

# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Spring Newsletter 2021

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## Minister's Message:

*Rev. Robert Royal*

Happy spring to you.

*The apostle Paul assures us, "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus."*

*Philippians 4: 6-7*

I know we are limited in what we can do these days, but we can still rejoice in God's wonderful creation, and our part in it. Each and every day, I am thankful to wake up and be a part of the opportunity and potential the day offers. Regardless of the weather outside, inside I am filled with joy as I think of you, our church family, and the role we have in the greater community. It's challenging to reach out to people with the Good News of Jesus Christ with the limitations we face, however we are blessed to still have many avenues to stay connected with each other.

I am writing this on the heels of spending Coffee Hour with 21 of you recently. You heard right; 21! The Zoom Coffee Hour is proving to be a wonderful way to stay connected; a chance to hear each other's voices and see each other's faces. For those of you who do not want to talk, you can still listen; all the while seeing the faces you love and miss. And for those of you who do not have a computer, we can still arrange for you to attend by phone, as you do with the Phone-in Worship.

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## Upcoming:

- May 16<sup>th</sup> - Ascension Sunday
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Pentecost/ Healing and Reconciliation Sunday
- May 24<sup>th</sup> - Victoria Day
- May 30<sup>th</sup> - Communion and Trinity Sunday
- May 31<sup>st</sup> - Virtual Fundraiser for Newmarket Food Pantry starts
- June 6<sup>th</sup> - General Assembly Sunday
- June 6<sup>th</sup> - Flower Planting
- June 7<sup>th</sup> - New Bible Study
- June 12<sup>th</sup> - Drive through Food Donation Drop Off for Newmarket Food Pantry
- June 19<sup>th</sup> - Prayer Walk

## Ongoing:

- Church School at 10:30 am until June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Coffee Hour at 11:00am
- Men's Fellowship - The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month at 8:30 am
- Prayer Shawl Group - Tuesdays at 2 pm

## Minister's Message Continued - Rev. Robert Royal

In the pages that follow, you will see a number of mission and outreach initiatives for your prayerful consideration. These initiatives offer practical and tangible opportunities in which we can *'live our faith in action'* with the community. My hope and prayer is that each and every one of us will participate in at least one of these initiatives.

*Again Paul encourages us, "Jesus gave gifts to unite the body to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ."*

*Ephesians 4:12*

Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> will be Trinity Sunday, and we will be observing Holy Communion. Additionally, we are working on something special. You may recall, some weeks back, that we had a musical offering from the Knox College Choir, which included our own Christine Samuel and Esther Acolatse. Well, we are planning the same thing here at the church. Many of our choir members are currently recording a musical piece which will be included in the May 30<sup>th</sup> worship service. Our thanks goes out to them, to Thomas and Ruth for their musical accompaniment, and Karen for her organizational skills.

*Jesus said, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does."*

*Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.*

*You heard me say to you, 'I am leaving, but I will come back to you'."*

*John 14: 27-28*

## Monday Night Bible Study



The Bible Study will resume on Monday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm (over Zoom) with a discussion on "Great Themes of the Bible".

The four weeks series will explore the themes;

- God is with us
- God is most concerned not with kings and human power but with "the least of these my brothers and sisters"
- God loves us
- God is always bigger than we think

We will discuss how these ideas offer context, as we reflect on what the Bible says to us. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation! Watch for details coming soon.



## Minister's Message:

*Rev. Laura Duggan*

In a recent blog post, the Rev. Theresa Cho, who is the minister at St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, offered some questions to consider. She wondered, "In the past year, what have you lost? What have you gained?"

She asked, "In the past year, what has been the hardest? What has been a blessing?" "What have you missed doing? What new practice did you begin?" "What do you look forward to? What will you let go of?"

The questions are straight forward and at the same time very big. Some of the questions ask us to reflect on the grief and hardships of this time. What sacrifices have been made – by us, or for us – in this time? Maybe we don't really need prompts to consider these questions. They are so often present.

Rev. Cho's questions also ask us to consider what is important and valuable. Has our understanding of what that is changed? What do we miss, what do we hope for in the days to come? What have we found, or noticed, or started doing? I've been wondering about these questions, some of them (maybe many of them) even before reading Rev. Cho's blog. My prayers have been filled with losses and grief experienced in our community and in the world. I have prayed for those who have made incredible sacrifices and placed themselves at risk for others. There have also been prayers giving thanks for blessings, for care offered and moments filled with hope, joy and creativity.

## Minister's Message Continued - *Rev. Laura Duggan*

I found myself really thinking about these questions while I was "at" a gathering hosted by Yale Divinity School last week. (The opportunity to attend workshops and conferences online during this time has certainly been interesting and a blessing.) The Rev. Traci Smith was talking about faith formation and simple rituals of faith we share in congregations and ones that can be used by people at home.

As Rev. Smith spoke, I thought about the rituals of our faith community that have been such a part of St. Andrew's and hold important layers of meaning. I thought about how, at different points over this past year and a bit, there have been rituals that have continued to be valued and have continued to take place, even while we are not together in the same way. Each time that there has been a wondering "if we could", there have been dreams and creative approaches to make them possible. And as we have found different ways of continuing these rituals, perhaps we have understood in a deeper way what matters to us and why. These rituals encourage people in their faith journey. Some reach out in love and care to others. Some express a care for creation. Some help us articulate deep theological understandings in fun and interesting ways. Some create community and express that we are a caring community of faith. And I am so thankful for the ways we have found to continue sharing and living out these rituals! I am thankful for the people who have made it possible. I am also excited about how some rituals have grown and how some new traditions have begun to take form.

What do we value – as people of faith and as a community of faith? What are we looking forward to doing? What have we begun in this time that we want to continue? Rev. Cho's questions have stayed with me. I ponder them, both for myself on a personal level and for us as a congregation. As I consider them, I have been so interested to know what it is that we value and hold important, through the seasons of the Church year as we offer our worship and live out our faith – even in this strange time. It has been wonderful to adapt rituals and traditions in ways that have made it possible for them to take place in new ways. I am also so interested to see what will continue to unfold in the days and months ahead.

In the pages that follow, you will find stories and updates on some of the rituals we value that are continuing to unfold in new ways. You will find stories about how we have continued to be a community of faith in this time when we are not together and how we continue to live out our faith. As you read the newsletter, and in moments later, I invite you to reflect and wonder about what rituals we value and why. What has been adapted and what has begun in this time that is important in your faith journey and to you as part of St. Andrew's? I am so interested to know what you have noticed and experienced.

Peace and blessings,  
Laura

### **Please Note:**

Laura will be on study leave from May 17th to May 21st. She will be attending a Preaching Conference – "Festival of Homiletics"  
She will also be attending the Children's Spirituality Summit the Week of May 24th.

# Upcoming Events

#missionnutritionNFP

Register Today!

MOVE 4 FOOD

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

MAY 31 TO JUNE 20

Support Us, Support Local, Support You

[www.newmarketfoodpantry.com](http://www.newmarketfoodpantry.com)

We have 2 Mission and Outreach events to share with you, both for the Newmarket Food Pantry. One is a virtual challenge – sign up as a Team, Individual or join as your business. 10 % of the funds raised will go back to those businesses hardest hit by the pandemic. We hope you'll do both!

Go to their website to register!

[www.newmarketfoodpantry.com](http://www.newmarketfoodpantry.com)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> is a St. Andrew's PC sponsored event, where members have an opportunity to donate much needed items to The Food Pantry.



## DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE AT ST. ANDREW'S!

St. Andrew's Newmarket is looking forward to hosting a Drive-Thru Food Drive next month! Come on over to the church with your food pantry donations and drop them in the parking lot. You'll be greeted by smiling and familiar faces. Bring the family - bring the dog - we can't wait to see you!

Help St. Andrew's set a goal of collecting food for the Newmarket Food Pantry. All Public Health guidelines will be followed. At this time, we plan to host our Drive-Thru Food Drive on Saturday, June 12, 2021

Details to follow! We look forward to it ~ and thank you for helping us to help others.

If you have any questions, or would like to be involved, please call the church office. We look forward to seeing you!

SATURDAY  
JUNE 12TH  
10 AM - 2 PM

## Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 Southlake Prayer Walk

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newmarket is hosting the Southlake Prayer Walk on Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Walk will begin in the St. Andrew's Parking Lot and then commence to Riverwalk Commons and Fairy Lake.

With Father's Day being the next day, we are hoping many of our Fathers and their families will participate.

**Please see Page 10 for more information.**

*"Rejoice Always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17



Photo courtesy of firstnorfolk



# Outreach

*St. Andrews Presbyterian and Friends provide relief for victims in the Island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

The La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines erupted on Friday, April 9, 2021, sending ash throughout the island forcing, approximately 20,000 people to evacuate their homes. As eruptions continue, people evacuate to shelters and nearby islands. Experts are not sure how long the spurts will continue, but history has shown that it could last for weeks. A 1979 eruption lasted for ten weeks, and one in 1902 lasted for eight months. The United Nations has declared this a humanitarian crisis as the island is without clean water and electricity.

The NEMO (National Emergency Management Organization) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines sent out a request for immediate supplies for this island's people. In response, the Phillips family in Toronto (who migrated from St. Vincent 51 years ago) called out for support and donations of essential hygiene items for men, women, and children.

St. Andrews Presbyterian church and friends have stepped up to support this outreach by donating items of deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, masks, sanitary napkins, diapers, and toilet paper. NEMO will distribute these items to people in shelters. On behalf of the Phillips family, I would like to thank everyone from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and friends who donated generously to this outreach. Every little bit counts!

Submitted by Christine Samuel



Top Photo: Christine and Anthony  
Bottom Photo: Anthony, Jennifer and Donna



Coralyn Morrison and Jean Smith representing The Women's Fellowship, with finished baskets for our local missions and community outreach.

As you know, we are planning to introduce a new ministry here at St. Andrew's. Messy Church is a ton of Christian fun for the whole family, and a great way to introduce and re-introduce the greater community to God. Have a look at this Introductory Video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSc8fo7vral](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSc8fo7vral)

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, teaching, hospitality, and a meal. Its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him, and to grow closer to him. We have a Planning Team in place which is preparing to launch Messy Church when it is safe to do so, upon re-opening.



# St. Andrew's Financial Update to March 31, 2021

## From the Finance & Stewardship Committee

### Synopsis of the Current Operating Account "Our Church Work" as of March 31<sup>st</sup>:

Revenues (Givings):	\$55,479
Expenses:	<u>67,241</u>
Deficit:	- \$11,762 (negative balance)

Cash Balance Jan 1, 2021:	\$26,827
Government Subsidies	<u>7,245</u>
Net Cash Balance:	\$22,310

### Revenue to Other Accounts:

Presbyterians Sharing:	\$6,114	(our 3-month target \$6,250)
Property Fund:	\$1,781	
Donations to Food Bank:	\$1,150	

### Financial Synopsis:

To all members and adherents, we thank you for your consistent givings to the Church Operating Account "Our Church Work" during the first 3 months of 2021, along with our other church accounts. Even though our revenues do not match our expenses for the first quarter of 2021 (-\$11,762 balance), our positive cash balance on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the government subsidies, have helped to compensate leaving us with a positive cash balance to date (\$22,310 cash balance). It important to note that the monthly government subsidies will gradually decrease to September 2021, when they are projected to stop. The Finance & Stewardship Committee will continue to monitor our accounts closely as the year progresses and keep our congregants informed on a regular basis. Again, thank you for your support.

### Methods of Giving in Order of Preference:

**PAR (is preferred):** You can contact the church office on Monday or Friday and arrange to give through Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) This will arrange for your givings to be transferred to the church account directly on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month. You may print the enrollment form from our website and deliver it completed, with a cheque marked 'VOID', to the church or church mailbox. (With PAR, there is only 50 cents administrative cost to the church per givings per month.)

**Interac E-Transfer:** Use our email address [donate@standrewsnewmarket.org](mailto:donate@standrewsnewmarket.org) (Please ensure that you double check your spelling). It is configured with auto-deposit, so you should not need a security question. We will continue to keep track of your givings. A reminder to members that did not use this method in the last 5 months, to please update the email address in their Interac Contact list.

**Envelope Givings:** You can mail or drop-off your monthly envelope givings to the church in our locked mailbox. Please ensure to send a cheque, not cash. The church mailbox by the front door is secure and checked regularly. It would be good to receive these givings by mid-month. If necessary, you can contact your elder to pick up your envelope and courier it to the church.

**Pay Pal:** You can give your monthly donation through Pay Pal. Just hit the 'donate' button on the church website. (Pay Pal charges the church 1.6% plus 30 cents per online transaction). We will continue to keep track of your givings.

Submitted by:

John Hopkins, Convener of the F&S Committee  
Anthony Samuel, Treasurer

# Christian Education News

Rev. Laura Duggan

Award's Sunday will take place on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>, this year. Our Worship Service will be intergenerational and we will take time to celebrate our graduates. Also on June 6<sup>th</sup>, Church School families are invited to plant flowers in the gardens around the Church. Please e-mail Laura, or Karen Shepherd, if you are available to help and we will organize socially distanced times for everyone who would like to take part.

We have had a wonderful Church School year, filled with creativity and new ways of learning! Our last Church School class, before taking a break for summer, will be on Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our amazing & dedicated teachers; Michelle, Karen, Laurel and Lisa! And thank you to our students and their parents for joining the online classes. Through the summer, weekly e-mails will still be sent with ideas for Worshipping at home and talking about faith. We will also send out packages with colouring and reflections. (If you have not been receiving the Church School materials and would like to start – which will include the summer colouring and reflections – please e-mail Laura.)

## Fearless Friends

Fearless Friends meet every second Friday, over Zoom. They have decorated cupcakes, baked cookies (or muffins, or other treats), played games of Kahoot, Family Feud, and Scattegories and escaped from a virtual Escape Room. Before Easter, they decorated Easter Eggs. We are going to create rainbow cupcakes to celebrate Pentecost (the Birthday of the Church) and try to solve a few 5 minute mysteries. Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers who have joined the gatherings and made so much possible!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REV. DR. DANIEL SCOTT!

Dr. Scott has been nominated Moderator of this year's General Assembly. The 2021 General Assembly will convene online from Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>.



Join us on  
Sunday May 30th  
for Communion



*Special Musical Offering by St. Andrew's Choir  
Sunday May 30th  
Join us online or by phone*



If you are coming to the Church please give a call to the Office before entering the building. During the Stay at Home Order we are trying to manage numbers of people in the building. Thank you.

# Loaves And Fishes 2021

Twenty-four years ago, local farmers in South Simcoe, and people who represented several religious denominations, began a growing project for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. A commitment of land was made, and plans were underway for a multi-denominational growing project called *Loaves and Fishes*. Over the years, *Loaves and Fishes* has had fields throughout South Simcoe and King Township, with donations coming from individuals and churches in York Region and Toronto.

Crops are planted on land that is either rented or donated. Farmers donate their labour and machinery to work the land, plant, and harvest the crops. Agribusinesses and farmers donate some of the crop inputs, such as seeds, sprays, and fertilizers, with the rest being purchased. Cash Donations are used to cover expenses such as land rental, crop insurance, and input costs. After the crops are harvested, they are sold and the net proceeds are sent to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Global hunger is on the rise due to conflict, a changing climate, and now COVID-19 which makes this work even more important. This past year, *Loaves and Fishes* harvested 138 acres of grains, including winter wheat, soybeans, and corn, along with some farmers donating a part of their own harvested crop. By year end, \$135,000 was forwarded to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Over the past 23 years, the *Loaves and Fishes* Growing Project has raised close to \$3 million. When matched 4:1 by The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), *Loaves and Fishes* has had the potential to provide \$15 million for food relief. It is the generosity of many individuals, volunteers, churches, community organizations, and agricultural businesses that have contributed to the success of our local growing project, fittingly named, *Loaves and Fishes*, to support the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Jesus teaches us that the hungry will always be with us, and what we do for the *least of these* we do for Him. We are asking for your ongoing prayers, and we appreciate your gracious financial support beyond your regular givings. We are planning to have a special *Loaves and Fishes* worship service at harvest time. For further information, please call or email the church to arrange a time to speak with our St. Andrew's *Loaves and Fishes* representative. Thank you for thinking globally and acting locally with a servant's heart.



# Lawn Chair Ministry

*Rev. Robert Royal*

Here are some more 2020 Lawn Chair visit photos for your enjoyment. It was a pleasure meeting with you, and again, thank you very much for your kind hospitality. The 2021 Lawn Chair visits will begin soon when the 'Stay-At-Home' order is lifted, and it is safe to meet outside together again. I look forward to seeing you soon.



## Prayer Shawl Group Update

Our group certainly misses our weekly get together in the library to chat and knit or crochet but we continue to keep in touch via zoom or telephone calls. We recently assisted the DeafBlind Association in their awareness project! They were asking people to knit or crochet squares which will be used in a Yarn Bombing initiative to raise awareness about deaf blindness. In the past we have provided prayer shawls and prayer cloths to the DeafBlind Association so we were happy to help them with this project. A number of ladies from our group participated and we were able to donate 112 squares! Such a variety of colours and patterns too! Well done ladies!

We have quite an inventory of completed shawls and lapghans (an afghan for your lap!) - so if you know anyone - man, woman or child - who would benefit from being wrapped in love, cradled in hope, and graced with the peace of a blessed shawl, please contact the church office or one of us!

Respectfully submitted by: Lynn Hoath, Heather Cromie and Jennifer Maddock

# In Memorium

Since our last newsletter, we have said good-bye to some dear members, or family members, of the congregation:

**Dorothy Mabel (Armstrong) Slauenwhite**

1931 – 2020. Passed away peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre on October 28, 2020 at the age of 89. Her gift was being an exceptional Grade 1 teacher who was admired by her students at Rogers Public School in Newmarket. She was born in Nova Scotia in 1931 and moved to Ontario in 1953.

**Hugh Glen Henderson**

Passed peacefully on October 26, 2020 at the Sunnybrook Veterans' Centre in Toronto. He passed in his 95th year, with dignity and on his own terms.

**Godlove Ntaw**

12-Mar-1959 - 06-Dec-2020 . Beloved husband and father Godlove Ndongnyam Ntaw passed away on December 6, 2020 at his home. Godlove has been repatriated and laid to rest in Mankwi-Bafut, Cameroon.

**Ernst Molkenthin**

14-Aug-1931 - 19-Dec-2020. Passed away peacefully on December 19, 2020 at the age of 89.

**Kenneth Christian Macdonald**

October 21st, 1937 - April 11th, 2021. Passed away peacefully at Southlake Hospital in Newmarket Ontario on April 11th, 2021, in his 84th year.

**Vivian Audrey (McCauley) Rossi**

January 28, 1924 – April 20, 2021. Vivian escaped this mortal realm on April 20, 2021 at the grand old age of 97. She is looking toward a reunion with family and friends that she has not seen in a long time and hoping to find the answers to some of life's mysteries.

**Olive Mae Cox (nee: Bell)**

October 31st, 1931 to May 10th 2021

Passed peacefully after a brief illness. Father to Andrew (Terri-Ann), and grandmother to Gavin and Dalton. Olive attended Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church

## One Church Southlake Prayer Walk ~ Saturday, June 19th

Each year, One Church Southlake hosts a Prayer Breakfast, which is attended by local churches and dignitaries. Many of us from St. Andrew's have attended, and have enjoyed fellowship, a wonderful breakfast, a guest speaker, and of course prayer. This year, the Breakfast was not held because of the pandemic, however One Church Southlake has put together a series of three Prayer Walks. Unfortunately, the April and May Prayer Walks were cancelled, yet we included each Prayer Walk theme in our worship services. The third Prayer Walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 19th, with St. Andrew's hosting. The Walk will commence in the St. Andrew's parking lot, and then commence to River Walk Commons and the rest of the Prayer Walk route.

All are welcome! With Father's Day being the next day, the Men's Fellowship is hoping to encourage as many fathers and their families to participate in the Prayer Walk as possible.

Even though it is a challenge to serve Christ in the church building right now, we certainly can serve Him in our other walks of life, so here's the proposed plan. We are asking the men to volunteer to assist with the Walk, participate in the Walk, and hand out a granola bar, bottle of water, and written prayer at the end of the Walk. One Church Southlake has given us permission to provide these refreshments, and the Men's Fellowship has the budget to cover the cost. We will respect pandemic and food protocols. More details will follow, and our hope is that you will prayerfully consider participating in the June 19th Prayer Walk. Please contact the church office, Laura, or Robert to volunteer for what will be an incredible devotional and outreach opportunity.