



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 10th, 2023

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.

Corrie Ten Boom – Christian writer, public speaker

Offerings can be sent via etransfer to offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

SINGING SANTA

On **Friday December 15** at 7:00pm, St. Andrew's welcomes you to an evening with Santa where traditional and secular Christmas songs will be performed. Donations and non-perishable items will be accepted at the event for the Thunder Bay Food Bank.



ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Sunday December 10

Advent 2 ~ The Touch of Christmas

Luke 1:39-45

Murder Mystery & Potluck Lunch

Sunday December 17

Advent 3 ~ The Sounds of Christmas

Luke 2:1-20

Children's Sunday

Sunday December 24 (11:00am)

Advent 4 ~ The Smells of Christmas

Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday December 24 (7:30pm)

Christmas Eve ~ The Sights of Christmas

Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday December 31

Wassail Service



OFFERING/PAR ENVELOPES



Offering envelopes are available for pickup at the back of the sanctuary. If you do not find a box with your name or wish to have one made for you please let the office know.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sun Dec 10 - Murder Mystery & Potluck Lunch

Wed Dec 13 - Fun & Fitness @ 10:00am

Wed Dec 13 - Advent Study @ 7:30pm

Fri Dec 15 - Singing Santa @ 7pm

MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission and Outreach is well into our next project as we give our support to Thunder Bay's Women's Shelters. From today until Dec. 17, your donations of hats, socks, gloves and mitts, clothing (new) for women and children, small household items, toys and games, as well as personal need and gift cards may be placed under the tree in Rowand Hall. If you are unable to shop, we will do it for you. See Jan Sewell any Sunday.



GIRL GUIDES COOKIE SALES

Girl Guides will be at St. Andrew's **Sun. Dec. 17** selling cookies at \$6 a box, in the hallway after Worship



OPERATION UNDERCOVER

St Andrew's will once again be supporting the Operation Undercover Project, which provides new socks and underwear to children aged 4 to 14 years whose families are in need. We are supporting Community Clothing Assistance (May St.) in this endeavour. We ask that you donate children's socks and underwear to this very worthwhile cause, and bring those items to the church, anytime until December 17th. Thank you for your support!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

On **Sunday December 17** at 11am, during regular Sunday service, a creative Christmas activity will be offered for children of all ages.

Please join us, we would love to see you!

St. Andrew's will be offering more Children's Sundays in the new year. Watch for more information to follow.



From Joyce



We are into the season of Advent, but what does that mean anyway? You may have heard the word advent used in a sentence like “the advent of television” meaning that television came into being. Or “the advent of personal computers,” a time when personal computers came into our lives and we began to use them. The original word was the Latin adventus which means “coming”. The word Advent with a capital A, is what followers of Jesus use to describe the coming of Jesus as God incarnate. God made flesh in the baby Jesus. It also points to when Christ will come again; when all things will be made whole and be transformed.

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. It is not often that Advent starts on the first Sunday of December, but this year it did. It is a time of anticipation and waiting. Advent marks the start of the church year. Many churches including our own mark the Sundays of Advent with the lighting of candles in an Advent wreath. For some churches the candles will be purple, though many churches, such as our own, use three blue candles and one pink one. Blue is the colour for royalty and when used, helps to differentiate between the season of Lent, the forty days before Easter, which is also the time that purple is used to symbolize a church season. The Advent candles will be lit with a certain theme in mind. The first candle is hope, the second peace, the third candle – the pink one – represents joy, and the last blue candle, lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent, is love. Finally, a white candle in the center is lit on Christmas Eve/Day. It is the Christ Candle.

As much as it seems near impossible to do, Advent is not meant to be a time of hustle and bustle, but rather a time of waiting, of slowing down as we prepare to mark the birth of Christ and what that means for us. It is an opportunity to consider what the arrival, the coming, the advent of God come into the world through a babe born in a humble and lowly setting has meant for us and the world in the centuries that have passed. It is a time to think about how Jesus’ birth can transform our lives now and what it means for the time yet to come, for us and the world.

May you find moments to sit in stillness and wonder to ponder Christ in your life, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the deep love of God who sent Jesus, God’s only son that we might know how much God loves us and the world.

MISSION MOMENT

In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions.

PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class, expresses her gratitude, stating, “We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities.”



GUEST MUSICIANS IN WORSHIP

Sections of the Thunder Bay Community Band will be joining us for Worship

Dec. 17 - Flute Choir

Thank you to the Sax Choir for sharing your gift of music with us.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

207 S. Brodie Street South,
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1C1

Phone: (807) 622-4273

Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

minister.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

(807) 632-8348

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa
office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

Sunday Worship - Online at

standrewspres-tbay.ca

stay safe