



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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PUTTING THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION



"Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven persons of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task...."

(Acts 6:3 NRSV)

The Bhim family planted flowers around the church on May 15

(See article on Back Cover)



BIRTHDAYS



June

- 1 Isabel Campbell
- 3 Vicki Kastner, Sarah Loree, Gina Nobrega
Mark Prechner, Kristi Szolomicki
- 7 John Bakkeren, Jennifer Flint, Simpson Ross,
Sordeen Sukhu
- 9 Richard Aleong, Arman Manual, Naf Massy,
Carole White
- 10 Andrew Midgley-Brown
- 11 Victoria Dewar
- 12 Betty Moore
- 13 George Burrows
- 14 Catherine Mangaroff, Heather Marshall
- 15 Darlene Draper, Alice Stratton
- 16 Geoff Ross
- 17 Mark Massy, Valerie Warren
- 18 Rebecca Lachhman, Heather Reppen,
Petra Woods
- 19 Julian Mangaroff, Trista Warwick
- 20 Quinn Campbell, Anwar Kamal,
Fred Swackhamer
- 21 Michelle Aleong, Bill Dewar,
- 22 Luke Smith
- 24 Kayan Edwards, Shirley Johnston,
Sandra Short
- 26 Jessie Bannerman, Dean Dunlop
- 27 Shirley Kellam
- 28 Derek Dawson, Arun Nirmal
- 29 Mark Bhim, Sheila Clarke, Nola Roopchan
- 30 Muriel Allen, David Young



July

- 2 Victoria Goodman
- 3 Perveen Kousar
- 5 Rukhsana Chand, Denise Sannella

Birth-day Blessings



Condolences

To Donalda Dale whose sister Peggy Graham passed away on April 24.

To the family of Glenn Brunskill who died on April 26.

To Bev LeDrew on the death of her husband Nelson on May 7.

To Seeta Singh and family whose sister Rani Singh died in New York on May 25.

To the family of Ewen MacDonald who died on May 27.

Thank You

Thank you to my friends at St. Andrew's for reaching out at the time of my brother Cal's death in March, and my sister Peggy's death in April.

Your calls, cards, kind words and prayers have been a comfort at a very difficult time.

Donalda Dale





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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Geoff's Journal

"...select from among yourselves."

A 'Thank You'.



As I write this, we are nearing the end of our bi-annual Elder Election. While, due to the pandemic, things are different this year, the act of 'electing' – or selecting members to become Elders – has been going on since the first Church. In Acts 6:1-6, within months of the birth of the Church at Pentecost, we have the first recorded Elder election. This is not the only election/selection in the Book of Acts: Paul and Barnabas *"appointed elders ...in each church, with prayer and ...entrusted them to the Lord."* (Acts 14:23) By following the ancient tradition, established by God with Abraham and then Moses, they continued the process of *"selecting"* and *"appointing"* from among God's people to lead, govern, discern, and serve the Temple, and – after Pentecost – the Church. And, this month, St. Andrew's is continuing this tradition by relying on the Holy Spirit to help us discern who among our membership have the right Spiritual and temporal gifts to lead, govern, discern, and serve St. Andrew's as Elders.

At this time, I would like to thank all who took the time to vote in this election. (Despite COVID19 we have almost doubled the number of Ballots received over the last election!) Like the ordaining of Lay persons as Ruling Elders, the act of voting by every member of the congregation is also part of the historical succession of faithfulness lived out by the people of God. Together, you are the Body of Christ: Your participation makes St. Andrew's healthier.

Continued on page 4

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Geoff's Journal continued

As this current configuration of the Session comes to an end, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Elders on the St. Andrew's Session. This current group of Elders took the challenge of serving faithfully seriously. Your Session leaned on God to provide them with the strength and guidance to lead St. Andrew's through the worst health crisis of the Century. And, they also leaned on each other. Together this Session became a team united by its commitment to serve God's continuing plans for St. Andrew's. It has been a pleasure to serve with you all!

Now, I would like to personally thank those Elders who will be leaving the Session. We will be sad to see the first cohort of Term Service Elders go. I give thanks for Pam Loree, Ray Scanlan, Doreen Scott-Dunne, Colin Young, and Michelle Tedder, and Gord Warren (who is retiring early). Together, they helped transition St. Andrew's into the future; individually, they brought unique and needed gifts to the Session table. To each of you; thank you for your grace, wisdom, gifts, and good humour over the past 6 years!

In closing, please pray for the process going forward that the Holy Spirit will provide for St. Andrew's individuals to serve as Elders – and that those “*select[ed] from among yourselves*” will accept the calling being offered to them.

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.

Newsletter Committee:

Felicity Alexander, Kennedy Jackson, Wayne Tedder, June Young

Additional Contributors This Month:

Jean Bradshaw, Helen Collins, Robyn Kirkpatrick, Stan Loree, Ray Scanlan, Doreen Scott-Dunne, Kim Shepherd

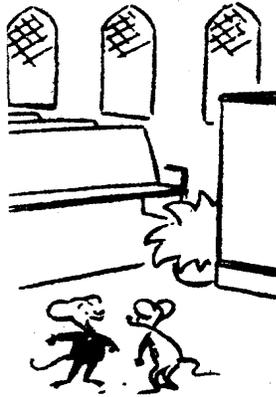
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News from the Pews



Glenna German is very happy and excited to announce the birth of her fifth and sixth GREAT grandchildren on May 6, 2021. Her granddaughter Jasmine delivered handsome twin boys just in time to celebrate her first Mother's Day on the 9th of May.

Congratulations to Ethan Anjum Bhatti who was one year old on April 30. His proud parents, Faiza Anjum and Sardar Anjum Bhatti, sent us these photographs.



Helping Ethan celebrate the occasion were his brother and sister Adam and Saffron Anjum Bhatti.

The 11-week Zoom Lenten Bible study on the Gospel of Mark ended on Tuesday, May 11 with a brief communion service. Thanks to Jean Bradshaw who coordinated the weekly meetings. (*See page 11*)

faith in ACTION 21

by Robyn Kirkpatrick



Toiletry kits for Ellen House,

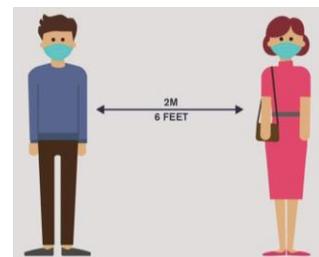


towels for the animal shelter,

and front-line worker appreciation cards can be dropped off to the church parking lot on Union Street between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday, June 5. A volunteer will be stationed at a table to receive your donations.



To comply with social distancing protocols, we are limiting the number of cars in the church parking lot and a parking attendant will facilitate the movement of vehicles in and out of the parking lot. All volunteers and members dropping off donations are asked to wear a mask while on the church property and to remain at least 6 ft from each other as they wait to drop off their donated items.



Please note: Due to the pandemic the church building is closed, except to those volunteering to receive the donated items.



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

May 2021

It is with prayer that this newsletter finds all our WMS members well and staying safe during this crazy time of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hard to believe that we have been away from the church for over 12 months. It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to come together in the Fall.



We gathered together for an informal meetig in May to discuss our **faith in ACT!ON** project. The WMS has reached out to the S.A.L.S.A. ladies to enquire if they would like to join us in putting 'Activity Bags' together for the children/youth at the Family Centre here in Brampton.

Thank you all for being a part of this project. The centre was truly thankful that we even thought of them and hope this is the start of working together.

- *journals (this helps the children express their feelings either by colouring or by writing)*
- *nut-free snacks*
- *iTunes or Google Play gift cards (all the children have their own devices and music plays a big role in their healing)*

- *pens/pencils/crayons/pencil crayons*
- *adult colouring books (this way the mother can colour with the child and it is gender neutral)*
- *cake/cookie/brownie mixes (these can also be purchased at the Dollar Store, even icing can be as well. Each Unit has a kitchen and bake ware. The units like anything to bake)*
- *they are also open to recipes like candy apples - we provide all the makings for the candy part, including the sticks. The facility always has apples - just another thought that the kids like doing.*
- *they are also open to Scripture cards/story books etc. They are a Christian organization. My contact even mentioned that she had one family return for a visit to say thank you, and the mother said that she carries the scripture card with her everywhere (and the mother was not a Christian).*

We will be in Rosalea Park (on Church Street) on Saturday, June 5 from 9:30 – 11:30 am to receive all bags/donations. Kim Shepherd will reach out to Pam Loree to arrange for a date to take the 'Activity Bags' to the Family Centre.

We will be holding our last meeting before summer on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We will be having our book, TV Show or Movie suggestions for summer enjoyment at this meeting. If you are uable to attend but would like to put a suggestion forward, please send an email to Kim Shepherd, President (kimbers1269@gmail.com).

Let us close with the Mizpah Benediction:

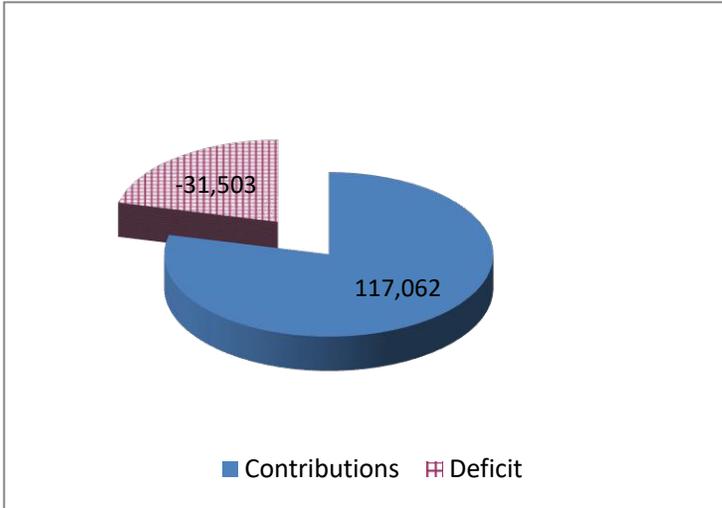
May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent one from another.

Kim Shepherd
President

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of May 21



Currently general offerings from January 1 to May 21 up 2% over last year with all other donations decreased by \$14,000 for the same period. Other revenue includes the two church rentals to Disney in 2021. Thank you all for your generosity at this difficult time.

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 indicate a split your entire donation will go to the general operating fund, **this cannot be changed later. It is vital that you use the email treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca**

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others. *St. Augustine*

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

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	<u>1 Jan - 21 May 21</u>	<u>1 Jan - 21 May 20</u>
Contributions		
Offerings	87,438.65	85,372.02
Other Revenue	29,623.08	9,281.50
Total Contributions	117,061.73	94,653.52
Expense		
Education	967.84	1,270.36
Mission	1,841.22	200.00
Property	68,669.18	30,914.07
Stewardship	71,927.35	82,787.76
Worship	5,158.73	2,446.87
Total Expense	148,564.32	117,619.06
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	(31,502.59)	(22,965.54)
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	7,765.30	8,140.80
PWS&D donations*	2,333.30	1,898.30
Food Bank donations*	10,867.20	25,015.35

* NOTE: Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank are not included in the Offerings numbers above.

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD



Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and
fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly.

So that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.

So that we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will see all
people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers
to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven.

Amen

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner
2003



In spite of stiff competition with the North Country meat delivery delay and the Leafs vs Canadiens playoff hockey game the L6T/L6P GRACE Group still had 10 people on our Zoom chat on May 20. We covered lots of ground – from the latest COVID situation, to puppy updates, gardening efforts at the church, Faith in Action activities, to dreams of how we will spend our summer!

We are all making every effort to stay positive and look forward to being able to get together again as a group.



The L6X/L6Y GRACE Group met by Zoom on Wednesday, May 12 at 1:30 pm. Five of the faithful met and shared fellowship together, delighted to talk to one another and connect over personal stories. In addition to sharing anecdotes from our lives, we are all delighted at the current success of the vaccine distribution. We have another five members who are not on Zoom and we keep in touch by telephone and email. We look forward to a time in the future when we can meet once again in person.



CALL TO PRAYER



At the time of writing, Israel and Palestine have just agreed to a ceasefire in the Middle East. This is certainly an answer to prayer that the missile and air strikes stop. We continue to pray that a settlement can be negotiated to permanently end the violence that has continued for decades.

We also thank God that an end to the pandemic is within sight now that vaccines have been developed and distribution in North America is close to reaching the point where we can at least think about resuming some normal activities this summer.

For these reasons, in June, we will be returning to a monthly Call to Prayer beginning with our Day of Prayer on June 5, and then monthly (virtually from home) on the third Friday of each month at 3 pm beginning on June 18. This is the first step to returning to meeting in person once again in the Parlour – hopefully later this year – as COVID-19 restrictions and Session permit.

Of course you can continue to pray as often as the Spirit prompts, as we look forward to the new normal, whenever that happens.



I must confess that I am a hoarder, and in going through and shredding old church-related files I came across this eerily relevant PresbyCan Daily Devotional of June 16, 2013, (before COVID) written by Iris Ford.

Felicity Alexander



THE LOSS OF COMMUNITY

1 Corinthians 13:13 – And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (NIV)

I received an e-mail recently called *Church Services in the Near Future*, which described a service where everything took place through iPads, tablets, smartphones, and Kindle Bibles. The sermon came by download, the offering was given by electronic funds transfer, and the announcement list included cell groups that met by Skype. Although social media increase some forms of sharing, I notice that we are increasingly absorbed in our own personal digital world, and it made me wonder if there is a net loss of community. Is it that people no longer take the time to draw near to another person in some deep sharing? Is this possible online or are we losing the togetherness of community? How then will God's love spread in future generations?

I listened to a grandmother on the telephone recently, worrying about her grandchildren. But they never wanted to stop long enough to hear anything about their grandma's childhood when she was their age. A young adult friend noted that we don't take the time for togetherness when the television is on to our favourite show. Everyone is working long hours now, so active, so involved, but there is little interest or concern for deep sharing, which takes time. Just getting to know someone and their story deeply enough in the sharing of God's love takes time.

Can we say that we are fast approaching a world that has lost any sense of community when people knew their friends' needs and acted on them? This is a scary thought but a profound one. Hope is shared. Faith is shared. Love is shared — all deepen through the sharing. Without real community, who experiences any of them in depth?

Do we need to be praying that with Jesus' Spirit within us, we will experience God's love, and know how to share it? Yes, Lord. Today, let's take the time to pray for the lonely and depressed. As we reach out to others, we will know the deep, enriching community that supports the soul and offers love for one another. This passage puts it distinctly:

Colossians 3:12–14 – Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)

Yes, we need to be constantly praying for our families, our grandchildren, and our church families, that we may all realize how dearly loved we are. Then we can practice life in the wonderful clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. This is what forms a wonderfully close community all around us, but it takes time.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we see families suffering and our church family decreasing. We are all so involved and busy. We ask that You would fill us with Your love, that we may be able to reach out to others with compassion in a fast-changing society where we no longer live in close community with each other. There are many lonely people in our district. Lord, lead us to them, that we may be able to share Your love and compassion. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Stewardship Corner

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I extend a “thank you” to the members of St. Andrew’s for supporting our two successful summer fundraisers – Macgregors North Country Meats and the flowering baskets. *(See plant delivery group below)*



L to R Ian Jess, Deb Adair, Mark Nicol, Helen Collins

Due to unforeseen circumstances on the North Country Meat Fundraiser pick up, I wish to apologize for the delay in fulfilling all the orders on May 20. Unfortunately, the delivery truck was delayed and that was beyond our control.



I also wish to acknowledge that Valerie Martin has completed her six-year term on the Stewardship Committee. Her helpful perspective and warm, kind personality will be missed.

Like everyone at St. Andrew’s we look forward to when we can worship together again in our Church Sanctuary and congregate in the Great Hall for fellowship.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, blessed summer.

Helen Collins
Chairperson, Stewardship Committee

Bible Study



WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Our regular Tuesday Bible Study started on February 23 and ran for eleven weeks. The study was facilitated by Rev. Geoff Ross. A video was shown weekly from Right Now Media presented by Francis Chan as he told the story from Israel. A workbook supporting this study was also given out to those who asked for a copy.

The study was held via Zoom every Tuesday morning, and Geoff also posted his notes, questions, and the video clip on the church’s website. An average of ten people met weekly when Geoff discussed the reading and presented the video. We broke into two groups and discussed the questions.

This study was very informative, and we learned not only from the material but from sharing during group discussion.

I still welcome your opinion on the overall course from those who studied at home.

Our Fall Study will begin in October, hopefully, we will be able to meet in person then.

It is a joy to serve in this important ministry.

Jean Bradshaw
Christian Education.



faith in ACTION



Garden Work Day



Back - L to R – Carmen McCreary, Blanche McCreary, Paul Willoughby, Mark Nicol, Maggie Nicol.

Front – Robyn Kirkpatrick and Regan Ross.

St. Andrew's gardeners showed up on May 15 to plant flowers around the church. The group pictured above was assisted by Mark and Meaghan Bhim and children Lucas, Dahlia and John who are featured on the front cover of this newsletter.

Many hands make light work, and the gardening was finished in record time this year, as with all that help it only took 1.5 hours to get the flowers into the ground. When the work was over the Bhim family generously provided a pizza lunch for the group, and everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship.

Thanks in advance to master-gardener Paul Willoughby who has again volunteered to provide tender loving care to the St. Andrew's flower and vegetable gardens over the summer.

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee's hanging basket fundraiser many of us now have a little more colour in our gardens.

Below, Shirley Hancock, Blanche McCreary, Gerda Halliday and Grace Gowland show off their purchases.

