



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

March 9th, 2025

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



THANK YOU FROM FAYE PETERSON HOUSE

Faye Peterson House has expressed a "heartfelt thank-you" for the donations that St. Andrew's made at Christmas, in the form of gift cards, toys, and clothing. As they stated in their letter, "your contribution to the shelter not only helps to provide for the women and children we serve, it also reminds us that people in the community care." St. Andrew's is proud to carry on our tradition of supporting this initiative.

MISSION MOMENT

Josseling, an extroverted and enthusiastic 16-year-old, is committed and eager to get ahead. Beginning at 5 a.m., she and her mother have a stall selling fruits and vegetables at the Roberto Huembes Market in Nicaragua.

Josseling attended entrepreneurship workshops run by Presbyterian World Service & Development's partner, which helped her establish her successful market stall. One of Josseling's key principles is that "no one can leave the stand without buying," so she carefully considers her customers' budgets, asks about their specific needs, and adjusts the ingredients accordingly. This way, they can afford their purchases and will likely return to her for their next market visit. In addition to her market job, Josseling attends school, where she is currently a senior and dreams of becoming a doctor.

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 Presbyterian World Service & Development.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Church Office E-mail:

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Sunday Worship - Available online at

standrewspres-tbay.ca

Office Hours:

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tues Mar 11 - Session @ 7pm

Wed Mar 12 - Fun & Fitness @ 10am

Wed Mar 12 - Lenten Service @ 12pm

Thurs Mar 13 - Bible Study @ 12pm

EASTER MEMORIAL BOOKLET

It's time to start thinking about Easter, and the annual Memorial Booklet. This is an opportunity to remember and honour the names of loved ones who have passed, whether recently, or in the past. The names are printed in the booklet, which is published and made available at the Easter Sunday service. Should you wish to memorialize anyone in this way, please advise the office by **Friday, April 11th** at the latest (please take care to note proper spelling.)



If possible, a donation to the flower fund is appreciated. This fund is used to beautify the church throughout the year. Donations can be presented as part of the offering on Sundays, or via e-transfer at offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net Be sure to mark the donation with "Easter Memorial."

FLEA MARKET DONATIONS

Keep St. Andrew's in mind as you begin your spring cleaning! The Seekers are looking for donations of gently used or new items for the annual Flea Market, to be held on



Saturday, May 3rd. They will accept clothing, books, toys, or any other household items. You can bring donations to the church on Sunday, or within our office hours (Wednesday-Friday, 9am-1pm).

In addition, they are looking for volunteers to help out with the market in a number of different roles. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Jane McLeod at 807-620-8729.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Let gratitude be the pillow up which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."

- Maya Angelou

Donations can be sent via e-transfer to

offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

From Joyce



This week has marked the passing of a family member. Ken's mom died on Monday. I know many reading this have had a parent or both parents die. Before I go on, know that, though grieving, Ken and I are fine. His mom had suffered with Parkinson's and other ailments for a number of years and of late was simply being kept comfortable with medications to ease the suffering and stop seizures. Quality of life for her was sharply diminished and her passing means that she is released from the body that suffered and now is welcomed with joy into the arms of our loving God.

We visited when we could, but we knew that moving from our hometown fifteen years ago was going to mean less time with family. So our day to day lives are not going to change much with her death, but it was interesting to sense a shift in the present. I don't really know how to explain it, but I have noted that it happens with the death of parents. Maybe it is the sense of our mortality, the feeling that when our parents die, well, we're next. There is no buffer anymore. Not that it was ever guaranteed. Ask anyone who has buried a child. Now that really shifts life. But in the "normal" order of things, parents should naturally die before their children. And yet that loss lingers. Even if one is not close to their parents, or in my case in-law-parent, one feels the loss. For those who are close to their parents, the loss can create a chasm. A big hole. For those whose relationships with parents are strained or just not that loving, there is the sense that now one can never make it different, even if there was no chance of that happening anyway, somehow, something inside us hopes for different.

Grief observed is an interesting thing indeed. I find it especially interesting as one who spends a lot of time with those who are grieving. Observing the emotions of family members, and experiencing my own, reminds me that grief, though shared, is kind of mysterious. It creeps up when you least expect it and often in unexpected ways and moments. It brings families together and it can divide them. At times it seems that one person's grief is given permission to override the grief of another. Grief is something that no one is spared from.

Now grief comes for many reasons, but today I am thinking of the loss of those whose lives have impacted our own, for good, and sometimes not so good. This is the first Sunday of Lent, a season in our church year when we prepare ourselves for the story of Christ's death, a death that has resonated and continues to have bearing upon our lives. But death does not have the last word. Good Friday, that dark day is going to come, but so is that day of resurrection. May we live each day knowing that experiencing dying is part of being human but so is the glorious hope of resurrection which we also can experience each day regardless of what is going on around us. And that is the hope and promise that we live into day after day. Blessings as you begin this Lenten journey of faith.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

On **Friday, April 25th**, St. Andrew's will be hosting a Trivia Night fundraiser at the Slovak Legion Solarium at **6pm**. Tickets are \$25 per person, or \$200 per table of 8. **Tickets are selling quickly, so don't miss out!**

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. There will be prizes, games, and a silent auction!

Please spread the word! Gather some friends, get your team together, and come out for a night of fun while supporting St. Andrew's!

Tickets can be purchased through the church office (office hours are 9am-1pm, Wednesday-Friday).



SUMMER CAMP

Lakeview Presbyterian Church is in the early stages of planning summer camp for 2025!

They are looking to gauge interest from campers (grade 3 and up), as well as teenage/adult volunteers. If you think you might be interested, fill out the survey by scanning the QR code on the posters found on the bulletin boards around the church, or check out Lakeview's Facebook page.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The Thunder Bay Food Bank on Miles St. expressed deep gratitude for the contributions the church made before Christmas. Recognizing the continuing challenges of food security for many in our community, St. Andrew's is now accepting donations of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank on an ongoing basis.