



Church Profile

Kingston Alliance Church was founded by five dedicated individuals in 1959; Warren and Joy Fallis, Jack and Beulah Smith and “Aunt” Mabel Johnston. They began with prayer, that God would send a pastor to establish and grow His church in Kingston. Their prayers were answered when God led Rev Paul Valentine and his wife Gayle to leave their ministry in Orillia to plant the Alliance Church in Kingston.



Meeting originally in his basement, the numbers were too large to remain there for long. In September 1959, the church began meeting in Liberal Hall where they remained for three and a half years. In 1962, federal land at the corner of Palace and Bath roads went up for sale and the church was able to secure a lot. Construction began that year and the dedication service for the new building was held on March 10, 1963 at 3 pm. By the 1970s, the church was growing and an extension (the current sanctuary) was added. The 1980s saw the church sponsor 23 Cambodian refugees, begin the AWANA program that continues to this day and sadly suffer a heartbreaking church split led by the senior pastor at the

time. A new pastor Dr. L David Mitchell came in to heal the wounds of the remaining members. He served until the current pastor, Rev Paul Silcock, came to minister in 1996. The newest phase of construction (the lower foyer and elevator) were installed in the first few years after Pastor Paul and Lily arrived.

Prior to the pandemic our numbers ranged on any given Sunday between 55-75 people in attendance, which is down from a high of 200 in the late 1990s, early 2000s. We have an older population in the church with a large senior and older middle aged population. There are some families with babies and younger children but not as many as in years past. We have a very small number of youth and young adults. The majority of our church is white and middle class with a few families of visible minorities (African Canadian, Indigenous, Asian and Latin American). The vast majority of those who come to Kingston Alliance do not live within walking distance to the church and in fact, at least 20% live outside of the Kingston municipal area. We stream our services live on YouTube each Sunday and have anywhere from 15-30 watching live and more watching later.

Our church is in an older building and has some of the issues that affect older buildings, though in recent years, work on the roof, foundation and boiler has helped minimize severe maintenance issues. The church is a split level, with the sanctuary, gymnasium, pastor and secretary offices and kitchen upstairs and programming rooms (kids, nursery, classrooms, youth room (used for Storehouse of Hope currently) and supply storage downstairs. There is a large open lower foyer at ground level used for socializing. There is an elevator to allow those who have mobility issues to access all the areas of the church.

Currently the church secretary is Marie Wilson, who works two mornings a week and the outgoing senior Pastor is Paul Silcock. The office next to the senior pastor is currently being rented by Kingston Bridges, an organization that helps to minister to the poor and homeless in Kingston. We have not had any other salaried positions in the church since the departure of our last youth pastor in 2014/15. Pastor Paul has been with us

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since 1996, prior to him was Dr. L David Mitchell, 1990-1996, Dr. Charles Seidenspinner, 1984-1989, Rev. David McCarthy 1980-1984, Rev. Lloyd Draper 1967-1979, Rev. Harold Collins 1965-1967 and finally the founding pastor, Rev Paul Valentine 1959-1965.

We run a program called Storehouse of Hope that caters to the poor and disadvantaged of Kingston with a drop in for coffee and snacks on Mondays. In the past we have given away clothes and meals, though we have scaled it back since the pandemic. Our AWANA program is currently on hiatus since the start of COVID, though 16 children (mostly from other churches) have continued to work through books on their own. This program ministers to children between age 3 and grade 6. The clubbers memorize passages of scriptures in the books and receive lessons on Tuesday night 6:30-8. Currently we have a paucity of volunteers and hesitancy among those who remain regarding COVID that have prevented us from restarting the program. Our seniors ministry is (prior to COVID) a monthly lunch (1st Wednesday of the month) with a theme based on the time of year. It is a time of fellowship and friendship for the 18-24 seniors who regularly attend. During COVID, this was suspended and the couple who ran the ministry pivoted to visiting $\frac{1}{3}$ of the group each week on a rotating basis for driveway visits, bringing baked goods and checking in to make sure the seniors had all they needed. This will continue for the time being. Currently we have two church Bible studies (Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons), a number of mentoring/cell groups and two prayer meetings (Wednesday and Thursday).

We are pleased to be a church that sponsors and sends people into the missions field overseas. In the mid 2010s we had a seamless link relationship with Ernie and Marilyn Klassen in Spain, in 2019, we sent a family to North Africa through SIM to minister to a least reached people group and we are pleased to send one of our elders to the mission field in the Silk Road Region later in 2022.

God has always been our provider and has truly given us our daily bread, financially speaking. We praise Him for His faithfulness throughout many ups and downs over the years.

Some of the **strengths** of the church include the willingness of many to serve in the ministries of the church in the past. We have a dynamic senior's ministry, as shown above. AWANA is a great outreach beyond the church, serving the wider community. The majority of kids who come out are from other churches. We have good church facilities after our upgrades and a great building committee. When we do church fellowship dinners, we do them very well. We have a number of volunteers to cook, prepare and clean up. If there is a funeral, there is always a number of people who we are able to call to make sandwiches and desserts. We serve the community well through Storehouse of Hope.

Some of the **challenges** facing the church include AWANA moving forward. We need the leaders to be properly trained and we need new/younger volunteers. The majority of our volunteers are seniors who are still not ready to come back. In order to move forward, we need younger, dynamic people to take the reins. Another challenge is that there is no meaningful connection with the other Alliance Churches in Kingston. We are far too insular and don't work well with other churches in our own city. Another serious challenge we face is a consistent decrease in attendance over the past decade due to personality conflicts within the church. There is also a serious lack of meaningful discipleship. We also need to work better at follow-up to prayer requests and disseminating answers to prayer to the congregation in a more organized manner.

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Exterior Photographs of KAC



Kingston Alliance Church



Photos of the Interior of the Church

Lower Foyer (Entrance)



Kingston Alliance Church



Classrooms, Nursery, Youth Room, Library



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Sanctuary, Upper Foyer, Gym, Storehouse Clothes Room

