



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



## From Joyce



Our first newsletter of 2021 and the biggest news is that with the government restrictions, the church is closed until further notice. That means no in-person worship and no user groups until we have a clear sense from the government of when we can safely re-open. Thankfully, we are in a much better position to deal with situation now than we were last March, and we know that online worship is here to stay! The number of people who have benefitted from and appreciate the online worship has really been heart-warming and encouraging. It is not the same as being in the church that responds to the needs of the community and each other by being present physically – we still long for that - but for now the online worship is a way to still know that we are connected to each other, and worship God. The YouTube link goes out to over 150 email addresses is also accessed on Facebook and the St. Andrew's website. We are so pleased that we can offer worship to people who have called St. Andrew's home for decades but can no longer physically be present with us as well as reach out to people outside of Thunder Bay. This and also finding a way through the online worship to be present for those who cannot attend because of illness, busyness, or now the stay-at-home orders. Government regulations have also affected our planned Annual Meeting – the meeting has been postponed until further notice. When the Annual Report does come out most people will get it by email this year, a print version will be available to those who do not have electronic access or by request.

So, an interesting and somewhat heartbreaking start to the New Year, but no less hope for what God is doing in our midst and with our ministry. Again, as we move into another time of isolation for many, please do not hesitate to connect with me if you need conversation. It would be my pleasure to spend time over the phone or video chat. May God bless and comfort you in this season of continued uncertainty.

*stay safe*

## WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S

**e-transfer:** [offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](mailto:offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net)

- If you have an offering (envelope) number with the church and you know it, be sure to include that and your full name in the Message box.
- For all others, please include your first and last names along with your full address in the message box so we can send you a donation receipt.

**Website:** You can donate by credit card using the "Donate Now" link on the website.

**Preauthorized Remittance:** This is a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account that can be set up with the bookkeeper. Email Barb at [accounts.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](mailto:accounts.standrewspres@tbaytel.net) to have a form sent to you.

**Mail:** You can mail in a donation to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 207 S. Brodie St. Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5X8. Or just drop it off in the mailbox at the church.

Thank you for supporting the life, ministry, and mission of St. Andrew's. You make a difference!

## PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Most gracious God, the inspired author of Psalm 139 has reminded us of your steadfast and reliable Presence. How well you know us and our needs.

We come into your quiet Presence trusting your faithfulness and believing in the Word whom you sent as living proof of your love and care. This is our reality, our normal life which we tackle daily with struggles and unexpected challenges.

The Magi found you, John the Baptist recognized you and we ask to see your presence with us and within us. Normal is today's experience. We don't go-in reverse but forward. Your plan unfolds for our church community, city, nation.

Help us to practice patience.

We ask that you restore deeper trust in your presence that lets us hear our hearts sing with joy. God, you are for everyone. No one is exempt from this gift. May we recognize You, serve in response and celebrate God With Us.

*Written by: Judy Persian*