



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church



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December 2018

From your Pastor.

We are entering another Advent season. Advent is the time before the birth of Jesus reminding us of the need for the coming saviour. Too often we prepare for Christmas by making ourselves busier, more stressed out and broken. It isn't too different from the first Christmas that was packed with traveling, crowded streets, rude people, and the brokenness of the world. There was fear of war, not having enough room, chaos and craziness, tragedy and the uneasiness of what was happening, sound familiar. Yet, Jesus was



born into this craziness that also has the blessing of love, family, and friends.

We have the opportunity to experience

miracles of life, moments of hope and grace, we have the blessing to be able to witness lives changed and growing to become people of wonder and grace. Jesus came to bring wholeness to the brokenness, to bring unity and life into the stress and anxiety. It is amazing to see what can happen when we take the time to prepare we can see how much we need to be present and share in hope, peace, joy, love, and most of all Jesus. What we value the most is not the things of this world, what we value is something that is transcendent but can be very real to each of us love. Love can change our today but lasts into our eternities. In the hustle and bustle we can lose hope because we can't find what we are looking for, we lose sight of

peace because we lose sight of the moments of meaning, joy is lost because we are weighted down, and love disappears because we are trying to give too much stuff and not enough of living in the moments of relationships filled with the grace of Christ.

When I talk to people about the lives of loved ones, I can't remember the last time a family member talked about stuff. Maybe I just don't ask the right questions. However, what I hear about are the moments of lives shared together. The moments of laughter, moments of creation, moments of hope, and moments of grace. These times together have helped form people's hearts and minds. This Advent season and Christmas, make time to share hope, speak words that inspire life change. Make peace with those around you. Live with joy in your words and actions. Remember to show love to family and friends. Allow Jesus to be present in your life with grace and love. In so doing you may glimpse the power of one night in Bethlehem, in a dirty little manger, where the rich and poor congregated, where the heavenly and earthly joined together to break down the barriers between mortal and eternal. Be a blessing because it you have been blessed.

Merry Christmas and God bless us.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Pastor Edward Charlton.



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Session

Greetings for Christmas

This year seems to have gone by very quickly! Our wall calendars say December, marking the last month of 2018.

Advent is the first season of the Church calendar, with the first Sunday of Advent on December 2. During Advent season we wait or anticipate the "arrival" or "coming" of Jesus, as the word Advent indicates.

Your session meets once a month and tries to stay ahead of things coming up during a year in the life of St. Andrew's.

Sometimes we are good at that, sometimes we may stumble along. However, it is always approached with love and devotion by each Elder. We are so Blessed to have Pastor Ed Charlton as our compassionate leader and at this time we extend very warm Christmas Blessings to him and his family.

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the congregation for your faithfulness, prayers, service and love during this past year.

May we all make every effort to use various aspects of the church year as an opportunity to tell the story of God's redemptive work in the world.

Merry Christmas and God's Richest Blessings to you and all whom you Love.

Respectfully yours – Willaby Cotton

Ladies of St. Andrew's



The ladies of St. Andrew's are pleased to have served approx. 282 at the Oct 17th annual turkey supper. There was approx. \$2860.00 profit from this fundraiser.

3 funeral receptions have kept the ladies baking and organizational skills on top, with also plans to assist the "Circles" group next year. Approx. each Wednesday evening, from September until June 2019, our church is the home base for a gathering place where a meal is served by volunteers and meetings take place. This valued program is assisting those choosing to be lifted out of poverty.

Approx. 100 supported the annual Christmas bazaar/scalloped potato & ham supper. A delicious meal was served, so delicious that the ladies ran out of food, but this is a good concern to have.

Heyling Masiel Juanez Membreno is our ladies' group sponsor child. Heyling started school this past February. She has a parrot named Carlitos and loves making new friends. I love writing letters to Heyling but unfortunately with the unrest in San Jose, the written letters to respond have not been forwarded yet, and we have not yet received her promised pictures.

We pray that God will bless peace upon Heyling and San Jose.

Respectfully yours – Faye Craig

ACYC/G



At St. Andrew's you have done something small with great Love. You have allowed the Arthur Community Youth

Choir/Group to meet every Thursday night in the church hall.

This has been a real Blessing to those who attend. Between six and twelve youth join together each week to sing God's praises, to learn more about Jesus, and to enjoy time together having fun.



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We are busy preparing to sing at the Christmas cantata and we enjoyed bringing songs of praise to the Anniversary service at St. Andrew's in October. We may even have something special lined up for Easter. Thank you for allowing us these opportunities.

Merry Christmas!!
Respectfully yours – Willaby Cotton

St. Andrew's Sunday School

Here we are once again into the Fall and Winter curriculum. We began the session with being wise owls and are learning each week about the Heroes of the Bible focusing on many who also had to be wise in their choices and choose to listen and follow God's calling to them. Even those who tried to run away came back to the knowledge that God was not giving up on them or His plan for them. This year we have made it a one room Sunday School due to lack of numbers in our young ones coming out to church. We average 5 and often have 7 or 8. The whole purpose is to reach the ears of these young children no matter the number and to share the Word and the love of God with them each and every week.

Our plan is to sing each quarter upstairs for the congregation to hear from them and the message they deliver through their music. This also helps them to feel comfortable in the sanctuary and thus comfortable coming before the Lord with their gifts and talents. We are practicing a short Christmas skit and a song as well to present to the congregation on December the 16th. The children have helped fill shoeboxes for Operation Shoebox to deliver God's love and caring to those less fortunate than we are.

I would like to thank Donna Jamieson and MaryAnn Mansfield for volunteering to teach this year along side me and to the volunteers that have offered their time to fill in where and when needed. We are also very thankful to have Bonnie McIntosh assist with our music program. These kiddos love to sing and play the instruments.

We have a new Sunday School member Jaden who is young and in the nursery presently however he loves to come out to sing and dance with us. Welcome Jaden.

We are so blessed here at St. Andrews for all the many dedicated people who help us out; who include our children and ask them to assist in many areas of caring for others; for the children themselves who reach out to help the younger ones; for those who pray with and for our S/S. Lessons taught and learned through acceptance and great examples to follow which are being embedded in their ever-growing caring hearts. We thank each of you for helping them be good examples to others as well and to grow into strong Disciples of the Lord.



We wish each of you, our church family, a very Blessed Christmas of peace, love, joy and hope.

May we live by Grace through

Faith Ephesians 2: 1-10

Sunday School Superintendent

Ruth McEachern



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Important Dates

Dec. 3rd – Ladies Dinner at St. Andrew's in Arthur at 6:30pm.

Dec. 9th – "Walking towards the light" A Blue Christmas Service at Grace Anglican Church starting at 7:30pm.

Dec. 23rd – Communion.

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service at 7:30pm.

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day. Enjoy sharing the love of Jesus with your family and friends.

Dec. 31st – New Years Eve Skating party at the Arthur Community Centre. Please bring a food donation for the food bank. Skating 6:30pm-8pm. Upstairs party until 9pm.

Feb. 10th – Communion and Annual Meeting.

Feb. 17th – Rain/snow date of Annual Meeting

April 18th – Maundy Thursday Dinner and Communion

April 19th - Good Friday Service at Gordonville

April 21st – Easter Sunday and Communion

June 2nd – Communion

Oct. 6th – Communion

Dec. 1st – Communion

Dec. 22nd Communion



Come and Join together on New Year's Eve

For our Annual

Skating Party.

Skating from 6:30pm till 8pm.

Party upstairs till 9pm

Count down at 8:45pm

Desserts

Hot Chocolate

Music

Games

Everyone is welcome.