

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



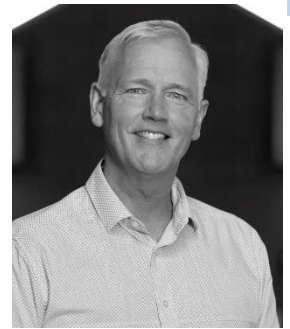
ST. ANDREW'S

GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD

Table of Contents

Message from Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald	... 3
Message from Rev. Jared Miller	... 4
Message from Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins	... 5
Clerk of Session ~ Debby Dorcas	... 6
Director of Music Ministries ~ Evan Mounce	... 7
Alpha	... 8
Christian Meditation Group	... 9
Communications Team	... 10
ConnXions	... 11
Cradle Roll	... 11
Faith Formation Team	... 12
Family Ministry Team	... 13
Gardening Committee	... 14
Ladies Guild	... 15
Legacy Trust Fund	... 16
Memorial Fund	... 16
Ministry Resource & Accountability	... 17
Mission Team	... 18
Pastoral Care	... 19
CareShare/Mealtrain	... 19 & 20
Districts	... 20
Homebound Visitation Ministry	... 20
Hospital Visiting Ministry	... 21
Life After Loss Team	... 21
Nursing Health Ministry	... 21
Prayer Chain Ministry	... 22
Prayer Shawl Ministry	... 22
Side By Side	... 23
Stephen Ministry	... 23
Personnel Team	... 24
Reopening Task Force	... 25
ReVision & Renewal Task Force	... 26
Search Committee	... 27
Statistics	... 28
Stewardship, Planning & Finance ~ Facilities Team	... 29
Stewardship, Planning & Finance ~ Stewards By Design	... 30 & 31
Worship Team	... 32
St. Andrew's Church Staff	... 33
StAC Social Info	... 34

Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald ~ *Lead Minister*



Easy access to the mountains is one of the great things enjoyed by Calgarians. I love the beautiful drive from Canmore to Lake Louise or the Highwood Pass through Kananaskis Country. My favourite journey, however, is along the Icefields Parkway from Banff to Jasper—what magnificence! We are blessed with such extraordinary beauty on our doorstep.

Yet put yourself in the shoes of those early explorers who faced the Rocky Mountains for the first time—without benefit of our paved roads. One called them “the most terrible mountains I’ve ever beheld.” For over three hundred years explorers of at least four sovereign nations had been looking for a water route that would connect the Pacific Ocean to the Mississippi River. This desire inspired the Lewis and Clark journey to find a western water route that everyone believed existed. All had assumed that in the same way the land rose gently over thousands of miles to a peak, it would also descend gently to the Pacific Ocean. None of them had seen mountains like these before.

Lewis discovered that three hundred years of experts had all been completely wrong. In front of him was not a gentle slope down to a navigable river running to the Pacific Ocean but the Rocky Mountains. Stretching out for miles and miles as far as the eyes could see was one set of peaks after another. There was no navigable river. No water route. The driving assumptions had been absolutely mistaken.

American Presbyterian, Tod Bolsinger, in his book, *Canoeing the Mountains* uses this Lewis and Clark analogy as a way of helping us better understand where the church finds itself in this present time when our journey takes us right off the map into completely uncharted territory in this rapidly changing world. “All that we have assumed about leading Christian organizations,” says Bolsinger, “all that we have been trained for, is out of date. We have left the map, we are in uncharted territory, and it is different than we expected. We are experienced river rafters who must learn to be mountaineers.”

The statistics of the Western church’s steady decline are well known. The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s membership is now less than half of what it was at its peak in the mid- 1960s. Yet most of us have been unprepared for how accelerated and disorienting that pace of decline has become. St. Andrew’s has been declining in membership for about two decades.

As Bolsinger indicates, this is not a situation that calls for a new tweak or new technique; this is an opportunity for adventure, exploration and transformation. This is why St. Andrew’s called me here as your Lead Minister. With over 20 years of experience in starting a new church and helping it thrive—even during a period of considerable decline in our denomination—you asked me to lead you in this new adventure and to renewal. This is a moment when our congregation can indeed take on new life, begin a new season of faithful expression. We can start imagining different possibilities. And we can learn new ways of leading. Bolsinger asks, “How do you canoe over mountains?” The truth is, you don’t. If you want to continue forward, you change. You adapt. You let go, you learn as you go and you keep going, no matter what.

2020 has given us a taste of what God can do through us when we are in uncharted territory. The pandemic has completely transformed our ministry. In a variety of ways we have adapted, changed and tried new things—all great experience for the season ahead, even when the pandemic is over. Over the past year we have revised ministry position descriptions for our ministers that focus ministerial work directly on **Growing. LIFE. Together. With God.** A Mission Statement has been created to show the road to this new vision, while a set of Values have been identified as guard rails to keep us travelling together in the same direction. Our next most significant step toward renewal is posting the position for our new Associate Minister, Growth and Care. This is indeed a divine moment. This is an opportunity to express even more clearly what it means to follow and to serve the God who is King of the universe.

A fellow mountaineer,
Dr. Tim—Lead Minister, Life and Vision

Rev. Jared Miller ~ Associate Minister, Together in Mission



Early on in the pandemic I was invited to participate in an international Zoom conversation on the subject “The Joy of Missing Out.” I reflected on the change in life’s pace, the quietness of the roads at the beginning of the pandemic, and the stillness of the city.

I wish that conversation was happening now. COVID-19 has been one of the greatest things that has ever happened for ministry South of Fish Creek. A year ago, I wrote to you “theCreek is not the vision of St. Andrew’s but is an avenue for it to flow down, a greenhouse in which we can find seeds to plant as we lead into our own renewal here on Heritage Drive.” I had no idea how prescient those words would be a year later. We were blessed to have nothing to pivot from, and in the season of COVID-19 able to reimagine a whole new way of being the church in 2021.

When it came to Growing. Life. Together. With God, COVID-19 was a catalyst for us. COVID-19 helped theCreek identify its *why*, it’s what has let us identify that theCreek is Church embracing next year. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, theCreek exists as diverse and dispersed worshipping communities, spread across south Calgary – connected to God and each other by the best parts of technology. We call these gatherings AfterWords, which meet bi-weekly for conversation, prayer, and worshipful discussion of digital content. We are led by that discussion into the neighbourhood to make a difference in the name of Jesus.

Growing with God through Digital Content – The assumption that Sunday morning is the best time to consume material or content designed to help grow our discipleship has been challenged recently, and even more through COVID-19. Since September, we’ve been creating content designed to help people disciple their heads, hearts and hands. We’ve engaged with books, movies, and music; read the books of Job and Nehemiah together, and been blessed to share in the wisdom of ministry leaders across Canada and the US through theCreek’s YouTube channel. Check it out at youtube.com/thecreek and subscribe if you haven’t yet!

Life with God through theCreek App – The Church has always relied on technology to connect. Half of the New Testament is letters written by Apostles who were distant and separated from the people to whom they were writing. theCreek has reimaged this for life during the pandemic. theCreek App, available on Amazon, iOS, and Android is a hub for content, communication, and information related to theCreek. theCreek began by imagining ministry without a building, and as we’ve leaned into the COVID-19 reality that online is a place, theCreek App is our front door!

Together with God through AfterWords – AfterWords is where the rubber meets the road for theCreek. Worship gatherings of less than 10 people can meet anywhere, and at any time to engage what God is doing in their neighbourhood in a spirit of worship and fellowship. Though we’ve just had the first couple of these gatherings, we’re excited by the promise they hold and look forward to seeing AfterWords gatherings grow in neighbourhoods South of Fish Creek in the next year.

COVID-19 has taught me to lean into the uncomfortable realities that we find ourselves in. God seems to show up on the other side of comfortable. Let’s keep Growing Life Together.

*Yours in Christ,
Jared*

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins ~ *Interim Pastoral Care Minister*

Pastoral Care During the Pandemic: Some Thoughts

I was invited to join St. Andrew's staff on a temporary basis in Feb. 2020. I was just starting to get to know people when in the middle of March, the pandemic shut down in-person worship and ordinary life here in Calgary. The in-person version of our Side by Side program, visits to people's homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities...all these activities stopped. And we couldn't hold funerals to help people mourn the loss of loved ones. That saddened us.

But as we are reminded many times during this year's report, "St. Andrew's continued in

Growing. LIFE. Together. With God

God will continue to use our capacity to adapt for the good of our ministry well into the future."

How did we respond in the pastoral care ministry to the challenges, and how did we see God continuing to use each of us as we offered our gifts to the people of St. Andrew's? We began the work of loving and supporting one another from a safe social distance. We tried to reimagine pastoral care during a pandemic. We reached out via Zoom, phone calls, and letters.

Pastoral care reminds people that God holds them in love. Pastoral care ministry invites us to open our hearts, ears and minds to one another by offering people the gift of a compassionate, empathetic ministry of presence. The pandemic reminds us that our task is both personal and collective. American physician Ira Byock, author of *The Four Things That Matter Most*, invites us to practice pastoral care to ourselves and others via four statements that can bring healing and hope and a renewed sense of God's grace in our lives. 'What can we say that matters to those we love?' asks Byock. His answer:

Please forgive me.

I forgive you.

Thank you.

I love you.

As Byock also says in his book, "A deep, natural drive to connect with others lies at the heart of what it means to be human...By taking the time and by caring enough to express forgiveness, gratitude, and affection, you can renew and revitalize your most precious connections."

During this pandemic time, how have you reached out to others? Have you asked God to reach out to you? Have you stretched your heart and mind and tried to rebuild whatever was broken by saying those four things that matter most? As long as we are alive and have God's breath within us, it's never too late to start.

Looking ahead, we continue to feel optimistic that we will come through all these challenges with renewed strength and purpose.

As always, we hope and trust that you will reach out to any member of the pastoral care team if you need support or a sympathetic ear—or if you just want to practice what it might be like to say those four things that really matter.

Geoffrey Simmins

Clerk of Session ~ *Debby Dorcas*



Ministry Teams are concrete ways of activating people's gifts for ministry. In 2020 Session re-formed two teams and created two new teams:

- **Search Team** for Associate Minister, Growth and Care: Cathy Millar & Ken Burrill (Co-Convenors), Clem McLachlan, David Kurtz, Fiona Swanson, Inge Murray, Kevin MacFarlane, Lorna Kearns and Thelma Wagner
- **Personnel Team:** Elizabeth Dolan (Convenor), Alex Grant, James Jerrard and Murray Coleman
- **Finance Team:** David Townsend, John Cuthbertson, Shona Murray, Cathy Millar, Dolly Forcade and Dr. Tim
- **Executive Leadership Team:** Rhonda Wishart, Lynn Judd, Christine Pepper, Kevin MacFarlane, Dr. Tim. *This team was formed to respond quickly to changing circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They have the authority of Session between Session meetings, if necessary, and report all decisions to Session. This team has done significant planning work in making monthly Session Meetings more meaningful and efficient.*

Session Highlights to Share:

- Position descriptions for Lead Minister, Life and Vision; Associate Minister, Together in Mission; and Associate Minister, Growth and Care were updated to direct the work of each more clearly towards Growing. LIFE. Together. With God
- Judie Coleman agreed to serve as an Equalizing Elder to Presbytery
- Session put plans in place to connect people in our congregation without internet access to worship
- Stats show that we are connecting with more people through livestreamed worship than during 'pre COVID-19' times
- We were pleased to join in honoring Harry Eisenhower as he celebrated his 100th birthday - Harry is a long-standing member of St. Andrew's!
- We were saddened to lose two valued members of our Session this year: Steve MacDonnell and Linda Haines. They are deeply missed!!
- We are trying to hold more efficient and effective Session meetings. In late 2020, the Executive Leadership Team (mentioned above) introduced a 'Consent Agenda' for our meetings. This improvement is helping us to focus in more depth on our most pressing items.
- 2020 also saw the Session of St. Andrew's assume more overall direct responsibility for theCreek Ministry

Director of Music Ministries ~ *Evan Mounce*



The Music Ministry at St. Andrew's has been bustling with activity this past year. We may be smaller in numbers when we meet each Thursday night on Zoom to sing and share, but we have grown in many ways; we have embraced opportunities, partnerships, collaborations, and forged ahead with new experiences.

Here is a quick look back at some of our accomplishments this past year:

- we have welcomed 15 guest musicians - supporting musicians without many opportunities to play and perform
- we have produced 25 *Minute for Music* videos which have been viewed almost 10,000 times
- we have created 3 collaborative virtual choir projects - sharing our skills and resources with Grace and Knox Presbyterian
- we have engaged the Youth Ministry in our work with our *Mary Did You Know* project
- we have drawn upon our own musical talents at St. Andrew's and lifted up musical leaders within our teams
- we have welcomed guest clinicians and have used this time to develop our skills - exploring rhythm, composition, body, breath and movement
- we have established a relationship with the UofC music department
- we have partnered with composer Stuart Beatch and are working on a commissioned piece to animate the vision statement of St. Andrew's

The pandemic has given us permission to try new things and experiment. We haven't been able to meet in person, but we have been making connections and growing in community so that when we are back we will be richer and stronger.



Alpha ~ *Susan Boodoo and Justin Snaith*

Justin and I started preparing for the Online Alpha back in October of 2020 after some discussions with, and encouragement from, Ken and Sharon Burrill.

Our approach was to learn as much as we could about the course and its intent by watching all of the videos, and reading every piece of training material we could find on the Alpha Canada website, which has a great deal of material that's super helpful. We prayed before we embarked on the opportunity to serve, and continue to pray throughout so that we are guided by the Holy Spirit.

Our family (our kids included) is growing together in our faith since we got involved leading Alpha and making it a part of our weekly life. I remember when we were preparing for the start of Alpha, Justin and I would sit in bed with the laptop getting ready to watch the videos over the course of one week. Nika and Alan would not want to leave our room after saying goodnight. Surprising to us, they were both curious and wanted to watch the videos with us. They also had many questions along the way, which for us was a bonus that we all got to watch these videos together as a family.

Growing. Life. **TOGETHER.** With God



Christian Meditation Group ~ *Ken Burrill*

The Christian Meditation group met weekly during 2020. We met in members' homes until the COVID pandemic caused a lockdown in late March. After that we gathered virtually on Zoom, while continuing to use our normal meditation format. This format follows the teaching of the World Community for Christian Meditation (www.wccm.org). In the silence and stillness of our virtual prayer circle the Holy Spirit was still among us.

In early fall we were encouraged to offer a six week "Introduction to Christian Meditation" course, which began in mid-October. A number of new meditators joined us for the course, and many of them have continued to participate in our weekly Christian Meditation prayer community.

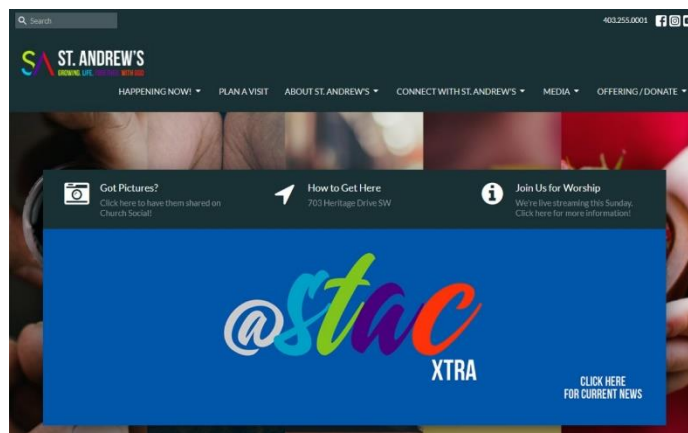
During these difficult pandemic days we have grown in wisdom and love, strengthened in faith, as we sit in community, together with God, in the silence and stillness of our virtual Zoom environment. This group and practice are a blessing as we Grow LIFE Together With God. All are welcome.



Communications Team ~ *Kevin MacFarlane, Convenor*

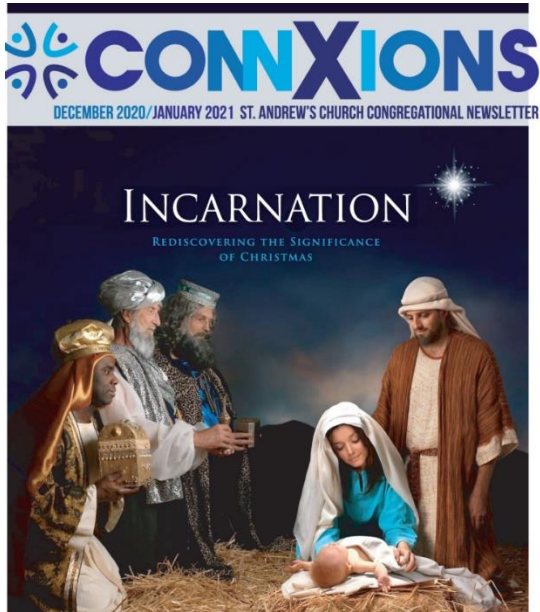
Our team has not only Grown Life Together with God, but our team is actually a **newborn**! Our first meeting was in June and since that time we have helped the congregation adapt to our challenging environment by:

1. Supporting those who have been using evolving technology to livestream our weekly services. We were so well set up by Britten Banerjee over the prior year that we were able to transition successfully to the leadership of David Kurtz at the video board. Guideline documents have been prepared by our team and continue to be developed in conjunction with the Worship Team.
2. Focusing our efforts on more complete and timely information on our website. This has been facilitated by the transition to a Tithe.ly based website and it is complemented by regular Facebook postings based upon this content. Emphasis is placed upon complete use of the “calendar” feature which allows registrations, Zoom connections and attachment of detailed documents, photos and even videos.
3. Creating a new feature on our website – StAC Xtra, which highlights timely information of interest to the congregation. For those who have difficulty reading information online, we print an abbreviated version of 2 months of StAC Xtra for inclusion when ConnXions is delivered.



I would like to thank the following members of our team for their diligent service optimizing the communication throughout the congregation: Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald - Ministry Advisor, Micheal McEachen – Communications Coordinator, Judy Bridgemohan, Jamie Hodge, and Katy Takaoka. I also want to thank Flemming Nielsen as our liaison with the ConnXions Team and the work he did to help us get started.

ConnXions



St. Andrew's would like to thank the ConnXions team for helping us stay connected in 2020 and grow life **TOGETHER** with God through articles and information that was shared in our congregational newsletters. Special thanks to Editor Flemming Nielsen, and Team Members Lorie Nielsen, Barbara English and Judie Coleman, and to our Communications Coordinator, Micheal McEachern.

Cradle Roll ~ *Elspeth McFadzean, Secretary*

In the year 2020 we had 3 new members on our register, and birthday cards were sent out to 5 of our children 3 years of age and younger.



Elspeth is retiring this year after dedicating 41 years to this Ministry. Thank you, Elspeth!!

Faith Formation Team ~ *Rhonda Wishart, Convenor*



With COVID-19 affecting our ability to meet in person, and our ministry to children and youth being critical, we were fortunately able to continue to grow life together with God by transitioning quickly to online programming. Several church school leaders – Inge Murray, Lorna Andronikou and Rhonda Wishart (with support gratefully received from others over the summer) have provided weekly children's stories, Story Alive, on the St. Andrew's YouTube channel. These can be viewed Sunday mornings or whenever families had an opportunity to watch them. While COVID-19 may have been particularly challenging for youth and involved the cancellation of CY2020, our resilient youth leaders, Carolyn Jerrard and David Kurtz, readily adapted to outdoor gatherings where possible. Online programming/meetings enabled the youth to maintain connection with their leaders and each other. Small weekly mission initiatives were encouraged for the children weekly over the summer, and they also engaged together in a larger mission project. Cards and paper flowers were provided to many residents of a local nursing home. For the first time at St. Andrew's, a Christian meditation program was offered for adults, led by Sharon and Ken Burrill. A highlight for many at St. Andrew's was the Family Christmas Eve Service where a number of our families with young children offered their gifts in story-telling and music, in a wonderful coordinated virtual Christmas Story. We are indeed blessed by both adaptable leaders and a congregation willing to experiment with new experiences!

Family Ministry Team ~ *Craig Murray, Representative Elder*

2020 was indeed a year that challenged us all, and included how we as a church responded to the idea of meeting with little or no in-person contact, but continuing to live out our faith and mission. The Family Ministry Team adapted to fulfill the needs of the young families and others, even amid a pandemic, providing opportunities of fellowship and much needed support.

Some of the initiatives included Take 150 (pre COVID-19); On Wine and Cheese evenings via Zoom; The Pool FunRaiser generously hosted by the MacFarlane family; ABC (Anything But COVID-19) playground date; The Annual Family Camping Weekend.

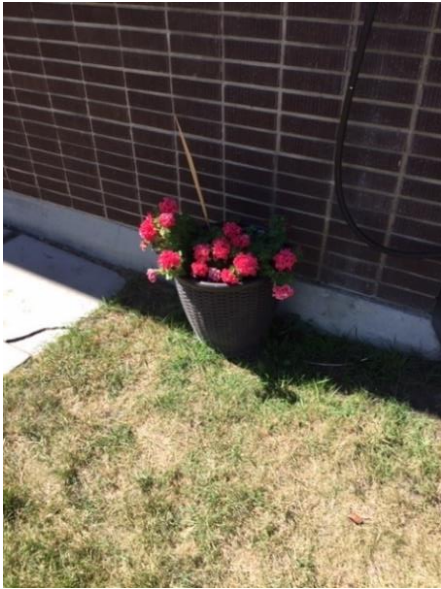
All these events tied in well with our mission statement: Growing. Life. Together. With God.

These events offer:

- **Growing:** Many events encourage intergenerational faith mentorship
- **Life:** Supporting each other during uncertain times
- **Together:** All events are people gathering for fellowship
- **With God:** God is central in all that we do



Gardening Committee ~ *Bob & Annette Shaw*



Although the building was closed for all the growing season, the gardens were well looked after during the summer. The 2020 growing year was excellent for all the bedding plants as well as the perennials; the east bed was full of colour.



The catoneaster front hedge was hit with disease and had to be chopped back. During the season replacements were planted and have taken well. There will be a garden clean-up in May, and planting in early June. We would love more help during the growing season for watering and weeding. Please consider volunteering for the outdoor gardening at St Andrews! A big thank you to all who helped this past year!

Ladies Guild ~ Inge Murray, Guild Member

In April 2020, The Guild (Ladies Afternoon Guild and Ladies Evening Guild) had their first virtual meeting using Zoom to discuss how we could move forward together as a group to live out our mission statement and work as a team during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a team we are stronger together, and with God's leading we continue to grow in our ministry to support St. Andrew's and our community.

We were blessed with a successful 2019 bazaar that allowed us to continue to support the following programs in 2020:

- Ronald McDonald House (2 dinners January & February, and with monthly donations from March to December);
- Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids with (375 lunches January to March, and monthly donations March to December);
- Student Emergency Funds at 5 Calgary Board of Education High Schools
- The Claire House Christmas Appeal
- Camp Kannawin
- PWS&D
- and St Andrew's totalling an amount in excess of \$18,000.00



The "No Bazaar, Bazaar" mini bake and craft sale became an event that our church community faithfully and generously supported. We connected with our faith family through having one common goal, to continue to bring life to our church and community. The congregation supported this ministry with generous donations, the bakers and crafters gave of their time and talent, and the shoppers enjoyed the delicious baking and a brief but meaningful connection with the Guild while picking up their goodies. The funds received (\$5800) will continue to help us provide ways to meaningfully engage our church and community in 2021.

The Guild has stayed connected as a group though phone calls, Zoom meetings, text messages and emails as we supported each other during the year. With great sadness and appreciation, we recognised all the years Rita Elliott and Carol Olton were part of our group. Their names have been added to the honour plaque in Trinity Hall.

With God all things are possible. The Guild is a faithful and committed group who are able to find possibilities with God as we strive to support our church and community.

Legacy Trust Fund ~ *Ed Braun, Convenor*

The 4th Quarter results for 2020 are not yet available. These will be presented to Session and the Congregation when received. In the meantime, the fund values for the following periods are presented:

12 months ended Sep 30, 2016	\$ 678,311
12 months ended Sep 30, 2017	\$ 613,023
12 months ended Sep 30, 2018	\$ 647,055
12 months ended Sep 30, 2019	\$ 641,727
12 months ended Sep 20, 2020	\$ 687,731

It is expected that year-end determination of fund growth for 2020 will be available by mid March 2021.

In 2020 the following expenditures were approved from the fund:

Mission:	\$ 5,000.00	Beds and \$460.00 U. S. Grief Share
Worship & Ministry:	\$ 9,705.00	Lighting
Not Distributed:	\$ 743.82	
Facility:	\$13,084.95	Roof repair over Karl English Lounge

The remaining terms of the Committee members as of December 31, 2020 are:

Margaret Bates	Dec 31, 2022 (willing to stay until 2023)
Ed Braun	Dec 31, 2021
Merle Crawford	Dec 31, 2022 (willing to stay until 2023)
John Cuthbertson	Dec 31, 2021
Mary-Anne Quesnel	Dec 31, 2022
Steve MacDonnell	Deceased, Aug 29, 2020
Derek Wilkinson	Dec 31, 2021

The Committee extends a special note of thanks to Dolly Forcade for her excellent staff support to the Trust over the last year.

Memorial Fund ~ *Alex Grant*

In 2020 Memorial Donations were received in Memory of the following people:



Grace Allen, Rev. Dr. Frank Breisch, Vivian Smith Doucette, Rita Elliott, Ruth Grant, Linda Haines, Grant Huber, Randy Kearnes, Bill McAuley, Mary & Hugh MacDougall, Malcolm Roberts, Jimmy & May Shaw, Lenore Coulthard Smith & Children, Bradford Smith, Rankine Smith, Flora & Harry Taylor, Muriel Young, and Ruth Young.

Ministry Resource & Accountability ~

Craig Murray, Christine Pepper, and Cathy Millar (Convenor)

In late March 2020 Linda Haines stepped away from her role as Convenor due to personal circumstances, handing over to Cathy Millar. Linda's intent was to continue as a member of the team, but in May she was hospitalized and shortly thereafter she died unexpectedly. We were filled with deep sorrow and Linda's wisdom and guidance has been truly missed.



The work of this team is not well understood by many in the congregation, so the mandate of this team is provided below for your information. During 2020 the team began a conversation about the need to update and strengthen the mandate, so that work will continue in 2021.

Mandate and responsibilities of the Ministry Resource and Accountability Team

- to be a resource for St. Andrew's ministers;
- to assist the ministers in the ongoing assessment of goals and objectives of ministry;
- to meet regularly (quarterly) with ministers and also at their request;
- to be responsive to the needs of ministers;
- to encourage and support accountabilities as assigned in Position Descriptions and in the Session -approved Ministry Plan;
- to provide constructive feedback from Session and congregation for ongoing ministry;
- to approve vacation and study leave requests;
- to provide regular reports to Session;
- to prepare a brief review of yearly activities for the annual report

The membership of the Ministry Resource and Accountability Team

- three elders, with recognized gifts to achieve the responsibilities, appointed by Session
- all ministers of St. Andrew's

The team met during the year as requested by MRA or by one of the ministers to discuss ongoing ministry responsibilities, and to offer support and guidance as appropriate. MRA conducted an annual review with The Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald at the end of August and assisted with the annual review for The Rev. Jared Miller in the late fall which was conducted by the Lead Minister. We also wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution Dr. Geoffrey Simmins has made as a member of the ministry team, and the compassion and care he brings to his work with the people of St. Andrew's.

The recent 5-week health leave taken by Dr. Tim at the beginning of December is of deep concern to MRA as it is to all of us. Dr. Tim has been in ministry for 30 years and in all that time this is the first health leave he has ever been required to take. MRA and Session are currently taking steps to address this concern.

The annual reviews that we conduct are critical as we consider our new vision Growing LIFE Together with God to ensure we are all moving forward in step together in the same direction. Our ministers need to know we are with them as they lead us. We need to provide them with the resources and support they require so that they may fulfill their ministry and leadership responsibilities.

Mission Team ~ *Bill Judd, Team Member*

Mission Team initiatives in the past year were over-taken by COVID-19 restrictions. We paused for renewal reflection, and still managed and helped St. Andrew's stay connected with our community.

Early in the year (pre COVID-19) and in partnership with Kairos, CUPS and Calgary Homeless Foundation, we participated in the Coldest Night of the Year event. It raised awareness around homelessness and fund-raised for Feed the Hungry weekly family dinners and the mortgage pay-down for a low-income housing project of the Calgary Homeless Foundation. We arranged a family walk from St. Andrew's to Claire House where we met with residents over hot chocolate. We invited them to join us for a bowl of chili back at St. A's. Thanks to Jayne Martin for spear-heading this event and Ted Cantlon for the delicious chili.

We adjusted the operation of our Calgary Food Bank Depot when COVID-19 restrictions began. We continue to safely offer weekly satellite food hamper distribution under the guidance of the Food Bank. The project involves 33 volunteers, including some friends from B'nai Tikvah who have been working with us since our beginnings more than 3 years ago. Thanks to Liza Fuenning, Jayne Martin and Bill Judd who co-captain this effort.

We dipped our toes into the virtual communications world with an on-line Mental Health panel discussion in October organized by Brent Harding, Brian Hawco, Rev. Jared and Dr. Geoffrey. This was an extension of a series, broadened to include participation of Ernie Poundmaker, an Elder from the Aboriginal Friendship Centre in Calgary.

The Mission Team has been working on reviewing and refocusing on the future that involves learning more about the needs in our community (e.g. the Mustard Seed, Calgary Alliance For the Common Good ...). We want to understand the many ways that the people of St. Andrew's are already involved in outreach. We encourage and support those efforts in all aspects of service and sharing the good news of God's love. As part of this effort, there are St. Andrew's people participating in an on-line Missional Leadership course through St. Andrew's Hall at Vancouver School of Theology.

The year finished with a flourish of congregational generosity in support of Christmas gift-giving at Claire House. Over \$4000 worth of gift cards were shared among 32 households, including 29 children. Thank you, St. Andrew's!



Pastoral Care ~ Judie Coleman, Coordinator



"But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." John 4:14 NLV

What is Pastoral Care?

- Pastoral Care is encouraging personal faith and a **GROWING** compassion and ability to support and listen with empathy to others.
- Pastoral Care is offering the ministry of presence throughout the **LIFE** journeys, of celebrations and concerns, to others.
- Pastoral Care is a shared commitment to support each other by creating opportunities to be **TOGETHER** through visits, phone calls, or video communications.
- Pastoral Care is grounded in the grace and presence of **GOD** through prayer, study and conversation.

We are very fortunate to have the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins as our Interim Pastoral Care Leader. His prayerful and compassionate manner has been appreciated by all who were in need of support during a loss, ill health or other crucial event. His support of all the Pastoral Care teams is invaluable and very much appreciated.

CareShare / Mealtrain ~ Joan Rowe, Convenor

Careshare/Mealtrain evolved in 2020 to reflect new COVID-19 protocols while we continued to offer pastoral support to individuals and families in our congregation experiencing times of stress. This meant thinking through hygienic preparation of foods and safe delivery of meals for both giver and recipient. Since March 2020, we have had 3 requests for help, generally with multiple meals per request.

When a volunteer signs up online to provide a Mealtrain meal, they will read 'General Precautions' for provision of food. Meals coming from certified, licensed kitchens are suggested (ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen, restaurant take out, gift restaurant cards, Skip the Dishes, Door Dash, etc.). If food is made in the home, it is recommended to sanitize the work surfaces, wear mask and gloves, and prepare a frozen meal so that the recipient must use high temperatures to reheat. Volunteers with gloves and mask deliver the meal or gift cards to the recipient's porch cooler by schedule, making it virtually touch free.



MealTrain is the online hub that the CareShare Team uses to request and schedule, by email, meals from our volunteers. Team members are Joan Rowe, Jean Spotowski, and Stephanie Werle. Careshare/Meartrain will continue on an individual basis with COVID-19 precautions for both the giver and receiver. If you are interested in joining our volunteer email list, please contact the St. Andrew's office or Joan Rowe.

Districts ~ Inge Murray, District Visitor Coordinator

The Church is a people, not a place, and as District Visitors the people of St Andrew's are our priority. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the District Visitors were tasked to phone the people and families in their district. Every effort was made to connect with each person or family in our congregation to understand how people were coping, to encourage them, and to provide support as needed. Throughout the year the District Visitors have continued to be a point of contact for the families in their district, to provide prayers with and for them, and to continue to grow together over this year that has unleashed many emotions in all of us.

"So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

The district team appreciates all the gifts the District Visitors generously shared with St Andrew's faith community in 2020. If you and your family wish to be added to a district, please connect with the district visitor team.

Homebound Visitation Ministry ~ Cathie Huber, Coordinator

During the difficult 2020 COVID-19 year, visitations seemed on hold. However, the Homebound volunteers were welcomed by seniors who were isolated and alone in their homes or care facilities. Those who needed comfort and offers of encouragement appreciated telephone calls and cards to cheer. At times when permitted, the volunteers made masked visits.



Efforts were also made to contact some people who were living alone but not homebound. Attempts were made to advise elders and district visitors if a Homebound volunteer was assigned to a senior in their District. This notification will be ongoing to avoid confusion.

Please contact me if you would consider being a much appreciated Homebound volunteer. Presently we have 10 volunteers and 13 recipients. We all look forward to better times ahead.

Hospital Visiting Ministry ~ *Judie Coleman, Coordinator*



Pre COVID-19, our trained hospital visitors tried to visit anyone who was registered as Presbyterian, but especially to visit those from St. Andrew's. This year, in order to keep everyone safe and follow the Alberta Health guidelines, only our Interim Pastoral Care leader, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins, was permitted to visit and offer God's peace, comfort, and love to those in hospital. However, even if we could not visit in person, we were able to offer prayers for those whom we knew to be in hospital or recovering at home. We remain open to God's guidance and spirit as we try in all ways permitted to grow life together with God in our community.



Life After Loss Team ~ *Alice Williams, Coordinator*

Growing Life Together: Our very first virtual Celebration of Life service was offered on the evening of Monday November 30, 2020. The guest speaker was our interim Pastoral Care leader, the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins, who delivered a powerful message of comfort and hope after loss. Maureen Amos lit the Christ candle on behalf of everyone who had suffered a loss in 2020. Arlene Young read the scripture reading and prayer, while Alice Post and Debby Dorcas sang a beautiful virtual duet. Musical offering was by Evan Mounce, and videography was by Tom Spoering.

With God: In September members of the team met for a Heritage Park walk and lunch on the Railway Cafe patio. This was a special time for us to connect spiritually, and support each other during these challenging times. Team members agreed to increase their commitment to reach out to recently bereaved families through phone calls and cards.

The Life after Loss team members are Arlene Young, Joan Davies, Marilyn Cantlie, Linda Bender and Alice Williams.

Nursing Health Ministry ~ *Alice Williams, Coordinator*

We continued to "grow life together" by encouraging health awareness through our "Health Matters" column in ConnXions. These topics touched on a wide array of issues with emphasis related to our physical and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our annual Spring Health Fair in May was rebooked for early October, but that too had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Our proposed topic was " Guidelines for Immunization, you call the shots! " We look forward to offering this in the future, with an expanded version to include information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

During the summer some members of the team got together to enjoy an afternoon of friendship, nurturing and rapport. We renewed our commitment to advocate for health by promoting a better quality of life in terms of physical, mental and social well being.

Prayer Chain Ministry ~ *Lorie Nielsen, Convenor*

At the very beginning of 2020, we didn't realize that the term "COVID-19" was going to become the byword of the century. By the time mid-March arrived and we were in lockdown our lives changed drastically. Zoom meetings developed, as it was the best way to communicate as a committee, group, team, etc.

Fortunately the Prayer Chain was able to keep on as usual, with emails and phone calls to request and share information for those in need of prayer. As internet providers became busier and busier, things became a little more complicated. Thankfully Rev. Jared was able to help me change my prayer email address to prayer@standrewscalgary.ca. This turned out to be a minor miracle and all has been well since then. Thank you, Jared.

If anyone reading this report feels moved to be part of this powerful prayer ministry, please write or phone me at 587-777-2444. This chain can never have too many links. Blessings to you all - and remember "Stay positive and test negative".



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawls and Lap Rugs are a symbol of an inclusive and unconditionally loving God. If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl or lap rug, please contact Annette Shaw (Coordinator of this Ministry), or the Church Office.

Side By Side ~ Alice Post, Program Coordinator

Side by Side is a program that cares for families living with dementia. The program, as originally designed, provides a structured and caring social environment for the person experiencing dementia, while providing 4-5 hours of personal time for the care partner who is providing care 24/7 at home. When the pandemic was declared in March of 2020, we could no longer meet in person. While we could no longer provide respite, we found other ways to stay connected and to care for the families in our program.



*Do not let
what you cannot do
interfere with
what you CAN do*

-- John Wooden

In the spirit of this quote from John Wooden..."Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you CAN do" ... we continued to connect by phone and email, home activities were provided when helpful, and we developed an online program delivered twice-weekly for those willing to meet online.

The online program is a Zoom call that incorporates structure and familiar activities, but most of all just allows us to see and hear one another and to share the challenges we are facing. There has been music and laughter, praise and worship, social time over activities, sincere and uplifting prayer, supportive and caring conversation, and sometimes tears of both grief and gratitude. Dedicated and compassionate volunteers share love and encouragement as they contribute thoughtful leadership. In this online format, the presence of care partners is new, meaningful, and inspirational as they share how their faith is helping them through. Despite the pandemic, we continue to Grow. Life. Together. With God. Side by Side.

Stephen Ministry ~ Judie Coleman, Coordinator



Little did I know – little did any of us know – all of the challenges that 2020 would bring. As Stephen Ministers we would all need to adapt to new things, sometimes against our will. We learned how to Zoom so we could continue our training together, and we called or emailed our care receivers instead of visiting in person. Our biggest disappointment, we were unable to meet new people who would benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.

Our Stephen Ministers agreed to a three-year commitment when they were commissioned in May 2018, and have provided faithful service to five care receivers since then. Several of our Stephen Ministers left the program early due to personal circumstances. Plans were in place to train another group of Stephen Ministers in 2020 but the pandemic, combined with some changes in the Stephen Ministry leadership, put a stop to that. When the Minister of Growth and Care position is filled, and in-person visiting is again a possibility, we are ready to seek and train a new cohort of Stephen Ministers. We remain open to God's guidance and spirit as we try in all ways permitted to grow life together with God in our community.

Personnel Team ~ *Elizabeth Dolan, Convenor & Sylvia Shaw, past Convenor*

The impact of the COVID-19 virus was exceptionally well managed by all staff at St. Andrew's. They pivoted quickly to working from home in the middle of March and their flexibility and robust response to this major change has been greatly appreciated.

Due to the suspension of in-person worship in mid-March our nursery ceased to function resulting in a hiatus for our nursery caregiver, Emily Izett.

We were very saddened by the sudden death of our team committee member Linda Haines in late May. Linda brought strong leadership skills and a wealth of workplace experience to her role on the team and is greatly missed.

Britten Banerjee, who ably looked after the AV aspect of our in-person and on-line church services, left us in late September to return home to Saskatchewan. We are grateful for those volunteers who stepped in to help until the position could be filled on a more permanent basis. We welcomed David Kurtz to this role as AV coordinator in December, 2020.

Team meetings began to take place over Zoom and we have had fun - and some challenges – learning and working in this new way.

In late summer Sylvia Shaw retired after seven years of service; we are grateful for her leadership and continued support through the changes. Three new team members were discerned and joined James Jerrard on the team: Elizabeth Dolan (Convenor), Alex Grant and Murray Coleman. With three of the four members of this committee being new to it, we are very appreciative for the ongoing guidance provided by Dr. Tim. We are becoming stronger together.



Reopening Task Force ~ *Mark Rowe, Convenor*

Online services started March 22, 2020. Dr. Tim Archibald requested the establishment of a committee to prepare for the reopening of St. Andrews. The COVID-19 Reopening Task Force members are Nick Drinkwater, Beth Miller, Dolly Forcade, Lynn Judd, and Mark Rowe. Early in the pandemic, epidemiologists determined that churches can be a major spreader of the coronavirus. Singing is a super spreader event.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) allowed churches to reopen in-person services in the summer. There were many unknowns about the Coronavirus and many churches did not reopen. Churches that did reopen for in-person services generally were denominations that focused on the sacraments and/or did not have an online presence. Attendance was limited. Many churches did not reopen for in-person worship, but focussed on on-line worship and participation..

The committee worked closely with Dr. Ayman Tadros of the St. Mary and St. Paul Coptic congregation, our tenants. We visited and talked with the Holy Spirit Catholic Church and other churches. AHS guidelines were carefully studied. Cleaning protocols were developed, volunteers were recruited and trained, processes developed to register congregants for in-person worship, and to safely move people into and out of the sanctuary. The church purchased an electrostatic cleaning machine, and a five-minute reopening video was produced. There were two in-person attendance funerals held in the church in September. Following AHS guidelines, funeral attendance was limited to 25% of the sanctuary capacity. At St. Andrews 25% capacity is 30 cohorts of a maximum of two people each. (A family of four is two cohorts, a single person is also a cohort.) The COVID-19 Re-opening Task Force used these occasions to refine its COVID-19 reopening processes. As St. Andrew's was finalizing preparations for limited in-person worship after the funerals, the number of coronavirus cases in Alberta started to dramatically increase through October. In November new, stricter AHS regulations were issued making it impractical for in-person services for the Christmas season.

As we begin 2021, the team is preparing for limited in-person worship. As AHS guidelines permit, small, socially distanced, mask wearing groups will be allowed, on a case-by-case basis, into the church for small church functions.



ReVision & Renewal Task Force ~ *Rhonda Wishart, Convenor*

The ReVision & Renewal Task Force met monthly through 2020, transitioning to Zoom in the spring, and continuing our journey to ReVision and Renewal. Our focus and inspiration is drawn from our Vision - **Growing. LIFE. Together. With God** as formally presented, with its colourful and creative logo, at the annual congregational meeting in February 2020. The Task Force was privileged to work on and complete (with

assistance from the MRA Team) updated position descriptions for the Lead Minister, Life and Vision; the Associate Minister, Together in Mission (Minister of Mission); and the anticipated new Minister, the Associate Minister, Growth and Care. A further example of our journey in growing life together with God in 2020, included the



recruitment of Convenor, Kevin MacFarlane, and other capable members for St. Andrew's first official Communications Team. We gained knowledge in reading, reflecting and interviewing people with relevant experience in the effective and efficient structure of both Teams and Session, with a view to learning what changes we might explore in our own congregation. We were also energized in reviewing our Discernment Event materials and exploring other resources, leading to the formulation of a Mission Statement and a set of Values for St. Andrew's. We are blessed with the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Tim and faithful members, working hard collectively to help St. Andrew's live into our Vision.

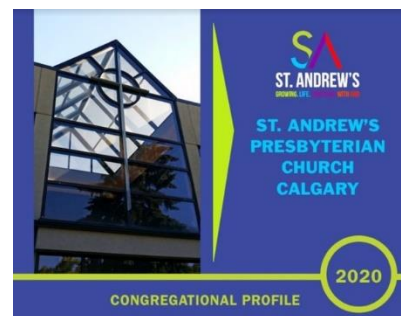
Search Committee ~ *Ken Burrill, Co-Convenor*

A Search Committee was constituted early in the year to implement the decision of Session to begin the process of identifying and engaging a replacement candidate for the retiring Congregational Care Minister, Rev. Jan Hazlett.

Initial members of this Search Committee were Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw representing Presbytery as Interim Moderator, Cathy Millar and Ken Burrill as Co-Convenors, Kevin MacFarlane as Secretary, Thelma Wagner, Rev. Fiona Swanson, Inge Murray, Clem McLachlan, David Kurtz and Lorna Kearnes, with Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald sitting in as an ex-officio member. During the year Rev. Dianne and Clem McLachlan withdrew for personal reasons. We were most fortunate to have Rev. Fiona Swanson quickly available and willing to stand as a replacement Interim Moderator. Her enthusiastic and capable guidance through the balance of the year was invaluable, and much appreciated.

The first meeting of the committee was held on May 13, 2020; follow-up meetings were then typically held on a bi-weekly basis. The committee work progressed through the establishment of a Covenant of Care, a review of the newly approved ministerial Position Descriptions, and discernment and description of desired candidate attributes for the vacant position, (now named Associate Minister – Growth and Care). Information was gathered, and an initial drafting of an updated Congregational Profile was completed for use in the candidate search process. Given the continuing restrictions associated with COVID-19, all meetings were held virtually, on-line, using the ZOOM platform with which we have all become much too familiar.

At year-end the updated Congregational Profile is complete and ready for posting. The remaining work of the committee is “on-hold”, awaiting Session’s approval to proceed. Please visit our website at www.standrewscalgary.ca and be sure to read the Congregational Profile.



Statistics ~ Dolly Forcade, Office Administrator/ Treasurer



Congregational Statistics

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
FAMILIES			
Number of families associated		337	341
THE MEMBERSHIP			
Communicant Membership January 01		433	445
Added to the Roll	by Profession of Faith	0	8
	by Certificate of Transfer	0	4
	by Resolution of Session	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		0	12
Removed from the Roll	by Death	11	9
	by Certificate of Transfer	1	1
	by Resolution of Session	0	2
	by own request	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
		18	24
Communicant Membership December 31		415	433
<u>BAPTISMS</u>	Children	1	4
	Adult	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		1	7
<u>MARRIAGES</u>	Members	0	0
	Adherents	0	1
	Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		0	1
<u>FUNERALS</u>	Members	9	3
	Adherent	3	2
	Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		12	5

In Memoriam

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

Mary Astle
 Rita Elliott
 Allison Grant
 Linda Haines
 Marian Hay
 Clayton Howe
 Marion Kelly
 Esther Klemp

Steve MacDonnell
 Mary MacDougall
 Harry Mann
 Carol Olton
 Eva Sanders
 Isabel Whitney

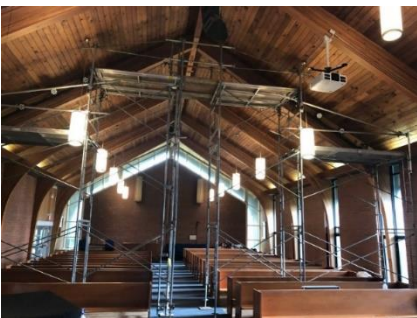
Stewardship, Planning & Finance **Facilities Team** ~ *Don Koch – Team Lead*

The Facilities Team was fully occupied in 2020 maintaining our facility. In addition to numerous general repairs & improvements made to the building and exterior property, highlights during the year included:

- Replacement of the shingle roof above the Karl English Lounge and Nursery.
- Complete renovation and makeover of Trinity Hall including new wiring, insulation, drywall, LED lighting, new tables, repainting, and construction of a new A/V centre.
- Installation of theatrical type lighting in the Sanctuary to aid live stream worship broadcasts.
- Negotiated contracts with Foothills Roofing, Arch Technical, Enmax, St. Mary & St. Paul Church, Waste Management, Britech, Signature Landscaping and Devalley Roofing.

Beginning in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to worship or meet in our building. However we still needed to keep the building clean and disinfected. As we had previously cancelled our contracted janitorial service, a group of six volunteers from our congregation stepped forward to clean, disinfect, and vacuum much of the church, and to also restock the washrooms and remove garbage on a weekly basis. Thanks to Ellah Chishakwe, Kate Azuma, Alfred MacRae, Jessy Babs, Brad Chalmers, and Flemming Nielsen.

There was also a need to ensure that the empty church building was secure and safe. Since March, volunteers from the Facilities Team have been conducting daily security patrols of the building exterior and interior. They ensure that exterior doors are locked, that there has been no damage or vandalism to our property, and monitor that the interior plumbing, sumps, and electrical systems continue to function normally.



Thank you to Facilities team members Brad Chalmers, Alfred MacRae, Tom McIntyre, Flemming Nielsen, Sean Pepper, Mark Rowe, and Bob Shaw for your dedication and hard work throughout 2020 keeping St. Andrew's safe, secure, and functional.



Stewardship, Planning & Finance **Stewards by Design** ~ *Cathy Millar, Convenor*

Who could have imagined that the COVID-19 crisis would inspire us to continue Growing LIFE Together with God in ways that would allow us to finish the year with a very small deficit of less than \$1,000? We wish to celebrate the generous hearts of the people of St. Andrew's and say THANK YOU for your faithfulness throughout 2020.

Your Stewards by Design Team met every month during 2020. First, because we could as none of us were going anywhere! Second, because we were committed to ensuring our faith community continued to be inspired to support one another and this church family, keeping our Vision of Growing LIFE Together with God fully alive during this pandemic.

During the year our team focused on an inspiring little book titled '*A Spirituality of Fundraising*' by Henri Nouwen, which reminded us that all we have received comes from God. It tells us that as leaders in this community of faith we are called to help our congregation understand that only by all of us coming together and sharing from our abundance can we build up the Kingdom of God. If we raise funds for a community of love, which is our goal at St. Andrew's, then we are helping God build the kingdom and we are doing exactly what we are supposed to be doing as Christians. Nouwen reminds us that if we make the Kingdom our first priority, then God will provide all that we need.

This book inspired us to Grow in our own spirituality as members of the Stewards by Design team so that we could in turn inspire our community of faith. We tried to do this in the following ways:

- Through regular articles in ConnXions around the theme of Giving and Generosity
- Videos and interviews that focused on saying thank you for ongoing financial support during a challenging year; reminders about the various giving options to make giving easier, including online giving; financial updates throughout the year; talks to inspire and encourage Generous Giving which we are called to do to Grow LIFE with God.
- A new booklet titled '*Growing GENEROUS LIFE Together with God*' was written and will soon be available on the website. It reminds us that we cannot continue Growing LIFE Together with God without recognizing all that we have to be thankful for, and also that we are called to respond with grateful and generous hearts.
- Summer Pool FunRaiser, while raising some funds for St. Andrew's, raised a lot more fun and helped build community by supporting families who had been at home with children for many months when no longer in class due to COVID-19, and then home again all summer. Many from our congregation donated so that others could benefit and feel the love and support of our community of faith. We are forever grateful to Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane for the loving and generous offer of their indoor pool.





- The Best Dinner You Never Had (virtual event with entertainment) held in late September raised more than \$10,000 thanks to the generous support of our St. Andrew's family. We found a creative and enjoyable way to come together to provide financial support. This ensures we can grow our financial resources to build up the kingdom - a LIFE centered in Christ's love for all.



All the Growing we did in 2020 we did Together with the generous support of this congregation. God's generous love and grace sustains the LIFE of St. Andrew's and ensures we are ready and able to advance the Kingdom.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered (Proverbs 11: 24-25)

Your Stewards by Design Team: Elaine Cantlon, Kevin MacFarlane, Cathy Millar (Convenor), David Platt (until Dec. 2020) and Stephanie Werle



Worship Team ~ *Lynn Judd, Convenor*



The mandate of the Worship team is to support the worship leaders in discerning and planning meaningful Worship that helps us to experience God and grow as Christians.

In March we were fortunate to have begun exploring live streaming worship just before we entered into lock down with COVID-19! We transitioned quickly and fully embraced the opportunity by spearheading and investing in improved chancel lighting and technical equipment that would enhance our weekly on-line worship experience. Our AV Coordinator, the camera and sound volunteers also jumped into a huge learning experience.

How do we meet God through online worship? As we look back on this extraordinary year we remember the innovations of virtual recordings; the participation of individuals and families, including Rev. Fiona Swanson and Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins; the embedded visual enhancements and images that accompanied the messages; the themed sermon series e.g. Spiritual Gifts that helped us to learn and grow; the musical leadership and innovation of Evan, Laura and others that helped us to praise God; the opportunity to see our stained-glass window, communion table and pulpit every week, and the ability to maintain a connection to our ministers, our church and each other.

Thanks to our worship leaders Dr. Tim, Rev. Jared, Dr. Geoffrey, Rev. Fiona, and Evan Mounce for their extraordinary efforts with live streaming and to team members Debby Dorcas, Shelby Cole, Derek Wilkinson and Clem McLachlan for their dedicated service. If you have ideas for creative and meaningful worship experiences give us a call!

St. Andrew's Church Staff



2020 Church Staff

Lead Minister

Associate Minister, Together in Mission

Interim Pastoral Care Minister

Director of Music Ministries

Executive Assistant

Office Administrator/ Treasurer

Nursery Caregiver

Side-by-Side Coordinator

Communications Coordinator

Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald

Rev. Jared Miller

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

Evan Mounce

Debby Dorcas

Dolly Forcade

Emily Izett

Alice Post

Micheal McEachen



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GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD