

July 2020

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.standrewsnewmarket.org

(905) 895-5512

"We are a caring congregation seeking to share, show and speak the love and joy of God."

Rev. Robert Royal

Since the early 1830's, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has been a caring congregation seeking to share, show, and speak the love and joy of God, ministering and reaching out to the people of Newmarket and surrounding area. Both our faith and civic communities are very important to us, and as such we continue to support our multi-generational, multi-cultural, multi-denominational, and inter-faith community by way of the Newmarket Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes Project for the Canadian Food Grains Bank, Inn from the Cold, Boarding Home Ministry, Prayer Shawl Pastoral Ministry, Outreach with all our friends and neighbours by way of telephone, social media, and outdoor home or Lawn Chair visits.

The Lawn Chair Ministry resulted from a conversation between myself and a friend simply because the Covid-19 pandemic was slamming the door on any and all face-to-face social interactions. The question was posed, "How will you minister to the congregation?" With social distancing a new and harsh reality, the only plausible solution for a face-to-face seemed to be a phone conversation through the protection of a window or glass door. Hence the birth of the Lawn Chair Ministry – I sit outside and have a phone chat with you on the inside – physical distancing at its best. Since those early days of the Corona Virus outbreak, the weather has warmed, and now my visits are on driveways, front and back lawns, decks and patios, gazebos and Florida rooms. It continues to be a wonderful way to become better acquainted, solve all the world's problems, share in a prayer and blessing, and even celebrate Holy Communion when requested. To date, I have been on 25 Lawn Chair Visits with many more scheduled, and I thank you for your warm hospitality.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Rev. Robert Royal continued...

A wise person said that *we are not all in the same boat; we are all in the same storm*. Many of you have been asking when the church will re-open. At St. Andrew's, we are very aware of the many and varied health considerations on everyone's hearts and minds. At present the church remains closed, and we have created a working group or *task force* to look into the details of re-opening the church at the appropriate time. We have developed the following official statement: **"The Session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newmarket, has established a Task Force to discuss all of the issues, parameters, timing, and organization involved in the re-opening of St. Andrew's, for the purposes of worship services, church groups, and rental spaces"**. Once we determine that it is safe to do so, we will consider a *soft opening*, but this is unlikely to happen before the fall.

The good news is that the work and fellowship of the church continues through Zoom, with virtual Women's, Men's, Youth, and social gatherings, along with committee work, Sunday's *Coffee Hour*, and Monday's *Sermon Chat*. The online weekly worship service can be accessed on YouTube by way of our website www.standrewsnewmarket.org.

I continually pray and give thanks for you and all you do, and hope that you will remain safe, enjoy good health, and be rich in God's Spirit. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Yours in Christ,
Robert



Rev. Laura Duggan

Each summer, I make a list of summer "adventures" we have been on, so that we don't forget. The lists usually include a variety of Camps – Bible Camp is always a highlight- drive-in movies, daytrips, time as a family and time with family and friends. Callum was reading over the lists, from past years, a few weeks ago, and talking about some of his favorite and not so favorite memories. This made me wonder about this summer. What would a list look like this year? Bible Camp won't be taking place. There might be a drive-in movie but daytrips will be limited, if possible at all. So we will need to stretch our imaginations.

We talked about a month long checkers, or Uno tournament. We talked about bike rides on the nearby trails. Zoe has already been to a Baking Camp, "at" Camp Cairn and is taking part in an "Ultimate Gameshow" Camp "there" this week. Cards have been made and mailed. There have been Zoom calls and Facetime chats and I expect that there will be many more.

Creativity has become a muscle that we are stretching often. We have needed to find creative solutions for many of the things that we do as a family, to work from home and for the kids to "attend" school and now how we will spend time in the summer. (And as I write, we are needing to find even more creative ways to work from home and do every day things with the internet down...)

I think that most of us have had to find new ways to do many things, right now.

We have needed to find creative solutions as we offer our Worship, stay connected as a Congregation and how we continue with the ministries of Church. In spite of everything, it has been wonderful to dream about what is possible, to see what has unfolded and the gifts that are offered. (I am so grateful, every day!)

Continued...



Worship has gone on-line. Ruth and Jordyn have become our production team. Robynne posts the recordings to the website. We have choir members and musicians, readers and technical support all sharing their gifts. We have had Coffee Hour and very interesting Sermon Chats – which is something new in this time. The Men's Group has gathered for their monthly breakfast. Fearless Friends met over Zoom every other Friday to check in and play a game together. Finance & Stewardship and Session have been meeting and have been working hard on many areas of the Church's ministry. The Christian Education Team has met to look at what could happen and what needs to be happen differently. A working group has been created to discuss what regathering in the Church building will look like, possibilities of timing and what steps will need to be taken. Phone calls are made (so many wonderful phone calls) by so many people in the congregation and visits are taking place in this warm weather on porches and driveways and in backyards.

Each week, the Prayer Shawl Group gathers, virtually, to pray together and to create comforting Prayer Shawls. The members of the group check in on each other and share conversations they have had with members who are not able to join on-line. They ask about needs and celebrations in the congregation and in the community. They consider where Shawls might help share God's love.

It was during one of the Prayer Shawl Gatherings that I heard members talking about journals they had begun to remember this time. They talked about remembering caution tape and hand sanitizer and masks. They also talked about remembering the things that they had started doing, the things they were creating and the ways they were celebrating and caring for people in their lives. They spoke about remembering moments of love and family and community. They spoke about ways God's love continues to be shared.

As I think of what might be on our memory list for the summer of 2020, I am thinking that creativity will be there in many ways. It will be a different sort of list this year but I can see there being examples of ways we have stayed connected with others – as a family and as a community of faith. I can see the list including ways we (again as a family and as a Church family) have shown God's love to others – simple ways, maybe big and fun ways and hopefully important and meaningful ways - and ways we have reached out to let people know that they

are not alone. Maybe this year the list will be as much about connections and moments filled with love as it is about where adventures have taken us. Definitely it will be filled with moments of gratitude and thanksgiving, as it is each year.

This summer, I hope that we each make memories filled with connection – creative connections – and with God's love. I am excited to see what adventures unfold for us all.

Laura



Congratulations to Rev. Robert Royal

It is amazing how quickly time passes!

A year ago Rev. Royal moved into the manse and began serving St. Andrew's.

Thank you for a wonderful year!
(What a year it has been!)



St. Andrew's Financial Emergency Action Plan

The Finance and Stewardship Committee, Maintenance Committee and Session are collaborating to implement our financial emergency action plan to manage the finances of St. Andrew's while the church buildings are closed and no live services can take place.

The following actions continue to take place:

A revised operating budget is guiding us through the next few months.

1. George Smith (F & S member) and Anthony Samuel (Treasurer) have applied for and received the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), for our ministers and administrative assistant (total received \$9096 to the end of May). On June 1st, our church administrator's work schedule and pay were increased to 75% (from 60%). They will be working 5 hours a day on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays. This rate and work schedule will continue while the church is receiving the CEWS.
2. Currently, our organist continues to receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to July 6th. The government has announced that they will be extending the CERB to the end of August. The final details have yet to be released. Thomas (organist) is being invited, where appropriate, to perform during our virtual church services.
3. Our caretakers continue to work 6 hours per week (about 25% of regular hours), primarily focusing on sanitation of critical work areas and the oversight/maintenance of all church mechanical systems (heat, hydro, light, etc.)
4. We have applied for and have received a \$40,000 interest free, 2-year loan from the federal government (CEBA). These funds are allocated along with our Designated Funds to help off-set the current deficit in our church operating account. The CEBA loan will be repaid in 2022, again with no interest applied.

We hope all of these actions we help reduce our expenses and better handle our operating budget.

Current Operating Account as of May 31, 2020:

Revenues	\$92,237
Expenses	<u>\$121,297</u>
Deficit	-\$29,061 (negative balance)
2018/19 Surpluses	\$15,219

Government Wage Subsidies received: \$9,096

Net balance - \$4,745 (negative balance)

Revenue to other Accounts:

Presbyterian Sharing: \$8,867 (our five month target \$13000)
Property Fund: \$3,107 Donations to the Food Bank: \$1,560



What can our Congregation continue to do to help?

We are most pleased that our givings to the operating account have increased through April and May. We would like our congregants to continue giving their monthly offering to support the church budget. We recognize that some families may have difficulty with their offering as a result of possible lay-offs or reduced hours. Please give what you can. The more monthly offerings we receive, the less likely our deficit will increase.

Consider your offering to Presbyterian Sharing. While our first priority is to maintain the operation of our church during the pandemic, our givings to Presbyterian Sharing help support our national church and our national and international missions.

Also, please consider your givings to our Local Missions, such as the Food Bank, Benevolent Fund, Boarding Homes Ministry, Loaves & Fishes, Inn From The Cold, etc. Their needs are extensive at this time.

Methods of Giving During Pandemic:

*** New Way to Give: As previously announced, our church now has the ability to receive donations via Interac e-Transfers. We are using our email address - **info@standrewsnewmarket.org** (please ensure that you double check your spelling). This will also allow us to continue to track your givings accordingly.

The methods of giving in preferential order are:

PAR (as this will allow us to better budget),

Interac e-Transfers,

Monthly envelope - Cheques (we recommend you do not drop off cash). If necessary, please coordinate with the office for drop off or your elder for pick up).

PayPal (via link on our website)

We hope, through everyone's help, we can continue to regularly support the church finances (and its virtual programs and ministerial support) during this pandemic. We pray for God's help to overcome this emergency and return to a more normal church life.

For more information and any questions about our church finances, please contact John Hopkins, Convener of the Finance and Stewardship Committee at john_hopkins@sympatico.ca or (905) 853-7131.

Our church website provides up-to-date information at www.standrewsnewmarket.org

Thank you for your continued stewardship. Have a wonderful summer!

Christian Education News

Thank you to our amazing teachers and leaders for a wonderful year!! Thank you to Henry and Jim for preparing the flower beds, to Karen and Gord for purchasing flowers and organizing, and to the families who planted the flowers. The gardens look beautiful!

Storytime with Kayla -for Children & Young People

Each week this summer, Kayla, a summer student hired by St. John's Bradford, will be sharing a Bible Story and an activity for children & young people. On Thursdays, she will also host a Zoom gathering with more fun activities. You can find the stories and information about the Zoom gathering posted on our Church website in the Worship section.

Bible Camp

Bible Camp was set to begin on July 13th and we were all going to travel to North Castle for a week of adventure and learning about God. The Christian Education Committee met, in June, and decided that we needed postpone our trip to the Castle until next summer. There is good news to share, along with postponing Bible Camp. There are many exciting programmes happening through Camp Cairn and their virtual "Camp Camp wherever you may be". At each Camp, there will be smaller group time, fun activities and an end of the day Campfire. There are also bursaries, through the Presbytery to help with the registration fee. (The bursaries are \$35/camper towards the \$70 registration. For more information please E-mail Laura at lauraduggan@standrewsnewmarket.org



Camp, Camp, Wherever You May Be
Building community through shared experience, engaging activities, and quality time together.

Age 7-9	Age 10-12	Age 13-16
Just Dance Baking Party Planners	Design Your Dream Camp Game Show Extravaganza Earth Keepers	The Great Camp Bake-Off Pay It Forward Entrepreneurs

Plus even more activity options
...and that doesn't even include Cabin Time or Campfire!

Because we value connection, even from a distance.
For information and registration, please go to www.ilovecamp.org

Family of Camps

ST. ANDREW'S SESSION MEETING ON ZOOM!



CAN YOU "NAME THAT ELDER!"

