

The logo for CONNIXIONS features a stylized icon on the left composed of four curved shapes in orange, blue, and yellow. To the right, the word "CONNIXIONS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are colored: 'C' is orange, 'O' is blue, 'N' is orange, 'N' is dark blue, 'I' is orange, 'O' is blue, and 'S' is orange.

CONNIXIONS

DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION



ST. ANDREW'S

GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD

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December/ January Edition

Worship Schedule for the Advent Season	Page 3
Session Highlights	Page 3
Letter from the Minister	Page 4
Thank You to Our Retiring Elders	Page 5
Festival of Lessons and Carols by Evan Mounce	Page 11
Thank You from the Facilities Team	Page 11
Spiritual Moments by Nicola Cameron	Page 12
Finance Committee Report by David Townsend	Page 13
Accessing Healthcare in Alberta by Barbara Kearnes	Page 14
Hello from Our New Search Team	Page 15
Yuletide Bazaar by the Ladies Guild	Page 15
Heritage Seniors Christmas Lunch	Page 16
Heritage Seniors Christmas Break Dates	Page 16
Sharing God's Love Through Mission by the Faith Formation Team	Page 17
Advent Promises Activity Page	Page 18
Woven into the Neighbourhood-Next Steps by Peter Coutts	Page 19
Retirement Wishes for Rev. Dr. Jean Morris by Debby Dorcas	Page 19
COVID-19 Task Force Report by Mark Rowe	Page 20

Christmas Services for 2022

Saturday December 24 - 4:00pm

Christmas Eve Family Service,
preceded with caroling in the foyer

Saturday December 24 - 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Communion Service
with the Festival of Lessons and
Carols

Sunday December 25 - 10:00am

Christmas Day Service



Session Highlight

The Finance Team presented a preliminary 2023 budget to Session for discussion. Session would like to extend a word of thanks to the Finance Team for their ongoing work.



Looking for the Unexpected by Rev Peter Coutts

Unexpected things can happen around Christmas. In 1868 Rev. Phillip Brooks wrote a simple poem for use in the upcoming church school Christmas service at Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia. Three years earlier he journeyed to Bethlehem on horseback, and that trip was his inspiration. He wanted the children to sing it, so he asked the organist Lewis Redner to create the music. The plan was for the church school to practice the new carol the very next Sunday. Well, Lewis put off the work of composition. The night before the practice he still hadn't created a tune. In bed he struggled to imagine a tune, but to no avail. Eventually he fell asleep. "But I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune." The next morning, before departing for church, Lewis filled in the harmonies. Despite the procrastination and the panic, the song was presented, practiced, and later sung at the children's service. Later Lewis would write, "Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868." It did. It's called "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Advent is a season of preparation. We recall John the Baptist's words, "prepare the way for the Lord!" But the stories of Christmas speak of little preparation. We try to imagine Mary (and Joseph) anticipating the birth of her child. But what a situation for the birth: away from home, away from family, in a smelly stable! And what of the shepherds? Abiding in the field by night, watching their sheep....as they did every night. Suddenly angels arrived, telling them to go NOW to see a newborn king! No time to clarify what was happening. No time to change their clothes. No time to get babysitters for the sheep. So little time to prepare. But what did Mary and Joseph feel, despite the awkwardness of the birth? What did the shepherds feel when they set their eyes on the child? Joy!

We love this time of year when we prepare for Christmas: the purchasing of gifts, the planning of menus, the decorating of homes. It is all meaningful, and rightly so. But let us also have eyes to glimpse the Christ child in the unexpected and unprepared corners of the season. When the familiar carol touches our heart in a new way. When we see an example of "peace on earth" appear. When we are surprised by an act of generosity. When another is truly touched by our simple act of Christian love. In each of those moments the Christ child of Christmas can be glimpsed....and each glimpse can affirm our faith, if we have eyes to see them.

On Boxing Day, 1868, Phillip Brooks and Louis Redner were putting "O Little Town of Bethlehem" behind them. But some people saw something moving in that simple carol. And we are all glad they did.



With Grateful Hearts We Say Thank You to Our Retiring Elders

"Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ's Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation, only suitable men and women should be considered."

Book of Forms, Section 132

Elders seek the will of God for the congregation so they can lead it in the direction they believe Jesus would have it go. They seek to model themselves after Jesus as they listen to people and serve the church.

This might seem like a daunting task. However, the church believes that God has given each elder gifts, that the congregation has recognized these gifts, and that each elder has "discerned a call." By working together and sharing their gifts as a Session and with the minister, elders are able to carry out their many tasks and responsibilities.

After many years of service to our congregation, we would like to take a moment and reflect on the lives of these faithful Elders who are retiring from our Session.



Ed Braun

I grew up on the family farm twenty miles northwest of Winnipeg, Manitoba. My Mennonite parents took my siblings and myself to the local Mennonite Church every Sunday.

My wife Aileen and I started attending St. Andrew's the fall of 1991. We came to St. Andrew's because we had been attending Westwood Presbyterian Church when we lived in Winnipeg. Rev. Cam Taylor followed by Rev. George Vais were the Ministers at Westwood Church at that time. I became an elder at St. Andrew's in 1993. I served on the Mission team, the Legacy team, and on the Search team that resulted in the calling of Rev. Peter Coutts. I also worked with a small group of elders discussing our parking situation

with the YMCA. I served as St. Andrew's Presbytery representative elder for a number of years. A major highlight for us was our trip to Israel and Jordan guided by Rev. Karl English. An honour for me was to read the account of Jesus calming the storm (Luke 8:22-15) while we were on the Sea of Galilee.

Other highlight events included construction of the new addition and rebuilding of the chancel and the choir area. Also, I always enjoyed the men's fellowship breakfasts.

My wife and I have enjoyed the annual family camping weekends very much. The outdoor Sunday worship service with communion and fellowship were the highlights of the camping weekends.

We have two married sons and five grandchildren.





Elaine Cantlon

I grew up in Don Mills, a suburb of Toronto, Ontario. My parents encouraged music, and as far back as I can remember, my father was in a church choir as a soloist. My sisters and I took piano, and sang in choirs at school and at St. Mark's Presbyterian. Ted and I started attending St. Andrew's in 1988. As new parents, we wanted our eldest son, Thomas to be baptized. A very comfortable and meaningful meeting with the Rev. Karl English led us to become regular attendees. Ted was baptized at St. Andrew's by the Rev. Jean Morris and became a member.

Both our children were baptized and grew up in this church home. We met other young families with children, which grew into long-term continuing friendships.

I became an elder in October 2010, and have been serving as a member of the Stewardship team. I was asked in mid-2014 to serve on a newly formed Stewardship and Planning team of Session. This team, led by former elder Tom McIntyre included Stewardship, which I convened. It also included Finance with David Townsend and Dolly Forcade, Planning with Mark Rowe, Facilities with Errol Bosman and Don Koch as leads. Others on the team were Jim Hope-Ross, Alex Grant and the Rev. Kevin Lee.

I learned so much from this experience in terms of fundraising, budgets, and communication. In 2018 when David Platt was Convener, the team consisted of Cathy Millar, Rob Pollard, Margaret Bates, Kevin MacFarlane and Tim Rowe. This team created Stewardship Moments, showcasing teams funded by the General Fund, and managed the fundraising for the Raise the Roof roofing project. Now known as Gratitude and Generosity, I continue to serve with convener Cathy Millar, Kevin MacFarlane and Stephanie Werle. We continue to profile the work of Session teams once a month during offering time, and with the assistance of Evan Mounce and St. Andrew's choir and Ladies Guild desserts, we presented an online fundraiser for Valentine's Day during the past two years. The most meaningful St. Andrew's stewardship project I have worked on has been the development and rollout of the Legacy Fund, a planned giving opportunity. Contributions and bequests to the Legacy Fund go into an enduring fund invested as capital, and include the proceeds from the sale of Trinity Presbyterian Church through the enlightened vision of its former members. The interest earned each year has been available for funding needs under the three areas of Worship, Mission and Facilities. More about the fund can be found in St. Andrew's website under GIVE.

I chose to name the people above, as it truly takes a faith-driven village of Ministry, Session elders, members and adherents. I have enjoyed my ongoing friendships and acquaintances in my District visitations. I volunteered to leave this service at the onset of Term Service of Elders to create a space for new elders to serve, bringing new enthusiasm, discernment and ideas to Session with dedicated and hardworking elders continuing in their service. Please pray with me for the incoming new elders and St. Andrew's Session for their continued work for the people of St. Andrew's. May God bless them and guide them in their faithful service.





Bill Judd

I grew up in Moncton, NB. A strong commitment to family in our home, having four younger sisters to watch out for, and a very full involvement in our local church figured prominently in my up-bringing. We moved to Calgary from Oakville, Ontario in October 1984, prompted by a work transfer, and started "church shopping". First visit to St. Andrew's was at Christmas 1984. A return visit in Jan-Feb and, being made to feel welcome by repeated friendly welcomes from Alex Grant, helped to seal the deal.

For Lynn and me, the prevalence of music was important. The Bible-based preaching / teaching, along with the attention to young people - we were just starting our family - were also important factors.

I was ordained as an elder in April, 1990. I'm not sure how it is possible, because we were supposed to change teams every few years, but I can only remember ever being on Mission team. Of course, there was always interest from the sidelines for Christian Education, Stewardship / Finance and Fellowship teams.

During my time as an elder, were there events/changes/happenings that I considered highlights in the life of the congregation? Yes, indeed. I'm inclined to group them as things and people oriented. The things that I remember having a big impact and/or requiring us pulling together include - new organ, baby grand piano, new central block (offices, entrance foyer, upstairs / downstairs rooms, and elevator), stained glass window in sanctuary, chancel reno, replacement of boilers and roofing, refresh of Trinity Hall.

Highlights that I relate more to people include - annual Bazaar and the many functions supported by our ladies groups; the launch of Trinity church; the arrival of the Sudanese; the growth of ministerial team; children's Christmas pageants, Musical Friends presentations, young adult fellowship / Good Vibrations, involvement of members in services, exploring contemporary elements of worship; the growth of Adult Study - Sunday morning, weekday, Alpha; establishing Heritage Seniors, Men's fellowship breakfasts, start-up of weekly Food Bank satellite; growth of lay pastoral care ministries; progress of music program with a series of amazing leaders; refocused mission statement and renewed energy around our main purpose as a congregation - invitation vs missional; expanded use of computer technology for information gathering, communications and worship.

And with all of these highlights in our recent history, the present situation of recovering from the restrictions of COVID and complete rebuild of a ministerial team will likely provide additional highlights in what will hopefully be our on-going ministry in south Calgary.

St. Andrew's feels very much like family and while I am stepping away from my role on Session, I still feel very much a part of the family with on-going participation in music ministry, Food Bank satellite, adult study, neighbourhood ministry, efforts toward Indigenous reconciliation and healing, as well as odd jobs that Tom or Fleming or Brad will call me for.





Kevin MacFarlane

I grew up in Chinook Park in the 1960s and 1970s and went to St. Andrew's United Church on Heritage Drive. As a child, I remember helping my dad and other church leaders put in the lawn there, probably at the same time St. Andrew's Presbyterian put theirs in 2 blocks to the east! Dad was my role model as a church leader and as an oil and gas lawyer, both of these passions of his being influences that shaped me.

Barbara and I were married at Riverview United and both our daughters were baptized there. We loved the people and I was a member of the "Unified Board". Unfortunately, Riverview did not fulfill our dream of a church with lots of children growing their love of God together, that being our experience as children. That brought our family, including Barbara's parents, to experience the dream realized at St. Andrew's Presbyterian beginning on Easter Sunday, 1991.

I became an elder in 1995. My wife and I were involved in church school and Friday night youth leadership. Consequently, I joined the Christian Education team. Following my retirement in 2009, I also found time to join the Stewardship team (now Gratitude and Generosity) and the Revision and Renewal team. I resigned from Christian Education (now Faith Formation) to initiate a Communications team, and it is in this area that I concentrate most of my church work at this time.

A highlight in my leadership at St. Andrew's was my early work with Judie Coleman, Dolly Forcade and others on a team looking into forms of Contemporary Worship. We studied a book on this and visited several other churches in the late 1990s who were doing some progressive things to engage younger people. We initiated "Contemporary Crossings" on Saturday evenings. That was followed up by a period where another group in our church led "Holy Smoke Café". Under Rev. Peter Coutts leadership, we implemented a "Blended Worship" style which incorporated more praise singing and our overhead projector from "Contemporary Crossings" has been replaced by a full-fledged Audio/Visual/Livestream Broadcast Centre. It feels that this may represent my most powerful experience of "Growing Life Together with God"!

I would like to thank the many people at St. Andrew's who have provided powerful inspiration to Barbara and me, to our daughters Jennifer and Pamela, to Barbara's loving parents, Flora and Harry (who live in our hearts), as well as to our Stolee "grandfamily".



Sheila Kirkland

Sheila's profile can be found in the June/July Issue of ConnXions





Hugh McFadzean

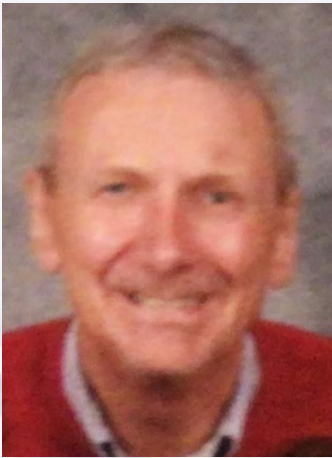
Hugh spent his childhood and early youth in Airdrie, Scotland, where he was in the Boys' Brigade at church, played the drums in their band, and developed an interest in soccer. In 1965 he and Elspeth married, and 2 days later they left for Canada. They came through immigration in Montreal, and made their way to Calgary.

In Calgary Hugh worked for Calgary Power, which became TransAlta, as an accountant for 35 years. His interest in soccer led to courses and training to become a referee, and he became a national referee

officiating at games in every province. He was honoured to be nominated as a referee for FIFA. It was soccer that led Hugh to St. Andrew's. He knew George Thompson through the game, considered him a mentor, and joined him at St. Andrew's.

Hugh has been involved in varied areas of church life. He served on the Board of Managers for years, and was involved in arranging the socials for newcomers to help them integrate into the congregation. On April 29, 1990, he was ordained as an elder. He has served on Session teams as Convenor of the Personnel team, and as a member of the Congregational Life team, Counting team, Search team, and Communion team.

During his many years at St. Andrew's, Hugh has seen changes and growth in various areas of congregational life. One highlight for him was his involvement with the committee overseeing the first expansion, when the lounge, classrooms and other areas were built, and so many people within St. Andrew's volunteered their expertise.



David Platt

David grew up in Edinburgh in a home that was not in any way religious or spiritual, since his father was against all forms of organized religion. This was not uncommon in the 1970s, as the culture became more and more secular. David and Jo-Anne began attending St. Andrew's in the fall of 2006. Jo-Anne had been strictly raised in the Roman Catholic faith, and they were looking for a church where they could both feel comfortable. David was ordained as an elder on October 24, 2010. He has led Bible studies over the years, and while

on Session, he worked mostly with the Mission team.

More recently, he was Convenor of the Finance team, the biggest challenge of which was dealing with the first year of the Covid lockdown in 2020. With online worship and the changes and adaptations that followed, it was a difficult time to be dealing with financial uncertainties. The responsibilities of good stewardship were always recognized. David sends prayers to all the incoming elders for good orderly direction in the church.





Janet Ridsdale

I grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa. I had a youth leader in our church who walked in God's Will and it was so powerful. My parents demonstrated unconditional love and supported me no matter what. We immigrated to Canada in 1994. After 5 years in Vancouver we moved to Calgary. Our minister in Vancouver had met Rev. Karl English and we started attending St. Andrew's in August 1999.

I became an elder in April 2003. I was part of the Christian Education

team and the leader of the church school until Inge Murray took over. I enjoyed being active in the life of St Andrew's. The Fundraising Campaign and the building of the church extension was a highlight for me. I loved participating in the Bible studies of the church. The faith of the people of St. Andrew's has always been an inspiration to me.



Annette Shaw

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and came to Canada with my family in 1954. When we settled in Calgary we found St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church near where we lived.

Bob and I got married at St. Andrew's in 1994.

I was ordained as an elder at the church in April 2001. As I retire from being an active member of Session, I continue to be involved with both Side by Side and the Prayer Shawl ministries.



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

The St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons and Carols is happening again during the 7pm Christmas Eve Communion service- please mark your calendars and plan to attend and participate in this special service!

The St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons and Carols is modelled after the traditional service at King's College, Cambridge. The service at King's College was introduced as a means to attract people back to Christian worship and the first service was held on Christmas Eve, 1918. The popularity of the service was established when it began to be broadcast by the BBC in 1928 and, except for 1930, it has been broadcast every year since - even throughout the Second World War. The lessons and music of this service move us from the season of Advent into Christmastide. The service traditionally consists of 9 lessons interspersed with carols sung by all and anthems presented by the choir and special musical guests.

Please plan to attend our Festival of Lessons and Carols and bring family and friends to share in this musical celebration taking place at St. Andrew's on December 24th during our 7pm Christmas Eve Service



Hope to see you there!



Thank you from Facilities Team

Facilities Team would like to recognize and express our thanks to the following persons who came out on Saturday, October 29th for our Fall Cleanup. The pavement was swept of gravel, leaves were raked and bagged for disposal, ice melt cables were turned on, storage sheds cleaned up, the foyer carpet was shampooed and vacuumed, and preparations made for setting up the annual Nativity and Angel display the last week of November. Thank you to Brad Chalmers, Lee and Rob Goss, Don Koch, Alfred MacRae, Flemming Nielsen, and Brent Werle. Your help was appreciated.

Don Koch
Facility Team Convenor
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
403-836-8553

PAGE 11





Spiritual Moments by Nicola Cameron



I am surrounded by people who say there is no God. I beg to differ! This past summer I experienced so many converging "God-incidences" that the clamour of unbelievers grew just that much more ridiculous.

How was it that my dad and sister drove all the way from Virginia, USA to Killarney Ontario (1,444 km), and then up and down the very bumpy highway for a week with a faulty trailer hitch? The trailer carried three very precious canoes. The cedar strip Beaver Canoe built in 1983 by the famous Omer Stringer is worth a mint all by itself. How was it that after enduring a very rough road for a week, the hitch revealed its true nature on the night before they left to drive back to Virginia? The entire ball came out of its housing! The trailer flew off at 80 km per hour. If that had happened on one of Ontario's 12-lane highways, or on an Interstate, people could have died.

How was it that, on a road lined with lakes, rocky outcrops of granite from the Canadian Shield, and thick swamps, the trailer ground to a halt in a ditch of hard-packed soil with a slender birch sapling preventing it from rolling any further? AND NONE OF THE CANOES SUFFERED THE LEAST SCRATCH. They should have been in splinters. How was it that the young man who witnessed the event, and raced to inform us of the departure of the trailer from its hitch was the neighbour of the Eco resort where we were staying? He had two younger brothers and the three of them, with the assistance of our resort host and his truck, manhandled the marine equipment out of the ditch, onto the road (at one point the whole thing threatened to tip over), and onto the jury-rigged hitch of another truck that stopped to help. Many, many folks stopped to offer help and we rejoice in the generosity of them all.

How was it that the five-year-old daughter of our resort host crossed the road from behind her dad's truck in front of a speeding car and didn't get hit? My dad and I watched it happen as we arrived. I screamed like I've never screamed in my life, and the little girl just joined the group of men assessing the trailer as if nothing unusual were going on.

The next morning my dad and younger sister bought a new hitch in Sudbury, and by 11:00 AM they were on the road. They arrived home in Virginia safely without incident. Praise the God who works with human fallibility. Praise the God who answers prayers by moving His children to the right places and their hearts to obey His call to help one another. Praise the God who demonstrates His existence in love.





Finance Committee Report by David Townsend



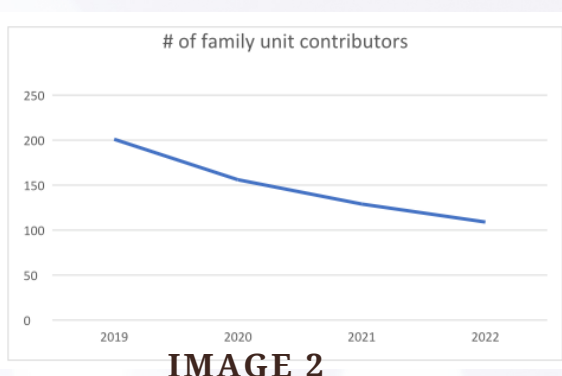
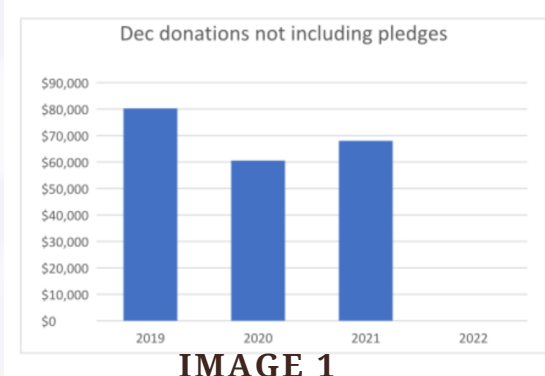
As I write this in mid-November, the Finance team is preparing to present a 2023 preliminary budget to Session. Special thanks to Shona for her work and expertise in putting this together!

Our goal is a budget that is realistic, practical, and sustainable. We have been blessed with a legacy from the past and as Rev. Peter has reminded us, we have a responsibility to the next generation. We are anticipating changes in the next few years, and we will need to be flexible and adaptable. There are challenges, but also opportunities!

We first have much to be thankful for....strong leadership from Rev. Peter and Rev. Geoffrey, Evan's wonderful music program, capable and dedicated office staff in Debby and Dolly, and a diverse, talented, and energetic congregation. There are many behind the scenes volunteers who make live-streaming, Food Bank, Side by Side and other programs possible. We have significant financial assets, beautiful and ample worship space, and no debt!

It is premature at this time to say what the 2022 financial picture will look like. We do anticipate the receipt of all the pledges made. Special thanks to those making five year commitments which have been so vital to our ministry.

Historically, about 1/6 of our regular annual contributions are received in December...see the bar chart (image 1) for comparative dollar amounts since 2019. We are optimistic that 2022 will be similar or exceed prior years.



Year	Dec donations
2019	\$ 80,266
2020	\$ 60,561
2021	\$ 68,031
2022	?

Year	# of contributors
2019	201
2020	156
2021	129
2022	109

However, we are concerned that our donor base has shrunk dramatically from pre-Covid levels. The graph (image 2) shows the number of family units who contributed in September 30, 2019, compared to September 30, 2022. Although some families are being more generous, we cannot always rely on a small number of large donors.

As everyone is aware, investments have been volatile over the last year. As of mid-November (and it will probably change by the time you read this) our Mawer funds are down about 15% in 2022. It should however be noted that the investments are still up about 4% annually from the 2016 initial investment.

We currently are responsible for about \$2 M in financial assets, including the Legacy and South of Fish Creek (SFC) funds. As you may know, several years ago it was agreed with Presbytery to use the SFC fund to establish a ministry south of Fish Creek. There have been discussions with Presbytery on amending this agreement but currently, we do not have a clear picture on the financial implications of this. We look forward to the Mission outreach into Haysboro and the surrounding communities. We see this as wonderful opportunity to reach more families. As always, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to talk to any Finance committee member.

Committee members: John Cuthbertson (convenor), Dolly Forcade, Cathy Millar, David Townsend, Shona Vandrasco





Accessing Healthcare in Alberta by Barbara Kearnes for the Wellness Team



It can sometimes be a bit confusing and daunting for us to determine when we need advice or treatment regarding our health, or deciding how and when to access that help. Sometimes speaking with a knowledgeable friend or family member meets our needs. AHS health link may also be a valuable resource at 811, 403-943-5465 or myhealthalberta.ca. There you may access advice from a variety of health care professionals including registered nurses, dietitians, dementia specialists, or mental health/rehab clinicians.

Beyond this, our next source would most often be a family physician, and for those who do not have a GP there are numerous doctors in Alberta accepting new patients. They can be found under the college of physicians and surgeons website, and it is a common practice for a meet and greet to be arranged initially to determine if that health provider is a good fit for the individual seeking assistance. The role of the GP is for continuing ongoing care and referrals as necessary. If unable to access your GP, there are many walk-in clinics staffed by physicians who can assess and treat.

Primary Care Networks are created through an agreement between physicians and Alberta Health Services. PCNs allow a team-based health care model working collaboratively to provide care. There are seven PCNs in the Calgary area.

There is a Long Covid follow-up clinic for people living in south Calgary areas and South Alberta zone. It is for those with symptoms lasting more than three months. Phone 403-943-5788. Urgent care centers are another available option if there is a need that cannot wait for availability of your primary care physician. There are 2 urgent care centers in Calgary. The Sheldon Chumir urgent care provides 24 hour service, and South Calgary Health Center is open 8 am to 8 pm. Treatment here is meant for unexpected, but not life-threatening concerns that usually require same day treatment. Some examples are broken bones, sprains, lacerations, asthma, dehydration, pain and infections.

The hospital emergency room is the option for those who are experiencing a potential life or limb threatening condition. Some examples would be chest pain or pressure, head injuries, severe shortness of breath, sudden severe headache, paralysis or weakness, uncontrolled heavy bleeding, seizures, a compound fracture (bone protruding through skin), onset of severe pain. Emergency wait times can be found on the AHS website.

Another avenue for care in Alberta is Home Care which is available for all ages, and can be very helpful in promoting and maintaining independence. Assistance can be provided short term with an acute injury or illness, longer term for those with a chronic condition, as well as palliative care. Community Care Access number is 403-943-1920. The home care team may consist of a Doctor, Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Social Worker, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and other support services such as assistance with bathing.

Respite or homemaking may be contracted depending on the needs and assessment of the care coordinator. The coordinator on the senior's team assists with referrals to day programs for respite, as well as long-term care facilities when care at home is no longer an option. The palliative care team provides teaching and support to patients and their families, enabling them to optimize their quality of life when cure of disease is no longer expected. Many choose to spend their last days in the comfort of their homes, or if it is their wish, the RN arranges for transition to one of the seven Hospices in the Calgary area. The community Paramedics also work with the home-care team to deliver care and prevent admission to hospital.

May we all have the presence of mind to practice self-care and seek help at the appropriate place and time when needed.



Say Hello to Your New Search Team!



Search Team members: Thelma Wagner, Lorna Andronikou (Convenor), Inge Murray, Bill Judd, Judie Coleman, Rev. Peter Coutts (Interim Moderator) (missing from photo: Bart Stolee)

The Search Team was commissioned to begin our search for a new minister this fall, and we had our first meeting October 5, 2022. Since then, we have been tasked with revamping the Congregational Profile, which we hope to have published on the national Presbyterian Church in Canada's website as soon as possible. Once the new Congregational Profile is published, the Search Team will continue its work and we will be looking at potential candidate profiles in the coming weeks. We look forward to updating you soon with our ongoing work.



Yuletide Bazaar 2022 by the Ladies Guild

St. Andrew's and the community once again came together to enjoy our annual bazaar. We offer grateful thanks to the 107 volunteers, who worked tirelessly to make this a great event, and to all our cheerful shoppers who made this a resounding success.

There were treasures and treats, books and baking, beautiful gift baskets, plus cookie decorating and games for the little ones to enjoy. We welcomed the neighbourhood to our tearoom where we served 247 meals and 203 desserts. Our bake table was well stocked with 2380 tarts, 45 pies and 46 Christmas puddings, compliments of our baking crew, as well a multitude of Christmas goodies donated from the congregation.

Seeing so many faces we haven't seen in a long time was such a great blessing, and the energy and enthusiasm were tangible. When we all serve together, serving our God, we truly are 'Woven into the Neighbourhood, Growing Disciples who Love Like Jesus.'





HERITAGE SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Monday, December 5, 2022

12 noon \$25.00

Please bring a wrapped gift for a girl or boy for ages up to 14 years



**Entertainment: Christmas Carols
Sing – a – long lead by Margaret Lamont
Christmas
Sing-Along**



HERITAGE SENIORS

Christmas Break Dates, etc.

Last day of programs:

Thursday, December 19



First day of programs 2023:

Thursday, January 5

January Luncheon: Monday, January 9, 2023



PAGE 16



Sharing God's Love through Mission By the Faith Formation Team

The children of St. Andrew's are learning about the importance of mission in the world around us and are sponsoring a child through Compassion Canada. The children are raising money as a group effort for a \$25 Christmas gift for our sponsor child, and have decorated a money box where they can deposit their coins.



Advent Promises

Week 1 - Hope

How will I be hopeful?

Week 2 -Peace

How will I be peaceful?

Week 3 -Joy

How will I be joyful?

Week 4 - Love

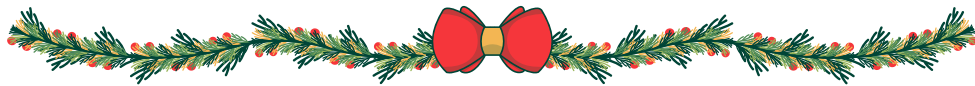
How will I be loving?





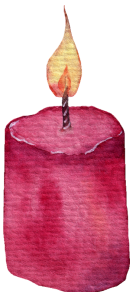
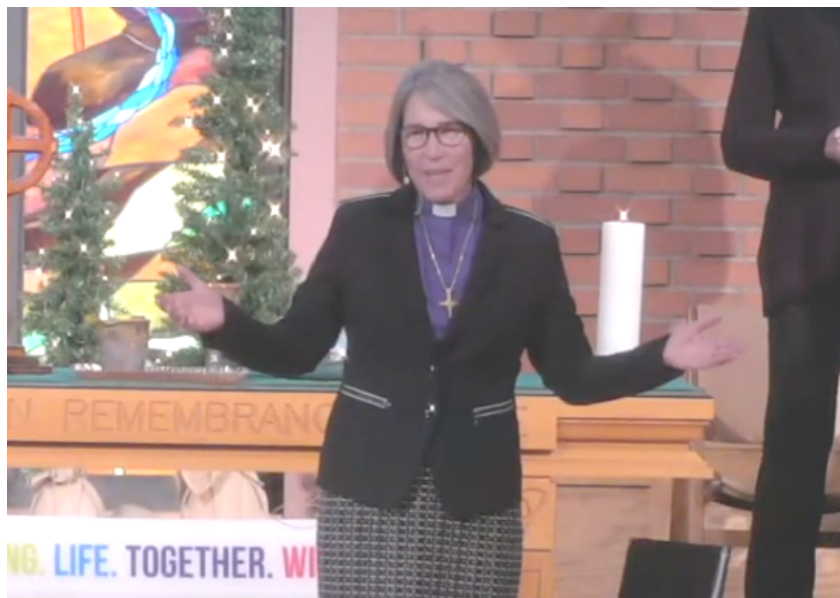
Woven into the Neighbourhood - Next Steps in Pursuing our Mission by Peter Coutts

You are probably wondering, “So what’s happening with our new direction to get woven into our immediate neighbourhood and help out?” Three weeks ago the city social worker for Kingsland held a gathering of people from different organizations who all want to help out in that neighbourhood. Present were the Principal of St. Augustine School, reps from three churches (including six from ours), the Kingsland Community Association as well as people from three agencies: Carya, the Trellis Society and CUPS. We learned more about the needs in this neighbourhood. Do you want to hear what they are? Are you considering jumping in to help us “learn our way forward” into our congregation’s mission? Would you like to help us figure out how we can start small towards making a difference for those who live around us? Join us after worship on Sunday December 4th for a one-hour (max) meeting in Trinity Hall. Coffee, tea and a few goodies will be provided. Come help us figure out our next step!



Retirement Wishes for the Rev Dr Jean Morris by Debby Dorcas

For the past 30+ years, Jean has in ‘some way’ been part of our St. Andrew’s family. She has been committed, faithful and wise. We are thankful for Jean’s time with us we have been blessed by her preaching, wisdom, and leadership – and we are grateful for what she has come to mean to so many of us. Congratulations and best wishes on your retirement Jean! Your St. Andrew’s family wishes you well!



COVID-19 TASK FORCE REPORT: MARK ROWE, CONVENOR

The COVID-19 Task Force was formed to provide guidance to St. Andrew's during COVID-19. The congregation has been following safe COVID-19 practices which have allowed our most vulnerable members to safely worship with us. The province has relaxed its COVID-19 restrictions, and the Calgary COVID-19 count has dropped but COVID-19 is still with us.

To maintain a COVID-19 safe place for worship, we suggest the following:

- If you are not feeling well, please follow AHS protocols and do not come to church
- The use of hand sanitizer is encouraged upon entry into the church
- Masking is not required at worship, but feel free to wear one if that is more comfortable for you
- Vaccination is strongly encouraged but not required

It is our desire to create a welcoming environment that is helpful and encouraging for all. In this small way, we express Christ's care. Thank you!



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DEADLINE: Article submissions for our next issue:
Sunday, January 15, 2023

