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Celebrating Our Music Director, March 15th, 2026

Shelagh Tyreman has been our Music Director at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Brampton for 30 years. We have been privileged to have had this level of consistency. During her tenure, Shelagh has led our Senior Choir, given leadership to our Band, led a variety of Junior choirs and recently created a video of our children singing an original song she wrote on the sounds of Christmas. She has organized bus trips to Scotland where our choir has sung in St. Giles Cathedral among other venues. She also took the St. Andrew's choir to England in 2006. She plays the organ and the piano to enhance our congregational singing and leads weekly choir practices.

We are grateful for the blessing of her music and the tireless energy of her leadership.

Kennedy Jackson prepared a story board in celebration.

This is Shelagh's letter of thanks to the congregation.

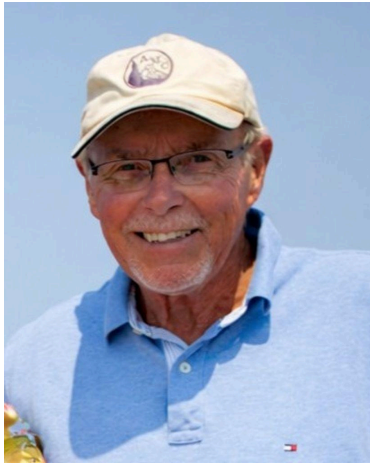
Thank you so much to my St. Andrew's family for the lovely surprise tribute last Sunday to my 30 years (cough - ten!) here with you! Contractually, I did start March 15th 1996, so 30 years to the day, but I came in a day earlier on Thursday the 14th, so we'd have a choir practice before our first Sunday together. And I am 100% certain that Rev. Graeme Duncan chose Amazing Grace and The Lord's My Shepherd as hymns that first Sunday, and that fact was nowhere on my radar when Byron and I planned the service and hymns according to the scriptures, back in January. How wild that we had two of the same hymns!

So many thanks to the choir, Rev. Byron, and the congregation for the lovely card, flowers, ovation and certificate of appreciation, and especially a huge thank you to Kennedy Jackson for the amazing photo display he created! Now to find room on my wall!

Thank you all for your support over the years.

Shelagh





Celebration of Life

A worship service to celebrate the life of Mike Harvey was held at St. Andrew's on March 13th, 2026. Mike had been an active member of St. Andrew's since 1981. Rev. Emma Duncan and Rev. Byron Kappes conducted the service. Shelagh Tyreman provided the music as requested by the family. Tributes were given by Emma, Mike's brother Dave, of Whistler BC and his son Andrew Harvey of Tromsø, Norway. Also participating in the service were Molly's cousin George Heughan and Karen Hutchinson and Colin Young who had each served as his elder. Mike's grandsons Sam and Ian and daughter in law Amanda also travelled from Norway for the service. Mike will be remembered as a lover of the outdoors, for the twinkle in his eye and his skill as a woodworker. Molly and Andrew would like to thank all those who sent condolences and donations and helped with the reception. The service can be viewed on St. Andrew's YouTube Channel.

Click here for [Obituary of Mike Harvey](#)

Byron's Bridge

Hey St. Andrew's! It's amazing to think that we are already a third of the way through 2026. The Lent and Easter season was very busy for us this year, and now we have a lot of even more exciting things on the horizon for the spring and summer seasons. We have some very interesting Bible studies coming up, as well as our summer VBS program. Mother's day brings with it some exciting new baptisms, and keep your eyes open for some new ideas from our Mission Committee. The Memorial Tree Project Committee is hard at work, and we're even looking forward to hosting a Presbytery meeting here at St. Andrew's, one which honors our good friend Rev. Emma Duncan in her new role as general presbyter at Brampton Presbytery. It's an exciting time for the church, and an exciting time for St. Andrew's. Join us as we continue to celebrate the good news of the resurrection in the year ahead!

- Rev. Byron Kappes



Contact St. Andrew's:

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647-779-8281 urdu@standrewsbrampton.ca

WMS



We gathered, in person, for our Easter Worship service on Tuesday, April 7th, in the parlour. This year's Easter Worship service was written by the Rev. Marion Barclay, retired minister and current Editor of the Presbyterian Message (Atlantic Mission Society).

The service was very thought provoking as Rev. Barclay used the metaphor of the stone being rolled away as being our passport. Here is an excerpt of the meditation to hopefully give you too some thought ..

“Today, many of us do have an actual passport of our country of citizenship. We are advised to keep this passport in a safe place; when we travel, to always carry it with us. We conscientiously care for it. While that picture of ourselves is perhaps somewhat lacking, we lay claim to our passport, guard it, and cherish it as we journey. Are we willing to show this degree of care towards the passport of our faith this Easter?”

Are we willing to renew ourselves in the story of our identity and citizenship as the people of God and servants of Jesus Christ?

Are we willing to carry with us the joy and hope of the empty tomb as we go about our lives, day in and day out? Like Mary of old and the disciples, we too are called by God to make new discoveries in days that aren't just what we might expect.

The empty tomb declares to us that in our darkness, there is light, God's light; that in our tears and sorrow there is joy, joy in God's presence and faithfulness towards us; that in our disbelief and confusion, there is God's forgiveness and healing and restoration.

The empty tomb grounds us in our identity and citizenship in the realm and rule of God's hand, right now and for eternity.

This Easter Day, this Easter Season, may we greet with joy the Risen Christ... who has after all, paid the price of our passport.”

St. Andrew's hosted and participated in the World Day of Prayer, February March 6th. There were approximately 100 in attendance, including a guest speaker from the Nigerian Newspaper who spoke about growing up in Nigeria and then coming to Canada. The committee received lots of compliments on how well the program flowed and how we, as a committee, honoured the Nigerian Flag (we all wore black pants or skirts, white tops and green scarves). Following the service, everyone enjoyed some Nigerian Jollof rice, puff puffs, fruit, and an assortment of tarts (donated by our very own Katie Kappes). The day raised approximately \$1400 for World Day of Prayer. Thank you to all who came and participated in the day.

We are meeting in person for our May & June meetings in the Parlour at 1:00 pm.

As I close this month's reflection, I return to a phrase shared at Rev. Rosemary's Celebration of Life: “Go out and be a Rosemary.” May we carry her spirit of kindness, courage, and faithful service into our everyday lives. Let us go out into the world—and be a Rosemary!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the Lenten season, our Sunday School children and youth felt called to make a difference in our church community. After some enthusiastic brainstorming, they decided—completely on their own—to organize a food drive for our Food Bank! Wanting it to be a surprise, they quietly brought in donations week after week. Over the course of five weeks, their generosity grew into something truly special.

On Sunday, April 12th, the secret was revealed! The Sunday School took over See & Hear and shared their project with the congregation. Kim Shepherd invited Gord Warren forward, where the children proudly presented a bin overflowing with food for the Food Bank. Rev. Byron then offered a blessing over the donations—a meaningful moment for all who witnessed it.

Thank you to our amazing children, youth, and families for your kindness, generosity, and servant hearts!



Get Ready Rainforest Falls VBS

Get ready—Rainforest Falls VBS is coming to St. Andrew's the week of July 13–17, and excitement is already building!

This year, we're thrilled to offer a full-day VBS program for children ages 5–14, ending the week with a fun-filled pizza party on Friday.

Rainforest Falls VBS invites children into a vibrant rainforest bursting with waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. In this immersive setting, kids will discover God as Creator, Refuge, Love, and Forever—learning what it means to be deeply rooted in a relationship with Him and finding a safe place in life's storms.

Each day will be packed with adventure, including:

- Engaging Bible stories
- Imagination Station (hands-on, science-based fun!)
- Crafts & games
- Music and more

It's going to be an unforgettable week of faith, fun, and friendship—we can't wait to see you there.

Coming in May – Evening Adult Bible Study

Looking for encouragement, connection, and a fresh spark in your faith? Join us for our *Overcomer Bible Study!*

Together, we'll dive into Scripture, share meaningful conversation, and discover how God equips us to rise above life's challenges with strength, hope, and purpose. Each gathering is a chance to grow, be inspired, and support one another along the journey.

Whether you're new to Bible study or have been attending for years, there's a place for you here.

Come ready to be encouraged, uplifted, and renewed—because in Christ, we are more than overcomers!

Wednesday, May 20th

Watch movie 7:00pm-9:30pm

The weekly study will start Wednesday, June 3rd and run through to Wednesday, June 24th^h from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm in the Parlour.

Please let Kim Shepherd or Doreen Scott-Dunne know if you will be attending or have any questions. We hope to see you there!!



FOOD BANK

Serving local Brampton families in need for the past

36 years



FOOD BANK

To help our Clients celebrate the Easter season we purposely purchased more food items for distribution on Wednesday April 1st. We picked up more fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and canned goods to give out extra food to each client. We emailed all our sponsors an Easter letter thanking them for their support and wishing them and their families a happy Easter. A simple thank you for all donations goes a long way in getting repeat donations. Often we hear you're the only one that says 'Thank You' for your donation.

Big shout out to the children of St. Andrew's Sunday School Program, who took the time to collect and donate a big tote bin of food items for the lent season to our Food Bank. Fostering this giving spirit at a young age is awesome! We want to thank the SS Teachers, and children's families for helping us feed the less fortunate families in our own neighbourhood. Together we can make a difference!

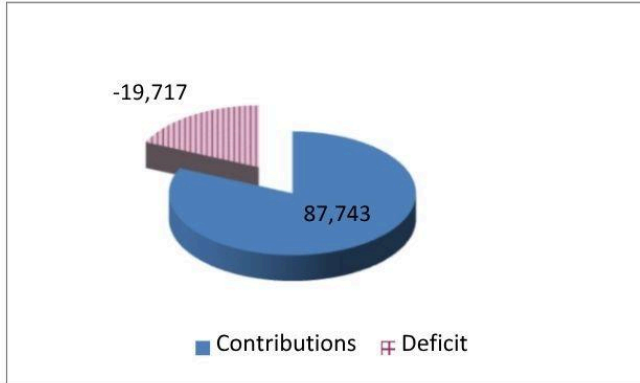
We also need to thank Brampton Brick for the generous donation of Butterball gift certificates that allowed us to purchase 16 frozen turkey rolls to give out to our families who have ovens to cook them. We also received 12 hams from FoodLand Vodden Second Harvest donation to give out for Easter. Not all our clients have cooking facilities, but those that do, appreciated these special items to add to their Easter meal.

Thank you, to our St. Andrew's family who continue to support our Food Bank ministry.

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of April 17, 2026



Thank you for your continued support of St Andrews with your generous contributions.

As you can see by the pie chart, contributions only covered half our expenses year to date resulting in a deficit of \$19,650.

Offerings are down 10% from the prior year so far in 2026.

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	<u>Jan 1 - Apr 17, 2026</u>	<u>Jan 1 - Apr 17, 2025</u>
Contributions		
Offerings	56,955.37	63,340.09
SEAOM Offerings/convention	2,969.55	4,513.85
Other Revenue	27,818.38	7,090.82
Total Contributions	<u>87,743.30</u>	<u>74,944.76</u>
Expense		
Education	690.37	617.77
SEAOM Mission	1,300.00	1,200.00
Mission	-	-
Property	47,436.74	67,038.64
Stewardship	55,753.20	59,676.68
Worship	2,280.15	2,783.98
Session	-	1,311.91
Total Expense	<u>107,460.46</u>	<u>132,628.98</u>
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(19,717.16)</u>	<u>(57,684.22)</u>
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	3,433.00	6,084.00
PWS&D donations*	876.50	1,555.00
Food Bank donations*	13,406.20	16,962.28

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

Bank Account Balances

	<u>Jan 1 - Apr 17, 2026</u>	<u>Jan 1 - Apr 17, 2025</u>
General Bank	(3,332.80)	4,065.10
Restricted Bank	54,458.15	52,816.65
Food Bank	147,999.83	135,561.98
Trustee Bank	13,811.45	11,331.52
Session Bank	4,161.84	3,446.84
Line of credit	0.00	(32,000.00)



Prayer Circle Group - Feb 18-April 19, 2026

From Feb 18th to Apr 19th 2026, a total of 10 new prayer requests were received. That resulted in 31 updates since I receive several updates as the person's condition changes over the following days, weeks, and months. We continue to pray for 15 groups and 28 individuals listed in our long term conditions section.

A monthly prayer list is sent out to all PCG members at the end of each month.

Sandra Jackson - PCG Administrator

In Memoriam

Mike Harvey passed away on March 4th, 2026, condolences to Molly and family.

A Call to Prayer

Ray Scanlan

There are so many things to pray for that it is becoming more difficult to discern what our priorities are, or should be, at this time. There are so many millions of refugees around the world that it is easy to miss holding up in prayer all the men, women and children who have lost their homes, or their lives or their jobs, or their families. People who are wounded with no hospital, people who are healthy with no jobs, people who do not have the basic necessities of life, no food, no water, no hydro, no medicine and no place to go.

Lord, we pray for peace. We pray for an end to the wars, an end to the suffering, an end to hopelessness - we pray for peace!

Worship and Fellowship Committee

Over the past several weeks, we have journeyed through the season of Lent, reflected on the solemnity of the crucifixion, and rejoiced in the joy of the resurrection at Easter. We hope many of you were able to take part in the special worship services offered throughout this holy season.

Alongside our regular morning services, we have also enjoyed a number of meaningful fellowship opportunities. On March 27th, Messy Church truly lived up to its name—in the very best way. Approximately 25 people gathered for a time of fun, creativity, and worship. From the delicious soups to the beautifully decorated Easter eggs, there was much to enjoy. The prayer terrariums were especially popular—so much so that the children are already asking to make them again in Sunday School.

Following worship on March 29th, many stayed to enjoy a wonderful chili lunch, featuring a variety of options along with an array of tasty side dishes and desserts.

On Saturday, April 11th, we held the Mystery Dinners 2026 wrap-up potluck in the church's Great Hall. Twenty participants came together for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship, with a lively sports team theme. Activities included a putting challenge and a cornhole competition, adding to the enjoyment both before and after the meal. It was a delightful way to conclude this year's Mystery Dinners program and to connect with everyone who took part. Highlights of the evening included cheesy pretzel bites from Katie Kappes, vegetarian chickpea channa from Kaitlyn Shepherd, and a delicious pineapple mandarin cake provided by Mary Louise Duncan.

If you didn't participate this year, we encourage you to join in the fun next time!

In the weeks ahead, there will be many more opportunities to become involved in the life and ministry of St. Andrew's. Watch for details about Faith in Action Day and upcoming Bible study offerings.

As spring begins to make its long-awaited appearance, we wish you a renewed sense of energy, hope, and faith-filled joy.



Karen Hutchinson - Chair

"This photo was taken by the Easter cross at the Easter Worship Service led by Rev. Babar."



Minute for Mission

Donations needed:

- **Body wash**
- **Deodorant**
- **Shampoo**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Shaving ream**
- **Combs**

Faith in Action is back! For the month of May, we are asking the congregation for their help, as we will be putting our "faith in action", once again. We will be collecting clean blankets and towels, for the Brampton Animal Shelter. We are also looking for 10 sets of the following (in travel size only): body wash, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving cream and combs. These items will be used for O.C.I. (Ontario Correctional Institute.)

For Ellen House, we are seeking women's toiletries (these can be either full size or travel size.)

Our 'work date' is scheduled for Saturday June 6th, in the Great Hall. We are seeking volunteers to help assemble and pack everything.

On the same day, we will be asking for our 'green thumb' folks, to help with the church garden planting.

We sincerely thank you, for all your help. We can't do what we do, without you, by helping us, to put our 'Faith in Action'!

Colin Young



Please help support St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church by purchasing our stunning hanging baskets, popular in past years.

We are offering 10-inch mixed coloured hanging baskets and 10-inch pots of caliente geraniums in red, lavender, or coral/fuchsia for just \$23.00. The order form is available on the table in the Great Hall on Sundays, or from the Eblast, or website.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, May 10th.

Your order will be available for pick up the week of May 18th. We will confirm the time and date soon.

Fill in the order form and put in the offering plate, or send an email to Pam Loree at loreep2020@gmail.com

Questions or to call in an order – call Pam at 647-668-0395.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Breaking News - Annual Meeting

The St. Andrew's Annual Meeting was held after Worship Service on Sunday, April 26th, and was attended by approximately 50 people.

The Agenda was followed closely, and there were no questions from the audience on Committee reports by the chairs. Pam Loree came to the microphone and gave an update on the Salsa group, which had not been included in the Annual Report.

Then Anna-Marie gave a detailed update on the December 31st, 2025, year-end financial statements. The difference between 2025 and 2024 was that we carried forward a deficit in 2025. However, the unrealized gain on our investments with the PCC still resulted in a deficit.



The Anniversary offering was earmarked for Christian Education, and this will be used in 2026. The biggest expense in our 2026 budget is that of the Stewardship Committee as it deals with:

- wages and benefits
- audit fees
- Brampton Presbytery Assessment

- Fundraising costs
- office and technology expenses
- bank charges and interest

The second largest expense in our 2026 budget is that of the Property Committee which is:

- \$12,000 for heating
- \$8,000 for utilities for the Manse
- \$66,000 for general maintenance, which includes: cleaners, fire inspection, maintenance of heating, fire monitoring, paper towels and toilet paper, mats, lawn mowing and snow removal, miscellaneous general repairs and the replacement of air conditioning in the Manse.

All other expenses were detailed in the Annual Report and in the Review Engagement Financial Statement, which was shared with members for 2 weeks before the Annual Meeting. There are still several copies available if you did not get one. After Anna-Marie’s presentation, there was a motion to approve the financial statements as printed. Approval was unanimous.

A special thanks to our treasurer Anna-Marie for her comprehensive report and to our Clerk of Session Debbie Warwick who took the Minutes of the meeting.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Rajeev Wijesinghe in Southern Africa: Wildlife, Kingdoms, and Raw Beauty

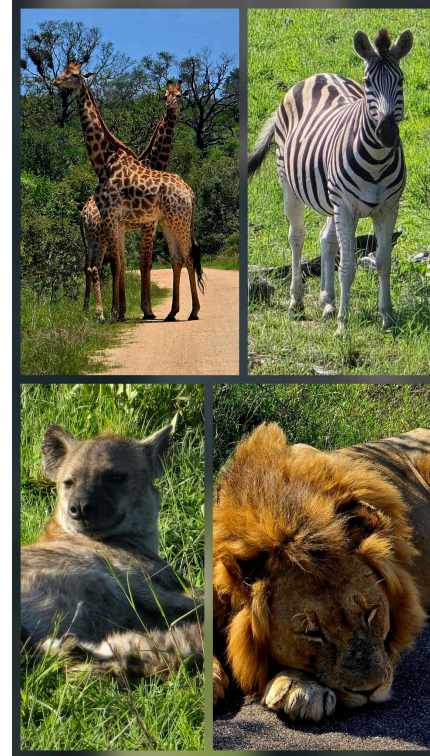
Last December, I had the opportunity to travel to South Africa, along with visits to the neighboring countries of Lesotho and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). As one might imagine, the highlight of the trip was my safari experience in Kruger National Park. Seeing free-roaming animals in their

natural habitat — elephants stomping through the bush, giraffes crossing open plains, lions resting under the African sun, and white rhinos appearing deceptively “chill” — was a powerful reminder of the scale and beauty of creation.

Beyond the safari, I was especially keen to visit two of the world’s remaining landlocked countries. Lesotho, known as the “Kingdom in the Sky,” is entirely surrounded by South Africa and is defined by its mountainous terrain and highland culture. Eswatini, one of the last absolute monarchies in Africa, is bordered by both Mozambique and South Africa and maintains strong traditional customs alongside modern development.

Each country has its own identity, history, and rhythm of life. Experiencing them firsthand was another reminder of how much diversity can exist within a relatively small geographic region.

I have always found that travel has broadened my perspectives not only through scenery and culture, but through



contrast — between modern and traditional, stability and struggle, familiarity and difference. This journey did exactly that. But there is another reason I travel as much as I do: my lifelong love of the aeroplane. On this trip, I had the chance to fly on two of my favourite aircraft — the Airbus A340 and the Boeing 747, the original “Jumbo Jet.” The machines that carry us across continents first captured my imagination as a child and continue to do so today. For many, they are simply

transportation. For me, each magnificent bird represents engineering ingenuity, global connection, and a special place in my personal logbook of flights — reminders of how vast the world is and how fortunate we are to explore it.



Discovering Belize

As I continue my quest to explore as many countries as I can, I recently had the opportunity to visit Belize — and unlike most of my trips, this time my parents joined me.

Belize may not have the most popular beaches in the Caribbean, but for history buffs like my parents and me, it offered something even better. We especially enjoyed exploring the remains of ancient Mayan civilization: impressive temples, squares, and other structures that tell the story of a highly developed society long before Europeans arrived.

It was also interesting to experience Belize’s natural environment. Much of the country is covered in rainforest, with a warm, humid climate and remarkable biodiversity. We also spent time at the Belize Zoo — which is less a traditional zoo and more a wildlife sanctuary — focused entirely on

native species. Many of the animals were rescued from poor environments in captivity or rehabilitated after sustaining injuries.

The history we were taking in also connected with the broader story of The Americas. The distant ancestors of the Maya — like other Indigenous peoples — are believed to have migrated from Asia across the Bering Strait thousands of years ago. Over time, civilizations such as the Maya, and later the Aztecs, emerged, each flourishing in different regions and eras. We also saw evidence of Belize’s colonial past, which continues to shape its culture today. Travel is always rewarding, but sharing this experience with my parents made it especially memorable. After all, my love of travel — and of learning about the world — was largely inspired by them.



A Wonderful Vacation

In mid-February Karen and Barry Hutchinson and Debbie and Doug Warwick enjoyed a wonderful vacation at the Barcelo resort in the Maya Riviera, Mexico. The weather was beautiful, the food was great and fun was had by all. We swam with fish and sea turtles, went mini-golfing with iguanas and

played cornhole and shuffleboard. We enjoyed various walks on the beach, out the pier and throughout the resort, as well as some evening shows. Barry began teaching Doug how to play cribbage and a few lessons were held in the evenings.

We joined fellow Canadians in the Tropical Bar during the morning of the men's gold Olympic hockey game. We thank those who reached out to us with safety concerns during our time in Mexico, however we are glad to report that we were 30 hours drive from Puerto Vallarta and did not have any problems.

Congratulations - 40th Wedding Anniversary

On May 10th, 2026, June and Colin Young will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. We appreciate having them as long time members of St. Andrew's and send our best wishes for more joy and laughter.



Special Birthdays

Birthday cake was supplied by the families of the celebrants in the Great Hall after Sunday Services for Doug Warwick's 70th on March 15th, and also for Kennedy Jackson's 75th on April 11th but celebrated on April 12th.



Deadline for submissions to the September 2026 Issue: August 24th, 2026

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