



ANDREW'S

NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2023



KASOTA EAST CAMP

YOU'RE INVITED!



As a thank you for your continued support of Kasota East Camp, we would love to invite you to spend the day with us! **Saturday, July 22: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM / Saturday, August 5: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

- Bring your own food and supplies. BBQ will be available to use.
- Vespers, campfire, waterfront, walking trails, Gaga Ball, volleyball, large fields, and Hammock Village will all be available.
- Our washhouse with sinks, toilets and showers will be open.
- Please note, Ross Lodge, Mann Lodge, and cabins will be locked.
- No lifeguard will be on duty. Use the waterfront at your own risk.
- When you come to the gates, they will be tied closed. Please let yourself through but tie the gate again. This is to prevent general public accessing our road.
- Please park in the parking lot.
- Smoking, cannabis products, and alcohol are NOT allowed on site.
- Please leave your animals at home.

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AN INVITATION TO LEAN IN...

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REV. DAVE

There's a challenge facing our church right now, and I'm asking every one who's reading this article to think about, and pray about, leaning in to the life of St. Andrew's church - and perhaps taking a place in the team/committee/board structure here. Might you be one of our new leaders?

A couple of regular board members could not be at the last board meeting - not an unusual occurrence, as any member of any committee knows - but we discovered that meant we couldn't make quorum. In fact, when we looked carefully, we will only make quorum at this stage if almost everyone that's on the board attends! This is because we currently have five vacant board positions. These are: Christian Development rep, Affirm rep, Worship rep, Congregational Life rep, and our second representative to the Chinook Winds Region.

I don't want to push the panic button here! This is an entirely natural and predictable challenge, following as it does on three years of pandemic, and a change in ministerial leadership following a time of some turmoil. Several folks in this church have been carrying key leadership positions for longer than usual, and things are comfortable enough now that many of them are able to step away from these responsibilities. This is all good! But we're having some difficulty finding folks to step into these positions. We aren't alone in this! Nearly every volunteer organization is having a tough time right now recruiting leaders.

But this is a challenge, and like every challenge, if we rise to it, we become stronger. If we don't, we take a step towards trouble.

So here's what I'm asking: I am asking you to think about, and pray about, whether God might be inviting you to take a position in the church's structure. I know - it's much easier to volunteer for short-term projects or one-off events. But it is the team/committee positions that form us for leadership and develop our sense of community and belonging. And it is the team/committee positions that develop the core strength of the church. I am hoping and praying for two types of volunteers here:

- New participants in the church structure: these might be folks who haven't been part of a church team before, maybe newcomers to this church, who'd like to get more involved and try things out.
- Leaders: these might be established leaders here at St. Andrew's who are currently not in a position, or newer folks who are feeling a call to try out a position that involves some leadership. Specifically, we're looking for people to take on those five board positions.



AN INVITATION TO LEAN IN CONTINUED...

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REV. DAVE

Finally, let me describe the areas of the church's life in which we are looking for help. If any of these areas are of interest to you, please think carefully about stepping forward - and I'd love to have coffee and talk!

- Christian Development is the group that is concerned with supporting kids and young families in church life, and in nurturing spiritual formation and growth in faith at every age. Family events, book studies, discussion groups, membership classes, baptism preparation, small groups, Sunday school are all aspects of this part of the church's ministry. The committee is already strong; we need board representation and probably some help in adult faith formation.
- Congregational Life is the group that is concerned with developing a sense of community in this church and also with caring for our members. Party-planners and folks who like to organize social events, this is your team! If you like to visit seniors and extend the care of the church to folks who may be more isolated, there is also a place for you here. This team (these teams) need to be built up almost from scratch. There is good staff support (Barbara does amazing work here) but we especially need leaders to reorganize this ministry, and party-planners to get some fun stuff going again!
- Worship is the team that provides support and planning for our congregational worship life. Decorating the sanctuary, organizing the volunteers that make worship go, helping to plan the worship schedule, and generally overseeing the ever-developing worship life of the congregation is what this group does. Worship is in a rebuilding mode, but we have four very strong people on this team. We could use fresh voices/insights, and a leader to chair this group and to represent us on the board.
- Affirm is the team that oversees and encourages us to develop our affirming ministry - our welcome and support of LGBTQIA+ and those with disabilities, or people who otherwise might be marginalized. This is actually a very strong group in the church, and a place where new leaders are becoming involved every year. But for various reasons, we simply don't have a board representative right now!
- Regional representative: St. Andrew's is a larger church, and we have at least two "places" for representatives to the Chinook Winds Region. In United Church structure, we are part of the Chinook Winds Region - Alberta south of Highway 13. Our regional representatives attend the annual meeting of the region, and are our primary connecting points to the wider denomination. In this time of change, there is some interesting stuff happening in the United Church: teaching, innovation, new developments, supports and connections between churches. We could use a second representative here; someone who might be interested in making connections with the wider church.

I've said many times that I don't like "twisting arms" or pressuring people into volunteer positions. I don't think that's good for anyone. But I am asking you to think about whether one of these positions might be calling to you, even underneath an initial reluctance. This is a big part of how friendships are formed here, community built, belonging cemented, leadership nurtured, and faith made real.

Blessed be!

Dave

IT'S SUMMER!

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REV. BARBARA

It's summer! Everything is lush and green, thanks to the rain. We are enjoying long days and warm temperatures. But we are also trying to live faithfully in the midst of grave challenges like climate change, lack of affordable housing, violence against the LGBTQ2+ community, an overburdened health system to name just a few. How then shall we live? What shall we tell our children?

Let us be awake to both the breathtaking beauty of our summertime and the heartbreaking ugliness of everything life diminishing we see around us. Let us really live where we live, standing up - in our own backyard - for the common good, while at the same time celebrating every green leaf.

Creator God, our hearts hold so many emotions at the same time. Awe upon hearing the gentle birdsong of the early morning, deep gratitude that our children are safe, expectant hope we will find common ground in the face of our challenges, but also fearful anxiety in regard to our future, and profound longing for peace everywhere.

Loving God, we ask you to sort out all our emotions so that we won't look away, but rather be fully alive to the brokenness and gifts of your world. We pray in the name of your son Jesus, our model and mentor Amen.

Blessings,
Barbara

THE LEGACY FUND

DOUG MAAS

THE LEGACY FUND

We are pleased to report that we have issued three cheques this spring to support congregational and community endeavours. These disbursements were approved at the last Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, the amount of \$2,086.00 was made available to The Green Team for its excellent environmental work at St. Andrew's. Secondly, \$1,565.00 was issued to The Broom Tree Foundation in Lacombe to support its work in helping disadvantaged women. Lastly, \$1,565.00 was provided to Lacombe based A Better World to assist with its world projects.

Each year, 50% of new donations and all interest earned on the Fund for that year, are made available for distribution as approved by the congregation. Donations can be made through the church office, through regular givings or as bequests. The current balance of the Fund is \$67,939.30.

The Legacy Fund Committee consists of Doug Maas and Ko Bruning. We welcome any questions you may have.

Submitted by Doug Maas, Chair - The Legacy Fund

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

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DOUG MAAS

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank joined 11 other Canadian aid agencies in June in a special appeal to help hungry people in East Africa. This area has been particularly hard hit with drought that started in 2020 and continues to this day. Internal conflict in some countries has also contributed to hunger problems.

Stefan Epp-Koop of the Foodgrains Bank visited Somalia in May. "People's lives and livelihoods have been completely destroyed," he indicated in a press release. "Life-saving assistance is urgently needed in the region." The United Church of Canada is one of 15 church partners that forms the Canadian Foodgrains Bank that was created in 1983.

If you wish to help with the work of the Foodgrains Bank by making a charitable donation, please contact Doug Maas at 403-318-5733.

Submitted by:

Doug Maas, Chair-Outreach Team

ST. ANDREW'S SUMMER CAMP

FORMERLY VBS

St. Andrew's Summer Camp (formerly known as Vacation Bible School) will be held the week of August 21-24 from 9 AM - 12 PM. If you would like to register or volunteer, please contact the office: office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca. More details following in the July newsletter!

FOOD BANK

DIANNA MACLEOD

Just a reminder that the Lacombe Food Bank is ALWAYS in need of donations. Our church community is a reliable and generous source of non-perishable groceries and monetary donations that aid our neighbours who are experiencing hard times.



Just a reminder that the Lacombe Food Bank is ALWAYS in need of donations. Our church community is a reliable and generous source of non-perishable groceries and monetary donations that aid our neighbours who are experiencing hard times. Please remember the Food Bank when you are shopping for groceries. You may leave donations in the wicker baskets at the two entrances to our church. They will be taken to the Food Bank at the end of each month, weighed and noted as coming from St Andrew's.

Thank you for your generosity. Dianna MacLeod, Food Bank Liaison

PROPERTY TEAM

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GARY MACDONALD

Project St. Andrew's Upgrade:

Faced with rapidly increasing natural gas and electricity costs we have decided we need to spend money to save money by reducing our electrical and natural gas consumption.

- ☰ Thanks to the exceptional job Bob King did for us with his energy audit, Cecile Fausak reported that Stephen Collette (applications to Faithful Footprints) feels he has never seen a more thorough audit and assures us there will be no problem qualifying for their full \$30000 grant. (The grant requires that a church spends at least \$45000 on approved energy saving items to qualify for the full \$30000)
- ☰ We are indebted to: (in no particular order)
 - a) The Green Team for getting the ball rolling, pursuing the grants, and supporting the project with their funds.
 - b) Annerie Dunnewind and her garage sale volunteers who put their proceeds toward the project.
 - c) An anonymous donor.
 - d) Greg Pallister who stepped up to coordinate the ongoing bid gathering process
 - e) Doug Will (Foxwood Homes) who volunteered many hours, expertise, and contacts on our behalf. Doug has asked his suppliers and tradespeople to sharpen their pencils... as they have been known to do for certain nonprofit organizations in the past...on our behalf and is also coordinating various aspects of the operation.
 - f) Bob King who, in addition to the initial audit, continues to give us the benefit of his experience plus his knowledge of our building. Bob has, and continues, to devote many hours to this project.
 - g) Dennis Ethier who has been there every step of the way doing whatever whenever.
 - h) Everybody who has been so supportive from the get-go.



PROPERTY TEAM

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GARY MACDONALD

☰ So where do we stand at the moment and what are we visualizing after getting ballpark numbers?

Job #1: Bring up the insulation to R50 in the attics. Repairs to flashing, shingles, improvement of ventilation (soffits and whirley birds), eavestrough repairs, painting.

We would prefer to avoid further intrusions of "holey water"...emphasis on the hole part. In addition, we need to address some ongoing electrical situations in the attic of the sanctuary (where we have been lucky a fire did not start) and we need to seal up some significant sources of heat loss into the attics.

We are investigating replacing all our roof tiles with regular shingles. We had to replace a large number of them after the hailstorms. We are awaiting a quote to remove the tiles, sheet the roof and install asphalt shingles.

Job #2: Upgrade all remaining lighting to energy efficient bulbs and receptacles.

Job #3 Heating: We have discovered that the two HVAC units (heat, ventilate, air condition) installed on the flat roof at the time of the sanctuary extension (2001ish?) are in perfect working order. Their thermostats allow them to be set for heat (with a variable degree of outside air getting mixed within the inbuilt air exchange unit), ventilate, or air condition.

The one was never connected! It was intended to heat and ventilate what is now the preschool (presumably the plan changed to in floor heating which uses a regular hot water tank which Bob estimates is, at best, 50% efficient). We will investigate completing the ductwork within the preschool and using this unit as originally intended (we can keep the floor warm enough for the kids but lower that thermostat).

The second unit was turned off shortly after being installed...we understand folks found it noisy and causing vibration. It was intended to fully supply all the heat, ventilation, and air conditioning to the sanctuary. McMullins came and ran both units, and we could detect no noise or vibration. We have been heating the sanctuary with 2 designated furnaces all these years...both of which are roughly 25 years old ...and suspect we can avoid eventually replacing those two furnaces thanks to the HVAC unit.

Job #4 Addressing other major heat loss sources:

-take care of what we can handle ourselves.....caulking, weatherstripping, door sweeps, insulating specific spots

-removal of a number of old (1956 vintage) single pane windows...primarily in the auditorium. Frame and insulate the resulting openings and stucco the exterior surfaces to match the rest of the building.

-replace the old exterior doors to the auditorium and the preschool with insulated steel doors.

-frame and insulate the interior east and north walls of the auditorium.

-Address the window situation in the office bathroom.

Job #5 Exterior Painting:

-we are getting quotes to do all the nonground level work.

-ground level work we can do ourselves via work bees. (be ready to scrape, caulk and paint everybody)

PROPERTY TEAM

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GARY MACDONALD

≡ When would this all get done?

Doug suggests that we are better doing it in late summer /early fall. The tradespeople are busy right now but it appears to start to slow in mid-August so he feels their quoted prices will be lower if the work can be done at that time.

≡ Cost:

We are still gathering numbers, but a quick spreadsheet suggests that we are well within the \$150000 figure...and that includes a 20% buffer for unforeseeables....

Anticipated sources:

\$30000 Faithful Footprints grant

\$10000 currently sitting in the Green Team account

\$100000 request to the St Andrew's Board...the Board has the money so no need to borrow \$ from individuals within the congregation.

≡ Should we be spending money at all?

ans: a) we think savings on gas and power will be significant.....guesstimate \$10000 annually.

b) much of this work is stuff that simply has to be done....we have been lucky that our maintenance costs have been low for a number of years but it was only a matter of time.

c) we cannot see eliminating the auditorium...either in the interests of our congregation or the preschool so we feel it makes sense to bite the bullet and make the place comfortable and energy efficient.

≡ What about the Board's upcoming "visioning process"?

ans: we feel it is a very good idea and should focus on making better use of the entire facility....particularly the auditorium and basement....leaving no stone unturned.

≡ Who is the "Property Team"?

At a special meeting attended by some of the Green Team members and congregants interested in investigating this possible undertaking we ended up with a group of roughly 13 of us who have since carried the ball. Since we have no "property committee" as such this ad hoc group refers to itself as the Property Team. It is a very dedicated group and, regardless of the outcome, we are indebted to them.

Respectively submitted,

Gary MacDonald

(Board member and so-called Property Chair)