



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021



*Responding!*

*Restoring!*

*Rejoicing!*

## PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

### *A Prayer for Children Going to School*

Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with me always, I pray that you would be with me today as I go to school. Bless my going and coming. Bless my learning and my playing. Please protect my heart from fear. Please keep me safe. Please give me good friends. Give me joy this day, and thank you for loving me from head to toe. In your name. Amen.

### *A Prayer for Children Schooling at Home*

Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with me always, I pray that you would be with me at home today as I do my schoolwork. Please help me to do my best, help me not to feel alone, and help me to be patient with my family. Give me joy this day, and thank you for loving me from head to toe. In your name. Amen.

### *A Prayer for Parents*

O Lord, you who promise to guide us through the wilderness and to protect us through the storm, we ask that you would make us wise when we cannot clearly see the way forward, make us brave when we feel afraid, make us strong in the face of our weakness, and make possible what to us seems impossible, so that we might joyfully entrust ourselves and our children into your tender care in these trying and troubling times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### *A Prayer on Behalf of Teachers*

O Lord, you who have called and equipped the teachers in our community, we pray for them today. Watch over them, provide for them, guide them, sustain them. May you be their sun and shield, so that they might do the work that you have entrusted to them and sense your care in these uncertain times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## SHORTBREAD BAKERS

Many bakers make light work. We are looking for 10-20 bakers to donate their time to baking shortbread. We appreciate whatever amount of baking you can do. Please contact our Office Admin Shaundra and let her know if you are able to bake. We are still waiting on butter, so if you see any on sale please notify the office.

All baked shortbread should be packed in plastic bags in boxes or in cookie tins or airtight containers of some sort. If you want your container back, please label it. It will be kept frozen until it is packed by a separate group. All shortbread can be dropped off at the church during office hours or by arrangement.

## 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

### **The Difference Food Security Makes**

In Haiti, global climate change has left many farmers struggling to support their families. For people in Haiti who make their living from the earth, recent unpredictable weather has had devastating consequences. Presbyterian World Service & Development is responding through an agroforestry program that helps farmers by providing seeds for black bean, pigeon pea and corn crops—seeds that are more resilient. Farmers learn sustainable field management and band together in savings groups to make their earnings go even further. Elimène Joseph, an entrepreneur and mother of four, shared her experience: "Before becoming a member, I struggled to make ends meet. The program is showing me how to pool my resources together with other farmers. In truth, I do not have enough words to express everything the organization has done for me."





## From Joyce

We can now sing in church! Okay it is with masks on and continuing with the distancing, but we can do it! That will add so much to our worship services. I am excited!

Thought I would also take a moment to share about the Session. For those who do not know, Session is a team of people who have been elected, chosen, and ordained to the office of Ruling Elder. Elders are people who have voted to be on the team by the congregation, desire to be part of the leadership of the church, and the current Session understands to be called to the position. It is actually a very discerning process, and let me assure you that the people on the team work hard on behalf of the congregation. As minister, I am also part of the Session. Session cannot meet as a Session without the minister present and it is my particular work to moderate the meeting, it would be comparable to a chairperson. We enjoy working together. This past year, as for many other groups, we have met online in video conference settings. Last evening, we had our very first hybrid meeting with majority gathered together in Grant Hall at separate tables and a handful online for various reasons. The Elders are willing to be called upon in difficult times and in times of looking to what the future may hold for us. Their decisions directly impact the direction the congregation takes on any number of issues.

In any meeting we look at the work of various committees, Facilities and Finance, Worship, Faith Education, Mission and Outreach, Pastoral Care and Fundraising, though this is just an outline of what is covered, many more items are dealt with at a meeting. Each elder has a district of people that are assigned to be under their care. If you do not know who your elder is, feel free to reach out to me or the office and we can let you know. This team of people are active in other areas of the church, each one giving of time, energy, and resources to the work and worship of the congregation. Personally, they are my solid foundation. I am always excited to announce to anyone who will listen, that I have the best Session in the Presbyterian Church in Canada! Which means you do to! Thank you to John Mason – Clerk of Session, Margo Rahmer, Nonie Marsh, Jean Rawana, Susan Dynes, Fred Dewsberry, Sue Heald, Jamie Gerow, Maryellen Fleming, Lynda McKeown, Marilyn Garton, Judy Persian, and Gordon Cuthbertson for their steadfast presence. Gordon, for personal reasons, has been granted a leave of absence from the Session. Please hold each Elder in prayer as we continue to provide leadership, looking to align our work with the will of God and tending to the work of the congregation.

### SHORTBREAD TIN DONATIONS

We are in need of tins for shortbread, for our annual shortbread fundraiser.

If you have any tins you're willing to part with, please contact our Office Admin, Shaundra, to setup a drop off time.

### CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

The latest edition of *These Days Oct - Dec 2021* are in and can be found in the front office.

### CHURCH FALL RE-OPENING SCHEDULE

#### 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.

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS



For where your treasure is,  
there your heart  
will be also.

*Matthew 6:21*

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