

St. Andrew's Session **Meeting notes from December 7th, 2020**

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

SESSION NEWS

Re-opening Date Postponed– Again!

In light of the ongoing rise in COVID19 cases – and the Peel/Brampton region in lockdown, the Session has regrettably decided to postpone In-Person Worship until further notice. Sunday worship services will continue to be streamed online using Facebook Live from our sanctuary and posted on our website and YouTube page.

2020 Christmas Offering Envelopes

Your 2020 Christmas Offering Envelopes will be accepted up to January 3rd. If you would like your Envelope picked up – or would like to drop it off at the Church – contact Rev. Geoff Ross (647-524-1870) or Kim Shepherd (Clerk of Session: 416-557-5001), or contact your Elder.

2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 Offering Envelopes are here. Due to the current lockdown in Peel/Brampton, the envelopes will not be delivered to you at this time. The possibility of a pick-up date in January 2021 will be discussed at the next Session meeting.

THANK YOU!

Annual Budget Meeting

Thank you!! Our Annual Budget Meeting, held on November 22, was attended by 32 members both on video and by phone. The Committee Reports were presented and the proposed budget for 2021 was approved. At the Budget meeting, it was approved that the firm of RLB Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as auditors for the December 31, 2020 year-end report and report the 2020 year-end statement at the March Congregational Meeting in 2021. Lastly, with May Jackson's retirement as Church Treasurer, a 'Treasurer Transition Team' of Stan Loree and Anna-Marie Dewar was approved by the members in attendance. Stan Loree, was also approved as our Transitional Treasurer as of January 20, 2021.

Introducing.... The South-East Asian Outreach Ministry!

Our afternoon service continues to meet every Sunday, via Zoom. Like the rest of us, they have been worshipping in their homes which, in some cases are multigenerational family bubbles (all residing in the same household). Rev. Babar Allahditta and Elder Emmanuel have been encouraged to post their services on our Facebook page. If you haven't seen a Southeast Asian service, we encourage you to do so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship: It is good to see Rev. Geoff Ross and Shelagh Tyreman back in the sanctuary for Sunday services. Worship and Property are working to improve our online presentation. Session thanks Peter Shepherd, Simpson Ross, and Regan Ross for their work 'behind the scenes' to make the service happen.

Rev. Geoff Ross will have Sunday, December 27th, 2020 off. Rev. Wayne Baswick will be leading service in his place. The service will be taped prior to December 27th and posted on the church Facebook page, website and YouTube. Facebook Live will not be used for Sunday December 27th, 2020.

Upgrade of Church Website

Our new website is here!!! The website address is the same: standrewsbrampton.ca. Thank you to Peter Shepherd for your time and dedication to creating our new website, through the PCC. The website is a cleaner look and easy to navigate. Please take a look, all feedback and suggestions are welcome. You can send feedback/suggestions to: webadmin@standrewsbrampton.ca.

Social Media: We want to keep you as up to date as quick as possible. Email blasts are being sent weekly, if you have email and would like to receive these updates, please send an email to socialmedia@standrewsbrampton.ca.

- We have a Facebook page ([St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – Brampton](#)).
- We have also created a YouTube channel: [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Brampton](#). The services, hymns and Bible readings are posted here to watch anytime. Please look click the link above and subscribe.

Pastoral Care: If you know of someone who needs pastoral care due to illness or personal strife, please notify Rev. Geoff Ross 647-524-1870 (email: geoff@standrewsbrampton.ca) or you can members of the Congregational Care Team so that we can provide appropriate care. Requests can be sent by email: wecare@standrewsbrampton.ca. **We encourage everyone to reach out to neighbours, friends, other members/adherents of St. Andrew's, especially during the Advent/Christmas Season when many find themselves alone.**

Property Committee: The Property Committee has been working hard to get ready for our eventual return to the Church building. Here are some updates.

- Church Security: Two occurrences happened on the property of St. Andrew's this month. The first being our snow blower was stolen from

the storage room. With the assistance of the Property Committee, the police were able to obtain video footage of the theft and subsequently have made an arrest. The police are still following leads in locating the snow blower as we were able to provide them with the make, model and serial number.

- The second occurrence happened December 4th in the early hours (1:53 am) with both the silent alarm and fire alarm being tripped. The individual through a significant sized rock through a window in our education wing. The only damage done was the broken window, which has been repaired, and the individual spraying two fire extinguishers in the education wing and parlour. Property contacted our cleaning company and all has been cleaned. The Property Committee was able to provide the police with video of the second occurrence as well. The Church's security has been an area that the Property Committee has been diligently working on. Additional motion sensors will be installed in the Education wing. The security alarm is scheduled from 8:00pm through to 8:00am.
- The Property Committee has received a donation to purchase blinds on the windows of the education wing. These windows are on the courtyard side.
- **Entrance to Church Building:** Permission must still be received to enter the building. Request are to be submitted, in writing, to the following persons: Richard McMechan (Property Chair) Peter Shepherd (Property Member), Kim Shepherd (Clerk of Session), Jean Bradshaw (Deputy Clerk of Session) and Geoff Ross (Lead Minister). Approval for going in the building is granted when 3 out of the 5 persons agree to the admittance.

Stewardship Committee: The work of the church continues even in these difficult times of the COVID pandemic. There are several expenses that continue such as stipends, salaries and utilities, but also expenses of items to allow us to continue the ministry of St. Andrew's in preparation for when we can gather together. We thank you for continued support. You can continue to contribute in the following ways:

- **Electronic Giving's:** We have researched alternatives to credit cards, 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, Presbyterian 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

- **Online through our Website:** You can contribute using a credit card on the webpage: <http://standrewsbrampton.ca/donateToday/>. 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.
- **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** You can also sign up for PAR. The PAR registration for also be located <http://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate-today/>.
- **Mail in:** Cheques (no cash please) can be mailed to the church; the address for the church is: 44 Church Street East, Brampton, Ontario, L6V 1G3. The mail for St. Andrew's is being forwarded to our Clerk of Session, Kim Shepherd. Please contact either Rev. Geoff Ross or our Clerk of Session, Kim Shepherd and pickup or drop-off can be arranged, if you do not wish to mail your offering.

NOTE: Please do not drop off cheese in the mailbox outside the church at the entrance off Church Street.

The Elders and Session of St. Andrew's want to thank you for your ongoing support and trust.

Together we pray that God will keep you safe and well.

May joy and peace be yours during this happy season of Christmas...

Merry Christmas

