



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall 2014 Issue

ST. GILES' MOTTO: "Called by Christ, Committed by Faith, Connected by Community."

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

But do we see the Whole Picture?

When Spring arrived the Mountains called my name, but it wasn't until middle August that I heeded the gentle call from the West.

My camera always tags along because you never know when a great picture is waiting for you. I started to take a series of pictures of one landscape so that I can make a panorama when I got home. It is quite something to look at the picture on my computer and see the whole picture.

This made me think: In life do we see the whole picture (or only bits and pieces – only the bits and pieces we want to see)? A lot can happen at any given time. There are so many voices out there that want our attention, tell us what is right, wrong, tolerable, acceptable, and you-name-it. These voices come from folks in the church community, society, friends, neighbours, talk shows, etc. **But do we see the Whole Picture?**

In our Bible Study group we are studying Hebrews. One verse has been my constant companion – Hebrews 2:1 *"Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it."*

This is a reference to the stories of the Old Testament where we have heard that God created and it was Good. We have heard that God created human beings and given us freewill, which we misused and that there were consequences for not listening to God who cares about us.

What's - Inside?

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We have heard that God is mercy – even though we human beings didn't listen, God promised a Saviour. We have heard time and again how God instructs and when people listen and obeyed it went well, but when they didn't it did not go so well. We have heard how the voices of the society

tried to influence God's people and how nothing good came from it. We have seen how God's people have tried to justify their actions that went against God's will. And of course the stories of Jesus (which starts in Genesis when God promised a Redeemer), His death, and His resurrection. We have seen how time and again the people were reminded, "pay attention to what you have heard, so that you do not drift away from it."

God is the whole picture: God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth; and Jesus Christ the Saviour and Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.

But what if we don't like what God tells us? What if we feel God is wrong? What if people in the church community pressure us?

All of us were children and at one point thought our parents were wrong. Some of us might have been pressured by our peers to do something (often against the advice of others especially our parents). I would say that in the majority of times our parents were right.

God is our heavenly Father, and He is the perfect parent. There will be times when our thoughts will be different from God's, there will be times we think God is wrong, there will be times when we are pressured by others (even those in the church community), there will be times when society will pressure us to accept and do certain things – and we will be torn.

When this happens may we remember that the whole picture is GOD, may we remember the Spirit inspired words from Scripture, *"Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from [God's grace and God's love]."*

Blessings,
Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpont

MISSION STATEMENT: *"St. Giles' mission is to nurture a vibrant Christian life; we will seek to grow in our relationship with God, we will care for the community and we will dare to follow Christ into the world."*

EDITORIAL

Dear Members and Friends of St. Giles,

In so many ways we often think of the season of Fall as a time of completion. The growing season has come to an end and we enjoy the harvest of all the wonderful fruits and vegetables that have stored away all the warmth of summer. Our flower gardens are no longer bursting with new blooms and those carefree summer holidays are behind us. On the other hand I think it is also viewed as a time of beginning. With the start-up of regular Sunday school, choir practices, meetings and adult bible study opportunities, it is a perfect time to jump in to something new or reconnect where you left off. St. Giles is alive with activity and the door is open for you to walk through. As you read this issue, listen for where you feel called to connect.

"What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah 6:8 (KJV).

We give thanks for all our contributors who bring their individual talents to weave together the fabric of what we call life at St. Giles. It is a tapestry that reflects our history, our celebrations, our service to each other and to our community, our times of fellowship, study and work. The colorful threads that tie us all together reflect God's love for all creation.

This Thanksgiving, as we celebrate with thankful hearts, may we pause and pray that happiness will find its way into every home.

Susan Carmichael for The Editorial Team

Mushrooms growing in the Banff National Park. Photos by Dewey Delpont



NOTE-WORTHY

To the Congregation of St. Giles Presbyterian Church, On behalf of the children of Thutong ya Bana, and myself, please accept our deepest gratitude for your very generous donation to us.

We struggle to keep all our young people properly clothed and cared for, especially in winter. Your donation was again so much appreciated.

You would be especially touched by the children's excitement as they picked out their new shoes and other much needed items—and enjoyed healthy snacks and treats to eat.

May the good Lord reward you for your wonderful generosity.

Sincerely,
Brother Liam

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to your team for the continued support of our guests.

We remain deeply grateful.

Blessings, Stefice
Inn from the Cold Program

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Dear Friends,

The Pastoral Care Committee wishes to say 'many thanks' to all the wonderful bakers in our congregation. We would like you to know that we are very appreciative of your help and also that you give so freely of your time and talent and with such grace.

Jenny Thomson, Coordinator

1965-1973, THE FIRST STAINED GLASS WINDOWS ARE INSTALLED AT ST GILES

BY JANET ASTLE

I have been writing items for the St. Giles newsletter for over 10 years so I thought the time had come to re-use some of my old articles, starting with the history of St. Giles' stained glass windows. Imagine my disappointment when I discovered that I had never actually written a newsletter article on that subject! As a result I have had to go back to the keyboard and combine information from the booklet that I wrote about the windows some years ago with details that have come to light in the Archives more recently.

The years following the dedication of the new St Giles building in 1958 were busy ones for the congregation, and in particular for the Board of Managers. The Board took its duties very seriously as it tried to balance the funds required to pay for additions and amendments to, and furnishings for, the new building, with money necessary to pay off the mortgage. It was, therefore, very surprised, and probably rather miffed, to hear in April, 1965, that the Minister (the Rev. H.L. Simpson) had "on his own initiative" requested 12 donors to contribute \$100.00 each towards a memorial stained glass window. At this time all the windows in the church were of plain glass, and the Board had turned down a proposal the previous year to use tinted glass on the south side of the church. This was to help reduce heat and glare in the balcony, but the Board felt this was expensive, of dubious value, and would only be required for limited occasions.

The Rev. Simpson was undeterred by the (presumably) rather lukewarm response from the Board of Managers and pursued his campaign, not only with Session, but also with various people who might be willing to contribute. I have no idea how successful he was with this, but the project preceded at a swift rate, and by November, 1965, Session had agreed that the first window should be installed on the east side of the sanctuary closest to the lectern. There were some delays due to bitterly cold weather in January, 1966, but there were a few days when the mercury went above freezing, and it is possible the window was installed then. The window was dedicated on January 23, 1966, a day of snow and temperatures down in the -20s Celsius. I am sure the congregation enjoyed seeing the jewel-like colours of that window compared to the white expanse that must have been visible from all the other windows.

This first window depicts Christ the Good Shepherd holding a lamb in one hand and a shepherd's crook in the other. At Christ's feet are some stylised flowers.

The smaller window above contains a crown while the window below pictures a lamb lying on the Book of Seals. The window was made at the Vroom Art Studios in Calgary by Joseph W. Vroom. A newspaper clipping at the time mentioned that the window contains about 3,000 pieces of antique French glass and required 10,000 soldering points.

Within a month of the dedication two questions arose that, no doubt, the Board of Managers had been anticipating. The first was how to insure the window, as it was no longer covered by the regular policy. The second was how to protect the window from hail and other exterior damage. The windows on the 10th St side of the church are particularly vulnerable from rocks being flung up by passing vehicles, and as would later occur, acts of vandalism. This proved to be a thorny problem, and the various merits of mesh versus hardened glass or clear plastics were discussed for years. It has only been in recent years that polycarbonate sheets, called Lexan, have been attached to the exteriors of all the windows.

Despite these concerns, there must have been members of the congregation who appreciated the new window, because funds were offered almost immediately to pay for a second memorial window directly opposite the first on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Mr. Vroom's health had deteriorated shortly after the installation of the first window, so his student, Victor Thompson, took over the job and, indeed, he created all the remaining windows at St. Giles. Mr. Thompson, who was 33 years old at the time of the second window's dedication, was a former draftsman from Margate, England. He used French and German glass made by traditional hand blown methods that came in a great array of colours. He was careful to match the background blue for this window to that of the one opposite. It should be noted that the background colour of the windows becomes progressively lighter as the windows move back through the sanctuary. Mr. Thompson also matched the window opposite by not including a circular "halo" shape around Jesus' head. All the other windows do have this circular shape around the main character's head.

The second window, of Mary (sister of Martha) anointing Christ's feet, was dedicated on a cool, breezy October 29, 1967. There is a newspaper clipping in the archives showing a photo of the new window with Roderick MacNevin, Mrs. Jackson, Rev. Lindsay Simpson,

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1965-1973, THE FIRST STAINED GLASS WINDOWS ARE INSTALLED AT ST GILES

(continued from page 3)

Miss. Merle Chambers and Victor Thompson standing beside it. The window is in memory of Sylvia MacNevin, John Jackson, Mary and James Chambers and Wilemina Miller. The upper small window depicts a chalice and two doves, while the lower one includes a sailing ship together with the memorial inscription. The emblem of a ship (or the Ark) is often used in stained glass windows to represent the Church. In fact the word nave comes from the Latin *navis* for ship. The curved beams that support the roof of St. Giles continue the theme of a ship's curved hull. (I feel rather sorry for those magnificent curved beams because they are rather taken for granted, positioned as they are between each of the stained glass windows. They are beautiful pieces of workmanship, and I always wonder how they were transported to the St. Giles construction site, because they are so large. There is a wonderful slide in the archives that shows the early construction of the church. Those beams were the first structural elements to be installed (rather like raising a barn) with cross members along the roof holding them together and huge bracing beams at each end to stop the lot from toppling over.)

As for the windows, installation of further stained glass stalled for a while, and the congregation was left to admire the gradual development of the new Confederation Park from the remaining clear glass westerly windows. During these years there were very few mature trees between St. Giles and Nose Hill, and almost all the ones in the new park had been recently planted and were thus quite small. The Board of Managers, meanwhile, was left to deal with some damage to the easterly window in 1969. It could not have been that bad, as Mr. Thompson quoted \$70 for the repair, which was paid for by the insurance company.

There is little mention of the windows in the archives until early 1972, when a considerable donation from Mrs. McKay and Mrs Jackson was made towards another memorial window (in memory of Robert and Mary MacKay, Isabel Bertram and Marion Bath). It is interesting (to me at least as a choir member) that the full cost of this

window was \$2450 while the cost for new "gold" choir gowns in February of that year was \$1038. It was agreed that the location for this window should be the third window back on the 10th St side (so there would be a clear glass window between it and "The Good Shepherd". The window, with the theme of The Good Samaritan, was completed in time for dedication on a cool and rainy June 25, 1972. The congregation must have been disappointed that the colours did not show to their best on such a gloomy day, but it still must have been very proud of the new window. Mr. Thompson wanted The Good Samaritan window to express peace, love and friendliness, so the small upper window depicts a dove and cross, while the lower one includes the peace symbol of open hands and an olive branch.

While plans for the third window had been taking place, the Rev. Simpson had passed away on June 8, 1972. His family soon asked that a fourth window be installed in his memory and as a result a memorial fund was instigated. Sufficient money was raised between the memorial fund and the Simpson family to pay for this window by January, 1973. It was at about that time that Victor Thompson's design was approved with the theme being Jesus and the children (love, life, present and future hope). The main panel shows Christ blessing four children of various races. One little girl holds lilies, the emblem of purity, while at their feet are two lambs. The upper panel contains alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and the symbols of the infinity of God, while an equilateral triangle represents the Holy Trinity. The lower panel contains the tree of life depicting the cycle of the seasons corresponding to birth, death and renewal. This fourth window, located as it is at the back of the east side of the sanctuary, has the palest of the blue backgrounds.

So, when this window was dedicated on June 10, 1973 the church had three stained glass windows on its east side and one on the west side. As with all good serials, I will leave you in great anticipation for the history of the remaining windows in a later edition.

Care of our Church Grounds during the summer months

Driving or walking past St. Giles over the summer months is always a joy to see the beautiful flowers and landscape that greet you as you pass by. Once again this year, we would like to express our thanks to **Norm Miller** for his dedicated and hard work in taking care of our church grounds during the summer months.

SEPTEMBER 2014 SNOW STORM BY JANET ASTLE

Many in the congregation were affected by the snowstorm that devastated so many trees early in September, but some more so than others.

Doreen Higgin has a unique yard in Calgary as her property was originally a farm and her heavily treed lot has many venerable trees with at least one that is one hundred years old. When I spoke to her a week after the storm she was still unable to go into her back yard as it was deemed unsafe due to massive, splintered branches hanging from some trees. Not that she could actually get into her yard anyway as the entire area was chest high in broken branches and the garage and greenhouse were also covered in branches.

Doug and Deanne Stephen were also in a precarious situation when branches on the 50 year poplar that soars over their house started to crack at 4 am during the storm.

They quickly moved their children to a safer part of the house and then waited to see what would happen. The huge branches did indeed fall onto the roof (and also completely blocked the alley) but there was no obvious structural damage to the roof or fence. Deanne found the most nervous moments came when Doug went on to the roof to clear the branches! Apparently their children love this tree so the Stephens hope to keep a well pruned version of it for as long as possible.

I am hoping that one positive result of all this damage is that the City and private individuals will be spurred on to plant more young trees. The trees in the areas around St. Giles, such as the ones in Confederation Park, were all planted about 50 years ago and are becoming elderly. We all love our big trees so much we forget that replacements need to be planted decades before the old ones are cut down.



Tom and Jill helping with the clean-up after the storm

In HisTime

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 New King James Version (NKJV)

In His time, In His Time
He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord please show me every day
As You're teaching me Your way
That You do just what You say
In Your time.

In Your time, In Your Time
You make all things beautiful in Your time.
Lord my life to You I bring
May each song I have to sing
Be to you a lovely thing
In Your time.

FALL IS HERE AND IT IS TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

BY JANET ASTLE

Here is the annual overview of all the activities that you are welcome to participate in at St. Giles...

Policy and Planning Committee - ensures the activities of the various congregational groups are organized in such a way as to provide effective leadership within the congregation. It also oversees major projects.

Human Resources Committee - deals with any employee-related issues.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) - oversees church school teaching, youth leadership and facilitating adult education groups. Includes:

Sunday morning Church School.

Vacation Bible School - a one week event held during the summer

Youth Group, for grades 3 and up, meets monthly on Fridays

Adult Bible Study Group is held on Wednesday mornings

Library - located in the house, from which you are welcome to borrow books.

Mission in Action – provides information and fund raising for international, national and local mission opportunities, e.g. the Food Bank, Camp Kannawin and a special Christmas project that is chosen each year.

“Inn from the Cold” program is held at St. Giles once a month. This provides a bed for the night, an evening meal, breakfast and a packed lunch for up to 15 homeless people.

Pastoral Care Committee - congregation members who maintain contact with sick and homebound members.

A special communion service and luncheon is held twice a year for those who find it hard to get to regular services.

Prayer Shawl Ministry, where members knit or crochet shawls for those friends of St. Giles who are sick or grieving.

Mid-Week Praise – an evening communion service held on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Choir – Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings. Any adults and youth who love to sing are welcome.

Finance and Budget Committee - responsible for the financial affairs of St. Giles.

Facilities and Maintenance Committee - ensures the building, surrounding gardens and parking lot are well maintained, and oversees the work of the custodian.

Events – is no longer a formal group but several social events are planned during the year, such as the **Spring Tea, September Welcome-back lunch, and Christmas Tea and Bazaar.**

What's Up? - An editorial team produces the church newsletter three times a year.

Midweek Mix - is a light-hearted get-together at 11:30am on Wednesdays where participants bring a bag lunch and meet for a variety of activities, which may include seated exercises, crafts or a talk.

Fanning Centre (a long-term care facility) Service - church members hold a monthly (Tuesday) service with the members acting as escorts and providing the music.

Second Sunday Singers - shares the joy of Christian music with residents at the Hillcrest Nursing Home on one Sunday afternoon a month.

Moms and Tots – held twice a month on Thursdays, provides a chance for mothers of young children to meet and learn from engaging speakers.

There is certainly no reason to say that you are bored if you belong to St. Giles! All of these groups would welcome newcomers, so please speak to Dewey to find out whom you should contact for more information.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

BY MICHAEL MOORHOUSE

September again and a new church year. If you don't know what this one will bring, then I'm in good company. It's a bit like writing for the What's Up. You've got a few things running around your head but you don't have a clue about where they might go.

It's funny that every few moments in this mental vacuum the opening few bars of a song drift by. It's one sung by the great English soprano Sarah Brightman along with the blind Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli. 'Time To Say Goodbye' came out in 1995. Google tells me that it stayed on top of the hit list for many weeks and sold twelve million copies in Germany. I can't remember the words but the melody is evocative and nudges me to the piano. I can't read a note but I can play it by ear - on the black keys of course because it's easier.

There's some relevance to that song title because with the opening of this new season I've elected to withdraw from the Mission In Action Committee. It's been a long involvement, probably going back in the late eighties under David Vincent. Along with Pastoral Care and Inn From the Cold, Mission has always been one of our most effective committees, probably because its goals have been so simple and deeply touched our hearts. Every year a couple of fund-raising campaigns have been mounted in support of deserving situations here and there around the world.

Speaking of Inn From the Cold, I recall the day when Rev. Vincent invited me into the office saying that there was a meeting that evening at St. Stephen's Anglican about an idea to try out a special program for the homeless, and would I sit in. Turned out that there were about fifty people there from various city churches and we heard an interesting story by a woman from St. Stephen's. I think her name was Laura McNab and she told us of a program her daughter was involved with in Nashville, Tennessee. Her church there offered street people a meal and a bed for the night. That sort of thing, and St. Stephen's was going to try it out for a couple of months.

That was in January 1997 and was the beginning of Inn From the Cold in Calgary. In March there was another meeting with a report that the idea had worked quite well. Just good food and simple cots plus lots of volunteers,

and the St. Stephen's minister said they were going to keep it up. We took the idea to Session and I guess it took a couple of years, but in the spring of 1999 St. Giles held its first Inn. I can remember writing a very careful letter on church stationery that Margaret and I hand-delivered to about thirty homes around the church. We were nervous about the community response to a potential vision of a bunch of street people loafing around the church parking lot. We needn't have worried - there was no negative reaction and we've been doing it ever since.

Another thing I remember about Mission In Action was a few years ago when I had the privilege of delivering a cheque for more than a thousand dollars from St. Giles to the Kenora Fellowship Centre in that resort city. This was a gift from our people that acknowledged the role of the Presbyterian Church in the sad history of the Residential Schools in that area. Another is of course the Food Bank. More of that elsewhere, but I remember that our involvement began more than fifteen years ago when on a stopover on the way home from the lake we attended Sunday worship and heard about a program called Winnipeg Harvest at First Presbyterian Church there. They were handing out paper shopping bags and saying please bring these back next Sunday with a goodly filling of groceries for our needy parishioners. It seemed like a good idea for St. Giles as well, and like the Inn, we've kept it up.

Finally, I'm aware that this column can risk being overly personal because it involves a lot of memories. This one does, but these are stories of our church history. That said, I'll reflect upon the upcoming election of elders. Rev. Delpont has provided us with a very useful nomination form that informs us in the fundamentals of eldership and the necessary character of elders. It is directed to church members who will be the nominators and electors. To those who might be asked and may consider standing for nomination I would add that this is a very, very serious commitment. It is more than an election. It involves a spiritual ordination, and is for life. Mine was almost exactly fifty years ago, and is not something to which you say goodbye. I've never forgotten that.

HEATHER MACKIE WINS SILVER MEDAL IN LAWN BOWLING

Summer time for me means Lawn Bowling season which can be anywhere from one to five games a week depending on how ambitious I am and how much time I want to spend bowling. For those who are not familiar with the sport, it's similar to curling, you have a jack at the other end and you try and roll your bowls as close to it as you can. The goal is to be the team which counts the points each end and ultimately to be the team with the most points at the end of a game. It can be played just for fun, exercise and the fellowship of the other bowlers or it can be very serious by playing in competitions.

I enjoy both aspects of the game and play socially all summer as well as most summers competing in provincials 3 or 4 weekends out of the summer (hence my absence from St. Giles over July and August).

This year I competed in the Mixed Pairs Provincials which meant a trip to Edmonton with my bowling partner where we played in a weekend tournament along with 18 other teams. We won this tournament and therefore won a trip to Parksville, British Columbia at the beginning of September to compete in the National Mixed Pairs.

At the National Mixed Pairs there were 10 teams representing 7 different provinces. There we played 2 games each day to determine the top four teams who then played another game to determine the medals. After a



long week with lots of challenging games and lots of excellent shots made by all the players we finished second and won the Silver medal.

It was a very enjoyable week and was made even more fun by having Mom and Dad present for most of the games cheering me on.

CALGARY INTER-FAITH FOOD BANK



At the bottom of my half-inch thick file on that topic is a letter dated October 16, 1997 to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank Society reporting that our first Thanksgiving campaign had received ninety pounds of groceries, and enclosing cheques from a half dozen persons totalling \$275.00. Would they please issue receipts. From that beginning we've run a Thanksgiving campaign every year, and by a couple of years ago had raised just under \$10,000.

The Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank initiative began in the winter of 1982. In the succeeding 22 years the organization has grown from a small charity in a city church basement with four volunteers to a million dollar organization in a 60,000 square foot building and a volunteer support of 4,000 persons. The client base has grown as well. In 2013 almost 130,000 individuals and families city-wide used the Food Bank, of whom 25 percent were homeless. As well, food was provided to 110 community agencies and programs. All told 7.5 million kg of foodstuffs were distributed in 2013.

The 2014 Food Bank campaign at St. Giles will begin with the distribution of grocery donor bags on October 5th for return on Thanksgiving Sunday. Cash donations (to St. Giles) can be made through the offertory for forwarding to the Food Bank.

ST. GILES' OUTREACH PROJECT TO THUTONG YA BANA (KIMBERLEY, SOUTH AFRICA)

BY MARNI STROME

What we did with your generous donations



July 2014 found me again in Kimberley, South Africa, carrying a suitcase full of Canadian pencils, eraser, pencil sharpeners and pencil crayons, among other things, to be delivered on behalf of St. Giles to the poor children attending school at Thutong.

You may recall that Thutong Ya Bana (New Beginnings) is a school in

the black township of Galeshewe. It caters to kids who are very poor, who might be living on the street, might be immigrants from places such as Zimbabwe, Swaziland or Lesotho, might have learning difficulties which are not being met in the regular school, or might have parents who are absent, passed away or uninvolved.



The school is an inadequate substitute for a real school. Teachers are simply volunteers; desks and furniture are rickety, shabby, old and school supplies are scarce.

What this school does provide however, is an opportunity for kids to come to a safe place, to be looked after by members of the community, to have some rudimentary exposure to reading, writing, math, to learn to socialize in a class-room setting, and they are provided a meal a day. The purpose is to try to transition kids, as soon as they are ready, to one of the neighborhood schools, which do have qualified and trained teachers.



When I first arrived (after about two days in transit from Calgary to Kimberley and an eight hour time difference), I wandered over to the school to say hello and make plans to teach the next day. I was waylaid by some people I knew and stopped to chat. I could hear, from down the way, a number of voices in their broken English asking each other '*was that Marni?*'. I could hear them saying '*Marni? Marni?*'. I looked over and waved and said '*Hi guys!*' - and they came running over and leaped on me in a big dog pile. I would fly around the world twice for such a fun welcome!

This is the thing: when you bring school supplies and treats to eat, you become pretty popular real fast!!! These kids don't experience many treats during their year, so probably my visits are quite memorable - thanks St. Giles!

With the money you donated, I was able to do very similar things to last year. I purchased food every day and brought it to classes: either fruit - bananas, apples, oranges, or cheese - and sometimes cookies or candy.

We took the kids shopping again - over a period of about ten days we drove to the Pep store in town, and kids could choose either shoes, pants, a sweater or a school bag.

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ST. GILES' OUTREACH PROJECT TO THUTONG YA BANA (KIMBERLEY, SOUTH AFRICA) (continued from page 9)

Many kids had trousers which had been pulled apart and re-stitched to the absolute limit in the seam to allow for growth.



On the way out, they could choose a chocolate bar for the trip back to school.

They were thrilled to get their new items and as we drove back to school they would sing or make up songs that had some kind of thank-you chant involved.

Brother Liam had been ill with pancreatic stones and in and out of the hospital over the year. I was thrilled to see he pronounced himself 'good as new' when I arrived and he was back at it, getting up at 4:30am to go feed the street kids and start bringing them to school.



I also purchased many more school supplies while I was there.

The volunteer teachers had a list of things they would like for the school, ranging from play dough to facecloths in order to wash children's faces when they needed it (which is quite often!). I managed to buy class sets of crayons and



felts, poster paper, scissors and glue, and of course left numerous picture books that I had taken with me.



Dr Seuss stories are a real hit with all the kids no matter what age. What a genius writer he was to be able to appeal to kids who are learning English - and from a completely different culture! All the kids love to have stories read to them and I could have done that continually.

I also took the volunteers on a separate shopping trip in order for them to buy an article of clothing for their own children. As I have said before, these are people who get paid a stipend of \$10/week. There is not a lot of difference in the price of food between there and here, so \$10 does not go far. The volunteers were extremely appreciative.

On my last day, I was given hand-made cards with thank you messages for St Giles. One of the really rewarding things for me about this particular charity is that all the money goes directly to the people who need it. It was my great pleasure and honour to deliver your generous donations. Thank you so much for your support. I am so proud to be a member of St Giles and to call you my friends.



ANDREW'S ALZHEIMER'S FUNDRAISING MARATHON

Dear Friends of St.Giles,

We wanted to be in touch with as many of our friends as possible and to share the news about our son, Andrew. Attached is Andrew's fundraising page for the Toronto Marathon on October 19th.

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/FundraisingPage.aspx?registrationID=2609164&langPref=en-CA>

Should resources and interest be available we would welcome a donation to the Alzheimer's cause. Hopefully there will soon be a breakthrough and this tragic disease will be conquered before our children and grandchildren are affected.

The good news:

This could be Andrew's last marathon as he and Meghan are expecting their first child in February and we are excited expectant first time grandparents.

The photos are from the 2014 Boston Marathon in April, Andrew at the 21 mile mark greeted by his fans (Meghan in the orange jacket) and at the end with David and I (very proud parents). We were excited to be in Boston for the event.

Take care everyone.
Love, Barb and David Vincent

My Message

Hi everybody! On October 19, 2014, I will be running in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. It will be my fourth marathon but my first time fundraising. I'm excited to make this about more than just some minutes on the clock.

Alzheimer's is a disease that has affected my family in a big way and I'm very grateful for the work done by organizations like the Alzheimer Society. We need more support, advocacy and research to deal with this disease that affects three quarters of a million Canadians--a number that is expected to double within the next 20 years.

My goal for October 19th is to raise \$1000 for the Alzheimer Society of Toronto. As part of that goal, I'm going to donate \$1 for every minute it takes me to run this thing. Given that I don't expect to set any world records out there, I'm going to start out by donating two hours and then see how much I have to add on the 19th.

I thank you in advance for anything you can do to help me get to that \$1000 mark. And if you can spare a long-distance "Go Andrew go!" on the 19th, I'll take that too.

Thanks!
Andrew Vincent

ps. All pledges will receive an official tax receipt (either electronic or in the mail.)

Event Date: October 19, 2014 8:00am

Location Name : Alzheimer Society of Toronto



MOMS & TOTS PROGRAM

The first meeting of St. Giles Moms & Tots Program was held in the Park Room on Thursday, September 11th at 9:15am. Three moms brought five little ones who either played in the nursery or stayed with their mothers during the meeting.

Candace Siddall, a registered pediatric dietitian, led a discussion about infant nutrition which turned out to be a timely and useful topic for those attending.

Please pass along information about this program to any new moms you know who might be interested. Information is available at the 'Moms and Tots' link on the church website: www.stgiles.ca.

Thanks to all who have been so supportive of the program; it is greatly appreciated.

Dianne Mascardelli and Candace Siddall,
Program Coordinators

ST. GILES YARD SALE

This year's St. Giles Yard Sale was held on Saturday, September, 20th. We had a great response to our request for donations and, although we had a rather disappointing turnout, we were able to add about \$1,600.00 to the church coffers. Many thanks to those who so generously and willingly helped; you made it fun.

Dianne Mascardelli, Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE COMMUNION AND LUNCH

On Friday, October 10th, at 11:30am, 24 members attended the Pastoral Care Communion Service and Luncheon, held at St. Giles church, in celebration of the Thanksgiving season. We all appreciated an inspiring service conducted by the Rev. Dewald Delpont, and we thank him most sincerely. The scripture meditation was taken from Deuteronomy 8:7-18.

⁷ *For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,*
⁸ *a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,*
⁹ *a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.*

¹⁰ *You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.... (NRSV)*

We are so grateful for all God's wonders of this season, good friends, bountiful harvest, and all the wonderful fall colors, but most of all for the promise God has given us - the promise of life eternal. We pray that others in the world may come to know the promises of God given to us.

Good fellowship and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all of us at the beautifully decorated tables in the Narthex. Many thanks to all who participated in making this event a special one.

It is so good to be able to share in fellowship with members of the congregation who are unable to be with us on a regular basis.

May you all have a blessed time this Thanksgiving season.

Jenny Thomson, Coordinator

PRAYER AND SHARE

You are invited to join us in the Park Room at St. Giles church for Prayer and Share on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:15pm to 2:45pm. To acknowledge that we do have a purpose, our 'Prayer and Share' time begins by lighting a candle.

You will be warmly welcomed to have some tea and gently be led into friendship and prayer for any concerns

mentioned. (Sometimes it may be for family members, sick or shut-ins, the churches in the city, or concerns that arise on the news, etc.)

Silent or voiced, we will go around the circle and end with the Lord's Prayer together. Please come and join us!

For more information, please call Joanne Watson at 403-280-0510.

Choir News

BY MARNI STROME

I wonder if you are aware of the many jobs our choir members do, along with devoting their time to weekly rehearsals and Sunday anthems?

Choir members also take care of decorating the sanctuary at Thanksgiving and setting up and taking down the Christmas tree.

Janet Astle keeps our music organized and properly filed (a huge job); and has been known to haul all the choir gowns home and wash and mend them. Janet is also a regular contributor to our newsletter, "What's Up?". Joanne Watson facilitates the Prayer and Share Group once a month.

Many of our choir members also serve on Session, and a variety of other committees; and volunteer for all our social events, such as the Yard Sale, Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon, Rabbie Burns Night, Folk Night, and Spring Tea – to name just a few examples. Some of our members also sing with the Second Sunday Singers once a month at the Extencicare Hillcrest Nursing Home.

On top of that, our choir is a really fun group of people who like to enjoy socializing over treats every month or so after rehearsal. I am always amazed at the dedication of our choir members. We love to worship through music, and hope we help our congregation do the same.

MISSION IN ACTION COMMITTEE

Planned Events For The Coming Year

I don't think I have ever seen a summer slip by quite as quickly as this one has. I hope you all had an enjoyable vacation.

As is the case with most of our committees we have had our first meeting of the new season and have come up with some proposals that we feel will fit the committee's mandate.

The Thanksgiving effort will continue to be reflected in our support of the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank as has been the tradition for a number of years. The Calgary Food Bank is an emergency food distribution hub, sharing food with individuals and families, and with other service providers working with low income Calgarians.

Our Advent project is tentatively named "The Angel Christmas Tree project." It is in support of families who have a member who is incarcerated. Gifts will be purchased and given to the children of those families. We are excited about this new mission!

Inn From The Cold continues to be one of the projects of which we are very happy to be a part of and have been a part of for many years. It would not be possible to

continue if it were not for the large number of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to assist in this area we are always grateful for additional help.

In late winter we will be coordinating a joint choral festival and silent auction with eight other Presbyterian congregations here in Calgary. We will be raising funds to assist Camp Kannawin to continue to pay down its beach reclamation debt. This will also require a large number of volunteers. Anyone wishing to become a part of the Missions In Action Committee or a part of any one of the planned events, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of two of our long-time committee members. Janette Mackie and Michael Moorhouse have served this committee and this congregation faithfully for many years. We are grateful that they have agreed to act in an advisory capacity on occasion.

We are looking forward to a year in which we can serve and glorify our Creator.

Yours in Christ,
Terry Hagen
Missions in Action Committee Convenor

On the Lighter Side

How To Self-Publish

A mother was teaching her three-year-old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end... "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen."

MARIANNE'S SUMMER CAMP

Marianne Clark wrote:

This summer my Pathfinder group had an opportunity to go to British Columbia's International Girl Guide camp. The camp is called SOAR, which stands for Spirit Of Adventure Rendezvous. It was from July 19–26, 2014.

We applied to be part of SOAR in September 2013, but our application was denied. However, there was a late cancellation in November and we were told that we could join. It took a lot of hard work to fund raise. Each Pathfinder had to sell 8 cases of Girl Guide cookies (96 boxes!) and we also held a couple bottle drives, and a hunger dinner. We eventually raised enough money to cover our costs for the SOAR trip. We were ready to go

I had to pack a lot of stuff to be prepared for any kind of weather over the week in Enderby, BC. We boarded the bus with some other guiders from Alberta. It was an 8 hour bus trip to Enderby. We thought this was a long trip, but some of the other groups had to fly a long distance to camp. Groups came from all over British Columbia, Alberta, and the rest of Canada. Some groups came from England, Japan, New Zealand, Grenada, and the USA.



Marianne before boarding the bus for summer camp

The week was very busy and really fun!! We even had one of the biggest storms Enderby had ever seen! We were on an out trip at the beginning of the storm, but arrived back at camp to find that it had been evacuated due to the storm.

We were all told to stay on the bus, but the driver had left, so we were on the bus for an hour before we could relocate to the local curling arena with the rest of the Girl Guides. Some of the camps were washed out, but our group (being from Calgary) knew how to properly set up camp for crazy weather and we were fine.

Some activities we did were going to a creepy ghost town, a pool with a waterslide, a nearby beach, and horseback riding (my horse's name was Bob – he was awesome). I also made dog toys for the local animal shelter. We had karaoke nights, dance parties, and a parade through the streets of Enderby.

There was also time to meet other groups and participate in trading for some cool crafts which we all attached to our camp hats.

Overall it was a great trip. I got to experience different cultures from other guiders, and have a lot of fun. It also helped me realise that it pays to be prepared for any type of weather while camping!

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Summary of Evacuation Drill at St. Giles on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Although this was a surprise drill, the building was still evacuated in 2½ minutes. Some of the congregation had never been through the procedure before and needed guidance while others forgot some crucial details. Several did not recognize the alarm sound as we have used whistles, horns etc. in past years.

Without prompting, Elders and the Church Officer ensured that all rooms and areas were vacated.

It also highlighted some areas that need review and reinforcement.

- ◆ Everyone must leave the building immediately even if they know it is a drill.
- ◆ Regardless of the door used to exit the Church, people are to make their way to the Muster Station

at the North end of the parking lot via the sidewalk of the east side of the Church (10th Street). That is where families and friends can reconnect with each other.

- ◆ Children in the Nursery and Church School will leave the house via the north House door with their teacher(s), cross the parking lot to the grass area at the far north end. Once there, the children can be signed out by their parents/responsible adult.
- ◆ The stairs, sidewalk, and road on 23rd Avenue and the lane on the north side of the church must be kept clear for Emergency vehicles.
- ◆ Please remember to wait for the 'All Clear' message before re-entering the church building.

Marilyn Machum
 Convenor, HR Committee

Church School News

BY HEATHER MACKIE

The Church School is all set and ready for another busy season. The fall tends to be our busiest time of the year and we are looking forward to all the extras we get to do. This year we will once again have 2 classes for Church School; Preschool to Grade 2 and Grade 3 to Grade 9.

We are still looking for someone who would like to teach the younger class once a month, if you are interested please talk to Heather.

While our attendance varies from week to week the children enjoy their time together as they learn bible stories and how to apply them to their lives. This year the older church school children will be joining the congregation for communion on Communion Sundays

to allow them to learn more about this sacrament and to have a chance to participate in it.

We will be once again making Christmas cards for the shut-ins this Christmas. This is one of the events which the children look forward to every year, they truly enjoy making the cards and are very thoughtful while making them and want to learn more about the shut-ins.

We will once again be working on something for the Sunday service in December. This year instead of doing an outreach project where we are asking the congregation for donations we are going to do something where the children can give their time. We will let you know how it goes in our Church Bulletin.



CAMP KANNAWIN
FAITH GROWS AT CAMP!

Thanks to the generosity of our St. Giles congregation, two of our Church School children went to Camp Kannawin this summer. Here is what they had to say:

Madeleine Gaskarth (9 years old)

Thank you so much for sending me to camp and for supporting me and my sister. I ultra loved camp. My favourite thing was everything, because everything was 100% fun. One awesome thing I loved was being with friends and making awesome new friends! I had fantastic leaders Jenna and Loren. The fantastic friends in my cabin were super nice. I was in cabin six, the biggest cabin. It could fit fourteen people in it. I was in the same cabin as my bff (best friend forever) Elizabeth! On the last night of camp we raided the kitchen with all of cabin six, except our leaders. We stole fruit and a full bag of chips. And that is all!

<><><>

Shannon Gaskarth (11 years old)

Thanks for sending me to camp. I had fun making friends and doing stuff like archery, canoeing, campfire and playing games like counsellor hunt and camper hunt. I loved the Rainbow slide. We ate great food. I especially liked having bacon for breakfast. Our cabin hosted a dance party one night. We were dancing and playing music and having fun. I feel sorry for the boys. I don't think they got much sleep that night!



<><><>

COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY BY SANDRA CAMERON EVANS

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met at Varsity Acres on September 9th with communion and the installation of Rev. Bob Smith as Moderator for 2014-2015. A panel of Elders talked about being an elder in a changing world during the Theological Reflection period. As well, the Presbytery moved that an overture to the General Assembly be framed requesting our legislation on homosexuality be clarified.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

- Enthusiasms/Concerns regarding Ministries of Presbytery
 - Varsity Acres will be hosting a free barbecue for university students;
 - Medicine Hat thanked the Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee for organizing the trip to CY '14;
 - Knox Calgary took part in the Calgary Pride Parade;
 - Knox Bassano is renovating their church kitchen;
 - Grace will be hosting a forum entitled "Solving the Puzzle of Senior Housing".
- Strategy and Leadership
 - Terry Hagen was appointed as Presbytery's Representative to Camp Kannawin;
 - Presbytery approved in principle the revised Master Plan.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

- Pastoral Effectiveness Group
 - Pastoral Relationships with Congregations
 - The Congregational Visitation to Knox Calgary celebrated its ventures in working towards a sustainable future;
 - The Congregational Visitation to Knox Bassano and Gem commended the excellent working relationship between the two churches but advised them to implement the Leading with Care Policy;
 - Joanne Watson was a member of the Congregational Visitation to Calvin Hungarian that reported on a renewed feeling of hope under the leadership of Rev. Bocskoras but recommended that they do a financial stewardship program.
 - Education for Effective Leadership & Policy Implementation
 - The Best Website Competition will go from September 2014 until January 31, 2015.
 - Pastoral Relationships with Individuals in Ministry
 - Roberto DeSandoli was recertified for his second year at Vancouver School of Theology.
- Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee Report
 - Fall retreat 'Fear or Faith' on Oct17-19 at Grace Church.
- Interim Moderator's Report for Calvin Hungarian
 - With the successful completion of his essay for PCC Church History, Rev. Bocskoras will be eligible to become a minister of the PCC and be able accept a call.

- Presbytery Representatives' Report for St. Andrew's, Calgary
 - The induction of Rev. Hazlett as Minister, Congregational Care and Rev. Kevin Lee as Minister, Vision and Direction occurred September 21st.
- Interim Moderator's Report for Ghanaian Presbyterian Church, Calgary
 - The GPCC was established on June 8, 2014 with 30 individuals becoming members of the congregation;
 - Presbytery approved the congregation's grant application to Canadian Ministries.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 - WMS
 - Rev. Helen Smith spoke at the "Presbyterian Women's Gathering hosted by Varsity Acres;
 - The WMS Executive Council made the difficult decision to close the Book Room on June 30, 2015.
- KAIROS
 - Once again the KAIROS Calgary Taskforce on Homelessness and Affordable Housing will participate in the 'Coldest Night of the Year Walkathon' Feb. 21, 2015.
- UoC United/Presbyterian Chaplaincy Committee
 - Zoe Say, a Peer Facilitator, spoke about the previous school year's activities.
- Calgary Interfaith Council
 - A service on poverty reduction will be held at Grace on October 19th;
 - Knox will be hosting a Community Hub Workshop on November 22nd.
- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding our Partnerships
 - Rev. Dr. Coutts will be giving a presentation as part of the Knox 170th anniversary events;
 - Rev. Ollerenshaw shared that the closing of Strathcona and the move to Millwoods in Edmonton had been an upbeat occasion;
 - Rev. Cocks thanked Presbytery for the \$500 grant to the Medicine Hat College Chaplaincy;
 - Grace will be partnering with Wellspring Calgary to assist primary care givers of cancer patients.

Administrative Committee

- It is our Presbytery's turn to send a Young Adult Representative to the 2015 General Assembly;
- A team, including Dewald Delpont, was named to consider and report on the 2014 General Assembly Remits and Study papers.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting of Presbytery will take place in Canmore on November 5th with a Presbytery Retreat to follow guided by Rev. Dr. Richard Topping.

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO SEPTEMBER 2014

BY TED SAMSON

Now that we have made it nearly to Thanksgiving, we need to look back over the Summer to see how our financial situation has been.

With our Budget being almost the same as 2013, we have expected to get \$20,311 every month this year and as is usually the case, we have fallen short to the tune of a deficit of \$24,203 by the end of May. Our best month was April which included Easter. June was even better with revenue up to \$21,864 and even a small decrease to the deficit. July to September were back to lower figures, from \$14,000 to \$15,000 then \$16,500 respectively.

As for our expenses, we have been averaging about \$21,400 each month from June to September, which is over budget by \$4,400. Most of our costs have been routine but two large ones stand out: \$940 to repair the elevator due to an inspection and \$2,418 to purchase a new sound mixer/sound board.

The table below shows the actual figures for Revenue, Expenses and Deficit from June to September, 2014.

Even though our deficit is about \$42,000, it is only \$500 bigger than 2013. Revenue below expectations (except for June) is still our major problem.

	June	July	August	September	YTD	Budget
Revenue	\$21,864	\$14,128	\$15,048	\$16,544	\$149,234	\$182,799
Expenses	21,478	20,682	20,644	22,909	191,566	182,799
Deficit	386	(*6,554)	(*5,596)	(*6,365)	(*42,332)	0

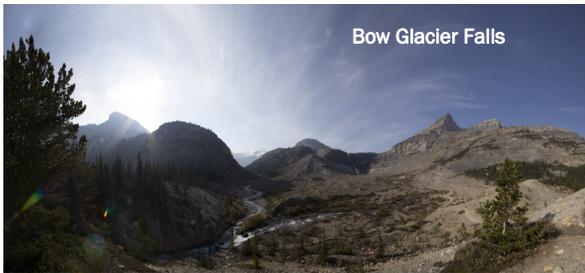
**(x,xxx) indicates a deficit*



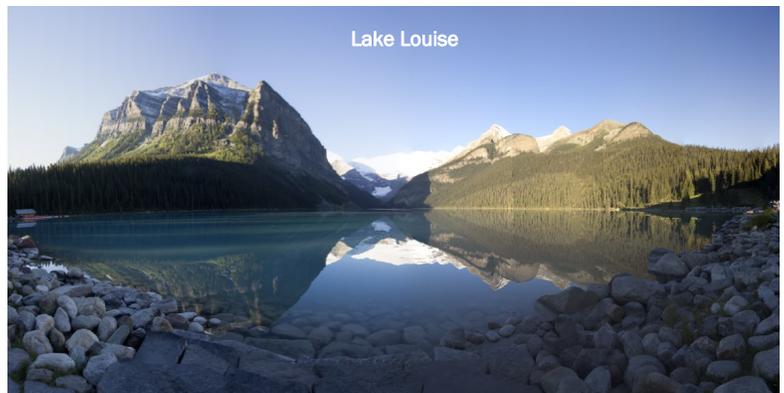
Emerald Lake



On the Rummel Lake trail



Bow Glacier Falls



Lake Louise



Mirror Lake

Dewey Delport loves photography and carries his 30 lbs backpack with his camera equipment on his hiking trips. Here are a few pictures that were taken this summer/fall on some of the Rocky Mountain trails in the Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and the Banff and Yoho National Parks.

UPCOMING EVENTS



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ **Bible Study**continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am. Led by Rev. Dewald Delport
- ★ **Mid-Week Mix**....continues with exercises at 11:30 am, followed by a bag-lunch at 12:00 noon.
- ★ **Mid-Week Praise**... Come and join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.
.....We'll sing some old songs, some new songs, and learn a few more.
- ★ **Saturday, November 15**... St. Giles Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon — come and bring a friend.
- ★ **Sunday, December 21** Church School children will take part in the Worship Service.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 24**.... Christmas Eve Service.
7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Worship Service of carols, scripture and special music
in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Thursday, December 25 ... Enjoy Christmas Day with family and friends

Special thanks and appreciation to our Music Director, Marni Strome, our pianists, Esther Woelfle, Lori Chang-Foid and to our guest musicians, for the wonderful and inspirational music that they have provided to us.

Check our Church Bulletin for other Upcoming Events

The Word became Flesh

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:10-13

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