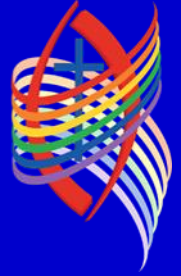




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

# 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.

## JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Today's Scripture

**Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 (NIV)**

#### The Workers Are Few

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

#### Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave

them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

### ST. ANDREW'S BUILDING RE-OPENING

This week the provincial government announced that places of worship could reopen at 30% of its capacity as well as have gatherings of up to 10 people for meetings etc. St. Andrews Church Council has put together a **Reopening Committee**. The members are Tracy Davis, Liz Brownlee, Peter Hadow, Pat Kirton Bailey, Kim Delarosbel and Derek Stott. We will be meeting to discuss all of the safety measures that must be put in place before we consider opening again for worship or large gatherings. We will continue with offering leadership with the online worship while Trinity is on holidays during the month of July. If you have concerns or suggestions please contact anyone on the committee.



*Tracy*

## A PRAYER FOR OUR TIME

In this time of racial injustice and unrest we pray that we might experience the grace and humbleness of God. Help us to humble ourselves, for the sake of our siblings. Lord, teach us to not strive for anything, but in all things humble ourselves, as you did. Give us your grace that we might always extend grace to others.

In this time of pandemic and calls for racial justice we pray that we might be like God our Divine Parent, Father and Mother, loving beyond our comprehension. Through this love you birthed the universe, the vastness of galaxies and the preciousness of infants. Father God, teach us to embrace our siblings with the love that only a parent knows. Mother God, give us your patience to never give up on one another or the causes of justice in our world.

**In In this time fear and anxiety, Holy Spirit, commune with us. Equip us, strengthen us,**

**convict us and encourage us toward becoming a more holy and complete church. We confess that we have pushed you aside, squelching your work within us because we are afraid of what a Spirit driven life will mean. We ask, Holy Spirit, that your power would be made known in your church and in your people. We pray that you build the beloved community of God here in our midst.**

Loving God, give your church and all of your people, the community made known in the trinity. Help us love one another as we would have them love us back. Help us feed the hungry as we would want to be fed in our time of need. Help us comfort the mourning as only a loving parent can comfort. Help us heal the sick and lift up the broken-hearted, as you, the great physician of body and mind, would do. *AMEN*



## A Reflection for Sunday, June 14, 2020

**Tracy Davis, DLM**

(based on Matthew 9:35-10:8)



You know how it goes. The church tries to reach out to people, to attract them to the church and its ministry. We usually try to attract them by promoting all the benefits of being a member of our congregation.

The church is where you come seeking, wanting, shopping for something. The church exists to meet needs, answer questions, solve problems, and respond to wants.

The trouble is, there's very little in scripture that supports this Amazon image of the church. What if the church isn't the means whereby you get what you want out of God but rather the place where God gets what God wants out of you? What if Christian discipleship isn't the way God meets your needs but rather you are the way that God meets the world's needs?

Which brings us to Matthew's account of Jesus' sending of the disciples.

Jesus has been traveling about teaching, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing. But there's something about Jesus that wants help. "Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest," he tells his followers.

Whatever good that Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour of the world, wants to do among us, he chooses not to do it alone.

So, Jesus calls twelve disciples and gifts them the same healing, helping power that he has been exercising. Nothing indicates that they're a particularly gifted lot. The disciples are just ordinary folk whom Jesus has given authority to do good for others in need.

Jesus' mission begins, not simply with Jesus going out and doing good for the whole wide world but rather with Jesus commissioning his disciples to go first among the homefolks, those closest to them.

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons," he tells the disciples. By their work the world will know that "the kingdom of heaven has come near."

The way you'll know that God's kingdom is coming near and God's will is being done on earth will be the work that ordinary disciples, commissioned by Jesus, will do right here, right now.

Our Gospel today isn't just a historical look back at the work of Jesus and his disciples. It's a story about you!

For reasons known only to Jesus, he has called you to be his contemporary disciple, his missionary, a sign of the outbreak of God's kingdom right here, right now. You are his appointed means of overcoming what's wrong with the world.

To repeat what I said earlier: What if the church isn't the means whereby you get what you want out of God but rather the place where God gets what God wants out of you? What if Christian discipleship isn't the way God meets your needs

but rather you are the way God meets the world's needs?

I think the church makes a big mistake when it presents the gospel as the solution to all our problems, the way to get more of whatever it is that we think we must have in order for our life to go a bit easier. In today's Gospel lesson Jesus doesn't greet his first disciples with, "What can I do for you? Tell me where it hurts."

Instead, he says to them, "I'm sending you! Go! Do the same things in the world that I do!"


A Christian is someone who has been found by Jesus, who has been assigned a job by Jesus, who realizes that their greatest need is not to have their wants met, their aches and pains soothed, but rather to join in Christ's mission into the world.

Mission isn't so much what we do but first of all what God does. In today's Gospel, Jesus preaches, heals, and casts out demons. Then he turns to ordinary people and says, "I've enjoyed embodying the outbreak of God's kingdom. Now you try it!"

At one of the last meetings of Manitou Conference, hosted here at St. Andrew's, theme speaker Bruce Gregerson said,

**"The church doesn't have a mission, but rather God's mission has a church."**

Christ invites us to come alongside him and participate in mission with a simple, "Come and follow me."

In this time of Covid-19, and social distancing, and racial tensions, there are people near us, who need the preaching, teaching, healing, and helping that Jesus has commissioned us to do. Let's join with Jesus in his mission. *Amen.* 

## UNITED CHURCH MODERATOR A SIGNATORY TO A JOINT LETTER ON RACISM

In response to the demonstrations across the United States and Canada in the wake of the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and The United Church of Canada have issued a joint letter. View/download it [here](#).

### ONLINE WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY - A Couple of Options



This Sunday's service (**Sunday - June 14, 2020**) will be found on the **Trinity United YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time. To visit the channel, 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.



## Kid's Corner

Upcoming issues of "Reaching Out" will feature an activity similar to this one that is suited for younger folk. This week's activity is a colouring page that reminds us all to be kind and compassionate towards each other. It also reminds us that St. Andrew's is a "Bee Friendly Community." Click on the image to download the activity sheet!

Kim Delarosbel

## DISINFECTING WIPES URGENTLY NEEDED !

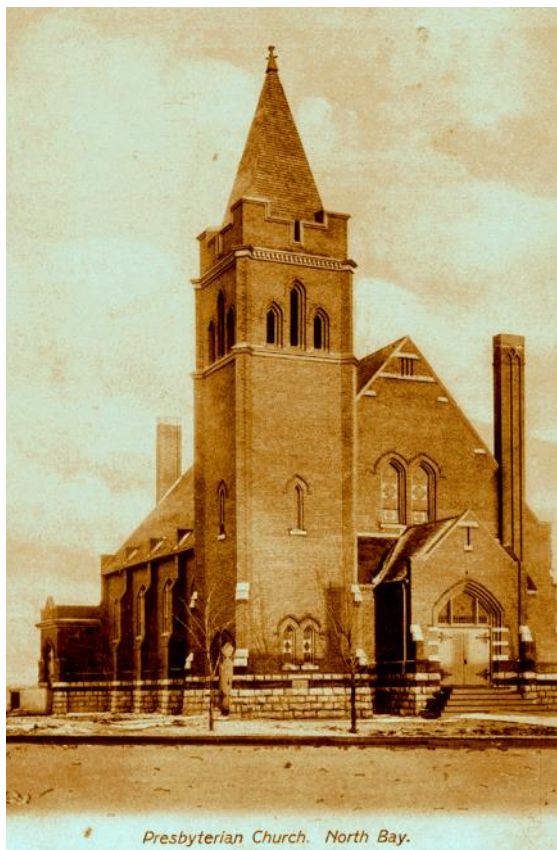
The *Loaves and Fishes Foodbank* that so wonderfully serves the North Bay Community each Thursday morning is running short of disinfectant wipes. These are very important in helping the foodbank volunteers meet the public health standards that are in place during this time.

**Lysol, Chlorox** or similar brands are all welcome as long as the label specifically indicates that the wipes eliminate viruses. Donations may be left with Tracy Davis, or at the church office on Wednesday or Thursdays (10 am to 2 pm)



## A Bit of History

*contributed by Lois Carey, St. Andrew's Historian*



*Presbyterian Church, North Bay.*

The story of St. Andrew's United Church began in the year 1884 when it was born in the interior of a Canadian Pacific Railway box car as an outpost of St. Andrew's in the Pines, Mattawa. The congregation quickly outgrew this structure and progressed to a log school house, then a frame building very close to the present site and finally came to rest in 1904 in the bricks and mortar of the present structure located in the heart of North Bay at the corners of McIntyre/Cassells/Algonquin.

In the beginning St. Andrew's was a Presbyterian Church and became a United Church when three churches – Methodist, Congregational and some Presbyterians joined together in 1925.

A large addition was added in 1952 consisting of a chapel, parlour, offices, classrooms, washrooms and gymnasium. A new narthex at the Algonquin and Cassells entrances was built in 1963. In 1976 and 1996 history and memorial cabinets were added to this area.

**photo above:** St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in early 1920's

**photo right:** The laying of the cornerstones when the narthex was completed in 1963. The minister is Rev. Wesley Cope (1960-1971). The other men are elders Tom Johnston and Alf Boa.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP ST. ANDREW'S DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME

1. Become a monthly **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) member** by downloading a form and mailing it to St. Andrew's. Complete PAR details and forms can be found at: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/give-regularly>
2. Drop off a **cheque** at the Church on **Wednesday** or **Thursday mornings** (from 10 am til 2 pm) - or mail it to St. Andrew's United Church, 399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4
3. 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 they take a 3% admin fee.

