



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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I am the church.
 You are the church.
 We are the church together.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)



BIRTHDAYS



September 2022

- 1 Isabel Kennedy, Heather Prechner, Sandeep Masih
- 2 Alyssa Decicco
- 4 Darren Ramoutar
- 5 Yasmeen Abbas, Yarousha Iftikhar, Liam Nicol, Alverna Peacock
- 6 Anne Russell
- 7 Sonita Adil, Derek Allen
- 8 Kent Armstrong, Steve Bagoly
- 10 Carissa Batasar
- 11 Molly Harvey, Roger Samuel
- 12 Adam Collins, Timothy Crawford, Joshoor Khokhar, Bryonna Perart-Rollocks, Kevin Wattier
- 14 Anthony Laird, Kaelen Lennie, David Wood
- 15 Suzanne Kirkpatrick
- 17 Joyce Miller
- 18 Muriel Gemmill, Graham Meadows
- 19 Donalda Dale, Zahid Emanuel, Steven Mock
- 20 Meghan Draper, Jason Sooklall
- 21 William White
- 22 Kimberly Good, Wayne Jhingoorie, Romeela Maryam
- 23 David Dean Jr., Grace Gowland, Imran Babar Masih
- 24 Alison Allen
- 25 Patricia Portuondo
- 26 Mason Juniper, William Snieder
- 27 Carmen McCreary, Emily Rodine, Liam Rodine, Kristin Vanderberg
- 28 Aman Manual
- 29 Cindy Hill
- 30 Mary Louise Duncan, Michael Wattier



October 2022

- 1 Celine Batasar, Kajah Boodhan, Uzbek John
- 2 Jason Portuondo
- 3 Kathryn Linton, Carlene Rollocks
- 4 Angeline Al Hakim, Sherry-Ann Boodhan, Lyn Malek, Jessica Rhind



60th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Rosemary and Gerry Doran who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on September 3.



Congratulations and best wishes to Robyn Kirkpatrick and Phil Beams on their recent engagement. *(See page 7)*

Condolences

To Cheryl Kerfoot whose father Donald Babcock passed away on June 1, 2022, a few days before his 99th birthday. Cheryl also lost her only nephew Kyle Babcock who died on July 26, 2021.

To the family of Sheila Lamont who passed away on July 18, 2022 at the age of 98.

To Barb and the family of John Challis who died on August 5. He was 94 years old.



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Rosemary's Reflections



Every year September 3 is a very significant date for my husband and me. It's our wedding anniversary. But this year it's more special than usual. First of all it's our 60th – can't believe it! - and secondly our second-oldest grandson, Connor and his fiancée Lauren have picked the same date for **their** wedding! We are very happy for them and our wish and prayer is that they have as happy and as long a life together as Gerry and I have had. When we look back over the 60 years, we never cease to be amazed at God's hand at work in our lives. Right from the very beginning in fact! How else could two people in 1961, one from Montreal, one from Belfast, end up on the same summer course in Italy, given that one of them – me! – was there almost by accident? How else could the French, that I had learned in school and later taught, turn out to be an asset, when Gerry was called to a French-speaking congregation in Quebec? How else could the things I learned and enjoyed doing in the different churches we were a part of lead me to being ordained myself? When we sometimes have down days, we simply remind ourselves of how we got to here from there, from then to now and we rejoice and give thanks.

I think that's what all of us need to do more often in these troubled times. Some days it's hard to keep your head above water in the sea of dangers and disasters that seem to characterise life in 2022. If it's not climate change, it's Covid. If it's not forest fires, it's massive floods. If it's not political manoeuvring, it's outright persecution. It's easy to feel swamped. And yet, perhaps more than ever, it's the time to count our blessings.

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Rosemary's Reflections continued

Remember the old Gospel hymn?

When upon life's billows, you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

It's September. As we try to pick up the threads of church life now that things are getting sort of "normal" again, let's remember to count our blessings. Yes, things will be different. We've lost some cherished people. Some others can't get around well any more. Many have gotten used to "doing church" online. Some of our young people have gone off to a job or university. So it won't be the same – but it never is in any aspect of life. Time inevitably moves us along. But blessings are not just something that happened yesterday. God promises them to us each new day. We just have to keep our eyes open!

Rosemary

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

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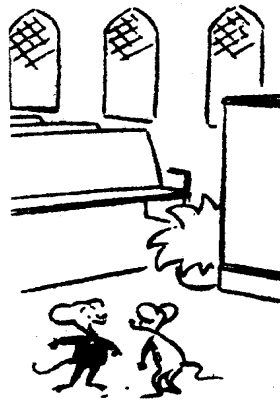
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News
from
the
Pews



On June 30 the Rev. Geoff Ross was part of a group at Pearson Airport to welcome to Canada two of St. Andrew's sponsored refugees! After a 5-year refugee application process it was a joy to finally welcome Sosan Bibi and her son Johnson Masih! Sosan is Rohail Masih's sister. Rohail, (on the right in picture below) is a member of St. Andrew's South-East Asian congregation which meets on Sunday afternoons. Also in the welcome party (but not in the picture) was Mark Masih, Rohail's son.



L to R – Rev. Geoff Ross, Johnson Masih, Sosan Bibi, Rohail Masih

Felicity Alexander and her son Jim's family formed another Canadian "Group of Seven" for an incredible sightseeing vacation in Newfoundland in late June. (L – R below) Claire, Rhonda, Jim, Mitch, Felicity, Kathryn, Madeleine)



This was not Felicity's first time in Newfoundland, but it was the best. Their accommodation was wonderful, and the weather got warmer and sunnier every day. Newfoundland in good weather is an incredibly beautiful province.



Activities ranged from hikes, whale watching, (see picture above of Felicity in mandatory whale-watching outfit provided), visits to pubs on the famous George Street, sightseeing from Signal Hill and Cape Spear, to kissing the cod and being screeched-in. However, for the family, the highlight was the proposal of marriage received by Felicity's eldest granddaughter Kathryn. While they were out on a hike Kathryn's now-fiancé Mitch "took a knee" and popped the question.

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In July Eunice Boyd and her daughter Marilyn White joined son Andrew, his wife Heather and their son Wyatt Boyd on a delightful two-week vacation in Hawaii. Highlights of their trip included a visit to Pearl Harbour and Waikiki Beach on the island of Oahu. They toured the island of Kuai and saw several movie filming locations. The family took a catamaran boat cruise along the Na Pali Coast taking in the scenery, snorkeling, watching the spinner dolphins play in front of the catamaran, followed by a beautiful Hawaiian sunset at sea. All five were entertained by a traditional Hawaiian luau. On Big Island, Andrew and Wyatt walked across lava fields and fly-fished amongst the sea turtles; while Eunice, Marilyn, and Heather read their books and were captivated by the views of the Pacific Ocean, along the Kohala Coast.



Left to right above: Marilyn White, Wyatt Boyd, Eunice Boyd, Andrew Boyd, Heather Boyd



On June 25, a group from the South-East Asian members of St. Andrew's enjoyed a picnic at 680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton..

In late July Molly and Mike Harvey had the pleasure of a visit from their son Andrew, his wife Amanda and grandchildren Sam (8) and Ian (4) who live in Norway.

The first week of July Pam Loree travelled to England to visit daughter Sarah who is taking her Masters in Directing Fiction Film at MetFilm School in Ealing, London.



Together they visited Pam's Aunt Christine, and cousins Helen and Vicky, for a weekend in the country, enjoying a town fête and a walking tour of the Cambridge University grounds. The road trip continued with overnight stays in both Brighton and

Dover. They toured Brighton's Royal Pavilion, walked along the White Cliffs (see picture above) and visited Dover Castle. Back in London they enjoyed a few hours in both the British and the Victoria and Albert Museums, coffee in Trafalgar Square, and shopping in Piccadilly Circus.

Sarah expects to finish her graduate program in late September, and hopes to find work in London in the film industry.

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Congratulations to Wayne Tedder who has received his certificate confirming his October 2021 Guinness World Record for playing pinball continuously for the longest time – a marathon 48 hours.



Our best wishes go out to Robyn Kirkpatrick and Phil Beams who were engaged over the Victoria Day long weekend. Phil popped the question at Lions Lookout after a full day of hiking at Arrowhead Provincial Park. The happy couple are planning to be married in 2023.

Thanks to Kim Shepherd who shared this information about her and Peter's recent holiday.

Kim and Peter Shepherd enjoyed a week away in Gananoque, with a stop to visit and enjoy lunch with former St. Andrew's minister, Rev. Rebekah Mitchell and her parents, Barbara and Morley Mitchell. We cannot forget the cuddles we received from dogs Koski, Brandi and Gambler.



We enjoyed Gananoque Coffee on the St. Lawrence.

The weather was great, and we enjoyed taking in all the scenery and history that Gananoque has to offer. We took a cruise on the St. Lawrence to Boldt Castle, next time we will get off and spend time touring the grounds, but for this year we toured around the castle.



With one day of rain, and boy did it rain, Peter and I took in a local production of 'The Music Man.'

Excerpt from “**The Post-Quarantine Church**”
by Thom S. Rainer

Historians will record the 2020 pandemic from a number of perspectives. They will look at the tragedy of widespread death and other health issues. They will point to the state of urgency in hospitals and nursing homes. They will recall the ongoing updates on television and other media, and the daily scorecard that read like a war report: cases confirmed, deaths recorded, and recoveries made. It will take years before the full emotional and mental toll can be assessed. But we will likely be surprised by how devastating COVID-19 was to the global psyche.

Through my blog, webinars, and church consultations, I walked with tens of thousands of church leaders through the pandemic. I coached many leaders directly and spoke or wrote to nearly a million others. I observed the uncertainty and angst that began when the first in-person worship service was canceled. I witnessed the fallout that followed. In the early days of the quarantine, I worked with church leaders primarily on issues of finance and giving.

The financial support for many of these churches came primarily through the offering plate. Consequently, with no in-person worship services, there was no offering. With no offering, there were no incoming funds to support the ministries of the church. As you can imagine, there was an abundance of concern. I almost wrote, “there was panic,” but that would have been misleading and unfair. With few exceptions, there was more faith than fear. More perseverance than panic. These church leaders trusted God wherever he would lead them. But the church leaders were also feeling challenged because they really didn't know where God was leading them. I guess that's the nature of faith.

As our Church Answers team started working with church leaders on the emerging new realities presented by the lockdown, we focused initially on helping them move as many members as possible to digital giving. We encouraged tech-savvy and highly relational members to work one-on-one with senior adults who had serious apprehensions about the digital world. When churches moved their worship to live streaming format, leaders and members knew something was changing, and it was not all bad because they improved each passing week.

When it was time to return to in-church services again it was with both excitement and concern. Through the post-quarantine era, I remember my first conversation with a pastor who told me he couldn't wait for things to get back to normal. I responded softly that I didn't think we would *ever* return to the pre-quarantine normal. I saw the look in his eyes. It was as if I had stolen his joy. His demeanor changed immediately. He could hardly maintain eye contact. “What do you mean?” he asked sadly. As much as I hated punching a hole in that pastor's enthusiasm, I didn't want him walking blindly into a world that no longer exists. As jarring as it may have been for him, I wanted to help him and his church prepare themselves for the post-quarantine era.

You Are Who You Are For a Reason

You are who you are for a reason.
You're part of an intricate plan.
You're a precious and perfect unique design,
Called God's special women or man.

You look like you look for a reason,
Our God made no mistake.
He knit you together within the womb,
You're *just* what he wanted to make.

The parents you had were the ones he chose,
And no matter how you may feel,
They were custom designed with God's plan in mind,
And they bear the Master's seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not easy.
And God wept that it hurt you so;
But it was allowed to shape your heart
So that into His likeness you'd grow.

You are who you are for a reason,
You've been formed by the Master's rod.
You are who you are, beloved,
Because there is a God!

by Russell Kelfer

CALL TO PRAYER



by Ray Scanlan

This summer has been full of good news and bad news depending on your perspective:

- The good news is that it has been warm and dry, so if you are on vacation you can enjoy swimming and outdoor activities.
- The bad news is that many folks suffer from heat exhaustion and the dry weather has led to many large forest fires.
- The good news is that we had rain to keep our crops alive and flourishing.
- The bad news is that the rain came all at once and caused disastrous flooding in some areas, bringing with it injury and property damage.
- The good news is that the majority of us have received our vaccination shots, keeping us safe and not in need of a ventilator.
- The bad news is that the Covid pandemic has produced new strains of this virus causing a strain on our health care facilities.
- The good news is that we have an excellent national health care system to deal with this pandemic.
- The bad news is that doctors, nurses, and other health care workers are falling victim to Covid, and the system is under stress.
- The good news is that many parts of our way of life are slowly returning to a new normal and we can shop and dine out, outside of our homes.
- The bad news is that workers for many sectors of our economy are hard to find.
- The good news is that our economy is booming.
- But the bad news is that this may lead to higher interest rates and inflation.

The bottom line is that we must be properly informed as to what to pray for and that there is a greater need for us to pray.

On the third Friday of every month at 3 pm we continue to spend some time in prayer. The war in Ukraine continues, and decisions could bring peace or world war. We continue to pray for wisdom.

We pray for peace.



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



It is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end, as I sit here and write this article. I hope that everyone had a great summer, whether you were able to travel or just sit and take in God's beauty that is around us. That you were able to relax, rest and take time for reflection.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Faith in Act!on project, doing Activity Bags for the Family Centre here in Brampton. A big 'Thank You' to our Food Bank which graciously donated granola bars for the bags. Pictures will follow in the October newsletter for all to see.

For anyone wishing to come to our WMS meetings, they are held the first Tuesday of the month (September – June) at 7:00 pm. Please send an email to me – Kim Shepherd, President, (kimbers1269@gmail.com), so you can be added to the email list for the Zoom link and any information for the meetings.

See you at the September meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm for a time of fellowship – catching up on everyone's summer.

I close with the Mizpah Benediction:

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

Minister's Message - A look back 25 years

In the Summer 1997 newsletter the Rev. Graeme Duncan's Minister's Message contained two contrasting stories. Here's the first one, written by Francis Gay.

A travelling missionary was visiting a new church in Africa, and, as he was being shown round, he remarked on the absence of any form of lighting. The pastor of the church smiled and said that they didn't need any. The visitor was mystified until it came to the time for evening worship and the pastor led him to the door of the church and pointed to a long line of twinkling lights making their way towards the church. As each worshipper entered the building, he put his little lamp down at the end of the row, until everybody was in and the whole church bright with hundreds of small lights.

The missionary was reminded of two lines of that simple hymn "Jesus bids us shine."

*In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

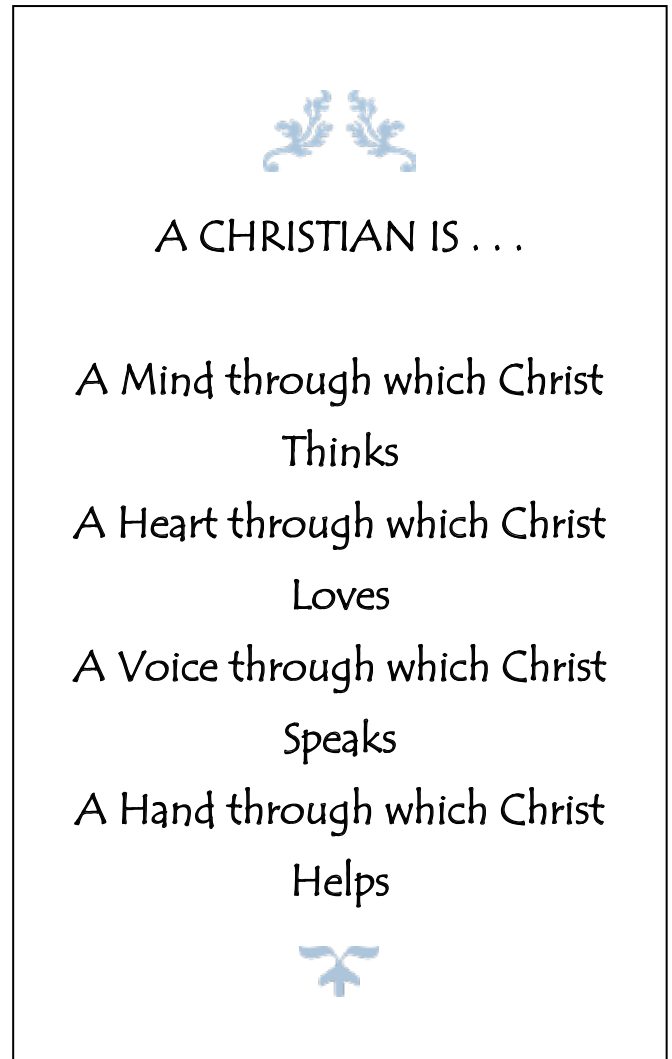
The second story goes like this:

Ten little churchmen went to church when fine;
But it started raining, then there were nine.
Nine little churchmen stayed up very late;
One overslept himself, then there were eight.
Eight little churchmen on the road to Heaven;
One joined a cycling club, then there were seven.
Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday flicks;
One thought he'd like to go, then there were six.
Six little churchmen kept the place alive;
One bought television, then there were five.
Five little churchmen seemed loyal to the core;
The minister upset one, then there were four.
Four little churchmen asked out to tea;
One couldn't leave in time, then there were three.
Three little churchmen sang the service through;
Got a hymn they didn't know, then there were two.
Two little churchmen argued who should run
The annual bazaar, then there were none.

As St. Andrew's prepares to celebrate its 175th anniversary let us aim to live these words:

*In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

Here is another item from the Summer 1997 newsletter.



Food... for Thought

by Gord Warren



HELP WANTED

Summer 2022 will soon be history, as families get used to students returning to the classroom, and the air now has a crisper feel to it. This is a bountiful time for the Food Bank also. Harvest time brings many donations from farmers and local gardeners. The Food Bank strives to balance the donations with purchases of foods that help make a balanced diet for the clients. We want them to be able to enjoy some of the bounty from the local growers. If you have a home garden with more produce than you can use, please feel free to let the Food Bank share it with the community.

In the past few weeks there has been a 20% growth in Food Bank attendance. We have a core group that has been consistent in showing up every week, now being supplemented by old attendees who haven't been in years. Your Food Bank has once again become a support staple for the community, as new clients are turning to food banks in desperation. One young mother came to our Food Bank because she had to spend money for her child to have school supplies and so she couldn't afford food. She was willing to do without, so her child wouldn't be embarrassed at school.

There are many "help wanted" signs in the area. As the economy expands there are many openings. The Food Bank is now experiencing spaces in our cupboards that will need to be filled shortly. We need help to do this in order to continue to assist those in need.

If you wish to have someone from the Food Bank speak to a group or organization about our needs and requirements, please let a member of the committee know.



Stewardship Corner



Rally Sunday is tentatively scheduled for Sunday September 18. Details will follow after Session meets on Monday, September 12.

The Rally Sunday details will be posted on the Church's website and sent out through an eblast. As well, all the committee chairs will be emailed with the particulars once they become available.

Lastly, thank you for all your generous donations that were received over the summer.

Yours in faith,

Helen Collins
Chairperson, Stewardship Committee



Although the L6X/L6Y GRACE group had really hoped to meet in person for our meeting on Tuesday, September 13, we have decided to continue to be cautious and meet instead on Zoom. An invitation will be sent to group members closer to the date. We look forward to hearing about everyone's summer activities.

The L6T/L6P GRACE group will meet on Zoom on Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 pm.



2022 Report of the Assembly Council

The Assembly Council has a coordinating role in the church as well as a responsibility for financial matters under the authority of the General Assembly.

In response to the [Moderators' statement](#) regarding the graves of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, and with the knowledge that many more would likely be found, an [Honouring the Children Fund](#) was established and \$1,000,000 transferred into it. The report on this work can be found in the Life and Mission Agency report and the Assembly agreed that [resources produced by the Life and Mission Agency](#) in Healing & Reconciliation be recommended to the wider church for education.

Congregations were urged to review their digital files and apply records management standards to them as they would physical records, and to take part in the [Web Archiving Program](#) offered through the [Presbyterian Church Archives](#) to preserve material that is posted online to websites or social media pages.

The Assembly adopted recommendations that will create a national registry of ministers and congregations that are willing to conduct and host same-sex weddings.

The Assembly adopted procedures and policies to be used when a congregation decides to withdraw from The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



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



The WMS will meet on **Tuesday, September 6** at 7:00 pm via Zoom, using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5253087217?pwd=akdVTnBCQzNjNHY3ZkYzY1ZuK1IBdz09>

Meeting ID: 525 308 7217

Passcode: 1270784

Celebrating
175
Years



The Moderator of The 147th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Reverend Dr. Robert N. Faris, will be joining us at St. Andrew's as guest minister for our 175th Anniversary Service on **Sunday, October 16**, and any other part of our Anniversary celebrations which are to be determined

for and on this Anniversary weekend.