



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!*



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



### STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Thanks be to God for God's  
indescribable gift!

*2 Corinthians, 9:15*

Offerings can be sent via etransfer to  
[offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](mailto:offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dec 31 - Wassail Service at 11:00am

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Dec 25, 2023 - Jan 2, 2024

### ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

**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*

A relaxed service of worship  
that includes cookies and hot apple cider



### PRAYER FOR GAZA

People within The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
are asked to pray for those directly affected and  
threatened and to pray for an end to violence and  
a just peace in the land of Christ's birth.

*God of truth, mercy and peace,  
God of life and of reconciliation,  
we mourn the suffering and murder  
of your people and we pray a just peace  
and reconciliation for the people of Palestine  
and Israel who have endured the burden  
of violence and conflict for so long.*

*Console those who grieve,  
heal the injured, comfort those who are  
alone and afraid, protect those who held  
hostage, and restrain those who would  
cause more violence or act cynically for  
political gain and power.*

*Let wisdom settle on your churches  
and on the governments and leaders of this  
world so that justice is sought,  
reconciliation found,  
peace established and  
security provided for all.*

*In the name of Jesus we pray.  
Amen.*

### OFFERING/PAR ENVELOPES



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

### BAZAAR UPDATES

Below are the amounts that were raised by the various  
individuals and groups that were a part of St. Andrew's  
Bazaar on November 18. Note that this is the group  
totals.

Christmas Room.....	\$311.25
St. Aidan's Tables.....	\$602.25
Judy Persian Art.....	\$360.00
Santa Claus/Jamie Gerow.....	\$70.00
Bake Table.....	\$765.75
Seekers' Tables.....	\$1035.25
Shortbread.....	\$6769.26
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$9,913.76</b>

These numbers only reflect the amounts raised, it is  
hard to see all the hard work, joy, fellowship, and  
hospitality that was a part of what went into this day.  
Thank you to everyone for prayers, support, both  
financial and by the work of your hands, and to those  
who came out and enjoyed the day!



## From Joyce



I realized that this is the last newsletter for 2023 and so it brought me to a time of reflection. What a year it has been. I know I have said this before, but I am so thankful to be the minister at St. Andrew's. You are the best congregation! The work you have done not only this year, but in the past three years with New Beginnings, how you have embraced this process of questioning, of being curious and open to the conversations and even some changes, has been truly incredible.

So often ministers are called to congregations that say that they want to change, but get so much backlash for any changes or processes for discernment they propose that the minister becomes discouraged. That has not been the case for me in all the ten years I have been here, and the last three years have proven that you are even more adaptable than I think you even realize. I am so deeply grateful for all of you.

We also have the best staff ever! Shaundra, Sheila, Rebecca, and Barb consistently go beyond their job descriptions and give of their time, talents, and energy in ways that bless our ministry and my life personally. Thank you is hardly enough to express my gratitude for who they are and what they mean to our church and to me.

As we approach 2024, I cannot wait to see what God is going to do among us. This congregation is not what it is without each and every one of you. Know that you are essential for us to be the body of Christ, the people of God, doing ministry from this very place in this community. With open hearts and minds, with generosity of time, energy, and resources, and the power of the Holy Spirit working in, with, and through us, may we be a blessing to each other, the community, and to God.

With much love and gratitude, Merry Christmas and blessing for the New Year! Joyce

### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA

As Palestine and Israel are mired in violence and suffering, PWS&D is prepared to respond to the humanitarian needs. The ongoing hostilities have created a humanitarian crisis, with homes, schools, medical facilities and crucial infrastructure having been extensively damaged or destroyed. The conflict has led to a significant mass displacement—1.4 million out of Gaza's 2.2 million residents are currently displaced.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) stands in solidarity with all the people of the region. With the church leaders in the area, the PCC condemns all acts that target civilians, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or faith.

PWS&D supports peacebuilding efforts in Israel/Palestine through KAIROS' Women of Courage program. PWS&D's humanitarian response will assist with shelter, food, livelihoods, emergency health, psychosocial and mental health support, as well as cash assistance to allow people to purchase the goods they require.

Donate at the link [Donate to PWS&D Gaza Crisis Appeal - The Presbyterian Church in Canada](#) or through the church with a directed donation for Gaza.



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[standrewspres-tbay.ca](https://standrewspres-tbay.ca)

*stay safe*