

## Further AGM Reports

*St. Augustine's AGM looking back on 2018*

### Kids' Time

Kids' Time is a ministry to the youngest among us. For those families with young children, having a fun and meaningful Kids' Time program is an important part of their decision to join us at St. A's. We want our kids to feel welcomed and engaged. To do this, we provide opportunities to learn more about the love of God, through bible stories, music, discussion, art and activities.

Here are some highlights for the year:

- The average number of children attending per Sunday has grown!
- Since the ages of our children is quite diverse, we strive to provide meaningful discussion and activities that can appeal to a range of ages.
- At the start of the year, we covered stories that were the same as the Gospel Reading upstairs (for the most part). We learned about the miracles that Jesus performed, learned the meaning behind some Bible parables and heard about some old testament stories such as Daniel and Lions and David and Goliath.
- In the Fall, we focused on the Old Testament stories of Abraham and his descendants, including Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. We sang along to songs such as "Father Abraham had Many Sons" and "The Joseph Song".
- As Advent approached, we turned our attention to preparing for a Christmas Pageant, "The Christmas Star". This was a great opportunity for the children to challenge themselves and to deliver their part in front of people who support and love them. It was a great success for both participants and viewers alike! Jonathan created a video of it on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/Dfg9hQgtY7A>).

Thank you to all volunteers who helped lead Kids' Time this year. Your efforts are appreciated, and we could not do it without you! If you are interested in joining this ministry and getting to know more about our kids, please let Sherry Prokopuk or June Kohar know.



*The Christmas Star Pageant*

## The Hardisty Community Christmas Dinner

The Hardisty Community Christmas Dinner is becoming a tradition! On December 8<sup>th</sup> we had our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Hardisty Community Christmas Meal and served a free wonderful turkey dinner for approximately 250 guests from the community. Sixteen different Christian Churches and organizations as well as South East Seniors Association and Hardisty School provided space, setup and volunteered at this marvelous community dinner. We had a wide range of guests all the way from infants to seniors and from all walks of life. It was great for the Hardisty Community to share a meal together. We enjoyed the Salvation Army Band as well as piano music for caroling. Guests and volunteers enjoyed getting to know one another and sharing the Christmas spirit. The many children and adults were all excited about the visit from Santa Claus. We would like to acknowledge donation of the excellent AV services from Skyeboat Productions (AV), photography by Jason Kane, donation of coffee from Capilano Starbucks and generous donations of supplies from both Capilano Safeway and Capilano Canadian Tire. We are thankful for the excellent turkey, gravy, stuffing and cranberry sauce that was catered by A Capella Catering and for the hardworking volunteer kitchen crew that peeled all those potatoes and carrots and provided such a delicious meal.

*Written by Jackie Simmonds of Grace United Church for distribution to local churches.*

## Post-Funeral Reception Information

*A few years ago, it was common practice for a group at the church to provide set-up, food, service, and clean-up for a parish funeral. This was a lot of work! This past year some accommodation has been made to find a workable alternative for our present season. Below is the outline provided to families. The cost is \$100.*

### **St. A's Ladies Group**

1. Provides paper plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, tablecloths, flowers, coffee, tea, cream, sugar, and punch (if requested).
2. Tables will be set in a chosen color and coordinated in a respectful manner.
3. The group will set up food in an attractive manner.
4. The group will combine left over food for efficient service.
5. The group will be responsible for kitchen clean up

### **Bereavement Family or Friends**

1. Set up and take down tables (The ladies' group will meet the family or friends at their convenience to assist in organizing the room)
2. Provide food - \*Must be at the church at least 2 hours before the funeral. Food trays can be ordered and purchased at: Safeway, Save-On, Costco
3. Arrange to be responsible for all the left-over food

4. Remove garbage to garbage bin (key required)

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of Eileen Perla*

### I.D. At St. Augustine's

This fall we had a chance to share in the diocesan ID process – a process intended to **ID**entify more precisely how God works through us as individuals and as a parish. Ven. Richard King of St. Luke's in Holyhood leads this initiative and came to us first in September for "Get to know you Saturday." This allowed us a chance to reflect on the challenges facing the church now that Christendom is over and how we and the world have been propelled into a new way of being – a way having more to do with the early church than with the age of colonialism our Anglican church was founded within. In such a season, we come back to the basics of God's work in us and we discover that God has already given us much already. Perhaps there is more in us than we usually think!

Three sessions followed the first. In October, Shelly King led us and folk from three other parishes to learn more about the Enneagram: a tool to reflect on our personalities and how we are each driven and motivated to act differently in community. There are 9 profiles presented in the Enneagram and we spent most of the day moving through each one in detail. It is very enlightening to realize what great differences can exist between us.

There were also two evening sessions to explore the implications of St. Paul's teaching about "5-fold" ministry in the church (Ephesians 4). That for the upbuilding of the church, God chose to create us with tendencies towards acting in community as an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, or Teacher. Each has a different direction, each has a different concern, each asks different questions about community. The central understanding is that, if any of these are missing or acting too strongly, the church suffers – we must be in balance. We also noted that the North American church has tended to focus mainly on the Shepherd and Teaching gifts – and has avoided the more 'difficult' gifts of apostleship, prophecy, and evangelism. If you missed these sessions you can still get caught up, or join with another church in a similar session as they explore their ID. There is also a simple online survey if you wish to explore your own pattern of 5-fold ministry. It is a shape of how God works through you. Please contact me for more information.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Jonathan Crane*

### Strawberry Creek

The peaceful, serene location of Strawberry Creek is the perfect setting for our Annual St. A's Retreats. The sound of gently moving water, the whisper of the wind midst the trees, the soft grass beneath the feet - ...all this awaits as you ease into the driveway, to the welcoming log cabin that comes into view.

But this is only the beginning! As you make your way up the wooden landing and open the solid handmade door, you enter into a grand space, a space filled with delicious smells, invigorating decor, soft cozy furniture, a quiet reflection area, huge windows with tantalizing views, comfortable private rooms to rest your city bones – and so much more....

This is one reason, we chose this haven over 27 years ago! This is why we make this well awaited journey once a year and this is why we encourage **you** to join us **May 31 – June 2, 2019** for our final Retreat weekend at our beloved Strawberry Creek.

This retreat weekend offers you the opportunity to engage in quiet reflection, to quiet your mind, to rest in God's presence, to join with other likeminded souls on their faith quest, and to enjoy wonderful fellowship and amazing food.

This will be the last year the Retreat Centre will be open, and we will be the very last special guests.

If you have wondered about the idea, thought about making this weekend a priority for your faith journey, questioned about the time factor, were hesitant about what exactly "Retreat" involved – now is your last time to resolve all these confusing, doubting thoughts.

Again, we urge you to consider joining us for an experience that will stay with you long after you slowly leave the driveway and head back to your busy, complex lives. Please Come.

For more information contact Pat Jameson

*Respectfully submitted by Laretta Howard*