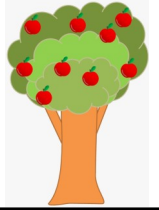




# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



*Responding!*

*Restoring!*

*Rejoicing!*

## PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

### Gratitude

Thank you my Lord for another day to recognize you and rejoice in your presence in our lives. Our lives are complex and we live in extremes...like the turbulent weather, natural disasters and changing circumstances in our lives and requests that we are asked to confront about our behaviours and mistakes we have made individually or as a society. These mistakes we'd like to forget but we're challenged to remember the Residential Schools with many losses, climate change, shifting ice shelves etc.

How can I express the joy and hope which I've seen with the instillation of Mary Simon as Canada's Governor General. Gentle but firm. Indigenous. Is this our new leader for reconciliation whose message is Reconciliation is a Pathway...which we work upon daily....for our ongoing healing?

As we approach our new year, our New Beginnings program with energy, courage and honesty in our hearts, please embrace St. Andrew's Congregation and those who pray with us from across the world to be brave as we seek your will and participate in your work.

Prepare our hearts for the work, give enlightenment as we search out our role as St. Andrew's.

Amen

*Written by: Judy Persian*

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

No one has ever become poor by giving.  
*Anne Frank (1929 – 1945), Jewish Dutch diarist during Nazi occupation*

## CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

The latest edition of *These Days Oct - Dec 2021* are in. Please contact Rev. Joyce for a copy.



## NEW BEGINNINGS

St. Andrew's has been accepted into the New Beginnings program of the PCC. This is the breakdown of program that the church will be participating in. We ask that you hold our ministry, leadership, and congregation in prayer as we prepare for this time of discernment, hope, and discovery.

1. **Assessment** of the current ministry of the church, celebration of the way God has been present and is present with the congregation and a realistic identification of potential future steps.
2. **Workshops** to help the congregation understand the changes in spiritual practices in this new era and why many elements of current ministry structures no longer work.
3. **House Meetings** to open yourselves to new ways of thinking about mission and to make a bold decision for the future.
4. **Coaching** to help implement your future story." We will be assigned a specially trained assessor and coach to guide us through the process. All those trained to be assessors and coaches are ministers of the PCC.

## PCC MISSION MOMENTS

### An Education for Robina

Robina lives with her mother, father and five siblings in a make-shift house in Afghanistan. Both of her parents are unemployed, and Robina is the only member of her family attending school. In Afghanistan, 62 percent of children do not attend school. Often, families with many children cannot afford uniforms and school supplies for each child.

Girls are especially disadvantaged because of a shared cultural belief that if girls study, they bring shame on their families. Only one in five students in Afghan schools are female, and only about one in 10 adult women are literate. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

is passionate about ensuring a world in which all children can access quality education. Working with local partners, PWS&D helps parents and religious leaders understand girls' rights—most importantly, the right to education.



## From Joyce



Today is our first Sunday since December 20<sup>th</sup> that we have been able to worship in person and I am grateful to be present with those who are in the sanctuary but also those who continue to worship online. Our church community has expanded. We are now able to reach those who cannot come to church but have access to services online. Our services have also been shared with the congregation of St. Andrew's and St. James' Shared ministry in Geraldton and, since March, with First Presbyterian as both are without ministers and I am the interim moderator for those congregations. Beyond that, the online services are being accessed by people throughout Canada who have discovered us and a few who happen to be related to me, so our online presence will continue. There is another piece that is really important right now and that is the New Beginnings program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and our being accepted into the program. There has been a fair bit of "behind the scenes" work being done to prepare for our start in the program. **The date that is really important is Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. As part of the program an *Appreciative Inquiry Session* will take place with Rev. Ken MacQuarrie.** Ken is a minister of the PCC and has received training to guide us over the next year as we work together to see where God is leading the congregation of St. Andrew's at this point in our church life. Ken actually knows a little something about St. Andrew's as his wife Shaunna, originally from Ft. Francis, was a youth group leader for a short time at the church when Bert was minister here. There will be much more to say about New Beginnings as it will be a major part of our focus in the months to come. May God go before us preparing the way.

### 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!

### CHURCH FALL RE-OPENING SCHEDULE

#### Sept. 19 - Blessing of Backpacks

Each student, it doesn't matter what age, receives a backpack tag to help them remember how special they are in God's eyes and to the congregation.

#### Oct. 3 - World Communion Sunday

Communion is only one of the two sacraments that the Presbyterian Church observes and it is an important part of our understanding of Christ's work in and for us so please plan to attend.

#### Oct. 5 - Appreciative Inquiry Session

An inquiry with church participants who are interested in the future of the congregation. During this phase, a Hope Assessor will visit the church to get to know us and our setting firsthand.

### ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Sunday Worship - Online

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

