

# **St. Andrew's Session**

## **Meeting notes from January 4, 2021**

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

### **SESSION NEWS**

**THANK YOU ST. ANDREW'S!!!**

#### **2020 Givings and Christmas Offering**

Given the circumstances and many challenges we have seen, Session & Stewardship thank you for your faithful support of the ministry and mission of St. Andrew's! This has not gone unnoticed during the Christmas Season. While the final accounting of 2020, we thank you all for your continued support of St. Andrew's!

#### **Another Financial update:**

##### **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.** Session has decided to arrange for a pick-up date at the Church. The tentative date for picking up your envelopes will be Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 1:00 pm. A letter will be sent to those members/adherents who do not have an online connection. In the meantime, we encourage you to use your unused 2020 envelopes (change the date) and mail your offering in a cover envelope to the Church – 44 Church St. E., Brampton, ON L6V 1G3.

#### **Four Other Ways to Give to St. Andrew's**

##### **PAR - Pre Authorized Remittance Plan**

**1. Join PAR:** You can sign up for PAR – our Pre Authorized Remittance plan that enables you to give in pre-arranged, monthly amounts. The PAR registration form is located on our website – click here: <http://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate-today/>.

##### **Online Ways to Continue to Give St. Andrew's in 2021**

**2. Give online.** As the lockdown continues and we are unable to worship in, or give in the usual ways, we recommend one of two **online Electronic Giving options:**

**First option: is utilizing our Online Donation page** on our website: <http://standrewsbrampton.ca/donatetoday/>. For those donating this way, you will receive your tax receipt from Canada Helps, not from the Church Please print and keep your own receipts.

**Second option: is utilizing Interac e-Transfers.** Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, **use the email: [treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca](mailto:treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca) as the designation for your donation,** and enter the amount you wish to donate. **It is very important that in the message area: indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed**

##### **What your Offering Picked Up?**

**3. Give us a call.** Another way to give – and to be confident that your offering will get to the Church – you can call to have your Envelope picked up, or to set up a time to drop it off at the Church. Contact Rev. Geoff Ross (647-524-1870) or Kim Shepherd (Clerk of Session: 416-557-5001), or your Elder.

##### **Or, Put it in the Mail**

**4. Mail it 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. **NOTE: Please do not drop off cheques in the mailbox outside the church at the entrance off Church Street.**

#### **In-Person/In-Church Worship Update**

##### **Re-opening Date Postponed– Again!**

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

#### **Looking ahead**

##### **2020 Congregational Annual Meeting**

It is that time for all reports to be submitted for the congregational Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please submit all reports to [office@standrewsbrampton.ca](mailto:office@standrewsbrampton.ca) no later than January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Worship Committee:** Thank you to Rev. Wayne Baswick for the worship service on Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We ask that you please have patience and grace as we work to improve our online services. Worship and Property are continuing to work on improving our technology. Session thanks Peter Shepherd,

Simpson Ross, and Regan Ross for their work 'behind the scenes' to make the services happen.

- We need volunteers to be readers for Sunday services. If you would be interested please contact Colin Young (Chair of Worship), June Young (Reader Co-Ordinator) or Rev. Geoff Ross for more information

**Church Website:** Our new website is here!!! The website address is the same: [standrewsbrampton.ca](http://standrewsbrampton.ca). Thank you to Peter Shepherd for your time and dedication to maintaining our new website, through the PCC. Please take a look, all feedback and suggestions are welcome. You can send feedback/suggestions to: [webadmin@standrewsbrampton.ca](mailto: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](mailto:socialmedia@standrewsbrampton.ca).

- Our 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](mailto:geoff@standrewsbrampton.ca)), Rev. Wayne Baswick 905-456-1727 (email: [wayne@standrewsbrampton.ca](mailto:wayne@standrewsbrampton.ca)) or members of the Congregational Care Team so that we can provide appropriate care. Requests can be sent by email: [wecare@standrewsbrampton.ca](mailto: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.**

### **The South-East Asian Outreach Ministry!**

**Mission & Outreach Committee:** 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). The afternoon service held special services, which were well attended. These services were: a carol sing held

December 18<sup>th</sup>; Christmas Eve Service; Christmas Day Service; and New Year's Eve (midnight service).

**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:** Additional cameras and motion sensors will be installed this month along with a security system upgrade due to the additional cameras being installed.
- **Winter Upkeep:** The snow removal company has been shoveling the sidewalks and salting. Please note that in order for the parking lot to be plowed accumulation has to reach a certain amount. The company is salting the parking lot.
- **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.