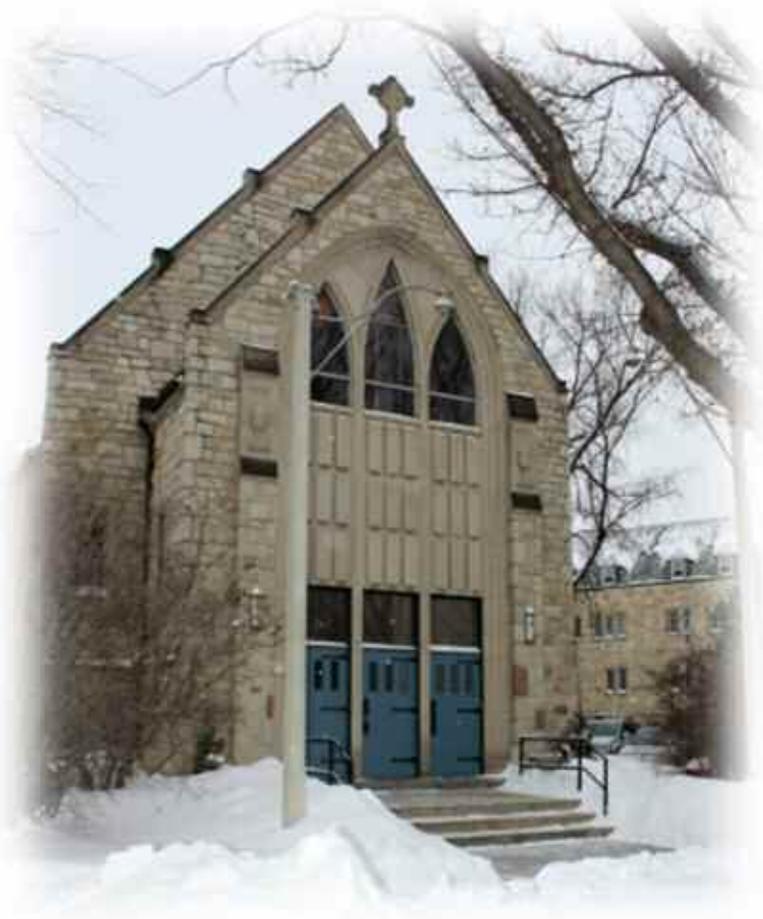


Wishing that the  
season of Advent  
fill your heart with  
peace and happiness  
forever!



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## Principal's Ponderings



**Lorne Calvert**

At a gathering of the principals and deans of theological colleges from across North America, to we who came from small schools, someone wise observed “remember it’s easier to turn a motorboat than a battleship”. In the letter St. Andrew’s received from the Association of Theological Schools announcing our 10 year reaccreditation the “institutional resilience” of our College was described as a distinctive strength of our school. In the context of theological education in North America St. Andrew’s is both a small and notably resilient school.

In just the past few years these characteristics have enabled the College to readily foster change, to meet student needs with flexibility, and to adapt to the changing realities of Church and community while remaining rooted in an affirming Christian community offering a justice driven education.

In these few years St. Andrew’s has deepened the residency and learning circle experience in the MDiv program leading to ordination; enhanced and re-tooled some of the learning circle offerings reflecting new community and Church realities; and maintained our traditional strong academic standards. The College has entered into a rich partnership with Hanshin University in Seoul, Korea welcoming Korean students into our midst, and offering the opportunity for Canadian students to study in Korea. St. Andrew’s has earned a designation as an “International School” with the ability to welcome students from the entire global community. Particularly related to our contextual reality, and in partnership with the Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Andrew’s now offers a DMin program in rural ministry and community development. The College has welcomed the students of the national Designated Lay Ministry program and is now privileged to host the Program, its Director and Program Teams. We have created a brand new and unique in Canada BTh/MDiv dual degree program to particularly encourage young people into theological study and ministry.

We have been able to make the College physically accessible with the installation of an elevator; our library is home to an ever expanding digital collection of periodicals and texts; we are re-equipping our classrooms and enhancing the entire College with the latest in digital and wireless communication tools.

And now we move forward.

The Strategic Plan, formed by our Board, leading us into our next five years will demand of the College the resilience to undertake even greater change. The plan looks forward to reviewing ongoing barriers to student participation, an even greater engagement in student attraction. The plan seeks that the College develop deeper relationships with the aboriginal community; expand the engagement of the College with Church and community in greater distance and continuing education opportunities; to widen further our ecumenical relationships and role on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan; to secure the financial stability we have earned; and maintain our physical home and grounds while reducing the College’s carbon footprint.

At a time in Church and community where the need for Christian leadership is in greater than ever before, the College will be tested to meet the demands and challenges. With our ability to change and create, our resilience, our commitment to a justice driven education for Christian leadership, the support of our community and the grace of God we can and will greet the days to come with confidence.

**Advent Meditations** that were written by students, faculty and friends of the College will be distributed by email and on Facebook each day of the Advent season. To receive these meditations, please email [standrews.college@usask.ca](mailto:standrews.college@usask.ca) and be added to the list.



## Board Chair



**Dawn Ballantine-Dickson**

Wherever you are in the three Prairie Provinces November 19th, and hear a joyous hallelujah echoing across the land you will know that the St. Andrew's is celebrating its strategic plan. The importance of this undertaking is evidenced by the time it has taken to complete. We began this process in September of 2014 and it has

had time on the agenda of the last seven board meetings. It is not only map makers that live by the maxim if you want to go forward, you need to know where you are going and how to get there. The maxim is straight forward if you are going from Winnipeg to Medicine Hat. On the other hand if you are plotting out what courses are essential to equip students to minister to a generation, the majority of whom have little or no Biblical background and whose understanding of a religious leader may come from Saturday Night Live, it's not so easy.

Planning ahead is to envision the congregations or faith communities the students will be serving. Will the faith community be solely United Church or will it be a cooperative of other Christian denominations, sharing parts of worship, and or the building, and or the mission? Will it be cooperating with secular groups sharing a communal garden, or making room for

food and shelter programs? Will we be working in multi-faith situations, offering respect to others who differ from us, yet share the common goals of loving God and our neighbours. It is impossible to know, so we plan with faith. We put our money where our mission is. Prayerfully, in an ever changing environment, this college must effectively train people to share the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed.

The board met in October and approved the document, whose birth has been midwifed by all the various committees and friends who gave counsel. Special thanks to Lea Pennock who guided us through this process. This is but the beginning of putting this plan into reality. Our hallelujahs in November will be raised for a job well done, a God that has guided us this far, and in whose trust and guidance we will rely to lead us forward.

## *Friends We Shall Miss*

**Donald Leitch**, of Unity, SK, passed away on May 27, 2015 at the age of 82. Don had a varied work life, being ordained in 1959 into the United Church. He was a TV host and anchor and communications professional working with Indian Affairs, Credit Union Central; Saskatchewan Potash Corporation and the Potash and Phosphate Institute. In the meantime he continued to be involved in ministry and figured he had preached in over 30 congregations. Don graduated from St. Andrew's College in 1959. In October 2012, in an effort to recognize the St.

Andrew's graduates who never received a degree, the Academic Committee passed a motion to grant a Master of Theological Studies degree in recognition of their course of study. Don was one of 21 people who received this special degree.

**Harold Benjamin**, of Swift Current, SK, passed away on August 3, 2015. Harold was born on September 7, 1931 and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree from St. Andrew's College in 1969. Harold worked as a farmer, Wheat Pool agent, teacher, as well

as 27 years as a minister in the United Church.

**Trevor Barry Godley**, of Medicine Hat, AB, passed away on August 21, 2015. Barry graduated from St. Andrew's College in 1968 and was another individual to receive a special Master of Theological Studies degree in 2012. He served as a minister in Glentworth, Mankota and McCord, SK, as well as Sioux Lookout, ON, before moving to Medicine Hat, AB, to work with Alberta Social Services.



## A Renewed Strategic Plan

At the fall gathering of the St. Andrew's College Board, approval was given to a renewed strategic plan to guide the College over the next five years. Work on a renewed strategic plan began over a year ago with a facilitated workshop involving a wide cross-section of the St. Andrew's community, Board and Committee meetings throughout the year, with the guidance of Dr. Lea Pennock from the Board. As described below, the plan is based on five central imperatives. Under each imperative a number of ongoing and new goals are established and for each goal actions and responsibilities are identified.

While recommitting the College to our mission of providing justice driven educa-

tion for Christian leadership, reaffirming the commitment to academic excellence and the integration of practice and study in ministerial preparation, and reconfirming the ongoing programs and new program implementation, the plan sets out exciting new directions and goals. For instance, the plan envisions wider ecumenical involvements and deeper authentic and mutual relationships with Indigenous people.

The plan seeks new degree and certificate specializations in service of the Church and community, even greater effort in student attraction, a new and focussed emphasis on continuing education and distance education. The renewed plan indicates care for the physical and natural her-

itage of the College building and land with goals to renew the Campus Community Centre (Main Lounge), renew the relationship with the University of Saskatchewan and take action to reduce the carbon footprint of our building.

These and many other goals are exciting components of the Renewed Strategic Plan for St. Andrew's.

You are invited to review the entire plan by finding it on the St. Andrew's website at [www.standrews.ca](http://www.standrews.ca).

As a theological community of The United Church of Canada, St. Andrew's College commits to these imperatives for 2015-2020:

### Teaching, Formation and Scholarship

*We will offer excellence in an integrated academic and experiential preparation for ordained and designated lay ministry; extend opportunities for theological study; and contribute to ongoing theological scholarly enquiry.*

### A Growing, Vibrant Community

*We will be an inviting and welcoming College that fosters a sustainable community of learners and teachers.*

### Financial Sustainability and Governance

*We will continue to practice responsible stewardship to ensure financial sustainability and good governance for the life and work of the College.*

### Enhancing our Historic Home

*We will steward the natural and built heritage of the College as our physical and spiritual home, seeking to live with respect in creation.*

### Expanded Church and Civic Engagement

*In faithful, innovative ways we will seek to engage and serve the Church and the world that God loves.*



## Drawing wide the circles of conversation and learning: Take a course with us!

Some courses at St. Andrew's College are available to those who aren't registered as full-time students with us, but wish to participate for your own continuing education. Courses can be taken for audit or credit; prerequisites may be required for course credit.

Of particular interest in early 2016:

January 4-8, 2016

### **The Gospel of Luke** (BE378)

Professor Bill Richards (Saskatoon) and Professor Ched Meyers (Ventura, California)

With the dominant role of the Gospel of Luke in Year C of the Lectionary this course will particularly interest both those needing a degree requirement and also those involved in preaching and worship leadership. **The course will be held on campus in Saskatoon with a web link to Ched Meyers in California.**

January 11-15, 2016

### **Preparing for Ecumenical Ministries** (HA 756)

Professor Sandra Beardsall

This course will explore the dynamics particular to developing and sustaining ecumenical ministry initiatives in congregational settings. Participants will identify and strengthen their gifts for these ministries, in the context of the wider discussions of contemporary ecumenism.

April 25-29, 2016

### **Race, Colonialism, Canadian Identity and Intercultural Ministries** (PA/SA 362)

Professors HyeRan Kim-Cragg and Lynn Caldwell

We draw on student and instructor experience and resources from a range of critical research and scholarship to open new ways for understanding and addressing the ongoing realities of racism in Canada and globally. The course makes an emphasis on considerations for intercultural ministry in Canadian contexts.

Dates TBA

### **The Holy Spirit** (SA 340)

Professor Don Schweitzer

The course looks at how the Holy Spirit has been understood in the early church and at present. Topics covered include the role of the Spirit in the economy of salvation, expressions of the Spirit in contemporary church and society, the revelatory role of the Holy Spirit, its relation to the reign of God and the Holy Spirit as the growing edge of God.

For more information contact the St. Andrew's College Registrars:  
Colleen Walker and Leslie Schweitzer  
306-966-5244  
standrews.registrar@usask.ca

## “...what do those stones mean to you?”

### - Joshua 4:7b (NRSV)

The first building phase at St. Andrew's College took place after World War I and was completed in the early 1920s. The limestone used was true fieldstone found on rocky prairie soil between Osler and Aberdeen, SK. Some of the same stone was used to build the College Building at the University of Saskatchewan in 1912. The source of the slate used in the roofing tile is not known but it likely came from Newfoundland or Vermont.

In St. Andrew's 2nd building phase in 1959, the limestone came from a limestone quarry near Tyndall, Manitoba, and is called Tyndall stone. The cuts in the 1920s fieldstone are rougher and more irregular than the Tyndall stone used in 1959. A

quick check will confirm that. Today, most limestone used at the University of Saskatchewan comes from a quarry near Deschambault Lake in northern Saskatchewan.

Limestone carries many fossils laid down during the stone's development. Slate, like limestone, is also a sedimentary rock made up of metamorphosed clay and ash.

For nearly a hundred years the stones at St. Andrew's have observed staff, students, teachers, pastors and others, going about the business of preparing people for ministry. Would that we could hear their untold stories!

Jake Buhler



*Photo shows irregularly hewn stones*



## Designated Lay Ministry at St. Andrew's College

Duane Mohn

The Designated Lay Ministry program is a United Church of Canada program responding to the need for ministry personnel, offering an opportunity for those feeling a call to ministry to develop their ministry through practical in-charge service and intensive study in a series of learning circles. The process would have a familiar feel for those who have been through the diaconal ministry program at the Centre for Christian Studies.

The program moved to St. Andrew's College after closure of Calling Lakes Centre (formerly the Prairie Christian Training Centre) at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. It is now offered as a program of St. Andrew's, under Director Jennifer Janzen-Ball, herself a graduate of St. Andrew's. The learning circles are conducted on College premises.

The move from a residential format to the College made for a bit of challenge maintaining the level of after-hours interaction amongst students, but we made the effort, and the transition to our new home has been smooth. There is no question that we have been made welcome.

On June 25, 2015, four candidates signed the St. Andrew's register at completion of their learning circles. One, Alice Moores, serves the church in Newfoundland and Labrador; Doreen Mason and Greg Simpson serve charges in

Ontario; and I, Duane Mohn, serve in Saskatchewan. In January 2015, William Matchem had become the first DLM candidate to sign the register. William, like Alice, serves in Newfoundland and Labrador.

During my time in the program, I have had the privilege of meeting and working beside ministers from coast to coast. I refer to them as ministers because each is serving in active ministry, appointed by presbytery or district to a charge, which has taken on the responsibility of being a Supervised Ministry Education site. From personal experience, I can say that this is no small responsibility, particularly for the group of individuals who serve as the Lay Supervision Team, committing themselves to three years of work with the candidate moving through the DLM program. They are crucial for the support and guidance they provide. So is the Education Supervisor, who is appointed by presbytery to supervise the candidate.

The hands-on ministry experience is one of the great strengths of the DLM program, in my opinion. Another is that it has allowed second and third career people to fulfill their call to pastoral and pulpit ministry. At 70, I am one of the chronological elders of the program, but I am far from the oldest to complete it.

There is a strong social justice component to the program. The June 2015

Learning Circle offered us the experience of the Kairos "Blanket Exercise", a factual and emotional exploration of the history of events and attitudes which led Canada into the charged atmosphere of the national relationship with First Nations. The experience was so powerful that several of the students are now carrying the exercise into our charges.

Personally, I was left stunned but charged by a presentation about Saskatoon's Integrated Community Ministry. Faith Eagle, a First Nations woman who told of her break from the street gang life really shook me.

The Designated Lay Ministry program has been life-enhancing for me and for my friends and colleagues in it. We believe that it is an important option for the United Church to have adopted, and recommend it to those of any age who are wondering how to answer the call to ministry.



## The Inquirer's Program At Winter Refresher 2016

The 2016 Winter Refresher is offering ten opportunities for people currently involved in the discernment process of The United Church, or those who may be considering theological education to be part of an **Inquirer's Program at Refresher**.

Inquirer's will have the experience of the Winter Refresher events, including the

presentations of Rev. Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell on her theme "Performing Church"; the workshops; the meals; the fellowship of the Winter Refresher community; and the opportunity to meet St. Andrew's students and to get to know the College.

Successful applicants for the Inquirer's Program will have their full registration

paid by the College and meals during the event. If requested Inquirer's may receive a \$50.00 travel subsidy. Inquirers will be responsible for their own accommodation but the College can assist in finding a billet.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in the Inquirer's Program please contact Melanie at 306-966-8970.



# Winter Refresher 2016

February 29 to March 2, 2016

Most mainline denominations in North America share a common concern: How can we renew and rejuvenate the church? The numbers of the church members are dwindling. That is not going to change. In this challenging context, Christians are trying to find their renewed Christian identity, their ministry and their roles in the world. In search for such identity, we ask, “What is church?” “Who is church?” “Why go to church?” “What happens in church that is worth getting up for on Sunday morning?”

The Winter Refresher 2016 theme speaker Shannon Craigo-Snell will ask these questions by shifting the question, “What does doing church do for us?” This question orients us to explore the meaning of performance which points to the importance of Christian formation and Christian embodiment.

Shannon Craigo-Snell joined the Louisville Seminary faculty in 2011 as a constructive systematic theologian. She earned degrees (PhD, MPhil, MA, and MDiv) at Yale University and Yale Divinity School. From 2001 to 2011 Craigo-Snell taught in the Religious Studies department at Yale University. Her students have included undergraduates with diverse reli-

gious backgrounds in the secular context of the University; denominationally diverse Divinity School students; and doctoral students in religious studies. These varied contexts have been part of her formation as a theologian. In 2014 Craigo-Snell was ordained to the Office of Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is a much published author who has written many books. Her most recent book, *The Empty Church: Theater, Theology, and Bodily Hope* (Oxford 2014) substantially discusses the relationship between performance and theology.

While her theological training and teaching for a few decades have been deeply shaped by the secular and religiously diverse environments, Shannon is committed to the vocation of the church in the world: “My own calling is to be a theologian of, in, and for the church. I am called to teach and write in service to the church thus I am excited about teaching in the seminary setting. Louisville Seminary is a place where I can bring the interdisciplinary scholarship and attention to religious diversity that I have honed in the university into the work of preparing Christians for ministry.” (<http://www.lpts.edu/about/our-faculty/full-time-faculty/shannon-craigo-snell>)

In addition to three sessions with Shannon Craigo-Snell, there will be an entertainment evening with four performers who will share their gifts of storytelling, spoken word, song, and play. There will be also workshops on topics like lifelong learning for social change, can revivals be revived? As well as storytelling as performance and our roles in Jesus’s resurrection. The popular movie night will be on for those who like to discuss a film over a good meal, as well as the great conversations.

2016 Winter Refresher will be the last Winter Refresher. St. Andrew’s College will offer a similar conference in June starting 2017. So this is your last chance to join the Winter Refresher in February!

The other important reason for coming to the last Winter Refresher is that there will be a worship service of celebration of the 80th anniversary of Lydia Gruchy’s ordination. So mark on your calendar and come!

More information on Winter Refresher 2016 can be found at [www.standrews.ca](http://www.standrews.ca). Registration can be done online through [www.picatic.com/winterrefresher2016](http://www.picatic.com/winterrefresher2016) or over the telephone by calling 306-966-8970 or 1-877-644-8970.



**Congratulations to The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell (MDiv 2010) on being elected Moderator of The United Church of Canada on August 13, 2015 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland by the 42nd General Council.**

On Oct. 23-25, St. Andrew’s College faculty Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg and Rev. Dr. Don Schweitzer facilitated An **Intercultural Adventure Part II: The Bible in The United Church of Canada**. This event, sponsored by a grant from The United Church of Canada, took place at Avonmore United Church in Edmonton. A highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening session, “An Open Conversation with the Moderator, the Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell, about the Authority and Interpretation of Scripture.” Pictured here is Moderator Jordan Cantwell (centre), a St. Andrew’s alumni, with HyeRan Kim-Cragg (right) facilitating the conversation and Don Schweitzer (left) also participating. (Photo: Eunkyuu Ji)



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May 26 – November 5, 2015

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We are pleased to list the people and groups who have sent donations to St. Andrew's College during the above mentioned time period. We greatly appreciate the continuing support we receive from you.

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MAY YOU ALL HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



## The St. Andrew's Second Century Fund

As St. Andrew's College now enters its second century of service to The United Church of Canada the Second Century Fund is established to lay a foundation for the decades ahead.

The St. Andrew's Second Century Fund seeks gifts, above and beyond those required for the annual costs of teaching and learning, to provide for exceptional needs faced by the College in the new century.

As gifts are provided they will be expended where need is the greatest. Much of that current need is related to the College buildings, and very specifically, the replacement of failing plumbing and deteriorating windows.

The St. Andrew's College buildings not only provide home for theological study and preparation for 21st century Christian ministry and leadership, they also serve as an important source of revenue to support the work and witness of teaching and learning.

An investment in the College's home not only preserves the heritage of the historic buildings but also serves to support those who study within these walls and whose ministry will serve the future Church and the world.

*Your Gift to the  
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**May 26 – November 5, 2015**

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Please indicate clearly any direction for use of your donation.  
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*If you have bequeathed money to the College in your Will we would like to know about it so that we are able to acknowledge this in the next issue of Contact.*

Would you like the convenience of making  
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Our current monthly donors give amounts from  
\$10 to more than \$100.

All amounts are greatly appreciated.



## St. Andrew's College, The United Church of Canada and the Ministry Residency

Friends of St. Andrew's College, as I write this, I am preparing to travel to South Korea. This is not just a pleasure trip, although I am very excited to experience Korea in person for the first time. I will be wearing at least two hats, as most of us do so much of the time. One of my hats is as a member of the executive of River Bend Presbytery and another as the Ministry Residency Coordinator at St. Andrew's College.

As representatives of River Bend Presbytery, the delegation I will travel with will seek to learn more about our Korean brothers and sisters. We will work to develop further our partnership with Incheon Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PROK) in the areas of leadership development, youth exchanges and sharing of resources.

As a representative of the St. Andrew's College team, I will meet with faculty and

staff of the Hanshin University Graduate School of Theology in Seoul. Five years ago, in November 2010, St. Andrew's College and Hanshin Graduate School of Theology signed a partnership agreement which supports the exchange of students. The Koreans have been generous in approving studies at St. Andrew's every year, including study by ministers who have completed or almost completed requirements for ordination in the Presbyterian Church of Korea. Two students from St. Andrew's have studied at Hanshin Graduate School of Theology and some of our faculty have visited.

The Korean students are courageous and hardworking, and share freely their many and diverse gifts for ministry. They form a significant proportion of the St. Andrew's student body and contribute to life in the St. Andrew's community. I have truly enjoyed working on their behalf when needed.

NOW – if only there were more students from pastoral charges in The United Church of Canada to present themselves to St. Andrew's for training in ministry, bringing their spiritual gifts! St. Andrew's provides students a strong preparation and support for ministry. St. Andrew's is equipped for a much larger number of students than we are currently serving. One measure is that there will not likely be even one student seeking a learning site for Ministry Residency for two years – until 2017.

As so many of the clergy currently serving the church approach retirement, replacements will be required. Send us candidates for preparation to become The United Church of Canada ministers of the future!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Bayne  
Ministry Residency Coordinator  
St. Andrew's College

## Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries: A New Partnership

Final details are being put in place to initiate an exciting new partnership between St. Andrew's College and Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, in the Ventura watershed, California. The Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, founded by Ched Myers and Elaine Enns, "seek to help animate and build capacity for communities of discipleship and justice." ([www.bcm-net.org](http://www.bcm-net.org)) Elaine Enns, who is from the Mennonite community in Saskatchewan, earned her DMin from St. Andrew's College in May of this year. Elaine has been working in the field of restorative justice and conflict transformation since 1989 as mediator, consultant, educator and trainer. Elaine has provided mediation and consultation services for individuals, churches, schools, community organizations, criminal justice agencies and businesses, and traveled throughout North America

teaching and training. Ched Myers, a fifth generation Californian, over the past three decades has worked with many peace and justice organizations and movements, including the American Friends Service Committee, the Pacific Concerns Resource Center and Pacific Life Community. With Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries he focuses on building capacity for biblical literacy, church renewal, and faith-based witness for justice.

For the partnership Ched Myers and Elaine Enns will be joined by Bill Richards, recently retired faculty member of the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad who has served to provide New Testament instruction to students of the Saskatoon Theological Union for many years. St. Andrew's is excited in the potential of the partnership with Bill, Elaine and Ched to provide ongoing New Testament course offerings to our students

and the wider community and the further potential for offering in Canada the justice oriented courses and programs of the Bartimaeus Institutes.

The St. Andrew's - Bartimaeus partnership is initially intended to extend over three years. The funding for the partnership is being made available through the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad as a component of the ongoing commitment of Emmanuel and St. Chad to support the Saskatoon Theological Union.

The first course to be offered under the umbrella of the new partnership will be one on the lectionary Gospel of Luke led by Ched Myers and Bill Richards January 4-8, 2016. Contact the St. Andrew's Registrar at 306-966-5244 or [standrews.registrar@usask.ca](mailto:standrews.registrar@usask.ca) for course details.



## The New Dual Degree Program Encouraging Young People To Theological Education

St. Andrew's College has introduced a new dual degree (BTh/MDiv) program for preparation for ordained ministry that is on the cutting edge of theological education and unique in Canada.

Hearing the concerns voiced by young people over the requirement of seven, or more likely eight or nine years of study, to complete an undergraduate degree and the post graduate degree required as readiness for ordination; and seeking to better integrate the undergraduate degree work with preparation for ministry; St. Andrew's has created a dual degree program.

The program will offer a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Divinity that provides both degrees and the required ministry

residence for ordination in just over five and half years. The program will engage students with the St. Andrew's faculty and the St. Andrew's community throughout their post-secondary education.

The first three years of the program will engage students in university courses and the introductory courses in the theological disciplines to complete the Bachelor of Theology. The completion of the BTh will provide the student one year of equivalency in the St. Andrew's MDiv program, and with a further year of academic study, the 20 month residency experience with learning circles, students will earn their MDiv and recommendation of the College to the Church for ordination.

The College has received accreditation for the MDiv degree in this program from the Association of Theological Schools as an approved exemption to Education Standard ES.7.4.3.

St. Andrew's is now ready to accept students into the program this coming fall and will continue to share news of the program throughout the coming year and beyond.

St. Andrew's College has often been in a position of creating the new. That tradition continues with the new dual degree program.

## The Rev. Alison West to Receive the Honorary Doctor of Divinity



**Alison West**

On the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee, the St. Andrew's Academic Committee has selected The Rev. Alison West to receive a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa* (DD) at the College's spring convocation in May of 2016.

Alison West was born and raised in southern England. When she was 20 years old the Methodist Church in England recognized her preaching/ministerial gifts and

encouraged and assisted her to train as a local preacher. She was accredited as a local preacher in 1960 and given a preaching circuit of her own. In 1964 she moved to Entebbe, Uganda where she taught English and was employed as an administrative officer by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. She also continued to provide worship leadership. In 1969, Alison and her family moved to Canada, first living in Quebec, then Ottawa and then the Hamilton area. Alison volunteered in her local United Churches teaching Sunday school, and often leading worship when asked. When another move brought her to Regina in the early 1980s she continued her involvement with the United Church and became Staff Associate at Rosemont United, responsible for one worship service a month, Bible study and home/hospital visiting. After much encouragement, Alison attended St. Andrew's College and graduated with a Bachelor of Theology in 1990 and was ordained by Saskatchewan Conference.

After ordination, Alison served Watrous-Young Pastoral Charge for 15 years and then

served as interim minister at Third Avenue United Church in Saskatoon; St. Thomas Wesley United Church in Saskatoon (twice!); rural pastoral charges of Lumsden, Wadena, Semans and Raymore; Imperial-Simpson Pastoral Charge where she helped Simpson close and Imperial to get an interim minister; and Rosemont United Church in Regina.

In addition to serving numerous pastoral charges, Alison was involved in church leadership in all courts of The United Church of Canada. She has chaired several committees for River Bend Presbytery; chaired and served on numerous committees for Saskatchewan Conference as well as been trained in the Ministry of Supervision has for over 20 years has supervised many people in the Church; and served on General Council committees and was Commissioner to General Council 34 in Fredericton. Alison also served St. Andrew's College as Internship Coordinator for two years.

In the words of one of her nominators, "Alison is a faith-filled, Christ centred, hospitable, knowledgeable, wise woman."



## St. Andrew's Faculty Updates

### Don Schweitzer

This spring at the annual meeting of the Canadian Theological Society at the University of Ottawa I chaired a panel on Gregory Baum's recent book, *Truth and Relevance: Catholic Theology in French Quebec since the Quiet Revolution* (McGill-Queen's, 2014). I published a review article of two recent histories of the United Church (*Touchstone* 33/2 (June 2015), 64-72) and a review article of volume 1 of German sociologist Niklas Luhmann's *Theory of Society* (*The Ecumenist* 52/2 (Spring 2015), 15-21). This past August I spent two weeks in India. The first week was at United Theological College in Bangalore, where I participated in a conference on the Reformation and contemporary church-state relationships. Here I presented a paper entitled "Justification by grace and shared identity space." The second week was spent at Bishop's College in Kolkata. Here I worked on Christology with a class of M.Th. students. I also presented my paper "Justification by grace and shared identity space" to faculty and upper year students and visited a school run by the Cathedral Relief Service.

### Sandra Beardsall

This past spring and summer brought several opportunities to travel for learning, sharing, and teaching. In May I was at a conference in Ottawa that coincided with the release of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, so I was able to attend the live event. It was a powerful moment that encouraged me to recommit myself to the long journey of reconciliation.

In June I engaged another aspect of reconciliation as the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of

Churches (WCC) gathered at the Caraiman Monastery in Romania to begin a new seven-year round of dialogue among Christians of all stripes: Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical, peace church. The Commission consists of fifty theologians from around the world who represent diverse cultures in the global north and south. Our projects will include setting theological foundations for the WCC's commitment to a "pilgrimage of justice and peace," and the question of how churches do "moral discernment."

July took me to rural Nova Scotia, to provide leadership at Berwick Camp. This "camp meeting" has run every year since 1872, when it was started by zealous praying Methodists. It still features an "evangelist" who preaches daily, but the camp is distinctly United Church in flavour: friendly and inclusive, welcoming all ages, lay and ordered. In the morning education times I traced the history and development of the "camp meeting" movement, particularly in the UCC. A small taste of that course will help to shape my Winter Refresher 2016 workshop.

### Lynn Caldwell

This fall I am teaching two intensive courses, a qualitative research course for graduate students in the DMin and STM programs, and Learning Circle 4 for MDiv students on Ministry Residency. I am advising a student doing a graduate thesis on neoliberalism and faith-based social justice efforts, and a reading course with an MDiv student exploring allyship and solidarity in light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report. In the winter semester I look forward to working with students in Integration Seminar and to teaching a spring intensive course with HyeRan Kim-Cragg, on race, racism and intercultural ministry.

A priority area for me right now is working with faculty on continuing education options at St. Andrew's College, including researching models at other institutions, identifying current and future opportunities in our programs, and examining literature on continuing education and lifelong learning.

### HyeRan Kim-Cragg

I had a wonderful Sabbatical year. The second half of the sabbatical was spent in Korea. You can imagine how many interesting visits and encounters I had!

When I returned to the College, a few books were waiting for me. These books are the fruit of some of my research labour.

I wrote the following chapters published: "Baptism as Crossing beyond Belonging" in *Liturgy in Postcolonial Perspectives: Only One is Holy* (ed. Cláudio Carvalhaes), "Turning to the Other: Interdenominational, Interethnic, Interreligious Activism and A New Ecclesia," in *Complex Identities in a Shifting World: Practical Theological Perspective International Practical Theology Vol 17* (written with Mai-Anh Le Tran, ed. Pamela Couture, Robert Mager, Pamela McCarroll, Natalie Wigg-Stevenson), "Contributions of Religions for Citizenship Education in Canada: A Christian Religious Educator's Perspective" in *Islam and Citizenship Education* (ed. Ednan Aslan and Marcia Hermansen).

The other research that was on the way during my sabbatical was to complete manuscript of the book I co-authored with Mary Ann Beavis: *Hebrews in Wisdom Commentary Series* (Liturgical Press). This book project is a cross-disciplinary endeavor where biblical scholars and non-biblical scholars work together for the biblical commentary and exegesis. This book will be launched during American Academy of



Religion/Society of Biblical Literature this November. It is my hope to have a book launch during Winter Refresher 2016.

On the teaching and church service front, Don Schweitzer and I are leading a conference for Korean clergy and leaders serving in the United Church of Canada in October, 2015. The theme of the conference is “the Bible and the United Church of Canada.” We will discuss the United Church’s understanding of the authority and interpretation of Scripture, the nature

of Biblical authority, how the United Church has understood this over the course of its history. The group gathered will get a better understanding of the United Church. They will also shape a new understanding of the Bible for the United Church. This conference is sponsored by the United Church through responsive initiatives grant.

For the college service for the continuing education programme, I am helping to organize the Winter Refresher event in

2016. This will be our last Winter Refresher since the College will switch the event time to June from now on. So Register now!

The speaker is Shannon Craigo-Snell and the theme is “Performing Church.” We anticipate intriguing speeches from our speaker and fruitful conversations around how our worship forms our character and our identity as Christian in ways that embody our whole beings, mind, heart, and body.

## Alum News

### Dr. Jim Pulfer (MTS 2006)

Jim Pulfer’s licence to be a Lay Worship Leader in River Bend was renewed for a further two years, as of June 1st, 2015 and he won re-election to be the representative for District 13 (Saskatoon) on the University of Saskatchewan Senate for a further three years from July 1st, 2015. This district has over 23,000 U of S alumni in it.

### Donna Wilson (MDiv 1997)

Donna Wilson received her Doctor of Ministry from St. Stephen’s College, Edmonton, on November 2nd. The title of her thesis is Living a Lie: The Edmonton Residential School 1950 to 1960 - A Story of Sexual Abuse by a United Church Minister and the Response by the Church of the Time.

### Leigh Sinclair (MDiv 2005 and STM 2015)

What does a newly minted STM grad do with a degree in Rural Ministry? Move to a city with over 700,000 people in it of

course! While at first glance my call to Quebec and 2 pastoral charges in its midst seemed personally rewarding but not in line with my degrees, I have since discovered two small towns that fit the dynamics of rural, vibrant and “family-sized” churches!

In Quebec City there are close to 12,000 Anglophones, so it is the largest “town” I have worked in since pre-seminary days! It is still though a small village in the midst of a larger city; a tightly knit community made up of folks who have been here for 2 or more generations, as well as newcomers to Canada and students studying in French. North of the city is a collection of small villages, one of which hosts a United Church congregation. These farming based towns are usually either Anglophone or Francophone based and are generations old. At their centre is a bilingual military base full of families of all shapes and sizes and fantastic United Church padres.

While personally diving into true French immersion and, as we all do after a

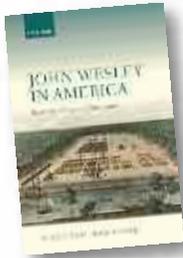
move, unpacking and finding grocery stores and pharmacies, I am also pulling out all my seminary training on contextual learning (including a walk through one town’s cemetery with an elder) and the wisdom of taking time to discern the long story lines that abound. There are many “growing edges” for me as well since I have never worked with a minority population (one that is marginalized in some settings like health and education services but powerful in other settings like skin colour and culture).

I am being sustained by daily spiritual practices, 2 libraries and wisdom learned during my time at St. Andrew’s. Of course, I also am being blessed with the sacred sharing of food (a rich blessing here as the mix of cultural delights mean real maple syrup and English scones at all coffee shops!) Thank you St. Andrew’s and its supporters for helping me listen, learn and dive into God’s ever vibrant call to rural ministry!



## From a Faculty Book Shelf:

By Sandra Beardsall



*John Wesley in America: Restoring Primitive Christianity.* By Geordan Hammond (2014)

John Wesley's 1730s sojourn as an Anglican missionary to Georgia ended badly: he fled the colony less than two years after arriving, his heart broken and a clutch of colonial magistrates pondering various charges against him. It is the sort of story that you could use to explain how not to begin a new ministry. In the never-ending flow of John Wesley biographies, his time in Georgia is typically narrated as his spiritual low point. He rose from its ashes to build the successful evangelical mission that he and his fellow Methodists would undertake in the decades to come. Could there be anything left to say about this brief, unhappy slice of Wesley's life?

Well, Geordan Hammond, who directs a Wesley research center in Manchester, England, did find a new angle. He argues that Wesley used his mission in Savannah, Georgia to test his views of "primitive Christianity." The colony, says Hammond, became Wesley's "laboratory" for introducing to a parish community what he believed to be the practices of the earliest Christians.

Wesley's parents instilled a deep reverence for the early church in their children. John was determined to practice an authentic faith and, influenced by some radical "primitivist" clergy, became an eager student of early Christianity. He studied the earliest theologians and pored over ancient ecclesiastical handbooks, which he took to be written by the apostles (they have since been dated to the late fourth century). He began to pray five times daily and fast two days per week.

Once settled in his Savannah parish, Wesley began to practice a demanding piety that included visiting his parishioners daily, baptizing infants by full immersion, re-baptizing Presbyterians (whom he considered to have been ineffectually "lay baptized"), offering communion at least weekly, excluding from the sacrament people whom he had not examined beforehand, working closely with women, and forming devotional groups of men and women to pray, sing psalms, and reflect on early Christian readings – all of which Wesley believed were early church disciplines. Wesley's goal of preaching to the "Indians" of Georgia never really materialized. However, he believed his early Christian ascetical practices, which included eating simply and sleeping on the ground, were preparing him for a ministry among the aboriginal people.

As you might imagine, not everyone in Savannah, a hardscrabble frontier community, was keen on Wesley's stern religious discipline, and he was accused of being a divisive minister. Then, his romantic troubles led to a lawsuit against him. But Hammond makes the case that Wesley's concern for women's leadership vocations and his advocacy on behalf of the poor and mistreated in the colony also served to rile the powerful elites, perhaps more so than his prayer meetings and love life. It was the moneyed leaders who sent him packing.

After his Georgia "experiment," John Wesley softened his attachment to "primitive Christianity," but Hammond argues that it never went away. Early church spirituality wove its way into Methodist theology and practice.

I believe this book offers two reminders. First, it points out that pastoral conflict is multilayered, and that money and class form part of the equation. Second, it shows us that embedded in the United Church ethos, especially through its Methodist heritage, are the practices of the earliest Christians. Perhaps our way forward lies not in being post-something, but more deeply true to our roots.

But then, you'd expect a historian to say that, wouldn't you?

## From the Library

Greetings from the St. Andrew's College Library! There are many projects on the go and new resources to share and explore! We welcome back our student assistants for another academic year! Katelyn Haskell and Rohit Sachdeva are back and are a wonderful asset to the library. They staff the library on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Library orientation sessions happened in September and were well attended. These sessions always provide a wonderful opportunity to meet one another and get comfortable with the space and the methods of accessing resources.

The STU libraries now have access to the Religion & Philosophy Collection. This is an electronic product offered through EBSCO and will be an excellent enhancement to our current electronic resources. It has been set up so that library patrons still conduct a single search and all at once search eBooks, ATLA Serials database, and the Religion & Philosophy Collection. For more information contact the St. Andrew's Library! Remember to get a library card! You can either come in to one of the libraries, send an email, or give us a call!

Our STU Library blog is up and running. Please check it out and feel free to offer suggestions, submit articles, ask questions, etc. We expect this will be linked with our library website in the near future. Here is the URL to the site: <http://stulibraries.tumblr.com/>

Please come visit the library or contact us should you have questions, concerns, or need assistance!



Alison Jantz  
STU Library Director



## Property Report Carolina Castro

Another year has passed and there has been some changes in personnel and also to the building. Raul Rodriguez resigned from the custodian position effective September 2015 and as of October 1 Wayne Hanchuk accepted the position.

There have been many bigger projects done this year like replacing 12 windows in room 329 and the three on the top west side stairwell. As I mentioned in my report last year all hallway doors must be replaced with fire rated ones so this year we replaced two single ones on the south side main hallway.

The roof on the west side of the building and the south side of the Chapel got some slate maintenance (repaired or replaced missing slate) as well as some eaves repaired.

Major masonry work was done on the north elevation Arch. The centre mullion was pulling away from the arch structure; also the front and back steps were reset. A lot work was done around the building filling any missing mortar in the stone. Half of the cement slab on College Drive that is sinking and leaking water into the building has been replaced but the other half needs to be done in the next budget year.

The main power line to the building was just replaced at the end of September. It was unsafe and it needed immediate attention. I was also informed that the main breaker panel (original to the building) would need to be replaced in the near future because if one of the parts breaks down we would not be able to find them anymore. This will be a big financial cost.

The doors and windows of the entrance on the north side of the building were replaced in October.

Antonio Rossi keeps on maintaining/renovating the building, painting the back stairwell and faculty offices, replaced the basement hallway flooring and upgrading lighting. He has also started to replace residence rooms flooring that are in great need to be done.

We now have new tenants on the 3rd and 4th floor. They are with the College of Medicine and they are bringing new income as well by renting the Lounge for some of their events. The residence as is full as always.



*Entrance Before*



*Entrance After*

## Creelman United Church Donation



*On October 25, Creelman United Church presented St. Andrew's College with a cheque for \$1,500. Pictured are Cheryl Popplestone, on behalf of Creelman United Church and Vic Wiebe, on behalf of the College.*



# Mark Your Calendars!

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## Winter Refresher

**Monday, February 29th to Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016**

**Saskatoon, SK**

***Performing Church***



***Theme Speaker:***

***Rev. Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell***

Professor of Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**A Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Ordination of Lydia Gruchy will also be held.**

## Saskatoon Theological Union Convocation 2016

**Friday, May 6th, 7:00 p.m.**

**Zion Lutheran Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

St. Andrew's College Convocation will take place next spring as part of a larger event of the Saskatoon Theological Union, as we join with our partners the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad (Anglican) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in the fifteenth joint Convocation.

**Did you know that this issue of Contact is available to read on our website [www.standrews.ca](http://www.standrews.ca) If you would like to receive Contact by e-mail instead of paper copy please e-mail [melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca)**