



St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
73 Queen St. E., Cambridge, ON  
N3C 2A9 (519) 658-2652  
www.standrewshespeler.ca  
Fall Edition 2022

## Make it plain on tablets

Scott McAndless

On Anniversary Sunday (October 30) this year, I preached a sermon on a passage from the Prophet Habakkuk. (If you ever want to read or watch a sermon you might have missed, just look on the web site under "Minister's Blog.")

Don't lose hope. God is still in charge of the world. He will have the last word!

As I read the passage I was particularly struck by one verse where the prophet speaks for God and says, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time." (Habakkuk 2:2-3) For me, that verse seemed to present a particular challenge to the church in society today.

Love (y)our neighbour(s) the same way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves you!

We seem to struggle, sometimes, with the whole question of whether or not the gospel message is relevant in our modern world. To me, that verse suggests that, if no one is particularly paying attention to what we have to say, the problem may not be with the message, but simply with the fact that we are not proclaiming that message boldly enough.

Habakkuk seemed to be saying that, if only we could make the message clear enough, so clear that even somebody running by could read it, then it would be bound to make a difference.

A message of hope and vigilance:

(The Byrds) - to everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose under heaven.

I noted the story of a German pastor who, in the midst of the worst antisemitism of the Second World War, at a time when not only were there millions of Jews being sent to extermination camps, but also every trace of Jewish heritage within Christianity itself was being eradicated from the German Church, stated that the only gospel that mattered in his day was the Gospel that stated, "Jesus was a Jew."

Meaning: God is at work in everything. Everything on Earth serves God's purpose. We may just not understand it yet.

On my tablet: Love one another!

It seemed to me that, in a world that seems to be increasingly marked by division, hatred and intolerance, what we needed to do was find a message that was so clear and succinct that people could not help but notice.

The answer to yesterday's question, after long thought is simply LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR. That is what my bold banner would say

But I didn't want to say what that message would be myself. Instead, I decided to pass that challenge on to the congregation as a whole. I asked the people in the congregation to tell me what they would write on the tablet so large that even a runner could read it. What is the radical statement of what it means to be a Christian in the troubled world where we find ourselves today? How would you sum it up in just a few words?

I've got to say that I was really impressed with the answers that I got. Many of you did rise to that challenge and I wanted to take the opportunity of this newsletter to share the answers that I received. You will find them on this page.

Inclusive  
Non-judgemental  
Compassionate

Are these the messages that we need to proclaiming most loudly in the church today? I don't necessarily know. But I suspect that reflecting on that question may

We are here to help. All are welcome!

We look in the mirror and see others reflected. We welcome the homeless to rest, the addicts to find peace, the sick in heart, mind and body to find comfort in this place.

be one of the most important tasks we have as the church in our world today.

It is, at least, a good place to start.

## Join us on our Journey

Reference Group

At the beginning of 2023, we are embarking on an exciting journey to re-discover God's plan for St. Andrew's Hespeler. This journey will take us about six months and throughout this time, we will learn how to listen for how to be faithful to God and re-discover our sense of purpose and calling as a congregation. At the end of this journey, we will have a roadmap of actions supporting the faith-based priorities and directions our congregation has identified.

We invite all to participate—those new to St. Andrew's, those who've called St. Andrew's home for many years, those for whom St. Andrew's may feel like a friend they no longer know and those who may know nothing about St. Andrew's Hespeler. Come as you are and be a part of what God has in store for us!

**What does it mean to be faithful as a people of God in our 21st Century context?**

**As St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, what is your central purpose for being together?**

**To what ministries, dreams and other acts of faith are you being called to at this time?**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is initiating a process to learn together, to listen and to discern how St. Andrew's is being called as a congregation. St. Andrew's wants to pay attention to what it means to be a people of faith in this time – and to discover together what concrete actions St. Andrew's is being called to take in response to God's call. Please join us for this conversation!



This process is being led by a reference group of St. Andrew's members that includes Don Paddock, Randy Rattansingh, Joni Smith, Sylvia Brooks, Steve Marsh and the Minister Scott McAndless.

St. Andrew's is also working with Cathy Stewart from Credence & Co. Credence specializes in supporting congregations and organizations to be healthy, to reground themselves in their vision and to awaken to a sense of God's call in their lives. You can read more about Credence and Cathy at [www.credenceandco.com](http://www.credenceandco.com).

We will begin in January with a worship service and congregational conversation about what it is like to be a congregation in the 21st century, with the many changes we are experiencing.

Cathy Stewart has been helping congregations through difficult conversations and conflict for over 30 years. She has become a leader in guiding congregations through crisis into greater health, helping congregations discern their sense of purpose and calling, and encouraging them to listen for how to be faithful to God.

Following that (in January) you will be invited to join a focus group to talk about St. Andrew's strengths and challenges – the conversations you have in these groups will help St. Andrew's to set a direction as a congregation. Later in February and April there will be two more congregational conversations which will delve further into the

possibilities for St. Andrew's.

Dates and times for focus groups and special services will be communicated as soon as they are scheduled.

We pray that our dialogue together will open the St. Andrew's congregation to listening deeply for God's leading and that in doing so, St. Andrew's will reflect ever more closely on what and who God is creating us to be.

### A Very Special Thank You to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

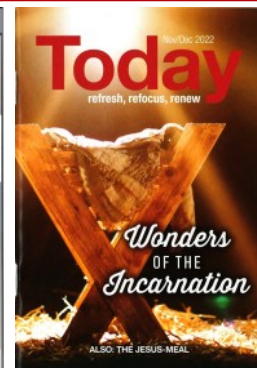
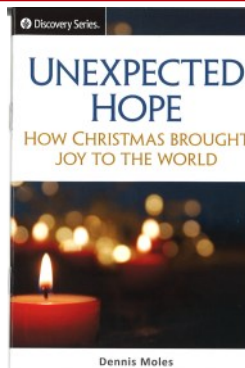
The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington oversees the work of this congregation. The Presbytery has made a deep commitment through its "Renewal Team" to supporting congregations as they seek to discover and reimagine their ministries in these very challenging times. It is thanks to a generous grant from the Presbytery's Re-Generation Fund that we have been able to enter into a contract with Credence and Co. for the work we will do together in 2023. 80% of that grant has already been made available and the balance will be sent once we have finished the work and sent in a report. We thank the Presbytery for its support.

## Check the Communication Centre

We keep daily devotionals on hand that are free for anyone to take and use. Some people follow the "Today" devotionals while other like to use "Daily Bread." Check out the Communications Centre (just outside the office door)

"Bulletins" mailbox to find the latest editions.

### Our Daily Bread



Also in the Communications Centre, grab a "Gifts of Change" catalogue. What sort of Christmas gift can you give to someone who has everything? Why not send a donation to support a worthwhile *Presbyterian World Service & Development* or *Presbyterians Sharing* project in their name. This catalogue includes a list of lots of worthy projects to choose from.

It's Advent and it's that time of year again!

This year we would like to invite you to help us fill up the space under our Christmas tree with personal hygiene items, toilet paper, kleenex and household cleaning products.

These items are very expensive and always appreciated by the people who access our programs. The items will be distributed, free of charge, in the new year.

Items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant (men & women), shaving supplies (for both men and women), laundry detergent and softener, lysol, etc. are all needed.



# Giving Tuesday

By: Joni Smith

On Tuesday, November 29th, St. Andrew's is launching its 5th Annual *GivingTuesday* campaign. *GivingTuesday* is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the U.S. Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, *#GivingTuesday* kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. There are \$6,500 for matching funds, so the first \$6,500 raised will be matched!

# GIVINGTUESDAY™

Giving Tuesday Waterloo Region

#givingtuesdaywr

Throughout the month of December we will be highlighting the amazing volunteers and outreach that St. Andrew's has, and we will be celebrating **you!**

We will have stories about people who have struggled with food insecurity and what our help means to them. We will also tell about how we have been able to help people struggling with clothing insecurity. We will celebrate the return of some of our food ministries and the creation of new ones!

This GivingTuesday, we're proud to be participating in a global day of giving! Our mission is to serve God while serving our community, helping those who need some extra help and showing compassion. We believe that GivingTuesday is a great way to further that mission. On this special day, we're asking for your help to support our work.

Watch your mailboxes for a letter from our Stewardship committee highlighting what funds raised will be allocated to and for ways you can donate.

Please consider making a donation to our month long campaign. Every little bit helps and we are so grateful for your support this #GivingTuesdayCA



GIVINGTUESDAY

Together we give.

#GivingTuesdayCA

# GIVINGTUESDAY

# Christian Education

By Joni Smith



## New this year: A Family Playlist

A family playlist is simply a list of links to use for activities, readings, videos and stories. On the playlist you can also find a brief explanation of the focus scripture for the week and a prayer. Everyone is encouraged to make use of this resource at home. A new playlist is posted on the website weekly.

**Faith @ Home:** we will continue to make use of our Faith @ Home boxes this year. The first delivery will happen just before the beginning of Advent. Included this time will be a "Faithful Families @ Home" package. This year we will be concentrating on the importance of learning to pray. This package will include Prayer Pockets for each youth and child. The pockets were each lovingly made by members of St. Andrew's for our children and young people. There will also be ideas about creating a sacred space at home and ideas for gathering together to pray and talk each week of Advent. Psst: it involves dessert!!

Intergenerational Worship continues at St. Andrew's. While we are in a time of change and finding our new normal we are developing intergenerational worship services so that the entire family is included in worship.

Instead of a Children's Message we have moved to Family Time. On occasion when we don't have children worshipping with us in person there is a lesson for the entire St. Andrew's family.

While some parents may worry about how much noise their children might make or how much they might move around, so far the children who have joined us have enjoyed being with everyone and have fun seeing what is in their pew package each week.

During Family Time, there are instructions for the children; e.g.: listen to the message and pick out the "really different name" of the person Scott is telling us about; make a picture, using the supplies in the pew package of the story they heard this morning during the bible reading and Family Time. There is always a snack in the Pew Package, too.

Any noises are welcome by everyone in the sanctuary. We have been missing our children and young people. If children have a need to move, they are always welcome to come to the back where Joni sits and talk about what they made or just to move and stretch out.

The main point is that our children and youth are very much welcome to join us, just the way they are! Please help our families out as they start bringing their children back, start a conversation with them, ask them what they did this week, ask them what the best part of their week was or if they have anything special planned for the week ahead. You might be surprised at how willingly the children respond to you!



## Outreach at St. Andrew's

By: Joni Smith

**HOPE CLOTHING**  
has exciting news!



**Come in, we're open!**



The first Saturday of the month,  
from 10:00 am - noon.  
Starting Saturday, January 7, 2023

Hope Clothing has exciting news to share with you! Starting on Saturday, January 7, 2023 we will be open for shopping on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:00 am - noon. We hope this will give a chance to working families to access clothes and accessories.

We need your help! On December 22nd, from noon—2:00 pm we will be having a mini Christmas day and we would like to be able to share some small packages of Christmas cookies. If you can bake, please consider helping us bring a little Christmas cheer to people who are struggling.



The Cambridge Food Bank will be available on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month beginning in December. We serve approximately 25 - 30 different families on each of these days. We are always looking for volunteers to help out. If you'd like to join this fun and supportive group please speak with Joni.

**Free Community  
Breakfast**  
Mondays 6:30-8:30  
All are welcome  
At St Andrew's  
Hespeler Church  
73 Queen St. E.  
Cambridge  
Enter from Spring St.  
(Behind the church)



Our outreach programs will be taking a break, starting on December 23rd, but will resume with the opening of **Hope Clothing** on Saturday, January 7, 2023 and **Breakfast on Queen** on Monday, January 9, 2023. **Food bank** will be available on Thursdays, January 12th & 26th. **TNSS** will announce the next date after December 8th.

## Outreach (continued)

By Joni Smith



### Thursday Night Supper & Social (TNSS)

has started up again! There have been some changes as we start up again. Thursday Night Supper & Social will serve a good, nutritious, home made meal on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The doors open at 5:15 pm, with dinner being served at 5:30 pm. The next dinner is on Thursday, December 8th.

# Christmas is coming!



## Fünd Scrip<sup>TM/MC</sup>



Did you know that money raised from gift cards goes back into helping the church?

Restaurants, Clothing Stores, Gas, Grocery shopping: \*McDonald's

\*Tim Horton's \*Starbucks \* Staples

\*Ultimate dinning cards \*Zehrs \*Food Basics \*Metro

\* Shell \*Esso \* Indigo \*Cineplex \*Gap/Old Navy \* Giant Tiger

Orders in November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 to get your orders in time for Christmas! Talk to Laura or Patrice if you have any questions!

We continue to order Fundscrip cards as a fundraiser for the church. You can order and receive the cards for the same price that they are available anywhere, then the church receives a percentage of that price. Use them to send gifts to loved ones or just to make routine purchases. Contact the office or let Laura Einwechter know if you would like to order some cards.

## The Back Page

Well, you have now read through this entire newsletter. Now let's see how much of it you remember. Can you fill out this whole crossword puzzle without looking back?



### DOWN

- 1 A centre outside the church office
- 3 Member of the Reference Group

### ACROSS

- 2 Worship that intentionally includes people of all ages
- 4 New day of the week for Hope Clothing to be open
- 5 A Presbytery team
- 6 A specific kind of racial hatred
- 7 Available Mondays from 6:30-8:30am
- 8 Old Testament Prophet

An answer key to this puzzle will appear in the bulletin on December 11.