



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 8th, 2024

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



FUN & FITNESS WRAP-UP

Fun & Fitness will be wrapping up for the year with it's final class of 2024 on December 11th. Stay tuned for a new start date in 2025!

CHECK OUT THE HERITAGE WALL



Christmas is coming, and the Heritage Committee has arranged a collection telling the story of Christmas at St. Andrew's over the years.

MISSION MOMENT

In Ghana, 12-year-old Abigail Awini became physically challenged shortly after birth, which left her unable to walk. Abigail's father died when she was just four years old, and shortly thereafter, her mother left. Abigail's grandmother, a poor farmer, became her caregiver. During a community survey, Abigail was registered for support from Presbyterian World Service and Development's partner, the Garu Centre. With their advice, her grandmother enrolled her in school. Unable to move independently, Abigail's grandmother carried her on her back daily until Abigail got too big and had to drop out of school. However, the project supported Abigail with a tricycle to enhance her mobility. "The life of my granddaughter has changed," shares her grandmother. Abigail found independence and was able to resume her schooling.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Sunday Worship - Available online at
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Office Hours:

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tues Dec 10 - Session @ 6:00pm (Offsite)
Wed Dec 11 - Fun & Fitness @ 10:00am

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Andrew's will be hosting a special community concert, "The Sounds of Christmas," **this afternoon, December 8th, at 4:00pm.**



It will feature performances from a variety of talented local musicians. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors (60+), and children under 10 are free.

Tickets can be purchased through the church office, or at the door (cash only).

LOOKING AHEAD

Every year around this time, a small bare tree will suddenly appear in Rowand Hall. At first it is bare, but with your help, it will soon be covered with gifts for two women's shelters.



Your gifts may include toys, puzzles, markers, crayons, notebooks and paper, scarves, gloves, mitts, and hats, personal care items, and small household items like can openers, batteries, etc. Small denomination gift cards are also welcome.

Over the years your continuing generosity has made this project a huge success. If you can't get out to shop, someone will shop for you. Gifts should be "under the tree" by December 15th.

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 would ask that you drop off children's underwear and socks at the church, into a bin marked "Undercover," until **December 22nd.**

From Joyce

Generosity: The Heart of the Season



This time of year, generosity shines as a central theme. Christmas, after all, inspires the spirit of giving. It began with God's extraordinary gift to us—God's self, in Jesus. The Christmas story brims with examples of giving: the shepherds who offered their time and energy to witness the baby heralded by angels, and later, the Wise Men who brought precious gifts to the Holy Family.

In our time, the season's approach is marked by appeals from countless organizations, understanding that Christmas evokes a unique generosity. Amid the shopping frenzies of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, *Giving Tuesday* emerged in 2012 to encourage doing good—most often through financial giving—as a way to balance the season's commercialism with compassion.

Reflecting on generosity this past week, I am profoundly grateful for the people of St. Andrew's. I also realized that I have a particular vantage point that allows me to know and witness the outpouring of generosity of the people who call St. Andrew's home. These gifts come not only from our congregation but also from individuals who at times choose to support St. Andrew's, and goes beyond individuals to include business owners and contractors that see value in this place and people.

Within our church, the generosity of time, talent, energy, creativity, wisdom, curiosity—and yes, financial resources—is extraordinary. Each contribution strengthens our community and enables us to fulfill our mission. While I could never list every act of kindness without leaving someone out, know this: every gift is deeply appreciated.

As a congregation, we rely on this collective generosity. Together, we work to meet and respond to the needs around us, restore wholeness in life and relationships, and rejoice in God's faithfulness. As we pray during worship, we dedicate all our offerings—whether of time, talent, or treasure—to advancing the ministry to which we are called.

Thank you for being part of this amazing work. Your generosity ensures that St. Andrew's continues to grow, serve, and share God's love in meaningful ways.

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 2 – December 8: We Are Weary** A moment to bring our burdens before God, finding rest and restoration in His promises. Featuring music from harpist Naomi Cohen.
- **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.

FOOD BANK DRIVE

For most of us, this is the time to make lists, bake for the church, and make plans for holiday gatherings and special meals.



For others, special plans of any kind are not a possibility. There will be no special meals or extra treats for kids. You can help to change that. Your continuing generosity will make a difference. Thank you for your support of this vital project.

FIRST-WESLEY CHRISTMAS CANTATA

First-Wesley United Church is hosting a Christmas Cantata on December 15th, 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.

