

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

January 26, 2012

News and inspiration from St. Andrews United Church, Georgetown, ON

News from the Pews is the electronic newsletter of St. Andrew's United Church, Georgetown, Ontario, sent every Thursday.

If you would like to publicize an event, please send it in the body of an e-mail (not as an attachment) to standrewsoffice@cogeco.ca by Wednesday night. For further info, contact our secretary, Marlene Spies, or our Minister, Rev. Grant Williams, at (905) 877-4482.

Contact us:

Website: <http://www.standrewsuc.ca>

Church Secretary/Office: standrewsoffice@cogeco.ca

Grant Williams: standrewsminister@cogeco.ca

WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND – January 26, 2012; Theme: Tithing

This week we have a topic that we often don't discuss at church. Tithing. Sunday's theme of tithing comes to us because it was Wilf Gray's choice as the highest bidder in last year's auction for "the topic of your choice" that I preach on. Talking about money is often a topic that we don't wish to talk about in our homes, let alone church. The topic of money and stewardship is central to biblical teaching. Throughout the scriptures financial stewardship is discussed. In the book of Leviticus the writer says to give 10 percent of our income to God. This is to be off the top of our income before we pay anything else. While this is a difficult challenge for most of us, it is still a goal to strive for. God instructs us to give as we are able as we practice stewardship of God's resources. Scripturally, what resources we have are actually God's in the first place and we are just looking after them while we are alive thus being stewards of God's resources.

In the New Testament reading from the gospel of Mark we hear the story of the "Widows Might" who gives two copper coins worth a penny. This widow shows her generous love for God by giving out of her poverty rather than her abundance. No matter how little we may think we have to give there is always something to give in honour of God. Tithing is like that, we give to God's treasury because we are called by God to help others. Tithing is about our love for God through Christian stewardship.

Also in the service, we will be celebrating a baptism with the Barrager Family. Craig Barrager and his wife Erin Gogan will bring their son, Zackery, to be baptised here. Zack is another grandchild for Lois Barrager, who used to sing in our choir until she moved to Orillia. The Barrager family have been members at St. Andrew's for many years. Craig and Erin are local Realtors.

The readings this week are: Leviticus 27:14-34 and Mark 12:41-44

Sermon: Glad Tithings

This week, January 29, 2012

Reader: Nancy Heinmiller

Greeters: Mel & Jeannie Yach

Collection: Rex & Marilyn Leavitt

Counter: Ross Yahiro

Announcements: Council Chair or Vice-Chair

Next week, February 5, 2012

Reader, Greeters and Collection: Youth members, with Scott Martin as leader

Counter: Pat Moore

Announcements: Communications Ministry

CHOIR PRACTICE CANCELLED FOR TONIGHT

We will not have practice tonight due to the impending weather. Please be at the church by 9:00 am on Sunday morning for a rehearsal.

Sue Whaley

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Our next get together will be tomorrow, Friday, January 27. All women are welcome to visit over coffee, tea and goodies and lots of good conversations. Drop in any time from 9:30 until 11:30 am.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

This week at our meeting, we gathered questions from the group for the "Education Consultant/Tour Guide" when we visit to the synagogue. We will not meet this Monday but on Monday, Feb. 6 we will be going to the Solel Reformed Jewish Synagogue at 2399 Folkway Dr, Mississauga. We will gather in the parking lot before 9:30 am to enable car pooling and we plan to go out for lunch together after our visit. Anyone who would be interested in joining us for this learning experience and time of collegiality would be welcome.

ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th after worship. Please join us for a light sandwich lunch and the meeting afterwards in the gym.

NOMINATING

It's that time of year when we are looking for new people to serve our various church ministries. If you feel called to join a ministry for the next Council year, please see Al Grundy, Colleen Armstrong or Grant Williams. We have openings in many areas. If interested, please see the Ministry Team Resource Needs handout.

DAILY BREAD BOOKLETS

The booklets for the next few months have arrived. Some are left from the previous three months, just check the front page. Please feel free to take some, to give to friends, or to read yourself. The usual donation is a Loonie, or what you can afford.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR

Practice started on Sundays, after worship service in the sanctuary. Practices will run for about 1/2 hour.

UCW MEETING

Wednesday, February 8th at 1:30 pm

We are pleased to have our student minister, Anita Rowland, join us for the afternoon. She'll be telling us a little about herself, her travels, her call to be a Diaconal Minister and what that entails. All women are welcome to come and meet Anita.

NEWS & VIEWS (Quarterly Newsletter)

The News & Views now has a second editor, Emma Bass. With Emma coming on board, we will be able to maintain 4 issues per year. Since there are so many avid readers at St. Andrew's, we would like to start up a Book Review section in each issue. Anyone can send a short review of a book you have read and would recommend for others to read. This can be sent at any time, don't wait for a deadline. We'll keep anything we get for the next issue. Please send any submissions to Heather at hmccurtin@hotmail.com or Emma at emcgrasshopper@hotmail.com

FLORENCE'S FORUM

This certainly has been quite the winter of cold weather and almost no snow. I don't know whether that is good or bad. The cold is not so good for me. My landlord has decided to cut the temperature quite drastically this winter and at times the temperature in my apartment has dropped as low as 68 deg. F during the night. Now along with paying for a heated apartment I must run a couple of heaters to supplement the heat. Not sure where the justice is in this! Kehillah was back with us on Sunday and keeping with Grant's theme, sang songs about water. Always nice to have them join us.

Can't wait for the delicious breakfast the men are going to prepare and serve for the women. Ladies don't forget to get your ticket on Sunday. You don't want to miss this treat!

I am sorry to hear David Prete was back in the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers as he battles his cancer.

And the rain continues to fall. We don't have to shovel it.
Well, the Good Lord willin', and I haven't become an icicle, I'll see you on Sunday.

Florence



GRANT'S WORLD

This has been a week of blessings and opportunities.

On Saturday my family attending a birthday party with some members of a former church in Brantford. It was nice to see how people have changed over the 10 years since I met them. I performed the wedding of their daughter 9 years ago and they now have small children of their own. As a minister we don't often get invited back to the home of a couple you married years ago and it was nice to reconnect with this family. It is one of those times that I feel blessed to be in ministry.

Over this week I have been blessed with many wonderful visits with some newcomers to this church. It is nice to get to know people and find out what gifts and talents they bring to us. This church is just full of so many talented people.

This week the nominations ministry have been making many calls to people inviting them to serve our church in some capacity. Many people have graciously offered themselves to serve on a new ministry or have recommitted to continue serving where they have been for years. The church is a great place to offer your talents and gifts for the faith community. This year we give God thanks to a number of people who have served faithfully for years and now feel it is time to retire from their positions. When someone leaves a position it is a time of transition and change, but it can also be a time of new opportunities for different people to offer their talents. We have one more week before our Annual General Meeting and there are a number of positions that are still available. If you feel called by God in some way to serve please have a look at the new **St. Andrew's Ministry Team Volunteer Resource Needs** sheet that will be available on Sunday. While we are blessed with many new volunteers willing to serve this year there are also other places still vacant. For more information you may contact Colleen Armstrong, Al Grundy or myself. We are truly blessed with many wonderful people willing to be active at St. Andrew's through serving others.

Blessings,

See you on Sunday,
Grant

standrewsminister@cogeco.ca

COMMUNITY

YOUTH MISSION ADVENTURE: The Go Project: Summer 2012

Youth in Grade 9 to age 19 and their leaders have 4 opportunities to serve in communities in Toronto, Ontario, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Vancouver, British Columbia and St. John's, Newfoundland. While practicing the gift of discernment, youth listen to the needs of their own community while serving in another.

Unique youth require unique programs. The GO Project was envisioned by a small group of youth and their leaders, who were desiring hands on experiences of mission and outreach, but were confronted with the reality that programming that matched their understanding of Christ, inclusion of all and acceptance of difference in a questioning atmosphere did not exist.

Participate in a community focused children's program. Reach out to youth through community programming, shelters and street cafes. Support seniors and newcomers through community clean up and home projects. Practice pastoral skills through visiting. Serve the basic needs of community members through the food bank and clothing share programs.

The 11-day program, food, lodging, city travel and experiences, projects and programming are all included in the cost of \$550.00.

Register and pay your deposit before February 1, 2012, and pay the early bird fare of \$495.00.

A 20% deposit (\$100.00) per participant is required upon registration for the GO Project.

Cost for participants and leadership is the same for attending the GO Project. Participants are expected to arrange their own travel to and from the GO Project City. The GO Project will assist in transportation from airport's to GO sites.

Once registration has been received, a confirmation email will be sent with further information.

Check out the website at www.thegoproject.ca or email thegoproject@islingtonunited.org for more information and to register. Grant Williams will also answer questions.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 2012 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER service will be held on Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main Str. S, Georgetown. This year the prayer service has been written by the women of Malaysia with the theme, "Let Justice Prevail". Please join us and invite your friends and family to attend this service and learn about Malaysia and its unique culture and heritage. The World Day of Prayer service is observed annually on the first Friday in March. It is an invitation for Christians to pause and pray together ecumenically. Each year it recalls our responsibility to be sensitive to the signs of our times so that we might bring a more authentic Christian dimension to the concerns of our world, country and community. It is sponsored by the Woman's Inter Church Council of Canada and its national counterparts, and is celebrated in more than 170 countries around the world and 2000 communities across Canada. All are invited to join in this ecumenical service of prayer.

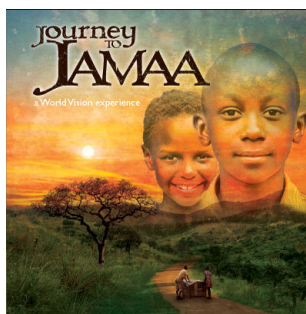
SHOW DATE

Come join the Georgetown Seniors' Centre on a trip to the Mohawk Dinner Theatre to see a hilarious comedy "Who's Under Where?" Date: March 28, Cost: \$80.00, Departure from Mold Masters Sports Complex at 9:30 a.m.

Final signup date is Feb. 25.

Please call Florence @ 905 873 1210 for further details.

JOURNEY TO JAMAA



The Movie, The Concert, The Experience (<http://www.worldvision.org/jamaa>)

Featuring a live concert with Juno Award Winning group, Downhere

Address:

Portico Community Church, 1814 Barbertown Road, Mississauga

Telephone (905) 826-9612

January 28, 2012; Starting at 6:00 pm

Tickets \$10.00, available from Ontario Christian books in Mississauga and Good Books in Oakville.

Buy tickets online from

<http://tickets.ticketwindow.ca/eventperformances.asp?evt=1287>

PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY TALK

Former Toronto Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb offers Palestinian Solidarity Talk on Saturday, January 28th at 7:30 pm at Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham Street (one block west of Bathurst, just south of Bloor). Former Toronto Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb will be speaking about her solidarity with the Palestinians and her call for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territories. There will be a \$10 entrance fee, or pay what you can. For information about this event, contact Brian McIntosh, 416-817-2606. This event is sponsored by the Holy Land Awareness and Action Task Group, part of the Social Justice and World Affairs Committee of South West Presbytery.

CHUCKLES

En route to church to make his first confession, my nervous seven-year-old grandson asked me what he could expect.

"Confession is where you tell all the bad things you've done to the priest," I told him. He looked relieved.

"Good. I haven't done anything bad to the priest."

Week-At-A-Glance

Thursday, January 26

7:00 pm

Senior Choir Practice – **CANCELLED FOR TONIGHT**

Friday, January 27

9:30 - 11:30 am

Circle of Friends

7:00 pm

Kehillah (praise team)

Sunday, January 29

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Confirmation group

Sunday, January 29

10:00 am

Sunday Worship & Baptism

11:15 am

Young people's choir

3:30 - 5:30 pm

Confirmation group

Thursday, February 2

10:00 am

Bible Study

7:00 pm

Senior Choir Practice

Friday, February 3

7:00 pm

Kehillah (praise team)

Sunday, February 5

10:00 am

Worship & Bread Basket Sunday

Annual Meeting and Sandwich Lunch