



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

February 21st, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



BISCUITS

There's a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast...

"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began.

The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued,

"And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour."

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits."

"So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like; when life gets hard; when we don't understand what You're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

WHAT'S NEW

For the Season of Lent we are sharing a link to a wonderful Garden - the first is for Ash Wednesday
Click on the link to be taken to the garden <https://bit.ly/3oydAKs>



St. Andrew's now has a family time video series with our Choir Director, Jamie Gerow. Jamie will be making these every other week or so, and they can be found on our Youtube channel, so please be sure to subscribe. Here is a link to the

Valentine's Day video

https://youtu.be/Zuzj5_t7LO0

Services are available online and can be accessed on the church Facebook page, or on the website at

<https://standrewspres-tbay.ca/worship-services-by-video/>

Arrangements can also be made for a print version of the worship service to be provided. Connect with Rev. Joyce for more information

PCC MISSION MOMENTS

Certainty in the Midst of Change

We live in a world that is constantly changing. The past year brought unprecedented change, and we had to learn to adapt in our lives, jobs and congregations. In the midst of so much change, Presbyterians Sharing has continued to support the mission and ministry we do together—often in new and adaptive ways. What hasn't changed is our commitment to one another, discerning together, moving forward together, being in community together, sharing God's message together, confronting injustice together and caring for vulnerable people together. That's what Presbyterians Sharing is all about. As we put our gifts into God's hands, God is doing remarkable things.





From Joyce

It was at this time last year that the first rumblings of a Corona virus started becoming real to us in Canada. It would be a few more weeks before we started closing things down, but we were in Lent when all came to pass and Palm Sunday and Easter services were cancelled. We thought maybe it would all be over in a couple of weeks and then a couple of months, and now here we are wondering if we are even going to be in our sanctuary for Palm Sunday a year later.

I attended a Zoom workshop this week and the question posed to us was, "Where has God led us since last Ash Wednesday?" One person responded that it feels like it has been a year of Lent. I could relate. Often Lent is thought of as a time of giving up something or abstinence. This practice is meant to be a spiritual discipline. It is meant to be a preparation time for Easter, a time to really focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We have given up so much this year, from celebrations of life and death, to transitions of various kinds; beginning a school year, retirements, graduations, weddings, and changes in jobs to name a few, so giving up more seems like asking too much.

We are mourning what has been lost, still it may also be a good time to pay attention to what God is doing in this time. God didn't pack up and leave. God is still with us, but it takes paying attention to see the ways that God is moving in the world. In these coming weeks leading up to Easter it may be time to finally sit and reflect. It may not be a time for giving up one more thing but rather to give thanks. Many times I have read the suggestion to take up some spiritual practice during lent, maybe prayer, scripture reading, walking with the purpose of seeing God in creation. It is meant to bring us more closely in relationship with our creator. I have decided that this season of Lent I am going to make at least one phone call, Monday through Saturday to check in on a family member, a colleague, a friend, or acquaintance asking God to be with me in those conversations so that I may be light and salt in a world that is struggling. It will be one way that I intentionally look for what God is doing in a time that feels like an extended period of Lent.

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

e-transfer: 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 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!

ST. ANDREW'S COVID UPDATE

Under the Red Zone regulations, St. Andrew's remains closed until further notice.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Think of giving not only as a duty but as a privilege.
John D. Rockefeller (1839 – 1937), business magnate, philanthropist

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Choir Director ~ Jamie Gerow

Organist ~ Rebecca Krawczuk

Bookkeeper ~ Barb Silvey

Caretaker ~ Sheila Berry

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

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Sunday Worship - Online
at standrewspres-tbay.ca