

Awareness



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie, ON

Season of Lent 2022



"The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand an outreached arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Deuteronomy 26:8-9

The Old Testament lesson for the first Sunday in Lent begins near the end of Israel's pilgrimage through the wilderness as they are called upon to remember God's faithfulness to them. Hopefully, we too will see a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel as we look forward to spring.

On February 13th, we welcomed folks back to the sanctuary. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces. We had a total of 52 in attendance, not bad considering it was -20 Celsius.

I would like to give a big shout out to Alex Carmen and Michael Sharp for their dedication in offering a seamless online service for those who would prefer to watch online and to Laurie Watt for her expertise in putting our services on our social media along with updates of what is going on in the church and in our community.

Like the Israelites, we are spiritually journeying in the wilderness during this Lenten season. Journeying in the wilderness is not only barren emptiness and hardship but it is also a journey where we can put aside all our worldly distractions and self interests to experience dependence on God in every situation.

Journeying in the wilderness can also be a time of personal reflection.

How are we doing spiritually? Are we being spiritually fed especially during this pandemic or are we yearning for the Bread of Life? Fortunately, the Downtown Ministerial team have put together a Lenten book study on "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo.

In his book "Grace of Les Misérables", Matt Rawle, the author invites us to examine the themes of grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope through the lens of Christian faith.

Friends, I look forward to coming out of our wilderness and to celebrate our Risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

I look forward to that day when we are able to enjoy the things we used to do, namely our gathering time after worship and starting up our committees with a renewed sense of doing "post Covid church."

I continue to pray for our church and our church family. If you have any prayer requests, please let me know. I hope this newsletter brightens up your day. Know that Christ's light continues to shine and touch your lives no matter what you are going through. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Your minister and friend,

Rev. Joanne Lee

**St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church**

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www.standrewsbarrie.ca



Facebook Group
(private group)
St. Andrew's

Presbyterian Church, Barrie
Facebook Page
St. Andrew's Barrie

YouTube

St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church,
Barrie, Ontario

Staff Directory

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Ashley Brammer,
Custodian/Property Manager
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From our Communications Coordinator...

Laurie's Tips

Remember the days when you could invite someone to church - whether it was for a special worship service or an event? Those days will come again, but we have other ways you can help us spread our message of Christ's saving love and grace.

Facebook is a great place to begin. Many people are on the network but they don't use it to share our message and work with their friends. Remember the old Herbal Essences' shampoo commercial: "You tell two friends and I'll tell two friends ... and so on and so on and so on" and the screen filled with photos? That's the way Facebook can work for us.

So how do you share our message?

Begin by liking St. Andrew's Barrie. It's our public page. Its profile picture is of our Celtic cross. Because it is a public page, you can easily share a post you like by hitting the "share" (arrow) button. You can add your own thoughts in the post you create, but you don't have to.

This is really easy and really important, because once you "like" St. Andrew's Barrie, your friends will see "(Your name) likes St. Andrew's Barrie." If they have more than one friend who likes our page, the message will say, for example, "Laurie Watt and Ruth Millar like St. Andrew's Barrie."

When we want to advertise, for example, an upcoming Lifelong Learning series, you can share it but we can also pay to boost the spread on our page. Chances are you may already see ads, which have the word "Sponsored" above them. It's really quite cost-effective and the more "Likes" and "shares" we have to start with, the better value we get with our money and the more people we reach with our message. An added bonus is that those we reach would possibly be interested because of the way Facebook's programming works.

We each are called to share God's love in our part of His world. An easy and effective way to do that is to start by liking St. Andrew's Barrie and then sharing the posts (which I as your communications coordinator create, based on what other teams and leaders suggest).

See you on Facebook!

Laurie

Membership Team

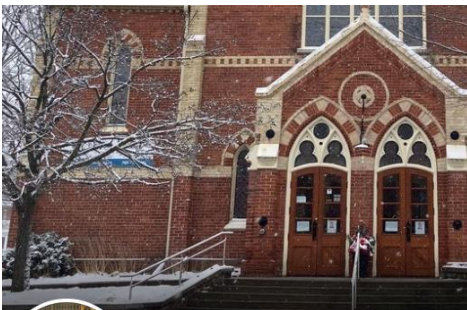
Long Term Members

On May 1st at our 173rd Anniversary service, we are looking forward to recognizing the importance of membership at St. Andrew's and especially for our long-time members Peggy Miller and Harold Darch who have been members at St. Andrew's for 60 years.

Communications Coordinator

We would like to thank Laurie Watt, our Communications Coordinator for her creativity and all the work she has and is doing to keep us informed through our web page, Facebook group and page and on our sign at the corner of Owen and Worsley.

Please check out our Facebook Group/Page at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Barrie and our web site at: www.standrewsbarrie.ca



St. Andrew's Barrie

@StAndrewsBarrie · Presbyterian Church

Ushering and Greeting

As the Covid restrictions are being loosened, please consider offering to usher and/or greet at our worship services. Please speak with Arna Atkinson.

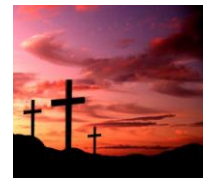
Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team continues to provide support to those who are experiencing illness, have been recently bereaved, had surgery, live in long term care or who might enjoy a friendly visit, phone call or card. Once again we delivered Christmas goodies which were much appreciated and have also given out prayer shawls which have been donated by the Stitchery group.

Many thanks to those who keep us updated as to congregational needs so that we may reach out to people. It is also great to see that many within the congregation have made lasting friendships and enjoy checking in on these friends often. We are managing to stay connected and to share God's love even in these pandemic times.

Please remember the following people who have passed away since our last issue of Awareness as well as others in our congregation who have also lost loved ones:

Elsie Edwards
Joy Sowman
Jim King



Stay safe. Stay connected.

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.



Updated Contact Information

News about church happenings and opportunities is sent out to our church family through email blasts and church mailings throughout the year.

If you have been worshipping with us during recent months and would like to be added to our email/ mailing lists, or if you have a change of address / email or new phone/cell phone number(s), please contact Barb in the church office. She will also include this information in an updated congregational phone directory for each household set to be distributed in the upcoming months.



Art for the Heart Spring 2022 Update

Our spring module is off to a great start.

Mosaic Montage is a combination of colour theory and alcohol ink. We are once again providing this class via Zoom. We prepared 16 kits, 4 for the facilitators and 12 for class participants; we were so excited to sell out of our kits.

Members of the Guild have stepped into various roles to guide participants through distinct segments of the nightly classes. Bringing in guest instructor, Shirley Brown (Sandra Burn's Mother) to teach on Alcohol inks.

We are exploring the Global Roots Project, worldwide mosaic art collaboration. In hopes of developing a community mosaic in the near future. Stay tuned for more information on this.



Upcoming Speaker Series

Theme: The Church: Healing and Reconciliation

First Presentation: April 27th, 2022
The Church Involvement in Residential Schools
Lori Ransom

Second Presentation: May 25th, 2022
The Church Looking Forward
Margaret Mullin, Linda Paton-Cowie and Ernestine Baldwin

Third Presentation: June 22nd, 2022
Treaties: We Are All Treaty People
Roger Townshend and Dan Shaule

Board of Managers

A year ago we were completing several upgrades to the Church's facilities to get us through to the end of the pandemic. Thank goodness the work was completed because, here we are one year later, still in the midst of it, and still working on additional policies and procedures to help the Church remain open.

Richard (Dick) Jewson, Rob Richardson, and myself, are all retiring from the Board at this AGM. Dick has been instrumental in keeping our committee on track, and working behind the scenes to help with countless projects, and Rob is always willing to offer his opinion on topics. I've truly enjoyed my time with the Board and now look forward to getting to know other committees with the Church.

Thank you to all of the Church members for your thoughtful prayers of support, and encouragement in helping the Board keep the Church and its properties running smoothly.

On behalf of the Board of Managers,
Andrew Douglas

Note from the Clerk of Session

As the Province of Ontario and the city of Barrie again reopened to in-person programs and activities, St. Andrew's continues with masking and distancing with 35 - 45 people at worship so far. (15 - 20% capacity)

We look forward to once again having a time of Fellowship downstairs following the service on Sunday March 27th, while still being mindful of basic safety precautions. It will be Rev. Joanne and her family's first time to see how we do Fellowship at St. Andrew's.

Session made the decision with input from the tech Team, that our Annual Congregational Meeting would be held on Sunday April 3, 2022 in-person, as all capacity restrictions in the province and city have been lifted and due to the technical difficulties in attempting hybrid meetings the last 2 years. We will continue with masks.

We look forward once again to our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services, April 14 - 17th.

May God Bless you all as we seek normalcy once again.



St. Andrews Mission and Outreach Team

Over the past months, Team members continued to meet to plan ongoing and seasonal events. Coordinating with the WMS, the Team was able to actively support the partnership with Trinity Anglican Church in delivering their Food Pantry Program. Much appreciation is extended to the congregation for ongoing contributions of food items and grocery gift cards towards replenishing the pantry. Team member, Carolyn Boyer continues to volunteer and provide support at the Busby Centre, including offering some good listening time to folks, as part of our partnership with The Listening Post.

Team members have also been involved in championing local issues such as the need for a Warming Centre in Barrie. Monday morning meetings, led by Grace United Church and a number of local churches, focus on the need the increase supports to people who need affordable housing, emergency food supports, and other material supports because of their lack of housing. Also in attendance at these meetings are representatives from local organizations such as The Busby Centre and John Howard Society, and staff from the City and the Municipality.

During this past Holiday Season, the Team facilitated a number of donation drives. Personal care products, winter gear, etc., were collected and given to the local Canadian Mental Health Association, for further-distribution to their clients in need. The Team partnered with our Pastoral Care Team to request 25 calendars from PWSD, which were re-sold to congregants at \$5 per calendar. Once again, the Team provided twenty Walmart gift cards (\$25 each) to Family Connexions (formerly Children's Aid

Society) for distribution to families in need. The funds were taken from our annual budget and congregants were requested to donate towards replenishing this. So far, \$100 has been collected. A donation drive has also been in place to collect personal-size, hygiene products, etc., for distribution to local villagers in Guatemala during Team member, Sandra Burns's upcoming (second) mission trip. The Team is also supporting this drive with a \$300 allocation from our annual budget. Look out for an event later this spring, at which Sandra will hopefully be able to provide highlights of the trip upon her return.

Due to decreasing membership on the Team, and perhaps a reflection of general pandemic-malaise, the Team has agreed to suspend meetings until further notice. Generally, the church, and individual team members will continue to support on-going initiatives such as our partnerships with the Listening Post, the Food Pantry Program, the work of our local chapter of KAIROS, support to the Barrie Food Bank through the purchase of grocery gift cards provided to them. With the support of Session, we will continue to be open to assisting with new ideas for mission and outreach that may come forward and will look to re-constituting the Team when new and increased interest is extended. Overall, Mission and Outreach Team members, both past and present have accomplished much over the past years, and we are proud of the many ways that we have been able to provide leadership to the congregation in championing issues of concern to local, national, and international communities. Much Appreciation is extended to Team members, past and present, and to the congregation for making all of our "wins" possible. Much Blessings to all!

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Phillips on behalf of the Team which included Carolyn Boyer, Laurie Watt, Patricia McCallum, and Sandra Burns.



An Experienced Stage Theory for Seniors

Stage Theory of human development has long been recognized as having its faults, but it has, nevertheless, provided a structure in which those who study human behaviour are able to draw some conclusions about how we humans manage our lives at different ages. Of course, there are always exceptions, like my friend at my exercise group, who at age 102, was still physically active, and had an active mind. He passed away during his 103rd year after breaking a hip while traveling alone on the bus to the mall.

So, I have been pondering the meaning of stages of being a senior, particularly as it relates to the life of the church. We are all aware that our churches today are frequently populated mainly by older people, and that as they "age out", numbers of our congregations are closing and the future of the institutional church as we know it, is in jeopardy. These changes are precipitating a major transition for the church. Briefly then, here are the stages of "seniorhood" from my experience and perspective.

First, our society thinks that becoming a senior, happens when we retire from our formal work lives at about 65. Stage 1, in my thinking, includes the newly retired age 65 to roughly 75. This is different from how it was 25 years ago. Nowadays if these individuals are in good health, they continue to have lots of energy, and now have more time for tasks outside of work. I think this can be the volunteer corps of our society and in our church. They have time to take on tasks of leadership, pastoral care, committee

work that they previously needed for family, and work. They are now likely the grandparents in their families, so they have special opportunity to influence the lives of grandchildren for Christ, and to support young parents as they struggle with the massive changes and demands of a society that has more time for hockey, and other such activities than it does for church. Our children are anxiety-ridden such as no generation before them ever have been, and parents whose lives are ruled by the speed of life that has resulted from the electronic environment in which we live, need the support of wise grandparents who have time and energy to help with child-rearing and faith-sharing.

Bearing in mind that there are always exceptions in stage theory, I think Stage 2 is approximately the years from 75 to 85. This is a transition time for aging individuals. Changes may be occurring in living arrangements and "downsizing" becomes a familiar term in our conversations. Health issues are often beginning to appear or worsen. Grandkids have grown up and with that comes the changing nature of relationships. Physical acuities like hearing, vision, even tasting, and possibly memory, are diminishing. Spouses may be ill, or passed on, leaving a lot more 'single again' folk in our congregations. What can we expect of these Stage 2 people in our congregations?

This group may now more often need to be recipients of pastoral care. They may be experiencing the task of mourning losses of loved ones, or of the parts of their lives that have been meaningful to

them and are no longer available. Illness, and physical conditions call on them to give up parts

of their independence and this too is a source of grief. They are still able to work with committees, but their time and energy is less available. They are less able to work in the kitchen, but they have lots of wisdom to contribute to the planning of the work there and in other aspects of the church's life. They may not be able to lift babies in the nursery, but they might still be able to tell stories to the children in Sunday School. This relationship between elderly seniors and young children has been shown to make a rich contribution to the pleasure and mental health of both generations.

This group is going through a particularly difficult emotional time as they fear being relegated to the shelf and no longer being recognized as useful. They still need to be needed. Consequently sometimes they have strong opinions, and those need to be acknowledged. This is also a time when individuals become more focused on their faith, and beginning to make meaning of their lives. They may pray more, study more, relate their faith to their life experience in a new way, and they want to tell stories about their lives which is one way of resolving conflicts that may still exist in their minds and hearts. Out of these life experiences comes wisdom, and that wisdom can be a blessing to a church that is also in transition.

The Third stage of aging, being elderly, includes those 85 years and on.

Donald Capps¹ refers to the task in the last decade(s) of life as resolving the conflict of "release vs control". Webster's dictionary defines release as being "set free, as from confinement, duty, work, etc." and I would add, from being concerned about what people think, of having to say the right thing all the time, of having to say "yes" to requests one doesn't want to respond to. There is a greater ability to see issues from more than one perspective, and less need to judge others or their actions. It is a graceful time. We have been privileged to know old saints. Lyndsay Green, in her lovely book about aging ²says "To keep your dignity, you need to give up your pride". Perhaps this is one way to resolve the conflict about release vs. control. In the church, these folks act as role models for us all. Their wisdom, when they are allowed to share it, and we care to listen, can come to us as words from the Lord in times of change. The sense of humour with which their life experience has honoured them, can lighten our loads.

These are some of the thoughts that inhabit my mind when I really just want to go to sleep at night, and so reminding you of my caveat at the beginning, that Stage theory is not a science and not even a very accurate study, I humbly offer them to you, the reader. I am always open to conversation!

Submitted by Mary Helen Garvin (Stage 3!)

¹ The Decades of Life: A Guide to Human Development by Donald Capps, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville and London, 2008

² You Could Live for a Long Time: Are You Ready? By Lyndsay Green, Thomas Allen Publishers, Toronto. 2010



Photo Gallery



Calendar of Events

(In-person worship; access online services through our website)

Sunday, March 13 – Lent 2

Tuesday, March 15 – Lenten Series continues on ZOOM (each Tues. until April 12)

Sunday, March 20 – Lent 3

Sunday, March 27 – Lent 4

Sunday, April 3 – Lent 5 Dedication of WMS Butterfly Tree

Annual Congregational Meeting (in-person; live stream)

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday (Communion) 7:30pm

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday Service 10:00am

Sunday, April 17 – Easter

Sunday, April 24 –

Wednesday, April 27 – ***Speaker Series*** – The Church & Residential Schools
(Lori Ransom)

Sunday, May 1 – 173rd Anniversary & Recognition of Long-term Members

Sunday, May 8 – Mother's Day

Sunday, May 15 –

Sunday, May 22 –

Wednesday, May 25 – ***Speaker Series*** – The Church Moving Forward Towards
Healing & Reconciliation (Rev. Margaret Mullin, Rev. Linda Paton-Cowie,
Elder Ernestine Baldwin)

Sunday, May 29 –

Sunday, June 5 – Pentecost

PCC General Assembly 2022 meets June 5-9 (online)

Sunday, June 12 –

Sunday, June 19 – Father's Day

Wednesday, June 22 – ***Speaker Series*** – Understanding Treaties;
We Are All Treaty People (Roger Townshend, Dan Shaule)

Sunday, June 26 – Sacrament of Communion

Team and Group Contacts

Session Clerk and Presbytery Rep. – Cheryl Anderson	Worship Team – Cheryl Anderson
Board of Managers – Andrew Douglas (until 2022 Annual Meeting)	WMS – Pam Watt
Education Team – Christine Boyd (Session Rep.)	Choir – Ann Herron
Life Long Learning – Keith Boyer, Susan Stott-Hood	Art Guild – Sandra Chanko
Aging Gracefully & Bereavement Groups – Mary Helen Garvin	Centering Prayer – Susan Stott-Hood
Membership Team – Ruth Millar	Stitchery Group – Cathie Blair
Mission & Outreach Team – Sherry Phillips	Board of Trustees – Russ Hope
Pastoral Care – Arna Atkinson	Endowment Fund – Vic Hood (until 2022 Annual Meeting)