



St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

Reaching Out



a weekly online newsletter for members and friends of the
St. Andrews faith community, shared for the purpose of
bringing peace, hope and comfort during these special times.

May 31st- Pentecost Sunday

The Scripture Reading

Act 2: 1-21

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd

came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."



Peter Addresses the Crowd

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

"In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

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your young men will see visions,
 your old men will dream dreams.
 Even on my servants, both men and women,
 I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
 and they will prophesy.
 I will show wonders in the heavens above
 and signs on the earth below,
 blood and fire and billows of smoke.
 The sun will be turned to darkness
 and the moon to blood
 before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
 And everyone who calls
 on the name of the Lord will be saved.'



e-mail contact: reachingout@standrews-northbay.ca

A REFLECTION FOR PENTECOST - BASED ON ACTS 2:1-21

TRACY DAVIS, DLM



Luke's first volume, before today's lesson from the Acts of the Apostles, is the Gospel of Luke. There, the Holy Spirit descended

upon a young woman, Mary. And so begins the story of Jesus. The Holy Spirit's descent gets the story of Jesus going.

There is also a Mary in Luke's second volume in Acts 2. The disciples are gathered after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The Spirit descends.

It's almost like Genesis 1 all over again. Our story with God, the Creation begins with the Holy Spirit descending, the Holy Spirit brooding over the waters, bringing forth life where there was none. That's what the Holy Spirit does - it gets things going.

Throughout the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit is depicted as that force, that power that drags the poor old church (which was then still a very young church) kicking and screaming into bold, risky, new areas of ministry.

"Church, how did you decide to reach out to the despised, outcast Samaritans?"
 "Well," says the early church, "we didn't

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really decide anything. We were just hiding out in Samaria after the stoning of Stephen, trying to keep our heads down, attempting not to get martyred, and these Samaritans just showed up and asked to be baptized and then the Holy Spirit descended upon them and . . .”

“Church, how on earth did you begin receiving and baptizing Gentiles, bringing them into the faith that was not meant for them? Did you have some plan for these pagans?”

The church responds, “We didn’t really have a plan. We were just led by the Holy Spirit over to the Gentile part of town and one of them said that they believed in Jesus as Lord and we baptized them and the Holy Spirit then confirmed our work and . . .”

I think that one of my roles, especially in this time of Covid-19 is to keep the church calm and cool. If there are crises in the church, my job as your minister is to help everyone settle down and settle back into comfortable patterns of being the church. The church, of course is who we are together, not a building where we gather to worship.

For all of us in church leadership it’s important to react quickly when there are crises, to respond to problems in an efficient, calm way. And of course, there are always, from time-to-time, various crises: the money runs out; people can be difficult to work with; the community goes

through some sort of tragedy or dislocation; the church has its doors bolted shut by a pandemic. The church has got to respond to such crises in a non-anxious way.

And yet, if today’s lesson from Acts 2 is true, it’s a good time to be reminded that some of the crises that afflict the church are enacted by the Holy Spirit! We serve a living God, a God on the move, a God who seems to be unwilling to have us become too calm and cool, a God who keeps assigning us new tasks, and keeps showing us new truth, new needs.

During this time of social distancing I have been prayerfully considering all the ways that I might - quite unconsciously and unintentionally - protect and defend our congregation from the movement of the Holy Spirit! That’s an uncomfortable thought.

The only thing that keeps our church from being just another gathering of another group of polite but uninteresting, congenial but boring people is the possibility of periodic disruption by the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God! ☩



God’s beauty abounds in the blooms of the St. Andrew’s garden.

SUNDAY PRAYERS

Nadia Bolz-Weber

I do not know when we can gather together again in worship, Lord.
So, for now I just ask that:

When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Stevie Wonder's
"Songs in The Key of Life" album, *that it be counted as praise.* (Happy 70th Birthday,
SW!)

And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, *may it be counted as
a Kyrie.*

And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier *may
it be counted as passing the peace.*

And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower *may it be
counted as remembering my baptism.*

And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, *may it
be counted as prayer.*

And that when I stumble upon a Tabitha Brown video and hear her grace and love of
you *may it be counted as a hearing a homily.*

And that as I sit at that table in my apartment, and eat one more homemade meal,
slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, *may it be counted
as communion.*

Amen.

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor, founder of
House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, Co,



ONLINE SERVICES THIS SUNDAY A COUPLE OF OPTIONS

This Sunday's service (**Pentecost Sunday - May 31, 2020**) will be found
on the **Trinity YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and
can be watched at any time. To view this service, click on this link: [Trinity
United Church YouTube Channel](#). The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday
evening) is a collaborative production by the Trinity United crew, with regular input from
St. Andrew's and other united churches in the area.



Click ****HERE**** for a list of links to over 390 United Churches across Canada that are
offering online worship services ... either streamed or recorded.

Joining PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) is as easy as 1, 2, 3 ...



- 1:** Download and the PAR authorization form. Get the form by clicking [HERE](#). (.pdf format)
- 2:** Fill in the form. New PAR donors can use this form, as well as those who wish to increase/decrease their monthly giving.
- 3:** Mail the form to St. Andrew's (399 Cassells St., North Bay, P1B 3Z4) or take it into the Church Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 10 am until 2pm. Either way, the Office Administrator, Star McGregor will be able to complete the transition with you in person or by phone.

Not on PAR? Donations by cheque gratefully received at the Church on **Wednesday** or **Thursday** (from 10 am until 2 pm) - or by mail: St. Andrew's, 399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4

... or you may also give via the “**Donate Now**” button located to the right, or on our website (<https://standrews-northbay.ca/donate/>) Please note choosing this option allows you to use a credit card however the tax receipt will come from *Canada Helps* **directly to you by e-mail** and there is a 3% admin fee.



Foodbank Report

Our foodbank continues to run efficiently thanks to the hard work of our Office Administrator **Star McGregor** and the volunteer team of **Jen Barnett** and **Brian Nelles**.

This week we served 96 people and have made some slight changes to our physical space. We are working to improve the area which we serve folks and are diligent in keeping everyone safe and following protocols set out by our local Health Unit. Using the Algonquin Entrance enables us to let patrons chose the food they require. We were making up bags ahead but didn't feel this was as helpful to folks.

Thank you for your continued support of this essential program. We are serving more people than we ever have and so continue to welcome your financial support.



Visitors to the *Loaves & Fishes* foodbank are now able to choose the food items that the need the most. The new distribution point at the Algonquin entrance is better suited to following COVID-19 protocols.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Members and Friends of St. Andrews:

This is an interesting time to be the Chair of St. Andrew's Church Council. I fear I will be remembered as the person who closed the church. At a time when we need our spiritual home more than ever, we must stay apart. I send virtual hugs to all of you and cannot wait until those hugs can become real again.

I must pass on other news. As many of you are probably aware, we have been having some trouble with our belfry and have been looking for ways to rectify the problem. The National United Church has strict policies when it comes to major renovations to a church building. (I have attached the Basic Steps at the end of this letter).

Step one is to inform the Canadian Shield Region (of which we are a part) of the problem. We have done this and had meetings (Zoom) with members of the Region Property Resource Team. The next step is to consult with the St. Andrew's congregation to determine your wishes and set up an action plan.

Over the next little while we will be sending out information regarding the belfry and hope to have a internet "Zoom" meeting by the end of June. This meeting will be facilitated by the Canadian Shield Regional Office, we will send a meeting link to everyone who is on our email distribution list (if you are reading this newsletter, you are on the list!). Directions will be available in the mail-out that we are planning. If you



know of someone who wants to join the meeting this way, please click [**here**](#) and give us their e-mail. People will also be able to call into the meeting via telephone.

This is a critical time for St. Andrews, and we need as much input as possible to determine how we are to move forward.

May the peace of the Spirit be with us at this time and may we feel the wisdom of our Heavenly Parent as we make hard decisions over the next part of our journey. Remember, even if we don't understand what the reason may be, God always has a plan. Let us trust in that.

Yours in Christ

Patricia Kirton-Bailey
Council Chair, St. Andrew's United Church

see: *MAJOR CHURCH RENOVATIONS – Basic Steps*
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MAJOR CHURCH RENOVATIONS **basic steps as prescribed by** **The United Church of Canada**

- The governing body(i.e. Church Council) consults in a timely fashion with the Canadian Shield Regional Council - Property Resource Team about the renovation.
- After receiving advice from the Property Resource Team, the governing body then calls a meeting of the congregation to approve the plan(s) for renovation, and to instruct the church's Board of Trustees to carry out the wishes of the congregation.
- The Board of Trustees then shall be called to meet, (8 days notice, hand-delivered or mailed to each Trustee specifying the time, place, and purpose of the meeting) At this meeting a resolution shall be passed setting out the decision to carry out the renovations. This resolution must include the following points of information:
 - ♦ the legal description of the subject property
 - ♦ the plans for renovation and the costs of same
 - ♦ a current statement of financial viability
 - ♦ the terms of payment and arrangements for financing
 - ♦ the request for Support to Communities of Faith Commission approval of the planned renovation and of financing.
- A copy of the resolution(s) signed by the Chairperson and Secretary of the Board of Trustees must be sent to the Property Resource Team immediately for review.
- Property Resource Team will review the proposal and make recommendations to Support to Communities of Faith Commission who will give final consent.
- After receiving the consent of the Support to Communities of Faith Commission, the Trustees (or designated committee) may then proceed with the renovation to the church property. ☩

