We do not claim to have the answers but we do enjoy fellowship in a Bible focussed discussion which helps us in our understanding of what it means to be called "Christian".



Christmas is Coming:

Perhaps some families would like to share their Christmas meal with a guest.

Perhaps some members of our church family anticipate being alone on Christmas Day.

Olive Anstice will try to link the two groups together. Soon a simple form will be available, but in the meantime please feel free to contact Olive at 416-923-0779.

Service of Remembrance at Christmas

There are times when we forget that the Christmas season can be a difficult time for those who are remembering the loss of loved ones, who are apart from their families, or who are alone during the holidays. All of the talk of joy, of love and of celebration can be hard to hear in such times. A special service of remembrance, of prayer and of worship will take place on Saturday December 20, 2008 at 7 pm for those who are experiencing difficult times during this Christmas season. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join together, in community, for this time of reflection.

TRANSITIONS

Neil Alexander Kennedy Crysler, son of **Kate** and **Ted Crysler**, was baptized on Sunday, October 26 at St. Andrew's Church. Neil was born on February 25, 2008.

Julie Gavin and **Fraser Lang** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

Domenique Gadsden and **Mario Curcio** were married in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, November 1, 2008.

MILEPOSTS

Margaret Read, a member of St. Andrew's for many years, died on Monday, September 29, 2008 in Orillia. Margaret and her late husband, **Ted**, worked tirelessly for St. Andrew's Church under both Doug Stewart and Cameron Brett. She was very talented, especially in the area of drying flowers and the church benefited greatly from her beautiful flower arrangements. Margaret is survived by her three children, Allison, Paul and Tim, a granddaughter and a great-grandson.

Carol Magurn, sister of elder **David Olenic**, died in Montreal on October 24, 2008. She is survived by her son and his wife and a grandson born just a few days after her death.

Andrew Baird, brother of **Deborah Baird**, died on November 3, 2008 in Campbell River, B.C.

Doris (Hill) Allen, sister of **Pamela Bolton**, died on November 3, 2008 in Toronto.

We pray that all of the members of their families will know the peace, joy and comfort of God's presence in this time of loss and sadness.

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
Session Meeting	Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.	Board Room
Morning Worship, Reception of New Members	Sunday, November 23 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Sunday Forum - The Rev. Dr. Anne Simmonds	At noon hour	Board Room
Board of Managers	Wednesday, November 26 at 6 p.m.	Board Room
SAGA Meeting	Friday, November 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Great Hall (pot luck supper 6 p.m.)
First Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion	Sunday, November 30 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Advent Meditation Service - Speaker: The Rev. Cheol Soon Park, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church in Canada	Wednesday, December 3 at 12 noon	Church Sanctuary (see brochure enclosed)
A Moveable Feast - a Fund Raiser for OOTC, at Ritchies Auction House	Thursday, December 4, 7:00 - 10:00 pm	380 King St. E., at Parliament St.
Second Sunday of Advent - Church School Christmas Pageant	Sunday, December 7 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Advent Meditation Service - Speaker: Archbishop Fred Hiltz, 13 th Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada	Wednesday, December 10 at 12 noon	Church Sanctuary (see brochure enclosed)
Third Sunday of Advent - Service of Lessons and Carols	Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Advent Meditation Service - Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Victor A. Shepherd, Tyndale Seminary	Wednesday, December 17 at 12 noon	Church Sanctuary (see brochure enclosed)
Wine, Cheeses and Jesus	Thursday, December 18 at 7 p.m.	St. Andrew's Centre Meeting Rm.
Christmas Remembrance Service	Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary
SAGA Meeting - Christmas Party	Saturday, December 20, 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Great Hall (pot luck supper 6 p.m.)
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary
Morning Worship	Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
First Sunday after Christmas-Epiphany	Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary
Morning Worship Catalyst Deadline for Lent/Easter issue	Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary See Masthead, page 2
SAGA Meeting	Friday, January 23, 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Great Hall (pot luck supper 6 p.m.)
Session Meeting	Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.	Board Room
Board of Managers	Wednesday, January 28 at 6 p.m.	Board Room
Advance Notice: Annual Congregational Meeting 179 th Anniversary Weekend	Sunday, March 1, 2009 March 7-8, 2009	