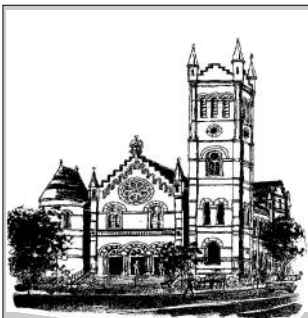


THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



January 2020

Happenings 2

Share the Joy 5

Robbie Burns 6

Letter from Moderator 9

Double Bass 11

Photos 12

In order to respect the privacy of our contributors, no articles or photos may be re-produced without express written consent of the editors of *The Link*.

Victoria, BC



Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor, theologian and poet. On April 9, 1945, just days before the US army would liberate the German prison where he was being held, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged. Bonhoeffer had led the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany and was just 39 when he died.

Alongside C.S. Lewis, Bonhoeffer is one of the world's most quoted theologians. As a 33-year-old faculty member at Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan, he believed his church's response to Hitler and Nazism was marked by weakness and cowardice. He believed that Germany was consumed by an evil that had devoured nations and had already murdered many hundreds of people on its way to murdering millions. Frustrated and angered, Bonhoeffer returned to Germany to join the political underground movement in Germany. He wrote: *"Not in the flight of ideas, but only in action is freedom. Make up your mind and come out into the tempest of living."*

Bonhoeffer was a brilliant student, and he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the subject "What is the church?" His answer was that the church was, *"neither a historical entity nor an institution, but . . . Christ existing as church-community."* He also taught that the church was *"called by God to stand with those who suffer and that Christianity must be modeled, not just professed."* Bonhoeffer penned a poem from that German prison on January 1, 1945, only 4 months before he would be hung. I include a portion of it below...

*With every power for good to stay and guide me,
comforted and inspired beyond all fear,
I'll live these days with you in thought beside me,
and pass, with you, into the coming year.
While all the powers of Good aid and attend us,
boldly we'll face the future, be it what may.
At even, and at morn, God will befriend us,
and oh, most surely on each new year's day*

This brilliant theologian, on the 75th anniversary of his death, continues to challenge us as we live out our mission at St. Andrew's in 2020. The *tempest of living* calls us to maintain our trust that God is calling us to model our Christianity through our words and actions, attitudes and behavior. Bonhoeffer lived with the conviction that the church must boldly declare that God will guide us forward, just as God has guided us before.

In 2020, please pray for St. Andrew's! Pray that we will be faithful to God's challenge to live, work and worship faithfully. How will we stand beside those who suffer? Will we accept the difficult challenges that we face without giving up and giving in? Pray that God will stir us to believe and act in faith and trust that God will provide whatever we need to meet the critical challenges ahead. The repairs needed on the exterior of the Kirk, and the critical need for new leaders to serve as elders and on most of our committees are some of the needs that I am praying about and ask that you pray about as well.

Bonhoeffer's reminder is one that we can take to heart. *"God will befriend us."* God has never functioned from scarcity. God believes and acts out of an abundant heart. We must do that as well. When Bonhoeffer said, *"Make up your mind and come out into the tempest of living"* there is no better time to be a part of the Christian community known as St. Andrew's. God is glad that you are here boldly professing your faith as we face the future together. Happy New Year.

Rev. Mitch Coggin

Message from Session

The session did not meet in December, which is the usual practice in December if there is no urgent business.

As a congregation, we have an exciting year ahead of us as we continue along our journey of transition with Rev. Mitch Coggin. Please join the session in praying for the congregation, our minister and the elders as together we seek the plan that God has for St. Andrew's, and that we each have the wisdom and strength for the tasks ahead. We are assured that we go forward with our God and Father beside us.

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8

We wish you Peace, Hope, Joy and Love in 2020.

Colina Titus,
On behalf of Session



The choir wishes everyone blessings for the New Year, and invites those interested in joining them to speak to a member or Christine Purvis. As you can see, they have a lot of fun together! (Photo taken on Christmas Eve.)

Happenings at The Friendship Club

Open to all adults in the church and community, as a social get together. Most programs cost approximately \$10-\$15 per person. (costs have increased slightly this year)

Set your calendars for our upcoming events

Saturday, January 25, 2020 ~ Robbie Burns Supper and evening entertainment.

Please see detailed announcement in the LINK.

Contact Jim Ferguson for details or questions. Tickets may be bought from Jim or Dorothy.

Saturday, February 15, 2020. Valentines Lunch and afternoon entertainment in the Kirk Hall with Guest Speaker: Marie Ryan-Roberts followed by live musical entertainment in the Sanctuary, from 3- 4p.m., with Martin/Maribel and Friends. See detailed information in *The Link* today for more information on this event.

Stay tuned for future events this year:

March 2020—Seniors Tea and Tour program:

Breakfast in the Parliamentary Dining Room and a Walking Tour of the Legislative Building and possible Gallery Session (plans are being made)

April 2020---Soup and Stories: a lunch time program

Spring 2020-- Seniors Tea (and ? Tour) at Government House

June 2020--Guest Pharmacist, Norma Macleod, will speak about "The Role of a Pharmacist and Your Health"

July 2020: Meet for Coffee at Government House, tour the Museum and enjoy Coffee in the unique coffee shop - Rudi's Coffee Shop

September or October 2020--"Movie Madness"

Afternoon, with Nancy and Bill Duke

October 2020-- "Peruvian Adventures: Digging for Gold" by Sandra Blitz

December 2020: Christmas Buffet Luncheon

All above programs are subject to Kirk Hall availability and guest speakers, and are still in the planning stages.

Each month's *Link* will give more details about the programs. I am always looking for helpers: ideas for programs, decorating, table hosts, food prep and set up/clean up. If you can help with anything, please talk to Dorothy with your ideas for Future Happenings. We welcome your suggestions and your help.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Reimer

Christmas Sing-Along



The Victoria community was once again treated to St. Andrew's Annual Christmas Sing-Along on Thursday, December 12th at noon in the Sanctuary. This event attracts scores of people each year who want to join in the festive spirit of Christmas and sing their favourite carols. They not only get to join in with the beautiful organ



but they also are treated to various solo performances. This year was no exception.

Christine Purvis played the organ and accompanied many of the solo performers such as David Barss on trumpet, a violin duet by Leonard Maekawa and Cleo Yang of the University of Victoria, as well as a



vocal duet by Susie Henderson and Brian Titus who are members of St. Andrew's choir.

Marie Ryan-Roberts and Jim Barwise, both choir members, did an awesome job of leading the singing of the carols. Participants were able to shout out their favourites and then everyone joined in. This Sing-Along is a very significant aspect of the role that St. Andrew's plays in community outreach each year. Our pastor, Mitch Coggin, expressed thanks to the many volunteers who participated in making the event a success. That included those who greeted people as they arrived with a hot apple drink and festive cookies as well as the volunteer elves who set everything up. St. Andrew's is becoming known as a welcoming church to all visitors and this event was in keeping with our tradition.



December 29, 2019

An Open Letter to the Pastor

Dear Mitch,

As Sonja and I prepare to return home to California after the holidays, we find ourselves reflecting on the past few months with warm thoughts.

We have been visiting Victoria for short stays for some years now and for a long time have wanted to stay to see the city as it passes through the seasonal changes. When the opportunity arose last summer to stay for an extended visit we weren't entirely sure what to expect. We were already familiar with some of the inner neighbourhoods of Victoria, had walked many of them and had experienced the friendliness of residents. We also knew of a couple of neighbourhood centres that proved to be good resources for meeting others with shared interests and participating in recreational activities. At that time, however, we had not discovered St. Andrew's

At our first visit last summer, you greeted us in your pleasant drawl and made us feel very welcome. On our next several visits, at least one member of the congregation would approach us after the service, ask us where home is and welcome us to the church.

We returned to California after our first few weeks here, planning to return in the fall. St Andrew's proved to be a pleasant surprise upon our return last September. You introduced us to a few members of the church, who quickly became friendly faces on our return visits to the church, often asking about our adventures from the past week. Our fondness of the St. Andrew's community grew rapidly as we were invited to participate in small ways in church activities and to meet additional members, each seemingly interested in who we were and what our story is.

We now look forward to Sunday mornings, taking our post as unofficial door keepers at the Courtney entrance and greeting those few members who enter the church by that route, often stopping to exchange greetings and perhaps chat for a moment before the church service.

As we've shared our history with people we have met, we have also learned more about the St. Andrew's community and the transition that the church has entered.

We appreciate some of the challenges that the church and its members face over the next few years and want to express our confidence in your ability to work through the changes ahead. We believe the strong sense of welcoming and community that your members have shown us will also serve you well in handling those changes.

Although we're leaving soon, we expect to return in a few months and we look forward to returning to St. Andrew's. We hope that you will save a cup of tea for us after Sunday's service.

Thank you so much,
Kevin and Sonja Krave

Kevin and Sonja have become very familiar faces in our congregation these past few months and we are so very pleased that they have found St. Andrew's to be their church home in Victoria. We look forward to their return. Happy travels, Sonja and Kevin!

Share the Joy of Christmas

Thank you to everyone who helped St. Andrew's **Share the Joy of Christmas** this past Advent.

25 turkeys (over 10 kilograms each) provided by St. Andrew's helped to feed hungry citizens at a big Christmas luncheon on December 17th at Our Place, Victoria's inner-city community centre.

We also provided 45 bags full of gifts ...warm toques, gloves, socks and personal toiletry items for the residents of Our Place. The top three floors of the Our Place building house these folks who are trying to put their lives back on track.

Thanks also to the Sunday School children who helped wrap the gifts that went to Our Place.

Thank you for your generosity in funding the Share the Joy of Christmas campaign.

Submitted by the Mission and Outreach Committee
Brian Titus, Convenor

(Please see photos on following page.)



fotosbypshuckburgh

Thank you for your generosity in funding
the Share the Joy of Christmas 2019
campaign.



Robbie Burns Supper

2020

We are continuing with plans to hold a Robbie Burns Supper in the Kirk Hall on Saturday January 25th. The plan is to open the doors at 4:00pm – for a bit of meet & greet, to purchase a glass of wine and to get settled. The Bon Accord Dancers will give a demonstration of Highland and other dancing at 4:30. We will be piping in the Haggis at 5:00 with the ceremony and appropriate toasts.

After dinner we will have a presentation of the Immortal Memory, a toast and a response to the toast for the Lassies. We hope to close the evening with a sing-along.

Dinner is being catered by Connoisseur Catering and the table service will be provided by people not associated with St. Andrew's. The intention is to enable members and friends of St. Andrew's to attend, enjoy and relax. There are many events held where the people organizing, serving and cleaning up, do not have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

There is a limit of 80 tickets available. At last year's dinner we had people asking for tickets on Saturday afternoon. With this in mind the last date to purchase tickets will be Sunday January 12th at the coffee hour. If we don't have at least 60 tickets paid for by that date we will have to cancel the dinner. If you would like tickets to the Robbie Burns Supper in the Kirk Hall on Saturday, January 25th, please see Dorothy Reimer or Jim Ferguson after worship on January 5th or the 12th.

Tickets are \$25 per person. For young people (under the age of 16) tickets are half-price.

Jim Ferguson

Postnote:

I am reminded of a story told by Reverend Ian Victor...

I was walking through the Hospital recently and I overheard some poetry reading – such as "The Banks of Doon", "John Anderson my Jo" as well as "To a Louse". I asked my guide what it was all about and he said, "Oh just ignore that, it's the Burns Unit of the Hospital".

Hope to see you on the 26th...

Lunch Time Recital Series

Anyone who attended the Lunch-time Recital Series on December 4th was treated to some exceptional and special music. The recital was entitled A Peruvian Christmas Carol and it featured Maribel Flores, Martin Perez and Brian Titus. All three performers sang while Martin played the guitar and the piano, Maribel played the drum, and Brian played the flute and whistles.

The program opened with a dance from the Andes entitled **Esta Noche Jesus Ha Nacido** which means Jesus has been Born Tonight. Following selections of Meditative and Inspirational music, the trio performed four songs of traditional Peruvian Christmas music including **Carpintero Fino** meaning Master Carpenter which comes from central Peru. Maribel sang beautifully and was somehow able to communicate the essence of the songs even though they were sung in Spanish.

Maribel and Martin trained and performed in Peru before moving to Victoria in 2016. We are so grateful that Maribel and Martin joined St. Andrew's choir this year. The pair is a very welcome addition to our choir. Between the two of them, they sing in four other choirs and in addition, Martin is a choral and conducting scholar with Via Choralis. Music is definitely in their bones.

Brian Titus contributed to the woodwinds with his wooden flute and penny whistles. Brian is also a member of the local band, Odd Hack. The congregation was fortunate to hear that group play delightful music in church on Sunday, December 15th.



Advent 2019 Candle Lighting



The Barwise family



The Henderson family



The Kim family



The Garson/Aerts family



The Hawkes/Yu family

Presbyterian World Service and Development Event: Sat. Jan. 11, 2:30 pm

Andrea Perrett, a member of the national executive committee of Presbyterian World Service and Development, will give a presentation on the work of this agency. All the local south-island congregations are invited, and so it is also a time to meet people from our sister congregations, as well as Andrea. The event will be held on Jan. 11th, 2020, at Knox at 2964 Richmond Rd., with doors opening at 2 pm, a presentation and discussion at 2:30, and refreshments to follow. If you can donate baking for this, or would like more information, please contact any member of the Mission and Outreach Committee: **Brian Titus**, **Debra Verwey** or **Patricia Shuckburgh**.

Additional reading:

Presbyterian World Service and Development:

<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>

The Rev. Andrea Perrett

Presbyterian World Service and Development:

<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/committee/>

St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver: <https://www.standrews.edu/cml/leadership/>

Director of Cyclical Calgary and Cyclical Vancouver: <https://presbyterian.ca/cyclicalpcc/>

Missing Children Register and the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Ardath Shand, a member of St. Andrew's Reading for Reconciliation Book Club, asked that the following pastoral letter from the Reverend Amanda Currie, Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly be included in this month's *Link*.

This letter reminds us that, in 1994, the Presbyterian Church in Canada adopted the Confession to God and to Indigenous people for its role in the Indian Residential School System. The church is committed to walking with Indigenous people on a journey toward reconciliation and living out the spirit of its Confession.

The Confession to God and to Indigenous people was written prior to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. (Calls to Action 58, 59, 60 and 61 were especially addressed to the churches in Canada which ran residential schools in co-operation with the government of Canada.) However, the Confession was a first step along the path to healing and reconciliation.

As of September 30, 2019, the names of 2,800 children who died or never returned home from Indian Residential Schools have been made public. There are more names yet to be found and much work lies ahead to gather the names and stories of these lost children.

One boy became the symbol for all the children who died or went missing from the residential schools.

Chanie "Charlie" Wenjack (January 19, 1954 – October 23, 1966) was an Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) First Nations boy who ran away from Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School where he boarded for three years while attending residential school in Kenora, Ontario, Canada. He died of hunger and exposure at Farlane, Ontario while trying to walk 600km (370mi) back to his home, Ogoki Post on the Marten Falls Reserve. His ordeal and his death brought attention to the treatment of children in the Canadian Indian Residential School System and following Wenjack's death, an inquest into the matter was ordered by the Government of Canada.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia
Chanie ran away from Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School which was run by the Presbyterian

(Continued on page 9)

In Loving Memory



Wm. Robin Fitzsimons

Church in Canada. **Wenjack**, a short, powerful novella by Joseph Boyden, and **Secret Path**, a 10-song album by Gord Downie with a graphic novel by Jeff Lemire, both tell Chanie Wenjack's story.



MODERATOR OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Amanda Currie, B.A.Sc., M.Div.

September 30, 2019

Residential school Survivors and families, and all who walk a path of reconciliation,

This morning, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation released the first list of the known names of children who died and went missing at residential schools during a ceremony at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec.

It is difficult to express the depth of sorrow that losing a child causes a family. Even speaking of healing in this context is painful, for how can one heal from such a loss? For some Survivors, families and communities, the release of these names will be a step towards closure, yet some may also struggle with reopened wounds. Many still seek answers about what happened to their loved ones. There are more names yet to be found and much work lies ahead to gather the names and stories of these lost children, and to honour their lives. For all who mourn the children named, and those who have yet to be named, I share in your mourning. We carry the weight of knowing our church was involved in running these schools and taking these children. I pray for the Creator's healing presence and comforting Spirit to be with all who mourn, and to guide our church in living out the Confession of the harm we caused by operating residential schools and our commitment to a journey of reconciliation.

Today is a day to bear pain in solidarity and to witness to the lives of the thousands of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children who never returned home from residential schools. As a denomination, we have committed to walk with Indigenous people towards healing and wholeness. Part of this journey to healing involves confronting the intergenerational cost of the residential school system on Indigenous communities. The release of the Missing Children Register is an invitation to remember and honour the children who attended the schools; those who survived, and those who did not. In this time of hearing difficult truth, I encourage all Presbyterians to pray together. Pray for the children, their families and their communities. With the knowledge that healing is still needed, I also encourage all of us to reflect on how we can contribute to furthering a path of healing and reconciliation.

May God help us all to walk gently and with compassion.

In peace,

The Rev. Amanda Currie
Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly

The Friendship Club

invites you to a
Valentine's Party
on Saturday, February 15, 2020

Where and When: The Kirk Hall at 12:00 and the Sanctuary at 3:00 (keep reading for more info!).

Why: It is Valentine's weekend and it's time to enjoy an afternoon of Fun and Friendship!

Cost: \$12 per person

What: Doors open at Kirk Hall at 12:00 - Lunch served at 12:30-1:30

1st Guest Speaker: 1:45 - 2:35 in the Kirk Hall
Our own Marie! Yes.....Major (Retired) Marie Ryan-Roberts will speak about the highlights of her 30-year career as an Army Logistics Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces.

2:40-2:55 Intermission and move to the Sanctuary for musical entertainment

2nd Guests: 3 - 4pm Musical Entertainment:
Magical and Musical Moments by Martin and Maribel and Friends

Yes!.....Our own Martin and Maribel!

This will be part of an Open Church, from 3 - 4pm, when the Sanctuary doors will be open and the outside community is invited to come in for the musical entertainment.

We are looking forward to a fun afternoon and hope you will join us.

How can **you** help? I will need table setters, table decorators, table hosts, servers, cookie makers, door greeters for the Open Church, and a clean-up crew. If you can lend Valentines decorations or any "appropriate" red items that can be used for decorations, it will all be greatly appreciated.

Tickets will be on sale from January until February 9th. Please talk to Dorothy, Bill or Nancy at Coffee Hour or phone us to book your spot or to offer ideas for help. Thank you!

Dorothy Reimer



Calling all teens on Vancouver Island

Ages 12-18

When: Saturday, January 18th at 2pm

Where: Splitsville Bowling Alley
171 Calder Rd, Nanaimo BC

What: Bowling, Pizza and fun

Cost: \$5

RSVP: ringmybellsmith@gmail.com by January 6th



Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the clean up after the Christmas Soup Lunch at the beginning of December. Dish washers, table clearers, table stackers and so much more. You all helped make light work of the clean up. Thank you.

In great appreciation from the
Congregational Life Committee

Yes, you might have seen and heard that double bass before...

If you thought that the double bass that you heard in an Advent service had a familiar sound to it, you were right! The instrument was born in Bohemia in 1900, immigrated to Canada when it was young, and was played by Julius "Duke" Nielsen for years as part of *Don Messer and the Islanders* – a Canadian folk music institution, if ever there was one! George Robinson bought the bass from Duke in 1977. As a recent arrival from the US, he had no idea of the heritage history of the instrument until people later asked him where he found such a lovely instrument. George then took it on the road for three years of touring with the *New Silver Tone Rangers* (during which time the bass only had two weeks off) and has played it ever since with a range of local bands, including *Odd Hack* (a word-play on *ad hoc*). Thanks to the passage of time, George has now played it longer than Duke – and at almost 120 years old, it is just entering its prime, and is still used to play jigs, reels, waltzes, and a range of other musical styles!



Foto from Nova Scotia Archives

Duke Nielsen, Charlie Chamberlain and Don Messer

And the piano in the sanctuary also has a story behind it: *Odd Hack* gathered around it weekly for over two decades until Dave Gartrell downsized and kindly donated it to St. Andrew's so that it would find a good home. The band appreciated the reunion with it at St. Andrew's, and the welcome they received in its new home!

Brian Titus

Bazaar 2019

The real success of the bazaar is the number of our folks and friends of St Andrew's who volunteer their time before, during, and after the event. Many hours are spent on this event, and the members of the broader community always respond in good numbers. The pictures in the last month's Link attest to that fact. In the final report, we realized \$968 from jewelry sales in March and \$9663 from sales on the actual November bazaar day for a total of \$10,631. Well done to all.

**David McLean
Jack Reimer**

December Friendship Luncheon

The setting was perfect: a crisp, clear and sunny December day at the Cordova Golf Club, where 40 of us were nicely settled in a beautifully decorated dining room, a glassed-in conservatory, over looking the clean cut grass and enthused golfers. Our dining room set up, decorated with Christmas decor, and with Christmas music playing, put us in the festive mood, as we were greeted with enthusiasm by the friendly staff at the Golf Club. We met some brand new friends, greeted past friends, all in the spirit of having a fun afternoon together for our Friendship Club.

A few introductions, thanks, grace and the enjoyment of a delicious buffet lunch was enjoyed by all. We could not have asked for a nicer afternoon. We played a few games and enjoyed chatting after the delicious desserts. All too soon we left, but the memories of a happy afternoon was the start of our Christmas season. We hope to do this or something similar again, in one year.

Thanks to all who came. We had exactly 40 people—the commitment we were required to meet in order to have the buffet luncheon. Thanks to Bill and Nancy Duke for their help and ideas.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Reimer

Christmas Pageant 2019





Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be
Sunday,
January 26.



St. Andrew's Children's Page

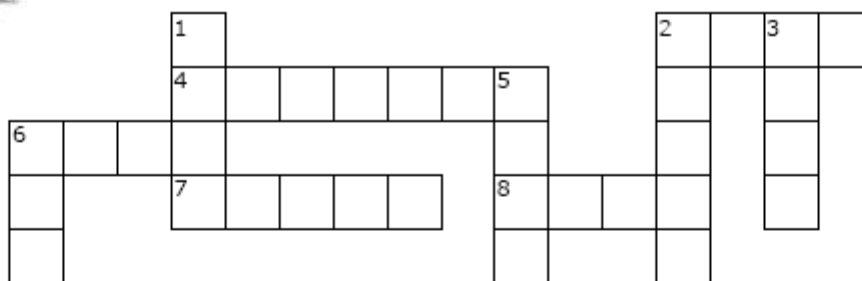
Bible Verse of the Month:

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matt. 2:11



The Visit of the Magi



ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

MAGI	BOW	STAR	GOLD	KING
GIFTS	EAST	BORN	MYRRH	INCENSE