St. Andrew's United Church Markham

February 12, 2005 32 Main Street North • Markham, Ontario L3P 1X5 • 905-294-0351

Property Committee

The 2005 Property Committee

The committee members elected to serve on the 2005 Property Committee are:

Ross Gilbert, Ken Harris, Jim White, Jim Worsley
Jack McBride (Chair)

Thanks, Committee, for your tireless efforts in getting things done.

2004-2005 Maintenance Program

The Property Committee has met three times this season to discuss the priorities in keeping our church properties in first-class shape. The committee, started with a list of 23 possible projects, established a priority list that can be accomplished during the fall and winter seasons.

The major projects on this list are:

1. replace florescent bulbs and clean lens covers on ceiling lights throughout the church. **DONE**
2. repair and paint the Narthex washroom walls and floor. **DONE**
3. replace and secure the inside storm windows in the Upper Hall. **DONE**
4. refinish and paint the Balcony stairway walls.
5. paint the Finance Office and re-carpet. **DONE**
6. repair the plaster around the side windows in the Upper Hall.
7. install new ceiling tiles in the west stairway. **DONE**
8. clean carpet and paint walls in the Conference Room. Set up computer lab. **DONE**
9. clean and paint the Custodian Cupboards.
10. clean and paint furnace room floor.
11. install acrylic envelope holders on the Balcony pews.
12. monitor the condition of the roof over the Sanctuary to prevent damage to the Sanctuary ceiling and re-insulate if necessary. **DONE**

The priorities set for 2005 are:

January: Clean and seal the Narthex furnace room walls; check Upper Hall roof and insulation; repair stairway vinyl tiles; install separate junction boxes for the fire alarm, security and furnace.

February: clean out the main furnace room and paint the floor; clean out the custodian cupboards and paint.

March/April: prime and paint the walls in the Narthex stairwells; repair window casings in Upper Hall; replace Plexiglass cover for front stained glass window.

To accomplish this program with our five-member committee will be difficult so we are counting on help from the congregation as we go through the year.

Volunteer Custodian Program

Our Volunteer Custodian Program has been renewed for the coming season. We have 16 individuals and 3 couples that have volunteered to mind the church for 4 hours on a week day once a month. In addition to minding the church, most of the volunteers actively participate in minor maintenance projects that help to make their church look nice.

Unfortunately, we still have some members doing double duty and we need more help. If you would like to help your church and can spare 4 hours in the morning once a month, please talk to the Church Secretary, or any member of the Property Committee.

Janitorial Service

Again this year we have contracted a small, local company to come in six nights a week to clean our church. These young men are thorough, conscientious and do an outstanding job.

If you have noticed our vinyl floors in the Upper Room and the hallways, they are cleaner because they were stripped and then coated with four layers of hard wax this summer by this company. Now every two months they will buff them with high speed polishers to bring back their sheen and keep them looking like new.

Conference Room Renovations

There has been a lot of activity in the Conference Room since June. It began with request by Faith United for a permanent office in the church for the Reverend Chris Cheung. Chris is a full-time minister in Markham now and needed an office to administer to his growing congregation. The decision was made to divide the Conference Room with a permanent wall and give Faith United the eastern room.

The next renovation was driven by St. Andrew's need to attract young people into our church and also the Town of Markham's gracious donation of 16 surplus computers. The western part of the Conference Room has been turned into a computer lab where four computers are now installed thanks to the efforts of Jim Worsley and Jim White. This is a new phase for our Christian Education program and we are all learning how to use this modern tool to reach the younger generation.

Fire Alarm System Renovation

The Property Committee is continually working with the Markham Fire Department to ensure that our building is a safe place for us as well the building users such as the Playschool, Guides and Hospice.

The annual inspection last summer indicated that our thirty-year old fire alarm panel had deteriorated to the point that it could no longer reliably protect us or the building and was replaced.

Later in the year, our seven antiquated smoke alarms throughout the building began to produce multiple false alarms, much to the annoyance of the local fire station. Thanks go out to Ken Harris and Larry Tod who provided a "fire watch" service all night when our fire alarm system was down. In December, we replaced all seven smoke alarms and today we have a technically upgraded fire alarm system that will provide full fire protection for the building and its occupants.

Also, to ensure that we can control our fire protection in the future, Jim White has been appointed to the position of Fire Protection Coordinator for our church. It is Jim's responsibility to ensure that our fire protection system ie., fire extinguishers, pull stations, smoke alarms, emergency lighting etc., is in good working order. It is also Jim's responsibility to write and enforce the church's Fire Safety Plan. Thanks, Jim, for looking after our safety.

We are a Welcoming Church ...

... and the congregation's thoughts on this subject spurred the Property Committee to install more signs inside our church to give better directions to our new members. Also, the Committee with the help of Russ Matheson installed acrylic envelope holders in the downstairs pews. This holder contains a pamphlet all about us, a contribution envelope and a card introducing a member or a visitor to the Minister. Just another way to communicate better with visitors and members alike.

We are an Improving church ...

... and the Property Committee is always looking for ways to make your church look better, sound better and feel better for you when you attend the church for any reason. If you see some way that we can improve your church, please let us know. We are not opposed to change.

Your Property Committee,
Jack McBride, Chair

Pancake Supper

Thanks to all the marvelous volunteers who organized and cooked for the Tuesday night Pancake Supper!

Good Music

From time to time, our newsletter will contain items of musical offerings from the great Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto, as our Organist and Choir Director has the privilege, not only of studying the organ there with Organist and Music Director William Maddox, but also of singing in their excellent choir (second soprano, Choir 2!). As many of you know, their music program is extensive to say the very least, and those of you who love church music at its best will hopefully find the bulletins to come of interest.

To begin with, there will be a service of choral evensong Sunday, February 13, 2005 at 7:00 pm. Choir repertoire includes a sung Psalm 23 to a chant by Reading and a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by George Dyson. The church's address is 1585 Yonge Street (Yonge and Heath Streets, just north of St. Clair Avenue). The main office number is (416) 922-1167

Coin Drive to 2005

Thanks to all who participated in our Coin Drive to 2005! We ended up with $1,035 which is a great number. Here is the final breakdown ... 2005 of each was the goal!

Pennies - 8,550	Nickels - 790
Dimes - 1,235	Quarters - 790
Loonies - 215	Toonies - 187

Please stay tuned for the next fundraising event!

Invite a friend!

St. Andrew's is clearly on the way to rebuilding and growing our presence in the community as well as in our own Sanctuary. The time is nigh to introduce a friend to our blossoming church. Why should they come? Spiritual focus, satsifaction in volunteering, meeting new people, rediscovering faith, and of course the delicious free coffee after the service! Any friend of yours is a friend of ours and they will be welcomed in with the new spirit of St. Andrew's!

UCW

Monday evening, February 21 at 7:30 we will meet in the Friendship Room. The topic is "Parish Nurse". We will learn how special nurses fit into Church life. We have such a pleasant time together ladies - won't you join us?

Memorials

We offer our condolences to the families of the following:

Ross Farr . . . . . November 8/04

Ted Sellers . . . . . November 14/04

Elmer Eadie . . . . . November 27/04

Heather (Finn) Gardner . . . . . December 2/04

Isabella Roth . . . . . December 2/04

Audrey Dyck . . . . . December 22/04

Mary Wright . . . . . January 24/05

Web Site News

Larry Tod has created an interesting and insightful new feature on our StAndrewsMarkham.com website called "Points of View". This section is updated on a weekly basis and reflects constructive dialogue on topics that relate to the youth in our church and community. Words of wisdom and maturity from the class evoke thought and promote communication. Be sure and go to the website every week and read the opinions of our inspiring youth.

Fellowship

A Valentine's Fellowship Luncheon will be held following the church service on Sunday, February 13th.
Menu: chili, rolls, salad, dessert, coffee, tea or juice. Bring your spouse, family member, friend or acquaintance and take advantage of the best priced "Meal Deal" in town! Cost will be - 2 for $5.00 or $3.00 each.

Habitat for Humanity

Below is an email from Gerrie Storr who is now very involved in Habitat for Humanity. I promised that I would pass this on to members of the church in the hope that some may consider it a personal outreach opportunity.

Larry Tod

NOTE FROM GERRIE STORR:

You, or someone you know, may want to consider being a volunteer on the Mt. Albert site sometime in the next two months. Please ask them to phone Janice Morgante at the Habitat for Humanity York Region office, at 905-868-8722. She will help with the scheduling, give directions to the house and pass on the information to the site manager. If your contacts want further information, I would be pleased to answer whatever questions I can: storr1@rogers.com

The goal is to have the house finished by early spring. I'm hoping that those with whom you get in touch will be able to look at their calendars and find some time to do this. The wrinkle is that in all building processes, things do not always happen either in the order they are planned or in the time scheduled. There might be some delays in being able to anticipate what can be done on any particular day.

The house in Mt. Albert is York Region Habitat's fourth house. Three are occupied already. This house is a modest three bedroom house, in a new subdivision about 40 minutes north of Highway 7 and 48. There is always an expert builder on site, and volunteers are given tasks to do depending on their abilities.

John and I spent December 21st on the Mt. Albert build site. Despite the cold, we had a great day. We worked on the second floor installing a moisture barrier between the second floor and the attic. Both of us learned how to install heavy plastic sheeting above our heads. Other volunteers were in the basement (it was heated!) installing wiring. The experts checked on us throughout the day, giving us pointers and generally encouraging us. For lunch, we drove to a local church for a much appreciated bowl of hot soup, sandwiches, and squares.

This website:
http://www.habitatforhumanityyorkregion.ca/index.htm will give you some idea of what Habitat for Humanity is all about. The site is currently being renovated but the basic information is still current. Habitat for Humanity York Region is a non-profit, non-governmental, charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of economically disadvantaged persons through home ownership and to the belief that decent affordable housing is a basic human right.

Gerrie Storr

Confirmation/Membership Class

If you are interested in Confirmation or Membership classes, please contact Kathy in the church office at 905-294-0351. Classes start February 13 ending with confirmation and affirmation of faith on Easter.

Sacrament of Baptism

The next service to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism will be held Sunday April 10. Parents wishing to have their child baptized should telephone the church office or speak to Rev. John Niles as soon as possible.