



CONNXIONS

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022 ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL NEWSLETTER



ADVENT
Newness
IS ON ITS WAY

Advent

**NEWNESS
IS ON ITS WAY**



CONNIXIONS DECEMBER / JANUARY ISSUE

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Dear Friends,

It was the first December after I had moved to Toronto to study theology. The term had not been what I expected. There had been a significant adjustment to living downtown in Canada's largest city. But more concerning was that this had been my least favourite term of study yet—my previous two history degrees had brought me greater joy. Questions swirled—was theology really my call? That December I counted the days 'til I would fly home—back to that place of centring warmth and familiarity—where I was known and loved. As I ticked off those days I imagined the folks I'd see, the favourite foods we'd enjoy, the presents we'd share and the joy we'd celebrate. The yearning for home that year was greater than ever before.

Perhaps the swirling uncertainty and confusion of the pandemic has created an even greater yearning for home in us this Advent / Christmas. Home is a place to be accepted and to belong. Home is where our identity is formed. As a phone company ad once said, "I am who I am because of everybody."

At this time last year we were heading into the peak of the second wave and our first ever pandemic Christmas lock-down. Many spent the holiday isolated and alone. This year, as vaccination rates grow, our hearts are yearning for home—longing to be surrounded by more of the ones who know us and love us best. We long for times of enjoyment and loving support. Our yearning is for home this Christmas—for as Frederick Buechner says, "Home is that place where you feel that all is somehow ultimately well, even if things aren't going all that well at any given moment." Jesus comes to our world to show us the way home to God.

We want to welcome you home to St. Andrew's this Advent/Christmas. By requiring a proof of vaccination and employing careful health protocols we are creating a safe environment for you to join us in person again. We understand that some of you will continue to join us on-line, but for those of you who are yearning for that place of centring warmth and familiarity—where you are known and loved—we invite you to come home to St. Andrew's this Advent/Christmas.

Each week of Advent we offer our weekly in-person service at 10 am. On Christmas Eve we will offer a 4 pm Family Service, as well as Candlelight services at 7 pm and 9 pm (Registration will be required.) On Christmas Day we will offer our regular Communion service at 10 am, and on Boxing Day a Carol Service at 10 am. I'd love to welcome you home to St. Andrew's this Christmas!

Advent blessings to you,

Dr. Tim
Lead Minister / Life & Vision



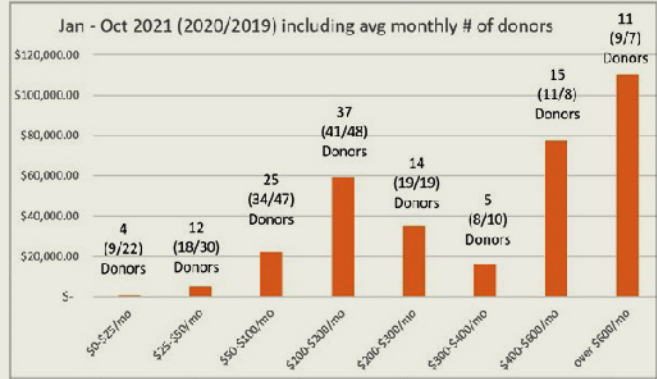
ADVENT
Newness
IS ON ITS WAY.

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 11.29 | Advent 1 Hope | Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-36 | Dr. Tim Dr. Geoffrey / Lori-ann |
| 12.05 | Advent 2 Peace | Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 3: 1-6 | Dr. Tim Lori-ann |
| 12.12 | Advent 3 Joy | Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Philippians 4: 4-7 | Dr. Geoffrey Dr. Tim |
| 12.19 | Advent 4 Love | Lessons & Carols | Dr. Tim |
| 12.24 | Christmas Eve 4pm Service | Luke 6: 37-42; Colossians 3: 12-17 | Rev. Fiona Faith Formation |
| 12.24 | Christmas Eve 7pm & 9pm Service | Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-20 | Dr. Tim |
| 12.25 | Christmas Day 10am Jesus Comes to Our World... | John 1: 1-14 | Dr. Tim |
| 12.26 | Christmas 1 10am Boxing Day | Luke 1: 67 - 79 | Dr. Geoffrey Lori-ann |

Great is thy Faithfulness!
Submitted by the Gratitude
and Generosity Team

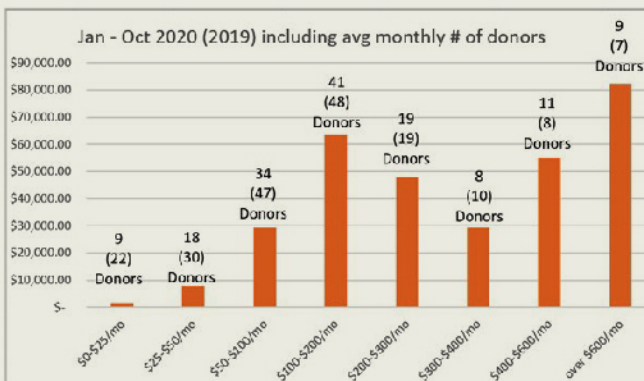
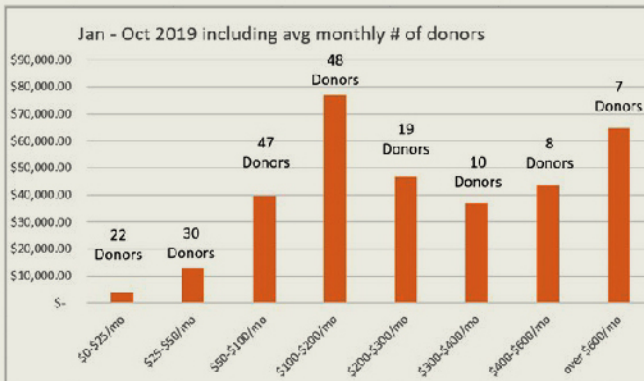
We are Truly Thankful for the Growing Number of Strong, Faithful Consistent Givers in our Midst. Their example inspires us all to grow in our own generosity. A financially healthy congregation is generally a reflection of a spiritually healthy congregation. Giving is a spiritual discipline and the more we practice this the more we become the community of faith God intends us to be. The Gratitude and Generosity Team encourages us all to practice thoughtful, prayerful, intentional, and joyful giving. Imagine all that we can accomplish together if we do that!

2 Corinthians 9:7 reminds us that each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



In order to compare “apples to apples” we have provided a three-year comparison of givings from January to the end of October for the year 2019 (Pre-COVID) and for the following two years in 2020 and 2021 (COVID years).

It should be pointed out that the average monthly givings for each of November and December of the two previous years (2019 and 2020) were actually more than “double” the average givings of the prior 10 months and we hope the same occurs in 2021. Those two months, consisting of 1/6th of the year, account for 1/4 of the financial gifts in each of those years. If this continues to be the case in 2021, we will once again reach the amazing milestone of maintaining the same total level of givings in each of the years 2019, 2020 and 2021! The total was \$434,000.00 in 2019 and \$429,000.00 in 2020. If we can raise \$105,000.00 in November/December 2021, we will reach a total of \$432,000.00 for the year 2021.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 07)

It was an engaging and thought-provoking read, generating lots of interesting discussion and personal goal setting in each of the groups.

The Faith Formation Team is now busy arranging treats for our post-secondary students for the fall exam period and turning our thoughts to the Advent season, including the planning of an outdoor Family Christmas Eve service. We are grateful for our blessings! Stay healthy everyone.

Who in the World is Lori-ann Esser?

Question: What do a tiara, army boots, a Tattoo and a black robe have in common?

Answer: Lori-ann Esser, the interim Coordinator Growth and Care at St. Andrew's.

Born and raised in Nova Scotia into a strong Christian family, faith and church always have been a part of Lori-ann's life. Lori-ann attended Acadia University for her undergraduate degree in English and Psychology. After taking time to do French Immersion and working as an Army Reservist*, Lori attended Osgoode Hall Law School with a special interest in criminal law.

Married to Michael for 19 years, they have lived in Alberta for 14 of them. Michael is originally from Cobourg, Ontario, and is a paediatric neurologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital. Following the arrival of their son, Luke, in 2007, Lori-ann left her legal practice to become a stay-at-home mom. Besides volunteering for churches and schools, her other interests include cheering on Luke in his mountain biking, dirt biking and downhill skiing pursuits. She also likes hiking with their dog, Chopper, swimming, biking, writing, and trying various arts and crafts.

Having spent a (few) decades exploring different interests, studies, and opportunities, Lori-ann feels that life isn't about one path, but following God's lead, wherever it may go and whenever it may change. With that philosophy, she is happy to take on the role as interim Coordinator Growth and Care at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Since first attending St. Andrew's in January of 2020, she has felt a connection with the people she has met, both online and in person. The world is obviously changing and, as a church, we continue learning how to respond to these changes and discerning what God is leading us to do within our community and our city.

Lori-ann is looking forward to helping with this process and getting to know more people at St. Andrew's, including the children and youth of the church.

The mandate of the Coordinator of Growth and Care is to:

- Develop activities to attract, welcome, engage and orient newcomers (as COVID protocols permit).
- Promote regathering and rebuilding of our faith community.
- Participate in worship two Sundays per month.
- Resource the Mission Team including a renewal of mandate and a work plan for the coming year, development of community partnerships and recruitment of new members.
- Resource Family Ministry and Faith Formation Teams and Youth Group as needed.
- Engage and coordinate new volunteers for Ministry Teams; and
- Support the Alpha Team to prepare for the next Alpha offering.

How is this going to happen? That depends – are you feeling called to help with any Ministry Teams or do you wish to serve the church in other ways?

Following the recent book study and sermon series on “Neighbouring,” and keeping in line with the church's vision and its mission statement, Lori-ann would like to see our church find new ways to become involved in the surrounding neighbourhood – stepping outside the church walls in some cases; and inviting the community inside in others. How can we do this? We can start by asking: Who lives in the church's surrounding neighbourhoods? What are the needs in these communities? What are your own skills, hobbies, and interests and what are the ways that they may be used to serve God through St. Andrew's?

Hopefully this has answered some of your questions about the position of Coordinator Growth and Care and about the person filling in for six months, except for maybe a couple.

What's with the tiara? You'll have to seek out Lori-ann for the low-down on that.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

Spiritual Moments
Inge Murray
God is at Work in Us



A year before our immigration to Canada from South Africa, my husband Craig made a trip to Western Canada and drove from Vancouver to Calgary on a “look and see” trip so we could make an informed decision on where we would start a new chapter in our lives. Craig had an appointment on Elbow Drive and took the LRT to the Heritage Station. He walked past St. Andrew’s and decided to stop in and see what church looked like in Canada. He was greeted by Rev. Karl English, and during their chat, God planted a little seed.

Fast forward to a year later when Craig and I, and our two young children, Carl and Shona, arrived in Canada with six suitcases and a cat. We were totally overwhelmed with starting a new life in a new country; and immersed in a new culture. We had left everything and everyone who was part of our world behind in South Africa. As we stood in our rental home in the old Currie Barracks nothing familiar grounded us, and in our deepest emptiness we started putting one foot in front of the other as we began the onerous task of checking off the “to do” list to get us on our feet.

On one of our very first Sundays after we purchased a used car, we felt a strong pull to go to a worship service. We drove to the church Craig had stopped in at more than a year before – St. Andrew’s Calgary. God had already been at work in our lives long before we even knew it. Walking in the doors of St. Andrew’s felt so welcoming. We were soon introduced to a family who took us into their fold and began nurturing us. So began our immersion into St. Andrew’s faith community.

It was then that we felt a strong presence of God in our lives. God was using the people of St. Andrew’s to ground us, to help us find the familiar in the unfamiliar, and give us a strong foundation. The foundation was spiritual and emotional. With that foundation we could start building a new life for our family, knowing that God was right in the middle of all we were going through.

God’s call is not about us, but what God can do in and through us to build His Kingdom. It is that deep spiritual knowing that moves us to obedience. Faith is a journey, growing in Godliness each time we respond to the nudging of God’s spirit in our lives. Being open to the moments when we get a glimpse of the Kingdom of God builds our relationship with our God that continues to grow deeper and deeper.

We continue to live our lives in gratitude to the strong faith community of St. Andrew’s who disciples to us in our time of need. This is truly how a faith community lives out their faith, by opening doors and loving like Jesus.

You never know how God will use you to impact the lives of others. Our prayer is that St. Andrew’s will continue to be a people whom God will use to transform lives, just like our lives were transformed.

“And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6



Search Committee Update
Lorna Andronikou, Convenor,
Search Committee

The Search Committee for the position of Associate Minister: Growth and Care has recently begun meeting on a regular basis once again now that we have received the blessing of Session to pursue the call for a new minister at St. Andrew's. Since we began meeting again, the team has revamped the Congregational Profile and we are looking forward to the next phase of this process.

As we continue the work of the Search Committee to see who God is calling to St. Andrew's, we continue to be reminded that we are also called to grow in faith and listen for God's word throughout as we prayerfully seek the Spirit's guidance. We are reminded that we have been given the gift of influence to help the people of St. Andrew's experience more fully the embodiment of the vision we believe God has given us. Our aim is to recruit and call a minister who understands and responds to our vision so that we can Grow. Life. Together. With God more fully within ourselves, our faith family, and our larger community.

We would sincerely like to thank our former Interim Moderator, Rev. Fiona Swanson, who provided such wonderful insight and kept us all in line during the first phase of the committee meetings. We would also like to pass along our heart-felt thanks to our former Co-Convenors, Cathy Millar, and Ken Burrill. Their leadership has been inspiring and I hope to be able to live up to the high standards they both set.

The Search Committee now consists of our new Interim Moderator, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, our new Convenor, Lorna Andronikou, and members: David Kurtz, Kevin MacFarlane, Cathy Millar, Inge Murray, Bart Stolee, and Thelma Wagner. We are excited about the prayerful consideration for potential candidates to inspire Growing. Life. Together. With God at St. Andrew's with us as we move on to our next phase of this journey - together.

News from Your Faith Formation Team
Rhonda Wishart, Inge Murray,
Debby Dorcas & Lorna Andronikou

We know members of the congregation miss seeing the St. Andrew's children and youth as much as we do! Ministering to the younger demographic throughout Covid has been challenging, as you might imagine, but we continue to seek opportunities for connection. The children were delighted to see each other and reconnect with a number of those special St. Andrew's adults in their lives at the annual camping weekend in August. Then on a lovely Saturday morning in mid-September, many children were able to gather on the church lawn with other children from the community for a Fall Fun Day. Baby animals including lambs, bunny rabbits and goats from Butterfield Acres were a huge hit - who doesn't want to cuddle a baby animal - and the children were delighted to engage in other outdoor activities including a bubble machine, a scavenger hunt, and rock painting.

While church school has been online since the beginning of Covid, it was available by video production by our leaders. As a Faith Formation Team, we felt the need to be with the children more directly. So, we moved to a Zoom Church School format in October, 2021 enabling the children to see each other and engage more directly with their leaders. We, the leaders, are enjoying seeing these bright faces and experiencing their curiosity once again and we hope to engage more young families as the church school continues throughout the fall. We are using a new online curriculum entitled Holy Moly for the younger age group (ages 3-7) and Connect for the older group (ages 8-13). Our Zoom Church School, called Bible Buddies, takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, commencing at 9 am

We are excited for the restart of weekly Youth Group on Thursday, Nov. 28 under the able leadership of Rev. Fiona, David Kurtz, Lauren Cole, and Matt Nolette. More details on Youth Group programming to follow.

Three book study groups led by Dr. Tim, Bill Judd, and Ken & Sharon Burrill on the book *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyan commenced in the last week of September 2021. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 04)

Session HIGHLIGHTS



Session Updates – November 2021 By Debby Dorcas, Clerk of Session

- This month we warmly welcomed Lori-ann Esser to our staff as she works with us as Coordinator, Growth & Care. Lori-ann works 15/hours a week, and we have already been inspired by her participation in worship, and her work with some of our teams.
- The Worship Team invites you to celebrate Christmas Eve at either the 4:00 pm Family Service, 7:00 pm worship, or 9:00 pm worship. We will also celebrate together on Christmas Day at 10:00 am. Watch for upcoming details in LinX and on our website.
- The Personnel Team is working to clarify roles, responsibilities, and goals of all staff so that their work is directly linked with helping St. Andrew's live out its Vision of Growing.LIFE.Together.With God. When this work has been completed, the information will be shared.
- The Faith Formation Team is delighted to be able to announce the restart of the Youth Group Friday, November 19, under the direction of Rev. Fiona Swanson, David Kurtz, Lauren Cole, and Matthew Nolette.
- The Gratitude & Generosity Team reminds us of the "TOONIE-A-DAY" challenge offered by our Convenor of the Finance Team in September. By giving a TOONIE-A-DAY (an additional giving of \$196) between now and year end will help to support our valuable ministry in our city that needs it.
- The Mission Team is working with Lori-ann Esser about ways to go about re-imagining mission possibilities, particularly in our Haysboro/Kingsland neighbourhood.

- The Search Committee has added the updated congregational profile to our website; and rebooted the search at church offices for an Associate Minister, Growth and Care.
- theCreek Ministry - we commend theCreek Team on the following two initiatives:
 - The Free Little Mitten Trees (information on our Website) - we encourage members of St. Andrew's to support this initiative as you're able.
 - Food and Faith Nov 27 - we hope many of you were able to enjoy an evening of conversation and laughter as you cooked up a storm!
- The ReVision & Renewal Task Force is reflecting on our Vision, Mission Statement, and Values; and from that is formulating a draft of a plan and strategy for growing our vision in the next three years. We are also looking at specific activities, gatherings and educational opportunities related to spiritual growth, mission, and community engagement. We see these as ways of breathing life into our Vision of Growing. LIFE. Together. With God.
- The Finance Team offered an excellent presentation aimed at helping the Session discern a budget for 2022. A variety of scenarios were presented that helped Session think creatively about funding our valuable ministry in the coming year. A special budgeting meeting on January 8, 2022 will bring Session and the Finance Team together for discussion and discernment.
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, March 6, 2022.
- During this Advent season, please consider joining a book study group on Monday nights or Tuesday afternoons. We will be studying and exploring CELEBRATING ABUNDANCE - Devotions for Advent by Walter Brueggemann. What will this newness and abundance mean for you? "If Advent is a time for waking up, let this be your alarm clock." More details can be found on our website.

**Health Matters:
Facts from Your Wellness Team
Alice Williams, Convenor**

November is Fall Prevention month in Alberta. Everyone is at risk for falling any time of the year but more especially in the winter months. Falls can have a major impact on families and the healthcare system and they can happen to any age group.

Here are some fall facts:

Falls are the leading cause of injuries amongst seniors and those under 10 years of age. 1 out of 3 Albertans over 65 and 1 out of 2 Albertans over 80 will fall at least once a year. Falls account for 92 emergency department visits and 25 hospital admissions each day. 95% of all hip fractures and 40% of all nursing home admissions are a direct result of falling. The average length of stay in hospital due to falls is 21 days. Falls cost \$50 billion annually for every hospital admission and emergency department visit.

Given these facts, here are a few practical suggestions to keep us all from becoming a fall statistic.

Inside the home:

- Secure loose rugs with double-sided tape or slip resistant backing. Remove scatter rugs.
- Replace burnt out light bulbs.
- Ensure all TV, computer and light cords are tidied away.
- Immediately clean up any spilled liquids, grease, or food.
- Reduce clutter in front entrance and living spaces.
- Place night lights in the bedroom, bathroom, and hallways.
- Install grab bars in the shower or tub. Use non-slip mats in the bathtub or shower.
- Turn on lights before going up or down stairs and use handrails.
- Wear proper fitting footwear (ditch the flip flops).
- Place commonly used articles on lower shelves.
- Talk to your doctor about the medications that you are currently taking. Some sedatives and antidepressants can have an adverse effect related to decision making, balance and ongoing fatigue.



Health MATTERS

Outside the home:

- Stay physically active by choosing a variety of exercises including cardiovascular, balance and strength training.
- Plan your trip ahead. Avoid rushing, and pay attention to what is in front, and ahead.
- Install motion detector lights outside and keep pathways and door area clear of clutter.
- Install handrails at the front door.
- Watch for uneven surfaces, sidewalk cracks and unmarked curbs and slopes.
- Be aware of icy and slippery surfaces in the winter months.
- Watch for wet, slippery floors in public buildings or public transport.
- Use well-lit walkways and handrails when using stairs.
- Wear good fitting footwear with non-slip treads on the soles.
- Invest in a good pair of ice cleats. There is a wide variety on the market from boots with built in ice cleats to ones that can be easily put over many types of winter footwear.

We hope that these suggestions will keep you all safe from fall injuries this coming winter season. Some updated AHS Fall Prevention pamphlets will be available at the church by mid-November. Alberta Health Services has prepared several excellent resources that can be downloaded. If you are unable to make it to church, or if you find it more convenient to go online, you might find these resources useful to you:

Finding Balance Resources available here.
Are you at risk of falling? Assess yourself here.
Preventing falls, Injury Prevention and Safety MyHealth.Alberta.ca More Resources to prevent falling here.

A Google search with the terms “AHS” and “fall-prevention” will turn up many more resources. Stay well, stay safe!

THANK YOU, ST. ANDREW'S!!!

By Shona Vandrasco, Finance Team

Well, here we are, close to the end of another year, and almost a full two years into COVID. However, the people of St. Andrew's have come through yet again in so many amazing ways, and to you we say BLESS YOU and THANK YOU!

When COVID began, we did not know what to expect. Yet at the end of 2020 we finished the year with a very small deficit of less than \$1,000.

We knew 2021 would be another challenging year, not only because of COVID but also because a specific funding arrangement that the previous Finance Team had set up, allowing for a \$30k transfer of funds from both the Memorial Fund and the Legacy Fund into the General Operating Fund for a period of five years, would end at the end of 2020.

When the current Finance Team assumed its responsibilities at the end of 2020, this was the reality we were facing. As well, the Coptic Church had moved on and since the arrival of COVID it has not been possible to source additional rental income, which provided St. Andrew's with \$30k annually for several years.

If it had not been for the very generous support of 12 of our members, who stepped up at the beginning of 2021 to help fill the \$60k gap created by the loss of income mentioned above (agreeing to do so each year for a period of five years), we would not be sitting quite so comfortably as we are today. We are most grateful to these individuals (and you know who you are!!!) and on behalf of the entire congregation, we extend a sincere "Thank you." The funding, received or pledged, is over and above their regular givings which some of the donors have also thoughtfully and intentionally increased, as a number of others in the congregation have also done this past year.

Fortunately, we have been able to apply for some government relief as a result of COVID, and that too has helped significantly, to the point that we expect to finish 2021 with a relatively small deficit.

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DAILY OPERATIONS - OCTOBER 31, 2021 YEAR-TO-DATE

| | |
|--|----------------|
| RECEIPTS | |
| CHURCH SUPPORT (PAR, ENVELOPE, ELECTRONIC) | 285,504 |
| PLEDGES | 36,500 |
| OTHER DONATIONS* | 37,854 |
| SUBSIDIES & GRANTS** | 60,047 |
| FUNDRAISING | 13,429 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 433,334 |
| EXPENSES | |
| MUSIC & CHOIR EXPENSES | 9,782 |
| CONGREGATIONAL TEAMS | 5,793 |
| ST ANDREW'S PEOPLE & EDUCATION | 291,520 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES | 21,712 |
| MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS | 52,959 |
| WE REACH OUT | 44,787 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 426,553 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) | 6,781 |
| OCTOBER INVOICES NOT YET RECEIVED | (8,150) |
| REVISED EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) | (1,369) |

* INCLUDES OTHER DONATIONS, OPEN PLATE, AND USE OF SPACE

** AN ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (CEBA) LOAN OF \$60,000
IS SHOWN ON THE BALANCE SHEET AS A LIABILITY.
FUNDS ARE HELD IN MAWER TO REPAY THIS LOAN AND CURRENT AND FUTURE
DEFICITS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

A small deficit is good news because this will put us on more solid footing as we begin 2022.

As a community of faith, we trust in each other to share from the abundance that God has provided, and when we all do that, we can be assured that we will have more than enough to keep Growing. Life. Together. With God in the days ahead. So let us all remember that we each have an important part to play to help St. Andrew's remain spiritually and financially strong.

Please don't forget our Toonie-A-Day challenge from now until December 31. The total from the day the challenge was first announced until the end of the year amounts to \$196 over that period. It is not too late to get started and every toonie helps!

**New Names for our Ministries:
Same Goals—to Reach Out and Connect
with God and with Each Other**

by Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
and Judie Coleman
Pastoral Care/Ministries of Care

During this past year, Geoffrey and Judie, working with all the convenors of the Pastoral Care Program ministries, reviewed the strengths and challenges facing each of our groups. We produced a study document that Session considered and accepted. We recommended a new name, Ministries of Care, believing that the new name summed up what we were doing in a broader way and also dovetails with the title for the new Minister of Growth and Care. Given that this minister will be directly involved in all ministries of care, we thought that the term Ministry of Care would apply not only to our umbrella term, but also to all the sub-groups within that designation. But, if we are changing our name, we certainly aren't changing our goals, which are to reach out to each other and to connect with God and with each other.

Here are the ministries that now have new names.

**Life after Loss
(formerly known as Bereavement Team)**

The purpose of this team is to provide pastoral care to those who are grieving. Grief, loss and recovery related topics, facilitated by team members, is to be offered in informal sessions during the year. The team decided that it needed a new name to convey their ministry and will now be called the Life after Loss team.

**Connect with Care
(formerly known as District Visitors)**

This team responds to individuals/families who are new to St. Andrew's as well as to individuals / families who request a different level of connection by providing care and connection to St. Andrew's. The team decided that a new name would better describe this ministry, in part because the old geographic districts have disappeared, and also in part, because we "connect" with people in many different ways. These are through visits, phone calls, emails, texts, and yes, even Zoom. Recognizing this diverse approach to connecting with each other, we decided to rename this ministry Connect with Care. Instead of having a District Visitor, everyone will have a Care Connector. We can't wait to connect with you!

OUR Ministries

**Wellness
(formerly known as Nursing Health Ministry)**

We rebranded this ministry to reflect two major changes. For one, our membership used to consist mostly of retired nurses. While this is still the case for some members, by broadening the scope, we can attract new members. Secondly, we renamed this ministry to reflect the broader societal changes that see "wellness" as an all-embracing concept, one linking spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing. This ministry is devoted to growing life together through wellness. Its members promote health and wholeness for members of the congregation through health education and promotion activities, spiritual support and encouragement. This ministry reflects the faith and compassion of Christ's followers and calls on the resources of church and community to carry out this ministry of healing body, mind and spirit. The Wellness team looks at us as human beings with broad needs, wishes and dreams connected with our sense of wellness.

**Two's Company, a ministry to our Home Bound
(formerly known as Homebound Ministry)**

The goal of this ministry is to work one-on-one to coordinate pastoral care visitations to members and adherents of the congregation by encouraging and supporting home and institution visitations, while providing a nurturing environment for both the visiting volunteers and those being visited. Our team decided that it needed a newer, warmer name and will now be called Two's Company – a ministry to our Home Bound. We love the new name of this ministry and we hope you do too!

Other teams continue with their original names: Care Share, Hospital Visitation, Prayer Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Side by Side and Stephen Ministry.

Regardless of whether our ministry names have changed or stayed the same, we are still here for you! As the hymn put it, "Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story, holiness in glory, living, loving God."



Alice Post,
for theCreek team

At the October 2021 Session meeting, theCreek Team had the opportunity to share about theCreek and the program that has evolved as the team sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand God’s mission today in the communities south of Fish Creek. In this article, we share highlights of our report to Session and some details of our Fall 2021 events.

Report Highlights

Vision, Mission and Values

- theCreek is a parallel ministry, sharing in St. Andrew’s vision of growing life together with God, and extending that vision to a different geographic context, south of Fish Creek.
- theCreek adapts to the communities we serve, so the mission and values of theCreek are adapted to the unique opportunities and challenges south of Fish Creek.
- The mission of theCreek is to help people find themselves in the story of God, and to do that in a way that expresses our values of gentleness, complexity, presence, and grace.

Presence in the Community

Throughout the past year, theCreek had several events in the communities south of Fish Creek, including the Mitten Trees, Food and Faith, via Crucis on Good Friday, and an outdoor Easter worship service at Fish Creek Park.

Together with St. Andrew’s

In December 2020, the St. Andrew’s Surge Youth helped set up the mitten trees which got great feedback from the community and was noticed by Mayor Nenshi! In January of 2021, St. Andrew’s and theCreek partnered together to offer the Alpha Course online, which was very well attended!

Community Connection and Worship

theCreek connects with community through small worship gatherings called AfterWords, where video content is discussed and communion is shared. Connections are also made through theCreek’s website, app, and social media. The app provides a single point of contact for content, chat, and giving.

Fall 2021 Events at theCreek

Food and Faith – theCreek kicked off Advent this year with Food and Faith on November 27.

Advent 2021 – theCreek encourages all to consider an Advent practice this year and has provided an original online Advent resource. To access this resource, click here: <http://tiny.cc/4k3luz>

Mitten Trees 2021 will be set up by the bus stop in front of St. Andrew’s and at the three CTrain stations located south of Fish Creek. The Mitten Trees invite people to take what they need and give what they can. The trees will be up throughout the month of December. Place your donations on any of the trees, or bring them to the south door of the church. You can also designate a financial donation for the Mitten Trees.

For questions about theCreek, please contact any of these members of theCreek Team: **Desiree Henrichsen, Stephen Henrichsen, and Alice Post.**

FREE
LITTLE
Mitten
TREE



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 05)

As for the Tattoo? See below....

* Lori-ann’s husband, Michael, who himself is a former Regular Force naval officer, likes to point out that her Army Reserve job wasn’t “real” because she was just playing clarinet in the Atlantic Militia Area band. Lori-ann would like to “note” the challenges of marching in formations and playing the clarinet at the same time and shares that she still did basic training and was pretty accurate in target practice. These may or may not be transferable skills. She doesn’t have a tattoo, but she was in one.

Festival of Lessons and Carols by Evan Mounce, Director of Music Ministries

The St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons and Carols is making a come-back this year with two chances to participate in this special service!

At noon on Wednesday, December 8, St. Andrew's will join forces with the Knox Presbyterian choir to present a service of Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral (on the corner of 1 St and 7 Ave SE). This is part of the ProArts Recital Series and each choir will present selections both solo and combined, interspersed with readings and carols sung by all in attendance. Paul Grindlay will be conducting the combined choirs with Jim Picken at the Cathedral Organ, me (Evan!) on the piano, and of course your favourite choristers singing!



If you aren't able to make it on December 8, fear not because on Sunday December 19, we will be presenting our own Festival of Lessons and Carols during our regular service time, 10:00 am. So, you have two chances to participate in this 100-year-old tradition!

The St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons and Carols is modelled after the traditional service at King's College, Cambridge. The service at King's College was introduced as a means to attract people back to Christian worship and the first service was held on Christmas Eve, 1918. The popularity of the service was established when it began to be broadcast by the BBC in 1928 and, except for 1930, it has been broadcast every year since; even throughout the Second World War. The lessons and music of this service move us from the season of Advent into Christmastide. The service consists of nine lessons interspersed with carols sung by all; and anthems presented by the choir and special musical guests.

Please plan to attend both Lessons and Carols services; and bring family and friends to share in this musical celebration taking place at the Cathedral downtown on December 8, and at your very own St. Andrew's on December 19.

Hope to see you there!

HERITAGE SENIORS

by Jan Kozbial



Well, we are back – up and running with limited programs but at least we have turned the corner and are able to get together for some activities. The past 20 months has been difficult for seniors due to the lack of physical and social inactivity.

In September, we held two registration days but in an abundance of caution, we postponed our planned opening. We also were dealing with instructors who either did not have the necessary vaccinations; or moved on to other facilities that were able to start earlier in the fall season.

Our carpet bowling has had a resurgence of members interested in playing. It is a learning curve but very fun so if you are interested, we play on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:30 am until approximately noon.

Another program that is very well attended is our stretch class which is held on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Our music makers program is in need of a pianist for their practices on Wednesday mornings so if you would like to help them out, please call the number listed below.

On Thursdays at 9:30 am, we have a new class of Qi Gong so come and give it a try.

We are looking for aerobics instructors so if you or anyone you know would like to teach, please call the number listed below.

Some of our other programs are on hold for now so if you would like more information on these or other programs, please call Jan at 403-236-7018.



Personnel Team Elizabeth Dolan, Convenor

While the autumn season is often regarded as the sad end to summer and the end of gardens and fields thriving, the Personnel Team greeted fall with new growth!! We welcomed two new members on the team, Kristi Millar and Merle Crawford, and we also welcomed Lori-ann Esser in a part-time interim, six month position for Coordinator Growth and Care. We are all very enthused about our roles and what we can do together to support the vision of St. Andrew's.

The Personnel Team is using the fresh energy that comes with new team members to update, clarify, specify, coordinate, integrate, make clear the job descriptions and work plans for all non-clergy staff. Whew!! We are grateful for the focus of the church's vision to help us with this ambitious task.

The Coordinator Growth & Care is a big job to which Lori-ann will commit 15 hours per week. Here are some of the responsibilities Lori-ann has agreed to take on:

- Develop Activities to attract, welcome, engage and orient newcomers (As COVID protocol permits).

- Promote the regathering and rebuilding of our faith community.
- Participate in worship two Sundays per month (including the provision of a children's time and agreed upon prayers).
- Resource a refreshment of the Mission Team, including assistance with a renewal of mandate, a work plan for the coming year, recruitment of new members and the development of community partnerships.
- Resource the Family Ministry and Faith Formation Teams, as needed, and particularly in relation to Youth Groups.
- Engage and coordinate new volunteers for Ministry Teams, as needed.
- Support the Alpha Team to prepare for the next Alpha offering at St. Andrew's.
- Organize Study Groups and recruit leaders for the season of Lent.

Lori-ann was profiled recently in a St. Andrew's Facebook post. Visit our Facebook page [@StACalgary](#), so you can read her thoughts about this position and also will know her by her warm and welcoming smile.

Advent: the season of expectation and preparation!! We are blessed!!!

GET SOCIAL WITH CONNXIONS

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EDITORIAL TEAM

- Team Member: Judie Coleman
- Team Member: Barbara English
- Team Member: Lorie Nielsen
- Communications Coordinator



**St. Andrew's Covid Task Force Report
Mark Rowe - Convenor**

The Covid Task Force was formed for the duration of Covid to provide guidance in safely conducting St. Andrew's re-opening during Covid. The St. Andrew's congregation has been following safe Covid practices and this has allowed our most vulnerable members to safely worship with us. **Thank you!**

The Calgary Covid count, as of November 5, has dropped to one-quarter of what it was in mid-September. The Covid Task Force, based upon updated AHS guidelines and consultations with the medical community, will increase the congregational seating capacity from 60 worshippers to 120 worshippers and up to 30 choir members and ministers, effective immediately. This will be in addition to the present choir and ministers.

We will continue to follow AHS directives and The City of Calgary's guidelines and restrictions.

- Vaccination verification and using sanitizer is required for all worshippers for entry into the church.
- Masking is required while in the building, including during worship.
- Congregational singing is allowed, but masks must be worn.
- No food or beverage consumption.

Based upon current Covid guidelines and restrictions, the Worship Team and Session will be organizing church services for the Christmas season.

Please follow their updates.