



St. Andrew's  
G U E L P H

**161 Norfolk Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 4J8  
(519) 822-4772  
www.standrewsguelph.com  
mailbox@standrewsguelph.com**

---

August 24, 2014

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I'm often conflicted about writing this particular letter. On the one hand the mere fact that I'm sitting down to write it sadly signifies that summer is coming to an end. On the other, it means that we are about to **begin another exciting year together** as a congregation of God's people. And **what a year we have in store!** As I look ahead to the coming year, I see several strands coming together and am hopeful for what kind of tapestry it will weave for St. Andrew's Guelph's future. We also have the **return of a few favourites** as well as some **interesting new initiatives** in the works. And finally, we have some wonderful news with regard to staffing that I'm sure that you will be interested in hearing about.

Let's begin with staffing. As you will know, Cordelia Juhlke and her husband, Karl welcomed their son, Marcus into the world in June. Cordelia has served as our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries since 2011. She will be on maternity leave until May 2015. During Cordelia's leave, the Human Resources Committee along with the Session and the Board decided to seek out a part time Interim Director to begin in September and serve in the role until June 2015. We are **delighted to announce that our Interim Director has been found.** **Sarah Freeman** has been hired for this position. Sarah comes to us with experience as a pastor of youth and young adults and has worked with children as well. She describes herself as having a passion for working with children and youth in a Christian setting. Sarah's references speak of her 'bubbly and outgoing personality' and her 'energy and passion for teaching.' We are **looking forward to having Sarah join our staff team** this Fall. As mentioned previously, her position will be part time – 24 hours per week throughout the Interim period. Please make Sarah and her family feel welcome. And let's be in prayer for her ministry with our children and youth this year.

In addition, some of you may have attended our Lenten Seminar this past Spring where Rosetta Del Monte lead those gathered in some spiritual disciplines. I'm pleased to tell you that beginning this September **Rosetta will formally become a part of our Resource Staff at St. Andrew's in the area of spiritual direction.** Rosetta has worked with The Navigators

of Canada for over 30 years where she has been a spiritual mentor and guide to those seeking to grow and deepen in their faith. She is a MTS graduate of Tyndale Seminary. Presently she is the founder of Seter Journeys ([www.seterjourneys.com](http://www.seterjourneys.com)) where she works as a Spiritual Director. Along with her ministry of accompaniment to individuals, Rosetta also facilitates retreats for churches and Christian groups. As Resource Staff at St. Andrew's, Rosetta will be able to use our space for her spiritual direction practice at no cost to her. In return, we will invite her to **provide spiritual resources to our congregation** throughout the Church Year especially during the Advent and Lenten Seasons. Rosetta and I are working on unique worship opportunities for those seasons as well. And we've talked about the possibility of her **leading future workshops and retreats** for our congregation. Spiritual direction is not counselling or therapy but a kind of spiritual accompaniment or guidance for those seeking to listen more deeply to God. Members of St. Andrew's are invited to contact Rosetta directly via her email [seterjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:seterjourneys@gmail.com) to learn if spiritual direction might be appropriate for this season in their life as well as the cost associated with the sessions. It is delightful to be able to draw on Rosetta's wisdom and experience in this area and I'm looking forward to **nurturing a meaningful mutual partnership** between our congregation and herself.

I mentioned at the beginning of this letter that I am seeing some **strands coming together**. This is in the area of short and long range planning as well as budgeting. Following the congregational meeting in May facilitated by Anne MacKay, the Board and Session met and recommended the formation of an **Action Group** to essentially pull together the information gleaned from our work with Kennon Callahan's 12 Keys – The Key Conversations Report – and the report from Anne MacKay. In addition, it was determined that the Action Group would seek ways to **further engage the congregation** around our articulated priorities and finances. The Action Group will provide an interim report to the Board and Session in the Fall and a final report that will be presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting in February 2015. **Please pray for the Action Group members** as they engage in this important work. I'd also encourage you to take them up on the opportunities that they will be providing for **your input**. The Action Group members are: Session Representatives – Nancy Nicol, Anne Pennock; Board Representatives – Virginia Gillham, David Spencer; and from the Congregation at Large – Penny Devries, Craig Clack; and The Rev. John Borthwick. I'm **excited to see where God leads us** as we discern our future together.

As I mentioned, there are some new initiatives in the works for the Fall. As noted in the Key Conversations Report, **we will seek to expand our strength of Stirring Helpful Worship** over this coming year. We are planning on **hosting a forum on Worship** so that we might

seek some great ideas and helpful suggestions on how we will expand this already significant strength at St. Andrew's Guelph into the future. More information on this forum will be available soon. We may also **try out some alternative services** through the week or in the evening experimenting with some of the suggestions that we have already received as well as drawing on Rosetta's expertise (our Resource Staff for Spiritual Direction). And if that isn't enough – we are also **planning a couple of 'concerts'**. This year's worship service will see some experimenting occasionally – it should be interesting. I'm also looking at creating an opportunity for you to suggest sermon subjects in the New Year for a sermon series I'm designing entitled: **"I'd love to hear a sermon about..."** We will be using the much loved 'sticky dots' voting system for this process starting in November. Finally, I am confident that **our hymns selections** for the coming season will be appreciated - by at least one person each week – since Fred and I are drawing primarily from the list of **your favourites!**

As September begins, look out for the following:

- I'll be continuing **The Bible Trail Mix** by focusing on several of the key stories of the Bible – in the Fall focusing primarily on Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Year turning to the stories of the Gospels.
- Our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** will return on **Thursday September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am** in the Church Parlour. We will be looking at the Biblical text for the upcoming Sunday. All are welcome.
- **Our Book Club (Good Book, Good Food, Good Nite)** will return on **Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM**. Please pre-register at the Welcome Centre or by calling the Church Office. As always, reading the book isn't a pre-requisite. We will begin this year with **Tom King's The Inconvenient Indian**. In October, we will read **Piper Kerman's Orange is the New Black** followed by November's book, **Agatha Christie's classic And Then There Were None**. I can't wait for the discussion to begin.

If this letter is any indication – this coming year at St. Andrew's Guelph looks to be **'doubly' good bursting with opportunities** to grow deeper in our relationship with God and each other. I can't wait to get started and see the return of so many of you from your Summer retreats.

Have fun,



The Rev. John Borthwick