

Mission Statement:

*Embracing and expressing
our love for God
through prayer, sacraments,
hospitality,
outreach and service to all.*

Minister: Rev. Dr. Tim Reddish

Email: revtim.sta@gmail.com

Website: <https://standrews-amherstburg.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsAmherstburg/>

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
129 Simcoe St,
Amherstburg,
Ontario, N9V 1L8
Canada

Phone: (519) 736-4972

November 2021



*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun! . . .
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever. That Name to us is Love.*

Dear Members and Friends of St Andrew's,

Once again the Christian calendar-year comes to an end with a celebration of "Christ the King Sunday" (November 21st), and then the year begins again with a time of waiting: *Advent*.¹ This waiting period is one of anticipation as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Yet this is only part of the story, in that it is also waiting for Christ's second coming, when he comes to fully realise his reign and finally put right all that is distorted and evil in the world.² We sing of this in various Advent hymns, like "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" and "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending." Let's not lose sight of this vital theme, founded on our Easter hope, as we focus on Christ's humble beginnings. While it's good to look back and see how far we have come, it is unwise to dwell in the past. We need to look forward in both hope and realism, confident of Christ's continued presence as we celebrate God's gift of his Son.

As we look back, we are – thanks to COVID vaccines – in a much better place now than a year ago. Even so, we will still have some way to go as a province, a nation, and a world. Nevertheless, we have much to give thanks to God for; let's pause and acknowledge that fact and celebrate God's goodness. As a church community we are grateful that we can now meet and sing together, and to share coffee and conversations after the worship service.³ While we continue to miss the choir, potluck lunches, special dinners, and the rummage sales, etc., the Exercise and HELP groups have begun again in recent weeks, which are signs of hope and progress. And the lighting of Advent candles reminds us to live in *hope, peace, joy, and love*. The solid ground for those four qualities and virtues is the coming of Jesus.

¹ The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. In the New Testament, this word is often used in the context of Christ's *return*.

² This is something we have briefly explored in the sermons on October 31 and November 7; see the church website.

³ We also continue to live-stream our services and post them on Facebook, the church website (see above) and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2PWMD138-IVn41jFS2TBgw>.

After over two years in the planning, new white siding is currently being installed on the church and CE Building.⁴ Money for this renovation is coming from the Capital Fund, with additional contributions from the Meyers Fund and the Hutchinson Foundation whose terms stipulate that they are used for repairs and renovation. While the siding is a significant expense, this is the last such major undertaking envisaged by the Board for some time to come! With that clarification, the ongoing needs of the church's General Fund are evident in our Treasurer's update. We are very grateful for all those who to give regularly to St. Andrew's in these very challenging times, and I simply encourage you to give as you are able.

Treasurer's Report - October 2021 ⁵		
Jan. 1 to Oct. 31	Budget	Actual
Income	\$90,000	\$51,997
Expenses	\$106,000	\$87,108
Deficit	-16,000	-35,111

Of course, it is also good to give to others in the Christmas season. From **Nov 28th** until **Dec 12th**, we will be receiving **"White Christmas Gifts"** at the Church for local families in Amherstburg, which will then be distributed by the Fire Department.⁶ As in previous years, St. Andrew's will also be supporting **World Vision's** Animal initiative, where our gift purchases chickens, bees, piglets, goats, etc., along with medical supplies and access to clean water.⁷ (We ask that you simply give generously and joyfully to St. Andrew's in the regular way and we will, like last year, give \$500 to World Vision.) Even a little can transform lives! This is a creative scheme that makes a *real* and lasting difference in the life of a family and in small communities around the world.

Christmas is also a time of remembering. At St. Andrew's, we decorate the church with poinsettias in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us. If you would like to contribute to the cost of these plants, please contact Kathleen Knott.⁸

I look forward to seeing you at one of our Advent services. Bring Christ into Christmas as you celebrate the Holiday Season. And remember the words of the angel to the shepherds:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"⁹

Blessings,

Tim Reddish



⁴ Replacement windows for the CE Building were installed earlier, and in previous years the stained-glass windows were repaired and given better protection, and a new roof installed. The externals of the building are now in good shape.

⁵ Government subsidies received to date are \$9,571, compared to \$18,000 in 2020.

⁶ Note: *NO* soft toys; consider buying gift cards for teens, and to *not* wrap the presents. Please *don't* give toys that will be damaged when disinfected!

⁷ See: <https://donate.worldvision.ca/collections/animals> .

⁸ Email: kknott4@cogeco.ca ; Phone: 519 973 3268.

⁹ Luke 2:10b-11.