



## Soup's On At St. George's

The last Tuesday of every month from October to April, (excluding December), is Soup Day at St. George's Church in Grafton. It provides the opportunity for members within our community, or in reality anyone, to join us for the opportunity to socialize together once per month and enjoy a great lunch that is prepared by volunteer members of the church. The lunch usually includes a variety of five or more home-made soups, chili, plus buns or crackers, juices, tea and coffee and a dessert of some type of sweet, etc. There is no charge for anyone to participate. A donation box, however, was provided at the request of many of the participants who mentioned that they would like to continue coming but wished to make a donation.

How did this all come about? Outreach is forefront in the life of most churches. Outreach is defined as reaching out to others, or becoming involved in a community or effort. In St. George's we had many brainstorming meetings regarding who, what and how could we best help the less fortunate within our community. One of the many ideas that came up was, that maybe we could invite the less fortunate for a free lunch. There it was, a free lunch. Let's try it. The decision was to hold a Soup Day, our first one, on the last Tuesday of October 2009. We advertised it to the community, and to our surprise, this first one and the one that followed in November 2009 were poorly attended. Since then it quickly grew to become a social event available to everyone in our community. It has become a place for community members to gather, visit and socialize together, as well as enjoy a wonderful home-made meal together. Here we are in 2019, 10 years since beginning Soup Day and now serve somewhere in the vicinity of 40 or so persons each Soup Day.

As Soup Day progressed through the years, people attended and enjoyed the many different kinds of home-made soups and chili. They began asking for the recipe for their favorites. As this continued, it sparked the idea that a cook book might be a valuable project to undertake. Thus in 2012 was born a cook book called "Soup Day Winners" that included a recipe collection of 16 favourite soups and 4 sweets from the 2009 to 2011 Soup Days. Then again in 2013, interest and sales prompted a follow-up recipe book, "More Soup Day Winners" that included recipes for an additional 5 soups and 5 sweets. These recipes could either be added to the prior cook book or kept separately. Total sales so far have exceeded 100 through sales at our church's Monthly Coffee Sundays, as well as at other events. Interest in these cook books continues to exist with many repeat customers looking for Christmas or other special occasion gifts for family members and friends. It is a fun activity and rewarding spin-off from our successful Soup Days. The proceeds from these books are returned to subsidize our ongoing Soup Days.

We are still collecting new recipes for the "New Winners" that show up as we continue to serve different soups and sweets. Who Knows, maybe another cook book may be coming.



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Hopefully, we will continue to host Soup Day at St. Georges for many more years, and we look forward to meeting you there.

Ann Raymond – and - Julie Davis