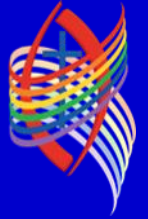




TOGETHER

a weekly newsletter for members and friends of the St. Andrews faith community



for Sunday, July 5, 2026
Minister: Reverend aitlin Smithers

This Sunday - July 5, 2026 Our Summer Series Continues! Consider the Birds: Faith & Feathers

The Pelican: Owl of the Wasteland and yet Divine

Join us as we continue our summer series, by taking a fresh look at another one of the most overlooked birds around us- the pelican.



A bird with a pretty complex reputation, one of being unclean, and maybe even a little mean, as they are an apex fisher – and yet also one of self sacrifice, of charity and Divine nourishment. In Christian tradition and art, the pelican is the considered by some to be the most direct symbolic representation of Jesus Christ.

“O loving Pelican, O Jesu Lord.”

Next Sunday - July 12, 2026 Next in Our Summer Series Consider the Birds: Faith & Feathers

The Eagle: Power and Vulnerability



Much like the first two birds in our series, Faith and Feathers, the eagle has a complicated understanding. They are known for being majestic, powerful, and able

to defy death. Yet, in the gospels we hear, “maybe it’s not by the power of God, by heroic conquering, that people will be saved and set free, but by something much more vulnerable than that, something broken and shed. Not glory solidified, but power undone.”

Where does the eagle fit into that?



OUR EXPENSES DO NOT TAKE A SUMMER BREAK !

In the summer, with St. Andrew’s closing for a month and people heading away on vacation, our Church bank account balance is often lower than we are comfortable with.

We are blessed! We have an inspiring Minister, a talented Music Director, a foodbank outreach program, a beautiful building – and much more!

Your financial support is a way to show your LOVE of this community and the work we do. Please consider a summer gift to the **St. Andrew’s General Fund** before you leave to have your well-deserved summer fun. **Thank You!**

The Finance Committee

Minister's Report: May- June 2026



What a beautiful summer it is shaping up to be here in North Bay, if a little warm and muggy some days. I am so enjoying seeing all the flowers and veggies begin to blossom and bear fruit! I have even harvested my first few beans! And I am so grateful to all who are caring for the gardens and green spaces outside of St. Andrew's. What a wonderful community we have, within and around St. Andrew's!

I had such a wonderful Sunday last Sunday, remembering so much of what the last year, and last few years, have held, as we celebrated my first *Ordiversary*, and another year together. I am so grateful to be a part of community who celebrates and support one another so well. It has been such a gift! As is so much of what we do here each month. [Read more ...](#)

AN INVITATION FROM EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH



Hi Friends:

I am sure you are eagerly anticipating holiday time!!

We would like to extend an invitation to folks to join us for worship at Emmanuel United Church on **Sunday, July 26**.



This will be a very special service in the life of our congregation. We will be giving thanks for the ministry of Will, as he celebrates his retirement from Emmanuel, and we will also be marking the final Sunday with Bud McMartin, as he prepares to move out of town.

Bud has been a faithful and beloved part of the Emmanuel community for over 60 years. His presence, service, and steady commitment have been a gift to generations of this congregation, and we hope to gather as many friends as possible to surround him with gratitude, blessing, and love as he begins this new chapter.

It would mean a great deal to us to have our wider church family with us as we give thanks for both Will and Bud, and as we celebrate their contributions to the life and ministry of the church.

Worship begins at 11:00, and all are welcome. A lunch will follow the service.

If you could let folks know, it would be so appreciated.

Tracy



St. Andrew's Summer Series Sunday- June 28 to July 26

Consider the Birds: Faith and Feathers

This summer, join us for a unique journey through scripture as we explore: **Consider the Birds: Faith and Feathers.**

Birds flutter through the pages of the Bible more often than we might realize—ravens, doves, sparrows, eagles, roosters, and more. Often overlooked, these winged creatures have stories to tell and lessons to teach about faith, hope, provision, courage, and God's presence in our lives.

Drawing inspiration from *Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible*, this series invites us to see familiar biblical stories with fresh eyes. Through these feathered companions, we'll discover new dimensions of God's character and deepen our appreciation for the rich imagery woven throughout scripture.

The book reminds us that when we pay attention to the natural world in the Bible, we may find ourselves "thinking something wonderful about a lily, or a cedar tree or a giant. Or an asp!" As we consider the birds, we'll open ourselves to wonder, curiosity, and the surprising ways God speaks through creation.



Sunday, July 5th: The Pelican: Owl of the Wasteland and yet Divine Join us as we continue our summer series, **Faith and Feathers**, by taking a fresh look at another one of the most overlooked birds around us—the pelican.

Sunday, July 12th: The Eagle: Power and Vulnerability

Much like the first two birds in our series, **Faith and Feathers**, the eagle has a complicated understanding.



Sunday, July 19th: The Sparrow: Appearing Insignificant, yet Unforgotten The sparrow, the fourth bird in our series, **Faith and Feathers**, has also often been overlooked,

Sunday, July 26: The Raven: More than a Bird to Observe

Join us as we conclude our summer series, **Faith and Feathers**, with the final bird from *Consider the Birds*: the raven. More than a bird to observe!



OUR COMMUNITY ROOST: During our *Consider the Birds* Summer Series, we are creating a "Community Roost" at the front of the Sanctuary. You are invited to lend "anything to do with BIRDS" to our Roost for the duration of the series - a photo, a sculpture - a stuffed toy - what have you! Make sure you put your name on it so that you can reclaim it after.



For those who want to plan ahead...



We welcome members of Trinity United to worship with us for July as their staff and clergy take a much-needed summer break

JULY - Worship at St. Andrew's on the Sundays of July 5, 12, 19, 26

AUGUST - St. Andrew's is closed - office messages will be checked
St. Andrew's members are invited to join Trinity United for worship during August

AUGUST 30—5th Sunday Service at Carmichael United Church

SEPTEMBER 6th - First Sunday back at St. Andrew's
September 13th Rally Back Sunday



Each Sunday service is recorded on video and the service is usually posted on the St. Andrew's [YouTube channel](#) by noon on the following day (Monday).



Here is the link to last Sunday's service (June 28, 2026) :

<https://youtu.be/KH0pw4gIWLk>

A video link is also posted on the homepage of the St. Andrew's website.

Are you Interested in Joining the St. Andrew's Security Team ??



From time to time, there are various groups that rent parts of the church for meetings or functions that happen outside of office hours.

To comply with the conditions of our liability insurance, St. Andrew's is required to provide security coverage for groups that are using the church for one-time events of a few hours duration. Duties of a security person would include being a "gatekeeper" at the door, doing walk-around checks, and generally being an on-site contact at times when rental groups are present. A Security Team "On Call" list is being drawn up and interested people are invited to apply. Training and orientation will be provided, and there is a pay rate of \$25 per hour. If you are interested, or wish more information please phone **Lucien Masson** at the number below.

Security Team Coordinator - Lucien Masson: 705-358-1309

St. Andrew's United Church WELCOMES YOU !



We are an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada and are committed to building a welcoming and inclusive community. The congregation has also done the training to be a "Blue Umbrella" organization so it is a dementia-friendly place.



There is an elevator, a wheelchair ramp at the Algonquin entrance, and a handicapped-friendly washroom in the Narthex. Assistance is also available for the hearing-impaired. If you would like information, please give us a call during office hours and someone will be pleased to chat with you. 705 472-7680.

OUR CHURCH OFFICE



Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:30 am - 3:30 p.m.
Thurs: 12:30pm - 4:30pm **Friday:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care emergencies, please call the church office (705) 472-7680 or email: standrewschurch@cogeco.net

and your message will be forwarded to the Minister.

Minister's Office Hours

Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



Caitlin's weekly office hours are **9 am to 3 pm Wed. & Thursday**. If you wish to call or email to set up a meeting with Caitlin, please

- call her work phone **705-498-5943**, or
- email : csmithers_standrews@cogeco.net,
- or leave a message at the Church Office (**705 472-7680**).

Regular drop-in hours are on **Wednesdays, from 10 am to 12 pm**.

(Please ring the bell at the McIntyre Street door)

St. Andrew's Prayer Corner

*The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)*

For this week we ask that you keep the following people in your prayers:

Judy Campbell Mary Marrs
Joyce MacQueen Kim Delarosbel
Carole Sawyer Ken Dech Don Vaillancourt





ST ANDREW'S
*Strawberry
Social*

Saturday, July 4, 2026

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

Strawberry Shortcake & Cold Beverage

(strawberries freshly-picked from Leisure Farms!)

\$9.00 per person

(Please use the McIntyre St. entrance)



TEMPORARY OFFICE PERSON NEEDED !

SEPTEMBER 3rd to MID-OCTOBER

Our Office Administrator will be away from the office during this time as she recovers from surgery. We are looking for a person to be in the

DATES: September 3rd until Mid-October

WEEKLY HOURS: 18 hours per week (Tuesday through Friday)

DUTIES: to include managing daily office operations, communication include answering phones, managing rental requests, and handling written and electronic correspondence. Familiarity with Microsoft WORD would be an asset.

HOURLY WAGE: to be negotiated.

ANYONE interested is asked to contact the St. Andrew's **Ministry & Personnel Committee** through Church Secretary, Karen Gooch, by e-mail at:

councilsecretary_standrews@cogeco.net as soon as possible.

Happy Birthday, Frankie Syme

... AND MANY MORE!



At Last Sunday's service, we centered on the **pigeon** - the first of five birds that are being featured in our **Summer Series: Consider the Birds - Faith & Feathers**. Pictured above are Karin Robertson and Elizabeth Brownlee who acted out a dialogue between two pigeons. These particular pigeons were perched in the rafters of the same temple where Jesus overturned the tables of the sellers and money-changers. Thank you, Karin and Elizabeth, for giving us such an informative "bird's eye view!"

13th Annual Dave Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament! United Church Golf Challenge - 4 Person Scramble



Where: Osprey Links, Callander
When: Thursday, August 27, 2026
Check In is at 1:30 p.m.
Start Time: 2:00 p.m.
Dinner Time: 5:00 p.m.



Proceeds exceeding the cost of the event will be shared evenly between the Canadian Shield Regional Council Youth and Young Adult Fund and Out Loud North Bay

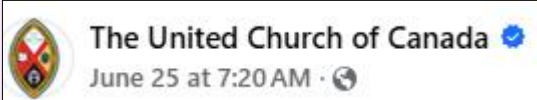
For more information or to register please contact:

John Henderson at 705-492-4212 or johnkeithhenderson@gmail.com

Dave McKenney at 705-840-7070 or d127mckenney@gmail.com

You can register at: <https://ospreylinksgolf.com/product/dave-robinson-memorial/>

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 19th, 2026



**Please keep the people of Venezuela
in your prayers.**

As we hear reports of successive massive earthquakes that have hit Venezuela on Wednesday evening, June 24, The United Church of Canada is concerned for all those affected, particularly those who have lost their homes and their lives. The United Church is hearing from *ACT Alliance* members about the impact to understand how best to offer our support. Please include the people of Venezuela and other countries in the region in your prayers. We pray:

**God who rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep,
We know that you are weeping with those who grieve the destruction of homes, hospitals, bridges,
and the loss of precious lives in Venezuela.**

O God, we are powerless before the destructive forces of nature.

Yet we trust that your heart grieves with your people.

**In compassion, you move to ease their pain,
to tend to numbing sadness,
and to bring balm to unbearable sorrow.**

**Work through your people, O God,
that your will may be done—
that healing may happen,
and that what has been lost may be rebuilt.**

O God of hope, draw communities together.

**In the unity of your Spirit, may we find comfort,
renewal, and strength.**

Amen

