

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ST. ANDREW'S

GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD

Table of Contents, Page 1

Agenda – March 8, 2026 – 119th Annual Congregational Meeting	3
Minutes of the 118th Annual Congregational Meeting	4-5
Message from Rev. Laurie McKay	6-7
Message from Rev. Geoffrey Simmins	8
Clerk of Session ~ Debby Dorcas	9
Director of Music Ministries ~ Evan Mounce	10
Christian Meditation Group	11
Communications Team	12-13
ConnXions Team	14
Facilities Team	15
Faith Formation Team (FF)	16
Adult Bible Study	17
Youth Group	18
Family Ministry Team	18
Finance Team	19-20
Fundraising Team	21
Gardening Team	22
Gratitude & Generosity Team	23
Heritage Seniors	24
In Memoriam	25
Ladies Guild	26
Leading With Care	27
Legacy Trust Fund	28
Memorial Fund	29
Ministry Resource & Accountability Team	29
Mission Team	
Indigenous Relations Team	30-31
Claire House	31-32

Table of Contents, Page 2

Food Bank Depot	32
The Edge	33
Ministries of Care	34
Care Share/Mealtrain	35
Connect with Care Ministry	35-36
GriefShare	36
Hospital Visitation Ministry	36
Life after Loss	37
Prayer Chain Ministry	37
Prayer Shawl Ministry	38
Side By Side	38
Two's Company – a ministry to the homebound	39
Wellness	39-40
Parking Lot Project	41-43
Personnel Team	44
Presbytery	45-46
Rainbow Team	46
Statistics	47
Welcome and Connection Team	48
Worship Team	48-49
Sound Board Team	49
Woven into the Neighbourhood	
Neechi-Mart	50
Sudanese Congregation	51
A few of our Special Moments together	52-55
St. Andrew's Church Staff	56

AGENDA - March 8, 2026 – 119th Annual Congregational Meeting

All 2025 Reports can be found on our website: [https://www.standrewscalgary.ca/ON-LINE_RESOURCES/ Annual Reports & Financials](https://www.standrewscalgary.ca/ON-LINE_RESOURCES/Annual_Reports_&_Financials)

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of **Secretary**
MOTION: that Christine Pepper be named as 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 118th Annual Congregational Meeting** held March 19, 2025 (pages 4 & 5) of the Annual Report.
MOTION: that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on March 19, 2025 be adopted.
5. **In Memoriam** (page 24 of the 2026 Annual Report) by Life After Loss Team
6. 2025 Highlights Presentation
7. Adoption of **2025 Annual Report**
MOTION: that the 2025 Annual Report be adopted.
8. Presentation & Adoption of the **2025 Financials** by the Finance Team
MOTION: that the financial statements for the 2025 fiscal year be adopted.
9. Presentation of the **Narrative Budget** by the Finance Team
10. Presentation & Approval of the Proposed **2026 Budget** by the Finance Team
MOTION: that the 2026 budget be approved.
11. “Thanks” by Debby Dorcas
12. Adjournment and Benediction by Rev. Laurie McKay

Minutes of the 118th Annual Congregational Meeting

March 19, 2025 – Sylvia Shaw, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (including **In Memoriam** on page 25)
2. Appointment of **Secretary**
MOTION: *to name Sylvia Shaw as the Secretary of the meeting.*
Moved by: Audrey Cole **Seconded:** Cathy Millar **Motion CARRIED**
3. Adoption of **Revised Agenda** (on screen)
Adoption of the **Minutes of the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting** held March 10, 2024 (pages 4, 5 & 6) of the Annual Report;
Adoption of the **2024 Annual Report**
MOTION: *that these reports be adopted as presented, with friendly amendments that the title “music coordinator” (Minutes of the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting, page 5, item 8) be changed to “Director of Music Ministries”; and that Rev. Peter’s report on the Indigenous Friendship Day printed earlier in ConnXions be included in the 2024 Annual Report.*
Moved by: Anita Szott **Seconded:** Rhonda Wishart **Motion CARRIED**
4. Presentation & Adoption of the **2024 Financials**
MOTION: *that the financial statements for the 2024 fiscal year be adopted.*
Moved by: Bob Shaw **Seconded:** Judy Bridgemohan **Motion CARRIED**
5. Presentation of the **Narrative Budget**
MOTION: *that John Cuthbertson present the Narrative Budget.*

Moved by: John Cuthbertson **Seconded:** Elaine Cantlon **Motion CARRIED**
6. Presentation & Approval of the Proposed **2025 Budget**
MOTION: *that the 2025 budget be approved.*
Moved by: John Cuthbertson **Seconded:** Barbara Kearnes **Motion CARRIED**
7. Parking Lot Presentation
Presented by Mark Rowe
8. Introduction of the **Fund Raising Coordination Team**
Introduced by John Cuthbertson, the team members will be Dolly Forcade, Cathy Millar, Mark Rowe and Dave Townsend. The goal will be to raise \$150,000 by various means. We have already applied to The Presbyterian Church in Canada for a grant in the amount of \$25,000.

9. Thanks, Adjournment and Benediction

Debby Dorcas expressed her thanks on behalf of the congregation to the Impact and the Finance Teams for their good work.

Cathy Millar expressed her thanks on behalf of the congregation to the ministry staff and non ministry staff of St. Andrew's for their good work.

MOTION: *That the 118th Annual Congregational Meeting be adjourned.*

Moved by: Brian Hawco

Seconded: Audrey Cole

Motion CARRIED

Rev. Laurie McKay pronounced the Benediction.

Lead Minister - *Rev. Laurie McKay*

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary

Growing. Life. Together. With God



Partnerships are how we are woven into the neighbourhood.

Some significant partnerships have been established with St. Andrew's and the Indigenous networks at Heritage Park, Neechi-Mart, and the Aboriginal Friendship Centre. More relationships have been established through the parking lot upgrade, immediate neighbours and Haysboro Community Centre. We anticipate being more intentional in welcoming those who will be moving into our neighbourhood with the two housing developments beside us.

New Ministries:

Neechi-Mart: While it runs independently from St. Andrew's, we have provided reduced rent, volunteers, and applied for and received grant funds of \$30,000 from the Presbytery and \$10,000 from the National Church (New and Renewing Fund).

Neechi-Mart provides a mid-week, low-barrier food program to anyone hungry, offers a simple meal, and teaches cultural crafts. It is a welcoming space that fosters relationships and honours Indigenous traditional teaching.

Good Way Network and Walk as We – In January 2025, a network of churches and organizations that are building relationships with Indigenous neighbours were invited to come and share what they were doing, for mutual support. This monthly Circle has grown, and the leadership has been given to Rev. Layne Kilbreath. It is now part of a larger work with the new ministry "**Walk as We**". Walk as We is an ecumenical Urban Indigenous Ministry in Calgary that launched in September. Layne is directing this work of expanding relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in our area. The hope is to find an Indigenous co-director and find funding for this important work. I am thankful for Rev. Layne Kilbreath and Elder Alphonse Nepoose, who have led reconciliation initiatives this year and support our Indigenous Relations Team.

Justice

Kairos Conference

Kairos is the ecumenical social justice arm of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. I sat on the steering committee that hosted an international conference at Ambrose University in June at the same time as the G7 Nations were gathering in Kananaskis. A grant from The Presbyterian Church in Canada contributed \$8,000 to the conference, and an article about the conference appeared in the national Connections Newspaper. We met some of the attendees at St. Andrew's on the last day of the conference. At this conference, I was connected to the **Migrante Alliance** who presented in November. I continue to support the good work of the Rainbow Team.

Presbyterian Connections

Part of being Presbyterian is engaging with the larger church. I attended General Assembly in Kitchener-Waterloo as I convened the Committee to Advise with the Moderator (Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls). I became the moderator of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod for the term September 2025 – 2026. I was thankful that St. Andrew's hosted the Synod of Alberta in October. I am Interim Moderator and Convenor of the Voluntary Withdrawal Committee to help Valleyview Community Church withdraw from the denomination and I serve on the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee.

Children and Youth – I am thrilled with the active participation of children and youth in worship and in the life of our congregation, but **we can do more**. This will be an area of focus for 2026. We are planning a Junior High Youth Conference for Western Canada in the PCC at Camp Kannawin on May 15-18. We look forward to supporting senior high school students and leaders who wish to attend Collective 2026 this year in St. Catharines, Ontario in August.

Pastoral Care

Funerals conducted either alone or with Rev. Geoffrey: Ian Bamford, Aileen Braun, Serena Bowman (Indigenous youth), George Simpson, Ruth Eisenhauer, Joan Robertson (died in 2024), John Young, and Rene Prevost. Rev. Geoffrey led Lois Kerslake's service.

Trinity Lodge devotions and other visits in hospitals, nursing homes and homes.

Non-Serving Elders Gathering – once a year, we gather all elders to update and ask for their wisdom on the direction of St. Andrew's. They are a gift to us.

Ministers in Association Lunches – We are thankful for the support of our Ministers in Association in the following areas:

- Care Connectors Training – 4 times/year – Rev. Dr. Jean Morris
- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner – Rev. Fiona Swanson
- Ukelele Group, GriefShare leadership, Side by Side volunteer – Rev. Clay Kuhn
- Sudanese Liaison, applying for Chisholm grant, The Edge leadership – Rev. Peter Coutts
- Retreats – Staff Retreat at King's Fold
- Presbytery Retreat at FCJ Centre
- Elders Retreat at Haysboro Community Centre

Education

Supported Spiritual Practices Lent study with Rev. Geoffrey Simmins.

Study Leave – Scotland and Celtic Christianity (2 weeks).

Led Advent study online, *Calling all Angels*.

Sudanese Relationship

I am coming to know the Sudanese congregation by preaching, leading communion, baptising and joining special celebrations. We are in the process of developing a more intentional and clear relationship with our Nuer-speaking congregation.

Looking back

I have been amazed at the commitment of leaders and the gracious space offered to younger members and their priorities. The generosity shown in the fundraiser for the parking lot remediation and the engagement for the Intergenerational Musical and Bazaar are all signs of an active community of faith. I am thankful to be in ministry with you all!

My priorities in 2026

In consultation with the elders, my priorities for 2026 will be worship and pastoral care support, intentional partnerships with our neighbours, youth and family ministries, intercultural ministry with Sudanese, Indigenous, and 2sLGBTQI neighbours, and leading in a good way with staff, St. Andrew's, and the Presbyterian family.

I am thankful for a competent staff. My work is made easier by many who bring laughter and joy, thoughtful discussion and compassionate care. The Ministers in Association and Rev. Geoffrey Simmins join me in service. So many leaders teach, serve, contribute, bake, cook, build, and sign up. The session is thoughtful and committed to seeing St. Andrew's thrive. Together, we are faithful servants of the living and loving Lord. I am blessed to be a minister here at St. Andrew's.

With love and joy,

Laurie

Rev. Laurie McKay

Spiritual Care Minister – *Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins*

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary

Growing. Life. Together. With God

I serve as St. Andrew's part-time Spiritual Care Minister. I work 20 hours per week, ten months a year.

I support Rev. Laurie to provide pastoral care and educational opportunities for the congregation. I work regularly and collaboratively with all the members of the various ministries of care at St. Andrew's. These ministries are described in detail in the link here. We practice many different ministries of care, so that with God's help we can reach out to others. My most regular point of contact is with Judie Coleman, Ministries of Care Team Lead.

In addition to the privilege and pleasure of providing regular spiritual care and support for our congregation, I hold up three highlights from this past year.

1. Lent 2025: I facilitated a program titled Creative and Spiritual Practices: Engaging the Soul. This five-week Lenten workshop series took as its goal to dive deeply into different spiritual practices using hands-on activities.

2. Fall 2025: I facilitated an eight-week session on mental health, using materials generously provided by Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries in Vancouver. This program helped make participants aware of how pervasive mental health challenges are for many Canadians, and provided helpful faith-based examples and tools for participants to learn about and apply. The stated goal of the program—namely, that it will “equip churches as they seek to become sanctuaries where people with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging”—was amply borne out.



Volunteers assemble Christmas stockings for members and friends who cannot easily attend church, December 2025.

3. Organized by Judie Coleman and Janet Remus, the Christmas stocking program galvanized congregational support to help fill stockings for more than 50 households. I take no credit for this program, beyond serving as an enthusiastic cheerleader, but I include it as an example of the collaborative and caring work undertaken by the Ministries of Care volunteers. Volunteers and participants in the Side by Side program sorted the gifts and assembled the stockings. People pitched in and delivered stockings to more than 50 households. This was indeed a ministry supported by the congregation for the congregation.

I look forward to providing creative and varied spiritual care to this congregation and the wider community in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Geoffrey Simmins

Clerk of Session – *Debby Dorcas*

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Calgary

Growing. Life. Together. With God

As St. Andrew’s has moved to Term Eldership, we started the process in the fall of 2024 discerning new elders to serve on Session, knowing six elders would retire in January 2025. We give thanks for the dedication and commitment of Cathy Millar, Christine Pepper, Dolly Forcade, Inge Murray, Loran McVittie and Rhonda Wishart ~ and look forward to their continuing contributions in new and meaningful ways. And we welcome David Townsend, Deanne Barrett, Lorna Andronikou and Bill Judd to Session, and look forward to working with them in the coming years!

<p>Elders who retired January 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cathy Millar Ordained January 17, 1988 Christine Pepper Ordained October 24, 2010 Dolly Forcade Ordained April 8, 2001 Inge Murray Ordained October 24, 2010 Loran McVittie Ordained June 15, 1997 Rhonda Wishart Ordained April 13, 2003 	<p>Elders ordained January 19, 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David Townsend Deanne Barrett Lorna Andronikou  <p>Admitted to Session (previously ordained and now returning)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Judd
---	--

2025 Session Highlights:

- Session continues to be grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and leadership of Rev. Laurie McKay as our Lead Minister, and for the warm and caring heart of Rev. Geoffrey Simmins, our Spiritual Care Minister. We give thanks for our Ministers in Association: Rev. Peter Coutts, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, Rev. Fiona Swanson, and Rev. Clay Kuhn for their many contributions to our community. As we have said before... an abundance of riches!!
- In 2025, Session continued to focus on our identified priorities of welcoming 2SLGBTQIA+ within our community, building relationships with the Indigenous communities, and working with, and providing opportunities to our Youth and Seniors.
- Session spent time together October 3 and 4 on a retreat, reflecting on ‘Stars & Wishes’ – what does St. Andrew’s do well, and where could we put more energy and focus. In early 2026 we will be meeting with our Elders Emeritis (Ordained elders currently not serving on Session) to do a similar workshop and shortly following that, we will be surveying the congregation to find out the wants/wishes of the congregation. The results of our October 3-4 discussion will be amalgamated with these other results. Stay tuned!!

Debby

St. Andrew’s Session Members Jan – Dec 2025

Rev. Laurie McKay, Moderator

Audrey Mann	Judie Coleman
Bill Judd	Judy Bridgemohan
Craig Murray	Lauren Nolette
David Townsend	Lorna Andronikou
Deanne Barrett	Lynn Judd
Debby Dorcas	Mark Rowe
Derek Wilkinson	Sheri Coutts
Desiree Henrichsen	Stephanie Werle

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); Clay Kahn's Uke Troupe.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:



The Music Ministry has once again played a vibrant and meaningful role in the worship life of St. Andrew's. Throughout the year, our musicians provided leadership for many special services, including Good Friday (with excerpts from *The Weeping Tree*), Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Sunday, Bring-a-Friend Sunday, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and Indigenous Peoples Sunday. Sundays featuring our Kaleidoscope Ringers and other special guests continue to be a highlight, adding colour and depth to our worship.

We were especially grateful to Debby Dorcas for organizing and leading *Gloria's Christmas*, an inspiring and engaging musical offering during Advent that enriched the season for our congregation.

Beyond our regular worship leadership, the St. Andrew's Choir continues to connect with the wider community. This year, the choir participated in the 12th Night Choral Celebration Concert at Fish Creek United, and took part in two special workshops. Members of our music teams also enjoyed shared musical outings, including attending performances by the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus and Calgary Opera - experiences that deepen our musicianship and strengthen our sense of community.

Our ministry is continually uplifted by guest musicians, and this year we were delighted to welcome back Andrew Leitch, Megan Tracz, Sara Far, Jasmine Long, Laura Brandt, and Heather Wootton. In the fall, we were thrilled to welcome Christina Thanisch-Smith as our Artist-in-Residence. We are lucky to have her sharing her beautiful voice with us many Sundays.



Choir field trip to see Calgary Opera's Hansel and Gretel

Whether through the Choir, Praise Team, Kaleidoscope Ringers, or Clay's Uke Troupe, the Music Ministry provides musical leadership in every service, supporting congregational song and enhancing worship. As Kahlil Gibran reminds us, "Music is the language of the spirit." Our hope is that the music offered at St. Andrew's continues to bring joy, comfort, and peace, while also nurturing and encouraging the many leaders who give their time and talents so generously.

There is always room for new voices and instruments within our music-making community. If you can imagine yourself singing with the choir, strumming with the praise team, or ringing handbells, we would love to welcome you. Please feel free to speak with a current member of the Music Ministry or reach out to me directly to learn more.

Thank you to all who contribute to the Music Ministry for another rich and life-giving year of music at St. Andrew's.

Yours in music,

Evan Mounce

Director of Music Ministries

Christian Meditation Group – Ken & Sharon Burrill

The all-important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God’s mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but the reality in our lives; to let it become that reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are. (*Word into Silence*, John Main).

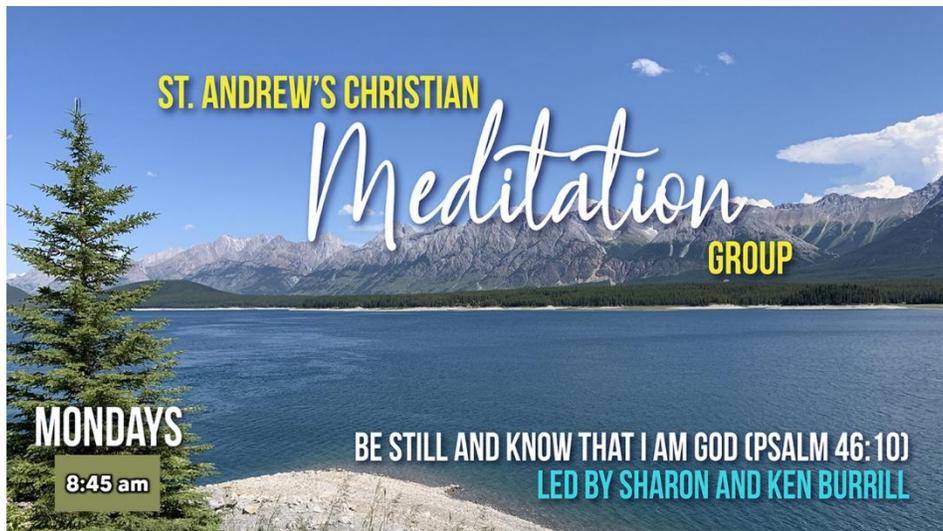
The St. Andrew’s Christian Meditation group continued to meet weekly through 2025. We are one of more than 3000 active small groups within the World Community for Christian Meditation, (WCCM), a global spiritual community united in the practice of meditation in the Christian prayer tradition.

We gather online each Monday morning from 9:00-10:00 AM, using ZOOM. We also met in person several times during the year, sharing prayer time, conversation, snacks and a short contemplative walk with good friends.

There are many excellent resources available to describe and encourage the practice of meditation in the Christian tradition. For example, meditation is the first of twelve spiritual practices described by Richard Foster in his 1978 best-selling book *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth*. The WCCM also offers an excellent publication and online presence for those interested.

Please reach out to Sharon Burrill, Ken Burrill or Linda Humphreys if you have questions. Or reach out to us at skmeditates@gmail.com. All are welcome. We would love to have you join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken & Sharon Burrill



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. Debby Dorcas does an excellent job accumulating and reviewing content (often 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.
- Weekly "Caring and Connecting Corner" authored by Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins.
- A "Wider Community" section focussed on 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. Kevin and Barbara also prepare supplementary Easter, Christmas, and Celebration of Life PowerPoints.

Facebook and Instagram

The Weekly LinX is used as a basis for most of the Facebook and Instagram posts initiated by Kevin MacFarlane. They primarily relate to details on the upcoming worship services.

Website Maintenance

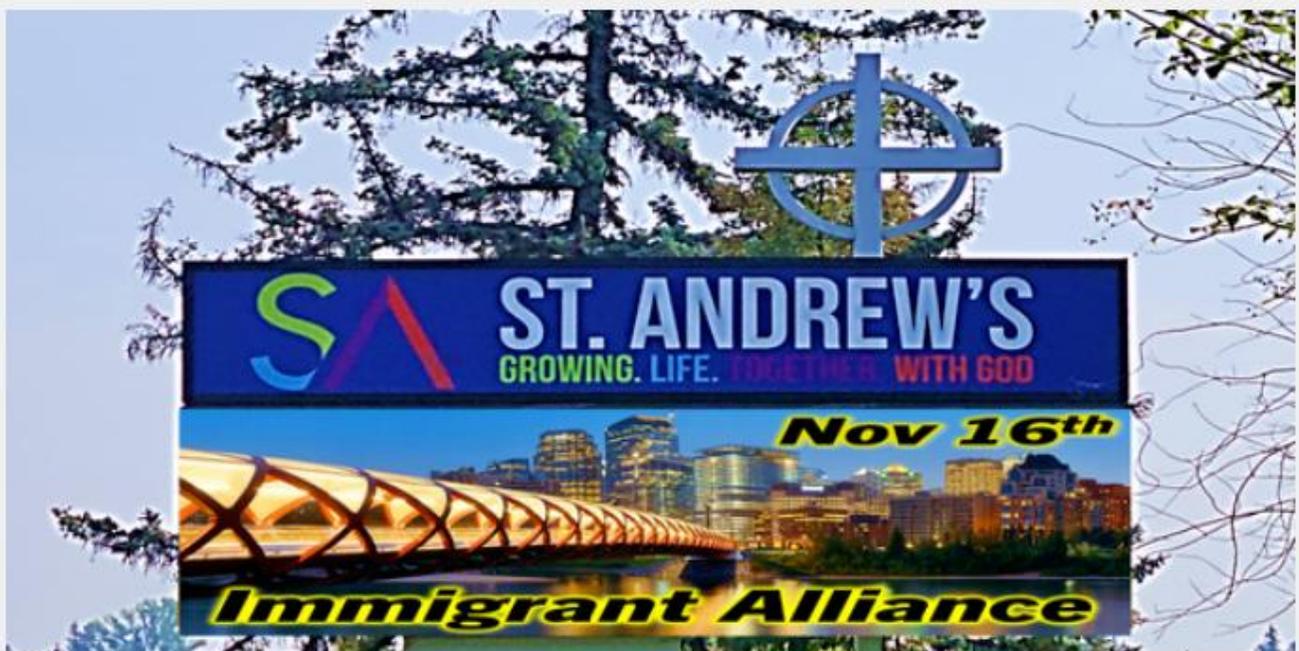
In conjunction with the creation of the weekly LinX, the website is maintained with the addition of Event pages to link to the LinX articles. Other additions and revisions to the website, including colour changes and banner images, are usually prompted by changes we make to the LinX articles. We appreciate the

many requests we get from teams to keep information current. All teams are encouraged to review the website regularly so that they can provide Kevin MacFarlane with updated information.

Images for the Street-side Electronic Sign

In consultation with Rev. Laurie and Debby Dorcas, Kevin MacFarlane prepares weekly images for uploading to our beautiful new electronic sign. It is usually an adaptation of the slide used to promote the weekly sermon but with the title and date changed to colours and a font which can be easily read by a passenger in a vehicle going east or west on Heritage Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin MacFarlane



Grateful, Thankful, Blessed

New Electronic Sign

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, Kevin MacFarlane, Barbara MacFarlane, Flemming Nielsen, David Townsend and Thelma Wagner.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- There were 6 ConnXions Newsletters published in 2025. There was no issue published in August of 2025 but we had a special edition issue published in September 2025. This issue had photos from the congregation - highlighting summer activities and a fall calendar of ongoing and resuming activities.
- 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.
- ConnXions welcomes two new members to the team: David Townsend and Thelma Wagner. We are blessed by their willingness to step into this role!
- ConnXions looks forward to highlighting all the great work of our ministry teams in 2026!

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin MacFarlane



Facilities Team - *Sean Pepper, Convenor and Matt Nolette, Secretary*

The Facilities team ensures that our building is safe and well maintained inside and outside. This includes 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.



Flicker damage due to bird nest

Team members: Sean Pepper (Convenor), Matt Nolette (Secretary), Alfred MacRae, Brent Werle, Jarret Hoefling, and Mark Rowe.

Some Highlights from the past year:

- Installation of new lighting in the foyer.
- Installation of new lighting in the lower fireside room.
- Flicker damage fixed on exterior of the church.

Thank you not only to our entire team, but to everyone in the congregation who has shown support and helped in any capacity to further and maintain the church. Without the generous help of everyone, we would not be able to achieve all the work we can do. Please keep an eye out for future opportunities to get involved to help us keep our church home beautiful and well cared for!



Changing the plant pot

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Nolette & Sean Pepper

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 focus on matters relevant to our youth.

Highlights of 2025

1. We were delighted to support the church school children in planning and delivering the in-service Children's Story on two occasions in the past year. The children wrote the scripts and acted out their parts with a joy and enthusiasm that warmed the hearts of the congregation. The FF Team, with special recognition to team member Inge Murray, hosted another two successful Take 150 events for young children, one with a St. Patrick's Day theme and the other in celebration of Hallowe'en. 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. Christmas season provides the FF Team with the opportunity to organize both the annual Mitten Tree and the Christmas Eve Family service. The children were delighted to collect the scarves, hats and mittens so generously donated by members of the congregation on Dec. 7. Our Christmas tree was laden with gifts which were distributed to three groups this year - the Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Wood's Homes and Neechi-Mart.

3. The Christmas Eve service, particularly designed for children and families, was heartwarming, relaxed and joyful. The children particularly enjoyed dressing in period costumes and choosing their own instruments to add merriment to the Christmas carols. To further warm our hearts, the children encouraged all who attended the service to bring gift items for babies, which were delivered to the Women in Need Society (WINS) over the holidays. The youth of StAC displayed their community spirit by being toy sorters at the Salvation Army warehouse.

We are indeed blessed by our faithful nursery, church school, youth group, adult Bible/book study/meditation leaders and a congregation of families willing to engage in an eventful faith journey!

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Wishart, FF Convenor

Adult Bible Study - *Bill Judd*

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

Our Sunday morning Bible Study / Discussion group had another full year of meeting, sharing and learning. We met after worship in Trinity Hall to take advantage of the nice space, the big screen TV and the coffee-making. Thanks to Barb Kearnes, we were often treated to a lovely muffin snack, and to Duane Tritter who faithfully had coffee ready as we gathered. Most Sundays, there were 10-15 in attendance. Bill Judd was our main leader and did his best to keep us on-track. Debby Dorcas was a thoughtful organizer and back-up leader.

This year we worked through four different studies -

- *Context - Putting Scripture In Its Place* with Josh Scott was all about gaining understanding about how to read the language and social norms at the time of writing to help us work through some sticky issues, as we can easily develop misunderstandings when applying scripture in an overly literal way.
- *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton took us through a focused look at Jesus' earthly ministry from His early declaration that 'the Kingdom of God has come near', to the all-important Sermon on the mount, His many parables, His challenge 'who do YOU say that I am' and His own foretelling of the meaning of crucifixion, resurrection and 'the life'.
- After a summer break, we entered a targeted look at the book of James, subtitled *What You Do Matters* with Margaret Feinberg. This was quite personal in that James, Jesus' brother, was very passionate about how we respond to hardship (maintaining trust in God), how we listen to and respond to scripture and to others, how we see others, what we say - literally everything about how we live our life matters in growing our relationship with God and in how we participate in living out the Kingdom - lifting others up, in the here and now.
- Through advent we took in the Erin Wathen study entitled *Calling All Angels*, which ran parallel to a Monday evening online group led by Rev. Laurie. What a nice way to expand our circle of learning from and with each other. It was an interesting, somewhat unusual, look at all the angel encounters surrounding the birth of Jesus. So, first of all this event must have been hugely important to get all this careful Godly messenger attention. Furthermore, what was it like for ordinary people to receive such a powerful message? Do we still get such spiritual communications today? Are there times we might be carrying a Godly message to others?

We plan to keep on keeping on in 2026. Everyone is welcome.

Peace,
Bill Judd

Youth Group - *Matt & Lauren Nolette*

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



Leaders: Matthew and Lauren Nolette
Support from Shelby Cole and Daniel Cullen

This year has been an encouraging season of growth and connection for our youth group. We now have around 14 students attending regularly, with several new faces joining in and fitting in naturally. It's been great to see everyone getting along, supporting each other, and building real friendships. Our weekly gatherings have been full of energy, especially during our "in-the-dark" games, which have become a favourite and always bring a lot of laughter. Looking ahead, we're excited for upcoming youth events, including a western junior high retreat at Camp Kannawin in May, and the national youth conference in Ontario this August. More details will be shared as we get closer, but we're already looking forward to what God will do through that experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt & Lauren Nolette

Family Ministry Team - *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.

Team Members: Craig & Inge Murray, Lucy Aburto, Stephanie Werle

Highlight from 2025:

Annual Family Camping Weekend

Our annual Family Camping Weekend returned in August at the Sandy McNabb group campground in Sheep River Provincial Park, once again bringing together a wonderful mix of ages and experiences. The weekend was filled with walks, games, shared meals, and plenty of laughter — all under beautiful blue skies. A highlight for many was our outdoor worship service, led by Rev. Peter Coutts and Rev. Geoffrey Simmins playing his guitar, offering a relaxed and meaningful space for prayer, reflection, and connection with God. Whether seasoned campers or first-timers, participants enjoyed time to build relationships beyond Sunday mornings. This intergenerational weekend continues to be a cherished summer tradition, strengthening our sense of community year after year.



Sunday Worship

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Murray

Finance Team - *John Cuthbertson, Convenor*

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

TEAM MEMBERS: Shona Vandrasco, CPA; Cathy Millar, Dolly Forcade (Treasurer), Judy Bridgemohan, David Townsend, CPA (member emeritus!) and John Cuthbertson, Convenor

THANK YOU for your generous, consistent, and ongoing financial support in 2025. It enabled us to meet the challenges of two simultaneous capital projects while at the same time, resource the life and mission of our congregation in a wonderful facility.

Our 2025 financial performance has left us in a small surplus position (more on this later). This was due to six factors:

1. your amazing financial stewardship,
2. important contributions from the Legacy Fund,
3. equally important support from the Memorial Fund,
4. the final year of the 5-year pledge donations,
5. the incredible energy of the Pave the Way fundraising team (David Townsend, Cathy Millar, Dolly Forcade and Mark Rowe) and
6. the continued financial prudence of our congregational teams with their own budgets.

Everyone was rowing in the same direction--again!! Thank you.

The 2025 financial information and the 2026 proposed financial plan, which has been approved in principle by Session for submission to the congregation are in the separate addendum. We are happy to receive 2026 "budget" questions before the annual congregational meeting either in writing or verbally but the goal will be to answer them on March 8, 2026 when all congregants are present for the annual meeting. If you have questions about our 2025 financials, please direct them to any member of the Finance Team. We will be doing a recap of 2025 finances at the annual meeting and there will also be an opportunity to raise questions.

Here are some highlights:

1. In 2025, we were faced with two concurrent capital projects - repair of the flicker damage to our building envelope, and the Pave the Way project resulting from the planned closure of the parking lot next door in the old Y space.
2. Sean Pepper and Matt Nolette, the co-convenors of the Facilities team managed the flicker repair project. Kudos gents for your work! The building looks great!
3. Tom McIntyre led the Pave the Way (PTW) project team and did a superb job on the project management and critical cost control.
4. Peter Coutts was instrumental in crafting a successful application for a grant from the PCC Chisholm Fund (\$25,000) to help fund the PTW.
5. Terry Basaraba organized a very successful (and critical) corn roast fundraiser for PTW.
6. The new sign, approved in late 2024 by the City, was completed.

To fund the two new capital projects and our general operations, we dipped into our resources, had a successful capital campaign and used our 2024 budget surplus. This meant we had to defer progress on contributions to the Sustainability Fund (SF). The SF was established in 2023 with terms of reference calling for a target minimum of four months of our average annual operating costs and an aspirational goal of \$600,000. It currently has about \$40,000 in it.

You will see that our 2026 Financial Plan is modelled with a small deficit, and you will note, the absence of any revenues from the 5-year pledges. This will be addressed in two ways. First, we intend to apply as much of our 2025 surplus as we can to the 2026 plan. (At the time of composing this report, we don't have the exact numbers but that will be the goal.) Second, we are asking everyone to consider a givings increase. Further information will be in an upcoming issue of ConnXions.

Last year, we predicted that our congregation could successfully respond to the funding challenges of trying to do two capital projects at once. You did just that!

Thanks to each of you for your own impactful gifts. They are truly appreciated. See you on March 8, 2026 at the ACM.

Respectfully submitted,
John Cuthbertson on behalf of the Finance Team



Fundraising Team

Raise funds for the parking lot upgrade.

TEAM MEMBERS: Cathy Millar, Dolly Forcade, Mark Rowe, David Townsend

2025 PAVE THE WAY CAMPAIGN

Thanks be to God for the incredible generosity the people of this congregation demonstrated in 2025! We surpassed our original Pave the Way fundraising goal of \$150,000 with \$156,023.00 received. AND we had plenty of FUN doing it!

Special mention must be given to our Anonymous Donor for the very generous and inspiring \$40,000 matching donation, to the Ladies Guild who made the first donation as well as a second donation, to Craig Murray (May bike ride and winner of the “name the campaign” contest), to Terry Basaraba and his team (August corn roast), to Peter Coutts (the \$25,000 Chisholm grant from the PCC), to the members of the fundraising team for their leadership and for keeping us all informed (Dolly Forcade, David Townsend, Mark Rowe, Cathy Millar) to Tom McIntyre and his remarkable crew for providing oversight of the project, AND to the people of St. Andrew’s for your most generous support. Our success was due to the faithfulness and steadfast generosity of all of you and for that we are truly grateful. THANK YOU EVERYONE for a most successful campaign.



Fundraising Thermometer

Breakdown of donations to “Pave the Way” fundraiser:

Ladies Guild	\$8,000
Craig’s Ride	\$7,230
Corn Roast	\$15,093
Grant from PCC	\$25,000
\$1 per day	\$4,745
General donations	\$55,955
Matching challenge	\$40,000
Total Raised	\$156,023

Respectfully submitted,
The Pave the Way Fundraising Team

Gardening Team - *Pat & Duane Tritter*

The gardening team is more of an 'unteam'. We are a few volunteers who choose to help beautify our church grounds. Everyone comes independently and whenever it works best for them - some come on their own, or with another person.

Their responsibilities for upkeep are divided into six areas:

- flower bed on front lawn, west of the sidewalk
- flower beds on front lawn, east of the sidewalk
- hedge care
- pots in front and one on south side of church by parking lot
- east flower beds
- south bed along the sanctuary windows



We would also like to add another volunteer to care for the area by the west side door.

There is a need for new volunteers as some of us are ready for a change, for new opportunities at St. Andrew's. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Tritter

Gratitude & Generosity Team - *Stephanie Werle, Convenor*

The Gratitude & Generosity Team (G & G) promotes 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: Kevin MacFarlane, Cathy Millar, Stephanie Werle (Convenor)

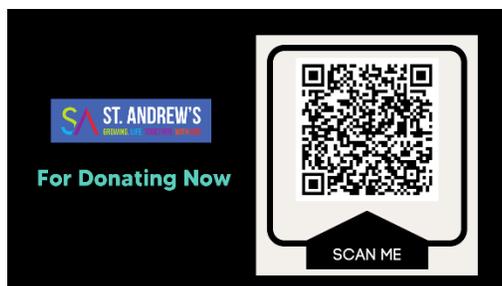
Highlights:

Through our G&G Offering Moments, the ripple effect of your prayerful gifts of time, talent and treasure were highlighted by the following teams: Connect with Care Ministry, Men's Club, Heritage Seniors, Communications, Facilities, Indigenous Relations, Rainbow, Pave the Way, Side by Side, and the Ladies Guild.

This card is the symbol of the gift that I/we have made by Pre-Authorized Remittance or Electronic Giving



We introduced the use of a QR code for those wishing to donate online during the service or easily while watching the livestream on YouTube.



As we reflect on the past five years of life here at St. Andrew's, we gratefully acknowledge and thank those who faithfully fulfilled their additional 5-year financial pledge, which ended this year. To everyone who gave of their time, talent, and treasures, thank you for helping us Grow. Life. Together. with God.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Werle

Heritage Seniors - *Maureen Pelz & Jan Kozbial*

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 have had another successful year by increasing our membership, retaining excellent fitness instructors and hosting great monthly luncheons with marvelous food catered by a fabulous chef, LeRoy, who has been with us for over 15 years. Who could ask for more! Guests are always welcome, but tickets must be purchased by the Thursday night before the luncheon, as we have to order for the numbers expected.

Our fitness instructors provide interesting and challenging classes so if you would like to join us, please feel free to come and give it a try. The art group on Tuesday mornings has taken over making the table decorations for our lunches and we can't wait to see what they come up with.

At our Christmas luncheon, our members' donations to the Veterans' Food Bank were matched by the Club for a grand total of over \$1400.00. Way to go!

Our Strawberry Tea was again enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks go out to the Ladies Guild who helps us each year with the bake sale. This is our only fundraiser, so it is greatly appreciated. Volunteers are always needed so we'd like to hear from you if interested.



Respectfully submitted,

Jan Kozbial

Past President, writing on behalf of Maureen Pelz, President



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

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

Holland Berry	Aileen Braun	Ruth Eisenhower
Ken Faulkner	Violet Greig	Nancy Groundwater
Castor Guyong	Vera Johnson (2024)	Lois Kerslake
Eric Koprek (2024)	Rene Prevost	Jim Quesnel
George Simpson	Alistair Taylor	John Young



Respectfully submitted,
Dolly Forcade

Ladies Guild - Pam Livingstone, President

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

Our Team name is St. Andrew's Ladies Guild.

Our Executive Team is made up as follows:

Pam Livingstone, President

Audrey Mann, Past President

Margaret Bates, Secretary

Elizabeth Dolan, Treasurer

We have approximately 20 active members. We welcome anyone from the congregation who is interested in joining us and/or attending our meetings.

The purpose of our team is to foster a vibrant community from various ages and stages in life to connect, share, learn, pray and serve together to glorify God. We work together as a team through a variety of activities, forming caring relationships with each other and with those whom we serve. We contribute our gifts and talents for the work of the church, the community and the world.



A presentation to the Ladies Guild by Jennifer Brookman of Basically Babies Calgary



Bazaar Tea Room



Bazaar Baking

Some highlights from 2025 were our late winter soup and samosa sale, and of course, our annual Christmas Bazaar. Both of these fundraisers were very well supported by the greater St. Andrew's congregation and allowed us to support financially many of our endeavours, both inside and outside St. Andrew's.

Another significant highlight was a presentation by Basically Babies Calgary which inspired us to make a field trip to their large warehouse to learn more about the wonderful work they do in providing basic outfitting needs for newborn babies born to families in extreme need in Calgary.

Submitted by Sylvia Shaw

Ladies Guild Communications

Leading with Care - *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.

We welcomed Sheri Coutts to our team.

We held a fire drill on July 27, 2025. Prior to the drill, emergency vests were placed in designated spots around the church. They will remain in these spots, to facilitate their use in the event of a real emergency.

Leading With Care did a presentation for the Care Connectors in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Dolly Forcade



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 (Secretary), Lucy Aburto, Willem Van Der Merwe and Wendy McNaughton.



Music enrichment program for Side by Side

Funding highlights from 2025 include but not limited to:

- **Worship:** Funding for the Pave the Way lunch fundraiser; volunteer name pins; funds to the Finance Team to help support Presbyterians Sharing, new music for the choir and Presbytery Synod dues; upgrading the sound system in the Karl English Lounge.
- **Facilities:** Pot lights in the foyer, heat trace cables for the roof and a new sump pump.
- **Mission:** Aboriginal Friendship Soup Kitchen, Neechi Mart, GriefShare.

GriefShare.

We welcomed new members Willem and Wendy to the team.

It is important for our team to ensure that the funds generated are utilized as per the guidelines of the resolution document to enhance worship, support our mission projects and ensure that our building is well maintained.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Murray



Upgrading the sound system in the Lounge

Memorial Fund - *Alex Grant, Memorial Fund Treasurer*

In 2025 Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in Memory of the following people.

- Doreen Attridge
- Ruth Eisenhauer
- Ruth Grant
- Ron Horwood



Respectfully submitted,
Alex Grant

Ministry Resource & Accountability - *Cathy Millar, Convenor*

The Ministry Resource and Accountability Team (MRA) is a team of elders providing support to the ministries at St. Andrew's.

The Ministry Resource and Accountability Team (MRA) is a team of elders providing support to the ministers at St. Andrew's.

The team meets at least once a quarter to be a resource; provide support, and be responsive to ministerial needs, and to provide feedback from the Session and the congregation.

The team met with Rev. Geoffrey and Rev. Laurie in the spring to revise the position description for the pastoral care role and renamed the position to Spiritual Care Minister. The Session approved the revised position description.

The team met with Rev. Laurie prior to her vacation in summer and before the busy Advent season in the fall.

Members of the team in 2025 included Laurie McKay, Craig Murray, Lynn Judd and Cathy Millar.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Judd, Convenor

Mission Ministries – Indigenous Relations Team

Margaret Bruhjell-Holmes, Team Member

IRT was formed in 2025 with the following mandate: In partnership with Indigenous neighbours, the Indigenous Relations Team (IRT) guides and supports activities, programs and learning opportunities that promote Indigenous relationships based on mutual trust and respect.



IRT team members include Reverend Laurie McKay, Bill Judd, Linda Humphreys, and Margaret Bruhjell-Holmes with support from other community members. Other groups and members within St. Andrew's Church (StAC) have taken this mandate to heart by supporting several Indigenous groups and initiatives within our church, neighborhood and city.

IRT's first initiative was to support the establishment of the weekly Neechi-Mart at StAC. This included applying to the Presbytery's Trinity Fund for Mission Initiatives (\$30,000) and the National "New and Renewing Fund" (\$10,000) that helped to secure funding for program costs. Neechi-Mart is led by Indigenous elders Kate Webb-Harris and Willy Anderson. This is a low-barrier food program for anyone hungry. As well, volunteers prepare lunch in the church kitchen to feed more than 50 people each week, offer smudge, and teach cultural crafts to anyone who attends. Volunteers from StAC help with set up/clean up, assist guests with their shopping, and engage in conversation.



In Bill Judd's words, Kate and Willy's weekly food and spiritual support program "is teaching us what real mission work is about ... feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, and comforting the forlorn... they are tireless workers and wonderful examples for humility and grace."



A year ago, St. Andrew's partnered with the Aboriginal Friendship Centre (AFC) to provide soup on a monthly basis. The AFC, located downtown Calgary, provides support across essential areas such as housing, food security, education, employment services and access to vital resources like warming centres. These services are available to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals. Three teams led by Margaret Bates, Lynn Judd and Terry Basaraba, prepare soup that will feed approximately 150-200 people per month. The Legacy Fund provided \$3,000 to cover the cost of food and supplies.

StAC has also shown generosity throughout the year to meet specific needs of our Indigenous neighbours such as winter clothing collections for distribution to the AFC as well as collection of small household items for an Indigenous Powwow event.

Meaningful Indigenous relationships have also been fostered by participating and being present as volunteers through Heritage Park's National Indigenous Day in June, and Truth and Reconciliation Day in September. As well we supported our Indigenous friend, Alphonse Nepoose, with his Reconciliation walk in September. Alphonse has become a friend as a result of weekly connections made at Claire House. We are honoured to see Alphonse as a valuable participant and contributor to the Heart's Exchange program that has been meeting at our church since October, once a month for the 8-week program. Rev. Layne Kilbreath has taken leadership of the Good Ways Networking circle that began at StAC in 2024, as well as leading Hearts Exchange with Alphonse, and showing the video "Doctrine of Discovery" in November at St. Andrew's.

On behalf of our team,
Margaret Bruhjell-Holmes

Mission Ministries – Claire House - *Bill Judd, Team Member*

Our team visits the residents at Claire House on a regular basis to help build a sense of community.

Claire House is a subsidized housing project of the Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF), located just a few blocks from St. Andrew's in the Kingsland Community, operated by the CHF subsidiary Home Space, and supported with services from CUPS. It is part of a network of semi-independent, community development living housing that includes three other locations - Acadia Place, Bankview and Longbow. It's interesting to note that Home Space operates a total of 36 facilities, these include a variety of settings ranging from smaller neighbourhood apartments to larger downtown highrises, involving a variety of circumstances including emergency shelter, partnering with the likes of Inn From The Cold and the Drop-In Centre, as well as substance abuse recovery and mental health supports, etc.



Thursday morning coffee



Back veggie garden

The folks we meet at Claire are working at establishing independent living with some support, part of which is learning how to be in community. The roots of this set-up came from Calgary's 10-year plan to end homelessness with a 'housing first' focus dating back to 2008. At the time, St. Andrew's collaborated with a number of churches in the city to come alongside and help build a sense of community as the community development group of buildings was being established. First it was Acadia Place, just east along Heritage Drive from St. Andrew's, and soon after Claire House, which was practically on St. Andrew's doorstep. Over the years we've seen how our periodic practical support fundraising to pay down mortgages, gardens, fence repair, yard clean-up, beds, cribs, household items, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners & gifting - has helped to brighten the living for many, and also how important our regular visiting - Thursday morning coffee / breakfast - has been for the lifting up of a number of the residents.

A faithful crew of Pat & Duane Tritter, Sheri Coutts, Terry Basaraba, and Lynn & Bill Judd has worked in partnership with CUPS staff at Claire to host coffee and breakfast most Thursday mornings. Several residents have become regulars and even work with us to extend friendships. It's interesting to see

how our efforts here at 'being woven into the neighbourhood' have not only provided support and encouragement for residents at Claire, it has also fed the souls of the St. Andrew's crew.

A couple of highlights from 2025 are - gardening with a cheerful bed of marigolds, snapdragons and geraniums at the building entrance-way and a very successful veggie garden with tomatoes, beans, carrots, onions and new raspberry and rhubarb patches in the back; at Christmas we all came together to 'adopt' Claire House with a \$50 gift card for each of 41 households, plus an extra gift card for each of 27 children.

Our work here will never make the news programs, but we can see the impact in the faces and responses of the people that we meet. Thanks to the many who have supported this work in prayer and practical means. We plan to keep on keeping on in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Judd

Mission Ministries – Food Bank Depot - *Bill Judd, Team Leader*

Our Team Captains:

Lucy Aburto, Sheri Coutts, Joan Rowe, Christina Arnold, David Townsend, Carol Latter and Bill Judd

At St. Andrew's we have a formal partnership with the Calgary Food Bank to operate a local neighbourhood distribution depot. It started as an idea voiced at a presentation by the Food Bank at a Men's breakfast in late November 2016. By September 2017 we were up and running with a crew of volunteers serving 6-8 clients almost every Saturday. While there have been changes - volunteers coming and going; demand growing and the Food Bank needing us to do more - we have operated most Saturdays ever since. That puts us into our ninth year - where has the time gone!?

This past year, with a faithful, dedicated crew of 42 volunteers split into teams and, with thanks to Lucy Aburto, Bill Judd, Carol Latter, Christina Arnold, David Townsend, Joan Rowe and Sheri Coutts for stepping up as Team Captains, we

were open 42 of 52 Saturdays, providing food and a welcoming, safe, accessible space for people in need of some relief in their various situations. We are now serving 14 clients each time we are open, where a 'client' could be an individual, a couple, a family of five, etc. It is estimated that we served a total of 1512 individuals in 2025, which is an increase of about 13% over 2024. In a way, it is a sad statistic that the need is so great and growing, but we feel good about doing something to help. Thanks to St. Andrew's in general for your support.



Food Bank distribution crew and set-up

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Judd

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.

The Edge team is a diverse, compassionate incredible group, whose belief is embracing the value and worth of young people! Each Wednesday afternoon, Peter Coutts, Lauren Cantlon, Audrey Mann and I found ourselves in the midst of joyous and boisterous teens.

Our last year was filled with at most about 19 girls and boys coming to a welcoming (although not faith-focused) program, which offered them a safe haven to hang out. Their favorite activity was playing Dungeons and Dragons on paper. There was also participation in ping pong and foosball games. No matter what activity was chosen, the sound of laughter filled that lovely, spacious room.

Snacks were a huge component of their enjoyment over our 90 minutes together. Each week I was offered a box of snacks from Oak Park Church of Christ. They were aware of St. Andrews outreach youth program and offered their kind and on-going support.

I'm always in awe at how welcoming these wonderful kids were in respect to those coming for the first time – "Come and sit with us!" We also saw older boys bringing their younger siblings.

We focus so much in society about the numbers attending events, when what should be of importance is helping to make a difference in lives. Our greatest gift with The Edge was getting to know these young people on a personal level.

There had been opportunities throughout the year of just sitting around together and discussing life, always letting them know we valued their insight and opinions.

We are Off to another year.

Again, my deep gratitude to St. Andrew's for their ongoing vision and support!

God's blessings,
Judy McKearney

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

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



Our Ministries of Care teams provided spiritual and social care to the families in our church and community, many who were struggling with health issues, isolation, grief and other concerns. We looked after God's people in love, compassion, respect, and unity. We provided food, emotional support, words of encouragement and Christmas stockings. We prayed for them in situations where they had lost family members or friends, or when they were facing hospitalizations and surgeries. We offered support to families living with dementia.

1 Peter 5:2-3 instructs Christians to **shepherd God's flock willingly, eagerly, and by example with a servant's heart.**

We give thanks for each TEAM COORDINATOR & FACILITATOR:

Alice Williams (*Wellness; GriefShare*), **Audrey** Mann (*Side by Side*), **Barb** Kearnes (*Life after Loss*), **Clay** Kuhn (*GriefShare*), **Inge** Murray & **Dolly** Forcade (*Connect with Care*), **Joan** Rowe (*Care Share*), **Judie** Coleman (*Journeying through Grief; GriefShare; Side by Side*), **Judy** McVittie (*Two's Company*), **Lorie** Nielsen (*Prayer Chain*), and **Shelby** Cole (*Prayer Shawl*).

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. 18 people received the booklets in 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- Ministries of Care hosted a Caregivers Alberta Seminar in February.
- Rev. Geoffrey offered a MAiD presentation in September.
- Rev. Geoffrey offered the eight-week Sanctuary: Mental Health workshop in Oct-Nov.
- Sixty-four Christmas Blessing Stockings were generously donated, filled, and delivered by the congregation to our homebound and those who were known to need a little extra joy at Christmas time. A 'thank you' is extended to Janet Remus for her help with this ministry project.

I wish to extend a profound thank you to everyone who has been part of Ministries of Care this past year. Through the selfless giving of your time and energy you shared God's message and reached out to our community through the various ministries under Ministries of Care.

Please read the individual Ministries of Care team reports. Brochures for each of the Ministries of Care teams can be found in the K.E. Lounge on the Pastoral Care rack. More information can also be found on the church web site under [Ministries of Care | Growth and Care | St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church](#).

Respectfully submitted,
Judie Coleman, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Care Share: using MealTrain online ~ Joan Rowe, Coordinator

Purpose: *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.*

TEAM MEMBERS 2025:

Joan Rowe, Coordinator

Individuals on volunteer email list: 19

The following volunteers graciously offered meals in 2025 via MealTrain requests: Inge Murray, Debby Dorcas, Barbara Kearnes, Joan Rowe, Mathilde Van der Merwe, Maureen Amos, Elaine Cantlon, Pam Livingstone, and Lynn Judd.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- Those receiving meals have all expressed their gratitude for the ministry of meal preparation and personal sharing at St. Andrew's Church.
- Calls to families regarding possible need for meals totaled 10, with 7 declining the offer. A total of 17 meals were delivered to 3 recipient family groups in 2025.
- We were able to respond to a request for meals for a family to welcome a brand new baby in our midst!



Respectfully submitted,
Joan Rowe, Coordinator of Care Share



Connect with Care Ministry ~ Inge Murray & Dolly Forcade, Coordinators

Purpose: *To respond to individuals/families who are new to St. Andrew's by providing a Care Connector (aka District Visitor) and also to individuals/families who request a different level of connection (phone, email, visit).*

Team Coordinators: Dolly Forcade and Inge Murray

The Connect with Care Ministry Team consists of Care Connectors who reach out to members and adherents of St. Andrew's through in-person visits, phone calls, emails, and text messages.

The ministry's purpose is to care for and support the congregation by serving as a personal connection to the church, offering pastoral care and Christian concern, nurturing faith, and expressing Christ's love through both word and action.

This year, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris led three workshops for the Care Connectors. The January workshop, *Tips and Trips*, focused on honing practical pastoral care skills. In June, the workshop addressed *Connecting in Critical Times*, with attention to bereavement, grief, and crisis support. The November workshop explored *Opening the Front Door / Closing the Back Door*, emphasizing the development of new and renewed relationships. The Leading with Care guidelines were also reviewed during the November session.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Inge Murray & Dolly Forcade, Coordinators of Connect with Care Ministry Team

GriefShare - (Life after Loss Team) ~ Alice Williams, Judie Coleman & Clay Kuhn, Facilitators

Purpose: To offer support, encouragement and help after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend to the congregation and wider community.

Team Facilitators: Judie Coleman, Clay Kuhn and Alice Williams

We offered two 13-week sessions, one in the spring from April – June, and the second in the fall from September – November. Both were well attended.

In July, we held a reunion in the Karl English Lounge for past participants to give them a chance to reconnect and to offer support as they continue on their personal grief journey.

Monday evenings in July and August, several participants met to enjoy a short stroll followed by refreshments at Glenmore Landing McDonald's. Most have continued to meet every Monday afternoon to offer ongoing support to one another. The facilitators often join them.

Early December, we offered a Surviving the Holiday event. This included a video presentation followed by a discussion time, offering comfort and helpful suggestions on how to navigate through the holiday season after the loss of a loved one. Prayer shawls were offered and were well received.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Williams, Facilitator

Hospital Visitation Ministry ~ Judie Coleman

Purpose: 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.

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins (Spiritual Care) and Rev. Laurie McKay (Lead Minister) regularly visited congregants who were known to be in the hospital during the year. Currently, there are no lay visitors trained for this ministry since Alberta Health Services changed their policies around lay visitors. Even if we were 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.



Respectfully submitted,
Judie Coleman

Life after Loss ~ Barb Kearnes, Coordinator

Purpose: *To provide support to individuals grieving a loss.*

TEAM MEMBERS

Marilyn Cantlie, Phyllis Duncan, Alice Williams and Barbara Kearnes

Our team met several times throughout the year to reevaluate and plan. Cards are sent out to family members on the one-year anniversary of the death of a loved one. In collaboration with the Worship Team, we continue to offer candle lighting after the service on months when there is a 5th Sunday.

In January in collaboration with the choir, we led the morning service which was titled *Living in the Light*. In November a celebration of life service with Rev. Dr. Geoffrey as our speaker was titled *Seasons of Hope*.

The report for the GriefShare program will be submitted by co-facilitator Alice Williams.



Team members during the 'Living in the Light' worship service.

Our records indicate that 14 members/adherents have died and 11 members/adherents have been grieving the loss of a loved one. We continue to pray for God's leading as we continue this ministry in St. Andrew's and the surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kearnes, Coordinator

Prayer Chain Ministry ~ Lorie Nielsen, Coordinator

Purpose: *To connect the congregation to God through prayer.*

For the first time since I became Coordinator in 2018, I checked back in my record books to find out how many people requested prayer each year. Over 150 people requested in the past year and many more were recipients of our daily prayers. The first request was January 2nd and it has continued regularly throughout the year.

These prayers not only support the receivers; they also uplift the ones who are doing the praying.



Respectfully submitted,
Lorie Nielsen, Prayer Chain Coordinator 🙏 ✝️ ❤️
prayer@standrewscalgary.ca

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ Shelby Cole, Coordinator

Purpose: *Our purpose is to help St. Andrew's by creating handmade knit or crocheted shawls and lap blankets, filled with the power of prayer to support those in need, wrapping them in prayer, love and support.*

Team members: Originally started by members of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) we have now welcomed more members from this congregation from girls in youth group to young adults and, especially as I like to call them, our mums and grandmas, who continue this important ministry.

In this ministry, these amazing women hand knit and crotchet shawls, in many different colors and sizes that are filled with the power of prayer for those in need. These shawls are filled with the promise of God's enduring love and the promise to walk with us always. The act of creating and giving shawls or blankets to those who need them not only enriches those who receive, but those who give as well.



In 2025 I am pleased to report 32 shawls and lap blankets were given to families and friends of St. Andrew's! They were shared with individuals in and outside of the congregation, Side by Side spouses, GriefShare participants and people who attended the Surviving the Holidays service. These shawls were blessed during a Sunday worship service in June.

If you would like a prayer shawl for a family member, friend or anyone that could use one, please reach out to Rev. Laurie, Rev. Geoffrey, Judie Coleman or someone in the office.

As Coordinator, thank you to my team of amazing women for all of your hard work, and to the congregation for all the support to make this ministry possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelby Cole, Coordinator of Prayer Shawl Ministry

Side by Side ~ Audrey Mann & Judie Coleman, Coordinators

Purpose: *TOGETHER. Side by Side expresses the vision of St. Andrew's by walking alongside people living with dementia and affirming them as loved children of God while enabling their care partners to rest.*

Side by Side has been a beautiful ministry offered by our beloved church for the past 14 years. Every moment in Side by Side is designed to honor the dignity of each participant, offer respite to caregivers, and reflect the love of Christ through community. It's a beautiful example of what happens when generosity, faith, and compassion come together. Participants come from each and every walk of life. Most of our participants are from outside our church family, so we have no real connection to who they once were, but we love them and celebrate them where they are now.





A team of caring and dedicated volunteers take part regularly to help deliver the Side by Side program. Many thanks to Kathy Basaraba, Earl Brown, Tom Brownlee, Ted Cantlon, Shelby Cole, Judie Coleman, Peter Coutts, Sheri Coutts, Donna Harrison, Clay Kuhn, Pam Lee, Pam Livingstone, Audrey Mann, Kathryn Matrosovs, Marg McCulloch, Beth Nicholson, Brenda Pudwell, Annette Shaw, Bob Shaw, Fiona Swanson, Kathleen Tomie, Donna Turnbull and Derek Wilkinson.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Mann & Judie Coleman, Coordinators

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

Purpose: 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.

Team Members: Loran McVittie, Judy McVittie, Joan Rowe, and Derek Wilkinson



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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Judy McVittie, Coordinator

Wellness ~ Alice Williams, Coordinator

Purpose: To be devoted to growing life together through wellness. Its members include registered nurses, or those with appropriate health-care training and experience, who, on a volunteer basis, 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.

Team members: Lynn Judd, Barbara Kearnes, Anne Greco, Thelma Wagner, Judy McVittie and Alice Williams

In May we partnered with the Heritage Seniors group to present: Aging in Place, valuable options to enable seniors to live in their home for longer.

Early in June, in response to a question on our wellness survey, "Would you like to meet for lunch or dinner?" 15 participants enjoyed lunch and fellowship at the Blackfoot Inn.

Mall Mavericks, a small but mighty group of weekly walkers started on February 4 - March 25, resumed again October 2 - November 27. We enjoyed walking at South Centre mall, followed by a coffee at Tim Hortons and lots of good conversation.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Williams, Coordinator

Parking Lot Project – *Tom McIntyre and Mark Rowe, Convenor*

A non-binding parking arrangement established with YMCA in 1979 ended with the sale of their property in 2024 and forced examination of available parking on the church site. After consideration, a proposal with a \$150,000 budget was approved and adopted as the Pave The Way fundraiser. Fifteen additional spots are intended.



Adding parking to the church site required a City Development Permit and four distinct professional disciplines:

1. Civic Planners, to submit and guide the project through the permit process.
2. Storm Water Drainage Engineers, to provide the City with rainwater discharge patterns for the complete church site.
3. Licensed Surveyors, to provide legal, topographical and site grading information.
4. Civil Engineers, to prepare the new parking layout, landscaping arrangement, drainage requirements and drawings.



The east parking lot is not connected to City storm drainage and depends on a single catch basin with underground rock pit reservoir. Drainage issues proved to be the major development difficulty, but informal discussion with the City eventually provided a basis of agreement, along with other separate stipulations:

- The parking lot south of the catch basin is to remain in gravel to absorb as much surface water as possible.
 - Additional surface drainage from new paved parking spots is offset by width reduction of the present parking lot.
- Landscaping loss for new parking spots is offset with extended landscaping on the east side of the sanctuary.
 - The southeast corner of the parking lot will remain a catchment area for peak storm events, similar to the present.
 - The garbage enclosure must be increased in size to meet current City standards.
 - The large garden shed must be moved north to restore the south parking lot turnaround area.
 - Other minor drainage efficiencies have to be provided.
 - Width of the south lane exit was voluntarily reduced and a fence added to counteract an expected increase in through-traffic from 297 new multi-family housing units planned nearby. Access could be temporarily closed off if necessary.

A Development Permit application was submitted on 24 April 2025, and conditional approval was granted on 17 July, subject to stipulations and regulatory public advertising, including:

- Prepayment of a \$24,200 bond for reconstruction of the Heritage Drive access crossing.
- Prepayment of \$9,650 underground street lighting electrical upgrade at the driveway crossing.
- 15 other Permanent Conditions and 15 other Advisory Conditions.

Volunteers commenced construction in early September, and good weather allowed most of the parking project component completed by mid-October.

Unaudited expenditure and an estimate for 2026 completion is provided:

Professional services for permits, site testing	\$39,278
Development Permit Fee	\$1,737
Excavation, paving and curbs	\$85,559
Large tree removal	\$1,418
Materials for volunteers	\$1,630
Landscaping	\$1,053
Allowance for 2026 completions	\$6,625
Total Parking Project Component	\$137,300 versus Budget \$150,000

To the preceding cost must be added the estimated mandatory Development Permit conditions imposed by the City:

Driveway upgrade posted bond	\$24,200 (actual construction cost may differ)
Underground street lighting improvements	\$9,650
Heritage Drive control during construction	\$2,000
Additional City Imposed Charges	\$35,850
Overall Project Cost	\$173,150



Volunteer tasks were maximized and contractor work adopted only where necessary. The volunteer contribution exceeded expectations and provided estimated savings of around \$20,000.

Volunteers contributed over 250 hours and drilled holes, installed posts, mixed and placed concrete, constructed fencing, laid wood curbs, uprooted and trimmed trees, widened south parking spots, graded yard slopes, supervised contractors, obtained work bids, attended adjacent site development meetings, picked up equipment and materials, spread top soil, planted bushes, painted fences, coordinated four professional disciplines, amended downspout drainage, obtained grants, provided accounting reports, maintained church traffic access, and provided welcome snacks.

Contracted services included consultant services, large tree removal, site survey, concrete curb and gutter installation, excavation, gravel compaction and testing, asphalt paving, and temporary security fencing.

Volunteer projects for completion in 2026 include garbage enclosure widening, shed relocation, tree planting, line painting, southeast corner yard grading, permanent signage, and parking spot delineation.

Contracted projects for completion in 2026 include the imposed driveway access replacement and underground electrical upgrade for street lighting improvements.

The Parking Project Team sincerely thank the volunteers for their collective efforts and acknowledge with thanks to the Congregation's successful support of the Pave-the-Way campaign that made the project possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McIntyre and Mark Rowe

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
Lynn Judd, Session Representative

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

1. We collaborated with the staff in their initiative for significant reorganization of the office. This meant revised or new job descriptions for Office Administrator, Administrative Assistant, and Communication Connector. Exciting changes!
2. We did a search for appropriate candidates for the newly defined "Administrative Assistant" and welcomed Solange Urushima who accepted this role in November.
3. We welcomed Lynn Judd as our Session Representative.

St. Andrew's is truly blessed with the wonderful staff who continue to make our church run smoothly and beautifully. Thanks to Deb, Dolly, Evan, Daryl, Solange and David.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Dolan

Presbytery Report – *Lynn Judd, Presbytery Rep*

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod is a community of interconnected congregations and clergy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. St. Andrew's assigns an elder to serve on Presbytery as a representative of St. Andrew's.

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod is a community of interconnected congregations and clergy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Presbytery meets regularly as a community of faith to provide leadership that supports each congregation and clergy in their ministry through insightful governance, responsive oversight and shared resources for congregations. Each church is represented by their minister, as well as a representative elder/designated alternate elder who attends the meetings. Presbytery maintains connections with each church and is aware of the current events, joys and challenges experienced by each congregation.

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod consists of 13 congregations across southern Alberta. They are in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Bassano/Gem, Banff, and Calgary - which has 9 congregations.

The work of the Presbytery is conducted through the moderator and the committees: Presbytery Care and Resource, Mission Care and Resource, Clergy Care and Resource, and Congregational Care and Resource. Each committee consists of Presbytery members and others who have expertise in the designated area.

The Presbytery has grant money available from the Trinity Fund. St. Andrew's received a \$30,000 grant to support Neechi-Mart – the Indigenous-led program that operates weekly out of Trinity Hall. In addition to grocery access, they include a smudging ceremony, cultural crafts and teaching, and provide a hot meal for anyone who needs extra food and community support.

St. Andrew's applied for a \$30,000 grant on behalf of our Rainbow Team to start a support group for family members of 2SLGBTQIA+ people led by a psychologist; update the décor of the Lower Fireside Room, and sponsor a speaker for PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) Day on March 15, 2026. St. Andrew's also supported a \$30,000 application for the new Urban Indigenous Ministry called "Walk as We," led by Rev. Layne Kilbreath. We will learn the results of the adjudication process for these two projects in the new year. The Presbytery also approved our \$25,000 application to the Chisholm Fund (National Church) for the Pave the Way campaign to upgrade our parking lot.

Our representative elder Lynn Judd serves on the Clergy Care and Resource Committee. Rev. Laurie serves on the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee.

Currently Rev. Laurie is also serving as Moderator of the Presbytery and Interim Moderator for Valleyview Community Church as they go through the process for withdrawal from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Rev. Laurie will be a commissioner to the 2026 General Assembly in June as one of three ministers from our Presbytery.

Our Ministers in Association (Rev. Jean Morris, Rev. Peter Coutts, Rev. Fiona Swanson, and Rev. Clay Kuhn) preach at various congregations in the Presbytery in addition to supporting ministry here at St. Andrew's.

Rev. Jean chaired the "Committee on Narratives of Hope and Possibility" for the national church. She led the Presbytery retreat and subsequently spoke to our congregation on the potential changes coming to the Presbyterian Church as a result of this work.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Judd, Representative elder

Rainbow Team – *Linda Johnson & Stephanie Werle, Co-Convenors*

The primary goal of the Rainbow Team is to facilitate, encourage and support the congregation's commitment to diversity and inclusion of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in an intentional way.

Team Members:

Rev. Laurie McKay, Deanne Barrett, Lauren Nolette, Linda Johnson, Lynn Judd, Kim McLachlan, Stephanie Werle, Derek Wilkinson, and Rhonda Wishart



Communion Table

Highlights:

We celebrated National Affirming/PIE (Public. Intentional. Explicit.) Day in March by hosting guest speaker, Pam Rucker, Director and Founder of Affirming Connections. And yes, we had lots of pie!

The Rainbow Team led a very special Pride worship service in June. When personal stories were shared from the pulpit, this allowed others in the congregation to share their stories after the service and in the days following which allowed an openness.

In November, we hosted a viewing of the film *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture*. It was an informative and engaging evening, prompting good discussion.



Pam Rucker

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Werle and Linda Johnson

Statistics - *Dolly Forcade, Office Administrator & Treasurer*

Congregational Statistics

FAMILIES		2025	2024
Number of families associated (Dec. 31)		205	254
THE MEMBERSHIP			
Communicant Membership January 01		341	335
Added to the Roll	by Profession of Faith	2	14
	by Certificate of Transfer	0	2
	by resolution of Session	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
		5	16
Removed from the Roll	by Death	10	9
	by Certificate of Transfer	2	0
	by Resolution of Session	42	0
	by own request	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	55	10	
Communicant Membership December 31		291	341
<u>BAPTISMS</u>	Children	2	0
	Sudanese Children	0	6
	Adult	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
		3	8
<u>MARRIAGES</u>	Members	1	0
	Adherents	0	0
	Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		1	0
<u>FUNERALS</u>	Members	7	6
	Adherents	0	3
	Other	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
		9	12

Welcome and Connection Team - *Lauren Nolette, Convenor*

The goal of our Welcome and Connection Team is to focus on creating a warm, welcoming experience for 'newcomers and not-so newcomers' to our church home.

Team members: Desiree Henrichsen, Linda Humphreys, Pat Tritter, Lauren Nolette, Daniel Cullen, Thelma Wagner

This year, our team continued to focus on creating a warm, welcoming environment for everyone who enters our church. We try to have someone on the Welcome Desk each Sunday, helping newcomers with questions, offering information, and making sure people felt supported and connected.

We also hosted a relaxed community picnic in June, which gave families and newcomers a chance to meet, share a meal, and build relationships in a low-key setting.

As we look ahead, we hope to add a few more simple connection points and continue strengthening the sense of belonging in our church community.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Nolette

Worship Team - *Debby Dorcas, Team Member*

The goal of our Worship Team is to support the Minister in creating meaningful, creative and thoughtful worship experiences that invite us to experience God and nourish the spiritual growth and transformation of our members.

MEMBERS:

Rev. Laurie McKay, Debby Dorcas, Lauren Nolette, Derek Wilkinson, Evan Mounce, and Sheri Coutts

2025 Highlights:

- This year we were thrilled to have the children volunteer to do an "Adult's Time" during worship. Special thanks to Adam Stolee for his leadership!
- One member gave the following feedback: I was deeply touched by our Good Friday service, where our ministers each gave a reading inspired by key moments and people to the Easter story. I found hearing the perspectives of each of the figures to be so incredibly impactful. It gave me a huge opportunity to reflect on those perspectives that I definitely hadn't considered before. I found it so unique and I know many others in our congregation felt the impact of this particular service too!
- The Remembrance Day service in November was impactful and meaningful.
- The Worship Team led families in making advent center pieces using real branches with holes drilled for the advent candles. So much joy and creativity!

- Christmas is such an important time in the church year, and music at St. Andrew's is ALWAYS a highlight for us.
- This year, our children, youth and adults shared the musical "Gloria's Christmas", a fun and meaningful experience for all those involved. Having up to 3 generations share the message of Christmas is an experience some of us will never forget. We hope it was as meaningful for those who worshipped with us in person and online as it was for the participants.
- Evan and the choir led worship with 'Lessons and Carols' in December, a service that is always a highlight of the season.
- Christmas Eve services are always one of the most important worship experiences for everyone. This year was no exception!
- The staff enjoyed working together to prepare our Christmas Day service that is offered on our YouTube channel.
- And the congregation ALWAYS enjoys singing our Advent and Christmas hymns ~ with great gusto, energy, and enthusiasm. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel!!



Mitten Tree Sunday – Pat & Duane Tritter, 2 of our awesome volunteers, sorted our mitten tree

As always, to all who came to worship, participated in a worship service, greeted those who entered our doors, ushered people to a seat, assisted at the sound board, livestreamed our services, sang in a choir, changed seasonal banners, decorated for each church season, prepared and served Communion, prepared PowerPoint slides, volunteered as a 'Shepherd' (ensuring all is well in all areas of the church while we are worshipping in the Sanctuary), welcomed people at the Welcome Desk, provided coffee and an opportunity for people to share conversation... THANK YOU!! Abundance of riches indeed!!

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Dorcas

Sound Board Team - *Craig Murray, Team Member*

The purpose of this group of individuals is to enhance the audio-visual experience for those who worship in the sanctuary as well as those who view the service at home online or while travelling.

The team consists of the following dedicated people:

- Brent Werle
- Craig Murray
- David Kurtz
- Doug Thornborough
- Judy Bridgemohan
- Paul Draper
- Steve Henrichsen

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Murray

Neechi-Mart – *Kate Webb-Harris, Resource Coordinator*

Neechi-Mart is an Indigenous led and operated program that is designed to offer food security to the community.

Knowledge Carriers Kate Webb-Harris (Arawak) and Willy Anderson (Swampy Cree) operate and manage Neechi-Mart, including volunteers.

- The weekly program offers participants an opportunity to personally “shop” for food in a market like atmosphere.
- All those that attend are welcome for a free hot lunch, hot beverages, to sit and visit with community and participate in Indigenous cultural crafting.



Volunteers ready to receive people

Goals

- Build relationships between the Indigenous, culturally diverse and mainstream communities and peoples.
- Provide an Indigenous-led and operated program that offers barrier-free programming to the community.
- Provide a safe space for everyone to feel welcome accepted and treated with generosity and kindness.
- Neechi-Mart has been a growing experience for everyone involved. Some of the important gifts and lessons include:
- The challenge of having honest conversations with integrity to address potential conflicts, cultural misunderstandings, corrections, and teachings. It is often stressful and uncomfortable to address issues proactively and if we are going to work together in a good way – we have to embrace the discomfort and do things with integrity.

o Gratefully, people from the community have come together to support Neechi-Mart’s work in the community. Congregants have:

- shared their time (volunteering)
- brought additional supplies to the market (Granola, cookies, soups, clothing, household items, winter coats, outreach and hygiene supplies, snacks)
- Knitted and donated hats, mittens, scarves
- Financially contributed
- Sat, shared a meal and visited with participants attending the market
- Listened, supported, participated when we tragically lost one of our community
- Engaged in smudging ceremonies and traditional teachings



Prep Team

Neechi-Mart feels like a warm, busy, welcoming, happy place where laughter is frequent. Friendly teasing is an enjoyable part of the day, and people often leave with full bellies, bags of free groceries (that they have chosen for themselves) and a smile on their face.

Written by Kate Webb-Harris

The Sudanese (Nuer) Congregation

James G. Tut, General Secretary

The Nuer Congregation has been meeting in St. Andrew's since 1998 and since then providing spiritual support and community for Nuer speaking Presbyterians.

Ruling Elder: Marth Nyalok John Bidit
Ordained Deacon: Martha Nyapuor Thok
Lead Evangelist: Peter Tuach
Deputy Evangelist: Buay Kir Bol
General Secretary: James Gatdet Tut
Treasurer: Rebecca Nyakuoth Yang
Information Person: David Puk Rik
Sunday School Leadership: Nyakobo Wie, Nyawar P. Gatdet, Deng J. Gatkuoth, Turuk John Chol



Nuer Congratulation

Our services happen in Trinity Hall on Sunday afternoons with over 60 participants. Sunday School is offered in the Red Door room and currently has 35 kids. On the first and second Saturdays of the month we have the Youth Group that has around 30 participants.



Communion

Highlights:

- New Members Welcomed. Four families with children were welcomed by our congregation in March. They are Presbyterians who moved from Sudan and other countries from Africa and made Calgary their new home. We celebrated it with a special luncheon filled with joyful music and typical Sudanese food.
- On December 25 we hosted our Unity Service at St. Andrew's. All Nuer-speaking churches from the city gathered

to celebrate Christmas together.

- Besides this event, every year end, we host Christmas lunch where we invite four other Nuer-speaking congregations within the city, as well as Andrew's morning congregation to join us at Christmas lunch. Last year's lunch happened on January 25, 2026.
- Sunday school uniforms were purchased in July.



The Choir

Respectfully submitted,
James G. Tut

St.

A few of our Special Moments together

Bazaar



Take 150 Halloween



Prayer Shawl Blessing



Indigenous Elders participate in St. Andrew's Indigenous Relations



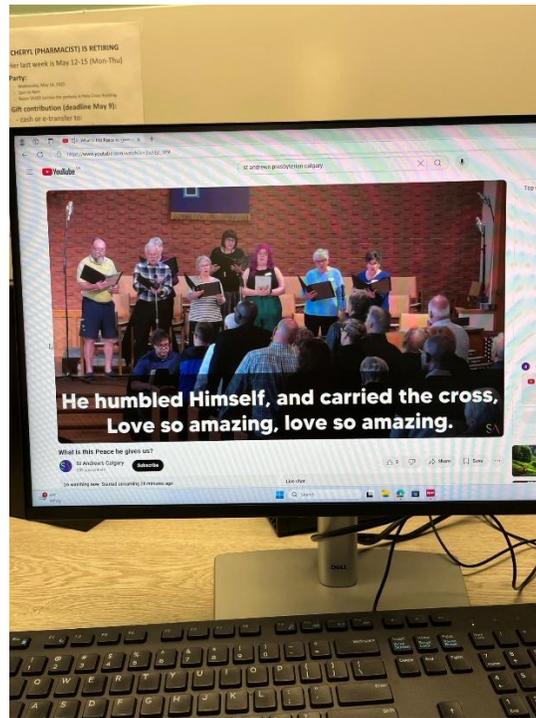
Sunday School Children teach the adults



Intergenerational Christmas Musical "Gloria's Christmas"



Worship online



Annual Family Camping Weekend



St. Andrew's Church Staff - 2025

Lead Minister

Rev. Laurie McKay

Spiritual Care Minister

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins (Contract)

Director of Music Ministries

Evan Mounce

Communications Connector

Debby Dorcas

Office Administrator/ Treasurer

Dolly Forcade

Administrative Assistant

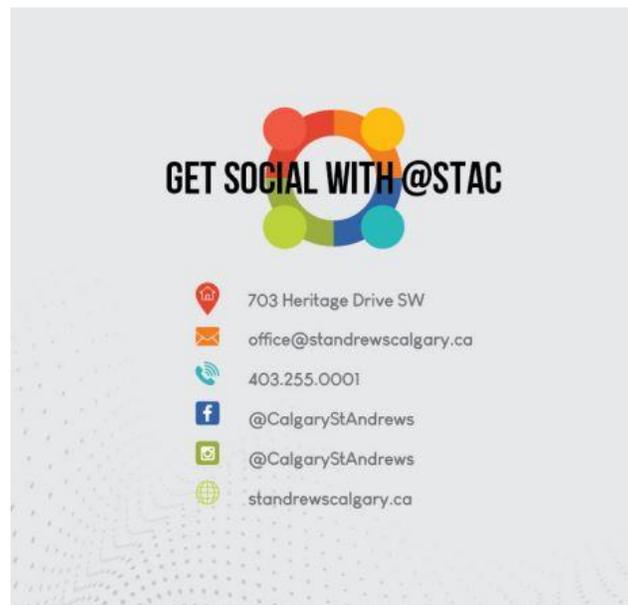
Solange Urushima (Started Nov 2025)

AV Coordinator

David Kurtz

Nursery Caregivers

Lilwen Henrichsen & Calysta Payne



GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD