



Giving Life to God's Vision

A Stewardship Invitation

Growing the Church We Imagine / Caring for Our Church's Future

September 2026

Dear Member/Friend of the St. Andrew's Faith Community:

We are Rick and Wynne Blair and this fall, we are honoured to be launching the **St. Andrew's Stewardship Campaign: Giving Life to God's Vision**. Stewardship is about more than financial giving; it is about recognizing the many ways we contribute to the life and mission of our church through our **time, our talents, and our financial support**.

As part of this year's Stewardship Campaign, we are honoured to offer a **\$20,000 Matching Fund Challenge**. We hope this gift will inspire others to join us in strengthening St. Andrew's so that it continues to be a welcoming, vibrant, and caring community for generations to come.

We believe St. Andrew's is worth investing in and not only because of its beautiful historic building, but because of the people, ministries, and values that make this place so special. Stewardship is our opportunity to express gratitude for what we have received and to take responsibility for the future of this remarkable spiritual home.

Our decision to make this gift comes from a deep appreciation for you, the people of St. Andrew's and the community you have created.

We chose St. Andrew's because of our shared belief that church should be a place where **everyone is welcomed, accepted, and valued**. This commitment to inclusion is deeply meaningful to us.

"Our spiritual granddaughter experienced rejection at two churches in Ottawa. When we talked about it, she shared that not everyone is willing to look beyond outward appearances, her tattoos, piercings, and colourful hair, to see the person and the soul within. She is a university student who also lives with bipolar disorder, and having a church like St. Andrew's nearby, where she could be accepted exactly as she is, would make such a positive difference in her life."

Her story inspired us to search for a church community in North Bay where people connect at a deeper level, where differences are embraced, and where everyone has a place. I believe this is what Christ came to teach us.

Each week, as we listen to Caitlin's reflections, experience the music selected by Ralph, and participate in services thoughtfully planned by our worship team, we are reminded of how connected we are, to one another, to our community, and to Mother Earth. We are all imperfect human beings who make mistakes, but we are also people learning compassion, self-reflection, and forgiveness. We believe this is the way of Christ, and we see the people of St. Andrew's striving not only to "talk the talk" but to "walk the talk".

Like so many members of this church, we love St. Andrew's and its mission. We want to see it prepared for the future because this congregation has become a spiritual home for us. You are the people who created this special place, and we have tremendous appreciation for the generations of care, commitment, and love that have made St. Andrew's the welcoming community it is today.

There are many reasons to cherish and protect St. Andrew's. Our sanctuary's beautiful acoustics have been a gift to experience through singing with the Choral Society and attending chamber orchestra performances by the North Bay Symphony Orchestra. Even more importantly, St. Andrew's lives its faith through outreach. Our food bank is a wonderful example of compassion in action, with dedicated volunteers sharing their time and talents to support people in need in our community.

St. Andrew's was built in 1904. While its design is strong and enduring, it is also a historic building entrusted to our care. Like our own homes, it requires ongoing attention and investment so that it can continue to be a place of worship, welcome, and service.

As we reflect on stewardship, we are reminded that every contribution matters. Some may be called to give financially; others may share their gifts through volunteering, music, leadership, hospitality, outreach, or by offering kindness and encouragement. Together, these gifts of **time, talent, and treasure** are what make St. Andrew's the extraordinary community it is today.

The **\$20,000 Matching Fund Challenge** is one important part of our Stewardship Campaign. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can participate and help prepare St. Andrew's for the future.

Together, we can ensure that St. Andrew's continues to be a place where faith grows, people are welcomed, compassion is shared, and Christ's message of love and acceptance is lived every day.

Thank you for all that you do to make St. Andrew's the special place it is.

With gratitude and hope,

Wynne Blair
R. Blair

Wynne & Rick Blair

