

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.

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This month...



On December 4 Iona and Alasdair Milne assisted the Rev. Geoff Ross in lighting the Advent Candle of Peace.

*"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
... The LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice...."*

Isaiah 60:1,2,5

BIRTHDAYS

January 2023

- 1 Frank Kar
- 2 Lenore Armstrong, Richard Duncan
- 3 James McCoy
- 4 David Aleong
- 8 Ray Scanlan
- 9 Bea Embling, Tristan Huether
- 10 Wallace Gemmill
- 11 Faith Karkada
- 13 Mary Cation
- 14 Aster Emanuel, Valerie Martin
- 15 Justin Kelly-Boxe
- 16 Janet Katryan
- 18 Brigita Kar, Joseph Nobrega
- 19 Sandra Jackson
- 20 Susan Jess
- 21 Carson Orrom
- 22 Christine Chatoor, Mary Nichol
- 23 Shirley Hancock
- 24 Amberlee Osborne
- 26 Cheryl Ramoutar, Jozsef Tegzes
- 30 Kim Knox
- 31 Maureen Douglas, Verna Kester



February 2023

- 1 Evan Rae, Kaitlin Shepherd, Katherine Tomlinson
- 2 Sarah Massy
- 3 Susan McGoogan
- 4 Sullivan Sampath
- 5 David Dean, Sr.



WITH DEEPEST Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Teresa Cornish on the passing of her cousin Robert on November 16.

To Fred Swackhamer whose daughter Susan Snider died in Ottawa on November 27.

Also to the family of Dolores Young who died on December 7. She was 90 years old,

And sympathy goes to the family of John (Ian) Anderson and his dear friend Janet Ferguson. Ian passed away on December 7 at the age of 90.



We are happy to announce that indoor Coffee Fellowship is back – if we have the volunteers to make it happen weekly! Michelle Tedder has offered to be the Fellowship co-ordinator. If enough helpers come forward, she will draw up and manage a roster of volunteers. Michelle will also provide all supplies each week, so volunteers don't need to bring anything! This is where we need YOU!

We are looking for two volunteers each week to set up, serve and clean up. This is a perfect service opportunity in the life and work of our church. If you can help, please provide Michelle with your contact information, and the dates below that you're available, Thank you!

JAN 8 JAN 15 JAN 22 JAN 29 FEB 5
FEB 12 FEB 19 FEB 26 MAR 5 MAR 12
MAR 19 MAR 26 APR 2 APR 9

You can reach Michelle Tedder at tedderm@rogers.com or 647-261-2066.



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Office

905-451-1723

Ext. 0

Open Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am – 5:00 pm
office@standrewsbrampton.ca

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geoff@standrewsbrampton.ca

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rosemary@standrewsbrampton.ca

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The Rev. Wayne Baswick
wayne@standrewsbrampton.ca

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Shelagh Tyreman music@standrewsbrampton.ca
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wecare@standrewsbrampton.ca

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school@standrewsbrampton.ca

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

Geoff's Journal



*“Choose life so that
you and your
descendants may
live!” (Deut. 30:19)*

The People of God had been wandering in the wilderness for two and a half years and were tired, anxious, and confused – so much had happened, nothing was the same, and the future was no longer certain. Sound familiar? The Book of Numbers records how worn out they became, and how much their experiences over those two and a half years – even though God was always with them – began to cause them to doubt God and God's plan and purpose for them.

Chapter 13 begins with good news: the People had reached the edge of the ‘promised land!’ God instructed Moses to send out men to go ahead of the People to see *“the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites;”*. And men from the twelve tribes were sent, with instructions to *“be bold”* and report back, which they did. But, after forty days, when they did report, weary and no longer united, the People chose fear instead of the hope and promise of their report – focusing on the *“yet...”* rather than the promise of a *“land that flows with milk and honey.”* The result of this choice was a life of wandering the wilderness.

I mentioned this seminal moment in the history of God's People in a recent conversation when comparing how we, today, as today's People of God, have a choice in how we respond to what the future holds for St. Andrew's.

Continued on page 4

Church Contacts

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Past Clerk

Kim Shepherd 905-457-2127

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Karen Hutchinson 416-704-5398

Geoff's Journal continued

My takeaway of the past two and a half years is this: in every aspect of our lives, we have a choice; to see and seek out God's grace amid world and life changing events, or to give in to our fears over what we don't understand or can't control. Moses, at the end of his life, tells the People of God on the edge of the Jordan River, that God's desire for us is to choose hope over despair – faith over hopelessness, life over death. As a 'Hope Guy' I wrapped up my comment by saying I believe that God is steadfast when we are faithful.

The Lectionary for New Year's Day – a Sunday! – speaks to this call for us to respond to God's promises in hope. "*Arise, shine; for your light has come,*" it starts, saying that while "*darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; ...the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.*" (Isaiah 60:1-3) Friends, as we enter a New Year – as a community of faith and as individuals – let us do so faithfully. And, by doing so, may we enjoy God's abundance in 2023!



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:

Helen Collins, Anna-Marie Dewar, Ray Scanlan, Doreen Scott-Dunne,
Gord Warren, Debbie Warwick

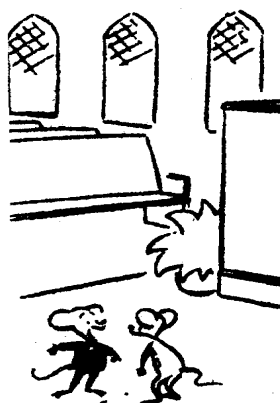
**Deadline for submissions for the February issue is
January 25, 2023**

This newsletter and St. Andrew's office printing are done by:

15 Fisherman Drive, Unit 22
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POSTPLUS
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News from the Pews



The Newsletter Committee thanks Tony Persaud of PostPlus for printing the December 2022 issue of the newsletter in colour as a gift to St. Andrew's.



Twenty-five years into her career, Mary Louise Duncan was honoured to be given a Teacher Recognition Award by the OSSTF (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation) this past June. She was nominated by her colleagues and vetted by the Excellence in Education Committee. She experienced this honour with four other Peel District School Board teachers. COVID protocols necessitated a more modest celebration than is traditional, but James and Alice were there to celebrate this career achievement.



Felicity Alexander celebrated a significant birthday on December 8, and on December 10 Rev. Geoff Ross presented her with a birthday card from the congregation.



In November, the Dewars and the McMechan-Woods made their annual trek to Ocho Rios, Jamaica, for a week of fun in the sun. Bill was able to snorkel around a sunken Canadian mine ship, they golfed 18 holes, and at the end of the week Bill and Barb were involved a live performance where they learned the Jamaican Chicken Dance! While on the resort, Barb and Richard were given a certificate for a free week at Sandals, through their participation in the Sandals' membership program.

Barb and Richard thank all their friends and family for their support and dog-sitting, and they are looking forward to the next adventure!



Petra Woods



Natalie Tam

As a follow up to the article a few months ago on Petra Woods and her partner, Natalie Tam – they were both able to play in the Rugby League World Cup in Leeds, England from October 21 – November 21.

Barb McMechan-Woods – an extremely proud Mum – went to England to watch the first game, and was able to sit in the VIP section and cheer them and the team on. The ladies then toured around England, as Natalie had never been there before. They also went to Edinburgh, watched the rest of the League World Cup, and managed to have lunch with Sarah Loree in London!

Continued on page 6



In the photo above from the Blue Christmas service on December 14, Past Clerk of Session Kim Shepherd reads the names of members of St. Andrew's who passed away in 2022, while Clerk of Session Jean Bradshaw lights candles in their memory.



Twelve ladies gathered at the home of Colleen Peyer for a lively Christmas get together on December 12. Delicious potluck treats and sweets were on hand, and the ladies enjoyed great conversation, singing carols, and playing a holiday game. Thanks to Colleen for hosting!



Special thanks to Shelagh and the choir for the wonderful music we have enjoyed in 2022, especially during Advent.



Can you spare a little time after the Worship Service on Sunday, January 8? If so, the "Un-decorating" team can use your help to take down and put away the Christmas decorations that added extra beauty to our Sanctuary.

Please contact Susan Jess at 905-846-8143 if you can help, or if you need more information.

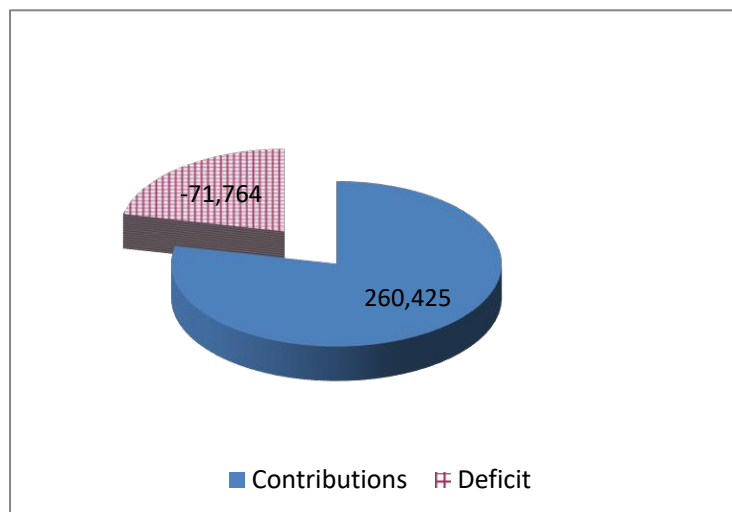


John Bakkeren would appreciate help with ushering and greeting on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to assist please call John at 905-455-9377.

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 19, 2022



Total contributions from January 1 to December 19 are **down 32%**. This decrease is mainly in our other revenue, the prior year included investments and rental income. Expenses YTD compared to the prior year are down because in 2021 there were more major building repairs. Thank you all for your generosity.

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**

"The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son." - Robert Flatt

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	Jan 1 - Dec 19, 2022	Jan 1 - Dec 19, 2021
Contributions		
Offerings	232,426.30	231,301.12
Other Revenue	27,998.71	150,344.79
Total Contributions	260,425.01	381,645.91
Expense		
Education	1,198.46	1,956.13
Mission	15,122.09	13,763.59
Property	76,345.17	161,915.80
Stewardship	225,024.56	285,131.13
Worship	12,499.16	4,758.27
Donation - Ukraine Relief	2,000.00	1,335.09
Total Expense	332,189.44	468,860.01
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	(71,764.43)	(87,214.10)
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	19,610.26	20,017.92
PWS&D donations*	7,290.76	6,604.92
Food Bank donations*	54,994.04	57,657.00

* NOTES: 1) Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank donations are not included in the Offerings numbers above.
2) PWSD donations includes amounts for Ukraine relief over and above the \$2,000 donation made by Session



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

The WMS met for Christmas worship via ZOOM on December 6. There was a small but celebratory group in attendance

The meeting was started with the Christmas Worship called "Christmas Traditions" by the Rev. Jennifer Geddes. This included an enjoyable story entitled "Time for the Young and Young at Heart, A Sweet Nativity," which tells us the Christmas story of the Nativity using the names of some candies and chocolates to help the story be more enjoyable for all, especially the children. We even had pictures to help tell the story, and it was so enjoyable that it was suggested we tell it again next year.

Our scripture lesson was from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2 verses 1 - 20. Our meditation reflected on Christmas Traditions and how they cascade down on us at this time of year and how our traditions have always changed or evolved with circumstances, even a pandemic. To quote from our reading, "No matter what is going on in the world, we can still celebrate the traditional time that Christ comes. That, regardless of what traditions can or cannot happen, Jesus is going to come."

We shared what we are doing for Christmas this year, and this will involve travel by all, some near, some far. It appears that the numbers at our dinner tables will be up this year, which brings comfort. We also shared stories of cooking incidents (accidents) and told of some traditional Christmas food from our childhood.

We acknowledged and remembered our mathematical December birthdays. They were on December 4, 8 and 16.

Our meeting was concluded with the Mizpah benediction and wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Feel free to join us in the New Year.

Debbie Warwick, Secretary



**Stewardship
Corner**

In the past month I have had a few inquiries about how to sign up for PAR. Possibly other members in our congregation are thinking about this as well.

For your convenience I have put together a step-by-step guide of how to go about this. It is actually a very easy process that can be started up and cancelled at any time. The PAR form we use is on page 9.

**To Sign Up for PAR
(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**

- decide the amount of your monthly offering
- complete the PAR authorization form located below and attach a cheque marked VOID
- enclose this form and the VOID cheque in an envelope
- place this either on the offering plate or give it to our Treasurer, Anna-Marie Dewar or to Kim Shepherd, Envelope Secretary
- withdrawals will occur on the 20th of each month after your specified start date
- you can designate, modify or cancel your donation or change your banking information at any time as long as you give our designate contact person 15 days advance notice.
- Anna-Marie Dewar is our Treasurer and can be reached either at 647-444-9466 or email at treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca or Kim Shepherd, Envelope Secretary - 905-457-2127 email kimbers1269@gmail.com
- Anna-Marie and Kim are both designate contact people

Lastly, the Stewardship Committee would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe, relaxing New Year.

Yours in Faith,

Helen Collins
Chair, Stewardship Committee



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

Envelope # _____

DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY OFFERING

Our church	\$ _____
Presbyterians Sharing (Missions)	\$ _____
Other: (Specify below)	
PWS&D	\$ _____
Food Bank	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
TOTAL OFFERING	\$ _____

If at any time you wish to make changes to your current allocations, please do so below and return this form to the church office.

These changes are to take effect on: _____

Our church	\$ _____
Presbyterians Sharing (Missions)	\$ _____
Other: (Specify below)	
PWS&D	\$ _____
Food Bank	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
TOTAL OFFERING	\$ _____

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t: 905-451-1723 (office)
f: 905-451-4336

standrewsoffice@rogers.com
www.standrewsbrampton.ca

SIGNATURE _____

CALL TO PRAYER



by Ray Scanlan

As we move through Advent and the celebration of Christmas, we are familiar with the phrases, “Joy to the World” and “Peace on Earth.” We spend time sending and receiving Christmas cards with scriptural messages reminding us of the real meaning of the season and the hope of the Gospel. If we turn on the TV we have two options, to “watch a variety of Christmas movies” or “the news” which would appear to be from another planet, advising us of fires and floods, catastrophic hurricanes and other natural catastrophes, or disturbing accounts and endless video clips of ongoing famine and the seemingly endless destruction of war-torn countries, with no end in sight. There seems to be no connection between Joy and Peace!

Closer to home we hear of our ailing health care system and the rise in the number of children suffering from RSV virus and the flu. This certainly seems to underscore that our world needs a Saviour, and we turn to prayer as there is definitely much to pray about.

We continue to pray at 3 pm on the third Friday of each month for these things that only God can solve, and you are invited.

As we enjoy the joy of Christmas, our New Year’s wish is “Peace on Earth.”



The L6X/L6Y Grace group met at the home of Sue Haw & Kwasi Adjepong-Duodu for their potluck Christmas luncheon and time of fellowship on Tuesday, December 13. Sue had the house and the

table so beautifully decorated that Jim Hunt commented he thought he was in Buckingham Palace. We did indeed have a wonderful feast, and enjoyed the company of everyone there. Some members were absent due to ill health, and we hope they are better soon. We shared stories of Christmas celebrations, and there was a great deal of fun and laughter.

We look forward to sharing more stories when we get together again on Tuesday, January 10 at 1 pm. We will continue our study on “Loving Like Jesus.”



This is a photo of the table before we sat down to eat.

The L6T/L6P group, with thanks for extra help from Kim Shepherd and Colleen Peyer, catered the DISMAS Christmas dinner on Friday December 16. It was the first time in three years that the group was able to have a communal dinner, so it was particularly special for them. Although our volunteer numbers were diminished for a number of reasons, we managed to serve a tasty dinner for which we received many compliments. Not shown in the picture below are Kim Shepherd who roasted three turkeys, and Colleen Peyer who prepared the stuffing for 40 people.



Food... for Thought

by Gord Warren



The weather has certainly told us that Christmas is almost here. The Food Bank use has exploded in the past few weeks with over 100 attending in the middle of December, and the same number just before Christmas. This year, instead of a meal, we are filling backpacks with food, toiletries, hats and scarves, warm socks and Christmas treats. Thanks to the packers pictured below – Grace Brewster-Yates, Valerie Warren, Margaret Bachan, Seeta Singh and Chandra Baboolal.



I would like to take this time to thank the many volunteers that have helped make the Food Bank a success. The behind-the-scenes people who do the individual packs every week, those that drive to stores to do pickups, those making sure that we order the correct amount of food, those setting up and putting away every week, and of course those that are on the front lines handing out food every week.

We have also had many donations from service clubs in Brampton, plus food drives from other clubs and schools. A special thank you to Bruce the “cookie man” who has donated his cookie sale profits for many years.

One of our donations was jointly from the Bramalea Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club of Brampton. Below, Dave McGregor of the Rotary Club and Stan Loree, representing the Kiwanis Club, present a cheque to Food Bank Committee Chair, Gord Warren.



Your Food Bank Committee,

Gord Warren, Grace Brewster-Yates, Ian Jess, Bruce Cornish, Herb Eitner, Tom Campbell, Belle Campbell.



Food Bank volunteers ready to serve the clients



Volunteers hand out backpacks



It's time once more to turn the page
To see what lies ahead,
We make our peace with yesteryear
And put the past to bed.

Nothing's quite as sure as change,
We'll take things as they flow,
Trusting in a greater plan
That isn't ours to know.

The future is a mystery,
Its story yet untold,
But the present is a gift to share,
Worth more than any gold.

*Laura Tapper
The Friendship Book*