



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.

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"But I trusted in your steadfast love;
 my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
 I will sing to the LORD,
 because he has dealt bountifully with me."
Psalm 13:5-6



BIRTHDAYS



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
- 6 Raquel Cabral
- 7 Sayyd Ali
- 8 Ray Scanlan, David Vanderberg
- 9 Bea Embling, Tristan Huether
- 10 Wallace Gemmill
- 11 Faith Karkada
- 12 Nawaz John, Fatima Snieder
- 13 Mary Cation
- 14 Aster Emanuel, Valerie Martin
- 15 Justin Kelly-Boxe, Bruce Laird
- 16 Janet Katryan
- 18 Brigita Kar, Nancy Millar, Joseph Nobrega
- 19 Sandra Jackson, Matthew McKnight
- 20 Rob Brusso, Susan Jess
- 21 Carson Orrom
- 22 Christine Chatoor, Mary Nichol
- 23 Sadaf Basharat, Shirley Hancock
- 24 Erik Lopez, Amberlee Osborne
- 26 Nicole Aleong, Cheryl Ramoutar, Jozsef Tegzes
- 27 Gloria Brown, Mark Fure, Gabrielle Vanderberg
- 30 Kim Knox
- 31 Maureen Douglas, Verna Kester

February 2022

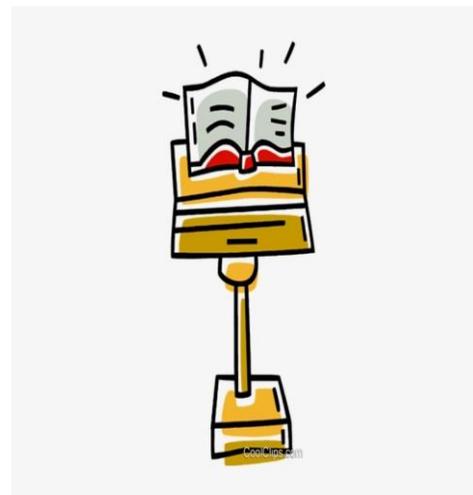
- 1 Evan Rae, Kaitlin Shepherd
Katherine Tomlinson
- 2 Sarah Massy



The McKittrick family on the death of Lynn McKittrick, wife to Bill McKittrick and mother to Jonathan and Jeffrey, mother-in-law to Petra and grandmother (Mimi) to Kelsey passed away on November 19.

Rev. Geoff and the Ross family on the death of Geoff's Uncle John Johnston on December 11.

Also to Bob and Doreen Stevenson whose wife and mother Ellen (Nellie) Stevenson died on December 15.



Lay Readers Needed

by Karen Hutchinson

The Worship Committee would like to expand its list of people interested in sharing the Word with the St. Andrew's congregation by reading the selected bible passages each week.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please submit a video of yourself doing a reading of your choice, and send the video and your contact information to the church office by email to office@standrewsbrampton.ca.



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Pastor Babar Allahditta Cell: 647-779-8281

Geoff's Journal



"How long, O LORD?" A Prayer for Deliverance (Psalm 13:1)

We were hoping that we could do "normal" things again – go out, visit friends and family, eat in restaurants; travel – but we couldn't. We were hoping that this Christmas things would be back to "normal" – it wasn't! While we might be 'done with COVID!' COVID clearly is not done with us!. It's getting repetitive, frustrating – and discouraging. *"How long, O Lord?"*

Last New Year's – (Yes, we were dealing with this Last Year!) – I wrote of how, then, during yet another lockdown, things 'felt' "different – worse, harder, more frustrating - with 'COVID-exhaustion' exacerbating an emotional time of year," causing many to fall into despair. This year, it feels like this is never going to end. And, I know, that for some of you, it feels like God either doesn't care – or has left the building. But, as we begin this New Year, I offer this reminder: We are not the first to feel this – to want to return to "normal," to enjoy life again, to know and feel the joy of God's presence again. *"How long, O Lord?"*

Psalm 13 – subtitled "A Prayer for Deliverance" – starts with David's haunting cry: *"How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"* "How long, O Lord?" would be cried over and over again by the People of God in times of exile, persecution, despair and desolation. It is a cry that speaks to both their desperation and their fear that God not only seemed distant but had abandoned them. It is a deeply personal cry – filled with anguish – but the Psalm's lament resolves itself in remembering the experiences of the past, rather than the frustrations of the present.

Continued on page 4

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Geoff's Journal continued

While God might seem distant now, we are to recall God's steadfast love and saving acts – not only in our lives, but in the life of St. Andrew's as a community of faith. Friends, despite what we are going through God has "*dealt bountifully with*" us!

To do this, we will start 2022 with a return to the Common Lectionary as we will look for the Spirit's guidance in illuminating God's Word for St. Andrew's. We will continue to pray for God's guidance in our slow but steady return to our building and programs. We will place our trust in God's abundance and blessings as we seek to explore new opportunities to "be" the Church – Christ's Body in Downtown Brampton. And, by doing all this, I believe that God will indeed deal bountifully with us!

As we enter a New Year I pray, may 2022 will be for you a year of God's bounty!



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 should be sent by email to felicity.alexander@sympatico.ca or to newsletter@standrewsbrampton.ca

Additional Contributors This Month:

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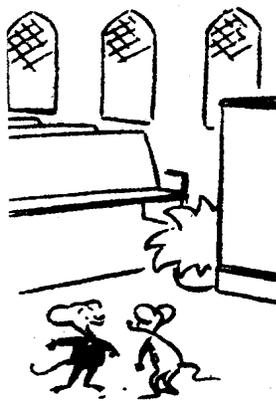
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January 26, 2022**

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**News
from
the
Pews**



A Christmas miracle has occurred! Drew Doran (oldest grandson of Rosemary and Gerry) and his wife Carly were finally able to make it over the border from Philadelphia, PA to Toronto in order to introduce Rosemary and Gerry to their first two great grandchildren! Landon was born on the first day of the COVID lockdown – March 16, 2020, and Tessa was born on October 28, 2021.



A majority of the Doran clan was able to meet in Brampton for introductions, holiday food and festivities and a family picture was taken. A four-generation picture (below) was also taken (Gerry, Andrew, Drew and Landon) The GG's (great grandparents) are truly blessed!



Sankar and Mello Roopnarine are excited at the birth of their granddaughter in Jacksonville, Florida. Liana is the daughter of their son Shaun and his wife Aalia, and she was born on Saturday, December 11 at 1:10 pm and weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs. Her big brother Ethan is also super excited over their new gift.



In November, the Dewars and the McMechan-Woods were finally able to get away on their long-delayed vacation to Jamaica. Despite the COVID protocols, they flew to Ocho Rios to enjoy a sunny week of beach, food, friendship and, of course, golf. Everyone managed to relax in their own way – whether that was snorkeling, swimming in the ocean with the fishes or just reading a good book. Thanks to all of the friends and family members who provided pet support while they were on vacation! Here's to the next one – whenever that may be!

Continued on page 6



Congratulations to Adam Bhatti who has made his school’s Honour Roll again this year. Well done, Adam.

This little story could be simply taken as something that can be passed around at coffee time any morning, but I think that it has deeper meaning for us. I see the plight of homeless people, struggling to find a place to sleep in winter, as a real call to the church; a call that says, “Help.”

Jesus said, “The poor you have with you always,” and that comment has stood the test of time. It is as true today as it was the day he said it. We have the poor with us today. They come in larger numbers day by day each week. Currently they are able to receive food tickets to the Knight’s Table restaurant downtown, and a bag of groceries from our food cupboard, which is financed and kept filled with food by donations of food and money from people of St. Andrew’s, and others who have responded to this need. It has become apparent that this move to have a food cupboard will become a permanent part of this church’s ministry in downtown Brampton. Call it a sign, the way I see it is that the overnight stop by a transient gentleman in the stable on the lawn, has been a sure indication that we have become a Downtown Church with all the associated problems and challenges.

“Faith without works is dead,” wrote James. The challenge for this church is that this need for food and shelter will confront us more and more as this city expands and grows. We cannot say that these problems do not apply to St. Andrew’s; they are here at this very corner, and we must act with a Christlike compassion. To everyone I suggest, “Make a New Year’s Resolution! Resolve to meet this challenge of need directly. Become part of this church’s program of support of the poor and hungry.” We have the whole year ahead of us.

A LOOK BACK INTO THE FUTURE

MINISTER’S MESSAGE – JANUARY 1992

Graeme E. Duncan, Minister

It is certainly no news to anyone that we have a crèche on the front lawn of St. Andrew’s, constructed during the Advent season and completed with figures just before Christmas Sunday. What is perhaps unknown is that the miniature stable was used within 24 hours of being installed on the lawn. It was diligently reported to “yours truly” that the stable had its first overnight guest the night before any of the figures were assembled. The straw looked invitingly soft, and the weather wasn’t too cold, and to the passerby the opportunity looked as good or better than anything else at hand, so it became the shelter for the night for one of Brampton’s “street people.”



Look back and thank God.

Look forward and trust God.

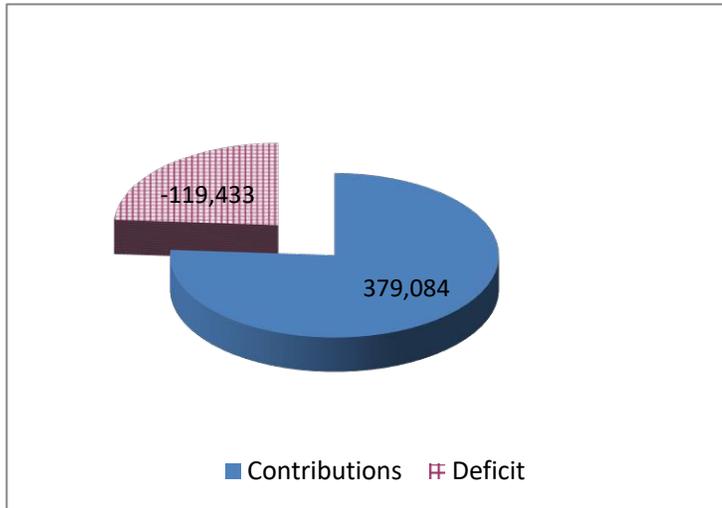
Look around and serve God.

Look within and find God.

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of December 23, 2021



Currently general offerings from January 1 to Dec 23 are down 5% compared with last year with all other donations increased by 2% 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**

Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

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

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	1 Jan - 23 Dec 21	1 Jan - 23 Dec 20
Contributions		
Offerings	236,243.99	249,842.77
Other Revenue	142,840.35	70,854.67
Total Contributions	379,084.34	320,697.44
Expense		
Education	2,399.72	3,162.68
Mission	13,221.93	9,371.50
Property	193,155.42	76,116.54
Stewardship	273,503.74	170,295.54
Worship	14,818.75	5,974.96
Session	1,418.24	7,129.29
Total Expense	498,517.80	272,050.51
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	(119,433.46)	48,646.93
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	21,067.92	20,392.42
PWS&D donations*	6,624.92	5,144.92
Food Bank donations*	58,568.25	58,826.53

* 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**

December 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.



Our December meeting on Zoom was full of laughs and sharing favourite family cookie/bar holiday recipes. This year we used the Christmas Service written by The Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee, Executive Director at Camp Kintail. The study was titled "Christmas Worship: At the feet of Jesus". After our time of worship, we enjoyed some fellowship as everyone brought a tea/coffee/hot chocolate or water along with a goodie.

It was decided that as we are meeting on Zoom, we will be meeting Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 at 7:00 pm. We hope that you can join us (either by video or phone).

We wish everyone a peaceful, joy-filled Christmas and continued blessings in 2022. We hope and pray that everyone stays safe and that one day we will be able to gather in person and share in fellowship.

If any of our members have any suggestions or enquiries, 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.**

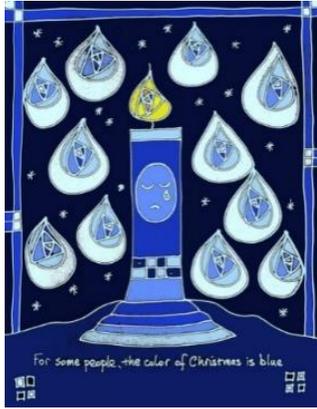
Kim Shepherd
President



When making a start on this journey,
The journey we all know as life,
A magic, meandering mystery tour
Where pleasures and perils are rife.
We may not know what the future holds,
From one precious hour to the next;
The pages in the book are blank –
It's us who write the text.
But one thing is certain and never in doubt
No matter the length of the play,
Though some may go steerage and others first class
The tickets are always one-way.
And as the clock cannot be stopped
Or even turned back to the start,
Each second marks a compass point
Upon our lifetime's chart.
And when, at last, the dots are joined,
The pathway in plain sight,
Let's hope our every step has left
A residue of light.

By Tricia Sturgeon
The Friendship Book

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE



On Wednesday, December 16 St. Andrew's held its annual Blue Christmas Service – this year it was available both in-person and on the St. Andrew's Facebook page. This is a service of comfort for those needing a place to grieve, or perhaps just a quiet time in the midst of the anxiety and stress of the season under the current COVID restrictions.



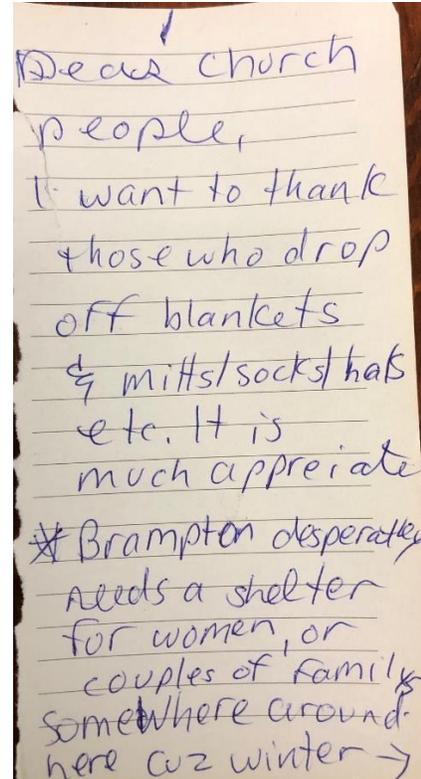
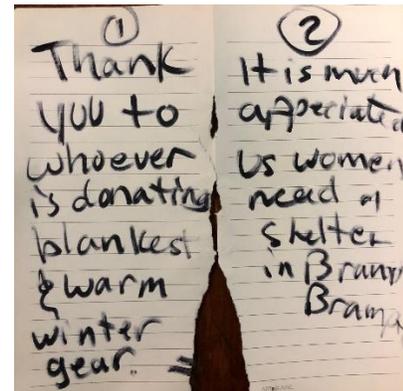
During the service Rev. Geoff and Past Clerk of Session Kim Shepherd took turns in reading the names of members, or close relatives of members of St. Andrew's who had passed away in 2020 and 2021. As each name was called a candle was lit in their memory. Those in attendance were then invited to light candles in memory of a loved one or for a special need of their own.

A "THANK YOU" TO OUR MISSION COMMITTEE AND CONGREGATION

by Rev. Geoff Ross

The St. Andrew's Mission Committee recently had a hats, mitts, and scarves drive so that they could donate these items to Ellen House. They did that - and they also made bags with hats, mitts, and scarves that they handed out and hung on our Food Bank Garden fence for our street population, who often have nothing warm to wear.

On December 5 before worship, I found these notes outside, near the courtyard door.



This is what paying forward grace by loving our neighbours looks like. Well done Mission Committee and members of the congregation!



Lots of Christmas laughs, funny hats and festive clothes highlighted the Zoom to GRACE meeting for the L6T/L6P group's December get together. We shared disaster stories about cooking the Christmas turkey and plans for celebrating another COVID Christmas. Of course we talked about booster shots and rapid tests. We are looking forward to a happy and healthy 2022.



The L6X/L6Y GRACE Group did not meet in December. We had hoped to meet in person, but Omicron and concern for safety did not make that possible. So we will continue to fellowship on Zoom in 2022. Our next meeting on Zoom will be on January 11th at 1.30 pm. If any of our members who are reading this would like to have help with downloading and using Zoom, please contact Ray or Doreen at 905-454-1937. What is most important is that we are able to see and/or talk to one another and fellowship in new ways, while still staying safe at home. Meanwhile, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

CALL TO PRAYER



by Ray Scanlan

Happy New Year.

As 2021 comes to an end I am reminded that one year ago our top-of-mind prayer request was for a vaccine to end COVID-19.

For a year we had been praying for all the folks affected by this pandemic in so many different ways, from our children to our seniors and all the regulations and lock downs, stressfully working from home to keep us safe. And then the breakthrough with not one, but several vaccine options. An answer to prayer.

For the past nine months the sole focus was to get the shot in the arm, a second shot and a booster or third shot to hopefully keep us safe, despite not being a 100% guarantee. As a country we are around 80% vaccinated and now praying for a vaccine to deal with the latest variant. So much to pray about. So much to be thankful for.

At the St Andrew's Blue Christmas Service in December candles were lit and the names read out of those members and family and friends who had passed away in 2020 and 2021 - the two trays contained an impressive light commemorating the loved ones who we have lost this year. Amid sadness and grief, lots to pray about.

As we look forward to 2022 we can certainly count our blessings as we rely on God to answer our prayers. Many of us were born in the UK during the war and are inspired by our parents' faith to bring us into this world while bombs dropped around them, and years of fear and uncertainty lay ahead. So too today as we place our faith in God to get us through this world-wide pandemic as progress seems more like a never-ending roller coaster.

You are welcome to join us for an hour of corporate prayer, virtually for now, at three pm on the third Friday of each month for solutions only God can provide.

Stewardship Corner



The Stewardship Committee thanks the members of St. Andrew's for their financial support during 2021. However, Christian stewardship is not just about money or **treasure**. St. Andrew's is especially thankful for those who also contributed their **time** and **talent** to care for our building, and to the "techies" who made it possible for us to worship online, and now again in person, during the difficult COVID restrictions that have affected all areas of our lives.

1 Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:



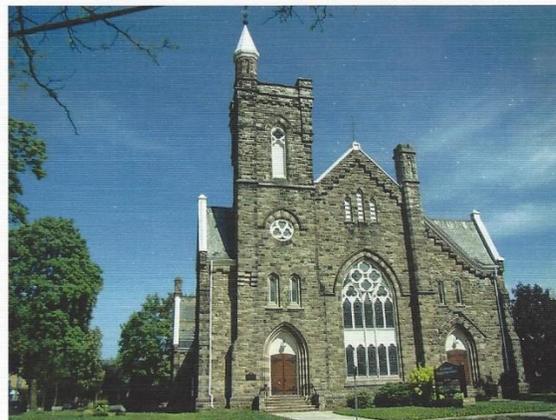
We have researched alternatives to credit cards, so we have now also set up the ability to accept **Interac e-Transfers**. Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, and enter the amount you wish to donate. **It is very important that in the message area you indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed: i.e. how much to General Funds, 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.

Helen Collins
Chair, Stewardship Committee

St. Andrew's Becomes Hot Filming Locale

by John Collins



With its beautiful stone exterior and antique interior, St. Andrew's was used this year as a setting for an upcoming Netflix film **13: The Musical** (airing on Netflix in February 2022), CBC's next season of **The Coroner** (Season Four), and a Disney movie **Hot Zone: Anthrax** - all in 2021.

Built in 1881, the Church has a seating capacity of 516, cultural heritage value on many levels, and demonstrates the skills of early Brampton tradesmen such as Jesse Perry. The magnificent organ facade in the sanctuary dates back to 1913 and has been a backdrop for scenes in all three productions.

St. Andrew's construction was completed in 1881, utilizing Credit Valley stone, a quarry owned by Kenneth Chisolm near the Forks of the Credit railway bridge. The stone was transported by rail to the downtown station and then moved by horse and buggy to the building site. The same stone was used to build the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park. Mr. Chisolm also built the stately mansion Alderlea on Elizabeth Street South, overlooking today's Gage Park.

In 1853 Brampton had a population of 1,000, but this small population remarkably supported construction of St. Andrew's and four other churches in the Four Corners area: St. Paul's United Church (c. 1885); First Baptist Church (1876); Grace United Church (1867); and Christ Church (c. 1875)

Our congregation has supported the operation of a Food Bank for over twenty-five years. Closed during the pandemic, it restarted on November 24th of this year.



Food... For Thought

by Gord Warren

Christmas at the Food Bank

This year was decidedly different from past Christmases. We used to have a sit-down dinner for the clients in the Great Hall, gifts for the children and extra food for the adults. This year there was no sit-down meal, but we managed extra food, cookies, chocolates, and gingerbread houses. It even snowed when we were giving out the food and every client that came, went away satisfied. Our volunteers (many pictured on this page) did a lot of hard work preparing the toiletry/treat bags that every client got, and while we were limited in our interactions with the clients everyone tried to make it enjoyable for them. We even had an inflatable Tim Horton's bear supplied by the Campbells.



Also a thank you to the congregation for their continued support, because without that the Food Bank wouldn't have been able to open.

Food Bank Committee: *Gord Warren, Sandra Jackson, Tom Campbell, Belle Campbell, Grace Brewster-Yates, Ian Jess, Bruce Cornish, Herb Eitner*

