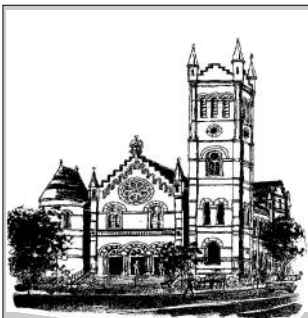


# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



May 2020

Birthday! 3

Breakfast in April 4

Whatcha Upto? 5

St. Andrew's Front Line 6-7

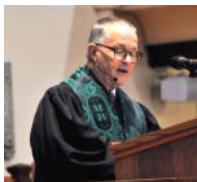
Medical Imaging 8

Sunday School 9

Puzzle 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



By the time you read this we will have been away from St. Andrew's for over 45 days. Seven Sundays have come and gone (including Good Friday and Easter) since we last worshipped in our Sanctuary. But, of course we have worshipped. We have prayed and sung. We have read scripture and participated in lighting and extinguishing candles. We have read meditations in our biweekly newsletter or have heard them delivered during our Sunday worship recorded for us. Session has continued to meet. Our elders have continued to make check in calls with their districts and some have even provided a recording of worship for those members not able to access them on their own.

We are learning that it is the people (each of us) that make up the church, whether we are gathered in our beautiful sanctuary or within our homes. Still, we miss one another. We miss telling stories about our week over a cup of tea or coffee. We miss meeting and greeting new friends from the States and the mainland. We miss showing the pictures of our grandchildren and sharing how our gardens are growing.

I wonder how you are spending your time in quarantine. I pray that you all remain well. I wonder how you are teaching yourself to cope in these difficult times. How are the grandchildren and great-grandchildren? Would you be willing to share your pictures or stories from your homes to ours that we might share with one another? Would you call and tell me how you are doing? Would you send pictures of your garden, your flowers or your grandchildren to my email address? [pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca) or 250-883-4132. I would love to hear from you.

Some of you are aware that I spend free time using a wood lathe and making fountain pens out of small pieces of wood that I purchase, pick up, or am given. My recent creations include a sketch pencil made from a pacific yew branch and pens from other varieties of wood.



It generally takes two days to turn the wood blank on the lathe, sand and polish the wood, apply stain and finish and install the pen kit inside the finished blank. It is truly a labour of love that I share with you as a hobby that is bringing great joy. What hobbies or joys will you be willing to share?

Blessings to all,  
Pastor Mitch

## Message from Session

Even though we are unable to meet together, we are the church, and the business and the busyness of the church continues.

This month elders participated in our first ever virtual session meeting. We met at the regular appointed hour of 7 pm. Rev. Mitch hosted the meeting and we were all present, even though one member was in Campbell River (there are certain benefits to an on-line meeting). It was good to 'see each other'. And see we did. We saw some carefully brushed hair, and fresh lipstick. One gentleman was sporting more facial hair than previously seen. We all appeared from different rooms: studies, kitchens, living rooms. One elder made a few trips to the kitchen for tasty snacks, someone else appeared to briefly take their leave and fetch a broom. Everyone was heard, and some chose, unlike children - to be heard and not seen!

However, joking aside, we had a productive meeting, well moderated by Rev. Coggin so that all had the opportunity to speak to the issues under discussion. We had a modified agenda; non-urgent business items have been postponed to another meeting.

Jack Reimer, Treasurer, presented an update on finances. There are concerns about ongoing financial support from the congregation while we are not meeting for worship. On average \$8-10,000 dollars per month is received in the weekly offering plate. We will have a better idea of the impact of not meeting together once the financial statement for the month of April is prepared.

Jack has been monitoring potential federal grants/loans which the church may be eligible for. At this time he has determined one loan that, as a religious/not-for-profit organization, we may be eligible for. He will apply for it and if we are eligible we could receive a loan for as much as \$40,000. If the loan is repaid within 2 years (by 2022) no interest is due and 25% of the loan will not need to be repaid - it will become a grant.

As with our sister churches on Vancouver Island, we will be receiving funds from Presbytery: a lump sum of \$10,000 plus the return of the Presbyterian Sharing dues that we have already paid for this year.

The church is exploring methods for on-line donations, which will become accessible through St. Andrew's website. More to follow about this.

We had a significant discussion about whether we will be able to host the monthly breakfast for those in need. A proposal was presented that addresses how a breakfast could safely be served while adhering to the guidelines outlined by the health professionals. St. Andrew's will serve a 'take out' breakfast on May 9th. Clear procedures for this month's breakfast will address the safety of both volunteers and participants. We want to demonstrate that the church has an ongoing concern for those less fortunate, many of whom have been coming to our breakfast for years. Following the breakfast, a report will be presented to session for discussion about how the church might continue this ministry in future months.

For the balance of the meeting we shared news from our districts. How are people faring? What are their needs? How can we support and pray for each other? Most people seem to be doing well and report that they are enjoying the worship materials from the church. We heard evidence of wonderful support and caring that is happening within the congregation. There are phone calls and emails, and 'across the driveway' conversations. We are aware that for some, due to a variety of circumstances and the enforced distancing, that they are feeling very isolated, sad and/or fearful. We are all the church. We can all reach out to the members of our church family.

Please continue to pray for each other and for your elders, as we pray for you. We encourage you to contact your elder and let him/her know what you need - or just to talk.

We know that we are not alone. Our world is currently very different from what we know, but God does not change. In these words taken from the hymn, with words by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (Christine sang this on Easter Sunday) we are reminded of God's faithfulness:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
 As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Keep safe and love one another.

**Colina Titus**  
 Session Clerk

# Happy Birthday



**Happy Birthday to Betty Cowper** pictured here seated beside her daughter, Robin. Betty turned 97 on April 27 - 'not bad for an old dame' as she likes to say.

Betty, who is a faithful member of St. Andrew's, barely missing a Sunday, is now confined to her apartment at Amica. Robin makes sure that she hears the message from Pastor Mitch and gets the readings and music via phone.

Happy Birthday, Betty, from all of us here at St. Andrew's. We can't wait to see you again sitting in your regular pew.

If you wish to donate to St. Andrew's via Canada Helps, please go to

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/>

Once on their home page, you can 'search' for 'St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria, BC' and you will then see where to donate. If you just search for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, you will get 167 options!

This is a prayer by Rev. Gerardo Oberman, Red Create, Argentina (World Council of Churches).

## A Psalm for This Time

The grace of God guides us,  
We don't lack and never will lack anything.  
He leads us to places of rest and care  
and to drink waters of trust.

He renews our strength  
so we do not abandon the path of solidarity  
because it is there, in our empathy with others  
where we honour His name.

Even though we pass through polluted streets  
and places of possible contagions  
we will not fear any danger  
because You, divine presence  
maintain the prudent distance between  
tenderness and respect,  
and that inspires us with serenity  
and confidence.

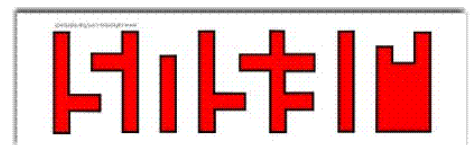
We will share the table again, and the  
banquet and the party  
before the astonished gaze of the empire of the viruses  
and of any empire that proposes death and exclusion.

We will fill our cups again until they overflow  
to toast for the new worlds,  
already stripped of their greed and their  
thirst for power,  
more aware of being family, people, humanity.

Surely your goodness and love,  
will follow us every hour of each journey  
until we know how to make this earth of yours  
a house in which we can all live,  
in our full and rich diversity  
with health, fullness, dignity  
bread, shelter, work and justice  
forever.

[www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/  
documents/covid-19](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/covid-19)

Submitted by  
**Dorothy Reimer**





## Saturday Morning Breakfast - April



fotosbydgarson



As with all that we do now, and for the future, we need to be sure that we are not putting ourselves at risk, or those we are trying to help.

**Sheelagh Garson**

In “normal” times, Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> would have seen a St. Andrew’s crew happily serving up delicious hot breakfasts to Victoria’s needy folks in our Kirk Hall.

However, in March our world changed, and Session decided that such an event was not possible to do in response to the new health guidelines.

Many of the folks who come to the breakfast attend each and every month. Many are not connected to social media information. They rely on word of mouth for information such as where to get a meal.

How then to ensure that if they came for their usual breakfast, they would not leave empty-handed and hungry?

It was decided that we could maintain our physical distancing but have ready to hand out bananas, coffee and muffins. People started coming by at the usual breakfast time and were very grateful that we were making the effort to help in this small way. The food was shared with about 30+ people and the leftovers were donated to the Mustard Seed for their distribution programs.

The breakfast crew will be looking at whether it is possible to distribute a more substantial breakfast in May and a proposal for that will be brought forward to Session.



## Whatcha Upto??

**D**uring this COVID-19 time, I have a lot more free time and occasionally wish to have some light devotional reading but am sometimes at a loss as to just what I want to read at the time and depending on the mood I am in. Perhaps you know what I mean.

Well, I found the answer! It was in my front closet and I found it while cleaning the cupboard. I was so pleasantly surprised to find a whole bag of Presbyterian Record magazines from many years past. I guess I had saved them, thinking that I would read them one day "when I had time". I had forgotten they were there. Many of you will recall those monthly magazines that we used to get from The Presbyterian Church in Canada which ceased publication in September 2016. I found that I never had a chance to finish reading all of them and did not want to throw them away, as they contained relevant information to our National Church and many issues that were being discussed during that day. I always loved the magazine and was sorry to get my last copy.

I was happy to see many familiar names which, I'm sure you will also recall: Andrew Faiz, David Harris, James Dickey, John Congram and many others who became familiar to all of us.

I always loved the letters to the Editor and now as I read them, I remember some of the heated discussions, which people wrote, as political issues found their way into our church news, such as: legalization of same-sex marriage, which became law in 2005, known as Bill C-38. Another issue of great discussion which carried on for years was MAID, Medical Assistance in Dying, which was enacted in 2016, known as Bill C-14, after going through many revisions. Many articles on Indian Residential schools were written, discussions on Quebec and even discussion of church bazaars. Remember when Women in Ministry was a topic for discussion, also, The Digital Age and missionary stories. History has brought us a long way. I feel that it is always interesting to look back and see where we

have come from and how decisions have shaped our present lives.

I have come to think that if this is of interest to some people, that perhaps when Covid-19 is all over, maybe we could form a discussion group which could meet one afternoon a month, to discuss some of the past issues and interesting articles. Would this be of interest to anyone? If so, please let me know.

**Dorothy Reimer**



photobydreimer

### **Puzzle to Waste some of Your Time, But Fun!**

Once I made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for the facts. For others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little old lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this little story.

Submitted by  
**Nancy Duke**



## Some of St. Andrew's Health Care Providers



**Mariki Jones, Christine van Rooyen,** and one of their friends painted 'Hope' on the wall in the ER where patients are brought in by ambulance.

We have all read in the newspapers or seen on TV the various outpourings of appreciation for health care workers all over the world. Whether it was people singing from their balconies in Italy, or a procession of emergency vehicles doing a drive-by with lights and sirens at hospitals, or people banging pots and pans at 7 pm – we all know that the world appreciates that they owe a great debt to the men and women who work tirelessly and at great personal risk to look after the COVID-19 patients in their care.

Since we can no longer worship together in person at St. Andrew's (but we can do so individually by video), there is no collective demonstrative way that we can show our appreciation to the various members of our own congregation who are fighting the fight against the pandemic and are risking their lives to keep us safe. The only means we have to show them and each other how much we appreciate their sacrifice is to show their photos in *The Link*.



**Lisa Jackson** in her Easter mask.



**Gavin Jones**, RJIH Medical Lead ER., listening to the nightly pot-banging thank-you.



**Debra Verwey**, Medical Imaging Tech.

St. Andrew's is blessed to have two excellent Emergency Room doctors and their families in our congregation. Both **Gavin Jones** and **Hugo van Rooyen** are key players in the front line fight against this insidious virus. It is an added strain for these young doctors in that they both have young children at home.

Our own **Debbie Verwey** (one of *The Link's* editors) is a Medical Imaging technician at RJH and she performs her duties on a daily basis, coming in contact with COVID-19 patients who need medical imaging. In her role she provides the doctors with the information they need to perform their duties.

**Carolyn Johns**, daughter of Leona Johns (also a *Link* Editor) works as an Intensive Care nurse at Royal Jubilee. Her entire work day is spent caring for those who have contracted the corona virus and need specialized intensive care.

**Lisa Jackson**, daughter of Mark and Patti Jackson, works in a care home in Victoria and she is interacting with the most vulnerable section of society caring for the elderly patients who need her care and assistance.

We at St. Andrew's want to thank them from the bottom of our collective hearts for their sacrifice, bravery, and God-given talents that enables them to care for our loved ones.

If you know of others who you would like to recognize, please let us know.

**Fiona Ryneveld**



**Carolyn Johns**, RJH ICU nurse, wearing personal protective equipment, before helping intubate a COVID-19 patient.



**Hugo van Rooyen** on one of his shifts as an ER Doc.



## COVID-19 and Medical Imaging

Because Royal Jubilee Hospital is the official Covid-19 hospital for Greater Victoria, the volume of patients coming to Medical Imaging for X-rays has been halved in the past six weeks. We now receive about 90-100 patients a day instead of the usual 150-200 plus.

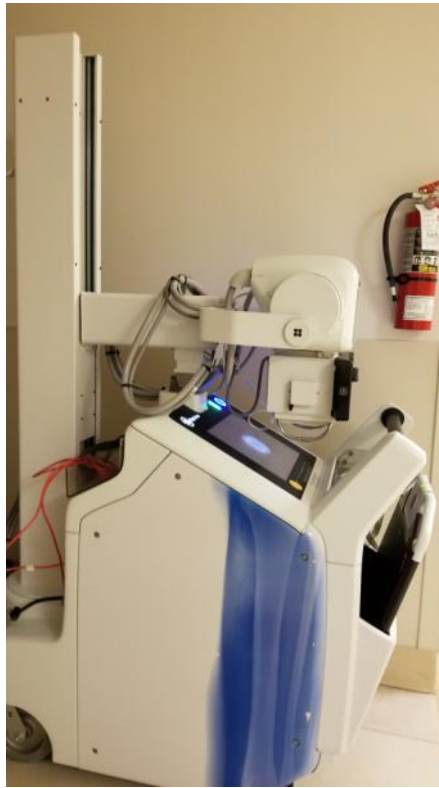
Several factors have affected the number of clients: cancellation of all non-urgent surgeries, very few scheduled out-patient appointments in fluoroscopy, no walk-in patients (These folks are directed to private clinics.), and fewer Emergency cases.

Another barrier to walk-in clients are the entry “ambassadors”, sometimes lovingly referred to as “gatekeepers” or “door Nazis”. Each person arriving at the hospital is quizzed by an ambassador about why he or she is appearing at the hospital, whether he or she has been travelling out of the country lately, and whether he or she has a fever, a cough or sore throat. If all your answers are satisfactory, then you must sanitize your hands with alcohol and then you may enter the inner sanctum.

What has increased substantially for the X-ray department is the number of portable examinations that we do. This is where we take a mobile x-ray machine to the bedside and image the patient right there. Usually only one technologist would do these images. But with so many presumptive or confirmed Covid-19 cases, two technologists are required to do each exam, either in the Emergency Department or on the wards.

One tech dons an assortment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes a bouffant bonnet (to cover the hair), a face mask with a protective plastic visor, a protective clothing gown and rubber gloves. This technologist takes the x-ray and cleans the portable machine with virucide wipes before doffing the PPE. The second technologist handles the paperwork, checks that the first tech has put on all PPE correctly and takes the exposed cassette (the image receptor) back to Medical Imaging for processing. If some of the required anatomy is not on the processed image, then this procedure has to be done again.

It is good to see how the community is going all out to help those in healthcare with the pandemic. Today, April 27<sup>th</sup>, we received a digital portable machine, on loan from Camosun College (from its radiography school). This machine is a great addition to our department. When an X-ray is taken using this portable, in about ten seconds the image appears on a screen on the machine. An assessment can be made right away to determine if the image is adequate for a diagnosis. If necessary, another X-ray can be obtained immediately. This special digital machine will be used for most of the Covid-19 cases in Emergency. Thank you, Camosun College!



The local community has stepped up in so many ways. I have received hairbands with buttons and mask connectors (devices which take the pressure of the elastics off the backs of your ears) made by local crafty persons and 3D-printer designers. Today we received a box full of goodies from local grocery stores and individuals. This community appreciation is very encouraging to everyone working directly with victims of Covid-19. It is good to know that we are all in this together and that we will all get through it together.

**Debra Verwey**



## Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be Sunday, May 31.





Two “Sunday School students” getting ready to sample resurrection cookies on Easter morning. The recipe for resurrection cookies was part of the Holy Week Sunday School lesson.

## Sunday School

The Sunday School teachers continue to send lessons out to the Sunday School students, who seem to be enjoying them. There have been a few children added to the roster as well. If you would like to see a sample lesson please contact Sabine and she will provide you with one (steetzel@telus.net).

One of the Sunday School lessons included a puzzle which is printed on the back page of The Link. See if you can figure it out!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Sabine Teetzel**

Check out this virtual rendition of ‘Hallelujah’ by students of Roedean School in South Africa.

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-03-30-watch--roedean-schools-virtual-rendition-of-hallelujah-will-give-you-goosies/>

Submitted by  
Joyce Nordwall

## SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

- 🌸 Find a yellow flower.
- 🌸 Find 3 different shaped leaves.
- 🌸 Find something that is red.
- 🌸 Find a spider web.
- 🌸 Find something that flies.
- 🌸 Name 2 things you see in the sky.
- 🌸 Find something that is long.
- 🌸 Find something that grows that is green.
- 🌸 Find 2 birds.
- 🌸 Find some water.
- 🌸 Find something purple.
- 🌸 Find something that crawls.



<https://primaryplayground.net/scavenger-hunts/>

Submitted by **Sheelagh Garson**



foto by breton

On a clear day..... on Dallas Road.

## St. Andrew's Children's Page

### Bible Verse of the Month:

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:4 (NIV)

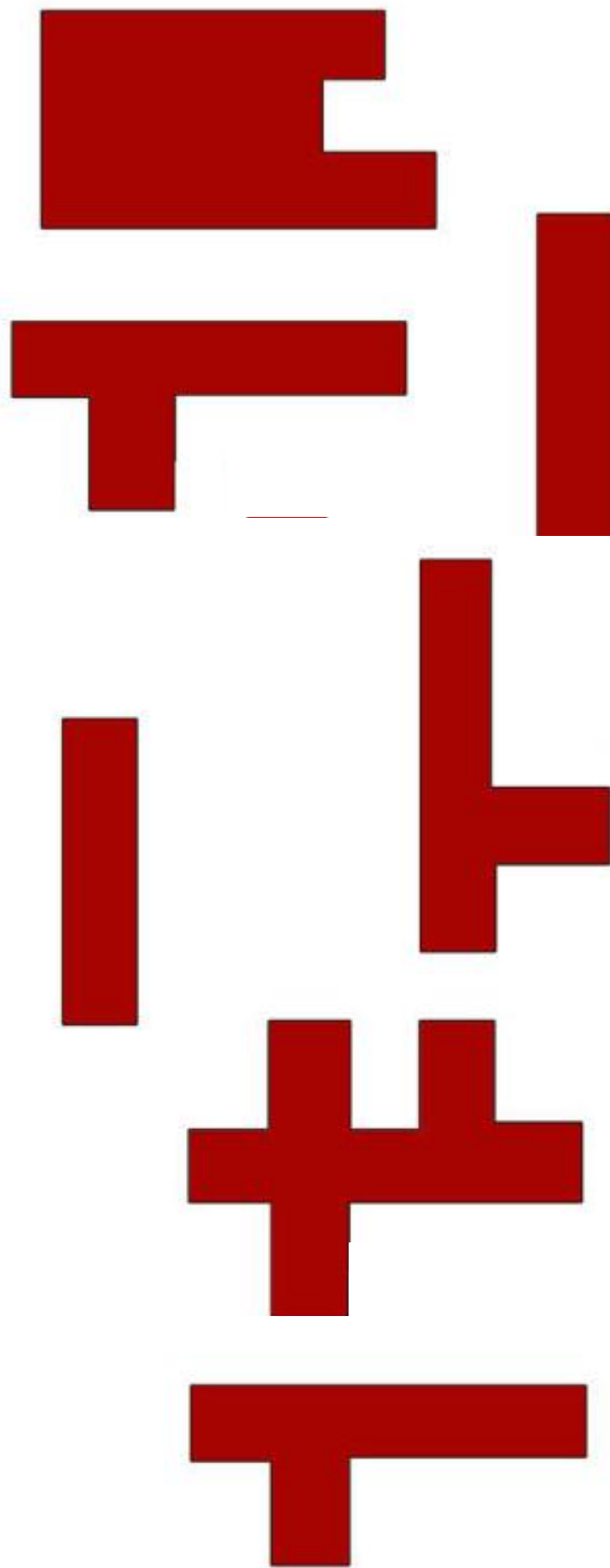


## The Day of Pentecost

### WORD SEARCH

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| H | R | J | C | I | W | D | F | B | E | Q | V | C | O | G |
| H | E | A | R | O | S | T | F | I | L | L | E | D | A | R |
| P | W | S | L | G | T | P | O | C | C | K | R | X | X | S |
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| F | A | H | T | I | M | L | E | U | Y | S | T | R | G | B |

|        |          |           |         |         |
|--------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| SPEAK  | LANGUAGE | PENTECOST | HEAVEN  | BLOWING |
| SOUND  | OTHER    | HOLY      | SPIRIT  | HEAR    |
| FILLED | WIND     | FIRE      | TONGUES | AMAZED  |



Cut out the red puzzle pieces on this page and lay them on the red line to form the name 'Jesus'.

(You will find the answer at the bottom of Page 3.)