

St. Andrew's Session
Session Summary from October 3, 2022

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

175th Anniversary Sunday: Sunday, October 16, 2022!

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 for this special occasion will be 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 the worship leadership of 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.

SESSION NEWS

More Changes: Renters are Returning

Pre-COVID, a number of organisations rented rooms at our church during the week. When COVID closed the Church building in March 2020, these groups were no longer able meet here. As St. Andrew's is emerging from its COVID shutdown, as a second stage to the removal of our COVID protocols, the Session approved the motion for these groups to return to St. Andrew's on October 31, 2022. Prior to their return, the Property Committee will be meeting with each group to bring them up to date with the changes that have taken place at St. Andrew's.

With these – and last month's changes regarding the protocols surrounding masks and worship – the Session wants to assure you that your safety and health remain its primary concern. It continues to ask those who are attending In-Person/In-Church worship – or 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.

Rally Sunday

To all St. A's Committees, please note: Rally Sunday is October 30, 2022.

Baptism Announcement

This month, Session received and approved another Baptism request. On Sunday, November 13, we look forward to baptizing **Kailer James Lawrencescott**, infant son of Morna Scott-Dunne and Shawn Lawrence, and grandson to Ray Scanlan and Doreen Scott-Dunne.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stewardship Committee

Anniversary Offering Dedication

The Committee has recommended the Anniversary offering be applied to the unbudgeted cost of replacing the Fire Panel which the Fire Department told the Church it is required to update. Please use the Anniversary Envelope you received – or write “Anniversary Offering” on your weekly Offering Envelope. Thank you in advance.

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).

Christian Education – News Flash

After 30 months, St. Andrew's Sunday School will resume on October 23, 2022. Our CE Team will be reaching out to our Church families soon.

Mission Committee

The S-EAOM is under the umbrella of the Mission Committee and is busy preparing an application to the PCC's New and Renewing Ministries Fund for a grant to enable it to continue both the ministry and its outreach work. Sadly, due to travel issues, the planned Outreach Convention for the Thanksgiving weekend has been cancelled. 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, by email at clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca or by phoning 905-455-6573. Members of the Congregational Care Team are also willing to help you by calling Felicity Alexander at 905-791-0490.