

# St. Andrew's In Action

St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa  
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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## Fall - October 2014



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Did you know the weekly bulletin is available online? Updated each week on Friday, you can visit [StAndrewsOttawa.ca](http://StAndrewsOttawa.ca) and under **Worship** then **Sunday Mornings** you'll see the order of service and announcements for the upcoming Sunday. Also on our Sunday Mornings page you can find podcasts and blog posts. Check it out!

### About St. Andrew's In Action

The quarterly newsletter is published for the first Sundays in October, December, March and June. The next edition will be available December 7<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for submissions is November 26<sup>th</sup>. You may email your articles and photos at any time to [StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com](mailto:StAndrewsInAction@gmail.com)

### Introducing our new minister

*"Go as you go now, for now is God's world.  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and  
mind and soul and  
strength.  
Love your neighbour  
as you love yourself.  
And as you do this,  
may the grace of our  
Lord Jesus, the love of  
God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, keep you now  
and always.  
Amen"*



With these words, The Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock closed the service on September 28 when she preached for the call. Following the service, our congregation voted overwhelmingly to call her to be the next minister of St.

Andrew's. She will be coming to us from Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church which is located in West Toronto.

<http://www.morningsidehighpark.com>

There are a few procedural details that have to happen before it is official. The call must be approved by both our Presbytery and the Presbytery of West Toronto. Our Presbytery agreed to call a special meeting on Saturday, October 4. The West Toronto Presbytery meets on October 14. Colin Fyfe, Heather Pilkey, Rob Robertson, and Diane Shaughnessy will be speaking in favor of the call to the members of Presbytery.

Many of us had the pleasure of meeting Karen at a reception on Saturday and then enjoying the service she led on Sunday. We look forward to learning when she will be able to join us.

Most of us have had the opportunity to read Karen's biographical information, but in case you missed it:

Karen was born in Scotland, and then lived in Jamaica for a year before arriving in Canada when she was four. She grew up in Burlington, Ontario and later the Dundas area. Prior to entering the ministry, Karen's background was in the sciences. She has a BSc in Biology and a PhD in Neurological Sciences. She subsequently worked with a non-profit organization called Scientists in School in the city of Guelph, and was part of the team that piloted that program there. Karen has always had a passion for learning and teaching, discovering the world in which we live and our own place and calling in it.

Karen has been married to Hugh for 22 years; they have three children and one dog. It was when the Dimocks were living in Guelph and worshipping at St. Andrew's there, that Karen experienced Christ's call to ministry. Karen studied for an MDiv at Knox College and graduated from there in 2008. She was called that year by the congregation at Morningside-High Park and has been there since.

Karen loves the church, enjoys ministry and considers her calling one of the greatest gifts God has given her. If you ask her what she

likes most in her ministry, Karen will tell you it is the people. She values working together and in teams. Karen has a deep and personal appreciation and gratitude for the discerning, nurturing and prayerful role the church plays in people's lives. Supporting others, so that they might live their life in the fullness that God has made them is important to Karen. In loving God and loving neighbour, Karen also believes that the church is called to be a witness to hope for the community in which it finds itself. In all this, grace and gratitude are important to Karen, as is following the Biblical call to hospitality.

Currently, Karen is also a member of the planning team for the denomination's Stewards by Design conferences, and is a volunteer chaplain with Toronto Police Services.

Spending time with family and friends, long walks, travel, reading and belonging to a book club are among Karen's other joys. She believes in pushing herself to try new things. This year it was zip lining! Last year, along with some of her congregants, she rode her bike 200 km from Toronto to Niagara Falls as part of the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

## **News from the Kirk Session**

– Judy D.

For the elders, it was a quieter summer than last year. We continued to enjoy hearing the different ministers who led our worship services. It was wonderful to welcome each of them as returning friends and we will value the relationship we have established (or continued) with each of them. Our thanks go to Fred Demaray, Milton Fraser, Bob Hill, Bill MacLellan, and of course, our own Huda Kandalajt.

Even though it was a bit slower pace, we had a wide variety of summer activities. We had the Wednesday BBQ dinners and the amazing Vacation Bible School but I have to say, the highlight for me was hearing from the Search Committee that they were recommending a candidate to become our new minister.

At a special meeting in August, the Search Committee brought forward a report that they were recommending a single candidate be invited to *Preach for the Call*. The elders asked many questions of the members of the committee and as we heard the answers, we became more and more confident that we had acted well when we entrusted them with this responsibility. We are all looking forward to welcoming the Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock.

Throughout this time of transition, I have been so impressed with how elders and members of the congregation worked together, supported each other, and willingly took on additional responsibilities. I think as a congregation, we should be proud of how well we stayed together. Still, it has often been difficult to be without a minister. Huda has been a wonderful spiritual leader but I believe even she would say that we need a minister. It is a real joy to be experiencing a feeling of really looking forward.

## Wednesday Evening Studies

This fall, our Wednesday Evening Studies take place October 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 26<sup>th</sup>. We begin at 6 p.m. with supper and finish at 8 p.m. Please register online at [www.standrewsottawa.ca/studies](http://www.standrewsottawa.ca/studies), or on the signup boards in Grant Hall.



Winter session are planned for February 18 - March 25<sup>th</sup>. Keep checking for more details in January 2015.

See below for the fall course descriptions.

### *Old Testament Study – The book of Ezekiel*

– David B., Choir member and historian of St. Andrew's church.

Ezekiel was taken into exile to Babylon in the year 597 B.C. along with many others from Jerusalem.

From here he wrote and lectured criticisms against his fellow countrymen. He used

extreme imagery and was unrelenting in his indictment. But when Jerusalem fell to Nabucco and the Temple was destroyed he changed his mood to one of hope and restoration for a new Temple, new worship and a new land.

### *Encounters on a Pilgrimage*

– Ted Penton, a pilgrim in spirit, mind and practice, former lecturer Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality

You are invited to join a pilgrimage in the company of people who will challenge and enlighten us as we navigate the journey to a deeper understanding of and intimacy with God. Among those we will encounter are Jesus of Nazareth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thomas Merton, Catherine Doherty, Dag Hammarskjöld and the Jewish philosopher, Martin Buber.

### *Beginning Handbell Workshop*

– Lynn Boothroyd, St. Andrew's Bell Choir director

Do you love the sound of handbell music but were too shy to try the bells yourself or the time was just wrong? This workshop is just for you. You will learn how to hold the bells; how to ring the bells to get a smooth sound, both loud or soft; how to make different sounds with your bells such as a mart, mallet, vibrate, thumb damp & pluck and how to damp the bells to stop the ring. You will learn where your notes are in the music and learn to ring simple pieces. Let's ring wonderful bell music together.

### *Origins*

– Huda Kandalaft, St. Andrew's Director of Christian Development

Do you have questions about how it all began? Who created the heavens and the earth? What about evolution theories? Where do Adam and Eve come from? How can we read Genesis 1 and 2? Is it Science vs. God? Is it Science vs. Scripture? How do we read geology, astronomy, and the big bang along with the Bible? **Origins** is a six sessions DVD study on perspectives on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design. Join us for a good discussion around the Bible and science.

## Church If You Can't Come To Church

Have you missed church because you were ill or the weather was terrible? We certainly want to see you in church if you are able. While the most important thing is to be able to participate in worship, it's nice to keep in touch with each other as well and we do that when we see each other on Sunday. Still, there are times when despite our best intentions, we just can't make it. If that's ever the case for you, there is a way for you to attend the worship service from your home. If you have a computer, you can "sit in" on the St. Andrew's service from your home – or wherever. Here is the web address or link.

[www.ustream.tv/channel/st-andrews-ottawa](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/st-andrews-ottawa)

You will be asked to enter a password. It is the word "church" (without the quote marks). There's no need to create an account with ustream.tv.

minister, that congregation has welcomed a new minister of their own! Rev. Navneet Vaskala, formerly minister of the Jobat congregation, has become presbyter in charge at our partner church; he is married and has one young boy. Our brothers and sisters in Christ continue to pray for us each Sunday while we make plans for our own future.

In late June, with funds provided in part by St. Andrew's, the congregation supported a VBS for children and youth of the Vindhya-



Satpura region. In total 215 children from Jobat, Amkhut, and Mendha "camped" at Amkhut for 2 days and 2 nights; it was a rejuvenating experience for everyone involved and the children had a fantastic time together.

Now they are busy planning for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – a Jubilee, which is taking place November 1-4. Plans for the Jubilee include the youth group providing a drama of their history. Like St. Andrew's they are one of the oldest congregations in the region, so all the Christians of the area are invited; they have also extended invitations to the Moderator of the PCC, the Canadian High Commissioner in New Delhi, and members of St. Andrew's – in their words, we are an encouragement to them and they remember our visits with fondness. Of course, prior to the festivities the church building itself is getting an upgrade! Everyone, including youth, is involved with refinishing the new cement floor inside, repairing the exterior stone, and painting.

Although the Indian elections last spring placed an extreme Hindu nationalist party in power, the Christian community has felt safe, though they are a minority. Every Sunday, they pray for Christians in Iraq, Syria and Nigeria because as Rev. Emmanuel of Jobat pointed out, "We can go to church and not be persecuted."

## News from First Church Amkhut

– Aisling B.

We might be separated by thousands of kilometres but our partnership with the church in Amkhut, India runs so deep, that even as we look forward to calling a new



Sadly, only a few days after those words were said we learned that the church in Jobat, 37 kilometres away, was attacked by anti-Christian protesters at the end of September. The incident that set off the anger was the marriage of a Christian boy and a Hindu girl. The girl's family was not upset, but part of the larger Hindu community rose up. As a mob shouted and burned a tire in front of the



church the Christian community gathered to watch and then went together with Rev. Emmanuel to file a report at the police station. The Christian community demanded strict action against the mob, stating that it is a family matter, not a religious one.

The District

Superintendent of Police has since sent police protection for the church. One young man, via text message, wrote: "By this incident [the] Jobat people and police saw the unity of Christians. [There are some people] who are giving this matter a religious colour and trying to disturb religious harmony. All the Christians take this issue very seriously and calmly. Therefore the protest became weak before us and the protesters' idea to involve the whole community in this matter failed."

The Presbyterian Church website has posted the following:

*"We pray that the voices of tolerance and peace will be lifted up during this time, and that none will be hurt. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9"*

## Christmas Pageant

– Tracey Stabback

Are you thinking about Christmas yet? I know it's early, but we are! I am delighted to be involved in the planning of this year's celebration of the birth of Jesus. We will be presenting the musical, "On Our Way to

Bethlehem", and I am very much looking forward to our weekly rehearsals which will begin on October 19 at 12:45 in the Sanctuary. This is a chance for all children, teens, youth, and young adults here at St. Andrew's to be involved this Christmas. There is something for everyone: singing and acting, solo and ensemble parts. Since we need help both on and off stage, parents and other adults are welcome to get involved too. This is something you can do either as a family, or as an individual. I hope that you will consider prayerfully your involvement this year, and speak to me or Huda if you are interested. It is going to be a wonderful time.  
 stabbackmusic@sympatico.ca



## Our Garden

– Judy D.

For many years we have appreciated the wonders of the garden that God and Ruth Hemsley created and nurtured. It is such a wonderful place of beauty and colour and we never tire of admiring it. And neither do the many people who walk by. Ruth never seemed to have enough plants or bulbs or colours because there was always room for something else. We are hugely thankful for her many years of quiet care.

Like all things, it has become time for Ruth to do less in the garden. We have so appreciated all she has done that we wanted to say thank you in a



special way. We did that on Sunday, June 22. With the help of Rick Bond, we added an engraved rock to our garden. It says "Thanks to God for Ruth and the garden they created". Bill Ellis and Heather Pilkey also presented Ruth with a miniature garden for her home.



Susan Pye has begun helping some but we could definitely use some additional help. It will clearly take several people to do the work that Ruth was doing.

## Summer Open Door Programme

– Sheila U.

This past summer, our doors stood open, the Welcome signs were on the street, and 1,830 visitors climbed St. Andrew's steps to enjoy the beauty and calm of our Sanctuary. Some were grateful for a quiet time of prayer and reflection, some were keen on history and architecture, and some were so interested in our church that they returned for a Sunday service.

The Summer Open Door Programme began as an experiment in 1991, so this was the 24<sup>th</sup> season of a unique outreach ministry. We never know who is coming up the steps, but each one is welcomed. For most, the visit is unplanned; the open doors prompt them to enter the church.

This year's visitors came from nearby, from across Canada and from 45 countries, including Thailand, Slovakia, Uruguay, Togo, Gibraltar, Indonesia, Brazil, Australia, Peru, India, The Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. They thanked us for having the doors open, and admired the stained glass windows, the architecture, and our heritage of faith. They delighted in the gardens, the stories, the woodwork, and the warm welcome they received. They asked questions, often lingered for quite a while, and were pleased to learn that this is a large and active church. Some were puzzled by the pew arrangement, but interested to learn that the church was designed according to the Reformed tradition, which places Christ and His Word in the very centre of the Sanctuary.

One group of European visitors exclaimed "But there is no dust! No dust anywhere."

Sometimes children said that their visit was "awesome", while two teenagers said it was "cool", very cool". One 11-year old Ottawa boy so enjoyed his visit that as he was leaving he said that he would like to "hold his marriage service at St. Andrew's". During one week in August, groups of Scouts kept dropping in, as they were doing a historical Scavenger Hunt, and St. Andrew's was on their list. Visitors from The Netherlands are always delighted to be in the church where Princess Margriet was baptised.

Some visitors kindly signed our Open Door Guest Book, and a few of their comments follow.

"Calm and beautiful. Thanks" - Ottawa.

"I was here 20 years ago. Still lovely" - Edinburgh.

"God bless you" - Egypt.

"A true treasure" - Gatineau.

"A pleasure to be in your beautiful church" - Luxembourg.

"First time, very nice!" - Ottawa.

"Amazing church, and great hosts to welcome us" - Ireland.

"Stunning history" - Ottawa.

"Wonderful visit!!" - Florida.

"Une superbe maison du Christ" - Montreal.

"God bless you, and thank you for the tour" - Ottawa.

"Unique, special" - China.

"Beautifully well-kept" - St. Laurent, Quebec.

"Thank you for being open" - Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

"Breathtaking" - Ottawa.

"Lovely church, and we were made very welcome" - Scotland.

Through the summer we told stories of St. Andrew's 186 years of witness on this corner,

and of its history, which is often also Ottawa and Canadian history.

Downtown office workers slip in to the church for reflection and prayer right through the year, often on the noon hour, and they appreciate having the doors open in summer. People sat outside on the benches and on the garden wall, enjoying the flowers. How wonderful that St. Andrew's is a centre of activity downtown in the summer. Although there were a few days this summer when we had no volunteers and couldn't open the doors, we have great hopes that we will be able to run a full schedule in 2015.

We thank Elizabeth P., James D and Peter V. for their cheerful, steady and ever-helpful support to this summer outreach ministry. We are also grateful to Maureen Renaud for the new, beautifully-written Meditations Leaflet, which was so appreciated.

We thank our wonderful volunteers, who make even the hesitant feel so welcome in this church: Mary Janet, Diane M., Jeanie H., Elizabeth P., Don & Mary G., Judy D. & Ken Y., John & Barbara Y., Terry & Jill C., Diane H., Alice C., Luc D., Alex F., Ian M., Colin F., Diane B., Riley B., Rev. Bill & Lynda M., Doug & Sheila S., and Maureen R. Many of these dear people took two or more shifts!

## Summer BBQ Series

– Laura M.

How fortunate for us this year that we had five wonderful Wednesday evenings in July to share some food together and some time together and to have terrific discussions triggered by

animals in the Bible. Each Wednesday found a different crowd of anywhere from twelve to twenty interested

participants eagerly anticipating the evening's activities. Menus were carefully planned to



maximize our time together and with many thanks to our various and extremely dedicated chefs, each

Wednesday was a feast. We even got to experiment with some new (and now favourite) dessert options. Fortunately the weather co-operated for the most part and we had only one evening where we all had to make a mad dash for St. Andrew's Hall. As one participant said, we're not made out of sugar and everyone cheerfully picked up plates and food and brought everything safely indoors. Talk about an animal theme...we even had a quick visit from one of our little chipmunk friends but he was asked to leave and promptly did so.

After supper, of course, came the main event! The children went one way to be entertained with wonderful stories and shows featuring the evening's chosen "star" while the adults went another to discuss various passages from the Bible featuring the same animal. Thanks must certainly be given for our discussion leaders who prayerfully and skillfully led us on our journeys over the course of our study sessions. From donkeys to rats to rabbits, our thoughts were as wide-ranging as the subject matter; I still haven't quite figured out how we got from "whales" to "enemies" but it seemed to make sense at the time. Many thanks must be given to the families, the members and the friends of members of St. Andrew's for wholeheartedly giving themselves up to this activity and for allowing each other the time and space for exploring new thoughts. The measure of success of any such adventure is, of course, the reaction of its participants. A couple of people told me they were not able to make it the following week as they would be in Toronto but they hastened to assure me they would be back the following week and asked to make sure their seats were saved!



It was a great use of some beautiful Wednesday evenings, a great use of the courtyard, a great use of some fantastic culinary skills and a great way to spend time getting to know more about each other in our St. Andrew's family.

Thanks must be given to Jeanie, Huda and the CEC for organizing this event...dare I say "happening". I'm looking forward to this possibly again next year? My pith helmet is purchased and I'm ready for more exploration.

## Meaningful Birthday Gifts



Fiona O. started having birthday parties with her friends when she started school, and every year she decided to request donations instead of presents.

At her first party we decided together that she would collect for F.O.O.D - Feeding Others of Dartmouth, a Soup Kitchen that accepted both food and monetary donations. When she dropped her donations off, they invited her in to see the kitchen and explained a little bit about what they do. The second year we let her pick the charity and she decided to stick with the same place as she had seen how grateful they were the previous year.

This year, her third year collecting, we were no longer in Nova Scotia, so Fiona decided to pick something new. She had heard about the fund for Girls' Education in Afghanistan at church and decided that is where she wanted her money to go.

## CY2014

– Malika M.

The week at CY was just amazing, I don't even know how to explain it... One thing that I can say though, is that it was much more than I expected (and I mean that in a good way)! From the activities to the food, everything was just awesome. I found it very interesting to

experience CY's worship. It would be from around 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day and it



was filled with prayer, shared life experiences, songs, plays and so much more! I'll definitely miss that. The people were so nice, everybody I met! Oh and I was amazed when I found a few people coming from Malawi. Although I don't speak their language, they really felt like family and we talked and talked about so much together. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to St. Andrew's who helped make this happen. I also hope that next time, we'll be able to gather even more Youth from St Andrew's!

## Children's Choir

– Tracey Stabback

It's September and another year of the St. Andrew's Children's Choir has started and I am thrilled to be back for a third season of praising God through music! We have a great group of 17 singers, and are hoping to add to that number over the next few months. We have an exciting season planned! In addition to our regular monthly participation in worship here at St. Andrew's, we have also been invited to bring our music ministry to two local churches. We are also planning something extra special for January.... all singers ages 7-15 are welcome to join us in the Currie Room on Sunday mornings. I hope to see you there!

[stabbackmusic@sympatico.ca](mailto:stabbackmusic@sympatico.ca)



## Summer Camp 2014 WOW-ed !

– Huda Kandalajt, Director of Christian Development

It is with thanksgiving to God and to St. Andrew's congregation that we were able to have another very successful Children's Summer Camp. The theme this year was *Workshop of Wonders - You are the God who works wonders. Psalm 77:14a*

Every day children experienced God's Word in fun and unforgettable ways! The children learned about biblical characters and parables.

Each morning started with singing and worshipping together. The children learned many songs. Then, they moved from one station to another with their fantastic Faith Builders. Each day they would visit the Bible nook, the science station, the crafts station among others and conclude the day with the worship finale. In the afternoons, the children had a historical visit to our sanctuary, and with the help of David Brearley, the children were able to learn and appreciate the significance and the beauty of this beautiful worship place we are blessed to have. Every station was intentionally-designed to reinforce the daily Bible point in a hands-on, interactive way.

At Workshop of Wonders, we learned that God is still making wonders among us every day and that we can be co-workers with God in His Kingdom.

We were blessed with 50 children, many of whom (about 40 %) were new to the congregation. We were blessed to have 30 leaders, which provided us with a great ratio and allowed a wonderful ministry to happen among the children. I am thankful to God for all the leaders' dedication and commitment. The youth and the adults made this week possible and I am honoured to work with them.

It was a true joy for me to hear parents tell me what their children have learned and how much they had fun and that they are singing the songs at home. I am grateful to God who is

working wonders in the lives of these awesome young children and volunteers of St. Andrew's, and I am looking forward to another WOW year in 2015!

*Photos in the photo gallery at the end of the newsletter.*



*Ernest M. and Samantha M. at the Canada Day youth event held at Gracefield Camp with the Presbytery of Ottawa.*

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## Rally Sunday

We celebrated our congregational new year with Kick Off Sunday on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Because of the damp weather everyone packed into St. Andrew's

Hall to enjoy a delicious lunch of soup, corn on the cob, rolls and Ian's (& Charlie's!) famous pies. Entertainment was provided by the community disability awareness puppet group, Kids on the Block, and was well enjoyed by all. Thanks to the many hands that helped make this another great Rally Sunday!



# Daybreak

– Diana B.

As you know St. Andrew's has been closely involved with and supportive of Daybreak Housing since 1985, adopting it as one of our vision focuses for local mission.

We remain involved, with a team of five St. Andreans going into one of the homes monthly, for a meal or games-night, to interact and connect with the residents (of Piccadilly Place); with individuals from St. Andrew's who donate time and resources to the structure of the homes and their upkeep; and as a congregation which faithfully upholds Daybreak in prayer and monetary contributions all aimed towards the betterment and support of residents' lives in their forward transitioning from homelessness to independent living.

As interested and invested people, please read the bulletin announcement from Daybreak's Board of Directors and feel free to contact the President, if you have questions.

## **Bulletin Announcement:**

### **Daybreak Non Profit Housing announcing significant changes**

– Alice Kubicek: President, Board of Directors.

In the 30 years of assisting men and women to become independent, Daybreak Housing has worked to earn the respect of members in the housing sector in the City of Ottawa and with our founding churches we have maintained successful relationships. Now, as Daybreak Non Profit Housing enters its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of operations, the organization is embarking on some significant changes.

After 19 years with the organization, 12 of which as Executive Director, Monica Siegenthaler has moved on to pursue other interests. Daybreak experienced positive growth under Monica's tenure. We grew to 5 houses and 45 residents. Monica was also instrumental in initiating a Board exercise in visioning and rebranding which resulted in the new tag line: "rebuilding lives, inspiring

hope" that has resonated so well within the Ottawa community. Without these initiatives Daybreak would not be the same organization that you currently support.

But there is more change to announce. Since our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, the Board focused on developing new strategies and priorities for a brighter future for Daybreak. At our Annual meeting in May our new 3 year strategic plan was presented and with this plan we are ready to explore new and exciting opportunities. For example, we are eager to recognize current supportive friendships in the community but also, to build new relationships with individuals or groups who wish to become a part of the Daybreak family in the future.

Our staff is excited about working with our residents to help them maximize their potential and have embraced the opportunity these changes are presenting to them. We the Board look forward to supporting the residents, staff, and volunteers in their personal and career development but also helping them introduce efficiencies for a sound financial future.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you are interested learning more about Daybreak, or wish to donate time, ideas or financial support, please contact us at [info@daybreakhousing.com](mailto:info@daybreakhousing.com). Alternatively, call the office at 613-236-8070 ext 221 to reach Lissa our Administrator.

I see a bright future for Daybreak Housing and I along with the Board, Staff but more importantly the men and women that call Daybreak 'home' appreciate your ongoing support.



New post each Sunday, plus information on what's going on at St. Andrew's. Check out the blog at [StAndrewsOttawa.ca/blog](http://StAndrewsOttawa.ca/blog)

## The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

– Yvette D.

We are most grateful to the congregation of St. Andrew's for the use of St Andrew's Hall, where we hosted a fundraising lunch and silent auction, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. Funds raised will be directed to finance projects in Haiti.

Decorated in red and blue, colours of the Haïtian flag, the room was filled to capacity.



Following the welcome and presentation of a moving piece of Slam Poetry, "Silent night", by 'Grace Defined', a delicious meal with Caribbean flavours was served. We were then treated to two songs by Tracey Stabback: "Refuge and Strength" and "O rest in the Lord". We extend our thanks to both artists for their uplifting performances. The event ended with a power-point presentation highlighting some of our challenges and achievements in Haïti, as well as providing an insight into some of the needs of the communities we serve.



We are thankful for the support of the many volunteers from the community and from our church family for helping us make this event

a success. In particular, we would like to thank our Church Officer, Peter V.; for security oversight, Farid A. and Colin F.; for ticket control, Remy D.; the Silent Auction, Jennifer D; and for the delicious meal, Eugenie L., Barbara S., Adel J., Sim B., and Peace I.; for the many willing servers,

including Althea W. and Dana; and for technical support, Joseph A.

Thank you for sharing in the foundation's efforts to bring hope and improve the lives of our less fortunate sisters and brothers in Haïti. We are truly grateful!

God bless you.

## Gracefield Retreat

– Rebecca B.

St. Andrew's Church's annual Gracefield Retreat was met this year with a surprise - good weather! Now, of course, this was a break with a tradition of stalwart resolution notwithstanding rain but it did present a welcome



opportunity for retreat attendees to enjoy canoeing on Lac Castor, co-operative games and team challenges on the ropes course and a refreshing swim at Turtle Rock. The weekend ran the gamut of emotions and experiences. It featured a very serious interactive workshop about reconciliation led by guest speaker Christine Ball in response to our denomination's obligations to seek forgiveness and move forward after the experience of native residential schools. It also included a moving service at the outdoor chapel on the lake. But the weekend was not all serious. It also featured a riotous game of team Bible trivia, joyous sing-a-longs and a campfire complete with Kumbaya and marshmallows and an abundance of relaxing fellowship.

*Photos in the photo gallery at the end of the newsletter.*

## Golf Tournament

– Richard L.

The St. Andrew's Best-Ball Golf event hosted by the Men's Fellowship was contested by 10 keen



participants on Monday 23 June at the Greensmere Golf and Country Club near Carp. It was a lovely June morning with a glorious sun and sky, and the event was followed by a lunch at the Cheshire Pub near Stittsville on the Carp Road. The winning team of Bob B., Ian J., Andrew and Richard L. carded a score of 78. Next year we hope that some ladies of the congregation might wish to join the men for this St. Andrew's Golf event!

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We are:

Parents Singles Couples

Serious Laughers Talkers Listeners  
Book readers Game players Music listeners

Old friends New Friends

Professionals Students Not sure yet

Potluck loving Discussion makers

Learning Growing

**Upper Room** meets for potlucks, discussions and events throughout the year. Speak with Maureen to get involved. [maureenrenaud@gmail.com](mailto:maureenrenaud@gmail.com)

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## A Little Humour

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a

sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want — God is watching the apples."

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A woman approached the minister after the sermon, and thanked him for his discourse. "I found it so helpful," she said.

The minister replied: "I hope it will not prove as helpful as the last sermon you heard me preach."

"Why, what do you mean?" asked the astonished woman.

"Well," said the minister, "that sermon lasted you three months."

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A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents. After dinner, her father asked the young man into his study for a chat.

"So, what are your plans?", the father said. "I'm a theology scholar," the young man replied.

"Admirable," the father said, "but what will you do to provide a nice home for my daughter?"

"I will study and God will provide," the young man explained.

"And how will you afford to raise children?", The father asked.

"God will provide", said the young man. The men left the study and the mother asked her husband, "How did it go?"

"Very well; I like him. He has no money or employment plans," the father said. "But on the other hand, he thinks I'm God."



# Photo Gallery

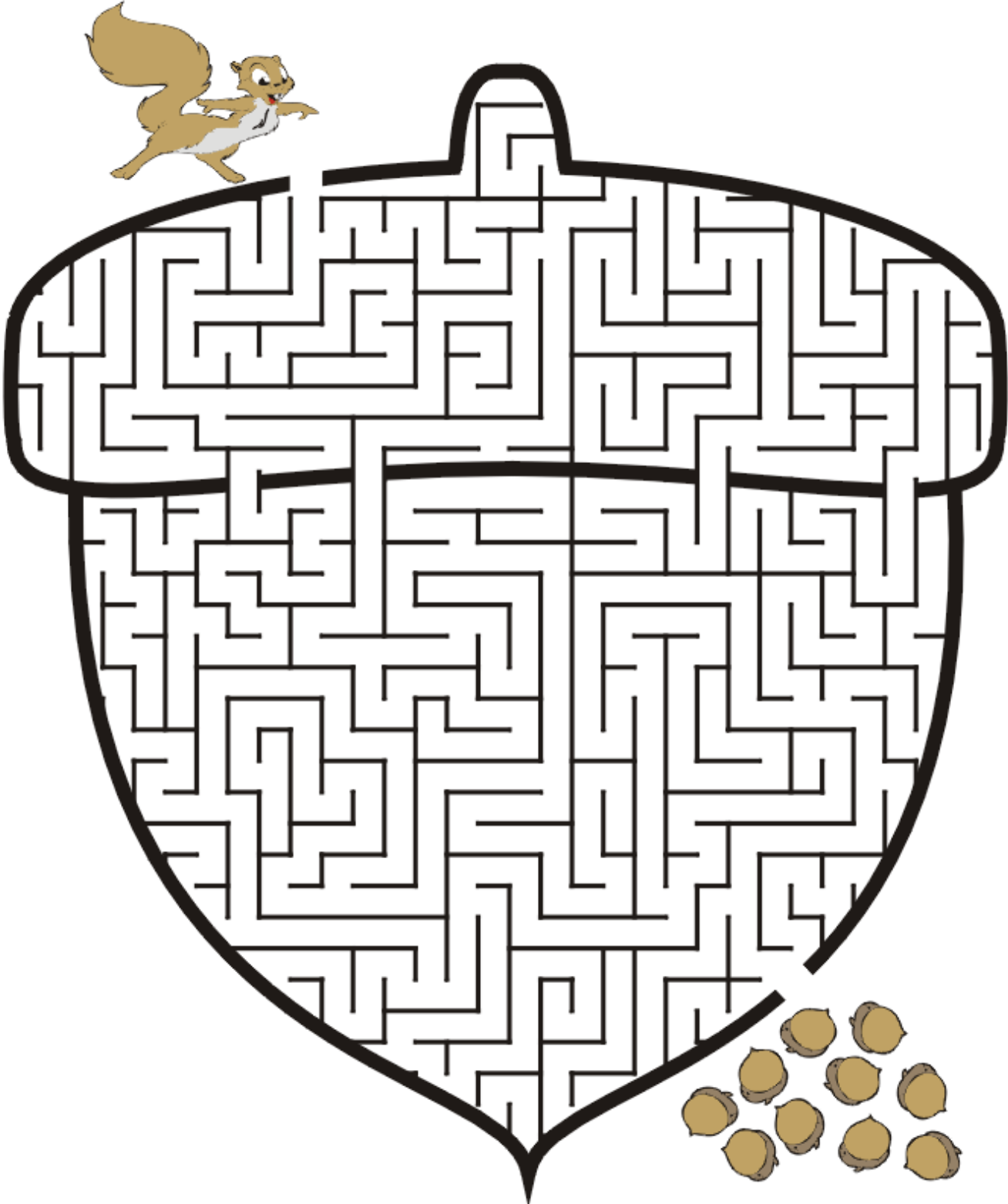
Vacation Bible School (VBS): Workshop of Wonders!



Annual Gracefield Retreat



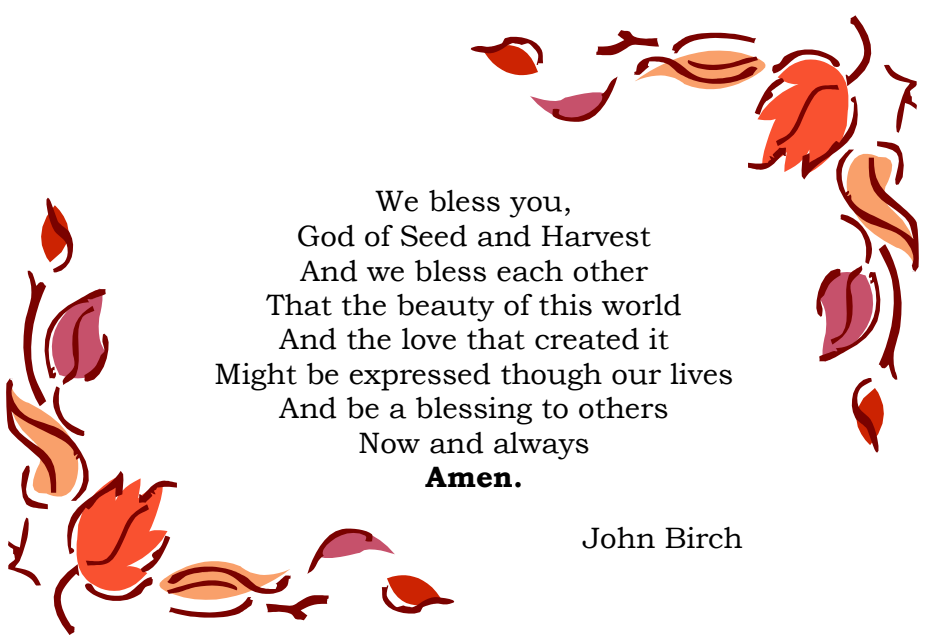
Help the squirrel through the maze to find its acorns





Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com



We bless you,  
God of Seed and Harvest  
And we bless each other  
That the beauty of this world  
And the love that created it  
Might be expressed though our lives  
And be a blessing to others  
Now and always  
**Amen.**

John Birch