

St. Andrew's News



St. Andrew's United Church, 40A Joseph Street, Box 190, Chalk River, ON K0J 1J0
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Serving people in the North Renfrew corridor from Petawawa to Deux Rivières, since 1875.
Member: Renfrew Presbytery, Bay of Quinte Conference

Advent Edition 2009



Minister's Message

Some time ago, I filed away a story about a woman who saw a little boy, about 10 years old, standing before a shoe store window on a cold December day. He was barefoot and shivering. He had his head resting on his arms against the window. The woman asked him what he was doing, and the little boy said that he was praying that God would give him a pair of shoes. The woman took him by the hand and led him into the shoe store. She asked the clerk for a dish of water and towel, and, while the clerk was looking for these items, she picked out six pairs of boys' socks. When the clerk brought the water and towel, she took the boy to one of the benches used by people trying on shoes. She knelt down and washed and dried the little boy's feet, and slipped on one of the pairs of socks. She had the clerk bring shoes in the boy's size and they selected a suitable pair. As she handed the bag of socks to the little boy, he looked up her and said, 'Are you God's wife?'

It is a heartwarming story. The kindness of the woman inspires us to deeds of love and generosity. But it also reminds us that we live in a world where there are such harsh realities of poverty in the midst of wealth and prosperity. No matter how hard we try, it seems that the needs are always there, and indeed, in this time of economic recession, increasing faster than we are able to respond to them. The news media recently reported that the number of people in our world who are suffering from hunger, lack of medical care and access to education, and dying prematurely of preventable diseases has shot up immensely in the past year because the cost of staple foods has increased without a similar increase in employment and wages.

What are we to do in the face of such circumstances? Sometimes it's tempting to resign ourselves to an overwhelming sense of despair, to give up the struggle. But such a course is not an option for us who bear the name Christian. From his prison cell in Rome, the Apostle Paul wrote these words to the congregation at Philippi: 'The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' (Phil. 4.5-7)

The first principle is to remember who we are. We are children of God. God has given us faith to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. We do not face the challenges of our day alone. The Apostle Paul was well aware of the circumstances in which the congregation at Philippi were attempting to live out their new-found faith in Jesus, as you can read in his



letter to them. So his encouraging words begin with the reminder that God is near. They are not alone. Nor are we.

At the time of the exile, when the leaders of the people of Israel had been scattered among the cities of Babylon, many Jews thought that their nation was doomed. But the prophet Isaiah had a startling message for them. First, he assured them that God was with them: ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God...’ Is. 41.9, 10) Then he stated that the new king of Babylon, Cyrus, was also being used as an instrument of God’s will, even though Cyrus had no knowledge of God. So it was that Cyrus issued the decree that allowed the Jews to return to their own land and rebuild Jerusalem.

The Apostle Paul pointed out that a great ship can be steered with a very small rudder. We do not know how or when the world will be turned to the justice and righteousness for which Jesus teaches us to work and pray, but we believe that these are the qualities which God wills for the world. It will come. It is our privilege and responsibility to be its agents and ambassadors however and wherever God enables.

Yours in Christian Service,
Paul McLenaghan

Worship Committee

The beautiful celebration of baptism was held on Thanksgiving Sunday, with the baptism of Abigail Ann Biskup, daughter of Kirk and Lee Ann Biskup. A wonderful gift from God to celebrate on Thanksgiving!

On November 1, 2009, we celebrated the 134th anniversary of St. Andrew’s United Church here in Chalk River. What an accomplishment – a legacy passed down from all our ancestors. During the service the renovations that were completed to the upper level recently were dedicated to the Glory of God. The committee did a wonderful job of designing and coordinating the changes. A Job Well Done!!

At St. Andrew’s thoughts and activities are turning to the “time of waiting” – Advent and the arrival of Christmas. We are waiting for the arrival of the “Babe of Bethlehem”! The sanctuary will be adorned with the beauty of Christmas. We are waiting! In preparation for His arrival the following plans have been made!

The choir has begun practicing special Christmas music. We are all very excited!
(Anyone interested in joining the choir for this exciting time is most welcome!!)

During Advent, a “mitten tree” will be placed in the sanctuary. The congregation is asked to bring hand-knitted or purchased mittens, scarves or hats. These items will be added to the tree and the contributions donated to the local Family Services to be distributed to those in need.

Dec. 6 - White Gift Service

Dec 13 - Holy Communion – 10:30 am

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -
7:30 pm

Look forward to seeing everyone at Sunday Worship!!

Board of Stewards

Well summer has come and gone and here we are well into fall. We have good news and bad news. First the good news. Along with looking after the usual expenses of the church we have covered the cost of all the wonderful renovations that have taken place. These renovations include the installation of the upstairs bathroom, reconstructing the coffee room, replacing broken windows, removal of trees on church property, putting in a new walkway and installing a hand rail going upstairs to the sanctuary. The total cost of these renovations was \$27,188.30 of which \$25,000.00 came from the sale of the donated property. Now for the bad news. With only two months to go till the end of the year our expenses are about \$7,000.00 more than our receipts. Hopefully we can catch up a bit by the end of the year.

Ministry & Personnel

The Ministry & Personnel Committee (John Fleurie, Tom Tennant, Vera Zadow) continue to discretely deal with any and all issues that are brought to our attention.

Since our last newsletter, we have had discussions with our custodian, as to the proper notification process for reporting anything found that needs either fixing or repair.

We have also had dealings with our groundskeeper as to the storage of the mower for the winter months. We would like to thank Randy Tennant (chair of the Property Committee) for the hiring of our snowplow operator for the coming winter.

At this time we would like to remind everyone, that if you have any questions or concerns about how things are being done, do not hesitate to contact either Vera, Tom or myself and we will ensure that your concerns are forwarded to the proper people for answers.

Respectfully submitted by
J. Fleurie, Chairperson of the M&P Committee

Outreach

“For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish.” Mark 14:7

Outreach is good for HEALTH, FRIENDSHIP and TOUGH TIMES. This is one way we can help to build an environmentally health, just and peaceful world. We want to assist people particularly from the most economically marginalized areas of the world. We are urged to be more supportive of ethnic congregations, in the field of evangelism, building churches, education and service. Volunteers can participate in these ventures.

Many ministries face issues of social justice, poverty and brokenness everyday. The Chaplaincy responds with Love, Prayer, Hope and Actions to build justice and community in these neighborhoods.

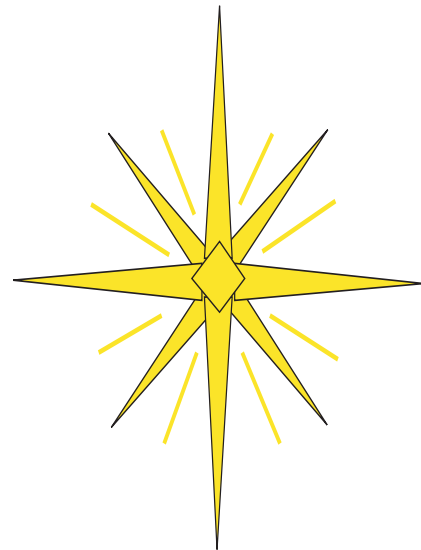
With the support of the Mission & Service Fund along with your prayers they can continue to work in the midst of a challenging environment.

“I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:36

Sunday School

With only one child, and the occasional visitor, we have continued with a modified Sunday School program. Each Sunday we have a Bible story and sing some songs. Mostly we do crafts based on a theme from the story. A variety of resources are used, but mainly I find activities from “Sunday School Lessons” on-line.

Leading up to Christmas we will be reading stories from the Bible and from a variety of Christmas books about the birth of Jesus. Crafts are a big part of what we like to do so look for some wonderful creations. Enjoy the word search fun for all God’s children.
Sharon Hardy



Change Your Thinking

It will take just a minute to read this and perhaps change your thinking.

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite details, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene. One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed.

One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window besides the bed. It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, 'Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you.'

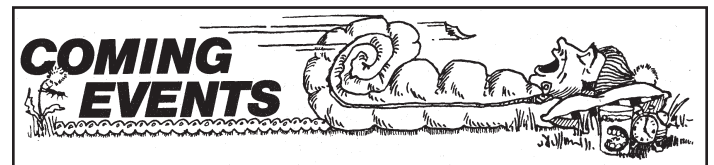
Epilogue:

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations.

Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled.

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.

'Today is a gift, that is why it is called The Present.'



Ecumenical Dance:

December 5 8:30 pm to 12:30 am Lions Hall, Chalk River. 9th Ecumenical Christmas Dance in support of local churches including St. Andrew's United. \$25.00/couple or \$12.50 /person. Tickets available from Lorna Blimkie or Gayle Barks.