

ALEXANDRA STAR

Summer – Fall 2024

Alexandra Presbyterian Church is a warm, welcoming Christian congregation whose mission is to celebrate the Love of God, and to share the salvation of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

Upcoming Worship Services:

Communion Sunday: September 8
Thanksgiving Sunday: October 13
Remembrance Sunday: November 10

The Season of Pentecost

You may be wondering about the bulletin title each week: ## Sunday after Pentecost. The word comes from the Greek ‘pentekoste’ meaning ‘50th’ or ‘50 days’. Pentecost is the 50th day or 7th Sunday after Easter and lasts until the first Sunday of Advent.

Message from Session:

Alexandra Presbyterian Church is blessed to have Rev. Wes Coburn. We all go away each Sunday with many positive messages to sustain us throughout the week. Thank you for all you do to support Alexandra including ministering outreach.

Thank you to Rev. Vern Tozer who supports Alexandra with Communion, and many other events including funerals and weddings. We are blessed to have you!

Session continues to meet every 2nd month and on a need to meet basis. Session members include Elders Jane Ross, Angeline Vandertuin, Beta Chan, Darragh Christie, Betty Andrews and Angela Brock. Stay tuned for a Spotlight on our Session, where you will learn of their personal spiritual journeys. We are blessed with the support of Rev. Dean Adlam – Presbytery of Paris Moderator to chair all our Session meetings and ministers to the Elders. Thank you to all our Elders.

Session has approved two Pentecostal Church services to rent and Minister at the church. We welcome the “All Are Welcome Ministry”, ministered by Vincent Murdock. The ministry began in April with services at 2:30 pm on Sundays.

More recently, “All Nations Full Gospel Church” with Minister Joseph Viscardi, which are beginning September 1 with services held Sundays in the St. Andrews room at 12:30 pm on.

They are helping to spread the Word of the Lord in our community. A BIG warm Alexandra welcome to both ministers and your congregations.

Alexandra will be celebrating 179 years of ministry in October. Thank you to all who volunteer and help Alexandra Presbyterian Church continue to serve and grow in the community.

- Jane Ross – Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

Your ongoing support of the Operating Fund is appreciated as we work towards meeting our budget and cover our ongoing expenses. As you are aware, the increasing costs of keeping the doors open are an ongoing challenge. As you will read in the Maintenance Report there are several upcoming projects as funds permit. Donations towards these projects would be much appreciated.

Ways to give:

Envelopes, E-transfers, and PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) **Contact the office for information.**

GG’s Bread

G.G.’s Bread is an outreach program for our church managed by Valerie and Herb Ruiss that provides a free take-out breakfast to Brantford’s community every Thursday morning prepared at Alexandra.

When first opened, the program provided 15 breakfasts prepared by 3 volunteers. Today, approx. 140 breakfasts are provided by 10 volunteers. Financial support comes from donations which are always welcome.

- Janet Edwards & Barrie Wray, volunteers

Humour Corner

Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer and Fasting Conference:

“The cost for attending the Prayer and Fasting Conference includes meals”

Music Notes from Stephanie

Thank you to Kaitlin, Olivia, Richard, Vivien and Liam for a wonderful midsummer musical on July 7.

I am grateful for Anne Wray's collaboration in piano and organ duets on hymns as well as Barrie Wray's vocal and instrumental solos. We also enjoy the anthems from our musical group, the Alexandra Singers.



Over the next month, the preludes and postludes will highlight compositions from Gordon Young, Dale Wood and Mark Himmelman (Canadian composer), including some music generously donated by Joyce Gedcke.

In preparation for Harvest Thanksgiving, I would like to share a few interesting facts about hymns. The hymn, *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*, written by poet Matthias Claudius (1782) and translated by Jane Montgomery Campbell (1861), was featured in the musical *Godspell*. Another hymn of interest, *Now Thank We All Our God*, was written by Martin Rinckart, during a time of war, disease and hunger. This hymn writer truly exemplified the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Thank you to everyone for their support of and participation in the music ministry.

Stephanie Burgoyne and **Barrie Wray** are using their musical talents to praise the Lord. Listen to their hymns on YouTube.

Maintenance & Renovation Work

We'd like to give everyone an overview of what's been going on at the church for the past year. We had major water leaks in the front, rear and in the tower of the church, which has caused extensive damage that it took months to repair. These areas have been completely repaired. We still need to replace the flat roof in the tower before winter. Last fall we also had to replace the center roof in the church. In addition, we had some boiler repairs done in the spring.

At present, we are having a security system installed which includes door security with four cameras outside and one inside that also can be used to record services or special events. Thanks to Vivien and Richard Querney who obtained a grant that would pay for the complete system.

We are also replacing a number of lights (approx. 16) complete fixtures that have been needed for a while throughout the church.

Rob and I have also responded to any other concerns to maintenance that are in need with the church building, while keeping in mind of the budget and the true needs of the church building.

There will be more details in the next newsletter.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience and Carol's cleaning support during roof repairs.

- Rob Todd & Ed Vandertuin

Dream Team

The Dream Team, started by Justin Bradshaw-Driessen, has been tirelessly dreaming of new ideas to help move our church forward. It is now chaired by Barrie Wray. Thanks be to God for the efforts of this team.

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:30 am

Fellowship following the service.

All are welcome!

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

For pastoral care: Rev. Dean Adlam 519-758-5516

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