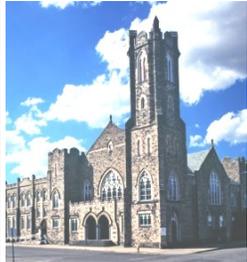


St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbaytel.ca

December 24, 2017



Welcome to the worship of God this morning, and to our shared life in this church. It is a pleasure to have you with us today. Seat cushions are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please ask a greeter for assistance. We invite guests to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

Week of December 24—31, 2017

Sun. 24—CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Family Candlelight Service—7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service with Communion-10:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 to 29—OFFICE CLOSED

Sat. 30—Gregory Lewis Recital—7:30 p.m.

Sun. 31—Wassail Worship Service—11 a.m.

Sensing Christmas

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

In all the pretty decorations, happy music, and gathering with family or friends, along with the smell of baking, taste of chocolate, and the turkey dinner, that many of us experience or often desire to be part of our Christmas experience, we tend to forget how earthy that first Christmas was.

During Advent we have looked at Christmas again, and while we enjoyed our preparations for Christmas, we also recall the cherished scriptures of new hope in the one called Messiah.



Dec 3 – Advent I – The Tastes of Christmas

An Advent Communion Service

Dec 10 – Advent II – The Touch of Christmas

Dec 17 - Advent III – The Smells of Christmas

Dec 24 – Advent IV – The Sounds of Christmas

Christmas Eve – The Sights of Christmas

7:00 Family Candlelight Service

10:00 Candlelight Service with Communion

ANNUAL CONGEGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual meeting is scheduled for February 11. All groups MUST hand in a report to be put into our Annual Report by **JAN. 14**

to allow the office time to compile, print and copy the Annual Report in advance of the meeting. Also, all groups need to hand in

their 2017 books as soon as possible for an external review.



PRAYER INVITATIONS



As Christians, we have been called to pray for each other in all circumstances. To help with this, we simply move through the church membership list. Today we ask that you hold the persons listed in your prayers:

Marjory Deagle; Sandra & Anthony DePerry; Fred, Sandra, Adrienne & Lisa Dewsberry; Lionel, Danielle & Nathan Dijon; Don, Penny, Ian & Rob Donovan; Rhonda Douglas; Eileen Duguid; Ruth Dundas; Janis Dykes.

PRESBYTERIAN SHARING

Gifts that make a difference

As we reflect on giving and receiving gifts this Christmas, let us give thanks for Presbyterians across Canada who are making a difference through their gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing!* Together, we are supporting inner city missions, equipping congregations, encouraging children and youth, enabling congregational renewal and development, supporting theological education, maintaining international partnerships, sending mission staff – and so much more! Together, we are making mission and ministry happen in Canada and around the world. This Christmas Eve, we anticipate celebrating the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ our Lord – whose example of giving inspires our own.

Presbyterians Sharing is making a real difference in so many lives leaders



From Rev. Joyce,

Well this is interesting - celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve all on the same day. It seems to compress up our time to prepare for Christmas in the church. It certainly means a quick turnaround time in our minds when we celebrate Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve only a few short hours later. For some it means making a choice between coming to church in the morning, evening, or both. For others who can never make it to the Christmas Eve evening services because of family commitments, it makes being able to come to church on Christmas Eve morning a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas in the church in a way not normally afforded to them.

No matter what choices you make for worship, I pray that you will know that God is with you. Emmanuel is the name in Matthew 1:23 that Joseph is given in a dream before Jesus's birth. It comes from a prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. Emmanuel is not only a name given but reflects the whole story of Jesus birth, life, death, and resurrection. Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise to be with us. The phrase "God is with us" describes the nature of Jesus. He is God who has become a human. It was also that God was faithful in bringing the Messiah to God's people. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – this is Emmanuel – God with us. May you experience the most blessed Christmas. Yours in Christ, with Christ, and through Christ. Joyce



WASSAIL SERVICE

Come join us for the Wassail Service on Sun. Dec. 31 for some hot cider and cookies. It's the last day of 2017, so plan to attend this relaxing time of worship and fellowship. If you have a favourite hymn or carol, you can request it that day!



STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

For it is in giving that we receive
-St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), Italian Roman Catholic friar and preacher.



FACILITIES & FINANCE

Our wonderful new heating system is in and we are all enjoying it immensely. For the first time since Rev. Joyce arrived she has heat in her office and our upper floor rooms are no longer stifling hot. The bills are all in but unfortunately we have a shortfall of approximately \$20,000. If you are able, please help support our heating system by donating a little extra during this special time of the year.



EVENING GUILD GROUP

It is mixed emotions that the Evening Guild Group announces that it will close down as of Dec. 31. I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have been a great help to us over the years. It was greatly appreciated. Our last function will be the Annual Meeting Lunch which we have looked after in the past. —Betty Murphy, President



GREGORY LEWIS RETURN

Violinist Gregory Lewis returns to Thunder Bay to present his first performance since winning First Prize at the National Music Festival and beginning his Master's Degree at Yale University. He will be joined by pianist Paul Williamson, and they will be performing repertoire by Mozart, Ysaye, Barber, and Franck.



This performance will be held here at St. Andrew's on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$10 for students.

To make ticket reservations, please phone 807-707-4842 or email gregoryjdlewis@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Presbyterian

207 S. Brodie Street, Thunder Bay, P7E 1C1
Phone: (807) 622-4273

Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

minister.standrewspres@tbaytel.net
(807) 632-8348

Organist ~ Connor Curran

Choir Director ~ Nancy Wallace

Clerk of Session ~ John Mason

Sonia Rutter ~ Office Administrator
office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

Jim McLean ~ Caretaker

Sunday Worship - 11:00 am

Office Hours: Mon. to Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm