St. Andrew’s
“A Family Friendly Church”

In Touch & In Tune

March 2015

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Robert's Reflections

“It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

John 20:19-23

Scripture tells us that on the same day that the women found the empty tomb, Jesus was standing in a fear-filled room. Sunday morning had come and gone and when evening fell the disciples were locked behind closed doors fearing the worst. Their fears were getting the best of them when suddenly, in a miraculous way, Jesus was with them.

We can imagine plenty of things someone might say to people fearing for their lives. We might tell them that theirs fears are unfounded or, if not, to take action. In this case Jesus knew the truth of the situation. And to allay their fears, He said, “Peace be with you.” Jesus spoke four simple words that provided a comforting assurance. And then our Lord told them to take action.

But what Jesus told the disciples to do may not have been the first course of action that would have come to their minds. He didn’t tell them where to hide; He didn’t offer them a safe passage out of the city; nor did He give them any special powers to overwhelm their enemies. Instead, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”. Then Jesus gave them an instruction which has proven successful time and time again. He told them to forgive people’s sins.

In 2015, all these years later, we still find that fear can get to the best of us. We live in a time when suspicion runs rampant. We can easily find ourselves either fearing a known threat or becoming “paralysed” by the fear of the unknown. In a violent world it is easy to succumb to the unimaginable.

But, the words of Jesus hold as true today as they did in the first century. “If you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

The burden of not being forgiven or being able to forgive can be incapacitating. The cycle of resentment, anger and even hatred will never be broken unless forgiveness is offered and received.

That is why Jesus chose His words carefully when He appeared to His frightened disciples. He wanted to be sure they understood that being able to forgive is a loving action.

And only love will free us from our fears. Indeed, it was for His love for us that God sent His only Son to the Cross in order to deliver us from our sins.

Rev. Robert
**Events at St. Andrew's**

**The Garden Tomb**

“Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw the stone had been taken away from the entrance.” John 20:1

Throughout Lent the children have been learning the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Rev. Hilary used a craft that combined the elements of His story featuring the three crosses and the empty tomb. To help understand the concepts of death to resurrection, the children laid down soil around the tomb, planted seeds, watered and watched. Over the weeks of Lent they have seen how their diorama has changed. The once black soil now sprouts new life with grass and alyssum growing around the Garden Tomb.

**Christmas Pageant**

Holy Family and Angels

Shepherds and Angels

Wisemen Arrive

Children's Choir

Izabella
“Put on the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil’s evil tricks.”

Ephesians 6:11

The theme for our February Intergenerational Worship Service was putting on the whole armour of God. Through music and skit children and adults learned the importance of God’s protection in our lives.

For as scripture says we are to: “Stand ready with truth as a belt tight around our waist, with righteousness as our breastplate, and with shoes for the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. We are to carry at all times faith as a shield and to accept the helmet of salvation and the Word of God as the Spirit gives us.”

To demonstrate this Scripture passage, Liam donned the classic armour of medieval times while Nuala chose modern day apparel – goalie gear!

Children's Choir
Intergenerational Service

Faith in Action

Sophieanne ---Humanitarian Award for kindness

Each week during the children’s time the message of God’s love is presented. Through a variety of object lessons, skits, stories and props the children are encouraged to be more thoughtful, loving and kind as they become a “follower of Jesus”. Of course the lesson should not remain within the walls of the church. These are life lessons to be used in the home, classroom and school yard. Sophieanne of our Sunday School was recently presented with her classroom’s Humanitarian Award for being especially kind and helpful to a special needs child at school. In the end kindness really does matter.
Pancake Supper

Chef Bill

Kim and Blake

Satisfied Customers

Family Moments

Higginson Family

Rowan and Aidan

Joan and Melody Lancaster

Birth

Owen Peter Walker son of Ashley and Craig Walker
Born March 11, 2015
Baptism

Hollyn Elisabeth VanMunsteren
daughter of Lorraine Ella Caven and
Anthony Frederikus VanMunsteren
baptized January 18, 2015

Looking Forward

Palm Sunday, March 29  will feature a musical and dramatic presentation from the Choir, “On The Road To Calvary”.

Good Friday, April 3  will be a time of meaningful spiritual reflection.

Easter Morning, April 5  come celebrate our Risen Lord with a joyful heart!

Hymn Sing! Sun. May 3  our organist Charles Banhardt will be hosting our annual hymn sing. This is a poignant fundraiser for those who would like to contribute to the memory of a loved one.

Friday, May 22  our First Annual Variety Show will be held in the sanctuary. Dust off your instruments; brush up on your card tricks, and exercise your vocal chords… it will be a night to remember.

Friday, June 19, 5-7pm  get your dessert forks ready for the Men’s Club annual Strawberry Social.

Piano Adds Colour to Our Worship

On Sunday, March 15 a digital baby grand piano made its debut at St. Andrew’s. Through the generous donation of Marion Harvie, we received a beautiful musical instrument that provides the sound of a grand piano and more. As a digitalized instrument it features the various sounds of organ, piano, string and percussion while supported with a large array of musical settings ranging from gospel to classical. The piano situated on the east wall easily catches the morning sun and beautifully reflects our stained glass window.
Mural, Mural On The Wall

In mid-February Craig Clark of our congregation boarded a plane to Winnipeg. His journey took him through Thompson, Churchill, Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour and finally to his destination – Repulse Bay, Nunavut. It was a balmy -56 C. Was he cold? “No, honestly anything below -40C feels about the same.” He should know. Craig had spent more than eleven years living in Iqaluit, Nunavut. “You just dress differently – that’s all,” he said.

But what would possess anybody to go to Repulse Bay, a community of 1,000 people, in the dead of winter? …To go painting of course.

Craig who had studied art at the University of Windsor fell in love with Canada’s north after leaving school. “My friends were all heading for the coast – the west coast or the east coast. I decided to try out the other coast. In September of 1989 I ended up in Iqaluit and just stayed there. I loved it. I had a number of jobs – sometimes at the same time. I worked at a shelter for victims of family violence, ran some literacy advocacy programs, and started setting up and repairing computers.”

Over the years he came into contact with Kowesa Ettitiq who is the town manager of Repulse Bay. “I met Kowesa in Iqaluit, when not in Repulse Bay, he lives with his family in Leonard. It was through them that we discovered Cumberland and we decided to move into the village. Kowesa had been after me to come to the north and to work on a mural painting project for the community’s recreation centre. He had managed to find some funding sources to help youth with a self -esteem and suicide prevention program. Last February everything came together to allow me to go.”

“The project, said Craig, “began with the students from grade 7 through grade 12 having their Vice Principal send me their drawings. Some were average and some were very good. I took a look at the subject matter and redrew them. I developed a plan to use something like a “paint-by- number” scheme but instead I designed it around using blocks of colours. It was important not to make this project too intimidating for the students.”

The next step was for Craig to plan what he would need to take for the trip. “It’s the north, so you know you can count on one thing – nothing will work as you expect it to when you get there. So to counter that problem I had three plans to get my paint delivered. Plan A was to have some with me as luggage for the plane ride. Plan B was to have some paint sent up separately from Ottawa. Plan C was to have some paint shipped directly from Churchill, Manitoba. Both Plan A and B failed. Airport security wouldn’t allow the paint on board and the paint from Ottawa got stranded in Rankin Inlet. Thankfully, Plan C worked.”

Of course that was just the beginning of the adventure. Once he arrived in the community he soon discovered that he didn’t have a can opener and neither did the local store. He could, he was told, use some kind of tool and he could order one but it wouldn’t arrive until the sea-lift in August. Craig made due with his knife.

An obvious difficulty in such a project is time. It takes time to do a job the size of his mural which measured 49ft 3in long and almost 12 ft high. It covered 500 sq. ft of wall space. Craig spent the first couple of days preparing the “canvas”. Using the drawings that he had spent 3 days of work at, he projected them on the wall and produced a lightly sketched outline of the entire mural. Once that was completed it was time to meet the students.
The students, at first, were reluctant and when the lights went off and the drawing was projected on the wall the youth could be heard saying, "No way we are going to do that!" But with encouragement, Craig instilled confidence and fun into the project. Even before a brush was dipped, Craig made a point of giving the students an art history lesson. He explained to them the importance of murals as one of the few forms of public art.

Of course even painting a wall involves some risk so Craig had to provide the students with safety lessons on the use of ladders, carrying pails of paint and how to keep the workplace area free from hazards. "I knew that a big challenge would be time management. So I made a decision that the students would spend all of their time painting and only painting. I did not want them to waste their time cleaning brushes or cleaning up spills. No sixteen year-old wants to be told to clean up afterward. Instead, I did all that work so that they could just be happy painting.

The first day of painting began at 7:30 in the morning. The first group of students (4-5 in a group) arrived and painted until noon. Then the second group appeared and painted from 1:00 to 5pm. The final group of the day arrived at 7 and worked through until 11pm. This continued for 4 days. 67 cans of paint were used on the mural. At first the students lacked confidence asking over and over "what should I do now?" Toward the end of the project Craig said that it was incredible to watch them step back and think out their problems. "I am so proud of what these students accomplished, he said, they began to see how if they co-operated, things could get done."

Time became the enemy of this project and it took a lot of "stick to it" attitude to complete the mural within four days. "I really thought that I would be leaving Repulse without seeing the final product. But there was a group of six teenagers who just wouldn't let that happen. They poured their hearts into their work and on the final night, Thursday, they stayed until midnight to be sure that the mural was done before I flew home on Friday. I am so proud of them."

As Craig packed up his gear and headed back to Ottawa, the community celebrated the recreation centre's new mural. The mayor, the town manager, the Principal of the school all joined the students and the entire town to commemorate the freshly painted artwork that reflected the community's pride both in themselves and their youth.
January 25:  UCW Annual General Meeting---The 2015 officers are:

President: Denise Beaton
Secretary: Elaine Findlay
Treasurer: Gerri McLeod
Unit Leaders: Afternoon Group - Ena Hayes and Marjorie Lawrence
Evening Group – Carol Corcoran
Sanctuary Flowers: Bea Lehman
Visits to shut-ins: Irene Over & Marilyn Smith
Librarian: Karen Brown
Gardener: Susan Pees
Kitchen Supplies: Evelyn Beaton
Liaisons: Judy Hayward

January 27: We served a funeral luncheon for one of our dear members, Catherine Canning.

March 6: Some UCW members attended the World Day of Prayer at St. Margaret Mary’s Catholic Church.

March 7: General UCW Meeting--- We decided to restructure into two units: the Afternoon Group & the Evening Group, therefore according to when we meet for fellowship. All ladies of St. Andrew’s are most welcomed to join the group which suits them best.

March 28: Maplefest Bazaar 8am-1pm--- The Anglican, Catholic & Muslim ladies’ groups will be joining us in the church basement. We will have a bake & crafts sale, as well as a white elephant table. Your donations will be much appreciated.

May 2: Craft-making 9:30am in the church basement---come learn how to knit a scarf, sew a Christmas placemat, make gift tags, luggage tags, etc. No expertise needed.
Shoes To Go!
The congregation responded wonderfully to the ministers’ request for shoes for an orphanage in the Dominican Republic. During March the Reverends Robert and Hilary travelled to the Caribbean Island to work with two organizations: Ontario Gleaners that use surplus food to feed a hungry world and Samaritan Foundation that works closely with a local orphanage. The Foundation had asked us to help fill their need for children’s shoes. Joyfully St. Andrew’s responded by providing us with 50 pairs.

Thank You’s
I would like to thank the congregation of St. Andrews for the poinsettia plants that we received in memory of Bob. The thoughts and the gift were very much appreciated. Also a chance for a visit with Lois Thomas.

Best regards, Lois, Sheri & Rob Morin

I want to thank Rev. Merritt and the congregation for their prayers, Doug & Ena Hayes, Ashley Walker and Marjorie Lawrence who took me to appointments and shopped for groceries while I was too sick to drive during the month of February. I am sincerely grateful.

Elizabeth Somerville

Our Thoughts and Prayers
We always thank God for you all and always mention you in our prayers.

For we remember, before our God and Father, how you put your faith into practice. (1 Thess.1:1-3)

Rev. George & Amy Tomita, Alice Wilson, Charlie Briggs, Joyce MacCrimmon, Isobel Hodges, Ken & Ena Cook, Ella Lewis, Werner Eggert, Jennifer Oliver, Elizabeth Somerville, Ann Campbell, Linda & Vic Uhler, Margaret Shuman, Trudy Schuiteboer
Glenda Murray

Glenda was born in Cumberland on August 7th, 1934 and died on Feb. 10th, 2015.

Glenda was christened in St. Andrew's United Church and attended Sunday School here but joined the Catholic Church when she married Charlie Murray on June 11, 1955. Glenda and Charlie had two daughters Darlene Rathwell (Stephen) and Daphne Murray (Reid McPherson) and two grandsons Bradley and Jordan Rathwell. Charlie died on August 7, 2002.

Glenda worked for 35 years for Transport Canada in Ottawa.

Glenda was a very active member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. She was president of the CWL for 8 years and continued to send Anniversary, Birthday, Sympathy and Welcome cards to people in both the church and the community. She donated the beautiful cross on the top of the church in memory of Charlie as well the front doors, one window and the bell repairs.

Many would know Glenda from her days playing soft ball and hockey. She also taught 4H to many young people. Politics was also a favourite of hers and she would work behind the scenes for some of the candidates. She spent many evenings in her younger years collecting for different charities.

Glenda was an avid knitter and there are not many friends and relatives who do not have some article that she knit for them (socks, sweaters, mitts, afghan, tea cosies etc). You rarely saw her without the knitting needles or crochet hook in her hands. If you had a problem with your knitting you could just take it to her and she would put you on the right path. In her later years she knitted afghans for the Cancer Society.

Even though Glenda was diagnosed with Scleroderma and Pulmonary Hypertension she kept active for the next seven years with the help of her family and her good friend Norman Deavy. About one year ago she finally had to give up her position as President of the Golden Age group which she had held and loved for many years.

She will be missed by both family and friends.
ST. ANDREW’S UNITED Church Officers - 2015

Minister: Rev. Robert Merritt
Volunteer Assoc. Minister: Rev. Hilary Merritt
Minister Emeritus: Rev. George Tomita
Church Secretary: Ena Hayes
Church Council: Chairperson: Judy Hayward
Co-Vice Chair: Margaret and Blake Smale
Secretary: Ena Hayes
Organist and Choir Director: Charles Banhardt
Lay Presbytery Delegate: Adriana VanMunsteren
Trustees: Mark Beaton, William Edwards, Ethel Findlay
Financial Examiners: David Sharkey, Ethel Findlay

U.C.W: President – Denise Beaton  Past President - Carol Corcoran,
Secretary - Elaine Findlay
Treasurer – Gerri McLeod
Unit Leaders: Evening Group – Carol Corcoran
Afternoon Group - Marjorie Lawrence & Ena Hayes
Library – Karen Brown
Flower Committee – Marilyn Smith, Irene Over, Bea Lehman
and Phyllis Chiviendacz
Church Gardener – Sue Pees

Men’s Club: Chair: Ches Mills
Secretary: Rev. Robert Merritt
Treasurer: Keith Corcoran

Standing Committees
Worship: Elaine Edwards, Blake Smale, Sheila Clark, Beverly Weber,
  Roberta McIntee, Judy Sharkey, Rev. Robert Merritt, Charles Banhardt
Membership: Ena Hayes, Gladys Eggert, Margot Pygas, Karen Griffith
Membership Associates: Carol & Keith Corcoran, Bill Edwards, Sylvia Williams
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  Roy Brown, Paul Hannas
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  Bill Edwards, Reinhard Pees (FundScrip)
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  Web Master - Cindy MacKay
  Newsletter - Patricia Hill
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Newsletter: Editor – Patricia Hill, Copy & Distribution - Joan Lancaster

United Church Observer Representative: Gertie Hodges