

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Table of Contents, Page 1

Agenda – March 10, 2024 – 117th Annual Congregational Meeting	4
Minutes of the 116th Annual Congregational Meeting	5
Message from Rev. Peter Coutts	12
Clerk of Session ~ Debby Dorcas	14
Director of Music Ministries ~ Evan Mounce	15
Christian Meditation Group	16
Communications Team	17
ConnXions Team	19
Facilities Team	20
Faith Formation Team (FF)	21
FF – Adult Bible Study	22
FF – Adult Book Studies	23
FF – Youth Group	24
Family Ministry Team	25
Finance Team	26
Gardening Team	28
Gratitude & Generosity Team	28
Heritage Seniors	30
In Memoriam	30
Ladies Guild	31
Leading With Care	32
Legacy Trust Fund	33
Memorial Fund	34

Table of Contents, Page 2

Ministry Resource & Accountability Team	34
Mission Team	35
Ministries of Care	36
CareShare/Mealtrain	36
Connect with Care Ministry	38
GriefShare	39
Hospital Visitation Ministry	39
Life After Loss	40
Prayer Chain Ministry	40
Prayer Shawl Ministry	41
Side By Side	41
Stephen Ministry	42
Two's Company – a ministry to the homebound	42
Wellness	43
Personnel Team	43
Search Team	44
Statistics	45
Worship Team	46
A few of our Special Moments Together	47
St. Andrew's Church Staff	49

AGENDA - March 10, 2024 – 117th Annual Congregational Meeting

All 2023 Reports can be found on our website: <https://www.standrewscalgary.ca/> ON-LINE RESOURCES/ Annual Reports & Financials

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

2. Appointment of **Secretary**

MOTION to name the Secretary of the meeting.

3. Adoption of **Agenda** (found on the first page of the Annual Report)

MOTION: that the agenda be adopted as printed.

4. Adoption of the **Minutes of the 116th Annual Congregational Meeting** held March 12, 2023 (pages 5 & 6) of the Annual Report; and adoption of the **Congregational Meeting Minutes** held December 3, 2023 (pages 7-11).

MOTION: that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on March 12, 2023, and the Congregational Meeting held on December 3, 2023, be adopted.

5. **In Memoriam** (page 30 of the 2023 Annual Report)

6. Adoption of **2023 Annual Report**

MOTION: that the 2023 Annual Report be adopted.

7. Presentation & Adoptions of the **2023 Financials**

MOTION: that the report on the financial review of the 2023 statements be adopted.

MOTION: that the financial statements for the 2023 fiscal year be adopted.

8. Presentation & Approval of the Proposed **2024 Budget**

MOTION: that the 2024 budget be approved.

9. Thanks, Adjournment and Benediction

Minutes of the 116th Annual Congregational Meeting

March 12, 2023 – *Sylvia Shaw, Recording Secretary*

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Coutts as meeting chairperson welcomed people to the meeting and provided instructions for participation, both for those in person and online. The meeting was opened with prayer.

2. Appointment of Secretary

MOTION: that Sylvia Shaw be named secretary for the meeting.

MOVER: Derek Wilkinson

Second: Jean Spotowski

MOTION CARRIED

3. Adoption of **Agenda** (found on page 4 of the Annual Report)

MOTION: that the agenda be adopted as printed.

Mover: Cathy Millar

Second: Lynn Judd

MOTION CARRIED

4. Adoption of the **Minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting** (pages 5 - 7 of the Annual Report)

MOTION: that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on March 6th, 2022, be adopted.

Mover: Judie Coleman

Second: Pat Tritter

MOTION CARRIED

5. **In Memoriam**

The names of congregants who passed away during 2022 were read. Rev. Peter offered prayers.

Bob Allen	Bertha Mann
Betty Burtch	Bob Moddy
Elsie Cameron	Jackie Moody
Jean Christie	Wes Mummery
Madge Clarke	Bunty McKenzie
Sylvia English	Margaret Orman
Grace Fraser	Eric Steiner
Muriel Higgins	Ray Waldock
Ben Hutchinson	Lynn Wharton

6. Adoption of **2022 Annual Report**

The Search team chairperson Lorna Andronikou provided a verbal report updating the congregation on the search process.

MOTION: that the 2022 Annual Report be adopted.

Mover: Brian Hawco

Seconded: Cathy Millar

MOTION CARRIED

7. Interim Moderator Update, opportunity for questions

Peter Coutts

Rev. Coutts thanked the congregation for its support of his interim ministry and made brief comments on what the congregation achieved during 2022. Rev. Coutts then opened the floor for questions or comments.

8. Presentation & Adoptions of the **2022 Financials**

Dave Townsend and John Cuthbertson

MOTION: that the financial statements for the 2022 fiscal year be adopted.

Moved by: Elizabeth Dolan

Seconded by: Elaine Cantlon

MOTION CARRIED

9. Presentation & Approval of the Proposed **2023 Budget**

MOTION: that the 2023 budget be approved.

Moved by: Jari-Lynn Eckert

Seconded by: Jo-Anne Platt

MOTION CARRIED

10. Thanks, Adjournment and Benediction

MOTION: that the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting be concluded.

Moved by: Derek Wilkinson

Seconded by: Sheri Coutts

MOTION CARRIED

Rev. Peter pronounced the Benediction

Congregational Meeting Minutes | December 3, 2023

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary

Christine Pepper, Recording Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order

Rev. Peter Coutts convened the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Devotional

Ephesians 4: 1 – 7, 11 – 13 was read; a brief reflection followed.

An opening prayer was offered.

MOTION: *That Christine Pepper will act as recording secretary for the congregational meeting.*

Moved by: Cathy Millar

Seconded: Pat Tritter

Motion CARRIED

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was declared:

To consider extending a call to Rev. Laurie McKay to be the next lead minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary.

Rev. Peter provided a brief overview of the search process.

The search process consisted of three (3) rounds:

- i) Peter contacted 42 ministers, all of whom declined.
- ii) Correspondence was sent to the clerks of 46 presbyteries.
- iii) the profile and an invitation to consider was sent to 285 recipients.

As a result, 16 expressions of interest (EOI) were received. The Search Team reviewed the EOIs and interviews with two (2) people were scheduled.

Rev. Laurie McKay emailed in July 2023 expressing an interest in learning more about the vacancy. She subsequently attended a service incognito. She then attended a couple of interviews, one of which was in-person. Rev. Laurie wanted to meet the staff and the music director; she also saw the choir at practice and helped at the food bank.

On November 6, 2023, the Search Team recommended Rev. Laurie to the Session. Session unanimously agreed to support the call.

Questions from the congregation:

1) *42 ministers were contacted in round 1 of the search process, what did we learn from those conversations?*

The majority of ministers are located in Montréal and Windsor. Life circumstances are such that they do not want to relocate to Calgary e.g., spouse has career; children are settled in a great school; divorced and have shared custody of the children; care for aging parents.

The scale of St. Andrew's is also a factor. Most congregations are small and the number and complexity of our church was seen as very intimidating.

2) *In what way is Rev. Laurie McKay a good fit?*

This was addressed in the Search Team's presentation to the congregation later in the meeting.

The congregation was asked if it was prepared to proceed, assuring that we, as a congregation, are in a position to extend a call, financially and in our congregational wellbeing.

MOTION: *That the congregation is prepared to proceed with the call.*

Moved by: Sylvia Shaw

Seconded: Shelby Cole

Motion CARRIED

The terms of the call, as per the Book of Forms, were read:

We, the professing members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary AB, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you to become the lead minister of this congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.

In order that you may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary AB, hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of \$537,336 we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend of \$70,000, inclusive of the travel allowance.

Housing Allowance of \$30,000, inclusive of utilities.

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month and agree to adjust the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

- 1. To provide two (2) weeks for continuing education, stipulated by the National Church, and \$1,000 annually as study leave allowance.*
- 2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five (5) years.*
- 3. To provide five (5) weeks vacation annually, which shall be used in the year they are given.*
- 4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.*
- 5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.*
- 6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pension and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.*
- 7. To pay necessary moving expenses.*

John Cuthbertson, Chair, Finance Team, stated that the amount is in the budget and is affordable.

MOTION: *That the terms of the call and the guarantee of stipend and allowances be approved.*

Moved by: Gail Prevost

Seconded: Jamie Hodge

Motion CARRIED

Presentation by Search Team Convenor, Lorna Andronikou

Search Team Members: Lorna Andronikou, Convenor

Rev. Peter Coutts, Interim Moderator

Judie Coleman

Bill Judd

Inge Murray

Bart Stolee

Thelma Wagner

Lorna Andronikou, as convenor of the Search Team, presented the Search Team's recommendations to extend the call to Rev. Laurie McKay to be the next lead minister at St. Andrew's.

Thanks was expressed to the Search Team members for their dedication and commitment to this process over the course of three and a half years. The following past members were also thanked for their guidance and support in bringing us to this point.

Previous interim moderators:

The late Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw,
Rev. Fiona Swanson
Rev. Jean Morris

Former co-convenors:

Ken Burrill and Cathy Millar

Former members:

Kevin MacFarlane
Clem McLaughlin
David Kurtz
Rev Tim Archibald

The skills, knowledge, experience and mentorship of past and current members of the Search Team during this process of discernment was acknowledged and thanks was expressed.

Highlights were shared as to why the Search Team thinks Rev. Laurie McKay is being called to be with us:

- When asked what is the best thing that has happened to you this month, Rev. McKay answered "joy". She made reference to joy a number of times throughout our meetings with her. Rev. McKay describes laughter as a sign of the spirit and her sense of humour is readily apparent when you meet her.
- Rev. McKay speaks of "God moments" throughout her life. She explained God moments as attending church, being involved throughout the life of the church, or simply extending the hand of fellowship to a congregant you may see once a year. Outside of the church, a God moment may be extending a helping hand to someone in need in your neighbourhood. Rev. McKay says God can meet you everywhere and throughout your everyday life. I believe Rev. McKay would consider this meeting and this discernment process we are currently in as a "God moment" for us here at St. Andrew's.
- The Search Team feels Rev. McKay will bring comfort and care to those with pastoral needs. In Rev. McKay's own words, her approach to pastoral care is, "to love people that God loves." Rev. McKay lives out this approach through not only what she says, but also in what she does. On top of her experience with pastoral care as a Presbyterian minister, Rev. McKay was a Wellness Counsellor for Seniors when she worked for Kamloops Mental Health/Thompson Valley Family Services and she was a Grief Counsellor in the counselling department at the University College of the Caribou in Kamloops. She was also a Social Worker in Child Protection when she worked for Child and Family Services in Prince George, BC. Her professional development includes courses in person-centred care for those living with dementia.
- Rev. McKay's ability to work well with all age groups is clear in that her passion is for who she refers to as all of God's beloved children. This is shown through her intentional focus on including youth who may be living on the margins of the community. It is also shown through her passion for "Messy Church", which is a form of intergenerational worship. It is church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration, and hospitality with a focus on building a Christ-centred community that is both welcoming and great fun.

- Rev. McKay's collaborative personality is shown through her leadership style. She is an experienced mentor for theological students and has exceptional skills in leading others. In discussing what skills she has to offer congregational teams, she identifies wanting to work with the congregation and congregational teams, rather than leading from the top down. She describes meeting people where they are at and developing the skills and experience they already have a passion for. For example, when asked about the role of the music ministry team in church, in her own words, Rev. McKay said, "if you sing once, you've prayed twice." She believes the spirit of the worship service needs to be reflected in the music and she has a strong willingness to work and collaborate with the music ministry team at St. Andrew's.
- Rev. McKay has a high respect for ruling Elders. She strives for a united, respectful session of Christian leaders entrusted to be courageous in a time where church is changing. She recognizes the work that leaders need to do in a church where the world of church is going to look and feel different.
- Lastly, Rev. McKay's passion for moving the church forward with a missional focus comes through all she says and does. She believes the future church will, "not only be a sanctuary for worship, but a mission hub for the community." As you will have read in her bio that Rev. Peter sent out earlier this week, Rev. McKay created and developed the "Don't Go Hungry Food Support Program" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which is a program that feeds up to 1500 people every Saturday (500 households), on four (4) sites with the help of 150 volunteers and countless community groups, and individual supporters. In addition, Rev. McKay is the Chair of the Hummingbird Ministries Council, an indigenous-led ministry that brings reconciliation between indigenous and settler communities. Missional work is highlighted in everything Rev. McKay does which provides us with the perfect example of how we can continue to be woven into our own neighbourhood.

Rev. McKay was interviewed via Zoom and in-person and was found to be equally engaging and comfortable meeting with the Search Team and answering their questions thoroughly. We the team met with her, it was as though she already belonged here. She brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm, kindness and gentleness. She is engaging and easy to talk to. She makes those around her feel seen. Rev. McKay asks the right questions, seeking to understand, seeking to inspire and move into deeper conversations. Her authenticity is reflected in her thoughtful questions.

To conclude, the Search Team wholeheartedly supports a recommendation to extend a call to the Rev. Laurie McKay to be our next minister, to help us not only Grow. Life. Together. With God but also help us become woven into our neighbourhood, growing disciples who love like Jesus. The Search Team believes that Rev. McKay's call to be with us is moved by the Spirit and we look forward to seeing what lies ahead.

Questions from the congregation:

1) What is the drive to come here?

Rev. McKay grew up in Alberta and has family here. In her current church, she began with pulpit supply, then served part-time before moving to full-time. She was very involved in the New Westminster amalgamation of three (3) congregations, "Trinity". They have two (2) ministers, and moving forward, may not be able to support two (2) ministers.

In the Search team's conversations with Rev. Laurie what made it interesting for her was how we are well on our way to a sense of missional church e.g., the new EDGE after-school ministry, the Claire House, the food bank, the Brown Bag program, Side by Side. She felt it to be a strong fit for her ministry.

A member within Presbytery commented that Rev. McKay is "one of the few who actually walk the talk of missional church."

2) *Did the question come up about same-sex marriages and her officiating same-sex marriages?*

She is fully on board with our denomination's new direction and would not consider coming here if we were not on board.

3) *Is there an allowance for a vehicle?*

A car allowance is built into the stipend.

MOTION: *That the name of Rev. Laurie McKay be inserted into the call.*

Moved by: Barbara Kearnes

Seconded: Rhonda Wishart

Motion CARRIED

Method for Voting

The congregation was asked whether a show of hands would be sufficient for the vote.

The congregation's response was "Yes".

With approximately 380 official members, we would like to see a high threshold of support i.e., 80% or greater.

Next Steps:

- 1) Members and adherents asked to sign the call directly after the congregational meeting today.
- 2) Those who have not signed today will be given a two-week window to sign. A Care Connector can come to your home for your signature, or you can inform the Care Connector over the phone, or you can write to the church to advise.
- 3) The call document will then be presented to the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod on January 9, 2024.
- 4) The call document will then be forwarded to Westminster Presbytery to proceed with the release.

The process should conclude by the third week of January.

Three (3) people are required to speak in favour of the call at our Presbytery meeting on Tuesday January 9, at 7 pm via ZOOM. The following people volunteered:

- Lorna Andronikou
- Debby Dorcas
- Bill Judd

MOTION: *That Lorna Andronikou, Debby Dorcas and Bill Judd will represent St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the meeting of the Presbytery of Calgary Macleod when the call is considered by the Presbytery.*

Moved by: Tom McIntyre

Seconded: Dwayne Tritter

Motion CARRIED

Members and adherents were reminded to sign the call before leaving today.

MOTION: *That the congregational meeting be concluded.*

Moved by: Jari-Lynn Eckert

Seconded: Don Koch

Motion CARRIED

Rev. Peter Coutts closed in prayer and with a benediction.

The meeting concluded at 12:16 p.m.

Interim Moderator – *Rev. Peter Coutts*

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary



Wow! Has it been two years already? Yes. March 1, 2022, Presbytery assigned me to be both the Interim Minister (temporarily taking the Lead Minister position, full time) and Interim Moderator (ensuring the Session conducted its business and resourcing the search process). On March 1st this year I ceased being Interim Minister in accordance with my contract, remaining in the 4.5 hour per week role as Interim Moderator. At the time of writing, I anticipate that the Presbytery will release me from this smaller role in February 2024 when our next called minister arrives. For me 2023 has been a rewarding and meaningful year. Here are some of the big highlights for St. Andrew's as I see them.

Our Post-Pandemic Congregational Life Continues to Improve

In all markers the life of St. Andrew's continued to emerge out of the pandemic through 2023. In-person worship attendance continues to improve as well as congregational finances. There are more in-person activities. We are seeing newcomers at worship and newcomers on the Session. There is now a mood that the pandemic is well behind us (and thankfully so). We are not where we were pre-pandemic, but we are heading in the right direction. Thanks be to God.

We Have Started to Learn How to Be St. Andrew's With One Minister

You know: St. Andrew's has been a congregation served by 2 ministers for about 40 years. We started 2023 with me full-time and Rev. Geoffrey at 1/3 time. I stopped being full-time the end of February, and Rev. Geoffrey moved on at the end of June. Since then, for the first time in 40 years, St. Andrew's had no minister at all. How has the congregation done over the past six months? I think we have done remarkably well! It has also prompted a few new initiatives. One well-received initiative in 2023 was occasional worship services that were planned and led by congregants.... not ministers! We have heard from the congregation a desire to see these continue. Going "minister-free" was done to help St. Andrew's become more dependent on congregants and less dependent on ministers. Let us continue this new orientation as we welcome Rev. Laurie into our midst, so we do not expect her to do what two ministers used to do. We want her to stay a long time with us!

The Completion of a Successful Search for Our Next Minister

The Presbytery gave St. Andrew's permission in September 2022 to begin its search process. After some preparations and a renewal of the Search Team, we began to reach out to ministers in our denomination in November 2022. This proved to be a slower process than we anticipated as candidates did not line up outside our door for consideration. In the end, we proactively reached out to about 325 Presbyterian ministers. If my recollection is correct, we received about 18 expressions of interest, interviewed 3 and selected Rev. Laurie McKay. On December 3, 2023, members at the congregational meeting voted unanimously to extend a call to her. Subsequently, 83% of the congregation's total membership expressed their support for Laurie. When you subtract

those who could not be reached, those travelling out of the country and infirmed members who could not participate, the percentage rises to 87%. Like you, I am excited about Rev. Laurie McKay coming to be our next minister, and so is she.

Session Developed a Strategy for Our Missional Direction

This was a project that took a few meetings to develop. You know our Mission Statement: “Woven into the neighbourhood, growing disciples who love like Jesus.” A mission statement is a clear, simple description of an organization’s purpose. A “strategy” is how the organization intends to pursue its mission. Based on the input from the congregation in 2022, we agreed to make our “playing field” our immediate neighbourhoods of Haysboro and Kingsland. The social needs in these neighbourhoods are higher than in Calgary generally. Our new strategy is briefly described as follows: “We will become woven into our neighbourhood by getting to know our neighbours and their needs, becoming partners with them to address those needs. By giving of ourselves in this way, voluntarily, for the sake of others, we will express the love of neighbour, demonstrate what the Christian faith is, and be evidence for the existence of God. It is our hope that this strategy will prompt some to become interested in our faith, and begin their own journey to grow as Jesus’ disciples alongside us.” Our strategy was put into practice this year with the successful launch of “The EDGE” after-school drop-in program for local Jr. High students. Initial planning for a neighbourhood “Indigenous Friendship Day” in September 2024 was commenced as well. By continuing to work our strategy, with God’s help, we hope to become even stronger than we are as a missional congregation.

.....But I’m Not Leaving, really!

When I retired 3 years ago, by the decision of both our Session and the Presbytery, I became an official member of St. Andrew’s Church. In the technicalese of our denomination, I am called “a minister in association,” but it really means I’m a member like any other member. When the Presbytery “inducts” Rev. McKay into this “pastoral charge” (meaning: when she is officially and formally made our minister), at that time the Presbytery will release me from my Interim Moderator duties. I look forward to stepping back, but not disappearing. I am still a member, also happily so. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our congregation.

As I leave this role, I am reminded of the prayers Paul said he offered up for the faith community in Corinth. With my whole heart I can sincerely pray the same for St. Andrew’s:

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Peter



Clerk of Session ~ *Debby Dorcas*

A few of our 2023 Session Highlights:

- In order to move to Term Eldership, 9 of our current elders retired in January 2023, and 6 new elders were ordained. We thanked all elders who retired in 2023. Their dedication and commitment to St. Andrew's is so very much appreciated. We welcomed our new elders and look forward to their enthusiasm, energy and wisdom as we begin a new year working together.

Elders who retired January 2023:

1. Annette Shaw	Ordained April 2001
2. Bill Judd	Ordained April 1990
3. Ed Braun	Ordained February 1993
4. Elaine Cantlon	Ordained October 2010
5. Hugh McFadzean	Ordained April 1990
6. Sheila Kirkland	Ordained January 1988
7. David Platt	Ordained October 2010
8. Janet Ridsdale	Ordained April 2003
9. Kevin MacFarlane	Ordained May 1995

Elders who were ordained January 15, 2023:

1. Derek Wilkinson
2. Desiree Henrichsen
3. Judy Bridgemohan
4. Lauren Nolette
5. Sheri Coutts
6. Stephanie Werle



- With the help of Rev. Peter, Session spent some time at each of our Session meetings focusing on 'Leadership'.
- In an effort to help 'lessen the load' for our Interim Moderator, and to reduce the amount of money we spent on pulpit supply, Session passed a motion that they, along with members of the congregation, be responsible for 3 worship services between June and December 2023. These services were well received by the congregation. We thank all those who 'stepped up' and shared their faith stories and leadership in worship.
- As of mid-August, Lynn Judd became St. Andrew's Presbytery Representative, and Audrey Cole became our Alternate Rep.
- We were thrilled to organize 'the call' process in December – and were also thrilled with the outcome being 'a call to Rev. Laurie McKay'!!

Session is looking forward to another exciting year as we welcome Rev. Laurie McKay as our Lead Minister and begin our journey of ministry together in this place.

Deb

Director of Music Ministries ~ *Evan Mounce*

The Music Ministry exists to enrich the spiritual lives of St. Andrew's through music and song.

TEAM MEMBERS:

St. Andrew's Choir, Praise Team, Kaleidoscope Ringers (Lori Teneycke, director)



HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

The Music Ministry at St. Andrew's has led music in a number of special services this past year. A few of these have included another Light and Love Jazz Vespers service with Dallas Hayes Sparks, a special Lessons and Carols service on Easter Sunday, Sundays with our Kaleidoscope Ringers and The Master's Singers, Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, as well as our Indigenous People's Sunday and Healing and Reconciliation Sunday. We are so blessed to have Debby Dorcas as part of the Music Ministry - she organized and led an inspiring and engaging presentation of the Musical 'The Amazing Maze' as part of our Advent services.

The St. Andrew's Choir participated in the All is Calm Advent concert at Grace Presbyterian Church, and have had two Saturday Workshops with guest instruction by Laura Brandt and Laura Hynes. We have also had a couple of musical excursions with members of our teams including going to hear the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus and Calgary Opera. Our ministry is enriched by a variety of guest singers and instrumentalists and we were delighted to welcome back Andrew Leitch, Sara Far, Jasmine Long, Dallas Hayes Sparks, Laura Brandt, Taylor Matheson, and Heather Wooton. Thank you to all the members of St. Andrew's Music Ministry for another rich and vibrant year of music-making.

Looking forward to this upcoming year it would be lovely to have some new faces join our dedicated music-making teams. If you could see yourself singing with the choir, strumming your guitar with the praise team, or ringing handbells, it would be lovely to have you. Ask a friend who is in the Music Ministry to tell you a bit about their experience or reach out to me to talk more.

Yours in music,
Evan



Christian Meditation Group – *Ken & Sharon Burrill*

Throughout 2023 the St. Andrew's Christian Meditation community met weekly, 10:00-11:00 AM each Monday. Typically we met on ZOOM, but several times during the year we met in person either in a home or in Fish Creek Park. Our Park mornings were very special as we shared prayer time and a contemplative walk with like-minded friends in a beautiful natural setting. We always left these outdoor mornings encouraged by the closeness of God in nature and the fellowship of our group. We continue to be inspired and challenged by the teachings of John Main and other contemplatives who support the Canadian and World Communities for Christian Meditation. (wccm.org).

Meditating together in silence allows us to “Be still and know that I am God,” thus opening our hearts to the silent presence of the Spirit of His Son. All are welcome. We would love to have you join us. Please reach out to Sharon or Ken at skmeditates@gmail.com if you have questions.

Ken & Sharon



Communications Team – *Kevin MacFarlane, Convenor*

Communicate to all congregants the ongoing opportunities for engagement in the Mission of St. Andrew's. Also, to provide stimulating images to complement our worship services and guide the congregants through the hymns and other worship components both online and in the sanctuary.

Team members: Debby Dorcas, Kevin MacFarlane, Barbara MacFarlane, Lauren Nolette

LinX weekly Email

The major activity of this team is the weekly preparation and distribution of the LinX email on Wednesday afternoons. Special situations may require additional "special editions," but these are rare.



We continue to have approximately 260 subscribers and Debby Dorcas does an excellent job accumulating, reviewing, and writing content for Kevin and Barbara to integrate into a colourful weekly edition. Major components include:

- An introduction to the coming worship service (or services), with bible passage links, activity sheets for all ages, and a link to the Livestream for those who attend online.
- A "RefleXion" upon the message provided in the sermon during the prior Sunday.
- A Calendar of Events and Meetings for the coming week (Sunday to Sunday)
- A Grateful, Thankful, Blessed item to highlight some of the many blessings granted by God to us through St. Andrew's people.
- Upcoming Calendar highlights, recognition of births and deaths, deadlines approaching and "Stay Connected" links.
- A "Wider Community" section focussed upon opportunities to support the needs beyond our usual focus.


Weekly PowerPoint Slides

LinX images are also used by the team for "Announcements" to supplement the full complement of slides produced by Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane for each of our worship services. In 2023, we increased our focus on scripture-based images throughout the service to increase the cohesion of the worship experience. In addition, this team prepared supplementary Easter, Christmas, Celebration of Life and Life after Loss service PowerPoints.

Facebook and Instagram

The Weekly LinX is used as a basis for most of the Facebook and Instagram posts initiated by Kevin MacFarlane. However, Lauren Nolette has joined the effort by posting images and videos on Instagram from events taking place in and around St. Andrew's which may be of interest to our congregants. The following page is an example of an Instagram post by our newest team member, Lauren Nolette.



 stacalgary Today we were blessed with our incredible Intergenerational Musical called The Amazing Christmas Maze! Lead by our amazing leader, Debby, we got to enjoy the hard work of our youth, and youth at heart! Many thanks to everyone both in front of the screen and behind the screens! If you simply can't get enough of the adorable and fun dance moves, or want to hear the message again, you can find the service on our YouTube channel!

4w

 rhondawishart Brought joy to so many hearts!! You're the best, Deb!!

4w Reply



 Liked by lordcraigjohn and others
December 10, 2023

Website Maintenance

In conjunction with the creation of the weekly LinX, the website is maintained with the addition of Event pages to link to the LinX articles. Other additions and revisions to the website, including colour changes and banner images, are usually prompted by changes we make to the LinX articles. We appreciate the many requests we get from teams (eg. Leading with Care) to keep information current. All teams are encouraged to review the website regularly so that they can provide Kevin MacFarlane with updated information.

ConnXions Team – *Lorna Andronikou, Convenor*

The ConnXions Team highlights how each ministry team is living out St. Andrew's Vision & Mission via a bi-monthly newsletter available in print and online format.

Team Members:

Lorna Andronikou (Convenor), Judie Coleman, Barb English, Lauren Nolette, Kevin MacFarlane, Barbara MacFarlane, and Flemming Nielsen

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- There were 5 ConnXions Newsletters published in 2023. Typically there are 6 issues per year; however, no issue was published for June/July of 2023.
- The ConnXions Team runs solely via church volunteers.
- Updates are included in both print and digital format providing digital equity to all church members by allowing those who do not have access to a computer with the ability to be informed of all church news.
- The printed versions of ConnXions are delivered in person upon the publication of each issue via a dedicated team of delivery personnel headed by Flemming Nielsen.
- Throughout 2023, some responsibility changes were considered and, commencing with the December 2023/January 2024 issue, and implemented for the next three ConnXions issues, Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane assumed responsibility for graphic design from Lauren Nolette. The printed versions are supplemented by a "ConnXions to LinX" section which will allow recipients to read some items that they may have missed in LinX due to visual or technological challenges. Changes to these responsibilities were the result of the software program that was previously used not being suitable for the needs of the issue, and the need to collaborate more fully with the rest of the communication team at St. Andrew's.
- Lauren Nolette moved on to different work with the St. Andrew's communication team, supporting the church's Instagram social media account. The ConnXions Team thanks Lauren for her excellent service throughout 2023, especially all those late nights in getting the issues printed on time.
- ConnXions looks forward to displaying its new logo (designed by Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane) in early 2024!



Facilities Team - *Don Koch, Convenor*

The Facilities team ensures that our building is safe and well maintained inside and outside. This requires contracting janitorial, waste removal, lawn cutting, snow shovelling and plowing, and HVAC services. Facilities volunteers perform minor repairs throughout the year as required, and we also plan and coordinate upgrades and renovations to the building.

TEAM MEMBERS: Brad Chalmers, Otto de Nooij, Don Koch, Alfred MacRae, Tom McIntyre, Flemming Nielsen, Sean Pepper, Mark Rowe, Brent Werle.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- Highlight 1 – The building foyer was refreshed with new paint and carpeting in August. The SW stairwell and one of the minister's offices was repainted.
- Highlight 2 – The kitchen renovation was completed in August. Overseen by Tom McIntyre as project manager it included new counters, lighting, and paint.
- Highlight 3 – The 40+ year old windows in the Karl English Lounge and the Nursery were replaced in November.
- Highlight 4 – The broken and drafty ramp double doors were replaced in June.
- Highlight 5 – We installed an additional security camera on the exterior of the building in September in order to enhance security and safety.
- Highlight 6 – New contracts were negotiated and signed with Savaria, Johnson Controls, Signature Landscaping, Little Big Recycling, Men-in-Kilts, and Scandia.
- Highlight 7 – During 2023 numerous minor repairs were made by our dedicated volunteers to plumbing, electrical, lighting, heating, exterior sidewalks and landscaping.

Thank you to our entire Team in 2023 for their skills and their willingness to help keep St. Andrew's building and grounds safe, presentable, and an attractive place to worship God. A special thank you to Tom McIntyre and Flemming Nielsen who have now retired from our team after years of service.

Before:



Don

After:



Faith Formation Team - *Rhonda Wishart, Convenor*

The Faith Formation (FF) Team is engaged in providing guidance and active support to life-long faith formation within the congregation, with a particular focus on children and youth.

Team Members:

Rhonda Wishart (Convenor), Inge Murray, Debby Dorcas and Lorna Andronikou. Lauren and Matt Nolette as needed on youth issues.

Two Highlights of 2023:

1. We were excited to host two Take 150 events for young children in 2023 – with a St. Patrick's Day theme in the spring and a Hallowe'en one in the fall. These events are planned to give parents a night off, while treating children to delightful and noisy crafts and games after a fun communal meal.
2. The church school children were also thrilled with the opportunity to bake and sell cookies to raise funds for the church school's foster child, Joud, from Haiti, raising an amazing \$495 from one post-service sale to the congregation.

Members of St. Andrew's congregation are either cookie lovers or are delighted by our children, probably both! We are indeed blessed by our faithful nursery, church school, youth group and adult bible/book study leaders and a congregation of families willing to engage in an eventful faith journey!

Rhonda



(FF) Adult Bible Study - *Bill Judd*

We are here to grow in faith together, sharing our insights and our questions.

There was a faithful group of 12-20 throughout 2023 meeting in Trinity Hall after Sunday Worship to consider scripture and share insights, questions and concerns with each other. The space in Trinity Hall is equipped with a large video screen for teaching presentations as part of our studies. Plus, the proximity to the kitchen makes it convenient for coffee and treats. We were certainly glad for the opportunity to meet in person, as many of us were still feeling, or at least remembering, the affects of the Covid restrictions.

As 2023 opened, we were already part way through a study entitled 'Simply Jesus' by NT Wright. The study is subtitled - '*A walk through the life and times of Jesus*'. It helped us grow our understanding and appreciation of the life, work, teachings and actions of Jesus, by taking time to contemplate the social, cultural, religious and political context at the time of Jesus' ministry. I remember the sense of puzzlement and awe we had as we tried to wrap our minds around how the Kingdom of Heaven had come close, and is still close, if we only take the time to seek it and be open to it.

After Easter we embarked on a new study of John Ortberg's, entitled 'Who Is This Man?' Of course, he was referring to Jesus, who John O says is history's most familiar (and impactful) figure, yet He is the man no one knows. It was a relatively short study that tried to relay a sense of how the impact of Jesus on the whole world, even when his followers have been muddled or misguided, towers breathtakingly over all human achievements. We stopped to contemplate what Jesus' followers have done in the past, to consider a fresh vision of our own mission and, above all, to be amazed and awed once more at Jesus himself, who lived, died, and rose to launch such a transformative vision.

After a break for the summer we took up a study entitled 'Questions Jesus Asked' by Magrey DeVega. Of course, Jesus asked many questions, but some were more powerful and personally probing, for example - 'Who do YOU say that I am?' and 'What are you looking for?' I think we were all a little surprised at how much meaning can be wrapped up in such questions and the various answers.

It was a year with a range of teaching but all of it adding to a growing understanding, appreciation and commitment to our faith in God.

Next up is a guided walk through the entire Bible. It is organized into 53 sessions, with lots of reading, that a more ambitious group might work through in one year, but with breaks here and there, plus some passages just taking more time to wrestle with, we will likely be at it well into next year. We've already seen how our usual way of reading the bible in 'sound-bite' stories, has left gaps in our sense of the big picture of God with His creation and His people. If you have an urge to join us, then just come along. There is no perfect time to start. Each session has its own lesson. We would be glad to have you share with us, even if you've never been part of a Bible Study group and would just like to check it out. Or, contact Bill Judd ph: 403-278-5904; email: juddb@shaw.ca to discuss further.

Bill

(FF) Adult Book Studies - *Margaret Bruhjell-Holmes & Jari-Lynn Eckert*

Highlight 1: We, Margaret and Jari-Lynn, have been used by God this past year to reach out to our congregation and community to offer and provide a faith-based book study on mental health, which is so needed today. We looked at two books and chose *Anxiety, Depression and Jesus* by Aaron Hoover, 2023. It was a new book, so we wrote our own study guide, including the three questions Hoover asked after each of the 11 chapters. One participant went all out and made us a delicious fall pumpkin cake with edible fruit! The main highlight was the people and the intimacy we shared after a few sessions. The group, including us co-leads, wrote out and shared our personal journey to Jesus, and our experience with mental health, either personally or with someone else. We talked about the difficult and emotional subject of suicide.

Highlight 2: We have since kept in touch with individuals who continue to struggle with depression and feeling isolated. We have become friends, and do what friends who live like Jesus do. It may be a phone call, an invitation to dinner or a special event, a meal provided, a ride to and from the grocery store or to church. Several of us got together to celebrate a special birthday dinner for a member of our group. We look forward to providing another study in 2024.



(FF) Youth Group - *Matt & Lauren Nolette*

We are here to walk in faith with the young people of St. Andrew's.

We have created a safe space for the youth to feel like they can let loose and have fun in fellowship with one another.

One highlight from this year was our bottle drive we kicked off the year with. Thanks to the generous donations from our congregation, we raised almost \$400!

We also had a super fun Harry Potter movie night which was Lauren's personal favorite!

We are so grateful to see so many new faces this year, and continue to grow life together with God, and weave ourselves further into the neighbourhood.

Matt & Lauren



Family Ministry Team - *Stephanie Werle, Lucy Arburto, Craig & Inge Murray*

Our goal is to organize intergenerational gatherings to build community within our church family, through opportunities to be in nature, physically active, and to worship God in a different way.

Highlight from 2023:

In August, we had a great turn-out at our Annual Family Camping weekend at Elk Flats Group campsite in Bow Valley Provincial Park with families of all ages attending. We enjoyed meals, games, hiking, and an outdoor worship service together.

Stephanie, Lucy, Craig & Inge



Finance Team - *John Cuthbertson, Convenor*

We are here to help St. Andrew's manage its finances.

TEAM MEMBERS: John Cuthbertson (Convenor), David Townsend, CPA; Shona Vandrasco, CPA; Cathy Millar (Session rep), Dolly Forcade, Treasurer

Attached to this report are the 2023 financials and the 2024 proposed financial plan which has been approved in principle by Session for submission to the congregation. We are happy to receive 2024 "budget" questions before the annual congregational meeting either in writing or verbally, but the goal will be to answer them on March 10 when all congregants are present for the annual meeting. If you have questions about our 2023 financials, please direct them to any member of the Finance Team. David Townsend will be doing a recap of 2023 finances at the annual meeting and there will also be an opportunity to raise questions.

Here are some highlights:

2023 was an exceptional year from a financial perspective as you can see from the statements and we want to thank all of you for your generosity and stewardship. While we have historically received nearly 1/6th of our annual givings in December, that did not happen in 2023. Instead, you made financial management much more predictable and helpful by your regular givings throughout 2023 and we are very grateful for that.

In December, we paid off our non interest bearing CEBA loan (\$40,000) and the remaining \$20,000 was forgiven and we took that into 2023 income.

In 2023, St. Andrew's was the beneficiary of a life insurance policy that a member had paid the premiums on and had donated years before.

We also received several generous bequests which have been acknowledged at Sunday services by the Gratitude and Generosity team.

One member made a generous donation of shares in 2023 and another made a directed donation to St. Andrew's via the United Way.

Our pledges continue to be an important element of our overall revenue and we thank those who continue to honor those commitments. These were 5-year pledges and will end at the conclusion of our 2025 year.

All of these revenue items, plus increased rental income for our space and a significant contribution from the Legacy Fund as a partner of the Church, have made an enormous impact on St. Andrew's!

On the expense side, the team convenors managed their budgets prudently-thank you! And as we didn't have a full time minister, our personnel costs in this category were reduced. St. Andrew's experienced higher than anticipated utilities costs from both higher charges from our providers and also increased usage of our facilities (and this latter item is a great indicator of the vibrancy and health our Church activities).

This year in September, we convened a strategy session of the Facilities team, Legacy Fund, Personnel Team and Finance team to identify and develop our priorities, both in the immediate following year plus looking out several more. Peter Coutts moderated the meeting and under his guidance, a consensus was developed and which was subsequently approved by Session. Two items are of particular note. The top priority was to develop a Sustainability Fund for St. Andrew's. As you know, we have no debt or lines of credit and when unexpected things happen that cost money, we need to be able to react short of a congregational appeal. The second item was to get some paid help for the Facilities Team to ensure we don't burnout our hard working volunteers on that committee and still keep our facility maintained. You'll hear more about these items at the annual meeting.

The Facilities Team has prepared a capital plan which is included here. The 2024 items will be funded by a combination of support from the Legacy Fund (both existing and new requests) and also directed donations so there is no line item (and no need for one) in our 2024 operational budget. However, like all property that depreciates with time, we need to develop a long-range plan to fund capital items and that is currently in progress. More to come at the annual meeting.

We hope this gives you a useful recap of 2023 and a teaser of things to come at the annual meeting for 2024 and beyond. Again, thanks to each of you for your own impactful gifts.

John



Gardening Team - *Pat & Duane Tritter*



It was a hot summer! It was a dry summer!! We did the best we could, but we sure could use more help for this coming summer 2024!

With tender loving care from Lynn Judd and Sheri Coutts, the pots did well and looked great - thanks ladies!

Pat & Duane

Gratitude & Generosity Team - *Cathy Millar, Convenor*

The Gratitude & Generosity Team (G & G) Promote an understanding of the theology of stewardship and the awareness of God's grace in our lives that calls us to respond with grateful and generous hearts in support of our ministry and mission with our time, our talent and our money.

Team Members:

Cathy Millar (Convenor), Elaine Cantlon, Kevin MacFarlane, and Stephanie Werle

2023 was the second year of our monthly "Moments of Gratitude and Generosity". A good example you can look at is the presentation by the Legacy Fund which was highlighted in the March 22nd LinX with a link to the following video*: [CLICK HERE](#). We are pleased to think that this focus helped us rebound financially as a congregation with the October 1st celebration of two significant bequests* [CLICK HERE](#) and two significant securities donations in the year. (*if you are reading a paper version of this you can look at our website for the March 22nd and October 4th 2023 LinX articles)

Later in the year our team decided that, in 2024, we would encourage various St. Andrew's teams to use our monthly "G&G Moments" to encourage generosity of others with their time and talent. Like everyone, we believe that greater engagement of congregants in the mission of the church should lead to growth in our numbers. New people will become more excited about the part they can play in fulfilling our mission of being "Woven into the neighbourhood, growing disciples who love like Jesus".

The November 5th Cookie Sale to raise funds to buy special gifts for our 6 year old sponsor child, Joud, who is from Haiti. This was a powerful way to inspire generosity in our youth!



We now show PCC Stewardship slides during the looped PowerPoint presentation before each service, both online and in the sanctuary. This slide tickled the funny bone of quite a few congregants!



We introduced the new focus of our G&G moments in the coming year at the November 19th worship service using the following image and the wonderful example of congregational engagement the day before the annual Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar.



Kevin, on behalf of G&G

Heritage Seniors - *Jan Kozbial, President*

Heritage 50+ Seniors' mandate is to improve the quality of life of its members by providing opportunities for physical, spiritual, social and mental activities.

The Heritage Seniors continue to operate despite low membership. We have done what is reasonably possible to entice new members, so if any Church members are interested, please give us a try. Our fitness instructors are very good and make exercising fun. The Strawberry Tea in May was a success but as we all get older, we need more help. Thanks to the Ladies Guild for helping us out with baking, and thanks also to Church members who helped us with serving.

Jan

In Memoriam - *Dolly Forcade, Office Administrator & Treasurer*

The following members and adherents of our congregation died during the year:

Alice Wimmenhove

Jan Kimber

Audrey Hunter

Jean Simpson

Bill MacKenzie

June Burgoyne

Don Kerslake

Marie Smith

Earl Mitchell

Sandy Deere

Edelgard Brown

Sheena Barclay

Eleanor Art

Sheila Watt

Harvey Gramms

Sylvia Provan

Dolly



Ladies Guild - *Pam Livingstone, Guild Member*

The Ladies Guild is a group of faithful and dedicated women who support each other, and with their individual God-given talents work together to support both St. Andrew's and our community near and far.

St. Andrew's Ladies Guild Executive: President: Margaret Bates; Vice President: Audrey Cole; Secretary: Judy McVittie; Treasurer: Sylvia Shaw

The Ladies Guild is a group of multigenerational women enjoying faith and fellowship while working as a team to support each other, our church, and our community. To support these efforts two major fundraisers were held in 2023. These were the Annual Soup Sale and the Christmas Bazaar. Funds from these events fund many mission projects. Just a few of those are:

- Making 2,625 lunches for underprivileged school children (BB4CK – Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids)
- Monthly home cooked dinners at Ronald McDonald House for families of critically ill children
- Student emergency funds at 5 local high schools
- St. Andrew's scholarship
- St. Andrew's general fund
- Special occasion cards to congregants
- Contribution to the refurbishment of the kitchen

We meet the second Tuesday of each month (Sept - June) in the Karl English Lounge at 1:30. We welcome anyone of any age who is interested in sharing in this ministry to join us.

Pam



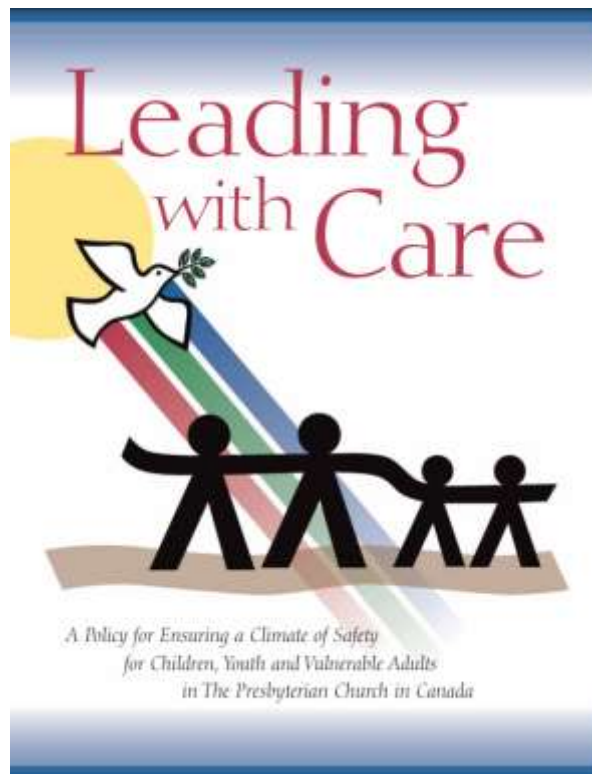
Leading with Care - *Kim McLachlan & Dolly Forcade*

Leading With Care (LWC) is the policy created by The Presbyterian Church in Canada to ensure a climate of safety for all. The LWC team is here to help St. Andrew's work towards being a safer space for all, especially considering vulnerabilities due to age, ability and gender, though not limited to these alone. We recognize that we are called by God to protect and care for all in our community.

There have been changes made to the police check procedure, and we are working to come into line with the new policy.

We held a successful fire drill in the fall. We will have to hold another one in 3 years.

Kim & Dolly



Legacy Trust Fund - *Craig Murray, Convenor*

The Legacy Team is in place to provide oversight and governance of the Legacy Fund, supporting St. Andrew's in the categories of Mission, Worship and Facilities.

TEAM MEMBERS: Craig Murray (Convenor), Margaret Bates (Treasurer), Merle Crawford, John Cuthbertson (retired September 2023), MaryAnne Quesnel and Derek Wilkinson

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year include:

- Worship: A laptop computer to enhance teaching in the Kingdom Kids Church School
- Facilities: New carpeting in the foyer
- Mission: Funding to support The Edge after school program

A special note of thanks to John Cuthbertson for his service to the team.

Craig



Memorial Fund - *Alex Grant, Memorial Fund Treasurer*

In 2023 Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of the following:

- Earl Mitchell
- Jean Simpson
- Rev. Karl English
- May & Jimmy Shaw
- Muriel Young
- Ruth Grant
- Ruth Young



*Your life was a blessing,
your memory a treasure.
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure.*

Alex

Ministry Resource & Accountability - *Cathy Millar, Convenor*

This team of 3 – 4 elders provides support to all Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in a called position at St. Andrew's

TEAM MEMBERS:

Craig Murray, Christine Pepper, Lynn Judd and Cathy Millar

Our MRA Team has been on hiatus this past year, but as we have now called a new minister who will be joining us in February, we will be reconvening early in 2024.

Cathy

Mission Ministries – The Edge - *Judy McKearney, Team Member*

Our team strives to provide a safe haven for youth ages 12 – 15 to gather with their peers after school.

Highlights This Last Year:

This past year has been quite a journey:

- Initial conversations during which we realized, “Yes, we can do this!”
- This first positive step led to touching base and learning from people outside of the church that have offered similar programs.
- Gathering a small wonderful, passionate and dedicated sub-group who share this vision.
- Focusing on details as to what this program may involve.
- Finally launching this Outreach program in mid-September.
- May I say during all this process feeling always encouraged and supported by our St. Andrew’s church family! We are grateful for the generous donation from the Legacy Fund for this Outreach Initiative.

We presently have 12 great kids that are participating on a regular basis, and they are a complete joy! They have felt welcomed, and are enthusiastic and appreciative of being able to come and hang out. They enjoy the opportunity to be together, when gathering in their own homes after school wouldn’t be feasible.

The Edge offers varied activities but more importantly gives us the opportunity to help “make a difference” in a young person’s life! Each week I ask, “What was the best part of your day?” It’s a simple question, but has led to wonderful engaging conversations and great insight. I’ve also indicated that if they are struggling with something that we are here to listen. Listening means not judging or being quick to give advice but being attentive and present for them where they are! They are at a somewhat difficult stage in their lives and having people who care whatever they are experiencing may help!



In December we had a great ‘Christmas Do’ with lots of scrumptious goodies, a seasonal Grinch movie and a silly game! Truly it was a room filled with Christmas joy for all!

We have the ability to accommodate up to 30 kids, and with a new year upon us, I’m sure with God’s direction we will grow in numbers, but more importantly in close relationships!

Judy

Ministries of Care - *Judie Coleman, Pastoral Care Coordinator*

We are here to care for St. Andrew's people by listening, praying, and visiting them.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 – *We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)*



We give thanks for each TEAM COORDINATOR:

Alice Williams (GriefShare, Wellness Team), **Annette** Shaw (Prayer Shawl Ministry), **Barb** Kearnes (Life after Loss), **Inge** Murray (Connect with Care), **Joan** Rowe (Care Share), **Judie** Coleman (Hospital Visitation, Stephen Ministry), **Lorie** Nielsen (Prayer Chain), **Judy** McVittie (Two's Company), and **Alice** Post (Jan-Oct), **Audrey** Cole, **Judie** Coleman (Nov-Dec) (Side by Side). A very special thank you to Alice Post as she steps down after her many years as coordinator of our Side by Side in-person program. We are blessed that she continues as the Side by Side Online coordinator.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- Tuesday, March 28: Rev. Geoffrey Simmins led the first of two workshops called *Are You Ready?* focused on End of Life Planning. The first workshop encouraged getting your Last Will and Testament, Enduring Power of Attorney and Personal Directives completed. He also stressed the importance of putting in writing all the important information your family will need to know once you are gone.
- Tuesday, April 4: Rev. Geoffrey Simmins completed the *Are You Ready?* workshops with a discussion focused on Funeral Planning.
- Fillable forms are available here: <https://www.standrewscalgary.ca/events/are-you-ready-end-of-life-planning>

More information can be found on the church web site under [Ministries of Care](#).

Care Share: using MealTrain online ~ *Joan Rowe, Coordinator*

To respond to individual needs identified by ministerial staff, elders, office staff and the congregation by providing short term support in crisis situations requiring food preparation, and/or other specific needs that can be met by a volunteer.

Individuals on volunteer email list: 18

The following volunteers have graciously offered meals in 2023 via Mealtrain requests: Pam Livingstone, Maureen Amos, Debbie Draper, Pat Tritter, Lynn Judd, Marianne Attridge, Debby Dorcas, Inge Murray, Gail Prevost, Annika Koch, Barbara Kearnes, and Joan Rowe.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

1. Those receiving meals have all expressed their deep gratitude for the ministry of personal sharing and for the meals themselves.
2. A total of 21 meals was delivered to 5 recipient families in 2023.
3. For the Coordinator, the MealTrain Online Hub has become even easier to set in motion with its newest changes.



Menu

Organize meals
for a friend after
a birth, surgery,
or illness.

Get Started, It's Free →

Find a Meal Train Page



Menu



Who It's For

Meal Train is for everyone who could use some help during common life events.

- ✱ New Baby
- ✱ Adoption
- ✱ Illness
- ✱ Deployment
- ✱ Surgery
- ✱ New Neighbor
- ✱ Loss
- ✱ Anyone

Connect with Care Ministry ~ *Inge Murray, Coordinator* (formerly known as District Visitors)

Connect with members and adherents of St. Andrew's by in person visits, phone calls, emails or text messages.

1. Connect with Care Ministry Team
2. Team Coordinators: Dolly Forcade; Inge Murray

Each member and adherent at St. Andrew's has a Care Connector (previously known as a District Visitor). The elder's district is the foundation for pastoral care in most congregations of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Elders are charged with cultivating a personal relationship with the members and adherents in their district. St. Andrew's is a big church with many members and adherents. Most of the elders on the session of St. Andrew's have a role as a Care Connector with a district. As we do not have enough elders to support all our congregants, other people in our faith family who have gifts for pastoral care are also Care Connectors and care for a district.

The Connect with Care Ministry Team has worked diligently this year to update the lists of members and adherents in preparation for the call extended to Rev. Laurie McKay. We appreciate the many phone calls the Care Connectors made on behalf of St. Andrew's to have the call documents signed.

We are grateful for all the faith-filled care this group provides.



GriefShare - (Life after Loss Team) ~ *Alice Williams, Facilitator*

To offer support, encouragement and help after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend.

TEAM FACILITATORS: Judie Coleman, Alice Williams

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. We offered two, 13-week afternoon programs in the Spring and Fall of this year, in addition to completing the last 5-week sessions carried forward from our November 2022, 13-week pilot. Total number of participants from these 2023 sessions - 22.
2. On August 15, several participants from the January and Spring sessions met at South Glenmore Park for a picnic.
3. December 5, 2023 we offered an additional program "Surviving the Holidays" to all Grief Share participants. This program outlined the challenges of the holiday season while offering practical, helpful suggestions related to dealing with holiday gatherings and family traditions.



Hospital Visitation Ministry ~ *Judie Coleman, Coordinator*

We are here to help St. Andrew's provide spiritual care for the people of St. Andrew's Church who are being treated in Calgary hospitals.

Our Interim Pastoral Care minister, Rev. Geoffrey Simmins visited those in hospital until the end of June when his contract with St. Andrew's ended. Our Interim Moderator Rev. Peter Coutts regularly visited congregants who were known to be in the hospital during the year. Currently, there are no lay visitors trained for this ministry mainly because Alberta Health Services has changed some of their policies around lay visitors. Even if we are not able to visit in person, we continued to offer prayers for those whom we knew to be in hospital or recovering at home. We remain open to God's leading and spirit as we try in all ways permitted to reach out and be the hands and feet of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.



Life after Loss ~ *Barb Kearnes, Coordinator*

To provide support to those grieving a loss.

The members of our team are Marilyn Cantlie, Phyllis Duncan, Alice Williams and Barbara Kearnes (coordinator).

Our team met several times throughout the year to debrief and reassess our strategies for on-going support to those suffering a loss. Our records indicate that 18 members/adherents have died and 15 members/adherents have lost one or more loved ones.

Phyllis and Marilyn continue to send out cards on the one-year anniversary of a loved one, as well as an invitation to the Life after Loss service in November. Several contacts by telephone, two visits and numerous expressions of support and condolence have been made.

There were approximately 30 attendees for our Life after Loss service in November and 67 on line viewings. Our guest speaker, Terri Wexler, who graciously declined compensation, delivered a very informative message and two students from Ambrose University shared their musical talents.

In coordination with the worship team we continue to assist with candle lighting on the months of the year that have a 5th Sunday, and we are very grateful to Lorne Kelly who crafted the beautiful and functional candle-lighting cart. (Pictured here with Derek Wilkinson).



As we continue this ministry, we prayerfully seek God's leading as we determine how to best serve the people of St. Andrew's and surrounding community who are suffering a loss.

Prayer Chain Ministry ~ *Lorie Nielsen, Coordinator*

To connect the congregation to God through prayer.

Our Prayer Chain team consists of Sibbie Borden, Nancy Brown, Nicola Cameron, Elaine Cantlon, Audrey Cole, Judie Coleman (Convenor), Peter Coutts, Sheri Coutts, Elly de Nooij, Elizabeth Dolan, Barb English, Dolly Forcade, Sue Hall, Val Hall, Desiree Henrichsen, Lynn Judd, Bill Judd, Sheila Kirkland, Barbara MacFarlane, Kevin MacFarlane, Elspeth McFadzean, Hugh McFadzean, Judy McVittie, Inge Murray, Lorie Nielsen (Coordinator), Gail Prevost, Janet Ridsdale, Judy Roberts, Joan Rowe, Mark Rowe, Jean Sadler, Annette Shaw, Sylvia Shaw, Mary Lou Staseson, and Arlene Young.

The members of the Prayer Chain are all aware that the information about the people for whom we are praying, and their situations, will always remain within the group. It is all confidential. The spouses or others in the same household are held to the same understanding; and the confidential information they may be aware of goes no further. It is a solitary ministry, but a rewarding and fulfilling one. If there is anyone reading this report that would be interested in joining our ministry, do get in touch. Sincerely, Lorie Nielsen (flnielsen64@gmail.com OR prayer@standrewscalgary.ca)

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ *Annette Shaw, Coordinator*

We are here to help St. Andrew's by creating hand-knit and crocheted shawls, filled with the power of prayer, for those in need.

Prayer shawls were first knit by our Women's Missionary Society members (WMS) and continue to be knit and crocheted by women attached to this congregation.

People in this ministry create hand-knit and crocheted shawls, filled with the power of prayer, for those in need. The shawls provide an enduring testimony of God's generous and enduring love. As in all acts of generosity, the giving of these shawls enriches the giver as well as the recipient.



Many prayer shawls, in many different colours and sizes, were distributed this year to families and friends of St. Andrew's. If you would like a prayer shawl for a friend or family member, please speak to Annette, Rev. Laurie or someone in the office.

Side by Side ~ *Alice Post, Coordinator*

The Side by Side Ministry cares for families living with dementia.

We offer two programs:

- An in-person day program which meets weekly on Wednesdays for 4.5 hours. The day is spent enjoying fellowship over various activities that foster social, spiritual, and physical well-being.
- A weekly one-hour Zoom call on Thursday afternoons. This hour is a chance to touch base and keep connected while enjoying some activities together.

Both programs include music, devotion time, games, puzzles, and discussion time. The day program also includes refreshment times, lunch and a creative time.



A team of caring and dedicated volunteers take part regularly to help deliver the Side by Side programs. Many thanks to Earl Brown, Tom Brownlee, Ken Burrill, Ted Cantlon, Audrey Cole, Judie Coleman, Peter Coutts, Sheri Coutts, Donna Harrison, Diana Hrytsak, Annika Koch, Don Koch, Clay Kuhn, Pam Lee, Pam Livingstone, Kathryn Matrosovs, Marg McCulloch, Beth Nicholson, Melvin Picazo, Alice Post, Brenda Pudwell, Annette Shaw, Bob Shaw, and Kathleen Tomie

We give thanks for the many ways others have also supported Side by Side as backup devotion leaders, song leaders, or companions, as well as by baking, praying, or donating.

In 2023, we saw some significant changes at Side by Side:

- We mourn the loss of our dear Edelgard Brown, who served on the Side by Side hospitality team with such gentle warmth and loyal dedication. She was much loved and is greatly missed.
- In November 2023, Alice stepped down from the coordinator role, and we moved to a 100% volunteer-led structure, with Audrey Cole and Judie Coleman taking on additional leadership roles. Alice continues to coordinate the online program.

We give thanks for the Side by Side ministry, which blesses all who take part. We pray that the work of many hands in this piece of God's mission will continue to make a difference to families in our community who are living with dementia.

Stephen Ministry ~ *Judie Coleman, Stephen Leader*

To provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Our Stephen Ministry is currently on hiatus. Even though we do not have active Stephen Ministers, we continue to send out *Journeying through Grief* booklets. These are a set of four short books sent to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one. 19 people received the booklets in 2023.



We remain open to God's guidance and spirit as we try in all ways permitted to reach out and be the hands and feet of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Two's Company – a ministry to the Homebound ~ *Judy McVittie, Coordinator*

Two's Company provides a special service to members and adherents who are no longer able to attend church by visiting and supporting them where they live. These visits are expected 4 times a year or more. By visiting these recipients, we are showing, our church cares and they are not forgotten.

TEAM MEMBERS: Maureen Amos, Gail Prevost and Judy McVittie. Pat Tritter has retired. Presently there are 4 recipients and 3 visitors.

As our church population is aging, visitors are needed to show these members we have not forgotten them. Please consider being a visitor.



Wellness ~ *Alice Williams, Coordinator*

Our team of retired Registered Nurses, on a volunteer basis, promote health and wellness for members of the congregation. We provide health information and activities covering a wide scope of topics. We partner with members of the congregation, to present their perspective on a specific health topic and maintain contact with Alberta Health Services community resources.

TEAM MEMBERS: Anne Greco, Lynn Judd, Barb Kearnes, Judy McVittie and Alice Williams (coordinator)

Highlights:

1. The April / May Health Matters article was written by Sharon and Ken Burrill, a thought-provoking article on Mindfulness.
2. Our annual Spring Health Information Fair was held on May 1, 2023 in conjunction with the Heritage Senior's group luncheon. The guest speakers were two volunteers from Victoria's Quilts, Calgary branch. Thousands of volunteers across Canada, make quilts for those receiving cancer therapy, providing support and warmth throughout their treatment. Following an informative talk, a wide array of beautiful quilts were on display for participants to view.
3. Several members of the team held a meeting on August 22 to discuss planning for the upcoming season. Proposed Health Matters and Spring health information topics were all discussed. A positive opportunity for team members to reconnect.

Personnel Team – *Elizabeth Dolan, Convenor*

The mandate of the Personnel Team is to provide support to the people working at St. Andrew's on behalf of us all in non-ministerial capacities. Much of our role is organizational, but we also have the blessing of on-going informal and formal interaction with all these staff, and may assist changes in their work status at St. Andrew's.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Dolan (Convenor), Murray Coleman, Merle Crawford, Kristi Millar, Judy Bridgemohan (Session Representative)

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

This year was very quiet in the area of this team as our focused "paper" work was completed:

- the Personnel Manual was approved by Session
- the job descriptions were all up-to-date; there were no changes in staffing.

We are very blessed to have a new member, Judy Bridgemohan, newly elected to Session and joining us with enthusiasm, warmth and a wealth of knowledge.

Elizabeth

Search Team - *Lorna Andronikou, Convenor*

We are here to help St. Andrew's call a new minister.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Lorna Andronikou (Convenor), Rev. Peter Coutts (Interim Moderator), Judie Coleman, Bill Judd, Inge Murray, Bart Stolee, Thelma Wagner

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- The Search Team continued to meet throughout 2023 after being commissioned by Session to commence a search for our new minister in the fall of 2022.
- Much of the work throughout 2023 was engagement with other presbyteries to discern whether there was someone willing to accept the Call to St. Andrew's.
- In the fall of 2023 the Search Team met with candidate, Rev. Laurie McKay, who was interviewed and accepted the Call to be our new Minister.
- On January 16, 2024, St. Andrew's Session met and officially released the Search Team from its work.
- Thank you to all Search Team members for your willingness to assist in the search process. Each one of you brought skills, knowledge, experience, and mentorship to the discernment process. We are so grateful to step into this new ministry and serve God together.



Below is an excerpt of one of the many Bible passages and prayers the team used throughout its discernment process to guide us in our work:

"Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." **MARK 11:22-24**

Dear God, we pray for Your Will to be spoken. We ask You to help us be a guiding light for someone who is receiving their Call to be our new minister. We pray for guidance and discernment to strengthen the life and the work at St. Andrew's so we can all continue to do Your work in the community and in the world. Help us locate a messenger to bring into our household. Help us to remember we are all called to be part of one family, connected by Your Word. We ask You to help us remember our biases when we encounter them and call us to reflect instead on Your will so we may act through You. We ask You to show us who You are sending to be with us: someone who compassionately knows You, who willingly hears You, and who collaboratively works toward serving You. We are ready to hear You as You hear our prayer. Amen.

Lorna

Statistics - Dolly Forcade, Office Administrator & Treasurer

Congregational Statistics

FAMILIES		2023	2022
Number of families associated(Dec. 31)		254	284
THE MEMBERSHIP			
Communicant Membership January 01		351	375
Added to the Roll	by Profession of Faith	7	0
	by Certificate of Transfer	7	4
	by resolution of Session	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
		15	6
Removed from the Roll	by Death	12	12
	by Certificate of Transfer	1	1
	by Resolution of Session	18	6
	by own request	<u>0</u>	<u>11</u>
		31	30
Communicant Membership December 31		335	351
<u>BAPTISMS</u>	Children	0	1
	Sudanese Children	0	32
	Adult	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		0	33
<u>MARRIAGES</u>	Members	0	1
	Adherents	0	0
	Other	<u>1</u>	3
		1	4
<u>FUNERALS</u>	Members	6	7
	Adherents	1	
	Other	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
		8	11

Worship Team - *Debby Dorcas, Team Member*

The goal of our worship team is to ensure that services are carefully planned and conducted to provide meaningful, creative and thoughtful worship experiences that invite us to experience God and nourish the spiritual growth and transformation of our members.

MEMBERS:

Debby Dorcas, Lynn Judd, Clem McLachlan, Evan Mounce, Derek Wilkinson

The Worship Team has been on hiatus while the search for a new minister has been underway.

Thanks to Lynn Judd and friends who decorated our 'spaces' for each special occasion in our church life ~ for those to whom color and beauty enhance our worship, we are grateful.

We expect that we will be meeting again as a team once Rev. Laurie has a chance to 'catch her breath'!

To all who said 'yes' when asked to participate in worship, to greet, to usher, to provide coffee and an opportunity for people to share conversation... THANK YOU!!

Debby



A few of our special moments together:





St. Andrew's Church Staff - 2023

Interim Minister

Rev. Peter Coutts (Jan to Feb)

Interim Moderator

Rev. Peter Coutts (Mar to Dec)

Interim Pastoral Care Minister

Rev. Geoffrey Simmins (Jan to Jun)

Director of Music Ministries

Evan Mounce

Executive Assistant

Debby Dorcas

Office Administrator/ Treasurer

Dolly Forcade

AV Coordinator

David Kurtz

Nursery Caregivers

Lilwen Henrichsen & Lauren Cantlon

Side-by-Side Coordinator

Alice Post (Jan to Oct)



GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD