

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

January 5, 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 8, 2012: Rivers of the Bible

This Sunday we will be starting a three week series of biblical rivers. For Part 1 this week we will be experiencing the story of Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Each week we will explore a different river and a story that happens there. In the scriptures water is often written about and is an important image for understanding our faith. In the early writings in the Book of Genesis water comes as the creation story unfolds, in Exodus, Moses is found at the side of the Nile River, and in the Gospels, Jesus preaches from the sea of Galilee, and is baptised in a river. Water means a lot to our faith and how we understand God working through the world. Water can be cleansing and purifying, but it can also be terrifying and disastrous. Through faith God carries us to a place of security and protection. The living water that Christ brings to us can change our lives as we walk in our journey of faith. Water can bring us refreshment and nourishment to quench our spiritual thirst.

The readings this week are: Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: Jesus and the Jordan River

This week, January 8, 2012

Readers: Graeme Thompson

Greeters: June Longstreet, Doris Allworth, Carolyn & Burt Burns

Counter: Joe Oatman

Announcements: Council Chair or Vice-Chair

Next week, January 15, 2012

Readers: To be arranged

Greeters: To be arranged

Counter: Andrew Piper

Announcements: Council Chair or Vice-Chair

BOOK STUDY STARTING NEXT WEEK

Are you reading the book "The Shack"? Started to read it but aren't quite done? Come on out to a 4 week discussion group - no right or wrong answers but a chance to explore ideas of who God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are and their role in our lives. Wednesdays on Jan 11, 18, Feb 1 and 8th at 7:00 pm. Led by your student minister, Anita Rowland. Talk to Anita, call or email the church office if you are interested in attending. Numbers and addresses are listed above.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

On Monday, January 9 at 10:00 AM the "Living the Questions" group will meet in the Fellowship room. We'll learn about some of the important "holy days" in Judaism, with Bev Whatmough leading. Come join us, participate in the congeniality, have some tea, coffee or juice and a light snack and enjoy the stimulating conversation. For current study materials contact Bev at 905 877-9053.

OFFERING ENVELOPES AND PAR

If you are interested in acquiring offering envelopes or the convenience of donating through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) to ensure St. Andrew's continues to receive financial support even when you are unable to donate in person, please call Nancy Thompson. She can be reached at (289) 891-8585 or nancythompson@cogeco.ca

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE NEXT WEEK

A reminder to all Group or Ministry Chairs: Please submit reports for the Annual Report 2011 by January 9th, 2012. Those with Internet could email them to standrewsoffice@cogeco.ca
Thank you!

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Are you a youth aged 13 or older and want to officially join the church. We will be holding confirmation classes in the New Year. The classes will allow Youth to explore their faith, learn about the church and God and build friendships with one another. The meeting times will be determined when we know who will be participating. An orientation session with a Pot Luck Supper will be held on Sunday January 8th at 4:30 PM. Please speak to Grant Williams if you are interested.

BAPTISM

Do you or your child feel called to be baptized at St. Andrew's United Church? Please speak to Grant Williams about Baptism Preparation Classes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JANUARY 22

Jean Lawr needs two people to sign up for coffee and tea duty on Sunday, January 22. If you can help, please talk to her.

THANK YOU - CHRISTMAS DINNER

The folks who attended the Christmas Day Dinner at the Seniors' Centre all had a wonderful meal! Thank you to Wayne and Bev Barrett; to everyone who brought lovely desserts, to the carvers and servers, and for donations of cash to help with the cost of the meal.

FLORENCE'S FORUM

Thank you to Doug for opening up his beautiful, spacious home to 28 of us for a wonderful New Year's Eve party. Thank you to Rick and Colleen, Bill and Marie, who spent their evening making sure we were all well served. My question: Will we do it again next year? May I be the first on the list!

The Christmas decorations are down and put away for another year. Don't you miss them? It seems so bare! Oh, well! Another 12 months and we can do it all again.

Somebody said to me the other day that we are back to normal. Apparently they seem to have a handle on "normal". Gee! I have been trying to figure out what is normal for me for many years.

Happy 85th birthday to Sheila Ward. She celebrated on Monday. Many more, Sheila!

Just a little reminder that gossip is rarely true to the event. Seems to me you would be better off going to the person or persons concerned to get the truth. It would certainly save a lot of heartache and bad feelings.

I understand that those who attended the Christmas dinner in the Seniors' Building enjoyed a wonderful meal and great camaraderie. Thanks to Wayne and Bev for taking on this project and to all those who helped to prepare.

Well, the Good Lord willin', this "normal" person will see you on Sunday.

Florence



GRANT'S WORLD

Happy New Year! Wow, how time flies. Another year had come and gone. As we enter this New Year we pray to God for blessings upon all of us.

Since the last edition of Grant's World we have worshipped a lot! Christmas Eve was truly a magical experience. It was so nice to see how the church was full. At the early service we had a great nativity play complete with a real Baby Jesus. Lucas Sprague did a great job being himself as he acted out the part! (Actually slept through the whole thing) Thanks, Nancy and Mike, for bringing him, and thanks to Andrea Huckins who played Mary holding the baby. We owe a huge thanks to the Elgie family for acting out the narration of the play and transforming the sanctuary into an Inn and stable. Real straw was here also. We had over 25 people participating on the platform, all dressed up in costume, many of whom were visitors to our church.

Over the two Christmas Eve services we were blessed with the vocal talents of many youth and our senior choir. We also owe a huge thanks to Mike, Jeanne and Susan for playing instruments in the services. It was a great night overall and I owe a huge thanks to all those who came out to participate and attend the weekend services.

After Christmas I was able to get some time off and truly enjoyed my time away with the family. We travelled to Michigan to see Laura's mom and then had a few days off with just our family.

I also would like to thank all the wonderful people who gave Christmas cards and gifts to me and words of encouragement. This made for one of the best years ever here. Thanks so much. I truly feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and supportive congregation.

Happy New Year! See you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Grant
standrewsminister@cogeco.ca

COMMUNITY

JAZZ IN JANUARY

Heather Bambrick returns to Heart Lake United church on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person and available from Marlene Spies in the church office at St. Andrew's. You can also call Heart Lake church at (905) 846-7314 to order tickets. Pictures from her previous concert at HLUC can be seen on Flickr, at [this LINK](#)

You can listen to Heather host her own show, Sunday Afternoon Jazz, every Sunday afternoon from noon to 4:00 pm on [Jazz FM](#)

COMMUNITY UNITY FURNITURE EXCHANGE

FURNITURE WANTED:

2 tall dressers (for kids)

a solid color love seat

8' X 10' ish Area rug

Contact Mimi, coordinator Community Unity Furniture Exchange if you can help 416.938.5158

mimib18@sympatico.ca

RENTAL WANTED:

Reliable tenants are being relocated due to sale. Looking for 3 bedroom apartment, townhouse or house to rent in Georgetown. References available. Wanted for March 1, 2012 or sooner.

Contact Mimi, coordinator Community Unity Furniture Exchange if you can help 416.938.5158

mimib18@sympatico.ca

CHUCKLES

My 50-something friend Nancy and I decided to introduce her mother to the magic of the Internet. Our first move was to access the popular "Ask Jeeves" site, and we told her it could answer any question she had.

Nancy's mother was very skeptical until Nancy said, "It's true, Mom. Think of something to ask it."

As I sat with fingers poised over the keyboard, Nancy's mother thought a minute, then responded, "How is Aunt Helen feeling?"

Week-At-A-Glance

Thursday, Jan. 5

7:00 pm Choir

Friday, Jan. 6

7:00 pm Kehillah

Sunday, Jan. 8

10:00 am Worship

Monday, Jan. 9th

All day Reports due for Annual Report 2011. Please call the office if you will be late

10:00 am Living the Questions

7:00 pm Outreach Ministry meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 11th

7:00 pm Christian Ed. meeting

Thursday, January 12th

10:00 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Senior Choir Practice

Friday, January 13th

7:00 pm Kehillah (praise team)

Sunday, January 15th

10:00 am Sunday Worship