Awareness



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie, ON

Easter 2021

From our Minister...

Dear friends,

First and foremost, I want to thank each of you for welcoming me and my family to St. Andrew's and to Barrie. Despite the pandemic, there are always challenges that comes along with moving to another province but we have overcome all adversity with the help of God and the support and prayers from all of you.

We are very grateful for Rev. Dr. Neal Mathers, the session, the board and the transitional committee to step up to assist us in any way possible during our transition period.

2020 and the beginning of 2021 have definitely marked a few highlights where one day we can share with our grandchildren or great grand children of how we celebrated Christmas Eve service online as we learned about the history of some of the popular carols followed by listening to the carols. Instead of singing corporately in the church, we sang respectively in our homes.

In addition, my induction service was online via zoom. I thank the Presbytery of Barrie, Rev. Jim Sitler and Rev. Heather Malnick for their professionalism in leading the service smoothly without a glitch.

I look forward to the time when we can worship corporately, when the choir members can lead us in our Sunday hymns and celebrate all the milestone events we have put off. The day will come friends, when we can sing, hug and share fellowship among one another.

My time so far at the office has been participating in all the various committees via zoom. I am truly blessed to work with wonderful and insightful members as each one of them are passionate for the well being of the congregation. I thank Rev. Keith Boyer for leading the bible study on "Prophets for a Pandemic." I thank Brenda Cripps as she has begun a workshop on Depression/Anxiety. I look forward to Mary Helen Garvin's workshop on Grief Counselling that will be held in the fall, hopefully in person at the church. I will also lead a Lenten devotional starting from February 19 at 10 am, every Friday for 6 weeks. I would also like to thank Arna Atkinson and her pastoral care team for taking care of the folks who may either be lonely or recently had surgery and are recovering.

The best part of my time at the office is calling up folks starting from the A's in the directory and going down the list. I hope to finish the directory list by the time this newsletter is out. To my delight, I found out a few interesting things. I noticed there are quite a few of you who have been attending St. Andrew's for a very long time, over 30 years or more. It always amazes me what line of work they used to do before retiring. I am surrounded with competent professionals! If ever I need to seek advice for something, I know who to call. During this pandemic, I feel this is the closest I can get, to get to know the people of St. Andrew's.

The season of Lent is just around the corner and soon we will be celebrating Easter. Again, Easter this year will be online but I know even though we cannot meet together, our online ministry and presence is making a positive impact whether we know it or not. Friends, God is calling us to be the church in a different way. Let us be open to how the Spirit will lead us and let us continue to build one another up by checking up on each other with a phone call or a text message.

Remember, we do not journey alone, God is with us as we experience mountain top moments and as we trek through the valleys that challenges us each day. We are not alone. Our church family is here with you too!

Your Minister and friend, Rev. Joanne Lee



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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Staff Directory

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Ms. Barb Drummond, Secretary & Treasurer 705-728-3991 Ext. 1 barb@standrewsbarrie.ca

Mr. Herb Ciceri,
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herb@standrewsbarrie.ca

Miss Mia Drummond, Church School Leader 705-728-3991 Ext. 4 mia@standrewsbarrie.ca



Check out our Facebook Page and our web site at: www.standrewsbarrie.ca

For announcements, upcoming courses and worship services at St. Andrew's, pictures of events like Coffee and Chat, memories from the past and links to Facebook and other Presbyterian web sites.

Mission and Outreach

Our Team has continued to meet during these unprecedented times, to checkin with each other, and to consider ways in which we can continue to support our local community in Barrie, while continuing to support the work of Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). Team members have continued to connect with our local Chapter of Kairos, and have promoted the many activities that Kairos continues to offer.

Over the Holiday Season, we collected financial and in-kind donations from the congregation, and dispersed them to a range of organizations in the city. Hats, mitts, gloves, and scarves, normally flung merrily on our tree in the sanctuary, were re-distributed to clients at Youth Haven, Elizabeth Fry, and Busby, and to children at five local schools. Donations of hygiene supplies were also distributed to clients at our local shelters, since, this year, the Canadian Mental Health Association was unable to accept these items for their clients. Through financial donations from congregants, we were able to provide \$500 worth of \$25-gift-cards from Walmart, to Family Connexions, who re-distributed them to families that they work with.

Over the next few months, the team is inviting our Sunday School children and other interested congregants to make greeting cards that will be distributed to really isolated seniors that are in various seniors facilities in the city. The intent is to reach out to seniors who would have no one visiting or in their social circle. Carolyn Boyer is coordinating the gathering of the cards, and Sandra Burns is helping to identify those homes that will accept these donations. Feel free to let us know if you would like to participate.

As you may know, the Team has worked with Church Session to install messaging and signage about the church's supportive stance on inclusion, in terms of the full rights of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, and gueer (LGBTQ) community. We were pleased to see that a statement of inclusion has now been included on our church website. As part of our leadership on this issue, the Team will be sharing information about various issues relating to inclusion, in this and upcoming issues of Awareness. For this issue, we've focused on the growing practice of including pronouns as part of one's signature. You may have noticed that more and more people from various settings have adopted this practice. This information is included as a special section to the Awareness.

Lastly, notwithstanding the strange life that we've all had to lead since this time last year, the Team continues to explore ideas for sharing the mission of our church and of our Lord with people in our local and broader community. We welcome your ideas and are always welcoming new members, should you feel so inclined. Our current members include Brenda Cripps, Carolyn Boyer, Laurie Watt, Sandra Burns, Joan Jarvis, Patricia McCallum, Graig Fraser, Lorna Power, and Sherry Phillips (Chair).

Promoting Inclusion at St. Andrews - Barrie

¹Use of pronouns in signatures

Gender identity and expression are deeply personal matters.

As outlined by the <u>Ontario Human Rights Commission</u>, gender identity refers to a person's "internal and individual experience of gender." This applies to whether a person identifies as being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere within the gender spectrum. This can change throughout one's life, meaning that a person's

gender identity may be different from what they were assigned at birth.

Gender expression refers to how a person may choose to publicly express or present their gender. This can include one's outward appearance such as clothing, hair or make-up, and behaviour such as body language and voice. One common way someone may choose to express their gender is through their pronouns and chosen name. By using a person's pronouns, you demonstrate that you affirm and respect their identity.

Respecting someone's pronouns

For individuals with diverse gender identities and gender expressions, support includes respecting the pronouns and terminology they use to describe themselves and their identity. It's important to remember that people don't have "preferred" pronouns, they are simply pronouns. To say that they are "preferred" implies that a person's gender is just a preference.

Never assume what pronoun a person uses just by looking at them. When you meet someone, take the time to listen first to how they refer to themselves. You can also start by introducing yourself with your pronouns: "Hi, I'm <insert name> and I use the pronouns <she/her/hers, he/him/his or they/their/theirs>."

By sharing your own pronouns, people have the option to share theirs without your needing to ask them directly. If the person you're speaking to is comfortable sharing their pronouns, use them when referring to them. Leading by example will encourage others to do the same. If the person doesn't share their pronouns with you, refer to them by name or use "they."

For individuals with diverse gender identities and gender expressions, being misgendered can feel disrespectful and invalidating; it reinforces exclusion. Moreover, according to the <u>Ontario Human Rights Code</u>, <u>misgendering is considered a form of discrimination</u>. Respecting people's pronouns builds safety and inclusion.

¹Excerpted from Ryerson Works, May 03, 2018, "Why include pronouns in your e-mail signature".

Pastoral Care

Please let Rev. Joanne Lee, Barb Drummond, in the office, your elder and/or Arna Atkinson, our pastoral care convenor, know if you have any pastoral concerns. It is important that we know so that we can care about and for one another and reach out to those in need.



Thank You Neal

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Neal Mathers for his direction and support during the vacancy. In consultation with Membership Team, he set up our public St. Andrew's Facebook page in March. This has been an excellent way to connect both with our members, our community in Barrie and around the world!! He visited, lead worship and took funeral services. His attention to detail especially for pandemic protocols for worship and the Search process was greatly appreciated!!!

Managing Depression and Anxiety

Managing Anxiety and Depression during Covid-19 was a group held for four weeks starting in February. Eight persons met each week through zoom to learn and share about this meaningful topic. Relaxation techniques were shared and we learned from each other.

Supported by Lifelong Learning Team Brenda Cripps, facilitator

Pastoral Care

Arna Atkinson

Your Pastoral Care team would like to offer a word of welcome to Rev. Lee as she begins her ministry with us. Please feel free to contact her, the church office or myself with any pastoral care needs. Rev. Lee has already reached out to many in spite of these difficult times. As our church population ages we experience more health concerns which lead to our team making many phone calls as well as emails and cards being sent on behalf of St. Andrew's. We are not currently visiting people during the pandemic.

Many thanks to the members of this team and to all those who show God's love by reaching out to others in the church. Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of the following people who have passed away recently:

David Clark ~ Peter Hardwick
Lois Kostandoff ~ Don Spencer
Dorothyann Summers ~ Louise Wanless

Our Refugee Families

Ammar, Siham, and their 4 children continue to do well. Fortunately during this Covid 19 time, Ammar continues to work at the metal roofing company. Their children are lovely, bright, outgoing and helpful. Mohamed, their youngest turned one in November. The older children are all in school. Their English is excellent. We are very proud of their accomplishments and how well they are doing in Canada.

Asmaa and her daughter, Sama, who turned one year old in December, moved back to Barrie last March and is doing well.

Church School

Mia Drummond



What a crazy year this has been! With COVID-19 taking over everyone's lives, lockdown, virtual church, virtual school, virtual EVERYTHING - it's been quite the adjustment. In September, a sunday school curriculum was purchased by the CE team that was specifically designed for virtual sunday school. I have had great success with this curriculum (it's the same curriculum company we use for VBC) and I've had positive feedback from multiple parents. Unfortunately, the tech world comes with its challenges and I started having difficulty with editing the large files on my personal computer which caused a delay in lessons being uploaded to youtube. There is still a delay but thankfully, a new laptop is on its way that will be used only by the St. Andrew's CE committee. I'm excited to be able to get lessons to our youth more regularly! Moving forward, the CE team and myself, along with Rev. Joanne Lee, hope to connect better with our older youth as well as the little ones. The

COVID-19 pandemic has certainly made all of us rethink our daily lives, but i have faith that the skills we have learned and will continue to learn and build upon will serve us well as we proceed with virtual sunday school! Blessings to everyone. Stay safe, stay healthy.



Long Term Members

On May 2nd at our 172nd Anniversary service, we are looking forward to recognizing the importance of membership at St. Andrew's and especially for our long-time members who have been members at St. Andrew's for 50 and 60 years.

From the Session

I hope you are all managing to survive the cold & lockdowns. This too shall pass!

Thank you to everyone for keeping up with your givings to St. Andrew's over the past year, also for Christmas flowers in the church, and grocery cards. Every little bit helps. Remember also that small denomination grocery cards would also help Rev. Joanne assist those in need who come to our doors for help.

The Presbytery of Barrie gave \$6,250.00 last year to each church in the Presbytery, and that enabled us to upgrade our video system for our online services as well as add new health & safety features for our return to live worship.

Thank you to Rev. Keith Boyer for continuing with the online Bible studies and to Rev. Joanne for adapting to the online worship services and meetings. We appreciate that you included David, Robyn & Jayden, and Mia in the music so we could once again hear live singing in St. Andrew's.

We are presently looking into how to hold Congregational meetings during pandemic times with direction from the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

New this year is a security camera at the side door so remember to "smile" when you buzz the office.

We look forward to when we can reopen the church and are able to "Celebrate Rev. Joanne and her family with CAKE!"



St Andrew's WMS

Kathy Tutty

The ladies of the WMS have been meeting regularly on the 1st Monday of the month at 1:30 pm via zoom. Ladies who do not have internet access are able to join our meetings via telephone. We welcome guests to our meetings.

Some WMS groups within our Presbytery have not been meeting due to the pandemic so will be invited to join our group's monthly Zoom meeting. Our meetings are similar in format to our "in person" meetings. Each meeting includes a time of Devotions, a short business meeting and often a presentation. Speakers have been a focal point of our meetings and we are working on ways that we can incorporate them into our Zoom meetings.

Rev Keith Boyer installed our new executive for 2021 at our January meeting, followed by a presentation entitled "A Mini Sermon with a Promotion". During this presentation, Keith promoted his online Bible study series "Prophets for a Pandemic".

One aspect of our "in person" meeting that everyone misses is our Fellowship Time where we chat and enjoy goodies prepared by our members. Talking about these treats, and even seeing pictures of them, is certainly not the same as sampling them!!!

Something to look forward to!!!!!!

In February, we welcomed our new minister, Rev Joanne Lee, to our group as a way for her to get to know the ladies and the mission of our group.









During the month of March, we are holding our "Butterflies For Hope" fundraiser to raise money for our Mission Projects, both at home and beyond. For a \$10 donation, a butterfly will be added to our "Tree of Hope". (tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more). Due to Covid, and the shutdown, we will not be accepting donations in person but you will be able to donate in three different ways.

- You can make an **e-transfer** to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church through Barb. Please do not combine this donation in the e-transfer with other donations eg. your weekly givings or grocery cards. Please indicate in the e-transfer message space that the donation is for the WMS "Butterflies For Hope" fundraiser and note who you are remembering and how ... In memory of, In honour of or In hope for....
- You can also mail your donation to the church or
- drop it off to the office.

If you are using one of these last 2 methods, please print the order form attached to this newsletter, fill it out and include it with your money.

Thank you once again for supporting our Mission Projects through this fundraiser!

We are in the planning stages for our Mission Awareness Sunday. It is usually held in April or May but due to the Pandemic, we may be having it in the Fall. Stay tuned for an update. If you are interested in mission projects and working with a great group of ladies, please contact any member, or the church office, so we can send you the link to join us on Zoom on the 1st Monday of the month at 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!!





CALL- For The Election of Elders

This year we are looking to fill six-year terms for up to 6 elders. The following elders; Arna & Murray Atkinson, Ellen Heikkila and Don Tutty have completed their 6-year terms and have decided to not run for re-election. Ellen Millar and Barbara Morrison have decided to resign for family reasons. We are thankful for their years of service on session and look forward to working with them in other areas for St. Andrew's.

Book of Forms, Section 106.1

"An elder must be a professing member of the congregation and must be an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)

Book of Forms, Section 132

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

132.2.1

- a) "The Session, as well as professing members of the congregation, nominate members. Nominations from members must be in writing and made by at least two (2) persons, either separately or together."
- b) "The nominating period must be spread over at least three (3) consecutive Sundays."

Therefore, nominations should be sent back to the office "Attention the Clerk of Session, Cheryl Anderson" no later than **Sunday March 21**, **2021**.

c) The Session approves the nominees as to their suitability for eldership (see section 132) and their willingness to serve as an elder if elected.

This process requires prayerful discernment by church members about the spiritual leadership gifts of each church member.

Through the church God orders this ministry by calling some to special tasks in the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Living Faith 7.2.2

Rev. Joanne Lee Minister

Cheryl Anderson Clerk of Session

Board of Managers

The Board of Managers has been meeting via Zoom each month for almost a year now. We miss the camaraderie of our inperson meetings but have managed well.

Our group is small but mighty and has managed to get a significant amount of work completed during these historic times. Renovations to some of our properties and the Church building as well are now complete. The organ is getting some much needed attention and a new security surveillance system has also been installed. The Church locks have all been re-keyed, and our custodian, Ashley, has been instrumental in helping keep the building clean and disinfected during Covid. Covid has also permitted us to make use of the extra time available to finish several small jobs such as painting, cleaning, and taking inventory of the Church's capital The largest and most significant items. item on the Board's list of items to complete is right on the horizon. Our largest stained glass window is in need of some significant and costly repairs. These repairs should strengthen and stabilize the window and help it last a great many more years.

We look forward to working with Rev. Joanne Lee and continuing our work within the Church with her help and guidance.

Sincerely, Andrew Douglas on behalf of the Board of Managers.

"A Sign for The Times"

This past November Session let you know of an exciting project being undertaken by our church at the initiative of the Membership Team.

Over 40 years ago, you or members just like you, supported a "new & modern" backlit sign to help tell people where we are and relay important information about our congregation. That sign served us well, but was worn out. **You were asked** to support a new digital sign that is informative, eye-catching, and easily updated; a sign that reaches out to our community

--- A Sign for The Times!

The total estimated cost for the sign, permit and installation was expected to be \$28,000. We are pleased to announce that **you have helped reach that goal.**

We would like to **thank you** for your support. Although we had hoped to have the sign installed in time to welcome our newly called minister the Rev. Joanne Lee, we ran into permit delays. We anticipate the new sign being installed shortly (or Spring at the latest).

For those of you who didn't get a chance to support the sign campaign, subsequent donations received will go to the ongoing costs of upgrading the technology in our building.

Your generosity to St. Andrew's continues to be appreciated.

Sincerely yours in Christ, The Stewardship Team & Membership Team





Supervised Safe Consumption site for drug users in Barrie

Session has been asked by Kairos to bring to your attention the issue of and the need for a Supervised Safe Consumption site for drug users in Barrie. If you would like to learn more about this need and how you can support this initiative and /or consider signing this petition in support of a Supervised Consumption Site in Barrie, you can go to the following web site:

<u>Engage Barrie</u> keeps a Safe Consumption Siterelated page at http://engagebarriescs.carrd.co, with links to updated information and calls to action.

You can also go to Facebook on the following page for further information and background on the issues around drug use in Barrie.

(3) Supervised Consumption Saves Lives - Barrie | Facebook

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit keeps information about its opioid strategy and other drug-related health here: https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/ Topics/Drugs, and information specific to the Supervised Consumption Site Selection currently underway here: https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/ Topics/Drugs/opioids/Supervisedconsumption-sites/Site-Selection-Advisory-Committee.

The Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy keeps an information page updated at http://preventod.ca, if you wish to delve deeper into the research.

WOW! 2 Million Dollars

We are into our 16th year of selling gift cards. In 2020 \$126,875 worth of President's Choice, Sobeys, Metro and the Ultimate Dining Cards were sold, earning St. Andrew's \$6,438.25. Since starting the program in November 2006 our sales to the end of 2020 are **\$2,009,445**; with net proceeds of \$99,742.

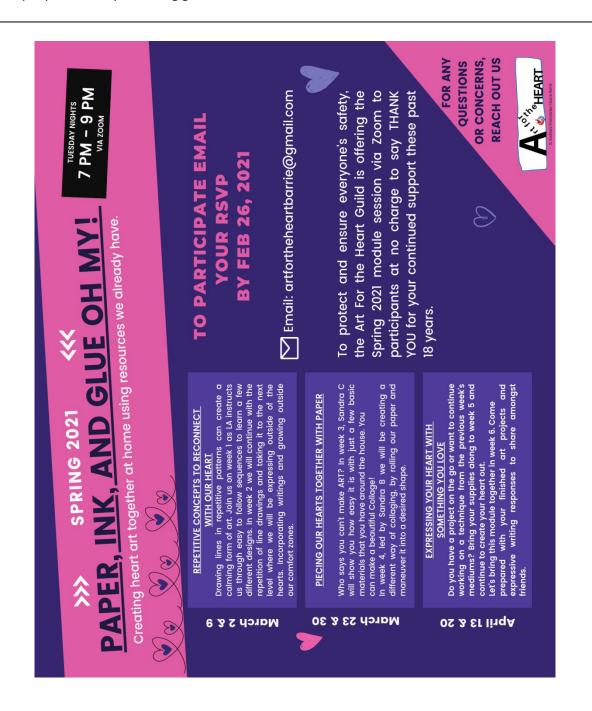








Thank you once again to everyone who supports this program. The Stewardship Team encourages more people to start purchasing gift cards in 2021.



Aging Gracefully, Spring 2021

One of the pervasive experiences of becoming an aged person is loss. It seems that we are constantly receiving news that someone who was important in our lives has died. Some of these losses involve people who have been integral in our day-to-day lives, like our spouses, siblings, dearest friends, our children, beloved pets, even a parent since we are living longer these days. Other losses may be old friends, old colleagues, or people who have in some way influenced how we have lived our lives even though we may not have personally known them.

Living through Covid-19 has also been accompanied by many losses, though they may be somewhat different from the losses that we normally experience. We have lost the privilege and comfort of attending worship with people we care about. Many of us have lost dear ones or old friends as a result of the pandemic's favouring of elderly people. We have missed hugs, and opportunities for social times with family and friends. We have lost the freedom to come and go as we please. I thought it might be useful at this time to lay out some definitions related to the experience of loss.

Bereavement: refers to the whole experience of being deprived of a relation or friend., to be torn apart.

Grief and Mourning are often interchanged in people's conversation about bereavement. But they are not the same.

"Grief is the whole constellation of internal thoughts and feelings we have when someone dies. Think of grief as the container for all your thoughts, feelings and images of your experience when you are bereaved.grief is the internal

meaning given to the experience of loss"

"Mourning refers to taking the grief you experience on the inside, and expressing it on the outside." ² Examples include talking about the person who died, crying, using music or art, celebrating anniversary dates that have meaning for you in relation to that person, etc. The main thing about mourning is that it is honest and shared, not held inside, pretending to be fine. Mourning does not have a prescribed time of ending. It is different for everyone. We cannot "cure" grief. Cure is a medical term meaning to remedy, or correct. Rather we **heal** grief. To heal means to become whole again, to be able to integrate our grief into ourselves and learn to continue a changed life with fullness and meaning. This healing comes through the activity of mourning.

Many of us may still be mourning someone we lost, who was dear to us. We may still be feeling as if some part of our very being has been ripped away from us, leaving a painful wound that feels like it will never be healed. But there is healing. It just takes work and that work is mourning. We never forget the dear ones we have lost, but we are able to remember them once more with thanksgiving for the blessings they brought to our lives. And we become more tender in our relationships with those who still accompany us on our journeys.

It will be like that when COVID-19 ends as well. There will be thanksgiving for the new insights we have learned, renewed appreciation for the people in our lives and in the world around us. As we look forward with thanksgiving to the hope that Easter brings us, let us remember that healing and renewal is just around the corner.

Mary Helen Garvin

¹ <u>Understanding your Grief</u> Alan D. Wolfelt. Companion Press, 2003

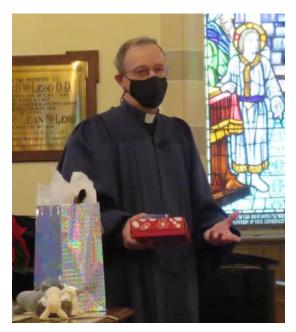












Services

Sunday Worship Service, 10:00 am

Visit our website for the link to online services

February 28 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 7 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 14 – 4th Sunday in Lent

March 21 – 5th Sunday in Lent

March 28 - Palm Sunday

April 1 – Maundy Thursday (Communion)

April 2 – Good Friday, Passion Friday

April 4 – Easter Sunday

April 11 - Regular Sunday Service

April 18 – Communion Sunday Service

April 25 – Regular Sunday Service

May 2 – 172nd Anniversary Sunday

May 9 – Mother's Day Sunday

Groups and Contact Names

Session - Cheryl Anderson

Board of Managers –Andrew Douglas

Education Team - Cathie Blair

Children and Youth Ministry - Mia Drummond

Membership – Ruth Millar

Stewardship – Shane Mayes

Mission & Outreach - Sherry Phillips

WMS - Pamela Watt

Pastoral Care - Arna Atkinson

Choir – Ann Herron

Art Guild Sandra Chanko

Aging Gracefully – Mary Helen Garvin

Life Long Learning - Keith Boyer

- Susan Stott-Hood

Barrie District Stamp Club – Bruce Walton

Centering Prayer – June Campbell

Lyrica Choir - Steve Winfield

Organ Recital Series - Russ Hope

Prayer Group Ministry - Sharon Cotton

Presbytery - Cheryl Anderson

Stitchery Group - Cathie Blair

Board of Trustees - Russ Hope

Endowment Fund - Vic Hood

START Committee - Gord Thompson

