

Faith

Full

Fall

September 2025



SA **ST. ANDREW'S**
GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD

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Message from the Minister

***For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8***

Beloved Church,

This summer has held both grief and joy.

It has been one year since my mother died. As a community, we have also remembered mothers who have died. I also celebrated the birth of grandchild #4 - Judah Zephaniah Ibrahim.



At St. Andrew's, we baptized Rylee, James and Preston (2 babies and an adult). Endings and beginnings. These celebrations create times of travel and reconnecting.

My sisters and I came together from across Canada to bake one of my mom's favorite desserts on her birthday in August – lemon meringue pie! We made a toast to Mom.



We took a box of old photos to my aunt's in Morinville to identify relatives and remember. We even had a manicure where mom used to go, and spoke to the women who see our mother in our faces. We visited mom's gravesite and shared flowers and prayers of thanks, then found the homestead of my great-grandparents outside Camrose.

My grandsons' "other" grandma travelled from Egypt to support the new arrival of Judah. We played, shopped, ate both Egyptian and Canadian food, learning Arabic and English.

There is something special about the time spent getting from one place to another to mark these events. The travel itself takes planning, time away from our commitments and ordinary tasks, and permission to live more intentionally. We create an opportunity to reconnect with family and add new memories mixed with the old: summer fun, games, laughter, and tears.

While we celebrate the end posts of life - the new beginnings and farewells – we live and love faithfully in the here and now. One constant seems to be part of this wonderful recipe – love. There is power beyond this moment that connects us to all times and places. Some call it a "thin place".

As I head off to Scotland seeking thin places in the homeland of my ancestors, I am aware that we create these "thin places" with our awareness that heaven and earth are continually meeting. These are sacred spaces. Wherever you are right now – living between life and death – may you experience the thin place of knowing the presence of the Lord in it all!

With love - Laurie

September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labour Day	2 Grief Share (1:30- Lower Fireside Room)	3	4 Heritage Seniors (classes resume 9:30) ** Choir resumes(7:00- Trinity Hall)	5	6
7 Church School resumes	8	9	10 Side by Side (9:45-KE Lounge)	11	12 Bridge Club (11:00- KE Lounge)	13
14 Bible Study resumes (11:15- Trinity Hall)	15	16	17 The Edge (3:30- Upper Room)	18	19 Youth Group (7:00-Upper Room)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. Psalm 90:12			

**Note: registration for Heritage Seniors is 9-12 on Aug 28 in Trinity Hall



Behind the Scenes with the MacFarlanes

Communication is vital in any ministry, and at St. Andrew's we are blessed to have a talented and dedicated volunteer couple playing a big role for us. Barbara and Kevin MacFarlane recently took some time to talk about their work.

You folks cover a lot of ground, i.e. publishing LinX and ConnXions, preparing Sunday worship slides, maintaining the St. Andrew's website, Facebook and Instagram posts. Whew! Did I miss anything?

We also do slides for Celebrations of Life, weddings and other meetings, including the Annual Meeting. There are sometimes also extra LinX editions in special circumstances.

How did you first get involved in church communications? What drew you to this type of ministry?

We started in the 1980's helping to provide graphic content for fund raising activities at Riverview United Church and later at St. Andrew's.

In the 90's Kevin started preparing hymn lyrics on overhead projector sheets for Saturday evening "Contemporary Crossings". Fortunately, the new technology is much improved! In 2016, Kevin joined Alice Post and John Hazlett in preparing hymn PowerPoint Slides for St. Andrew's weekly services.

We took on the weekly LinX Newsletter in February 2021 and Barbara enjoyed finding the graphic content for this. Then Rev. Peter Coutts asked if we would prepare the weekly worship slides when the Communications Coordinator contract ended in June 2022. Of course, we accepted! We prepare all slides except for the sermon slides created by the ministers. Helping with LinX and the worship slides engaged us more in St. Andrew's work, even when we wintered in Arizona.

In December 2023, we accepted a ConnXions team request to provide graphics and formatting for the bi-monthly publication. Before completing our second issue, we discovered that "Microsoft Publisher" software could help us better produce a more professional product. It has been rewarding to add new skills to our repertoire.



Can you walk us through a typical week of church communications?

We first retrieve the message title, teaser and scripture readings for the service from the online Worship Document shared among Debby, Evan, all the ministers and us.

Once we have this, Barbara finds and organizes the graphics appropriate for the upcoming service. She primarily uses graphics from other churches or organizations that promote the Word of the Lord. She sorts and saves these graphics on her iPad...30 -70 of them in a week. Barbara looks for pictures that are clear, colorful, and easy to read so they project well on our large screen at the front. She loves "shopping" for these images, but they all cannot be used immediately.

This process has now provided St. Andrew's with a huge library of graphics, hymn slides, and worship slides stored on servers. We have learned not to delete pictures as there are always repeating themes, seasons, sacraments etc. We then access our library for slides as needed.

We first prepare the "Message Title" slide. This graphic is used in the weekly LinX, the Facebook / Instagram posts, the worship slides, the YouTube title, and now even on the new electronic sign in front of the church. Therefore, we give it special attention.

Working together, we choose the graphics for each component of the worship service, including the hymns. Kevin inserts these into the PowerPoint and stretches and adjusts pictures as necessary. He can sharpen and/or colour pictures; and hide or add features for maximum effect.

While Barbara continues to focus on the worship slides, Kevin starts working with Debby Dorcas to prepare the weekly LinX. Debby puts together the articles written by herself and other members. Then Kevin provides a draft for Debby to review and edit before the LinX is sent out to members each Wednesday at 4:30 PM.

Kevin uses the Tithely Newsletter app to format and email the LinX Newsletter. This allows newsletter items to be linked to more detailed information on the website.

Events included in LinX are sometimes added to the website events pages and posted to Facebook and Instagram. Barbara's LinX images are usually also used in worship announcement slides, website events, Facebook / Instagram posts, and sometimes ConnXions. We hope this helps provide continuity.

What is the most challenging part of your work? Enjoyable part? Memorable moments?

Most weeks, we manage juggling LinX, worship slides, the website and ConnXions in a couple of hours a day. Weeks with multiple services, especially Christmas and Easter, are the most challenging. And there is often also a ConnXions deadline to meet! We need to be flexible as titles, scriptures, speakers, and announcements change, and items are added last minute. The Lord always finds a path which allows us to get everything done.

We have also enjoyed honing our skills such as adding "Stickers". This is a fun feature where you can add an image into a picture. For instance, sheep, angels, or bells can be made to appear where there was none before. We have fun positioning wording and using different fonts; and are now creating "tiles" for each of our church teams for easy identification on announcement slides, LinX and ConnXions.

It seems that this work is very meaningful to you personally...any reasons for that you would like to share?

We have found this to be rewarding, enriching, and creative work that we are blessed to do together. The imaginative process of converting words into pictures has often felt like opening ourselves to receive “nudges from above” or “God Moments”. As snowbirds in Phoenix through winter months, this keeps us well connected to the people and ministry of St. Andrew’s. We feel privileged to have embarked on this ministry.

Our plate is full, our cup is running over, and we love sharing the fruits of our labour with the people of St. Andrew’s. We hope our work is seen as lighthearted, inspiring and uplifting to all worshippers whether participating in our sanctuary or online. We also hope that the website, LinX and ConnXions reinforce St. Andrew’s great work and help to keep us connected. We have had the great pleasure of working with our ministers, church staff and members of the congregation. We are grateful for the opportunity and ability to do our part to share the love of Jesus.

Thanks for sharing this. It is inspiring!

Thanks for asking us about it.

Blessings, Barbara and Kevin MacFarlane

Submitted by David Townsend



Abundant Life

October / November 2025

We invite you to submit items by Sept 15th for our next:

CONNIONS 



Dave Townsend with sister and brother-in-law sea kayaking in Deer Island, NB



Andronikou Family July 2025
- Moraine Lake



Judy Bridgemohan and family at Seoul Sky
and Tokyo Skytree



Rhonda Wishart 's grandchildren visiting at Sylvan Lake.



The Barrett kids and Lomheim grandparents out hiking



Kaitlyn, Braeden, Stephanie and Brent Werle visiting John Cuthbertson and Rhonda Wishart



The Barrett and Lomheim family having some summer fun





A summer visit with Rev. Jared's family in Ontario. Left to right: Sarah, Andrew and Adam Stolee; Caleb & Elyse Miller.



Judie and Fred Coleman at the Salmon Arm Courthouse garden



The Stolee family's trip to Niagara Falls (August 2025). Left to right: Adam, Andrew, Jennifer, Sarah and Bart Stolee.



Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane celebrate En Blanc with their daughters in August.

Back Row (Left to right):
Bart & Jennifer Stolee,
Pamela & Kris Garden,
Barbara & Kevin MacFarlane.
Front Row: Adam, Andrew &
Sarah Stolee.







is published every 2 months.

We welcome articles for the next issue
to be submitted by Sept 15, 2025 to:
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