

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



August 2020
(Extra Pandemic
Edition)

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Victoria, BC



Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is a Presbyterian minister (PC-USA) who is also an accomplished writer of relevant hymns often written hours after a world or global disaster. Her hymns speak to the depth of pain, dismay and grief and provide psalms of lament to say or to sing. Her most recent hymn was written soon after the outbreak of Covid-19 began to wreak death and destruction world-wide. Her hymn is titled

When We Face an Unknown Future. I hope it speaks to your own sense of wonderment about our present and immediate future:

When we face an unknown future that we can't imagine yet,
when the closeness we have treasured turns from blessing into threat —
As we miss our friends and loved ones, as we crave community,
may we look, God, in this season, for a whole new way to be.

Jesus faced the lonely desert as a time to look within.
There he met such trial and conflict; there he knew you were with him.
In this time of separation when we miss the life we've known,
may we hear your voice proclaiming: "I am here! You're not alone."

May we cherish those around us as we never have before.
May we think much less of profit; may we learn what matters more.
May we hear our neighbours' suffering; may we see our neighbours' pain.
May we learn new ways of offering life and health and hope again.

God, when illness comes to threaten, and when so much here goes wrong,
may we know this thing for certain — that your love is sure and strong.
You're beside us in our suffering — and when times are surely tough,
we may face an unknown future, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.

God's love is lived out through us – the family of faith that is St. Andrew's. Over the coming weeks, we will consider our reopening to live worship in our sanctuary and the implications for our future. Susan Beaumont, a consultant, coach and spiritual director recently wrote an article titled *10 Questions to Ask Now* published on The Presbyterian Church in Canada website. She explains, "*Liminal seasons are rich times, ripe for innovation and creativity. A threshold has opened. Our grasp on the past has loosened. The threshold invites us to let go of our fears and discomforts, along with some things that we hold dear. We are broken open to embrace new possibilities.*" Consider...

What Have We Lost? All significant transitions begin with an ending. Something must come to an end before we can explore a new beginning. There are subtle, but still painful losses associated with plans abandoned, dreams deferred, and the loss of control over our destiny.

What were we on the verge of discovering or accomplishing before the onset of the pandemic?

What needs to move forward in different ways now?

What was possible before that may not be possible for some time—if ever?

St. Andrew's Prayer Shawl Ministry

Whether they are referred to as prayer shawls, comfort shawls or healing shawls, this ministry was introduced into our congregation around 2004. The aim of the ministry is to knit shawls for those that are alone and perhaps lonely, undergoing or recovering from a medical procedure, in a care facility, homebound or otherwise in need of encouragement and comfort. A team of about 8 knitters was formed, knitting to a specific pattern and type of wool with over 40 shawls produced and given away. This went on for some 3 to 4 years by which time, the requests for prayer shawls ended and thus the ministry became dormant.

All this to say that during our ongoing coronavirus isolation, I started knitting again to pass the time and what was going to be



Alistair Grant feeling very happy to receive his prayer shawl.

one shawl, became about 8. These have since been provided to some in our congregation. I realized that, with the passage of time, there is a whole new group of people out there who would probably appreciate receiving one of these shawls. Indeed, some of the people that were knitters of the past, are now in a situation where they have gratefully become recipients of a shawl.

The shawls are meant to remind the recipients of God's love and faithful presence in their everyday lives, and to assure them that the Church and

community care and pray for all in need of prayer. Each provided shawl is accompanied by a written blessing. The "umbrella" committee for the resurrected prayer

shawl ministry is Congregational Life. At present, I have one other person who is knitting a shawl and so, if you are interested in knitting for this fledgling prayer shawl ministry or if you know of someone who might benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please let me know



These prayer shawls have all gone to good homes.

through an elder, the minister or by contacting me directly at 250-598-6861 or by email: mo1ra@shaw.ca. I have the pattern and instructions for the shawls. Specific wool is needed to allow some uniformity in the shawls. It is easy knitting. The idea is not to stress over "beautiful" knitting but rather, the shawl is to be warm and cozy – like a big hug.

Moira Bernard

Message from Session

Greetings friends:

It is usual for session to take a break during the months of July and August. However, this is not a normal year and session continues to meet via Zoom through the summer months.

Most of what was discussed at session is included in the two short articles: 'Elder Election' and 'Planning for Worship in the Sanctuary'.

On behalf of session I wish you a safe and healthy summer. Keep safe and know we are not alone in this challenging journey of 2020.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Colina Titus
Clerk of Session

(Continued from page 1)

What seemed important before, that feels superfluous now?

What Did We Assume? In a liminal season, many of our old assumptions no longer hold true. We need good questions to unfreeze some of our old assumptions and expand our consciousness.

What was undervalued before that may hold greater value now?

What mattered about geography before that no longer matters?

What margin or lack of margin was built into our old model of doing church?

What new abundance are we experiencing now?

Where are we experiencing scarcity now that was not evident before?

What Wants to Emerge? If we remain protective of the old status quo during the emergence process, our new order will look remarkably like the old normal—not much adaptation will occur. We can be led by the future itself into something fresh and exciting. We begin noticing what wants to emerge through us.

What is our greatest asset now?

What relationships will we need to build on or strengthen in the months ahead?

What long term changes in the bigger picture would we like to be part of bringing to fruition?

These questions are merely an invitation to pay exquisite attention—to notice why we are making the choices we make, and what wants to happen next. The dialogue that these questions provoke can make the difference between merely surviving this season and thriving in the next.

Rich Blessings,
Pastor Mitch

Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be
Sunday, August 30.

Elder Election at St. Andrew's Victoria

At the beginning of this year we began the process of electing new elders. The 3 candidates listed below have been nominated by at least two members of the congregation, vetted by the Session, met with Rev. Coggin (Transitional Minister) and Colina Titus (Session Clerk) and have agreed to stand as candidates for Eldership.

The names of the 3 candidates nominated for eldership at St Andrew's are:

**Patti Jackson
Jean Marcellus
David Smith**

Under normal circumstances, there would be a congregational meeting at which there would be an election of candidates for eldership. This year, due to exceptional circumstances, ballots will be distributed by email or surface mail (for those with no email) and responses can be made by email or regular mail. Please give this important election your prayerful consideration.

As per the Presbyterian Church Book of Forms, only members are eligible to participate in the vote for new elders.

How to vote: You will receive a ballot by email or, for those who do not have email, a copy will be included with your August Link.

Please contact your elder if you need any help with submitting your completed ballot.

Colina Titus,
Clerk of Session

A little Presbyterian humour from the Archives *The Presbyterian Witness*, July 30, 1910:

“John’s the most absent-minded man I ever saw.”

“Why, what’s he been doing now?”

“This morning he thought he’d left his watch at home and then proceeded to take it out of his pocket to see if he had time to go home and get it.”

Submitted by
David McLean

Music for St. Andrew's

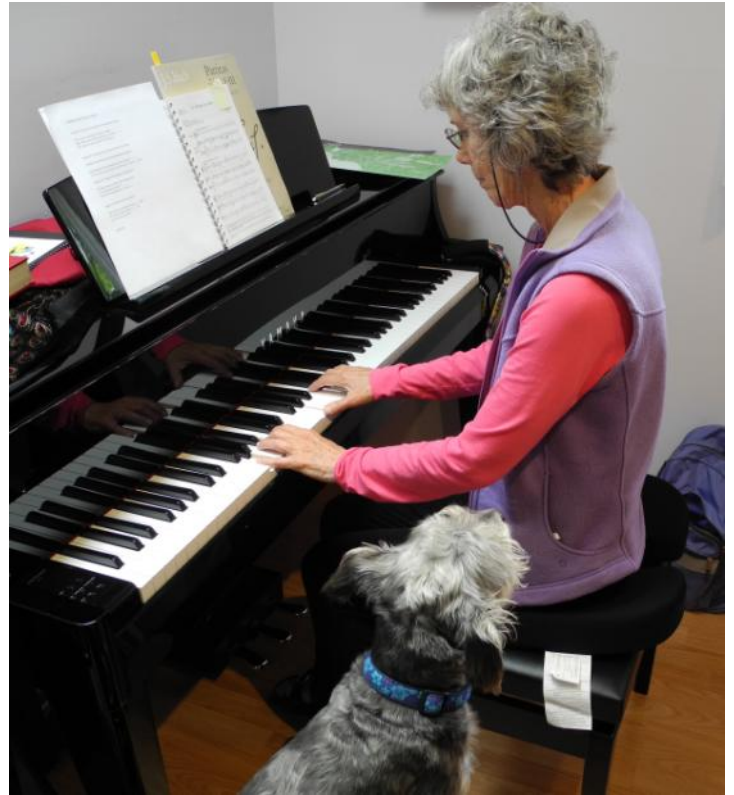
Was it only a few months ago that I was able to arrive nice and early at the church, do a warm-up practice with the choir and then happily play the service music I'd prepared for that Sunday? Didn't life seem so simple back then?

Then it was late February, 2020. I was shopping at Lifestyle Market and heard another customer mention he was stocking up for the pandemic. I shook my head at the silliness. Then suddenly, everything changed and the fellow didn't seem so crazy. For a while, finding toilet paper was like searching for the Holy Grail and there were line-ups in front of grocery stores that looked like the kind of thing you'd see for the opening of a new Star Wars movie or big rock concert. Once inside I'd be faced with gaping holes in the shelves where I used to find the gluten free flours and other necessities I need. Social distancing, isolation became the norm and 'mask or no mask' was the hot topic of conversation – if you had anyone to talk to anymore.

All this pandemic pandemonium has had quite a profound effect on everybody – not to mention those preparing music for services. How to do a Sunday service with the church closed and social distancing in force? If you're in the younger set, the words 'on-line' don't strike the same terror in your heart as those born long before computers became a household item.

I will confess that I've used a computer for some years in a rather dabbling way. My children managed to show me enough to do basic email, banking and Google searches – even if I had to endure a lot of eye rolling at my constant mistakes. If I was going to prepare music for an on-line setting, I had to learn more computer skills than I ever imagined. After three months of trying, it's becoming a little easier, but if I look thinner and more frazzled these days, it's not just because of my hip surgery.

The 'delightful' on-line process of music making begins, as it always has, with choosing hymns to go with the themes and scriptures. I only need to choose three hymns for each week – one for TWASA and two for Sunday, giving some thought to how many verses to include and which ones. After that I plan out other music: preludes, meditative pieces and postludes. When I can, I like to choose these pieces with the hymn tunes



in mind – a lovely postlude that's based on the tune of one of the hymns is often just the thing to end a service. As nimble as my fingers are, all these pieces require a great deal of practice so that they flow in a performance. I personally find it an advantage to choose the music about a month in advance so I have adequate time for practice.

Once the pieces are chosen and practiced, it comes time to record. Perhaps you have thoughts of recording studios with sound-proofed rooms, numberless expensive microphones, acres of wires and mixing boards with more knobs and buttons than the command post on the Starship Enterprise. In these places sound engineers can mix the sounds from different sources, fix wrong notes, correct intonation, make things play faster or slower and a multitude of other amazing things that make you wonder if they actually need the musician. Of course they also cost hundreds of dollars an hour to use.

So, that's not quite an option. I do some recording here in the church sanctuary where the sound-proofing consists of luck and a few signs on the doors that say 'RECORDING IN PROGRESS'. At home I have my little music room and the sound proofing is...

Well, there's a husband and Max, our schnauzer cross dog. I'm not sure who can create the most noise but I'm sure they start competing with each other whenever I start recording. So, I wait until they leave for a walk before attempting to record anything and hope the phone doesn't ring in the middle of things.

While Jerry provides some good microphones and mixing at the church, my home studio is equipped with the microphone built into my iPhone and a program (I call them 'apps' if I'm feeling modern) called 'Audio-recorder'. Brian can sometimes patch in a new ending if there's enough space in the music to make a cut.

Since I hate having mistakes in the recording, it can take two, three or more times through a piece before I get one that's acceptable. I don't have the luxury of a sound technician that can fix a wrong note or any of those other cute things. If I mess up, I record the whole thing again. Once that is done I send them from my phone to my computer by email – that takes another app, by the way. That way if I drop my phone or lose it, I haven't lost the recording. From the computer I play them through my iPad connected to small Bose speakers – that took some learning and a few purchases. When I have the recording I like, I file it for use later.

The process for hymns and anthems is slightly different from a straight instrumental piece. If I am recording a hymn myself I play them on my piano at home and sing along. It's quite tricky to play the piano part, sing the melody and remember all the words. It might take quite a few run-throughs to get all the words and notes right. When our delightful choral scholar Emma provides some hymns or music, she does basically the same thing although Emily, another talented choral scholar, is able to record multiple lines and put them together, something that causes me to sin... yes, it's called envy.

When you hear Susie and Adam singing, it's after I record the piano part and send it to them. They record themselves as they sing along and send the result back to me. Some hymns and anthems are recorded at the church with Kilmeny, Brian, and Susie. Jerry does the sound recording. We set up mics at least 6 feet apart and check before we start recording. Jerry records and sends our best take to me in an email. Any other musicians you hear playing for us have recorded themselves and emailed me their recording.

Now comes the time to upload the music onto a program called 'Slack'. Yes, I had to learn another program to do this. It's a handy program as it also allows Mitch, Whitney, Martin and I to communicate on-line as a group. So the music gets uploaded a week before broadcast so to give Whitney time to put it all together and add all those wonderful, lovely pictures with the music.

That's how I am able to sleep in on Sunday morning and still provide music. This way I get to sit and listen to the lovely service with all the parts – mellow and relaxed. This feeling is good for about five minutes after the service finishes. Then I'm back thinking about choosing, recording etc. the music for the following week.

Christine Purvis

St. Andrew's says farewell but not goodbye to **Marie Ryan-Roberts**, who left for her previous home-city of Ottawa on July 27th. While with us,



Marie sang in the choir, helped organize recitals, and was a familiar and welcome presence at many church events. We thank you for your contribution to the life of the congregation, Marie, and will miss you! Our prayers and thoughts are with you in this next phase of your life's journey, and we look forward to welcoming you back again when you are next in Victoria!

Planning for Worship in the Sanctuary

Day by day, as they (the faithful members of the early church) spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people (Acts 2:46, 47).

When we gather in person in worship, we eat, drink and sing together. We long to see and greet one another face to face, and to reach out for the bread, the wine, and to praise God in song.

Physical distancing and other public health directives have interrupted our ability to meet for worship in the sanctuary. While we long for it to be safe for us to come together in the sanctuary, session is taking the time to carefully develop and implement re-opening plans that are appropriate to the unique context of St. Andrew's here in Victoria. A 'sanctuary worship group' is taking the lead in research and planning, seeking what is best for the St. Andrew's community.

St. Andrew's will gather in the sanctuary only when we are able to ensure a climate of safety. Being faithful to Christ means taking steps to protect the vulnerable in ways that are caring and that do not put people at further risk.

As session engages in this planning, we seek to be transparent and to follow health directives. We have a responsibility to evaluate the risks of public worship, and mitigate risks through careful planning.

Who will be returning to worship in the sanctuary?

We understand that some of our church family are ready and eager to return to sanctuary worship as soon as possible. Others, for a variety of reasons may choose to stay away at this time. Everyone should choose to continue to worship in whatever manner they feel comfortable. There is no pressure to attend. We encourage anyone with a cough, cold or otherwise feeling unwell, to refrain from attending.

What to expect

- The earliest date for the first gathering for worship in the sanctuary is Sunday 30 August.
- St. Andrew's will continue to post an online worship service, even when there is a service in the sanctuary. In lieu of the current virtual service, the sanctuary service will be distributed electronically (method to be determined).
- There will be only one service each week, the service

will be about 30 minutes in length and format will be very similar to the current online service.

- Participant numbers will be capped at 50 (including minister, organist and ushers).
- Reservations made through the office (further details nearer the opening date).
- A list will be taken of people who were present for worship for contact tracing and follow-up.
- Sadly, there will be no coffee hour.

How will we maintain safe physical distance?

- Entry will be through the centre front door (Douglas Street).
- Exit will be through side front doors.
- An usher will take person/people to a seat. You cannot go to 'your seat'.
- Allocated seats will be 6 feet apart, other than for family members worshipping together.
- Participants will be guided by the ushers to exit row by row.
- Only those requiring the ramp will enter and exit by the Broughton Street door.
- Everyone will be prompted to leave the sanctuary and not mingle following the service.
- The balcony will be closed.

Safety measures

- There will be no congregational singing.
- Wearing of masks will be compulsory.
- All hymnbooks and Bibles will be removed from the pews.
- The offering plate will not be passed (method of taking the collection to be determined).
- Sanitizer and wipes will be available at all entrances and washrooms.
- Washrooms will be cleaned prior to the service and will be monitored by an usher throughout the service to ensure social distance and wiping of door handles.
- All high-touch surfaces will be cleaned.

What we don't know yet?

Sunday school -

- We value the young people of our Sunday school. Planning and research is under way to see how we can safely provide a program for them. Throughout the

pandemic, Sunday school staff have been distributing weekly lessons and activities.

- Childcare and church school can resume only after permission has been granted by health authorities and when congregations can meet directives to reduce risks.

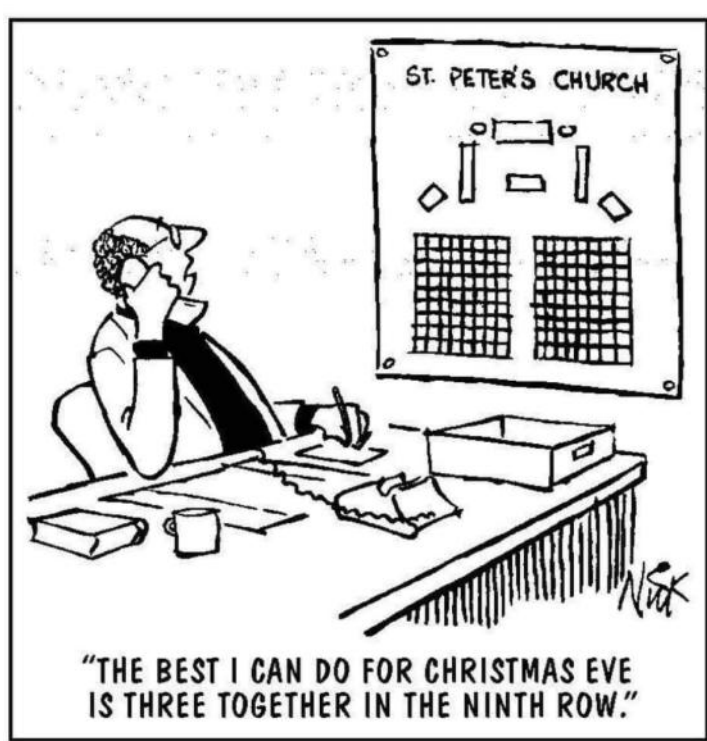
Communion -

- How will we safely break bread together? This needs further research.

What next?

- Plans will change as we learn more from the experience of other churches and as local directives change.
- We will continue to modify plans as BC progresses through different phases of re-opening.
- We will continue to seek input from the congregation and will send out further updates as plans become firmer.

We miss you all!
Keep well,
Colina Titus,
Session Clerk



Treasurer's Report – July 2020

The Treasurer's perspective... it's the summer of 2020, a year proving to be challenging in many ways. But keeping that in mind, I am pleased to see the financial support from you, the congregation, stayed relatively strong.

I last reported in May that there had not been a noticeable decline in financial support, but I have to report that was not the case in June as giving declined for that month. However, we have and continue to be able to meet all our financial obligations and that is due to the generous support from all of you. And so, for that, thank you to all. Your financial support will allow us to reopen our facilities and restart programs while adhering to the pro forma as prescribed by our Provincial health authorities. On that front... stay tuned as the fall of this year will undoubtedly be more encouraging than the last 6 months.

Between myself and Leona Johns, we are able to stay on top of day to day financial matters. As we move into the fall I will be preparing a budget and will work with the committees to try and anticipate how 2021 may play out. The Bazaar has always been a community highlight and provided substantial financial returns, but I suspect that may have to be put aside for this year.

Take some time to enjoy the wonderful summer weather and 'free time' we all have on our hands, as I expect that come the fall, we will have increasing opportunities to re-engage in the congregational life of St. Andrew's.

Sincerely
J. E. Reimer
Treasurer

Frontline Workers, Vancouver Symphony and
Dan Mangan Cover The Beatles'
"All You Need Is Love"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03h3MioJLa4&fbclid=IwAR33Ga2XQ0l6bf7nfOu6vOb96aX00f2kD1XA9VMiDZJPugPoUrPpk1LHUcA>

A Morning Walk in London



The last time I was in London was in the year 2008. I suspected that this might be my final visit to Britain and for that reason it was important to me. My time in the

great city was short but enough to enable me to wander inside Westminster Abbey again. So much of Britain's history seems to me centered right there and I wanted to spend some time absorbing it once more.

I found out at the hotel that the Abbey was within walking distance so I prepared for a day of sight seeing on foot with my first stop at the historic place of worship. It was an interesting walk especially to see the early morning activities of people setting up stalls loaded with fruit of many types and colours. This was obviously a residential area. Suddenly, I became aware of a small dingy looking church building ahead. I would pass by it but somehow my plan changed. As I approached it I saw a young Anglican priest in conversation with a man standing on the sidewalk near an open door. For a minute I hesitated then walked straight into the church. I did not expect to find anything of great beauty in there but what I did find was quite exciting to someone from Victoria.

On a side table not far from the entrance were stacks of leaflets – one of which is in front of me as I write – and the usual box for donations. As I read this leaflet I could not believe that I had found this church known as St. Stephen's on Rochester Row that had been financed by Angela Burdett-Coutts and consecrated in 1850. At that time she was a well-known philanthropist and grand-daughter and heiress of the banker, Thomas Coutts. She had built this church as a memorial to her father, Sir Francis Burdett, MP for Westminster. In what had been a slum area she also donated to an almshouse for poor elderly people and a school, still extant, called Burdett-Coutts. For her many charitable works Queen Victoria created the title of Baroness and awarded it to her in 1871. She was also interested in helping local citizens to emigrate to British Columbia a brand new colony. In much of this work she was assisted by her friend, Charles Dickens, whose writings show his compassion for the poor citizens of the nation's capital.

Reading the information contained in the leaflet, I realized the dirty appearance of the church was caused by the many years of coal burning in the poor homes and that the exterior of the church was built of a sandstone known for its difficulty to clean. The interior stone was from Caen in Normandy and suitable for the fine carvings seen in the interior. I must admit I did not spend time admiring the interior because I had other plans and, in addition, there were no lights burning that morning.

When the young parson came back into the church I tried to involve him in conversation but he must have had other things to do as he dashed up the aisle and disappeared. I had found my visit worth while and knew that Burdett Avenue in Victoria would always bring back some memories. I think there is a moral here that I will leave to the reader.

Stella Higgins

Hi Everyone at St. Andrew's!



We have been following the news regarding travel between the US and Canada. Regretfully, non-essential travels are still restricted and the closure is extended up to August 21 and perhaps beyond. As a result, we will not be able to go back to Victoria in the near future. We have been ready and excited to go back since last April, unfortunately,

however, we have had to postpone our travel plans. Anyway, we have been thinking of you all and are still hoping we'll see you again some time in the future. We miss you all, indeed. The time we spent in Victoria has been pleasant and memorable.

Our shelter-in-place routine has been very uneventful, being hunkered down at home most of the time. We do try our best to fill our time with "stuff". Kevin still does his part-time job consulting at the Stanford School of Medicine (remotely) and does some tinkering at home with household chores as well. I, on the other hand, keep myself entertained/busy relearning and practicing my new electronic accordion (still figuring out the many features of the instrument — it is a whole band by itself that can switch sounds into different

(Continued on page 12)

Whatcha Upto??

Arthur and I have just returned from 16 days of RVing on Vancouver Island. We were grateful to get away given the travel restrictions that were in place earlier in the year, due to COVID19. Our four-part trip took us to French Beach, Miracle Beach, Telegraph Cove and Courtenay/Comox.

One of the highlights for us was a visit to Sayward and Kelsey Bay. My parents, Don & Rita Dickson, had their first home there, after they were married. Dad worked for Salmon River Logging after WWII as a mechanic and a steam donkey operator. The steam engine was mounted on a wooden sledge and was used to move logs around.



There is a steam donkey at the entrance to Sayward. It was so exciting for me to be standing on the equipment that my Dad operated and repaired, and to try and place myself where he might have stood. Later, we watched Kelsey Bay's current logging operation with fascination – the moving around, sorting and eventual releasing of the logs into the water to become part of a log boom.

Furthering my excitement at visiting these two villages, was discovering a poem written by my Aunt Ruth Dickson, on the Information Board. Aunt Ruth and her husband, Uncle George (my Dad's youngest brother), already lived in Sayward when my parents married and

Mum & Dad lived with them for two months before Dad got his own cabin at the logging camp.

Aunt Ruth is a very well-known artist and writer in the Cowichan and Comox Valleys. She is now 101 years young. While in Comox, we were able to take her to a park for a physically distanced visit.

Ruth's last painting, at 98, was of Johnstone Strait, where Sayward is located. She painted this from her memories of living there many decades before. That painting now hangs in our home. However it means so much more after having been able to spend a few days exploring the Strait! Johnstone Strait is a 110 km (68 mi) channel along the NE coast of Vancouver Island.

Another highlight of our trip was visiting Dr. John Allan and his wife, Marjorie. John, is a past minister of St. Andrew's, Victoria. He and Marjorie are moving shortly to the Fraser Valley to be closer to family. They leave feeling very blessed from their Island experiences, and look forward to the next chapter of their lives. Arthur did ask John if he was packing a Bible, and John's response was, "... I've packed a couple!"



Submitted by
Jean Marcellus

Whatcha Upto??



My friends, Rob and Gertrude Oldfield, invited me to a pot luck dinner and musical entertainment on their barge, which is located at the end of their wharf at the foot of their garden on Prospect Lake.

The lake is just 2 miles from me. It was a very warm day with a cloudless sky, a lovely sunset and new moon. I thought you would like to see some photos I took.

Joyce Nordwall

fotosbynordwall



Barges listening to the band at sunset



Congratulations!

Elizabeth Gichimu, one of our elders, recently became a Canadian Citizen. She has now been recognized for her contribution to our province and country.

Elizabeth received a nomination for the BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Award. Although Elizabeth did not receive an award, all 45 nominees were recognized for fostering inclusiveness and anti-racism efforts in BC.

Premier John Horgan, speaking at the awards ceremony said, "The exceptional citizens being recognized today are role models for us all."

Anne Kang, Minister of Citizens' Services said: "It is a great pleasure to honour British Columbians who are champions in promoting multiculturalism and fighting racism in their communities. Each of the nominees are incredible role models and I commend them for their valuable contributions toward building a kind, welcoming and inclusive province."

Elizabeth, we are proud to have you in our congregation and as a citizen of Canada.

Whatcha Upto??



Martin and **Maribel** visited **Dorothy** after her bike accident. They came all the way across the city, bringing a beautiful 'Get Well' cake and we had a delightful afternoon tea party! Their visit was so appreciated. Dorothy is doing well and is appreciative of all the love and support, phone calls and emails, cards, gifts, and visits she has received from her church family after her bike accident on June 23.



Since the closure of our regular Sunday worship services, I have walked from my home in James Bay up to the church, just to verify that it was still there. Recently there were some diversion on the Sunday walk.

My normal route takes me under the Coho Terminal building and around the lower causeway. On the Sunday in question, I arrived on the lower causeway just as the harbour ferry ballet was beginning. I had never seen this event mostly because it begins at 10:30, the same time as our church service. I attempt not to be late for church but beside that, I am normally coming from Christ Church Cathedral where I enjoy hearing the bell ringing.

After the water ballet, I continued to Broughton Street to the front of the church (which, incidentally, was still there). I was aiming for one of the benches at the front of the church. As I sat down, I noticed a police car, but no police. Soon I noticed a fire truck coming down Douglas Street and then parking right in front of the church. Shortly after, a couple arrived and seemed to be protecting a box on the sidewalk. The box had lots of bees buzzing around. Before long, a lady and one of the firemen were getting dressed in beekeepers' suits. Both of them got into the 'cherry picker' and up they went nearly to the top of the tree at the corner of the church and proceeded to put a swarm of bees into the box. After a few snips of branches, down they came with a box full of bees. There was no evidence that anyone got stung. Very few passers by paid any attention although I did see Jerry Verwey. I suppose the whole operation took about half an hour. And so I continued back to James Bay by way of the rose garden at The Empress and the upper causeway along Belleville Street.



By the way, the 'welcome to Victoria' planted in red begonias, in the Inner Harbour, is worth taking a look.

And so went my Sunday walk to church.

George Smith

PS Some churches have bats in their belfries, but St. Andrew's has bees in its trees!

Property Committee

Hello friends:

The current signs on either side of the main entrance at the front of the church are in poor condition and literally falling apart. The sign at the corner under the bell tower is in poor shape as well and is very awkward to access. None of these signs were built to suit today's standard for poster or document sizes. The existing signs are not weatherproof, resulting in deterioration of the contents over time. The Property Committee is looking at removing these signs from the building and erecting one larger sign in the front garden under the bell tower. This proposal has been vetted by City Hall and falls within the sign regulations for the front of the church.



The new sign would be built on a concrete pad under the window at the base of the bell tower. The cornerstone from the previous church would be mounted on this new concrete base. The sign posts would be 6x6 fir or cedar. A pair of 2x8 joists would be attached to the top of the posts. The signs on the left and right are each capable of holding up to a dozen letter size posters or notices. These signs are sealed, weatherproof units which will protect the contents from the elements. Lighting could be added to draw attention to the signs after dark. The sign in the middle is the same one currently mounted to the right of the front entrance. It would be removed from the building and moved to the new structure as shown. Another option would be to include/recognize information about the historical and heritage aspects of our church and its location.

Please keep in mind that this is a draft proposal only and nothing is cast in stone yet. We'd love to hear your thoughts on this.

Submitted by **Dave Garson**
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instruments!). We take walks in our neighborhood, wearing masks and social distancing. There were only a couple of times when we tried to go to the beach in our RV (there was a time when we were on phase 2 but this was rescinded recently) but we ended up having the picnic inside the van to avoid exposing ourselves to people! The other time we drove up to a state park in one of the hills close by, thinking that there won't be many people. We were wrong! We had to wait to be able to park — people were thinking the same thing as we were! Now, we're content to add to our "repertoire" of activities playing board games and watching TV shows.

I enjoy reading the Link newsletter, keeping us updated with what's going on in St. Andrew's. It makes us feel as if we're there. Congratulations to Bill and Nancy on the new addition to their "brood" of grandchildren! Colina must be having a grand time gardening with the amount of weeds she's gathered for compost! And Mitch, Jim and Dirk are enjoying bonding on the course! Must have a lot of problems solved in between holes. Kudos to Whitney for the Sunday worship "production"; it is a tedious and challenging job. Sunday's worship service is always done well without a hitch in continuity. And Mitch's homily is always so encouraging and inspiring. I appreciate all the things you do to serve. Regards to all! Take care and stay safe and well! Let's pray for peace and that this pandemic will be over soon!

Peace,
Sonja Krave

St. Andrew's Children's Page

