

St. Andrew's United Church

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Our Mission



“St. Andrew's is a Christian community of faith, worshipping God and serving others. Inspired by scripture and guided by tradition, reason and experience, we share the ministry of Jesus Christ by nurturing spiritual growth, caring for creation, and being with those in need.”



I know, I know, our Church's Mission Statement is a mouthful of words and over a decade later it may need to be re-visited once again. But the point of a mission statement is to help us centre on what it is we value, and what we can commit ourselves to heart and soul.

Though the words are dated, perhaps the focus and the activities are not. We still see the importance of worshipping together in a way that feeds our hearts, along with our brains. We recognize the importance of Christian education for our young people and lifelong learning for our elders. As a church community in the downtown core of North Bay, we see the needs of our neighbours in need who gather at the soup kitchen or at the Centre of Friends down the street, or at our own Loaves and Fishes Food bank on Thursday mornings. We value our diversity and our willingness to stretch the boundaries to hear the stories and honour the experiences of all who would come.

This newsheet will give you an idea of what's happening here at St. Andrew's this Fall. It represents the energy, faithfulness, commitment and hope of the whole people of God here in this place. If you are new to St. Andrew's or searching for a church home, we hope you will find a warm welcome; a place of nurture, challenge and of course fun! For more information about coming events or to find out more about how you might become involved, please don't hesitate to talk to any of our church staff: Ralph Johnston (our Music Director), Tracy Davis (our Designated Lay Minister), Eunice Laporte (our Church administrator) or Rev. Jane Howe.

An Invitation to celebrate St. Andrew's as we gather back this Fall

Come one, come all, step right up to God's amazing and faith-filled church! Come one and all, there are seats for everyone - young and old, wise and foolish, all the colours of human skin, all the languages of prayer, the musical and the artistic, dream makers and detail chasers, brisk walkers and runners and wheel chair rollers, speakers, signers and doers, the daring and the caring, the joyful, the doubting and the sad. Come one and all - there are seats for everyone - in the shelter of God's wide tent . . . within the circle of the people of God. *Welcome!*

Worship at St. Andrew's – Our worship community gathers every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Avila are said to have written this powerful prayer:

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

That's a wonderful prayer as we gather together for worship. We are blessed by inspiring worship, beautiful music and the heartfelt prayers we bring to the circle of care.

Wednesday Worship – begins September 20th at 12:05

Our worship community gathers on Wednesday's at 12:05 for a short service of reflection and prayer. Come join us as we re-connect with the deep peace of God, born of trust and a deep sense of knowing we are beloved. The service is followed by a shared bag lunch in the upstairs parlour. Everyone is welcome!

Growing Together in Faith

Welcome Back/Rally Sunday! September 10th

Come join us for our worship service at 10:30 a.m. It's a time for celebration and re-connection after our summer break and we hear there will likely be cake!

On **Sunday, September 24th-all ages worship**. Please join us after worship for a BBQ and our activity fair.



Church School & Youth Group Program

Our regular Church school classes and youth group program begins on **Sunday, September 17th**. Please speak with Tracy Davis, our Designated Lay Minister, for more information about opportunities for your young folks and for information about how you can help!

Adult Seekers

Sunday Morning Study Group – begins September 17th at 9 a.m.

St. Andrew's has a long history of offering opportunities for adults to come together to study, pray and be challenged in faith. Our **Sunday morning study group** is one such opportunity. We are just completing Richard Rohr's book entitled, *'The Divine Dance: the Trinity and your Transformation'*, and will be beginning Charles Eisenstein's book, *'The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible'*. The study group meets from 9-10 a.m. in the Church parlour. For more information, or to order books please speak with Rev. Jane.



'Reading Biblical Literature - from the prophets to Mark'

This is part two of a course started last year. Hosted and led by Margaret Reid and Tim Robertson, the group meets weekly in the Church parlour. The first session begins **Monday, October 2nd** and proceeds through the next 13 weeks. The cost of registration is \$20.00 per person. Please speak with Tim or Margaret for more information.

The PEMA Group

This **Buddhist book study group** meets the **1st and 3rd Fridays of the month** at St. Andrew's, beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the Church parlour. (Please use the McIntyre Street doors). The group starts with a 20 minute silent meditation at 7 p.m. followed by a book study. The evening ends promptly at 9 p.m. For more information please speak with Tim Robertson.

The Saturday Morning Meditation Group

The group meets **Saturday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Church Parlour. Sometimes audio or video teachings are shown and always there is an hour long silent meditation.

Music at St. Andrew's



How blessed we are with our wonderful Choir and the ministry offered by our very talented and fun Music Director, Ralph Johnston. Throughout the year, our Choir deepens our worship with the gifts of their music. From drumming, to singing, to playing a stringed instrument, there are opportunities to join in making music at St. Andrew's.

The choir practices on Saturdays at 4 p.m. For more information about how you might offer your musical gifts, please speak with Ralph Johnston.

Guest Concerts



During August we had the distinct pleasure of hosting 'The Hidden Roots Collective', a mostly home grown and very talented group of musicians who kicked off their 'Summer Fires' tour here at St. Andrew's. We were delighted to have them and they were delighted with the beautiful space and the excellent acoustics offered by our Sanctuary.

Our lofty wooden ceiling makes for a wonderful concert space. Throughout the year, we are pleased to welcome guest choirs to our space including our friends from the Near North Voices who call St. Andrew's home, the Choral Society, the Rapport Singers and the Interlink Choir.

Please keep an eye on the 'Together' newsheet in the Church bulletin for upcoming concert dates or check the Church's website.

Building Community

Watch for opportunities to come together for fun events like Community potlucks, Linger Lunch and Games nights. Our **Congregational Life committee** helps us stay connected and our Pastoral Care visitors offer friendship to those among us who are no longer able to join us for worship and church events at St. Andrew's. We are always looking for folks willing to lend a hand with these community building activities; so, if you don't mind drying a dish, helping organize a potluck, or making a phone call to someone who would like a contact with the church community, please speak with any member of the Congregational Life committee: Velma Yackobeck, Liz Brownlee, Liz Westbrook or Tracy Davis, and with Will Kunder or Jane Howe who offer support to our Pastoral care visitors.

Outreach at St. Andrew's



Loaves & Fishes Food Bank

One of the most significant Outreach programs at St. Andrew's meets **every Thursday from 8:30-10:30 a.m.** Called Loaves and Fishes, this program focuses on providing food support, a warm welcome and referral information for some of our most vulnerable neighbours, many of whom live in our downtown core. Last year we served over 3,000 people through this very busy program. Though we are blessed to have significant core funding from the John Carl MacIsaac Foundation, these monies *do not* cover the entire cost. *We need your help!*

There are several ways you can help through your donations of money or canned goods. Why not challenge your family and friends to the ongoing practice of supporting Loaves and Fishes? A dollar a day tucked away in an empty soup can or cleaned out cracker box will buy lots of bread for those who struggle to make ends meet. *Thanks for remembering this very significant ministry unfolding every Thursday in our Church gym.*

Transition Town North Bay



Our Outreach committee, in conjunction with Transition Town North Bay, hosts a potluck on the **fourth Thursday of every month**, beginning at 6 p.m. in our downstairs clubroom. Transition Town North Bay is a networking opportunity for groups and people who are interested in transitioning towards a sustainable and resilient future in the face of increasing global challenges like the warming of the climate and resource depletion. Focussed on local sustainability and re-skilling, our Transition Town potlucks provide an opportunity to learn skills from canning to raising chickens and more! **Our first potluck will be held Thursday, September 28th.**

More Good Things!



The Friendship Group – Potluck on September 21st at 6 p.m. in the clubroom

Are you looking for an evening out once a month to catch up with friends, meet new friends and share your wisdom and knowledge with others? Then St. Andrew's Friendship group is for you. This group for women of this community, and the wider community,

meets the **third Thursday of each month** for stimulating evenings on overseas and volunteer experiences, craft nights and community speakers. Three times a year the Friendship group gathers for a shared potluck: at our first meeting back in September, during our pre-Christmas meeting, and at the end of our program year. For more information about the Friendship group, please contact Olive Cote, our Friendship Group President, at 705-497-3577 or take an information pamphlet located at the McIntyre and Algonquin entrances.

This year, the Friendship Group celebrates its 40th anniversary and on Sunday, October 15th, we mark that occasion in worship. Watch for details in the newsheet about special events coming soon to celebrate this wonderful circle of friends.



Affirming Ministry

St. Andrew's is an Affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada, which means we welcome LGBTQ people, and their families, in membership and in leadership.

Our Inclusivity committee works hard to 'draw the circle' of community wide and challenges us to live into our designation as an affirming community.

Watch for **Second Hour forum** learning opportunities in the newsheet and plan to be part of our **Rainbow Potluck** events, an informal gathering of LGBTQ folks and their allies. The potluck gatherings usually happen the first Saturday of the month. Please speak with Rod Desjardins or Peter Haddow for more information (peatmoss58@yahoo.ca or davrod20033@yahoo.com)

Mark Your Calendars

Autumn Tea & Bazaar – Saturday, October 28th – featuring our famous 'Cookie Walk'!



The Bazaar room opens at 9:30 a.m. and closes at 2 p.m.

Come and load up on crafts and baking, and be part of our awesome *Silent auction*.

The tea room will be open for visitors at 11 a.m. Watch for more details.



32nd Annual Turkeyfest Supper! – Friday, November 17th



It takes a whole village to organize and execute such a large fundraiser. There are many ways to help from baking pies, to setting tables, washing dishes, cooking turkeys, chopping veggies, donating goods to offset our costs and of course, buying a ticket! Our Turkey Meister, the unflappable Derek Stott, will be gathering his turkey team together in the Fall to plan for this year's event. Watch the newsheet for more details and for information about how you can help.

Connecting With St. Andrew's! – 399 Cassells, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4

With so much happening in this very busy community of faith, it's sometimes easy to miss things. Why not bookmark our **St. Andrew's website** at: **www.standrews-northbay.ca**

Our faithful webmaster, Derek Stott, keeps our page updated with coming events and the weekly 'Together' newsheet, edited by our own Bruce Fleming



You can also 'like' us on Facebook. We do a weekly posting of upcoming worship services, special events and community news. Just type St. Andrew's United Church in your Facebook search box and join us.



standrewschurch@cogeco.ca Eunice would also be very happy to include you on our Congregational e-mail distribution list. Throughout the year we send out e-mail blasts to remind folks of special events.



Failing that, you can always use the traditional method and give us a call! In fact, we love to hear from you, especially if you are looking for a visit from one of our staff or have prayer concerns you wish to share. Our phone number is **705 472-7680**. If we are not in when you call, please leave us a detailed message and we will get back to you speedily!