



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

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

*Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!*



## ~ Advent & Christmas Schedule ~ Worship Series:

### What Are You Waiting For?

**Friday December 24 – Christmas Eve**

*Love's Arrival*

One service only at 7:00 P.M.

**Sunday December 26 (Wassail Service)**

Note: There will be no refreshments served this year due to Covid restrictions



## WEEK OF DEC 20 - 26, 2021

Tues 21 - Prayers @ 1:15pm

Fri 24 - Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00pm

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**DEC. 27, 2021 - JAN. 2, 2022**

*MERRY CHRISTMAS &*

*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

## ANNUAL REPORT

The deadline for committee reports is **January 10, 2022**. Please send them to the Office Administrator, Shaundra Benincasa, as soon as they are prepared so we can start work on the Annual Report. The annual meeting will be on February 13, 2022.

## BAPTISM

St. Andrew's welcomes the Kornylo and Wakewich Families on this day the baptism of Ophelia Wakewich Kornylo

## PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

As the Covid -19 pandemic continues, 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.

## TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY WEEKEND

On the weekend of January 28 - 30, 2022 St. Andrew's will be hosting a Transformation Weekend.

### Friday Jan. 28 - Open Workshop

This workshop is to help participants understand how ministry has radically changed and to get people excited about new possibilities in ministry that have never been open before.

### Saturday Jan. 29 - Small Group Facilitators Training

During this time, facilitators will be trained on how to lead small groups effectively. They will be introduced to the content of the small group meetings. It is essential that small group leaders attend both days of the training event, as they will be provided with the necessary information to be effective group leaders.

### Sunday Jan. 30 - Sunday Service

During the Sunday morning service, our coach, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crawford, will preach during worship and will take part in a covenanting service with the congregation. This act of public worship consecrates the process and asks for God's blessing upon the unfolding journey.

## OFFERING BOXES



Offering boxes are now available for pick-up at the front office. Please note that your offering number may have changed from last year, so boxes are organized alphabetically.

## From Joyce



And so we are here, the end of 2021. I can hardly believe it. This year has held many challenges for me and yet when I reflect on the people with whom I have deepened relationships, the opportunities to meet and work with people I had not known before, the number of families I have interacted with and been welcomed into as they grieve, the projects I have participated in, I am in awe of how God is at work in me and others. I am grateful for friendships, family, and that I was able to be with family this year (my hug reservoir was depleted and got refilled, at least temporarily). I have been blessed to be surrounded by what I call "The Best Session in Canada!" and a congregation that parallels that. Throughout the year the Session and Facilities & Finance team have been consistently, diligently, and compassionately, taking on the leadership that has been necessary whether the building was closed or open for worship and work. Our staff of Jamie, Rebecca, Sheila, Barb, and Shaundra have all gone above and beyond for us and particularly for me. The stability and strength of this congregation, leadership, and staff, has allowed me to minister to other congregations in the presbytery, and through me show our care and concern for our sister churches. Mission and Outreach has also been very active and because of their initiatives as a congregation we have continued to be able to reach out beyond our doors to help other important organizations in Thunder Bay and elsewhere. We are facing financial challenges, that is always a concern, yet I am filled with hope because of the decision to engage in the New Beginnings Program and the response of the congregation to the "Appreciative Inquiry Evening" with Rev. Ken MacQuarrie. The weekend of January 28-30 with Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crawford will be an important next step. From there we move into four weeks of small group meetings where the report that we will receive, based on the research done by Rev. MacQuarrie in the fall, will be laid out and interpreted, while also working on what our future may look like. I trust that God has plans for us, it is for us to discern what that is.

As this will be the last newsletter for the year, I want to say thank you. I am grateful for this ministry and how you have trusted me, taught me, and ministered with me and to me in the last year, really over the last eight years. May this Christmas be one of much blessing and the New Year one of fulfilled promise. Much love from me to you.

## PCC MISSION MOMENTS

### Sharing Hope

We are a vibrant denomination, working together to put our faith into action. Through Presbyterians Sharing, we participate in God's mission together: building strong congregations, serving vulnerable people, seeking justice, walking with Indigenous people, and sharing God's love and hope around the world. We share hope when a new faith community meets for the first time. We share hope when a child in Romania escapes poverty through education. We share hope when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We share hope when a boarding home resident confides in a trusted visitor. All of this is possible because of generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



## ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Sunday Worship - Online

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

*stay safe*