



NEWS 'n' VIEWS of St. Timothy's



"The Church with a friendly welcome"

THIS IS A LEADING WITH CARE CHURCH

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church
97 Burcher Road, Ajax ON L1S 2R3
Minister: The Rev. Dennis Cook
www.sttimothysajax.com

WELCOME to the Spring/Summer 2015 issue of the St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church Newsletter!

News 'n' Views is published twice a year: Spring and Fall/Winter.

This is your newsletter. Please send any suggestions and/or contributions to: Stephanie Randolph at steph_maccormack@yahoo.ca

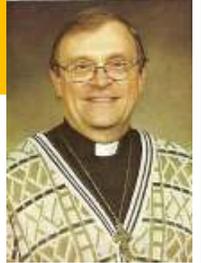
Your News 'n' Views Committee:
Carol Ann Hall, John Hall, Ruth Nelson, Stephanie Randolph, Anne Stevens, June Stevenson, Norm Terry



ST TIMOTHY'S MISSION STATEMENT

We of St Timothy's as part of God's Family, gather together in the love of Christ to worship God and to celebrate, with joy, and thanksgiving, our faith in a caring, responsive and loving way. As individuals, we are willing to reach out with our gifts, talents and time to those around us as we share God's love through our actions and our words.

FROM THE MINISTER



Taken from the Annual Report, 2015

King Whitney Jr. wrote:

"Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better."

It seems very strange to me to be writing this after many happy and fulfilling years here at St. Timothy's. I have contributed to the Annual Report each year since 2003. Each year I have tried to look back in review and comment on how we will be moving ahead in the year to come. This year I look back over, not just one year, but thirteen. This year I comment on a year to come of which I will only be present with you for a portion of the whole.

Change rests at our feet. My retirement, hopefully, will mean a healthy, happy time of doing things I want to do when I want to do them. I know it will mean a time of sadness as Eileen and I say goodbye. We have loved our time with you and appreciated, more than you will ever know, your support and love. We will miss you but will continue to hold you in our prayers and in our hearts.

For St. Timothy's change will mean an opportunity to take stock, assess the past and plan and prepare for a different future. I pray that you will not be fearful but instead embrace the future with hope and confidence as per Mr. Whitney. I have confidence in you to continue the ministry of St. Timothy's as you have in the past as well as prepare for new, productive ways of ministering to one another and the community in the years to come.

I have even more confidence that God will continue to be faithful so that, in the midst of change, you will have hope and confidence in our trustworthy, unchanging God.

The future is always a little bit scary. It can seem even more daunting amidst times of change. But may I offer you a "theme verse" as you move ahead. It is from my favourite Biblical book and my favourite translation and it echoes my thoughts perfectly:

"There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears." (Philippians 1:6 The Message)

God's richest blessings be yours now and forevermore!

Yours in Christ,

Dennis

Light of the World

Along the Via Dolorosa drops of blood
Drip into the cold dry earth
Stilled is the angel song
The joy and jubilation
And the worship of shepherds and kings.
Heralding a royal birth.

Over the hill lies another mound
Where a rough hewn cross stands waiting
For its burden – palm wood, no doubt
Some carpenter knows what's best.

Down in the valley the tomb is dark and cold
And a heavy stone blocks the way

Along the road we walked in sore distress
Gone our friend, Saviour and king
Another joined us, kind and gentle
We knew him in the breaking of bread
From the Emmaus road,

Born of the light
For didn't he say, "I am the light of the world."

- L. June Stevenson

Highlights of the Annual General Meeting Sunday February 8, 2015

St. Timothy's **Annual Meeting** was well attended in spite of uncertain weather and participants were warmed by the usual soup luncheon. The Rev. Dennis Cook, minister, moderated the meeting and Ann Hopkins, elder, volunteered to do the minutes. The **Minutes of 2014** were passed. **Group Reports** were received as printed.

John Hall and Frank Robinson agreed to remain as **Auditors** for 2015. Carol Ann Hall has agreed to carry on as the **Treasurer for Presbyterians Sharing** and John Hall as **Presbyterian Record Secretary**.

The 2014 **Actual Profit/Loss** statement was approved and carried, as was the **Budget** for 2015.

With regard to **Presbyterians Sharing**, St. Timothy's contributed the budgeted amount of \$9,000 for 2014. The shortfall was covered by the General Funds. Congregants are encouraged to give their offerings through Preauthorized Remittances (PAR) which increased by 6.6% in 2014. St. Timothy's still needs a Treasurer but things are being managed for now.

- L. June Stevenson

Making a Difference in the Community

Recently, St. Timothy's extended their outreach to the community by adding Joanne's House, a home for homeless youth on a nearby street. We also support the Salvation Army Food Bank and the Men's Hostel in Oshawa.

On Sunday March 15, in place of the sermon, Jill Bates of Joanne's House, described the facility and its mission to the congregation. In her talk she referred to the fact that Jesus lived as a homeless person, depending solely on the goodwill of others. He was the ultimate brother and friend of the homeless. A free will offering was taken up at the end of the service. Jill said that this 13-bed home is available to youth ages 16-24 who find themselves unable to go home, whether it is because of family addiction, abuse, disagreement or other significant factors. Joanne's House was born from the heart of a five-year-old who founded the Ladybug Foundation. Ladybugs are a symbol of luck and the youth who benefit are truly lucky that there is a place for them.

When youth arrive at Joanne's House they are given new pyjama bottoms, clean T-shirts, socks and underwear. Joanne's House receives government grants such as funds from the Trillium Fund, but depends on community support in renovating, repairs, grounds maintenance, meals, transportation and meeting other needs. Young people are able to receive counselling and assistance in finding employment and housing. They are very grateful for local residents who provide meals and left over treats from events.

Last Thanksgiving a group from St. Timothy's prepared and took in a traditional dinner. At Christmastime a turkey was given to the residents. Since its inception Joanne's House has dealt with at least 1,000 at-risk youth. While there are always needs, priorities these days include drivers for appointments, grocery gift cards and pyjama pants.

For more information call Joanne's House at 905-239-9377 or the outreach group at St. Timothy's c/o Norm Terry.

Beyond the Pew

'Come into being as you pass away' (logion 42, The Gospel of Thomas)

In the early months of 2015, several dear members of St. Timothy's passed on: Dorothy Walpole died January 14 (age 91), Bill Ferguson died January 20 (age 91) and Margaret Hanna died February 14 (age 81). Our thoughts are with the family members and friends with whom they built their lives.



Dorothy Walpole

Dorothy Walpole was a founding member of St. Tim's. She was active in the Sunday School and choir in our early years, and continued to play, pray and worship with us until she went into hospital a few months before her death.

Bill Ferguson, too, was one of our early members. Our fellowship was sweetened by his quiet manner and warm smile.



Bill Ferguson



Margaret Hanna

Margaret Hanna served St. Timothy's for many years. Prior to a lengthy illness she was an elder, clerk of session, and active in the WMS, helping to start their prayer chain.

Each of these faithful members contributed a unique vision, warmth, and thoughtful service to our community. Though we miss their pew presence, we know their adventure is ongoing, as is ours.

- Ruth Nelson

Bringing Down the House



The Young Singers of Durham brought down the house on Saturday March 7 with a star-spangled performance. They received a warm welcome and a standing ovation brought another song from this very talented group.

Led by Anna Lynn Murphy, the group presented a number of pieces they will be singing in Ireland on the March Break. For hosting this group, St. Timothy's was able to add \$432 to their funds.

Mark Stephens: Building a Music Career in the Church

"You can skate again next year, or you can learn to play the violin." I still remember my mom's words to me at the dinner table. It was the spring of 1975 and I was about to turn seven. I chose the violin, and my career in music had begun.

A year later, I started taking organ lessons, and later, trumpet and guitar. After moving to Ajax at age 11, I took lessons from Warner Fehn, who was organist here at St. Timothy's. Warner recognized the need for me to start studying the piano, so we bought an old Verdi upright. I've been a pianist first and foremost ever since, although the organ's pedals have remained second nature to me. Another year or so of lessons with Warner are all the formal training I have, but they gave me a solid foundation. I developed my style on my own in the years that followed.



I have been involved in music at St. Timothy's since I first moved here in 1979, playing violin, organ and piano, guitar and trumpet. I organized the early Christmas and Easter cantatas that the choir performed in the late 80s and early 90s. I directed the choir in 1993 and 1994, and have been both organist and choir director since December 2000.

After St. Timothy's, I will take some time off from music. I'll likely attend a Taiwanese church in Scarborough with my family. I'm sure that before long I will get involved in church music again, either at that church or at another. Church music has been a fun and rewarding career for me!

- Mark Stephens

Ann Hopkins Fire Recovery fund



On the morning of Sunday March 29 a fire devastated the home of Ann Hopkins. We want to ensure that she knows she has love and support as she copes and begins to rebuild.

To make a donation to the Ann Hopkins Fire Recovery Fund, please go to:

<http://www.gofundme.com/annhopkins>

Thank you everyone for your support and kind words!

THIS SPRING AT ST. TIMOTHY'S!

MAY 30 - St. Timothy's Annual Spring Garage & Bake Sale

Come out to support the annual affair that offers an assortment of delectable delights: hidden treasures. Volunteers will be required. More information to come!

