

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



**December
2020**

Thrift Shop	3
Jams!	3
Share the Joy	4-5
Presbytery Report	6
Whatcha Upto	7
Blue Christmas	8
Christmas Eve	9
Advent Study	10

In order to respect the privacy of our contributors, no articles or photos may be re-produced without express written consent of the editors of *The Link*.

Victoria, BC



Sometimes the smallest things are the most powerful. Such is the case with one such report that appears annually for our Congregational Record. The Thrift Shop has faithfully told their annual story briefly but with deep love and passion for the often back-breaking task of receiving and sending the countless treasures that have found their ways to their shelves and racks.

Their 2018 report celebrated the work of Helen Gans, Ann Lambie and Janette Hennigar. All proceeds were donated to St. Andrew's and their area was brightened by new carpets and lights. A similar joy was shared for the Annual Report of 2019 with new helpers, Trudy and Patti, joining the team and being blessed in helping a brand-new family to Canada with much-needed items to facilitate a move into an apartment for startup housekeeping.

The untold story of this valuable ministry was the joy of seeing the faces of these women as they arrived for their shifts in the Thrift Shop. They have loved what they do, the people they serve and feeling they were making a contribution to individuals and families who shopped their aisles and for what they have been able to give back to St. Andrew's.

2020 has impacted us all. It has robbed us of our energy and the familiarity of our ministry at 680 Courtney Street. The pandemic interrupted the flow of gifts to the Thrift Shop and the regular shopping habits of those who looked for bargains in the St. Andrew's basement. The Thrift Shop has made the difficult but necessary decision to cease operations knowing that it may be sometime before we might even consider returning to normal schedules.

The Thrift Shop ladies are to be commended and celebrated for the passion and hard work they have brought to this distinctive ministry of St. Andrew's. They have interacted with, ministered to and helped many that most of us never see within our building. They have been faithful to their mission and diligent in their work. Thank you to all who volunteered over the years in this distinctive St. Andrew's mission. Thank you especially to Janette Hennigar for your wit and wisdom and for your dedication and service.

The Thrift Shop items are being re-purposed to other need-based endeavours in Victoria and the basement space will soon be re-developed for other St. Andrew's mission projects.

With love and devotion for all who continue the mission and ministry at St. Andrew's.

Blessings,
Pastor Mitch

Message from Session

The session welcomed Jack Reimer (Treasurer) to the December meeting to present a draft budget. Jack provided a helpful overview of the finances of the church in this most unusual year. You will be receiving a copy of the draft budget for 2021. Presbyterian polity says that the annual budget must be approved by the congregation. We have had to be creative in working out how this will happen. In brief, it is proposed that we hold a congregational meeting following the worship service on 13 December, with opportunity for those not attending to join the meeting via Zoom or phone, so that everyone has the opportunity to ask questions and indicate if they are in support of the budget as presented. Due to the current restrictions on faith-based gatherings, this plan may have to change and details will be shared via the weekly TWASA, and by phone for those who have no email.

It is anticipated that live-streaming our worship service will continue, beyond the restrictions imposed by COVID. There are many people who follow our worship services on the web who cannot or choose not to attend in person. Session has approved an expenditure of approximately \$11,000 for the purchase of the necessary technical equipment (including cameras and an additional computer), installation and the training of St Andrew's personnel. This will allow for a wider range of visual presentations for the live-streaming of worship services (different views, zooming in on a person or object etc.). This new technology will also create a more dependable and consistent sound than we are able to achieve with the limited technology currently in place. The Presbytery of Vancouver Island is making matching funds available, up to \$5000 towards the cost of technology associated with the challenges of COVID. The balance of the funds required will be taken out of the property budget for 2020, where there are unused funds that were not utilized due to the unforeseen challenges of the pandemic. If these two funds were not available, a congregational meeting would have been required before processing this expenditure.

Martin Perez is our 'person behind the scenes', doing a great job keeping our website functioning, loading the weekly worship materials and creating new content to keep the website interesting. We are pleased to extend his current contract until the end of June 2021, and

thank him for his hard work and creativity behind the scenes week by week.

We appreciate our three new elders for stepping forward to take on responsibility as visiting elders. We believe we now have everyone in the congregation allocated to a district. If you know of anyone who does not have an elder, but would like one, please contact the office. Please do not hesitate to contact your elder if you have a need or just to keep in touch.

As you read this we will be well into the season of Advent. Sadly we must stay apart and we will surely miss all of the shared activities and celebrations of Christmas. The elders pray that as you wait through this advent season, you and your families will be filled with peace and great rejoicing.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Colina Titus
Clerk of Session

In Loving Memory



Norman L. Hardwicke

Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be
Sunday, January 3, 2021.

Volunteers Needed to Help Clear the Thrift Shop

As our pastor pointed out in his monthly message, the Thrift Shop is now closing. To his thanks, we add that of the Mission and Outreach Committee to the volunteers and donors who have sustained the Thrift Shop for over three decades.

What stage are we at in the closure? In keeping with the spirit of the Thrift Shop, we delivered a load of outdoor clothing to Our Place, and the Compassionate Warehouse, and ReStore came and took items that they can use in their charitable work – for which they were very appreciative. Under current pandemic conditions, other charities cannot help with emptying the Thrift Shop, and much remains to be packed and distributed (notably to Big Brothers and Big Sisters, as they are the closest receiving volunteer agency).

If you would like to help remove old price tags, pack items, or distribute parcels and boxes, then please contact any member of M&O or Patricia Shuckburgh (250-381-1615) who is coordinating volunteers to help ensure safe access. Current “peak COVID” restrictions are stringent, but a return to previous BC Centre for Disease Control restrictions would allow a group of up to four to maintain 2-meter social distancing (with masks) if a group of friends want to work together. If you are interested in helping, please contact us now so that we have an idea of numbers and can plan accordingly, and then, based on evolving CDC guidance, we can set times with you that will help ensure your safety and health.

With thanks,
Brian Titus

Mission & Outreach Committee



This wonderful presentation complements Canada's food guide, which suggests eating 10 servings of vegetables and fruit DAILY.

Some in the list are best eaten raw where possible, except tomatoes and spinach, which should be eaten gently cooked in order to have improved nutrient absorption by the gut. Most people do NOT achieve 10 Servings!

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-world-s-most-nutritious-foods>

Joyce Nordwall

Jams, Marmalades, Oh My!

Every year Ann Lambie has faithfully made preserves for our annual church bazaar. We were not able to hold the bazaar this year BUT we have an opportunity for you to support the church and get some yummy jams, marmalades and preserves.

Ann has worked hard to help us with this fundraiser so consider ordering soon. If you order 4 or more, delivery is free!

Please call **David McLean** at 250-598-4432 or email him at d.mclean@shaw.ca to place your order. Order forms can also be accessed through This Week at St. Andrew's (TWASA) emailed on Tuesdays.

The following is a list of preserves available:

Jams:	
Raspberry	Loganberry
Plum	Blackberry
Strawberry	Plum/Lemon/Orange
Rhubarb/Strawberry	
Marmalades:	
Seville Orange	Ginger Marmalade
Relish, Chutney, etc:	
Pear Chutney	Zucchini Relish
Mild Salsa	Beetroot Butter Pickles
Green Tomato Mincemeat	
Unsweetened Applesauce	

Suggested donation: \$5 per jar.

Any of these homemade goodies would make a lovely Christmas present or addition to a festive basket.



Share the Joy of Christmas 2020 Update

Just about all the shopping is done and now the wrapping begins!

As I reported in last month's *Link*, the people who attend St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Victoria are continuing the annual tradition of sharing "the joy of Christmas" with the residents of Our Place. Our Place is a low barrier drop-in centre and residence for adults currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness and housing insecurity. St. Andrew's provides gift bags for the 15 women and 30 men who live in rooms on the top three floors of the building on Pandora Street. These folks are pulling their lives back together and are committed to working forward toward independent living. Our gift bags are often the only items that the residents receive on Christmas morning. When I was looking for toques and gloves for the gift bags two weeks ago, I found that there was a scarcity of warm fleece-lined ones at a reasonable price. Walmart was too expensive and had too few. The dollar store toques were not lined. Most stores that had the lined items were selling them at \$20 per toque and \$10-15 per pair of gloves. I was very happy to find a 'buy-one, get-one free' at a store in Mayfair, **Mountain Warehouse**. At the check-out, the clerk, Marco, asked why I was buying so many items so I told him about our gift bags for Our Place. He conferred with another clerk, Vaillant, and his manager, Brian, and then came back to tell me that the three of them had decided to use their 50% staff discount to make the cost of the toques and gloves less expensive. That was a \$500 discount!

Needless to say, I was very pleased with their generosity and have written a thank-you letter to the three of them, in care of their workplace. I also informed my contact at Our Place about them and she said that she would also get in touch with them to say thanks.

In our gift bags, we also include personal care items like shampoo, soap, razors, shaving foam, toothpaste, a toothbrush, a pocket calendar, antiperspirant, a puzzle book, pens, pencils, and Christmas treats.

Other things that the Share the Joy campaign provides are 20 turkeys (over 10 kilograms each) for the

Christmas dinner that Our Place provides each year a few days before December 25th. This meal feeds the working poor, the homeless and those far from home, creating a time of community and warmth at this special time of year.

Usually, our Sunday School children do the wrapping of the gifts that fill our bags for the residents. Because of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, that is not possible this year. Fortunately, Patricia Shuckburgh has volunteered to wrap all 90 presents (one with stockings and the other with the toques and gloves for each person)! She is cutting, folding and taping paper and attaching a Christmas card to each present. Thank you, Patricia!

You, too, can contribute to St. Andrew's Share the Joy of Christmas 2020. Please consider one of the ways listed below:

Go to St. Andrew's Victoria website: **standrewsvictoria.ca**, and click the **Donate** tab at the top of the page. There are instructions there to help you donate by e-transfer or by using the **Canada Helps** app to make a donation by credit card. 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.) This option is curtailed at the moment because of COVID restrictions.

To mail in your donation, please send it to
Share the Joy,
c/o Treasurer,
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,
680 Courtney St,
Victoria, BC, V8W 1C1

The Share the Joy of Christmas 2020 campaign is sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee. For more information, please contact Brian Titus (250-382-2387) or

Debra Verwey
(250-383-1009).



Patricia wrapping 90 gifts



fotospymhuckburgh



fotobykverwey

Deb packing the boxes

Toques & mitts from Mountain Warehouse

Updates from Vancouver Island Presbytery Meeting - November 2020

Presbytery met November 17, by Zoom. Along with the many business items which were dealt with, there were several highlights for me to pass on to St. Andrew's folks.

We were surprised to learn that Rev. Reid Chudley has resigned from active ministry, effective December 31, 2020. His resignation was accepted with regret. Reid has been the minister at Trinity for the past eight years and they, and we, are sorry to see him go. Reid has also been an active participant in both Presbytery and Synod. Rev. Cathy Victor has been appointed, effective January 1, 2021, as Interim Moderator to Trinity.

As Reid is presently the Moderator of presbytery, Roy Napier was appointed Interim Moderator, effective January 1, 2021.

Presbytery has a new treasurer, Rev. Stephen Bell (new minister at Sooke) who has agreed to take on this role. The past treasurer, Harvey Walker was once again thanked for his many years of service.

Two elders from St. Andrew's Duncan, have taken the extra training required and will be permitted to serve communion at St. Andrew's during this time they are without an ordained minister.

Knowing that finances in all of our congregations will likely be challenging in 2021, Presbytery has agreed that all congregations will each be assessed \$1000.00 for the 2021 budget.

Funding has been approved for 2021 Island camp initiatives. 2020 resulted in the cancellations of camping initiatives but it is Presbytery's hope that 2021 will see those camp projects move forward. Much planning has gone into this and we appreciate the efforts of those involved. If you have questions regarding camp initiatives please ask our rep from St. Andrew's, Jerry Verwey, and he can help with more information.

Each of the congregations on the Island is maintaining communications and connections within their congregations in a variety of ways. Most are doing a combination of 'live streaming' and recording. A few have not attempted to have in person worship but are

making plans for future services. Now that the health guidelines for BC and the Island have changed in recent days we will all need to reevaluate what that means for each of us in the weeks ahead.

It was good to hear that even in this time of uncertainty eleven people became church members recently in Campbell River.

The Fall and Christmas seasons are usually busy times for all of our congregations and many are attempting to adapt their usual events to the new rules.

Comox is doing a virtual nativity display from around the world. Nanaimo is having a virtual Bazaar and a drive by nativity mural. We at St Andrew's are selling jams and preserves online. Others continue to look for new ways to adapt community outreach initiatives.

Submitted by St. Andrew's Presbytery Rep
Sheelagh Garson

photobyrichards



Remembrance Day service showing the red and white flowers placed by Stella Higgins and the wreath refurbished by Laura Richards.

Whatcha Upto??



Update from Laura, Pengfei, Allison and James.

"The lighting of the candles in the advent wreath at church is one of our very favourite Christmas traditions, so we decided to make our very own advent wreath this year. We used things from the dollar store and even some home-made playdough (to hold the candles up straight). The wreath sits on our dining table, and we light it every night while we have supper."

Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe

Bev Higgins experienced first-hand the kindness of strangers in these COVID times. On a recent afternoon Bev was on her way home from running errands, when she did something she almost never does at that time of day. She stopped at the grocery store. It is 4:00 p.m. On a Friday. And we all know what the grocery stores are like at that time. Crazy busy! Bev walked along outside trying to find the end of the line of 25-30 shoppers. She joined the line of people who were doing their part and standing 6 feet apart. Once there, Bev stood for no longer than 5 minutes when a young lady asked her to follow her. She took Bev to her spot near the front of the line. Several young men also moved over so that Bev could be right at the front. Matthew 19:30 sprang into her mind – *But many who are first will be last and the last first.* Bev was very moved by the actions of these young people. They were being very kind to her. Perhaps Dr. Bonnie Henry's words were being heeded after all.

We often read or hear of our younger generation acting out in ways that disappoint or discourage us. It is heart-warming to hear that there are young women and men who do care for those of us who are getting older and who treat us with kindness and compassion.

It could not have happened to a nicer lady!



Greetings from Sonja & Kevin Krave: We're staying with our friends just now, in Minneapolis, who are celebrating their golden anniversary! Not really socializing with anyone except for them and my sister-in-law who's staying in a seniors' facility. We were able to see and talk to her through a glass window due to COVID restrictions. We've gone out walking on trails along the lakes everyday since we got here. Temps are really chilly compared to what we're accustomed to in California. It snowed for a few days before we got here. But now getting "warmer" the next few days. We're spending Election Day here. We think it's going to be fun commiserating with our friends with whatever the election results will be. Very stressful!

I've been "attending" the worship services on live stream every Sunday! I always like Mitch's homilies and enjoy the music pieces Christine plays for the services. Regards to all! We miss Victoria and often think of you all! Praying for peace and end to this pandemic!



On November 1, 2020, All Saints Sunday, we were treated to sign language with our Hymn to Contemplate. **Kilmeny Jones** is shown signing *Be Still and Know That I Am God*. It was beautiful in its silence, and the congregation joined in once we learned the signs.

Here are the photos of this hymn: Be **Still** and **Know** that **I** am **God**



Still

fotosbyjmarcellus



Know



I



God

Submitted by
Jean Marcellus

Blue Christmas Service



Virtual - Wednesday, December 9

From Lamentations to Hope;
Healing the Grieving Heart

Music by Christine Purvis

Meditation by Rev. Mitch Coggín

Excerpt From ~ To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings

“This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.
Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.
If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
and blushed with beginning.”

By John O'Donohue

Submitted by
Peter Lewis

Our first Recital since COVID-19 began, was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Jorge Eduardo Carrizales entitled his performance “The Children’s Corner – Music Inspired by Childhood” with works by Debussy and Schumann.



We were also treated to ‘4 hands’ entitled “Dolly” by Gabriel Fauré, with the talented **Rio Kadama** performing with Jorge.

The audience sat back, relaxed, listened, and were taken away with the beautiful music as it swirled around our Sanctuary.

fotosbyjmarcellus



It was such a joy to attend this performance, and for 45 minutes, we forgot about the pandemic that was going on in the world.

Thank you to the Recital Team and all the volunteers that worked so hard to make our first Recital safe.

Depending on the Provincial Health Officer’s guidelines, we may or may not be able to host our two Christmas concerts, “The Gift of Christmas Music”. Stay tuned!

Submitted by
Jean Marcellus

Christmas Eve



This year, our Christmas Eve service will be offered as a video filled with music by Christine, members of our community and harpist **McKenna Jennings**. The service will be made available to our entire congregation, even those shut-in without computers so that everyone at St. Andrew’s as well as our extended family and friends can worship safely together on Christmas Eve, while we need to be physically apart.

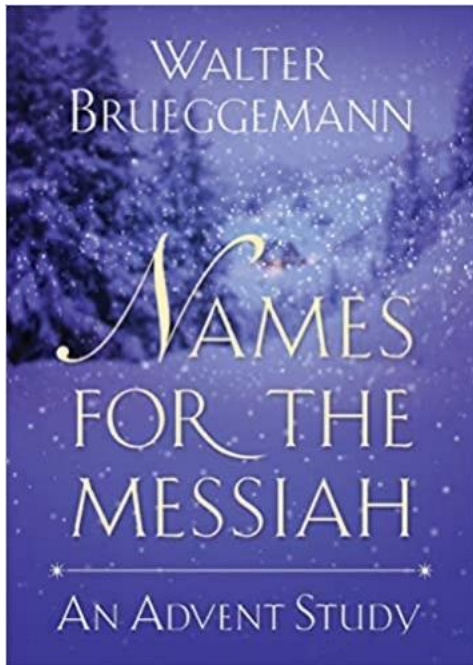
*If possible, Session would like to open the sanctuary on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) for people to listen to pre-recorded carols at 7 and 9 pm.

Christmas Elves (volunteers) will be needed to help at the door, to spray pew cushions, wipe all hard surfaces, and clean bathrooms between the sittings and at the end of the evening.

Please contact the office if you are willing to help.

*This will only proceed if gatherings are once again allowed by provincial mandate.

St. Andrew's 2020 Advent Study



Names For The Messiah
by Dr. Walter Brueggemann

Led by Pastor Mitch Coggin

Monday, November 30

Monday, December 7

Monday, December 14

Monday, December 21

at 7:00 pm.

All on Zoom (link below) or call in by phone:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85310317404>

Meeting ID: 853 1031 7404

One tap mobile

+1 204 272 7920, add meeting id when prompted- 85310317404# or

+1 438 809 7799, 85310317404#

Christmas Blessings!

***Thank you to all those who contribute
to The Link - we couldn't do this
without you.***

***From your Link Editors!
Debra, Fiona & Leona***



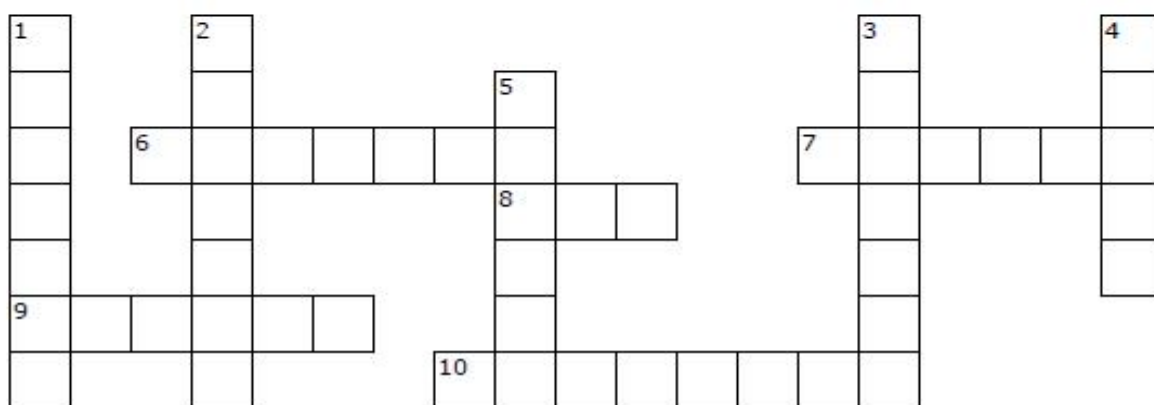
St. Andrew's Children's Page

A Messenger Sent from God

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way."

Mark 1:2 (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

6. To pardon someone who has done something wrong
7. The river where John the Baptist baptized people
8. To do something that is against God's law
9. To confess and turn away from sin
10. Having no bends or curves

DOWN

1. To make things ready
2. Having many bends and curves
3. A person who speaks for God, or one who tells what will happen in the future
4. A sweet, sticky substance made by bees
5. A dry region with very few plants

PREPARE
SIN

REPENT
FORGIVE

DESERT
CROOKED

HONEY
JORDAN

PROPHET
STRAIGHT