



## KNOX KNEWS

~ KEEPING THE CONGREGATION INFORMED ~

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church 73 Queen St. E., Cambridge, ON N3C 2A9  
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519-653-6691 <https://www.knoxpreston.ca/>

### What all of this means

Scott McAndless

I hope that it will come to a surprise to no one who reads this newsletter that, as we write it, the congregations of St. Andrew's Hespeler and Knox Preston Presbyterian Churches are in the midst of discussions to put together an amalgamation. As I write this, I do not know all of the details of what will be decided by the congregations. I obviously also cannot know whether the plan will ultimately be approved by the congregations or the Presbytery.

But I do know this, if we are able to pull this off, it will not succeed if all we expect from it is that it might extend the life of congregations a little bit longer. No matter what comes out of it, this decision is all about us coming to terms with the changing reality of the church in our area. And, if we are going to live into the future reality, there are issues that we must come to terms with. I would like to name some of those issues.

#### No More "Us and Them"

In any amalgamation, one of the biggest problems is "us and them" language and thinking. As Hespeler and Preston churches come together, it will be so easy to continue to think of two distinct groups.

But the whole point of an amalgamation is to become just one congregation. Let's be very careful to not slip into thinking and speaking as if we are two. That will only prevent us from building a strong future.



Yes, it is true that, as part of this amalgamation, we want to extend worship and ministry into the Preston area, even if only on a limited basis at first. Because of that, there may be a temptation to think of that as "their" ministry or outreach.

But it is simply not going to work on that basis. We need to embrace all of our ministry, wherever it is carried out as something that belongs to all of us.

#### A New Sense of our Community

There is another point that is somewhat related to that.

No matter what may happen with this amalgamation, for the future of the church, we are all going to have to stop thinking just in terms of one local community. The future of the ministry of the church in our area will have to be conceived on a more regional basis.

Yes, I suspect that we will continue to have places, like St Andrew's Hespeler, where we focus our ministry. But we will need to be thinking in larger terms. In particular, when we do things in Preston, we need to embrace them as something that we all own.

#### A New Relationship with Professional Clergy

Many of the churches in our area do not have full-time ministers. That was once the norm, but it is no longer. Part of that is, admittedly, because churches are finding it harder to afford to pay full-time ministers. But another

part of it is that there just aren't that many ministers available either.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has long had a model of congregational ministry that was clergy-led and supported by the laity. I suspect that we are moving towards an era where that is going to be turned upside down. As we move forward, the ministry of the church will be led by the laity. This will still be supported by the clergy, but we will have to find creative ways to share the clergy that we have (and that we can afford) in a larger area without overtaxing them.

It is my hope that, as we begin this amalgamation, and perhaps build upon it in years to come, we can pioneer some new ways of working out that relationship between congregations and clergy. Part of this will include new models for lay leadership, preaching and sacraments. These are not things that are going to change right away, but I hope that we will leave some space in our thinking for such possibilities as we pursue this opportunity that is before us.

## Looking Past the details

Right now, especially as we have two sessions and a Presbytery talking over all kinds of details, it is pretty easy to feel somewhat overwhelmed by this process. There does seem to be so much to discuss and so much to be worked out.

But I hope that we do not lose sight of the fact that this is not just about a bunch of details and decisions. This is above all a very exciting development. We are growing together. We are sharing some incredible strengths that have been developed in two different congregations with each other. There is so much potential in such a step. Let us not forget to celebrate and to rejoice in what we find in one another.

When we meet as a two separate congregations and make that decision, as I hope we will, to proceed, may God grant us wisdom, foresight and much joy!

## Giving Tuesday

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Under normal circumstances, St. Andrew's Hespeler would be sending out a letter to all members and adherents to invite them to participate in **Giving Tuesday** this year. But, with the Canada Post ongoing, that is not going to happen this year. We will include the letter below and ask you to give it your prayerful consideration:

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church,

On Tuesday December 3rd, St. Andrew's is launching its annual GivingTuesday campaign. GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fuelled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the U.S. Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Our GivingTuesday campaign has a two-fold purpose. First, our Stewardship Committee has set a goal of raising \$40,000 (as outlined below). This year we have had some donations to be used for this campaign for matching funds. Currently, the first \$7500 will be matched!

Second, we will continue our campaign until Tuesday, December 31st. We will be changing things up this year.

You will have many chances to participate at home and at church. To kick off our campaign plan to join us on Tuesday, December 3rd at 10:00 am for some seasonal refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a calendar available to help us keep St. Andrew's in our thoughts and prayers throughout the month of December.

Our goal to raise \$40,000 between now and the end of 2024 is broken down as follows:

\$6,000 for community outreach including:

- Hope Clothing which offers good clothing free of charge to over 75 people/families each month
- The Cambridge Food Bank (2nd & 4th Thursday of the month) which serves approximately 50 families per month
- We host the Hespeler Outreach Worker from The House of Friendship on Thursdays
- We are partnered with several Cambridge non-profit organizations to help people access the many

- resources available in the community
- St. Andrew's provides a small food pantry once per month
- A-A, Al-Anon and Al-Ateen
- Community groups that provide development and mutual support

\$8,000 for Christian Education & Development, including:

- Growing a vibrant Children, Youth and family ministry

\$26,000 for worship, including:

- Cost of our minister and rebuilding our music program
- Special seasonal services at Christmas and Easter
- Cost to maintain our Organ

Underpinning each of the identified goals is the cost to operate and maintain our beautiful historic facility. Approximately 25% of our budget at St. Andrew's goes toward the cost of a custodian, heat, hydro, water, insurance, telephone and ongoing maintenance. This translates to just over \$1,000 every week. We are blessed with an Operations Committee who are extremely efficient and effective in the use of the operations and maintenance budget for which they have oversight.

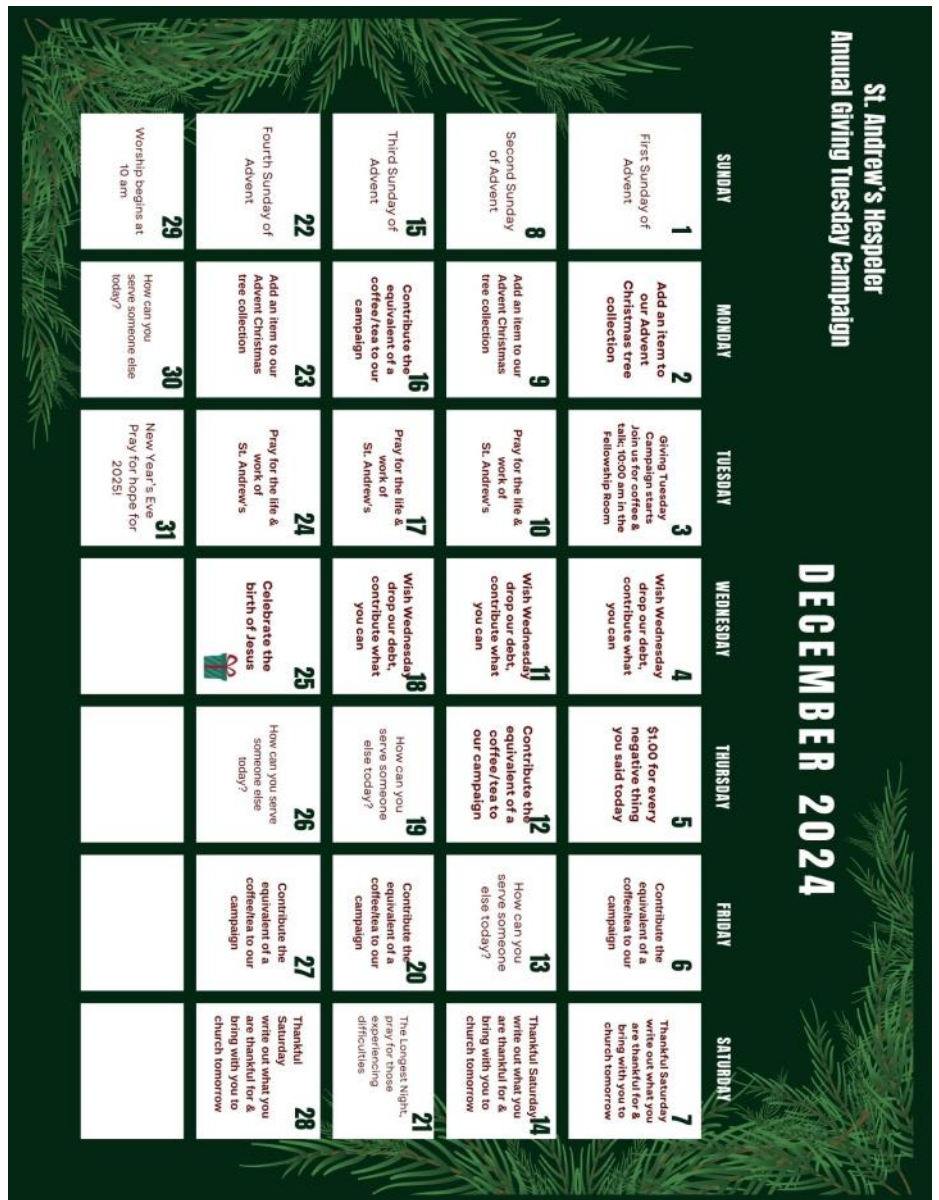
Please prayerfully consider your response to our 2024 GivingTuesday campaign.

Sincerely, Donald Paddock

Chairperson – Stewardship Committee

Instructions for making 2024 GivingTuesday Campaign Gifts:

1. GivingTuesday Campaign gifts can also be made online at [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca) and use the "Donate Now" button. From there you can choose where your GivingTuesday gift should go.
2. GivingTuesday Campaign gifts can also be either sent via mail in the enclosed envelope to the church office or placed on the Sunday morning offering plate. Please do not send cash via external mail.
  - a. If making a GivingTuesday Campaign gift using your Offering Envelope, please clearly mark the amount to be designated to this campaign on the envelope so that it can be distinguished from your regular givings.
  - b. If not using your Offering Envelope nor the envelope provided, please ensure the outside of the envelope you use clearly indicates (a) your name and (b) that the amount inside is to be designated to the GivingTuesday Campaign
3. All one time GivingTuesday Campaign gifts of \$20 or more will be accepted for tax purposes if a proper name and address is supplied





St. Andrew's Annual Giving Tuesday Campaign begins with a Celebration Kick-off on Tuesday, December 3 at 10:00 am. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating our amazing volunteers and the programs we offer the community and the partnerships we have with other organizations. Come for some seasonal refreshments, tours of Hope Clothing and our offsite Food Bank location. Representatives from St. Andrew's Pantry, the Food Bank, Mobile Food Market, The House of Friendship and Kinbridge will also be available to talk with and find out how they help our Hespeler Community.

### **Annual Advent Mission Project is about to begin!**

Our annual Advent Mission Project launches December 1! If you can help us stock St. Andrew's Pantry shelves with canned food items, toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, etc. we would appreciate it. Last year your contributions lasted until late April! These extra items are very much appreciated by members of our community. If you have questions please speak with Joni ([jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca))



### **A Very Special Service**

A very special service will be hosted at St. Andrew's Hespeler on Sunday, December 22. The congregations of Doon, Duff's and Preston will be joining us for a musical celebration of the season. Our choir is arranging a couple of songs to sing and there will be a mass choir that anyone can join. Speak to Rev. Scott if you'd like a copy of the mass choir music. There will be a practice of those two pieces at Hespeler on the 19th of December at 7:00.

The December 22nd service will begin at 10:30 am (with a carol sing 15 minutes before).

We will be providing coffee, tea and goodies following the service so, if anyone can help with that, please let us know.

We are also looking for a few other extra volunteers for the day: ushers (to take up the offering) and people to help with the parking or the elevator.

*Voices of Christmas*  
Sunday December 22nd  
@ 10:30am  
Worship will take place at  
St. Andrew's Hespeler this day!  
73 Queen St. East Cambridge

Join us for a special service filled with Christmas music & carols. Families and children are welcome to join us. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.

**We will begin the morning with a Carol Sing 15 minutes before the service starts.**



Date	Place	Time	Event
Sun. Dec 1	Sanctuary	10 am	Sacrament of Communion
Tues. Dec 3	Lower Hall	10 am	A Kick-off Celebration for Giving Tuesday
Sun. Dec 8	Sanctuary	After worship	Congregational Meeting
Tues. Dec 10	Knox Preston	7 pm	Special Presbytery meeting to consider amalgamation
Thurs. Dec 15	Sanctuary	10 am	Family Christmas Service (followed by potluck lunch)
Thurs. Dec 19	Sanctuary	7 pm	Rehearsal for Mass Choir
Sat. Dec 21	Sanctuary	7 pm	Longest Night Service
Sun. Dec 22	Sanctuary	10:30 am	Voices of Christmas Service (Preceded by a 15 Carol sing and followed by refreshments)
Tues. Dec 24	Sanctuary	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sun. Dec 29	Sanctuary	10 am	Year End Worship Service
Sun. Jan 12	Sanctuary	10 am	Celebration of Baptism
Sun. Jan 19	Sanctuary	10 am	Proposed Amalgamation Celebration



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Scrip<sup>TM/MC</sup>



*Christmas is coming!*

Did you know that money raised from gift cards goes back into helping the church?

Restaurants, Clothing Stores, Gas, Grocery shopping:

\*McDonald's \*Tim Horton's \*Starbucks \* Staples

\*Ultimate dining cards \*Zehrs \*Food Basics \*Metro

\* Shell \*Esso \* Indigo \*Cineplex \*Gap/Old Navy \* Giant Tiger

December 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 to get your orders in time for Christmas! Talk to Laura or Patrice if you have any questions!

## Longest Night

Our Longest Night service is a cherished tradition at St. Andrew's Hespeler.

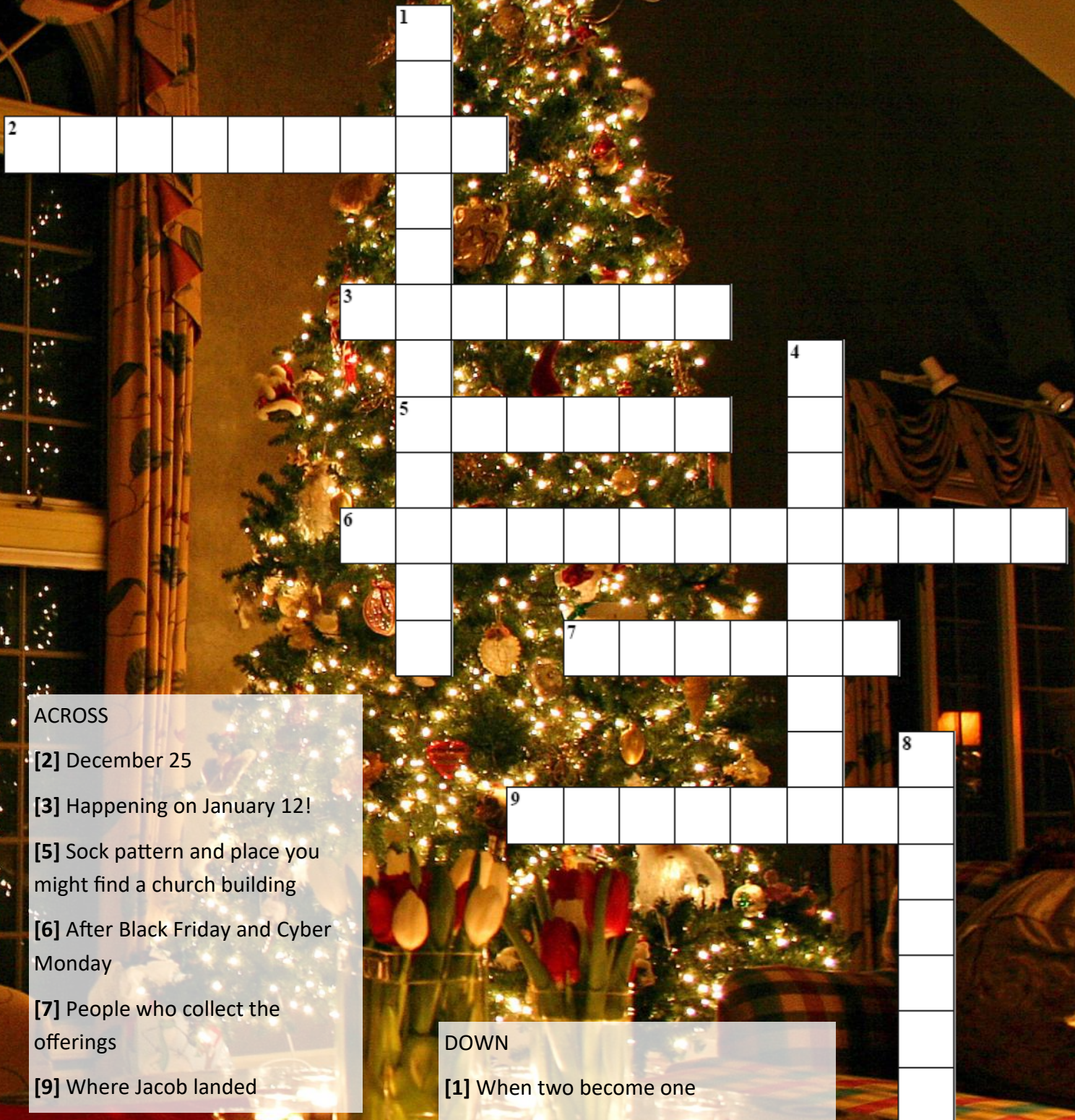
It is a chance to reflect and be quiet during our busy Christmas season. It is a space to remember those we have lost and acknowledge the things that have been difficult and painful. The service is held on December 21 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary and includes communion.





## The Back Page

Well, you have now read through this entire newsletter. Now let's see how much of it you remember. Can you fill out this whole crossword puzzle without looking back?



### ACROSS

- [2] December 25
- [3] Happening on January 12!
- [5] Sock pattern and place you might find a church building
- [6] After Black Friday and Cyber Monday
- [7] People who collect the offerings
- [9] Where Jacob landed

### DOWN

- [1] When two become one
- [4] Mass choir three days before the big service
- [8] Where the Grand and the Speed meet