



ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2024



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SUMMER CAMP 2024!

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who were part of this year's summer day camp!

My heart was warmed by the curious, engaged, fun to be with children and all the volunteers that supported those August days in a wide variety of ways whether through music, crafts, games, snacks and prayer.

What a group of wonderful people between four and eighty-four!

I think all of us learned more about ourselves, each other and God's amazing love.

With deep gratitude,
Barbara



Mission & Service

In 2023, just over \$24 million in total donations was made to the Mission and Service Fund.

Funds were received from congregations, emergency appeals, bequests and other planned gifts.

75% of funds spent were within Canada and 25% spent overseas.

St. Andrew's 2023 contribution was \$17,000 to Mission and Service.

For information on how you may want to contribute to Mission and Service, please contact Doug at: 403- 318-5733.



Coming Up This Fall...

Wow, as I write this the Labour Day weekend is coming up and I am wondering how the summer has passed so quickly (it's NOT over. It's NOT). That means school's starting up soon, and so is the church's program year.

There are a few things I'd like to make sure are on your radar somewhere! First is that I hope to do another "Fresh Start in Faith" group this fall! Last year's group was amazing - a number of folks who were new to the church, a few long-timers, and we had a great time and have formed a longer-term group.

This year again the new group will be aimed at those who are newer to the church and looking for a way "in;" but it's also great to have at least a few people who have been at the church for longer, but who are also looking for something of a fresh look at the basics. It'll be one evening a week starting in late September, probably, for about 8 weeks. If you're interested, please talk with me or call Jana in the office.

At our most recent annual meeting we made a significant decision: we agreed to move towards a new board structure, one that would allow the board to spend most of its time on "big picture" concerns - vision, mission, and goals.

In order to do this, the board needs to delegate most of the ministry and operational decisions to others. There's been a group working on a proposal for this, and we're almost ready to come back to the board and congregation to talk about it!

So expect some discussions about policy and structure this fall. Policy and structure is not fun for everyone, but if it is for you, come and talk!

As part of this "structure" decision, we also asked the board to begin looking at our mission, vision, and value statements. There is also a small group organizing this conversation; the first part has been the "vision quest" over the summer in which we have been looking at our current statements. Thanks to all of you who have participated in this!



Messy Church starts up this week on Friday, September 6 at 5 PM.

Our overall theme for the year is Community! On Friday we will look at Deborah's story as an example of a good leader! A good leader is wise, kind, a good listener, brave. Deborah was a prophet, judge, and military leader.

We hope you can join us!



Coming Up This Fall...

This fall, we'll turn from looking at our current statements to what our future statements might be, and we'll be having focus group conversations on who we are (identity), what our purpose is (mission), and who our neighbours are (context). We'll compile all these conversations into a proposal which will, we hope, come before our next annual meeting in April.

These are not just "formula" conversations: they will define the direction of our church's work and life for the next few years! So again: join in and have your say!

On a personal note, I want to say that I do not expect these proposals and conversations to make radical changes to this church.

The structural proposal will look like a significant change, I think, but to my mind it will reflect the way we have been evolving for several years. It facilitates what we've been moving towards in practice. And the vision and mission conversations, likewise, will reflect the way our church is evolving.

Our new statements (if indeed we decide to change them) should feel right, they should fit who we are, and they should excite us to move forward.

Our structure and vision conversations are therefore very important - they are about who we are becoming -- but I don't think they will be stressful conversations.

Of course, all this will be in addition to the many things that are part of our normal life - choirs, UCW events, ministry with children, Messy Church, worship, outreach events, Affirm and Living into Right Relations, social events... I am privileged to be part of this warm and active church; much as I love summer, the fall looks great!

Blessings, Dave



Central Alberta Foodgrains Project

This fall, our local growing project will harvest 2 fields of canola, 20 acres south of Gull Lake and 120 acres, southeast of Lacombe.

Our committee will be meeting soon to arrange for the harvesting of these two crops. We will engage Lacombe County farmers to swath and then combine the crops, Vision Truck Lines to transport the commodity from the fields and a local elevator to purchase the canola.

Several agri-businesses will provide a lunch for the volunteers and spectators the day of the harvest at the 120 acre field. if you are interested in attending, please contact Doug at 403-318-5733 for details of date and location.

As well, we will have a presence at Agri-Trade in Red Deer in November and a special dinner/information night in Red Deer also in November with a special guest speaker from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg. More details to follow as November draws closer.

Submitted by:
Doug Maas -
Committee Member

ST. ANDREW'S
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
TEAM



Sunday School Kickoff!

Our Sunday School Kickoff will be held next Sunday, September 8!



JOIN US FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK LUNCH AND LEARN

ORGANIZED THROUGH
THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 23-27
11:00AM-1:00PM

Held upstairs in the LMC in the Kinsmen Program Room
Bring your own lunch; come for one day or for all

A national webinar followed by discussion hosted by a
partnership between Mary C Moore Public Library, Lacombe
Museum and St. Andrews United Church

For more information, contact Kirstin at
kbouwsema@prl.ab.ca or visit <https://trw-svr.nctr.ca/>

