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As we enter this Advent season, I'm reminded once again that God often speaks through the simple, unexpected moments of life. Just a few weeks ago - being away for yet another hockey tournament - I was buying coffee at a Tim Hortons inside a shopping centre when the power suddenly went out. Seeing that we were inside a shopping centre, no outside light shone in, and it was pretty dark. A few people groaned, and the lady behind the counter apologised as she fumbled under the counter for a flashlight. But then something beautiful happened: one of the customers took out his phone, turned on the flashlight and put it on the counter, for the lady to see what she was doing. Within minutes, others followed his lead with the small lights on their phones. The darkness didn't vanish, but it no longer felt overwhelming.

That moment reminded me of what Advent is truly about. The world into which Jesus was born was spiritually dark, heavy with longing and uncertainty. But God did not wait for perfect conditions to send His Son. He stepped into the darkness Himself - humble, quiet, and seemingly small, yet powerful enough to change everything.



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1:1-5



Our faith centers on this truth: we cannot rescue ourselves. Human effort, good intentions, or moral improvement can't generate the light our souls need. But Christ can. And He has. Advent proclaims the miracle that God came near - not because we were ready, but because we were lost.

In a season where our lives feel rushed, distracted, or stretched thin, the arrival of Jesus invites us to stop striving and receive again the grace that saves and sustains us. Just as those small cellphone flashlights pushed back the darkness in the Tim Hortons, the presence of Christ pushes back the fear, confusion, and burdens we carry.

May His hope brighten your home, His peace steady your steps, and His love shine through you this Advent.

*Merry Christmas
Carel*

Session

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 163rd Anniversary

St. Andrew's celebrated our 163rd anniversary on October 19, 2025. Rev. Carel Grundlingh welcomed to the pulpit our former minister, Rev. Bernie Skelding as guest speaker.



The Lucknow Classics band provided the guest music. Following the worship service and joined by his wife Jennifer, Rev. Bernie Skelding renewed friendships over a congregational lunch prepared by the Fellowship Ministry Team.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

On Sunday November 16, St. Andrew's collected and donated 50 OCC gift boxes which will be delivered to needy children all over the world by Samaritan's Purse.

Submitted by Hugh Clugston

Honour In Song

On November 23rd Honor In Song, a Christian youth performing arts group, presented Everyone's Journey. To express our appreciation the participants joined our congregation in the Fellowship Hall for a lunch prepared by the Fellowship Ministry Team.

November 30 – Advent 1

December 7 – Advent 2 and Communion

December 14 – Advent 3

December 21 – Advent 4 Powerhouse children participating.

December 24 – 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. (Marilyn VanderWoulde Campership Fund)

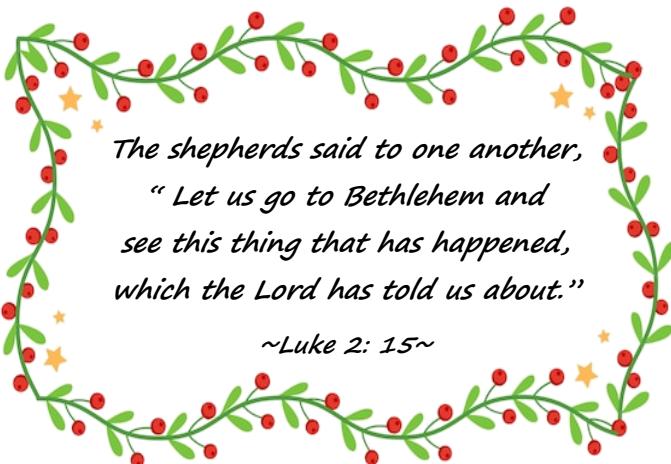
December 28 – first Sunday after Christmas – guest speaker

Next regular Session meeting January 21, 2026.



Fellowship Ministry Team

Submitted by Nancy Campbell



As the Advent season celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour begins may we also go to Bethlehem and the manger to worship our Lord Jesus.

Our coffee hours always buzz with the sound of laughter and visiting. Wonderful interaction and catching up among friends.

Our next coffee hour will be on January 25, 2026.

“Reaching Beyond Our Church Walls “ continues to see a variety of participants, many regulars and often new faces. A friendly smile, a warm welcome and a nutritious lunch do much to lift spirits.

September 24 - we served 69 lunches of potato ham, cheddar soup, veggies and a muffin.

November 19 - hamburger stew, Texas bread, veggies and a Rice Krispie squares were served.

The Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, October 8 involving all 7 churches served 173 meals. One recipient is quoted as saying “ The Thanksgiving meal was awesome! Totally delicious.”

Anniversary lunch on October 19 saw approximately 70 people participating.

The Fellowship Team will provide a Pulled Pork lunch for the Honour In Song youth, their leaders and the congregation on November 23. There are 25 youth taking part in this presentation. It is always heartwarming to see the dedication of these teens and their leaders.



Wednesday, December 3, 2025

We are planning an outdoor Carol singing evening. Over the years we have found this to be a meaningful way to get into the Christmas spirit as well as bring joy to those homes we visit. Please consider being part of this delightful evening. We will meet at the back of the church at 6:30 pm on December 3rd. Bring your friends. All are most welcome!

Saturday, February 28, 2026

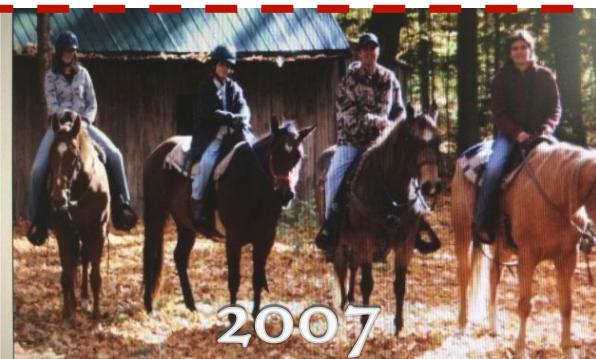
Fun Night will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are GOING ON A SAFARI !! More information coming in the new year. Again this is a fun-filled evening for all ages.

We would like to welcome the newest member to our team. Elijah Dale was born on November 1, 2025 to Jacob and Mary Smith.

Congratulations from all!

From our team to your home we wish you all the peace and joy of the Christmas season.





Fellowship Through The Years

Submitted by Nancy Campbell

Worship Ministry Team

Submitted by Coleson Smith

Team Members: Pastor Carel Grundlingh, Coleson Smith - Chair, Merle Underwood - Co-Chair, Jane Tolton - Recording Secretary, Bev Foubert - Treasurer, Michaela Tolton, Shelley Sullivan, Ben Pittock.

The season is changing and the snow is coming, and whether or not you enjoy the weather it brings with it a season of joy and happiness. A time we all get to be together with friends and loved ones to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Our team is excited to begin the Christmas decorating of the church headed up by Bev and Michaela and all the wonderful people they enlist to help. As I'm sure most of you know, Shelley Sullivan stepped away from the WMT Chair position part way through the year and I (Coleson Smith) took up the responsibilities of Chair. Shelley is still an extremely valuable member of our team and I'm glad she agreed to stick around and help us out. She has been a blessing to me sharing all the information she can and helping me get my feet under me in this new role. We are also excited to announce that Ben Pittock

has joined our team and will be helping us in whatever role suits him best. The team is truly blessed to have so many dedicated people that care deeply for this church and congregation.



Financial Report

Approaching the end of the year our finances look great, we are projected to end the year well below our budget. Not much will change from this year to next when it comes to our finances.

Music Report

I'm sure all the teams are looking forward to making the switch to familiar Christmas songs and carols we get to enjoy this time of year. Michaela has finished the schedule for the end of the year. It has been a great year of music, and we are looking forward to the new year.

Sound and Visuals Report

The members of our sound and visuals team have been outstanding this year and we hope to introduce some new members to the balcony very soon.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Worship Ministry Team. We look forward to serving the congregation for another year.

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

~Luke 2:13-14 ~



Social Committee

A luncheon was served in October for the WMS ladies.

In conjunction with the Outreach Ministry team we will be hosting a Christmas luncheon on Wednesday December 10 at 12 noon in the Fellowship hall. All are welcome. Sign up sheets available at both entrances of the Church.

Submitted by Deb Currie



Discipleship Ministry Team

Submitted by Phillip Smith

Powerhouse

Powerhouse is underway for the year with a small but enthusiastic group. Many thanks to our leaders for all their hard work and dedication. They are busy

preparing their Christmas program that they will be performing during the Worship Service on December 21. We all look forward to this festive treat!

Marilyn Vanderwoude Memorial Campership Fund

The Marilyn Vanderwoude Memorial Campership Fund was able to help 2 children from the congregation to attend Camp Kintail this summer. There are thank you notes posted on the bulletin boards. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of this program.



Goforth WMS

An inspiring Fall Rally of Maitland Presbyterial was held at St. Andrew's on Saturday October 25, 2025. Jennifer Crits of Kitchener was the guest speaker. Judy Watts of Kincardine was unable to attend but she will be presented with an Honourary membership of the WMS at her church in Kincardine. Fifteen members and guests enjoyed a lunch prepared by our Social Committee. Marilynn Lapp and Karen Webster led the November Goforth meeting where we studied "Women of the Bible". We focused on Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Naomi, Ruth and Orpah. A Christmas offering was received and donated to the

Submitted by Lorraine Clugston

Huron County Christmas Bureau for 2025. Goforth no longer supervises a nursery for infants and children up to age 2 during the worship service. Nancy Campbell and Verna Taylor continue to schedule 2 leaders of Junior Congregation for children age 3 to Grade 3 during the sermon.



Trustees

The Trustee's of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Wingham; Grant Currie, Margaret Stapleton, and Arnold Taylor , manage the funds that were generated from the sale of the Church Manse. The account is held at Libro Credit Union, Wingham and is reported with the annual financial statement each year. There has been no activity to report with the account to date in 2025.

Submitted by Grant Currie



Board Of Managers

The Board of Managers for 2025 consists of:

Jacob Smith (Board Chair); Grant Currie (Vice Chair); Erin Schiestel (Secretary); Murray Lapp (Financial Committee Chair); Ralph Campbell (Inside Committee Chair); Merv Baker (Outside Committee Chair); Members - Chris Hoeven; Coleson Smith; Barry Bushell; Don Schnurr and Jim Dore



What a year it has been so far. The Board feels incredibly blessed that we have had the resources to commit to so many large projects this year.

The eavestroughs the congregation funded have been installed on the south side of the sanctuary with the north side set to be completed when the weather improves. Ruttan Aluminum who replaced our upstairs windows last year is doing the work.

St. Andrew's has once again been given funding by the Lee and Thora Vance Fund to repair and upgrade our building. The funds will be used to replace the leaking flat roof above the furnace room and upgrade the electrical in the downstairs kitchen. The flat roof will be replaced by Smith-Peat roofing in Exeter

Submitted by Jacob Smith

and they hope to have the work done before Christmas. Sepoy Wiring will be performing the electrical work downstairs and the new outlets should be a great help to the various teams and groups that use our kitchen.

As always we thank the congregation for their continued support as well as our various ministry teams, Custodian Joe Smith, Bookkeeper Louise Bloomberg, Secretary Michaela Thorpe, Session and Pastor Carel. Your dedication to our church does not go unnoticed.

“Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

~Psalm 29:2~



Service Ministry Team

Submitted by Grant Currie, Jane Tolton & Tom Hawkins



The Service Ministry Team will be meeting with the Church Minister; the Church Secretary; the Church Custodian; the Church Bookkeeper before the end of December 2025 to complete the annual "independent review" of the positions. The purpose of the review is to obtain feedback and to ensure open communication regarding any matters that pertain to the position. A report is completed and provided to the Direct Supervisor of the position.

The Service Ministry Team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe a blessed 2026.

Outreach Ministry Team

Submitted by Debbie Currie

The Back Pack Program raised \$600.00 for those in need for new school supplies.

The faith based group 515 at F.E. Madill raised \$1535.00.

We will once again be doing the Reverse Advent Calendar. More info to follow.



Operation Christmas Child collected 50 shoe boxes to be sent overseas.



SESSION 2025

Rev. Carel Grundlingh (Minister)	
Hugh Clugston (Clerk of Session)	
Clayton Baird	Grant Currie
Bev Foubert	Tom Hawkins
Joe Smith	Phillip Smith
Tim Sullivan	Arnold Taylor
Jane Tolton	Paul Tolton
Merle Underwood	

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Jacob Smith (Board Chair)	
Grant Currie (Vice Chair)	
Erin Schiestel (Secretary)	
Merv Baker	Barry Bushell
Ralph Campbell	Jim Dore
Chris Hoeven	Murray Lapp
Don Schnurr	Coleson Smith

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Nancy Campbell (Chair)	
Hugh Clugston (Secretary)	
Mary Smith (Treasurer)	
Kathy Armstrong	Judy Lyons
Liz O'Neil	Hunter Smith
Joe Smith	Dale Taylor
Karen Webster	

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Carel Grundlingh (Minister)	
Coleson Smith (Chair)	
Merle Underwood (Co-chair)	
Jane Tolton (Recording secretary)	
Bev Foubert (Treasurer)	
Shelley Sullivan	Ben Pittock
Michaela Thorpe	

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Debbie Currie (Chair)	
Clayton Baird (Vice Chair)	
Lorraine Clugston (Secretary)	
Marilyn Baird	Tim Sullivan
Fred Summers	Paul Tolton

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Phillip Smith (Chair)	
Heather-Lyn Smith (Co-chair)	
Vena Grundlingh	Melissa Jeffray
Leanne Marks	Tanya Toll

SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM

Grant Currie	Tom Hawkins
Jane Tolton	

Verna Hodgins

TRUSTEES

Grant Currie	Margaret Stapleton
Arnold Taylor	

GOFORTH WMS

Lorraine Clugston (President)	
Bev Foubert (Secretary)	
Karen Webster (Treasurer)	

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Deb Currie (Chair)	
Clayton Baird (Vice Chair)	
Doris Taylor (Treasurer)	
Shelley Sullivan (Secretary)	
Marilyn Baird	
Trudy Thomson	

Verna Hodgins

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Tim Sullivan (Chair)	
Clayton Baird	
	Paul Tolton

Paul Tolton

USE OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE

Clayton Baird (Session representative)	
Debbie Currie	

POWERHOUSE

Vena Grundlingh (Organizer & teacher)	
Heather-Lyn Smith (Teacher)	
Leanne Marks (Teacher)	
Avery Toll (Helper)	Sadie Toll (Helper)

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Nancy Campbell	
Verna Taylor	



What's happening on **SUNDAYS**

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Powerhouse 10:00 a.m.

Junior Congregation

Following Children's time, children up to and including Grade 3 are invited to the Quilting Room for Junior Congregation. Toys, games and a snack will be provided.

What's on during **2025**

• Prayer Meeting	Thursday	1:00 p.m.
• Goforth W.M.S.	3rd Tuesday of the month	2:00 p.m.
• North of 50 Coffee Hour	2nd Thursday of the month	10:00 a.m.
• Bible Study	by arrangement	
• Session	by arrangement	
• Ministry Teams	by arrangement	
• Board of Managers	by arrangement	

• The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	1st Sunday of Mar, Jun, Oct, Dec
• The Sacrament of Baptism	by arrangement
• Anniversary Service	3rd Sunday in October



Minister	Rev. Carel Grundlingh carel.grundlingh@gmail.com	226 - 222-0051
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Session Clerk	Dr. Hugh Clugston clugston@eastlink.ca	519 - 357-2754
Bookkeeper	Louise Bloomberg stand.treasurer@hurontel.on.ca	519 - 525-5891
Caretaker	Joe Smith	519-357-1056
Church Website:	www.standrewswingham.ca	
Facebook:	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wingham	
Email:	standrewspc@hurontel.on.ca	
Address:	PO Box 115, 281 Josephine Street, Wingham, ON, N0G2W0	
Office hours:	Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	

DEADLINE

Deadline for bulletin
announcements:
Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.