

# ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER / JANUARY

St. Andrew's United Church

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## Happy New Year 2022

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### THANK YOU!

Hey people of St. Andrew's! You came through **BIG** with donations to the Lacombe Food Bank on White Gift Sunday!

Millie Snow, director of the Food Bank, sends a big thank you for 250 pounds of food & groceries, and \$800 in cash. This will go a long way to provide food for the clients who need it at this time. Your support is appreciated!

Submitted by: Dianna Macleod

### JANUARY SERVICES

Out of concern for our health in this Covid situation, the difficult decision was made to cancel our in person worship and move to live-stream for the month of January.

Sunday services are live-streamed at 10:30 AM.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.



## REFLECTION

REVEREND DAVE

Decemberish newsletter: Happy New Year, St. Andrew's!

I hope you have been able to have some form of a connected Christmas this year. I know that some changed plans in the midst of this new COVID wave, and some were forced to change plans because of illness.

We felt it necessary to switch to online-only worship for Christmas Eve, and while disappointing, I am not regretting that decision as I see the COVID numbers coming in. Still, I hope you experienced some blessing in the midst of it all!

As 2022 begins, we are hitting yet another bump in the road. This fifth wave feels different; the case numbers are much higher than ever before, but hopefully the hospitalizations and severe outcomes will not rise. I am hearing some hopeful predictions – that this wave may be the last of the pandemic – but I think there are some tough days still ahead. At the time of writing, I don't know what our response will be here at St. Andrew's, but I imagine that we will remain online for a few weeks yet.

I'm sorry for that! I miss you; I missed seeing people on Christmas Eve, which is a very important time and service for me. Even masked and distanced, our Sunday gatherings have been energizing and sustaining for me, and I have heard that from others as well. But as valuable as these times are, our collective health seems more important right now.

That said, we are still working on a number of significant things, and the life and work of the church continue! In this newsletter you'll see a new group on mental health for the next couple of months, and an invitation to join the planning group for Lent. While the Annual meeting has been deferred, we are still working at building our new board, and developing the already-gifted leadership team here at St. Andrew's.

So as we begin 2022, once again in challenge, I want to send my love to you all, and my hope that we may rise out of this pandemic soon. These may not be our preferred circumstances, but God still inhabits this moment with us. May we find the hidden blessings, now and when the wave has passed.

Dave

## BOARD CHAIR GREETING

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

December 21 saw our Blue Christmas both live-streamed and in-person and so far, there have been 204 views of this service. Christmas Eve saw us once again live-streaming only – a disappointment for sure to not be at the church in-person. But so far there have been 238 views of the live stream for Christmas Eve. Thank you to all the participants who have made these services possible and enjoyable!

The Church Board met on December 14, for the last meeting of 2021. The next meeting is planned for January 11, 2022.

The Annual Reports should be available by the end of January. The Annual General Meeting date at the present time is unknown because of the Omicron variant. The Worship Team and the Board felt that the safety of the congregants of St. Andrew's was paramount. All worship services for the month of January will be live streamed only. The board will review the situation at the end of January.

We at St. Andrew's have been fortunate to have a number of committed individuals who continue to take care of and expand the service that is offered to both congregational members and the community as a whole.

If you feel called to do some church service, such as taking part on one of the ad hoc teams that spring up, sit on one of the teams: Worship, Christian Development, Outreach, Congregational Life, Affirm, Finance, Ministry and Personnel, Property, or UCW or, wish to take a role as a voting member on the board, please talk to someone on the board, or let Jana in the office know.

Jana is joined in doing office duties by Shannon Epp. Shannon will be taking care of the financial aspects of St. Andrew's and will be working with the members of the Finance Team.

The Chair of the Board is elected on a yearly basis for a one-year term. I have enjoyed communicating with everyone the past 2 years in this position. If your inclination is such that you would like to take a turn, I would certainly encourage that!

As usual, if you have something you wish to talk to me about, feel free to pick up the phone or you can email me.

Lawrence Hrycan

Email: [lhrycan@shaw.ca](mailto:lhrycan@shaw.ca)

Telephone: 403-782-4076

## FRIENDS OF GUATEMALA

Due to the generosity of the Community of Faith of St. Andrew's, we were able to continue to support the people of Guatemala in December. From funds on hand, we sent \$5000.00 to FRATERNIDAD and \$5000.00 to CEDEPCA to assist these organizations with their valuable compassionate work in Guatemala.

In the spring, we sent \$2500.00 to each of these groups. Our funds are sent through the national church office in Toronto, that ensures funds are safely sent to the correct organizations. As well, Bob Settle is in regular contact with FRATERNIDAD in Guatemala to receive updates on the ongoing work there and advise that funds are on the way.

We have been able to achieve this without holding any fundraising concerts due to Covid. You may remember that our last one was the sold out Valdy concert in our sanctuary in late November 2019. What a night that was.

Thank you for sending us donations through the St. Andrew's church office, so we can continue to support Mayan people in Guatemala.

Submitted by Doug Maas,  
Secretary-Treasurer - FRoG



## CENTRAL ALBERTA FOODGRAINS GROWING PROJECT

Thank you to all individuals and businesses that helped us with this year's growing project, one of the best years in our 26 year history.

We were able to send a cheque for \$120,000 to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg. The Federal Government will match the funds on a 4 to 1 basis, so our project actually raised \$600,000.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank was established in 1983, and the United Church of Canada is one of 15 Canadian churches that comprise the registered charity. The Foodgrains Bank helps people internationally with emergency food assistance and creating long term solutions to hunger.

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, it helped 989,045 people with 103 projects in 33 countries. Some of these countries include Colombia, Haiti, South Sudan, Malawi, Bangladesh and Cambodia.

The local project is looking for land in Lacombe County for its 27th year, either as a donation or on a cash rent basis. If you can help, please call Doug Maas at 403-782-1860.

# THE SANCTUARY COURSE®

## Sanctuary Mental Health Course

Mental health has become a part of our general awareness and conversation of late, as we head towards the third year of this pandemic. There are many reasons for this – chronic mental conditions, the anxiety and isolation of pandemic, various addictions... promoting mental health may well be something that a church like this one is well-situated to do.

**During February and March, on 8 Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 pm, you are invited to participate in The Sanctuary Course, a group study/reflection program on mental health.**

The course has been created by a group in Vancouver called Sanctuary Mental Health ([sanctuarymentalhealth.org](http://sanctuarymentalhealth.org)) and has been recommended to our Region by a United Church in Calgary.

The course is designed to support people dealing with mental health issues and their loved ones and caregivers. In particular, the course is designed for church communities wishing to develop skills and understanding to promote good mental health within the congregation and in the wider community. Anyone is welcome to participate, however you may be connected to these issues and purposes.

Each session of the course will involve reading or listening to the course materials, watching a brief film, and engaging in discussion, reflection and prayer. During the course we'll cover topics such as:

- Understanding mental health and illness
- Challenging stigma
- The recovery journey
- Companionship
- Self-care
- The role of community in mental health recovery

Monique Vermegen and Dave Holmes will lead the group. We'll begin on February 10 and the group will run until March 31. We can accommodate about 6-15 participants.

If you are interested, please contact the church office to register at [office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca) or at [403-782-3148](tel:403-782-3148).





I N R E M E M B R A N C E

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. HOWARD FREDEEN

DECEMBER 10, 1921 – DECEMBER 27, 2021

Howard Townley Fredeen passed away on December 27, 2021 at home with his family by his side. He had recently enjoyed his 100th birthday celebration with friends and family.

Dr. Howard Fredeen has been a long standing member of St. Andrew's United Church and wrote our church history in his book titled, "A Century of Faith". Dr. Howard was recognized as an Alberta "Heritage Hero" at the 2016 Heritage Awards in Calgary. He was honoured in the "Outstanding Achievement" category for his dedication to preserving and sharing the rich history of Lacombe, and the history he has made over his career as a researcher at the Lacombe Research Centre.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.



Nancy, Danny, Lee, Howard, Joan, John, Greg



Howard, Joan



Howard, Grace, Annika van Campen "A Century of Faith" book signing at St. Andrew's 125th anniversary celebration Sept. 2017

## SHEILA NEWMAN

AUGUST 11, 1933 – DECEMBER 22, 2021

OBITUARY TO FOLLOW IN UPCOMING  
NEWSLETTER



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to Anneke Kassies, Doris Thesenvitz, Dianna MacLeod, and Susan Hrycan for taking off the ornaments and lights from the "Lift Someone Into The Light Tree" and thank you to Jurjan Dunnewind and Henk Kassies for removing and taking away the tree.

Thank you to the Men's Breakfast Club members Dennis Ethier, Ron Gish, Howard Woodrow, and Lawrence Hrycan for taking down the Nativity Scene which took place on Saturday, January 1 at noon.



We are looking forward to our AGM next week (Thursday, January 20 @ 7:00 PM online via zoom).

Notice was sent out to all who have registered for our newsletter (via our website) and our key volunteers. I've attached the link below if anyone is missing it.

It is our HOPE that 2-3 people from each of our founding congregations will join us for the 2 hours we will gather online. Please, as my invitation message encourages, tell 5 others... and nudge them to attend. We have special guests joining us (including from Chinook Winds Region).

Also, the vacancies on our Board really need to be filled. We need a diversity of perspectives, ideas and energies to do this work on behalf of all our camp community.

Please read carefully the INVITATION and AGENDA and act to fill our meeting zoom boxes!

Here is link to the Invitation and registration link: [Invitation to KEC's AGM Jan 2022](#)

Here is link to our Agenda for the [KEC 2022 AGM Agenda](#)





## EXPERIENCE THE DARK



Photo Submitted by: Brie Schmidt

## WELCOME SHANNON!

### Welcome to our new Book Keeper Shannon Epp!

Shannon and her husband were both raised in Saskatchewan. They have been in Lacombe for about 15 years where they raised their three boys. They also have two granddaughters.

Along with working full time as the office administrator for FCSS in Ponoka, Shannon also volunteers with the Rimbey Literacy Society as their book keeper.

As she works full time, she will be taking on this work on a part time basis from home. Jana and Shannon will be working together to ensure that all the bases are covered. Over the next month Linda H. and Karen Y. will be training Shannon on the job. Please be patient as we get things sorted out.

Shannon may be contacted at:  
[finance@lacombeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:finance@lacombeunitedchurch.ca)  
[403-597-2951](tel:403-597-2951)

## COW PATTI BRUNCH

On A First Name Basis - KASOTA EAST CAMP  
BENEFIT BRUNCH

**Tentatively March, 2022 @ 11:00 AM**

Tickets are \$65.00

Please let Madeline know if you might be interested in order to book your tickets now, pay closer to the date!





## FINANCE

January 2022! Happy New Year to all our St. Andrew's Church Family! May the new year be blessed with no masks - and the possibility of coffee and hugs once more! At this point, that seems like a far distant dream, however.

Although the new year may not be blessed with being mask-less, we at St. Andrew's ARE blessed with a very generous congregation. The givings in December were such that we ended the month with a significant surplus, (even though there were 2 payroll runs in the month). This surplus, plus the wonders of accounting, leave us at year end in a very positive position. Let me explain the wonders of accounting: St. Andrew's applied for, and was granted the original \$40,000 CEBA loan (thank you to Byron!) and when the extension of \$20,000 was available we were granted that amount as well. That left us with a \$60,000 loan to federal government, payable December 2022. However, if \$40,000 of the loan is repaid on time (and we have a GIC in place to do that!), then the balance of \$20,000 becomes a grant. On the advice of the auditor, we have moved that \$20,000 from a loan liability into grant income for this year. The federal government has announced January 12, that the loans are being extended interest free until December 2023.

The second very pleasant surprise arrived in the form of a letter from the United Church of Canada Foundation, containing a gift to St Andrew's of \$10,000. This gift is to be acknowledged as "a gift from a Generous Donor through their Gift Fund at the United Church of Canada Foundation". Thank you to this donor, and the national Foundation!

We would also like to welcome our new book-keeper Shannon Epp, to the finance team. Shannon is working part-time, so please don't ask for cheques to be provided yesterday. She can be contacted through the finance email : [finance@lacombeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:finance@lacombeunitedchurch.ca) If you need immediate contact, you can text her at [403-597-2951](tel:403-597-2951), but please respect that she has a full-time day job, so will not necessarily respond immediately.

**Thank you to everyone for all they do and give to support the St. Andrew's Church family.**

From the finance committee, Hans Haefliger, Henk Kassies, and Linda Hueppelsheuser

## FINANCE

2021 30-Nov	Current Month	Year To Date	Pro Rata Budget
Contributions & Other	\$23,117	\$188,414.00	\$213,491.00
Expenses	\$13,093	\$212,612.00	\$255,897.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$10,024	<b>(\$-24,198.00)</b>	<b>(\$-42,406.00)</b>

BUT NO EXPENDITURE IN NOVEMBER FOR WAGES - ADP ISSUES

**Noting that December had 2 ADP/payroll payments Nov (late) \$11,767 Dec \$11,935**

2021 31-Dec	Current Month	Year To Date	Pro Rata Budget
Contributions & Other	\$62,726	\$272,559.00	\$232,900.00
<b>Loan to Grant transfer</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>		
Expenses	\$38,867	\$246,597.00	\$279,160.00
Net Income (Loss)	<b>\$23,859</b>	<b>\$25,962.00</b>	<b>(\$-46,260.00)</b>
<b>Including Loan to Grant</b>	<b>\$43,859</b>		

## WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

We tried something during this past Advent – to organize the church's life for this season around a single theme (in this case, "Finding God in the dark").

If you're willing, we'd like to hear from you how it went! If you are willing to give us some feedback, please copy the following questions into an email to [office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca) and give us your answers.

Or... if you'd just like to make a comment that isn't necessarily an answer to any of these questions, that's fine, too!

Here are the suggested questions:

• Did the theme resonate with you? Overall, did the worship and programming during Advent "take you somewhere?"

• Were there particular things during the season that worked for you? What were they?

• Do you have any suggestions that might make things work better next time? Anything you'd change?

• On a scale of 1-10, 1 being poor and 10 being fantastic, how would you rate this past Advent season?

Thanks so much!



## LENT PLANNING

Well, we did think Advent worked well enough that we're hoping to do something similar this year for Lent.

The season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2 and goes until Easter, April 17. We're looking for people who might be interested in being part of a team to plan a variety of worship experiences, study options, ways for children to engage, congregational events – all related to the theme, **"giving up normal for Lent."**

"Normal" is both something we long for, after two years of pandemic, and also something that is profoundly flawed. Normal is comforting, but it is also, for many of us, unsustainable, unhealthy, stressed and unhappy. Normal can be the inertia that keeps us from fulfilling our dreams, or our mission as the church. Normal is making the rich richer and the poor poorer, and it is creating economic and climate crises that threaten our lives and livelihoods... How can we find a "new normal?"

If you'd like to be part of the planning team for Lent, contact:

Dave: [dave.st.andrewslacombe@gmail.com](mailto:dave.st.andrewslacombe@gmail.com)

Church office: [403-782-3148](tel:403-782-3148)

We'll try to start brainstorming ideas sometime before the end of January, if possible!