



St. Andrew's Arthur Christmas and New Year Newsletter



We are at Christmas time, the time of our Saviour Jesus' birth. As I look back over this past year, I am thankful for the many people who are involved in ministry in St. A.'s and doing ministry outside of St. A.'s walls but supported by each of you. The generosity that you have all expressed has helped to touch lives and minister to people, sometimes at very delicate times of their lives. Think about feeling the love of those serving during a funeral luncheon so that the family can come together and remember the lives that have been lived. The service that goes on for this to happen starts with everyone who helps to clean both inside and outside the church. The shopping and prep work for the lunches, the organization of the people for different jobs. We can't forget the prayer that takes place to help prepare people's hearts.

I am also thankful for the opportunities that we have to be part of community and to welcome people into community. Whether it is the Coffee and Conversation time after every service that is a time where people can come and connect with people on multiple levels. It also offers an opportunity for people to work together behind the scenes to be able to touch people's lives. Without the preparation and goodies, the time would not be the same for community to grow, or for people to work together on a team.

Our leadership groups have been busying this year with repairs around the church and manse and walking with people through illnesses and deaths, people with relationship, and spiritual difficulties. Thank-you for all your hard work and caring hearts. It is reassuring to know that we have many faithful and diligent people who step up and lend a hand, make decisions, and sit and listen all because they care about the people and Jesus.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. The Women of St. Andrew's have been busy this year and have made a difference in many people's lives. They continue to be faithful workers, leaders, and caring hearts reaching out to people and the wider community in many different ways, some we know about and others that are done and only Jesus knows about them.

Music has been part of worship from the beginning and continues to be. We are blessed to have Joyce playing the piano, organ, and keyboard for us almost every Sunday. We are also blessed to have many people who are willing to share their gifts of music, their knowledge of music and their favourite songs. This ministry continues to change and evolve as we change and evolve. We serve the God of all creativity so we too should allow the creativity of God to be leading us also. It has been good to see new music being sung, new ways of singing and playing music being part of our growing faith. We are a multi-generational church and it is important for each generation to be able to have a voice that will speak to the other generations with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus.

Part of the great commission that Jesus gave to His disciples and to us is to go and make disciples of all nations. We are trying to accomplish this through our Sunday School, Adult teaching environments, and the one on one times. A lot of prep time goes into these environments and times and without people helping to support these times and working to make them happen we could not be working towards the work that Jesus has called us to. Whether you are a front-line teacher, prepping, praying, attending, or helping with snacks you are helping to train up people for ministry and life.

It has been a busy year, but none of the ministry that we have done together and apart, could have happened without your generous gifts of time, of your skills, and of the gifts of money that help fund the many ministries that we are part of, from Sunday School and VBS's and Sports Camp, Care Ministries, taking care of the church so that Sunday Service will happen, or baptisms, weddings and funerals, to those meetings in Coffee shops, connecting with people in our community(our annual New Year's Eve skating party, this year Blue Christmas Service) and around the world. None of this would be able to happen without you helping out. Whether it is coming on Sunday morning and adding your voice and heart to worship, or before and after the worship service listening or sharing your wisdom and love, or during the week ministering at home, at school, at work, and at play, you are making a difference in my life and in the lives of those around you. Thank-you once again and I look forward ministering with you in 2018, where we will



St. Andrew's Arthur Christmas and New Year Newsletter



laugh together, cry together, sweat together, and grow closer to Jesus together. Merry Christmas from Pastor Ed.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

Important dates for 2018

Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve Skating Party
Jan. 21st - Reports for Annual Report due
Jan. 28th - Annual Reports handed out
Feb. 4th - Annual meeting
Feb. 11th - Communion
Feb. 14th - Lent begins
March 29th - Maundy Thursday Supper and Communion
March 30th - Good Friday Service at Gordonville
April 1st - Easter Sunday and Communion
June 3rd - Communion
July 2 - 6 - SU Sports Camp
Sept. 30th - Gordonville Anniversary Service
Oct. 7th - Communion and Thanksgiving Sunday
Oct. 28th - Arthur Anniversary Service and Memorial Plaque dedication
Dec. 2nd - Communion and beginning of Advent
Dec. 23rd - Communion

