



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

January 26th, 2025

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



MISSION MOMENT

Georgina Musah became physically impaired due to polio at age five. She was stigmatized due to her disability and prevented from attending school in her community of Suamvuus in northern Ghana. Identified in a community survey by the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program, Georgina received physiotherapy and a tricycle for mobility. Georgina also took part in training in climate-resilient farming and dressmaking, enabling her to generate an income and improve her life. "My profound gratitude to the CBR and PWS&D for changing my life through well-structured interventions. I have enough from my livelihood activities to fend for myself and my children and to support my husband. God bless and sustain your work," she shares.

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tues Jan 28 - St. Aidan's Guild @ 12:00pm
Wed Jan 29 - Fun & Fitness @ 10:00am

ROMANS FOR EVERYONE

Using N.T. Wright's *Romans for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 9 - 16 (20th Anniversary Edition with Study Guide)*, we will be exploring the 2nd half of Romans.

N.T. Wright is the Chair in New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He is the former Bishop of Durham in the Church of England, and is a prolific author and noted New Testament scholar. Writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Wright helps us to see the great sweep of this letter. Romans has long been viewed as the book above all in which Paul puts forth the basic doctrines of the faith, and the picture of God's life for us. It is the classic setting-out of the Gospel.

This study will begin on **Thursday, March 6th** from **12:00 - 1:30pm**, and continue **every Thursday** until April 3rd. You can order the book yourself through **Indigo**, or ask Rev. Joyce to help you secure a copy. This is shaping up to be an interesting time of learning, discussions, and connecting. If you have been looking for a way to engage with scripture and glean new insights this is a place for you.

SIGN UP FOR THE MUSIC CLASS®

For infants up to 4 yrs old, register for fun-filled classes of singing, dancing, movement and instrument play.

There is still space available on **Thursdays at 11:00am and 5:15pm**. Classes are 45 minutes each, and run from February 6th, through April 17th. The cost is \$135 for the first child, and \$95 for the second child from the same family.

Contact Joyce at **807-632-8348** to register or for more information.

LUNCH WITH A DIFFERENCE

Lunch with a Difference will be holding its first meal of 2025 with a Valentine's lunch on **Wednesday, February 12th at 12:15pm**. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the front office. If possible, a \$10 donation per guest is appreciated.



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

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 9th**, following the worship service and lunch provided by St. Aidan's Guild.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Self-care is never a selfish act - it is only good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others.



- Parker J. Palmer, writer, speaker, activist

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

From Joyce

I have been thinking about community a lot lately and the many ways that can be defined. So here are some of my rambling thoughts. Thoughts from someone who doesn't have answers to the challenges our world is facing, but also thinks it is worth conversation.

Usually, we think of community in the broad terms, such as Thunder Bay is a community. But within a city, town, or even a rural or remote area there is often community, not in the sense of a geographic area but rather the feeling of community that comes when people share common goals or interests, such as the scientific community. It may be common ancestry, the Dutch community, the Nigerian community, or a group of people sharing common ownership such as the Hutterite or Mennonite Community. Even animals can live in community.

The church is also a community. You will often hear me call our church a "community of faith". Our commonality comes from our fellowship, our common belief, and goals. One would hope that all churches sharing the Christian faith could be called a community, but sadly that doesn't often feel like the case. Even in my own family we have differences in how we understand the Bible that makes it impossible for us to talk about our faith and our churches. When people in one's family don't believe that women should be able to be lead ministers and you happen to be one, well it gets interesting.

I find that as I write I feel myself wanting to lean into a discussion about religion and politics, but that would be a whole other piece. The events of this week south of our border have me really wondering about Christian community and how to be the church in a time when there is so much division in opinion about immigration, migrant workers, and refugees. Even here in Thunder Bay there are a lot of differing opinions on what to do with the challenges around the unhoused and encampments and the opinions pretty much always include opinions about the people who find themselves in those situations.

But as Christian community, as a faith community, we are called to love regardless of our opinions. That is our mandate – Love. So how do we love in a time of great division? In my own family I have chosen to love those who don't think I should be a minister, because the relationships are important to me. I love my family even if we don't see the world through the same lens. It makes me wonder how to do this well as a church community within the community of Thunder Bay. I don't have answers, except the one – Jesus' words were to love others as Jesus loved those he was with, and as that goes from one generation to another. Jesus didn't put conditions on that love. It wasn't "love those who look like us, agree with us, or live in the same country as us." We are to simply to love. Not easy to live out in reality, but a simple command. "Love others as I have loved you."

DAILY PRAYERS

Jan 26 Praise God for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners walking hand-in-hand with those suffering from leprosy in Nepal & India as they journey to health & prosperity.

Jan 27 We pray for God's continued blessings on the Atlantic Mission Society.

Jan 28 We give thanks for the generous donors and dedicated volunteers of food banks and pantries whose efforts have made a significant impact in the fight against poverty & hunger.

Jan 29 We give thanks for organizations responding to the needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ people through social services, community programming and political advocacy.

Jan 30 We pray for Dr. Martin Accad, the new President of the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon, and for the impact of NEST in the region.

Jan 31 We pray for the mentoring program of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, that it will continue to be a support for graduating students as well as seasoned leaders.

Feb 1 We give thanks for Black History Month events that honour and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.



Thank you to guest minister **Rev. Kerry McLaughlin**, guest organist **Connor Curran**, and guest cellist **Mary Welby** for sharing their gifts with St. Andrew's today!