



SAINTS ALIVE

Newsletter

St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church

June 7, 2009



CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

After quite a few weeks without a youth group gathering, the St. Andrew's youth were busy last weekend with a few final fundraising events before our much-anticipated trip to St. Catharines, Ontario for Canada Youth 2009. We set up a food-booth at the WMS Garage Sale for the India hostel on May 30th, and we provided and served lunch for the annual program meeting on May 31st.

We are looking forward to our upcoming trip to CY09 from July 20th to 25th. There will be 14 young people attending the event from our group. Most will be attending the conference branch, while a few will be taking part in the mission branch of CY09. Allan Ireland will be attending as an Adult Advisor for our young people, and Rev. Amanda will be attending as a small group leader. We are so grate-

ful to the congregation for your ongoing support of our fundraising endeavours, including bringing in your recycling items, attending our coffee houses, buying our "white elephant" items at the Women's League Teas, eating our sandwiches when we make lunch for the congregation, and even just making donations to the youth group. Thank you so much!

Of course, we won't be meeting as a youth group over the summer. Many of our group members will spend some time at Camp Christopher this summer... some as leaders, some as leaders-in-training, and others will attend the Senior Teen Camp. With summer jobs, family holidays and CY09, the summer will still be a busy time for our group members. In September, we look forward to welcoming some new grade nines to our group, even as we say good-bye to some long-time members.

And you can look forward to hearing more from us in the fall – we'll be getting ready to share our experience at CY09 with the whole congregation.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our program year is finally winding down. We have had a busy year! It's nice to be able to sit back and take a look at everything that we've accomplished. As usual, we organized the Advent Appeal which was one of the best we have ever had.

We went singing at the Lighthouse, which was a hit with the residents. We mailed out invitations to two different areas of Saskatoon, asking them to share in some of our events. We have just finished a wonderfully successful Food Bank appeal in April and had a great time with our 'Spring Sundae Celebration'.

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EDITOR: Brooke Klassen

"St Andrew's exists to proclaim the Gospel and to share the love of God in our church and in our community."

Special Points of Interest

- Oberammergau Passion Play Tour
- Kids' Corner
- Worship will be begin at 10:00 am in July and August!



CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS ■ Continued from P1

HELP FROM GOD

A woman named Edna finds herself in dire trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in serious financial trouble.

She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help. She begins to pray... "God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lotto."

Lotto night comes and somebody else wins it. Edna again prays... "God, please let me win the lotto!"

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Would you like to receive our 'Saints Alive' newsletter by e-mail? If you would like to be on the list, e-mail us at office@standrews-saskatoon.net

As much as we enjoy looking back at all that we have accomplished over the past year, we are really looking forward to next year, to see if we can do even better. We have a few ideas in the planning stages that we hope will attract the attention of the congregation. We look forward to your support in our humble endeavors.

Finally, I would just like to mention that this year we have lost some of our long time members in Gerry Hallam, John Wobma and Anne Duff, along with Roslynn Marshall who has gone back to school. They have contributed enormously to the success of the Outreach programs over the years and they will be greatly missed. We do have a few people showing interest in joining our committee, but we can always use more. If you have talents and gifts that lean towards outreach, please come and give us a try. We are planning to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, starting in September, so mark your calendar. If you have any questions about the committee or any of its programs, or if you have ideas that you would like the committee

to explore, please speak to Allan Ireland, Elizabeth Ahiahonu, Sandra Huculak, Logan de Bruijn or Gwen Ament. We hope you have a relaxing summer!

THE SESSION BENEVOLENT FUND
A ministry that's rarely in the spotlight

Every year at the Christmas Eve worship service, you may read in the worship bulletin that 'the offering this evening will be for the Session Benevolent Fund'. But I wonder if you know what this fund is about and what it does. The fund was established many years ago (in the time of Rev. Dr. Davidson, I believe) and its purpose is to provide for the emergency needs of congregation members and others who may come to the church for assistance.

Although the annual financial report always includes a report on the status of the Session Fund, you won't see a lot of details as to how the money in the fund has been spent. The reason for that is that people who request assistance need some confidentiality. The ministers have discretion to disburse small amounts of money

as needed... to provide baby formula for a mother in need, to buy a few groceries for a family that is struggling, or to fill a prescription that a low-income person may not be able to afford. Although we try to ensure that people in need are aware of and using the social service agencies available to them, there are often times when people slip through the cracks and when agencies like the Food Bank simply cannot provide enough support.

Sometimes there are larger needs that arise for our own congregation members, and this fund is available to help us care for each other... whether it is to assist with a rent payment when times are tough, or to provide a loan for an unexpected and unmanageable expense.

The Christmas Eve offering always provides a significant income for the Session Fund. However, as economic times have been tough for many people in our church and community over the last few years, we have been spending more than we have been receiving in

■ continued on P3



CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS ■ Continued from P2

donations. You may want to keep this in mind when you make your offering at Christmas, or you may want to consider making a donation to the Session Fund at another time during the year. This is one quiet little way that St. Andrew's cares for our own members and those in need around us, and we are grateful to God for the opportunity to share in this way. ■

NEWS & Events

NEWS FROM CAMP CHRISTOPHER

Camp Christopher is looking for volunteers for its summer ministry. They need Health Officers, Cook's Helpers, Maintenance and Craft volunteers. If you would like to have an awesome week helping build a Christian Community, then fill out a volunteer application form today! Forms can be found at St. Andrew's 20th Street entrance.

THE ECUMENICAL CHAPLAINCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN ~Submitted by Dineke Kraay

The Ecumenical Chaplaincy is supported by the Anglican, Lutheran and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Two representatives from each denomination form the Board. These people meet monthly throughout the school year with Chaplain Ursula Wigg, to discuss the work. I have served on the Board for almost three years. The other Presbyterian representative is Dr. Ian McGregor from McKercher Drive Church. This ministry receives financial support from our national church through Canada Ministries and the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan.

The Chaplaincy is part of the U of S Campus Ministry which has a number of chaplains representing many faith traditions. They minister individually to members of their own faith community but also cooperate in serving the needs of the campus community. More information will be included in the fall newsletter. ■

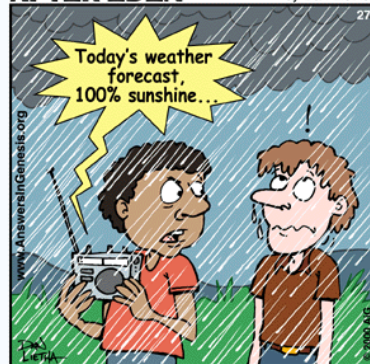
Note from the Editor - I have greatly enjoyed editing the *Saints Alive* newsletter for the past four years and I will miss having the 'inside scoop' on everything happening at St. Andrew's! ~ Brooke Klassen

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Who knows the mind of God, or been able to give him advice? **Isaiah 40:13** In response to pastor reading the above, Kevin chimed in with his own opinion.

AFTER EDEN by Dan Lietha



Tell me again why I should trust scientists' ability to be accurate about life on Earth "millions of years" ago...

HELP FROM GOD continued from P2

I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well." Lotto night comes and Edna still has no luck.

Once again, she prays, "My God, why have you forsaken me?? I've lost my business, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. PLEASE, just let me win the lotto this one time so I can get my life back in order."

Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open and Edna is confronted by the voice of God Himself: "Edna, meet Me halfway on this. Buy a ticket."



Don't be late! Worship will begin at 10:00 am in July and August.



**OBERAMMERGAU
PASSION PLAY
TOUR**

Only once every ten years is the Oberammergau Passion Play performed, and 2010 is the year! Rev. Robin Ross, Editor of the Presbyterian PCCWeb/ Daily / Devotional is leading a tour of central Europe for 16 days, from June 21 to July 6 next year.

So far, 17 people from Victoria to Fredericton have signed up. We'll visit Frankfurt, Prague, Vienna, and Lucerne, taking in the Passion Play on July 1.

This first class coach tour is truly all-inclusive, for

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Anticipating the Emerging Church ~ by Rev. Amanda Currie

As you may know, the Presbyterian Church in Canada values education, both for clergy and laity. Ministers of Word and Sacrament are trained at one of three Presbyterian colleges in Canada, earning at least a Master of Divinity degree. The church also emphasizes life-long learning for its ministers, and we are granted two weeks and \$600 every year to engage in continuing education. Since coming to St. Andrew's five and a half years ago, I have taken part in some kind of continuing education program every year – usually a conference or short course on a particular topic. This spring, however, I decided not to attend a conference, but to spend a week reading and studying the emerging church movement within mainline churches. It seemed like a great way to use some study leave “time” without using a lot of study leave “funds”.

From May 4th to 10th, I worked my way through several very interesting books about the emerging church. It was a rich and exciting time for me as I encountered new ideas, as I learned from the experience of ministers and other church leaders from across North America, and as I imagined so many exciting possibilities for our church community here at St. Andrew's.

One of the most interesting books that I read was “Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith” by Diana Butler Bass. Butler Bass directed the Project on Congregations of Intentional Practice, a Lilly Endowment-funded study of mainline Protestant vitality at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. Essentially, she studied about 50 vital mainline congregations across the U.S., exploring their worship and practices, and discovering what it was about these Christian communities that made them lively and thriving communities of faith.

What she found was a remarkable diversity amongst these vital churches. But what the congregations shared was that their members were learning to practice their faith. They were not simply learning a set of beliefs, but they were learning together how to live as Christians in the world. They were less focused on Christianity as a doctrinal system, and more focused on Christianity as a way of life. After all, the earliest Christians were not called “Christians” – they were called “followers of the Way”.

The practicing congregations that Diana Butler Bass encountered each emphasized different aspects of Christian practice. For some, they were growing in faith by learning to share their faith – the practice of “testimony”. Others had the gift of hospitality and shared it generously, while many were working on new and old ways of educating new Christians in the Way of Jesus. I read about “round-table” preaching, a practice in which a small group of members reflect on the scriptures with the preacher each week, and their thoughts, ideas, and experiences are incorporated into the Sunday sermons. I finished the book simply brimming with exciting ideas related to faith practices including contemplative prayer, discernment, bible study, faith sharing, and more! ■ continued on P5



CHURCH PARKING ONLY

If you park here, you are liable:

- 1. To be blocked in**
- 2. To be prayed for!**



Anticipating the Emerging Church ■ Continued from P4

But that was just the beginning of my week of reading. Next I enjoyed Ronald P. Byars' book "The Future of Protestant Worship: Beyond the Worship Wars." One of the key ideas from Byars' book is that our worship needs to return to a balance between Word and Sacrament. (That is, in fact, what Presbyterian ministers are called – Ministers of Word and Sacrament!) While the Reformation of the 16th century corrected a problem of the Medieval Church – that there was little scripture reading and preaching in worship – Protestant and Reformed Church worship now suffers from the opposite problem. The Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion have lost their prominent place within our worship.

Byars writes: "In a post-Christendom age... we need to be... recovering the concrete practices and commitments of the church that we've neglected. That means, first of all, unlocking our storehouse, opening the creaking doors, venturing inside to discover those things we have long ago stored away. In other words, we need to revisit the great tradition, the deep tradition, the central things – Book, Bath, Meal, and attentiveness to the poor." (p.46)

I finished off the week by reading two collections of essays. "From Nomads to Pilgrims: Stories of Practicing Congregations" is a book of essays written by clergy of the vital congregations that Diana Butler Bass had studied. These stories provided further details and inspiration from the experience of these thriving mainline congregations. I also read "The emerging Christian Way: Thoughts, Stories, & Wisdom for a Faith of Transformation" which includes articles by authors such as Marcus Borg, Matthew Fox, Nancy Reeves, and many more. Many of the themes within these articles resonated with the ideas I had already been reading about, but this book also provided some Canadian perspectives on the issues.

I think that my week of study leave this spring may have been the most productive study leave I have had thus far. I returned at the end of the week not only with new ideas, but with excitement about the way that lies ahead for us as a Christian church.

Many people today are worried about the future of the church – Will we survive as a church? Will the coming generations take up the faith and pass it on? And they probably do have good reason to be worried. There is no doubt that church attendance and participation in mainline churches continues to steadily decline.

I really don't know what the church is going to look like in 20 or 40 years, but I expect that institutionally, it won't look quite the same as it does today. But I'm not really worried about that. Sometimes the structures and hierarchies of our churches can get in the way of our primary purpose as Christians in community – to learn and to follow the Way of Jesus. My prayer for our particular Christian community here at St. Andrew's is that we may grow together in practicing our faith and in sharing God's love with our community. ■

**Worry is interest
paid on trouble
before it's due.**

**OBERAMMERGAU
PASSION PLAY
TOUR**
continued from P4
worry-free travelling, including the cost of all side tours and events, breakfast and dinner each day, luggage handling, a professional tour guide, even tips for ALL included services, and more. An early booking discount applies until June 30. For more information, e-mail Robin Ross at ross@telus.net or call him at 604-826-3745. ■

♥ **You can give
without loving, but
you can't love
without giving.**



DID YOU KNOW? You can find us on the web! www.standrews-saskatoon.net



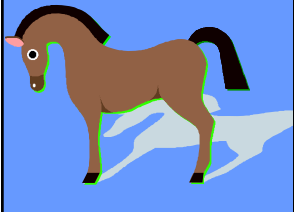
HORSE STORY

Alan bought a horse, a religious horse it appeared. Strangely, the horse only reacted to two words: the word "Hallelujah" to make it go, and "Amen" to make it stop.

Excited, Alan took his new horse out on the range and was riding it happily when he realized he was heading towards the edge of a cliff. Terrified, Alan forgot which word was the one to stop the horse.

Obviously wanting to prevent falling over the cliff to certain death, he belled out a prayer ending with the word - Amen.

Phew! The horse stopped. "Hallelujah!" shouted the relieved Alan. ■



“May Day” Dessert Parties at St. Andrew’s

~Submitted by Members of the Hildur Hermanson W.M.S.

Members of the Hildur Hermanson W.M.S. hosted eight dessert parties in their homes during the month of May. The many comments we have heard indicate that these small gatherings have been a great success!

Some of our newest members (formerly from Parkview Presbyterian Church) also came to share in the fellowship and tasty desserts with St. Andrew’s regulars. Many of our future members from McKercher Drive Presbyterian Church also joined us for a time of fellowship.

These events helped to bring awareness to the wonderful ministry in the Synod of Saskatchewan’s Camp Christopher, and the proceeds went to the building of a Creative Playground for the children who attend the camp. The proceeds, including ticket sales and a number of donations, amounted to \$500. Our thanks go to everyone who supported this project.

Recently, the people at McKercher Drive Church had a barbeque at Sobeys and made \$205. They have kindly donated that amount towards the Creative Playground, so the grand total is \$705. A special “thank you” goes to our friends at McKercher Drive Church. ■

BOOKS New to the St. Andrew’s Library

~Submitted by Yoka de Bruijn

Celtic Treasure, Daily Scriptures and Prayer, by J.Philip Newell.

There has always been a great love of scripture in the Celtic tradition. The author has found delight in the Bible's central themes, of which he has rewritten seven in beautiful, simple language, providing prayers, readings and stories for each day of the week for a seven week period.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Book One: Stories of Creation | Book Five: Songs of the Soul |
| Book Two: Journey and Promise | Book Six: The Good News of Jesus |
| Book Three: Power and Justice | Book Seven: Letters of Love |
| Book Four: Sayings of Wisdom | |

Beautifully illustrated with images from The Book of Kells, and children's interpretations of Celtic art, it is ideal for individual, group or family use.

Dr. Philip Newell is one of today's leading authors on Celtic spirituality. He has been Warden at Iona Abbey, on the Isle of Iona, Scotland.

St. Andrew's readers should not hesitate to sign out this book for its intended seven week period. Our librarian would be very pleased to see you make use of this wonderful centre of resources.■



MILESTONES

Ordination of New Elders:

Adela MacDonald, Blair Lukan, Lydia Lukan, and Logan deBruijn, members of this church, were elected to the eldership and ordained to that office on the 22nd day of March, 2009.

New Members:

The following were received into membership at St. Andrew's by Profession of Faith on April 12th: Stephen de Graaf, Doug Drover, Vickie Drover, Tristan Gjevre, Mary Ann Lyle, Raymond McGregor, Jane Sullivan, Fred Williams

Birth Announcement:

It's a girl! Congratulations to Doug & Vickie Drover on the arrival of Grace Anne, born on May 22nd. Grace weighed in at a healthy 8 lb 15 oz.

Deaths:

A. J. (Mitch) Mitchell – March 5
 Evelyn Brand – April 2
 Olga Porteous – May 8



Congratulations to St. Andrew's U of S grads:

Dr. Stephen de Graaf received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He will be beginning his career as a vet in Innisfail, AB.

Stephanie Hanson received her Three-Year Bachelor of Arts degree with Great Distinction and a major in History. She was awarded the Charles W. Lightbody Convocation Prize in History. Stephanie will be pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the Edwards School of Business starting in September.

Iain Ireland received his Bachelor of Science with Honours in Computer Science. Iain will be pursuing a Master's Degree at the University of Alberta starting in September.

Education Update:

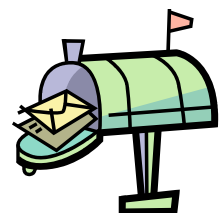
Nerissa Bishop has just been accepted into the College of Education, and in 2 years she will receive both her Bachelor of Arts degree and her Bachelor of Education degree.

Address Changes:

Vera Forde - Amy McClure House, 292 Heritage Way, Saskatoon, S7H 5T4
 Helen Gill - 15501 16th Avenue, Suite 252, Surrey, BC, V4A 9M5 (effective June 29)
 Mabel Munro - 315 Kenderdine Road, Saskatoon, S7N 3S9 249-3317
 Bert & Florence Salloum - 409-1223 Temperance Street, Saskatoon, S7N 0P2 931-8614
 Walter & Aida Siemens - 17-501 Cartwright Street, S7T 1E1 382-2355
 Kevin & Carlea Taylor - 121 Edmund Park, Saskatoon, S7H 0Z4 979-7877

Directory Addition:

Jean Konchak - 417-1802 Alexandra Avenue, Saskatoon, S7K 8A6 933-3066





**St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church**

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"St Andrew's exists to proclaim the Gospel and to share the love of God in our church and in our community."

ANSWER to Kids Corner

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+++++
+++++
+++++MOTJ+++++
K++++SNI+++++
M++D++L++O+++++
V++N++C++I++N++U+++++
HVI++HNC++S+++++
L++C++P++V++K++H++G+++++
H++K++O++M++R++S++H+++++
G++A++L++T++E++L++X+++++
I++T++I++P++++L+++++
N++O+++++B+++++
+++++M+++++I+++++
  
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CALENDAR of Events

- Sunday, August 2 – Communion
- Sunday, August 9 – Baptism of Grace Anne Drover
- September 11-13 – Women's Camp at Camp Christopher
- Sunday, September 13 – Commissioning Sunday

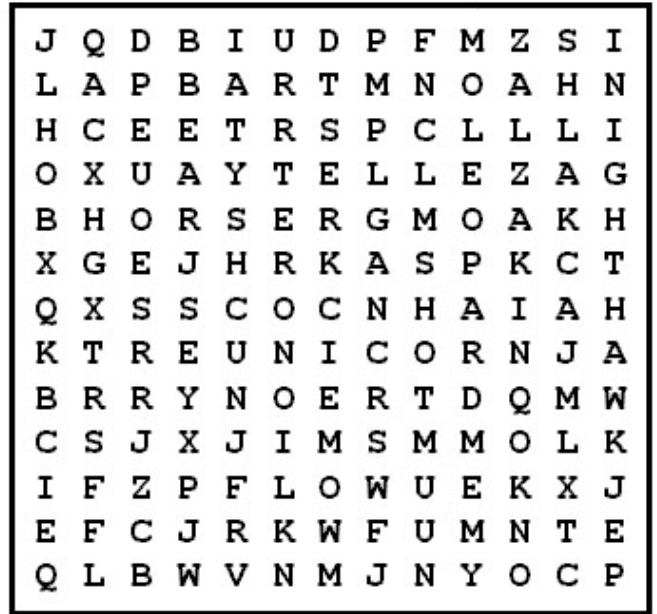


Don't be late! Worship will begin at 10:00 am in July and August.

KIDS' Corner - Animals in the Bible Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle below. Read forward, backward, up, down or diagonally!

- BEAR
- CAMEL
- DONKEY
- GAZELLE
- GOAT
- HART
- HORSE
- IBEX
- JACKAL
- LEOPARD
- LION
- MOLE
- MOUSE
- NIGHTHAWK
- OSTRICH
- SHEEP
- UNICORN
- WOLF



August 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			