



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

June 15th, 2025

Responding!

Restoring!

Rejoicing!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



St. Andrew's has a number of special events lined up for the fall, and we are looking for volunteers to help out in a number of different roles! These events include a Holistic Wellness Workshop on **October 4th**; a staged reading of the play, "Love & the Ghost of Wolf Pepper" on the evening of **October 17th** and afternoon of **October 18th**; and a Christmas concert on **December 7th**. All of these events will be open to the community, and will be very important fundraisers for the church. The planning process has already begun for each of these events, and so we are hoping to secure volunteers as soon as possible. If you are interested, or wish to learn more, please contact the church office. And please keep an eye out for more information to come on tickets!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT



"A life well lived is a life of gift giving."

- Miroslav Volf (theologian, professor)

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

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUNDAY

Today, on National Indigenous Peoples Sunday, we give thanks for Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and all Indigenous people working for the rights and well-being of Indigenous nations and people.

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

Blessings on this Father's Day!



MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

On March 28, Myanmar and Thailand were struck by a devastating earthquake, destroying entire communities, and leaving thousands of people homeless, including those who had already been displaced from elsewhere in the country. There is an urgent need for shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation. As St. Andrew's is the refugee sponsorship holder under the Presbyterian Church in Canada for the Myanmar community of the Karen people in Thunder Bay, this issue is of particular concern for us. Please consider making a donation in support of disaster relief by marking a donation to the church as "Myanmar Earthquake Relief."



REV. JOHN BORTHWICK

Next **Sunday, June 22nd**, St. Andrew's is pleased to welcome the Rev. John Borthwick, who will be leading the service alongside Rev. Joyce. Rev. John was born at McKellar Hospital just a couple of years after the twin cities became Thunder Bay, which may give you a sense of his approximate age. He spent his earliest years around Cameron Falls and Nipigon as his father worked for Ontario Hydro. He is the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Knox College, Toronto, and Curator of ministryforum.ca, the virtual presence of the Centre. The Centre's Team seeks to support and encourage ministry leaders and remind them that they are not alone as they serve. Recently, the Board of Governors of Knox College, in recognition of the meaningful impact that the Centre has had in its development phase, transitioned the Centre from a pilot project to a permanent contributor to the College's mission. Before taking on this role, John was the minister of St. Andrew's in Guelph for almost 21 years and served Rexdale Presbyterian Church, Toronto for five years prior. John is married with two adult children. His favourite week of the year is Discovery's Shark Week.

From Joyce



One of the key components of St. Andrew's Mission statement is that we believe in being community-based. Which means "we are committed to understanding the needs of our community, establishing strong partnerships within it, and fostering relationships. We reach out in community, as a community, and with community." To that end, the Session was approached to see if St. Andrew's would consider being the constituent group through the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), for The Karen People Refugee Sponsorship Foundation (KPRSF). After meeting with the KPRSF representatives, it was a resounding "Yes!" to their request. What follows is some background for you, and when you see the PCC request to help with victims of the Myanmar Earthquake, you will know that this hits closer to home for us than you may have realized. Here is much of the information that the Session was given so that you too can know the background for this decision and our ties to Hosanna Karen Baptist Church on Grey and Walsh.

The Karen People Refugee Sponsorship Foundation (KPRSF) was formed in 2007 as a way to sponsor Karen speaking refugees from Myanmar (Burma) now living in Thai refugee camps. Their organization grew out of the Sleeping Giant Refugee Sponsorship organization which once sponsored the Karen refugees who formed this group. The aim was to focus on reuniting Karen speaking refugees in Thai camps with their relatives and friends now living in Thunder Bay. The group was incorporated and became a charitable organization that can issue receipts for any donations. The board exists to help local Karens with the sponsorship paperwork, liaising with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, who is the Sponsorship Agreement Holder. The Canadian government gives the PCC a quota of allowable spaces for sponsorship which is spread across Canadian Presbyterian churches which sponsor refugees from all over the world. The reason we can sponsor so many families is that they are absorbed into existing families, who feed, clothe and house them, get them jobs, enroll them in school, acclimatize them, and support them until they are independent.

Sponsorship under the PCC is set up as follows: cases are brought to a Session meeting, which votes on whether to proceed. The request is sent to head office of the PCC World Service and Development, which handles refugee sponsorship. KPRSF completes a Case Assessment form on each refugee, and a decision is made in due time by the PCC whether to allocate a place from the government quota. The KPRSF board then works to complete the intensive paperwork demanded by the Canadian government, which is scrutinized by the PCC before being submitted.

The routine for the KPRSF is to present a case history before a session meeting once a year, introducing the refugee(s) and their situation, and information about the local sponsor's ability to settle them. KPRSF has close ties with the Multicultural Society in Thunder Bay and also the complete support of the Hosanna Baptist Church (formed from sponsored refugees, who met at First Presbyterian for years and who now make their permanent home there.) The involvement of St. Andrew's might also include appeals for household items, bicycles, etc., and of course donations are always welcome.

St. Andrew's has now joined with KPRSF in their work to reunite families, giving refugees a chance at a new life in a safe place with a future for them and their children.

SHORTBREAD TINS NEEDED



Christmas might feel like it's far away, but we've already started thinking about this year's shortbread sale! As always, we will be in need of tins in which we can package and distribute the cookies. Whether they be the containers you received your cookies in last year, or simply extra tins that you have lying around, we would be grateful for as many tins as we can get. Please bring them into the church anytime during our office hours, or on any Sunday.

CPR & AED WORKSHOP

This **Tuesday, June 17th**, the 55 Plus Centre is hosting a free workshop on strategies that can be used to take the fear out of the situation when helping someone in distress through CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) or AED (automatic external defibrillation).



There is no cost to this workshop, but registration is required by calling 807-684-3276. It will run from 10am to 12pm in the centre's multipurpose room.