



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

June 27th, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



PCC MISSION MOMENTS

Equipping New Leaders

Growing up in a village in northern Malawi where the nearest health facility is 30 km away, Dorica Nkhata knows about the importance of accessible healthcare. Working at Embangweni Mission Hospital as a nurse and noticing a critical shortage of doctors, she decided to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor at the Malawi College of Medicine. She approached the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod, for assistance. At our partner's request, the PCC accepted Dorica into the Leadership Development Program. With financial support from Knox Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines, Ont., and Presbyterians Sharing, Dorica is on her way to fulfilling her dream and serving those in need in rural Malawi. Presbyterians Sharing



supports leadership development through medical and theological education and training programs in Kenya, Malawi, Lebanon and Eastern Europe.

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!



PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Heavenly Father, Creator of all the universe, we give thanks to you for all of creation.

The world is full of your glory. We see before us the world bursting with life... the trees, the flowers the birds, the animals and insects too, all proclaiming your glory.

Keep us ever respectful of that creation so that we can maintain it.

As we are mindful of your world, let us be diligent in keeping our relationships.

Forgiving one another, helping those in need of our physical support and our spiritual support.

Help us to show only love to one another as You have shown to us.

Sometimes that is hard, we know Lord, but continue to give us strength and help us to show grace to those around us even if we don't know them.

Be with us Lord here at St. Andrew's as we embark on our journey in the New Beginnings program in September.

Guide and strengthen us as we discern the path that you have chosen for us.

Amen.

Written by: Susan Dynes

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.

FAMILY TIME WITH JAMIE GEROW

St. Andrew's family time video series with our Choir Director, Jamie Gerow will be coming to an end for now. The last video will be posted this Sunday

Here is a link to the last video.

<https://youtu.be/rbraQOB5SEY>



From Joyce

Today I wish to share with you something that I experienced as the country grappled with the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a Kamloops Residential School. This being Indigenous Peoples History Month and with more news of 751 graves in Saskatchewan, I thought now might be the time to share with you what I wrote back on June 3rd – the day this all transpired.

The orange t-shirts

This is a story of grace. Though I tell the story from my perspective I pray you will hear the grace extended to me by individuals of Indigenous communities.

Struggling to know how I and our church might show respect and honour for the lives of the 215 children I connected with a colleague in ministry who is Indigenous. With the gracious gift of the person's time and guidance, I took five newly purchased orange t-shirts and brought them to the Sacred Fire in Thunder Bay. Now I am not a courageous person so my heart was filled with fear and trepidation. It actually took me three attempts over two days to finally park my car and walk over to the fire. As I came to the fire my heart was humbled as I was greeted with grace and a smile by all who were there. I shared that I was a minister of the PCC and named the schools that the PCC had been responsible for. They listened, and with even more grace and compassion for me, they answered my questions and tended to my spirit. I asked if it would be okay if I hung the shirts from the gates at the church. The healing elder and those tending the fire said it would be okay. Two men walked me around the Sacred Fire, teaching me as I went and allowing me time to pray. Next, I participated in a smudging- first of myself and then the three of us smudged the t-shirts – one by one. It was truly a sacred moment. I left in tears of humble gratitude and healing and grief over the history of our denomination's involvement in the residential schools.

From there I drove to the church, laid the shirts on the communion table and prayed again. My friend had told me to read from Ezekiel 37, which I have done several times and did as the t-shirts lay across the communion table. I will never read the passage on the Valley of the Dry Bones the same again.

My final step was to hang the shirts on the gates of

the church. I had not even started down from the steps of the church when a man bounded across the street from City Hall, took one shirt and put it on. With a big smile he stated that he was a nephew of Chanie Wenjack. We had a very brief conversation. I spoke about the story of Chanie and how that intersected with the PCC run Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School near Kenora as it was the school Chanie had run away from when he died. The man said "I know. I am going to wear this t-shirt to honour him" and then he shared that at different times he has come and cleaned up around the church. The grace that was extended to me at every turn was beyond what I dared hope for, even to the point of the check-in at the end of it all with the person who gave me courage in the first place. The experience has left me in awe.

The shirts didn't last the day on the gates. Each one was taken, which is just fine. There was no expectation of how long they would last, even if at first I was surprised by how quickly one shirt made its way onto a body. I pray that as fleeting a moment it was that the shirts hung there, that in some small way it touched lives. I know it touched mine and there is so much more that I could write about my emotions and the whole experience. I also know that this small act was not enough. I think the next step out of my comfort zone is to pick up the phone and call some MPs about clean drinking water for Indigenous communities.

If God is so inclined to use this story, I pray it touches the heart of another who is as afraid as I am to step out of their comfort zone. It may give you just enough courage to do something your heart is calling you to do to help in the reconciling work we are called to as God's people.

