

St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 22nd, 2024

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



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.....	\$9396.36
Christmas Concert.....	\$3725.00
Total.....	\$16,208.22

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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tues Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30pm
Sun Dec 29 - Wassail Service @ 11:00am
Sun Jan 5 - Sunday Service @ 11:00am
Tues Jan 7 - Seekers @ 11:00am
Thurs Jan 9 - Facilities & Finance @ 1:30pm

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6



Donations can be sent via e-transfer to offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

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

FOOD BANK TOTALS

This week, St. Andrew's donated **524 pounds of food**, as well as a **\$100 cheque** to the Thunder Bay Food Bank! Thank you for supporting this important annual project. Your efforts will make a difference in our community!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2025 are now available. If you wish to have one made, please let the office know.



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

207 Brodie Street South
Thunder Bay, ON; P7E 1C1
Phone: (807) 622-4273
Rev. Joyce Yanishewski
minister.standrewspres@tbaytel.net
(807) 632-8348
Church Office E-mail:
office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net
Sunday Worship - Available online at
standrewspres-tbay.ca

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

OFFICE CLOSURE



Please note that the church office will be closed for two weeks over the holidays. We will be closed after Friday, December 20th, with regular hours resuming on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.

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.



From Joyce



Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. These are the themes of each of the four weeks of Advent and as we approach Christmas Day. Wouldn't it be something if these were the themes everyday throughout the world. Still, this is what we anticipate as we await the birth of the Christ Child this year and each year, the promise of God with us, the promise of a transformed world. Christ's birth is the retelling, over and over, of God's deep love for the world. In a world full of destructive forces, one in which there are threats to the well-being of each human being, with forces that are outside of our control and some that come from within us, God comes to us with messages of hope, peace, joy and love. Here at St. Andrew's, we've experienced a season of transformation since 2020. Change has brought challenges, but it has also sparked creativity, adaptation, and reflection. Together, we've explored what it means to be the church in this time and place. While there have been moments of tension, the resilience and unity of this congregation shine through. Unlike many communities that face deep divisions during periods of change, St. Andrew's has remained steadfast. Through open communication and collaborative effort, we've continued to create spaces of hospitality, welcome, and generosity. Our physical building has also evolved, becoming an even more inviting space for gathering and ministry. While the church is ultimately its people, the building provides a place for us to live out our calling as the people of God. I can't express enough gratitude for the dedication and passion of this congregation. Time and again, you have gone above and beyond, and I am endlessly proud of you.

There is still much to discern and achieve as we move forward. This journey is one of passion, curiosity, and challenge—a journey in which we strive to proclaim God's hope, peace, joy, and love to one another and to the world around us. From my heart to yours, Merry Christmas!



CHURCH ACTION TEAMS

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has embarked on an amazing journey of New Beginnings and we invite you to join us in our revitalization!

We have three exciting ACTION TEAMS that could use your energy and ideas

Welcome and Fellowship Team: If helping to create meaningful relationships feels like a wonderful way to spend a bit of time, then this could be the right fit for you. Figuring out ways to keep current members engaged, and welcome future members, visitors and anyone else who may want to be part of St. Andrew's is an important piece of our journey together. Join us!

Mission and Outreach Team: What could feel better than helping to continue our work in organizing and directing the church's mission offerings and donations across our Thunder Bay community. There are community partnerships out there just waiting to be developed and we invite you to be a part of this critical work.

Fundraising Team: It takes faith and prayer to keep our St. Andrew's community vital, but it also takes money. This team welcomes your ideas, commitment and creativity to help identify reliable income opportunities that will continue to sustain us while we continue to do all the good work we do, for the community of Thunder Bay

Reach out to any elder, or the office.
We welcome any level of involvement
- whatever you feel is right for you!

MISSION MOMENT

Somalia has been devastated by drought for the last six years. Among the many pushed to the brink of starvation is Hawa Ahmed, a resilient mother of eight. When the lack of water and food made the situation increasingly dire, Hawa made the courageous decision to relocate her family for the chance at a better life. Her new surroundings came with a harsh reality: as a displaced person, she was stripped of her possessions and support system, leaving her feeling alone and anxious for a solution. Things changed when Hawa joined a program supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development that provided families with emergency cash. With this financial support, Hawa was able to purchase food and ensure access to clean drinking water for her children.

Mission Moments are short highlights of the mission and ministry that we are doing together in Canada and around the world through Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D.