

St. Andrew's

United Church



Markham

September 22, 2004

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

St. Andrew's Welcomes Rev. Dr. John Niles!

This is a letter from Rev. Dr. John Niles to the congregation. We warmly welcome Rev. Niles into our Church and look forward to happiness, growth and a inspiring continuation to our spiritual journey.

As the new minister of St. Andrews I'm sure many people are wondering who this Dr. John Niles is and where he comes from. Let me tell you a little bit about myself.

My parents were in the Canadian military most of their married life; my mother served in the reserves during and after the WWII. My father served during the war as a bomber and pilot officer with the RCAF and RAF receiving the DFM for his heroic actions; after the war, he joined the army to train Canadian soldiers for service in Germany and Korea. This resulted in our moving all over Canada and Europe.

I was born in Germany and raised both there and throughout Canada. The longest period of time I spent anywhere was in Thunder Bay. I received my first degrees in Social Work and Psychology from Confederation College and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay Ontario. I've worked in treatment homes for youth and in both minimum and maximum security prisons as a result of that training.

During this time I began to search for answers to the meaning and purpose of life in general and my life in particular. I found the answer to my questions in Christ. After committing my life to Christ as my Lord and Savior; I began to sense a growing desire to serve God. The minister of my congregation suggested I consider the ordained ministry. I had thought of going and feeding the poor in Africa, but not preaching from a pulpit. The sense of "call" persisted until I submitted my name for consideration for candidacy for the ministry. It was accepted and I began the long but wonderful journey that has lead me to St. Andrew's United Markham.

I studied Theology at St. Andrews Seminary Saskatoon Sask. I was ordained and settled outside of Ottawa where I served the Matilda Pastoral Charge for three years. After which, I served the last thirteen years at Victoria Park United Toronto. During this time my wife Liane and I have had 5 children and cared for close to 1000 more. The 1000 more were brought to us through the Children's Aid Society. We were opened as the primary emergency home for "crack" and heroin addicted babies and abandoned and abused infants and toddlers for Toronto thirteen years ago.

We also started an organization called "Kits for Kids". This program provided kits for every child that comes into the emergency homes in Metro Toronto from birth to 16. Each bag is lovingly organized and filled with age appropriate necessities. We use "the power of positive begging" to acquire the needed items for these bags. And those we can't get through that we buy.

During this time we have been awarded the Humanitarian Community Service Award by the Empire Club of Canada, nominated for the Meritorious Service Medal, Order of Ontario, and Order of Canada.

My greatest joy over the last twenty years has been to preach the Gospel in both word and deed so that those people who feel lost, alone or are longing for help, hope, healing and wholeness will receive it.

If you are looking for a place to belong; or if you are seeking a place to simply be and become and have a new beginning; take a look at St. Andrew's. It is a place that you will feel welcome, and you will be blessed and perhaps here, you too can be the blessing that you are in God's sight.

May God Bless You
Rev. Dr. John Niles



The cover of the mailer sent out this week, "You are invited to a new Beginning"

St. Andrew's campaign for newcomers

St. Andrew's is looking for new members for the long-term. There are some exciting new programs being developed, including a brand new Christian Education program being led by Denise Benning-Reid. Denise searched hard for a well-rounded children's education series and through consultation has settled on the Gospel Light program — a fun and creative Sunday School curriculum in three categories from ages 2 to 12. The existence of these programs are key in attracting young new families into our church.

WELCOME! Is our keyword going forward as we bring in new members and former members that we haven't seen in a long time. A mailing campaign has begun to invite folks back as we begin a new journey forward with our new Minister, Rev. Dr. John Niles. The energy that Rev. Niles brings into our church is particularly welcome as are his ideas for developing fun new programs for youth.

Let your friends and neighbours know that Rev. Dr. John Niles will be giving his first sermon at St. Andrew's on October 3rd.

Memorials

The Congregation of St. Andrew's offer condolences to these families as we recall their loved ones.

Members

Dorothy Wicks, July 16
 Albert Gillespie, July 21
 Elspeth Sime, Aug. 19
 Ray Troyer, Sept. 16

Former Members

Donald Kelly, July 6
 Charles Tomkins, July 29
 Douglas Rattray, July 30
 Mildred "Scotty" Attridge Randall, Aug. 1
 Elizabeth "Betty" Baker, Aug. 26

FYI

4th Annual Markham Prayer Breakfast — Date: Thursday November 11, 2004 @ 7:30am until 9am. To take place at the Hilton Suites Hotel, 8500 Warden Avenue at Hwy.7. Tickets are \$25. The speaker will be Toronto Maple Leaf star Ron Ellis. Ron will speak on the theme "Overcoming Life Obstacles". There will also be special music by a young, operatically trained couple, Colin Ainsworth and Rachel Cleland. They will sing The Prayer, The Lord's Prayer and others. Contact Dorothy Gilbert for more information at 905-294-3568.

Eyeglass Donations — Dorothy Gilbert will no longer be collecting glasses for the Christian Blind Mission International. Due to the increasing use of intraocular lens implants, there is not the same need for used glasses.

Send us your articles and ads for publication!

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St. Andrew's to launch a new website

It's true! We are almost ready to launch our new website. The address to punch into your keyboard is:

<http://www.standrewsmarkham.com/>

The site is currently waiting for a few sections to complete but will launch the last week of September.

There is an enormous amount of information available to members and non-members alike. Information on our location, history, weddings, funerals, baptisms, youth programs, constitution, mission statement, staff and leadership as well as many more sections. There's also a page to view virtual tours of the church! This has been a huge undertaking that promises to be a repository of sermons, future simulcasts and an informational anchor as we go forward with our new programs.

The Communications Committee will have to be expanded, so if there are any aspiring web designers and programmers that would like to get involved, please contact Paul Reid at 905-294-2111, or email at

tomato@hot-house.net

If you have any information that you would like to see on the website, please bring it to Paul's attention or deposit a note into the Chair of Communications mailbox or give it to Kathy Moore in the office.

The newsletter will be available to digitally download on the website from now on. Understandably, paper copies will still be available for mailing out and pick-up for those who do not have internet access. If you do not wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact Kathy Moore in the office.

Welcome to St. Andrew's Markham!

St. Andrew's is a welcoming church, developing new ways to serve God and the community, with compassion, integrity and joy.

Welcome from Rev. Dr. John Niles [<more>](#)

Upcoming services:

Sunday, June 20, 10.00 a.m.
Theme: "Two Sons and a Father"
(The World of Parables)

Coin Drive to 2005
Our goal is simple. It's 2005 pennies, 2005 nickels, 2005 dimes, 2005 quarters, 2005 loonies and 2005 toonies by the new year. Please start to bring your coins in, whatever denomination, and let's see if we can make our target of \$6,837.05! [Click for more info](#)

Youth in Action

The youth of our church
prepared and conducted the Easter Sunrise service. Eleven people took part in the service: Cheryl Cline, Steven Cline, Christy Faulds, Laura Faulds, Cam Roberts, Ian Roberts, Jake Wildgoose, Petra Wildgoose, Michael Wright, Chris Young and Spencer Young. In word and music they reflected on the symbol of the Garden in Scripture.

As one boy said in church about the balloons on Easter, it was "awesome." On the first Sunday in Lent we invited everyone who attended church to sign his or her name to a bright, yellow slip of paper with the word

Christian Education curriculum for the 2004/2005 season!

"What our young people learn today determines what the church will know tomorrow." — Henrietta Mears

St. Andrew's United Church is pleased to present the Christian Education curriculum for the 2004/2005 season! We have chosen programs from Gospel Light which provides Christian Education materials that are teacher friendly and provides the children with a fun and meaningful experience.

Little Kid's Time will be used for children ages 3 to 5 years. Its fun and colourful materials meets the big challenge of keeping energetic young children involved. Little Kid's Time contains 52 fun-filled lessons—including Bible stories, games, music, worship, dramatic play activities and art and construction activities.

Kid's Time: God's Kids Grow "Developing the Fruit of the Spirit" This program will be used for children ages 6 to 8 years. Kid's Time is Gospel Light's all-purpose children's ministry program that is engaging, flexible and easy to use. Each lesson includes music, games, art, skits, object talks, worship time and, of course, Bible stories.

Planet 56 will be used for children ages 9 to 12 years. At this age kids are beginning to think seriously about what it means to live as Christians. The Fall curriculum, "Popularity & Success, Rules & Communication" teaches children that God's wisdom brings true success, God's laws help us to show love, and good communication builds others up.

For more information on Gospel Light, go to their website at www.gospellight.com.

We are working to provide our teenagers and young adults with new opportunities to get involved in the church:

"Calling All Musicians, Young and Old": We are starting a Youth Band. If you play an instrument and want to get involved, come and join us. To find out more, bring your instrument and meet us in the Friendship Room at 9:00 am on Sunday October 3rd where we will be having our first rehearsal.

Computer Lab: We will be setting up a computer lab in the Conference Room downstairs. If there are any teenagers with an interest in computers, we would love your help. Please see Denise Reid or Jack McBride.

Youth Drama Group: We have heard there are some aspiring young actors among us. If you are interested in being part of a Youth Drama Group, please speak to Denise Reid.

To the youth our church: "How do you want to be involved at St. Andrew's?" Please let us know what you would like to do and how you would like to be involved. We are always interested in what you have to say.

Come and help build St. Andrew's future through its youth:

The Christian Education committee is very excited about the coming season! Our new curriculum is fresh, fun and user-friendly. We have a beautiful new nursery to care for our congregation's wee-ones and we are filled with ideas about how to make St. Andrew's a vibrant and exciting place for young people. To make these ideas a reality, we need your help. Whatever your interest, there is a place for you in Christian Education. The only requisite is a love of kids. Whether you wish to help out two Sundays a month or one Sunday a year, any help is warmly welcomed. We are looking for assistance in the following areas:

Teachers	Teacher Assistants
Substitute Teachers	Nursery Care
Youth Group Leaders	Making Playdough
Special Events (Christmas, Easter)	

High school students requiring volunteer hours can earn them at St. Andrew's. So come on out and get involved!

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about our programs please contact Denise Reid at 905-471-3899 or weereids@rogers.com.

