

# St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!*



## ANNUAL REPORT

It's time to start thinking about the annual report! Those responsible for making submissions to be included in the report should do so by **Friday, January 10th**.

All material should be sent to the church office at [office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](mailto:office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net)

Alternatively, hard copies of submissions may be dropped off at the office during office hours, or left in the "secretary" mail slot.

## UNDERCOVER PROGRAM

Since 2006, the Undercover Project by Community Clothing Assistance has been dedicated to ensuring that children in need, age 4-14, receive essential undergarments. Through this program, over 1000 children benefit annually, receiving 7 pairs of new socks and underwear.

St Andrew's is happy to be participating in this program. We ask that you drop off children's underwear and socks at the church, into a bin marked "Undercover," until next Sunday, **December 22nd**. Thanks for your support!

## OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the church office will be closed for two weeks over the holidays. The last day of operation will be Friday, December 20th, 2024, with regular hours resuming on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.



## ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

207 Brodie Street South  
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Sunday Worship - Available online at  
[standrewspres-tbay.ca](http://standrewspres-tbay.ca)

**Office Hours:**  
**Wednesday - Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm**

## FAMILY CHRISTMAS & CHRISTMAS CONCERT UPDATES

Below are the amounts that were raised by the various individuals and groups that were a part of the St. Andrew's Family Christmas Event on November 15th, as well as our annual shortbread fundraiser, and The Sounds of Christmas Concert on December 8th. Note that more profits may continue to come in.

Bake Table.....	\$107.00
Christmas Store.....	\$104.36
Judy Persian Art.....	\$250.00
St. Aidan's Knitting .....	\$525.50
Seekers Donation .....	\$2100.00
Shortbread.....	\$9300.36
Christmas Concert.....	\$3495.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$15,882.22</b>



These numbers only reflect the dollar amounts raised - it is hard to see all of the hard work, joy, fellowship, and hospitality that went into these events. Thank you to everyone for all of the energy that was invested in making these efforts such a success. And thank you to all who came out to support them.

## WASSAIL SERVICE

On Sunday, **December 29th**, we will be having a wassail service. Wassail is a warm cider drink, traditionally enjoyed during the holidays. Please join us as we continue to celebrate the season.



## OFFERING/PAR ENVELOPES

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2025 are now available for pickup at the back of the sanctuary. If you do not find a box with your name but expected to, or if you wish to have one made, please let the office know.



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"We can't help but give, because of what Christ has given to us."  
- *Daniel Darling, senior vice president for communications, National Religious Broadcasters.*



Donations can be sent via e-transfer to [offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](mailto:offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net)

## From Joyce

### Embracing Change: Serving Younger Families in Our Congregation



The cultural shifts and changing attendance patterns in recent years have sparked important conversations about how to best serve younger families in our congregation. Recognizing the challenges and opportunities, our church has taken steps to adapt, with the hope that families feel valued and connected to the body of Christ. Here are some of the changes we've made and the rationale behind them.

**Challenges Faced by Families:** Many families today find it difficult to attend worship as regularly as they might wish. With an increasing number of activities competing for attention on Sundays and the occasional need for a day of rest, consistent participation has become a challenge. Additionally, Sunday school teachers often prepared lessons only to find no children present, which led to frustrations and concerns about sustainability.

**Session's Responsibility:** Our Session, entrusted with the spiritual well-being of children in our midst, sought to address these concerns while reaffirming the importance of families within our congregation. In consultation with families who responded to an open invitation for dialogue, we sought to reimagine what ministry to children could look like in this season of our church's history.

**A New Approach - Special Sundays:** One significant outcome of these conversations was the introduction of four special Sundays throughout the year. These services are designed to be family-friendly, with a particular focus on including children and youth in worship and providing engaging activities. Families indicated that committing to these special services felt more manageable and enjoyable, fostering a sense of connection. Today is one such special Sunday, with a focus on Advent and Christmas. Children and youth play active roles in the service, and a thoughtfully planned activity enhances their experience. These services remind us of the joy and richness of worshiping together, as we reflect the fullness of Christ.

**Looking Ahead:** As we move forward, we remain committed to listening to our young families and adapting to their needs. The church thrives when all members, regardless of age, feel seen and supported. By fostering an environment that values intergenerational worship and connection, we reaffirm our mission to be the body of Christ in the world. We extend heartfelt thanks to the families who prioritize these special times of worship and to all who contribute to their success. Whether through preparation, teaching, or participation, your efforts bless our community. Together, we celebrate the beauty of worshiping as one body, united in Christ's love. May we continue to grow and serve one another with grace and joy.

### LONGING FOR MORE: AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES



This Advent, our worship theme is "Longing for More," inspired by a series by Lisa Vanderkamp. It invites us to embrace the deep yearnings of our hearts while finding fulfillment and renewal in the presence of Christ.

- **Advent 3 – December 15: We Worry** This Children's Sunday, dedicated to families, reflects the joys and challenges of life, grounding us in God's faithfulness.
- **Advent 4 – December 22: We Waver** As we approach Christmas, we confront our doubts and uncertainties, anchoring ourselves in the steadfast love of Christ. Featuring music from the Thunder Bay Community Band's flute choir.
- **Christmas Eve – December 24: We Wonder** Join us for a 7:30 PM candlelight service, a time to marvel at the mystery of God's love revealed in Jesus. Featuring music from harpist Naomi Cohen.

### GLACIER RIDGE COMMUNION



Rev. Joyce will be leading communion at Glacier Ridge Retirement Home, this Tuesday, **December 17th** at 10am. All are welcome to join. 1261 Jasper Drive.

### FIRST-WESLEY CHRISTMAS CANTATA

First-Wesley United Church is hosting a Christmas Cantata **this afternoon** at 4:00pm, called "Touched by a Child, Touched by a King." Featuring a mixed choir from across the city and a live band. Everyone is welcome, and please bring your family and friends! Admission is by donation, and our sanctuary is wheelchair accessible.

