



**ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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August 31st, 2008

Dear Friend in Christ,

I'm always traumatized when I go into Staples and find 'Back to School' sales in July. It seems that the sales are getting earlier and earlier for every season be it 'Back to School', Christmas, or any other holiday. Our consumer culture empowered by the retail industry forces us be thinking months in advance and rarely allows us to live in the moment. I'd like to encourage us this year to savour the moment as we continue to celebrate our 180th anniversary as a congregation and revel in the fact that for us St. Andrew's is 'a place to call home'.

As a part of that celebration, I'd like to welcome someone new into our home, Jacqui Foxall as our new Student minister. As you know, St. Andrew's is becoming 'home' to those who are studying to be future ministers of our denomination. Last year, we were inspired by the ministry of Karen Dimock who has now graduated and is seeking a call to some very fortunate congregation in the near future. Now, Jacqui Foxall is about to be in our midst for the next nine months. If the 'Foxall' name is ringing some bells and you are wondering if Jacqui is somehow connected to Matt Foxall, our youth team leader, you'd be right in suspecting. Matt and Jacqui are married. Earlier this year, Jacqui was approached to see if she might be interested in our student minister position. She was and the Session unanimously agreed to having Jacqui join us and formalized the position with a covenant signed by myself, Jacqui and the Clerk of Session, Ross Rowat. Jacqui will begin her official ministry among us on September 1st and will be preaching next on September 14th.

I'll let Jacqui introduce herself in what follows:



Greetings! First and foremost, I need to tell you how much I am looking forward to joining the community at St. Andrew's this September! I've been doing my research, and I know that this is a congregation which truly loves the Lord and responds faithfully by reaching out with regularity to the Guelph community and beyond. I know that this is a congregation which

values children, youth, and young adults, while maintaining great respect for the wisdom and experience of its young-at-heart members as well. As for me, I wear many hats: I am wife to your beloved Youth ministries team leader, Matt Foxall, and a big sister to two teenagers, Damian and Lauren. I am also a third year student at Knox College in Toronto called by the Lord to serve our church as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. My areas of interest are: ecclesiology in a post-modern context (how we do church in the 21st century) and the Emergent Church movement. As your sister in Christ, I will be serving amongst you, and alongside Reverend John, as the Student Minister. I anticipate the growth which God has planned for me and for you over the next year. And so as we travel this Emmaus road together, let us keep our hearts open to His guidance! (Oh, and if you were wondering if I like long walks on the beach, I'm rather indifferent actually. But I do love cooking and baking, doing yoga, watching movies which make me laugh till I cry, the colour green, and snow. Yes, I said it: snow.)

In addition to what Jacqui has said about herself and her plans for her time with us, I'd like to add a few words. It is very important that we be a place of learning for Jacqui. This is a mutual opportunity whereby we can learn and grow as she explores and experiments with new things that come from her education, her passion and experience. We will see Jacqui regularly participating in worship and some of you may see her at the hospital or in your homes. I hope you will make her feel welcome and be open to her ministry among us.

As stipulated in the covenant approved by the Session, we can only expect Jacqui to be officially working for 10 hours per week. With Jacqui's contagious enthusiasm, it will be difficult for us to refrain from encouraging her to do more than outlined in her covenant. We will need to be careful in that encouragement and caring to her as she completes her final year at Knox College. I am confident that Jacqui will bring an exciting and engaging energy to St. Andrew's.

Let's welcome Jacqui in our midst as our Student Minister. May we be mindful of her relationship with Matt and may this young couple feel at home in our company over this next year together. If you have any questions about Jacqui's ministry among us or would like to offer some encouragement to her, she would love to speak to you in person or you can also contact the members of Jacqui's support team (Nora Stoskopf, Clarence Swanton and/or Wendy Toth) or myself.

Yours in Christ's service,

The Rev. John Borthwick