



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Summer 2016 Issue

"Called by Christ, Committed by Faith, Connected by Community."

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

May was one of those months. If anyone asked how it was going, my answer was, "Well, my May has been quite the dis-may". Little had I known that my world would take a turn in such a short time. Little did I know that I would need a Sabbath, a rest from the regular routine.

In many ways the words of Psalm 42:5 summarized it all, "Why are you down in the dumps, dear soul? Why are you crying the blues..." yet the verse offered hope as it continued, "Fix my eyes on God - soon I'll be praising. He puts a smile on my face. He's my God."

But, I wasn't there yet. Difficult things were happening and my soul was down in the dumps. I felt tired. I felt like I had enough. I felt that life was unfair. The pain didn't go away and I was upset.

"Fix my eyes on God - soon I'll be praising. He puts a smile on my face. He's my God."

When we suffer a painful loss and believe that God has been unfair to us, it can be hard to fix our eyes on Him, let alone think about praising again. Fortunately, God has placed people in our lives to give us gentle reminders.

I was reminded that we, as a church, are a family and that I don't have to go through loss, pain and suffering alone.

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I was reminded that we are there for one another and it has helped. I was reminded to fix my eyes on God, who is always with us, especially during those challenging times when we may find it hard to see His grace and comfort.

I was reminded that sometimes we need a Sabbath rest so we can intentionally fix our eyes on God.

Well, June is almost over and it has been several weeks since my dis-May. Yes, there are still those "Why are you down in the dumps, dear soul?" moments. Yet, I do remember to intentionally "Fix my eyes on God". And what has happened since then? I have joined the gym and started to eat a little healthier. I am going to take a Sabbatical next year and walk the Camino de Santiago, an 800 km pilgrimage in Spain. I know that we are a family and care for each other. And Jax (a Sheltie puppy) has joined my household.

Even though I sometimes still feel the pain of May's losses, and even though at times I still ask, "Why are you in dumps, dear soul? Why are you crying the blues?" I know to "Fix my eyes on God [for] soon I'll be praising [again]".

Summer Blessings,
Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpert



Photos by Dewald Delpert

Wildflowers on Edgemont Hill in north west Calgary

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

Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Luke 17:18

Candace Siddall, the Clerk of Session for our congregation, concludes her report in this edition of *What's Up?* with the words, 'by God's grace we are truly a blessed church'. This led me, by an admittedly circuitous thought process, to the story of the ten healed of leprosy found in Luke 17:11-19.

The story is a familiar one. Jesus is travelling with his disciples towards Jerusalem, along the border between Galilee and Samaria. As they do so, ten men with leprosy come out of a village and implore Jesus to cure them. Jesus tells them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests", and as they follow His command they find themselves cleansed. Nine of the ten continue on their way to the priests but one, a Samaritan and not a Jew, turns around and comes back to Jesus, throws himself at His feet and thanks him. In response Jesus makes the above-quoted comment to His disciples.

R.C. Sproul, a Presbyterian theologian, comments that this story is often mistakenly taken to mean that only one of the ten was grateful. But, he points out, all of the men had the faith to do as Jesus told them and all of them were no doubt grateful, ecstatic even, for being cured of the hideous disease. The point of the story is that while we may be thankful for God's blessings, how often do we take the time to express our thanks to God?

Pondering this question led me to reflect on a saying recently given to Dianne and me by a young Taiwanese woman who spent several days with us:

*"Write your sorrows in sand
and your blessings in stone."*

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer,
Denis Mascardelli for the Editorial Team



NOTEWORTHY

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I thank you all for the good wishes, cards, and many other kindnesses that I received on my 90th birthday. "Happy Birthday" sung by the choir and the congregation, and coffee, balloons and flowers after our worship service made it a very special weekend for me and my family.

I thank God for all His Blessings.

Chris Browne

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

We totally appreciate the use of the facilities at St. Giles – a magnificent venue.

Everything went really well. Thank you.

Calgary Suzuki Strings Association

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NRSV)

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHALMERS CONGREGATION JOINING ST. GILES

BY JANET ASTLE

It is hard to believe that fifteen years have flown by since Chalmers Church closed and some of its assets were transferred to St. Giles. I remember that time as being one of mixed emotions as we empathized with the great sadness that the Chalmers congregation was feeling while being excited at the thought of welcoming new members to St. Giles.

The history of Chalmers began in 1945 when Presbytery noticed that, while a building boom was taking place in north Calgary (i.e. just to the north of 16th Avenue) for returning veterans, there were few, if any, churches to serve these people. A survey was made and enough families expressed an interest in a church for Presbytery to create a Home Mission, initially referred to as Tuxedo. Various names were suggested for this new endeavour, including Erskine, St John's, Chalmers and St Giles! In 1947, Synod approved a loan to purchase a site at 22nd Avenue and Edmonton Trail. The focus of the Home Mission Board was to develop a Sunday school, rather than a full church, so it was decided to construct a Sunday school hall first. Construction began in late 1948, with the Rev. R.J. Burton, from St Andrew's, acting as convenor of the building committee. The building was dedicated on May 22, 1949.

At a Presbytery meeting in March, 1949, it was agreed that, if necessary, the Women's Missionary Society be asked to place a deaconess at Chalmers for a two year period. [Was this because of a shortage of funds or a shortage of ministers due to the war, I wonder?] The WMS chose Miss Margaret Boyd, who moved to Calgary from her previous assignment in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Sources conflict on whether she was present for the dedication ceremony or arrived a few days later, on 31st May. [I wrote more about Miss Boyd in the Summer, 2005 edition of *What's Up?*] She soon had over 40 children attending her school at a time when the interior of the hall was not finished and water had to be hauled from the nearby house of Mrs. McLay (mother of the late Colin McLay).

In the meantime, Presbytery was anxious to appoint a minister, and was conducting a far-reaching search. Mr. V.W. Raison was appointed in March, 1950, despite the fact he was still a student minister in Ontario. He was ordained there in May, before moving to Calgary with his young family in June. He was actually given charge of several mission areas at this time, but my records again give conflicting data. He certainly had charge of Springbank,

but which of Three Hills, Orkney and Pleasant Heights missions were under his charge remains to be clarified. He immediately began work, with Miss Boyd's assistance, and the result was that the Daily Vacation Bible School for August 1950 had an average attendance of 75.

Construction on the hall was completed in September, just in time for the scheduled opening service on October 1, which was attended by about 130 people. By this time there were over 100 children enrolled in Church school. The Rev. Victor Raison was formally installed at Chalmers later in October.

The Rev. Raison conducted the first communion service in March 1951, with 11 members being accepted. The hall was sold in the mid-1950s to the Highwood and North Balmoral Community Association. Construction began on the new church in 1956. In the meantime, some services were held jointly with North Hill Presbyterian until that building was sold and its congregation joined with those from Pleasant Heights church to create St. Giles. The Rev. Gerald Doran was installed in 1955 and he oversaw the construction of the new church. By the spring of 1957 the congregation was able to meet in the basement of the new building, despite there being no light fixtures. The church was finally dedicated on 14 October, 1957.

The closing of Chalmers in 2001 must have been a very sad time, but the congregation put a lot of effort into finding good homes for many of the church furnishings. An attempt was made to incorporate the large stained glass window at St. Giles but no suitable space could be found for it, so it went to Camp Kanawin. There it can be enjoyed by all camp attendees during services. The memorial piano went to Grace Presbyterian Church while many of the memorial plaques are stored in the St. Giles archives. We also have two reminders of Chalmers right in front of us each Sunday. These are the communion table and the Bible that is placed on the table each Sunday. The communion table was dedicated on June 28, 1959, in memory of Mr. J.W. Sutherland, an Elder of Chalmers. The cost of the table was \$375, purchased from L'Atelier N. Weismose, 620-622 17th Ave W. [I wrote an article about Mr. Weismose in the Summer, 2011 edition of *What's Up?*] The Bible was presented to Chalmers in memory of Mrs. Margaret A. Dalglish, possibly in the mid-1960s. [I wrote about the Chalmers Bibles, of which there are two more in the archives, in the Spring, 2014 edition of *What's Up?*]

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FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHALMERS CONGREGATION JOINING ST. GILES

(continued from page 3)

There are also boxes and boxes of archival papers from Chalmers, and several photograph albums. Since many of these papers suffered the indignity of being in a flooded basement at some point in their earlier life, they harbour some interesting moulds and I try not to disturb them more than necessary. On a final note, one other important piece of church furniture that came from Chalmers is the font. A suitable home for this has not been found to date, so it is currently stored in the basement.

The closing service for Chalmers was held there on June 24, 2001. During this moving service the Session minute book was handed to the St. Giles Clerk of Session. At the close of the service the pulpit bible, baptismal bowl, and the bread and wine trays were formally carried out of the sanctuary by members of Chalmers. (The antique wooden communion wine trays, with their cunningly shaped glasses, are now kept in the archives at St. Giles.) The service began with the hymn "Praise my soul the King of heaven" while the final hymn was "Your hand, O God, has guided."

Chalmers was formally dissolved on July 1, 2001 and the ensuing welcoming service at St. Giles was held on July 8, which was also the Stampede Brunch Sunday. During this service those members of Chalmers who had decided to join St. Giles were asked, "Do you promise to be faithful

members of this congregation, giving of yourselves in every way and so fulfilling your calling as disciples of Jesus Christ the Lord."

They answered, "We do."

The St. Giles' congregation was then asked, "Do you promise to welcome these new members into the life and work of this congregation, to help them find a place where they can be known and their gifts for ministry shared, and to encourage them on their journey of faith?"

The congregation answered, "We do."

The service ended with the hymn "Draw the circle wide".

The Rev. David Vincent, who led the welcoming service in 2001, has a favourite children's hymn entitled "I am the church! You are the church!". The first verse begins with "The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is its people." This is so true when it comes to the greatest acquisition that St Giles received from Chalmers. This is, of course, those members of the Chalmers congregation who chose to join St Giles. These people have become deeply dedicated and hardworking members of St. Giles, and I don't know where we would be now without their support.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE TEAM

Here is an update from the Facilities and Maintenance Team on the work that is being done at the church at this time.

The cracks in the wall in the photocopier room have been repaired at a cost of \$3,122 and the damage to the drywall will soon be repaired.

We are now proceeding with the repairs of the cracks in the kitchen wall. We received a cost estimate of \$13,700 for this work which will involve excavating outside the kitchen wall and breaking up some of the concrete sidewalk.

There is also a leak between the roof over the vestibule and the front of the narthex and work is being done to have this repaired.

Work is ongoing on improving the landscaping on the east side of the church. The beautiful flowers at the front of the church are courtesy of Norm Miller with help from Elle Klassen.



Plans are in place to have the back fence of the house painted at a cost of \$250 and just in time for the Stampede Breakfast in early July.

Because of the high cost of the foundation repairs mentioned above, replacement of the carpet in the narthex will be put on hold until a later date.

Dennis Daly, Coordinator

ST. GILES INN FROM THE COLD VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION BY SUSAN CARMICHAEL

On April 6, 2016 Susan and Walter Cooper and a talented kitchen crew hosted a large group of Inn From the Cold (IFTC) volunteers in the lower hall. They volunteered to cook and serve up a delicious meal of turkey and ham with all the fixings to acknowledge the contribution of so many volunteers who have served with the St. Giles Community Inn over these past 17 years. The Inn From the Cold had made the decision on February 3, 2016 (coincidentally our host night) to discontinue sending guests to the Community Inns. This meant the end of an era for St. Giles and other community Inns like us.

The idea of Inn From the Cold began in 1997 with a group of concerned people from St. Stephen's Anglican Church who realized that there were options for homeless singles to receive support, but nothing existed that would allow homeless families to receive support as a family unit. Soon other churches, including Grace Presbyterian, were following their lead. By 1998 a few men from St. Giles had joined the volunteer crew at Grace to get first hand experience and a steering committee was struck by the fall of that year. St. Giles officially began hosting families on March 17, 1999. We were assigned the third Tuesday of each month and we had an enthusiastic team of volunteers eager to fill the many crews.

With a few months under our belts we offered to take on additional nights during the summer months. The session was approached regarding the extension of this ministry to include a second host night per month. By January 2000 we were regularly hosting guests on the first Wednesday and the third Tuesday of each month. With two hosts nights we needed two dinner crews, two breakfast crews, two overnight crews, two baking and sandwich crews, and two laundry crews. Our set up and clean up crews tended to be on board twice, so they did double duty!! The rhythm of hosting twice a month continued until August 2008. The IFTC had purchased a building on 11 Avenue SE early that year, and by September the Emergency Family Shelter was up and running and host nights were reduced to just the first Wednesday of the month. This turned out to be perfect timing. We were beginning to see a reduction in volunteers for a variety of reasons (moves, illness, aging and unfortunately, deaths). One host night a month allowed volunteers to serve on alternating months. This probably was a significant factor in St. Giles having such consistency and long-serving volunteers.

As a volunteer coordinator, I have had the privilege of getting to know the wonderful people that make up this diverse group. They were members of the St. Giles congregation, their relatives, neighbors, coworkers and friends, people from other congregations, and from the community at large. This was a ministry that had a cross-generational appeal. It allowed whole families to volunteer together or sometimes just combinations; mothers and daughters or sons, fathers and daughters or sons, grandparents and grandchildren, husbands and wives, aunts and nieces, sisters, brothers...you get the idea. We even helped the teenage neighbor of one of our volunteers earn some volunteer hours for her high school CALM (Career and Life Management) course.

This volunteer corps included the young and the "experienced". No matter the stage of life, our volunteers had one important similarity. They all had a desire to serve those who found themselves in difficult circumstances and they did this with great generosity of their time, talents and resources. They arrived each month to serve our guests, an equally diverse group that could range from newborns to seniors. A conservative estimate of the number of guests we welcomed at St. Giles over the 270 host nights from March 1999 to January 2016 is 4,050 people. That estimate is based on the assumption that we had 15 guests each host night. It was very seldom that we had fewer than 15, and frequently we hosted closer to 20. Our guests were always grateful for every meal (they were all amazing), every kind word (there were many), every extra blanket, and every smile. Thank you to all who made the St. Giles Community Inn a safe and nurturing place for homeless families. You have made a difference in the lives of all of our guests and as a group you have been a part of something very special.



John McLean acknowledging Susan Carmichael's contribution to the IFTC program and presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.

PS: Special thanks go out to Susan and Walter Cooper and their crew for the truly memorable celebration for the volunteers on April 6th. They went above and beyond as IFTC volunteers to host their fellow volunteers.

THE LABYRINTH AT ST. GILES

It has been approximately a year since the labyrinth at St. Giles was installed. In support of our values of **'Inviting Others'** and **'Spirituality'** the labyrinth was made available from the Memorial and Honor Fund.

In May, volunteers were present to guide people through it; information on how to walk the labyrinth can be found on our website and a brochure is available in the narthex. If anyone has questions, please discuss them with anyone of our Elders.



Labyrinths are part of religious traditions around the world and are used for slowing down from a busy life; to think about next steps in a life journey or for comfort during times of sadness.

Here are some things to keep in mind during a walk through our labyrinth.

FOCUS: Pause and wait at the entrance. Become quiet and centred, maybe say a short prayer or close your eyes. Enter when you are ready.

EXPERIENCE: Walk purposefully, at your own pace (fast or slow) following the line of bricks. Concentrate on the placement of one foot before the other and gentle, regular breathing. When you reach the center, stay there and focus. Leave when it seems appropriate. Be attentive on the way out.

EXIT: Turn and face the entrance. Give an acknowledgement of ending, such as "Amen".

REFLECT: After walking the labyrinth, reflect back on your experience, and perhaps sit on one of the benches. Adopt a sense of gratitude and offer thanks.

WALK OFTEN: You are welcome here. Each journey will be unique.

Sandra Cameron Evans

COMMUNITY AND HUMANITY PROJECT 2016

Many things are happening in the church that help us build a stronger community that includes outreach to others in the surrounding area. There is a Community and Humanity Bulletin Board in the Narthex that can help us keep up to date on what is happening. Everyone is invited to add their ideas and projects that are being worked upon throughout the congregation. On June 12, 2016 Sunday school children discussed how they made their light shine. Over the summer students can add their ideas to the bulletin board. Others can post their project as well. Paper is available on the bulletin board.

We are continuing to work on the sponsorship of a refugee family in partnership with two other churches. We are lucky to be able to learn from a church that has experience with this type of work, and also to split the financial

commitment. The people we are applying to sponsor are a Syrian woman and her three children. The application has been started, but it can be a slow process. A meeting was held on June 8 to share information and discuss possibilities. While the project does entail some financial support, an important point to remember is that refugees need help to build independence and understanding of their new surroundings. After being driven from homes by civil war, readjustment to life in a new country and culture is difficult.

We will keep you posted as new information becomes available. Any ideas or questions are welcome.

John and Joan McLean

GOD'S CHILDREN

BY MICHAEL MOORHOUSE



As often happens at this point all I've got in my head is a vague idea or two. I had originally planned to write something called *All God's Children*, but Google

says that's an international organization. My intention is a little less lofty and so the shorter title. And it's not about downsizing God because that's presumptive and you couldn't do it. Rather it's about children.

It begins with the idea that God's World is just a lot bigger than ours and there's a lot more children in it. In such a World the birdfeeder that I hang up in the winter is an important gathering place. Over the years it has attracted a lot of God's Children, beginning early on with the neighbour's cat, something that was discouraged with a thoughtfully aimed near miss from the air pistol that I acquired back when they were legal.

All the other visitors are attracted by the sunflower seeds. (If you're into this you know you can buy them in forty pound bags). The prettiest ones are the black-capped chickadees. There aren't many and you don't see much of them because they just dart in for a seed and take it away. There are also a few sparrows that poke about on the ground but never at the feeder. The most numerous customers are the house finches. They're those little camel-coloured guys with varying amounts of bright red on them, the males more than the females. You mightn't see them if you don't have a feeder. They're not around often - maybe only three or four times a winter - but they travel in bunches, a dozen or more, all a-twitter.

The most interesting visitor is the magpie. There's probably a pair of them but I can't tell them apart. They just strut around on the ground, pecking here and there. I think birders may say they are members of the crow family, but that's not right. Magpies are smarter, and it's the other way round. I watch them with apprehension because there appears to be a movement toward setting up shop in my Schubert cherry tree, where I can see some sort of building underway about twelve feet up. This is going to be a big deal because the construction refuse falling underneath is largely quarter-inch twigs a foot long and more.

That's about it for the birds, except for an occasional visit from a couple of disinterested pigeons. But there are other visitors. Like the squirrels. These aren't like Chatterer the Red Squirrel that I used to read about in the

Thornton W. Burgess children's books when I was little. No, these are much larger black and brown-grey ones that came west with settlement. I've gotten to know most of them by name. There's Bushy-Tail, a big youngster in the prime of life, and there's the two Blackies, Old and Young. Then there's Lover Boy. He gets the name because I read somewhere that squirrels use hair from their tails to line the nests for their young. Lover Boy has a very scrawny tail.

I could go on about the squirrels, about how they slide down on the wire to my less-than-perfect 'squirrel-proof' feeder and can't get back up. But that's enough - just a peek at few of God's other children. As for Creation I'm content to leave Adam and Eve to the Israelites, and I know nothing about the origin of the first living cell or how it divided. All I do know is that if you go back far enough, either by myth or by the science of my profession, you will encounter God. And that's good enough.

Now to other things. I try to avoid opinion in this column, but something is worth bringing up. At worship, my wife and I sit forward on the left hand side. It's oblique from the lectern, but has a good look ahead to the choir and a clear view of the piano. Much of the great music of the western world was written for piano and organ, and we listen with care and interest to Esther's playing for the offertory and the postlude. These are usually not hymns but are special pieces that she has carefully selected and practised. In particular the postlude, following immediately after the choral 'amen', though not part of the formal worship service, deserves the courtesy of the attention of all the people. Coffee and conversation can wait a minute.

In closing I'm as devoid of ideas as I was at the outset, but I know that Stampede Brunch is coming and it takes me back long ago to when it began. I believe the idea originated in Session and the event was intended to be entirely presented by the elders of the congregation. I forget if that was before or after the appearance of women on Session, but gender issues were perhaps a bit tender. Regardless, the kitchen was still clearly the domain of the Women of the Church, and you can be sure we men trod carefully. Things were managed by Bob Cormack, who had worked in the hotel industry. Bob knew how to cook for large numbers and he brought his homemade pancake syrup. It all worked, and over the years I think we've only been forced inside on two occasions.

Time to check the birdseed... Have a good summer!

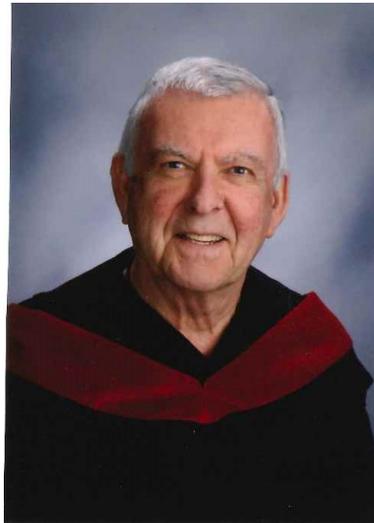
TERRY HAGEN RECEIVES MALM DEGREE

Congratulations to **Terry Hagen** on completing the MALM program at Ambrose Seminary in Calgary. Family members and friends attended the graduation ceremony that was held in Calgary.

Here is what Terry had to say about his journey:

I began an undergraduate program of studies in Fine Arts, at the University of Calgary, which included courses in ancient Near Eastern culture. Although these courses were sectarian they were very helpful in my future seminary studies and included such societies as Babylon, Samaria, Persia and Assyria.

In 2009 I began my seminary studies on-line in the US, and from 2010-2012 I continued my studies through modules from St. Stephen's College and the University of Alberta in Edmonton.



During 2013-2016 I attended the MALM program at Ambrose Seminary here in Calgary. MALM stands for **Master of Arts in Leadership and Ministry**. In 2014 I took a summer program in Reformed Systematic Theology.

The entire seminary journey has been a wonderful experience, and I highly recommend it to anyone seeking a deep transformational relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Congratulations Terry



Fearless Faith 2016

The following quote is a bit of information taken from Camp Kannawin's web site for the summer of 2016. "Fearless Faith"—what a great theme!

This is a great age to begin teaching our youth how to live "Fearless" lives. "Camp Kannawin has been a place about community for over 70 years. The specific theme this summer is **Fearless Faith**: Courage in Community and is interwoven throughout all the camps this summer. No matter our age we are always looking for a place where we are welcomed just as we are. Everyone searches for this feeling of belonging and yearns to find it. When we do, we will continue to visit these places over and over again."

It seems that we have gone from one camping season to the next in the blink of an eye. I know the young people will be getting excited about it as will the staff and volunteers. There is so much joy in seeing our youth experience "The Camp." For some it will their first experience with all that takes place at camp. There will be the many new friends, and memories that are made. These memories last a lifetime. Many come back year after year, and as they grow some become staff and volunteers at the Camp. Most of the activities that take place are outdoors.

There are opportunities to learn about canoeing, archery, a waterslide, swimming and evening campfires. Our theme – "Fearless Faith" will be explored in a daily time slot along with a time for crafts.

Camp Kannawin is situated just west of Jarvis Bay Provincial Park, on the shores of Sylvan Lake, five minutes north of the Town of Sylvan Lake. It is owned and operated by the congregations of the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest, the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

This year you may wish to consider sending your child/children to camp. There are camps set up for various ages throughout the summer. Please see the website www.campkannawin.ca for more information or call 403-887-5760.

For members of St. Giles there are many ways in which you can help. There are volunteers needed in a variety of positions, and for those who are not able to work at the Camp, donations are greatly appreciated. For information on volunteering or offering financial assistance visit the website or call the number noted above. I would also be happy to discuss any questions that you might have about "Camp".

Terry Hagen, Camp Kannawin Ambassador
Camp Kannawin Presbytery Representative

SESSION NEWS

As Clerk of Session I first want to thank the congregation for all their support over the past months. You might remember that we were visited by Sandi Churchill and Rev. Peter Coutts from Presbytery. We have just received the Presbytery Report, which we as a session will study in depth over the next year. We received very nice comments from the report. They were impressed with our application of two of our core values, **“spirituality and inviting others”**. Spirituality in the form of “Invitation to Prayer” held during Lent and Advent, and our Labyrinth, which is in our garden for all to enjoy peaceful and contemplative meditation and prayer. With regard to the second initiative of inviting others, our Moms and Tots group has gradually, slowly but surely been growing. The group has even experienced a mom coming back after the birth of her second child to gather more knowledge from our professional presenters.

Session has started to focus on the next set of core values, **“community and humanity”**, and will also continue with our first two values. These new values have led us to work with Varsity Presbyterian Church to help support a refugee family. (You can read more about this initiative in this issue of *What's Up?*.) Not only were Presbytery impressed with our initiatives, they were impressed with “the straight forward approach to planning” to turn ideas into “intentional action”.

Rev. Delport, Session, members and adherents were commended for the life and witness of St. Giles and for

their desire to work for a sustainable and faithful future of the congregation.

Session was sad to see John and Joanne Watson retire and Jason and Toby Gaskarth take a break from Session. Many thanks go to John, Joanne, Jason and Toby for their many contributions, insight and dedication to the life of St. Giles.

On a happier note we are pleased, excited and looking forward to welcoming Jeanne Phené and Bud Hamilton as new elders in September. Both are very active members of St. Giles who I am sure will have valuable input at our meetings. We are blessed to have you join us Jeanne and Bud.

Starting in September, Session will be studying the book “Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God” by Kennon L. Callahan. We will also be working with the participants from the Stewards by Design course taken in 2014.

On behalf of Session I would like to thank the congregation for their enthusiastic volunteerism and support of St. Giles, and equally to Rev. Delport for his encouragement and spiritual guidance. By God’s grace we are truly a blessed church.

Blessings,

Candace Siddall, Clerk of Session

The fullness of the garden in high summer is a blessing for the soul

This is a season that is generous with its delights. The garden is lush with growth and bright with flowers – the borders are a rainbow of colour, the hanging baskets full to overflowing, the sweet peas scented and exquisite. We have a foretaste of harvest as we enjoy the scents of summer and pick our raspberries and plums.

At this time of year, we are at our busiest in the garden. Roses need to be sprayed, gaps in the perennial border need to be filled out with annuals, flowers need to be dead-headed to encourage a new spurt of growth and cuttings need to be taken.

So much to do – and yet, if we spend all our time doing it, we won’t get any time to enjoy it. If we can remind ourselves to slow down and just look, then the fullness of the summer garden fills us with gratitude and we cannot help but give praise and thanksgiving and blessing.

To bless is to honour, to honour is to celebrate, to celebrate is to experience joy and to experience joy is to give thanks.

Sister Stanislaus Kennedy. Gardening the Soul: A spiritual daybook through the seasons. London: Simon and Schuster, 2001

High School Graduates



Gillian Chick graduated with a Diploma and French Immersion Certificate from William Aberhart High School. This fall Gillian plans to attend the University of British Columbia Okanagan to pursue a BA degree in Psychology.

Gillian is the daughter of Tim Chick and Jennifer Moorhouse and has an older brother Michael.

Gillian is the granddaughter of Michael and Margaret Moorhouse and Brian Chick.



Julia Moorhouse graduated from Bishop Carroll High School. Julia has been accepted into the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Calgary and will begin her studies this fall.

Julia and sister Kelsey are the daughters of Sandra Groot and the late James Moorhouse.

Julia is the granddaughter of Michael and Margaret Moorhouse and Elisabeth Groot.

Samantha Mathews graduated from Cochrane High School. This fall, Samantha plans to attend Mount Royal University to pursue a BSc degree in Medical Research.

Her immediate family are proud parents Carl and Jennifer Mathews, and brother Devin.

Samantha is the granddaughter of Bud and Donna Hamilton and Alice Mathews.



Falling apple blossom reveals the burgeoning fruit

At this time of year, we hope for good, sunny weather so that it will be warm enough to sit in the garden and really enjoy it. We need these lazy afternoons in the sunshine; we need to treat ourselves, to love ourselves, to give ourselves a rest. Because unless we start loving ourselves and realizing our own preciousness, we are wasting our lives. It is as serious as that.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.

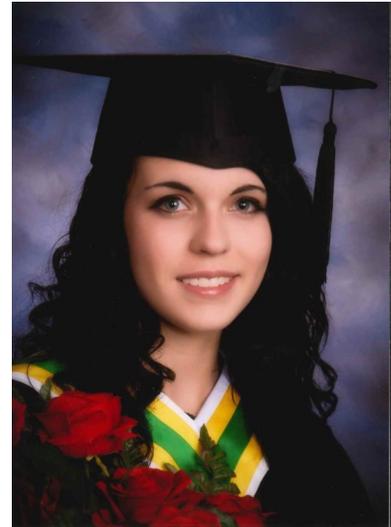
2 Corinthians 8:13

Sister Stanislaus Kennedy. Gardening the Soul: A spiritual daybook through the seasons. London: Simon and Schuster, 2001

High School Graduates



Alix Stephen graduated from Rundle Academy. This fall, Alix plans to attend the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, to pursue a BScN degree in Nursing. Her parents are Doug and Deanne Stephen, and she has three siblings, brother Tom, and sisters Jill and Claire. Alix is the granddaughter of Bill and June Stephen and Barb Foster.



Victoria Grace Nelson graduated from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. This fall, Victoria plans to attend Lethbridge College to pursue studies in Criminal Justice. Proud parents are Warren and Michelle Nelson. Victoria is the granddaughter of Don and Dawn Flint, Mel and Mary Nelson and Margaret Nelson.

Tyler Cameron Cook graduated from Bowness High School. Tyler is taking a year off before continuing his post-secondary education. He is currently working at Sunnyside Greenhouses. Tyler's parents are Tom and Susan Cook, and he has a brother, Troy. Tyler is the grandson of Audrey Harms.



Marcus Polland graduated from Heritage Christian Academy. This fall, Marcus plans to attend Mount Royal University to pursue a BSc degree majoring in Health Sciences. He then plans to continue his studies to become a pediatrician. Taking pride in his achievement are parents David and Carla Polland, and brother Myles. Marcus is the grandson of Alec and Anne Deeves and Bev and Gary Wade.

May God's blessings continue to guide you to accomplish your goals during the coming years.

University Graduates



Meghan Gray graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, majoring in Accounting. Meghan plans to pursue a career in business administration, but is taking some time to travel.

Proud parents are Jeff and Jan Gray.

Meghan is the granddaughter of Bill and June Stephen and Ian and Pat Cartwright.



Allison Badger graduated with a Journalism degree from Mount Royal University. Allison plans to continue her education but is taking some time to travel.

Goeff and Collen Badger are her proud parents and Dylan her brother.

Allison is the granddaughter of Jack and Phyllis Alexander and Wayne and Trudy Badger.

Lawren Hall graduated with a diploma in New Media Production and Design from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. In this program, she had a comprehensive training in multimedia skills. Lawren plans to use the skills she has learned to continue pursuing her interests as an illustrator.

Lawren's proud parents are Ray and Karen Hall, and she is sister to Brendan and Amy.

Lawren is the granddaughter of Jerry and Margaret Hall and Joanne O'Gryzlo.



Katie Madeleine McLean graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Honors Program), majoring in Psychology. This past year, Katie had a term contract position working in the Student Life Offices at UofG with the Town and Gown Association of Ontario. She was also able to do some travelling and enjoyed a wonderful holiday in Sweden and several other European countries. Since graduation, Katie has also developed a website that is a resource for individuals who suffer from anxiety and depression (www.anxiousandalive.com)

Her plans are to continue her studies in the area of Counselling Psychology.

Katie is the daughter of John and Joan McLean and sister of Jeff and the granddaughter of Madeleine Mason (Victoria).



University Graduates



Kristine Elizabeth Woodward graduated with Master of Science degree in Clinical Neurosciences and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University Calgary. Kristine took a well-deserved break to do some travelling with her family in Europe and also to visit friends.

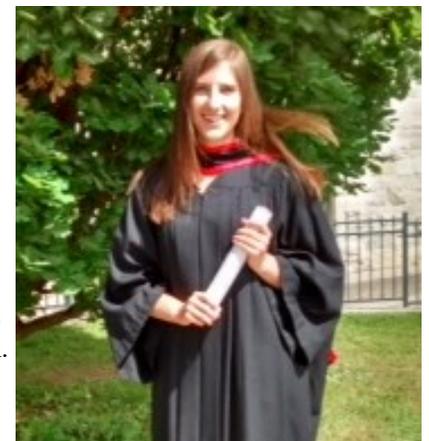
Kristine accepted a residency position with the Pediatric Neonatology Residency Program at the University of Calgary and will begin her studies in early July.

Taking pride in her accomplishments are parents Bill and Susan Woodward and brother Robert.

Theresa Cowan graduated with a Master of Science degree in Kinesiology from Queen's

University in Kingston, Ontario. Theresa is currently working in Calgary as a Kinesiologist at the Canadian Back Institute on rehabilitation of injured workers, helping them to get back to their maximum physical and functional abilities.

Celebrating her achievements are proud parents Lorne Cowan and Jeanne Phene and brother Thomas. Theresa is the granddaughter of Iris Simpson.



Sarah Carmichael graduated from Queen's University with an Master of Business Administration degree. Sarah participated in the accelerated program for Business graduates (AMBA) from which she was also recognized with Leadership and Creativity and Innovation awards.

Her family, parents Rick and Susan Carmichael and her brother Andrew, and fiancé, Eric Clark were present to celebrate this achievement with Sarah.

Proud grandmother is Ethel Carmichael.

Gavin Moorhouse graduated from Lakehead University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering (FCS) and after travels in Thailand and cycling in Europe will be moving to Calgary to take up employment with an engineering firm.

Gavin has an older brother Jesse, and is the son of Dr. Cameron and Rita Moorhouse of Fort Frances, ON.

Gavin is the grandson of Michael and Margaret Moorhouse and Gertrude Bujold (Fort Frances, ON).

Gavin Moorhouse is on the left, with his cousin Michael Chick. This picture was taken at the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland following a recent cycling holiday in Germany.



WEDDING CELEBRATIONS IN THE UK

John and I experienced an excellent trip to England in April for a very special wedding. We flew into Heathrow Airport in London and were escorted to the taxi waiting to take us to Bearsted in Kent. We had a few days off at the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation to get oriented and to take in a meal at the local pub. Our son Richard was also at the same B&B with his wife Janet and their son Julian, and it was a real treat visiting with them every morning at breakfast.

Now John had to try on his formal wear with the long tails to make sure everything was there and that it fit.

A few obstacles were overcome. It was a great pleasure for him to escort our daughter Sydney into her new life.

Sydney chose five young women including daughter Kate to stand with her. Julian was the very proud ring bearer. Jim, the groom, is an amazing and very fun man and was supported by his brother Tom and son Nick.

Jim's parents graciously hosted two dinners before the special day. The great variety of guests included a cousin of John from Northumberland and four of my cousins from Suffolk as well as cousins from Aberdeen, Scotland, and school chums from Calgary (University Elementary).

Our daughters Robyn and Heather also arrived! It was very special to have our son Richard tie their lives together with the Stoll that my father used when John and I were married 53 years ago.

In the picture of our family from left to right are daughters Robyn Dunstan

and Heather Tufford Kramer, John Watson, James Jeffrey Rands and wife Sydney Kimball Rands, Julian Campbell Watson, Joanne Watson, Rev. Richard Watson and Janet Campbell Watson.

Joanne Watson



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



On Sunday, April 3, 2016, St. Giles congregation joined with **Isa Tieken** and her family in celebrating her 95th birthday.

Among those present to share in this special occasion were: **Isa's great nieces and nephews:** Tara, Gary, Jason, Angela, Peter and Krissy; **and her great-great nieces and nephews:** Andrew, Jordan, Allyssa, Brooke, Chloe, Cayleb and Ashton.



On Saturday, June 18, 2016, the family of **Chris Browne** held a party to celebrate her 90th birthday at the home of David and Jane.

Among those present were her two nieces, Leslie Stuart from Courtney, BC, and Barbara Browne from Kelowna, BC; her son, Alan and wife, Gail; and her son, David and wife, Jane; and her five grandchildren, Duncan, Nathaniel, Trent, Rachelle, and Ryleigh.

Church School News

BY HEATHER MACKIE

Our church school year ended on June 18th with the children taking part in the worship service. The children helped with the reading of scripture and prayers. It was good to see so many of them in church and all having fun singing and participating. Each child was given a small gift to thank them for being a part of our church school. We were happy to present bibles to three of the children, Alisha Henderson, Claire Stephen and Madeleine Gaskarth, as they have now finished Grade 5. The teachers were also thanked and given a small gift.

Following the service the children and parents enjoyed a pizza lunch in the Lower Hall and then went to Country Hills in northwest Calgary for a family fun game of mini golf. The game is not that difficult and is a lot of fun.

For the summer months, we are looking for volunteers to spend some time with the children. This is a great chance to get to know the children of our congregation better and to have some fun! There are packages in the Narthex which include a lesson plan and the materials required.

For fall we will be looking for church school teachers who would like to teach the younger children. If you are interested for even just once a month, please talk to Heather.

**The church school wishes everyone
a safe and wonderful summer.**

MOMS AND TOTS PROGRAM

Moms & Tots at St Giles wrapped up a busy program year on May 12th with 14 moms and 14 children in attendance. With the growing popularity of the program we have decided to move our meetings to the Narthex which is well lit, welcoming, and close to nursery and bathrooms.

We are planning our program for next year but will continue to keep our focus on providing accurate and timely information for new moms.

The committee wishes to thank all those who have helped and supported the program; you are very much appreciated.

Linda Anderson, Ann Frost, Teuny Howarth,
Dianne Mascardelli, Candace Siddall



COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY BY SANDRA CAMERON EVANS

Presbytery met on Monday, May 30th, at St. Andrew's, Lethbridge followed by the Annual Retreat entitled: **"Weaving the Tapestry Together: Encountering the 'Other' in Community"**.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery
 - Sandra Cameron Evans shared that St. Giles' labyrinth is available for anyone to visit with information on how to walk it available on the website.
 - Presbytery had held five emergent meetings recently where they approved the Rev. Dr. Allen Aicken as Interim Minister at Grace as well as conducted his Recognition Service, extended the Call to the Rev. Bertalan Bocskoras and inducted him at Calvin Hungarian, and accepted the resignation of the Rev. Kevin Lee from St. Andrew's, Calgary.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

- Clergy and Congregational Care
 - The visitation team to Knox commended the Session, Minister and congregation on the life and witness of the church and their work for a sustainable and faithful missional congregational life.
 - The visitation team to St. Giles commended the Session on its intentional approach to congregational development through its focus on their mission, vision and values and the congregation on their increased financial support. Concerns were raised over the work of the Finance and Maintenance Teams, with training and reporting to the congregation and Presbytery specified. As well, it was recommended that more work be done with the learnings from the Stewards by Design conference.
- Administration Committee
 - The Presbytery will organize the education component of the Synod meetings in 2016 and 2017. The proposed focus for this year is the church's involvement in refugee settlement.
 - The Rev. Jean Morris and the Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw were appointed jointly as Presbytery Representatives to assist St. Andrew's in filling the ministerial position recently vacated by the Rev. Kevin Lee.

- Westminster Session had recommended to Presbytery the use of electronically conducted meetings where appropriate. After considerable discussion, the motion was not supported.
- A letter of resignation had been received from the Rev. Leslie Walker.
- The Rev. Dewald Delpert was reappointed as Clerk of Presbytery for the next year.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

- Synod of Alberta and the Northwest
 - Director of Regional Ministries
 - The Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw was named Interim Moderator for Faith Presbyterian Church, Fort McMurray just before the fire. Four families (to date) have lost their homes. The Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland is receiving funds for the church:
c/o 10025-105 Street
Edmonton, AB, T4J 1C8.
 - The shredding of the mortgage for Acadia Place was celebrated on May 7th. Bankview, one of three other affordable housing locations supported, will be the next mortgage project.
 - United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry
 - The ministry engages in spiritual and multi-faith programming with students at the Uof C, MRU and SAIT; and
 - The Rev. Tim Nethercott was asked by the universities to provide chaplaincy services to the Fort McMurray evacuees located there.

Presbytery Officers

- St. Giles will host the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will take place at Grace church on Tuesday, September 20th at 2:00 pm, followed by the installation Service for the new Moderator, Mary Rosza de Coquet.

<><><>

We cannot change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails to reach our destination.

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO MAY 2016 BY TED SAMSON

In the previous financial update I mentioned that our 2016 revenue goal is \$256,799, and that by the end of February we had exceeded the budget's target by almost \$3,200. We were off to a good start.

Unfortunately we didn't do as well during the next three months. Easter was in March this year, so we hoped to achieve our target revenue of \$22,337 but actual income was \$18,842, or \$3,495 less. April's revenue of \$16,134 - the lowest so far this year - missed its \$21,180 target by just over \$5,000. Revenue during May rose to \$19,371, just short of the month's target. The result is that we are \$6,000 short of the five month income goal for the year. Unfortunately our expenses have been significantly higher than expected (see the Facilities and Maintenance Team's report elsewhere in this issue of *What's Up?*), so that by the end of May the shortfall between revenue and expenses is \$14,000.

Since we are going into our lowest income months over the summer, I encourage members of our congregation to consider Pre-Authorized Remittance for your donations. You can have a monthly amount debited from your bank account or charged to your credit card, and not worry about writing cheques, or having enough cash in your wallet, or catching up if you go on vacation. We now have 13 participants, tying the highest number since we began this program in 2009.

Hello! My name is Jax

I am a Sheltie and I was born on a farm in Gwynne, Alberta. When I was 11 weeks old, I was adopted by Papa Dewald, who brought me to my new home in Calgary. My papa named me Thaddeus **Jax**.

My papa takes me for walks every day. I go hiking with him and we have been to Bowmont, Baker and Bowness Parks and to the Edgemont Hills. I have so much fun as many people stop to chat and play with me. On Canada Day, my papa took me on my first mountain hike to Rummel Lake in Kananaskis.



A long trip to my new home



After a walk in the park— it's time for a nap

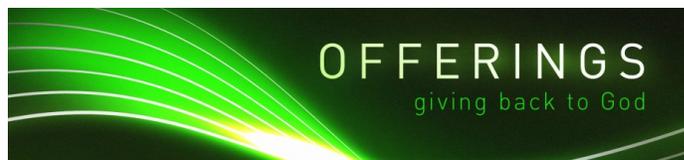


My first hike — I'm thirsty and I need a drink!

2016 REVENUE GOALS

Month	Percentage of total giving	Goal for 2016	Actual
January	6.3%	\$16,071	\$17,508
February	7.2%	\$18,386	\$20,132
March	8.7%	\$22,337	\$18,842
April	8.2%	\$21,180	\$16,134
May	7.7%	\$19,872	\$19,371
Jun	8.4%	\$21,497	
July	5.9%	\$15,159	
August	7.0%	\$18,097	
September	7.7%	\$19,801	
October	8.0%	\$20,579	
November	9.0%	\$23,165	
December	15.8%	\$40,655	
	TOTAL	\$256,799	

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry at St. Giles. Thanks be to God for blessing us with a heart for Financial Stewardship and a spirit of generosity.



UPCOMING EVENTS



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ July 10..... **Stampede Brunch (see below)**
Come and bring a friend - all are welcome
- ★ September 11.. **Fall Welcome-Back Luncheon**
Please join us for a Luncheon in the Lower Hall following our Worship Service.
- ★ October 2..... **World Communion Service**
A celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.
- ★ October 9..... **Thanksgiving Sunday**
A chance for us to give thanks for a good harvest and other fortunes in the past year.

Special thanks and appreciation to our Music Director, Marni Strome, and our organist/pianist Esther Woelfle, 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

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer

ST. GILES STAMPEDE BRUNCH

Come and join in the camaraderie of **St. Giles Stampede Brunch** sponsored by members of our Session. Dress in your western outfits and bring your family and friends for a wonderful time together as we share in celebrating Calgary's biggest outdoor show "The Calgary Stampede".

Date: Sunday, July 10, 2016

Time: After our regular worship service

Place: The Garden



CONTACT INFORMATION

Editorial Team:

Susan Carmichael
Merle Dalip
Pearl Dalip
Rev. Dewald Delpont
Denis Mascardelli
Dianne Mascardelli

Regular Contributors:

Janet Astle (Archives)
Heather Mackie (Children)
Marni Strome (Choir News)
Ted Samson (Finances)
Dianne Mascardelli (Moms and Tots)
Sandra Cameron Evans (Presbytery)
Chris Browne (Special Events)
Michael Moorhouse (Special Events)
John Watson (Special Events)

Address:

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
1102—23 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2M 1T7

Contact Information:

Telephone: 403-289-6862
E-Mail: office@stgiles.ca
Website: www.stgiles.ca