

# CONTACT

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Members of the St. Andrew's College community, including Designated Lay Ministry students who were at the college participating in their two-week fall learning circle, gathered in the chapel on a late-October Thursday morning to share worship and communion.

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# Students, funding drive future planning

By Doug Neufeld  
Board Chair, St. Andrew's College

*Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.*

(Joel 2:28)

A priority for the college at this time is crafting our next strategic plan. We have secured the services of Carol Mar-turano-Becker to lead us through this process and will involve representation from all stakeholder groups. Administration, faculty, committee volunteers, current students, alumni, contributors and supporters — if you're reading Contact, you're likely a stakeholder. We're developing a flexible plan that will keep us viable into a very unstable, unpredictable future and we will be soliciting and welcoming all perceptions and ideas.



We are looking at every dimension of our institution, but it all revolves around our central focus of attracting students.

First and foremost, if we don't have students, there's not much point in existing. Second, there appears to be a trend in government funding to make it proportional to student full-time equivalency (FTE). Our relatively low FTE could result in a significant funding cut so a large, vigorous student body would be a blessing in many ways.

Additionally, stable denominational funding from The United Church of Canada is also a concern. Due to a continuing decline in Mission and Service resources, the church is considering a significant reduction in support of their theological schools. In my opinion, this would be a devastating error, not only for our theological schools but also for the entire denomination.

The United Church of Canada faces a severe decline in leadership numbers. From what I've witnessed in the last decade across the Prairies, conference/regional annual meetings have

celebrated the retirement of many more ministry personnel than those who are entering the vocation. We currently have more than 450 ministry vacancies across the country. These are vibrant communities of faith who have the means to support paid accountable ministry but cannot attract leadership because there are no ministry personnel available. As a denomination we are quick to comment on declining church attendance and givings, but the reality is we are losing ministers to retirement far more quickly than we're closing churches. One could argue that a lack of leadership is contributing to the decline of the church in some places.

To quote good friend of the college and former principal, Lorne Calvert: "It's at the time of uncertainty and transition that the church needs strong leadership."

Should the church be cutting resources to its institutions that are helping develop its leadership, or should it be investing in its future?

I really appreciate the weekly Minute for Mission segment provided by Mission and Service. I love to hear about the amazing work the church is doing in our communities, across the country, and around the world. It must be so difficult to decide which ministries will no longer receive the support of declining M&S funds. The reality is, however, we need the next generation of leadership, we need our theological institutions to develop those leaders, and the church needs to be more involved in finding those who may be called to this amazing vocation. Without leadership in the church, there is no Mission and Service. It's with this plea that I began this message by looking to the prophet Joel for guidance and inspiration.

In the Pentecost story in Acts, the Holy Spirit came upon those who were hiding in that upper room and they were given the energy, courage and ability to speak "about God's deeds of power." Peter then addresses the crowd offering the words of Joel.

May the Spirit embolden us to be prophetic so our dreams and visions of a great new church come to fruition. Whether you have a voice or bounty to share in support of the United Church's theological schools, I pray that you are moved to share them.

God be with you always.

## Janzen-Ball accepts ministry vocation role with United Church

It is with regret that St. Andrew's College received the news Jennifer Janzen-Ball is not seeking an extension to her contract as Director of the DLM Program. As a result, she has resigned as director of the Doctor of Ministry program at the Saskatoon Theological Union, effective Dec. 31.

Jennifer has accepted a position as ministry vocations program coordinator with the national office of the United Church. She will start her new position Jan. 1, based in Saskatoon.

Jennifer noted that she appreciates the home the DLM Program has found

at St. Andrew's College since September 2014. The DLM students have gained much in being welcomed into the St. Andrew's community, as has Jennifer herself.

Over the last nine and a half years as director of the DLM program, Jennifer is grateful for the opportunities to walk with



Janzen-Ball

students in their theological education and formation, sharing in their learning and growth as they respond to their calls to ministry. It has been a real privilege to share in these journeys.

She has also appreciated the collegial relationships developed with STU faculty, through her work as director of the Doctor of Ministry program during the last four years.

In her new role, Jennifer will continue to relate to students training for ministry, to the theological schools and programs, as well as the Office of Vocation ministers throughout the United Church.

# Principal's Tour connects college to community

By Dea. Richard Manley-Tannis  
Principal, St. Andrew's College

Dear Kin, Sisters & Brothers  
of the St. Andrew's College Community,

As fall arrives, I have had the great pleasure to launch a new initiative upon which the Development Team has been working for the last year: The Principal's Tour (see Page 8). This new initiative is intended to be offered at least five times per academic year. This year, two have already taken place with two more scheduled in April. As I learned in my graduate studies days managing restaurants, demand is good; sharing that we are booked is even better! So, if you're interested, please do let me know. I look forward to exploring how this new initiative can help you and those in your networks thrive in this time of change and also build and/or further nurture your existing relationship with the college!

During one of the recent tours, I had the opportunity to sit with a United Church of Canada (UCCan) candidate as they wrestled, not with their call to ordained ministry leadership, but with the vocational formation process into which they were walking. In fact, in this trusted and sacred space, I learned they have begun to wrestle with the time required to study, as they feel (and perhaps not inappropriately so) they are ready to lead now!

This conversation is not new, but it was one of the first I have had with a millennial who is both self-reflective, grounded in our denominational context, and is plugged in to the way we do things. This conversation, I believe, highlights the work before St. Andrew's as we begin our strategic planning process. We will take the following year to ask some fundamental questions, check-in with various stakeholders and partners, and wrestle with what it means to prepare leaders for a world that often seems so very different from the one which has traditionally shaped and nurtured ministers.

I am grateful, therefore, to welcome Carol Marturano-Becker into our midst (see Page 4). As we begin this strategic planing journey, which I believe holds many opportunities and possibilities for St. Andrew's, I am confident her



*“We will take the following year to ask some fundamental questions, check-in with various stakeholders and partners, and wrestle with what it means to prepare leaders for a world that often seems so very different from the one for which it has traditionally shaped and nurtured ministers.”*

experience and wisdom will allow us to navigate this time well.

As I was considering how much and what to include in this latest edition of *Contact*, it quickly became clear to me I could write a book. Yet, I suspect you want to get to reading updates from others in the community. As such, if you are not yet on the college's email list, it would be great if you could let us know what address we might use. It is my hope to send updates this way as

we begin this time of strategic discernment.

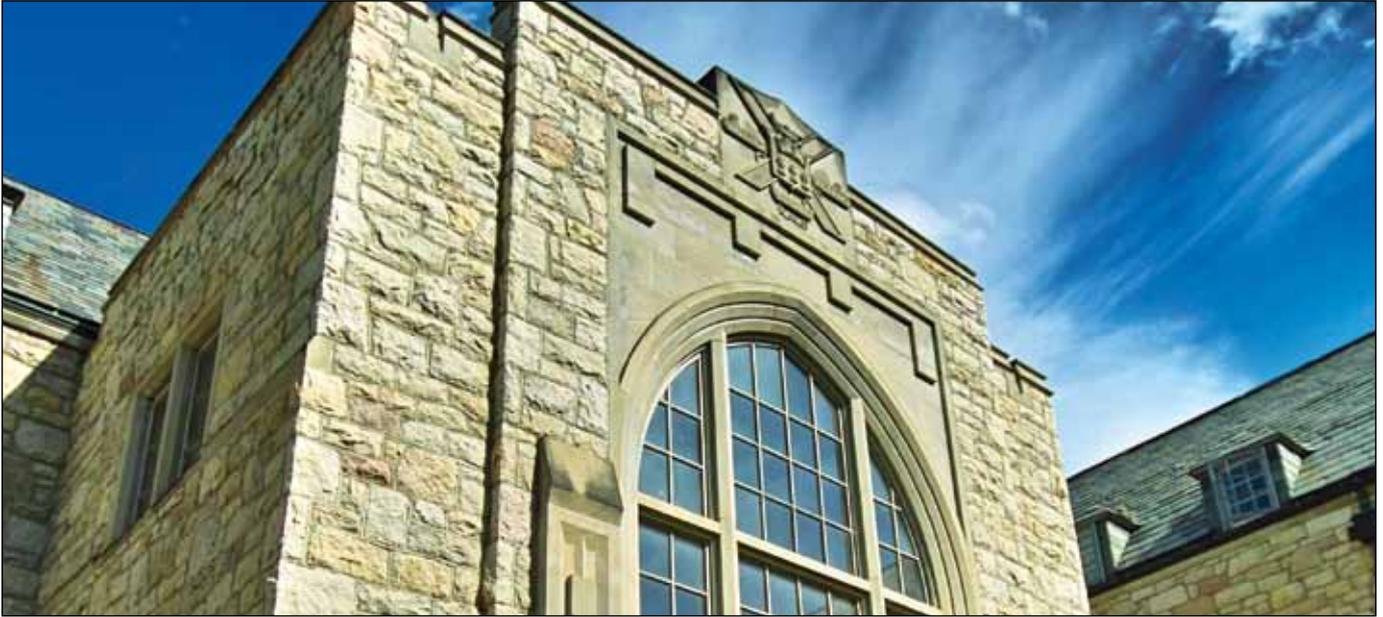
So, let me share two brief updates about which I suspect many are interested. The first is that things are moving along to integrate the Saskatoon Theological Union libraries. The initiative is not only exciting, I believe it will be the largest, interfiled ecumenical library on the Prairies, and I am brave enough to suggest perhaps in the country! This new development arises as our friends at the Lutheran Theological Seminary begin to pivot into embracing their strengths, and it means they are bravely letting go of the things they have identified have been holding them back from living richly into the opportunities before them.

The final item is to again ask you to help the college in our effort to enhance classroom 322. I am so grateful for the support received from alum and friends. The hope is to have this room renovated at the end of the 2019-20 academic year. We are on our way to meeting the \$55,000 cost and with your ongoing support I am hopeful we can meet this goal. The room enhancement has further come into focus, as the college is beginning to explore a relationship with a seminary in India. Having this resource in place will ensure that the college is able to continue to nimbly respond to the changing realty of how to ensure that rich and engaging theological education can continue for another 100 years!

In Christ,  
Richard

P.S.: I invite you to consider supporting St. Andrew's regularly through Pre-Authorised Remittance (PAR) or CanadaHelps.org (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12902>)? Do you know about our Legacy Giving (<http://www.usask.ca/stu/standrews/donors-alumni/giving.php>)? Would you like to know more? Please do let us know and we would be glad to explore this with you further.

*(Dea. Richard Manley-Tannis regularly shares his musings on his blog: [adeaconsmusing.ca](http://adeaconsmusing.ca))*



The strategic planning process will include a comprehensive review of all factors that impact the college

# Strategic planning process to guide future

By Carol Marturano-Becker  
President, Impact Learning Inc.

St. Andrew's College is about to embark on a strategic planning process. Typically, when an organization announces it is engaged in a strategic planning process, there are always two responses. One response tends to be "Oh no! Change is coming!" The other response is "Finally! It is about time!"

Regardless of which end of the continuum you may find yourself, strategic planning is an essential and critical success factor in today's dynamic environment, no matter what industry you are in.

There are a variety of reasons organizations indicate the rationale to pursue a strategic plan. Some share with me that it makes good business sense. Others indicate they did this type of planning with their previous organization or that their board requires it. Some say they need the plan to obtain necessary financing or accreditation or licensing. Often, I hear the organization had a plan several years ago and it needs to be updated. Regardless of the expressed reason, strategic planning is essential to establish the road map that takes the organization from its current status to a desired future state, while at the same time ensuring the organization's mission and purpose is the foundation for the work.

The most important outcome from strategic planning is not the plan itself. It is the information shared and collected, coupled with the learning that occurs during the planning process. An effective strategic planning process is comprehensive and looks at all aspects that impact the organization. For St. Andrew's these will include internal and external factors, student and faculty input, financials, operations assessment, capacity assessment, cultural understanding, processes review, input from funders and other stakeholders, services assessment, outcomes and more. This process incorporates a thorough analysis of the current state, industry best practices, opportunities, threats and dreams. As a result, there will be considerable insight into St. Andrew's and everything associated with the college.

Additionally, an effective strategic planning process is not secretive. Instead it is very transparent with intent, conversations, and ideas shared broadly and accessible for interested stakeholders.

Lastly the process must be inclusive so that the views of all those who are either impacted by or have an impact on the organization are collected, analyzed and incorporated into identified priorities and action plans. An inclusive process ensures the strategic plan will be realistic, has buy in, engages, inspires and can be executed.

Over the next several weeks, you will be hearing more about St Andrew's strategic planning process and will have the opportunity to share your insights and ideas. Please feel free to reach out to the members of the strategic planning core team if you would like to share your perspectives and ideas. This team has been established to serve as point people and to provide leadership during the strategic planning process at St. Andrew's. The members of this team include: Doug Neufeld, chair of the board of regents; Don Schweitzer, professor of systematic theology; Taylor Croissant, alum; Don Barss, alum; Richard Manley-Tannis, principal; Leslee Harden, chief administrative officer; and Melanie Schwanbeck, college secretary.

This is an exciting time for St. Andrew's. The College is viewed as a close and supportive community of learning and a centre of excellence throughout the Prairie region and beyond. Relationships with the colleges of the STU, ATS and other partners are strong and thriving. A well-developed strategic plan with a clear roadmap will ensure the legacy and sustainability of St. Andrew's College long into the future.

If you have questions, or would like to share your perspectives, please contact any member of the strategic planning core team or Carol Marturano-Becker at [carol@impactlearninginc.com](mailto:carol@impactlearninginc.com).

# STU libraries joining together at St. Andrew's

By Donna Thiessen  
STU Librarian

*"We believe God intends loving relationships to be faithful, responsible, just, healing, and sustaining of the couple and those around them, and that such relationships require preparation and nurture."*

— *united-church.ca*

A marriage is the creation of something new. A marriage involves the union of previously existing entities in the creation of something new. To be successful, it involves much preparation, a celebration of the new entity that results from the union, the exchange of symbols and, if the analogy is pushed a bit further to the ideal, a reflection of the relationship between God and the people of God.

St. Andrew's College is currently moving towards a marriage with Lutheran Theological Seminary and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad in the creation of a new library, as well as other areas of partnership. We share so much that this marriage is seen as a positive transformation even though the necessity of the union is being driven by practical concerns related to costs and changing times for the colleges. Like my great grandfather's second marriage was driven by the need for two widowed partners to come together to raise two large farm families, I believe that a marriage may be initiated by circumstances, but the union can result in far more than just addressing the practicalities. But first, the practicalities:

To date, we have been focused on the physical belongings of the library. One of the challenges of a marriage is to bring together the physical belongings of the entities. Where should we place the BT section at the library? Letters, numbers, syntax are all included in our library resource call numbers. Does BV636 .B43 2018 look familiar? [St. Andrew's faculty member, Sandra Beardsall could provide assistance.] We use the Library of Congress indexing system, which is typical for most academic libraries. What is interesting for an academic library is that we end up with most of our collection housed



**St. Andrew's library holdings will be married with those of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and College of Emmanuel & St. Chad**

within a narrow call range band: BR = Christianity; BS = The Bible; BT = Doctrinal Theology; BV = Practical Theology; BX = Christian Denominations.

We must plan for the call ranges to make sense and to make sure that the combined size of the collections fits into the limited library space that is available. This involves extensive weeding or culling of the collections to allow for future growth. It also involves ensuring the book labels are legible, since all books must be moved and we believe at least 10 per cent of the collection has illegible labels.

One other practicality is that the STU libraries are not taking donations until at least the fall of 2020.

## Preparation

Marriages begin with a wedding and prior to that, the preparation for the celebration. By September 2020, the three collections will be available in the library at St. Andrew's. From the second week of May until no later than the end of August, the library will be in transition and will be a hub of activity as each of the 100,000-plus volumes in

the library moves to a new location. We are expecting more than 20 people to be involved in this move to complete the first stage of transition by bringing the volumes together. We are also seeking assistance with the second stage of inter-filing all the volumes to create a unified collection.

During the transition, some library services may not be available. The end result will be a truly amazing collection that will be more accessible to our patrons once the three collections are integrated. Other benefits include better collection management and less need for overlap so new resources can be targeted to address collection gaps and meet the curriculum and circulation needs of our patrons. We would encourage our patrons to use this time to make use of our online resources, which are truly amazing. We are able to provide individual assistance to assist in accessing these resources.

We look forward to providing more information on the celebration, the symbols and the invitations to join us in the recognition of the partnership. Let the festivity planning begin!

# Initiative aims to connect students with alums

St. Andrew's College is considering a volunteer initiative that would connect St. Andrew's alums with new students. The initiative, which would begin with the 2020-21 academic year, is a way to enhance relationships between current students and college alums. We hope you will consider whether this is of interest and reply.

## Overview

This program's intention is to allow students and alums to companion with one another in ways that are responsive to the needs of those involved. As such, this opportunity is not prescriptive. Rather, as new students begin their leadership journey with the College, they will be introduced to an alum companion. Some ways in which this mutual opportunity might evolve is through story sharing about their journey of faith, by exploring what Call means for both participants and by exploring and reflecting upon the realities of the similarities and differences of their experiences of living as a person of faith called into leadership.

St. Andrew's has developed a resource of alums who have agreed to be

a companion. As new students register, they will be asked if having an alum companion might be a useful relationship for them as they begin their time of leadership preparation. If so, the registrar will introduce the student to an alum who will journey with them. What that relationship looks like will depend on what the two companions discern is mutually helpful in the new relationship.

## Alum/Student Mentor Relationship

- To assist with identity formation for the student as it relates to both the practice and study of ministry, whether for those studying in the DLM, MDiv or admissions streams;

- To engage in mutual conversations about Call, vocation and theological issues that arise in the context of study/SME;

- To encourage intentional reflection, questions, analysis and the development of perspectives from the vantage of justice; and,

- To be attentive to the student's spiritual life and well being.

This initiative is meant to allow for a relationship to develop which will shape

this mutual opportunity. Suggestions about how this might be explored are:

- The use of video (i.e. Skype or Zoom) to meet on mutually determined basis, whether scheduled or as needed;
- Times of fellowship in which stories can be shared to further the relationship;
- Set phone calls;
- A pattern of regular visits that could be structured using various tools, such as from the Center for Courage and Renewal; and,
- Connecting with the student and faculty advisor to determine suggested strategies that might be helpful for the student's vocational development.

## Our Invitation

Is this initiative of interest to you? Have you wanted to better appreciate the changing theological landscape? Perhaps you are interested in finding ways to share your own experiences and stories in faith leadership?

If so, please let us know and we would be happy to discuss how you might become an alum companion. Contact Principal Richard Manley-Tannis at [richard.manley-tannis@usask.ca](mailto:richard.manley-tannis@usask.ca).

# Three chosen to receive Honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees

On the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee, the Academic Committee of St. Andrew's College has selected Rev. Allan Shaw of Nipawin, Sask., and Bonnie Morton and Peter Gilmer of Regina, Sask., to receive Doctors of Divinity *honoris causa* degrees at the College's spring convocation.

**Allan Shaw** grew up on a farm near Owen Sound, Ont. He completed a Bachelor of Arts degree prior to attending Emmanuel College in Toronto where he trained for ministry in The United Church of Canada. Allan was ordained by Toronto Conference on June 1, 1958, along with 21 others. He served in several Saskatchewan communities before moving to Alert Bay, B.C., where he flew into many forestry camps along the coast. In 1972, Allan accepted a call to Nipawin. He was very active in the community, including coaching the first girls' hockey team and serving as chaplain of the Legion.

As stated in his nomination, "Allan

was 'the church' for many. He believes that God is at work through people."

**Bonnie Morton and Peter Gilmer** are being jointly recognized for their community work both inside the church and out. It is in their work for the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry that they have most clearly demonstrated that they are deserving of an honorary degree.

Bonnie was raised on a farm outside Gananoque in eastern Ontario. She moved to Saskatoon where a relationship became abusive and she fled to Regina. Because of the kindness of a cab driver, a motel operator and a social worker — and a lot of hard work — she got back on her feet. Once she was able to extricate herself from poverty she started advocating for others and has never stopped.

Peter Gilmer grew up in Melfort, Sask., and received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from the University of Saskatchewan and a Master of Theological Studies from St. Andrew's College. For the past 23 years Peter has been a minis-

## Convocation date

St. Andrew's College Convocation will take place Friday, May 8, 2020, 7 p.m., at Knox United Church in Saskatoon

This will be the the 19th annual Saskatoon Theological Union, as we join with our partners the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad (Anglican) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

ter and advocate for the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry. Their work with the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry involves providing support for low-income individuals and families to ensure they are receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. They also frequently make presentations to politicians and other government representatives as well as providing educational workshops and producing education resources on anti-poverty issues.

# Student's call to ministry guided by DLM program

By James Martin-Carter

From a very early age, Grade 4 in fact, I always said I wanted to be a minister. From the first time I was brought to church in blue baby sleepers two months after my birth, I have missed very little in the way of church involvement.

From then on I was a church nerd: being the only child in Sunday evening worship services, drawing pictures of all of the ushers in the back pews, building towers out of hymn books. I have offered my talents in many ways to the church, mostly through music as a professional church musician for much of my adolescent and adult life.

Thanks to the church and the Designated Lay Ministry program at St. Andrew's College I have been able to respond to the call of ministry in a way that is accessible to my style of learning.

I am thankful for the rich guidance and instruction of Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the program team and the many resourceful and talented college faculty and resource people who have contributed to my learning.

I would be remiss to mention the role of supervised ministry education and those pastoral charges that have placed emphasis and passion behind the support and education of ministers. In my case it is the pastoral charges of Northern Arm and Trinity United, Botwood, Newfoundland. Have these appointments always been easy? No. Have they taught valuable life lessons? Absolutely.

In the tradition of our faith I have learned the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness and along with that I continue to be in awe of and contemplate the roles of grace and mercy.



**James Martin-Carter is a recent DLM program grad**

I am thankful to have been and to be able to serve both of these faith communities.

Upon graduating, I am excited to discern what's next in the way of formal education and look forward to continuing to serve Christ and the church in whatever ways God calls!

Again, I thank the church, the college and the DLM program team for their patience, grace, encouragement and mercy shown toward me during my time. God bless!

## Thiessen, Whitla welcomed to roles with St. Andrew's College

St. Andrew's College is excited to welcome two new members to our faculty and staff. Donna Thiessen has joined us in the position of Saskatoon Theological Union library director and Dr. Becca Whitla to the position of Professor of Pastoral Studies for a 10-month term.

Donna has been a librarian wannabe for as long as she can remember. Since achieving her master's degree from the University of Alabama in 2012, she has completed work terms at the Saskatoon Health Region library and at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.



**Thiessen**

She also worked for many years for the City of Saskatoon in non-library positions including: crime-free housing coordinator for the Saskatoon Police Service, communications coordinator for the Mendel Art Gallery, and as a design technologist for numerous departments. She reactivated her desire to be a librarian after embarking on a long-term project to create a digital library of building records for the city's facilities branch.

Becca comes with more than 20 years of experience animating liturgy and community singing in multiple contexts. In her teaching and scholarship she focuses on how congregational and community singing can embody a liberating praxis that nourishes and affirms fuller

expressions of complex cultural identities in liturgy. She celebrates and fosters diverse multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic communities.



**Whitla**

and community singing, liturgical and liberationist theologies, postcolonial and decolonial theories, and choral conducting.

# St. Andrew's College Principal's Tour

The Principal's Tour is one way in which St. Andrew's College continues to develop connections with faith communities and strengthen awareness of its programs through workshops that build resilience and capacity during these times of change.

This opportunity with principal Dea. Richard Manley-Tannis offers continuing education experiences to current lay and ordered leadership and serves as a model to invite reflection for those who may be considering a call to ministry.



## **Workshops**

Appreciative Inquiry: Exploring the Provocative and Social Media and Evangelism workshops are offered as part of this learning experience.

## **Legacy & Leadership**

An evening Q & A session and presentation explores the programs and opportunities for leadership that the College provides for both the church and community.

## **College Sunday**

A worship and giving opportunity that focuses theologically on Legacy and Leadership using the lived experience of the College.

We look forward to finding ways to build relationships together and, in so doing, find exciting means of sharing the Good News in these changing times.

If you or your faith community are interested in learning more about how

to bring the tour to your area, please contact:

Melanie Schwanbeck,  
College Secretary  
(877) 644-8970  
melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca

Learn more about St. Andrew's College at [standrews.ca](http://standrews.ca) or like us on Facebook at [StAndrewsUCCan](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsUCCan)



Be part of the  
**journey**

# Rigby guides evangelical freedom theme discussion

The theme of ReJUNEvation 2019 was Evangelical Freedom: Exploring the Meaning of a Reformation Theme in our Cultural Context, with speaker Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

People had mentioned beforehand that Cindy was a good speaker and she did not disappoint the 43 participants in our annual gathering held June 19-21. Despite some health issues, she spoke engagingly, often without notes, offering insightful interpretations and updates of the ideas of Karl Barth, John Calvin and others on evangelical freedom. She illustrated her themes with examples that varied from the kidnapping of young women in Africa to her own children playing at making a meal with a toy oven.

Evangelical freedom — the freedom that is ours in Christ to serve God, love others and celebrate life — is a tricky theme. Cindy handled it with virtuoso-like dexterity, distinguishing evangelical freedom from individualism and mere freedom of choice, showing how it applied to worship, and sketching out the kind of spirituality and practices it can give rise to. Cindy also participated in a panel discussion, chaired by Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg, of *The Theology of The United Church of Canada*.

ReJUNEvation also included workshops on the new polity of the United Church and grassroots efforts at recon-



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby was the theme speaker for ReJUNEvation 2019

ciliation between Indigenous peoples and settlers in Saskatoon. Evangelical freedom in the history of the United Church rounded out the event. As usual, Tannis Schmidt provided terrific music leadership. The closing chapel service was used as a farewell and release from covenant for HyeRan, who now teaches preaching at Emmanuel College.



## ReJUNEvation 2020 will reflect on ecumenical movement

By Sandra Beardsall

We are pleased to announce our upcoming ReJUNEvation conference that will take place at the college June 17-19, 2020. The theme, “Now it Springs Forth: Looking for Ecumenical Movement with Fresh Eyes,” invites us to reflect on some of the most interesting and promising new directions for the ecumenical movement as we head further into the 21st century.

Guiding us in this timely work will be the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, an academic and ordained minister who serves as the national Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in the Anglican Church of Canada. He staffs the Anglican/United Church dialogue and is a thoughtful and engaging speaker. As the partner of a parish minister and father to three small children, Scott knows



Sharman

ministry and ecumenical life from the ground up!

Scott will address the “sense of stall and stagnation and ‘ecumenical winter’ that came to dominate during the ’90s and ’00s.” He will offer a theological, methodological, and spiritual diagnosis as to why that might have happened and offer examples of things that seem to be leading to new life and impetus for a renewed ecumenical movement – an “ecumenical spring” – especially in the Canadian context. That includes the call to healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the urgency of interfaith dialogue, ecclesial demographic shifts and the growth of the Church in the global south, and the emergence of post-colonial forms of discipleship.

Of course, there will be great music and worship, a revived movie night, and terrific conversations over food and friendship. Come alone, or bring a colleague or friend – or two. ReJUNEvation is welcoming and inclusive. Watch the St. Andrew’s College website and Facebook page for online registration information, coming early in 2020.

# Faculty members build international connections

## Sandra Beardsall

Living into new United Church structures took on concrete form in the spring, and I was invited to be the theme speaker at the inaugural Northern Spirit Regional Gathering in Valleyview,



Alta. I spoke on “Journeying On: Living the Gospel Ecumenically.” The leadership of local and regional Indigenous elders and lively singing and worship grounded the gathering. It was also a wonderful reunion

with the many St. Andrew’s alums that serve in clergy and lay ministries across the region.

In June, I travelled to Nanjing, China, for the biennial meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Faith and Order Commission. Our host was the China Christian Council, formed in 1980 as a post-denominational umbrella organization for Protestant Christians. It now has 38 million members across mainland China. As well as getting a taste of life and faith in the world’s most populous nation, the commission worked to bring some of its work to fruition, including the publication of “Come and See: A Theological Invitation to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace,” the work of my study group. Suitable for congregational study, it can be downloaded from the WCC website.

In July, I had the honour of spending a weekend with Westminster United Church and St. Andrew’s Anglican Church in Humboldt as they discussed the history of Anglican/United Church relations and learned about ecumenical shared ministry congregations, culminating in a joint Anglican/United Church Sunday service.

September brought interfaith activity as I served on a panel discussing the role of religion in politics, in anticipation of the October federal election, and attended a conference in Montreal with the theme: “Ecumenical Outreach and Interfaith Dialogue in an Age of Uncertainty.” For more about all that, please consider joining us at St. Andrew’s for ReJUNEvation, June 17-19, 2020!

## Lynn Caldwell

Writing this midway through the fall term, my significant focus is weekly classroom teaching of the On Justice course and online teaching of Professional Ethics in Spiritual Care, both courses being offered in new formats this year.

I continue to serve on the advisory board of the Engaged Scholar Journal hosted through the University of Saskatchewan and am pleased to learn more about the work of the journal as a forum for interdisciplinary and community-engaged scholarship. The board, as well as contributors to the journal, represent research and teaching from across many subject areas and forms of involvement with communities and students. My role on the board as a relatively new member,



and new to journal advisory boards, has been quite minimal so far, but I look forward to continued and growing involvement in that work.

On a related note, I am currently participating in a project to explore the potential for a Saskatoon-based community of practice focused on community-campus engagement (CCE). This is an opportunity for me to learn more about CCE initiatives in Saskatoon and to share input in the development of a CCE community of practice for this region. The project is part of a study conducted by researchers in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan’s Community Relations and Engagement Office and Station 20 West. I look forward to this involvement in particular for my teaching of Integration Seminar, which focuses on students having field placement experiences in community agencies.

In January 2020, along with several others engaged in this work, I anticipate being involved with facilitating a webinar series on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), through the United in Learning program of The United Church of Canada. The dates have yet to be finalized, but this is an opportunity to bring online and to a wider audience, a

learning and discussion opportunity for people involved in pastoral leadership, regarding the United Church’s statement on MAID legislation in Canada and to share conversation about theological, pastoral, ethical, and liturgical resources and questions about MAID.

## Don Schweitzer

This spring I published “The Invention of Religion based on Revelation,” *Critical Theology* 1/3 (Spring 2019), 19-22. This is a review essay of Jan Assmann’s brilliant and fascinating study of the book of Exodus, entitled *The Invention of Religion: Faith and Covenant in the Book of Exodus* (Princeton University Press, 2018).

In June, I travelled to the Canadian Theological Society meeting in Vancouver where I presented a paper entitled “Gregory Baum’s Contribution to The Ecumenist.”

I also attended a panel discussion of the book *The Theology of The United Church of Canada*, which I edited with Rob Fennell and Michael Bourgeois. Later in June we had a successful ReJUNEvation with Cindy Rigby providing engaging discussions of the theme of evangelical freedom. We also had a book launch and panel discussion of *The Theology of The United Church of Canada* as part of ReJUNEvation.

During the first week of August I travelled to India and taught Th.M. students at Bishop’s College in Calcutta the section on Karl Barth that they are required to cover. They were a bright group of students from different parts of India and I got a lot out of discussing Barth’s theology with them. I also gave two lectures on Dalit theology and two lectures on Eco-Justice theologies. Several years ago Swarup Bar was one of the students in the Th.M. program at Bishop’s College that I taught. Now he is on faculty there, having completed his Ph. D. in England. We had discussions about how the Holy Spirit has been understood in Indian



Continued on Page 11

## Continued from Page 10

Christian theologies and shared with each other a couple of essays we have published on the Holy Spirit. I also met with some new faculty from Nagaland, renewed relationships with other faculty and students and visited the Brace Bridge slum with workers from the Cathedral Relief Service.

The second week was spent at Kerala United Theological (KUT) Seminary in Trivanandrum. David Joy, who used to teach New Testament at United Theological College in Bangalore, is now principal at KUT, and keen to formalize a relationship between St. Andrew's College and KUT. As part of this there were plans for Ninan Jacob, a lecturer in New Testament at KUT, to visit St. Andrew's in November.

I preached in the KUT chapel Sunday evening and then at a midweek service at Christ Church. I taught classes on contextual theology and participated in a colloquium celebrating the 60th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to KUT. I presented a paper at this entitled "Dalit Theology and Evangelical Freedom." I also participated in the Independence Day ceremony, met with various faculty and met Sunil Kumar and his family. Sunil had been accepted into the Masters of Theology program offered through the Saskatoon Theological Union. This replaces the former Masters of Sacred Theology (STM) program. Sunil and family have since arrived in Saskatoon and he has begun his studies.

## Becca Whitla

It is my pleasure to write in Contact as a way to share a little bit about who I am and the work I do. I was delighted to join the St. Andrew's community last August for a 10-month term as the professor of pastoral studies. I have found St. Andrew's (and Saskatoon) to be warmly welcoming. Thank you! I am very much enjoying my time with you.



Since arriving I've dived into my responsibilities teaching worship and coordinating chapel and I look forward to teaching preaching and Christian

education next term, as well as teaching in the Designated Lay Ministry program. I've also enjoyed getting to know about how St. Andrew's works through my involvement with students, faculty, and staff in planning various events and activities for the college, as well as working on some new initiatives.

On the academic side, I recently had an article published in *Interventions*, which is the world's leading journal on postcolonial theology, entitled "Poison or Cure? Reading Christianity/ies as Postcoloniality's 'Other.'" I look forward to another article coming out in late November in the journal *Horizontes Decoloniales*, called: "(An)Other Canada is Possible: Rethinking Canada's Colonial Legacy" which I co-authored with Néstor Medina. As well, the two of us, along with a third colleague, Ary Fernández-Albán, have been commissioned to write a critical engagement with the discipline of Practical Theology from decolonial and liberationist perspectives for the *International Journal of Practical Theology*. In the near future, I'll also be working on a chapter I've been asked to write for a book edited by Stephen Burns and Bryan Cones called *According to All—Catholicity in Postcolonial Perspectives*.

My broader research agenda is focused on liberating liturgies—liturgies that need liberating and those which are liberating—with a special emphasis on congregational singing. I draw appreciatively on a number of streams of scholarship for this work, including postcolonial theory, Latin American decolonial thinking, and liberation theologies, as well as liturgical theology and church music. That research, along with my commitment to being a practitioner as a liturgist, has led to other research projects which are ongoing and include the role of territorial acknowledgements in worship services and interfaith worship, among other things. I'll be traveling to the American Academy of Religion in San Diego to present some of this work.

I continue to enjoy my work as the secretary for the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada and am excited to report that the Hymn Society will send two workshop leaders to teach about congregational song leading to Saskatoon on March 20. We'll be hosting the event at St. Andrew's and others will be welcome to attend. Stay tuned for further details!

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The St. Andrew's College academic committee met Oct. 17-18. Committee members are: (Back) Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Donna Thiessen, Shane Goldie, Doug Neufeld, Greg Torwalt; (Middle) Don Schweitzer, Sandra Beardsall, Kathleen James-Cavan, Becca Whitla, Aurora Coulthard, Michael Webster; (Front) Darrell Reine, Richard Manley-Tannis, Lynn Caldwell.

## Friends We Shall Miss

**Bernadeen (Bunny) Wiebe**, late of Weyburn, SK, passed away on May 15, 2019. Bunny was active in the church and, alongside her husband Vic, a good supporter of the College.

**William (Bill) Hickerson**, late of Winnipeg, MB, passed away on September 13, 2019. Bill was a minister in the United Church and served pastoral charges in Manitoba and Ontario. He also served as executive secretary for the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conference from 1976 to 1985. Bill was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Andrew's College in 1987 in recognition of his many years of service on the board.

**William "Bill" Gilmer**, late of Saskatoon, SK, passed away on September 16, 2019. Bill graduated from St. Andrew's College in 1951 and was ordained in The United Church of Canada the same year. He served until 1995, meeting a significant percentage of the population of Saskatchewan.

**Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour**, late of Edmonton, AB, passed away on May 25, 2019. Margaret-Ann was a member of the Board of Trustees of the amalgamated St. Andrew's & St. Stephen's College.



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For a full list of current planned offerings for the 2019-20 academic year, visit [www.StAndrews.ca](http://www.StAndrews.ca)

## ON-SITE INTENSIVE COURSES

### **BE 368: Gospel of Matthew Jan. 6-10, 2020 (A. Wright)**

This 3 credit course is a study of the life and times of Jesus as described in the Gospel of Matthew. Students will carefully read Matthew's Gospel and gain an appreciation for how the Gospel was crafted in light of its Jewish and Graeco-Roman context. The student will also be asked to consider a number of Jesus' teachings in light of contemporary culture and learning new ways of incorporating the content of the Gospel into ministry and culture. *Prerequisites: Intro to Christian Scriptures course, or permission of the instructor.*

### **HA/SA 382: Learning Circle II: United Church History, Theology and Polity March 16-24, 2020 (D. Schweitzer)**

This 4 credit course explores the history, theology and ethos of the United Church through an overview of where the United Church has been and how it has got to where it is now. Students will gain an enriched understanding of how the United Church was formed, the journey it has traveled to the present, how it is organized and how it polity functions. *Prerequisites: HA/HL 1111/12, SA113, their equivalents or permission of the instructor. This course can be audited (half cost).*

### **HA 391: Sharing Life Ecumenically: Learning Each Other's Faith Practices June 15-19, 2020 (S. Beardsall)**

Graduate level 3-credit course in conjunction with ReJUNEvation 2020. Course descriptions & details in development. *Prerequisites: An introductory course in Christian History or instructor's permission. A limited number of spaces will be available for those wishing to audit the course (half cost).*



To register, or for more course information, contact

St. Andrew's College Registrar  
Greg Torwalt 306-966-5244  
[standrews.registrar@usask.ca](mailto:standrews.registrar@usask.ca)

## ONLINE COURSES

### **BA 110: Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures Jan. – April 2020 (C. Mitchell)**

This 3 credit course is a study of the whole Jewish Bible from the perspective of its formation as a canon of scripture in postexilic Judaism.

### **SA 214 online: Christology Jan. – April 2020 (D. Schweitzer)**

Beginning from the historical Jesus and drawing on contemporary critical Christologies, this course follows the development of faith in Jesus as the Christ and examines different ways of understanding his saving significance in different contexts. The goal is to equip students to develop and articulate their own Christology in a way that is authentic to the Christian tradition, their own experience, the experiences of others with whom they are in dialogue and the needs of communities to which the students belong. 3 credit course. *Prerequisite: Intro to Christian Theology, or permission of the instructor*

### **PA 160: Introduction to Christian Education Jan. – April 2020 (B. Whitla)**

This 3 credit course introduces students to the basics of Christian education from a number of vantage points: concepts, purposes, contexts, subjects, and process, as well as methods. It aims to strengthen the understanding of Christian faith as a journey of life-long learning influenced by differences in age, faith development, and culture, among other things. The course draws on a variety of approaches and techniques to reflect upon, analyze and address the implications of teaching and learning in different educational ministry settings. Students are encouraged to envision future directions of the teaching ministry in congregational settings along with their pastoral vocation as teacher.

# Book examines topic of Jesus' divine, human nature

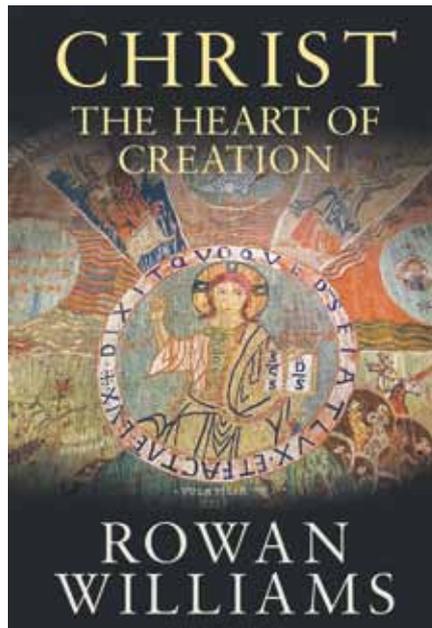
*Christ The Heart of Creation*  
By Rowan Williams  
Bloomsbury Continuum, 2018

By Don Schweitzer,  
McDougald Professor of Theology

Rowan Williams is Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, and a prolific and well-respected contemporary theologian. In this elegantly written book he seeks to clarify how the Chalcedonian Definition's affirmations that Jesus was fully human and fully divine can be coherently understood and why this is important.

Trying to understand this has never been a major concern of the United Church's official statements on Christology and it is probably not a central topic of conversation for many United Church members. Still, the ecumenical church has a long tradition of reflection on this topic and it does address a question that sooner or later arises for many people.

Theology is often born of wonder and once people recognize how the Chalcedonian affirmations came to be and what their significance is, they frequently begin to speculate: How could Jesus be both fully divine and fully human, the two natures united in his one person? Nature abhors a vacuum, and so where



there is no understanding of this, something is bound to develop. Furthermore, there are ethical implications to how the unity of divine and human natures in Jesus' person took place. *A Song of Faith* contains a mix of Word and Spirit Christologies, two different ways of understanding this.

Williams' thesis is that central to a coherent understanding of Chalcedon's affirmations is realizing that finite human nature and the infinite divine being exist on ontologically different levels.

Because they are qualitatively different kinds of being there is no incompatibility, competition, or conflict between them. The union of the two happens through Jesus' finite human nature being informed and defined by the infinite divine agency of the Word. As there is no incompatibility between them this involves no disruption of Jesus' human nature.

For Williams this clarifies how God relates to finite creation as a whole and leads to an ethic of being there for others. He argues this by tracing how Jesus is typically understood in the New Testament, the issues that gave rise to the Council of Chalcedon, the meaning of the Chalcedonian Definition, and how subsequent early church, medieval, Reformation and modern theologians have sought to understand Jesus' person.

Along the way he offers extended discussions of John Calvin and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's understanding of this. What Bonhoeffer adds is the ethical orientation that his Christology anchors: the refusal of a posture defending one's self and an accompanying readiness to stand in the other's place for their benefit.

This conceptually dense book is not an easy read, yet it is thought provoking. For those that enjoy this kind of theology, I recommend it highly.

## Many upgrades, maintenance projects for college building

By Carolina Castro  
Building Manager

Our renovations/upgrading to the building for 2019 are in progress.

Antonio Rossi, the college's building maintenance staff member, was able to renovate two more residence rooms during the summer and is working on upgrades to washrooms located on the third floor of the new wing. He also renovated classroom 322 in preparation for the anticipated media system. One floor in the library was also painted; just four floors to go.

We have started the process of replacing offices and classrooms with LED lighting as part of the greening of the college. I will budget for a few offices every year. Forty-five windows were re-

placed this year — all the offices in the main floor, including the front entrance, hallways and the library reading room.

We are starting to restore the walls and floor in the tunnels due to water seepage during the spring and when it rains. The work, which consists of a neutralized wash and the patching of the walls and floor with concrete and a waterproofing compound, will continue over the next few years.

The yearly maintenance was done to the attic fans. The attic walkway was rebuilt, as there was only one floor board in good condition, making it unsafe for workers to get the fans on the roof.

On the electrical side of things, the fire panel monitoring system was upgraded with new equipment. All of the electrical was updated in the residence kitchen.

Plumbing such as shut-off valves, taps and flushometers are replaced as needed. The boilers are running smoothly after some yearly maintenance was done and leaky radiators in of all the residence rooms were repaired with new valves.

New chairs were purchased for the library reading room and classroom 326.

I would like to commend my three-person team for their contributions to the college. Custodians Silvia Barba Mojica and Jose Carcamo continue to do their best to keep the entire building clean. Antonio does many repair requests in between his set projects. We are also appreciate of our seasonal contractors, such as Jake Buhler working on the grounds and Terry and Craig who work on our heating and related mechanical projects.

## Contact

This publication is free of charge. To add your name to the mailing list or to receive Contact by email contact [melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca)

Contact is also available for reading and download at [www.standrews.ca](http://www.standrews.ca).

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## Feast of St. Andrew

The Feast of Saint Andrew was celebrated on Nov. 5 with a chapel service, a light lunch including haggis, and dancing provided by the Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers. While Saint Andrew's Day is normally celebrated on Nov. 30, the college community moved up the celebration to allow the Designated Lay Ministry learning circle to be included.



## Dinner plans in the works

The college's annual Regina fundraising dinner will be held May 26, 2020. The theme and music leadership will be provided by Dea Richard Manley-Tannis and Tannis Schmidt.

Details for the Saskatoon dinner are being finalized and more information will be available soon.

## Alum update

**Jim Pulfer** (MTS '06) has just been appointed to a six-year term as a Commissioner for The United Church of Canada's Living Skies Regional Council's Property Commission.