

Awareness



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie, ON

Advent 2022

From our Minister...



In the words of Max Lucado, "because God became human, we can see and know God in the person of Jesus. We can also rely on the fact that God knows us. He understands how we feel because he has faced what we face, including weakness, testing, and suffering."

This year, we have said our goodbyes to our faithful members in our congregation, whose lives has touched ours. We are comforted to know as we prepare our hearts and our homes to welcome the birth of Jesus Christ, we are not alone. It is during the season of Advent we prepare, wait, and watch God work in our lives.

In Laura Alary's book, 'A child's guide to Advent & Christmas,' she says, "we try to see how God was with us in sad times and happy times. Sometimes we see more clearly when we look back. Every night we ask: Where did I see God today? Wherever I am, God is with me."

As we look back on this year, we have been fortunate to see our church members come out to in-person worship as well as participating in church activities. This year, we have been very active reconnecting with our church family, particularly our "Fun Friday" events have been a positive addition as it gives an opportunity for our church family to reach out to the young families and newcomers to enjoy fellowship by sharing a meal and hearing the Word of God.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lifelong Learning committee, WMS and Stewardship team for their inspiring lectures and participation in leading worship. It is wonderful to see a few traditions coming back to St. Andrew's, namely "Soup Sundays."

Yes, God is with us. Advent is a time to wait and watch but it is also a time to marvel. We are grateful for Dennis Thompson, our organist, who graciously leads us in worship and we also welcome our new music director, Anne Arksey. I look forward to working closely with Anne, and soon to be hired Office Administrator. Yes, God is working in our midst!

As we prepare now to enter the season of Advent may the hope, love, joy, and peace of this season be with you all for surely these are all things that the world needs, especially in these times in which we live.

In Christ,

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

VuuTuha
St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church,
Barrie, Ontario

Staff Directory

Rev. Joanne Lee **Minister**
705-728-3991 Ext. 3
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Office Administrator
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Mia Drummond
Children & Youth Leader
705-791-5381
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Laurie Watt
Communications Co-ordinator
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Anne Arksey Dennis Thompson
Music Directors

Ashley Brammer
Custodian/Property Manager

Staff Relations is pleased to welcome Rosemary Walton as our new Office Administrator. Rosemary brings experience working in a church office and demonstrates excellent writing and office management skills. She comes with a background of 'church culture' both as an employee and as a member of a church family. Rosemary starts Monday, November 21, 2022.



Special Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Anne Arksey will be joining the St Andrew's music team as our new Music Director after 14 years as Music Minister at Minesing United Church. It is to be noted that she will be sharing her duties with Dennis Thompson on a bi-weekly basis.

We understand that she loves to share her joy and passion of music with others.
Welcome Anne Arksey.



We encourage you to check out our website: <http://www.standrewsbarrie.ca>

for announcements, upcoming courses and worship services at St. Andrew's

Look for links to our Sunday morning Live stream and our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214736229889581>

Ushering, Greeting & Elevator Operators

Would you like to help with this important welcoming ministry?

To become part of this ministry, contact Arna Atkinson.



Membership Team

Congratulations to Peggy Miller and Harold Darch celebrating 60 years as members of St. Andrew's and recognised at our anniversary service in May.

Our Communications Coordinator

Laurie Watt, our Communications Coordinator, has been on the job for over a year now. We continue to appreciate her expertise in social media, writing and graphic design. If you have any events that you would like to have her post on our LED sign, on our website, on our Facebook page - our public face on Facebook or our private Facebook group, our safe space on Facebook.

Share your photos and ideas in our group or send them to

Laurie at communications@standrewsbarrie.ca

If you missed coming to church, Laurie posts the service on our web page once it is recorded on YouTube. If you want to watch the service live, go to St. Andrew's You Tube channel!!!

Change of address or telephone number

Please let the office know if you change your address, telephone number or email address. It is so important that we have your proper contact information so we can keep you informed about the happenings and opportunities for worship and learning at St. Andrew's.

Thank you to those who are assisting with ushering, operating the elevator and welcoming on Sunday mornings. Your service is greatly

appreciated. If you would like to help with this important ministry, please speak with Arna Atkinson. Thank you to Arna for your all your work in getting people to do these important jobs Sunday by Sunday. It is greatly appreciated!!!

The Pastoral Care Team

Please let Rev. Joanne Lee, 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 to everyone for phoning, supporting, reaching out and keeping in touch with the people who make up our congregation at St. Andrew's.

The Pastoral Care team has been very busy, continuing to support many people who are experiencing a variety of health concerns.

Once again, many thanks to all of you who bring some of these issues to our attention so that we can reach out with cards, phone calls, emails and visits.

We will again be delivering Christmas goodies and calendars to those on our lists. We also give out prayer shawls / lap blankets when a little extra comfort is needed.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of the following people who have passed away since our last issue of Awareness as well as all those in the congregation who have lost loved ones since

that time:

Joyce Phillips
Jim Hoy
Eric Forsyth
Marg Robertson
Barb Drummond
Carol Hooper
Russ Hope



Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supports the Gift Card fundraising program. It has been most successful! And it doesn't cost you a dime! For anyone who isn't familiar with the program, we purchase gift cards from President's Choice, Sobeys, Metro and Recipe Unlimited (for use at various restaurants, such as Swiss Chalet, Harvey's, Keg, Milestones, Montanas, etc.) We purchase the cards in bulk, at a discount and sell them to you at face value. What can be easier?

We started this program on November 12, 2006. Since then you have purchased over \$2.2 million worth of cards. Our profit is over \$112 thousand.

This year alone, you have purchased over \$112 thousand for a profit of \$5,650!! You can also purchase cards for donation to The Food Bank, Ryan's Hope, The Little Food Pantry or Breakfast to Go.

Gift Cards make great gifts for family, friends, teachers, service providers, etc. We hope that you will pick up a supply soon!!



Rejoice and Give Thanks!

You have often heard the saying "Count your many Blessings" but have you considered giving thanks for those blessings with a special financial gift to St. Andrew's?

Do one or more of the following blessings apply to you?

- "I am mortgage free or on target to get there"
- "I enjoy my work"
- "We can afford to eat out when we want"
- "I am fortunate to have a pension indexed to inflation"
- "We have finished paying for our children's education"
- "I got a promotion/raise at work"
- "I have a second generation cottage for my family to relax and vacation"
- "My house is worth 30% more than it was 5 years ago"
- "I have stocks with unrealized capital gains upon which I can escape paying tax and also receive a large tax refund by donating them directly to the church"
- "Retirement has been less expensive than I anticipated"
- "I got a bonus at work"
- "We don't think twice about grabbing a 'Tim's' more often than we care to admit"
- "I have a new car with no or lower payments"
- "God gives me strength to get through difficult times"
- "My business is doing well"
- "My Florida home was for the most part spared by a recent tornado"
- "My family is happy and in good health – we survived Covid!"
- "Downsizing has meant lower costs and/or a larger nest egg than we need"
- "My children make more money than I ever did; I don't need to build an estate for them"
- "I like the life God gave me"

What other blessings do you have to celebrate?

There is never a better time than now to give back to God: to make a real difference in the life and mission of your church.

Please prayerfully consider giving St. Andrew's a generous gift in celebration of one or more of the many blessings you may have received.

Submitted by the Stewardship Team

Women's Missionary Society

The St. Andrew's WMS group meets the first Monday of the month at 1:30 pm at the church in the activity room or via zoom. Please contact the church office to find out if we will be meeting via zoom or in person.

We continue to support Trinity Anglican Church's Little Food Pantry by donating packaged food or grocery gift cards that are used to stock the Little Food Pantry.

Another of our local mission projects is supporting Youth Haven. In November and May, we provide grocery gift cards for Youth Haven to assist their clients as they try to become more independent members of society.

Discussions will be held this Fall, as we make decisions about new local outreach initiatives. Stay tuned for further information on ways that you might be able to assist us.

Our Mission Awareness Service was held on October 30th led by the WMS members. Our guest preacher will was the Rev Joel Sherbino. 75% of his time, Rev Joel is minister in the Paris Presbyterian Church and the other 25% he is liaison in the prison ministry in Malawi. His presentation was very informative and interesting.

As part of our Mission Projects Abroad, many of the WMS ladies and friends, are supporting 13 year old Hope Kajawo in Malawi as she continues her schooling at St Michael's Anglican Girls' School. Hope has no mother and her father is currently fighting melanoma which continues to grow worse.

Due to the terrible inflation and economic conditions in Malawi at this time,

the school fees have been increased and this affects the cost of providing for the keep of the students. If you would like to be financially involved in this project or have friends or relatives who might be interested, please contact Mary Helen Garvin. We have 10 donors who have pledged \$100.00 annually for 4 years and since the first year is finished, what we really need is 3 additional donors who would pledge \$100.00 annually for 3 years. This would cover the expenses caused by the new school fee costs and incidentals that a young girl needs. If you think you would like to be one of those supporters, we would be very grateful. Otherwise, any amount will be welcome. Thanks for praying for this family and considering if you are able to assist in this project.

Another of our Mission Projects Abroad is the continuing support we provide for our Grannies in Malawi. Recently, we sent them funds to purchase maize which is a staple of their diet.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in missions, both local and abroad, please come out and join us on the first Monday of the month at 1:30. You will be given a warm welcome!

Kathy Tutty, WMS Secretary.

Aging Gracefully

Living Through a Transition

St. Andrew's is living through a transition. What does that mean? I thought it might be useful for us to think a bit about the theory of transition to help us understand our experience these days. Change is never easy for most of us, and that is because change always involves transition and transition is **the lived psychological experience of change**.

We have to move from what seems stable and familiar to a new way of being. When Covid19 struck, St. Andrew's was already in a transitional experience of calling a new minister. Suddenly, not only were we without a minister, but we could no longer go to public worship. We were largely locked down in our homes. We were without the fellowship of our congregation, and in many cases without family and friends. We had to learn new ways of being, wearing masks, staying physically distant from others, sanitizing ourselves, our homes and even our groceries! Do you remember how that all felt? C.S. Lewis wrote a trilogy many years ago and one of the incidents in one of them has always stuck in my mind as a fine example of the emotional experience of transition. The hero had come to a strange river that flowed fast and seemed wild and out of control. It had lily pad-like things floating on it. The hero had to get across that river because what was happening to the land behind him was in a state of destruction and only the other shore would allow him to go on living. Lewis describes the experience of stepping from one floating pad to another. There was no stability, the pads were in constant flux, and the river seemed to grow wider with every effort to get onto the next pad. Take a moment to imagine yourself

in the hero's position. Notice how it feels. Are you anxious? Do you wish the journey was over? Perhaps you feel lonely and you begin to feel your energy waning. It's hard to feel hopeful. The first stage of a transition is like that. It leads into the second stage, or Neutral Zone, a time of feeling the pain of loss, a time of emptiness and lostness, the time we are in now. It's a temporary phase that just has to be endured. Wm. Bridges describes the basic industry of the Neutral zone as "attentive inactivity and ritualized routine". The question to be pondered in the second phase is "Where do we go from here?" This may be the most important stage of a transition. Someone once said, "Corn grows in the night". If you are a farmer, you know that in the evening, you can look at the field you planted and see nothing but soil. You wake up in the morning and the corn is two inches high! The Neutral stage is where the growth happens that enables the New Beginning. It's a stage where new ideas are generated, new ways of doing things, new purposes appear, and there is new excitement about who we are, what we can do and what is it that God is calling us to be. So let us persevere. Let us dream about what can be. There is always a New Beginning. It is resurrection time! Halleluia!

References: Bridges, William, Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes p. 114, Addison Wesley Publishing, 1980

submitted by Mary Helen Garvin

We are trying to discern whether to continue the Aging Gracefully program once a month. If you would like us to continue and would like to attend the program, please contact Mary Helen at maryhelen.g@gmail.com. before the 15th of December. Thanks"

The Art Guild of St Andrew's

Fall 2022

MIXED MEDIA

Artworks composed from a combination of different materials.

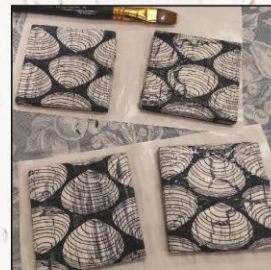
The St Andrews Art Guild, hosted our first in person Art for the Heart class since spring 2020 when we pivoted to Zoom online classes. We are very happy to be back, and it was great to see everyone at our Fall Mixed Media session. We had 14 participants and one of which chose to work from home.

Shannon Gale and Sandra Chanko offered a Basic Mixed Media class where participants made a set of coasters while exploring Acrylic paint, Crackle medium, and napkins. Then we started our ATCs (Artist Trading Cards) and everyone made 18 of the mini art cards that we traded during week 6, our last evening together. Lastly we moved onto a canvas piece where we created artwork incorporating all the techniques that we learned during our previous projects.

We will soon be planning for 2023, we hope to offer 2 more Art for the Heart classes in the spring and fall of next year, as well we are starting to make plans to celebrate our 20 year anniversary.

We are always looking for people to join our Guild, Artists willing to share their knowledge and skills as well as folks that just want to come to a class and enjoy a relaxed, fun, and friendly atmosphere of creating. As our logo states "Inspired by God to Create."

Sandra Chanko
Chair
St Andrews Art Guild



St. Andrews Photo Gallery



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

MAX LUCADO



BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem

LOVE IS BORN
HOPE IS HERE

**“Advent Study “Because of Bethlehem”
Presented by Rev. Joanne Lee**

“In Because of Bethlehem”, a four-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Jesus’ birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us.

Afternoon Session 1 -2pm or Evening Session 6-7pm

Because of Bethlehem sessions include:

Wednesday Nov 23 - God Has a Face

Wednesday Nov 30 - Worship Works Wonders

Wednesday Dec 7 - God Guides the Wise

Wednesday Dec 14 - Every Heart a Manager

All sessions will be held in the Church Library Room

Contact Rev. Joanne Lee for additional information



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Worship 10:00am

Access services online through our website/Youtube

Wednesday, November 23 – “Because of Bethlehem” Advent Series 1-2pm/6-7pm

Thursday, November 24 – “Is that Story True?” – Daniel (& the Lion’s Den) Bible Study 7pm

Friday, November 25 – Fun Friday – Advent Theme 5:30pm

Sunday, November 27 – Advent I - Candle of Hope

Wednesday, November 30 – “Because of Bethlehem” Advent Series 1-2pm/6-7pm

Sunday, December 4 – Advent II - Candle of Peace Sacrament of Communion
(Rev. Bruce McAnsh)

Wednesday, December 7 – “Because of Bethlehem” Advent Series 1-2pm/6-7pm

Sunday, December 11 – Advent III - Candle of Joy Church School Presentation

Wednesday, December 14 – “Because of Bethlehem” Advent Series 1-2pm/6-7pm

Sunday, December 18 – Advent IV - Candle of Love Mitten Tree

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – Christ Candle 7pm

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship – Christ Candle 10am

Team and Group Contacts

Session Clerk and Presbytery	
Rep. – Cheryl Anderson	
Board of Managers – Mark Hoffman	Stewardship – Shane Mayes
Education Team – Christine Boyd (Session Rep.)	Worship Team – Cheryl Anderson
Life Long Learning – Keith Boyer, Susan Stott-Hood	WMS – Pam Watt
Aging Gracefully & Bereavement Groups – Mary Helen Garvin	Art Guild – Sandra Chanko
Membership Team – Ruth Millar	Centering Prayer – Susan Stott-Hood
Pastoral Care – Arna Atkinson	Stitchery Group – Cathie Blair

