

A&P Church School

Nine Are Confirmed and Join the Church

On Sunday, March 30, nine students from our Church School Senior Class were confirmed at a very moving ceremony during the church service. How heartwarming it was to witness so many young people embracing their spirituality and deciding to join the church. A series of confirmation classes were led by Todd Nelson, our Student Minister. He chose a wonderful curriculum published by Sparkhouse that was educational, thought-provoking and really spoke to the age group participating. Todd will be graduating shortly and leaving us to lead his own congregation and we wish him, his wife, Rebekah, and their son, Micah, a blessed life ahead as they begin a new and exciting journey of faith. They are also expecting a second child in July so they will most definitely be very busy!

Our entire Senior class participated in Confirmation Sunday – two of the young people being confirmed read the lessons, some of the Senior class ushered and others helped serve our the lunch.

The buffet lunch hosted by the Church School was attended by over 100 people in

spite of Mother Nature! It was a great time of fellowship and an opportunity for everyone to meet the new Confirmands.

On Palm Sunday, the Church School children and teachers joined in the procession waving their palms. They sang two songs during the service, which our Assistant Conductor Andrew Gray had taught them. We are so very fortunate to have Andy giving his time to the Church School; he also taught another special song for the children to sing in church on Mothers Day.

Once again the Church School hosted the annual Cabane à Sucre on Sunday, April 27. We had a great turnout – 82 headed off to the Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud. What fun it was to watch our youngest members dance to the music, run around outside checking on the buckets hanging from the trees and, of course, enjoying the horse drawn wagon ride.

On Mothers Day, we had our Annual Mothers Day Breakfast in Kildonan Hall. The talented Church School children provided the entertainment, which is always a highlight!

Events Coming Up:

Church School Celebration and Honouring Fathers takes place on June 8. After the service, lunch is being hosted by the Church School in the Quiet Garden, weather permitting; otherwise in Kildonan Hall.

Church School continues over the summer months as an open class for children ages 5 through 12. Our supervised Crèche and Nursery also remain open for babies and children up to age 4.

Our Church School is growing, particularly in the Crèche and Nursery classes and I invite you to join our team. You can volunteer as little as once every two months, or every third Sunday of the month. Whatever time you may have to give, it would be greatly appreciated and I can assure you it will be an experience you will thoroughly enjoy!

Please contact me at 450-689-4379 or email grammy.shani@sympatico.ca if you have any questions about our programs or would like to join our team.

Sharon Dworzak, Church School Co-ordinator

A&P Youth Group

Always Caring and Lending Hands

The Youth Group once again was asked to help out with the reception on Heritage Sunday and we have received wonderful compliments about how co-operative and helpful our young people were. This comes as no surprise to us as we have learned through our involvement with these young people, they are very caring and always willing to lend a helping hand.

The A&P Youth Group Team did a great job raising sponsors for the The Coldest Night of the Year 5-km Walk that took place February 22. The Walk, organized by the St. James Drop-in Centre, was in aid of those living in poverty in and around the Montreal area. We had 12 members participating on our team and we were joined by some of the parents and young Nico Cristofaro, who completed the entire 5 km like a trooper, although only 7-years-old! We were very fortunate to have a lovely mild evening and raised close to \$1,700.

In April, we were invited by the Youth Group from St. Columba by the Lake, Pointe Claire, to join them for Laser Tag and a pizza supper at Laser Quest. It was a fun evening for those attending, and we look forward to more get-togethers with our friends from St. Columba.

The Youth Group did a wonderful job preparing and leading the Easter Morning Sunrise Service. They led the prayers, readings, music and dramatization of the Easter Story. Special thanks to Jeff and Todd as well as Andrew and Mark, who helped our young people along in the preparations for this very special service. This is the highlight of

our Easter and find it to be a beautiful way to begin our Easter morning. It is a service not to be missed and we invite you to join us early Easter morning in 2015. If teens can get to the church by 7:45 a.m., so can we adults!

After the Service a delicious Pancake Breakfast was prepared by Iain Lamont, who devotes so much time and energy to our Church School and Youth Group. God bless you, Iain!

Shortly, the Youth Group will be seeking out sponsors for the Canadian Cancer Relay for Life, which takes place on June 6-7. This is the fourth year that our young people have participated in the Relay and they are looking forward to welcoming some of our new Youth Group members to join them for the first time this year.

Toward the end of June, the Youth Group is planning another Retreat and are hoping to centre it around helping in the restoration of a church in Ontario – stay tuned!

Finally, many of our Youth Group members will be preparing for and working at the Church School Vacation Bible School which is scheduled for the last week of July and the first week of August. If you know of any children from ages 5 – 12 who would like to attend VBS this year (either one week or two) please call 450-689-4379 or email grammy.shani@sympatico.ca

We welcome all young people in Grades 6 through 11 who might like to join this energetic and fun group – please contact us at the above mentioned phone number or email address.

*Art and Sharon Dworzak
Youth Group Leaders*