



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



## GRADUATION TIME

Caring & Contact would like to recognize graduates by sending congratulatory notes to them on their academic achievements. If you are aware of anyone who is graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or university this year, please connect with Donalda Galloway at 577-2686 or email at [penelope361@gmail.com](mailto:penelope361@gmail.com).

Information she will need is...

Name and address of the graduate, where they have graduated from, diploma or degree obtained, Honours received, and future plans.

## FAMILY TIME WITH JAMIE GEROW

St. Andrew's 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 latest video.

<https://youtu.be/3AKWIR-w8ow>

## 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

Sometimes books have the words for how we feel when we don't know how to express what we are feeling or going through. Margo Rahmer shares the following from a book of prayers that are helpful and meaningful to her. The book is filled with prayers that speak to her heart, and maybe now to yours. Thank you Margo!

Many times in the last year, O Lord, I have felt defeated. The difficulties of daily life nearly overwhelmed me. My own peace of mind was hanging by a thread. But you, dear Lord, are a winner. You have won the victory over sin and death, and you can win the victory in my life day-by-day ---not necessarily by making everything better (as you know, I still have some struggles), but by reminding me of what is most important and by giving me the confidence to move forward. Life may still be tough, but I know my labour is not meaningless because I'm serving you. Thank you for this new sense of purpose. Amen

*The Right Prayers for Every Need* written by Christine Dallman and Randy Petersen published by Publications International Ltd. 2010

## PCC MISSION MOMENTS

### Rockland Community Church

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Rockland Community Church in Ontario—established initially with a focus on youth ministry—is transforming through family-style worship and mission that truly brings out the gifts of people of all ages. As their name suggests, "community" is at the heart of this Christian family of faith where everyone belongs. The congregation celebrates the contributions made by each member, and everyone is committed to sharing their gifts with others, whether it's by inviting a neighbour to a home group gathering or weekly coffee house, or by organizing a Living Nativity for the wider community during Advent. Presbyterians Sharing welcomes people into the family of God.



## From Joyce

Like so many others across our nation my heart is heavy, but my grief cannot even comprehend the grief of our indigenous brothers and sisters. The bodies of 215 children were found buried on the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C. It is not like this story is new. There had been stories for decades from those who survived residential schools, and the evidence was there too, but to actually have the stories substantiated was a major moment for indigenous people and for our country. There are so many layers that I don't even know where to begin. The first is that regardless of what I write, my hope is that it only shows respect and dignity to and for indigenous peoples. I pray that my words are helpful and healing. I have struggled to know how St. Andrew's might acknowledge the grief, the loss, the names, the families.

We talk about truth and reconciliation. This grave was truth about how those who colonized this country came in a spirit of power and superiority. For me, my identity as a citizen of Canada and the daughter of immigrants is built on this legacy and now I feel it is my responsibility to do my part to be a part of the conversation and actions that help to heal. I don't yet know how God is calling me to be a part of this, but I know that God always has a heart for those who suffer and are marginalized and calls on Christians to stand with them.

We who are Presbyterian cannot shy away from this conversation. Our own denomination was a part of the Residential School system. The PCC ran eleven residential schools in BC, AB, SK, MB and ON. Following Church Union in 1925 the PCC retained Birtle Residential School in Birtle, MB and Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School near Kenora, ON. The responsibility for the remaining schools was transferred to the newly formed United Church in Canada. On June 9<sup>th</sup> 1994 the PCC adopted a confession recognizing the church's role in operating residential schools and the harm those schools caused to indigenous children, their families and communities.

We see the result of generational trauma that stems from Residential Schools on the steps and fire escape of our church everyday. As was stated, the history is complex and layered, the healing will be too. The schools were run in the name of government and religion, may the healing be in the name of love and compassion as shown in the life and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

If you are interested in more information about the PCC's history of residential schools, as well as the healing and reconciliation work that is being done you can go to the following links or contact me.

<https://presbyterianarchives.ca/2018/08/17/additional-resources/>

<https://presbyterian.ca/healing/>

### 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2021 General Assembly will be held online **June 6–9**. Opening worship starts at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern). Monday to Wednesday, the proceedings take place from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (Eastern.)

The Assembly considers matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination. Commissioners, who are responsible for the business of Assembly, will discern and make decisions. At Assembly, commissioners, young adult and student representatives will welcome ecumenical and interfaith guests. The Assembly will open with worship Sunday afternoon and will gather for worship daily.



Watch the live stream at [presbyterian.ca/pcc-ga-live](https://presbyterian.ca/pcc-ga-live)

### ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

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Sunday Worship - Online

at [standrewspres-tbay.ca](https://standrewspres-tbay.ca)