

# MONTHLY BEACON

St. Andrew's United Church

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## Reflection

BY REVEREND DAVE

One of the first tasks in beginning a new ministry is some conversation and reflection on our mission, vision, and values. I think this is an extremely important discussion, and I'm excited that it's begun! Here is the beginning of some reflections on what I'm hearing.

St. Andrew's is a very strong church – I am reminded of that often, and believe me, I'm enjoying it! But we are floating in a current of societal change right now that is definitely NOT conducive to church growth. There are many aspects to this, but I'll mention only two here: where in the 1950's and 60's societal pressure brought people to church, today all the societal pressure is away from church.

Consumer values, a general societal disdain for "organized religion," even youth sports all pull people away from church connection. At one point, we could build a church and people would just come. Not so today. Any programs, practices, and behaviours that are built upon the assumption of a supportive society do NOT fit our current reality.

The other change I'll note is the shift from denominational loyalty to a more consumer mind-set, when it comes to church. My sense is that when folks look for a church – particularly if it's a desire for social connection that brings them – they will look first for people like themselves. If I'm a young single looking for social connection, I'll be checking out the church for other young singles. If I'm part of a family with young children, same – I'll be looking for other families with whom to connect. This means that our current climate will reward the bigger, more highly programmed churches. With youth, for instance, it's likely that "to those who have, more will be given; to those who have not, even what they have will be taken away." Continued on page 2...

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## Reflection continued...

BY REVEREND DAVE

So we're strong, but the challenges are real. What do we have going for us right now? I'm hearing three things for me that I think are significant.

First is that people often join churches NOT out of a sense of need, but out of a desire to be involved in something significant. It is the mission of the church that attracts, now, as much as any sense of fellowship or need for spirituality. In that sense, I think St. Andrew's is well placed.

If people want to be involved in something significant, I think there are good options in this church. Just last week we celebrated a donation to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank that amounted to \$575,000. That's something! When we think about mission, we want to think about what God is doing through us that is relevant and important in the world.

Second, the societal pressure that takes people away from church is, in a sense, part of our strength. We are a "counter-cultural" organization. Our values are not consumer values, and the call of the gospel does call us to a kind of life that is in tension with the society around us. That means we may not be main-stream, but for people who feel called to something different, we'll be genuinely attractive. When we think about mission, let's not be afraid of the ways the gospel makes us different from the culture around us.

Finally, I am hearing that programs like Messy Church and the rainbow symbols visible around the church, our efforts towards truth and reconciliation, have been noticed by many in our area. There is a group of people out there – and they may not be typical "church folk," who think we are doing something very right. When we think about mission, let's also not be afraid of the ways our understanding of the gospel and the Bible makes us distinct from many other churches.

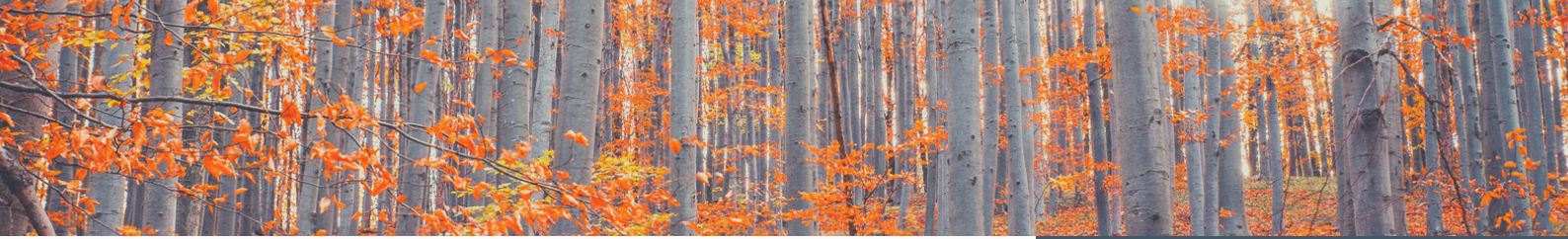
In a time of rapid and significant change, clarity about our mission, our purpose and identity, will be very important I think. This clarity will help us to redesign programs to fit new realities, and will help us know what we can let go of and what to build.

Next month: some reflection on what is arising in terms of missional values...

Dave

**"To accomplish anything you must first have a mission, a goal, a hope, a vision."**

RICK WARREN



## Gratitude!

BY REVEREND BARBARA

We were celebrating Thanksgiving about two weeks ago, but we can give thanks 365 days of the year. I learned gratitude is a muscle which grows stronger by exercising it every day in all kinds of ways. A Gratitude workout can happen anytime; however, just before a meal, whether eating with others or alone is favoured among those who have lots of experience with it.

Here a few warm-up tips:

We can name in gratitude something very far away or very close by:

Thank you, God, for the blue skies.

Thank you, God, for my brown eyes.

We can turn to fun poetry: thank you, God, for

G randparents

R aspberries

A lligators

T uques

I deas

T uesdays

U kuleles

D ogs

E ars

We can take three deep grateful breaths.

And that is just the beginning...you get the picture.

So, borrowing from Charles Wesley (1707- 1788), let us give thanks,

“by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people you can, as long as ever we can.”

Barbara

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD





## Board Chair Greetings!

BY LAWRENCE HRYCAN

Wow! Congregation members of St. Andrew's have done an amazing number of things over the past month.

Reverend Dave continually mentions during Sunday morning worship how people at St. Andrew's take pride in our church and how many people are involved in the service work that we do. We have 35 to 55 people attending in-person Worship services each Sunday. After a week, another 100 plus have watched the service on-line through YouTube or Facebook. Sometimes there are glitches with the technology, so thanks for the patience when we experience those.

On the evening of September 30, there were approximately 40 people who spent time in the sanctuary for some quiet reflection. Candles were lit and the bells were rung in acknowledgement of the indigenous people of our past and present. This was shared on Sunny 94 and people who heard it on air, came to light candles.

During the afternoon of Sunday, October 3, over 50 people enjoyed taking part in the scavenger hunt at J.J. Collett. It was a perfect fall day with the nature reserve being the perfect backdrop for this wonderful family event.

The fence on the west side of St. Andrew's is now complete. You can see a picture of it in this newsletter.

Various people have shared their ideas by either getting together in person or by Zoom. The following teams and ad hoc groups have met: Communications, Advent Planning, Christmas Tree Planning, Worship, Christian Development, Search Team (preparations for Covenanting Service for Reverend Dave) and the Board. A number of volunteers have stepped forth to help out over the next few months. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.

The Men's Breakfast Club traditionally puts up the Nativity Scene each year and it would be appreciated if volunteers from this group would once again be willing to take this on. A suggested date is Saturday, November 27 at 10:00 a.m. If you think you can help, please let the office know.

Finance has an update in this newsletter and although times have been tough for all of us, both emotionally and financially, we know that we are there to take care of each other.

Your Board continues to meet once a month. Please feel free to contact any Board member if you have suggestions for going forward.

In January, we will once again be looking for individuals to be involved with the various committees and board positions. Think about how you might contribute.

Please feel free to call or email me on anything you wish to talk about.

Lawrence Hrycan

Email: [lhrycan@shaw.ca](mailto:lhrycan@shaw.ca) Telephone: 403-782-4076

**"Seeking  
volunteers from  
the Men's  
Breakfast Club to  
set up the nativity  
scene. Saturday  
Nov. 27, 10 AM  
TBD. Please let the  
office know if you  
are willing to help."**





## Truth and Reconciliation Day Sept. 30

### LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS

On September 30th, 2021, Truth and Reconciliation Day, St. Andrew's United Church honoured the day with ringing the church bells and holding a vigil for the suffering and healing of Indigenous people of Canada. In photo, Del MacIntyre lights a candle for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Submitted by: Tilly Meyer

"He has made  
everything  
beautiful in its  
time."

ECCLESIASTES 3:11



In photo, Del MacIntyre lights a candle for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Submitted by: Tilly Meyer

## Calling all Volunteers!

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE SEEKING HELP

The Worship Committee is looking for individuals to read a children's story during the Sunday services. This can be done in person or recorded and shown through video on Sunday morning.

We are also seeking individuals interested in being trained in the AV and live streaming equipment in case one of our two youths are not available. We are also looking for individuals to sit with our very capable AV young people in case of a problem...no experience with the equipment necessary.

## Financial

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

### Revenue

Contributions and Other

Expenses

Net Income (Loss)

### Current Month

\$13,784

\$18,889

\$(5,105)

### Year to Date

\$145,938

\$176,797

\$(30,858)





## Scavenger Hunt

J.J.COLLETT

Over 50 people took part in the scavenger hunt on Sunday, October 3, the weather was great and a fun time was had by everyone!

"I'm so glad I live  
in a world where  
there are  
Octobers."

L.M. MONTGOMERY



Easton Amundson



Joan Hartzell



Teri-Lynn Amundson





## Scavenger Hunt



Autumn whispered  
to the wind, "I fall;  
but always rise  
again."

ANGIE WELLAND-  
CROSBY



Laurie Maas, Peggy DeForge



Doris Johnston, Marg Woodrow



Peggy DeForge, Joan Hartzell, Laurie Maas, Tom DeForge, Pat Crozier, Lexi & Scout the dogs!



Bill MacLeod, Jane Macdonald, Anna MacLeod, Karen Holmes, Dave Holmes





## Circles of Care

### VISIT WITH PEARL MACLEOD

Circles of Care visited Pearl MacLeod recently. It was a great visit! Despite Pearl's medical issues she remains very upbeat!

A special note from Pearl was received...

"My daughter and I are so pleased to have had a visit from such lovely ladies from St. Andrew's United Church. It is our pleasure to submit a monetary donation to our church. Wishing you all a happy fall weather-wise. I remain truly yours."



Doris T., Linda C., Barbara L., and Tilly M.

"Take care of the small circle around you. When you have succeeded with them, then move outwards, one small step at a time."

AUDREY HEPBURN

## Hearing the Message

### BY BARRY BROUWER

Do any of you have difficulty hearing clearly what Pastor Dave is saying? I can say that even with state-of-the-art hearing aids, I often missed much of what was being said, no matter where I was seated. Even in the choir loft! Because I wanted to hear all of the service, I decided to try out the headphones that are available in the back of the church (on the bench behind the sound booth).

I have been very pleased with the results!

I have been able to hear so much more of what is being said by Dave (and others, when they are speaking clearly into the microphone). The devices are pre charged; all one needs to do is plug in the headphone jack, turn the remote receiver on, and adjust the volume. The headphones are light and comfortable, and can easily be taken off and put back on. Even if you think you can hear "enough", it might be worth a try to see how much difference these devices can make. You don't want to miss any part of Pastor Dave's messages!



Tilly Meyer, Pearl MacLeod



## Congregational Life

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A very Happy Birthday to Verna Schmidt who will celebrate her 90th birthday on Nov. 2, congratulations Verna!



Ed & Verna Schmidt

## Congregational Visits

### VISITS FROM DAVE!

Reverend Dave is still doing congregational visits, and will likely make this an ongoing feature of ministry. But we are at the point now where we could use your help! If you'd like Dave to pop by for a visit, or meet you at a coffee shop, please let Jana in the church office know! The church number is [403-782-3148](tel:403-782-3148) or email [office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca). Jana will pass on your name to Monique Vermegen, who is kindly organizing Dave's visits right now. Please call if:

- Dave just hasn't visited you yet!
- If you have concerns or questions you'd like to talk about, either in YOUR life or the CHURCH'S life.
- If you're new and want to make a connection.

Thanks so much for your help!

"Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young."

THEODORE  
ROOSEVELT

## St. Andrew's United Church, a Caring Community

Anyone knowing of a milestone birthday (90, 95, & 100) and anniversaries (50, 60, & 70), please let us know as we would like to recognize them.

Congregational Life:

Tilly Meyer: [403-782-9887](tel:403-782-9887)

## UCW "Fruitcake Ladies"

The UCW "Fruitcake Ladies" have decided not to make and sell fruitcakes this Christmas. We are hoping to have a Christmas in July special event instead.





## Chocolate Anyone?? Taste of Guatemala

### VIRTUAL CHOCOLATE TASTING & CELEBRATION

Another exciting virtual event is coming up on Nov. 18! This one actually includes chocolate, and a very interesting tour of where it comes from.

Our chocolate tasting event is back - with all new chocolates and a re-designed program! Join us for an evening filled with sweet bites, celebration and camaraderie. This 75 minute event will feature an interactive tasting with chocolate sommelier Estell Tracy of 37 Chocolates and Nico Silverman of Diego's Chocolates, followed by a celebration of CEDEPCA's 35 anniversary! Your registration fee (\$58) includes four artisanal Guatemalan chocolate bars delivered right to your front door and a \$25 tax-deductible donation. Please email [CarrieSaathoff@hotmail.com](mailto:CarrieSaathoff@hotmail.com) with any questions. All are welcome!

"I'd give up chocolate...but I'm not a quitter."



## Poinsettia Sale

We are having the Poinsettia Sale this year.  
Date to be determined.  
Red, Pink, White 6" pots 1 plant: \$15.00  
Red, Pink, White 10" pots 2+ plants: \$30.00  
Tropical Bowl, various plants \$20.00

These make lovely Christmas presents for parents, shut-ins, etc. Payment upon delivery, orders will be taken soon.

Submitted by: Madeline KEC Camp Champ

## New West Side Fence!

The fence on the west side of St. Andrew's is now complete. The preschool children now have a safe play area in which to enjoy the outside world. The contributors to this project were: the Christian Development Committee through the fundraising of the garage sale and the bottle drive which was done in conjunction with the pre-school; the United Church Women's Group (UCW #2) and the Board. Thank you to Hans Haefliger for overseeing the project to the end. Great job everyone!



# Cow Patti Professional Comedy Dinner Theatre

SUGAR ROAD

Hannah runs the family amusement park in the small Ontario town of Elmvale. She tries to resurrect their Spurs & Hearts Festival by booking country star Jesse Emberley who performed at the park a decade ago. Their lives are about to intersect again after the night they shared beneath the stars years ago. When friends Caroline and Ray get involved, laughter, romance and shenanigans ensue, making their encounter spin like a "Tilt-A-Whirl"!

Saturday December 11th, 2021 The Lacombe Golf & Country Club Doors Open @ 11:00 AM Brunch @ 11:30 AM Show @ 1:00PM

All proceeds support Kasota East Camp, Madeline has 13 tickets left, book yours now!



"Give God your weakness and He'll give you His strength."

## Healing Pathway

### ST. ANDREW'S HEALING PATHWAY GROUP

Finally, after 19 months, the St. Andrew's Healing Pathway group was able to meet. What a joy it was to have eight of our members present to share the Divine's healing energy through meditations, readings, prayers and other healing practices. How refreshing it felt! Unfortunately, restrictions continue to prevent us from offering in-person healing energy sessions to members of our congregation or to the community at large. The Healing Pathway group will continue meeting monthly, sharing, learning and practicing the skills of the Pathway.

Our group members have begun giving Rev. Dave a blessing prior to each Sunday's service. We look forward to the time when we are once again able to offer blessings, as well as healing sessions to all. Patience, patience, patience.



## Covenanting Ceremony

NOVEMBER 28

A Covenanting Ceremony for Reverend Dave will be held on November 28, 3 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate!

Submitted by: Claudine Bruning

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

## Volunteers Needed!

ADVENT TEAM REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to participate in advent candle lighting by answering one of the following questions in a short video (one or two sentences) and then lighting the advent candle (this can be in the church or at home, with traditional candles or a tea light):

- How does your experience of God bring you hope in this season of pandemic?
- How does your experience of God bring you peace in this season of pandemic?
- How does your experience of God bring you joy in this season of pandemic?
- Where do you find the love of God in this season of pandemic?
- How does the birth of Christ bring light into your life?

Arrangements can be made to have someone video for you and candles can be provided if desired.

Hope: Nov 28, Peace: Dec 5, Joy: Dec 12, Love: Dec 19, Birth: Dec 24

If you are interested in participating, please contact Annerie Dunnewind at [anneriedunnewind@hotmail.com](mailto:anneriedunnewind@hotmail.com) or 403-302-0846 for more details.

## White Gift & Food Bank Sunday

We are presently planning this annual event for December and wanted to provide you with an early Heads-Up. The Lacombe Food Bank is looking for regular non-perishable items and also items such as laundry soap, hand soap and toilet paper.

Santa's Anonymous that includes children up to the age of 16, especially requests donations for pre-teens and teens. These items could include sports balls such as a basketball, hoodies or gift cards to our local cinema and electronics stores.

More details to follow in the next newsletter, our Church Facebook page and announcements at Sunday services in November.