

CONTACT

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The Newsletter of St. Andrew's United Church

CHANGES AT ST. ANDREW'S

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This fall will bring a number of rather major changes to St. Andrew's. Below there are several articles which will outline those changes.

Church Administrator

As many of you know Joan MacKenzie, our present church administrator, is retiring on October 9th. Joan has been with us at St. A's since November 8, 1988. She has provided dedicated and loyal service to our church community. Joan has been there through thick and thin, ups and downs, as well as the good times. She knows this congregation better than almost anyone.

She is always able to provide practical and common sense advice at a minute's notice. As well, she has always applied herself to learn new things as times and technology change, particularly Simply Accounting, which enabled her to keep our books. This she did with an eye to detail and with great confidentiality. (This is not an easy task).

Perhaps most importantly Joan has been the face of our daily outreach to the community. She has been responsible for distribution of the Benevolent Fund monies to those who come to us in need. Her liaison with other outreach organizations has made us an important part of that Halifax community. It has, indeed, been Joan's ministry at St. Andrew's and we owe her a debt of gratitude for everything she has done.

Joan has been a committed, devoted employee whom we have come to trust and admire. However she is not one to go for gala goodbyes. When she was approached as to what we could do for her,

her decision was typical Joan. **On September 27th, Joan will be in church at St. Andrew's with her family and then attend a reception at our coffee party afterward to say adieu to her many friends at St. Andrew's. For more information you can contact Betty Anderson at 823-2676 or email at johnpanderson@eastlink.ca**

We will miss Joan but want her to know that we wish her well in her retirement. We hope she finds peace and that it brings her contentment and a new and happy direction in her life. God Bless Joan. And thank you from everyone at St. Andrew's for your dedicated service to us all.

Selection Committee

In May the Church Council selected a committee to find a new church administrator. The members of that Committee were: Roy Hayward, Chair; Diana Dalton, Marion Anderson, Karen Ferguson, and Dale Noseworthy.

A job description was drafted and approved by Council. Then, at its initial meeting the committee decided to advertise the position during the month of June. Advertisements were placed on line at Kijiji, Career Beacon and HRDC. The Committee received approximately 200 applications. The majority of those were unqualified for the position and were eliminated in a preliminary screening. A secondary screening was used to determine those applicants whom were to be interviewed.

The Committee selected five people for interviews each of whom was qualified for the position.

The interviews of the selected candidates took place on July 15th, July 28th and July 29th. The Committee developed a list of interview questions which addressed the following: recap of education and work experience, communication skills, accounting and administration experience, organizational skills and time management, supervision experience, administrative support experience, knowledge of the United Church and St. Andrew's, volunteerism, and lastly why they wanted to work for St. Andrew's and why we should hire them.

After the interviews, the Committee met to select the successful candidate, that being Ms. Tammy James. The decision was unanimous. At that time the Committee arranged for the person to meet with our Ministers, Russell Daye and Martha Martin. This meeting took place on July 31st. Both Russ and Martha were comfortable with her. The Committee Chair then followed up by calling all the references provided. The positive outcome was that all of those references gave glowing reports of the work, skills and personality of the candidate. The Committee then developed a Recommendation to Council to hire the person as well as a Letter of Offer. The person was notified that the offer was to be made. Council approved the Committee's recommendations and the Letter of Offer was forwarded to Ms. James and she accepted.

The Committee, in its recommendation to Council said of Ms. James: " The Committee members who interviewed Ms. James were delighted with the outcome of the interview. She came across as an organized, professional, calm, thoughtful and energetic individual as well as a very quick learner. She has relocated to Halifax from Labrador City and is looking for a permanent position where she can become a part of an organization and get involved in a new opportunity. We believe her to be a highly skilled individual who has is professional and cooperative. We were really struck by her sunny personality, her articulate manner and her overall professionalism. We think she will work well with our Ministers, staff and congregational members. Overall, we believe that she will be a real asset to St. Andrew's and that she will bring a responsible, positive approach to the face of our church."

TAMMY JAMES



Our new Church Administrator, Tammy James, is a graduate of Labrador Collegiate with her High School Diploma and of Labrador Community College with her Administration Diploma.

At the time of her interview with our Selection Committee, she was

the Office Manager for Hyron Regional Economic Corporation in Labrador City. There she was responsible for comprehensive administrative support to the Board of Directors and management of the office. She has been involved with community stakeholders. She also was responsible for financial accounts, payroll for 5 staff. Before that she set up the office procedures and accounting program for the Grenfell Hotel and Restaurant where she did payroll for up to 52 people, was responsible for the management of the office and several

multi-million dollar accounts of large companies with the hotel. Tammy has also been a District Manager for a major clothing retailer and a store manager for another company. In addition, she was Executive Assistant and a Licenced Real Estate Agent with a company in Moncton, NB.

Tammy brings great skills in computer technology, supervision of staff, extensive accounting and auditing experience, report generation as well as an excellent ability to communicate with the public.

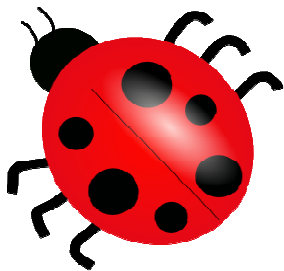
When asked what she wanted to communicate to the members of St. Andrew's she said:

" I am delighted by the wonderful opportunity given to me by St. Andrew's United Church and I look forward to being a part of the St. Andrew's family."

Tammy will commence work on September 21st. This will provide her with three weeks overlap with Joan so that she can learn the many facets of St. Andrew's.

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S TAMMY

LITTLE LADYBUG CHILDCARE



A new friend is joining St. Andrew's. Beginning the 1st of September Little Ladybug Childcare Centre will be operating out of the church's lower floor Monday to Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Halifax Regional Municipality has given all permission required. The daycare has an excellent reputation. They ran a successful operation in Halifax for the last number of years and received kudos for their programming and community relations.

The rental is \$30,656 per annum. The lease will be for a term of 5 years with either party having the right to terminate the lease at the end of the second year with 12 months notice. In other words we are locked in for 3 years.

The owner, Tanya Dalton, is doing a lot of the prep work—she has had one of the classrooms repainted and is fixing the storage room to be her office. She has already replaced the stove and refrigerator in the lower kitchen and is installing a dishwasher. New cribs have been placed in the nursery.

Roy Hayward, Chair of the Management Committee, has led this effort for St. Andrew's. He had an environmental company check for mold, lead paint and asbestos. No mold was found and lead paint was in evidence but is manageable as there is no peeling. There was asbestos found and we have had a contractor do the necessary repairs.

Although the daycare will be using the nursery, classroom and auditorium downstairs as well as the kitchen and the Lady's Parlour (for a staff room), we will have access to these areas on weekends.

Roy Hayward has spent not just hours, but days, of his time to ensure this new direction for St. A's occurs. He is to be thanked for these efforts. It will be lovely to hear the children's voices during the week - it will make St. Andrew's come alive and is a demonstrable outreach by our church into the community.

"The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

Samuel Johnson

LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2

Commencing on October 22nd, Alma and Roy Hayward will be leading **Living The Questions 2**. The sessions will be on Thursday nights at 7 pm at St. Andrew's. This course is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Instead it strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what is next for Christianity. The format will be similar to **Living The Questions 1** where each session will start with a 20 minute video followed by discussions in small groups and then the whole group. Both St. Andrew's and St. John's Bulletins will include an invitation to participate starting in September.

Contact Roy Hayward at 443 - 2590 for more information.

St. Andrew's Book Club

St. Andrew's Book Club will meet on Monday, September 28th at 7 pm at the home of Bob and Marion Anderson.

The book we will read is **The Book of Negroes** by Lawrence Hill. It tells the story of a young African girl, Aminata, who is forcibly taken from her village, sold as a slave and shipped to the United States. It follows her life story from that time until she is an old woman with her life experiences of slavery and freedom. The book is historically accurate and takes place in the US, Shelburne, NS, Sierra Leone and England. This novel has been a best seller and no wonder! It is everything a good novel should be and is a deeply moving and compelling portrait of the time. The Sunday Mail said that following her life journey "is not only a pleasure but a privilege."

Inspired by a little known historical document called the Book of Negroes (which can be seen at the NS Archives), it is brilliantly imagined to the point where you the reader have to keep reminding yourself this is not a true story.

Wonderfully written, this book is undoubtedly on a course to becoming a world-wide classic (it is called **Someone Knows My Name** in the US). It has won the 2009 Canada Reads, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the 2008 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for Best Book. This is a must read and we look forward to our discussion. All are welcome.



OUR NEW MODERATOR

At the General Council meeting in Kelowna, BC from August 9—15th, Mardi Tindal was chosen as our 40th Moderator. There were 7 other

candidates, including Ross Bartlett, who is Minister at St. Matthew's.

Mardi Tindal grew up in a small United Church at the heart of its rural community, was formed as a leader in United Church camps and youth programs, and has served in staff and volunteer leadership roles at all levels of the church.

Mardi is an adult educator and facilitator, organizational consultant, author and video producer who currently serves as executive director of the United Church's Five Oaks Centre, "a sacred place to seek God within the heart of all of life." In that role she enables the Centre's commitment to ministry with youth and young adults and its partnership with aboriginal colleagues. In 2008, the Francis Sandy Theological Centre honoured her as a Companion.

Another continuing focus is on promoting environmental sustainability, which has been a passion since her youth. (One of her first experiences in the national church was to serve on the General Council Task Force on the Environment.)

Mardi's United Church staff roles have included:

- Coordinator of Recreational Ministries and Youth Resources, General Council, 1976-1981;
- Consultant on Leadership and Program Development, General Council, 1986-1988;
- Communication and Stewardship Officer, Hamilton Conference. 1981-1986 (with Douglas Tindal);
- Director Camp Big Canoe York Presbytery, 1991-1994;
- Adult Program Coordinator, Five Oaks Centre, 1999-2003;
- Executive Director of Five Oaks since 2004.

She has also consulted with government, private sector, church and voluntary organizations in Canada, the United States and Great Britain to improve effectiveness, build productive teams, and navigate rapidly changing environments.

Mardi is an award-winning video producer and presenter whose work has been seen on TV Ontario, affiliated CTV stations, Anglican Video and, of course, United Church Television where she was story producer and co-host of the weekly *Spirit Connection* on Vision TV.

She has been involved in 8 of the last 13 meetings of the General Council in such roles as:

- offering theme presentations at the 38th General Council in Wolfville, 2003;
- broadcasting from General Council meetings;
- coordinating Youth Forum.

Her international church experience includes leading pilgrimages to Iona (Scotland); continuing education in Jamaica; and giving leadership within the global ecumenical network of retreat centres. In 2000 she represented the United Church at the 11th General Assembly of the Association of Christian Lay Centres in Africa, in Ghana.

Among many volunteer commitments, Mardi has served on the board of The United Church Observer and continues her active involvement in the life of the church as a member of Sydenham St. United Church, Brantford and of Erie Presbytery.

Mardi holds an MA in educational psychology from the University of Toronto and is committed to life-long learning. She is currently working with Parker J. Palmer and the Center for Courage & Renewal to provide leadership as a *Courage to Lead* facilitator. She is the author of *Soul Maps: A Guide to the Mid-life Spirit*, and co-author of *The How-to Computer Workbook for Congregations* and *Who Me – A Theologian?*, in addition to various articles, chapters and blogs.

Mardi and Douglas Tindal are proud parents of two extraordinary young adult leaders.

For more information on the installation of the new Moderator, go to www.gc40.unitedchurch.ca. You can also find the ceremony on YouTube.

Our Ministers at General Council

Martha Martin and Russ Daye both attended the General Council meeting in Kelowna BC in August.

Each Presbytery in Canada sends two delegates – one lay and one ministerial to the General Council. Russ was the ministerial delegate for Halifax Presbytery.

Martha was honoured to be selected by the Youth Forum Design Team as one of the three chaplains to the Youth Forum. There is 1 young person from each Presbytery. In total 83 youth attended the Council meeting all of whom were between the ages of 15 and 20. The Youth Forum meets two days before the Council meetings commence. There is a work book for them to use. They participate fully in the General Council meetings but do not have a vote. However, Martha said that they had a large influence as they were well prepared and versed in the issues before the meeting and were encouraged to speak. She said they were very dedicated young people who love the church and love the world and want to be a part of the change that is happening.

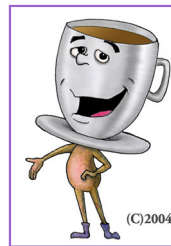
Martha said that the most interesting point that became clear to her was that they rejected the notion that they were the future of the church. They determine that they are the present. They are here today and part of the church now. She said her participation as a chaplain gave her the opportunity to have an even greater understanding of the youth and youth ministry. She saw incredible energy, dedication and concern about the issues our world is facing. She declared that she was blessed to have had the opportunity to meet these young people and work with them.

Russ said that as usual General Council was an exciting and interesting experience. If he were to sum it up he said it was that there were two different and distinct churches present at the meeting. One was a young vital church learning to live outside the box. This church was powerful with a very strong new energy. It was intercultural – aboriginal, Asian, Francophone, African, and immigrant. The second church was an older fearful church that is not ready to accept that change is happening or must happen. The new church is entrepreneurial, risk-taking, willing to make new partnerships and diverse both in the racial and social mix as well as its theology. He said it was very obvious that this new church is what will attract the energy and imagination of new generations.

So it is clear that we, at St. Andrew's, need to determine what our road will be into the future. Letting go of fear is perhaps our first step. On Sunday, August 30th, Russ's sermon spoke of this and other issues which arose during the Council. To read it go to our church website where it will be posted.

“The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise to the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”

Abraham Lincoln



COFFEE PARTY 2009

The Annual Coffee Party and Sale will be held on Saturday, November 21st from 10 am to 1 pm. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

This is later than usual due to the need for more planning due to space restrictions. Because the Little Ladybug's Child Care Centre is now operating in our church, there is less space and therefore less time to get things set up. Due to this donations will not be accepted until mid-November and help will be required to set up and volunteers to work on the day.

The only thing that will not be available as it was in the past is the sale of plants. Otherwise, at this time, the plan is to have the Pantry Food Sales, Silent Auction, Jewellery, Crafts, Knitting and Sewing, “New To You” and Kiddies Corner.

The pantry table, candy and specialty foods always sell out. Donations are needed such as cookies, bread, rolls, pies, cakes, fudge, preserves, soups, chili, baked beans and other favourites. As well we need people to volunteer to make sandwiches and sweets for serving.

The proceeds from our Coffee Party support the work of our congregation and outreach projects including: Sunday Suppers, Brunswick Street Mission Christmas Fund, Ecumenical Ministry of the Deaf, Phoenix Snack Program, Stephen Lewis Foundation – African Grandmothers, Street Feat newspaper. The Coffee Party is perhaps most important for the community

It generates—both within the church and wider community. This year no one has volunteered to be the Convener. If you are interested in that position or in volunteering for other organizational positions, contact the UCW Unit Leaders – Ruth Cordes (Unit G) at 422-4666 or Eleanore Brown (J. Dickson Unit) at 422-4015.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is exploring a fundraising idea that is being used for a church in Miramichi, New Brunswick as well as other charitable organizations. Diana Dalton learned about this from a family member and advised Grant Cooke, the Chair of the Stewardship Committee that this might be something St. Andrew's could do.

Through a company called Avgen Incentives, based in Markham, Ontario, the church purchases gift cards that may be used in grocery stores such as Superstore, gas stations, Kent, Chapters and many more. The cards are bought at a discount of up to 10% and are then in turn sold to the church members. The discounted amount is provided to the church. Instead of using debit or credit card, those holding the cards can use them for purchases. Avgen Incentives has also provided a lot of information.

Grant has contacted the church undertaking this and was advised that it has raised almost \$3000 in a year from just 8 families participating in this project.

Council has agreed that the Committee undertake this as a project. It will need congregational support. Everyone of us needs groceries and gasoline for our vehicles. If a large number of people purchase the cards, we could raise a great deal of money which can be put toward special projects or our debt, depending upon the priorities undertaken by Council.

Grant is hoping to start selling these cards in October. It is hoped that congregational members will support this worthwhile project. Look for further information closer to October from the Committee.

Remember Christmas is coming - what about a gift card to the person who is so hard to buy for and help St. A's in doing so?

"There's nobody I know who commands the love of others who doesn't feel like a success. And I can't imagine people who aren't loved feel very successful."

Warren Buffet

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER

Those of you who subscribe to the United Church Observer know that it has become a stimulating and very interesting magazine. It is the leading theological magazine in Canada.

Every year with your envelopes you get a small envelope titled "The Observer" and for \$14 payable to St. Andrew's, you get a subscription. It is well worth it.

As many of you do not subscribe, the July/August issue outlined the readership survey results that the magazine undertook.

It is interesting for us at St. Andrew's how the general readership responded to certain statements and questions:

S: "I believe the United Church has an obligation to spread Christianity at home and abroad."

Responses:

- Age 75+ - 70%
- Under Age 50 - 44%
- Rural/small towns - 65%
- Large cities - 51%
- Atlantic Canadians - 69%
- British Columbians - 57%
- High School Educations - 76%
- College Education - 61%

Q: "Who knows the Song of Faith (New Creed)"

- Age 50-64 - 37%
- Age 75 + - 21%
- British Columbians - 29%
- Quebecers - 16%
- College Education - 31%
- High School Education - 14%
- Ministers - 80%
- Laity - 26%

It is also interesting to note that 75% of the respondents were pleased with their minister. When looking at strengths, it is interesting to note that Atlantic Canadians preferred preaching to be the number one skill set. Yet only 57% were satisfied with their minister's community profile.

For more information and discussion, you can read the Observer. Our Library has a copy.



**Two of the greatest qualities in life are Patience and Wisdom
(can we not learn this from this dog?!)**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The annual Women's Retreat for women from St. John's and St. Andrew's will be held February 5th from 4 pm to February 6th at 4 pm , 2010 at the Tatamagouche Centre. Cost is approximately \$65. It is a great time of fellowship, discussion and of course, the great food at the Centre. Contact Martha Martin if you are interested in attending.

Lectionary Meetings

Starting in September, Martha Martin and Ross Bartlett from St. Matthew's will hold a lectionary service every Wednesday at 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the weekly lectionary passage for the next Sunday. This will give the congregation a better understanding of the passages and an opportunity to discuss them. The meetings will start on Wednesday, September 16th at St. Andrew's. Contact Martha Martin if you want more information.