



# CATALYST

Spring 2010

## St. Andrew's Church

73 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.*

## Fifty Years and Three Questions



The Rev. Dr. George Vais recently announced that he will be finishing his work at St. Andrew's on Sunday October 31, 2010. The twelve years of ministry that he has offered to this congregation have been powerful and significant in the history of this church.

As we celebrate his time with us, it is also good for us to ponder the fact that this year – 2010 – also marks the fiftieth year since George's ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. During that time, he has served in different types of congregations, and in different provinces of our country, as well as in a number of significant positions in our national church – including as the Moderator of the General Assembly. There can be no doubt that he has made a profound contribution to the life and witness of our denomination, and to the life and witness of the church in Canada.

What is equally interesting to ponder is the number of changes that the wider Church has undergone during the past fifty years. The Roman Catholic Church embraced many of the developments suggested by the Second Vatican Council, including the celebration of worship in languages other than Latin. A greater ecumenical spirit infused the work and understanding of the variety of denominations, to the point where Churches that were divided during the Great Schism of 1054 and the Reformation are beginning to work together in unprecedented ways. Many churches – including the Presbyterian Church in Canada – began to ordain women as well as men. The church began to openly discuss issues related to human sexuality that had previously been avoided. The challenge of moving beyond a 'Christendom' model of the mission of the Church was confronted. And, even as the power of the church began to shift in the developed nations of the world, the Christian movement dramatically and exponentially grew in other parts of the world.

Added to all of these changes within the Church were massive shifts in the world – from a person walking on the moon, to the end of the Cold War, to historic

changes in technology and travel, to a radically different view of the place of women in society, to a much deeper awareness of our interconnectedness with other parts of the world, and with the natural world itself. It might accurately be argued that the past fifty years – during George's ministry – have witnessed some of the most pivotal events in the entire course of Christian history.

Those who know George well will know that he has commented, on occasion (and even in previous editions of the Catalyst!) that there have been three questions that he constantly returns to when contemplating the ministry and mission of the church – and those questions are “where have we been?”; “where are we now?”; and “where are we going?” Those questions are even more important and poignant in light of the many changes that the Church has undergone and that it is undergoing at this moment in history.

As a way of celebrating George's ministry among us, we are going to use these three questions as the basis for a very special weekend event this fall. **Please mark the date of Saturday, October 30** in your calendars for a special day of celebration, of learning and of contemplating these questions in light of the challenges and opportunities that are confronting us. A number of wonderful guest speakers have been invited to help us to ponder, together, these three questions in relation to issues as diverse as the concept of mission in the church; the place of technology in creating community, especially with young people; questions about gender, identity, orientation and ethnicity in the church; questions about biblical interpretation; as well as others. More details will be following shortly; but we strongly urge you to set this day aside and invite your friends for a wonderful, engaging, relevant and important time together.

## “24 Hours that Changed the World”



This was the title of our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Lenten Wednesday Noon Sessions. It was based on a book by Adam Hamilton with the same title. Adam Hamilton is not only an engaging author of no fewer than ten books, he is also the senior minister of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, which is one of the fastest growing congregations in the United States with an average weekly worship attendance of over 7,500 in 2008.

I was interested in the congregation’s threefold focus: *1. Reaching non-religious and nominally religious people and helping them become committed followers of Jesus Christ; 2. Equipping and inspiring members to live their faith in mission to the community and world; 3. Acting as a catalyst for renewing the mainline Church.*

In addition to the Sessions held in our sanctuary, which by the way, saw the highest average attendance yet, we sold 55 copies of Adam Hamilton’s *“40 Days of Reflection”*. It gave us an opportunity to be reminded of our Lord’s anguish, suffering, humiliation, torture and at the end a crucifixion. As the hymn writer put it so well “it was for us He hung and suffered there!”

We were indebted to each of our noon speakers for their research, for their insights and for guiding us in our exploration of and reflection on the 24 final hours of our Lord’s life on planet earth.

During the past 12 years, not only have we had the privilege of inviting some of the well known professors and parish ministers as our guests, we also provided some of our younger ministers with the opportunity of participate in this ministry. To my surprise, a number of them had never been inside St. Andrew’s.

My sincere hope is that St. Andrew’s will continue to offer this noon hour ministry to those outside of our congregation, most of whom come from the office towers that surround our building. Over the years, how I wish I had recorded their words of appreciation to our congregation for offering this worthwhile and vital ministry in the very heart of our city.

Sincerely

**George C. Vais,**  
Associate Minister for Adult Ministries

### CATALYST

**Catalyst** is published four times annually for members and friends of St. Andrew’s Church. The next issue is the September issue and the deadline for submitting articles is Sunday, September 5, 2010. If possible, articles should be submitted by email to both editors in Microsoft Word format.

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# A VERY SPECIAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH Saturday, March 6, 2010

By Nancy Mathewson



It began as a small congregation at the corner of Church and Adelaide streets in the Town of York in March, 1830. It is now a thriving congregation in the heart of Toronto at King and Simcoe Streets.

On March 6th over one hundred members and friends of St. Andrew's Church gathered at the Delta Chelsea Hotel to celebrate 180 years of dedication, worship and service. The reception was held in the gallery, and guests had a chance to mingle, chat and look at some of the memorabilia posted around the room. Dinner was held in the ballroom. It was a lovely meal.

Special guests of the evening included The Rev. Harvey Self, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Bill McGowan, moderator of East Toronto Presbytery and Bill's wife Maureen, Councillor Adam Vaughan, and, of course, our speaker and former minister, Cameron Brett and his wife Marg. Harvey, Bill and Adam brought greetings to us.

Karen Ingram then introduced David Crighton, the artist who painted the picture on the cover of our new Photo Directory. Together they unveiled the painting and Karen said that the directory would be available after church on Sunday.

One special touch at dessert time was the presentation of a birthday cake for Peter Price, so we all had a chance to sing Happy Birthday to Peter.

Cameron spoke to us and then, all too soon it seemed, the evening was over.

Cameron was having a busy weekend, because he preached at St. Andrew's on Sunday morning, and then was participating in classes at Knox College.

It was a joy to see Cameron and Marg again. Retirement seems to agree with both of them.

We look forward to many more years of being an active, vibrant congregation in the heart of the city.



(Left) Will and Karen Ingram, Cameron & Marg Brett.



(Right) Peter Price and his birthday cake.



(Below left) Andy McCleery, Harvey Self, Rudi Bauer.



(Below right) Maureen and Bill McGowan, John Matheson.



## Thank You St. Andrew's

I am grateful to have had the wonderful opportunity and privilege to share the last eight months with the people of St. Andrew's Church. I enjoyed serving with and learning from many of you, and will always treasure my time here. Even though it was a long school year, my time at the church seemed to fly right on by and felt too short, just as all good times do. Thank you all for helping form me into the person I have become. I want to especially thank the people who played an important role in my development by being part of the Lay Advisory Committee, namely, Eric Reynolds, Alison Rose, Barbara Bickle, Allan Lever, and Noel Ramsey.

Your critical feedback and support really meant a lot to me. And also, a big thank you to Rev. Will Ingram, Rev. Dr. George Vais, and church staff. I realize that not everyone has the privilege of learning from such great church leaders, and so I feel truly indebted to you for all that you have taught me. I wish you all at St. Andrew's Church a wonderful Summer and I look forward to hearing about the awesome things God will be doing through you in the future.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mutavdzija

## *THE BOOK OF ACTS COMES ALIVE*

*By George Vais*

In addition to our several educational activities among adults, St. Andrew's Christian Education Committee is pleased to offer an excellent book of nineteen sermons based on the Acts of the Apostles.

### **"THE MASTER MISSIONARIES: SERMONS FROM ACTS"**

by Dr. R. Sheldon MacKenzie

In his own unique storytelling style, Dr. MacKenzie has skillfully interwoven Old Testament Stories with those in the Book of Acts illustrating them with contemporary experiences of himself and others. The age old stories are enriched by helpful historical information and scholarly insights expressed in very readable language.

The forty or more stories in Acts, he writes, affirm that Jesus lives on in His Church and is very much present in the lives of his people "especially in these difficult

times". These stories also remind us that we, who are the Church, have something wonderful to share and encourage us to be diligent in our outreach, which is the very essence of the Church, i.e. master missionaries in our own day. Furthermore, they assure us of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to equip us for this responsibility, both personally and collectively. While the author has little to say about the "how" of mission today, one recurring theme in sermon after sermon is that "we like Jonah and Peter, are a people called by God to the work of evangelism".

The reader will find faith affirmed, discipleship challenged, and experience enriched.

**Sheldon MacKenzie** has served as parish minister of First Church, Montreal, and of St. Andrew's Church, St. John's Nfld., and as Professor of Biblical Studies at Memorial University, St. John's, Nfld.

This book will be available soon at a discount price following worship or from the Church office.



## *Full-Colour Catalyst*

In the interest of environmental stewardship and reducing our postage costs, we are compiling a list of people who would like to receive our congregational newsletter *The Catalyst* and other seasonal flyers (e.g. notices about Spring and Fall Supper Seminar series) by email.

By subscribing to our electronic newsletters, not only will you help us to conserve resources and save money, you'll get to enjoy a full-colour version!

To 'sign up' for this online Catalyst distribution list, please send an email to [catalyst@standrewstoronto.org](mailto:catalyst@standrewstoronto.org) and be sure to include your name in the email in case your email address does not include your name!

## St. Andrew's Church Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 14, 2010

*Summarized by Kristen Stout from the  
Minutes of the Meeting, taken by Jason Dykstra*



Reverend William G. Ingram opened the meeting with a prayer after a lovely lunch.

Ian Croft presented the Heritage Trust report which included motions about the amount of the Grant for 2010, approval of the audited financial statements, appointments of the Directors (Blair Agnew, Ian Croft, Ted Crysler, Christine Featherstone, Susan Goodwin, Catherine MacKinnon, Philip Holloway, David Wilson, and Lori Ransom).

Marc Buist then presented the 2009 Financial Report. The audited statements were approved.

Blair Agnew presented the highlights of the 2010 budget and after some discussion, the budget was approved.

Eric Reynolds presented the 2009 St. Andrew's Annual Reports on Lori Ransom's behalf.

Other appointments were made as Trustees and Directors of St. Andrew's Land Corporation as well as the Board of Managers.

The congregation formally concurred with the decision of the Board of managers to complete and finance the West Tower restoration project.

After some discussion about the need for a piano, support was received to launch the *88 Keys Campaign*. There will be a matching commitment from the Milnes Estate Funds.

The balance of the Milnes Estate will be transferred to the St. Andrew's Heritage Trust for future use pending congregational approval.

There will be a Restoration Fund established to attract special purpose donations, which will be administered by the St. Andrew's Heritage Trust.

It was moved and approved that prior year Congregational meeting minutes will be available with the rest of the package.

We then got into a lively discussion, due to a motion from Stuart Coles, about making sure that the church presents an open and welcoming atmosphere. The motion was passed with an amendment and it has passed to the Board of Managers who will keep the congregation appraised of ideas and decisions.

As usual, Kristen was quite happy to make the motion to terminate the meeting, which was wholeheartedly approved.

## *88 Keys Campaign*



We are looking forward to completing the "88 Keys" Piano Fundraising Campaign in the next few weeks. With thanks to those who have already pledged or donated towards this exciting venture, we would deeply appreciate if any further donations and pledges could be forwarded to the church office before May 31, 2010 (if possible!) so that we can begin to make our final decisions about the fine instrument that will enhance our worship and community outreach.



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

## St. Andrew's Church Welcomes New Members



### **Douglas Hunter**

*By Eric Reynolds*

Douglas was first attracted to St. Andrew's last year because he found the church open on weekdays – a quiet place, for solitude and contemplation. Since then, he has begun to participate regularly in Sunday worship which he finds meaningful and reliably uplifting. People are friendly and open, and make him feel welcome. He was received as a professing member in February.

Douglas voluntarily works to assist Stewart Moracen to tidy up and recycle all the leaflets and notices left behind in the pews on Sunday, and is seeking other opportunities to volunteer. For several months, he has been engaged full time in job hunting.

Douglas lives within walking distance of St. Andrew's Church, on Bathurst Street. Born in Toronto, he was educated and has lived most of his lifetime in the GTA. He has never married.

We welcome Douglas into the life and work of St. Andrew's.



### **Doris Ramsey (nee Andrade)**

I decided to attend St. Andrew's after I visited with Noel one Sunday last year. I knew once we got married we needed to attend an English speaking church as the one we were attending was in Spanish.

I really like St Andrew's for the fellowship and the encouragement to be in fellowship not only with church members but with those in need in the rest of the world. I have participated in the *Out of the Cold*

program and will continue to do so in the near future.

I am a teacher and I love what I do. I like to think of myself as a very creative and crafty person but lately, most of what I have been doing is planning for my wedding, finishing my Major Research Project for my Masters and planning for my class! I love my family and I enjoy spending my time with them and with Noel. I am very grateful to God for them!



### **Isaac Kankashian**

I was told about St. Andrew's Church by my best friend, Noel Ramsey. I began attending with him and fell in love with Will Ingram's sermons, tea time and the family atmosphere. I attend Bible studies on Sundays when I can. I also volunteer on Mondays for the "out of the cold" program, and I have been to a few other functions offered by the church. I

studied police foundations and have worked in security at a downtown hospital. I took sometime off for personal reasons, and I am starting work again at a new company. My future plan is to become a police officer. My hobbies include watching movies, and going out to eat with family and friends (the way to a man's heart is through his stomach).

## Jennifer Elliot

By Fiona Smith

Jennifer came to St. Andrew's because she was looking for a church but always found that the doors were locked during the day when she walked by. After a job interview across from St. Andrew's she tried our doors and found they were open. She met Stuart who gave her a tour all around the church and invited her to a service. All those unlocked doors seemed like a sign! She came to church the next Sunday, which was the first Sunday of Advent, and has been coming ever since.



Jennifer is involved in the morning Bible Study, the *Wine Cheeses and Jesus* group, has worked occasionally at *Out of the Cold* and is hoping to be involved in the new Friendly Visitor program. She has a daughter Lucy (Graham), who just turned three, and was baptized on April 11. Lucy famously played a cow in the Christmas pageant on her second Sunday at St. Andrew's and has made many new friends in the Sunday School. Jennifer is studying at Knox College to get her Certificate in Christian Life and Faith and hopes to work in youth outreach in the future. Welcome to St. Andrew's, Jennifer and Lucy!

## Craig McLean

By Nancy Mathewson

Craig has been attending St. Andrew's off and on for several years. He likes the liturgy of our worship service, the explanatory preaching and the music. He would like to find a Bible study group that might meet in the evening, as he lives and works in Markham.

He is semi-retired from his job in sales and marketing of wireless telecommunications, mostly arranging business deals overseas.

Craig grew up in southwestern Ontario, spent some time in Montreal, where he met and married his wife. They have four children ranging in age from 36 to 16.



He enjoys reading, especially non-fiction and is very interested in Christian apologetics. He also likes to hunt and fish a bit.

It is a pleasure to introduce Craig McLean to the St. Andrew's family.

## Margaret and Rhonda Peebles

by Sally Martin



Mother and daughter, Margaret and Rhonda Peebles, emigrated from Stirling, Scotland in the 1960s. Rhonda has been

living and working in the downtown core for the last 12 years. She works in hotel restaurant management and has a part time photography business. Margaret is retired and moved downtown from Etobicoke last

year to live with Rhonda after Margaret's husband passed away. To ease the transition and find comfort, Margaret and Rhonda decided to join St. Andrew's Church where they



immediately felt at home. They would like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome and look forward to many happy times together.



## Interest Survey

We invite you to complete and return your enclosed *Volunteer Interest Survey* today. (There is also an online form at [www.standrewstoronto.org/survey](http://www.standrewstoronto.org/survey).) The survey was created at the invitation of the Session of St. Andrew's by our small task force to allow all of us, as members and associates of the community, to discover where our individual interests and passions lie as we all engage in the work of the church.

Many of us are aware that "The people of St. Andrew's are called by God to serve in faith, hope and love in the heart of Toronto," but not everyone is familiar with all the ministries through which this mission is accomplished:

### ***Ministry of Worship***

The Ministry of Worship seeks to provide worship experiences that glorify God, strengthen the community, welcome the stranger, and inspire the mind, the heart and the spirit.

### ***Community Life Ministry***

The Community Life Ministry enhances and strengthens pastoral and social relationships within the congregation.

### ***Christian Education Ministry***

The Christian Education Ministry provides opportunities for people of every age to learn more about their faith and to grow in spiritual maturity.

### ***Outreach Ministry***

The Outreach Ministry seeks to fulfill the mission of St. Andrew's in the wider community, both with the desire to strengthen the visible presence of the Church and to strive towards the biblical vision of social justice in our city and world.

### ***Communications Ministry***

The Communications Ministry coordinates the internal and external communication activities of St. Andrew's to ensure that they are timely and effective; of high quality; and intentional in both enhancing the visible presence of the congregation and the internal health of the community.

### ***Ministry of Stewardship and Finance***

Through the Planning and Budget Committee, this Ministry seeks to clarify and strengthen the processes for communication and co-ordination between the Session, the Board of Managers, the Directors of the Heritage Trust, the Stewardship Committee, the Trustees, and any other groups in the Congregation whose work is connected with issues related to stewardship and finance.

### ***Personnel Relations Ministry***

The Personnel Relations Ministry promotes healthy, accountable and engaged levels of involvement for all volunteers, staff and members at St. Andrew's --- including those with formal membership in the congregation, and those involved in various activities and associations within the church.

### **What can you do to help?**

Many of us associated with St. Andrew's wonder how we can help to further this mission. At the same time many who have taken on responsibilities ask: "How can I find someone to help?" By completing this survey, you help match your time, talents and interests with some of the many worthy ministry activities and projects.

### **Start the ball rolling**

We will all be inspired to find that many of the members of our loving community are willing to contribute to its faithful mission. By taking a few minutes now to complete your enclosed *Volunteer Interest Survey* you can start the ball rolling. Once completed, send your survey to Kristen Stout (e-mail: [kwmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:kwmathewson@rogers.com)), or mail it (marked **Volunteer Interests**) to St. Andrew's Church, 73 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON, M5J 1W9. The information from all the surveys will form a central inventory that can be tapped when help is needed, while identifying activities and projects of interest to you.

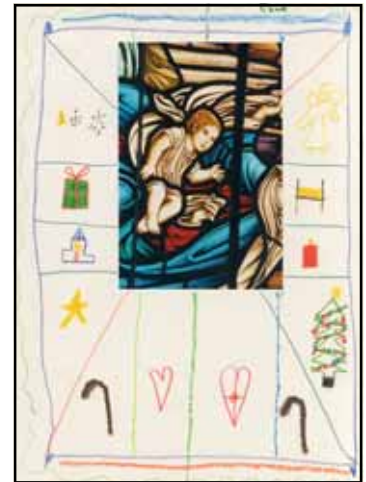
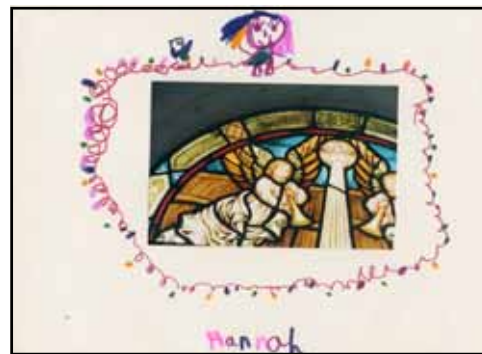
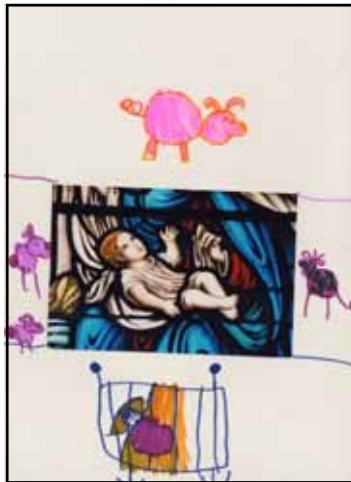
*The Task Force on Surveying Congregants' Interests and Skills:*

Nora Lever (*Chair*), Jason Dykstra, Lorraine Irvine, Judy Neal, Yvonne Pigott, Kristen Stout, Vasile Teodorovici, and Toshio Ushiroguchi-Pigott.

***Complete your Volunteer Interest Survey today!***



**A little while ago, Irene Faiz did a project with some of the Sunday School classes where she gave them partial pictures of some of our beautiful stained glass windows and asked them to “complete” the picture.  
Here are the results!**



## A Session Minute

by Lori Ransom, Clerk of Session

*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.*

At its meeting of March 17, 2010, the Session accepted with heartfelt regret the resignation of the Rev. Dr. George Vais as our Associate Minister, Adult Education, effective October 31, 2010. Of course, we do so also with thanksgiving for the many gifts George and his wife, Faith, have shared so generously with us these many years. We offer our full support to them as they prepare to move forward in their lives to see what God has in store for them next!

As the congregation knows well, we have been blessed at St. Andrew's for the past 12 years by George's outstanding leadership of our Christian education programming. His ministry at St. Andrew's also has included significant pastoral, worship and other leadership, particularly when he took on the role of Interim Minister at the time of The Rev. Dr. Cameron Brett's retirement. In 2010, George will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> year of ordained ministry. St. Andrew's looks forward to celebrating that milestone with George later this year, and we will keep the congregation informed of plans for that celebration as well as the other events that will undoubtedly be planned to mark George's retirement at the end of October.

By the time this edition of Catalyst is published, the congregation will have held a special congregational meeting on May 2, 2010. The process of calling a new Associate Minister can be time consuming so the Session felt it was important to begin this work as soon as possible to minimize the transition time following George's retirement. As those who attended the congregational meeting will have heard, the Session is recommending that we return to calling a full-time Associate Minister to St. Andrew's. We have been excited by recent congregational growth and are keen to build up our community outreach activities, for example, as well as to build on and expand George's tremendous work in support of Christian education. A full proposal for the new Associate Minister's position was presented to the congregation at the May 2, 2010 meeting and is available on St. Andrew's website.



*Editor's Note—the motion was presented and has passed.*

## Oral History Project Completed

by Pat Reynolds

In 1999, a Millennium Committee was formed to celebrate St. Andrew's past and to look forward to the future. As part of looking to the past, the committee inaugurated the St. Andrew's Church Millennium Oral History Project to capture, on tape, the collective experiences of long time church members.

This project was undertaken by Carol Westcott and Donald Maudsley, beginning in 2000, and substantially completed in 2001. The Millennium Committee chose eight members/couples from the congregation who have had a long and active association with St. Andrew's Church. The eight interviews were with Frances Clark, Donald Guthrie, Hazel McKergow, Campbell Macdonald, Pat and Eric Reynolds, Beverley and Jack Reynolds, Carol and David Wishart and Hannah Yarrow.

Once the interviews were completed it was necessary to arrange for the transcription of the tapes, not an easy task.

However, all transcriptions were done by volunteers from St. Andrew's congregation, namely Betsy Nieuwland, Wendy Misener, Irene Meiklejohn, Heather Dalzell and Kristen Stout, to whom we owe our appreciation and thanks for an important job well done.



At its meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, the Session approved recommendations to house the primary materials in St. Andrew's Centre and make them available to members of the congregation and serious researchers. Also a binder with transcripts of the interviews will be prepared and put in our library. The final step will be to make CD's from the audio tapes.

Many thanks to all the people who made it possible to undertake and complete this important and very large project. History that would have been lost is now available to present and future members of St. Andrew's and to researchers.



## A Brief Survey of the Book of ISAIAH

By Olive R. Anstice

*Isaiah* is an exciting book. Although depicting the period around 700 B.C. it could almost be describing our contemporary situation!

There is a clash of mighty empires, described in the *Books of Kings* and *Chronicles* which should be read in tandem. At the beginning Assyria (present day Iraq) dominates from its capital, Nineveh. By the end of *Isaiah* Babylon has usurped power. Both the empires are significant for Israel.

After the glorious reigns of Kings David and Solomon, the twelve tribes had divided. Ten formed the northern kingdom of Israel, two the southern centered in Jerusalem.

Israel, earlier blessed by the prophets Elijah and Elisha, tried to form a coalition against Assyria. But their spiritual corruption and wickedness described vividly in *Isaiah* Chap. 9 and *Amos* Chap. 8 had alienated them from God. After giving them many chances and warnings, God allowed them to be assimilated by Assyria so that they were eventually wiped out.

Meanwhile *Isaiah*, whilst worshipping in the temple and after being cleansed by God from his own burden of sin, was commissioned to prophecy to Judah (Chap. 6). He advised their king Ahaz “to stand firm in your faith.” If he did not “you will not stand at all” (*Isaiah* 7:9). Did Ahaz take this godly advice? No! He entered into a secret deal with Assyria; he then worshipped “under every spreading tree” (*II Kings* 16:4) any god he thought might help him, he even sacrificed his own child. Because of Ahaz’s wickedness and despite his being succeeded by the godly king Hezekiah, Judah

moved inevitably toward a later (586 B.C.) conquest by Babylon (forecast in *Isaiah* Chap. 39).

The later chapters of *Isaiah* enlarge on that forecast that all “will be carried off to Babylon” but add that Babylon itself would fall (Chap. 47) because it was Israel—as God’s chosen people—that was to survive.

It is remarkable to think that until the middle of the last century there was no record outside the Hebrew Scriptures of the long captivity in Babylon. That dramatically changed when Dr. Donald Wiseman, then a keeper in the British Museum, translated the first of thousands of tablets excavated from Babylon recording those years. When he was Professor of Assyriology at London University Dr. Wiseman said that information had become so abundant that the weather is known for every day of the captivity.

All of the above describes only the historical level on which *Isaiah* speaks. But through those historical events God in his righteous but compassionate sovereignty is revealed. Recurring also throughout *Isaiah* are extended prophecies regarding a remnant that would endure; a child that would be born in the line of David and who—in keeping with God’s covenant with Abraham—would bring blessing to “all nations on earth” (*Gen* 22:18). Many of these prophetic statements are encapsulated in vivid poems which were captured in music by Handel.

Throughout *Isaiah*, too, the utter holiness of God is stressed and we are challenged, if we acknowledge God as Saviour, to recognize that he must be Lord in every aspect of our behaviour.

*I was asked by Dr. Vais to write this brief summary because the Sunday Morning Bible Study group is currently reading Isaiah. Whatever your biblical knowledge or lack of it, you will receive a friendly welcome if you decide to join us.*



## Bible Study Groups at St. Andrew’s

Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

*Both groups meet in the Board Room.*



## Evangel Hall Mission Happenings

By Kristen Stout and Erin Oke

ehm had a very successful *Compassionate Hearts Gala* in February, raising almost \$20,000 for our Health and Dental clinic. We currently have three regular volunteer dentists who come in once a month or so but we can always use more. The Toronto College of Dental Hygiene and Auxiliaries sends students every two weeks to complete their field placements. We have a denturist who comes in every week to work with people to give them back a smile they love to share. Please consider talking to your own dentist about volunteering at ehm. Over the past year alone, we have provided over \$250,000 of free dental care and seeing people smile again makes it all worth while.

Currently we are working hard getting ready for our 8th Annual Golf Tournament on Tuesday June 15, 2010. Pheasant Run Golf Course has generously donated the use of the entire course to us. Space is limited but there are a couple spots left if you'd like to golf. There are also sponsorship opportunities available should you or the company you work for be interested. Please contact Kristen for more information.

As another successful school year winds down, ehm's Youth Programs are starting to plan for our *Outside the Lines* summer arts camp for teenage girls. For a donation of \$300, you can sponsor a girl to attend this unique program that uses the power of the arts as well as outdoor activities and life skills training to foster self-esteem, build confidence and develop leadership skills. We also appreciate donations of supplies such as towels, sunscreen and bug spray, Canadian Tire money and arts materials. Donations, be they financial or supplies should be clearly marked for the *Outside the Lines* camp.

For more information, please check our website [www.evangelhall.ca](http://www.evangelhall.ca) or talk to Kristen.

### From the Health Cabinet

By Sue Goodwin

“A cheerful heart is good medicine.....”  
(Proverbs 17:12)

The Health Cabinet's goal is to promote health and healing in body, mind and spirit at St Andrew's Church in partnership with the InterChurch Health Ministries. As part of our partnership covenant, we participate in their Annual Education Day.

This year's topic is especially intriguing as Kathleen McAulay of Lighten Up Productions, is presenting a workshop entitled "*Humour, Hope and Healing*". She is a certified laughter leader and will explore the healing benefits of laughter and humour. One of her varied talents is working as a therapeutic clown with both children and seniors. Her idol is Loretta LaRoche. If you have ever had the privilege of hearing an inspiring lecture by Loretta LaRoche, as I

did at the Chautauqua Institution a few years ago, this workshop should be exciting and filled with laughter.

On her website at [www.lightenupproductions.ca](http://www.lightenupproductions.ca), she has written about the Therapy of Humour as follows "In a moment of laughter/humour, we are drained of our fears and worries and we are refilled with joy and delight. And these joyful, positive emotions stimulate our body's natural healing ability".

This event will be held at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street in Aurora on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The cost is \$75.00 per person and includes lunch.

Registration forms will be posted on the Health Cabinet's bulletin board in the Great Hall by the glass doors or go to [www.ichm.org](http://www.ichm.org) and download the form. Please contact Sue Goodwin or Sally Martin for additional information.



## Water for Life in Malawi

*Submitted by Zuzka Ellis*

Malawi's population of nearly 12 million people is crippled by alarming rates of poverty—over 65% of people are considered poor and struggle to provide enough food for their families. Chronic water shortages and poor sanitation services are having a devastating toll on communities, especially in rural areas. Diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery and typhoid fever are pervasive, although preventable.

Women bear the greatest responsibility for providing water and teaching hygiene practices to their families. However, water is scarce in many regions and many women are forced to travel long distances for water, preventing them from spending time on other household chores. Young girls usually accompany their mothers on the long journeys for water, which keeps them from attending school.

Through Presbyterian World Service & Development, people across Canada are finding a way to respond to the enormous need for clean water and sanitation in Malawi. PWS&D is partnering with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian to bring clean water and new opportunities to community members in the Euthini area of northeast Malawi. Wells and latrines

are being installed, leaders are learning how to maintain new water points, individual households are learning how to improve their hygienic practices, and water-borne diseases are being eliminated.

With a focus on hygiene, families now understand the importance of washing their hands, using latrines and preventing contamination of water sources. PWS&D sanitation programs also look beyond individual households to focus on hygienic practices in places where people gather, such as churches and schools. This promotes healthy public practices and prevents illness and infections from returning to people's households.

By working at a local, grassroots level, the whole community is involved, ensuring the project is effective and sustained over the long-term. This ensures the work isn't just a "quick fix" but is helping people have a long-term solution to the need for clean water and sanitation.

The benefits of accessing clean water and ensuring healthier communities through improved sanitation practices is like dropping a pebble into a pond and watching the ripples spread out. Not only are people improving their quality of life, but they are spending less money on healthcare, children are able to attend school more frequently, young girls and women are no longer walking long distances to collect water, and people are able to focus their attention on growing crops or even starting small businesses to earn extra money.

Working together with partners overseas and Canadians here at home we are helping change the world and build stronger futures through the provision of clean water and better health.

*To learn more about PWS&D's water and sanitation programs, please visit [www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd) or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 293.*



## Thank You!

I wanted to extend a very grateful thank you to St Andrew's Church and its members for making my daughter, Lucy Graham's baptism and 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday so special. Lucy's birthday is April 10<sup>th</sup> and her baptism was on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The ceremony was beautiful. I will always remember everyone's smiling faces (and a few misty eyes) as you welcomed Lucy into St Andrew's and into her walk with Christ. Lucy has already shown great interest in religion and I hope she will be able to continue growing in her faith with the love and support of St Andrew's.

I was very honored by everyone who was able to attend our gathering after service. It was a privilege to provide everyone with refreshments, lunch and cake.

Over the past 4 months, St Andrew's has had a great influence in our lives. I hope to continue making many more happy memories for many more years to come.

With love,  
Jennifer Elliott



### From Your Friendly Letter Carrier

*By Robert Sheng*

I am a Letter Carrier for Canada Post Corporation. A Letter Carrier is a person who delivers letter mail, like letters and magazines. A Mail Service Carrier is a person who drives a van and delivers mostly parcels. ("Postman" and "mailman" are sexist terms we no longer use.) After working as a letter carrier for twenty years, I have made some observations and I think they are interesting enough to share with you.

(1) You don't have to wear a big cross on your neck or some scriptures like "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" on your door to tell people you are a Christian. Your letter carrier knows from the kind of mail you receive. And will also make a judgment about you from any casual contact, often from your interaction with your own family members. Many people let their guard down when they are at home. Not all actions or words are delivered in a caring and loving manner and hence came the comment "And you call yourself a Christian?"

(2) Many people send postcards while on holidays. Make sure you have the correct and COMPLETE

address. Do not assume that you know your parents' address by heart. You may know how to get there blindfolded but you may not have the correct street number. The worst case is that you don't even have the complete street name (east, west, north, south, crescent, street or avenue et cetera) and postal code. Mom and Dad are not listed in Bell's directory. The most common problem is a missing apartment number.

(3) If you only send Christmas and birthday cards to your friends, think about sending two letters or cards during the year instead. They would give your friends more pleasure. I have noticed that a bundle of Christmas cards at Christmas did not brighten up my customer's face but a letter or card among stack of bills can change their mood.

(4) Be nice to your letter carrier by placing your garbage bins at more considerate places. Placing your mail box at a place so your letter carrier can save few steps by not going up and down the stairs not only prolongs the letter carrier's working life but also saves your tax dollars from spending on their knee replacement operations.

At the Spring dinner seminar, The Reverend Doctor Emily K. Bisset told us that to carry the "Holy" and the "sanctification" from Sunday to the rest of the week was to increase the awareness and the relatedness of others. As a letter carrier I see first hand that little things in life could change a person's day.

## Transitions

### Births

**Don and Jane Durno** are happy to announce the birth of their son, Fraser Cameron Gordon Durno born April 21, 2010. He is also welcomed by big sisters Lexi and Isabella. *Photo contributed by Jane Durno*



### Baptisms

*We welcomed the following people into the Body of Christ through baptism:*

Feb 14, 2010 - **Stellar Shen**

Feb 21, 2010 - **Heather Copeland, Thomas Hwang, Peter McIlquham and Sarah Rae**

Feb 28, 2010 - **Dustin Denis**

April 11, 2010 - **Lucy Graham**, daughter of Jennifer Elliott

### Marriages

April 3, 2010 **Dustin Denis & Michelle Balagovic**

May 1, 2010 **Lisa Marie Buccella & Justin Hane**

May 8, 2010 **Noel Ramsey & Doris Andrade**

### Deaths

**Kenneth Matheson**, the father of John and Phyllis Matheson, passed away at his home in Nova Scotia on Monday, May 10, 2010.

## New Members

#### **Feb 21, 2010**

Doris Andrade  
Sheona Campbell  
Heather Copeland  
Jennifer Elliot  
James Harrison  
Douglas Hunter

Isaac Kankashian  
Christina Kim  
Abigail McIlquham  
Peter McIlquham  
Craig McLean  
Terry Milne  
Margaret Peebles

#### Rhonda Peebles

Sarah Rae  
Colin Schmidt  
Stellar Shen  
Jill Van Vugt  
Megan Van Vugt

#### **Feb 28, 2010**

Dustin Denis  
Michelle Balagovic



#### **New Members - February 21, 2010**

*Top row, left to right:* Jennifer Elliott, with daughter Lucy Graham in front, Douglas Hunter, Sheona Campbell, Craig McLean, Megan Van Vugt, Abigail McIlquham, Peter McIlquham, Stellar Shen, Christina Kim, Colin Schmidt and Sarah Rae. *Bottom row:* Terry Milne, Jill Van Vugt, James Harrison, Tom Hwang, Doris Andrade Ramsey, Isaac Kankashian and Heather Copeland. *Photo by R Emmelt Hummelin.*

## Calendar of Events



### Weekly Services and Events

- **Sunday Worship** - every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- **Senior Church School** - 9:30 a.m.
- **Church School & Nursery** - every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. - Second Floor
- **Coffee Hour** - every Sunday following worship  
- Great Hall
- **Bible Study** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. - Board Room  
- Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. - Board Room
- **Chancel Communion** - every Thursday at 12:15 p.m.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays - Great Hall
- **Weight Watchers** - Thursdays - Great Hall
- **Out of the Cold Breakfast** - every Tuesday all year - 7:30 a.m. - Great Hall

### Fellowship Groups

- **Wine, Cheeses & Jesus** - Thursday, June 17, July at 7:00 p.m. - 2nd Floor Meeting Room
- **SAGA** - Friday, May 28 and June 25, 2010 - Gather at 5:45 p.m., Pot Luck at 6:30, Program follows - Great Hall  
Saturday July 24 and August 28, 2010—Swimming Pool Party
- **St. Andrew's Book Club** - watch for announcements.

### Adult Christian Education Events

- **Sunday Forums** - May 30 and June 20 at noon in the Board Room

### Meetings

- **Session Meeting** - Tuesday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m. - Board Room
- **Board of Managers** - Wednesday, May 26, June 30 at 7:00 p.m. - Board Room  
(No meeting in July or August)

**Deadline for next issue of Catalyst - Sunday, September 5, 2010**



### **How will the G20 Toronto Summit affect St. Andrew's Church?**

We have very little information about security perimeters and road closures. When we receive updates, we will include them in *This Week at St. Andrew's* and in Sunday bulletins. Official information is available on the website of the Integrated Security Unit at:

<http://www.g8-g20isu.ca/g20/index-eng.htm>