



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 21st, 2025

Responding!

Restoring!

Rejoicing!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT THANK YOU



This was a very well attended event and fundraising success. We raised just over \$6,200 through this concert! It was so heartwarming to see the sanctuary filled with people enjoying the gift of music and the joy of the season together with us at St. Andrew's. We are so grateful for all of the musicians who gave of their time and talent, as well as for the many volunteers and staff members who took on various roles for this event. Many of you have been planning and working behind the scenes for several months to make this event happen. All of you have gone over and above! We are so grateful for each and every person who purchased and sold tickets. We also collected over 200lbs of food at the door, which has been donated to the Thunder Bay Food Bank. All of this makes a huge difference as we continue to build our future together as a church community.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE



Please note that the church office will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas holidays. The final day of operation for the year will be **Friday, December 19th**. Regular hours will resume on **Wednesday, January 7th, 2026**. Regular worship services will continue through the holidays, however there will be no online worship videos or newsletters for the first two weeks of January.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Rev. Joyce Yanishewski
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(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

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tues Dec 23 - TOPS @ 11am

Wed Dec 24 - Candlelight Service @ 7:30pm

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This year, the theme for our advent series is "The Will to Dream." Please join us for our seasonal services, outlined below.



Advent IV: Merciful Love

Sunday, December 21st, 2025 - 11:00am
Musical Guest: Jaedon Daly

Christmas Eve: Embodied Promise

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025 - 7:30pm
Candlelight service

1st Sunday After Christmas: Generational Praise

Sunday, December 28th, 2025 - 11:00am
Wassail service, including baptisms

Epiphany: Courageous Defiance

Sunday, January 4th, 2026 - 11:00am

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Time cannot be packaged and ribboned and left under trees for Christmas morning. Time can't be given. But it can be shared."



- Cecilia Ahern (novelist)

Donations to St. Andrew's can be sent via e-transfer to

offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

DONATION UPDATES

The **Thunder Bay Food Bank** has expressed their gratitude for the ongoing support that St. Andrew's has offered throughout the year. Another 400+ pounds of food were donated this past week.



As well, St. Andrew's has received an update from **Lifewater Canada** including photos of a new well in Nigeria that was funded in part using money raised and donated by our church. Writes the donor relations manager, "your generosity is changing lives. Thank you!"

Your support of St. Andrew's mission work makes a big difference in our community, and beyond. Thank you for your generosity throughout this year.

From Joyce



As this is the last newsletter for 2025 it seems a good time to reflect on the year that was, and look to the year ahead.

As I look back, not only at this year but what has been happening in this church for the last few years, I can't help but feel pride and gratitude for this congregation. Particularly in this last year I have seen people come together for the sake of the church and their love for community in new ways. Teams of people are learning how to work seamlessly together and are finding joy in their work. And that is key for me. When you are doing something for God and for the church, for family and for community, it hopefully brings a sense of joy, of having accomplished something together, even if it took a lot of time, effort, and relationship building.

And seeing these relationships that are being developed is something that I have enjoyed most, and has brought me hope as well. My hope has always been that this church would be a place where people feel welcomed and loved; so much so that the love and welcome seem to permeate into the walls of this place. That when people enter this building on a Sunday morning or on a weekday, they feel there is something uniquely special about being here. My hope is that they are experiencing our love and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst and in the moving currents of the space.

You are making this happen. It is your love, your commitment, your joy, your hope that is making the difference here. One person alone can not create that kind of welcome. It takes people to make that kind of love take root. It happens in community, with people who have compassion and live with grace. We are not perfect, we have our struggles and though this church has stood here for 116 years, we are still having growing pains. These are the kinds of growing pains that happen when we are curious about who God is calling us to be in our own time, taking risks, and stepping into an unknown future while trusting God to be with us.

I so deeply love the people of this congregation. You are the reason I continue to be the minister here at St. Andrew's and to do ministry with you. May God bless us with hope, peace, joy, love and loads of curiosity and courage as we head into 2026. Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

MISSION MOMENT

Pakistan is listed among the world's worst-performing countries in education indicators. Poverty, child labour, gender discrimination and harmful norms within a highly patriarchal society impede equal access to education, particularly for girls. In response, Presbyterian World Service & Development is implementing a school feeding project with its partner in Pakistan to encourage girls' school attendance in marginalized communities in Umerkot. Meena, a participant in the program, shares that receiving a goat as part of the School Feeding Project has become about much more than just an animal—it is a symbol of her family's commitment to education and community well-being. "Providing milk to the school is my responsibility, and I take pride in doing it because I know it benefits not just my daughter but all the children in our village. Their health and future matter to me," she shares.



Mission Moments are short highlights of the mission and ministry in Canada and around the world supported by Presbyterians Sharing, and Presbyterian World Service & Development.

ANNUAL REPORT

With the year winding down, 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 9th**.

All material should be sent to the church office at office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

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

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2026 are now available to be picked up. If you wish to have one made, please let the office know. If you normally give via pre-authorized remittance, you will receive a set of seasonal envelopes in the new year.



THESE DAYS

The latest issue of These Days is available to be picked up in the front office.

Thank you to violinist Jaedon Daly for sharing his gift of music with us during this morning's service!

