



St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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www.standrewshespeler.ca
Fall Edition, 2019

Choosing Life

Scott McAndless

Why did Jesus come? Why did he go through the incarnation, the crucifixion, the resurrection? This is the reason he himself gives in John 10:10: *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

That abundant life that Jesus promised is not just about what happens to us after we die; it's not just a promise of heaven. It's about the kind of life we can live here and now, a life that is full of meaning, purpose and fulfilment. Now, the promise of abundant life is a gift of God's grace – something that God longs to give us because God loves us. But the fact remains that sometimes the choices we make interfere with that abundant life that God wishes for us. We choose things that might seem like they will lead to abundance, things like indulgence, hatred or envy, only to discover that they do not.



Sometimes the choices that do lead to true abundance elude us because they seem counterintuitive. That is why I decided to make my theme for preaching during the month of September, "Choose Life." I am talking about the choices that we can make that may not seem obvious to us but that lead us to a life that is ultimately more abundant. Choices like these:

On September 8th, I spoke about Jesus' astonishing teaching that an abundant life is actually measured, not by what you get out of it, but what you put into it.

On September 15th, I'm preaching about how Jesus taught us to find abundance in celebrating all kinds of people for who they are.

September 22nd will see us focusing on how we can find abundance by not merely acquiescing to those who have power but by finding ways to stand up for what is right, as dangerous as that can be sometimes.



And finally, on **September 29th**, we'll talk about how we find abundance by making investments that don't make sense, at least not according to this world.

There are some people who have misrepresented the Christian faith as something that offers to people abundance in terms of material wealth or a trouble-free life. That is a false teaching that must be rejected. But the promise of abundant life is real and it is for this world. I hope you join with me as we explore these truths.

By the way, if you have missed or will be unable to attend for any part of this sermon series, please remember that you can always keep up-to-date with what we are talking about by going to the church website, standrewshespeler.ca. Sermons are posted there in the minister's blog and in the sermons/ bulletins section.

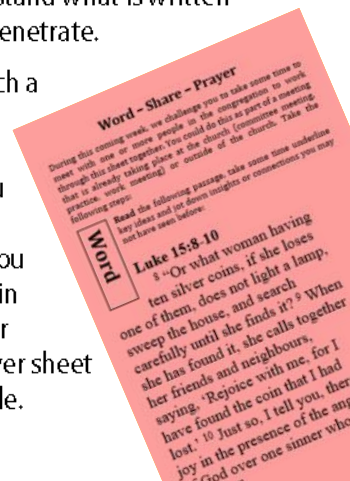
(Please do note, however, that some parts of the website are currently under construction and may not be completely up to date.)



Contemplative Reading

As Presbyterians, we believe that God uses the scriptures to speak to us and offer us wisdom and guidance. And so, down through the centuries, the church has developed various ways for us to open our hearts and intentionally listen for what God might be saying to us through the Bible. These sorts of activities are an essential part of the life of our church, particularly the sermon and various approaches to Bible reading and study such as you will read about in this newsletter. But there is another way of reading the scriptures with a listening heart that has been often neglected in our tradition. I'm talking about the contemplatively reading of scripture. This is a way of reading that is less how about using the intellect to understand what is written then it is about engaging the heart and clearing the mind so that God's voice may penetrate.

Sometimes God is able to speak to us much more powerfully when we read with such a contemplative approach. In order to help you to try such an approach, the minister regularly prepares sheets of paper under the title, "Word, Share, Prayer." These sheets offer you a way to focus your mind upon a short scripture reading so that you may read it slowly and with an open spirit. You might be surprised to discover how often God uses such an approach to send a message to you. We would encourage you to make use of these sheets for at least a few minutes each week. They can be used in private and silent devotion but are usually more effective when you can discuss your thoughts and insights with at least one other person. Take home a word, share, prayer sheet today and be prepared to discover something new in your relationship with the Bible.



Bits & Pieces ...

AN INVITATION

Have you been attending St. Andrew's Hespeler for some time? Have you ever considered becoming a member of the congregation? Would you perhaps be interested just to know what membership might mean? We are trying to organize a class for any who have any interest in membership. If this is something that you might consider or just want to know more about, please speak to the minister and we can discuss possible times and dates.

FOOD BANK LUNCHES

The ladies that provide nutritious lunches for people coming to the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank and Hope Clothing would like to thank everyone who helps on Food Bank day or donates money or food.

This past year we have been blessed with regular donations of eggs and milk, along with special donations from St. Mary's Church, Silverheights PS, the Food Bank and many others. We feed an average of 55 every other week when the Food Bank comes to St. Andrew's.

Please remember this work in your prayers.



SNUFFY IS ON THE MOVE!

This fall, watch for new additions in various categories in our libraries. Our library mascot, Snuffy, and his friends will be paying a surprise visit to the Children's Library on the second floor with special surprises.



Do you have gold or silver jewellery, coins or flatware that you no longer use or want?



You may be surprised at how much **you** can earn by selling the metal! The Athalie Read Group is having a

Gold Sale

September 26th from 6-8 p.m.

Bring your items and see how much they are worth, then decide if you want to sell them. Not able to be here that night? Talk to any member of the group to pick up your items and act as your personal representative.

For more information call Carol Jones
519-658-4394.

News from Christian Education ...

By Joni Smith

We are looking forward to an exciting year!

The three groups in **Sunday School**: Little Explorers (0-3 yrs old), Divine Detectives (age 4-grade 3) and the Holy Sherlocks (grades 4-6) will have a busy year. These groups will be invited to participate in Christmas and Easter services, they will be serving at the Annual Senior's Tea , competing in the Grand Gardener contest, holding a fundraising bake sale for mission work, collecting pop cans, working towards CLUB 10 (if you are in Sunday School for 10 weeks you get a prize, but CLUB 10 will have a few changes this year!), hosting Sundaes Sunday and lots more!

This fall we are offering three **study groups**:

1. **“Breathing Room”**, a four part study for women, starting on September 10. If you missed the 1st meeting you can still join us. There is room for three more people to join us. This is a study designed to help women identify the busyness in their lives and then try to focus on what is truly important. The fellowship gained in these studies is also important as it helps us make deeper connections and helps us to surround ourselves with supportive, faithful friends.
2. **“Me and My Big Mouth”** is also a four part study which the Deacons will be working on, starting on September 9th. Again if you miss the first night you can still join us. You don't have to be a Deacon to join us for this study. Just watch your bulletin for day/time information.
3. **“Wednesday Morning Bible Study”**, led by Rev. Scott McAndless. This group will meet every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am for study (coffee & tea starting at 9:30 am). Scott will lead this study based on what he will be preaching eleven days after. Everyone is welcome to attend on any week. No previous bible study or bible knowledge is required. This study will begin again on September 18th.

Youth News!

In the spring, the Session agreed to support our Youth Ministries program and our youth specifically in the following way:

A group of talented, dedicated, smart, funny, generous youth are ready to take responsibility for Youth Ministries. They will be meeting soon to elect a leader, secretary and treasurer. They will also be planning meetings and events. Stay tuned—we expect great things from this group! But be prepared, they still need “a village” to support them.

They also have a wish list of items for their youth room, if you can help out please speak with them or with Joni. Here's the list: flat screen tv/dvd player, Keurig (or similar) coffee machine, succulent plants, small end tables, board games (age and church appropriate), food, coffee/tea, snacks.



Dear Holy Sherlocks:

Namaste! Asante! Dhonnobad! Gracias! Salamat! These are the thank-you's we hear from children in India, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Honduras and the Philippines! It is usually shyly and quietly spoken. The spunkier ones will attempt an enthusiastic, "Thank you Canada!"

It is said that a photo speaks a thousand words. I hope the photo below will convey the joy and hope that your generous gift affords.

Your bedkits will be given to eleven children in Tanzania, where a distribution of 7,500 bedkits is underway. Enclosed is your 2019 tax receipt. Photos of the children will be mailed in a few weeks.

SCAW has been reaching out to experts to build a library of resources on the importance of sleep as a pillar of health:

"Sleep is like magical fuel for children. It has the power to make them feel better, think better and play better. Let's give the magic of sleep to every child every night."

Two things about your donation to Sleeping Children inspire us ... your generosity and your faith in our mission. We are truly grateful that you stand with us to give the magic of sleep to children in need.

This is the letter of thanks that the Holy Sherlocks received from Sleeping Children Around the World

In the spring the Holy Sherlock class held their annual Bake Sale. Part of their proceeds helped buy bed kits for 11 children. We would like to thank Brian & Pat Tuddenham for coming to our class to teach us about Sleeping Children Around the World.

Thank you, to everyone, who baked, collected pop cans, and purchased our baked goods. A **big** thank you to our two awesome Holy Sherlock leaders, Lori & Cynthia, for helping this class organize their bake sale.



Did you plant potatoes in May? Well, it's time to dig them up! On Sunday, September 29th we will hold our Annual Grand Gardener contest. Each Sunday School student, who grew potatoes, is encouraged to bring their largest potato to be weighed. Rev. Scott will weigh each potato to determine the heaviest and winning potato. The winner will be "crowned" with the snazzy Grand Gardener hat. All donations of potatoes and canned goods such as: pasta sauce, salad dressing, pasta, spices, tea, coffee, juices will be donated to Thursday Night Supper & Social. Thank you for your support of our Sunday School children and TNSS!



A few notes about our Music Programs

By Corey Linforth



Choir Position Update

Last year, we began considering whether the act of worship at St. Andrew's would be better served by changing where the choir sat.

After consultation with the congregation and experimenting with different possibilities, Music & Worship has recommended that the choir move to sitting in the front few congregational pews. The recommendation has gone to session who will now discuss it and deliver a decision or further requests.

St. Andrew's Music Ensembles

We are blessed with many talented musicians here at St. Andrew's. Here are some of the ways they contribute to our worship and our community.

Adult Choir

Ages 16 and up, Thursdays – 7:00pm to 8:30pm, meets in the sanctuary



The adult choir is the cornerstone of the music program at St. Andrew's. We lead the congregation for the hymns and sing anthems for the service. We sing a variety of styles including traditional, gospel, classical, folk, contemporary, and much more! It is led by our Music Director, Corey Linforth.

Youth Band

Grade 7 to Grade 12, Thursdays – 5:15pm to 6:00pm, meets in the sanctuary

For vocalists and instrumentalists, all levels and all instruments are welcome. We do a mix of worship music (pop), hymn arrangements, and instrumental chamber music. It's led by Amy Lightfoot and Corey Linforth with additional mentors.

GraceNotes

Ages 16 and up, 3rd & 4th Thursdays – 6:15pm to 6:45pm, meets in the sanctuary

This female voiced group sings a variety of music and focuses on folk music and contemporary hymns. There is also opportunity to learn more about reading music. The group is lead by Margaret McKenzie-Leighton.

Joyful Sound!

Ages 16 and up, 3rd and 4th Thursdays – 6:15pm to 6:45pm, meets in the choir room

Joyful Sound! is a group for male voices that sings gospel music, generally upbeat. We regularly do performances at other churches and community events.

Solos & Small Ensembles

There are many opportunities for people to offer a vocal solo, instrumental solo, or work with a small ensemble (this could be a duet, a little band, an instrumental piece). If you are interested in this, contact Corey.



Get Involved!

You are welcome to just show up to rehearsals! If you have questions first, you can contact Corey, our music director, at corey.cotter@hotmail.com or talk to her after a service!

Remembrance Day Service

Our Remembrance Day service will be on November 10th. We will be honouring our veterans and those we lost in the war.

The Cambridge Kiwanis Boys Choir will help us honour, remember, and grieve those who never came back.



The Cambridge Kiwanis Boys Choir is a choir for boys and young men in the community of Cambridge, Ontario. It welcomes boys and young men between the ages of 7 and 19 who are passionate for music and singing. They are presently under the direction of our own Corey Linforth. Check out their website at ckboyschoir.ca for upcoming concerts and tours.

Presbyterian Women News

Jean Godin

The Presbyterial Fall Rally will be October 7th at 1:00 pm. Rev. Tori Smit will be the speaker as we discuss the future and how Waterloo-Wellington can face its challenges. The meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Hespeler.



Tori Smit is a Diaconal Minister with the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) and is presently serving as the Regional Minister for Faith Formation for our Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda (CNOB).

As some of you already know, Glad Tidings is ending publication at the end of the year, due to rising costs and fewer subscriptions. Please look for news and WMS information in the PCC Connections magazine or through your church office. Some things change/end but, hopefully, new ways to share information will emerge.

The next National Women's Gathering, "Through the Waters" will be held on May 15-18, 2020 in Richmond Hill. Speakers will include Susan Aglukark (Indigenous singer-songwriter), Jennifer Henry (director of KAIROS) and Dr. Tori Smit. If you register before November 30 of this year, you can save bigtime on the cost! Talk to Jean Godin for more information.

National Presbyterian Women's Gathering

Through the Waters

May 15-18, 2020



Financial Update

By Donald Paddock

The following represents our Year To Date (YTD) July 2019 General Fund performance as compared to our 2019 budget and Last Year:

\$	YTD July 2019 Actual	YTD July 2019 Budget	YTD July 2018 Actual
Opening Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	(9,000)
Receipts	89,000	128,000	92,000
Expenses	135,000	136,000	133,000
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	(46,000)	(8,000)	(41,000)
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	(46,000)	(8,000)	(50,000)

Major variances: Actual YTD July 2019 vs YTD July 2019 Budget:

Receipts are down \$39,000 due to:

Timing of Stewardship and Special events (\$22,000), Lower than budgeted Rentals (\$3,000).

Lower than budgeted Givings (\$14,000), Expenses are down \$1,000

Major variances: Actual YTD July 2019 vs Actual YTD July 2018:

Receipts are down \$3,000 due to:

Timing of Stewardship and Special Events (\$1,000), Lower givings in 2019 (\$2,000)

Expenses are up \$2,000 due to: Higher operating costs (\$2,000)

So, what can we each do to help close the gap we see?

1. We can reach out to members/friends of St. Andrew's we may not have seen at church for a while to reconnect and encourage them to re-new their commitment to St. Andrews.
2. We can reach out to family and friends who may not have a church and invite them to worship at St. Andrews.
3. Come out to the 164rd Anniversary Weekend Dream Auction on Saturday, October 19th.
4. **Support FundScrip.** Did you know if we had just 20 families sign up to purchase \$1,000 of their monthly household expenses (groceries, gas, etc.) with Fundscrip Gift Cards, we'd raise approximately \$7000!
5. Make a special Stewardship gift to the General Fund.

Please pray for our collective response to the needs of our General Fund.

It's Auction Time!

Mark down **Saturday, October 19th, 2019** on your calendar for a great evening of fun and fellowship! St. Andrew's will be hosting a Live and Silent Auction that evening as part of our 164th Anniversary celebrations.

Previews, Dessert & Coffee at 7:00 pm. Live Auction begins at 7:30 pm. Bring your relatives and friends! This is a family friendly event. Children are invited to come in their pj's, watch a movie and enjoy some popcorn. Think about what services, gifts or talents you could donate to the auction, enabling us to raise a lot of money for our General Fund and have lots of fun while we're doing it!! Be creative!!!

A donation sign-up sheet is available downstairs after church. Alternatively, you can contact Joni Smith, jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca with items or services to be donated. For more information or to volunteer to help out in

advance of or the night of the auction, please contact Nancy English (Nancy.English@hotmail.com) or Donald Paddock (dpadd5323@rogers.com) at 519 624-0898.



Hand Crafter's Christmas Market

at St. Andrew's Hespeler

Saturday, November 16, 2019

9:00 am–2:00 pm

73 Queen St. E., Cambridge ON N3C 2A9

Come out and see all of the beautiful, creative works by local artisans

It's a perfect time to start your Christmas shopping!



Why I'm "Running" in the Race to Erase

By Scott McAndless



Every week, people donate lots of clothing. Just sorting it can be a big job for our volunteers.

Used clothing has become a big business these days. Most of the clothes that are collected in donation bins and clothing drives are sold by various charities to businesses that run for-profit used clothing stores. This does accomplish a lot of good, of course, but it does raise a few issues. It means that, in many cases, while used clothing is available at a lower price than new, it is often still priced out of reach for the poorest people in our society. It also often means that, while clothes are collected in smaller communities, they are no longer made available to the people who actually live in those communities unless they have the resources to drive to the big used clothing stores.

These are some of the big reasons why many people in and around Hespeler prefer to bring their clothing donations into Hope Clothing. They appreciate our commitment not to sell clothing, but to give it to those who need it most.

Many times, I have had people show up at the door of the church, bringing clothing that has some significant meaning to them – perhaps the clothing of a loved one who has passed away. It often means so much to them that the clothing is to be given away freely. They want it to go to those who actually need it most. They see it as one final way for their loved one to give.

In a world where everything seems to have become profit motivated, Hope Clothing stands out as a unique exception and that is one big reason why I am so enthusiastic about it.

Of course, because Hope Clothing has made this commitment, funding has always been an issue. The costs of maintaining this ministry are low, but some funding is necessary. We have been very fortunate to benefit from a few grants and generous donations over the years, but we really only have one fundraising initiative for the ministry: Race to Erase.

 **RACETOERASE** The Race to Erase will be held on Saturday, October 5th this year. Please consider participating on a team (we have two but would love to have a third team) or sponsoring one of our teams. Please speak with either Rob Hodgson or Karen Kincaid to sponsor one of our teams. We will be commissioning our teams on Sunday, September 29. We will also be lining up sponsors on that day.



One of last year's Race to Erase teams

Important Upcoming Dates

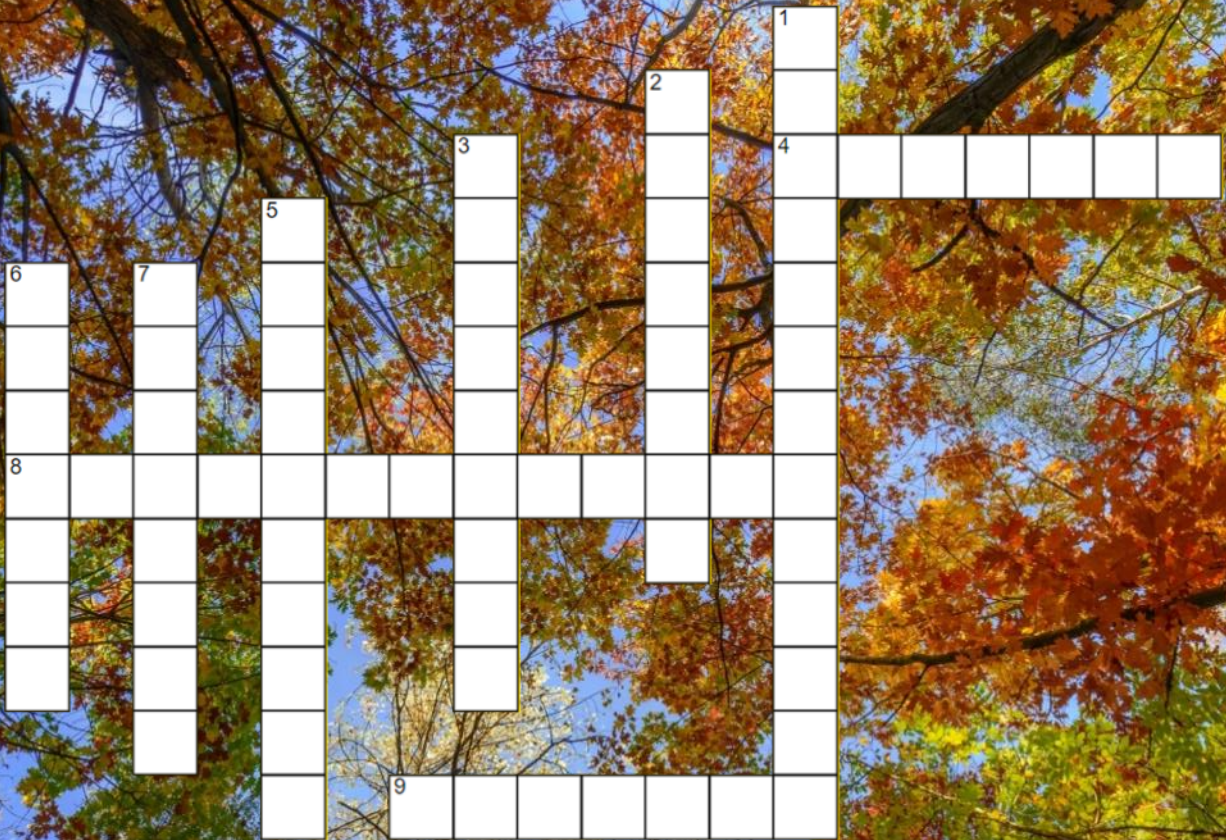
Date	Place	Time	Event
Wed. Sept 18	Foyer	10 am	Weekly Bible Study begins. Come for coffee at 9:30!
Sat. Sept 22	Forbes Park	9 am–3 pm	Hespeler Harvest Festival. St. Andrew's will be there! Drop by and visit us.
Sun. Sept 29	Sanctuary	10 am	Potato Harvest Sunday and crowning of the Grand Gardener.
Wed. Oct 2	Fellowship Hall	5 pm	Weekly Family Night Potluck Dinners begin. All are welcome to come.
Sat. Oct 5	All over Cambridge	9 am–2 pm	Race to Erase. Two teams will be participating in support of Hope Clothing
Sun. Oct 6	Sanctuary	10 am	World Communion Sunday
Thurs. Oct 10	Gymnasium	5 pm	Thursday Night Supper and Social
Sun. Oct 13	Sanctuary	10 am	Thanksgiving Sunday
Sat. Oct 19	Fellowship Hall	7 pm	Live and Silent Auction
Sun. Oct 20	Sanctuary	10 am	Anniversary Service
Thurs. Oct 24	Gymnasium	5 pm	Thursday Night Supper and Social
Sun. Nov 3	Eastern Time Zone	2 am	Daylight Savings Time ends
Sat. Nov 16	Gymnasium	9am–2pm	Handcrafter's Christmas Market
Thurs. Nov 7	Gymnasium	5 pm	Thursday Night Supper and Social
Sun. Nov 10	Sanctuary	10 am	Remembrance Day service with special guest choir: Cambridge Kiwanis Boy's Choir.



Don't forget to get your gifts cards through FundScrip to support the work of the church at no cost to yourself. Just pick up an order sheet and drop your order, with payment into the lockbox just inside the foyer door.

The Back Page

Now let's see how much of it you remember from this newsletter. Can you fill out this whole crossword puzzle without looking back? An answer sheet will be published in the bulletin in two weeks.



ACROSS

- 4 Where to drop you Fundscrip order
- 8 more about heart than intellect
- 9 Boys' choir

DOWN

- 1 School that supports foodbank
- 2 kids here are sleeping in beds provided by Holy Sherlocks
- 3 a plant that requires little maintenance
- 5 Women's ensemble
- 6 One Race to Erase team leader
- 7 existing or available in large quantities