

St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

September 5th, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



PRAYERS FROM THE HEART



Dear God,
we give thanks for the many ways you have shown us over the past year how to take care of each other and ourselves. While the challenge may at times be overwhelming, you have blessed us with strength, hope and compassion. You have shown us how to be appreciative for the small miracles and simple pleasures in our daily lives. May we continue to be pleasing to you and ask that you keep us safe and caring.
Amen.

Written by: Ed & Jean Rawana

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble. *Bob Hope (1903- 2003), American comedian*

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!

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

Hearing God's Call

Joshua Su, a lay missionary at the Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian Church in Montreal, Quebec, saw a need on Montreal's south shore for Christian community and worship among Mandarin-speaking people. With the support of the congregation and Cyclical PCC, Joshua was able to start a network of small groups that meet in homes for fellowship, discussion and prayer. One of the goals of this new and growing worshipping community is to equip leaders to work alongside Joshua as they start new intergenerational discipleship groups. Following in the Apostle Paul's footsteps, leaders within this ministry are hearing God's call to share the gospel in the world.





From Joyce

Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers: Exploring the Christian Faith
by Donald K. McKim.

Can we prove that God exists?

Some philosophers and theologians through the centuries have developed formal, logical arguments to “prove” that God exists. Five of these have had particular importance. They are the ontological, teleological, cosmological, casual, and moral. These were given particular prominence by the medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas (1223-74). They have been used through the years both to try to persuade people to believe in God on the basis of rational, intellectual arguments and also to assure those who already believe in God that their belief is not irrational or merely a matter of feeling, habit, or social conformity.

The logical validity of these “theistic proofs,” as they are sometimes called, has been challenged through the years as well. Some believe that the arguments cannot stand up to logical scrutiny and that they do not rationally “prove” that a God exists.

The approach of the Bible is far different. The Bible does not try to prove God’s existence; it assumes it. The first verse of the Bible says, “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...” (Gen 1:1). No matter whether the logical arguments are valid or not, they cannot tell us the nature of the “God” they may prove. They cannot tell us what God must be like.

But this is the intention of the Bible. The question that matters most for humans is not simply whether God exists but, if God does exist, what is this God’s nature? Is God merely a “force” (as in “May the force be with you”) or is God personal? If God is personal, then is God a tyrant, wicked, good, loving? The questions throng.

The debate about the proofs should alert us to what is really crucial for us: to know who God is and what God is like. Beyond the “logical proofs,” there is the “proof” of Christian experience. We know God by our experience of God—through the Scriptures, the church, and in our own lives. The personal God we know in this way—the God of the Bible—is the God with whom we have to deal in life and death. Our personal faith in this God produces the strongest “proof” of the reality of God. As Pascal the philosopher put it, “The heart has its reasons which reason does not know.”

[Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers.](#)

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CHURCH FALL RE-OPENING SCHEDULE

Sept .12—Re-Opening for in-person worship

It will be the first time since December 20th of last year that we are in the physical presence of one another to worship and we can hardly wait.

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. We welcome all students and teachers to attend worship and receive this blessing.

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.

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Sunday Worship - Online
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