



A community loving God by loving our neighbours.

At St. Andrew's, Brampton, we: learn together to know God's love through worship and study; put our faith into action by loving and caring for each other; use God's gifts to go forth to bring others to Christ.

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**Happy 70th
Wedding Anniversary**



Muriel & Wally Gemmill

(See page 5)

"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

- Matthew 9:35-36



**Walking and praying
with the Moderator
in support of
Presbyterian churches
in Brampton**



On Sunday, July 19, sixteen members (and two dogs) from the three Presbyterian churches in Brampton walked as a group around Chinguacousy Park, in support of the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Another team of five members of North Bramalea Presbyterian walked from their church to Chinguacousy Park, around the park and back to their church. Two other members of St. Andrew's joined the group "virtually" by walking along a trail near their cottage in Quebec. Rev. Geoff Ross was on vacation in cottage country, so he swam 1.6 km in spirit with the St. Andrew's group!

July 19 was the day that Moderator Amanda Curie was walking and praying for the Brampton churches – St. Andrew's, St. Paul's and North Bramalea. The group walk was a wonderful experience and a demonstration of our Christian unity.



Molly & Mike Harvey walking beside the St. Lawrence River





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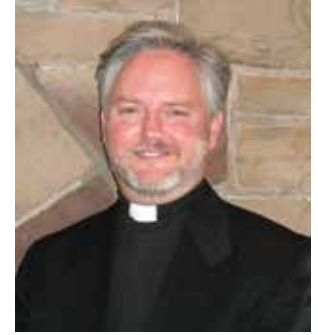
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Geoff's Journal



*“Jesus went about
all the cities and
villages....”*

As I write this, I am reflecting on a ‘meeting’ that I took part in last evening with Councillor Santos, Councillor Valente, Police Superintendent Gormley; and with members of St. Andrew’s Session – which was held to discuss the ongoing challenges of downtown, urban living – and of being a Church in the midst of a city. It was a very thought-provoking meeting.

It’s no secret that our Church is located in one of Brampton’s crisis zones. Drugs, prostitution, and homelessness – not to mention a myriad of mental health issues and the societal challenges of poverty – are right on our front steps. “It didn’t use to be like this”, people say; but, even then, when St. Andrew’s was built as a downtown Church they had other issues in their day. It was the same for the 1st Century cities of Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth, Rome.

But God in Jesus – and then Paul, as well as other Apostles – didn’t turn away from the issues of their day instead, they went into the cities and met those needs; they reached out to those whom God repeatedly calls us to love as ourselves. In Deuteronomy, God establishes this as a law saying; *“If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns ... do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly ... to meet the need, whatever it may be. ... Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”* (Deut 15:7-11 Selected verses)

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Geoff's Journal continued

Let me repeat: Jesus went into the cities because He had a heart for cities – and for the people who lived in them who needed to hear His message of hope and salvation. He did this – as did Paul – because only the Gospel can answer the very real needs of the cities. The first Church was planted in a city – Jerusalem – and, as it spread to other cities, it transformed lives, families, communities – cities. Then – and now – only God's redemptive plan for the world, included the needs of the city – including Brampton.

As we heard this summer, Jesus went to where the needs of the world were; He left His followers to continue this mission by commissioning them to be the Body of Christ to the world – by being His body in the city. I believe that God's plan for St. Andrew's has not changed: we were planted here to be Christ to and for our neighbours – no matter who they are or what their needs might be. To be the Body of Christ means that we must also be Jesus' heart. After our meeting, I came away more convinced than ever that, rather than turn a blind eye to the needs of our neighbours and city, and avoid, God is calling us *"to meet the need, whatever it may be."* Let us open our hands and reveal His heart in the heart of our city.



INSIDE ST. ANDREW'S

PUBLISHED MONTHLY (except August) to inform our church community about activities within this congregation and the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and to provide inspiration to our readers.

Submissions can be made by email to newsletter@standrewsbrampton.ca, left in the office, or given to a newsletter committee member.

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Felicity Alexander, Bonnie Bunkis, Kennedy Jackson, Wayne Tedder,
June Young

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Shelagh Tyreman, Gord Warren, Colin Young

**Deadline for submissions for the October issue is
September 23, 2020**

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News from the Pews



This month we are recognizing three wonderful couples who recently celebrated special anniversaries.

First of all, we pay tribute to the couple on the cover of this month's newsletter – Wally and Muriel Gemmill. We don't often have the opportunity to recognize 70th wedding anniversaries, so we had a special card made for them. Thanks to Kennedy Jackson who created this unique card, with the inscription below on the inside. The Gemmills were married on September 2, 1950.



Congratulations also go to Verna & Cec Kester who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 9 with a boat cruise through the 30,000 islands of Georgian Bay to Henry's Fish Restaurant on Frying Pan Island for an anniversary dinner.



Jack and Jo-ann Urquhart celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 18, 2020.

The original plan was for their whole family to travel to England in early July to visit their former next door neighbours, Jenny and Urmil Laxman who celebrated their 40th anniversary on June 23, 2020. However, due to COVID-19, plans to be in Basingstoke, U.K. were postponed. Instead, Jack and Jo-ann had an early celebration with an outdoor lunch with two of Jo-ann's sisters and two close friends near London, Ontario on Saturday, July 4. A piper entertained with music at this special lunch.



Piper Steve Turner visited Jack and Jo-ann at 4 pm on July 18 in their backyard and played several Scottish songs for a small group of friends and family to enjoy. The day concluded with a family dinner at their house.

Jack and Jo-ann thank the church for their anniversary card and well wishes. They are certainly missing being at the church on Sundays. They were overwhelmed with floral deliveries and balloons which made the day quite exciting as the family looked at wedding pictures and reminisced. Jack and Jo-ann were married in London, Ontario.

Thanks to Christine Chatoor who made masks in celebration of "Canada Day" and gave them to Rev. Geoff, for distribution to those who needed them.

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News from the Pews (continued from page 5)

Geraldine Watt is proud to announce the birth of her great-grandson Jack Gordon Wilson on July 13 in Orangeville. The new baby is a cousin for Geri's great-granddaughter Hazel.



Thanks to Paul Willoughby who has faithfully tended the church flower garden and the Food Bank vegetable garden over the summer.

Paul reports that on Wednesday mornings over the summer he has been able to supply the combined St. Andrew's/Regeneration

Food Bank with three varieties of lettuce, swiss chard, green and yellow beans, and in late August and early September with squash, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce and radish.

In the fall of 2019 the international student, Ekene Olatunji who is staying with Gord and Valerie Warren, was enrolled in a fellowship in Washington, DC. The other people in the fellowship decided to take a trip to Niagara Falls as most of them were new to North America and had never seen it. Ekene was asked to go with the group but felt with the workload she had and tight finances, she couldn't afford to go. She enjoyed the stories and pictures that were brought back but was still disappointed.

In August this year Valerie and Gord were planning a trip to the Niagara area to get peaches and decided to extend it to Niagara Falls and take Ekene.



There is no substitute for the joy and wonder the first time someone sees the power of the falls and they all certainly enjoyed the attractions that were open.



Congratulations to Jack Urquhart who celebrated his 80th birthday on August 18 with a family get-together for dinner which included haggis and birthday cake. Having haggis as one of the dinner features was to honour Jack's links to Scotland.

On July 23, Rev. Geoff Ross officiated at the funeral of Helen Graham. She was 96 years old.

Helen was born in England and met her husband Charlie who was a Canadian soldier serving there during WWII. Helen also served in the RAF in the 'balloon squad' and released large rubber balloons to foul bombing aircraft engines over London, and she was credited with bringing down at least one enemy plane whose pilot immediately surrendered. So Helen will be remembered as a War Bride and a War Hero, as well as a faithful member of St. Andrew's for forty years.

At her graveside funeral service Helen was honored by the Canadian Legion by being piped in with bagpipes playing Amazing Grace, and then a trumpeter playing the Last Post at the conclusion of the service.



Helen is predeceased by her husband Charles (1994) and her son John (1980). She is survived by her daughter-in-law Ellen who was her primary caregiver for the past few years.



St. Andrew's-Pringle Women's Missionary Society

SEPTEMBER 2020

I pray that this newsletter finds all our WMS members well and staying safe during this crazy time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We find ourselves watching and praying as the different levels of government bring us all into a 'new' normal as safely as possible.

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform our members that our return to regular meetings is yet to be determined. The Session of St. Andrew's, through lots of discussion and prayer, made the decision to tentatively schedule the reopening date for St. Andrew's worship services only, as Sunday, October 18, 2020.

The WMS Council met on June 25, 2020 via Zoom, with 34 WMS members from across Canada, staff members (Alexis McKeown, Colleen Wood, Sarah Kim & Ian Ross-McDonald) and one guest (the Moderator of General Assembly – the Rev. Amanda Currie) who gathered to discuss matters of the national WMS.

A presentation was made to Colleen Wood as her time with the WMS has come to an end as she moves on to a new chapter – going back to school. We also said goodbye to Janet Brewer as her term as President of the National WMS came to an end and Cathy Reid has taken over the reins.

The WMS Council agreed on the projects for Together We Can 2020-2022. One project will be MIBE – Graduate School of Nursing (a new roof) in Indore, India; and the second project will be ARM – Action Refugee Montreal. More information will be forwarded to the WMS groups.

Not long after the meeting, news was received that Montreal's Regional Gathering in March of 2021 has been postponed, no date has yet been scheduled. The good news that was received is that there are plans for a Women's National Gathering for May 2022, which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond Hill.

As I was writing this article for September newsletter, I came across a bible verse that spoke to me, and I hope that it speaks to you as well. The verse is from Isaiah 41:10,13 – “Don't panic I am with You. There is no need to fear, I will give you strength. I will help you. I, your God have a firm grip on you and I am not letting go.”

If any of our members are interested in doing an email chain, please send an email to me – Kim Shepherd at (kimbers1269@gmail.com). Other suggestions are most welcome to help us stay connected as women of faith and until we can come together physically.

I close with the Mizpah Benediction:
“May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent, one from another.”

Kim Shepherd
President, St. Andrew's-Pringle WMS



We are hoping to re-open the church on October 18, 2020 for Sunday Worship only. The Christian Education Committee has decided that as “social distancing” is difficult in the classrooms there will be no Sunday School for the rest of 2020. Children will be welcome to attend morning worship, and we will have an activity bag for each child. Kim Shepherd is busy looking for family activities to do online that we will share with you.

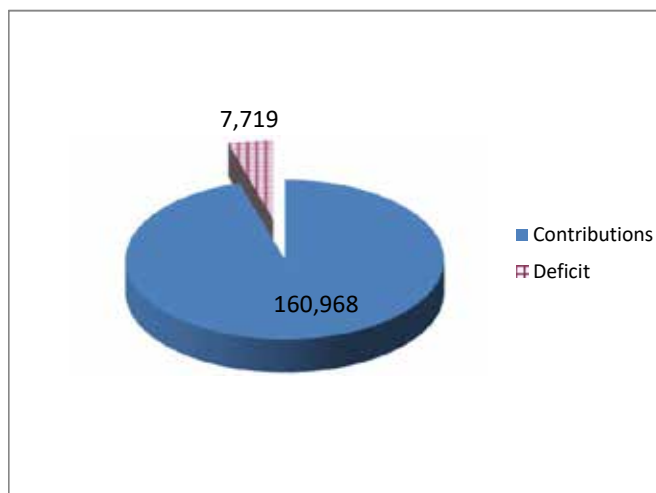
You can also find the daily devotional ***Our Daily Bread for Kids*** on Facebook by going to the church's website – www.standrewsbrampton.ca then click on the Facebook icon in the “FOLLOW US!” social media section. This will take you to the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Brampton) Facebook page. You will find ***Our Daily Bread for Kids*** posted at the top of the page. This is updated daily.

Jean Bradshaw,
Chair, Christian Education Committee

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of August 25, 2020



Currently offerings from January 1 to August 25 are down 15% from the same period last year and with the building closed we are not receiving any rent payments. The lead minister stipend, the S/E Asian Pastor salary and utilities are the main expenses that are ongoing. Food Bank donations are 18.6% higher than last year.

You can contribute by credit card through our website, mail a cheque, do an Interac e-Transfer or go on Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).

To process an Interac e-Transfer: Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, enter the amount you wish to donate and in the message area indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed i.e. amount for general funds, Presbyterians' Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank. If you do not specify anything your donation will go entirely to the general operating fund, **this cannot be changed later**. It is also vital that you use the email treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca

When we think of stewardship we start with the point that everything - even the air that we breathe - is not ours, it's given to us

May the peace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour be with you.

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

August 25, 2020

	<u>Jan 1 - Aug 25/20</u>	<u>Jan 1 - Aug 25/19</u>
Contributions		
Offerings	146,660.88	172,672.60
Other Revenue	14,307.25	23,683.62
Total Contributions	160,968.13	196,356.22
Expense		
Education	1,755.78	2,049.80
Mission	978.62	1,657.72
Property	39,048.97	42,405.68
Session	177.20	-
Stewardship	107,582.29	161,249.51
Worship	3,706.75	8,635.15
Total Expense	153,249.61	215,997.86
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	7,718.52	(19,641.64)
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	13,311.78	16,745.28
PWS&D donations*	3,188.28	4,851.63
Food Bank donations*	34,632.38	29,213.35

* NOTE: Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank are not included in the comparative statement.



BIRTHDAYS



September

- 1 Isabel Kennedy, Heather Prechner, Sandeep Masih
- 2 Alyssa Decicco
- 4 Darren Ramoutar
- 5 Yasmeen Abbas, Yarousha Iftikhar, Liam Nicol, Alverna Peacock
- 6 Anne Russell
- 7 Sonita Adil, Derek Allen
- 8 Kent Armstrong, Steve Bagoly
- 10 Carissa Batasar
- 11 Molly Harvey, Roger Samuel
- 12 Adam Collins, Timothy Crawford, Joshoor Khokhar, Bryonna Perart-Rollocks, Kevin Wattier
- 14 Anthony Laird, Kaelen Lennie, David Wood
- 15 Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Rebekah Mitchell
- 17 Cathy Hylands, Joyce Miller
- 18 Muriel Gemmill, Graham Meadows
- 19 Donalda Dale, Zahid Emanuel, Steven Mock
- 20 Meghan Draper, Jasmine Singh, Jason Sooklall
- 21 William White
- 22 Kimberly Good, Wayne Jhingoorie, Romeela Maryam
- 23 David Dean Jr., Bob Geddes, Grace Gowland, Imran Babar Masih
- 24 Alison Allen
- 25 Patricia Portuondo
- 26 Mason Juniper, William Snieder
- 27 Carmen McCreary, Emily Rodine, Liam Rodine, Kristin Vanderberg
- 28 Aman Manual
- 29 Cindy Hill
- 30 Mary Louise Duncan, Michael Wattier



October

- 1 Celine Batasar, Kajah Boodhan, Uzbek John
- 2 Jason Portuondo
- 3 Kathryn Linton, Carlene Rollocks
- 4 Angeline Al Hakim, Sherry-Ann Boodhan, Lyn Malek, Jessica Rhind



Verna & Cec Kester (60 years) – July 9
 Jo-ann & Jack Urquhart (50 years) – July 18
 Muriel & Wally Gemmill (70 years) – Sept. 2
 Maggie & Mark Nicol (25 years) – Sept. 30

Condolences

To the families and friends of:
 Evelyn Green
 Helen Gardiner
 Helen (Jean) Graham



to:

Margaret Penrice *on her brother Tom Gowens' death in Scotland*
 Doug Warwick and family *on the death of his sister-in-law Alison*
 Richard McMechan and family. *Richard's mother Maureen passed away on July 28*
 May Jackson and family. *May's father Ted Maltby, died on August 5*
 Rajeev Wijesinghe *on the death of his great-aunt Sylvia*

Good friends are like computers,
 They "ENTER" your life,
 "SAVE" you in their heart,
 "FORMAT" your problems,
 "SHIFT" you to opportunities,
 And, best of all, will never
 Press the key marked "DELETE."

From the daily devotional **2013 Friendship Book**

Hour of Corporate Prayer

by Ray Scanlan

What is “corporate prayer,” and why is this important at St Andrew’s?

Turn on the TV and watch one or two of the news channels and you will be bombarded with a plethora of situations around the world that we simply cannot tackle or try to solve on our own. As I write these words here are but a few issues where we need God’s intervention:

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage around the world as 22 million people globally have been infected and 770,000 people have died
- The USA leads the world in positive cases and the Canada/US border has been closed to everything but essential services for months
- Sadly, the majority of deaths have been among our vulnerable seniors
- Countries are conflicted as to if and how to open up schools and businesses
- Millions of people are now unemployed and facing threats of homelessness
- Thousands of people in Lebanon are still homeless after the recent devastating explosion in Beirut
- Forest fires are raging once again, this time in California, leaving many dead and thousands homeless
- The USA has made a sudden decision to impose a 10% tariff on Canadian aluminum, precipitating a trade war with Canada
- The Kurds are now being attacked from both the north and the south
- Russia is now moving into Syria amid this confusion and is now a major threat in the Middle East
- In Canada we have a new Federal government scandal, and we need to pray for our leaders

The list gets longer each month as the threat of climate change looms over us (yet seems to sit on the back burner), and millions of people are suffering in temporary camps around the globe.

These problems can only be solved through prayer and we have been praying every week for an end to this pandemic, the above issues, and for our domestic and global economies. **You are invited to join us virtually and pray with us for an hour every Friday at 3 pm.**



by Doreen Scott-Dunne

Are you finding you have time on your hands at home because of COVID restrictions?

Have you been missing your church family?

Would you like to become more involved in St. Andrew’s?

Well, we have the right opportunity for you!

If you have a computer or tablet, and you know how to use Zoom, then you can begin to form a GRACE group by involving the people who live near you. You may want to talk to someone about this, so Doreen Scott-Dunne and Ray Scanlan (Home # 905-454-2937) will be happy to chat with you.

We have two very active GRACE groups currently who are meeting on Zoom, one run by Felicity and Molly and the other one by Doreen and Ray and Sue Haw. Before COVID we met in person, but currently for everyone’s health and safety we are meeting on Zoom. GRACE groups will be starting up virtually in October, so if you want to start one, there is definitely still time.

Wishing you God’s richest blessing in these unusual times.

Doreen & Ray

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**



The Congregational Care Team works with the ministers and assists and supports members when there are significant events in their lives such as births, special birthdays or anniversaries, deaths of loved ones, illness of themselves or a family member or friend, life transitions such as going to assisted living, and caring for seniors.

Information and specific requests should be directed to **Felicity Alexander, Susan Jess** or **Anna Eitner**. Emails sent to:

wecare@standrewsbrampton.ca

will go to Anna, Susan, Felicity, the Rev. Rosemary Doran and the Rev. Geoff Ross.



St. Andrew's Prayer Circle members offer prayers for those who are experiencing an illness or loss, or are going through difficult times.

Prayer requests are received by the ministers, church office, notes, one-on-one conversations, phone calls to Sandra Jackson at 905-459-4563, through the St. Andrew's website page:

<http://standrewsbrampton.ca/prayer-circle/>

or emails to:

prayer@standrewsbrampton.ca

The person, family member or friend we are praying for must be aware that the Prayer Circle group is praying for them. Permission must be granted by the person we are praying for before their information is shared within the Prayer Circle ONLY, since we respect everyone's privacy. All prayer requests are kept confidential unless the requester has asked the Minister to announce it from the church pulpit.



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed so much but:

Worship: At its core, it is what we do every Sunday. But at St. Andrew's, with the help of the Worship Committee it is much more.

Worship includes a series of teams including the choir, Junior Music Makers, Leap of Faith band, greeters, ushering, readers, as well as fellowship — be it after the Sunday service or a special event.

The Worship Committee is members of our congregation volunteering their time and talents, and for that we thank you. To those who have volunteered in the past, please keep doing so; and to those of you who are new to our congregation — the umbrella of worship and its teams may be the place for you to start your journey.

No one knows what our new normal will be. I do know that whatever it is will still require us as a congregation to volunteer our time and talents.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Colin Young
Chair, Worship Committee





Music Ministry Report



Since April 1, after brainstorming, investigating tech, and lining up resources throughout March, the Music Ministry at St. Andrew's Church has gone online, and is thriving and BOOMING! Although the church *building* may be closed, the music ministry and its teams have done a 180 degree pivot, and are OPEN and embracing new ways of ministering to each other, the congregation, friends and family, and beyond!

It has been wonderful to see young people volunteering to play instruments, record their performances, help others record theirs, help with sound and video editing, and spearhead new projects. Their input and leadership are inspiring to the other "not quite so young" ministry team members, who have bravely stepped up to embrace new technologies and ways of singing and playing "together/apart"!

In order to achieve this, it has been important to move with baby steps, and in doing so, we are now jogging together!

At first, as Easter week was quickly upon us, most of the hymns and special music were recorded by myself and my husband, Robert Hennig, starting with a special musical message to our choir and music team. That video has received close to 300 views to date, and counting.

Since then, we gradually involved more and more music members, and technologies. The first video movie I produced of the Senior Choir, singing "Praise and Hallelujah" and posted April 6, has to date received over 140 views. In the second Senior Choir video, a couple of weeks later, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", I was able to add more effects and photos, and this video has been seen over 155 times.

With new technologies, Thomas Dewar and I recorded our first duet, "Glorify Thy Name". It was posted May 3, and received over 125 views. We had so much fun recording "together", that the following week we included more of our players, to produce two pieces - "Canzon Quarta", with Sarah, Pam, May, Thomas and myself on flute, violin, clarinet, trombone and harpsichord (over 130 views), and the hymn "I'm gonna live" with all of Leap of Faith, which is at 178 views and counting. In order to achieve this playing "together/apart", everyone has their parts arranged, notated and emailed to them, and then I record a video of myself playing and conducting the piece, which is also sent out. Everyone can then practice with this master video, and when they're ready, listen or watch the video on one device, while recording with another device. Everyone has been very creative with how to achieve their own recordings, and has had to apply trial and error as to which devices to use how, and where to place them for the best visual and aural effect, but I think you would agree that all our wonderful players have been very successful!

It has been so exciting and fulfilling for all of us to be able to play together, that more former/part time/future members have asked to take part in our recording ministry, so it has been much fun to include those who are otherwise excluded, usually due to distance, or schedules. It's been wonderful to have Sarah Loree play with us, who generally works nights and is therefore unable to be in Leap of Faith, Mary Louise Duncan, who is a busy mommy and teacher, and Justin Kelly-Boxe, who usually has an insanely busy sports schedule, and Andreas Moschl, who now lives in Germany, but has been kind enough to join us virtually. Recording their parts means everyone can work and record on their own schedule. How fun!

Recording our music videos virtually also enables us to achieve performances that we would never be able to in a live situation. For example, if you view some of the band videos, you might notice on a few occasions, that you may only "SEE" one flute player playing, but if you listen closely, you will hear that one player is actually playing two flute parts. Obviously, one person can't play two parts at a time live! Also, if you look closely, you might notice a Leap of Faith member, such as Justin Kelly-Boxe, playing more than one instrument at a time. Or a percussionist magically playing guitar at the same time! Or a trombonist simultaneously playing the bass guitar! Again, all live impossibilities!

As the instrumental recordings became second nature, we expanded our online pursuits to include the Senior Choir. Singers are sent sheet music, a master video to record to, and practice videos of their individual parts, for everyone to record themselves and send in. One of our most enjoyed videos was a joint recording of "Lead me, Jesus", recorded with Leap of Faith, that has received over 250 views to date. And we have loved meeting regularly virtually to enjoy fellowship - such a blessing to have friendships such as these. Although we took a break from Zoom fellowship over the summer, hopefully we can re-engage as the fall is upon us.

It was also lovely for me to be able to produce a Mother's Day video message from the youngest members of the Music Ministry team, the Junior Music Makers. Hearing them sing and play their musical message of love turned me into a sobbing mess for a few minutes, let me tell you! I was inspired to then produce a couple more videos of our wonderful Junior Music Makers, including their colouring pages of messages of love.

Here are some messages of support to the music ministry, and comments received from several Junior Music Makers' parents:

- "Thank you for the beautiful song. We miss you and hope you and your family are staying safe. Thank you for all you do for the kids, you're appreciated more than you know. The kids love you. You're Godsent."
- "Thank you for sharing this. It was lovely to hear."
- "That was lovely. Tristan said "I love how her voice is cool" and "it was so nice"....thanks for sharing!"

From Mary Duncan:

- "Alice saw you on the screen and said "hello!" (while watching our video of "The church is wherever God's people are")"
- We're watching and Alice said: "That's Alice's church!" (while watching the Senior Choir video of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

From the general public:

- "Wow - That was so uplifting - simply magnificent - Blessings!!!!!"
- "Way to go everyone!"
- "This is so awesome! Way to go!!!!"

It should be noted, that the Music Ministry is indebted to the work of Thomas Dewar, who not only contributed in his usual talented musical ways, but unselfishly stepped up to edit and assemble the Senior Choir and Leap of Faith videos. Well done sir! Thank you from all of us!

It should also be noted that, to mid-August, the 72 videos of Senior Choir, Leap of Faith, Junior Music Makers, ensembles, duets and solos have received over 6000 views, on my (Shelagh's) YouTube channel alone, and over 500 likes. This is not including any views or likes from any shares done through St. Andrew's - our website, YouTube, Facebook, or other email or online presence. It's safe to say, your Music Ministry has had its uplifting and positive message seen, in the community, over 10,000 times! That's a conservative estimate! And that's AMAZING!

The Music Ministry has found new ways to minister to all of us, so we cannot drop the ball in ministering to people - they need us! There is a lot of negativity surrounding the state of our world, and we need to be a beacon of positivity! This cannot be taken lightly! It's a golden opportunity to use our leadership, gifts and enthusiasm in new ways to minister to the congregation of St. Andrew's, and the wider public. We are sending musical messages of love, peace and hope, which is needed by EVERYONE, now more than ever!

Looking forward with excitement to continuing to feed souls through music, and wrapping you in a musical hug.

Shelagh Tyreman

Music Director, and your St. Andrew's Music Ministry - Senior Choir, Junior Music Makers, and Leap of Faith

Food... for Thought



by Gord Warren

As this article is being written for the September newsletter it is actually the middle of August, the dog days of summer. The requirement for a food bank continues just as long as the COVID-19 virus continues. We can't let up our effort for either one or the consequences will be severe. While more people are going back to work there are still a large group who aren't able to survive with the amount they bring in, and the food bank supplements them.

The volunteers have slowly left, and now there are only four from St. Andrew's still helping out at the Regeneration location with the bagging, purchasing of needed fruit and vegetables and store pickups. It was a welcome sight to see Rev. Geoff, back from vacation, and Valerie quickly accepted his offer of assistance, helping her bag sugar. He became an expert on sealing the bags.



We will continue with the Food Bank at the present location until later in the fall. We will not open the St. Andrew's Food Bank until after the church opens and new procedures are in place to ensure the safety of the volunteers and the clients. Until then we will continue to serve the disadvantaged in Brampton and ensure that they are looked after.



by Eunice Boyd

The Mission Committee provides outreach to the community through a number of programs. Some of these include the Daily Bread Devotionals, the Mission Possible faith in ACT!ON projects, hot chocolate stand and participation in the Brampton Santa Claus parade activities. We also recognize and celebrate baptisms, encouraging families at church and we supported the Christian Music in the Park at Gage Park last summer. We provide support to the South-East Asian Outreach ministry and are looking forward to the arrival of two new sponsored families.

We welcome new ideas and new members to assist us with this important ministry.



With a difference

Rally Sunday is usually held in the second half of September. It gives our church committees the opportunity to highlight their activities and to canvass for new members.

COVID-19 has necessitated the cancellation of this annual event. Instead of lunch and tables with posters in the Great Hall, the committees have provided brief reports on their activities over the past year, and their plans, where possible, for the coming year.

Please take the time to read these reports and to respond to their appeals.



Stewardship

by Rosalind Cammidge

Our vision at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is to be a community loving God by loving our neighbours. 2020 celebrates 173 years of Christian witness at St. Andrew's. Your Stewardship Committee offers ways we can celebrate our legacy by giving through:

Your time- by volunteering at our Food Bank, or as an usher or signing up for coffee fellowship.

Your talents- by joining committees, singing in our choir, or teaching Sunday School.

Your treasures- by giving, using your offering envelopes and committing to give the suggested amount of \$125.00 per month; using our Pre-authorized Remittance Plan (PAR); using our digital giving terminal by donating by e-Transfer (**new**) or by using your credit card. There continues to be our Flame Endowment Fund that was launched in 2016. This gives you the option to leave a memorial gift in a creative way. There are flyers available throughout the church if this program interests you, or speak to someone on the Stewardship Committee.

The Stewardship Committee is blessed with a great team that works together in promoting various ideas, new and old. Our members include Chairperson Helen Collins; Rosalind Cammidge, Anna Marie Dewar, Bea Embling, Grace Gowland, May Jackson, Valerie Martin, Mark Nicol and Valerie Warren.

We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year and welcome any questions you have of our Stewardship Committee.



by May Jackson

This is a repeat of the article which first appeared in the June 2020 newsletter.

We normally do not receive enough contributions to meet the expenses of the operations of the church. However in times of closure we don't receive any donations other than PAR once a month which contributes \$6,900 to operations, and any online donations made through our website www.standrewsbrampton.ca. Currently, offerings from January 1 to May 31 are down 26.5% from last year, while Food Bank donations have increased by 33.7% for the same period. Thank you all for your generosity at this difficult time.

You can contribute by credit card through our website, mail a cheque, or go on Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). If at any time you wish to make a change to the amount or allocation of the funds you originally committed to on PAR you may do so by notifying the person who administers the congregation's program.

Credit card donations are very expensive to the church. Depending on your card the provider can take up to 4%, so a donation of \$100 would only give the church \$96. Each card is different for the fees charged. We have researched alternatives so we have now also set up the ability to accept Interac e-Transfers. Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, and enter the amount you wish to donate. **It is very important that in the message area you indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed: i.e. how much to General Funds, Presbyterians' Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank.** If you do not indicate a split your entire donation will go to the general operating fund, and this cannot be changed later. **Another very important part is to use the email: treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca**

Also, for those who donate online through our website, you will receive your tax receipt from Canada Helps. It will not be included on your receipt issued by the church.



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Monday, August 24, 2020

To the Members and Friends of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton.

I am writing to update you on some recent decisions and the time-line that we pray will lead up to our reopening the Church for the worship services that I know you have been missing.

First, I know that I speak for the Session when I write that we hope and pray that you are well, safe, and have remained hopeful during this difficult and concerning time. Please know that we thank you for your support both spiritually through your prayers and attendance at our online worship services, and by your faithful stewardship through your mailed in or online donations!

And now for the update. The Session, at its last regular meeting formed a "Summer Session Team" of seven Elders that has the power to deal with ongoing issues and emerging COVID-19 decisions before the next regular Session meeting in September. The 'Team' has been meeting to review the Federal, Provincial, and denominational COVID-19 protocols and guidelines and work out the safest way possible for us to all confidently return to worship within our building.

The good news is that the Summer Session Team has chosen a tentative date for reopening the building for worship services only on **Sunday, October 18th, 2020** – Anniversary Sunday. This date was chosen out of caution regarding the nature of the pandemic in Brampton, but also to ensure that we are fully prepared to reopen safely.

However, even saying this, the reopening of the church will not be a simple process. In brief, things will not be 'like they used to be' – at least for the foreseeable future. We recognize that the required changes may be distressing, but we hope that you will understand and accept that they are necessary for us to be able to return to worshipping together.

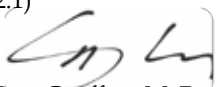
At this moment, looking forward to an October opening, this is what we do know:

- The building will only be reopened for St. Andrew's related worship services.
- Within these services, as spelled out by the Province, there will be:
 - No singing, printed materials: i.e: bulletins, use of Bibles or Hymn books.
 - No Sunday School or after service Fellowship Time.
- To attend the services, you will need to:
 - Register online, or by phone, to attend Church.
 - Be assigned parking and seating for you or your 'family/bubble'.
 - Sign in for contact tracing when you arrive.
 - Maintain physical distancing both inside and outside the Church.
- Church Programs and external rental groups will not be using the facilities until further notice

[Note: This is not a comprehensive list. More information will be released once the protocols are approved at the Session's September meeting.]

In closing, as we work toward our anticipated reopening, I ask for your continued prayers for the Session, for your prayerful and financial support for the work and ministry of St. Andrew's, and thank you for your trust and patience as we look toward the day when we can come together to say gladly: "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Ps 122:1)

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