

St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

October 3rd, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

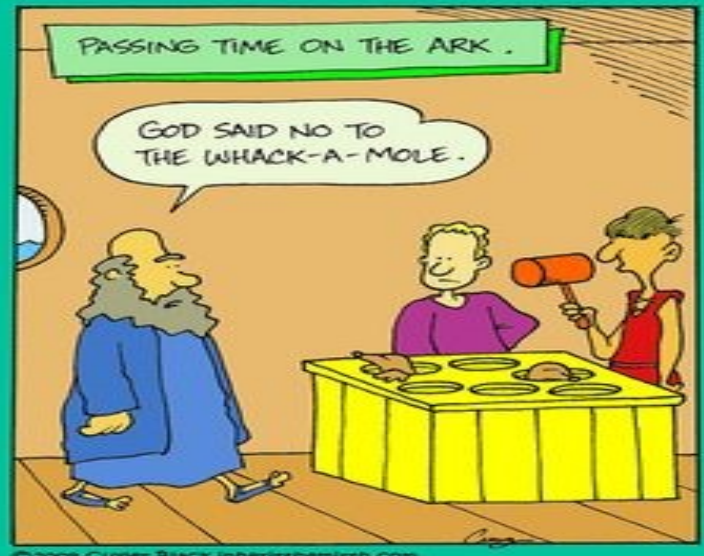
As the Covid -19 pandemic evolves into a fourth wave, St Andrew's will continue as much as possible to provide a safe space for all who enter by following the recommendations and guidelines of the Health Unit.

Public Health Measures such as: Masking, hand sanitizing, social distancing and vaccinations are ongoing effective strategies in reducing and preventing the spread of Covid -19.

Covid -19 vaccinations are an evidence base Public Health intervention that helps to keep citizens safe. By receiving the Covid -19 vaccine you are protecting yourself and others.

St Andrews Presbyterian Church is encouraging all persons entering the church to follow ALL the Public Health Measures including vaccinations so that the church remains a safe space.

stay safe



LIFEWATER CANADA

In mid August an earthquake devastated Haiti , followed 2 days later by Hurricane Grace. The results are: 1400 dead and 30,000 people homeless. Access to safe drinking water was lost in many cases. Thunder Bay based, Lifewater Canada, who already has a track record in Haiti, is asking for financial support to rebuild water wells and pumps. Contaminated water is currently infecting families ; the resulting diarrheal diseases lock families and communities down into a cycle of poverty and sickness. Your generous support and compassion will make a positive difference in lives every day! For your consideration ; thank you.

Lifewater Canada's contact information:
Jason Gehrels at 622-4848 or info@lifewater.ca

SHORTBREAD BAKERS & TINS

Shortbread is Back!

While Covid is still too prevalent to hold the Tea and Bazaar as we know it, shortbread will be available again this year. Last year's shortbread fundraiser was a resounding success, raising in the range of \$7000 in a difficult financial year. We are counting on this very important source of revenue again this year to meet our budget. We will again purchase butter and make it available to volunteer bakers. Baking will begin in early October and continue throughout November. Many bakers will lighten the load for everyone. We have detailed instructions for new bakers and can loan you cookie cutters if you need them. Please call Sue Heald at 621-2226 or Kathie Pawlik at 344-4635 to volunteer to bake. We will contact you when the butter arrives. We are also very short of cookie tins, as we used everything, we had last year.

Please ask family and friends for unused tins and keep an eye out at second hand places for tins in good condition with no rust inside.



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

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Clerk of Session ~ John Mason

Choir Director ~ Jamie Gerow

Organist ~ Rebecca Krawczuk

Bookkeeper ~ Barb Silvey

Caretaker ~ Sheila Berry

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

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Sunday Worship - Online

at standrewspres-tbay.ca



From Joyce

*Due to the important information in last week's newsletter,
we have decided to repeat it this week.*

Tuesday October 5th is right around the corner and so I wanted to take a little time to share more about what is going on for St. Andrew's. As you are hopefully well aware, St. Andrew's is participating in the New Beginnings Program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC). The following excerpt comes directly from the letter we received when we were accepted into the program.

“CONGRATULATIONS! Your congregation is in the midst of making an important decision – whether to embark on a bold and exciting journey towards a new era of ministry. The New Beginnings program is a 12-month process. During this process, the congregation will gain a better understanding of its context, explore its options, and make an informed decision about its future direction. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is delighted to come alongside you as you discern God's vision for the congregation. You may be considering this journey because of a concern about decline or a challenging situation in your congregation, but God has begun this work in you because there is something God wants to accomplish through this ministry. As with any journey in life, the more prepared we are to start, the better the outcome.”

To that end Phase 1 (Preparation) has been in the works throughout the summer. This stage gathers the information needed to learn the congregation's story and how it fits into the community around it. The gathered information forms the base data used to create an assessment of your congregation's current situation. To begin the process, we provided the following statistical information:

- Directory
- “Space Use Table” that outlines how our building is used by various groups
- Annual Income/Expense reports for the past three years
- List of all financial assets with current balance sheet Insured value
- Approximate total sq. footage Total property size on which the church is located
- A short history of the church, that summarizes major events in the life of the church

October 5th at 7:00 pm is PHASE 2 (ASSESSMENT VISIT) Plans are in the works to make it so that people can attend in person and online. More information will follow in an email for those who may wish to participate online. During this phase, Rev. Ken MacQuarrie will visit the church to get to know us and our setting firsthand. This visit will allow him to gather stories of how God has been present in the ministry to get a more complete picture of the congregation's story and situation. During the visit Rev. MacQuarrie will:

- meet with the Minister and Clerk of Session
- meet with our Treasurer and review financial statements
- tour our building and property to learn how the building is used and maintained
- tour our neighbourhood
- hold an open forum for church members to share the ways your church has excelled in meeting spiritual, missional, and relational needs.
- identify the strengths of your church's ministry
- research the area demographics

WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO TO PREPARE?

The Appreciative Inquiry evening sets the stage for the process and is the occasion where the congregation will begin to become more fully involved and with hope feel the excitement of what lies ahead. Other congregations have found that it often puts those who attend in touch with the best parts of the congregation's life and how God has been working through them. Of course, this means that it is vital to encourage maximum participation among the congregation's members. This evening gathering will also help Rev. MacQuarrie to build a more comprehensive report.

So, there we are! I am excited to be on this journey of discovery with you. Rev. MacQuarrie has training and experience that I do not have, and I look forward to learning along with all of you in these coming months. Please know that no matter who you are or what your circumstances, you are an important and valued person in this congregation. Your views, experience, and participation matter as our church is not the church without you.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

The charitable give out the door and God puts it back through the window.
Traditional proverb