



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall 2019 Issue

“Called by Christ, Committed by Faith, Connected by Community.”

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

October!

It is already October, and it is hard to believe that the New Year is only three months away. Three Months! So much still needs to happen. There is World Communion Sunday, Thanksgiving, the Federal Election, Halloween, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, Remembrance Day, the Christmas Bazaar, Christ the King Sunday, St. Andrew’s Day, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year’s Eve, and then New Year’s Day. All of these in the next 90 days!

It is busy. Time has flown by in a flash. I am not talking about this past year, but the last 10 years. In the next 90 days or so I’ll be looking back on four special events:

- 1) at the end of October it will have been 10 years since I preached for the Call here at St. Giles (it will also be the 10th anniversary of Alisha’s baptism);
- 2) November 25 will mark the 22nd anniversary of my immigrating to Canada;
- 3) November 26 will be the 13th anniversary of my Ordination; and
- 4) on January 4th, nine years will have passed since my induction as the minister at St. Giles.

By October the year begins to draw to a close and I always pause and look back. This is a good thing because sometimes the *here and now* can be a distraction. I am worried about the future of The Presbyterian Church in Canada as the denomination votes on the Sexuality Remits; I am concerned about

low attendance and wonder what the future may hold; and I am anxious about the work of the Presbytery and relationships in the Presbytery.

October helps me to pause and to reflect. It has become a time of Thanksgiving. As I look back, I remember how God has seen me through many difficult, challenging, anxious, and worrying times both through ministry and coming to and adapting to a new culture.



October helps me remember the words of wisdom Paul spoke through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* (Philippians 4:6).

Each one of us may be in a different place in our lives. Perhaps you are feeling anxious or worried or concerned. Perhaps you are feeling quite content and do not have a care in the world at the moment. Wherever you are in your life, I encourage you to take a moment and reflect on the past years. Write a few thoughts down. Wait a day or two and do this exercise again. Then, I invite you to pray ... giving thanks to God for all He has done for you ... pray ... for God’s wisdom to be within our hearts ... pray ... that we will take and own the courage God has given us through His Holy Spirit to live lives worthy of sons and daughters of God ... pray ... that we will reflect God’s kindness and generosity ... pray ... giving thanks to God for all that He has done for you!

Thanksgiving Blessings,
Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpport

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.”

The Presbyterian Church  L'Église presbytérienne au Canada

MODERATOR OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Amanda Currie, B.A.Sc., M.Div.

September 3, 2019

To the Presbyterian Church in Canada from the Rev. Amanda Currie, Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly: Grace to you and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God for all of you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus, because of the spiritual gifts which you have received in abundance, and because of the ministries and missions that we share as one Body in Christ.

The 2019 General Assembly was both difficult and important in the ongoing life of our church. It illustrated our church's current struggle with different theological perspectives, while also demonstrating our desire for unity and peace. We are united in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and we are bound together through our commitment to the Reformed Tradition and our belonging to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

At the same time, there is a diversity of practice and belief among us in many areas, including our understanding of human sexuality. While some within our church hold to a traditional definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman only, others believe that covenanted monogamous relationships between two adults, regardless of gender, can be faithful to God's design for human families.

We have prayed, studied, discussed, and debated these questions for many years, and although individuals have shifted in their perspectives, our denomination continues to include a broad spectrum of belief and it is likely that this will always be the case.

During the 2019 General Assembly, it was apparent that the majority moved towards full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people (married or single) in the ministries of the church, while others were firmly committed to a traditional definition of marriage. As commissioners engaged in debate, discussion, and listened to one another, it was also evident that embracing the shared beliefs and traditions of The Presbyterian Church in Canada was of great importance.

The recommendations passed by the Assembly were to adopt two parallel definitions of marriage (either between a man and a woman only, or between two persons) and to allow for ordination of LGBTQ+ persons, while also allowing for liberty of conscience and action on marriage and participation in ordinations and inductions.

These recommendations represent a desire to make the church fully inclusive – inclusive of both LGBTQ+ members and inclusive of Presbyterians with varying perspectives on same-sex marriage. It is significant that these recommendations were passed by an overwhelming majority of commissioners.

Now the recommendations are being remitted to the presbyteries under the Barrier Act. If they are passed by the majority of presbyteries and then by the 2020 General Assembly, they become the law of the church.

It is important to note that the liberty of conscience and action included in the remits allow for ministers and sessions not to participate in same-sex marriages or the ordination of married LGBTQ+ individuals. However, liberty of conscience and action do not sanction homophobia or heterosexism in the church.

The 1994 Statement on Human Sexuality called on the church to repent of its homophobia and hypocrisy,

but for many years the church failed to act on that call. The 2017 General Assembly asked then Moderator, the Rev. Peter Bush, to write a letter of repentance to the LGBTQ+ Community. It also established a listening committee, the Rainbow Communion, to create safe space for LGTBQ+ persons to tell of their experiences in the church. On recommendations from the Rainbow Communion's interim report, the 2019 General Assembly also adopted several motions that confirm we are united in our affirmation of the dignity of LGBTQ+ persons.

Over the last few years, I have often made the comparison between the unity of the church and the unity of a marriage. For a while now, our denomination has been in conflict over a significant difference of opinion on human sexuality. At times, it has seemed like we had irreconcilable differences and it might be best to get divorced. Living Faith says that, "When a marriage is shattered beyond repair, it is sometimes better that it be dissolved than that the family continue to live in bitterness." (8.2.5)

The decisions of the 2019 General Assembly give us new opportunity to choose to live together with differences on this matter, declaring that the question of sexuality need not be a church-dividing issue. They affirm that our love for one another is still strong, and they suggest that staying together and figuring out how to live with our differences is faithful to Christ's prayer for unity.

Holding two definitions of marriage means that we are deciding to love and respect one another with our differences. Since liberty of conscience and action is included, ministers and sessions will be able to follow their consciences and their deeply held beliefs about God's design for human relationships. At the same time, we will be called to respect and honour those with a differing view, and to avoid blocking the ordinations of LGBTQ+ ministers and elders, or the ordinations of others with traditional views.

I would urge those ministers and sessions that choose not to accept same-sex marriage to be compassionate and pastoral in their ministering to those members of the LGBTQ+ community who worship and serve in their churches. Likewise, I would encourage affirming ministers and sessions to be respectful of congregation members who hold to the traditional definition. We must strive to make all our congregations safe and welcoming spaces for everyone.

Like a married couple who have been in conflict for years but still love one another and want to make it work, this General Assembly decided it was not interested in divorce but sought to choose a reasonable accommodation. It will be up to the whole church to pray and discern if we are willing to make space within our churches for difference of opinion and diversity of practice with regard to marriage.

May God give us the gifts of wisdom and love, so that the pathway we follow will lead us to unity and peace with justice for all.

Sincerely,



Rev. Amanda Currie

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7 w 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301 w presbyterian.ca

SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

On Thursday, October 10th, the Pastoral Care Team was delighted to welcome guests, members and volunteers to celebrate a special Communion Service at the Church. This included family members of those present and those who had recently lost a loved one.

After a truly fitting worship service conducted by the Rev. Dewald Delpert, we enjoyed a delicious luncheon in the Narthex. This time was one of fellowship, renewing friendships and making new friends.

We are very grateful to those who provided the music, arranged the sound system, assisted in communication and to those who were our "drivers". You have our sincere thanks for helping us provide a spiritual and meaningful Communion Service and a social occasion for our "homebound" members and to those who attended.

Sadly, we have lost four dear members over the past few months: Jack Alexander, Eileen Jardine, Iva Legeyt, and Barbara Thomas. Our sympathy and prayers are with their families and friends.

We continue to visit members at home, in care and those who are in hospital.

Jenny Thomson



NOTEWORTHY

Thank you very much to my St. Giles family for their concern regarding my recent surgery. Thank you for all the visits, flowers, baking, treats, gifts of food and homegrown vegetables, etc. It all helped me in a speedy recovery. It is truly a blessing to be a part of this family.

Thank you again, Helen McKay

<><><>

The Congregation at St. Giles,

Thank you for the kind words regarding the passing of our mother, Iva LeGeyt. We appreciated receiving the card and wishes.

The LeGeyt Family

<><><>

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the congregation of St. Giles for their prayers and support and for the many expressions of sympathy provided to me and my family on the loss of my husband, Jack Alexander.

Phyllis Alexander and family



THANKSGIVING AROUND THE WORLD

Celebrating the gathering in of the harvest, and the knowledge that there will be enough food to feed the community through the lean winter months, appears to be a basic human response. I am sure the very first person to plant some grain gave thanks, and did a little dance, once it was safely stored for the winter. Over the years, these little celebrations turned into organized harvest festivals, both sacred and secular. Nowadays, as so many people have moved away from agricultural life, the focus of this celebration has shifted from the harvesting of crops to giving thanks for everything in life and to helping others who are in want.

While most harvest festivals and thanksgiving celebrations take place during the autumn, that is not always the case and one could, with a bit of planning, attend such rites at almost any time of the year. Of course, all that flying around the world would cause havoc with one's carbon footprint, but that is a conversation for another day.

As it is October already, and it will take some time to get all the necessary vaccinations for such a trip, let's start with American Thanksgiving. This originated in



the fall of 1621 when the Pilgrims gave thanks for their first successful harvest. It has since been moved to late November, which

seems to separate it from the actual harvest, and it has indeed developed into a time with less focus on the crops and far more on family gathering (and eating) and general thankfulness.

We can then pop across the Atlantic to Magione, Italy, where there is a two-day festival held in November to celebrate the olive harvest. A priest blesses the new oil during a special mass and then a grand dinner is held in the town's 12th century castle.

After digesting all that olive oil, we will fly south to the lands of the Zulus who celebrate their harvest festival during the December solstice. The Zulu king presides over this ceremony, which includes him doing a tasting ceremony and then dashing a calabash,



or gourd, to the ground to break it. This marks the moment when all the community can enjoy the "first fruits of the season." It is believed that this

ceremony was, in part, the inspiration behind the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa that is held in late December.

After a little exploring of Africa, we can then head east to the Indian continent for the first of many rice harvest festivals. One, called Pongal, is held in mid-January in Tamil Nadu state. It is dedicated to the sun and welcomes its return to the northern hemisphere, following the solstice. The first rice of the season is harvested and is boiled outdoors in the sunshine, with milk and other ingredients to make a special dish that is partaken by all. We can enjoy visiting India during January, but then we are destined for a very long journey across the Pacific to Mendoza, Argentina. Here the Archbishop no less sprinkles holy water over the first grapes of the season on the last Sunday in February. In this manner, the new year's vintage is dedicated to God. There is then an entire month of celebrations including parades, beauty queens, fireworks, and musicians before a Harvest Queen is chosen. No doubt, a lot of wine is also consumed. It all sounds quite exhausting.

After all that carousing it is time for some relaxation, so we will fly most of the way across the Atlantic to the island of Madeira to celebrate the return of the flowers. While not a historic event nor, strictly speaking, a festival of the harvest, it sounds so delightful I couldn't resist including it in the itinerary. The Funchal Flower festival is held four weeks after Easter, and is a celebration of spring and the return of growth and fertility in the soil. The city is filled with flowers: walls of flowers, carpets of flowers, parades of flowers. The scents and colours are everywhere. It all sounds quite charming.

Feeling suitably refreshed, one then has another long flight to south-east Asia to celebrate more rice festivals during May. Rice is such an important crop to so

many people, and it is harvested at various times of the year, that there are many thanksgiving ceremonies to observe. In Bali the festival is held at the end of the rice harvest. Villages are decorated with flags and small bamboo temples are built in the corners of the rice paddies. Rice stalks are twisted together to create small dolls that represent the rice goddess, Dewi Sri, and are used as offerings to be placed in the rice granaries.

It is a relatively short trip from Indonesia to Malaysia where the Kadazan people celebrate their harvest throughout the entire month of May, but have their grandest celebration at the end of that month. At this, they give thanks to the spirit of the rice for an abundant harvest. This is an occasion for much merriment and rejoicing as well as thanksgiving, and is quite the event with a dance performance, singing contest, arts and crafts displays, and even body building (which seems to be unique amongst all the world-wide harvest festivals).

There are other harvest festivals in May throughout Malaysia and the Philippines, but one that we should not miss is held in Thailand so we will travel there next. Chanthabury has been holding a ten-day festival, at the end of May and into early June, to celebrate the fruit harvest for centuries. Here we can gorge on such tropical fruits as rambutans, longans and mango-steens, but the focus of the celebration is on durians.



Along with magnificent arrangements of fruits, and parade floats made from tropical fruits and vegetables, there is also a durian speed eating competition

and the sampling of durian varieties (As far as I am concerned one sample of durian is enough: The Lonely Planet Guide once likened their taste to “eating a garlic flavoured custard over an open sewer.” We have been to hotels in Asia where there are signs telling guests not to take durians into the rooms, because the smell is so strong).

You will be glad to read that we can now have a rest from travelling, as I was unable to find any harvest festivals over the June solstice in either hemisphere--

presumably because the plants are still busy growing in the north and are dormant during the southern winter period.

Things pick up in August, so it is time to dust off our passports and fly to West Africa. Here the Igbo people hold the New Yam Festival at the end of the rainy season. The yam is the first crop to be harvested during their growing season, so it is held in great respect. All the old yams are consumed or discarded the day before the festival begins and the next day yam-only dishes are

served. The ceremonies are usually led by the oldest man, or the head man, in the community, who expresses gratitude for the harvest and



leads the community in prayer. The festival includes traditional ceremonies and rites, which differ from place to place but can include traditional dancing, masquerade dancing and fashion shows.

In September and October, the harvest celebrations move farther north into Europe and can occur either at the beginning of harvest or at the end. In the United Kingdom the ancient Lammas festival was held at the start of the harvest when a loaf of bread was made from the first of the new crop. This would then be placed on the altar as a dedication. In parts of England elaborate dolls or geometric figures would also be made by cunningly twisting stalks of wheat together. These “corn dollies” would be hung in the house and kept for a full year to ensure a bounteous supply of food (Indeed, I have one in my house!).

Nowadays, harvest festivals are observed in British churches at the end of the harvest, around the time of the Harvest Moon, which is the full moon that occurs closest to the fall equinox. The parishioners donate flowers, vegetables and fruits from their gardens and decorate every inch of the sanctuary. The ladies of the parish do their best to outdo each other with the flower arrangements, and the scent of all those flowers is marvelous. Usually an elaborately designed loaf, often in the shape of a wheat sheaf, is placed on the altar. After the service the produce is normally donated to a charity that can put it to good use.

In Israel the Jewish people mark Sukkot in late September or October. Farmers used to build

temporary shelters in the fields during the harvest which reminded them of the time when the Israelites wandered in the desert and built similar huts. To mark Sukkot, Jewish families build simple, roofless, huts, called sukkah, and eat, and sometimes sleep, in them for seven days. Each day, wands made of willow, myrtle, palm and citron are shaken in all directions to recognize the bounty from the land.

Alternatively, we could travel through the Slavic countries which all celebrate the end of harvest. In the Ukraine this is called Dożynki. The land workers gather in the field where the final sheaf is to be cut. They then form a procession and bring this sheaf back into the village where the women will turn it into a



wreath that will often be blessed by a priest and then presented to the most important person present.

While we could spend all of October happily visiting the various celebrations of the harvest in Europe, we should make a final trip to Asia and drop in on the Chinese Mid-Autumn festival, although similar ones are observed all across Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, etc. This again is held during the time of the harvest moon and is all about thankfulness for the harvest as well as being a time to gather the family together. One of the most important foods at this time is Mooncakes. These hockey-puck shaped dainties consist of rich pastry filled with sweet bean or lotus-seed paste. We were lucky enough to be in China during this time and were able to sample the mooncakes from several towns. Each recipe is slightly different but they were all delicious.

It is now time to return home where, hopefully, we will arrive just in time for Canadian Thanksgiving. Let us give thanks for such a wonderful world, all the interesting people who inhabit it, and the delicious foods that so many of us are fortunate to be able to eat. Let us also spare a thought for, and give assistance to, those who are not so lucky.

Janet Astle

FOOD BANK

We are underway with our 2019 Calgary Interdenominational Food Bank (CIFB) Campaign. St Giles has a long and very proud history of contributing to this campaign, which addresses one of our community's greatest needs. Last year during our Twentieth Anniversary year of generous donations, St Giles contributed 375 lbs. of food and \$1,700.00. We have an amazing history of giving.

Unfortunately the need for the Food Bank continues. Over the next several months the CIFB will provide between 5500 and 6000 food hampers each month. Donations of food are very important and the CIFB expects to receive half a million pounds of food during the October campaign. Cash donations are also vital and every \$1.00 received in cash enables the Food Bank to purchase \$5.00 worth of food, an incredible 'multiplication effect'.

A huge part of the need in Calgary for Food Bank hampers is to provide for children. Under Heather Mackie's guidance this need has been explained to our children, who responded with their own contributions on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Thanks to every one of you in our St Giles family for what you have done and what you are going to do to keep St Giles a proud and important contributor to The Calgary Interdenominational Food Bank.

Blessings,
Bud Hamilton



SESSION NEWS

Session has so far met only once this fall, in September. Our October meeting was cancelled because of the snowstorm, and we will be meeting again in November.

During the September meeting we received the financial update for St. Giles (see page 17 of this issue of the *What's Up?*) and of course are very concerned. By now you know that Rev. Delport has sent the congregation a letter requesting your prayerful consideration of support regarding our financial responsibilities, though we recognize that many

members are already giving what they can. Session has also arranged for Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw to attend our November meeting in order to help us develop a plan to address our current situation. Please remember St. Giles in your prayers.



Candace Siddall, Clerk of Session

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND LUNCHEON

St Giles Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, November 23rd, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

You will want to mark this date on your calendar as it is an easy way to shop for those on your Christmas list.

There will be beautifully wrapped gift baskets in various sizes, cookies by the dozen, assorted baked goods, plus a selection of frozen fruit and savory pies and much more.

For your enjoyment a hot lunch will be provided at a cost of \$10.00, with dessert, tea, coffee or lemonade included. The charge for children under 12 years will be \$4.00.



Your donation of baked goods for the **Bake Table** and cookies for **Cookies by the Dozen Table** will be much appreciated and can be brought to the church on Friday November 22nd, or on Saturday morning November 23rd.

If you wish to donate to the **Gift Baskets**, please mark your items "baskets" and leave them in the church office by Friday, November 15th. Some suggested items are jams, hot chocolate, tea, coffee, nuts, cookies, napkins, soap, hand cream, hand towels, etc.

More details will follow in the weekly church bulletin.

Jenny Thomson and Donna Russell,
Coordinators

10-KILOMETER MARATHON WALK



On May 26th the McMillan family (Brad, Tracy, Ryan and Nolan) and the boys' Auntie Kathy walked a 10-kilometer Marathon to support the Calgary Chapter of the Celiac Association.

The boys did really well. Our finishing time was 2 hours 7 minutes with 42 stops for photos with Auntie Kathy! Ryan is pretty sure they can do it much faster with fewer photo stops.

Tracy McMillan

UPDATE FROM THUTHONG YA BANA IN SOUTH AFRICA

The kids and volunteers were typically cheerful, happy and welcoming when I arrived in Kimberley this past August. As always, we learned new songs, played singing games, revisited old songs that they remember from past years (so gratifying!), and did an art project that we could not have done without your help.

Also, with the money you donated, I again purchased a daily snack for them – apples, cheese, juice boxes, that kind of thing. With the art supplies I was able to purchase, we spent some time making posters. Using their own photo, that I took and developed for them, they created a collage about themselves – their likes, fears, important beliefs and values, etc. They modeled their project after some posters I collected at a museum display which had been created for “Women’s Day”. Example posters can be seen in the background of the photo at the bottom of the page. (Not pictured, but also included, were similar posters about South African young men.)



Because of your generous contributions I was also able to pay off a large part of the debt the Brothers owed to Panino, the bakery that supplies bread for the Brothers to feed the homeless. The bakery now charges for bread they used to give away. Everyone has fallen on hard times but this is still the least expensive bread that they can find and the best option at this point.



We also took a trip to visit the sisters who are now in Pietermaritzburg – about 7 hours drive from Kimberley. We had a nice visit with them, and that area is absolutely beautiful. I enjoyed seeing a new part of South Africa I had not seen before, and could appreciate the richness and variety of landscapes in that country – from desert to mountain ranges, with tropical plants and trees, many of them in bloom even at the end of winter.



As to the future of the school, it appears that no-one will be knocking over the buildings any time soon. While it's still a plan, in typical South African fashion the details are slow to develop. This means the students presently attending can hopefully be seen through for a couple of years yet. The staff and students asked me to pass along their sincere appreciation to you for all you have done, and continue to do for them.

Marni Strome



WEDDING BELLS

John and Joan are happy to announce that we have a Son in Law! **Katie McLean** and **Evan DeCoste** were married on July 20, 2019, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

It was a beautiful warm day, at a beautiful venue near the ocean. Many of our friends and relatives were able to attend and we were grateful to be able to share that moment with them. Evan had his brother as his best man and our son, Jeff, as his groomsman. Katie's co-maids of honor were Brynlee T. and Sarah R., both of whom are childhood friends. Katie's flower girl was Penelope, her five year old first cousin, once removed. Heather, Penelope's Mom, was our Junior Bridesmaid for our wedding, so it was nice to carry on the tradition.

Katie and Evan are currently living in Guelph, Ontario. Katie works for the University of Guelph and Evan works for Linamar Corp.

John and Joan McLean



The wedding of **Duncan Burke Browne**, older son of David and Jane Browne, to **Danielle Catherine Matchett**, older daughter of Michael and Linda Matchett of Nanton took place in St. Giles Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The Rev. Dewald Delpport officiated.

Pictured with the Bride and Groom are the groom's parents, David and Jane, and their younger son, Trent, together with four-year-old Beau Matchett.

Duncan and Danielle are currently living in Minot, North Dakota. Duncan works for an oil company and Danielle is a nurse.

David and Jane Browne

The Cheerful Giver

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NKJV)

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as **World Communion Sunday** and promotes Christian unity.

On October 6th the congregation of St. Giles joined together with our brothers and sisters around the world in celebrating our oneness in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. The Rev. Dewald Delpont conducted the service.



Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day in Canada has been a holiday on the second Monday of October since 1957.

On Sunday, October 13th the congregation of St. Giles celebrated Thanksgiving Day; a day in which we gave thanks for the many blessings in our lives during the past year.

For years, choir members have decorated the table in the sanctuary with fruits and vegetables representing a good harvest. We give thanks for their creative display once again this year.

Thank you to Jerry and Margaret Hall for the planting of the flower pots at the front of the church and to Denis and Dianne Mascardelli for planting the back garden . During the week, you would find Denis and Dianne with little Aislinn, watering, dead-heading the plants, and doing the back-breaking work of getting rid of the weeds, especially among the beautiful day lilies and in-between the stones along the walking path.

Thank you to Rick Carmichael for designing and building the beautiful lattice trellis in the back yard. Rick spent many hours working on this project, and we are truly grateful to him for creating such a lovely piece of work.

Their diligence and special care have certainly paid off, and as we enjoy their work we would like to thank them for their dedication of time and effort.



CHOIR NEWS

The choir has been back in full rehearsal mode this Fall, preparing anthems and enjoying re-connecting after the summer. We thank all of those members who sang solos during the summer months, and Esther for her continued leadership from the piano all year, and especially through the summer.

The Calgary Community Choir has now joined our rehearsals for the next ten weeks, and it has been so nice to see many of our friends return from last year.

We are looking forward to performing with the Calgary Children's Choir family of choirs this December 7th, at the Rosza Centre, University of Calgary. All are invited and encouraged to attend the concert. More details can

be found at calgarychildrenschoir.com, or speak to anyone in the choir, or Marni, for details.

The choir will provide special music for upcoming services, as always, including Christmas Eve. We also anticipate hosting a "Hymn Sing" evening in February. More details on this will follow shortly.

Marni Strome



MOMS AND TOTS PROGRAM

The Moms & Tots Program at St Giles has begun its fifth year of offering professional information to moms and other caretakers of infants and small children. The group works to maintain a friendly and informal atmosphere where participants can learn from experts and feel free to ask questions about the subject.

Our September meeting welcomed about 20 adults and 30 children which necessitated a change to our childcare for toddlers. The nursery proved too small to cope with the demand so we moved toys



and a cheerful rug into the Park Room. This provides more space as well as a bright room with large windows.

We have been shorthanded the last few months as Teuny and Ann have been forced (very reluctantly) to

take some time off from volunteering with the group. We miss them and look forward to their return. In the meantime, we are very grateful for Susan Cooper's help to fill gaps we have in the group.

We appreciate the support and help we receive from the congregation.

Linda Anderson, Anne Frost, Donna Hamilton, Teuny Howarth, Dianne Mascardelli, Candace Siddall, Gillian Siddall, Wendell Siddall

AT CAMP KANNAWIN IN 2019

Shannon and I both had very different experiences at camp this year. My sister took on an leadership role as an Apprentice, while I went as a camper at Senior Arts and Adventures. This year for me was very different from my previous years at Senior Arts and Adventure because I had many friends joining me that week. Ljubica from St. Giles and my friends Hannah and Jenna from dance class came with me, and we all got placed in the same cabin. It was very fun sharing such a wonderful camp with so many of my friends, all of us enjoyed it, and I'm sure we will all return next year.

Thank you for supporting me so I can go to Camp each year. It's definitely the highlight of my summer and such a fun way to spend a week with your friends.

Madeleine Gaskarth

<><><>

This year I was very happy and excited to go to Camp Kannawin. It was definitely an enjoyable experience for me. I went with one of my good friends, Maddy. We had many great experiences, such as slip'n'slide, canoeing, shooting a bow and arrow, volleyball, swimming, and many more enjoyable activities! We had so much fun.

Thank you St. Giles for supporting me to go to Camp this year. I am already looking forward to next year!

Ljubica



Shannon was an Apprentice at Camp Kannawin this year. We heard the many stories of her experiences this summer! She spent six weeks at camp, experiencing time as the kitchen assistant, helping to prepare meals and keep the kitchen clean, planning and leading crafts with the campers and helping in the cabins.

I have loved watching Shannon grow from being a young camper to becoming a LIT (Leader in Training) last year to an Apprentice this year.

Shannon hopes to be accepted for a second year of apprenticeship next year, and to continue building her leadership skills. As she says, "Camp is the Best Thing"!

Toby Gaskarth



On the Lighter Side

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!"

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



Thanks to those who taught Church School over the summer and were able to spend some time getting to know our little ones! Regular church school has started up again with two classes

serving children from Preschool to Grade 8. This year the Church School is involved in two outreach projects.

During the thanksgiving season we collected items for the Birthday Kit room at the Food Bank where families who use the Food Bank are able to get items needed to

have a party for their child's birthday. Since birthdays are so special to all children and since St. Giles has a long history of helping the Food Bank this project seemed like a natural fit.

We are also giving the children offering envelopes this year and the Church School collection will go towards a Presbyterian Church in Canada Gift of Change Project. The children have been involved in choosing a project and once we see how much we have collected over the year we will be able to finalize the project. Both of these projects are ways that even the youngest in our midst can give to others.

The children in the church school are also busy working on both Christmas cards for the Shut Ins as well as working on a project to share with the congregation in December when they participate in the service.

Heather Mackie

RYAN AND NOLAN AT CAMP KANNAWIN

To St. Giles,

Thank you for the money to go to camp Kannawin. I enjoyed playing camouflage tag and doing crafts in the Craft Centre. Most of all I liked painting a plaque and I saw the one that I made last year and mom's and one of this year's counselor's. I painted Camp Kannawin with a lake, slip and slide and canoe. I also liked Discovery, where we learned about things and banquets that happened when Jesus was alive.

We also learned the songs "I Cannot Come to the Banquet" and "Kids of the Kingdom" which I love to sing but Aunty Heather will not let me type the words in this thank you. I will sing it for anyone who asks any Sunday.

This whole letter was to thank you for the money.

From Ryan

<><><>

To church,

Thank you for the money for camp. I liked Gaga Ball. I learned to make crafts.

I really appreciate it.

From Nolan



COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY

Presbytery met on September 17, 2019 in St. John's, Medicine Hat. Rev. Che Napoleon led the Theological Reflection on 'Welcoming'. A worship and communion service followed the meeting to install Rev. Jeff Lackie as Moderator and recognize Andrea Perrett as Directory of the Presbytery's Cyclical Network.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery
 - Varsity Acres is starting up their music at noon program;
 - St. Andrew's, Calgary is running an Alpha program this fall.
- Mission and Strategy
 - The committee shared concerns regarding reporting on the South of Fish Creek Ministry.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

- Clergy and Congregational Care
 - The recertification of Justin Thurn as a candidate for ministry was discussed;
 - Visitations to Centennial and St. Andrew's, Calgary were approved;
 - An event to address new Canadians in congregations is planned for spring 2020.
- Administration Committee
 - Terms of reference for the Interim Moderator at Grace were approved and Rev. Mark Tremblay was appointed to the role.
- Interim Moderator
 - As approved at an Emergent meeting, the Cyclical Director/General Presbyter Search

Committee has offered a contract for the Cyclical Director position to Andrea Perrett, starting September 1, 2019;

- Presbytery approved the appointment of Rev. Dr. Jean Morris as General Presbyter effective November 1, 2019.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

- Director of Regional Ministries
 - Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw has been working on various aspects of the Cyclical model within the Presbytery and the national church;
 - Dianne facilitated workshops for Centennial Session and the Indigenous Gathering Place Society;
 - Treaty 7 was signed September 22, 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing and churches were encouraged to use the Presbytery's acknowledge of the land at a worship service in recognition of this;
 - Canada Youth (CY) 2020, scheduled for July 6-11, is a gathering for worship, learning and laughing, with youth from across Canada and guests from around the world.

Presbytery Officers

- Clerk's Report
 - Presbytery approved that a Special Meeting be called to address the retirement of Rev. Hazlett.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting will take place on November 5th, 1:00 pm at Grace church. All are welcome.

Sandra Cameron Evans

Be United, Joyful, and in Prayer

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO SEPTEMBER 2019

The table on the right shows our income and expenses for the first nine months of the year (i.e. it is a 'profit and loss' statement).

Note that this isn't a complete financial statement, which would also include a balance sheet which takes into account items such as fund balances, liabilities and receivables, and depreciation (a non-cash charge).

Unfortunately, the 'bottom line' is that, for the nine months ending on 30 September, expenses exceeded income by \$48,726.10.

Envelope Offerings – includes envelopes and PAR (pre-authorized remittances).

The major sources of **Other Income** included: rent from the Calgary Korean Church (\$8,550), and the North Calgary String Academy and the Free Learners Co-op (\$4,985 between the two organizations); 'Congregational Life Events' such as the May English Tea and St. Patrick's Day Dinner (\$5,617); memorial giving (\$2,424); and other fees received for events such as weddings (\$3,403) and funerals (\$1,150).

Assessments includes Presbytery Dues and the Presbyterian Pension Plan.

Payroll Expenses – by far the largest expense, captures the cost (salary and benefits) of the minister and the church's other employees as well as the Director of Music and the organist/pianist.

Christian Education – costs associated with the Sunday School (\$123) and Camp Kannawin (\$592).

Worship and Service – a hodgepodge category that includes items such as music materials, special occasion musicians, and special service costs such as weddings and funerals.

Mission and Outreach – captures our congregation's financial support for a variety of mission activities such as the Thutong Ya Bana School, the Food Bank, Kairos, and Presbyterians Sharing (\$7,500).

Office Supplies – as the name suggests, this category captures expenses for office supplies, postage, copier and computer, telephone and internet. It also includes bank charges.

Property Expenses are the second largest draw on our finances. The major items in this category were utilities (\$11,357), lawn mowing and snow removal (\$6,650) and various repairs and maintenance (\$4,560).

Congregation Events – as mentioned under *Other Income*, various Congregational Life Events were a significant source of income (\$5,617). This category captures expenses associated with such events, as well as the Stampede Breakfast and Youth events.

Note: thanks to our Treasurer, Connie Harms, for providing the information for the financial update.

Income	
Envelope Offerings	116,173.87
Other Income	28,851.88
Total Income	\$145,025.75
Expenses	
Assessments	16,151.22
Payroll Expenses	129,014.84
Christian Education	717.42
Worship & Service	4,205.98
Mission & Outreach	8,689.09
Office & Supplies	8,157.45
Property Expenses	25,280.06
Congregation Events	1,535.79
Total Expenses	\$193,751.85
Surplus/Deficit	(\$48,726.10)

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ **Bible Study:** Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am in the Park Room. We are discussing the Gospel of Matthew.
- ★ **Mid-Week Mix:** Following Bible Study, join us for exercises at 11:30 am and a bag-lunch at 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.
- ★ **Moms and Tots** Those who care for babies and small children are invited to attend sessions given by qualified professionals on topics designed to be helpful and informative. Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of the month and start at 10:00 am.
- ★ **November 23:** Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon. Come and bring your family and friends.
- ★ **December 24** 6:00 pm—Christmas Eve Worship Service of carols, scripture and special music in celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- ★ **December 25** 'Your Saviour is born, Christ the Lord.' Luke 2:11. Enjoy Christmas Day with family and friends.

Special thanks to both Marni Strome, our Music Director, and Esther Wolfe, our pianist and organist, as well as to our choir and guest musicians for the wonderful and inspirational music they provide.

Check our Church Bulletin for other Upcoming Events

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. and His name will be called **Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**”

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Editorial Team:

Susan Carmichael
Merle Dalip
Pearl Dalip
Denis Mascardelli
Dianne Mascardelli

Regular Contributors:

Janet Astle (Archives)
Chris Browne (Special Events)
Rev. Dewald Delpont (Minister's Message)
Sandra Cameron Evans (Presbytery)
Connie Harms (Finances)
Heather Mackie (Children)
Dianne Mascardelli (Moms and Tots)
Michael Moorhouse (Special Events)
Marni Strome (Choir News)

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