

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



**September
2020**

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Victoria, BC



The best restaurant while in college (that actually served more than greasy, fast food) was a cafeteria in the middle of the shopping district. A favourite place for retired couples and church groups following Sunday worship, Luby's Cafeteria became an unusual weekly stop for a growing college contingent. Most were enamoured with the pies that the Luby's bakery staff lovingly baked each morning before sunrise. Throughout the day, peach, apple, cherry and rhubarb pies topped off the meals that patrons enjoyed.

Unfortunately, the baker retired and the cafeteria decided to hire a 2nd chef to oversee the night and weekend menus, consequently the baked items became less of a feature. The college crowd drifted away and found their way to other eating establishments elsewhere in town. The new evening chef created a new menu rich with lower calorie and heart healthy ingredients. Soon the large number of senior adults that often dined during the evening meal were no longer stopping in for anything except lunch.

Menu is a critical component that matches the likes and dislikes, needs and interests of a diverse population. My personal favourite for an evening meal at Luby's had been liver and onions with a baked potato and a house salad. These items were no longer valued by the evening chef and soon ceased to be carried even on the lunch menu. If I had not learned to love the weekly salmon and vegetarian lasagna, I might have found my way to another restaurant as well.

Soon St. Andrew's will again be able to enjoy worship in our beautiful sanctuary. The worship will look, sound and feel different than ever before. Great care has gone into the consideration of the safest method of getting the required number of persons into and out of the building. Much research has been done to learn the best practices of congregations that have re-engaged in live-person worship. Some meet on their front lawn in chairs adequately spaced. Some listen to the worship service from an FM radio station on their car radio. Some use singers that are masked and standing a careful distance apart while other churches are using multiple singers tightly grouped in less than safe distances singing without masks.

St. Andrew's will exhibit safety precautions that will carefully distance the 50 or less in attendance. It is a critical component to match likes and dislikes, needs and interests of a diverse population, so will it be as we engage in worship at St. Andrew's. It will also be an important factor to space persons in the sanctuary so that we will be able to maintain safe distancing with the 50-person limit. This means that you may be sitting in a

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Message from Session

These are exceptional times and Session, contrary to our usual practice, has continued to meet throughout the summer via Zoom.

The majority of the August meeting was taken up with discussion about plans for in-person worship services in the sanctuary. An update was sent to the congregation, but in case you missed it, it can be found on page 4 in this month's *Link*.

Session takes seriously the responsibility to lead the congregation in these difficult times, making difficult decisions. We have spent much time researching and planning for worship both within the sanctuary and the continuation of a web-based service for those unable to attend worship in the sanctuary.

We all need each other, maybe even more so when we are unable to meet together. Session asks for your prayers as we seek to know God's plans for St Andrew's in the weeks and months ahead.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Keep safe.

Blessings,
Colina Titus
Clerk of Session

In Loving Memory



G. Douglas Hodgkinson - August 23

<https://www.mccallgardens.com/obituaries/george-douglas-hodgkinson>

(Continued from page 1)

different area from which you are normally used to sitting. The service will be brief and coffee hour will not be possible to navigate as long as we continue to need to not gather in large groups. Many of these new factors will feel uncomfortable and difficult to absorb.

The cafeteria crowd, at least the ones who were willing to try new menu items learned to love the tasty new options. Some even learned to favour the newer items more than the previous ones. To all who are not experiencing COVID symptoms, to those who have not traveled for 14 days and generally feel well and those willing to wear masks, join us again at St. Andrew's. Our worship menu may look and feel a bit different, but perhaps you will love the changes.

Blessings to all,
Pastor Mitch

Election of Elders DID YOU VOTE?

Your vote matters.

Session is keen to welcome the three nominated elders, but this cannot happen without approval from the congregation.

- At this time, although the response is positive, only 48 people have responded to the ballot that has been emailed twice and also sent to those who have no email.
- Election of elders requires approval from a **majority** of congregational members.
- If you are a member of the congregation and have not submitted your vote, please do so as soon as possible. This is important.

Please contact the church office if you need the ballot sent to you again office@standrewsvictoria.ca

Thank you.

In Case you Were Wondering...

One of the first things a person learns when they come to St Andrew's is that we have a "breakfast program for those in need" that happens on the second Saturday of every month. This outreach initiative was started in 1996 and has been continuous ever since.

One of the people who was with the program from the beginning, Don Clark, will be moving to Winnipeg at the end of August and we wish him well in his retirement and send our heartfelt thanks for his faithful service.

In this time of many changes it is good to recognize, with much thanks, the many folks who month to month come out faithfully to set up or serve breakfasts under the guidance of Annette. With a "crew" of up to 30 people, Annette and her husband, Ed, took on coordinating the breakfasts in 2005.

When something is done month to month it is easy to lose track of all that goes into accomplishing it. So here are a few stats to think about.

Since 2014 the following have been consumed:

More than - **54,000 pancakes**

More than -**15,000 cups of coffee**

More than -**11,000 muffins**

More than - **14,000 bananas**

all topped off with ham and glasses of juice

The changes due to COVID have created a new way to deliver breakfasts. A takeaway breakfast was created for distribution and as we move from summer into fall we will be assessing how we can best serve this ongoing need.

Sheelagh Garson

Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be
Sunday, September 27.



Evelyn Houston was the happy recipient of a healing shawl made by Moira Bernard. Evelyn is pictured here in her garden on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. She had recently fallen and chipped a bone in her wrist. Fortunately she is on the mend and is grateful for the ministry of the shawls.



Some church friends enjoying a socially-distant coffee get-together on a blustery day at Queen's Park in Oak Bay.

Dear Church Family,

This message will come as a disappointment and perhaps a frustration for those of you who had hoped to soon be gathering together for worship in the sanctuary. We had hoped that August 30 would have been the date of our first gathering. Sadly, we had to delay this date. The committee planning for our return to worship in the sanctuary have procedures and measures in place to keep everyone safe (see August *Link*). However, session has made the difficult decision to postpone the date of our first gathering.

We are committed to maintaining a weekly virtual worship service for those who are unable to join worship in the sanctuary. As Rev. Mitch said in his message earlier this week, we can expect that there will be more of our church family worshipping through the virtual service than those attending the in-person service. It is important that the service posted on the web continues to bring a weekly worshipful experience into the lives of those who cannot join us in the sanctuary. We have a team who put together the virtual service each week; as you have read, this takes many hours of work and it is not feasible to present two separate services; one live in the sanctuary and one for posting on the website. A group is continuing to work together to determine the technology and method by which the service in the sanctuary can be live-streamed and posted for viewing later in the week. St. Andrew's is all of us, we will not rush to meet in the sanctuary at the cost of those at home.

Although numbers of active cases of COVID on the island are low, there has been a recent increase in the number of active COVID cases in BC. We continue to maintain a cautious approach, taking seriously the responsibility for the safety of our congregation. We are not alone in choosing to be cautious. I refer you to the summary of what other local churches are doing (see below).

Timing is important; we want to be sure that we have all of the details in place, without too many ifs, buts or maybes, so that we can communicate with you in a timely manner for you to register for a seat in the sanctuary. Session will continue to send updates about plans for re-entry into sanctuary worship. Like each of you, we long to see you all face to face. Please continue to pray for Session in its decision making.

If you have concerns or questions, please talk with your elder.

Colina Titus,
Session Clerk

What other local churches are doing:

Presbyterian Churches:

Trinity, Campbell River - Live streaming only.

Comox Valley - Rev. Jenn Geddes, who after outdoor contact with a parishioner who is now being tested for COVID, depending on results may be in isolation for 2 weeks, and says "certainly makes me very cautious about opening up our building further".

St. Andrew's, Duncan - has been sharing recorded services with St. Columbia, Parksville.

St. Andrew's, Nanaimo - in-person worship and live streaming.

St. Columba, Parksville - re-opening is scheduled for Sept. 6. Should there be an escalation of COVID on the island this could be postponed.

Saanich Peninsula – in-person worship and live streaming.

Knox, Sooke - to be announced.

Chinese Presbyterian, Victoria - to be announced.

Knox, Victoria – earliest in-person worship mid-September. May switch from recording to live streaming.

Trinity, Victoria - very cautious approach is the key.

Other Victoria Congregations:

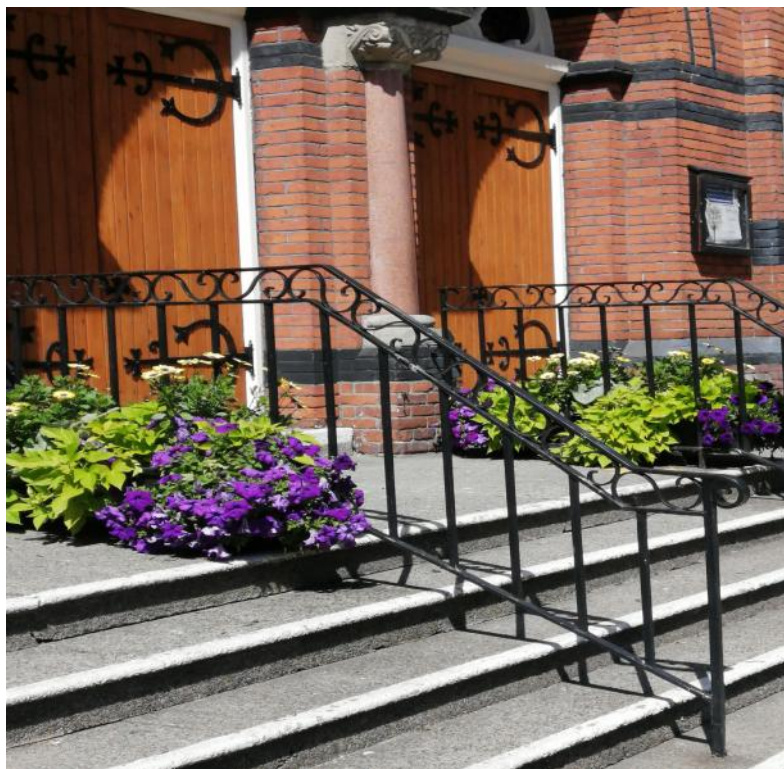
Calvary Baptist – live streaming only. No announced date for beginning.

Glad Tidings – live streaming only with no announced date for in-person worship.

Oak Bay United - live streaming only.

Christ Church Cathedral – began in-person worship July 12 and live streaming and posted website.

Church of Our Lord – in person worship commenced August 2. Continuing live stream Sunday services.



fotosbygrantshepard



Flowers at St. Andrew's!

Tech Time

Part of the “new now” is using new technologies. St. Andrew’s now has access to a varied suite of apps from Google, including:

[Integrated Gmail](#) NEW!

[File Storage and collaboration docs](#)

[Meet Videos](#)

[Google Classroom](#) and several others.

This will benefit [groups that work remotely](#).

Groups can:

- Hold video meetings and remote events with team members
- Give presentations to remote audiences
- Edit team documents in real time
- Store, share, and access team resources from anywhere in the world
- Broadcast the latest information to large groups or teams
- Simplify communication with a team mailing list
- Coordinate project plans and schedules
- Stay organized with team calendars
- Empower team members with project or team rooms
- Collect information from team members or customers.

Submitted by
Martin Perez



Coffee Hour Pre-Covid Time

Virtual Tour

As we cannot allow visitors/tourists into our sanctuary at this time, we would like to make a virtual tour of St. Andrew’s available on our website. Not only is this of interest to locals, it could be viewed by anyone - people who have moved away, or anyone who has ever attended St. Andrew’s on their travels.

Do you have any photos, anecdotes, or videos (eg stained glass windows, bell tower, the organ pipes, the organ, or the rebuilding of the front of the church, etc) you would like to share for this worthwhile project?

Please send them to:

tourproject@standrewsvictoria.ca

Ode to the Spell Checker

I halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And I can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased to no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

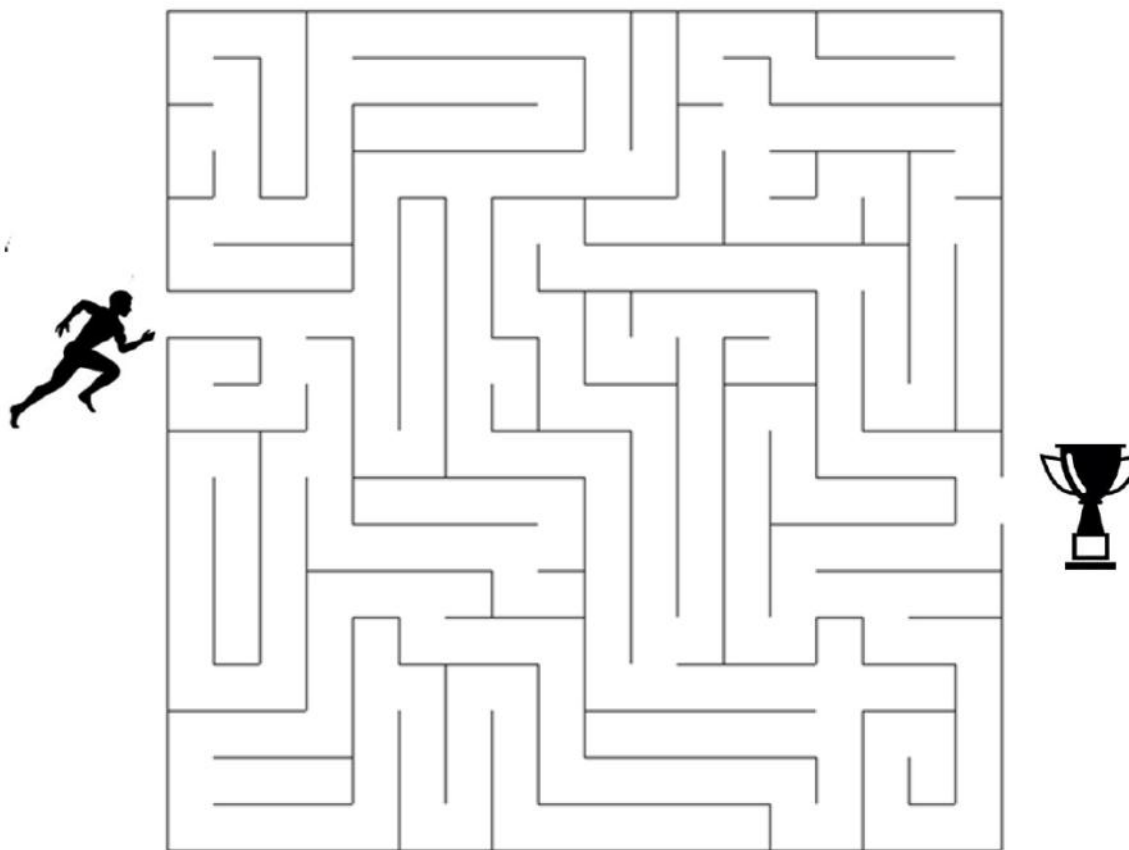
Anonymous

submitted by
Donna McKenzie

St. Andrew's Children's Page

REACHING TOWARD THE GOAL

Can you help the runner reach the goal?



But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13a-14(NIV)