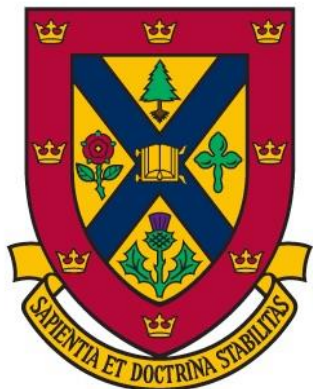


The Burning Bush

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kingston Autumn 2016



Is that the cross of St. Andrew at the very centre of the coat of arms of Queen's University? What is it doing there?

In December 1839, in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's Church Kingston, a young John A. Macdonald seconded the motion that

a new institution of higher learning be established in Upper Canada, in Kingston.

On October 16, 1841 a Royal Charter was granted to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for the foundation of Queen's College.

The charter stated that the edifices of the new initiative 'shall not be more than three miles distant from St. Andrew's Church'! It opened with a Principal and a Professor of Classics, and nine students.

Queen's was a Presbyterian initiative, and it was the Presbyterian communities of Kingston and across Canada that provided the resources for its survival and growth.

From its beginning however the College was intentionally opened to all, without religious boundaries. And to serve the nation better, the Presbyterian Church transferred authority for the university to its graduates in 1912.



Now, 175 years to the day of its charter being granted, on October 16, 2016 we will gather in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's to give God thanks for the strong foundations laid and the great growth experienced.

The cross of St. Andrew remains central to the coat of arms of Queen's, and it calls us as St. Andrew's Church to gather in prayer for Queen's and all who continue to explore truth in this world.

For as scripture declares, taken up in the Queen's motto, 'wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times' (Isaiah 33:6)



Andrew Johnston

Included in this Issue:

- Thoughts from the editor
- The Lighter Side of Saints
- Church Family Photo Album 1
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- A Night At The Silent Movies
- Charlie Wenjack and Gord Downie
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- Memories by Elaine Coderre
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- Jesus Loves the Little Children
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- Renaissance by Philippe Gabriani
- Church Photo Album 2
- 200 Year Anniversary Promotion

Thoughts from the Editor...

I was born in the Netherlands, on my father's birthday. There must have been some disappointment at the birth of a third daughter, but to my dad's credit, he claimed that it was actually his good fortune. So in honor of the occasion, he took it upon himself to name me Aaltje Martina Margaretha Vanderform, the same name as my mother.

My mother went by the name *Aly*. Somehow I was always referred to as *Ada*. This small name change for me set the stage for a lifetime of complications.

Growing up in Canada, I was always known as *Ada Vanderform*. I married at 21 and became *Ada Mallory*. I was thrilled to have an acceptable Canadian name- a name that didn't immediately label me as an immigrant. I was widowed years later, remarried and then became *Ada Richardson*, another relatively easy name. So far, so good. But then, about 5 years ago, I was informed by Service Canada that I would have to use my birth name on all official documents- driver's licence, health card, et cetera. Now I was *Aaltje Martina Margaretha Richardson*.

I argued at the absurdity of this change but to no avail. As a compromise, I was officially allowed to at least sign my name as *Ada*. Simultaneously, my financial advisor suggested that I revert back to the last name *Mallory* since most of my financial affairs were under that name. So I followed this advice and then became, you guessed it, *Aaltje Martina Margaretha Mallory*. Known to you, in the interest of clarity, *Ada Mallory*.

I am sure that there are several readers smiling as they read this little tale of nomenclature snakes and ladders. There are so many of us using names that are not our birth names. With men, it might only be a variation of their first name. With women? The variations can be limitless. So lest I whine, I know I am not alone.

Even in biblical times, names were often changed. *God changed Abram's "high father" name to "Abraham,"*

But which one of these little girls am I?

"father of a multitude" (Genesis 17:5) and his wife's name from "Sarai," "my princess," to "Sarah," "mother of nations" (Genesis 17:15). We know from history that the descendants of Abraham and Sarah formed many nations, including the Jews' and Muslims'.

God changed Jacob's "supplanter" name to "Israel," "having power with God" (Genesis 32:28). He changed Simon's "God has heard" name to "Peter," "rock" (John 1:42). Why did Jesus occasionally call Peter "Simon" after He had changed His name to "Peter"? Probably because Simon sometimes acted like his old self instead of the rock God called him to be. The same is true for Jacob. God continued to call him "Jacob" to remind him of his past and to remind him to depend on God's strength.

Why did God choose new names for some people? The Bible doesn't give us His reasons, but perhaps it was to let them know they were destined for a new mission in life. The new name was a way to let them in on the divine plan and also to assure them that God's plan would be fulfilled in them.

I do not believe that all my name changes had a divine purpose. But I am assured that whatever my name is in this life, God knows me completely. And wherever I am, He is with me. His purpose for me in this life is not dependent on the name by which I am called but more so in me just being One of His Own...

Thus I remain to you all,

Simply,

Ada Mallory, Editor



"Can't you hear it?" she said. "When you love someone, you say their name different. Like it's safe inside your mouth."

Jodi Picoult, *Handle with Care*

The Lighter Side of Saints...



An elderly man lay dying in his bed. Suddenly death's agony was pushed aside as he smelled the aroma of his favorite homemade chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs.

Gathering his remaining strength, he lifted himself up from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with intense concentration, supported himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. In labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing wide-eyed into the kitchen.

There, spread out on the kitchen table, were literally HUNDREDS of his favorite chocolate chip cookies! Was it heaven? Or, was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself

toward the table, landing on his knees in a rumped posture, one hand on the edge of the table. The aged and withered hand quiveringly made its way to a cookie near the edge of the table; feeling the warm soft dough actually made the pain of his bones subside for a moment. His parched lips parted; the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth; seemingly bringing him back to life.

What, then, was this sudden stinging that caused his hand to recoil?

He looked to see his wife, still holding the spatula she had just used to smack his hand.

"Stay out of those!" she said, "they're for the funeral."

A Cat in Heaven

A cat dies and goes to heaven.

God meets him at the gate and says, 'You have been a good cat all these years. You can have anything you desire, all you have to do is ask.'

Well,' said the cat, 'I lived all my life on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.'

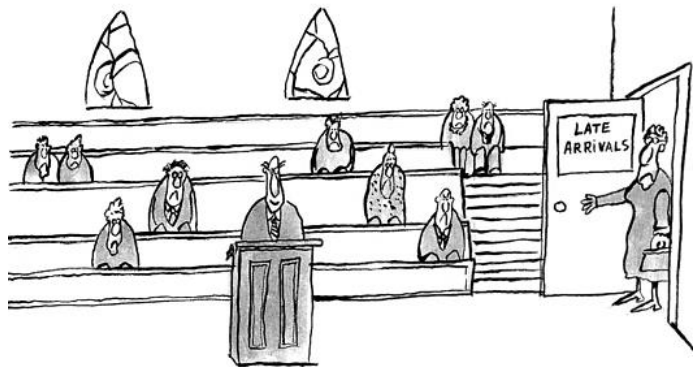
'Say no more,' says God and instantly a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer he made to the cat.

'All our life,' the mice say, 'we've had to run. Cats, dogs, women with brooms have chased us. If we had roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore.'

God says he can take care of it and, instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates. A week later God checks on the cat, which is asleep on its pillow. God gently nudges him awake and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?'

'Never been happier,' says the cat, stretching and yawning. **'And those meals on wheels you've been sending over are great.'**



Reverend MacVicar finally discovers a way to encourage promptness at worship.

An elderly couple walk into Micki D's and order one sandwich, a large fry, one drink and an extra cup. They find a table and sat down. The husband cuts the sandwich in half and gives part for himself and the other half to his wife. Next he divides the fries evenly, one for her one for him. Then they divide the drink.

A man watches as they divide their food. The man watches as the woman starts eating and the man just sits watching. So the young man asks if they need money to buy more food.

The old man replies, **"No thanks. We share everything 50/50; it's her turn with the teeth."**

Church Family Photo Album 1...

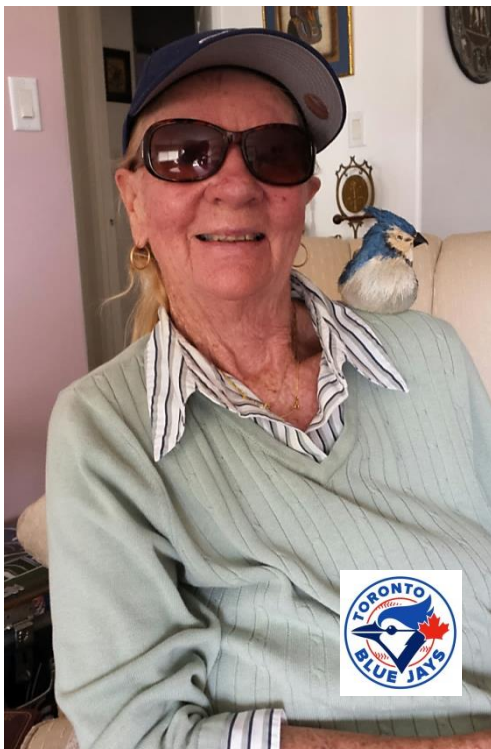


Don Hay (left) and Ed Brash (right) appear to be having some good fun together on Canada Day. But it is all for a good cause. They are representing Shriners Canada, an organization dedicated to supporting Shriners Hospital for Children, a hospital whose mission is to:

- Provide the highest quality care to children with neuromusculoskeletal conditions, burn injuries and other special healthcare needs within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative care environment.
- Provide for the education of physicians and other healthcare professionals.
- Conduct research to discover new knowledge that improves the quality of care and quality of life of children and families.

This mission is carried out without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of a patient or family to pay.

www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org



Left: An ardent Blue Jays Fan, **Orma Drew** lives with enduring hope!

Middle: **Frank Nisco**, retires as our custodian, with his wife, Lise.

Right: **Ann Mclean** retires as our Bookkeeper. Transitions at SAPK...



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Sermon from the Moderator: Rev. Douglas Rollwage

Reflection Upon 9/11: What did we learn? What have we forgotten

Scripture: Luke 6:27–38 (NIV); Romans 12:9–21 (NRSV)

Can you believe it was fifteen years ago today? September 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m., hijackers crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the northern façade of the World Trade Center’s North Tower, and at 9:03 a.m., another five hijackers crashed United Airlines Flight 175 into the southern façade of the South Tower. Five more flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m. A fourth flight, United Airlines Flight 93, whose target is believed to have been either the Capitol or the White House, crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 a.m. after the passengers fought the hijackers. The South Tower of the World Trade Centre collapsed at 9:59 a.m. The North Tower collapsed at 10:28 a.m. By this time, 11 or so in the morning, it was all over. But by this time, our understanding of the world and our place in it had forever changed.



Sunset at 9/11: Memorial by Dave Zawrotny

Again, can you believe it was fifteen years ago today? I remember just where I was, just what I was doing, just what my reactions were. Psychologists call this the “Snapshot Memory” effect, where events of great and often tragic significance burn themselves into our minds in ways that ordinary—or even happy—days do not. Where were you? What were you doing that day?

- People are precious
- Time is fleeting
- We need to respond to evil with good

These are lessons, fifteen years ago, I thought we’d never forget. And these are lessons, fifteen years later, I wonder if we still remember.

Lesson 1: People are precious.

You think about the events of September 11 and suddenly you realize many of the things we normally consider valuable and chase after—money, possessions, cars, houses, success, and power—do not matter. If you stood in New York City fifteen years ago or at the Pentagon or in a Pennsylvania farmer’s field where Flight 93 went down and asked a family member of a missing loved one what they would give to have their loved one back, they would tell you, “I would give anything in the world.” Anything! Because what matters in life is people. This event and others like it force us to face the truth that what counts is people. It’s easy to forget that, and we’re often hesitant to tell one another and those we love that we do love them, that they are worth more to us than anything.

And so we made resolutions: I will spend more time with my family. I will not let the hours of the day slip away in isolation, or in endless overtime at the office, or in front of the TV, or wasted at the computer. I will spend time with my family and my friends and the people I love. I will phone that forgotten sister or brother. I will write that aunt, that cousin. I will look up that far-away friend. People are more important than things, and while I probably have enough “things” to last me the rest of my life, I can never have enough of the love of my family and friends.

I will not take people for granted. I will not take my spouse, my children—my precious children!—my parents, my siblings, my relatives, my friends—I will not take them for granted, but I will treat them like the precious gifts they are—like the most precious gifts of all. There is nothing—nothing—more valuable than each other. Nothing.

Lesson 2: Time is fleeting.

We live as though we have all the time in the world. We live as though time is a continually renewable resource, an unending bank account, a fountain that never runs dry.

We live as though we will live forever, as though we will never die, as though the people around us will always be there. Time is fleeting, and we never know how many grains of sand are left in the hourglass of our allotted years.

September 11 taught us that lesson all too well. Precious few people went to work that morning, riding the elevators of the Twin Towers, thinking this day would be their last. Precious few people boarded their plane or showed their security pass at the Pentagon thinking that before the coffee was served they would be dead and their loved ones would be in tears. Time is fleeting, and as we watched the

towers fall we vowed not to waste a single precious moment of a single precious day.

We vowed to spend our time wisely. We determined to re-evaluate our lives. We promised to take a hard look at our priorities and to re-organize our days to reflect the true value of the time given to us and to those we love. And some of us did. But in the fifteen years since the towers went down, how much time have you wasted, how much time have you killed? How much time have you spent engaging in the hundred and one things you vowed back then, prayed, resolved, never to waste your time on again?

Do you remember that prayer, that determination, that resolve? Fifteen years have passed. Where has it gone? Time is precious. How are you spending yours?

~~~~~

## Lesson 3: We need to respond to evil with good.

Remember the mood of those post 9-11 days? Calls for revenge abounded; but revenge is an old game and Jesus took a different path. Jesus experienced all the hatred and injustice and violence that the leaders of this world could pour out on him. But Jesus did not take on and return their hate, and he did not let it change him from his course of revealing the Father's love, his love even for God's enemies. Love is stronger than hate because hate enslaves, and the decision to love brings freedom. In Romans 12:21, Paul says, *"Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."* Another good translation of that verse is, *"Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good."*

We saw so many examples of this during the post 9-11 weeks: people willing to work together; people and organizations being generous and supportive; and people praying and reaching out to others who are hurting. In many ways, evil had been confronted with good. But we have also seen the other side of the coin. The world, the United Nations, struggled with contradiction upon contradiction, until finally, the need to unleash the world's

most overwhelmingly powerful military could no longer be resisted. And while military victory was predictably immediate, the true victory of "Freedom for Iraq," and the end of terrorism is, fifteen years later, ever more remote. Maybe violence is not the solution.

We need to return to the lessons learned through the loving, self-sacrificing response of the countless who gave of themselves on the day of and the weeks following September 11. It's been fifteen years, but I have never since looked at a fireman or first responder in quite the same way again. The capacity to overcome evil with good, to respond to hate with love, can and must filter into our lives, because we've seen the consequences if it doesn't.

Three important things we learned that day, fifteen years ago; three vital lessons: People are precious; Time is fleeting; We need to respond to evil with good. May it be our prayer. May it be our path. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Edited from the Original. For complete sermon go to [www.presbyterian.ca](http://www.presbyterian.ca). Editor**



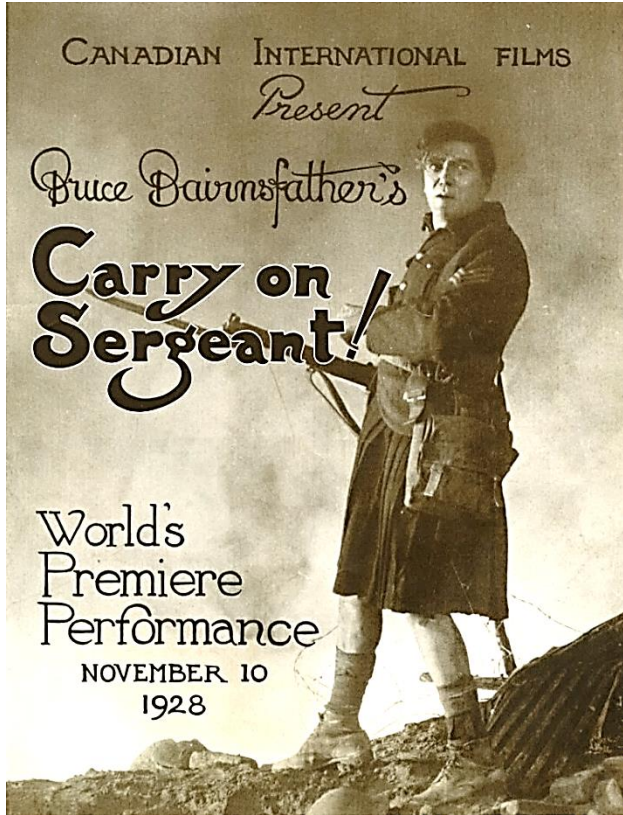
**Douglas Rollwage** is in his 28th year of pastoral ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. A graduate of Queen's Theological College and Knox College, Douglas has served congregations in Kingston (Strathcona Park), Toronto (Guildwood) and currently Charlottetown (Zion).

Douglas has served the church locally, provincially and nationally, moderating presbyteries and serving as convener of many committees. He currently serves on the General Assembly's Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee.

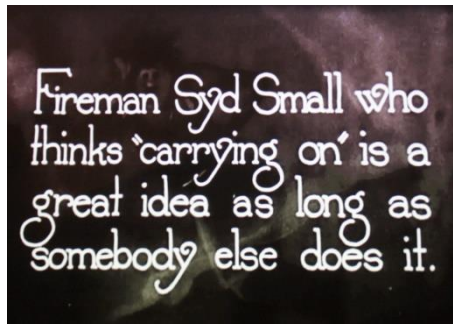
[www.presbyterian.ca](http://www.presbyterian.ca)

# A Night at the Silent Movies...

On Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, Carry on Sergeant (1928), a silent movie filmed in Trenton and Kingston, was presented in St. Andrew's Hall. It was accompanied by John Hall, our Director of Music, who wrote a score for the film and performed it on a piano used for the movie's premiere at the Regent Cinema in Picton. The event was sponsored by St. Andrew's choir as a fund raiser for the purchase of new choir gowns.



Popcorn eased the tension.



A group of workers decide to join the army in the Great War. They indulge themselves in the side benefits to being soldiers, and one of them marries a French waitress. Presbyterians watch in 'horror'...





# Charlie Wenjack and the Indian Residential School System

by Peter Bush



Cecilia Jeffrey School, circa 1960

All photos courtesy of the Presbyterian Archives

The body of Charlie Wenjack, a 12 year old Ojibway from the Marten Falls First Nation, Northern Ontario and student at Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School, Kenora, Ontario was found on Oct. 23, 1966 by railway tracks near Redditt, Ontario some 40 miles from the school. Wenjack was trying to walk home. Cecilia Jeffrey School was operated by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Charlie Wenjack's short life and tragic death quickly became iconic in the debate about the Indian Residential School (IRS) system.

The jury at the Coroner's Inquest in 1966 offered a challenge to the IRS system: "The Indian education system causes tremendous emotional and adjustment problems for these children. It behooves we who are responsible for this organization to do everything possible to mitigate their problems." Among the recommendations was the following: "A study be made of the present Indian education and philosophy. Is it right?"

Charlie Wenjack's death became an opportunity for Ian Adams to confront the larger Canadian society with the reality of Residential Schools. The Lonely Death of Charlie Wenjack appeared in the February 1967 issue of MacLean's. The article was straight forward telling of what the Coroner's Inquest learned about the last days of Wenjack's life.

Among the witnesses were the boys who ran away with Wenjack. Adams wrote: "It was through the stumbling testimony of the boys, and in the bewildered silences behind those soft one-word answers, the full horror began to come out. No, they didn't understand why they had to be at school. No, they didn't understand why they couldn't be with relatives. Yes, they were lonesome.

Would they run away again? "Silence."

Charlie Wenjack's death had an impact on the First Nations community in Canada. In the early 1970's Trent University was building its new campus. Trent was to be a collection of colleges, each with a particular emphasis. The Trent University Native Association suggested "College Five" which would house the Native Studies program, of which Trent was proud, be named for Charlie Wenjack. First Nations students saw in Wenjack resistance to the power of colonization, seeing in his death a legacy leading to change and hope.

They described their conversation with the naming committee: "We told them that while Charlie Wenjack was indeed a symbol of all the brutality and ugliness represented by Indian education in Canada here was a chance to end that....instead of Charlie Wenjack being a negative symbol his death could be the symbolic cornerstone, not of death and pain, but of a positive force spearheaded by Trent with its Native Studies Program."

The college was not named for Wenjack, instead the theatre in the college was. Although for many years no plaque explained the theatre's name.

Charlie Wenjack's story has become part of the cultural life of Canada appearing in song and art. Singer, film maker, and activist Willie Dunn, a Mi'kmaq, in his 1971 self-titled album recorded "Charlie" later known as "Little Charlie". The song describes Wenjack's loneliness hauntingly: "he's looking out for love" and "just a lost little boy."

Walk on, little Charlie  
Walk on through the snow.  
Heading down the railway line,  
Trying to make it home.  
Well, he's made it forty miles,  
Six hundred left to go. It's a long old lonesome journey,  
Shufflin' through the snow.



Lonely as a single star, In the skies above,  
His father in a mining camp,  
His mother in the ground,  
And he's looking for his dad,  
And he's looking out for love,  
Just a lost little boy by the railroad track  
Heading homeward bound.

He's lonesome and he's hungry,  
It's been a time since last he ate,  
And as the night grows colder,  
He wonders at his fate.  
For his legs are wracked with pain  
As he staggers through the night.  
And he sees through his troubled eyes,  
That his hands are turning white.

Is that the great Wendigo  
Come to look upon my face?  
And are the skies exploding  
Down the misty aisles of space?  
Who's that coming down the track,

Walking up to me?  
Her arms outstretched and waiting,  
Waiting just for me.

Walk on, little Charlie,  
Walk on through the snow.  
Moving down the railway line,  
Try to make it home.  
And he's made it forty miles,  
Six hundred left to go.  
It's a long old lonesome journey,  
Shufflin' through the snow.

The story of Charlie Wenjack remains alive today nearly fifty years after his tragic death.

As The Presbyterian Church in Canada marks the 20th anniversary of our Confession [in 2014] regarding Aboriginal People the story of Charlie Wenjack still has echoes today.

**Edited. Read full story @ [Presbyterian.ca](http://Presbyterian.ca)**

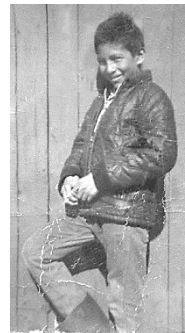
**An excerpt from Presbyterian History, Fall 2014 Editorial Note: Until 2016 almost all published references to Chanie Wenjack referred to him as Charlie Wenjack, and this article written in 2014 follows that pattern.**



## Gord Downie on Chanie Wenjack: 'His story is Canada's story'

Tragically Hip frontman and Toronto artist to release graphic novel

The Canadian Press September 9, 2016



TORONTO — Just weeks after fans bid what they feared could be a final goodbye to beloved Tragically Hip frontman Gord Downie, the terminally ill singer has revealed he will release a new solo album with an accompanying graphic novel and animated film inspired by the tragedy of Canada's residential school system.

"Secret Path" tells the story of a 12-year-old First Nations boy in Ontario named Chanie Wenjack, who died in 1966 after running away from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School near Kenora, Ont. The album and book will be released Oct. 18 and the film will air on CBC Oct. 23.

"I never knew Chanie, but I will always love him," Downie said Friday in a statement. "Chanie haunts me. His story is Canada's story. This is about Canada. We are not the country we thought we were."

In May, Downie made the shocking announcement that he has terminal brain cancer. Tickets for the band's "Man Machine" summer tour, which many feared could be their last, sold out almost immediately, leading to CBC picking up a national broadcast of the final tour stop in Kingston last month. The concert quickly became a national event as millions tuned in across the country.

**Downie began "Secret Path" as 10 poems that were turned into the 10 songs for the album, which was recorded over two sessions near Kingston in late 2013.**

**Proceeds from the album and graphic novel will go to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba, which is dedicated to preserving the history of the residential school system.**

## Summer Students 2016



Left to right: Isrial Thomas, Emily Pritchard and Nicole D'Angelo

Gratitude is expressed to Andy Mills for arranging the employment of the 2016 Summer students.

As well as hosting our church tours on Fridays and Saturdays in July & August, eight stand-up banners were initiated by the students to highlight dimensions of the congregation's history, with available audio files.

A logo and a special website were also created for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kingston next year. Some photos were procured from Queen's archives and are on display both in St. Andrew's Hall and in the cabinets of the Historical Room.

## Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ's story in the Bible of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan man stopped to care for a stranger who had been beaten, robbed, and left by the side of the road. The Samaritan man even paid for a room at an inn so the stranger would have a place to heal.

Like the Good Samaritan, Samaritan's Purse provides aid to hurting people - victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. We do this regardless of people's religious faith, race, gender, or socio-economic standing. Samaritan's Purse Canada has been doing essential relief and development work in Jesus' Name all around the world since 1973.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Filling shoeboxes for children in need around the world is just one arm of the Samaritan's Purse ministry. The boxes are filled with school supplies, personal items, small gifts and toys. Here at St. Andrew's we will have shoeboxes available for you again this year, beginning on Thanksgiving

weekend. Instructions for the boxes are included and after you fill your boxes, just return them to the church by November 13th. The following week all the boxes from Kingston will be shipped to the Canadian collection centre in Calgary.

Last year Canada collected 730,577 boxes - 30,000 more than the previous year. The boxes are sent to many countries around the world and distributed to children of all ages from 2 to 14. Kingston collected 5259 boxes last year, a 10% increase from the previous year. St. Andrew's congregation filled 55 boxes and we hope that this year we can send off 65.

These simple shoeboxes do change lives, families and villages. Thank you for helping to make this ministry possible. God is using what we provide to transform lives and spread the gospel.

Please keep this ministry in prayer, especially for safety of the workers who are involved in distributing boxes in war-torn areas.



**CHECK THE DISPLAY IN ST. ANDREW'S HALL, AFTER CHURCH, BEGINNING THANKSGIVING SUNDAY. TAKE TIME TO READ SOME OF THE STORIES OF THOSE RECEIVING BOXES AND PICK UP A BOX (or BOXES) TO FILL. RETURN DATE IS NOVEMBER 13TH.**

*Please see Barb Zabel for further information...*

## What's In Your Bag? by Laura Tyner-Clement

Have you heard the credit card commercial that has the slogan "What's in your wallet?"

I wondered something similar to that a few weeks ago when I lifted my church school bag to begin planning for this term. It seemed heavier than I remembered and made me think of the credit card commercial slogan, "What's in your wallet"? I wondered, "What's in your bag"?

Looking inside I found my three Bibles, two lesson plan books, a box of Crayola crayons, two boxes of plastic sandwich bags, a large pad of coloured construction paper, two copies of the Jelly Bean Prayer, two skipping ropes, a package of Bobbie pins, one file folder with posters and three jumbo sharpie markers. Some of these things were used for the treasure hunt in June. Some things were carried over from previous lessons and events, and missed being retrieved because of settling into the depths of hidden corners and creases. These things were removed and the bag reorganized, however the constant that remained were the three Bibles.

My 1965 King James Version complete with concordance, coloured pictures of biblical events and a host of other valuable information that the Simpson Sears Company deemed necessary in 1958 is my go to Bible. It was given to me by my parents for Christmas in 1965. It's pretty worn and by today's modern language, pretty out of date, no one reads or speaks the King's English anymore, but it's what I learned my Bible verses in and I can still find scripture in this Bible faster than the new modern English versions. The next Bible in the bag is an illustrated Living Bible that was upstairs in the Sunday school storage room. This is the Bible with more modern, up to date language that students understand. It has some cool pictures and some interesting introductions to each of the books of the Bible. This is the one from which the students take turns reading.

The third Bible is a Good News for Modern Man New Testament bound in denim, making it look like a jean pocket. It was given to me in 1974 by my last VBS (vacation Bible school) teacher, Donna Filsinger. Donna was a very cool young woman who knew how to make vacation Bible school interesting and fun, and was someone I very much

wanted to emulate. This New Testament is the one I bring out when I want to get a tween or young teen to realize that the scripture Jesus taught is pretty cool. It has never failed me yet. When I bring it out for the first time with new students, the reaction I usually hear is "that is so cool"!

Why carry three Bibles? The answer is very simple and inspired the church school lesson for Sept 11th, "What does it mean to be prepared"? As a church school teacher, I want to be prepared for not only the lesson, but for any number of questions that may be asked by the students. Sometimes the questions pertain to the lesson and sometimes the question takes a turn. Questions need to be answered. I must be prepared!



Laura Tyner-Clement

In addition to the Bibles, the church school now has an android tablet that connects to the WiFi at St. Andrew's. It allows access to the internet, so that music, Christian education videos, and scripture can be listened to and read. This handy gadget played the theme music from Mission Impossible in the sanctuary in June when we went outside to do the Treasure Hunt and provided the music for our post Easter program. It goes back into the bag.

Not to be forgotten are lesson plan books. Currently the bag is empty of those until I can find out who and how many will be attending church school.

The numbers and ages of the students have varied over the years and sometimes there has been a wide variety of ages for a solitary class. However, good lesson plan books have generally been found that allow lessons to be tweaked in regard to age and numbers. Once the church school is underway, lesson plan books will be placed in the bag along with the android tablet and the three Bibles.

The bag now is a little lighter than when it was first lifted a few weeks ago, but I am sure by this time next year I will again ask myself, "What's in your bag"? I'm sure I will find an array of things that have settled into the depths of creases and corners, but the constant that will remain will be those three Bibles.

*Laura Tyner-Clement, Sunday School Coordinator*



## Outdoor Church Service...



Our Outdoor Church Service, held June 26, 2016 and led by our Minister Andrew Johnston, was well attended. The weather was lovely (well perhaps a *bit* warm) and we were all thankful to be able to gather under God's great sky to worship together.

An offering by the Hand Bell Choir as well as St. Andrew's Choir, under the direction of John Hall, our Music Director, certainly added to our enjoyment.

This was followed immediately by an eagerly anticipated Barbecue on the lawn!



*and Barbecue on the Lawn...*



Left:  
No,  
Margaret  
you  
cannot  
force me  
to eat a  
hot Dog...



Above: And who is this man wearing the  
New Orleans shirt anyway???



This mysterious fashionable  
couple appear frequently at St.  
A's. But seriously, an umbrella?





# Memories... by Elaine Coderre



I was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, but my family lived in the neighbouring town of Stellarton in a home built by my father. It was in Stellarton that I was baptized at First Presbyterian Church. My father was a coal miner as was his father and grandfather, first in Pictou County, NS and then the Crowsnest Pass in British Columbia.

In her early years my mom taught school, ten grades in a one room schoolhouse, and in her later years at St. Lawrence College. I followed her path as a teacher, for many years in the community and now with the Correctional Services of Canada.



Allan Shaft, Stellarton, N.S. Coal Mine where both Elaine's father and grandfather worked. Picture ca 1930's

I am the fourth of five offspring. The eldest died in infancy and the second oldest, my brother Roger, died in 2013. There are three girls remaining. I am in the middle.

My parents were hardworking people who strove to give us a good home with lots of love and guidance. They provided as much fun as they could afford. It was pretty modest by today's standards and often seemed to feature a Sunday drive with an ice cream cone.

My earliest memories are of sun-drenched and carefree summer vacations spent in Nova Scotia leaving me with seafoam in my veins. The mental backdrop of stiff Atlantic winds bringing the smell of the sea across tidal flats on lonely beaches is renewed each time I return.

I have been attending St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kingston for a very long time. My family attended church every Sunday as I was growing up. Church shaped our week and it shaped our lives. I went to Sunday School, CGIT, young peoples' groups, junior choir and church camp. Pat and I were married at St. Andrew's, our three children were baptized at St. Andrew's, my parents and brother were buried from St. Andrew's.

The path I have followed in response to God's calling has not been sudden or dramatic, just a steady journey

nurtured by my parents, time, study, prayer, life experiences, and the church. I come from a long line of Presbyterians but my paternal grandmother was in the Salvation Army and she was a great model of faithfulness. Rev. Dr. Max Putnam probably influenced my faith a great deal as well. His communicant's classes were not for the faint of heart. We had to memorize a lot of answers to a lot of questions which were put to the test on the Sunday we joined the church.

CGIT with its enduring motto to "...cherish health, seek truth, know God and serve others" has been for many years a touchstone to which I return.

Reading books from a broad array of faith perspectives continues to impact my journey. Many years ago my mom gave me a book called *A Man Called Peter* by Catherine Marshall. She wrote in it that she hoped I would be encouraged by its message. Indeed, through Peter's story and powerful sermons and prayers I found insight and encouragement that remain today. Many books have influenced me in a similar manner.

My favourite hymn is *Guide Me Oh Thou Great Jehovah* although the first hymn that influenced me was *Jesus Bids Us Shine*.

I love the benediction from Jude 24-25. *Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, and to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. KJV.*

Fast change is the water we are swimming in today. A generation or two ago, many more people were committed church attenders. Work patterns have changed, family dynamics have changed, and priorities have changed. Many people seem to have lost trust in the church as an institution or feel it is irrelevant to their lives. I think people step up in unexpected ways to grow as believers when the church meets them where they are in a very direct and accessible manner. As St. Andrew's celebrates its past and looks to the future, I am confident that we will have many opportunities to do just that.



**Elaine Coderre continues to serve as an elder at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kingston**



*Featuring Rea Everaars and her very special hats...*

A woman was once quoted saying, "When my Mother first dressed me in a hat as if I were a Lady, I owned the title." I think Rea might very well concur with this thought. Rea shared with me recently that her fascination with wearing hats had begun as a young child growing up in the Netherlands. It is obvious to us all in St. Andrew's that this fascination has not waned.

So I share with you now the photographs that I was so graciously allowed to take during my visit in her home. The tenderness with which she demonstrated each hat spoke for itself. These were all, in their own way, expressions of her personality, her heart.

"Few women have ever been able to resist the temptation to try on a hat and discover in the mirror a person they never suspected was there. A hat alters the image we have

of ourselves, and the image others see as well. For the hours we wear it, it brings out a different dimension in our personality, much as a costume aids an actress in her role."

There definitely is something special about a woman in a hat. "Wearing a hat is like having a baby or a puppy; everyone stops to coo and talk about it." So let us continue to coo and admire, expressing our appreciation to Rea for sharing this beauty with us at St. Andrew's every Sunday morning.

Quotes from [www.hatladies.org/enjoying\\_hat\\_quotes.htm](http://www.hatladies.org/enjoying_hat_quotes.htm)



The autumn wind is a pirate. Blustering in from sea with a rollicking song he sweeps along swaggering boisterously. His face is weather beaten, he wears a hooded sash with a silver hat about his head... The autumn wind is a Raider, pillaging just for fun. Steve Sabol

## *Ron Axford and the Continuation of 'Nathan's Project'...*

What is the feedback from the children?

"Cool". One word, but coming from a 'tween', a music student who reads his Classic Children's Bible Story Book along with his young brother, it says a great deal.

The responses of the children consistently bear out the Biblical statement, *"And they received the Word gladly"*. Gratification is similarly expressed by those who personally did the placement- parents, grandparents (and some "great") aunts and uncles, other relatives and friends.

This is to thank you sincerely for the success of Nathan's Project, a project begun in August 2015. (Nathan, our great grandson received the first Bible for his second birthday.)

Distribution has been wide; staff at retirement homes, staff in businesses and trades, a shelter, a school library, relatives who live 'far away'. 50 copies went to Nova Scotia in August; there is one in France, one in Cyprus, some in Ottawa. The demand in the summer for some 100 copies was like a wildfire on the Prairies.

*By Ron Axford, Elder and contributing writer for the Burning Bush*



### **Ron Axford, Professor Emeritus**

A graduate of University of Western Ontario, Ron was the Assistant Professor and Counsellor for the Faculty of Education at Queen's University from 1973 until his retirement.

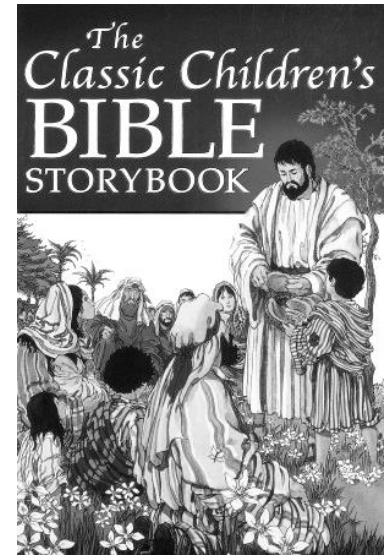
He has served faithfully as an Elder at St. Andrew's for 40 years.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated and are of critical importance. The Holy Spirit, when asked, can guide and motivate the interaction in family time, so that optimum opportunity is exercised.

***As of September 2016, the total Bibles given (or waiting to be given) stands at 229.***

An excerpt from this Classic Children's Bible, pages 266-267, titled Jesus and the Children, reads,

*"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth. Anyone who does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child, will never enter it."*



Try as I might, I was unable to get a broad smile from this humble, but truly great man. When I suggested that he looked a bit sober, he finally gave me a grin and said, "Yes. And I like to keep it that way!" Then as I am preparing to leave, he adds with his dry and unexpected humor, "I use my 'whiskey' money to buy Bibles..." I had to laugh.

Yes. This man is special. As a member of Session, he has on so many occasions, shared his solid and steadfast faith and in a quiet manner, shown how it might be applied to the situation at hand. He has inspired me personally and is probably unaware of how his words have provided me with enduring encouragement in the production of The Burning Bush. He shares his faith simply and unapologetically.

Ron's health is fragile and yet he does not use that as an excuse to retire from Christian Service. He and his wife Louise have participated regularly for over 20 years in retirement home chapel services for the 'shut-in' population of St. Andrew's. He writes and submits articles for our newsletter, often simple stories from his early years, stories that not only helped shape his life and his faith, but continue to inspire and bless us today. His Bible distribution ministry for children further illustrates his love for mankind, his firm belief in their need for God.

My appreciation and respect for Ron continues to grow steadily. We at St. Andrew's are *all* truly blessed by his presence amongst us...

Ada Mallory, Editor

# St. Andrew's Autumn Study Series The Protestant Revolt

A DVD series published by  
Westminster Theological Institution

Modern beliefs and traditions of our varied churches stem from the Reformation events that occurred over 500 years ago. Come and learn *why* you stand where you stand.



With a world class team of scholars, pastors and theologians, Dr. Peter Lillback leads us through an eye opening journey around the world. From Luther's Germany and Calvin's Geneva to Spain, England, Scotland, and beyond to North America, our modern society, economy, government and church, have their roots in the Reformation. Here we can clearly see how the Reformation shaped the world we live in today.

*Join the minister for this study  
Tuesday evenings  
October 18-November 22, 2016*

## Sunday Breakfasts on the Lawn...

In our congregational 'conversations' last fall, many people indicated the desire for St. Andrew's Church to be seen as a 'people' church rather than a building with a closed door.

Sunday Breakfast on the Lawn was offered as one of the initiatives to address this concern. The response from the congregation was encouraging. 25 volunteers offered to assist with site setup, food and beverage acquisition and preparation and helping to serve and mingle with all who gathered.

Breakfast was served each Sunday in July from 9:30-10:00 a.m. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm. The people came. There were approximately 60 people served weekly. Many of those who came were homeless, some were students, others were just passing by. Members of the congregation came early to meet with those who were enjoying breakfast.

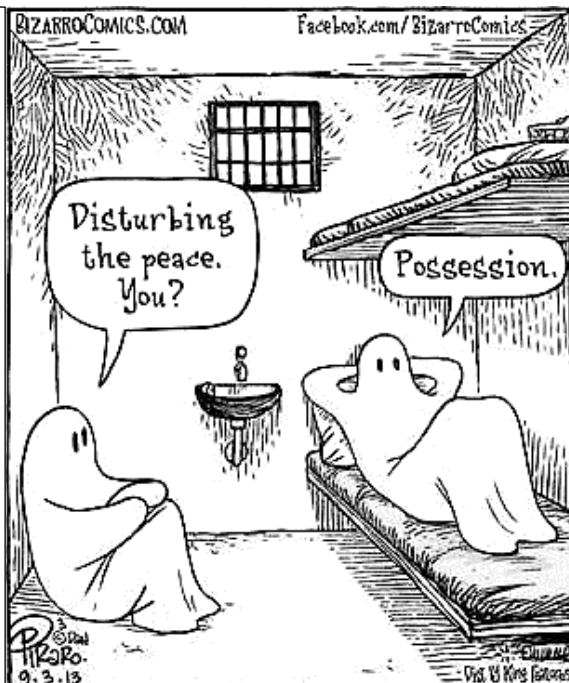
Their response was positive. Many guests thanked us and some returned for all four Sundays.

Wendy Worling, Co-ordinator of Sunday Breakfasts

### Monthly Morning Bible Study

Join the Minister for a study of Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 11-25), who hold such prominent roles in Christianity, Islam & Judaism.

The third Thursday morning of each month 10-11:30 am  
No Bible knowledge necessary.  
Call Andrew for carpooling opportunities.



## Sunday Perspectives

Exploring connections between contemporary global film and the realm of the Spirit.

Once a month  
Beginning September 18, 7:00 PM  
at The Screening Room  
120 Princess Street  
Tickets \$10.00, Members & Seniors \$8.00  
A partnership of St. Andrew's,  
Chalmers United & St. Mark's Lutheran



*'Jesus Loves the Little Children'*

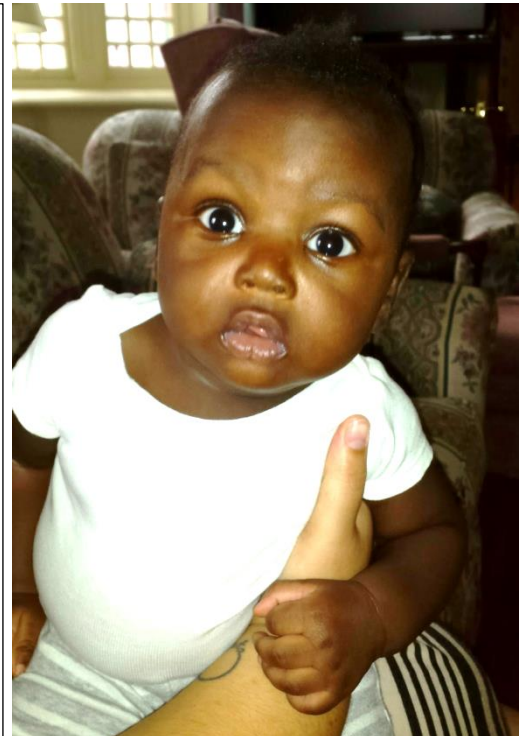


Upper left, with the enchanting smile: Crystal

Upper Right, cleaning up after their 'pot luck': Annabell who is clearly taking charge, with her cousin Isla.

Lower left, and seemingly not too happy at the intrusion of this photographer during her playtime, we have Nana.

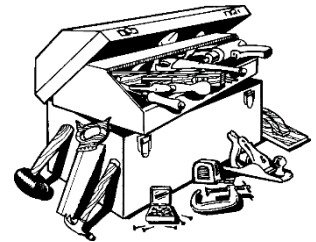
Lower right, her brother, Papa, seems to concur with this feeling . But perhaps they are just not 'themselves' because it's time for lunch!



# Property and Maintenance Committee Update Report

## Work projects completed so far this summer:

1. Major restoration of two of our flat roofs was completed. There is a 10 year warranty for both roofs.
2. Light has been installed in the hallway next to the kitchen and over the steps leading to the Vestry and the old washrooms. The dim lighting in these areas had presented a safety hazard.
3. Three lights were installed in the basement under the Sanctuary. These had also presented a safety hazard for anyone going into the basement.
4. Five new 20 amp split receptacles were installed in the Sanctuary under the front pews. This will reduce the number of extension cords strung long distances to obtain power. Also this will handle any power needs for future events. A power box that had been on the floor in the front of Sanctuary and had had potential as a tripping hazard was removed.
5. Major cleanup of brush on the church property was completed.
6. Three new faucets were installed in the kitchen and one in the downstairs kitchen.
7. A 4 foot section of kitchen countertop was replaced in Gill Hall.
8. A new shower door was installed in the Manse,
9. Also installed in the Manse was a new faucet and water shutoff valve.



## Projects to be undertaken this Fall:

1. Restoration of Stained Glass frames and the replacement of the glazing on the Clergy Street side of the building will be done this October.
2. Entrance doors on Clergy Street side are to be refinished and painted in October. (Princess Street side of Church entrance doors are to be refinished and painted in the spring of 2017.)
3. The electrical design and lighting on front portion of the Sanctuary will commence as a winter project.
4. The exterior lighting over the exterior doors is to be replaced.
5. The painting of the secretary's and the Minister's office will proceed when appropriate.
6. The commencement of the elevator stair lift installation from parking level to St. Andrew's Hall is contingent upon timing of the grant application acceptance.
7. The Tower Clock work is commencing immediately and will be done by John Hall, Director of Music.
8. A dumb waiter is to be installed from main kitchen in St. Andrew's Hall to lower level kitchen.
9. The iron fence around the Manse is to be repaired.

As a Committee, we praise God and thank Him for His provision of not only the finances but for the appropriate people to help us accomplish the necessary physical restoration of St. Andrew's building.

These are our collective prayers:

- We pray that grants that have been submitted for large projects at St. Andrew's will be successful.
- We pray that the congregation of St. Andrew's will be encouraged to see how God is working in our midst.
- We ask God to help us to recognize His Presence in our lives at St. Andrew's in order to draw us ever closer to Him.



The Property & Maintenance Committee warmly welcome David Flindall to St. Andrew's as our new custodian!

...submitted respectfully by Dennis Tysick

**Left: Peter Trudeau , Chair of The Property & Maintenance Committee, and Donna Delacretaz, Clerk of Session, formally sign the agreement for the use of The Manse by Geneva House tenants.**



## RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance, so named from a French word meaning *rebirth*, was a cultural period of roughly 200 years, occurring between 1400 and 1600 AD. During these two centuries and starting mostly in Italy, a great renewal of the arts took place. It was a new way of seeing things, a new way of expressing oneself. It was an inward transformation that became apparent outwardly.

It is not unlike the journey our lives take as we are touched by God. There is an inner renaissance that eventually becomes apparent for all to see. We are in a sense, reborn as a new creature.

A Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus came to Jesus one night and questioned the possibility that a human being could be born twice. Jesus, understanding immediately that this man was not grasping the spiritual application of rebirth as He intended it, replied to him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water *and of Spirit*. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born the Spirit is spirit... *You must be born from above.*" John 3:5-8 NRSV.

Nicodemus, as a member of the Sanhedrin, was careful to meet Jesus for an interview in the secret of night. It was still two years before the crucifixion. Nicodemus was interested in the teachings of Jesus, but he also wanted to understand better what Jesus preached. In fact, he had a hard time understanding what Jesus told him. Yes, for him, Jesus was the Messiah, but for him as well as for many people of the time, the Messiah's kingdom was a terrestrial and political one. This kingdom would be one in which his nation would be freed from Roman domination.

Jesus tried to tell Nicodemus of the spiritual nature of his mission, so different from what Nicodemus had in mind, but the latter did not understand what he was told. He did not see why he, a good and wise man, a true Pharisee, one of the leaders of the Israelite nation would not be

welcomed with open arms into the Messiah's kingdom. He could not understand that, instead of all this, he would have to rebuild entirely his ideas and himself.

The new birth of which Jesus talked is not simply a metaphor, but a reality resulting of the saturation of the human heart by the Holy Spirit. In Christ we not only have absolution for our sins, but also the gift of new life, a new birth. The Holy Spirit imbues our natural life, and a divine nature then dwells in us.

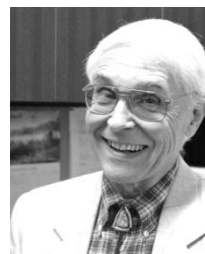
"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, *but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*" Romans 8:5 NRSV.

As Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans, the law still plays an important role in the believer's life as a moral and ethical guide, but the law has never been able to destroy sin. It is now possible to follow all the rules of the Law *without letting the sinful nature win, but only by submitting to the direction and power of the Holy Spirit.*

Our natural life comes to us from Adam. Our new life comes from Christ. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, which bridges this apparent duality within us, is beyond our understanding. And it is only by the acceptance of this by faith, that a true Renaissance, or rebirth of our Spirit, may become a reality.

All of us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, must grow this spiritual seed placed in us, for it is this on resurrection day which will distinguish us from those who possess only

Adam's natural life.



**Philippe Gabrini is a new contributing writer to The Burning Bush**

A minister was opening his mail one morning. Drawing a single sheet of paper from an envelope, he found written on it only one word: "FOOL."

The next Sunday he announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their names. But this week I received a letter from someone who signed his name and had forgotten to write a letter."



# Church Photo Family Album 2...



Upper left: Rose Deshaw with son, Andrew. Andrew blessed us with a solo, 'We Walk by Faith' July 10, 2016

Center: Julia McKinnon sang 'The Divine Guest' on August 14, 2014

Upper Right: Paul Payne spoke to the congregation on the subject 'Let's Not Be Judgmental' on August 7, 2016

Immediate Right: Alberta Saunders and Elaine Coderre attending the 142<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church General Assembly June 3-6, 2016 at York University in Toronto



Left: Reverend Dr. Karen Bach spoke to the congregation of St. Andrew's asking 'Who Am I as God's Good Creation?'

August 14, 2016





**The first sanctuary of St. Andrew's - completed 1822, destroyed by fire 1888.**

## 200 Years!

It will be quite a year for St. Andrew's. Like any birthday party, we will look back over the years past with gratitude, but even more we will celebrate the life we enjoy now, in Christ and Christian community.

In June 1817 a meeting of Kingstonians was held at Moore's coffee house on Store Street (Princess Street), and those in attendance committed themselves to forming a Presbyterian congregation and erecting a Presbyterian church.

Our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations will begin with General Assembly meeting at St. Andrew's the first week of June 2017, and will continue with a St. Andrew's Homecoming the weekend of September 16-17, 2017, and through the following winter and spring.

What activities and emphases would you suggest? With what endeavor would you be willing to offer some time? Would you be interested in joining a co-ordinating committee? **Please communicate with our Clerk of Session, Donna Delacretaz, by October 30** so we can get going to plan the (year-long) party!

[adelacretaz@cogeco.ca](mailto:adelacretaz@cogeco.ca)

613-536-1626

### Already confirmed:

- a) Brian Osborne is writing an additional chapter for a new edition of *The Rock and the Sword* that would bring our congregational history forward from 2004 to today.
- b) Rose de Shaw is preparing 52 highlights from the history of the congregation for each Sunday Order of Worship through the year.
- c) Laura Tyner-Clement is going to work with the church school to present a heritage tableau once a month during worship.
- d) John Hall has offered to renovate the old Sunday School pump organ.

Some ideas thrown into the hat so far:

### a) worship dimension

a 200<sup>th</sup> year hymn; special prayers during worship once a month for those at work in our city for good (in healing, education, social work, etc); an outdoor service in Skeleton Park around the marker dedicated to St. Andrew's first minister; inviting artists to create pieces for the sanctuary and provide special music; reviewing the Westminster Catechism (!)

### b) fellowship dimension

old fashioned church picnic; highlighting individuals who have made a difference in the life of the congregation at monthly potlucks; St. Andrew's lapel pins or magnets for fridge or decals for car; new photodirectory with email addresses; a scrapbook of photos.

### c) special offering or fundraising

for the rehabilitation of the sanctuary.

### d) green dimension

renewing the gardens; planting an anniversary tree; shifting to use of green cleaners and cups.

### e) community dimension

banner on church tower; creating community food gardens; install benches along Princess Street; life-sized figures of historical figures with cut outs for faces to be placed on lawn for photos; St George's, St Mary's & St. Andrew's bells ringing at the same time; inviting RMC for reenactment of Copper Sunday.

Every ten years, the monks in the monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard."

It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit."  
"I'm not surprised," the head monk says. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."

[www.laughfactory.com](http://www.laughfactory.com)



# Autumn by Earl Briard

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I have been reflecting about this autumn of our lives – a time in which some of you, including myself, may now find yourselves- and how good it is to be able to look back and better understand the way God has led my life. But I have also been reflecting that there is yet so much work to do for us all, for the autumn of our lives is often the best and fullest period of life.

As the poet Tennyson wrote:

. . . - yet something ere the end  
Some work of noble note may yet be done . . .

The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "*Let us now fear the Lord our God, who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.*" NASB

And in the book of Jude, false teachers are compared to autumn trees without fruit, implying that autumn should be a fruitful season. **Autumn is in fact usually the most abundant season of the year.**

I grew up on a small mixed farm in eastern Quebec. And by late autumn we had threshed the wheat and oats - the wheat to be ground into flour for baking bread - the oats for the horses and pigs. The hay mows were full of fodder for the horses and cattle - we had slaughtered the beef and pork - and enough chickens for a chicken dinner every Sunday. Fifty cords of firewood were piled in the woodshed - enough to keep us warm during the coming cold winter. We had picked all the apples in our small orchard, one hundred barrels of potatoes or more had been poured down a chute into basement bins, the garden vegetables had been harvested and stored. The ripe beans had been winnowed for baked bean suppers every Saturday. A cupboard was full of preserved jams, jellies, and pickles. It was a wonderful time of recognizing God's providence.

The autumn of our life is a wonderful time to focus our thoughts and thanksgiving on God's wonderful blessings. Blessings such as family, friends, homes, jobs, and of course God's guidance and care. But it is also a wonderful

time to embrace opportunities for Christian service.

An unknown poet once wrote:

I have come to the autumn of my life;  
When life comes to rest  
And one is given a chance to reflect upon the journey,  
Just as the shedding of the fall trees,  
We too shed ashes of things dead and left undone,  
Yet there continues a vibrance to our walk,  
Maybe just a little slower than before,  
For now it is a joy to partake of God's many gifts.

The seasons of life bring many changes - some are not so welcome. So it is sometimes good to remember the things that are constant- the things that can be relied upon not to change, the things that are dependable, predictable, the solid values still to be cherished. **God does not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. In Him we have a permanence, a stability that is foreign to this world.**

*Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God (Psalm 90:1-2).* NASB

Sadly, some people seem to regard approaching age as an opportunity to "rest on their oars". Let us not forget that with our extensive life skills and experience, we have yet much to offer in God's service!

So if you are a child of God - a son or daughter of the King of kings - you are among the blessed - the chosen by His grace and mercy. As followers of Christ, let us remember to remain close to Him, to maintain our willingness to serve, to support, and to share during the evershifting seasons of life.

For "as winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Percy Bysshe Shelley

*Written and contributed by Earle Briard*



## *It's the Angels*

When you hear the rustle of the leaves,  
It's the angels praying.  
When you hear the gurgling brook,  
It's the angels singing.  
When you hear the clap of thunder,  
It's the angels praising.

When you hear the waves splashing  
It's the angels worshipping.  
When you feel the gentle breeze,  
It's the angels passing by.  
All heaven and earth worship the Lord of  
Heaven.  
*by Mike Pizzuto*

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."

*Henry David Thoreau*



## *Disturb Us, Lord*

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope and love.

*(attributed to Sir Francis Drake -1577)*

Our prayers lay the track down on which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive,  
His power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.

*Watchman Nee (1903-1972)  
Chinese Church Leader & Christian Teacher*

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