



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

*Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!*



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.



## PRAYER INVITATION

*Lord, Hear Our Prayer*  
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: Florence Haire; Edith & Alan Halverson, Kara Kornylo; Katharine Hamilton; John & Janet Hannam; Ellwood Hanson; Margaret & Jim Harding; Charlotte Harmatiuk; Megan & Chris, Cameron, Isabel Harri; Janice & Brian, Amanda, Michael, Andrew Hartford; Roberta Haywood; Sue Heald; Larry & Kathy Hebert; Nancy Hicks; Bruce & Ellen Hole

## WEEK OF 1 - 8, 2019

Sun 1 - Advent Journey Concert @4:00pm  
 Mon 2 - Fun & Fitness @ 9:30am  
 Tues 3 - Seekers (offsite) @7:00pm  
 Wed 4 - Fun & Fitness @ 9:30am  
 Wed 5 - Facilities & Finance @ 1:00pm  
 Wed 27 - Advent Reading @ 2:00pm  
 Sat 7 - Journey to Bethlehem @ 1:00pm

## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM: A DISPLAY OF NATIVITY COLLECTIONS

The Seekers will be hosting a collection of nativities on **December 7, 2019**. If you or anyone you know has a nativity set they'd like to loan out, we would love to feature it in the collection.

All nativity sets can be dropped off on **Dec. 6** and will be returned to their owners after the event.

Permission forms to use your display are available at the front office. That form needs to be filled out and provided with your display.

All displays are welcome!

## ~ Advent & Christmas Schedule ~ Worship Series: The Jesse Tree

**Sunday December 1** (Advent I)  
Isaiah 11:1-9 Stump of Jesse  
Service with Communion

**Sunday December 8** (Advent II)  
Genesis 28:10-19 Jacobs Ladder  
White Gift Sunday

Recognition of 30 Years of Caring and Contact Group at St. Andrew's

**Sunday December 15** (Advent III)  
Book of Jonah – Jonah and the Whale  
Church Potluck after Worship hosted by the Faith Education Committee of St. Andrew's

**Sunday December 22** (Advent IV)  
Luke 1:57-79 Zachariah's Pencil and Tablet  
Intergenerational Worship Service

**Tuesday December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
Luke 2:1-21; John 1:1-14 Jesus and the Manger  
7:00 P.M. - Candlelight Service  
10:00 P.M.- Candlelight Service with Communion

**Sunday December 29** (Wassail Service)  
A relaxed service of worship that includes cookies and hot apple cider

## WHITE GIFT SUNDAY Dec. 8, 2019

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others. In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service, donations will be accepted and then brought to the Thunder Bay Food Bank.



## Christmas Potluck



**Sunday December 15, 2019**

Special Guest Appearance  
**SANTA CLAUS**

Join us downstairs after church for fun & fellowship. Coffee, tea, juice provided.

## ORGAN UPDATE

First of all, thank you! Thank you to those who were able to give above and beyond their regular offerings to help raise the funds to do the extensive maintenance that was needed to keep St. Andrew's historic organ in excellent condition. It was a wonderful day when Connor let the organ open up on the last hymn so that we could hear the magnificent sound. We had fundraised just over \$20,000 for the work as per the quote given by Dodington & Dodington of Toronto. This company has done the regular maintenance on this organ and others in the city for a long number of years. The plan was to have the work done this past summer. That work was delayed until September, which meant that other organs in the city would be tuned a little ahead of the normal October schedule. This worked to our advantage as the cost of travel was split between all the congregations who used Dodington's services. Our bill came to a \$15,181.55. We saved a full \$4,000.00 off the original quote. Though there may be challenges St. Andrew's faces in the coming months and year in regards to our building that change this position, Session's hope is to leave this money set aside for future tuning and maintenance of the organ. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

If you can't reward, then you should thank.  
*Arabic proverb*

## A PCC MISSION MOMENT

### World AIDS Day

Sheila was just a few months old when her mother died, and she went to live with her grandmother, Elube, in Malawi. Two years later, Sheila's health began to sharply decline. Elube brought her granddaughter to the PWS&D-supported Mulanje Mission Hospital where Sheila was diagnosed as HIV positive and acutely malnourished. Elube's grief weighed a little less heavily when she learned that Sheila could receive treatment at a nearby orphan care centre. Supported by PWS&D, these centres provide vulnerable children with free medical care, school support and nutrition assistance. With a place to receive antiretroviral treatment and highly nutritious food, Sheila's health is improving and Elube is better equipped to meet her granddaughter's needs.



*PWS&D cares for orphans and vulnerable children*

## From Rev. Joyce



There are different ways that people count the days to Christmas. Many use a chocolate Advent calendar with its little windows to help children do their countdown to Christmas morning. I noticed in the last couple of years that some candy/chocolate companies are upscaling their Advent calendars to appeal to adults. When my children were little, I bought this wonderful hand made Advent calendar with twenty-five pockets that I could fill with different things. Besides a candy or chocolate for each child I would have a slip of paper that had suggestions of how we could do things for others, like make a phone call to Grandma, or do something good for a classmate. Another way to count down to Christmas is to use the Jesse Tree.

The Jesse Tree began in Medieval times as a pictorial way to teach about Jesus' lineage starting from creation. It is called the Jesse Tree based on Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (NRSV) We will have a Jesse Tree in the sanctuary this Christmas along with our Christmas Tree. Jamie Gerow has designed the Jesse Tree. In the coming weeks the children's story will cover the different symbols of the Jesse Tree with a brief story telling about each ornament. Each ornament has been crafted by Jamie as well. Thank you, Jamie! Each Sunday the worship service will take one of the scriptures as the basis for the symbol, hymns, and sermon. My hope is that you find yourself thinking of the birth of Christ from a different perspective as you count the days to Christmas morning.



## ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Choir Director ~ Jamie Gerow

Clerk of Session ~ John Mason

Bookkeeper ~ Diane Berube

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

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Jim MacLean ~ Caretaker

**Sunday Worship - 11:00 am**

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