

St. Andrew's Session
Session Summary from September 12, 2022

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

SESSION NEWS

The Protocols are changed

At its September meeting, the Session made several changes to the existing COVID Protocols. **Effective immediately:**

- Masks are no longer mandatory but are recommended.
- We will no longer have to sign in on Sunday mornings.
- Food and drink will be allowed in the Great Hall. Cooking is not allowed in the kitchen (**cook top and ovens are off-limits**). Food may be served to groups that do not exceed half the capacity of the room.
- Sunday morning coffee fellowship will resume shortly.

Also agreed at the meeting was the creation of a small sub-group of Session to deal with and make further recommendations regarding access by our various groups and renters, as well as the required cleaning of the building. These recommendations will be prepared before the October 3rd Session meeting.

With these changes Session wants you to know that your safety and health remain its primary concern. It asks those who are attending In-Person/In-Church worship and our various groups and activities to do what *"feels right for you"* when it comes to your safety and health – and to respect and acknowledge that not everyone has the same comfort threshold when it comes to public gatherings just yet. Above all, it hopes that St. Andrew's is to be a **"Mask Friendly Space"** for all to feel safe and at home. As we have been asking since we resumed In-Person/In-Church worship, **Session reminds you to not attend in-person worship if you are not feeling well.**

Commitment to Continuing our Online Worship Services!

While these changes focus on the In-Person/In-Church worship, to those who watch online – or cannot attend in person – the Session is committed to continuing our online services, which will be broadcast live each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on the St. Andrew's Facebook page.

Baptisms Announced!

Another sign of things moving forward, Session received and approved two Baptism requests! On Sunday, November 13, we look forward to baptizing **Nicole Margaret Martin**, infant daughter of **Gavin Charles Martin** and **Sarah Ann Martin** (Nicole is the granddaughter of Rosalind Cammidge), and **Evelyn Heather Elizabeth Stratton**, infant daughter of **William Brandon John Stratton** and **Jessica Elizabeth Ball**.

"See what love God has given us that we should be called the children of God."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stewardship Committee

Anniversary Offering Dedication

The Committee has recommended the Anniversary offering be applied to the cost of the Fire Panel which the Fire Department told the Church it is required to replace. The cost will be \$22,000.00.

Financial Update

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your continued financial support for the work and mission of St. Andrew's! While an improvement, the post Summer Financial Report shows the Offering to the General Fund is down by 8% compared to the same period in 2021. Expenses have remained the same, but costs will increase in the Fall as some major bills become due (most notably due to the fire panel: see above). The Session is encouraging members to give regularly to the General Fund through our various giving options (in person, by mail, e-transfer, online donations).

Worship Committee

175th Anniversary Events Decided

Our **175th Anniversary** is fast approaching, and two teams led by Colin Young and Michelle Tedder are working on plans towards a successful celebration. Our guest speaker on **Anniversary Sunday, October 16, is the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris, Moderator for the 147th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada**. The service will include our choir, band, and our afternoon service. It will be streamed live for our online attendees. An **Anniversary Luncheon of desserts, tea, coffee and cake will follow the service in the Great Hall**. Also, an updated edition of the **"History of St. Andrew's"** has been prepared by Molly Harvey for this exciting occasion and will be available to members of the congregation.

Mission Committee

The South East Asian Outreach Ministry (S-EAOM) is under the umbrella of the Mission Committee and is busy planning a Convention for the Thanksgiving weekend. This convention will be held on the Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Please pray for this important outreach ministry.

The Food Bank

The Food Bank continues to serve clients every Wednesday at noon. They report that the number of clients they serve is increasing.

Pastoral Care

While the office remains closed until further notice, Rev. Ross is back to full time with us. If you need pastoral care, you may contact him at 647-524-1870. You may also contact the Clerk of Session, Jean Bradshaw, at clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca or 905-455-6573. The Congregational Care Team is also available by calling Felicity Alexander at 905-791-0490.