

St Andrew`s Presbyterian Church

March 2018 Newsletter

From your Pastor

This has been an interesting winter so far. The last little while has felt very much like spring bringing with it the optimism of new life breathing into our lives. Yet with all this spring weather we have also had to deal with the hard reality of our fragility in life. While we strive for and have a great deal of control in our lives, we do not have total control. We are reminded in these times to value each moment with those around us because we do not know how much time together we will have. Stuff can wait but it is important to feed into relationships, nurture them so that these relationships will nurture you also. I continue to follow the rule to that if someone, or a name pops into your head take time to get in touch with that person, sometimes realizing that all you can do is pray for them, either way do something.

I want to thank everyone for a good annual meeting. We had some good food and some good discussion that I am sure will continue through the rest of the year. It is always a good time to take a look at where we are and continue to think about where we are going as a congregation. As we move forward we will have to make some specific choices as we focus on different areas of ministries that we can be doing in town. One of the focuses I would encourage us all to be thinking about is creating life changing community. This is community to that is based on the life changing redemption of Jesus Christ where people can come together to grow, support, and serve.

One thing that we have started to do is Lent and Lunch. This is a Lenten service which is shorter and in some ways more liturgical in nature than our Sunday morning service. Personally I like it as a growing and experimental time for me as a worship leader. It is also a time to be refreshed in the middle of the week as we journey through Lent, making more room in our lives for Jesus. Following the service has also given us the opportunity to join together as a

community to eat together, to share life together in a calm relaxed atmosphere. Both are places to come and enjoy the many blessings of Jesus in our lives. Another benefit is that it has helped for different people to come and join together. In the future, if we continue this, I hope that we will have more community interaction. Remember, everyone is invited and you are invited to bring friends.

Looking ahead we have March break VBS, Maundy Thursday dinner and service, Good Friday service over at St. Andrew`s in Gordonville, Easter Sunday Service and Communion, Scott Woods Concert, I will be taking study leave the last weekend in April, in June we will be having Communion on the first Sunday. We will be having another movie night coming up, the date is still to be determined but we will be watching "The Case for Christ".

Following that I will be taking time to go on parental leave for a period of time, possibly from June till sometime in August. Rev. Gary Stopps has agreed to do some of the services, Pastor Melvin when he comes up will do one or two of them, and I am in the process of lining up a few other people. In April I am looking at doing a study leave focusing on grief support. This was a course that I was going to do a year or two ago but it did not work out at that time.

For those of you who are not able to be with us on a Sunday morning, we do record the services, unfortunately do to copyright laws we are only able to show the sermon or message time. With the help of Dallas and sometimes Aislinn we are able to have both audio and video recordings, as long as we don't have any technical difficulties. These are either stored or linked to the website at www.standrewsarthur.ca/sermons. We also have our facebook page which is another great place to share information and announcements of upcoming events.

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March 2018 Newsletter

As we move closer to spring but more importantly to Easter, and to the resurrection of Jesus, I pray that we are able to focus on the new life that Jesus offers us. A life where our sins are washed away and we are forgiven. A life where we are reconciled and healed. A new life filled with hope and grace. A new life where we are not run down, run over, and left behind but one that is full of unity and peace. We all need the new beginning that Jesus is offering, are you ready to accept it?

16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:16-19

Pastor Edward Charlton

Sunday School - An update on what's been happening downstairs

Our Sunday school has been ticking along with a small but faithful group. We begin with a time together where Bonnie leads the kids in a song or two and she always has an encouraging story or thought to share with them. Some days we make quite a clatter with our musical instruments praising God before we have a group prayer and go off to our individual classes.

The younger group is led by Donna and Afiena who have great lessons with stories and fun crafts that the kids love to show off after class. The older group is led by Adele. They have been studying the super heroes of the Bible and creating a wonderful book to share with everyone. They have also been committing to

memory some bible scriptures from the stories of these heroes.

A thankyou goes out to Sarah O'Donnell for filling in to teach for us. We appreciate it!!

As teachers we hope to instill in the kids the knowledge that God can be taken with them every day and everywhere they go and He is ready to carry them through every situation.

Musical Ministry at St. Andrews:

Ephesians 5: 18....."Be filled with the Holy Spirit singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves and making music to the Lord in your hearts".

The music ministry is challenging when we no longer have a regular weekly choir to fill the loft.

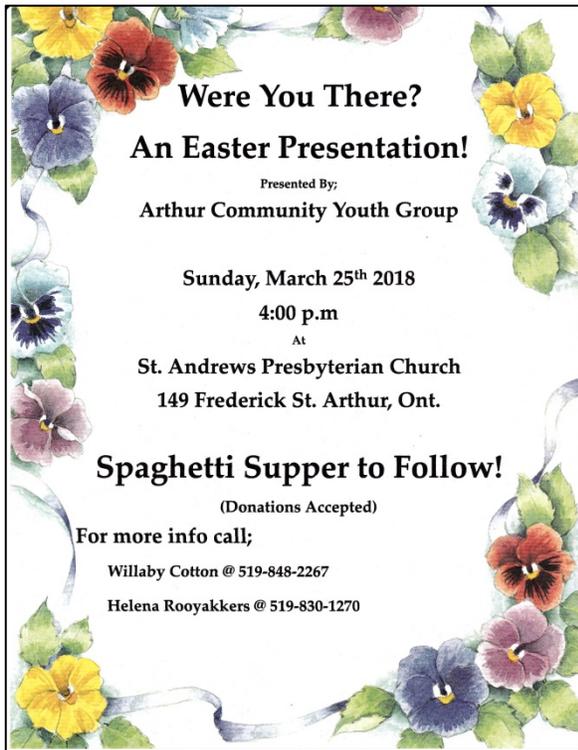
Thanks are extended to the Praise Team who have stepped up to fill that gap. They participated in the Jan. 28 & Mar. 11 services and are planning to assist again on Apr.15. The instrumentalists also provided prelude/postlude on Feb.25. It is great that Morgan Charlton has joined our team as drummer. Thanks is due our vocalists as we have 2 new members (Liz Samis & Ruth McEachern) making our number 8-9 strong.

Thank you, Willaby, Pastor Ed, the Sunday School & Joyce for enhancing message themes with musical numbers.

We welcome anyone who wishes to volunteer with musical input or make constructive suggestions to augment our musical program.

Submitted by Joyce McKee

St Andrew`s Presbyterian Church
March 2018 Newsletter



**Were You There?
An Easter Presentation!**

Presented By:
Arthur Community Youth Group

Sunday, March 25th 2018
4:00 p.m
At
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
149 Frederick St. Arthur, Ont.

Spaghetti Supper to Follow!
(Donations Accepted)

For more info call;
Willaby Cotton @ 519-848-2267
Helena Rooyakkers @ 519-830-1270



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Call toll free to order by phone
1-855-SCOTTWOODS (1-855-726-8896)

SUN. April 22 7pm

ARTHUR, ON

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
149 Frederick St.

Proceeds support St. Andrew's Missions & Outreach

Tickets may be purchased at **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church** (519-848-3710), or by calling **Willaby** at 519-848-2267.
Order by phone with a Visa or MasterCard by calling the **Scott Woods Band Office** at 1-855-726-8896.

FEATURING  **Steve Pitecca**
GUITAR VIRTUOSO

FEATURING  **Leo Stock**
CHAMPION STEP DANCER

Easter Services

Thursday March 29th...Maundy Thursday pot luck supper beginning at 6:30 with communion following the supper

Friday March 30 ...Good Friday Service at Gordonville 10:00 with fellowship and refreshments following the service

Sunday April 1st Easter services - Gordonville at 9:30 and Arthur at 11:00am Communion will be celebrated at both services

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March 2018 Newsletter

JOY TEAM REPORT

Cathy and Laird More recently returned from another awesome mission trip to Nicaragua with the JOY Sports team.



JOY is an acronym that means: ***“put Jesus first, Yourself last, and together serve the Others you come into contact with.”***

With the amazing support from our congregation we were able to bless:

- hundreds of people with packages of beans, rice, sugar and cooking oil
- 2 elementary schools with basic school supplies
- over 150 kids at a feeding centre with a full meal – *the only one for the day*
- children that would rarely, if ever, get a gift with a small toy or stuffed doll



- approx.. 1,000 kids with a fun and exciting Olympic-style event consisting of games, snacks and bible lessons that teach everyday values of honesty, cooperation, love, perseverance, etc
- several churches with training on the value of sports ministry in reaching their children
- the children’s HIV clinic with medication for kids that can’t afford the necessary drugs to combat the disease acquired at birth
- a small, remote Sunday School with crayons, markers and paper, and a bible for each child.

It was a busy two weeks with many long days, short nights, sometimes no water, often bumpy miles, dusty, and smoky air. **HOWEVER**, the Nicaraguan people we work with are the most thankful, appreciative and generous individuals you could ever meet, despite their extreme poverty and harsh living conditions.

Once again thank you for playing your part in this mission.

Cathy and Laird More