

Sunday, January 31, 2016

Announcement to the St. Andrew's Congregation

by Paul Harrison on behalf of the St. Andrew's Refugee Sponsorship Committee

Just a brief update....

Things are moving slowly but they are moving. Rob Shropshire was not in his PWSD Toronto office until January 13, and he had some catching up to do.

Our application forms arrived last week, just before we left for Ottawa. The government forms are now slightly different and we are filling them out. Some of your names will appear on the government forms if you signed up to help. We will let you know if we would like to use your name. Citizenship and Immigration Canada wants to know that there is enough money and enough helpers for this project. Rob Shropshire's name is on our forms as the National Presbyterian contact and he will be the one dealing with the refugee family lists when they come to him.

We are fortunate that our 3 churches plus friends have raised enough money to support a family ---we want a somewhat larger family as we don't want to separate generations. The first Estill family of 7 people is due to arrive at the end of February with housing starting March 1, so the arrival of their first family has taken them a long time too.

As you will have read in Prayers and Blessings, we are hosting a meeting here in the church hall this Thursday, February 4 at 7 pm. This meeting is for anyone, who has indicated on the volunteer computer list or personally, that they want

to help with the refugees. We have all the volunteer names from the 3 churches, St. Andrews, First Baptist and Knox.

The coordinators of the various groups will be here and it will be an opportunity to meet each other and discuss group responsibilities. Depending on how you answered the questionnaire, your name may appear on more than one list and that is fine.

Finally, just another reminder that all helpers need the “working with vulnerable people” police check. You can get the form here from Shainna and Joanne and I have some. It is quite easy to fill in and you return it to Shainna who will take the forms to the police station and you will eventually get that back. First Baptist is also offering this service. There is no cost to you if you go through a church directly rather than the police station.

Thanks. We will be at coffee if you have any questions.