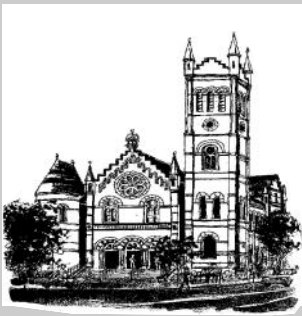


THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



It was September of last year when I first told you of my Psalms Journal. The daily spiritual practice began for me on a Sunday morning, August 23, 2020 and I have continued almost daily since. Simply, I am writing the Psalms by hand. I use a rather contemporary version of Psalms (New International Reader's Version) and copy each Psalm one at a time into my journal.

Why have I committed such a major investment of time into what many may consider a rather rote activity?

This idea came to me years ago from a colleague in ministry whose church had been gifted eight handwritten volumes of scripture. Phillip, a church member who was dying of AIDS, handwrote the Bible into the volumes over a five-year period. After Phillip's death, the congregation began using these copies of the scripture for each Sunday's reading. It inspired me that someone would spend so much time writing the scriptures. I wondered how formative it would be to merely copy a particular version of scripture in my own hand.

This practice has been far from a rote activity and has been quite formative in hearing the Psalms differently. I copy each word into my leather-like bound journal using a fountain pen I made. I like the flow and the feel of the careful handwriting I'm able to create. I include the date I begin each new chapter.

This week I began copying Psalm 119, the longest Psalm in the Bible with 178 verses. Psalm 119 contains 22 sections, each with the heading of a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This chapter may take a while, but I don't want to hurry though each chapter lest I miss the significant help for both good and difficult days. Writing slowly without giving into internal and external distractions allows me to listen deeply to the words.

Sometimes God speaks to my own feelings of loneliness and abandonment. "God, why have you turned your back on us for so long? Why are you so angry with us?" I find prayers that speak to my particular moment. "God, save me. My troubles are like a flood. I'm up to my neck in them. I'm worn out from calling for help." Then there is the heartfelt prayer: "Lord, make what we do succeed. PLEASE make what we do succeed." Then I find balance for the desperation I might feel and am reminded of God's care and goodness. "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever."

Every day that I spend in the Psalms journal is a new awareness that God sees me where I am. Whether I am sad or angry, thankful and celebrating, or facing a critical decision that needs to be made, there is a Psalm for me.

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thelink@shaw.ca

Victoria, BC

Message from Session

Unfortunately, the April meeting of the session had to be postponed.

However the agenda was light for April, as much of the current business of session is being completed by four different task groups working outside of the monthly session meeting. This is proving to be a more efficient way of completing some of the important business of session. The task groups present progress reports and any decisions are brought to the session for approval. As outlined in the April *Link*, the task groups are:

- The **virtual worship task group** is exploring the great diversity of how churches are conducting virtual worship. We know that we have on-line worshippers who may or may not join us in the sanctuary and it is important to learn how to reach out to them in a meaningful way.
- We are a congregation in transition and part of the work of searching for a new minister is developing a Church Profile that accurately portrays who we are. The **profile task group** is beginning work on the first part of this report—our history and who we are.
- The **administrative task group** is looking at how to address the current gaps in leadership within session and the congregation. In some areas we have insufficient leadership and in other committees the incumbent is ready to stand down.
- The **property development committee** continues to explore the potential for development of the Kirk Hall site.

There is much important work to be done, not only the regular business of the church but also the planning associated with two major transitions; as we plan for a church life post-COVID, and as we prepare to search for a new minister.

Please continue to pray for the session, and for our St Andrew's church family as together we seek God's vision for St Andrew's. We can be assured that our Lord indeed has a plan for us.

"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
Session Clerk

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I am not sure what book of the Bible may await me following completion of Psalms, but I know how impactful this daily practice has been for me in these many months of Pandemic. My hope is that the journal will be as significant for whomever sees or uses what I've written. In the meantime, I am blessed to be able to allow these words, phrases and images to inhabit my mind and heart so that God might speak anew.

He made the storm as quiet as a whisper.

The waves of the ocean calmed down.

The people were glad when the ocean became calm.

Then he guided them to the harbour they were looking for.

Psalm 107:29-30

Pastor Mitch

The Coggins have rented a single-family home since September 2018 from landlords who will soon be moving to the Island and wish to take possession of their home. Mitch and Linda have been given notice to move prior to August 1. Can you help them find them a rental home before then?

This is what they are hoping to find:

- A 2 BR single family home or townhouse.
- Move-in date in June or July.

Of course, Hunter, their 14-year-old dog of significant size (60 lbs.) is part of their family and no, he has no intention of living in a doghouse!

Can you help Mitch, Linda, and Hunter find a home?



This link will take you to an article on humour and religion printed in the Times Colonist on April 17.
<https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/blogs/spiritually-speaking/holy-humour-sunday-a-reminder-that-laughter-is-a-good-teacher-1.24305645>

Submitted by
Jim Ferguson

Open a Door to a Brighter Future

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A door represents transition as we move through our lives, opening up new possibilities and opportunities along the way. For local families in need of an affordable home where they live and work, Habitat can be the key to a new beginning.

This Spring, Habitat for Humanity Victoria invited members of the community to create their own unique vision of a future full of possibilities.

Artists chose a door from the ReStore and then created their masterpiece on the door. These 'doors', of all shapes and sizes, will be showcased across the region online, culminating in an online auction with proceeds in support of Habitat's work here in Victoria.



Mariki Jones, a highly creative and artistic member of our congregation has painted a door for this fundraiser.

Follow this link <https://youtu.be/CamngTpiKPg> to hear Mariki talk about why she chose to paint a VW Beetle.

This worthwhile auction can be accessed from May 28 to June 13 the Habitat Victoria website: <https://www.habitatvictoria.com/open-a-door.html>

Colina Titus



Connections!

Good Morning!

Coffee?

Cream/Sugar?

Would you like breakfast?

How are you today?

Questions asked, answers given, and then, sometimes another question -

Do you know how? or

Do you know who? or

Who can I talk to?

When the office at St. Andrew's was open on site, people would frequently stop in to ask questions regarding not only our services, but also about community services.

The volunteers who host the monthly breakfast service are often asked questions. Those of us who come and go from St. Andrew's doing the weekly tasks, and of course, Grant, our church officer, occasionally meet up with someone who is looking for help either with an immediate, or an ongoing need.

Even the folks from the community who share St. Andrew's space for their own purposes are occasionally asked for help.

Now we had a question for ourselves!

What could we do to help those with questions, and also those being questioned? With the help of Whitney and information available from community services, we have compiled a short list of suggested potential help available. This is by no means a complete list of services but can be a start for someone wanting to find answers.

This printed list of services will be available in the Kirk Hall and the sanctuary. It will also be available on our web. We are including the list in this *Link* so that you can keep it for personal use should the need arise.

Sheelagh Garson

Quick Resource List

Housing and Emergency Assistance

Downtown Outreach Services- 826 Cormorant Street
250-220-8064

A drop-in centre providing advocacy, housing outreach, and referral services for adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to mental health and/or addictions issues, disability, incarceration, or poverty. Services include housing search assistance; advocacy and support with accessing benefits; help with scheduling or attending medical, legal, or other appointments.

Try REES Support Services

465 Swift Street
250-595-8619

Drop-in resource centre for employment, outreach and peer support, information and referral to community resources, as well as access to computers, and phones. The Community Casual Labour Pool employment program matches individuals looking for short-term work with local employers and assists people to address barriers to employment. The Outreach and Support program provides individualized support/assistance to people facing a variety of challenges

Try Our Place on Pandora

919 Pandora Ave
250-388-7112

Did you know that Our Place has computers, showers, a knitting group, an arts group, movie nights, an employment program and more? They also serve meals, coffee and snacks.

Many people who utilize services at Our Place are clean and sober, many are not. It is a diverse community. Drop by the Duty Outreach office and ask to speak to an Outreach Worker or a friendly Duty Outreach volunteer.

If you don't get the help you need the first time, consider coming back at another time/day and speaking to someone new.

Food and Meals

Living Edge Community Market- 901 Kings Rd. (Quadra Village Community Centre) 250-383-8915

Free groceries including fresh foods provided at 11:00 am to noon

Our Place- 919 Pandora 250-388-7112

Meals served daily and coffee served throughout the day

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul- 250-382-0712

offers emergency assistance when available

The Mustard Seed- 625 Queens Ave 250-953-1575
from 10 am until 1:30 pm

For help and info: call 2-1-1 by phone
or visit bc211.ca

Indigenous/ First Nations

Victoria Native Friendship Centre- 231 Regina Avenue
250-384-3211

LGBTQ2A+/ Sexual Health

Men's Wellness Program- 1-800-665-2437

Healthcare, education and safer sex supplies.

Island Sexual Health- 250-592-3479

3960 Quadra Street

Workshops, healthcare and safer sex supplies.

Also see **Umbrella Society** below:

Addictions

Umbrella Society- 8-415 Dunedin Street
250-380-0595

The outreach team works one-on-one with individuals struggling with substance use, providing support and helping them navigate the system and access community resources. A family counsellor works with family members who need support. LGBTQ support available as well.

Job Seeking

WorkBC Centre- 201-1483 Douglas Street
250-388-0858

Provides support to people who are unemployed including training, use of computers, copiers and job postings, job search workshops, financial support for apprenticeships and more.



From your friends at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria, BC.
Join us for breakfast on the second Saturday of each month at
680 Courtney St.
standrewsvictoria.ca / 250-384-5734
office@standrewsvictoria.ca / pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca

20 Bible Trivia Questions

During this time of Covid-19 most of us are trying to find something to occupy our time other than just watching TV. Some may be doing crossword puzzles, others may be doing picture puzzles and others may be doing various crafts to pass the time. Why not enter our Bible Trivia contest? Just search the Bible for the answers and you may win a prize! Enter the contest by sending your name along with your answers to these questions to thelink@shaw.ca by May 23rd 2021. The winner and the answers will be disclosed in the June edition of *The Link*. Winner will receive a gift certificate from the Dutch Bakery! (Questions taken from the Cadaco Bible Trivia Game)

1. Who was the woman Pharaoh gave to Joseph to be his wife?
2. What did Jacob name the place where he spent the night wrestling an angel of God?
3. Where did Moses die?
4. How was Samson to be raised?
5. Who accompanied Abraham and Isaac on their journey to Moriah?
6. How old was Noah when the flood came?
7. What was the name of Adam and Eve's third son?
8. What did Nehemiah want to do in Jerusalem?
9. What happened to Elijah when his time on earth was finished?
10. When the disciples had returned to Galilee, where did Jesus appear?
11. When Ruth left Boaz on the threshing floor, what did he give her?
12. Where were David and King Saul when David spared King Saul's life?
13. What is the longest book in the Bible?
14. When Samson and his parents were on their way to Timnan what did they encounter?
15. What did Moses do to the rock to get water from it?
16. Who preached to the people of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost?
17. How many people repented and were baptized that day?
18. Who befriended Saul and defended him to the apostles, reassuring them that he was a true believer?
19. Who did the Roman centurion in Capernaum ask Jesus to heal?
20. Who became king of Israel after the death of Ahab?

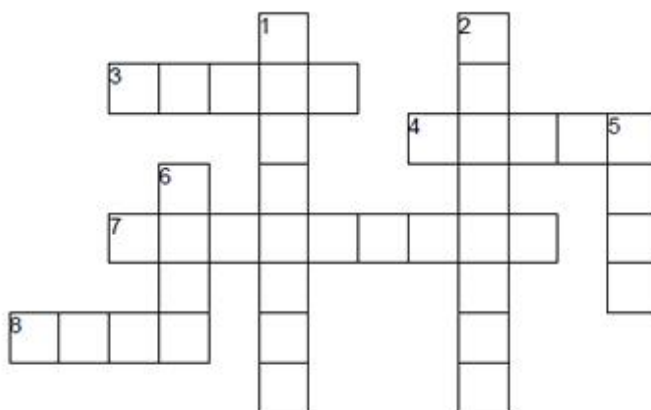
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St. Andrew's Children's Page

The True Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.," John 15:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8.



ACROSS

3. Praise or honor
4. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
7. Those who follow Jesus
8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

DOWN

1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
2. A person who works with plants and flowers
5. The opposite of false
6. Burning flame

TRUE
DISCIPLES

FIRE
GLORY

GARDENER
VINE

FRUIT
BRANCHES