

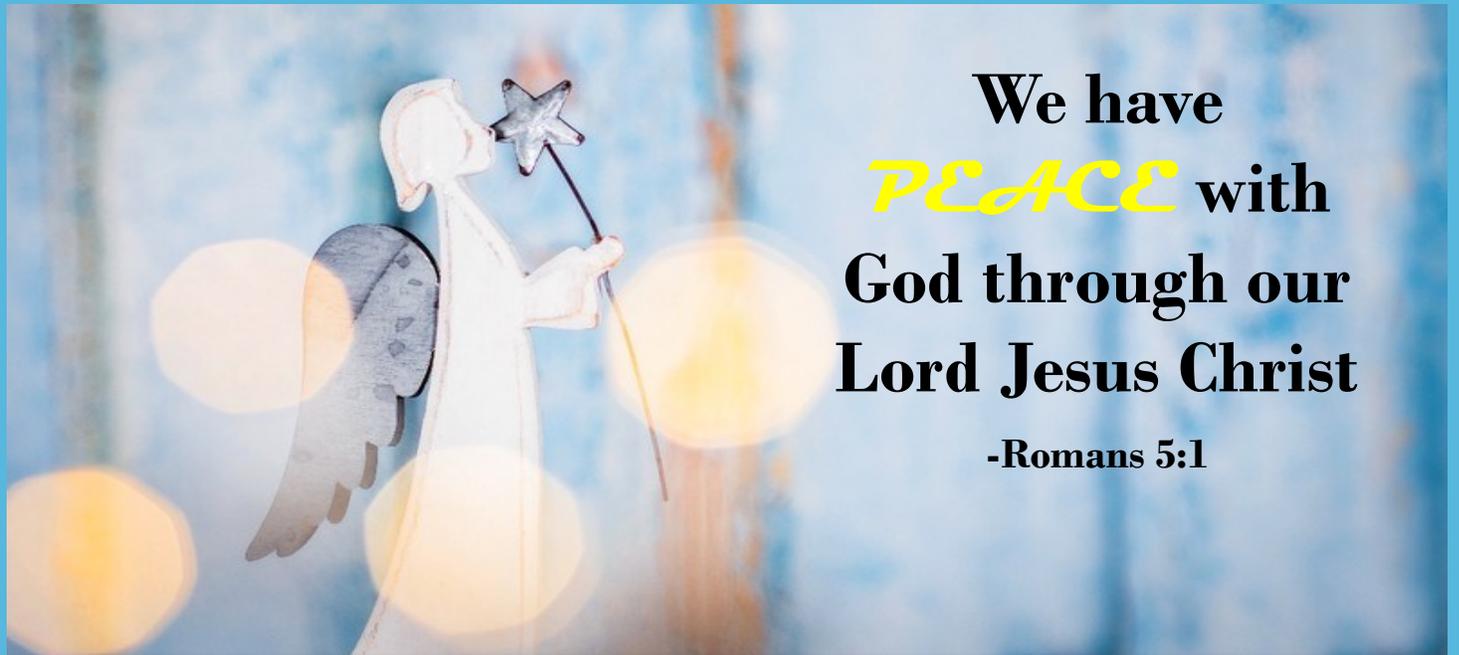
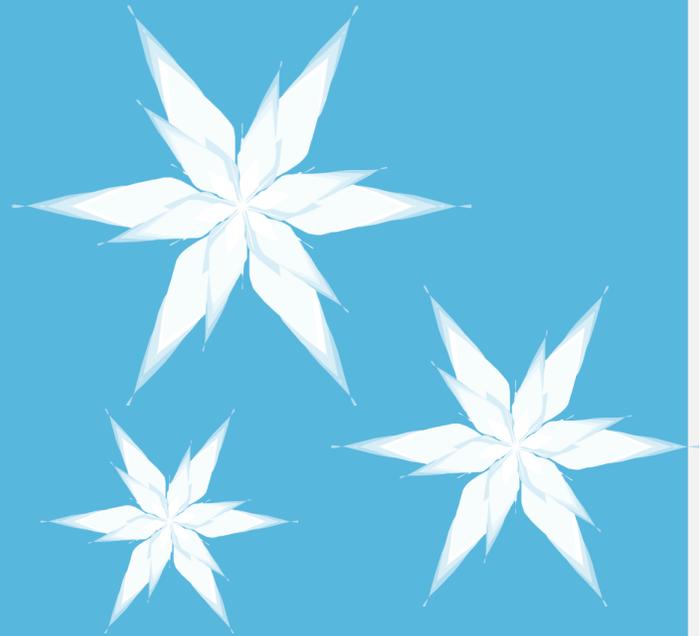
# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
484 Water Street  
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 1M5  
Phone: 905-895-5512



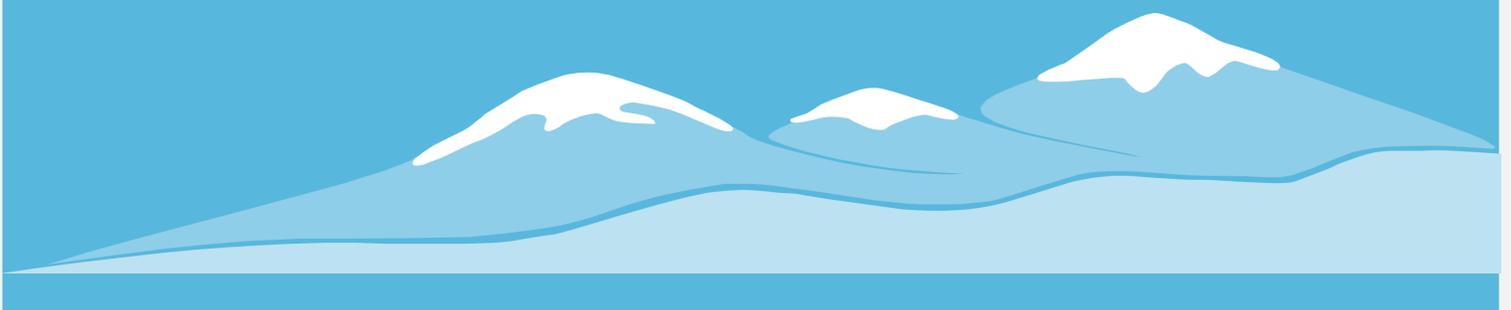
Rev. Laura Duggan B.A., B. Ed., M.Div.  
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Rev. Robert Royal B.A., M.Div.  
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## Winter 2022 Newsletter



We have  
*PEACE* with  
God through our  
Lord Jesus Christ

-Romans 5:1



## Message from Rev. Laura Duggan:

As I write, we are getting ready to celebrate Epiphany. It is a time we reflect on “Aha” moments; when something is made manifest or understood.

This year, we heard the story of Simeon and Anna who were waiting to meet the Messiah that God would send. We heard about their epiphany, their Aha moment, when they met Jesus. Their story is one filled with the gift of the faith community. It also shares that God keeps promises which might be an Aha moment for those who hear it.

Often, we hear the story of the Magi, as we celebrate Epiphany Sunday. We hear how they were guided by a star and followed it to meet the baby born in a Bethlehem stable. Their story is filled with epiphanies. They see the star and come to understand what God is saying to them through it. They meet Jesus and understanding who his is, they offer their protection. They are from outside of the Jewish faith and share with us that God’s love is not restricted by boundaries. It is a story filled with a star, gifts, an openness to God and epiphanies.

For the past number of years, on Epiphany Sunday, we have shared “star gifts” as we remember the star that guided the Magi, the gifts they offered and the gift that they were given by God. The “star gifts” are shared through the congregation and each person is invited to take a star shape cut-out with a word printed on it. We are then invited to reflect on our word through the year.



Last year, while we were not gathering for Worship in person, everyone was invited to share the word “hope”. This year, while we are once again gathering on-line, we invite you to “share a word” and reflect on the word “peace”. If you have a star from a previous year, you could turn it over & write the word peace on the back, or you could cut out a star and write the word on it.

Through the year, you are invited to wonder about peace...maybe using some of these wonderings, or others of your own. What brings you peace in this time? How might you offer peace, or make peace? What might peace look like, or sound like, or feel like, this year? What is the peace that God offers?



Peace & blessings for this new year,

Laura

## Minister's Message: Rev. Robert Royal

It continues to be a busy time as we make our way into this new year and through the rest of winter. As advertised, *In-person Worship* did resume on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we were able to safely seat 80 persons in worship. Thank-you for pre-registering your plan to attend on Sunday mornings, and a special thanks to the Re-Opening Committee, AV Team, Ushers, and Greeting Elders for keeping us all safe as we worshiped together in community. Unfortunately, we have returned to suspending our In-person services, however our online and phone-in presence remains.

We have been able to continue our worship presence at Amica Retirement Home, and earlier in the fall, we attended a lovely BBQ at Botsford House. It was good to spend time with these Folks again.

Thanksgiving was a particularly blessed time as we hosted our Loaves and Fishes' Guest Speaker, Mr. Kevin Eisser. Special thanks goes to the many of you who participated in the Worship Service, and a particular thank you to Jeanne van Dalen who served as our Loaves and Fishes Ambassador for many years. With Jeanne's departure, we will be looking for a new Loaves and Fishes Ambassador.

The *Messy Church* Planning Team continues its work in preparing for hopeful 2022 Launch, and Laura, Christine Samuel, and myself attended an online *Messy Church* Conference this fall.

The fall rounded out quite nicely with a little 'staycation', when I was able to spend some time cleaning-up the manse property in preparation for the coming winter, with Dash & Dixie's help, of course.

During the late summer and into fall, one outreach ministry initiative undertaken was to set-up an Outreach Table on Newmarket's Main Street to welcome people to 'Chat and Prayer'. This ran for eleven consecutive Saturdays, from August 7<sup>th</sup> to October 16<sup>th</sup>, and was well received by our neighbours, friends, and not-yet-friends. In fact, this was a continuation of the Lawn Chair Ministry from 2020, and many people really appreciated that our church folks were even more present with the public in this way.

With a goal of spiritual and numerical growth for St. Andrew's, session will be re-visioning our *Missional Church* model by focusing on our core values as Followers of Jesus Christ. From Christ's *Great Commission* teaching (Matthew 28:16-20), we will be reviewing some proven ways our church can be more present and relevant to Newmarket residents in a 21<sup>st</sup> century, post-pandemic world. John the Baptist and Jesus have shown us how to grow Christ's church in any generation. Our goal is to put it into practice in our generation.

Blessings for your new year and winter.  
Robert



# God's People in Action



Thank you to all those that donated to The Salvation Army's Christmas Hamper Program. Thank you to Pat & John for delivering the items to them!



Thank you to the wonderful team of paramedics from York Region, ( John Sacco, Brent Summer & Carolyn Koski) who donated a beautiful children's play kitchen to the church. This was built as part of their Peer Support Group, which assists service members experiencing mental health issues in York Region.



These are this year's donations to Evangel Hall.

We had one large box of toothpaste/ toothbrushes and dental floss and 10 other boxes of personal care items were delivered on Dec 6th.

Thank you one and all for the support to Women's Fellowship Mission work.



Inn from the Cold

Diane, Jennifer & Janet smiling as they prepare one of St. Andrew's last meals for Inn from the Cold. Thank you to all who have contributed your time & gifts to this ministry over the years.



Harrison accompanying the St. Andrew's Choir as they share their gifts with us all! Thank you to Karen, Thomas & the choir members for their beautiful compilation of "What child is this".

## Re-opening Committee (RC)

I am writing the RC's contribution to the Newsletter on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, which is two more sleeps until the dropping of the Time Square Ball ushering in 2022. I find it hard to believe that we were again this year shut out of our church building for the Christmas Eve worship service. We were doing so well. The number of people attending the regular Sunday worship services was increasing. The choir was in the loft and offering an anthem each Sunday. Thomas was back at the organ. The leaders of the various groups in the church had completed their required Safety Plans and groups were readying to start up again. And then OMICRON hit, and all of our work and plans were put back on hold. As you probably already know, as a result of a recommendation from the RC, the Session decided to suspend worship and all in person gatherings in the building until further notice.

So where do we go from here? Answer: *We don't know*. Although OMICRON does not appear to result in as many hospitalizations and deaths, the case numbers every day are staggering: 10,000+ in Ontario and 13,000+ in Quebec and increasing almost every day. Furthermore, there does not appear to be consensus among the science community concerning what the next few months will look like. Therefore, I am writing as Convener of the RC to let you know that we will be watching the numbers and reviewing the recommendations of the science community on your behalf and when we think it is safe to again meet for worship in the church building we will recommend that course of action to the Session. I suppose by that time we might have to change the name of our Committee to the Re-re-opening Committee.

On behalf of the Re-opening Committee

God bless, stay well and stay safe everyone

David Hoath

Convener



## Thank you and Transitions

When we closed to in-person worship, in March 2020, and moved to worshipping together on-line a great many things happened and a great many things happened very quickly. In that time, Ruth learned and offered her time, talent and creativity to enable us to continue worshipping together in a new way.

When we started to understand that we were going to gathering on-line for an extended period of time, Jordyn joined Ruth and they shared the ministry of recording, editing and posting the Services to YouTube.

We are grateful for all that they have offered and made possible.

Jordyn is now away at school and Ruth has transitioned from her role as the AV team lead.

Ruth will continue to offer her gifts on Sunday mornings in the AV room, along with Ashley, Nigel, Christine and Karen.

We also welcome Karen into the role of the AV team lead! (Thank you Karen for your leadership in this ministry.)

Lisa has joined the team and has been working to create the “slides” for Worship. She also is working on editing and uploading the recorded Services while we are, once again, gathering on-line.

We welcome Pat to the role of Usher Co-ordinator! (Thank you Pat for your leadership in this ministry.)

Cory, who has served as the Usher Co-Ordinator, has moved from that ministry to serve as Envelope Secretary. Thank you to Cory for working with the team of Ushers to make St. Andrew's a warm and welcoming place to gather for Worship.

If you have any questions or changes related to envelopes or PAR, you can contact Cory using the [“donate@standrewsnewmarket.org”](mailto:donate@standrewsnewmarket.org) email address.

## St. Andrew's Financial Update to Nov. 30, 2021

### Synopsis:

Please review the financial update to Nov. 30, 2021. You will see that we have acquired a deficit of **-\$25,503** when you compare our Revenue to date compared to Expenses, but fortunately we received \$20,678 in government subsidies to help compensate for our deficit. This has allowed us to maintain a Net Cash Balance of \$22,491 in our Current Acct. ('Our Church Work' Acct. on your envelope). We greatly appreciate your support to the Current Account budget over the first 11 months of 2021.

The government subsidies ended this month and we need to monitor our monthly givings closely through December and through into 2022. Please give this ma  
cheques dated Dec. 31, 2021 can be submi

The Building Account has acquired several expenses this fall, including a new roof on the Manse \$10,700, a replaced furnace in the church \$5000 and a furnace repair at the Manse \$1000. Please also consider giving to the Building Account over the next few months to help replenish the account.

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic con  
thank the en

John Hopkins Anthony Samuel

Finance and Stewardship Convener Church Treasurer

### Current Operating Account as of November 30, 2021:

Revenues \$199,177

Expenses \$224,680

Deficit **-\$25,503** (negative balance)

Cash balance @ Jan 01, 2021 \$27,316

Government subsidies received \$20,678

Net cash balance \$22,491

### Revenue to other Accounts as of Nov. 30, 2021:

Presbyterian Sharing: \$21,850 (our 2021 target \$25,000)

Property Fund: \$8,019 (less \$18,647 charges YTD) (Net Balance: \$29,118)

PWS&D: \$675 Newmarket Food Bank: \$3,010

Loaves and Fishes: \$475

**Methods of giving (Ordered by preference):**

**(PAR is preferred):** You can email [donate@standrewsnewmarket.org](mailto:donate@standrewsnewmarket.org) or call the church office 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 20th day of each month. You can also print the enrollment form from our website and deliver it with a cheque marked 'VOID' to the church or church mailbox or they can also be scanned and emailed to [donate@standrewsnewmarket.org](mailto:donate@standrewsnewmarket.org). (With PAR, there is only 50 cents in administrative cost 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 to use a security question. We will continue to keep track of your givings. Reminder to members that have not used this method in the last 11 months to please update the email address in their Interac Contact list.

**Offering envelopes:** There are offering plates at the doors when you come to the weekly Sunday Service. If you are unable to come to service, you can mail or drop-off your envelope givings to the church. 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.

**On-line:** You can give your monthly donation through Pay Pal (Just hit the donate button on the church website). (Pay Pal charges 1.6% plus \$0.30 per online transaction). We will continue to keep track of your givings.

**Deadline for 2021 Givings Friday, January 7, 2022:**

Deadline to receive givings for 2021 is Friday, January 7, 2022 . If you want your givings to be included, you will need to have it into the church by end of that day. The envelope must say 2021 and the cheque must be dated Dec 31 st 2021.

