



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Summer is almost here... and the Church begins to think of relaxation, rest, renewal... and of course, **General Assembly!** Yes it's true, next week I will be heading to Vancouver as a commissioner to the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. I would appreciate your prayers for our time at Assembly as we discern our future as a denomination and consider BIG questions on how we will move forward **together in God's Spirit**. Dr. Bob will be our pulpit guest on June 7th – I know that you will make him feel like he is right at home.

It has been exciting to see our **Eldership Election process** come to an excellent conclusion. We are delighted with the Session Team that has come together and appreciate your support and continued prayers for our **wise leadership and compassionate care** for our members and adherents. Thanks to our returning elders, Natasha Bauer, Knolly Toolsie, Anne Pennock, Anne Holman, Ross Rowat, and Sharon Ireland for deciding to continue serving Session for another term. Our appreciation is also extended to Peter Devries who has decided to return to Session after a well-deserved break. We look forward to our new elders, Mary Robison and Lonny Howard joining us soon following their ordination in the coming weeks. And since we are naming names... I would be remiss to fail to mention the other members of Session who are serving currently – Gwen Gooyers, Janet Dalglish, Nancy Nicol (our Clerk), Harold Faulkner, Nicki Groenewegen, and Jennifer Marette. Please take a moment to **express your appreciation** for these key leaders.

Recently, we had our first meeting of our new Session Team, **the FUNdraining Team**. And what a FUN team to be a part of. As you may remember from a few months back, our Action Group recommended that a team be formed to take some leadership in the area of fundraising for St. Andrew's Guelph in particular. This idea came from our engagement with the congregation and the many good suggestions that arose from those conversations. However, it also became very clear that what people were really asking for was more **opportunities for FUN...** and if our FUN raised some funds for St. Andrew's then that would be an added bonus. The team has set a weighty goal of planning several activities until the

end of the year. They are open to hearing more of your suggestions for next year in particular and will actively seek champions for the many excellent ideas we already know that you have within you. Feel free to talk to any of the FUNdraising Team members about your ideas and/or **your willingness to help** make some of the ideas come to reality! Our FUNdraising Team members are: Wendy Toth, Rev. John Borthwick, Charlie Toth, Gertie Riemer, Kate Borthwick, Nancy Nicol, Knolly Toolsie, Joanne Harrison, and Julia Toth. You will be hearing more from the FUNdraising Team in the near future.

We also have some news with regard to our **Director of Children and Youth Ministries** position. Cordelia, who has been on Maternity Leave since the end of last April has tendered her resignation to us. We wish her, Karl and Marcus God's rich blessings as they nurture and support one another as a family into the future. The Session, upon the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, offered **Sarah Freeman** an **extension of her contract** into June 2016 with the potential of a further year beyond that. Sarah has agreed and we look forward to her continuing her ministry with us over the coming years. Sarah will continue part time and the HR Committee will be seeking a **student intern** to provide coverage for when Sarah is not available as well as the more permanent second person for youth events along with Sarah.

In the coming weeks, I will be concluding my sermon series on the Letter to the Philippians. Then on Sunday June 28th – I will be away experiencing my new tradition of taking a **silent retreat** for a few days at the Abbey of Genesee in Upper New York State – The Rev. Glen Soderholm from Two Rivers will be our pulpit guest. I will be around throughout July and of course, on **John Galt Sunday (August 2nd)** when St. Andrew's hosts this special occasion in the life of our community and downtown churches. This year, the service will have a more John McCrae feel than John Galt as we join our city in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. You will see more information about this special Sunday in the coming weeks. I hope you will join us.

I will be **on vacation throughout August** and I am pleased to let you know that Rev. Karen Kovats will be our pulpit guest for four weeks. She is excited to be with St. Andrew's again and I'm sure that you will appreciate her words and presence while I'm away. **I will return** to St. Andrew's on Sunday September 6th.

In the fall, we will look forward to the return of **our Book Club**... keep checking the bulletin for the Summer Reading List. I expect it to be ready in the coming week. Our first Book Club night will be **Friday September 25th at 6:30PM**.

We are looking forward to a few other special occasions in the Fall as we plan a pulpit exchange with Knox Guelph and the hopeful return of The Singing Priest as we begin the Season of Advent. I'm sure that we will also have a few FUNdraising opportunities before too long as well. **Enjoy the Summer.** Keep safe and wear your sunscreen! May God bless each one of us as God 're-creates' us for the new things that God is doing in our midst.

Have fun,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Borthwick', written in a cursive style.

The Rev. John Borthwick