

# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



October 2020

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Victoria, BC



**Transition.** The process of changing from one state to another. **Transitional** is the period designated in which the change happens. In music, a transition happens by moving from one key to another. Often there is a pause at some point within that transition. These last 7 months have certainly created a pause in the transitional process at St. Andrew's. The work has focused more on planning, preparing, recording and delivering worship services that have been different from any we may have encountered previously. The transitional process has not stopped. It has merely changed keys awaiting the end of the pause.

The transitional process at St. Andrew's has from the beginning been about giving us an opportunity to look deeply into the mirror and see who we are and how we function. Ultimately, we will emerge with a clearer vision of who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. If our focus solely concerns a day by day and week by week functioning, we will never be able to create the time and space to address the larger and most significant questions: What is our purpose as a congregation? How do we know if/when we are fulfilling that purpose?

Can you state the mission of St. Andrew's? It was on the cover of our bulletin as recently as last Fall. Do you know when and how it came to be? Most significantly, do these words and promises continue to articulate Who we are as a congregation and What is God calling us to do and to be? Our stated mission has been ...

### Our Mission

We are a Christ-centred community of faith open to all. Our purpose is to glorify God through worship, to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Gospel, and to reach out to others with God's love. St. Andrew's responds to the command of Christ to love one another by: glorifying God in spiritually uplifting Worship accessible to all, proclaiming the Gospel through an active education program for all ages, serving those in need, and providing leadership in our community and the Church at large.

How will we come to identify our current and future mission? How do each of us at St. Andrew's engage in discovering Why we exist and Who we are called to serve? **This is the most critical period in my work with you before a permanent pastor can be called!**

### Transitional Ministry Support Team

I will be forming a Transitional Ministry Support Team that will begin engaging in conversations about our current and future mission. This is the critical work of strategic planning, mission focus and determining the Why of that mission. This is a group of 5-6 persons dedicated to looking deeply at ourselves – past, present and future.

How will others be involved in the transitional work yet ahead?

Key questions for discussion and conversation will be sent via *The Link* and This

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## Message from Session

Session continues to meet for our monthly meetings on Zoom; it still seems a strange way to meet and we miss seeing each other face to face.

By the time that you read this, we will have had the first worship service in the sanctuary. We continue to work on the process of livestreaming these services so that those not able to be present can join in the worship at the same time. It is a steep learning curve. Session engaged in discussion about the progress of live-streaming and agreed to seek an assessment of our needs from a company, *All Streamed Up* who are also working with Trinity Presbyterian Church. The company will help us to determine what we need and how to set up a system so that we will have the ability to livestream our services for the foreseeable future. The plan is to create a system that will serve us well for at least the next five years.

Thank you to everyone who completed a ballot for the election of the three new elders. We are pleased to be able to proceed to the next stage - the service of ordination. We are grateful to Jean, Patti and David for being willing to accept this calling to the important work of eldership. Please pray for each one of them, that God will prepare them for his work of leadership at St. Andrew's. As a session we look forward to working together with the new elders. We discussed how we would welcome them. In addition to making an effort to get to know them and helping them to understand the role of an elder, each new elder will be paired with an active elder as a mentor.

Pastor Coggin led us in a discussion about the period of transition that we are currently in, and presented us with some questions for consideration prior to our next session meeting. They are questions that everyone in the congregation may wish to think about:

- What is the purpose of this transitional phase in the history of St. Andrew's?

- What is the goal of transitional ministry at St. Andrew's?
- What have we accomplished in these two years to work toward this transition?
- What still needs to be accomplished to "complete" this transition?
- How has/will COVID alter the mission of our church in the immediate and distant future?

Pastor Coggin has plans for a variety of small group and book studies to help determine the answers to these questions and to determine the mission for St. Andrew's for the next five years. What are the congregation's goals? The answer to this question will determine the type of pastor that we will be searching for. This is critical work for everyone to take part in.

These are indeed strange times for everyone, but we are assured that God has a plan for St. Andrew's.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

**Colina Titus**  
Clerk of Session



*(Continued from page 1)*

Week at St. Andrew's so that smaller groups (pairs, book groups, women's groups, etc) may dialogue in natural gatherings around kitchen tables, coffee houses, etc and provide their answers to the questions generated about our past and present mission.

The work of transition belongs to all of us. I welcome your questions and your input.

Blessings,  
**Pastor Mitch**

## Report from Presbytery

Vancouver Island Presbytery met by Zoom on September 22. I am happy to report that, just as we at St. Andrew's continue to support each other in this strange time, all the other churches in our presbytery have found ways to continue to support their church communities also.

As I reported last time, Rev. Bell has begun his ministry in Sooke. St. Andrew's Duncan is without a minister but, with the help of their Interim Moderator and the congregation as a whole, they have continued worship.

The other Island churches have been sharing ideas, expertise and possible solutions. All of our churches are grateful to presbytery for their monetary support during the Covid pandemic.

Presbytery has now confirmed a second commitment to assist churches on the Island. They will assist with the cost of upgrading and expanding the individual capabilities to produce online services. As you know, we at St. Andrew's, have been attempting to move forward in this regard and this financial assistance will help enormously in what we are able to accomplish. Assessments have begun at St. Andrew's and we look forward to opportunities to not only improve equipment, but also to gain new technical skills. If you have an interest in learning more about how we can accomplish livestreaming and all that goes along with it, talk to Mitch.

The UVic chaplaincy program is trying to adapt to the new reality of students attending online classes. This is particularly difficult for first-year students and the chaplaincy is working on how to help them.

Presbytery dues were forgiven last year and we will hear more on that for 2021 at our November meeting. Harvey Walker has been presbytery treasurer for the past 12 years and is retiring - a replacement is being sought. Harvey was thanked for his long service.

Camps have been booked for next year but if the restrictions on numbers remain in place in 2021 it may not make group camps workable.

Laura Kavanaugh is participating in "Ride for Refuge"

as part of Team PWS&D Victoria. The ride takes place on October 3 so if you would like to support her and this initiative to promote food security go to [ride.w-ith.me/LauraTodd](https://ride.w-ith.me/LauraTodd) or call her at Knox Church.

Many of you know Rev. Cathy Victor and on a sad note Cathy's mom died a short time ago. We ask for prayers of support for Cathy at this difficult time.

Presbytery has made adjustments to Rev. Coggin's contract as our Transitional Minister. The Covid pandemic has changed some of the parameters of his contract with Presbytery so the necessary adjustments were required to reflect the overall new reality of work in a pandemic.

Respectfully submitted  
**Sheelagh Garson,**  
Elder rep to Presbytery

### In Loving Memory



**Isabel Richardson**

**Lawrie Matheson**

**Rev. Tom Vais** (North York, ON)  
Intern at St. Andrew's Victoria in the 1980's

### Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be  
Sunday, October 25.

## A Tribute to Douglas



Douglas Hodgkinson was a musical treasure. He was our church organist, church choir director, our Gaelic choir director and a friend.

Bob approached him at St. Andrew's trying to entice him to become the director of The Victoria Gaelic Choir. After several meetings, Douglas

agreed with the promise from Bob that he would join the church choir. Bob did join and I followed. We loved our years with the church choir family and looked forward to our practices and to whatever Douglas had chosen for that session. Often he introduced a new piece which we all thought would need a month to prepare but, oh no, it was to be sung on Sunday. He worked hard for us and we worked hard for him.

Meanwhile our Gaelic Choir flourished under his leadership. Douglas understood the Scottish music so well but not the Gaelic language. He left that to our language instructor, a member from South Uist in the Hebrides. There were rehearsal nights when Douglas would arrive directly from the airport after a business trip to Montreal or Paris.

For the MOD (music festival) that our choir attended in Scotland, Douglas wrote the music for the piece of our own choice. We won!! Douglas was presented with the silver Director's Baton for best director and the choir received the awards for language and music.

While driving with Douglas from Gourock to Oban, where the MOD was being held, he amazed us with his knowledge of the countryside; the castles, the Munroes (mountains) which he had climbed as a youth. At his request we stopped at a lovely little church, St. Conan's, on the edge of Loch Awe. Douglas knew it well and therefore could tell us the history.

We in his choirs were so fortunate to have worked with him, learned from him while experiencing his subtle, quiet wit.

Thank you, Douglas.

**Bob & Anne Bell**

**D**ouglas had a quiet but strong influence on St. Andrew's during his 10 years with us as Director of Music. He continued as he began: when asked at the outset of his job interview, "Should we call you 'Doug' or 'Douglas'?", he memorably replied in his soft voice and with a twinkle in his eye, "I was christened 'Doug' but my friends all call me 'Douglas' ". (He had many friends at St. Andrew's: I never heard him referred to as "Doug".)

That sharp and under-stated wit was always a welcome part of interacting with a man who went to register as a first-year engineering student at Glasgow University, changed his mind on the spot, and returned home that day as a music student. He nurtured the choir, greatly raised the standard of choral music, played organ at a high standard – and would typically dash off after morning worship to fly across Canada to his "day job" in a senior post with the Council of Ministries of Education Canada. We benefited from his highly diplomatic, professional and insightful wisdom. We also benefited from his unique skill set during the organ rebuilding project, where his engineering and technical interests integrated with his experience and knowledge of pipe organs. It is hard to imagine the rebuilding of our organ and its conversion to a hybrid instrument without him.

His strong personal skills came to the forefront during a hard period in St. Andrew's life when we divided over internal conflict that resulted in the loss of both ministers. A non-judgemental leader, Douglas maintained a strong music program, and over time it became recognized that this continuity was a foundational "constant" in a time of flux that many found to be comforting, inspiring and a sign of hope for the future.

His 10 years with us passed too quickly, and came to a premature end once his Parkinson's progressed to a point where playing publicly was no longer possible. He was a remarkable individual who will be greatly missed but we have a constant reminder of him: "If you seek his memorial - listen to our organ". Our prayers and sympathy go out to his wife, Amanda, and his family.

**Brian Titus**

Chair of the Worship Committee at the time, choir member, member of the Organ Rebuilding Team.



**The Presbytery of Westminster** has written the following letter and requested that all member churches make our congregants aware of the rise of racism and hate crimes in BC and the rest of Canada and that we stand together against racism wherever and whenever we see it.

## **Anti-Asian Racial Violence in British Columbia and Across Canada**

### **Called to Speak and Act against Racism**

The Presbytery of Westminster recently adopted the following statement on Anti-Asian Racism in British Columbia and across Canada and agreed to circulate this statement to the congregations under our care and to share it more broadly with our national church.

In a recent statement from the Vancouver School of Theology we find these words.

*"We are alarmed at anti-Asian violence in communities across Canada and the United States. Created in God's image and actively loved by God, we must respect, welcome, include and love all people without partiality. Racism has no place in our community, and we renounce and turn from it as followers of Jesus and as people who are called to love our neighbours and care for the common good. We know we are not immune to racism."*

Living Faith, one of the Subordinate Standards of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, states, *"God's justice is seen when we deal fairly with each other and strive to change customs and practices that oppress and enslave others. Justice involves protecting the rights of others. It protests against everything that destroys human dignity."*

These faith-based statements are a call to Presbyterians and all Christians to speak and act against racism wherever it rears its head.

In only the first four months of the year the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) reported 20 such hate crimes. On May 22, CBC news reported that the number of anti-Asian hate crimes in the GVRD had risen to 29. In all of 2019, there were 12. Many additional incidents go unreported, according to Carol Liao at the CBC.

This increase of racist incidents is part of a recent trend in Canada. Lee-Young reports that between April 23 and May 18, 2020, an online poll received reports of 128 anti-Asian racist attacks and micro-aggressions across Canada (87% in BC) including verbal harassment, physical attacks, and vandalism. As a result, long time Asian Canadians living in Vancouver "fear going out for dread of being attacked."

These attacks are motivated by the entirely erroneous belief that the COVID19 virus is carried by all Chinese or Asian people. A poll by the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice found that 14% of respondents in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal either believed this (4%) or were uncertain it was not true (10%). Research has shown most COVID19 infection spread to Canada from the USA.

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This “shadow pandemic of anti-Asian racism” is part of a long history of anti-Asian racism that has been endemic in Vancouver since the 19th Century. The “Chinese Head Tax” required Chinese immigrants to pay a huge entry fee when they arrived in Canada that was not applied to European immigrants. Chinese citizens (and all “non-whites”) were deprived of the right to vote in 1871 by an act of the BC legislature. In Vancouver, Nanaimo and Kamloops, Chinese residents were confined to ghettos on the outskirts of the towns. In West Vancouver, persons of Chinese and Asian ancestry were forbidden by legal covenant to own property in the British Properties neighbourhood. Even in death, Chinese burials were excluded from “white” cemetery areas. Racism against Chinese immigrants extended to other Asian minorities. At the onset of World War II, Japanese Canadians, two thirds of whom had been born in Canada, were forced into concentration camps in the Interior, and their property was seized, never to be returned.

Presbyterians themselves historically participated in the anti-Asian racism in Vancouver. For example, Vancouver’s Anti-Asian riots of 1907 were led by the Anti-Asiatic League, presided over by the Rev. John Fraser, minister of First Presbyterian (now United) Church.

Today, because of peoples’ fears about the COVID19 epidemic, “the toxic echoes from the past resonate through the racial slurs of the present,” according to Fiona Lam. “People persist in seeing themselves as superior, and others as inferior, based on skin colour and ancestry.” Personal responsibility for racist attitudes is deflected by finding scapegoats to blame.

This current trend to demonize Asian Canadians is especially unacceptable because, according to Wikipedia, there are almost as many Asian Canadians (43.9%) as European Canadians (48.6%) comprising the population of the GVRD. This is racism directed by one minority against another. Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale, warns that if Vancouverites do not confront these racist acts, it will encourage others to embrace what may have been latent biases “as though they are *righteous*.”

Anne Kang, MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake, and Minister of Citizen’s Services, said, “Hatred will thrive whenever we fail to denounce it... Government on our own will not be able to end racism but people standing up together will.” Apathy, and turning away, has never alleviated racism. “Purposeful and concerted actions of many people are necessary to change the trajectories of our histories,” says Liao, who adds that “the resurgent racism has made my belonging here feel conditional.”

John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, stated recently that “hate has no place in British Columbia.” He observes correctly that “We are a strong and vibrant community because of [our] diversity... I’m grateful to see citizens standing up to racism when they see it. We need to do that with increasing regularity.”

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The Community Engagement Committee of the Presbytery recommends that the Presbytery of Westminster stand up against resurgent Canadian racism on behalf of the 43.9% of Vancouver citizens who are Asian Canadians.

The Presbytery of Westminster condemns all racist attacks - verbal, physical, and acts of vandalism - against Asian-Canadians.

The Presbytery of Westminster requests that all member churches make this report known to their members by having it read out during services and/or including it in newsletters and other means of communication and encouraging all Presbyterians to stand against racism wherever and whenever they see it.

The Presbytery of Westminster will share this report, and its condemnation of anti-Asian racist acts, to all presbyteries within the denomination with the recommendation that they join in the stand against resurgent Canadian racism.

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## Additional worship materials.....

Do you enjoy the children's time in the worship service? Sometimes those words spoken to the children can speak to us just as powerfully as the sermon.

Sadly, at this time there will be no children's story due to the shortened worship service.

Each and every week our Sunday school families receive a lesson: a Bible reading, prayers and some 'wondering' questions together with an activity. This is an 'all ages' resource and adults as well as children and young people will find the materials worshipful.

Would you like to receive the weekly lesson for yourself?

Do you know children (of your friends, family or neighbours) who might be interested in receiving the weekly lesson?

Please email Whitney at [office@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:office@standrewsvictoria.ca) and she will have you added to the email list for the weekly Sunday school materials.

## Whatcha Upto??



### Bev Keeps Busy!

**Bev Higgins** has been busy 'preserving' during these COVID times. And she likes to preserve things that her family enjoys and one of those things is salsa. A neighbour recently gave Bev some fresh zucchini from her garden. While wondering what exactly she would make with the produce, Bev's sister phoned and told her about this new Zucchini Salsa recipe that she had found. Well it seemed like Bev had found her answer. It almost seemed providential. Two batches later, Bev had salsa to share with her whole family as well as her neighbours. The recipe includes zucchini, tomatoes and hot peppers but if you want to make your own salsa preserves we are sure that Bev would share her recipe.



## St. Andrew's First Virtual Christmas Bazaar needs your Help



Did you know that there is a committee at St. Andrew's that is planning a virtual Christmas Bazaar?

Aiming for the third weekend in November, the group visualizes a virtual tea and a virtual silent auction (using [32auctions.com](https://www.32auctions.com)). Gift baskets of Anne Lambie's wonderful jams and jellies, along with other goodies will be available for home delivery. Special orders of egg salad sandwiches may also be brought to your door. Do you have any other good ideas?

Virtual bazaar committee chairperson, David McLean, is looking for some *real* volunteers to help make the bazaar happen.



Most needed are:

- ❖ A co-ordinator for the silent auction
- ❖ A co-ordinator for home deliveries
- ❖ A co-ordinator for the tea



If you are available and willing to help, please contact **David McLean** at 250-598-4432.

### COVID 19 Protocols

Session has taken seriously the responsibility to make worship in the sanctuary as safe as possible. There has been much communication, but maybe you still have questions.

If so, please refer to the protocols posted in the Narthex and also available on the website, or speak with your elder

**Colina Titus,**  
Session Clerk

## Hello from Crofton

Arthur and I had the pleasure of visiting with Rev. David Stewart and his lovely wife, Carol, on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at their home in Crofton. We socially distanced ourselves outside on their balcony, drinking tea and enjoying David's favourite dessert - lemon meringue pie. We guessed well!

David and Carol asked to be remembered to you all and we are pleased to report how well David is feeling and looking following his recent surgery.

David was quick to explain that one of his greatest blessings was having Carol at his side using her skills as a retired nurse, and for being an unflappable advocate on his behalf.

Blessings and love to you both, Carol and David, from St. Andrew's Victoria.

Submitted by  
**Jean Marcellus**



The following members of the congregation are celebrating milestone birthdays this month.

Celebrate with:

**Oct. 11 - Lucy Stewart - 90**

**Oct. 14 - Don Barwise - 90**

**Oct. 17 - Stella Higgins - 98**

If you know of someone who would like to have their birthday recognized in *The Link*, please let the editors know ([thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca)).

Our Church Family has lost a devoted and valued member this week.

**Betsy Lawrie Matheson** (Auld), died peacefully on September 24th, 2020, with family at her side. She was 87.

Born in Carlisle, Scotland, to Sarah and Alexander Auld, she enjoyed a childhood with three sisters and a love of learning. After completing her Science Degree at the University of Glasgow, Lawrie sought a life of adventure. She joined the army reserves and, later, she embarked on a journey to Canada without knowing where it would take her. She made her way to Ottawa where she found work at the National Research Council. There she met a tall, dark, and gangly man who would later become her beloved husband of 42 years, Alastair Matheson. They were married at Knox Presbyterian Church, Ottawa in 1959.



Continuing their adventure, they moved to Baltimore for two years, after which they settled back in Ottawa to raise their two daughters, Sally and Ellen. Lawrie and her family became an integral part of the St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa family. Their home in the Glebe was filled with family, friends, and colleagues, and was a focal point in the community.

Lawrie loved Ottawa but was delighted when, in 1977, the opportunity came to relocate to Victoria for Al's work. She always said she was lucky to have lived in the two most beautiful cities in Canada. She, along with Al, became active members of St. Andrew's. As a devoted member of the church, Lawrie was an Elder for many years and a valued member of many committees and initiatives. Even during difficult times within the church, her belief in the strength of St. Andrew's kept her dedicated and faithful. Her faith was deeply embedded in all aspects of her life. Lawrie cherished her friends at St. Andrew's and the many dinner parties and luncheons she hosted for them were filled with laughter and joy.

Moving to Victoria gave Lawrie the opportunity to explore her passions for water colour painting, Japanese culture and art, sewing, travel, and languages. Through Al's academic connections around the world, their home in Victoria continued to be a hub of activity and hospitality. Lawrie and Al's parties were legendary; she was never happier than when their home was full of guests and laughter.

In 1990, Lawrie's daughters were married in what became known as 'The Summer of Writing Cheques'.

Sally married Frank Balazs in July at a lively beach front service at Shawnigan Lake and Ellen married Charles Kierulf two weeks later in St Andrew's sanctuary. Both were presided over by Rev. Dr. John Allen.

When her four grandchildren arrived Lawrie was presented with the most joyous time of her life. She was a fabulous Gran to Nicholas, Emma, Alastair and Gavin, and revelled in water fights,

painting lessons, Sunday night concerts, and baking sessions with the kids. Ellen and Charles' sons Alastair and Gavin grew up in the St. Andrew's family and loved every minute of being part of the church community.

After Al's passing, Lawrie embarked on annual vacations with the whole family. She will be remembered especially for enduring every ride in Disneyland, her penchant for Tequila Tours in Mexico, and for enjoying a good cigar on the upper deck with the boys.

She left us with her generosity, sense of humour, and wit intact.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, no funeral service will be planned. The family did, however, hold an online celebration where we raised a martini *tae oor Bets*.

"Here's tae us ...."

**Ellen, Charles, Alastair, & Gavin Kierulf  
Sally, Frank, Nicholas, & Emma Balazs**

## St. Andrew's Children's Page



### Clean Hands ~ Clean Heart

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" Mark 7:5 (NIV)

Based on Mark 7:1-7, 14-15, 21-23 (NIV)

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

HEARTS  
TEACHERS  
DISCIPLES

FOOD  
RULES  
UNCLEAN

HONOR  
EATING  
HANDS

HYPOCRITES  
PHARISEES  
LAW

WORSHIP  
WASH  
LIPS