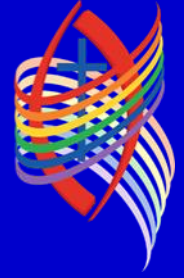




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

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.

July 26th - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Scripture

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

The Parable of the Yeast

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Three Parables

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

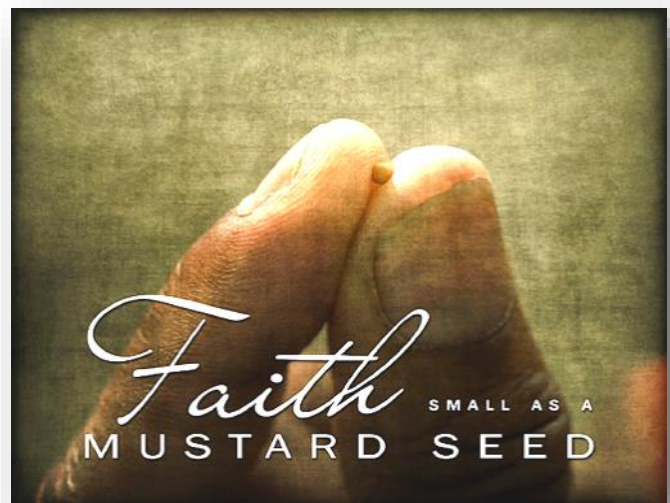
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net

that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'



Reminder!

St. Andrew's Congregation Meeting

Thursday, July 30 @ 6:30 pm - details on Page 5

A Reflection

Based on Matthew 13 Verses 31-33, 44-52



Believe it or not, there is some illusory glamour attached to being a perfectionist. That's why I misdiagnosed myself as one for many years.

You see, despite the misery and exhaustion that can accompany perfectionism, our culture nevertheless still whispers to us that its sufferers have enviable motivations. Perfectionists have high standards. And nature has bestowed upon them the ability to give sustained and meticulous attention to detail. Those perfectionists might be a dysfunctional bunch, but they sure are productive and successful.

As the readers of Brene Brown can tell you, the drive toward perfection will make a mess of your inner life and a train wreck of your relationships. And yet, calling yourself a perfectionist is the sort of thing you can safely say when a prospective employer asks you about your weaknesses. You know, it's one of those secretly acknowledged strengths that you can toss out as a shortcoming during a job interview. You want to get things right so much that you'll even sacrifice yourself for the firm.

Look, I'm not saying that being a perfectionist is a healthy thing. As Brene says, we're

much better off when we can say that we are enough just as we are. Still, calling myself a perfectionist felt a lot more acceptable than what I now confess about myself.

I'm a recovering *atychiphobe*. For much of my earlier life, the fear of failure — *atychiphobia* — drove me. Or froze me in my tracks. Or led me to set my sights too low. Or just told me not to try.

Okay, I admit, no psychiatrist would have given me a clinical diagnosis. My fear of failure was at the high end of the garden variety dread that many of us in the West wrestle with. That's because we associate our self-worth with achievement. We assign value to ourselves and to each other on the basis of the results we produce.

No wonder so many people fear failure. It represents rejection and humiliation. Your results make you somebody or reduce you to nobody status. At least, that's the myth that holds many of us captive: the world is populated by winners and losers, and your results determine which team you belong to.

For the most part, I do not fear failure anymore. In fact, some people wish I were a little more risk averse. But failure no longer holds the power over me it once did because neither do results. I've found another way to live. Or, more accurately, it has found me. Jesus suggested this way in the Parable of the Sower. It goes like this:

A sower went out to sow. The results were mixed. Some seed took root in fertile soil.



The rest of the seeds landed on rocky ground, withered in shallow dirt, or were choked by weeds.

But remember, this is the Parable of the Sower. Not the Parable of the Seeds. Nor the Parable of the Soil. Nope. It's a parable about a sower. And the sower did what sowers do. They sow. They don't stress about the results. And that is an inherently valuable way to be.

Even though he was not commenting on this parable, I think the following passage from Thomas Merton illuminates its core message:

“Do not depend on the hope of results. You

may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results, but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself.” (Thomas Merton, *The Hidden Ground of Love*, p. 294) Embodying the Kingdom means to walk the way of love. When you love, it will transform some people's lives and mend some circumstances. But not always. Not every time. Sometimes your love will be scorned and rejected, betrayed and crucified.

On the cross, Jesus joined us in the ultimate powerlessness of our merely human love. And he showed us how to entrust love's result to God. To trust that God's love is the power to bring even life out of death. The power of resurrection.

Along Jesus' way of love, the meaning of failure is transformed. The way of love is the way of the cross. And as it turns out, that's the path that leads to resurrection. **Amen**



Prayer for the Day

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen**



St. Andrew's Celebrates the Seventh Anniversary of Becoming an Affirming Congregation



The theme of this Sunday's online worship service (**Sunday - July 26, 2020**) will be the celebration of St. Andrew's becoming an Affirming Congregation in 2013. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time. To visit either channel, click on the links below. The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday evening) is a collaborative production produced by **St. Andrew's**, with participation by **Emmanuel United**, and **Trinity United Churches**.



[St. Andrew's United Church YouTube Channel](#)
[Emmanuel United Church YouTube Channel](#)

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
 NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION & INCLUSION

We, the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church, declare publicly our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and nurturing community where all people are welcome, not only to enter these doors but also to take part in every aspect of our church life including membership, leadership, celebrating life's passages and marriage.

We delight in God's goodness as expressed through variations in age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family configuration, differing abilities, ethnic background or economic circumstance - even as such rich diversity may challenge us. We pray for God's spirit to guide us as we work for reconciliation and justice for all persons.

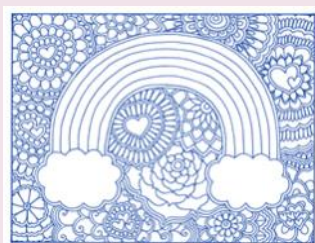
May 5, 2013



During the Sunday July 26th online service, Jim Sinclair (shown above with his wife, Donna) relates the story of St. Andrew's journey to gaining an Affirming status.



In keeping with being an inclusive faith community, St. Andrew's United Church, in partnership with the [Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin North Bay & Districts](#), has established our place of worship as being a "Blue Umbrella" community. This means that that St. Andrew's recognizes the challenges faced people living with dementia and their care partners and is aware of their special needs.



Kid's Corner

This week's colouring activity reminds us that it takes all colours to make a rainbow... and that including everybody in what we do at St. Andrew's is an important part of who we are!!

Click on the image to the left to view/download.

PLEASE NOTE

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are now 8:30 am until 11:30 am
MONDAY to FRIDAY ... UNTIL THE END OF JULY

Congregational “Zoom” Meeting - Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 pm

(it would be helpful if all participants could log on to Zoom before 6:30 so we are all ready to go at 6:30)

To join the Zoom meeting on a **desktop computer**, press and hold the control key [Ctrl] and then click on the [blue underlined link](#) below, and it will take you right there. If you have a **phone** or a **tablet**, just tap on the link. It is important for your device to have a microphone and a camera to allow you to be seen and heard. Check out the *What do I need to participate?* in the [“Zoom for Participants”](#) document link below if you are unsure. ...or you can call the toll-free phone number (**in red**), and sign in using the Meeting ID number shown and join the meeting by regular phone.

TOPIC : Belfry Tower Repair and possible options going forward

DATE: Thursday, July 30, 2020

TIME: 6:30 PM AGENDA - see page 8

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/91090382459>

Meeting ID number is 910 9038 2459



If using a telephone to join, then call **855 703 8985** (toll free) and use the same **Meeting ID: 910 9038 2459**

Never been at a Zoom Meeting Before?

Here are 2 documents that might help: [Zoom for Participants](#) and [Zoom Tip Sheet](#)

Please contact the Council Secretary, Karen Gooch if you wish to have a lesson on how ZOOM works! councilsecretary_standrews@cogeco.net

Informative Resource Documents: (click on item to view/ download)

1. Letter From Chair of Council outlining the Belfry Tower situation, estimated remediation cost, and correspondence re building permit with City of North Bay
2. Engineer’s Belfry Tower Assessment Report - with belfry photos (Sept. 2019)
3. Consulting Engineer’s outlining of Belfry Repair Options (Oct. 2019)
4. SAUC Financial Viability Report - to April, 2019 and some to Dec, 2019
5. St. Andrew’s Operating Statement to May 31, 2020
6. Church Demographics -from St. Andrew’s survey conducted in Spring of 2019
7. Digest of Actions – Congregational Meeting June 30, 2020
8. Letter (July 6) re the Church’s Financial Position as of May, 2020
9. Recent St. Andrew’s Church Council Minutes (June 16 onward)

**Below are Questions & Comments from
Congregational Meeting - June 30 2020
with answers provided by Council Executive**

**You are invited to read them over in preparation for
the meeting on July 30th**

(Thanks to Beth Ward for compiling this information)

OPTIONS: FIX or SELL?

- What is involved in selling the building? **Getting a commercial realtor, listing the property and hoping that someone wants to purchase a building that requires \$750,000 in repairs just to start.** How much time? **Unknown** Does St. A's have access to the money given that the UCC owns the building? **UCC has some funds available, but these are currently on hold due to Covid-19.**
- What is our building worth? **We had a appraisal based on other buildings in the area and it was suggested that it might be worth \$350,000 (minus \$750,000).**
- What about moving St. Andrew's as a community and renting space elsewhere? **Yes, this is a possibility, but still need to divest building.**
- What happens if we can't afford to fix and we can't find someone to purchase within the timeline given by the city? **Good question. UCC may have to take over, but this would bankrupt the northern region.**
- Where do we get the leadership from the congregation to get all these questions asked and answered? **You are the leadership asking the questions and we need your help to get them answered.**
- If we are not able to raise the money to repair the belfry, or sell the building, where does that leave us? **A permanently closed building. Still paying insurance and utilities to maintain.**

QUESTIONS ABOUT BELFY AND COST/OPTIONS

- How many quotes do we have? **One so far. We**

have also requested estimates from Priestley Demolition and Venasse Construction.

- The questions we had focused on the estimated cost, the need perhaps to look for another architect to look for other quotes. **Yes. Doug-McCausland is looking into this.**
- What would an unsafe order produce if we let deadlines pass? **No access to the church and unable to sell.**
- What would the final design look like? **See architect drawings.**
- Have we investigated whether it is possible to close the adjacent streets to bring the structure down? **This has been investigated and the city/architect will manage as part of the cost of removal/renovation.**
- Is there any avenue for funding from the Province, City or group? **Not really.**
- If the city can close the streets for filming, why not for us. **They can afford to pay.**
- A breakdown of the engineering costs? **Will look into this.**
- How do you sell a building with a projected repair of 750,000? **The best case scenario is that someone would buy for \$1 and demo the site or repurpose.**
- Would a "clean site" make a difference to the sale of the building? **The cost is approximately 2.8 million.**
- Are there other funding options such as Heritage funding that we can explore, or other community based organizations such as Rotary who would support this project? **Not really. If we utilize Heritage funding, we have to maintain building as is. This is not affordable and not a possibility long term.**
- If we want to move are we still saddled with the cost of fixing the bell tower so that it isn't a hazard to citizens? **Yes, in one way or another.**

- Can we sell the building without doing the repairs? **Maybe, if we can realize best case scenario, see above.**
- Where is the leadership going to come from to fundraise for the belfry project? **You are the leadership asking the questions - and we need your help to get them answered**

QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER FUTURE COSTS/OPTIONS

- Any chance this is the last expense we'll see in a while or should we be preparing ourselves for more building maintenance needs in the near future? **Not realistically.**
- What is the futuring scheme for North Bay overall (United Church in North Bay)? **Unknown**
- If we leave the building, do we lose our Affirming status? **Not necessarily. If we join with another congregation then yes, but if we remain independent then no.**
- Could a portion of the building be redeveloped for housing? **Yes, this was looked into, but has not been successful for other churches.**

OTHER COMMENTS

- Our group debated how much we may have to pay to keep the aging building going when the true spirit of St. Andrew's is its people and our mission. The essence of St. Andrew's can be moved as opposed to going deeper in debt to keep the building viable.
- **We learned that we are more than a building. We want to stay as a faith community until we discern our future if it means another place.**
- We are hopeful that something wonderful will come out of this difficult and challenging time.
- **We talked too about moving to a storefront and seeing our work in action, but we also recognized that there are pieces of heritage there...beauty, that we would hate to lose or leave behind.**
- We have to decide whether or not to cut our losses and find a new place to worship or dump more money into a building. If we decide to not dump more money where to go in short term and in the long whether to join with other churches

or go it alone.

- Would we be putting so much energy into fundraising that we would lose a lot of our outreach and stewardship volunteers because we are trying so hard to raise this amount of money?
- A congregation is more than its building.
- This crisis has revealed a conversation about the future of the congregation that has been going on for a long time at St Andrew's ... for decades. It's been travelling along under the surface, and now it is really out in the open.
- I need to hear more information.
- I am listening hard to what people are saying and praying for good and respectful engagement between us all.
- I used to have a real emotional attachment to the St Andrew's space but it's mostly because of the people I have known there. It's been generational. But I have those memories in my heart. I am prepared to re-purpose a part of the building or to move.
- **\$750,000.00 is a lot of money, an unimaginable amount to be raised through fundraising to be put into a building. Can you imagine what we could do with that amount of money if it were applied to the Loaves and Fishes program, or to staffing?**
- I am concerned about the downtown folk, and how we can continue to serve there.
- I am seeing "the end of life" for the building. Almost always, it is a crisis that causes change. This will mean a big change but we need to change.
- People in the congregation, I think, are feeling overwhelmed by "the belfry problem," and disconnected because of Covid-19.
- **The \$750,000.00 will divide us as a congregation—those choosing the building vs those choosing mission. That is not good.**
- We need to focus on the mission of the church, on the people in the congregation and the community at large.
- We need at least a two-prong approach going forward: 1) supporting the present ministry of the congregation (ensuring the congregation stays together, maintaining worship, making sure pastoral care is happening etc.) AND 2) forward-planning tasked with establishing and putting wheels under a long-term plan.

Draft Meeting Agenda July 30:

Timing: Opening (items 1-6): 20 minutes

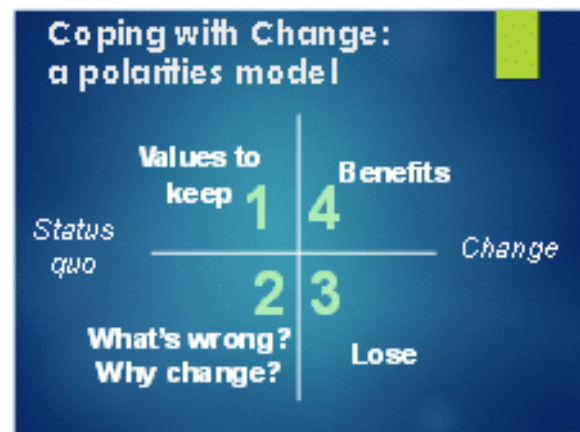
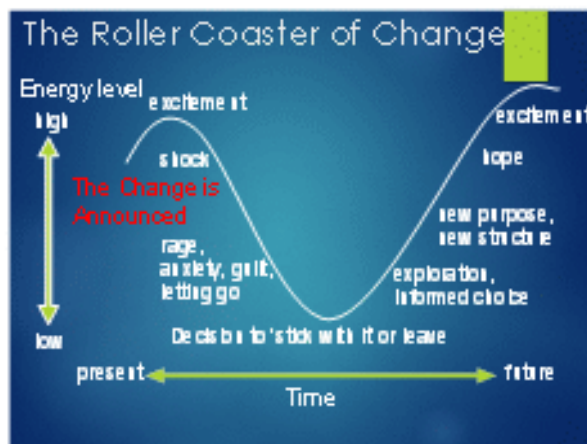
Business (plenary presentation and small group discussion, items 7-10): 60 minutes

Closing (items 11-14): 10 minutes

1. Welcome: Housekeeping, Intro to Zoom, Introductions (Rob and Melody)
2. Calling meeting to order (Patricia)
3. Holy Manners: Rob
4. Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory: Tracy
5. Affirming Statement: Tracy
6. Worship: Tracy/Rob/Melody

7. Purpose of the meeting: offering clarification on information, no decisions. (Rob/Melody)
8. Powerpoint presentation re: answers to questions (taken from council report, minutes and financial statement) and current gaps of information.
9. Plenary Questions (recorded in chat for future responses) 30 minutes
10. Small Group discussion (30 minutes – 10 minutes of intro and 20 minutes in small groups):

In plenary, Rob and Melody to introduce conversation – present mission articulation, describe how congregations move through change, using ‘roller coaster of change’ and ‘polarities of change’ diagrams:



- a. What about St. Andrew’s is most important to you? (mission articulation questions)
- b. What are you willing to leave behind to ensure that those values remain?
- c. Why should St. Andrew’s change?
- d. If money were no object, what would be your ‘best case scenario’?

11. Regathering: Next Steps (Survey Monkey digital survey to engage wide feedback from stakeholders, sent out and returned to St. Andrew’s council in August)
12. Next meeting: September 22?
13. Worship/Blessing (Tracy)
14. Adjournment