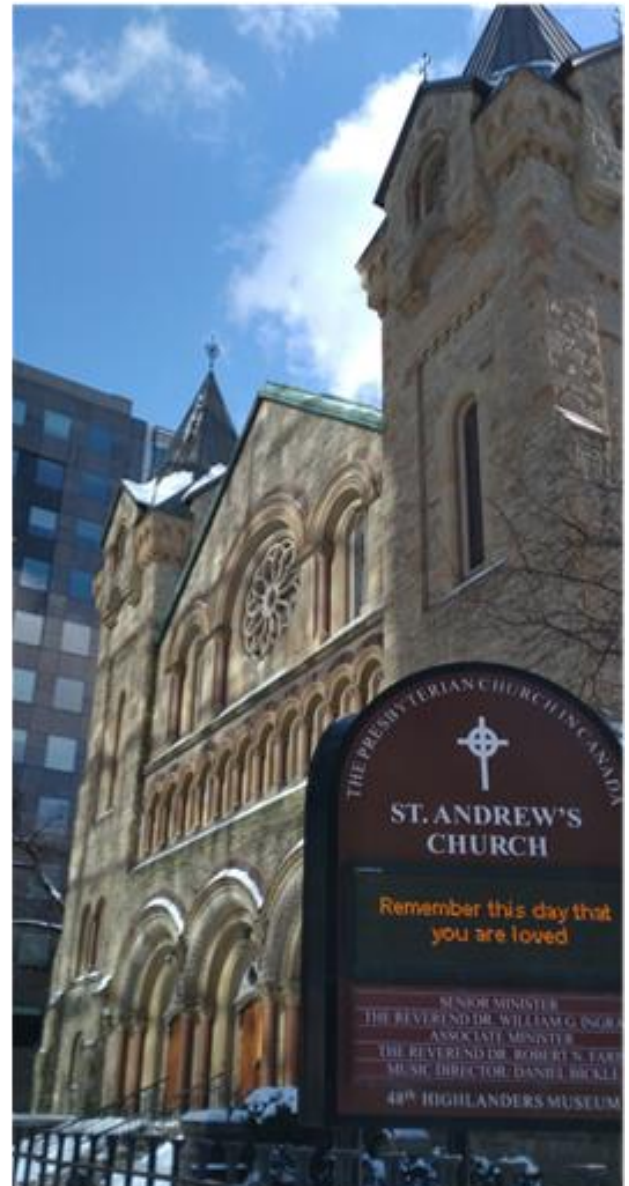


*The people of St. Andrew's are called by God
to serve in faith, hope and love
in the heart of Toronto*



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
2023 Congregational Profile

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Introduction

With a long history of serving the people of downtown Toronto and beyond, an active and diverse congregation engaging in our mission every day, and a plan to further our impact in our community, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church seeks to be Christ's body to the world and to show God's infinite love to our neighbours and all creation.

Our Mission

The people of St. Andrew's are called by God to serve in Faith, Hope and Love in the Heart of Toronto.

Our Community



St. Andrew's is located in the Financial District, a block away from Bay Street and the head offices of major Canadian banks, law firms, and financial institutions, which employ upwards of 50,000 people. We're also in the middle of Toronto's Entertainment District; we share a block with the city's symphony hall and multiple theatres, while cinemas, a professional baseball stadium and hockey arena, and the art gallery are all within a ten-minute walk. And we're also in the middle of a diverse and growing residential community driven by professionals who wish to be closer to work, and empty nesters leaving the suburbs.

There are several post-secondary institutions nearby, including the main campus of University of Toronto (including Knox College), Toronto Metropolitan University, OCAD University of Art and Design, and George Brown College. Within the area there are 24 elementary and 10 secondary schools.

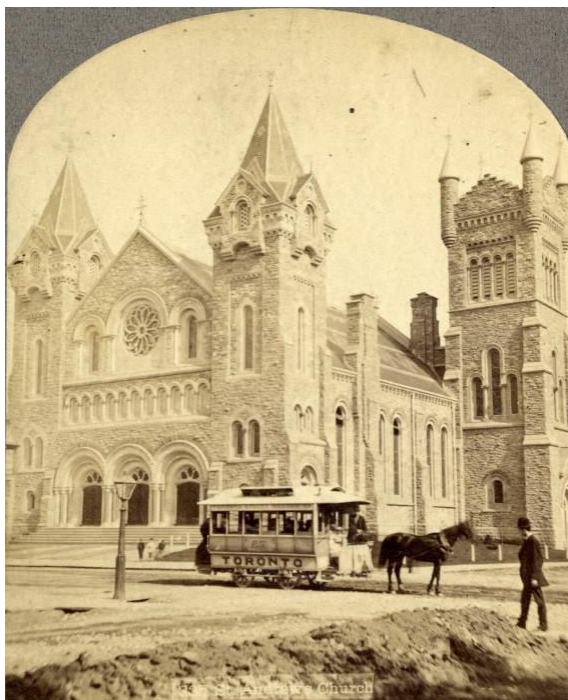
The TTC provides Toronto's transit services, and there is a subway station (named after the church) half a block away. Union Station, which has GO commuter trains and regional buses, VIA Rail intercity trains, and trains to Pearson airport, is a five-minute walk or one-minute subway ride away.

While there are large churches from other denominations in the area—including the Cathedral Church of St. James, Church of the Holy Trinity (Anglican); St. Michael's Cathedral, St. Patrick's (Catholic); and Metropolitan United Church—St. Andrew's is the only Presbyterian church located directly in the city's downtown core.

St. Andrew's is located in [Toronto's Ward 10 - Spadina/Fort York](#). Though it is a highly affluent neighbourhood, the area is experiencing some significant challenges:

- an increasing number of people experiencing food and shelter insecurity
- substance abuse, leading to overdoses and an increase in crime
- an influx of immigrants and refugees struggling to find a place to live
- the community recovering from the shutdown during COVID-19 and the workers adjusting to work life after the pandemic.

Our Congregation



St. Andrew's Church has had close to 200 years of a faithful and impactful presence in downtown Toronto. In addition to our weekly worship services, we have many outreach programs to help us serve out our faith to meet the needs of the community, including free meals, refugee support, education, missionary work, community services and more.

St. Andrew's history is vibrant and frequently intersects with the history of Toronto and Canada.

We invite you to learn more about it [here](#). Today, the growing congregation present at worship is representative of the diversity of those living and working in the core. Our congregation ranges from

new Canadians, urban professionals, refugees, retired seniors and those with young families. In a typical week at St. Andrew's, over 1,000 people come through the doors for worship, to benefit from our community breakfast and dinner, learn the English language, sing in choirs, attend concerts or talks, or have a quiet moment in the beautiful sanctuary.

As it moves towards celebrating its 200th anniversary, St. Andrew's is seeking to become an ever more dynamic presence in downtown Toronto and has developed a vision and strategic plan to make this happen. It is an exciting moment.

Our Governance

St. Andrew's is a member of The Presbytery of East Toronto, located in the central and eastern parts of the city of Toronto. The Presbytery includes 21 churches and three missions – the ARISE ministry (Advocacy and Reclaiming Individuals involved in the Sex trade through Empowerment), Evangel Hall (supporting individuals experiencing poverty, homelessness and isolation), and Ecumenical Chaplaincy at University of Toronto (ECUT). Two clergy and two elders represent St. Andrew's at Presbytery.

St. Andrew's has thirty-two ordained elders, fourteen of whom serve on Session. The Session is responsible for oversight of all church activities and is administered through the work of the following ministries: Worship, Fellowship and Pastoral Care, Faith Formation, Growth and Innovation, Outreach, Personnel Relations and the Board of Managers. For each of the ministries, Session provides an elder as a co-convenor with a member of the congregation. The elder ensures that the needs and requests from the ministries are heard and attended to at Session. Details on the work of the ministries are provided below.

Our Ministries



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

WORSHIP
MINISTRY

The worship ministry provides worship experiences that glorify God, strengthen the community, welcome the stranger, and inspire the mind, the heart and the spirit.



Sunday morning worship at 10:30 follows a tradition rooted in the reformed/Presbyterian tradition, with music provided by a professional choir.

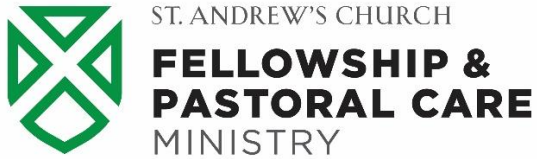
The St. Andrew's Choristers, a congregational choir, provides additional music throughout the year. A separate worship service is recorded and posted on YouTube on Saturday nights for viewing on Sunday or later in the week.



ST. ANDREW'S

**WORSHIP
AT HOME**

Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month, as well as on special occasions. Thursday communion is served at noon in the chancel and is attended by an ecumenical group in the downtown community. Like all Presbyterian churches, we practice Open Communion.



The Fellowship and Pastoral Care ministry enhances and strengthens pastoral and social relationships within the congregation.



Through regular contact with our worshipers, it identifies those in need of extra prayer and care and liaises with the ministers and elders to arrange visitation. They also organize coffee hour following the service and special social events, including supporting SAGA, the St. Andrew's Gay Alliance, which has been holding regular monthly gatherings at St. Andrew's since the 1970's.



Faith Formation provides opportunities for people of every age to learn more about their faith and to grow in spiritual maturity.



The Church School provides nursery services and programs for children from 3 to 12 in three separate classes during the Sunday worship. Children and youth also participate in special (and often very silly) worship services. Materials are emailed to those unable to attend in person so they can follow the lessons in their own time with their parents. This Lent, the children raised money for personal items for our Out of the Cold guests and filled over 100 bags that were distributed during the Monday evening meals and Tuesday breakfasts.

A Bible study is led by one of the ministers on Sunday morning before the service. Participants can join in person or by Zoom. In addition, throughout the year there have been short mid-week studies that focus on a specific topic such as “Exploring Exile” and “Surprised by Hope”.

Advent and Lenten Meditations cover a three-to-five-week period focusing on a specific theme and led by a speaker or series of speakers, with lunch and discussion following the meditation. A Sunday forum on the last Sunday of the month provides an in-depth look at a topic of interest to the congregation.



The Growth and Innovation Ministry promotes and encourages the development of new initiatives that help us reach out to the broader community.



The Heart of the City Speaker Series invites well-known experts in their field to speak on a current topic of interest; past speakers have included Steve Paikin, former mayor David Miller, and former senator Hugh Segal. The Better English Café provides an opportunity for new Canadians to meet weekly and practice their English in a social environment.



St. Andrew's is known for its music. Under the direction of Dan Bickle, the Director of Music and organist, the Friday noon-time recitals provide a free opportunity to listen to up-and-coming musicians in the sanctuary. Dan also directs Sing TO, a community choir for anyone who wants to sing that meets on Thursday nights in the Great Hall. Each year members of St. Andrew's participate in the TCS Waterfront Marathon to raise money to support these initiatives.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
OUTREACH
MINISTRY

The Outreach Ministry seeks to fulfill the mission of St. Andrew's in the wider community, both with the desire to strengthen the visible presence of the Church and to strive towards the biblical vision of social justice in our city and world.

For over forty years, the Out of the Cold program has provided meals on Monday nights in the winter, and a Tuesday morning breakfast is offered year-round. In addition, a free boutique offers needed clothes and personal items.



The St. Andrew's Refugee Sponsorship program has sponsored ten (and counting) individuals and their families as they settle into Canada, helping with accommodation and advice on medical services, education, and employment opportunities. The ministry also raises money to support the ARISE ministry, Evangel Hall, Ecumenical Chaplaincy at University of Toronto (ECUT), Presbyterian Sharing and Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).

Board of Managers

The board has 12 members serving three-year renewable terms, as well as the Church Manager. It meets monthly. Its duties include reviewing the monthly financial results, cash flows, property matters and also a report from the Health and Safety Committee. The Board is also responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and restoration of the church facilities, including the sanctuary, Great Hall, church offices and the two floors connected to the Condo beside us. The second floor is rented to a day care tenant and the third floor is rented to three separate tenants.

Our Future

In June 2023 the Session approved the WATCH report, which sets out the recommended strategic direction for St. Andrew's as it moves towards celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2030. The report, prepared by a strategic planning committee of elders, sets out findings and recommendations under five important subject areas: **Worship, Accessibility, Technology, Connections, Hope.**

From its work, the committee released a full strategic plan. A summary can be found below.

SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Mission

The people of St. Andrew's are called by God to serve in faith, hope and love in the heart of Toronto.

Our Vision

On our WATCH we will be a dynamic and growing presence for the ministry of Christ in our community.

Our Goals

Worship	Dynamic worship that glorifies God and builds faith in community
Accessibility	Open and adequate space for all people and programs
Technology	Technology that facilitates our purpose and presence
Connections	Strong connections that bring us together in faith
Hope	Hope in the future driven by honouring our past

Our immediate strategic priorities

1. Deepen our greeting process with committed and organized follow-up and fellowship opportunities for new attendees.
2. Form an "Advisory Council on Technology" to monitor advances in social media, technology, artificial intelligence, make recommendations to Session, and offer guidance on the most appropriate use of social media and the positions required to successfully run a high-quality media program.
3. Provide ways to receive digital offerings during worship and at church events.
4. Implement additional forms of worship that appeal to members and newcomers to our community of faith.
5. Implement a program that attracts, engages, and retains young adults and families.
6. Make the Chancel accessible to all people.
7. Invest in better equipment for the production of on-line options, while being mindful of potential consequences such as creating separate on-line and in-person communities.
8. Promote social activities to encourage, strengthen and deepen relationships within the congregation.

Our Staff

Our ministerial team is led by the Senior Minister, the Reverend Dr. William Ingram. Included in the ministerial team are the full-time Associate Minister, the organist and Director of Music, and a part-time Faith Formation Coordinator for Children and Youth.

Our Church Manager oversees both the Administration and Property functions. A full-time Ministry Coordinator provides administrative support for the ministers, the Clerk of Session and the ministry conveners. A part-time Communications Coordinator and part-time video editor support the in-person and online worship services. The full time Property Supervisor leads a team of three custodians—two full-time and one part-time.

Our Stewardship

The congregation has a Budget Committee consisting of six members and the Church Manager. The annual budget is prepared in October and November. The draft budget, including estimated current year results is presented to a joint meeting of Session and Board in mid-December for approval. The budget is then presented to a Congregational meeting in January for final approval. The annual stewardship campaign process was disrupted by the pandemic but will be undertaken going forward. The congregation has the PAR plan for monthly givings, online givings, and credit card options.

