



# Catalyst

December 2013

## 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.*

## Icons and Pillars

It has often been said that a good picture is worth a thousand words. For me, this picture of Stuart Coles and Hugh Lloyd is definitely one of those images.

I love the similarities between the two men -- the warmth in both of their faces, and the friendship that they convey simply by being beside each other. I love the fact that they are resting against the wall of the church after a service of worship, even as both of them are well into their 90s. I love the years of faithful experience that they symbolize -- almost two centuries between them.

But I also love the dissimilarities that the picture conveys -- Hugh as the proper, clean-shaven, shirt-and-tie gentleman; and Stuart as the informal, iconoclastic, slightly mischievous rabble-rouser with the long white beard of an ancient Hebrew prophet.

Over the past few months, we have said goodbye to both of these men. Their journeys in this world came to their inevitable ends, and we commended them to the grace and mercy of God.

When I saw this picture at the visitation for Hugh Lloyd, I felt very deeply moved, and I deeply appreciated that the Lloyd family gave me a copy of the photo after Hugh's memorial service. It now stands, quite prominently, on a mantle shelf in my study, like an old icon that draws us into the contemplation of God's mysterious ways in this world.



What is interesting is that both of these men were described -- both in their lives and after their deaths -- as "pillars of the church," and it was a very true sentiment. Both had given much of their lives to the service of the church.



Stuart was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1942 and served both in the national offices and in a number of Presbyterian and United congregations throughout his life. Latterly, he worshipped with us at St. Andrew's -- but never in a complacent or relaxed manner. Rather, he would write long articles and essays (even into his 90s) about how our denomination, and the wider church, might become ever more deeply engaged with the issues, needs and concerns of the modern world. Bob Faris and I will likely never forget how often Stuart would remind us that John 3:16 clearly states that God so loved *the world* and not simply *the church*.

Hugh was similarly dedicated, though in a different way. Ordained as an elder in his 20s, Hugh served on the Session in various congregations in Ontario and in Manitoba, but also gave countless hours to the wider church, as he served on a number of national committees and denominational boards. In the early 1990s, he was awarded an Honourary Doctorate by Knox College for his longstanding service to the Presbyterian Church in Canada--a relatively rare

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## Icons and Pillars

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honour for a person who is not “clergy” — and he continued to serve as a volunteer at the Presbyterian Church’s national offices well into his 90s. He was a warm and intentional greeter; and active participant in Bible studies and educational programmes; sometimes a church organist; a source of great encouragement to younger people in the church; and a dedicated advocate for generous and missional stewardship of the church’s resources.

When I see this picture, therefore, I see two essential “pillars” of the church — the passionate and sometimes angry prophet, right alongside the dedicated and friendly elder.

And I am reminded that we needed — and we need — them both. We needed, and need, both of these pillars.

Any structure or building with only one pillar is almost destined to fall. But when the structure has

different pillars, each performing their given tasks with strength and dedication, each carrying their weight, each standing side-by-side, each bearing their own portion of the burden, the structure endures.

In every generation, for the past two thousand years, there have been men and women like Hugh and Stuart — giving their different gifts to the the cause of Christ, committing their time and energy to the Church, demonstrating Christian hospitality and friendship, reminding all of us that God loves *the world* and not just *the church*.

May these two faithful servants rest in God’s eternal light. And may we honour their memory, in our time, with the same determination and dedication that they demonstrated throughout their lives.

*Will*

## CATALYST

*Catalyst* is published four times annually for members and friends of St. Andrew’s Church. Your submissions, articles and photos are welcome. Please email contributions to the co-editors.

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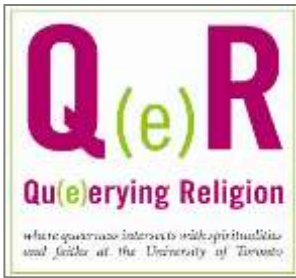
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## ECUT Fund Raising Gala held at St. Andrew's



*Members of Staff and Board of ECUT including Candy Grant and Rev. Dr. Bob Faris from St. Andrew's.*



*Olivia Chow, MP for Trinity Spadina, John Paul Catungal, MC for the evening, Ralph Carl Wushke, Ecumenical Chaplain and Rev. Will Ingram.*

On September 20, 2013, St. Andrew's "Great Hall" was the location of a gala fundraiser in support of the "Qu(e)rying Religion" program of the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto (ECUT). St. Andrew's Church hosted the event and our own Jordan Klapman, together with singer Karen Andrew, provided musical entertainment and writers Kwame Stephens, Farzana Doctor and Vivek Shraya read from their works. Food was provided by Maureen Strong and Co. to the accolades of all in attendance.

The Qu(e)rying Religion Program (QR) has been in existence since 2005, and has gained national and international acclaim as a place where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) students, faculty and staff at the University of Toronto as well as others can find a safe place to engage in dialogue about issues of sexual identity and religious faith. For many LGBTQ people, connecting these two aspects of identity has often been difficult. The church and other religious institutions have played, and continue to play, a major role in condemning, shaming and silencing those who wish to live their lives openly and proudly as people who are of faith and also queer. Ralph Carl Wushke, the ECUT Chaplain, has led the way in developing this program and integrating it with other programs offered by ECUT.



*Robert Sheng receives the QR Legacy Award on behalf of SAGA*

At the event, the St. Andrew's Gay Association (SAGA) was presented with the "QR Legacy Award" in recognition of "more than three decades of ground-breaking faithful witness toward inclusion, safe space and justice in the church." Robert Sheng accepted the award from ECUT Chair Alexandra Johnston on behalf of the group.

Almost two hundred people were in attendance and about \$10,000.00 was raised. You can find out more about the Ecumenical Chaplaincy and about the QR program at [www.utoronto.ca/ecumenicalchaplaincy](http://www.utoronto.ca/ecumenicalchaplaincy).



If you were not able to attend the gala but would like to support this important program, you can still make a contribution to the fund on the website.

## Growth and Innovation Ministry: The Rotman Report

In the recently completed Plan for Growth for St. Andrew's Church, the downtown's growing and dynamic residential community was identified as one that St. Andrew's must focus on in order to create bridges that will connect St. Andrew's to the lives of those who live and work near us and who will grow our community of faith and worship.

In order to gain important insight into the demographics of the people around us and a better understanding of their values and needs, we sought consulting advice from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

Rotman provides the services of the Rotman Nexus Consulting group, who help non-profit organizations and social enterprises. Selected graduate students advised by professors act as consultants. We were fortunate to have Tyrenny Anderson and Kavita Nayar act as our consultants.

In addition to carrying out demographic research and analysis, Tyrenny and Kavita conducted hundreds of street interviews of people living in downtown Toronto. The results of this work were summarized in a written report and a presentation to members of session and ministries committees in October. Here are the highlights of the report findings:

In the municipal wards in our area, there are 221,885 residents, of which 67% live in high-rises and 70% speak English as their mother tongue. The average age is 36. An equal number of male and female respondents were interviewed and their average age was 34. Very few have children.

In their non-working time, respondents preferred activities centered on sports/exercise; concerts and music; speakers' presentations; volunteering and cooking in that order. These activities meet their social and health needs.

The respondents' favoured modes of communication are email, Facebook and in-person. Generally people are not opposed to attending events in a church as long as religion is not the main focus.

What brings the most meaning into their lives is family, friends and helping others. Spirituality means belief in a higher power or God.



Here are the highlights of the Rotman report recommendations:

- Focus events on health and wellness promotion for this community.
- Provide opportunities for downtown residents to volunteer their time and talents.
- Present some concerts where the performances appeal to this demographic. Similarly, offer speakers whose topics directly affect the lives of this community.
- Capitalize on the social nature of this group.
- Consider partnering with other organizations, such as Volunteer Toronto, in offering volunteering opportunities.
- Be sure our Website is first-class and interactive. Use Facebook and post often and creatively. Develop a newsletter that has articles and pictures of interest to this demographic and includes Ministers' quotes, volunteer opportunities and an events calendar.
- Hold events that will attract residents by utilizing the front lawn, and assign members to actively greet and speak to attendees.
- Develop the metrics needed to measure the impact of these activities.

The Growth and Innovation Ministry will be studying this report in detail and coming forward to Session with a plan to implement the recommendations in the next few months. One of the early steps will be to get the best technology minds in the congregation to develop a truly effective social-media program that is seen by our residents as current and innovative. There will be further meetings and up-dates provided to the Congregation. These are truly exciting times. The Rotman report gives us a much better sense of who lives with us in the downtown and how best to build bridges to them.

*Sandy Aird, Associate Convener*



## Plans and Successes of the Committees and Ministries

The committees and ministries of St. Andrew's shared their plans and successes at a dinner meeting in October. The presentations by the chairs seemed more like a harvest of activities that came from many committee meetings. This is a summary of the presentations made that evening.

### **Christian Education Ministry** — chaired by Bob Faris

The church school and nursery are recruiting teachers. Out-of-church activities for the Sunday School are planned. We will be encouraging young people to be involved with activities of the synod and presbytery. Adult Education events included the Fall Supper Seminar series led by the Rev. Dr. Charles Fensham. An Advent Meditations series by Dr. Laura Alary will be open to the public. A Saturday Anniversary forum is being planned for March, 2014. Traditional Bible study groups continue on Wednesday and Sunday mornings. Introductory Bible Study groups for newcomers to biblical study have proven successful and will continue. We encourage everyone to use the church library located in the Board Room. Thanks to Olive Anstice for her efforts to build the Reference Library. Applications are now being received for the post-secondary level Anniversary Study Award.

### **Ministry of Stewardship and Finance** — chaired by Blair Agnew

Prepared discussion paper for the Session in relation to the Heritage Fund. Efforts are underway to build the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) plan by educating the congregation about its merits. Meetings were held with another GTA congregation that has had success with its PAR plan growth.

### **Ministry of Worship** — chaired by Lee Stratton

Welcoming church goers to services and other activities is an important part of our mandate. Have a focus to engage the church goer with the services and other activities by being mindful the church is open to anyone for prayer or meditation most days and all are welcome to attend the Thursday Noon Hour Communion Service. Beautify the Chancel with flowers. Create a Chancel Guild. Hold Healing Services. Study alternative worship forms, referencing the comments on the Rotman Nexus study.

### **Outreach Ministry** — chaired by Fiona Smith

Book sales have been very successful and will continue. We are working to build relationships with community agencies, and have partnered with the *Ecumenical Chaplaincy* and *Flemingdon Gateway Mission*. Plan events for Evangel Hall's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. *Out of the Cold* dinners, which serve a growing number of guests, will continue.



*Members of the Growth and Innovation Ministry discuss plans and successes at a planning meeting.*

Portland Place fundraising activities continue. The annual Rugby carol service, which supports our Out of the Cold program, will be held on December 13th.

### **Communications Ministry** — chaired by Peter Price

Our mandate is both external and internal. The internal part involves the web site and the Catalyst. The external part is the new and effective outdoor sign.

### **Personnel Relations Ministry** — chaired by Sandy Aird

The Volunteer Information Questionnaire is under review. A task force will be set up in reference to the functioning of the Session. Long term ministry staffing is under review. The *Leading With Care* program is working actively within its mandate. Personnel administrative policies are being studied.

### **Ministry of Community Life** — chaired by Rev. Will Ingram

Rev. Ingram expressed indebtedness to Eric Reynolds for his lengthy tenure in this area of the church life. Orientation and integration of new members continue. Pastoral Care is now focused on the elderly and the sick. Referring to the Rotman Nexus study, a need exists to add focus on the 30s age group and its needs. Focus of the Health Cabinet — how do we include health and welfare for young people? Make decisions as to the type of program we need for young people coming to St. Andrew's.

### **Board of Managers** — chaired by John Matheson

Congregational offerings are up over last year. Restoration of the church is complete; we will soon focus on refreshing the Narthex. We are installing LED lighting throughout the building to reduce electricity costs. We anticipate receiving the final distribution from the Milne Estate by year end.

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## Plans and Successes of the Committees and Ministries

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### *Growth and Innovation Ministry* — Chaired by Allan Lever

Review and implement recommendations in the Rotman Nexus Report. We need to establish benchmarks so we can determine how we are growing and establish how we are doing it. Hold a craft fair and café outdoors next spring.

### *Speaker Series Planning Committee* — Chaired by Ted Cryslar

The Committee is exploring options and possibilities for the Speaker Series and ways to attract local residents and members of the business community to future events.

### *Life and Music at St. Andrew's* — chaired by Dan Bickle

Our free Friday Noontime Recital Series events have been very popular. The local talent at all the music series is filling a void in the GTA musical community. Performers are now being booked for the spring recitals. A Mardi Gras concert is being planned for March, 2014. *The Duke Ellington Society* has approached St. Andrew's about co-sponsoring an event for the TD Jazz Festival. We hope to have an Opera Pops concert in May.

Lois Hird



## Boarding Homes Ministry

**B**oarding Homes Ministry nurtures Christian community by linking church visitors with residents of local homes. Our new logo was designed by Tim Murray from the Beaches congregation. Tim has been part of a team who visits in a boarding home for eight years. The logo encapsulates key elements of our spiritual communities.

The *bread of communion* appears in the upper right quadrant of the logo. God is celebrated as residents and church visitors join to share *life-in-Christ*. The people of this *common-union* feast on Jesus while they build loving relations through the release of spiritual gifts. Jesus nourishes spiritual community and brings it alive.

Love is spread. Love is the most urgent expression of Christian community and is symbolized by the **heart** in the lower left quadrant of the logo. The gifted and brave residents of these homes often carry the weight of mental illness. Too often, they also carry the burden of isolation. Love unites. Love is crucial.

Community flourishes in the power and wonder of conversation. Shared stories are symbolized in the **cartoon bubble** in the upper left quadrant. In true Christian community, lives open to each other and are gently held. Life is expressed. Life is honoured.

## God Calls Us Into Rich, Compassionate and Joyful Community Life

Judgment is eliminated. Life is respected, as friends create a welcoming space in which the delights and sorrows of the day can be spoken.



Christian community promotes joyful harmony. This is represented by **musical notes** in the lower right quadrant. Music and art are important tools for drawing friends together. They focus mind and soul. A harmonious life moves from aloneness to union; from unawareness to joyful attention; from stereotype to joyful inclusion. This dance of heart and spirit fosters worship and mutual, loving care. This is the sway of holy community.

We are grateful to the people of St. Andrew's Church for their ongoing support. We are thankful to God and to countless friends who make these home communities possible. Please consider joining a team that visits a boarding home.

Our ministry is now entering its eighteenth year: please join us...!

Rev. Rodger Hunter  
Chaplain

## Report from the Stewardship & Finance Committee

The church's financial results for the 10 months ending October 31, 2013 (and comparisons with the budget and last year) are summarized below.

	Ten months ended October 31		
	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	2012 Actual
Amounts in \$000s			
Revenues			
Givings	\$ 241	\$ 240	\$ 215
Rental income	109	100	93
Grant income	375	375	375
	<u>725</u>	<u>715</u>	<u>683</u>
Expenses			
Ministries	384	413	349
Operations	227	218	221
Administration	175	159	159
	<u>786</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>729</u>
Net loss	<u>\$ (61)</u>	<u>\$ (75)</u>	<u>\$ (46)</u>

*Financial Results for 10 months  
Ending October 31, 2013*

Congregational givings continue to track ahead of last year (up 12% over the same period in 2012), and are in line with budget. Similarly, rental income has increased strongly (17% over the same period last year). In order to reach the amount budgeted for givings by year-end, we need to receive \$115,000 (last year we received \$103,000 in the last two months).

Ministries' expenses in the current year are running \$35,000 higher than last year on account of higher stipend and denominational pension assessment (\$20,000), higher music and worship (\$8,000), higher Christian education (\$4,000) and higher community witness (\$5,000) expenditures, which are only partially

offset by lower communications expenditures (\$2,000). The difference between actual and budgeted expenditures in the current year to date is largely explained by Presbyterians Sharing where \$64,800 had been budgeted yet only \$43,200 had actually been given (the third quarter payment of \$21,600 was made in November).



Utilities expenditures were about \$16,000 higher than the same period last year; however, lower repairs and maintenance expenses together with lower caretaking salaries and benefits have contributed to Building & Operations overall expenses being just \$6,000 higher than the same period last year.

Administration expenses would have been in line with the budget for the same period last year had it not been for the consultant's report commissioned by Session, which examined the demographics of the downtown community, and the costs of temporary accounting services during the Church Manager's illness.

*Heritage Trust:* The Heritage Trust investments are managed by Burgundy Asset Management which, at the end of each calendar quarter, report on the performance of the portfolio. As of September 30, 2013, the market value of the investment portfolio was \$7.59 million, about 64% of which was invested in equities (split 24% Canadian, 40% foreign stocks), 28% in fixed income investments and the balance in cash.

*Blair Agnew, Convener*

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## Milestones

### Marriages

Brad Barker and Holy Lemmon, October 13, 2013  
Benny Kim and Selena Eng, November 10, 2013

### Deaths

Hugh Lloyd, October 27, 2013

### New Members

October 27, 2013  
Carrie Clayton, McDonald Gunness, Merle Gunness, Yvonne-Marie Hubbard,  
Kevin Jones and Sean Taylor

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## Sing Praises

*Creative prose and poetry*

*celebrating or reflecting on the life and work of St. Andrew's Church*

In the last issue of *Catalyst* Elizabeth Paradis, in describing books recently added to the church lending library, mentioned *A Life Together* by Bishop Segrist of the Eastern Orthodox Church in which the concept of *Sobornost*, (emphasis on the second syllable) is discussed.

In 1987 at Regent College, Vancouver, I studied the persecution of Christians. My major paper was entitled *The Orthodox Church in Russia under Communism from 1918–1952*.

I concluded my paper with the following poem, which was later published in the June/July 1988 issue of *Glad Tidings*, the magazine of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Orthodox Church is no longer persecuted by the state but throughout the world Christians are suffering and dying for their faithful witness to Jesus Christ. I dedicate the poem to them.

### *Song of the Orthodox in This Year of Our Lord*

Not of our once fond hope:  
 Church visible, triumphant, proud  
 We speak, Saviour divine.  
 Sobornost here and now with Thee we celebrate:  
 Rent flesh, blood poured,  
 Frail body broke,  
 These rites our paschal feast.  
 Grant grace to us, we pray,  
 This hardy vigil so to keep  
 That we not just the martyr's crown  
     may boldly win  
 But — in our bruised lives —  
 May each day show  
 Thy finished work, Thy present victory  
     o'er death and sin.



## The Grave and the World Beyond!

*My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!*

Thus wrote Percy Bysshe Shelley in a poem on hearing a friend tell the tale of his travels in Egypt. What, then, are these works to be looked on and marveled at, but numbers of great pyramids, huge statues, wondrously built temples and tombs with beautiful paintings cut meters into solid rock. How these works were constructed is still a matter of speculation, but why they were built comes with a confusion of answers. Ultimately these mighty undertakings were driven by a pantheon of beliefs in a search for an afterlife.

On the other hand, we have a nomadic people known ethnically as Hebrews, who were first referred to in Egypt on the victory stela of Merneptah, which was erected in 1207 B.C. These people, who called their community Israel and themselves Israelites, believed, by way of contrast, in one God, observed one temple, abhorred statues and idols, and buried their dead in a cave or a plain sepulcher.

Unlike the Egyptians, the Israelites were not concerned with the afterlife, but professed a religion which concentrated on how one lived one's daily life, with no concern for what happened at death and no need for grave goods to be interred with the deceased. Their thinking was that the souls of the departed were gathered in one place where they awaited the Apocalypse; that is the great battle between Good and Evil where Good would prevail, the Kingdom of God would be established in heaven and on earth, and there would be a Day of Judgment, both for the departed and for those on earth.

These are difficult concepts to grasp when one reads scripture in translation, but a reading of the Hebrew text throws light on the subject. In the Old Testament, there is one word used to describe the end of one's earthly life and that word is *sh(e)ol*, translated as *hell*, *grave*, *pit*. There are three words in Hebrew for *grave*, and seven words for *pit*, so when one reads scripture which understanding of these words is meant? The problem with the translation of the word *hell*, is that it has two interpretations in the original language: one meaning is a place of torment, the other a place for the dead.

It appears that the Israelites conceived of the idea that the souls of the deceased gathered in a huge pit to await the end times, which were believed, then, to be imminent. The Dead Sea Scrolls bear this out for they tell of various groups of people, such as the Essenes, who, over a period of several hundred years, withdrew into the countryside to purify themselves in preparation for the Apocalypse. The prophets, the Psalmist and Jesus pointed out that this was a waste of time since what mattered was not a ritual or habit of purification, but rather a practice of love of God and of one's fellow man. Jesus said that the "kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt IV: 17) meaning it is here *now*, and that is what we are working for. We pray: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done" with the meaning of *now*, not of some future time.



So much for the Israelites; now what of the Christians. Do they rate special treatment? Not so! For Christianity is a religion of one's daily life, not a preparation for a future existence. Jesus said that there are but two great commandments for us, namely, to love God and to love our fellow man. "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Mt. XX: 35-40). In other words, Christians are so involved in the struggle to follow these two commandments that they haven't got time to be anxious about the afterlife. We do have the promise of Jesus himself who said: "I go to prepare a place for you". (Jn. XIV: 2b). He is looking after to-morrow! So let's get on, with his help, with looking after today!

Unfortunately in this day and age, the public perception of Christianity is that of a religion concerned with "salvation" as a method of preparation for some unknown afterlife. And so, in the poem by Shelley, the sneer and frown on the face of Ozymandias has turned to a smile, a smile of welcome. Welcome back to my quest for the Egyptian world beyond!

Something to think about.

Charles H. Diltz

## Dispatches from *Out of the Cold*

*"Always made with love."*

**N**ovember 4: The first dinner of the OOTC season went extremely well! On the menu was butternut squash soup, choice of chicken pot pie, or broccoli and cheddar quiche, and apple crisp with ice cream. For sure, the smiling face of longtime volunteer and greeter Joe-Anne Roberts was very much missed. But it was good to see many returning volunteers as well as many new volunteers — all eager to participate in this wonderful ministry!

A new system was introduced: Guests receive a red ticket for the clothing boutique and a blue ticket for their meal. Feedback from staff was that the kitchen ran much more efficiently: Two hundred and two guests were served as well as take-outs for latecomers.

Meanwhile, feedback from our guests was equally good. Among their comments: *"Better than the can of chicken noodle soup I would have had"* and *"Always made with love."*

*From the Boutique:* A new guest to OOTC, quite petite and small framed, came to the Boutique looking for pants. The volunteers were able to find her 3 pairs of long pants and she left very happy. Much needed socks were available and even brand new underwear. Thanks to Darlene for her many hours getting the boutique stocked and ready.

*November 11:* A delicious dinner of roasted tomato soup, meatloaf plate, or mushroom, spinach and feta strudel and brownies and ice cream for dessert was served to 245 guests — plus takeout meals.

Special thanks go out to Gina Kontakis and The Royal Winter Fair for generous food donations.



*Strudel in progress by OOTC volunteers Nick and Dave.*

*November 18.* A cold blustery night. Our first guest had walked over an hour to get to St. Andrew's and had been waiting since 2 pm. Dinner featured roasted red pepper soup, parmesan crusted chicken, or eggplant parmesan, and pumpkin pie with

whipped cream. The numbers are steadily increasing. This week we fed 263 guests. Plus there were takeout meals for last minute guests: One latecomer, who had been visiting his son in Scarborough, would be heading back after his meal to his place under the Gardner Expressway.



In addition to those who live on the streets OOTC serves guests from the "working poor." One guest, who regularly attended St. Patrick's dinners for 15 years, arrives after his 12 hour shift in a chemical factory. For him, OOTC was not so much about the meal (he cooks for himself) but about being surrounded by people, talk — rather than sitting alone (and depressed) in his apartment after work. That OOTC means more than a warm meal was echoed by two other guests from war-torn Somalia and Ethiopia: "God bless you. Canada saved my life." Similarly, an elderly guest who has a home, but no heat and no running water, comes to OOTC weekly for comfort and sustenance.

*From the Boutique:* A very grateful guest who received a handsome winter coat rewarded volunteers with an interesting history and geography lesson about her native Peru. Her happiness makes all the hard work worthwhile. Many guests to OOTC on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings live in the neighbourhood of St. Andrew's. One of them was sitting on a blanket in front of St. Andrew's. When asked if she was warm enough and did she need anything in terms of clothing, she showed off her down-filled jacket; and her repurposed hand-knit wool mittens received at Tuesday's OOTC breakfast.

The long-term "fruit" of what is being done through the Monday and Tuesday OOTC includes things that we do not get to see. But the Lord sees and today He allowed me to "see" and be encouraged. I hope this story encourages you as well — dear and faithful volunteers! Stay warm and keep smiling!

*P.S.* Speaking of hand-knit mittens, if you have old sweaters, that have a 70% or higher wool content, they would be gladly accepted for the mitten project.

*Adapted from the OOTC Epistle by Hanna Simoes*

## St. Andrew's Learns about Small Business Loans for Marginalized Women

In an October forum discussion, our community learned how small loans are helping women in the global south build businesses, create jobs and improve the lives of their families.

### *Oikocredit Introduced at Forum Discussion*

Nandy Heule of Oikocredit Canada Central says: "The Presbyterian denomination, churches and individuals have provided leadership to Oikocredit at the national and international levels." She adds: "When practically nobody was talking or thinking about socially responsible investing, churches paved the way and boldly aligned their investment practices with their values. This is something to celebrate."

Oikocredit works with around 850 partners in 70 countries around the world to provide small loans to approximately 28 million entrepreneurs.

Just a few years ago in the Philippines, Gilda Sacapano operated a small store next to the beach, but she did not have enough business to support her family. She was able to launch a new souvenir business after obtaining a loan from Oikocredit's partner TSKI. This is a microfinance bank which has worked with Oikocredit since 2005. Gilda is now a proud entrepreneur, who operates three shops and also supplies product to other souvenir boutiques. She says: "My son can take an engineer course at the University now." Without the loan, "I would not have been able to pay for his classes." "Microfinance can offer families a way out of poverty

without creating dependencies," says Nandy. "Also, our investors earn a fair financial return while knowing their money is making a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty."



*Bolivian bakers who opened a bakery financed by Oikocredit.*

Individuals can invest in Oikocredit by buying a bond starting at \$250 for a 5-year term at 1.75%. Investment information can be downloaded at <http://central.oikocredit.ca/en/home>. St. Andrew's Church is exploring opportunities to support Oikocredit, and will make available an Oikocredit bond at the upcoming silent auction for Portland Place.

*Rev. Bob Faris*



### **Wanted: Your Creativity**

The St. Andrew's *Made By Hand* Festival will be held in the spring of next year. We are looking for people to join the organizing committee. The Festival will be open to anyone who makes anything by hand. Money raised from the Festival will be put towards a fund for maintenance and repairs of our lovely church building. More details will be provided when they are available.

If you are interested in joining the committee or participating in the Festival, please contact Kristen Taylor at [kwmathewson@gmail.com](mailto:kwmathewson@gmail.com). If you are interested in joining the committee or participating in the Festival, please contact Kristen Taylor at [kwmathewson@gmail.com](mailto:kwmathewson@gmail.com).



# *An Advent Carol*

2013

## Advent Meditations

at

St. Andrew's Church

with

Dr. Laura Alary

Teacher, Preacher, Storyteller

Author of *Is That Story True?*,

*Mira and the Big Story*

and other children's books

December 4

*The Spirit of Advent Past: Wake Up!*

December 11

*The Spirit of Advent Present: Connect*

December 18

*The Spirit of Advent Future: Choose*

**Organ Selections – Noon   Meditation – 12:15   Light lunch – 12:45**

*Light Lunch by Maureen Strong*

73 Simcoe Street - at King St. W., opposite Roy Thomson Hall





## Turning Thirty with Grace!

In an era where change is the norm in our lives, much of the digital equipment that we purchase is outdated before it leaves the store. If that equipment should malfunction, repairs are often more costly than buying a new model. Happily, this is not the case with the Karl Wilhelm organ that stands prominently in the back gallery! Installed in 1983, this beautiful instrument turned thirty this year and is “holding its age” remarkably well.

Many of us have become very accustomed to how the organ provides leadership in our services, and it would be easy for us to forget how special it is. Designed in the French Classic style with 50 stops and 3,050 pipes, the clarity, brilliance and warmth of the sound remains unchanged, and the suspended mechanical action has lost none of its sensitivity or challenge for the organist. Karl Wilhelm is a builder who has always valued quality, and a quick look inside the organ case reveals the outstanding craftsmanship that went into every aspect of its construction. As a result, apart from semi-annual tunings, the organ has only required minimal repairs, and this happy fact should be a constant for many years to come!



As we “celebrate” this anniversary, it is important to remember the outstanding work of Douglas Bodle, Director of Music Emeritus, and of the organ restoration and music committees chaired by Sandy Aird and the late Dr. Jack Reynolds. They painstakingly researched, planned and recommended the installation of this instrument. The congregation of the time also deserves recognition for what Douglas Bodle called: “the qualities of courage and foresight” in moving forward with this ambitious project. Today, we are fortunate recipients of that courage!

When the instrument was inaugurated, H. Douglas Stewart, Minister Emeritus, wrote: “How good it is to be involved in the dedication of something destined to endure. Built on the principles of some of the greatest organs in the world, not a few of which are as much as two and three hundred years old, our new instrument will reinforce and adorn our celebrations of the glory, majesty and love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, for generations yet to come.” Dr. Reynolds added: “This instrument will continue the tradition of musical leadership and excellence for which this church is known. Our prayer is that this organ may inspire all who worship in St. Andrew’s Church....”

May it ever be so!



It is always good to curl up with a good book on long dark winter evenings. Drop by the boardroom after church on Sunday to browse through the books, CDs and videos in the library. You are sure to find books that will broaden your understanding of the Christian faith and what it means to live a Christian life.



We recently celebrated Reformation Day. You can gain a better understanding of how the reformation began and what it means through Steven Paulsen's *Luther for Armchair Theologians*, and Glenn Sunshine's *The Reformation for Armchair Theologians*.

If you found food for thought in Phillip Yancey's *The Bible Jesus Read*, one of his other books may also speak to you. The following are available in the library: *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?*, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, and *Where is God When it Hurts?* In exploring this question, the author points out that it soon evolves into 'Where are the Christians when it hurts'? If we are all members of one body, then when one member suffers, we all share in that suffering.... *What's So Amazing About Grace?* (And why don't Christians show more of it?) Yancey illustrates how we manifest both grace and "ungrace." Grace is God's love in action, and if we accept and receive it, we become conduits for grace to others.

Other recent acquisitions to the Church Library include: *What Christianity is Not: An Exercise in Negative Theology* by Douglas John Hall; *Emerging from the Dark Age Ahead: The Future of the North American Church* by Charles Fensham; and *Intellectuals Don't Need God & Other Modern Myths* by Alister McGrath.

To sign out a book, remove the card from the pocket in the back cover, write your name and telephone number on the card and leave it in the small box placed for that purpose on one of the shelves. If you have borrowed library materials in the past, please check your bookshelves at home and return any you find there, so that others may enjoy and benefit from them as well.

Elisabeth Paradis



## Staying in Touch

In this era of electronic communications, there can be times when those who are not "connected" on the internet can feel that they may be missing important news and information about the life and work of St. Andrew's Church.

If you do not use email and would like to receive direct mailings from the church office, please be in touch with Judy Neal at 416-593-5600 x 220 and indicate the type of mailings that you would prefer to receive (e.g. weekly bulletins; "Life and Music", educational and "Speakers' Series" flyers, obituary notices, etc).



## Meet Our New Members

*St. Andrew's extends a loving welcome  
to those who have recently joined our congregation!*

### McDonald and Merle Guinness

Welcome McDonald and Merle, new members who come to us from the Humber Heights Church in the High Park area. They are now in the process of moving downtown to the immediate area of our Church near the famous Waterfront, which at the moment is very confusing and congested part of town, due to all the construction, but promises to be a beautiful neighbourhood when finished. We wish them well in moving here and are very happy to have them in our midst.



### Carrie Clayton and Kevin Jones



It is a pleasure to welcome Carrie and Kevin into in our midst. Carrie was born and raised on a farm in Hanover, Ontario. She is currently employed as a mental health counselor and has a Masters in Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University. Kevin was born and raised here in Toronto. He currently works for E. Health and has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Toronto. Carrie and Kevin enjoy a challenge: They recently took part in the Oxfam Trailwalker, a 100 km charity hike. They completed the challenging two-day trek from Barrie to Orillia in under 41 hours, and their team raised over \$7,500 for Oxfam Canada! Congratulations from all of us and we feel indeed very privileged to welcome you both in our Congregational St. Andrew's Family.

### Sean Taylor

It gives us great pleasure to now officially welcome Sean into our midst as a member of St. Andrew's. Sean is the husband of Kristen ( now, Mrs. Taylor ), daughter of Nancy Mathewson — both Kristen and Nancy are longtime members of this congregation. Sean came to Toronto in 1999 to attend Humber College; he was really into computers and chose this technology field as his career. He met Kristen and started to come to St. Andrew's with her, and the two married in 2011 and St. Andrew's has become a part of their lives together. Sean states that St. Andrew's completes this statement GOD — Community—Family; indeed, a rock to build on. We wish you a blessed place in our midst !



*Marc Buist*



St. Andrew's Church

# Calendar



**Chancel Communion** – every Thursday, 12:15–12:45 pm

**Bible Study Groups** – every Sunday at 9:30 am, and every Wednesday at 7:30 am

**Advent Meditations** – Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 at 12:00 noon

**Annual Rugby Christmas Carol Evening** – Friday, December 13 at 7:30 pm

**Saga Christmas Party** – Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 pm

**Christmas Choral Service** – December 15 at 10:30 am

**Christmas Service of Remembrance** – December 15 at 5:00 pm

**Wine, Cheeses & Jesus Fellowship Group** – Thursday December 19 at 7:00 pm

**Service of Lessons and Carols** – Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm,  
(Candlelight service)

**Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion** – Tuesday, December 24 at 11:00 pm  
(Candlelight service)

Epiphany Sunday Pot Luck Lunch – January 5, 2014

Consecration Sunday – January 26

Distribution of Annual Report – Sunday, February 23