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# **ST. ANDREWS-CHALMERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, UXBRIDGE**

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## **FAITH IN ACTION**

ISSUE 3 APRIL 2024



## **IN THIS ISSUE**

### **FROM THE MINISTERS DESK**

Reverend Sean gives his thoughts on the Newsletter

### **PILLAR STORY**

### **THE CHURCH ORGAN**

By Richard Watson

### **NOTES ON THE GOSPEL OF:**

### **JOHN CHAPTER 11**

Jesus ... The Resurrection  
and the Life

by Joe Ottenhof

### **CHURCH HISTORY**

BY PHYLLIS STEWART

Part 2 of the Church History.

### **DATES TO NOTE**

## **FROM THE MINISTERS DESK**

**BY SEAN ASTOP**

Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed! What a glorious Easter we celebrated together in-person and on-line together. It was so nice to join with Trinity United for a potluck/communion service on Maundy Thursday and to be blessed together with Trinity on Good Friday by Elizabeth Cowie and the St. Andrew's Choir for leading us through the moving service called Song of the Shadows marveling at Christ's passion. Finally we capped off the weekend celebrating the Empty tomb and Christ's Resurrection, the anchor of our faith with fellowship together with Hot-Cross Buns after the service.

In this 3rd Edition of the Bi-Monthly Newsletter, you will find an Organ Update from Richard Watson, an Easter Reflection from Joe Ottenhof, Part II of St. Andrew's-Chalmers History by Phyllis Stewart, and a Financial Update from the Finance Team. Our next issue of Reaching Out will have a Mission Focus as we Put our Faith in Action participating together in God's great plan of redemption. May God bless you this Spring and Easter Season and may you be strengthened by Christ's peace!

# St Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church

## Organ update 2024




Murray wiring  
new toe studs



Most recent labourers in the field:

Scott Andrews  
Betty Bingham  
Elaine Cordingley  
Jim Davis  
John Gould  
Paul Kelly  
Murray Stewart



**M**uch work has been done to the organ at SAC this year. It's hard to enumerate and describe these in a few simple words as most of these changes are highly technical. All of them took months of work from a dedicated team. Words fail in my thanks to them.

\* The most significant change in the organ is the total rebuilding of the audio system. This included the addition of rear channel surround sound. You can see (and hear) these new audio channels in the upper back corners of the east and west corners of the sanctu-

\* The audio system has 23 individual sound channels, each sounding via the absolute best quality of audio monitors. Each of these is fine tuned via an ethernet connected (and hidden) wiring.

\* This rebuilding of the sound system matches the genuine existing pipe organ that, while old (as the hills), gives such a realistic and powerful organ that belies the physicality of the sanctuary.

Murray Stewart is almost finished installing 10 toe studs on the organ. He made a custom fitted 65° wooden structure placed above the organ pedals and then installed the 10 toe studs and then with just a very little help wired them into the internal wiring of the organ. He also made the new organ light for both the music being played and also the lighting of the pedalboard. You can see why words fail!

There is still a MAJOR looming task that must be undertaken soon. The pipe organ - that makes sound by blowing air through the right pipe - at the right time - is in desperate need of repair. The organ repair firm that we had used in the past, will not come any longer outside of Toronto. In the technician's view, the organ is too far away from his business, requires too many major repairs, and, in his view, is too old and decrepid to fix.

So, what to do? Thankfully I do know how to fix it by myself, but physical maladies prevent me from crawling into and under the requisite tiny

spaces. There are 19 remaining pipes that have been already pulled to stop ciphering. Definition: A cipher is a pipe that continues sounding even when that note is not played. Obviously that's not a good thing. That's job #1.

To fix a cipher, you have to take the bottom off the windchest on which the errant pipe stands. Then you have to locate the electric valve that is obviously stuck open. Finally, you have to lubricate or otherwise coax it to open and close when it is electrified. In other words, make the 80-year-old valve work as if it was new again.

The problem is that the windchests (at least one of them) is close to the floor and there are all sorts of other mechanisms in the way. You have to be limber, agile and, above all, small. I am none of those things.

Thankfully, though, there are some in the congregation that can do it whilst I watch (and pray). It's a tough job but we're already fixed 3 of these. We have just 16 left to go. Then we'll be able to

play without encountering any missing notes.

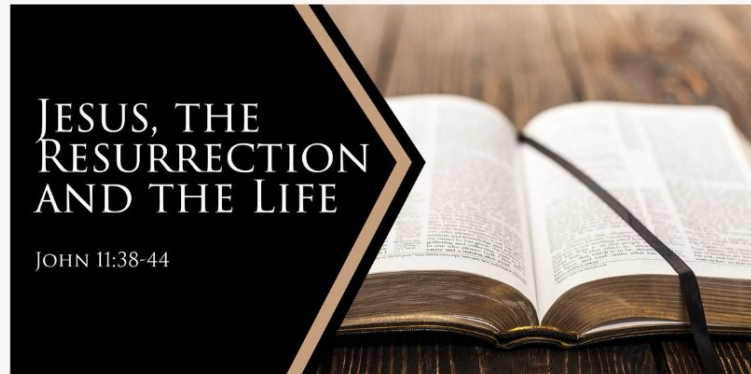
The organ absolutely has to be tuned. There are certain high-pitched pipes that are so out-of-tune that they can't (or shouldn't) be played. This isn't nearly as bad as stopping a cipher, but it requires some dismantling of the rows of pipes so that they can be reached and the tuning can be done. Some of the smallest pipes are smaller than a pencil and emit the highest musical frequencies - approaching 20,000 Hertz.

Some of the recent improvements that make the organ far easier to play for someone who is a stranger to the instrument are remote control relays that can turn on/off up to 30 separate electrical devices altogether without visiting each device. Each of the 23 speakers are then switched remotely on mass using this device. We want to make it as easy as possible for anyone to be able to navigate playing the organ.

Respectfully,  
*Richard Watson*

## Notes On The Gospel of John Chapter 11

BY JOE OTTENHOF



The resurrection of Lazarus is often cited as a powerful example of the humanity of Jesus. Let's look a little closer at this wonderful story of passion and compassion.

Please take a few minutes to read John 11, slowly and carefully. It's always good to get a picture of the scene. You know kind of like watching an episode of "The Chosen".

Lazarus is a close friend of Jesus and brother of Mary and Martha. Mary was the one who, washed Jesus' feet with perfume and her own hair. Martha was the hardworking older sister that wondered why Mary just sat around all day and let her do all the work...or at least that's how she saw it!

Jesus hears that Lazarus is very ill and is asked to come immediately to help Mary and Martha and his beloved friend. But Jesus does not go! Slowly read verses 5 and 6 of John 11. Does it sound like Jesus purposely stayed another 2 days where he was? Lazarus died in those 2 days. Then announcing that Lazarus has died he says let's go to Bethany where Mary, Martha and Lazarus live.

Jesus and his disciples arrive back in Bethany at least 2 days after leaving where he was...it's now been 4 days since Lazarus has died. Mary and Martha say to Jesus "If you had been here our brother would not have died". Then maybe one of the most hopeful verses in the bible. Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life...!" He then goes to the tomb and we hear the shortest verse in the bible John 11:35 "Jesus wept". After a prayer and in a loud voice, so all can hear, he calls Lazarus from the tomb to new life.

A few things to ponder.

Why do you think Jesus delayed going to Bethany?

Compare our "timetable" of urgency with God's

Think on the verse "I am the resurrection and the life". What comes to mind as you meditate.

What does the emotion of Jesus tell us about who he is and how he sees each of us?

## ST. ANDREW'S-CHALMERS HISTORY

### Part 2 --- 1961 - 1981

*As promised, here is Part 2 of our church history.*

*This instalment covers just twenty years, but some very big, and sometimes difficult, decisions were made during this period. You'll recall that when Part 1 ended the Chalmers congregation was flourishing, while the St. Andrew's group was smaller. The following is a narration of not-so-long-ago events which helped shape the church we know today.*

1961 The Chalmers congregation discussed moving to a new location versus repairing the existing building. "Move or repair" seems to have been a theme through the years, but at this point the decision was made to add to existing space by building St. Andrew's Hall instead of moving.

1962 St. Andrew's, Quaker Hill formally joined with the Chalmers congregation, merging both congregations and names. The merge came with the important condition that transportation for children from the former St. Andrew's district be provided, if needed. The first joint meeting of the Board of St. Andrew's-Chalmers was held on October 16.

Fun fact: The Ladies Association purchased a \$233.30 vacuum cleaner. This must have been an industrial-size beast to command such a price in 1962.

1963 The St. Andrew's Hall sod turning took place on Sunday September 29. Mr. R.F. Willis, 94, the oldest member of the congregation, and born the year the first church was built, turned the sod.

There was discussion at an annual meeting about touching up the white paint covering the original redbrick church or whether a stucco cover should be considered.

Sod turning service, and white-painted  
church

1964 The Board gave authority to sell the manse, valued between \$12,000 - \$13,000, providing the minister with a housing allowance instead.

On Sunday June 21 the St. Andrew's Hall cornerstone was laid. Commemorative items, including "coins of the realm" and a current Uxbridge Times-Journal newspaper, were placed into a container which was set in the wall behind the stone.

A re-opening service for the church was held in September.

1965 On January 3, St. Andrew's Hall was officially opened and dedicated. Items with which we are all familiar were received and dedicated in that service: the pulpit fall, brass lectern and vases, the bible and marker, brass offering plates, and the Canadian Ensign and St. Andrew's flags.

A decision was made to dispose of the St. Andrew's, Quaker Hill church building.

1967 It was moved that the St. Andrew's building be demolished, a cairn erected to commemorate the site, and an auction held to dispose of the contents. The auction realized over \$1300, a sum higher than anyone expected.

1972 Doris Johnston was the first woman to be ordained an elder at St. Andrew's-Chalmers. *Yay!!*

1973 On January 24 it was agreed to have organ repairs carried out at a cost of \$10,000 - \$12,000. (*You might recall from the 1964 note above that this was the approximate value of the parsonage then.*) In November the organ was dedicated as a War Memorial for those who served in both World Wars.

1975 This year marked the Centennial of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, celebrating the coming together of several Presbyterian branches into one organization.



At the Easter Communion, metal communion tokens were used, reminiscent of days when one could only partake of communion on receipt of such a token from the Session. They were created as a Centennial memento.

On Sunday June 8 televisions were set up in the church to follow the Ottawa national centennial service.

1977 The Board of Managers noted that redecorating the manse required 58 single rolls of wallpaper. *You'll recall that in 1964 the Board was given authority to sell the manse. That must have never happened and now a truckload of wallpaper was needed to decorate the place.*

1979 The WMS celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Sunday morning service. To no one's surprise, cake was served in St. Andrew's Hall afterward.

Fans were installed in the sanctuary.

1980 The fresco of the Burning Bush and "Nec Tamen Consumeatur" was painted on the ceiling apse of the sanctuary. *I would be interested to know how this was accomplished, and by whom.*

1981 Session approved making a connection between the sanctuary and St. Andrew's Hall.

Both church and manse needed major repairs. The manse had to be sold or repaired to the tune of \$15,000 and consideration was given to building a new church or repairing the existing building. *Again!*

Between ministers, the Toronto Street manse was sold, with, I assume, 58 rolls of wallpaper holding things together. A new manse, located on East Street, was purchased in August.

*And there you have it; two more decades of history. If you enjoyed this instalment, you'll be very pleased to know that the writing of a third edition is underway. I have found this more recent history to be so interesting, and I hope you have too.*

*NOTE: My reference book only goes up to 2000. If you recall a significant event over the past twenty years that should be included in the next portion, please let me know at: [phylliswrites@gmail.com](mailto:phylliswrites@gmail.com).*

## Financial Matters

By Ian Newton

	2024 Budget	2024 Q1 YTD	2024 YE Est	Difference to YE Budget	Comments
Total Income	226,500	48,959	224,559	0%	Looks to be close to budget, but with Givings down, we may not reach budget.
Givings	160,000	33,006	156,406	-2.5%	Behind already by 2.5%, and may slip further.
Committees	7,200	1,619	7,324	0%	On track
Employment	141,362	34,763	142,240	0%	On track
Operating Expenses	65,200	17,558	65,719	0%	On track
Church Assessment	17,000	600	16,975	0%	On track
Surplus/Loss	-6,022	-5,580	-7,699	+27%	Loss could be higher than budget.

We are just getting into spring, so we look forward to renewal and a fresh church year. So far so good.

I think we are all concerned about finances both personal and to the institutions we belong to, such as St. Andrews-Chalmers. We in the Finance Committee try to make realistic budgets, and then monitor as we progress through the year. So far, we are doing well at keeping expenses in line, but it is the income side (Givings primarily), where we constantly need to watch and have good Stewardship.

In 2024 we are anticipating a deficit of \$6,022 as noted above. The long-term goal is to balance both sides of the budget. The church is fortunate to have sound investments, but we need to rely less on investment income. This income is for outreach, care, and support to those in many areas, locally, nationally and abroad.

With all of our help together, we will have a better year than anticipated!

# Upcoming Church Events



**Messy Church**

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Mother's Day**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Communion**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Meeting**

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Father's Day**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>**