



**ST. ANDREW'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Dear Friend in Christ,

I'm excited to tell you what we have in store this fall at St. Andrew's. We are certainly **building on the momentum** we experienced in the spring when we participated in the Stewards by Design Conference featuring Dr. Kennon Callahan. We anticipate taking further steps in exploring Callahan's **Twelve Keys to An Effective Church** as a congregation and looking to how we can grow deeper in compassion, community and hope for many years to come. As I look ahead to the coming months, I sense that we **will have a fun season** of ministry together whether in worship or learning or caring for one another.

One area we have been working on over the summer months is **our image**. Working with Karl Juhlke (Cordelia, our Director of Children and Youth Ministry's husband), we have given some of our print material a bit of a 'facelift'. We even have some new logo designs that we are looking forward to sharing with you in a fun way in September. We hope to be able to launch **a new look bulletin** along with our **fresh logo** in early October. For those that are interested in these kinds of things, even the font that I'm using to type this letter is new to us! This will be our 'look' for years to come. I hope you like it.

Some other things to look out for in the coming weeks:

- **The Bible Trail Mix** launches on **Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>** with a four part sermon series entitled – **Created with Purpose**. Over these four weeks, we will explore the Creation story along with a few other passages of Scripture in order to glean a better understanding of who we are as God's creation and who God is in relation. You won't want to miss this – but if you do, remember that you can often download previous sermons from our website.



- In tandem with the sermon series, our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** will begin again on **Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am** in the parlour. Check the bulletin for upcoming readings. I look forward to sharing our insights together.

- **Good Food, Good Book, and Good Night aka St. Andrew's Book Club** gathers again this September. Our first meeting is on **Friday September 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm** (please register with the Church Office or on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Centre). As usual, reading the books is not a pre-requisite. **Our first selection will be Patrick deWitt's The Sisters Brothers**. In the coming months, we will read John Steinbeck's The Pearl and Geraldine Brooks' Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague. I look forward to some **lively discussion** and always good food.
- The **Circles program** has continued to meet over the summer in order to be ready to launch the first Circle in Guelph by the fall. Circles, as you may remember, is a cooperative initiative gathering resources from the public and private sectors, as well as non-profits, community services and faith groups. Its goal is **empower individuals living in poverty** to change their circumstances by encouraging them to set their own goals and coming alongside them with 'allies' (people with resources and experience) in order to encourage and aid in their success. In order to become an ally, one needs to attend a **Bridges Out of Poverty training seminar**. The next opportunity in Guelph is on **Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in attending, please email Elaine Weir in order to register ([Elaine.Weir@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:Elaine.Weir@wdgpublichealth.ca)) The Congregational Care Team of St. Andrew's will also be hosting **an information session on Circles** in our Church Hall on the morning of **Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>**. More information about this event will be available soon. I'm excited to be a part of this initiative and look forward to seeing how this program impacts the lives of individuals living in our community.

As you can see, there is **a lot happening** around St. Andrew's this fall... and I've only scratched the surface. May we continue to **make a difference** in the lives of those who we have **the privilege of serving in mission**. May we know God's presence in our lives and be strengthened and encouraged by it. And when we have the opportunity to be together, may we **inspire and challenge** each other to deepen our experience of Jesus Christ and the abundant life he calls each of us to live.

Have fun,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Borthwick', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

The Rev. John Borthwick