



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

July 5th, 2026

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



MISSION MOMENT

At 16, Ahmad Reza carries heavy responsibilities. Living in Bamyan, Afghanistan, he was orphaned by the loss of both parents, becoming the main support for his family. He cares for his two younger brothers and lives with his sister's family, who also face extreme poverty. The winter months are particularly difficult as food becomes scarce. Overwhelmed by grief and financial pressure, Reza was forced to leave school. He now works as an apprentice at a garage to gain skills for his family's future. Relief came when Reza's family received three months of cash assistance through a winter cash-for-food program supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development. "For the first time in months, the constant worry about our next meal has eased," he said. Reza hopes his training will soon allow him to support his family fully.

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tues July 7 - TOPS @ 11am

Fri July 10 - Office closed

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, July 5 We pray for camp staff and campers as they prepare for another season of fun and faith formation.

Monday, July 6 We pray for Mihye Park, Housing Manager of St. Andrew's Hall, who cares for students and provides hospitality. Mihye runs a Friday evening knitting group that welcomes undergraduates to develop a new skill and form deep relationships grounded in Christian love.

Tuesday, July 7 As 2SLGBTQI+ communities gather for Pride celebrations this summer, we give thanks for the organizers who plan these opportunities for advocacy, connection and fun.

Wednesday, July 8 We pray for those faithfully serving in rural and remote ministry settings and ask God to bless their tireless work amid isolation, great distances, and unique challenges.

Thursday, July 9 We pray for staff and campers at Camp Kintail in Goderich, ON, as they learn and grow together in faith in a Christian camping community.

Friday, July 10 We pray for our partners in Cuba, that God will keep guiding them and giving them strength despite the hardships they are enduring.

Saturday, July 11 We give thanks, loving God, for the Every Youth Empowered Project in Malawi, which is improving awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights among adolescents and young people. May your love be poured out as project participants learn about and advocate for their rights, with PWS&D supporting them.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Although things may be quieting down (at least a little!) at St. Andrew's during the summer, there's lots of activity going on behind the scenes as we prepare for a number of fun and exciting events coming up in the near future!

Volunteers are needed to help in a number of roles, both large and small. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Jordan in the church office.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Sunday Worship - Available online at
standrewspres-tbay.ca

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Every generous act of giving,
with every perfect gift, is from above."

- James 1:17a



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

offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

THE FIRST 16 DAYS OF *I WAS THIRSTY* - 5,000 POUNDS OF WATER

Update provided by Lorne Clifford, founder and Managing Director of the *I WAS THIRSTY* outreach mission.



I WAS THIRSTY

an outreach mission putting
safe water in the hands of
vulnerable people

In the first 16 days of the 2026 mission, we have delivered more than 5,000 pounds of water into the community. The need remains evident. To improve consistency, reach, and efficiency, we have now established two defined delivery routes - Thunder Bay North and Thunder Bay South - servicing each route every other day. This approach allows us to better manage our time, distance, and the needs of those we serve.

The numbers tell part of the story: 189 cases. 4,536 bottles. 522 kilometres. More than 5,000 pounds of water.

The true measure of this mission is found in the people behind the numbers. Through our conversations, the daily requests remain consistent - food, snacks, soap, tooth brushes, garbage bags, recycling bags, socks, wet wipes, sun hats, lip balm, and other basic necessities. The need extends well beyond water.

Today we delivered to Toby again. Toby is located at the Kam River Heritage Park and lived there through the winter. He has been feeding and training the local geese population to alert him when strangers are present. When we asked where his geese were, he told us they were "taking the day off." We found him sweeping around his site with a broom head that no longer had a handle. His site was orderly and tidy. Proudly, he explained that he had discovered a rabbit hole and was filling it in. When I asked him why, he smiled with an infectious grin and replied, "I'm going to catch it." It was a simple moment, but it reflected the importance of returning, reconnecting, and building relationships over time. The mission is not only about providing water - it is about showing people that they are remembered and that someone cares enough to come back.

Today, I was also relieved to see Levi for the first time since our deliveries began this year. Levi is disabled, physically frail, and carries the visible signs of a difficult life on his weathered face. His face and hands reflect years of hardship, yet every time we see him he greets us with kindness and a smile. Levi is quiet and does not ask for much. He is an older Indigenous man with kind eyes, and he is one of the individuals we look for when we are on the south side - not because he demands attention, but because he deserves to know that he has not been forgotten. He is one of the people who seems to need an extra measure of care and support. Whenever we are on the south side, I find myself looking for him - hoping he is there, hoping he is okay, and relieved when I see him. Levi was sitting outside St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. I handed him three single bottles. My heart sank when he told us that someone had taken his walker.

The mission has become about much more than delivering a basic necessity. It is about consistent presence, real human connection, and restoring dignity to people who are often unseen or forgotten. Young and old, stories are shared, and connections are made. Beyond the water, the mission is measured in conversations, trust built over time, and the simple act of showing up.

Every bottle matters.
Every encounter matters.
Every person matters.

Volunteer positions to assist with deliveries are still available. We are also seeking two more representatives to sit on our advisory board.

Donations for the *I WAS THIRSTY* outreach mission may be received directly through St. Andrew's here standrewspres-tbay.ca/donate/ or by marking a donation envelope with *I WAS THIRSTY*.

If you are not able to donate or assist with deliveries, you can help by sharing the news of this work.

Please follow us on Facebook, or directly on our website at iwasthirsty.ca