

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ST. ANDREW'S

GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD

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AGENDA - March 9, 2025 – 118th Annual Congregational Meeting

All 2024 Reports can be found on our website: <https://www.standrewscalgary.ca/>

ON-LINE RESOURCES/ Annual Reports & Financials

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

2. Appointment of **Secretary**

MOTION to name the Secretary of the meeting.

3. Adoption of **Agenda** (found on the first page of the Annual Report)

MOTION: that the agenda be adopted as printed.

4. Adoption of the **Minutes of the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting** held March 10, 2024 (pages 4, 5 & 6) of the Annual Report.

MOTION: that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on March 10, 2024 be adopted.

5. **In Memoriam** (page 25 of the 2024 Annual Report)

6. Adoption of **2024 Annual Report**

MOTION: that the 2024 Annual Report be adopted.

7. Presentation & Adoptions of the **2024 Financials**

MOTION: that the financial statements for the 2024 fiscal year be adopted.

8. Presentation & Approval of the Proposed **2025 Budget**

MOTION: that the 2025 budget be approved.

9. Thanks, Adjournment and Benediction

Minutes of the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting

March 10, 2024 – Christine Pepper, Recording Secretary

Members and adherents were in attendance (in-person and online).

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**

The meeting convened at 11:15 a.m. Rev. Laurie McKay welcomed all present, both in-person and online. Instructions for those participating online were provided prior to the meeting.

Rev. Laurie opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Appointment of Secretary

MOTION: That Christine Pepper be appointed recording secretary for the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting.

Moved by: Audrey Cole

Seconded: Gail Provost

Motion CARRIED

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be adopted as printed (Annual Report, page 1).

Moved by: Lauren Nolette

Seconded: Bob Shaw

Motion CARRIED

4. Adoption of the **Minutes of the 116th Annual Congregational Meeting** held March 12, 2023 (Annual Report, pp 5-6); and adoption of the **Congregational Meeting Minutes** held December 3, 2023 (Annual Report, pp 7-11).

MOTION: That the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 12, 2023, and the Congregational Meeting held on December 3, 2023, be adopted.

Moved by: Brian Hawco

Seconded: Judie Coleman

Motion CARRIED

5. **In Memoriam (page 30 of the 2023 Annual Report)**

A prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance was offered for the members and adherents of St. Andrew's who passed in 2023:

Alice Wimmenhove	Jan Kimber
Audrey Hunter	Jean Simpson
Bill MacKenzie	June Burgooyne
Don Kerslake	Marie Smith
Earl Mitchell	Sandy Deere
Edelgard Brown	Sheena Barclay
Eleanor Art	Sheila Watt
Harvery Gramms	Sylvia Provan

6. Adoption of **2023 Annual Report**

MOTION: That the 2023 Annual Report be adopted.

Moved by: Linda Humphries

Seconded: Audrey Cole

Motion CARRIED

Comment:

- Deep gratitude was expressed for the staff and many volunteers at St. Andrew's who serve and express their love of Jesus Christ every day.

7. Presentation & Adoptions of the **2023 Financials**

John Cuthbertson, Convener, Finance Team, thanked everyone for their presence at the meeting and acknowledged the members of the Finance Team: David Townsend, CPA; Shona Vandrasco, CPA; Cathy Millar (Session rep), and Dolly Forcade, Treasurer.

David Townsend provided an update on the accounting system, and presented the 2023 financial report (Addendum to Annual Report). The report has been reviewed and approved by Presbytery.

Question:

- Are funds available in the Legacy Fund to spend this year?

The fund performed well last year gaining 11.9%. The life-to-date return is 6.8%.

Available funds:

- Mission: \$12,400
- Worship Ministry: \$11,000
- Facility: \$13,300

St. Andrew's gratefully acknowledges the special gifts and contributions made last year. Among them was a \$99,000 bequest from the Ray Waldock Estate. Ray was an ordained Baptist minister at Northmount Baptist Church for many years, and on his retirement, he attended St. Andrew's regularly. He participated in an Easter service and led the devotionals at Side by Side. Both Ray and his wife, LaVerne, were beloved members of the Side by Side family.

Thanks were extended to Alice Post who retired this year as Side by Side coordinator. Judie Coleman was thanked for continuing on in this work.

MOTION: *That the report on the financial review of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 statements be adopted.*

Moved by: Dolly Forcade **Seconded:** John Cuthbertson **Motion CARRIED**

MOTION: *That the financial statements for the 2023 financial statements be adopted.*

Moved by: David Townsend **Seconded:** Elspeth McFadzean **Motion CARRIED**

Thanks was expressed to David Townsend and Dolly Forcade for all their efforts to help prepare and review the financial reports.

8. Presentation & Approval of the Proposed **2024 Budget**

John Cuthbertson presented the 2024 budget. The budget process began in September and has been reviewed by Session. Session has given its approval, in principle, to present the 2024 budget.

The Canadian Emergency Business Assistance loan has been paid off; as a result, \$20,000 was retained as income.

Lead minister: budgeted for 11-months.

Support staff: this includes the office staff, music coordinator, and an initiative for a paid custodian and maintenance supervisor.

The building and ground maintenance allocation has decreased reflecting the intent to obtain help. Hiring a custodian and maintenance supervisor will reduce cleaning costs.

The allocation for Presbyterians Sharing is \$27,000. Further details on the recommended allocation can be found on the [Presbyterian Church in Canada website](#). Last year, \$27,000 was budgeted, and a further \$10,000 was added from the operational budget.

Presbytery and Synod dues are expected to decrease. This is a mandatory cost.

A flat budget is anticipated in 2024.

Thanks was extended to John Cuthbertson and to the Finance Team.

MOTION: *That the 2024 annual financial plan be approved.*

Moved by: John Cuthbertson

Seconded: Mark Rowe

Motion CARRIED

Sustainability Fund

In September 2023, under the guidance of Rev. Peter Coutts, all major teams in the congregation were convened to identify key immediate, mid-term and long-term priorities. Two (2) urgent items emerged: facilities help and the need for a Sustainability Fund. A small working group was struck to discuss the fund's purpose and terms of reference: Rev. Peter Coutts, Derek Wilkinson, Mark Rowe, Craig Murray, and Shona Vandrasco.

The intent and the goals of the fund include:

- flexibility
- stability of St. Andrew's programs—distinct from the Legacy Fund
- no concept of endowment; the fund could be spent down
- target set for four (4) months of average operating costs with a goal of \$600,000
- decision-making authority resides with Session with input from the Treasurer and Finance Committee
- not intended to replace annual stewardship
- reduction in the number of reserve accounts

Coupled with the adoption of the Sustainability Fund, there was discussion on the Capital Reserve Fund.

\$10,000 has been allocated to the Sustainability Fund. Session is to decide how to manage the balance of the excess revenues from last year.

9. Thanks, Adjournment and Benediction

Rev. Laurie thanked all for attending and to those who worked on the Annual Congregational Meeting.

MOTION: *That the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting be adjourned.*

Moved by: Brent Harding

Seconded: Audrey Cole

Motion CARRIED

Rev. Laurie closed the meeting in prayer and with a benediction.

The meeting concluded at 12:05 p.m.

Lead Minister - – *Rev. Laurie McKay*

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary

Growing. Life. Together. With God.



As I have been transplanted so recently to Calgary, I have been getting familiar with the soil of the culture here in Calgary and St. Andrew's. Some things are familiar. Others are a surprise. I know the Presbyterian structure. The prairies are familiar territory although the beauty of the prairie and big sky take my breath away. I know what it is to belong to a church family, but the strong leadership, vibrant joy in service, and passion to love like Jesus loves has set my heart singing at St. Andrew's.

My first year's highlights include:

1. **Creating engaging worship** with strong musical leadership in Evan Mounce and the choir. The worship team, and Rev. Geoffrey Simmins are creative and fun to work with.
2. **Understanding the missional heart of St. Andrew's.** The biggest event was the Indigenous Friendship Day. St. Andrew's is a leader in Indigenous Neighbouring. I have met individually with Metis and Indigenous leaders as well as participated in events. Our partnership with the Aboriginal Friendship Center has deepened. They find St. Andrew's is a safe space, and they held a Halloween gathering and a Stocking Workshop here. More events are being planned.

Many thanks to those who volunteer their time in so many ways by providing Brown Bag lunches, supporting Side By Side, The Edge, Life after Loss/Grief Share, Claire House, and the many mini-mission opportunities like Undie-Sunday, Mitten Tree, Stockings for the sick or shut-ins, gift bags for Women In Need, and the new pilot project: Soup for the hungry at the Aboriginal Friendship Center. Strengthening our relationship with neighbours who use our space include the Haddon AA groups, the Sudanese Congregation, and Heritage Seniors. The Bazaar was a huge effort that engaged the St. Andrew's and larger community.

3. **Meeting with all teams.** Three have restarted: Welcome and Connection Team, Rainbow Team, Worship Team, and the newly formed: Indigenous Team. The strong sense of community is reflected in how people care for and play with each other. Some of these are: the Camp weekend, "Take 150" sheep and star-making, Ladies' Guild gatherings, Men's Breakfast, Youth Group, Sunday School, and Golf – something new this year!

4. **Retreating with Staff, Presbytery, and Session.** All of these retreats have celebrated our gifts, created a stronger team, clarified our future direction, and offered time to encounter the Holy by taking time away. Building on the good work done by Rev. Peter Coutts, the session identified 4 priorities for mission: Youth, Seniors, Indigenous Relations, and LGBTQi Inclusion. The presbytery has welcomed many new clergy and I am enjoying serving on the Presbytery Care Committee, as well as the work of the other courts of the church. Our mission is to and with the wider church as well.
5. **Inviting** Rev. Jean Morris and Rev. Fiona Swanson to join Rev. Peter Coutts as **Ministers in Association** with St. Andrew's. We are so thankful for the wisdom and gifts that each minister brings to the leadership team at St. Andrew's.
6. Working with Ministry Resource and Accountability Team to engage **Rev. Geoffrey Simmins as Pastoral Care minister.** What a privilege it is to work with Geoffrey who is already known and loved by St. Andrew's and is a collaborative and gracious colleague.
7. Working with Facilities and Personnel Team to **hire a new custodian** - Darryl George. Darryl ensures that this well used building is clean and maintained without burning out volunteers. He is a blessing.

New Challenge:

The greatest challenge this year has been to work with a larger congregation and capable office staff in Dolly Forcade and Debby Dorcas. Usually doing everything on my own, it has been wonderful to be supported by people who know the history, where to find the money and clarify details that keep the big ideas doable with the right team/people. The tech support team of Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane, David Kurtz, Craig Murray, and the sound team take the stress off! I am amazed by the various teams and resources that allow me to focus on teaching and leading. I do not have to do what others are happy and capable of doing!

I want to thank all of St. Andrew's for your warm welcome and grace. In grief and illness, the community stepped up to support and fill the gaps. We minister to each other. I have felt the joy of the Lord in this place. We truly are growing disciples who love like Jesus.

Together in Christ's Service,

Laurie

Pastoral Care Lead - –*Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins*

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calgary

Growing. Life. Together. With God.



In September of 2024, I was happy to accept the congregation's invitation to return to St. Andrew's to support Rev. Laurie in team ministry.

My main responsibilities have been to connect with people in times of grief and loss, and to provide worship support as requested. It has also been a pleasure to sing with my wife Joan in the choir.

I am particularly happy to have worked with Rev. Laurie, the Life after Loss team, and Grief Share co-coordinators (Judie Coleman and Alice Williams) to provide support for people who attended a Saturday morning service in December on the theme of "Surviving the Holidays." Providing ongoing support for people who have experienced loss in their lives is a key goal in my ministry; I give thanks for the opportunity to work with others in our congregation to do so.

With the LinX team, I put together a new rubric called "Caring and Connecting Corner," which provides weekly food for thought.

I also greatly enjoyed facilitating two quite different Advent workshops, each four weeks long. The first was on the theme of Celtic Advent; the second was an introduction to ukulele. Thanks to Director of Music Evan Mounce, our team was invited to play during the Family Service on Christmas Eve.

I am grateful to have been invited to provide leadership in such diverse areas and look forward to a full and varied coming year.

I am happy to meet with anyone who would like to discuss aspects of congregational care, and I invite suggestions for future workshops.

Geoffrey

Clerk of Session ~ *Debby Dorcas*

A few of our 2024 Session Highlights:



1. Session was thrilled to welcome Rev. Laurie McKay as our Lead Minister, and as our Moderator of Session in February of 2024. We look forward to the energy and joy Laurie brings to every space she enters. We are blessed!!
2. We gave thanks to Rev. Peter Coutts for his leadership the last two years as our Interim Minister in 2022 and our Interim Moderator in 2023 and January 2024. We are grateful for his support and encouragement, and help in revitalizing our missional focus here at St. Andrew's.
3. Under Rev. Laurie's leadership we revitalized the Welcome and Connections Team, taking steps in welcoming 2SLGBTQIA+ within our community, and building relationships with the Indigenous communities.
4. In June of 2024 we were thrilled to welcome Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins back as our Pastoral Care Lead. We also welcomed Rev. Peter Coutts, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, and Rev. Fiona Swanson as Ministers in Association at St. Andrew's. Along with Rev. Laurie McKay, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey, our Ministers in Association, and Rev. Clay Kuhn participating in our worship services, we indeed have an abundance of riches!!
5. Session spent time together on October 4 and 5 in a retreat reflecting on Spiritual gifts, and after discussion and discernment, came up with 4 areas we want to focus on in 2025:
 1. Indigenous Relationships
 2. Youth
 3. Seniors
 4. 2SLGBTQIA+

Session Members Serving Jan – Dec 2024

Rev. Laurie McKay, Moderator

Audrey Cole

Judie Coleman

Cathy Millar

Judy Bridgemohan

Christine Pepper

Lauren Nolette

Craig Murray

Loran McVittie

Debby Dorcas

Lynn Judd

Derek Wilkinson

Mark Rowe

Desiree Henrichsen

Rhonda Wishart

Dolly Forcade

Sheri Coutts

Inge Murray

Stephanie Werle

Director of Music Ministries ~ *Evan Mounce*

The Music Ministry exists to enrich the spiritual lives of St. Andrew's through music and song.



TEAM MEMBERS:

St. Andrew's Choir, Praise Team, Kaleidoscope Ringers (Lori Teneycke, director)

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

The Music Ministry at St. Andrew's has led music in a number of special services this past year. A few of these have included a presentation of the Weeping Tree on Good Friday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Sundays with our Kaleidoscope Ringers and The Master's Singers, Bring-a-Friend Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve as well as our Indigenous People's Sunday and Healing and Reconciliation Sunday. We are so blessed to have Debby Dorcas as part of the Music Ministry - she organized and led an inspiring and engaging presentation of the Musical *Uncertain Poor Shepherds* as part of our Advent services.

The St. Andrew's Choir also reached out into the community and participated in the *All is Calm* Advent concert at Grace Presbyterian Church. We had two special Workshops with guest instruction by Laura Brandt and Sara Staples, we have also had a couple of musical excursions with members of our teams including going to hear the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus and Calgary Opera. Our ministry is enriched by a variety of guest singers and instrumentalists and we were delighted to welcome back Andrew Leitch, Megan Tracz, Sara Far, Jasmine Long, Laura Brandt, Taylor Matheson, and Heather Wooton. Thank you to all the members of St. Andrew's Music Ministry for another rich and vibrant year of music-making.

The Music Ministry, whether it be the Choir, Praise Team or Kaleidoscope, provides musical leadership in every service to enrich the musical lives of the congregation to lift us up in song, in the words of Hans Christian Anderson, "*Where words fail music speaks.*" The Music Ministry also exists to inspire and encourage the many congregational leaders that are a part of it. It is joyful to share music and we hope that it can bring joy, comfort, and peace to everyone who shares these experiences.

There is always room for more people to get involved and it would be lovely to have some new faces join our dedicated music-making teams. If you could see yourself singing with the choir, strumming your guitar with the praise team, or ringing handbells, it would be lovely to have you. Ask a friend who is in the Music Ministry to tell you a bit about their experience or reach out to me to talk more.

Yours in music,

Evan

Christian Meditation Group – *Ken & Sharon Burrill*

The St. Andrew's Christian Meditation group continued to meet weekly through 2024, gathering from 9:00-10:00 AM each Monday. Typically, our sessions were held on-line, using ZOOM, but several times during the year we met in person either in one of our homes or in Fish Creek Park.

Our in-person gatherings are always very special as we are able to share prayer time, conversation, great snacks and perhaps a short contemplative walk with good friends.

As a group, we continue to be inspired and challenged by the teaching of John Main and other contemplatives who support the Canadian and World Communities for Christian Meditation. Quoting from *Word into Silence* by John Main - "The all-important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but *the* reality in our lives; to let it become that reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are."

Meditating together in silence allows us to "Be still and know that I am God," thus opening our hearts to the silent presence and inspired leadership of the Spirit of His Son.

There is an excellent web presence at WCCM.org for those who may be interested in the resources available through the World Community. Please reach out to Sharon or Ken at skmeditates@gmail.com if you have questions. All are welcome. We would love to have you join us.

Ken & Sharon



Communications Team – *Kevin MacFarlane, Convenor*

Communicate to all congregants the ongoing opportunities for engagement in the Mission of St. Andrew's. Also, to provide stimulating images to complement our worship services and guide the congregants through the hymns and other worship components both online and in the sanctuary.

Team members: Debby Dorcas, Kevin MacFarlane, Barbara MacFarlane, Lauren Nolette

LinX Weekly Email

The major activity of this team is the weekly preparation and distribution of the LinX email on Wednesday afternoons. Special situations may require additional "special editions," but these are rare. We have increased our readership from 260 subscribers to almost 280 in the past year. Debby Dorcas does an excellent job accumulating and reviewing content (often writing content) for Kevin and Barbara to integrate into a colourful weekly edition. Major components include:



- An introduction to the coming worship service (or services), with bible passage links, activity sheets for all ages, and a link to the Livestream for those who attend online.
- A "RefleXion" upon the message provided in the sermon during the prior Sunday.
- A Calendar of Events and Meetings for the coming week (Sunday to Sunday)
- A "Grateful, Thankful, Blessed" item to highlight some of the many blessings granted by God to us through St. Andrew's people.
- Upcoming Calendar highlights, recognition of births and deaths, deadlines approaching and "Stay Connected" links.
- New features this year include a weekly "Caring and Connecting Corner" authored by Rev. Dr. Geoffrey and regular updates from the "Rainbow Team".
- A "Wider Community" section focussed on opportunities to support the needs beyond our usual focus.

Weekly PowerPoint Slides

LinX images are also used by the team for "Announcements" to supplement the full complement of slides produced by Kevin and Barbara MacFarlane for each of our worship services. In 2024, we continued our focus on scripture-based images throughout the service to increase the cohesion of the worship experience. A new feature in our "Loop Slides" is the identification of the Scripture passages which will be read during the service so that the congregation can look them up in the Bible before the service begins. Another new feature includes the weekly "Stewardship Moment" slide provided to us by the The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Kevin and Barbara also prepare supplementary Easter, Christmas, and Celebration of Life PowerPoints.

Facebook and Instagram

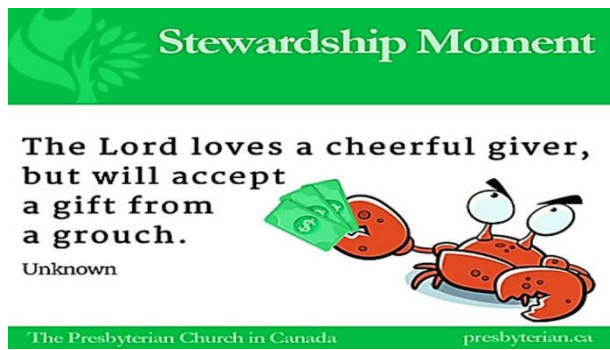
The Weekly LinX is used as a basis for most of the Facebook and Instagram posts initiated by Kevin MacFarlane. Lauren Nolette also posts images and videos on Instagram and Facebook from events taking place in and around St. Andrew's which may be of interest to our congregants.

Website Maintenance

In conjunction with the creation of the weekly LinX, the website is maintained with the addition of Event pages to link to the LinX articles. Other additions and revisions to the website, including colour changes and banner images, are usually prompted by changes we make to the LinX articles. We appreciate the many requests we get from teams to keep information current. All teams are encouraged to review the website regularly so that they can provide Kevin MacFarlane with updated information.

Images:

An example of a weekly “Stewardship Moment” slide from the PCC which caught the attention of many members of the congregation:



An example of a “Loop Slide” introducing one of the upcoming Scripture readings



ConnXions Team – *Lorna Andronikou, Convenor*

The ConnXions Team highlights how each ministry team is living out St. Andrew's Vision & Mission via a bi-monthly newsletter available in print and online format.

Team Members:

Lorna Andronikou (Convenor), Judie Coleman, Kevin MacFarlane, Barbara MacFarlane, Flemming Nielsen, David Townsend and Thelma Wagner.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- There were 6 ConnXions Newsletters published in 2024. There was no issue published in August of 2024 but we had a special edition issue published in September 2024. This issue had photos from the congregation - highlighting summer activities.
- The ConnXions Team runs solely via church volunteers.
- Updates are included in both print and digital format providing digital equity to all church members by allowing those who do not have access to a computer with the ability to be informed of all church news.
- The printed versions of ConnXions are delivered in person upon the publication of each issue via a dedicated team of delivery personnel headed by Flemming Nielsen.
- ConnXions welcomes two new members to the team: David Townsend and Thelma Wagner. We are blessed by their willingness to step into this role!
- ConnXions looks forward to highlighting all the great work of our ministry teams in 2025!



Facilities Team - *Sean Pepper, Convenor and Matt Nolette, Secretary*

The Facilities team ensures that our building is safe and well maintained inside and outside. This includes waste removal, lawn cutting, snow shovelling and plowing, and HVAC services. Facilities volunteers perform minor repairs throughout the year as required, and we also plan and coordinate upgrades and renovations to the building.

Team members: Sean Pepper (Convenor), Matt Nolette (Secretary), Alfred MacRae, Brent Werle, Flemming Nielsen, Jarret Hoefling, Mark Rowe, and Otto deNooij

Some Highlights from the past year:

- Changes to the kitchenette in the Karl English Lounge, which included adding a larger fridge to help with the growing demand of the space
- New members joined the team over the past year, welcoming Jarrett and Matt
- Completed painting in not only the Karl English Lounge but in all the stairwells

Thank you to not only our entire team, but to everyone in the congregation that has shown support and helped in any capacity to further and maintain the church. Without the generous help of everyone, we would not be able to achieve all the work we do. Please keep an eye out for future opportunities to get involved to help us keep our church home beautiful and well cared for!

Matt & Sean

Faith Formation Team - *Rhonda Wishart, Convenor*

The Faith Formation (FF) Team is engaged in providing guidance and active support to life-long faith formation within the congregation, with a particular focus on children and youth.

Team Members:

Rhonda Wishart (Convenor), Inge Murray, Debby Dorcas and Lorna Andronikou. Lauren and Matt Nolette on matters relevant to our youth.

Two Highlights of 2024:

1. We were excited to host two Take 150 events for young children in 2024 – with a St. Patrick’s Day theme in the spring and a Hallowe’en one in the fall. These events are planned to give parents a night off while treating children to delightful and noisy crafts and games after a fun communal meal. This program unites our children in play and provides an opportunity for our children to introduce friends to our faith community in a relaxed, joyful atmosphere.

2. Christmas season provides the FF Team with the opportunity to organize both the annual Mitten Tree and the Christmas Eve Family service. The children were delighted to collect the scarves, hats and mittens so generously donated by members of the congregation on Dec. 15. Our Christmas tree was laden with gifts which were distributed to those in need by the Indigenous Friendship Centre.

The Christmas Eve service, particularly designed for children and families, was as heartwarming, relaxed and joyful as we had hoped. To further warm our hearts, the children helped fill 80 bags with gift items for children which were delivered to the Women in Need Society (WINS) over the holidays.

We are indeed blessed by our faithful nursery, church school, youth group, adult bible/book study/ meditation leaders, and a congregation of families willing to engage in an eventful faith journey!

Rhonda



*Sunday morning
Church School ~
learning can be FUN!*



*Church School Mission Project ~ filling
bags for children in need from all the
donations provided by our St. Andrew's
family*



Adult Bible Study - *Bill Judd*

We are here to grow in faith together, sharing our insights and our questions.

There was a faithful crew of 12-20 meeting throughout 2024 in Trinity Hall following Sunday Worship to consider scripture and share insights, questions and concerns with each other. Meeting in person was no longer such a big deal, but still something to cherish only a couple of years post-Covid. And we trust, with the help of the Holy Spirit, our own words and understanding were being guided so that we would learn from each other as well as from the words of scripture. The space in Trinity Hall is equipped with a large video screen for teaching presentations as part of our studies. Plus, the proximity to the kitchen makes it convenient for coffee and treats.

We started the year with lots of ambition launching into a study entitled “The Bible Year” with Magrey DeVega. The idea of the study is to work through the Bible from start to finish hoping to fill in gaps that we miss when reading only selected portions, and trying to get a more complete sense of the arc of God's story with creation, with people, with the church and with us. I think we were continually surprised by how much all of us have missed when we aren't reading the whole story. However, we did find it challenging - a lot of repetition; a lot of history that is so foreign to us - and we got bogged down. So, by October we were ready to pause that study and pivot to another.

Picking up something completely new, with a teacher that we had never heard of was a bit of a risk, but very rewarding and timely. Our new study is “Context” with Josh Scott. In a series of study examples Josh is emphasizing the importance of considering the whole picture of time, place and circumstances when reading scripture. It is very easy to find a phrase or story that catches our attention and claim it as our own, but is that really the best way to gain a wholesome understanding? Too often we short-change ourselves in what we can be learning and just as important, we can take scripture out of context to use it for our own purposes, some seem to even 'weaponize' scripture. I think we are gaining at least a little awareness of such issues and growing in our understanding of scripture as we read some familiar passages with new eyes.

Much thanks to Bill Judd for guiding the weekly discussions and to Debby Dorcas who kept this crew informed and on-track, and stepped into the leader role now and then. Looking to 2025, we're nearing the end of “Context”, but there will be another study starting soon. There is always more for us to learn from the thousands of years of story laid out for us in the Bible.

If you have an urge to join us, then just come along. There is no perfect time to start. Each session has its own lesson. We would be glad to have you share with us, even if you've never been part of a Bible Study group and would just like to check it out. You can contact Bill Judd phone number: 403-278-5904; email: juddb@shaw.ca to discuss further.



Peace,
Bill

Youth Group - *Matt & Lauren Nolette*

We are here to walk in faith with the young people of St. Andrew's.

Team Leaders: Matthew & Lauren Nolette, and Shelby Cole and Daniel Cullen

The St. Andrew's Youth Group exists to nurture faith, build community, and empower young people to grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Through engaging activities, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to spend time together, we aim to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive space where youth can explore their relationship with God, develop their gifts, and make a positive impact in their church and community.

Matthew and Lauren Nolette are the Youth Leaders and are joined by Shelby Cole and Daniel Cullen frequently to support the ministry of the youth group.

Some of the awesome things we've done this year has been taking a group of our youth to St. Catharines, Ontario for UPLIFT, our national church youth conference. We spent 5 days worshipping, engaging in discussion, playing games, playing life-sized Settlers of Catan, and having a blast getting to know each other better.

We meet every Friday (unless otherwise posted), at 7pm and we now have a strong group regularly of around 15 youth, and we play all kinds of church wide in-the-dark games, watch movies, play board games and video games, and always have the best snacks!

Join us Friday nights at 7pm at the church! Contact Lauren at laurenrosecole4@gmail.com for more information!



Matt & Lauren

Family Ministry Team - *Stephanie Werle, Lucy Aburto, Craig & Inge Murray*

Our goal is to organize intergenerational gatherings to build community within our church family, through opportunities to be in nature, physically active, and to worship God in a different way.

Team Members: Craig & Inge Murray, Lucy Aburto, Stephanie Werle

Highlight from 2024:

In August, we had a great turn-out to our Annual Family Camping weekend at Sandy McNabb campground in Sheep River Provincial Park. Our time together included walks, games and an outdoor worship service led by Rev. Peter Coutts.

Why do we love this ministry? Our Annual Camping weekend is a highlight in our summer plans for the cherished memories and strengthened connections made. Some of us are seasoned campers, and some who come are experiencing camping for the first time. We enjoy conversations, hiking, and playing games with people we might not usually connect with on Sunday mornings. The weekend is for all St. Andrew's people and it is the intergenerational aspect that we truly value. Full of laughter, activities, sometimes hail (!), and lots of FUN, we look forward to it year after year. Most meaningful is the outdoor worship service for its casual nature, time to reflect and pray, and to really feel God's presence in our time together.

Stephanie, Lucy, Craig & Inge



Finance Team - *John Cuthbertson, Convenor*

We are here to help St. Andrew's manage its finances.

TEAM MEMBERS: Shona Vandrasco, CPA; Cathy Millar, Session Rep; Dolly Forcade, Treasurer; David Townsend, CPA (full time until April 30, 2024 and ad hoc since) and John Cuthbertson, Convenor

The first thing to say to all of you is THANK YOU! Your generous, consistent, and ongoing financial support is so very much appreciated. It allowed us to resource the life and mission of our congregation and to do so in a wonderful facility. 2024 was another good year due entirely to your financial stewardship, important contributions from the Legacy Fund, the Memorial Fund and the 5 year pledges (which expire after this year), the financial prudence of our congregational teams with their own budgets, and improved investment returns. Everyone was rowing in the same direction. Well done!

The Addendum to this report contains the 2024 financials and the 2025 proposed financial plan which has been approved in principle by Session for submission to the congregation. We are happy to receive 2025 "budget" questions before the annual congregational meeting either in writing or verbally, but the goal will be to answer them on March 9, 2025 when all congregants are present for the annual congregational meeting. If you have questions about our 2024 financials, please direct them to any member of the Finance Team. We will be doing a recap of 2024 finances at the annual meeting and there will also be an opportunity to raise questions.

Here are some highlights:

2024 was a good year from a financial perspective and it allowed us to make headway on contributions to the Sustainability Fund (SF). You'll recall that the SF was established last year with terms of reference calling for a target minimum of 4 months of our average annual operating costs and an aspirational goal of \$600,000. The full terms of reference for this critically important tool for our congregation can be found on our website online under "Online Resources" or by [CLICKING HERE](#).

At its meeting on June 18, 2024, Session approved the new sign project and that it would be funded by the Memorial Fund. This project had been identified as a priority in the September 2023 strategy meeting, after the development of the SF and arranging for paid help for our facilities maintenance. Since both of the latter items had been achieved with the adoption of our overall budget by the Congregation at our annual meeting on March 10, 2024, the sign project was the next priority in line. The Development Permit for our new sign was issued in late 2024 and work on this exciting priority will start in the spring when the weather warms up.

One member made a generous donation of shares in 2024 to the SF. Thank you for your gift!

Our pledges continue to be an important element of our overall revenue and we thank those who continue to honor those commitments. These 5-year pledges end at the conclusion of our 2025 year.

All of these revenue items, plus increased rental income for our space and a significant contribution from the Legacy Fund as a partner of the Church, made an enormous 2024 impact on St. Andrew's!

On the expense side, the team convenors managed their budgets prudently-thank you! We did experience higher than anticipated utilities and insurance costs. The utilities increases came about due to two factors- higher charges from our utilities providers (look at your own utilities bills-ouch) and also because we just used more utilities with increased usage of our space. And insurance just seems to get more expensive each year.

Last September, we again convened a strategy session of the Facilities Team, Legacy Fund, Personnel Team and Finance Team to identify and develop our priorities, both in the immediately following year (2025) plus looking out several more. Rev. Laurie moderated the meeting and under her guidance, a consensus was developed which was subsequently approved by Session. Two items are of particular note. The top priority was to deal with flicker damage which has caused serious degradation to the outside of our building envelope on the south side of the church. The Facilities Team presented a plan which involved repair work starting in the summer of 2025, timed to minimize disruption to other Church activities. The estimated cost to remedy this with a product guaranteed for 10 years is \$60,000. Sean Pepper has agreed to supply the required scaffolding (and it's a lot) at cost, which is a great help to keep project costs minimized. We are financing this from our undesignated cash reserves.

The second priority was a Personnel recommendation to include a cost of living increase (COLA) in our staffing expenses. This was adopted and is reflected in our 2025 financial plan.

Finally, after our September priorities meeting, an unanticipated situation developed with respect to our Church site drainage and parking capabilities. You may know that since 2010, members of our congregation (the Impact Team) have monitored things next door to us in the old Y space. Tom McIntyre has been working incredibly hard on this. One of the goals of that team was to be alert to low-cost opportunities for additional parking. When the City development sign went up next door recently advising of the proposed condo development, a couple of things happened in uncomfortably short order. We met with the developer to canvass what was being proposed. We also determined we needed to get our own ducks in a row as to what might be required for the City to issue a development permit for more parking. One requirement was a detailed site survey and real property report from an engineer, which was arranged and obtained. Secondly, the City was going to need a current drainage report. It was in this work that we discovered St. Andrew's was not compliant with its existing development permits. Had the condo project next door not happened, we may have just let things lie. Sleeping dogs and all that.

However, there was a concern that we had only two choices: we could proactively fix this and get a few more parking spots, or we could have a solution imposed on us because of the development next door. We chose the first option because we had better cost control and certainty. We can speak further about this initiative at the annual meeting when we expect to have developed a more comprehensive financing plan. Based on the engineering work so far, it appears that approximately 2/3's of the project cost will relate to drainage compliance, and 1/3 to the creation of additional parking spots. We currently have the resources to fund this project and have indicated to Session that we could finance the project, but that it would exhaust our financial capability and flexibility.

Specifically, we would use undesignated funds and would not create a dedicated reserve for this project so as to maximize our accounting adaptability. The assurance to Session means we can continue with the work needed to advance this project. However, we feel a more comprehensive financing plan is warranted and at the time of this writing, we are looking at all our financing options.

These include but are not limited to contributions from the SF, help from other existing reserve accounts on our books, a congregational appeal, possible grant opportunities, and interim non interest-bearing loan possibilities to name a few. We did consider sequencing this project to happen in 2025 and then do the flicker remediation in 2026 to give us some better cash flow options. Unfortunately, the flicker damage needs fixing ASAP and so we are faced with funding two significant capital projects in 2025. Not ideal but our congregation has successfully responded to similar challenges in the past and we think we can meet these new challenges.

That is a brief recap of 2024 and a precursor of some things to come on the “project” front.

Once again, thanks to each of you for your own impactful gifts. They are truly appreciated. See you on March 9, 2025.

John



Gardening Team - *Pat & Duane Tritter*

Well, it was a season of heat and water restrictions. Thanks be to God, and good volunteers, the flower beds, the hedge, and the pots made it through the summer looking glorious! Thank you Maureen Amos, Phyllis Duncan, Lee and Rob Goss, Lynn Judd, Duane Tritter, and Noel White.

Thanks to the info fair held in the fall, we have some new volunteers signed up and willing to work with our team this coming season - thank you, and looking forward to your help making St. Andrew's a beautiful place to worship – and to walk by!



Pat

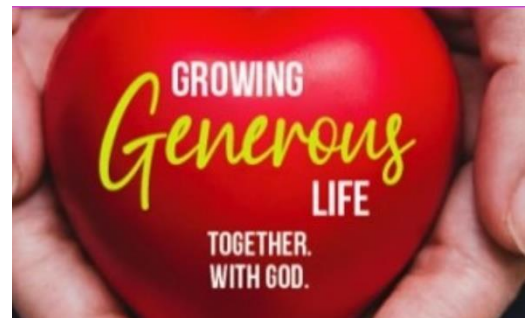
Gratitude & Generosity Team - *Stephanie Werle, Convenor*

The Gratitude & Generosity Team (G & G) promotes an understanding of the theology of stewardship and the awareness of God's grace in our lives that calls us to respond with grateful and generous hearts in support of our ministry and mission with our time, our talent and our money.

Team Members: Elaine Cantlon, Kevin MacFarlane, Cathy Millar, Stephanie Werle (Convenor)

Highlights: This year we continued our Gratitude & Generosity offering moments, with the focus on giving our time and talent as we encourage teams to tell impact stories in expression of gratitude and inspiration for others.

Why do we do this? Our team believes strongly that everything we have - our time, treasure and talent - are gifts from God, and that it is biblical to give in the ways we have been blessed. Our new team mandate is written out of our passion to encourage generosity. We value the stories shared during our G&G offering moments, highlighting the impact on both those who give and those who receive, as we witness the blessings of our generosity in action. We know that when we focus on generosity, we are living out God's desire for us to use our resources for God's kingdom and glory, and in turn draw ourselves closer in relationship with God.



Stephanie

Heritage Seniors - *Jan Kozbial, Past President, writing on behalf of Maureen Pelz, President*

Heritage 50+ Seniors' mandate is to improve the quality of life of its members by providing opportunities for physical, spiritual, social and mental activities.

This year, the Executive of the Heritage Seniors has had major changes that will ensure continued enjoyment for our group. The new president is Maureen Pelz. New Members-at-large are Donna Rietveld and Heather Erhardt. A complete list can be found on the Heritage Seniors bulletin board downstairs.

Heritage Seniors remain active and progressive due in part to new Executive members who have energized the monthly entertainment that follows our luncheons and they have also taken over the decorations for the luncheon tables. Great work ladies!

Our communications team has now utilized an email list for sending out monthly information and this has been well received – thanks to Ferne Finlaison. This change has reduced the phone calls to only a few members who do not have emails.

In October, we celebrated our 35 Year Anniversary. What an accomplishment, considering the difficulty recovering from the Covid shutdown.

This year, the Heritage Seniors members, attending the Christmas luncheon, donated to the Veterans Food Bank and the Club matched the members’ donations. Thank you everyone.

In Memoriam - Dolly Forcade, Office Administrator & Treasurer

The following members and adherents of our congregation died during the year:

Ed Braun

Ken Cha

Harry Eisenhower

Paul Elliott

Linda Fry

Tom Geddes

Ron Horwood

Mavis McKay

Herb Robertson

Joan Robertson

Tom Slimmon

George Thomson

Rae Turnbull

Alfred Zimmer



Dolly

Ladies Guild - *Audrey Cole, President*

The Ladies Guild is a group of faithful and dedicated multigenerational women who, while enjoying faith and fellowship, support each other, and with their individual God-given talents work together to support both St. Andrew's and our community near and far.

St. Andrew's Ladies Guild Executive: President: Audrey Cole; Vice President: Vacant; Secretary: Margaret Bates; Treasurer: Sylvia Shaw

To support these efforts two major fundraisers were held in 2024. These were:

- the Annual Soup Sale which offers a warm meal of homemade soup in the middle of our cold winters. It also gives people a chance to gift a warm meal extending love and care for others.
- the Christmas Bazaar. A much-loved tradition that brings the whole congregation together sharing their time and talents as well as much fellowship and new friendships as we welcome those outside our doors into our midst. Funds from these events support many mission projects.

We financially supported the congregation as follows:

- \$ 5,000 to the general fund
- \$ 1,000 to Scholarships
- \$ 912 for new blinds for the Karl English lounge and nursery
- \$ 1,127 for a new fridge for Karl English lounge
- \$ 575 for custom made piano cover for Karl English lounge
- \$ 306 for kitchen and bathroom supplies
- \$ 201 for postage for greeting cards, sent on behalf of the congregation

Outside our congregation but within The Presbyterian Church in Canada we supported the following:

- Camp Kannawin - \$ 500
- PWS&D - \$ 1,000

Outside organisations:

- Five Calgary Public High Schools' Student Emergency Funds - \$3,000 (\$600 per school)
- Ronald McDonald House - \$2,200
- Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids - \$1,920
- Victoria's Quilts - \$250

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month (Sept - June) in the Karl English Lounge at 1:30. We welcome anyone of any age who is interested in sharing in this ministry to join us.

Audrey

Leading with Care - *Dolly Forcade*

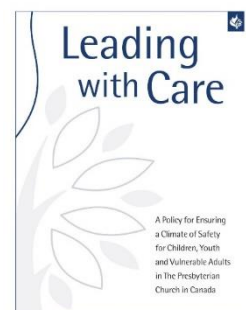
Leading With Care (LWC) is the policy created by The Presbyterian Church in Canada to ensure a climate of safety for all. The LWC team is here to help St. Andrew's work towards being a safer space for all, especially considering vulnerabilities due to age, ability and gender, though not limited to these alone. We recognize that we are called by God to protect and care for all in our community.

We held a fire drill in October. The building was cleared well within the desired time. Thank you to everyone for their participation and willingness to follow directions. Fire drills are now a yearly requirement. Everyone should be aware of fire exits around the building for their own safety.

Police checks have continued to be monitored. It is an ongoing task.

The team will be looking to meet in the spring to review the programs of the church, and assess the risks of each program as well as ways to reduce those risks.

Dolly



Legacy Trust Fund - *Craig Murray, Convenor*

The Legacy Team is in place to provide oversight and governance of the Legacy Fund, supporting St. Andrew's in the categories of Mission, Worship and Facilities.

TEAM MEMBERS: Craig Murray (Convenor), Margaret Bates (Treasurer), Merle Crawford (Secretary), Lucy Aburto, MaryAnne Quesnel and Derek Wilkinson.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year include:

- Worship: New chairs, rugs and lamps for the children's worship space.
- Facilities: New sidewalk outside the KE Lounge; various painting projects.
- Mission: Funding to support the construction of a concrete walkway to enable Zac Ridsdale wheelchair access to his home; funds to support the very successful Indigenous Friendship Day.

A special note of thanks to Derek Wilkinson and MaryAnne Quesnel, both retiring in December 2024, for their service to the team.

It is important for our team to ensure that the funds generated are utilized as per the guidelines of the resolution document to enhance worship, support our mission projects and ensure that our building is well maintained.

Craig

*New chairs, rugs & lamps for
Children's worship space*

*Zac Ridsdale's concrete ramp
and walkway*



Memorial Fund - *Alex Grant, Memorial Fund Treasurer*

In 2024 Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in Memory of the following people.

- Harry Eisenhauer
- Ruth Grant
- Ron Horwood
- Jean Simpson
- Muriel Young
- Alf Zimmer



Alex

Ministry Resource & Accountability - *Cathy Millar, Convenor*

The Ministry Resource and Accountability Team (MRA) is a team of 3 -4 elders providing support to all Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in a called position at St. Andrew's.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Laurie McKay, Craig Murray, Lynn Judd and Cathy Millar

The team meets once per quarter at a minimum and more frequently as required. MRA did not function as a team while Peter Coutts was serving as both Interim Minister and Interim Moderator. However we did meet with Peter in early February of 2024 to begin preparations to welcome and support our newly called Minister of Word and Sacrament, The Reverend Laurie McKay.

MRA held its first meeting with Laurie on February 29 shortly after her Induction. It was established right from the beginning of Laurie's ministry with us that our top priority was to engage the services of a part-time Pastoral Care Minister to work collaboratively with Laurie. A number of meetings were held over the next few months to develop a position description for a part-time contract Pastoral Care Minister. This was approved by Session in April and MRA then assumed the role of "search team", overseeing the circulation of the position to potential candidates, conducting interviews, and identifying a candidate to recommend to Session. And we were very pleased to welcome The Reverend Geoffrey Simmins back into our midst following this search process.

During the fall MRA met once with Laurie at the end of October prior to her trip to Egypt and before the busy Advent season began.

Included here are the Terms of Reference for our Ministry Resource and Accountability Team at St. Andrew's. To date only two congregations in our Presbytery have a MRA team. Through its Clergy Care and Resource Committee, the Presbytery is in the process of encouraging all Sessions to create some version of a MRA team to support their Ministers. As a result of the work Presbytery is doing in this area it is possible that our current Terms of Reference may change over time as necessary.

Ministry Resource & Accountability Mandate

The Ministry Resource and Accountability Team is a team of 3 – 4 elders providing support to all Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in a called position at St. Andrew's.

Responsibilities

1. Be a resource to assist St. Andrew's ministers in fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of their position descriptions, and in meeting the goals and objectives of their Session-approved ministry plans
2. Conduct the Lead Minister's annual review
3. Assist the Lead Minister, as requested, in his/her annual review of Associate Ministers
4. Assist the Lead Minister, as requested, in his/her ongoing role of supervising Associate Ministers
5. Meet quarterly or for emergent issues
6. Provide constructive feedback from Session and congregation for ongoing ministry
7. Support the ongoing health and well-being of St. Andrew's ministers
8. Approve vacation leave, in consultation with the Lead Minister, and discuss study leave requests
9. Provide regular reports to Session
10. Prepare a brief review of yearly activities for the annual report

The Ministry Resource and Accountability Team will:

- I. Include three to four elders, with recognized gifts to achieve the responsibilities, appointed by Session in consultation with the General Presbyter
- II. Include all called Ministers of Word and Sacrament at St. Andrew's
- III. Require individual members to serve a 3-year term, with at least one member rotating off each year and no more than 2 leaving in a given year when there are 4 members serving on the team

Cathy

Mission Ministries – Claire House - *Bill Judd, Team Member*

Our team visits the residents at Claire House on a regular basis to help build a sense of community.

Our Team:

Pat & Duane Tritter, Terry Basaraba, Sheri Coutts, Lynn & Bill Judd

Claire House is an affordable housing project of the Calgary Homeless Foundation located a short distance from St. Andrew's in Kingsland. There are 41 subsidized rental units - a mix of one & two bedroom units - with a number of singles, couples and small families. Residents may be new to Calgary, getting started again after suffering a financial set-back, escaping a bad relationship, etc. ... They can stay as long as they need to, and as long as they can manage within the guidelines of this supported, but independent living program.

It can be difficult to feel good about making new friends and wanting to be part of this community, so a small, but friendly group of volunteers from St. Andrew's visits regularly to help build a sense of community. Our main effort is meeting most weeks for conversation, coffee and breakfast. We also add some extra interest through the summer with a flower bed and veggie garden. We've also supported special events such as community dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Lately there has been talk about helping out with a knitting and crocheting circle - anything to help residents feel a little better about themselves and come to meet their neighbours. Of course, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the very generous gift cards to every household from St. Andrew's congregation at Christmas time. Much thanks to all the generous donors to that campaign. And a special thanks to our little group of elves - I mean volunteers - who represent St. Andrew's week-by-week offering a good spirit visit over a shared meal - Pat & Duane Tritter, Terry Basaraba, Sheri Coutts, Lynn & Bill Judd.

Bill

Mission Ministries – Food Bank Depot - *Bill Judd, Team Leader*

Our Team Captains:

Lucy Aburto, Sheri Coutts, Joan Rowe, Christina Arnold, David Townsend and Bill Judd

St Andrew's has partnered with the Calgary Food Bank to be a satellite distribution location. Since September 2017, we have helped to get food hampers to thousands of Calgarians in need. Most Saturdays you can see a team of volunteers greeting as many as 14 families and individuals. The Food Bank itself manages the operation, including intake of clients and organizing the hampers. They send us the list of client appointments in a given week along with the food for each family / individual.

A small team of volunteers receives the shipment on Friday morning and another team handles the distribution on Saturday afternoons. Our location near the LRT and on a bus route is often cited as an advantage making access easier for clients, while our option of a Saturday pick-up is what works for others. Almost everyone appreciates the friendly welcome they find at St. Andrew's.

Thanks to a stalwart group of **43 volunteers** who work together in 4 Friday shifts and 7 Saturday shifts to share the work. Special thanks to Lucy Aburto, Sheri Coutts, Joan Rowe, Christina Arnold, David Townsend and Bill Judd who captain the teams and help to manage the operation. And an extra special thanks to Dolly Forcade who quietly distributes any leftovers to friends in need that are known to us.

Bill

Mission Ministries – The Edge - *Judy McKearney, Team Member*

Our team strives to provide a safe haven for youth ages 12 – 15 to gather with their peers after school.

St. Andrew's offers this after-school drop-in program each Wednesday from 3:45 – 5:30 PM in the spacious room on the upper level of the church. The team leaders for this outreach are Peter Coutts, Audrey Cole, Ted and Lauren Cantlon, Karen McLeod, and Judy McKearney.

These incredible young people come bounding in the door each week looking forward to their time together at The Edge. We have had as many as 19 kids aged 14-15 years attending this important outreach program. Surprisingly, it's mainly boys who attend. Two of the fellows have also brought their younger brothers. They are responsible for looking after them after school. Why not – the more, the merrier!

We receive such a gift in getting to know these great kids on a personal level. A couple of us were able to attend their school Christmas band concerts. They were "blown away" that we wanted to attend!

Favourite activities at The Edge are eating (of course), playing Dungeons and Dragons on paper, practising ping pong, and playing games on the Switch Electronic console.

I have connected with Oak Park Church of Christ in Cedarbrae. That congregation has a food outreach program for those in need in their neighbourhood. From an initial conversation with their Pastor Lane, and upon learning about The Edge, he indicated that they would be pleased to help out. Each Wednesday at noon when I arrive, they generously offer a box filled with a variety of snacks for the kids. Delicious baked goods left from Side by Side, offered by Audrey Cole, are also added to the snack table.

It should also be mentioned that when a new person arrives for the first time, the current kids are very welcoming, inviting them to join their organized groups, and this positive attitude has continued since the group was initiated.

We are indebted to St. Andrew's for sharing and supporting this God-directed vision, our wonderful sub group, which generously volunteers their valuable time each week, and the generosity from the Legacy fund.

As we head into 2025, we are grateful for the privilege of being part of these kids' lives. We pray that we are making a positive difference and acknowledge that we receive more than we give!

Judy



Ministries of Care - *Judie Coleman, Pastoral Care Coordinator*

We are here to care for St. Andrew's people by listening, praying, and visiting them.

Our Ministries of Care teams provide spiritual and social care to the families in our church and community, many who are struggling with health issues, isolation, grief and other concerns. We look after God's people in love, compassion, respect, and unity. We provide food, emotional support and words of encouragement. We pray for them in situations where they have lost family members or friends, or when they are facing hospitalizations and surgeries. We offer support to families living with dementia.

Ministries of Care simply seeks to maintain consistent contact with people in varying ways to instill in the mind and heart of the people that they are known and cared for as members of God's family.

Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. (*Romans 15:2-3a – MSG*)

We give thanks for each TEAM COORDINATOR:

Alice Williams (*Wellness; GriefShare facilitator*), **Annette** Shaw (*Prayer Shawl Ministry*), **Barb** Kearnes (*Life after Loss*), **Inge** Murray (*Connect with Care*), **Joan** Rowe (*Care Share*), **Judie** Coleman (*Hospital Visitation; Stephen Ministry; GriefShare facilitator*), **Lorie** Nielsen (*Prayer Chain*), **Judy** McVittie (*Two's Company*), and **Audrey** Cole & **Judie** Coleman (*Side by Side*).

Since the end of the pandemic, the online Side by Side program has seen fewer and fewer attendees. This year, no one joined the online sessions so the decision was made to bring this ministry to a close. Something that was so important during Covid has now outlived its usefulness as people prefer the in-person Side by Side program. We are thankful to **Alice** Post for moving Side by Side online in 2020 and keeping the program viable until we could return to meeting in the Karl English Lounge.

We continue to send out *Journeying through Grief* booklets. These are a set of four short books sent to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one. 11 people received the booklets in 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- Sixty-one Christmas Blessing Stockings were donated, filled, and delivered by the congregation to our homebound and those who were known to need a little extra joy at Christmas time.
- For educational purposes I attended a Volunteer Companions Training on October 4 at the Living with Advance Illness Centre and a Caregivers Alberta Seminar at Christ Moravian Church on Oct 19.



When the blessings come, we should express our appreciation and look for an opportunity to channel our good fortune to someone else — pass it on, as the old song says. For example, He is "the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (*2 Corinthians 1:3b-4 NIV*)

Love will always compel us to do something good for God.

More information can be found on the church web site under [Ministries of Care](#).

Judie

Care Share: using MealTrain online ~ Joan Rowe, Coordinator

Purpose: To respond to individual needs identified by ministerial staff, elders, office staff and the congregation by providing short term support in crisis situations requiring food preparation, and/or other specific needs that can be met by a volunteer.

TEAM MEMBERS 2024:

Individuals on volunteer email list: 18

The following volunteers have graciously offered meals in 2024 via MealTrain requests: Barbara Kearnes, Lynn Judd, Pat Tritter, Marianne Attridge, Annika Koch, Inge Murray and Joan Rowe.

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

- Highlight 1: Those receiving meals have all expressed their deep gratitude for the ministry of personal sharing and for the meals themselves.
- Highlight 2: A total of 11 meals were delivered to 3 recipient families in 2024.
- Highlight 3: The volunteer church fair attracted 4 new people in adding their emails to the MealTrain volunteer list.

Joan

Connect with Care Ministry - Inge Murray & Dolly Forcade, Coordinators (formerly known as District Visitors)

Purpose: To respond to individuals/families who are new to St. Andrew's by providing a Care Connector (aka District Visitor) and also to individuals/families who request a different level of connection (phone, email, visit).

The Connect with Care Ministry Team consists of Care Connectors (formerly known as District Visitors) who connect with members and adherents of St. Andrew's by in-person visits, phone calls, emails or text messages. Our intent is to care for and support the people of St. Andrew's by being a personal link to the church, to provide pastoral care and Christian concern, to nurture faith and to share Christ's love in word and action.

In 2024, the Connect with Care team was blessed to have the leadership of Rev. Jean Morris. We established shared goals for this ministry team and committed to:

- Meet regularly with Care Connectors to affirm their ministry and provide learning opportunities
- Provide time for Care Connectors to share their experiences and learn from each other
- Strengthen the ministry of individual Care Connectors in their confidence and understanding of the role at St. Andrew's
- Create a positive environment to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and identify ways to improve.



Menu

Organize meals
for a friend after
a birth, surgery,
or illness.

Get Started, It's Free →

Find a Meal Train Page



On June 22nd and November 2nd, 2024, Care Connectors attended the Saturday morning workshops led by Rev. Laurie McKay, Rev. Jean Morris, Dolly Forcade and Inge Murray. Valuable information and conversations that focussed on building the skills and strength of this group was shared. We will continue to build on these skills in 2025. There are three more workshops planned for 2025. We are grateful for all the faith-filled care this group provides.

Inge & Dolly

GriefShare (Life after Loss Team) ~ Alice Williams, Judie Coleman, Facilitators

Purpose: To provide support to individuals grieving a loss.

Grief Share is a 13-week non-denominational program offering support, encouragement and help after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. This year we offered two 13-week sessions - an evening session in the spring (April-June) and an afternoon session in the fall (Sep-Nov).

Early August we held a reunion in the Karl English lounge for past and present participants to give them a chance to reconnect and to offer further support as they continue on their personal grief journey.

Early December, we hosted a Surviving the Holidays event along with members of the Life after Loss team, Rev. Laurie McKay and Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins. We hoped that the video presentation, followed by a short discussion time, would offer some comfort, support and helpful suggestions on how to navigate through the holiday season.



The mood of the room was enhanced with angels and draping.

Grief Share is offered to the congregation and the wider community.

Alice

Hospital Visitation Ministry ~ Judie Coleman, Coordinator

Purpose: We are here to help St. Andrew's provide spiritual care for the people of St. Andrew's Church who are being treated in Calgary hospitals.



Our Pastoral Care Lead Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins and Rev. Laurie McKay regularly visited congregants who were known to be in the hospital during the year. Currently, there are no lay visitors trained for this ministry since Alberta Health Services changed some of their policies around lay visitors. Even if we are not able to visit in person, we continued to offer prayers for those whom we knew to be in hospital or recovering at home. We remain open to God's leading and spirit as we try in all ways permitted to reach out and be the hands and feet of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Judie

Life after Loss ~ Barb Kearnes, Coordinator

Purpose: To provide support to individuals grieving a loss.

TEAM MEMBERS

Marilyn Cantlie, Phyllis Duncan, Alice Williams, Barbara Kearnes

Our team met several times this past year to re-evaluate and plan. We are very grateful for the wisdom and guidance provided by our pastoral care coordinator Judie Coleman, and our ministers Rev. Laurie and Rev Geoffrey.

Our records indicate that 14 members/ adherents have died and in addition 8 members/ adherents have been grieving a loss or in some cases losses. We continue to mail cards one year following the death of a loved one to a family member. Several phone calls and visits have been made.

The Life after Loss team supported the Surviving the Holidays event on December 7. For various reasons the Celebration of Life Service previously held in November has been revamped and will be offered during the Sunday morning service on January 12, 2025 entitled Living in the Light.

Candle lighting was provided after the fifth Sunday service of the month in conjunction with the Worship team to commemorate the loss of a loved one, to pray, or for self-reflection.

We continue to pray for God's leading as we carry out this ministry in St. Andrew's and surrounding community.

Barbara



Prayer Chain Ministry ~ Lorie Nielsen, Coordinator

Purpose: To connect the congregation to God through prayer.



A TIME FOR GAIN AND A TIME FOR LOSS

This past year has been unique. We gained eight new members including our new lead minister, Rev. Laurie McKay and returning pastoral care minister Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins. We also gained Elizabeth Dolan, Jarrett Hoefling, Barbara Kearnes, Carol Latter, Lauren Nolette and Janet Remus.

Rev. Laurie's mother, Mavis McKay, wanted to join our Prayer Chain as a way of supporting her daughter in her new church. She was from St. Albert and didn't know any of us. It didn't matter though, because prayer doesn't need a face-to-face encounter. None of us on the Prayer Chain pray together. God is available to all of us as individuals.

For anyone who is interested in joining our Chain please email prayer@standrewscalgary.ca

Lorie

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ *Annette Shaw, Coordinator*

Purpose: We are here to help St. Andrew's by creating hand-knit and crocheted shawls, filled with the power of prayer, for those in need.

TEAM MEMBERS: Prayer shawls were first knit by our Women's Missionary Society members (WMS) and continue to be knit and crocheted by women attached to this congregation.



People in this ministry create hand-knit and crocheted shawls, filled with the power of prayer, for those in need. The shawls provide a testimony of God's generous and enduring love. As in all acts of generosity, the giving of these shawls enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

Fourteen prayer shawls, in many different colours and sizes, were distributed this year to families and friends of St. Andrew's. They were shared with people in the congregation, Side by Side spouses, GriefShare participants and to those who attended Surviving the Holidays. If you would like a prayer shawl for a friend or family member, please speak to Rev. Laurie, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey, Judie Coleman or someone in the office.

Judie

Side by Side ~ *Audrey Cole, Judie Coleman, Coordinators*

Purpose: TOGETHER. Side by Side expresses the vision of St. Andrew's by walking alongside people living with dementia and affirming them as loved children of God while enabling their care partners to rest.

More specifically:

- To care for families living with dementia, whether from the congregation or from the community, through provision of a weekly day program. In particular, Side by Side seeks to help those families who are providing informal care 24/7 at home.
- To provide the person living with dementia (the participant), a program of warmly welcoming social engagement, spiritual nourishment, opportunity for creative expression, and light exercise. With a dedicated volunteer companion walking alongside, the participant is able to successfully engage as independently as possible, with encouragement and support as needed.
- To provide both pastoral care as well as outreach.
- To provide the person (the care partner) caring for the person living with dementia, an opportunity to confidently take personal time, or respite, as needed, knowing their loved one is happy and cared for. The program allows the care partner to define respite time in their own way, being open to the care partner's needs and wishes.



Participants and companions created Cake in a Mug for Valentine's Day.

Our program offers:

An in-person day program which meets weekly on Wednesdays for 4.5 hours. The day is spent enjoying fellowship over various activities that foster social, spiritual, and physical well-being. The program includes music, devotion time, games, puzzles, and discussion time, as well as refreshment times, lunch and a creative time. Forty Side by Side sessions were offered in 2024.

A team of caring and dedicated volunteers take part regularly to help deliver the Side by Side program. Many thanks to Earl Brown, Tom Brownlee, Ted Cantlon, Audrey Cole, Judie Coleman, Peter Coutts, Sheri Coutts, Donna Harrison, Clay Kuhn, Pam Lee, Pam Livingstone, Kathryn Matrosovs, Marg McCulloch, Beth Nicholson, Brenda Pudwell, Annette Shaw, Bob Shaw, and Kathleen Tomie, as well as new companions Kathy Basaraba, Shelby Cole, Donna Turnbull and Derek Wilkinson.

We give thanks for the many ways others have also supported Side by Side as backup devotion leaders, song leaders, or companions, as well as by baking, praying, or donating.

We give thanks for the Side by Side ministry, which blesses all who take part. We pray that the work of many hands in this piece of God's mission will continue to make a difference to families in our community who are living with dementia.

Three employees of Caregivers Alberta attended a Side by Side session in December to see what we offer and to see how we might support one another.

Audrey & Judie

Two's Company – a ministry to the Homebound ~ *Judy McVittie, Coordinator*

Purpose: To coordinate pastoral care visitations to members and adherents of the congregation by encouraging and supporting home and institution visitations, while providing a nurturing environment for both the visiting volunteers and those being visited.

Team Members: Phyllis Duncan, Pat Lomheim, Judy McVittie and Loran McVittie



Two's Company fulfills a special need to members and adherents who are no longer able to attend church; by visiting and supporting them, where they live. These visits are expected 4 times a year or more. By visiting these recipients, we are showing our church cares and they are not forgotten.

Presently there are 4 visitors and 6 people to be visited. As our church population is aging, visitors are needed to show these members we have not forgotten them. Please consider being a visitor. Thank you.

Judy

Wellness ~ *Alice Williams, Coordinator*

Purpose: To be devoted to growing life together through wellness. Its members include registered nurses, or those with appropriate health-care training and experience, who, on a volunteer basis, promote health and wholeness for members of the congregation through health education and promotion activities, spiritual support and encouragement. This ministry reflects the faith and compassion of Christ's followers and calls on the resources of church and community to carry out this ministry of healing body, mind and spirit.

We are a volunteer group of registered nurses, who promote health and well-being through education and health promotion activities.

Team members: Anne Greco, Barbara Kearnes, Judy McVittie, Lynn Judd and Alice Williams.

In May we partnered with the Heritage Senior's group to offer a health information session on Advanced Care Planning – a guide to getting personal affairs in order. Taking the time to plan and record important information related to when and how your estate will be settled, is critical information for your loved ones when you are no longer able to tell them. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins offered many practical suggestions on the challenges of keeping track of information along with recommendations related to sharing of documented information with an executor or personal representative and the location of that information. In the fall, we put together a 10-question wellness survey to get feedback on what health information topics and activities would be appropriate for future planning. We did appreciate those who took the time to respond and we are in the process of addressing some of the suggestions.

Alice



Personnel Team – *Elizabeth Dolan, Convenor*

The mandate of the Personnel Team is to provide support to the people working at St. Andrew's on behalf of us all in non-ministerial capacities. Much of our role is organizational, but we also have the blessing of on-going informal and formal interaction with all these staff, and may assist changes in their work status at St. Andrew's.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Dolan (Convenor), Murray Coleman, Merle Crawford, Kristi Millar, and Judy Bridgemohan (Session Representative)

HIGHLIGHTS from the past year:

1. We searched for and hired a new Caretaker/Maintenance worker. We appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with the Facilities Team to develop a job description that helped us in our search. Welcome Daryl George, who started August 1, 2024!
2. We worked with the Ministry Resource and Accountability team to write a contract for a part-time Pastoral Care resource. Welcome back, Geoffrey Simmins!!
3. We participated in the St. Andrew's Team Fair organized by the Welcome and Connection team. A few people popped by our table to see what we do and were happy to learn about the difference between ministerial and non-ministerial staff.

We continue to be so very grateful for the wonderful staff members at St. Andrew's and know that we are blessed to be able to support them.

Elizabeth



Presbytery Report – *Lynn Judd, Presbytery Rep*

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod is a community of interconnected congregations and clergy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. St. Andrew's assigns an elder to serve on Presbytery as a representative of St. Andrew's.

As a 'Representative Elder' from St. Andrew's, I currently serve as a member of the Clergy Care and Resource Committee.

The Presbytery meets regularly as a community of faith to provide leadership that supports each congregation and clergy in their ministry through insightful governance, responsive oversight and shared resources for congregations. Each church is represented by their minister as well as a representative elder/designated alternate elder who attend the meetings. Presbytery maintains connections with each congregation and is aware of the current events, joys and challenges experienced.

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod consists of 14 congregations across southern Alberta. They are in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Bassano/Gem, Banff, and Calgary - which has 9 congregations. In Calgary, Calvin Hungarian is awaiting a new minister.

The work of the Presbytery is conducted through the moderator and the committees: Presbytery Care and Resource, Mission Care and Resource, Clergy Care and Resource, and Congregational Care and Resource. Each committee consists of Presbytery members and others who have expertise in the designated area.

Lynn

Rainbow Team – *Linda Johnson & Stephanie Werle, Co-Convenors*

The mandate is below, but the primary goal of the Rainbow Team is to facilitate, encourage and support the congregation's commitment to diversity and inclusion in an intentional way.

Team Members:

Rev. Laurie McKay, Deanne Barrett, Lauren Cole, Linda Johnson, Lynn Judd, Kim McLachlan, Stephanie Werle, Derek Wilkinson, and Rhonda Wishart

Team Mandate:

St. Andrew's is committed to being an affirming congregation which publicly, intentionally and explicitly welcomes 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual) persons to full participation in the life of our faith community. St. Andrew's affirms that gender and sexuality are gifts of God, and that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities truly belong as full members in leadership and the life of the church community.



The Rainbow Team will explore and implement various ideas, initiatives and opportunities designed to communicate this commitment within and to our wider community. The Rainbow Team will seek to provide ongoing educational opportunities and action initiatives in furtherance of St. Andrew's stated position of inclusivity.

Highlights:

The Rainbow Team had its inaugural year and we have much to celebrate. We held a special Rainbow worship service in June for Pride Month, led by our team members. In August, we participated in the YYC Pride Parade downtown, enjoying "Church on the Road". October brought our first film viewing night, centered on discussion of the film, "Fish out of water" (2009) by Ky Dickens. We made our commitment to inclusivity by placing window decals at our entrance doors, reintroducing our SAFE buttons, welcome banner in the foyer, and the gift of two welcoming banners made by Pat Pollard, which hang at the front of the sanctuary.

Why do we do this? Our team is passionate about our call to welcome ALL people to St. Andrew's and to create a safe and welcoming space to 2SLGBTQIA+ people, who are invited to participate fully in the life of St. Andrew's and know they are loved by God. For those in our midst who are new on this journey of inclusivity or perhaps walking alongside 2SLGBTQIA+ people, we strive to meet them where they are at, making opportunities for safe conversations and learning. All are welcome here.

Stephanie



Statistics - Dolly Forcade, Office Administrator & Treasurer

Congregational Statistics

FAMILIES		2024	2023
Number of families associated(Dec. 31)		254	254
THE MEMBERSHIP			
Communicant Membership January 01		335	351
Added to the Roll	by Profession of Faith	14	7
	by Certificate of Transfer	2	7
	by resolution of Session	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		16	15
Removed from the Roll	by Death	9	12
	by Certificate of Transfer	0	1
	by Resolution of Session	0	18
	by own request	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
		10	31
Communicant Membership December 31		341	335
<u>BAPTISMS</u>	Children	0	0
	Sudanese Children	6	0
	Adult	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
		8	0
<u>MARRIAGES</u>	Members	0	0
	Adherents	0	0
	Other	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		0	1
<u>FUNERALS</u>	Members	6	6
	Adherents	3	1
	Other	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
		12	8

Welcome and Connection Team - *Lauren Nolette, Convenor*

The goal of our Welcome and Connection Team is to focus on creating a warm, welcoming experience for 'newcomers and not-so newcomers' to our church home.

MEMBERS:

Linda Humphreys, Thelma Wagner, Sheri Coutts, Daniel Cullen, Pat Tritter, Desiree Henrichsen and Lauren Nolette.

Welcoming people to our church includes having a designated greeter in the foyer to provide guidance, introductions to staff, and a way to share contact information, along with a helpful "welcome desk" where we have flyers, posters, information books for all to enjoy. Efforts like "name tag Sundays" and volunteer name tags help foster connection. For ongoing engagement, the teams organize info sessions, tours, and opportunities to explore church teams or attend social events. They also identify gaps in newcomer programming and maintain a record of talents and interests to connect individuals with volunteer roles and groups.

Although our team is less than a year old, already we have hosted a "Team Fair," with tremendous success and wonderful participation from all of the other teams at St. Andrew's. This helped everyone, including our long-term members, see just how vast the ministry and mission from our church can reach.

Another incredible event we have just had was a "newcomers pizza social" where our newer friends, as well as our elders and care connectors came together to share a meal and have a time of fellowship as well as have an opportunity to ask any questions, see the church a little more thoroughly, and get to know each other. This is helping to foster these long-lasting relationships as we continue on the path of Growing. Life. Together. With God.



Lauren

Worship Team - *Debby Dorcas, Team Member*

The goal of our Worship Team is to support the Minister in creating meaningful, creative and thoughtful worship experiences that invite us to experience God and nourish the spiritual growth and transformation of our members.

MEMBERS:

Rev. Laurie McKay, Debby Dorcas, Derek Wilkinson, Evan Mounce, and Sheri Coutts

We had so many highlights this year that it's hard to choose! But I'll keep it to three!!

1. We are grateful for the creativity and inclusive spirit Rev. Laurie brings to every Sunday service. Adults and children are all engaged in meaningful worship every week.
2. We are blessed to have Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins as our Pastoral Care Lead, as well as 3 Ministers In Association here at St. Andrew's: Rev. Peter Coutts, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, Rev. Fiona Swanson ~ along with Rev. Clay Kuhn ~ who all participate in worship, as well as in the life of our congregation. Can anyone say "abundance of riches?"
3. We appreciate the work of Lynn Judd and her "helpers" as they decorate our Sanctuary and Foyer for each special season of the church year. You often hear a collective "sigh" as people enter our spaces.

As always, to all who came to worship, participated in a worship service, greeted those who entered our doors, ushered people to a seat, assisted at the sound board, sang in a choir, volunteered as a 'Shepherd' (ensuring all is well in all areas of the church while we are worshipping in the Sanctuary), welcomed people at the Welcome Desk, provided coffee and an opportunity for people to share conversation... THANK YOU!! Abundance of riches indeed!!

Debby



Sound Board Team - *Craig Murray, Team Member*

The purpose of this group of individuals is to enhance the audio-visual experience for those who worship in the sanctuary as well as those who view the service at home online.

The team consists of the following dedicated people:

- Brent Werle
- Craig Murray
- David Kurtz
- Doug Thornborough
- Judy Bridgemohan
- Marcus Thornborough
- Paul Draper



Craig

A few of our special moments together

Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of

Intergenerational Christmas Musical – Uncertain Poor Shepherds



**Christmas music in the Foyer
prior to the Family Christmas Eve Service**



Make a joyful noise to the Lord! ~ And we DID!!!



**Mission focussed activity prior to the start of the
Family Christmas Eve service ~
time to fill Christmas gift bags for children and youth in need**



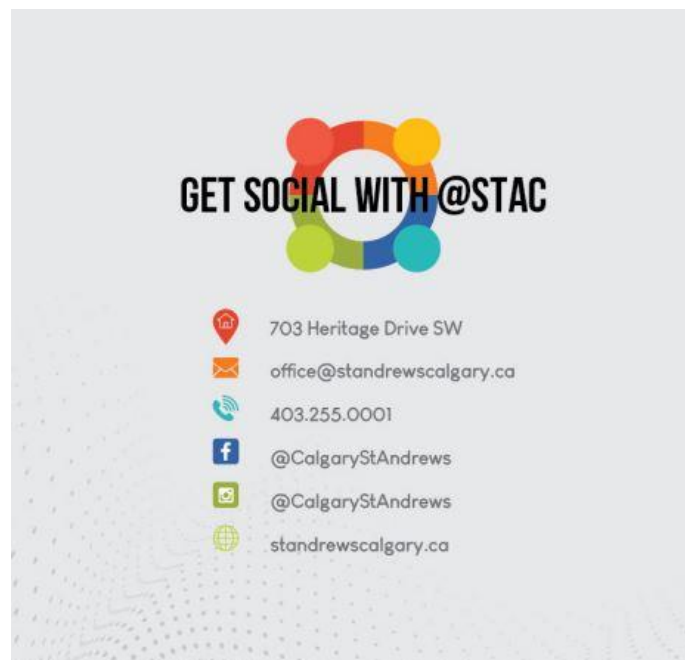


Family Christmas Eve Worship
EVERYONE has a part in the Christmas Story



St. Andrew's Church Staff - 2024

Lead Minister	Rev. Laurie McKay (Started Feb 2024)
Pastoral Care Lead	Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins (Started Jun 2024)
Interim Moderator	Rev. Peter Coutts (until February 2024)
Director of Music Ministries	Evan Mounce
Executive Assistant	Debby Dorcas
Office Administrator/ Treasurer	Dolly Forcade
AV Coordinator	David Kurtz
Nursery Caregivers	Lilwen Henrichsen & Calysta Payne



GROWING. LIFE. TOGETHER. WITH GOD