

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...



**Welcome to Elders
ordained February 5, 2023**

**God bless
you**

"But the Lord said ...I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7



BIRTHDAYS



March 2023

- 2 Frank Holmes
- 3 Renate Schulz
- 4 Anna Eitner, Preston Osborne
- 5 Josephine Hendricks, Margaret Penrice,
Tim Roberts
- 6 Nasreen Akhtar, Emmanuel Osubronie
- 7 Helen Collins
- 8 Ian Jess, Barbara Young
- 9 Jean McCreath
- 10 Anna-Marie Dewar, Paul Willoughby
- 12 Kay Drew, Wilhelmine Strain
- 13 Diana Corredato
- 14 John Jarjour, Seeta Singh
- 15 Elizabeth Rabello, Douglas Warwick
- 17 Simon Pervez
- 19 Glenna German, Jeffrey Mock
- 20 Tricia Hallim
- 21 Aphelia Dean, Cecil Kester
- 23 Bruce Cornish, Melissa Simpson,
William Wood
- 25 Eunice Boyd
- 27 Richard Kalyan, Stan Loree
- 28 Christian Shepherd
- 29 Liz Thayer, Laura Whiteman
- 31 Donna Volpe



April 2023

- 1 Khalid Gill
- 3 John Collins, Barbara Duckitt, Donald Miller
- 4 Paro Cheddie, Sandra Fitzgerald
- 5 Tom Campbell, Mae MacDonald
- 8 Teresa Cornish
- 9 Jessica Meighoo, Ivie Wightman
- 10 Griffith Wightman, Babar Allahditta



With Heartfelt Sympathy

To the family of Mary Cation who died on February 2, just two weeks after her 100th birthday.

To Sydney McFarland, whose sister Nellie McMullan in Ireland died on February 4. She was 98 years old.

ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS



L – R: John Collins, Rosalind Cammidge, Jean Bradshaw, Stan Loree and Colin Young.

Above, Clerk of Session Jean Bradshaw introduces the four St. Andrew’s members recently elected as Elders. She invited the Rev. Geoff Ross to ordain John Collins, while Rosalind Cammidge, Stan Loree and Colin Young have previously served on Session and were asked to renew their ordination vows.

From the Presbycan Daily Devotional of February 18



Praying for our ministers of the Gospel
posted by Cass Wessel on Friday, February 17, 2023

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, for the ministers who pray, prepare, and preach from God’s Word each time they step into the pulpit. May the congregation eagerly receive God’s word for them and act upon it. Praise God for the musicians who practice and play the songs of worship and praise!



Although the Church Office remains closed until further notice, the Office Administrator is on duty each week and can be reached at standrewsoffice@rogers.com on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Service Times and Location Ext. 50

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geoff@standrewsbrampton.ca

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Pastor Babar Allahditta Cell: 647-779-8281



Rosemary's Reflections

I lost my watch recently. I was in a great tizzy as I looked everywhere for it and was overjoyed to find it safe and sound after a frustrating search. I couldn't wait to give the good news to my husband, who had been helping in the search. It reminds me of the story Jesus once told about the shepherd who lost a single sheep from his flock and rejoiced when he found it. Jesus told the story to make a point with some of the Jewish leaders of his day, who were scornful of the company he kept. He was, after all, known to consort with "sinners", the outcasts of society shunned by "respectable" people. The point of Jesus' story was that "heaven", the Kingdom of God, wasn't just for the holy and pious but had room for everyone who truly wanted to belong, whether they kept all the human-made rules or not.

It made me think about today's society – at least here in the Western world. Often the message is that if you're not white, you don't belong, you don't count. And yet...one of our grandsons is biracial and I love him dearly (as I do all of my grandchildren of course!). The partner of one of our granddaughters is Chinese. Through Justin and his dad, along with Petra and Natalie, the rest of our family has come to know, enjoy and love people of a different race, background or tradition and be enriched because of them.

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Church Contacts

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Rosemary's Reflections continued

Regrettably we sometimes even find that kind of prejudice in churches. Maybe we don't follow up on the "stranger in our midst" as attentively as we should. Or maybe we only have room for people who pray, preach and praise as we do. There's a story told of St. Peter giving a newcomer the guided tour of heaven. One room they pass has a lot of noise coming from it and St. Peter says to the newbie "Don't make a sound as you go past that room. It's full of Presbyterians [or Baptists or Catholics or Anglicans or ... take your pick!] and they think they're the only people here!"

Enough said? We are now in the season of Lent. Lent is the time leading up to Easter when Christians reflect on Jesus' sacrificial life and saving love. The kingdom he speaks of has room for everyone, regardless of race, colour, age, gender or status, who lives by two simple principles – love of God and love of neighbour. And there is room for all such – even you and me!

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

Additional Contributors This Month:

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

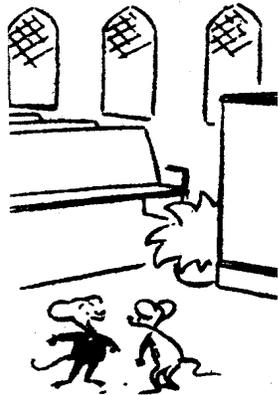
**Deadline for submissions for the April issue is
March 22, 2023**

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News from the Pews



To celebrate their newly achieved Canadian citizenship, the Bhatti family – Anjum, Faiza, Adam, Saffron and Ethan – provided cake and goodies in the Great Hall after the worship service on January 29.



L- R - Faiza, Ethan, Saffron, Adam and Anjum Bhatti



The icing on the cake featured a picture of the Bhatti family.



Sarah Loree was back from London, England for two weeks in January. She caught up with friends, had a belated Christmas celebration with family, and enjoyed photographing the snow in the trees.

On February 12 we welcomed into God’s family through the Sacrament of Baptism the children pictured below:



James Whitsitt DeSouza, son of Martin DeSouza and Maegan Reid.



Jesimile Jesse, son of Jesse Bashir and Sundrella Siraj.

Continued on page 6

Peter and Kim Shepherd enjoyed a mini getaway, taking in the City of Ottawa, our nation's capital, and shared the information below with us.

We spent time at the Byward Market and even enjoyed a Beavertail (a very yummy pastry) while browsing different shops.

While we were driving around we drove by 24 Sussex Drive and saw activity happening at Rideau Hall. It was interesting seeing all the different consulates that are around. We both commented that we can now see how the Freedom Convey shut down the downtown core of Ottawa, a lot of which is still blocked off. One thing we learned is that the roads in the GTA are all smooth compared to the roads in Ottawa, my oh my the potholes were huge!

Sadly, the All Ages Event and Ash Wednesday service scheduled for February 22 had to be cancelled due to the forecast of a snow storm that evening.



Updating Your Contact Information

It is important for St. Andrew's to have up-to-date contact information for all our members and adherents. We use this information to send you church mailings, tax receipts and the occasional eBlast with vital details about upcoming St. Andrew's events. If you have moved, or changed your phone number or email address, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can update our database.

Please send any changes or new information to standrewsoffice@rogers.com. Thank you.



A MEDITATION

The Friendship Book

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Bless all your children.*

*Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven . . .*

*Bless all the countries in the world. Give them
peace and good government.*

*Give us this day our daily bread,
Feed the hungry, the starving, those out of work,
all poor nations.*

*Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us,*

*Bless those we have hurt in body, mind or spirit
knowingly or unknowingly. Help us to make
good the harm we have done.*

*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil,*

*Do not let the love of things separate us from
the love of God.*

*For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours now and forever,*

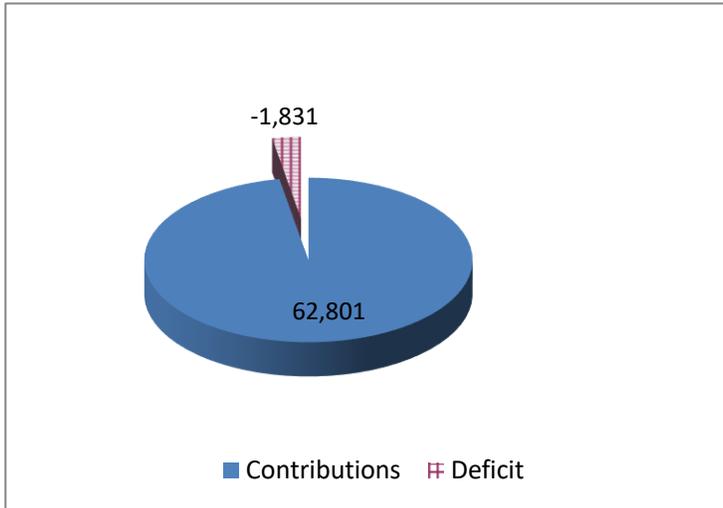
*May the world be filled with your Goodness and
Glory as the waters cover the sea.*

Amen, So be it.

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of February 22, 2023



Stewardship would like to ask everyone to consider going on PAR or increasing their PAR givings.

Included in other revenue is \$30,000 for the SEAOM Grant from the PCC, without this in revenue we would have a deficit of (\$31,831).

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**

"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices." Hebrews 13:16

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	Jan 1 - Feb 22, 2023	Jan 1 - Feb 22, 2022
Contributions		
Offerings	30,640.79	30,008.62
Other Revenue	32,160.00	844.00
Total Contributions	62,800.79	30,852.62
Expense		
Education	-	509.34
Mission	2,328.20	3,210.81
Property	26,146.95	24,740.76
Stewardship	35,397.21	41,494.44
Worship	759.64	546.70
Donation - Ukraine Relief	-	-
Total Expense	64,632.00	70,502.05
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	(1,831.21)	(39,649.43)
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	2,432.66	3,004.32
PWS&D donations*	746.66	1,013.32
Food Bank donations*	5,960.89	4,069.01

* NOTES: 1) Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank donations are not included in the Offerings numbers above.



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

The St. Andrew's Pringle WMS met by Zoom on February 7.

The meeting was opened with a meditation based on 1 John 4 v 7-8, and a prayer.

The meeting focused on Love. Participants were asked to suggest names of hymns with the word "Love" in them, and these included Love Divine, Amazing Love, Reckless Love, Jesus Loves Me, This I know, The Love of God, To God Be The Glory, I Love to Tell the Story, Love Lifted Me, Love Came Down at Christmas, The King of Love my Shepherd is.

Doreen Scott-Dunne provided some interesting facts about St. Valentine who died in 269 or 270 AD on what is now referred to as "Valentine's Day."

Doreen mentioned that Valentine's Day is special for her and her husband Ray, as they met on that day.

There were many "couples" mentioned in the Bible, some of whom were Adam and Eve, Ruth and Boaz, Sarah and Abraham, Samson and Delilah, Mary and Joseph, Jacob and Rachel and Jesus and The Church (which is his bride) and "love" is mentioned between 310 and 550 in verses in the Bible. We also learned that one of our member's granddaughter calls Valentine's Day "Loving Times Day," and that we are celebrating the month of "Loveuary."

President Kim Shepherd shared with us that the World Day of Prayer service will be held on March 3 at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church from 1 - 3 p.m., and that the church has a large parking lot. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The program was written by the women of Taiwan.

We discussed the upcoming Faith in Action Mission program, and ways that our group can help.

We were reminded that Valerie Warren continues to collect used stamps for the Leprosy Mission. These are sold to help them financially support their work.

We talked about the members of the WMS whom we have not seen for the last several months and got some updates from those who have seen or spoken with them.

Our meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction, and we enjoyed a social discussion afterwards.

Feel free to join us on ZOOM on the first Tuesday of each month.

Debbie Warwick
Secretary

Mission Committee Project Cozy Update



By Robyn Kirkpatrick

In early February the Mission Committee delivered the remaining donations of warm winter gear to a repurposed hotel in Mississauga that was being operated by the Elizabeth Society of Peel and used as temporary housing by recently arrived Ukrainian refugees.

We were able to donate over 50 hats, mitts, scarves for children and adults living at the hotel. The items were generously provided by the knitters at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brampton. These donations were greatly appreciated by staff at the shelter and will go a long way to help keep their clients warm for the remainder of the winter.

The Mission Committee wants to thank everyone for their support of the Project Cozy initiative.



Stewardship Corner

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday April 23rd in person and online. Further details will be made available as they are finalized. Please check the Church's website, weekly bulletin, and the April newsletter for any updates.



There will be two spring fundraisers again this year. These are the hanging flower baskets and MacGregors Meat and Seafood. Both of these fundraisers will kick off on Sunday, April 2. Delivery dates for both fundraisers, and the details, will be made available once they have been finalized. Please check the same sources as the AGM for any updates.

The following information is for the purpose of informing our members regarding donation methods. Some of our members donate through Canada Helps. Most people are not aware that every time you donate through Canada Helps that organization keeps 3.75% of the donation you are giving to the Church. They also charge the person a surcharge for donating this way. When you donate through e-transfer, PAR, cash and Benevity, the Church receives the entire donation.

Once again thank you to everyone who donates to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church through their time/talents and/or monetary donations.

Yours in faith,

Helen Collins
Chair, Stewardship Committee



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us in person or on Zoom for the Annual Meeting at 11:45 am on Sunday, April 23.



The link will be provided in the April newsletter.

Copies of the Agenda and Committee Reports to be discussed and approved will be available for pick up in the church and will also be posted in advance on the St. Andrew's website: www.standrewsbrampton.ca.



Confirmation classes are being held at 11:30 am every Sunday in March for the youth who attend either the morning or afternoon worship services. Their confirmation will take place at the morning service on April 2.

CALL TO PRAYER



by Ray Scanlan

As we begin the third month of 2023, we can look back on both the natural and man-made worst disasters since the end of WW2.

We prayed for the thousands of folks killed and the millions made homeless as a result of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

We prayed for the people of Ukraine and the millions of refugees who have fled the country in the past year, due to the invasion by Russia, which now enters its second year.

On the third Friday of each month a virtual group prays for God's intervention in these and other events that only our Saviour can resolve.

We also give thanks and are encouraged by the people of Poland (Ukraine's next-door neighbour) who have taken in nearly two million refugees in the past year, and for other countries which are providing much of the necessities of life, truly following the words of Jesus "Love your Neighbour."



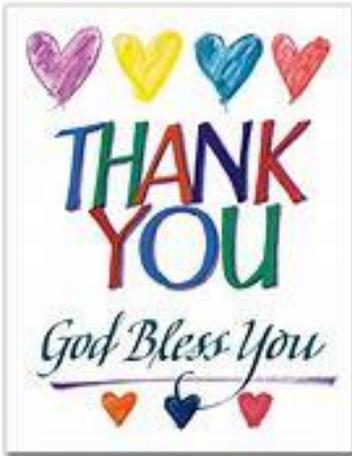
At the L6T/L6P group's February meeting we discussed plans for our next meeting when we hope to watch a Right Now Media video followed by a brief discussion. During our evening chat we talked about the future of St. Andrew's as we move into a time of transition with a pulpit vacancy. We also reminded the group of upcoming events such as the pre-Lent event on Ash Wednesday. Sadly, this had to be postponed due to a snowstorm.





Our L6X/ L6Y GRACE group met on February 14. Sue provided fruit and wonderful treats. We welcomed Grace back from her trip to England and South Africa, and caught up on news from each others lives. We watched a Right Now Media video clip on what's so amazing about grace, and had a lively discussion on how difficult it can be sometimes to respond in grace, and yet we agreed that we're all thankful for the gift of God's grace. Our next GRACE Group meeting will change to the third Tuesday of the month, which is March 21 at 1.30 pm.

**THANK YOU
REV. GEOFF ROSS**



On behalf of the Worship Committee, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Rev. Geoff Ross for his valuable leadership throughout his tenure here at St. Andrew's. It has been a pleasure to work with Geoff to plan Worship Services and meet the needs of our congregation.

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Geoff has been open to innovative ways to conquer the challenges that were presented, and we are grateful for his steadfast service through these very trying times. We wish Geoff all the best as he moves ahead, continuing his life's calling.

Karen Hutchinson
Chair
St. Andrew's Worship Committee

**Food...
for Thought**

by Gord Warren



Thank You

These are two of the most important words in our language. When we say them, we are complimenting the person or persons it's being said to for something that assists the speaker and gives help. Sandra Jackson, a volunteer member of the Food Bank, realized this and started sending thank you notes to the service clubs, schools, churches and anyone else who assisted the Food Bank. After sending them out we found later that the same recipients would again offer assistance to the Food Bank. This has allowed us to continue to serve the disadvantaged in Brampton.

There are many examples I could relate but I'll only give a few.

A thank you note was sent to the Kenadian construction company for donating 4 boxes of bananas they had left over from an event. They continued to support the Food Bank with large monetary donations at Christmas for the next four years.

Brampton Brick has continued to support the Food Bank for many years, and recently they purchased many cases of Christmas cookies from Bruce Cornish.

Many churches and schools in the area collect food and donate it to the Food Bank (Heart Lake Presbyterian, Emmanuel United, WM. Davis Sr. Public School, etc.) while the service clubs help with funds during the year (Kinsman Club of Brampton, Lions Club of Brampton/Bramalea, Rotary Club of Bramalea, etc.).



Gord Warren receives a cheque from the Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Bramalea is one of the latest to have a thank you note sent to them when they assisted the Kinsman Club of Brampton in making a donation late last year. We were pleased to hear from Russ Begin that they wished to present a cheque to us to help in our efforts to continue to serve. (See photo above.)

You too can get a thank you note for your group, school or organization by helping the Food Bank with a donation.

A message from Geoff

“Not fare well, but fare forward....” (T.S. Eliot; “The Four Quartets: The Dry Salvages, III”)

As I write this, I’m preparing for my 10th Lenten journey with you. It’s hard to believe that it’s been ten years already! But that’s what happens when you’re on a journey..., time passes while you’re busy living life; doing what needs doing, getting to know and love people, celebrating the good times and milestones, caring for one another, grieving with and caring for one another in times of sadness and loss. Life is a journey on which we’re changed by the experience – and by the company we share the journey with – and so is ministry!

We are not the same people we were in 2012 – I’m certainly not the same person or minister that I was when I arrived in Brampton from PEI! I wasn’t expecting to be called away from Charlottetown before I came to St. Andrew’s – but God called me, and I came. Together we have journeyed as a community of faith as we sought to witness to God’s grace in downtown Brampton. I have grown as a minister over my time with you – and I hope that St. Andrew’s and you have also grown in ways that have strengthened your faith and witness to God’s great commission.

My favorite line from T.S. Eliot is a blessing for times such as this: we are parting ways but we are still continuing the journey that we’ve shared for the past decade. While I am leaving St. Andrew’s to take up a call to another church – a call that I didn’t expect either – I know that as sisters and brothers in Christ, we are still journeying in faith, alongside Jesus together.

On behalf of my family I would like to thank the members and friends of St. Andrew’s for your generous love, trust, confidence, and patience over the years. I have been blessed by having the chance to get to know and to serve you, and I thank God for each and every one of you. May God continue to guide and watch over St. Andrew’s and all who serve and attend here.

“Not fare well, but fare forward....” And may God bless each of you – and St. Andrew’s – as you faithfully seek to witness to our God of grace, love, and hope.

Yours faithfully, in Christ,

Geoff

