

INSIDE*ST. ANDREW'S*

A community loving God by loving our neighbours.

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

Table of Contents

December Birthdays and Passages	2
Rosemary's Reflections	3-4
News from the Pews	5-6
Treasurer's Report	7
WMS	8
Call to Prayer	8
GRACE Notes	9
Food for Thought	9
2022 Budget Summary	10
Stewardship Corner	11
Mission Committee "Thank you"	11
Upcoming events	Back cover

This month...



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)



BIRTHDAYS



December 2021

- 1 Risfa Massey-Mubushar
- 2 Abigail Dedeck, Julie Good
- 3 Samuel Odzenma
- 4 Chiara Batasar, Thomas Dewar, Kim Shepherd
- 5 Jamina Cabral
- 7 Natalie McMahon
- 8 Felicity Alexander, Nicholas Dawson,
Robert Orrom
- 10 Carl Phillips, Karalyn Sannella, Kailyn Wright
- 11 John Prechner
- 12 Heather Alley, Marilyn Hunt, Razia Rehmat
- 14 Maltina Armstrong
- 15 Ashlyn Bennett, Lee Hickey
- 16 Mark Marshall, Florence Martin,
Peter Shepherd
- 17 Isabella Martin, Manoj Moon
- 18 Harvey Kalyan, Harrison Ross,
Oumadai Sooklall
- 19 Sandra Burton, Vishar Jokhoo, Leigh Tomlinson
- 20 Emily Marshall
- 22 Stewart Armstrong, Rookmin Bisnauth,
Sylvia Cohen
- 23 Nancy Harley
- 25 Grace Halm
- 26 Soyini Barrington, Sundes Emanuel,
Robert McKnight
- 27 Amy Decicco, Roshni Manual, Michelle Tedder
- 28 Faiza Anjum, Adil Iftikhar, David Ridler
- 29 Matthew Cabral, Caleigh Prechner,
MacKenzie Prechner, Rachel Samuel
- 31 Rashmi Raj



January 2022



- 1 Nicholas Jones, Frank Kar, Nabila Sadiq,
Clarence Snieder
- 2 Lenore Armstrong, Richard Duncan
- 3 James McCoy, Lynn Wright
- 4 David Aleong, Brandon Roopchan,
Lyndon Roopchan
- 5 Donald Wilson

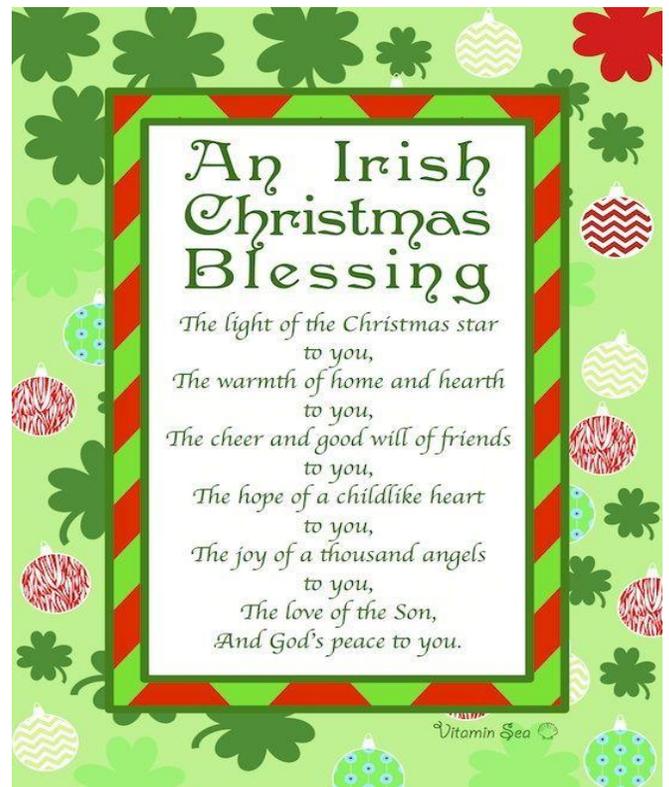
THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



The Mission Committee is offering these lawn signs again this year, reminding us all of the true reason for the season.

These signs are small enough for a porch or balcony, too! The cost is just \$6.00 each.

If you would like one, please call Rev. Geoff Ross at (647) 524-1870 or email Eunice Boyd at euniceboyd@rogers.com.





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905-451-1723

Ext. 0

Open Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am – 5:00 pm
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Valerie Barrett

Church Officer Ext. 0
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Food Bank Ext. 55
Food Bank Committee Chair
Gord Warren foodbank@standrewsbrampton.ca

Prayer Circle Ext. 0
prayer@standrewsbrampton.ca

Sunday School Ext. 0
school@standrewsbrampton.ca

South-East Asian Outreach Ministry
urdu@standrewsbrampton.ca
Pastor Babar Allahditta Cell: 647-779-8281

Rosemary's Reflections



We need Christmas this year.

Well, of course, we always need Christmas. It is the root of our Christian faith. But I think we need it more than ever this year because we need a break – a break from Covid and all its restrictions for one thing. The big issue for Shakespeare's Hamlet was "To be or not to be, that is the question." For us it might be "To vaccinate or not to vaccinate" or "To mask or not to mask!" We need the cherished Christmas traditions of colour and lights, of get-togethers and gifts, of music and memories. We need "Jingle Bells" and the old familiar carols like "O come all ye faithful" or "Silent night." We need the open-eyed wonder of little children. We need Christmas to lift our hearts and give us courage. When I was young, Christmas was long, woollen stockings hung at the foot of the bed, with, miracle of miracles, that doll I wanted, poking its head over the top. How did Santa know?! Christmas was waking up on December 25 to the sound of the nearby Methodist choir singing carols in the early morning dark around the lamppost. Christmas was fun and laughter and warmth and joy. That's exactly what we need in these seemingly never-ending Covid days.

But we need Christmas for a deeper, more significant reason. We need it because Christmas is about peace. We live in a world of consumerism and empire-building whether on global, national or personal levels. "Me first" is often our philosophy. The zillion dollar question is "Who's going to come out on top?" and it frequently doesn't matter who gets destroyed in the process. It can even affect our religious life, when some groups or traditions strive to prove their superiority. I don't think that's how God intends it to be. I think we were created and are intended to live in harmony with each other and the natural world. We are called to validate Genesis 1:31, which says of creation "God saw everything he had made and indeed it was very good."

Continued on page 4

Church Contacts

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Rosemary's Reflections continued

We need the peace of Christmas in our hearts this year, every year, all year long. Jesus is the vehicle for that peace. In the book of Isaiah we read that the people of Israel, who like us lived in tough times, were promised a deliverer. Amongst other things he was called "The Prince of Peace," a title that came to be associated with Jesus. Jesus brought peace. To his followers he said "Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you." Jesus taught peace. He said "Blessed are the peacemakers." "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." One writer says "The peace that Jesus Christ spoke of was a combination of hope, trust and quiet in the mind and soul, brought about by a reconciliation with God." This is God's amazing gift to us this Christmas and every Christmas. Thanks be to God.



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 or to felicity.alexander@sympatico.ca

Additional Contributors This Month:

Helen Collins, Stan Loree, Doreen Scott-Dunne, Kim Shepherd,
Gord Warren, June Young

**Deadline for submissions for the January issue is
December 21, 2021**

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News from the Pews



On November 21 the Rev. Geoff Ross conducted a service to reaffirm the ordination of returning Elders Karen Hutchinson and Henry Peyer, and re-admitting them to the Session of St. Andrew's.

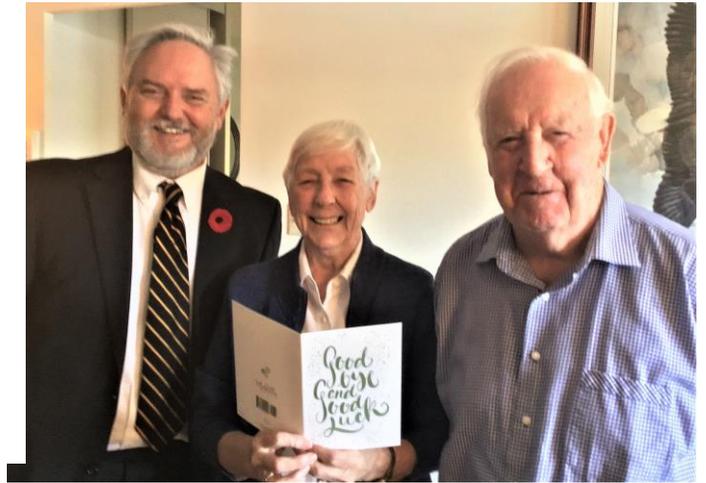
Henry Peyer was first elected to Session in 2004 and Karen Hutchinson in 2006. They became Supporting Elders when the Session moved to term service in 2014.

In the photo below Clerk of Session Jean Bradshaw is seen presenting the returning Elders for ordination.



May God bless our new Elders

Gerry and Rosemary Doran are delighted to share the good news of the safe arrival of their second great-grandchild. Rosemary reports that "Tessa Carol Doran was born on October 28 in Philadelphia to our oldest grandson, Drew, and his wife Carly. We are looking forward - Covid regulations permitting! - to a joyous get-together hopefully early next year to introduce Tessa and her big brother, Landon, (whom most of us have not yet met) to the Canadian clan."



Long-time St. Andrew's members Sally and Jim McCoy moved to a retirement residence in Hanover in mid-November. In the photo above, Sally McCoy is holding a card from the congregation of St. Andrew's, presented to the McCoy's by the Rev. Geoff Ross on November 1.

In early November Barry and Karen Hutchinson were overjoyed to welcome daughter Vanessa and her husband Brandon Gregory, home for the first time in 20 months.



Vanessa left to visit then-fiancé Brandon in Michigan for a weekend in early March 2020 and when the borders closed during her visit, chose to stay for what they thought would be a few weeks. After deciding on an intimate marriage ceremony in August 2020 and starting the tedious US immigration process, Vanessa's US Permanent Residency was finally approved and with it, freedom to leave the US.

The family is very much looking forward to celebrating Christmas together, and to Vanessa and Brandon's big wedding celebration in June 2022!

Continued on page 6



Congratulations to Kaitlin Shepherd who made the Honour Roll for Grade 11. This was not easy as her classes were virtual, but Kaitlin worked hard and overcame the challenges. Great job, Kaitlin!



In case you missed it – Paul Willoughby (photo above) was featured in an article in the Brampton Guardian on November 4. Paul is a member of the Brampton Heritage Board which is working to help preserve heritage properties in the city of Brampton,

Our thanks to Alexandra Heck of Metroland for providing the photo of Paul.

Ian and Susan Jess are delighted to announce the arrival of their granddaughter Madeline So-Jess. Madeline was born at 8:38 am on November 23, and weighed 6lbs 14oz. Colin, Gloria and wee Charlie (now two years old) are also excited with the addition to their family.



On November 7 the “family of friends” went to Vesuvio Ristorante to celebrate May Jackson’s and Richard McMechan’s 60th birthdays. After dinner Kennedy Jackson delivered his gift to May in the original packaging that looked like a cake - as shown in the photo above.

May reports that it was a great evening!

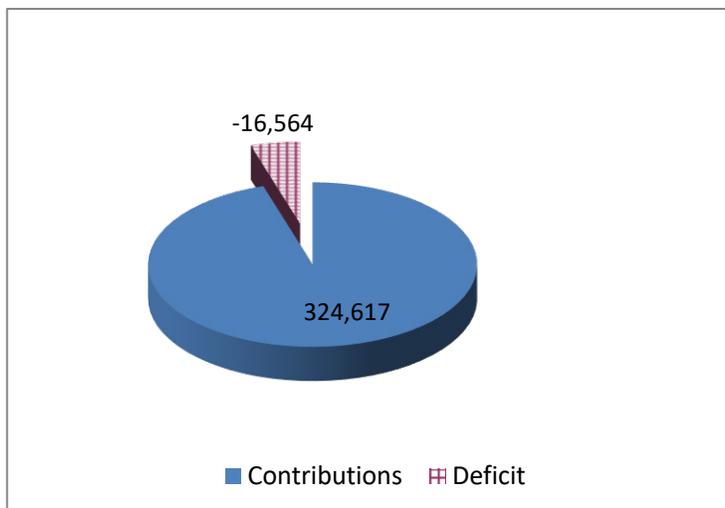


As we once again enjoy the beauty of our Sanctuary decorated for Christmas we thank Pam Loree and the faithful group of church “mice” who turned up on a cold and rainy night to make this possible.

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of November 21, 2021



No one has ever become poor by giving
Anne Frank

Currently general offerings from January 1 to Nov 21 are down 3% compared with last year with all other donations increased by 8% for the same period. Other revenue includes the two church rentals to Disney and two rentals to Netflix 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**

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

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	1 Jan - 21 Nov 21	1 Jan - 21 Nov 20
Contributions		
Offerings	196,387.04	204,540.78
Other Revenue	128,229.59	64,696.13
Total Contributions	324,616.63	269,236.91
Expense		
Education	2,250.47	3,162.68
Mission	12,138.61	8,142.68
Property	167,927.65	69,373.75
Stewardship	145,404.59	157,202.31
Worship	12,041.22	5,747.23
Session	1,418.24	7,025.35
Total Expense	341,180.78	250,654.00
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	(16,564.15)	18,582.91
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	18,323.26	18,538.76
PWS&D donations*	5,868.26	4,568.26
Food Bank donations*	45,929.40	41,453.93

* NOTES: 1) Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank donations are not included in the Offerings numbers above. 2) The Property expense includes roughly \$90,000 re asbestos abatement costs, which were funded in July from our investments held with the PCC.



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

November 2021

It is so hard to believe that we are already heading into the Advent Season, as I sit writing this article after our November meeting on Zoom, together with getting ready for in-person worship.

Our November meeting was led by Doreen Scott-Dunne and Felicity Alexander. We heard about the Unknown Soldier and we all enjoyed listening to 'Let there be Peace on Earth' performed by Voices of Hope Children's Choir and also 'No Unknown Soldiers,' performed by Ernie Hasse & Signature Sound.

We all lit a candle in memory of Mary McLean, a long-time member (and a former President) of the WMS, who sadly passed away in 2019 and is greatly missed.



Just before the close of our meeting, we celebrated the November birthdays. We sang to all who are celebrating November birthdays, using the words by Neola McArthur:

*"Happy Birthday to you, to Jesus be true.
May God's richest blessings descend upon you."*

We will continue to meet on Zoom for December 2021 and the beginning of 2022. At our December meeting we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We will share in tea/coffee/hot chocolate and cookies (at our individual homes) and sing a few carols.

The Roll Call for December will be 'Favourite Family Christmas Cookie Recipe'. If you wish, you can send the recipe to Kim Shepherd, President, and the recipes will be compiled and shared with WMS Members.

As I am writing this article in November for the December newsletter, I challenge everyone to pause and remember those who fought for our freedom as Canadians; gave their lives for our freedom as Canadians; and for those who still fight to keep us all safe.

If you have any suggestion and/or comments, please send an email to: Kim Shepherd, President, (kimbers1269@gmail.com), all are most welcome to 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

CALL TO PRAYER



We invite you to be part of the group which gets together, **virtually**, at 3 pm on the third Friday of the month, to pray for issues around the world, across our country, in our Brampton community and at St. Andrew's. We find the information provided in weekly "World in Prayer" emails very helpful and informative, and you can sign up for them at <https://worldinprayer.org>.





Food... for Thought

by Gord Warren



A birthday celebration and a Session meeting provided stiff competition for our L6T/L6P GRACE Group meeting in November. As a result we only had six attendees. We were happy to actually see one of our members this month who often can only connect by audio.



Our discussions included a description of a family get together, how to bundle up for a walk in the cold, the devastation of the floods in BC, to the upcoming St Andrew's budget meeting, and re-affirmation of Elders and preparations for the opening of the Food Bank.

Our final meeting of the year will be on December 16 at 7:30 pm.

On Tuesday, November 9, the L6X/L6Y GRACE Group met once again on Zoom. We were delighted to have Jean McCreath, Jean Bradshaw, Sue Haw, Dr. Kellam and Ray and Doreen online together.

We started with a check-in to see how everyone was doing, and a lively discussion followed on a variety of topics. Everyone was excited about the church building opening up again on a gradual basis, and as long as COVID numbers do not climb too much,

We look forward to our GRACE Group meeting in person in January, when our non-Zoom members can join us. Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, December 14 at 1.30pm. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

After months of planning and restocking of supplies, your Food Bank finally reopened on Wednesday, November 24 at noon. This was almost a test run of how we were going to be able to serve the clients, as there wasn't a lot of publicity around the opening and the number of clients was low. This will improve as we post messages and clients tell others.



We found out what worked and what didn't and will be able to restructure in order to serve the clients in the months to come.



We are presently planning what we will be doing for the Christmas season. There will not be a lunch this year as we will not be able to follow protocols and keep everyone safe, but we will be doing a special Christmas hamper with treats for both parents and children.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
2022 BUDGET SUMMARY
with previous years comparisions

	<u>2019</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>		<u>2021</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Audited</u>		<u>Audited</u>		<u>Jan-Oct 21</u>		<u>Budget</u>		<u>Budget</u>	
General Fund Income/Expense	<i>pre pandemic</i>		<i>pandemic</i>		<i>pandemic</i>		<i>pandemic</i>		<i>post pandemic?</i>	
Income										
Total Offerings	302,667.11	84%	257,130.28	93%	163,318.86	65%	277,000.00	62%	250,950.00	57%
Enduring Gifts and Investment Inc	182,324.25		212,591.95		37,649.50		26,000.00		40,000.00	
Rent and Weddings	33,410.00		16,060.00		49,736.93		28,100.00		26,000.00	
PCC Grants	0.00		11,088.01		20,000.00		20,000.00		20,000.00	
Other	28,910.64		17,037.31		3,435.05		3,000.00		3,000.00	
Total Other Revenue	244,644.89		256,777.27		198,207.91		77,100.00		89,000.00	
Total Income ex.Mission and Service	<u>547,312.00</u>		<u>513,907.55</u>		<u>361,526.77</u>		<u>354,100.00</u>		<u>339,950.00</u>	
Expense										
Total Congregational Care	0.00		0.00		0.00		200.00		0.00	
Total Education Committee	3,912.31		3,362.96		2,054.03		5,000.00		5,100.00	
Total Mission Committee	14,407.36		8,559.66		10,935.29		39,650.00		39,650.00	
Property Maintenance	53,482.98		66,247.99		57,822.83		72,002.00		73,804.00	
Major Bldg Mtce and Online Service	6,238.32		4,116.75		100,189.83		20,000.00		20,000.00	
Total Property Committee	59,721.30		70,364.74		215,835.49		92,002.00		93,804.00	
Stewardship Committee										
Total Personnel	236,116.10		155,098.70		108,146.13		246,457.00		241,295.00	
Other stewardship expenses	28,905.60		25,663.11		15,685.53		39,600.00		31,500.00	
Total Stewardship Committee	265,021.70		180,761.81		123,831.66		286,057.00		272,795.00	
Total Worship Committee	14,922.69		6,149.96		7,753.43		26,875.00		27,225.00	
Total Session	1,794.91		8,634.29		1,335.09		500.00		1,000.00	
Total Expense	359,780.27		277,833.42		361,744.99		450,284.00		439,574.00	
Net Ordinary Income ex. Mission and Service	<u>187,531.73</u>		<u>236,074.13</u>		<u>-218.22</u>		<u>-96,184.00</u>		<u>-99,624.00</u>	
Mission & Service (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)										
Income										
PWS & D Income	6,993.27		5,144.92		4,744.94		0.00		0.00	
Food Bank	55,649.25		60,626.53		19,041.65		0.00		0.00	
Sharing Offering	25,632.92		20,392.42		14,718.94		0.00		0.00	
	<u>88,275.44</u>		<u>86,163.87</u>		<u>38,505.53</u>		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Expense										
Food Bank Expense	46,371.48		27,624.57		20,379.18		0.00		0.00	
PWS&D Expense	6,993.27		5,144.92		4,744.94		0.00		0.00	
Presbyterians Sharing....	25,632.92		20,392.42		14,718.94		0.00		0.00	
	<u>78,997.67</u>		<u>53,161.91</u>		<u>39,843.06</u>		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
	<u>9,277.77</u>		<u>33,001.96</u>		<u>-1,337.53</u>		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	



Stewardship Corner

As you may or may not know, the 4th Annual Stewardship Poinsettia Fundraiser has been cancelled this year. This is due to a whitefly infestation that occurred in the nursery. I will be contacting the nursery in April, before I proceed with the hanging basket fundraiser in the late spring, to ensure that this issue has been resolved.



The Narrative Budget meeting was held via ZOOM on Sunday November 21. Financial statements had been made available to the congregation one week in advance.

There was a total 29 people participating.

Rev. Geoff opened the meeting with prayer. Jean Bradshaw was appointed to take the Minutes of the meeting. Rosalind Cammidge did an amazing job of putting together PowerPoint presentations for each committee. These were on the screen while the various committee representatives put forward their budget and outlined what their group wanted to accomplish going forward in the new year.

Stan Loree, our Interim Treasurer, described the various sources of revenue for St. Andrew's, and the different ways that members can donate. He reviewed the current finances of St. Andrew's in easy-to-read and understand flow charts, and presented his proposed budget. Throughout the meeting the congregation had opportunities to ask questions.

Stan Loree moved that the budget be approved as presented, and this was seconded by Helen Collins. By a show of hands or vocal agreement from the online congregation the vote to pass the budget was unanimous. A special thank you to Stan for all his hard work since he has been on the Stewardship Committee.

Overall it was a very successful Narrative Budget meeting via ZOOM. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Helen Collins
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Thank you from the Mission Committee *by June Young*

Once again, our congregation did not let us down!!!

Thank you for your kind generosity in collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and socks. The recipients from Ellen House will be basking in the warmth that YOU have provided! We were able to provide them with 20 sets of the above-mentioned items, and your monetary donations helped to supply additional items where needed. We also have bags left over and these will be given to our homeless in Brampton.



The photos show Mission Committee members Robyn Kirkpatrick, June Young, Blanche McCreary, Suzzy Kirkpatrick, Colin Young and Carmen McCreary (and Eunice Boyd and Rev. Geoff in photo below) with the bags for Ellen House.



From the bottom of our hearts... THANK YOU SO VERY, VERY MUCH!!!! This will indeed be a very merry Christmas for those who would normally have to do without some of these donated items.

Please remember that we have CHRISTmas signs for sale at \$6 each. (See page 2)

Bruce the “cookie man” is back!

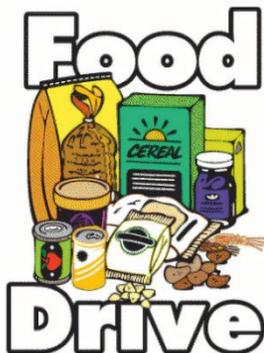


Shortbread – \$7
Cookies – \$10
Christmas Cake – \$12

Sales are **online** only. **No phone calls please.**

Orders will be taken by email. Please send your order to Bruce at brewsterwlu@hotmail.com and he will personally deliver the goodies to your home.

Proceeds go to support the needs of our Food Bank.



Our Food Bank has re-opened and we need your help. Your financial donations will enable us to stock our shelves with items that are most needed at this time.

The SALSA Group

The St. Andrew’s Ladies Social and Action group (SALSA) will be gathering for a Christmas Social on Sunday, December 12, at 7:00 pm at the home of Colleen Peyer - 6 Lancefield Crescent, Brampton. Anyone not able to attend in person can join the group on Zoom.

Please confirm your attendance with Colleen at leeny.peyer@rogers.com or Tel: 905-601-4868.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm

In our Annual Blue Christmas service we take the time to remember that for many, this time of year can be difficult. This could be because there has been a loss in your life or because your circumstances have changed. It could also be because you are alone or just find the hustle and bustle of the season to be more than you can bear. Regardless of the reason, the Blue Christmas service – to be held on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary – is meant to offer you some comfort, hope, peace, and a reminder that, through the promises of a loving God, you are not alone. This year’s message will be focused on preparing ourselves for God’s hope.

If you are not comfortable with – or are unable to – join us in-person; as we did last Christmas, we will also be broadcasting the service live on our Facebook page. You will find more information about this as we get closer to the 15th.

Whichever way you choose, I invite you to join us for this quiet and meaningful service. Come, add your voice and prayers with others. Take a moment in this busy season to pause, light a candle, and say a prayer for those on your heart. I truly hope to see you over the season of Advent and for Christmas Eve.

Geoff



Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve
7:30 pm - Service of Lessons and Carols
10:00 pm - Candlelight Communion Service
December 26 – Rev. Wayne J. Baswick