

# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



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Victoria, BC



Advent 2020 is less than a month away! When you read this, we will only be 28 days from celebrating the First Sunday of Advent. I think we all know Advent will look, feel and sound differently this year than before. As dark as this year has been, the assurance is the same as always, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* John's gospel will remind us that while our year has been dark, the Advent hope is anything but.

Advent worship will undoubtedly incorporate many of the changes we have learned to live with of late. Worship registration and physical distancing must not dim the Advent message of hope and peace. Many of the usual St. Andrew's Christmas events will still be a part of our celebration, but dressed a bit differently this year:

**Christmas Carol Sing:** While we cannot physically accommodate over 200 persons singing their Christmas favourites, we will still host The Miracle of Christmas Music on Tuesday, December 15 and Thursday, December 17 with violin, piano, organ, and poetry reading from 12:00 to 12:45 pm with limits of 50 at each service.

**Blue Christmas** on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 PM will be a quiet, meditative service of lamentations and hope, to give place and create a healing ritual for our grief and sadness.

**Advent Bible Study** offered virtually for the four Monday evenings of Advent: November 30, December, 7, 14 and 21 at 7:00 pm. Order your book on Amazon and join us on Zoom each Monday for our book study from:

### Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study

In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann tackles the questions: "What were these expectations?" and "Did Jesus fulfill them?" In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles—Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. *Names for the Messiah* ponders each title and how the people understood it then. How Jesus did or did not fulfill the title will be one of the questions we ask in our study.

**Our work of transition continues.** As you meet and talk in small groups and as family clusters, I ask you to consider the St. Andrew's mission statement:

### 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 does this statement continue to articulate who we are as a congregation and what God is calling us to do and to be, in the present and future? I would welcome your answers.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mitch

## Message from Session

It was with great pleasure that Session welcomed three new elders: Jean Marcellus, Patti Jackson and David Smith. We value the gifts that they bring to the leadership of St Andrew's.

A generous donor has kindly provided funds to engage Cox Development to prepare a proposal exploring and recommending some possible development options for the Kirk Hall site. The assessment by Cox will examine the potential to re-develop the Kirk Hall site, providing valuable information to the congregation as we proceed through this time of transition. There will be no conditions in place subsequent to the review that Cox will undertake. The existing property redevelopment committee (David McLean, Jim Ferguson, Jack Reimer and Charles Kierulf-architect) will meet with Cox Development to discuss the report once it is complete.

Monthly recitals are scheduled to be held in the sanctuary beginning November 18. Jean Marcellus will lead the recitals committee. As with worship services in the sanctuary, there are many details to work out in order to be compliant with the provincial guidelines and to keep everyone safe.

Live-streaming a worship service is much more involved than many of us may have realized. Discussions continue with professionals, who are providing us with quotes in preparation for us acquiring the technology, equipment and training to enable us to share a quality live broadcast of the service in the sanctuary. Do we want a Mini or a Rolls Royce? What we need now and still accommodate our needs over the next few years? Research continues to answer these questions and determine how to proceed. This will involve a sizeable financial outlay and due diligence is required.

As we have spent the last seven months at a distance from each other, we have all realized how important communication is. There is information, news, messages from Pastor Coggin and a variety of worship materials that are shared on a regular basis. Together we have made a good start but now need to continue to develop communication platforms that are more efficient and effective than those currently in place; another learning curve! Jean Marcellus will chair the communication committee; the initial members are Leona Johns (The Link), Martin Perez (webmaster), Whitney Hannah (church administrator). There will be

opportunities for others to join in this important work of communication.

A submission is being made to the BC Government for funding. If the application is successful, 100% of the funds would be used to re-point the brickwork on the bell tower. This is important work on our church building.

Pastor Coggin presented some topics for discussion as we move ahead with our transition. These are some questions that we hope to be able to discuss with the congregation:

- Who are we as a congregation?
- Who is our neighbour?
- Who/What are we called to be and to do?

Our website uses the following heading: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church "Belong, Believe, Become".

- What is the origin of this heading and how does it define St. Andrew's? Does it still articulate who we are?
- What is God calling us to do and to be?  
Our Mission states: 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.
- What are the specific ways the St. Andrew's mission is described in this statement?
- How is the mission statement no longer descriptive of our mission?

These are important questions for everyone in the St. Andrew's family. Please take time to think on these questions as together we all consider and pray about where God is leading the congregation of St. Andrew's.

As we continue together in our journey as a church family, let us remember:

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end. Psalm 48: 14

**Colina Titus**  
Clerk of Session



## REMEMBRANCE 2020

On May 8 this year we remembered the end of hostilities in Europe in WW2. From the perilous days of June 6, 1944 onwards the success of the return to the European continent lay in the hands of the Allied soldiers. Both the naval and air forces played important and hazardous roles in supporting the ground activity but it was the soldiers who fought and slogged their way forward from the beaches toward the enemy's heartland. Although fierce fighting was still taking place in Asia it was the European conflict that was top priority at this time.

Among the soldiers fighting in Europe were men from Vancouver Island members of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) based in Victoria. The 1<sup>st</sup> battalion was mobilized for active service on May 26, 1940 and embarked for the United Kingdom on August 25, 1941. One member of the regiment posed a bit of a problem ...how to get Wallace, the mascot St. Bernard dog, to travel with them. The dog had been part of the regiment since 1939 and was about to embark on a long journey once he could be smuggled on board the ship transporting the regiment. This was accomplished easily with the help of some chloroform. He was to have a new home with the Royal Scots in Edinburgh while the regiment trained for the invasion and subsequent fighting on European soil. On June 6, 1944, with the sound of the bagpipes encouraging the soldiers on they rushed from the assault craft on to the beaches of Normandy. This is what the men had volunteered and trained for and they performed well getting advanced six miles inland on the first day further than any others in the area.

It took almost a year of hard won successes and some failures before the exhausted enemy conceded victory.

Peace in Europe brought jubilation but also sadness to the families who had lost loved ones. Attention now had to turn to Asia. In secret, scientists had developed a new and deadly weapon; on August 6, 1945 the first atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima with the second falling on Nagasaki three days later. World War 2 was over.

On January 6, 1946 with Wallace and his handler leading, the Canadian Scottish came home marching from the CPR dock with the pipes sounding once again through Victoria's streets. Absent were 394 men who never made it back home casualties in the service of their country.

On November 11 every year we should remember all the men and women who have served and given their lives so that we may live in peace.

**Stella Higgins**



Photo depicts headstone of Private E. Brandt, Canadian Scottish Regiment 10th of June 1944 - Age 27

Photo taken by S. Higgins

## Share the Joy of Christmas 2020

In spite of and because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will continue with its annual Share the Joy of Christmas campaign in December 2020.

We support the Christmas dinner at Our Place by providing 20 large turkeys. This event (December 23th) gives a Christmas meal to the working poor, the homeless and those far from home, creating a moment of warmth and love in the midst of a difficult time. Our congregation also provides gift bags for the 45 residents of Our Place, both men and women.

To continue this generous tradition, please think about how you can contribute to the **Share the Joy** campaign, which is sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee.

There are many ways that you can donate money to **Share the Joy**. Go to St. Andrew's, Victoria website: [standrewsvictoria.ca](http://standrewsvictoria.ca), and click the **Donate** tab at the top of the page. There you will find instructions to help you donate by **e-transfer** or by using the **Canada Helps** app to make a donation by credit card. Please indicate that your donation is for **Share the Joy**.

You can also donate via your church envelopes. Write "Share the Joy" on the line where you enter the amount of your donation. As you come into the narthex of the church off Douglas Street, there are white steel boxes marked **Offerings** where you can deposit your envelope. (The ushers are not collecting the offering during the Sunday service because of Covid-19 restrictions.)

To mail in your donation, send it to  
Treasurer, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,  
680 Courtney St, Victoria, BC V8W 1C1

If you have any questions about our Share the Joy of Christmas campaign, please call **Debra Verwey** at 250-383-1009 or **Brian Titus** at 250-382-2387.



## Rules, Rules, Rules!

The past few months we've adjusted to many rules that now seem like second nature—wear masks, wash your hands many times a day, use hand sanitizer, keep socially distant from each other, etc.

As we at St. Andrew's add new events or programs we need to be even more aware of making sure that we follow those basic rules and also adhere to a few additional ones.

Our "in person" services have started. The ushers and greeters are working to ensure that we continue to stay safe. Please remember that we all have to follow the health guidelines.

We are happy to welcome you at the doors and lead you to a seat. We then ask that you remain in that seat until it is time to exit, unless you have a specific task to perform for that service, or are using the washroom. We know that it is tempting to chat with someone that we may not have seen for weeks, but please do that outside either before, or after, the service.

Thanks for your help in keeping St. Andrew's safe!

**Ushering Team**

## IF

**If** you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills;

**If** you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains;

**If** you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles;

**If** you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it;

**If** you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time;

**If** you can overlook when people take things out on you;

When through no fault of your own, something goes wrong;

**If** you can take criticism and blame without resentment;

**If** you can face the world without lies and deceit;

**If** you can conquer tension without medical help;

**If** you can relax without liquor;

**If** you can sleep without the aid of drugs;

**THEN YOU ARE PROBABLY THE FAMILY DOG!**

Submitted by  
**Sabine Teetzel**



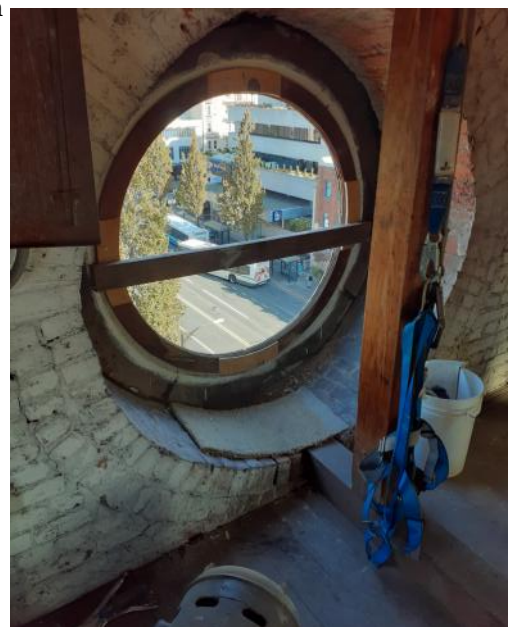


fotosbydgarson



Work is progressing on the four round “clock” windows up in the bell tower. Apparently many years ago, the original plan was to replace these windows with clock faces but that was never done. The 2019 Stained Glass Window Survey indicated these windows were in poor condition and at a high risk of failing. Each window had to be taken apart one piece at a time in order to remove it from the frame. The access hatch to the window level was not large enough to accommodate a complete window, so a work station was constructed at the window level and the work was completed on site. Normally windows are removed and taken to the glass studio for restoration. The restoration of these windows as well as the Dunsmuir windows earlier this year addresses many of the major problems found in the window survey. More work will be needed in the next few years to restore a number of other windows. Our thanks to Orillia Glass for their efforts and adaptability on this project. The pictures show Tom and Petrona working on one of the windows. They have made many trips up and down to the fourth level of the bell tower.

Property Committee, **Dave Garson**



## Ballet Victoria

Ballet Victoria is grateful to St Andrew's Presbyterian congregation and management for the use of Kirk Hall as our "Pandemic Playhouse". Following very strict Covid 19 protocol BV has been able to start its season with a series of "socially distant" live performances (with 30 audience members per show) and sell out. This lifeline is allowing BV a viable option to continue its work and keep its artists employed.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for this amazing support.

Sincerely,  
Paul Destrooper

Photos reprinted with permission from Ballet Victoria.







fotosbyjmarcellus

Our first Communion after returning to in-person worship in the Sanctuary - October 4, 2020.



fotosbyjmarcellus



Induction of Elders on  
October 11, 2020.

Patti Jackson, David Smith,  
Jean Marcellus with Rev. Mitch Coggin



### Registration

You need to be registered to attend worship in the sanctuary. If you arrive at the church door without having registered through the church office, you take the risk that 50 people are already registered and sadly you will have to go home.

### Ushers

Entry, exit and seating have been very carefully choreographed to maintain safe physical distance. Please respect the ushers and follow their guidance; taking and remaining in the seat they offer and exiting only when prompted to do so. These procedures are necessary to keep everyone safe and ignoring them puts others at unnecessary risk.



### Whatcha Upto??

Lucy Stewart, who turned 90 last month, went for a nostalgic skate with her family by her side. Lucy, shown in the small photo was an avid skater in her younger years. Looks like she had a lot of fun on her birthday!





## The Kellie Shand Memorial Award

Kellie Shand's legacy continues. This is the third year that the **Kellie Shand Memorial Award** has been presented to a staff member of the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre. The nominees are selected by the staff themselves and those nominated are chosen because they embody the characteristics and attributes of Kellie's life. The nominees show dedicated professionalism and unparalleled work ethic in the line of duty which emulates Kellie's reputation. They must also be a positive role model in their community and at VIRCC. That is a pretty high standard to have to meet. The 2020 award winner is Nathan Hart. Fittingly, Nathan shadowed Kellie when he was a new recruit at VIRCC. During his acceptance speech, Nathan spoke of Kellie's ability to defuse a difficult situation, often with humour and how he taught him that he had a duty to pass on those skills to future correction officers. Kellie displayed many of the attributes he has been recognized for at VIRCC while he was a member of Session at St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's joins with others in congratulating Nathan Hart as we celebrate Kellie's memory and legacy.

If you would like to see a video of the ceremony, click on the link <https://youtu.be/pHED9KcBRh4>

### Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be  
Sunday, November 29.



Transformation in the Kirk Hall showing limited seating and social distancing for the Ballet Victoria Pandemic Playhouse.



fotosbydawnmclean



Did you get your mask yet? You can still get one of the hand sewn masks, donated by the Kim family. Masks are available at St. Andrew's on Sunday or call Sheelagh, 250 385-5157

Thank you to the Kim family for your generosity and kindness to your St Andrew's family.

# Piano Recital

Featuring Jorge Carrizales

## The Children's Corner

Music Inspired by Childhood  
with works by Debussy, Faure and Schumann



**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**  
**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

Doors open at 11:30 am  
Recital at 12 noon to 12:45 pm

Health and Safety Protocols:

Max. 50 people

Social distancing

Masks mandatory

Sign-in Contact Tracing

**Admission by Donation**



*Corner of Douglas and Broughton Streets*  
*Accessibility Ramp at Broughton St Entrance*

[standrewsvictoria.ca](http://standrewsvictoria.ca)

Service in the Heart of Victoria Since 1866



## St. Andrew's Children's Page

### Practice What You Preach

But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. Matthew 23:3b (NIV)

Based on Matthew 23:1-12 (NIV)



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

SHOULDERS  
HUMBLE  
BROTHERS  
OBEY

TEACHER  
FATHER  
FINGER  
PREACH

MASTER  
HONOR  
IMPORTANT  
LIFT

DISCIPLES  
LOADS  
MOSES  
PHARISEES

PRACTICE  
RABBI  
HEAVY  
BANQUETS