

St. Andrew's

United Church



Markham

December 1, 2004

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

A Thank You from Rev. Don Bell

Oct. 12, 2004

Mr. Larry Tod,
Chair of the Board
St. Andrew's United Church
Markham, Ontario

Dear Larry:

I write to extend my heartfelt thanks to the people of St. Andrew's for a great day on September 26. It was good to see so many people at church and to share with them in a superb barbeque at the end of the service.

There now hangs on my study wall a wonderful oil painting entitled *Red Umbrellas, Main Street, Unionville*, the gift from the people of St. Andrew's. The artist is Robert Amilrault. He is a resident of Thornhill, and his work is in a number of corporate and private collections. The painting shows the treed and flowered street while focusing on the outdoor patio of a restaurant. It will be a treasured reminder of my days I spent in Markham.

Please know that I am grateful for the privilege of serving at St. Andrew's for two years, and I hope that the years ahead are exhilarating and fruitful for all its members and friends.

God Bless!

(Rev.) Donald F. Bell



Rev. Don Bell – photo Mary McLean

Apologies to those who had news items last month. The newsletter was not published in October due to lack of available volunteer hours. If you think you can help out, please contact Paul Reid – 905-294-2111

The Coin Drive to 2005 continues...

Please continue to bring in those coins and drop them in the bin in the Narthex. Loonies and toonies mostly needed to reach our goal. Only 4 weeks left!

U.C.W. Massey Centre News

Massey Centre for Women is committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged young women and their children.

St. Andrew's U.C.W. supports the centre by donating items of basic needs to the women.

Presently, the Centre needs diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, formula and personal or grooming products for young mothers. New or gently used clothing for both mother and child is always in demand. New and gently used toys are also appreciated.

Anyone wishing to donate to Massey Centre can bring an unwrapped donation to the church office, or call Deanna Cudmore at 905-294-4423

To find out more about Massey Centre, you can visit their website at: <http://www.massey.ca/>

Santa Claus Parade Award

A large thank you goes out to all those involved with the Santa Claus Parade. **We got a second place for best non-commercial float!!** Special thanks go out to the Cline's, Bryan Gray, Carol Wildgoose, Brenda Wright, Jack McBride, the Niles, the White's and the Crockford's.

Living Crèche — St. Andrew's Tradition still a big hit!

Once again the people of St. Andrew's fulfilled a popular attraction at the Markham Village Festival of Lights. A big thank you to the volunteers who participated and dressed up as the Holy family, Shepherds and Wise Men (we actually had a dress-up cow for a little while!). Thanks to Margaret Cosgrave for her hard work in organizing the event.

After the tree-lighting and fireworks on Main St., the Crèche had a crowd for a long while and many visitors wanting to see the Holy Infant. This was also due to the proximity of the petting zoo (with the appropriate camel!) located directly behind the Crèche on the lawn of St. Andrew's.



EYI

Christmas Poinsettias — Poinsettias will be available for sale in mid December after the service. They will be in 4.5", 6.5" and 8" sizes. If you would like to donate some money to help decorate the church with these colourful plants during this holiday season, please talk to Steve Cline.

St. Andrew's website is live!

Send us your articles and ads for publication!

We're interested in your advertisements!

If you would like to advertise in the newsletter, please contact Paul Reid.

T: 905-294-2111
F: 905-294-6811

E-MAIL:
churchbiz@hot-house.net

Our mailing address is:
32 Main Street North
Markham, ON L3P 1X5
905-294-0351

Our website is now up on the World Wide Web. Our address is:

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

There are still some areas to be filled in, but the site is being kept current by our resident genius employee Kathy. With just one lesson, Kathy has acquired the skills to update the latest events, input all the music archive information from every week as well as Rev. John Niles' sermons from every Sunday.

We will be working on incorporating archive audio files of the music from every week.

The Communications Committee is still looking for some high-tech volunteers, 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

churchbiz@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 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 in the office.

Welcome to St. Andrew's Markham!

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

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

Latest Newsletter for Download - [click here.](#)

If you require Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the newsletter on your computer, [click here.](#)

Events
This week Nov. 28-Dec. 4
Sunday
10:00 am Worship-1st of Advent
10:15 am Kids' Time

Wednesday
6:00 pm Worship Committee, Serendipity Room
7:15 pm Choir Practice

Welcome!
Welcome to our new website. There is still much to be finished here, but in the meantime please browse through the site and 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 in the office.
Paul's email is churchbiz@hot-house.net

Youth in Action
The youth of our church
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 that include Bible stories, games, music, worship, dramatic play activities and art and construction activities. [<more>](#)

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. [<more>](#)

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 &

Coin Drive to 2005 - we need more loonies and toonies!
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! Deposit your coins into the white bucket in the Narthex, and on Sundays in the Upper Hall at Coffee Time.

Thanks!

John Wesley's Rule:
Do all the good you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.

Merry Christmas!!

MICAH Membership

MICAH stands for Markham Interchurch Association for Affordable Housing. It was formed in the late 80's and has been the catalyst for the development of two successful housing projects in Markham. In a letter from MICAH executives, St. Andrew's was asked if it wishes to continue membership.

Our Executive Board passed a resolution October 21st. endorsing our continued participation in MICAH assuming the financial implication would be no more than "nominal". One of the reasons for continued support for this group is that it may have a role in helping to develop affordable housing on the United Church property recently purchased in the Cornell residential area.

Larry Tod will continue to represent St. Andrews at MICAH meetings.

Growth Initiatives Workshop

At our Oct 21st Executive Meeting we decided to have a workshop session designed to plan details regarding the five strategies agreed upon as part of work we did under Rev Don Bell's leadership. They include: 1. Youth Programming, 2. Welcoming Atmosphere, 3. Facility Usage, 4. Congregation Communication (web site etc) 5. Engaging Outreach.

Rev John Niles has had successful experience with this kind of process. As a basic approach he suggested we start with a long term perspective and then, in a step by step fashion, work back to what needs to happen in the immediate future.

It was agreed that having an experienced facilitator will help us use our time effectively. We have asked John Storr to help us with this. He has graciously accepted. Currently our plan is to have this workshop mid-January (maybe Saturday Jan 15th)

This workshop will be open to any members of the congregation who wish to participate. We will keep you posted when more specifics are known.

