

We extend the sympathy of the congregation to the family and friends of Bill Carter. Bill passed away on December 20, 2025. A funeral service celebrating Bill's life will be held here at St. Andrew's Hespeler on Saturday, January 17 at 11:00 am.



GIVINGTUESDAY

Thank you! to everyone who contributed to our year end Giving Tuesday campaign. Together we raised over \$17, 000! This will certainly help maintain & grow our programs both within our church community and out in our Hespeler and Preston communities.

This Week at St. Andrew's Hespeler

Monday: Women's Empowerment Group 1:00 pm
Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:30 -11:00 am
Wednesday: Mobile Food Market 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Wednesday: Women's Empowerment Group: 1:30 pm
Thursday: Hope Clothing Noon -2:00 pm

We are grateful to those who were involved in worship this morning:

Organist: Martin Bohl
Worship Assistant: Marcus Cawthra
Beadle: Carol Johnston
Greeter: Jean Godin
Sunday School: On break!
Tech Team: Laura Einwechter, Jacob Marsh & Dylan Smith

Some important upcoming events

Jan 17: Funeral Services for Bill Carter in the sanctuary
Jan 18: First Anniversary Celebration
Jan 31: Puzzle Swap
Feb 22: First Sunday in Lent
Feb 22: Annual General Meeting
Apr 5: Easter Celebration
May 24: Pentecost Party



Advent Outreach Collection

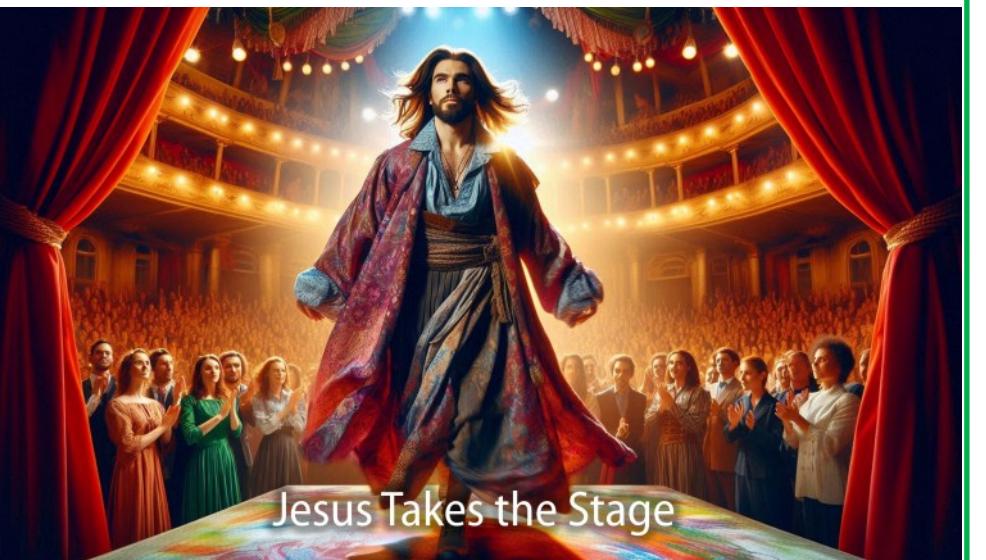
Thank you! to everyone who contributed to our Advent Collection. Even before Christmas your donations helped a family who had lost everything in a fire and a new refugee family from Venezuela. Your donations will support our St. Andrew's Pantry for 3 or 4 months!

It's time to record again!

On Tuesday morning (January 6), from 9:45 am-11:00 am we will be recording our bible readings again. If you have never done this, but wonder how it all works you are invited to join us in the sanctuary. Bible readings will be provided to you, you will be recorded and then Joni will turn them into the short video we watch in church on Sunday mornings.



Next Week's Sermon:



St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

January 4, 2026

First Sunday after Christmas



The Tale of the Word

Rev. Scott McAndless: smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca

Joni Smith: jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca

Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Clerk of Session: st.a.hespeler.cos@gmail.com

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Worship. We will meet in person at 10 am. Or join us on Zoom or Facebook Live. The Zoom link will be posted on the website.

Prelude: Chanson de Noel by P. Beaumont

Welcome

Call to worship

L: Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

P: Praise the Creator of the sun and moon and shining stars!

L: Give praise, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

P: Give praise, hills and mountains.

L: All people together, let us praise the name of the Lord and declare God's glory in heaven and on earth.

P: Let us worship God!

Hymn #808 Come in, come in, New Year (Tune #267)

1. Come in, come in, New Year with sparkling winter day!

Your promise calls us here to celebrate and pray, through January's open door to stride with hopeful step once more.

2. Come in, New Year, and sell your wares of chance and change:
engage us with your spell to risk and re-arrange,
to feel the Spirit's impulse beat, to follow down a different street.

3. For though December dies, still Christmas keeps the light,
the hope in children's eyes, the star that shatters night;
now Simeon and Anna see the child who rules all time to be.

4. The calendar of Christ will mark the seasons' turn;
his story claim our trust; his love be ours to learn.

For all the world, for young and old, we pray a year of peace unfold!

Words: copyright © 1996 by Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer of approach:

L: God of majesty and mystery, we come to you in wonder and praise,
for your purposes are beyond our comprehension, your majesty
incomparable, your love beyond imagination and your presence
always with us. We praise you for your creation, for your
transforming grace and your abiding steadfast love. **Amen.**

Laying Down Our Burdens for a New Year

Responsive Reading: Psalm 147:12-20

L: Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem!

P: Praise your God, O Zion!

L: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children
within you.

**P: He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of
wheat.**

L: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

P: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

L: He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold?

**P: He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow,
and the waters flow.**

L: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

**P: He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his
ordinances. Praise the LORD!**

Gospel: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who

were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Hymn #376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.

*Chorus: Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Fathers glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!*

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. *Chorus*

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. *Chorus*

Words: copyright © Make Way Music, 1982 Administrated in North and South America by Integrity/Hosanna! Musk/ASGAR c/o Integrity Music, Inc. EQ. Box 851622, Mobile, AL 36685. All rights reserved International copyright secured. Used by permission.

Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray by John Duro

Sermon: The Tale of the Word

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer
(... forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...)

Hymn #172 As with gladness, men of old

1. As with gladness, men of old Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way,
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds of glory hide.

5. In that heavenly country bright need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing hallelujahs to our King.

Words: public domain

Benediction

Choral Response to benediction (*Tune: Infant Holy #143*)

Stars were gleaming, shepherds dreaming; Oh, the night was dark and
chill.

Angels' story, manger glory; Shepherds heard it on the hill.
Ah, that singing! Hear it ringing, Earthward winging, praises bringing!
Christ, the babe was born for you. Christ, the babe was born for you.

Postlude: Follow the Star by H. Zettervall

Mission Moment: January 4

The United Nations has officially confirmed famine in Gaza, with millions of civilians facing devastating food shortages. The ACT Alliance Palestine Forum declares with urgency: "This famine must be stopped. The international community cannot remain silent while the people in Gaza are starving, and it adds its voice to the voice of international agencies to reiterate the call for an immediate ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access to curb deaths from hunger and malnutrition." Despite the obstacles to humanitarian access, PWS&D continues to respond through ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, providing food and other critical assistance wherever possible.

More immediate humanitarian support is urgently needed to prevent more widespread suffering and loss of life.

