

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



The last *Link* was published in June when we were wondering when Dr. Henry would give the green light for churches to resume in-person worship. We did not have to wait long to hear the good news on June 6 when she gave the go-ahead! How exhilarating to finally walk into St. Andrew's on Sunday, July 11, and worship.

Now, as we move into September and COVID rages under the name "Delta variant", restrictions are again tightening. The vaccine passport is soon to be implemented for restaurants and businesses, hospitals are peaking, and medical teams are exhausted. As Dr. Henry warned last week, "the unvaccinated are 10 times more likely to become infected than the vaccinated. The unvaccinated account for about 90 per cent of COVID-19 cases in BC, and 93 per cent of hospitalizations." The COVID train is barreling ahead and we long to get off!

Still, there is hope for faith gatherings such as St. Andrew's and all other congregations that continue to shine a light into this darkness. When St. Andrew's reopened to in-person worship on July 11, the Province did not require masks or social distancing for faith communities, even though these continued to play an important role within the Province for reducing infections. St. Andrew's stood solidly behind our earlier belief that persons who come for in-person worship will continue to be socially distanced and will continue to be required to mask upon exit and entry even though neither were mandated by the Province for faith communities.

Dr. Henry has provided wisdom as these storms have raged and her sound advice and solid counsel has led us around many of the shipwrecks that other governments have rushed into blindly when they make political decisions not based upon scientific facts. Thank you, Dr. Henry, for your integrity and courage.

Moving forward, St. Andrew's will continue to regard the science in making decisions about worship and all other upcoming events. It is clear that the vaccine is the best method at our disposal for combating this virus! If you have not been vaccinated and have no medical contraindications for receiving the vaccine, please consider this as one of the most important ways to stem the tide of this virus. While it is not likely that St. Andrew's will require showing of a vaccine passport for entrance since we do not now ask anyone about vaccination status, still it is a personal step that I hope you will consider when the passport is implemented. While faith communities were for some reason not mandated to follow many of the protocols required of the business community, I believe it is imperative that faith communities lead by example in proclaiming boldly, "We must do everything that is necessary to stem the tide of this virus. It is our Christian duty, and we will, with the help of God, do everything in our power to help derail this devastating virus."

Peace to us all,
Mitch

September 2021

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Victoria, BC

Message from Session

Return to in-person worship

In June, session approved that, given current health protocols and following guidelines recommended by the sanctuary group, St. Andrew's would resume in-person worship and live-stream the service beginning July 11, 2021.

Discussion:

- We continue to have need for additional ushers.
- Live-streaming would continue every week, beginning 20 June 2021 whether or not we are worshipping in-person.
- The virtual service (in place for 16 months) will be scaled back.
- Although not required by the province, the congregation will be asked to register in the same manner as in the Fall of 2020.

Webmaster

The current webmaster contract for Martín Perez expired on 30 June 2021. Appreciation and satisfaction were expressed for the work that Martín has done over the past year. Martín has been very responsive to our requests. The website continues to be a work in progress, and it is essential that we continue to employ the services of a webmaster. All of us (including session) need to learn to make more use of the website for communication. Session agreed to extend the webmaster contract with Martín Perez for one year (June 30, 2022) or until it is determined that it is time to build a new website, whichever is sooner. The session may determine that if the contract needs to be extended beyond the end date of 30 June 2022, the extension may be offered to the incumbent.

Communications

Website

Our website is a public window into the activities, vision and values of St. Andrew's. It was long overdue that we develop a procedure for the submission of articles to St. Andrew's website. As Session is responsible for the content of the website, Session agreed to the following process for submitting new material for posting on the website. This does not apply to repeat announcements.

Those wishing to have information placed on our Church's website should forward their completed submission to their elder who will forward it to the appropriate Committee Chair for approval.

The information must be complete, correct and include photos, as required. The approved submission will be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Communications Committee.

The Chairperson of the Communications Committee will seek approval from session for the content requested to be placed on the Website. Once approval is granted the submission will be forwarded to the webmaster for posting on the website.

Refer to "Procedures for Preparing and Submitting Information to Be Approved and Placed on the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Website" dated June 2021.

TWASA and The LINK

Anyone wishing to submit an invitation or announcement for a new activity, program or event must seek approval through the appropriate committee before the notice will be included in TWASA, *The Link* or be posted on the website. Any elder will be able to recommend the committee best able to respond to your request. It will be at the committee chair's discretion whether the announcement requires session approval. If the event or activity clearly falls under the mandate of that committee, session approval will not be required.

Work is underway to make our website more current and provide access to useful and relevant information about St. Andrew's. A draft layout for the Mission and Outreach page for the website was presented and approved by session. The final copy will be posted soon. Over the coming months, all committees will be creating and submitting a page for approval to post on the website.

Despite the decision at the end of the June meeting that the next regular session meeting would be on 21 September, urgent matters arose that required session to call additional meetings in July and August

In July we met to review and modify the plans for in-person worship that had been agreed to at the June meeting. The significant question raised referred to registration.

Registration for in-person worship

Should registration be limited only to those who are members or adherents of our church, or who are related to or accompanying members of the church family?

Discussion included:

- Turning people away is not friendly.

- Ushers are not equipped to make decisions about who should or should not be welcomed.
- 'Outsiders' pose no more of a health risk than members of the congregation.
- Once the church is open, we should be open for anyone who wishes to come in.

The session agreed that wording regarding registration be re-worded to include "Even if persons have not registered online, members, adherents and the general public will be welcome to enter, up to the current capacity of 70." Through TWASA, people are encouraged to continue to register on-line as this aids planning for ushers.

In August, a session meeting was called to review and approve the proposal for a lease extension with Ballet Victoria (BV). The proposal was circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.

Ballet Victoria new lease

The contract with BV, long term tenants of St. Andrew's, runs out at the end of August 2021. BV and St. Andrew's are keen to continue this relationship. BV would like to have more extensive use of the Kirk Hall. This would be good stewardship as the large space sits empty for most of the week. Following discussion prior to and during the session meeting, it was agreed that we would ask BV if we could extend the current contract until the end of 2021 to give time for St. Andrew's to consider and plan for the church's time and space needs

and then to write a detailed lease for both parties to sign. Since the last session meeting, BV has agreed to this request and has signed a lease until 31 December 2021.

It is anticipated that the new lease would be for 5 years with an option for renewal for another five-year term subject to both parties' agreement. With BV's agreement, the lease will begin on January 1, 2022, and the lease extension will be signed only after a successfully negotiated agreement is in place regarding the allocation of each party's access to the Kirk Hall space. For the period September to December 2021 the rate of rent for Ballet Victoria will be \$5,628 monthly. Beginning January 2022, the value of the first year of the lease will be \$67,536. In subsequent years the value will be \$ 67,536 plus COLA. This figure will be adjusted each anniversary date of the lease (January 1).

In brief:

- The Cox Development proposal (see *Link*, February 2021) is on hold as a fallback option if the BV lease does not work out.
- BV wants to increase their use of the gym for classes and stage performances.
- BV will continue to have sole use of the McLean room (top floor of the church building).
- It is estimated that 75 days per year should cover all of St. Andrew's activities. The balance of 'Kirk Hall' days would be for BV. St. Andrew's days can be calculated in half days. Session will be seeking input from committees about their anticipated use of the Kirk Hall over the next year. This will need to be reviewed and planned regularly through the years.
- With reasonable notice, BV would clear the whole gym if required by St. Andrew's for a large event.
- The Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) will be on all lease costs (including utilities, insurance, taxation). The lease rate includes an estimated cost for the utility costs incurred by BV.
- This lease does not affect St. Andrew's tax exemption as BV pays the tax on their portion of the facilities.
- A detailed lease will be signed by both parties, with legal advice. It was recommended that the lease include a resolution clause outlining the process for resolving dispute.
- The plan must be realistic for both parties. The lease will raise funds for St. Andrew's activities
- We will continue to accommodate:

(Continued on page 4)

In Loving Memory



Peter Boldt - July 2021

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain....

Revelations 21:4



On a beautiful sunny late summer day, Rev. Mitch Coggin led the congregation of St. Andrew's in a celebration of Communion on Sunday August 29th 2021. This was the first time in a very long time that St. Andrew's has been able to observe Communion together in person. Members and adherents who participated in the service virtually were able to join in by means of communion packages of wafers and juice provided by the elders to those who wished them.



Our custodian, Grant, found this rose struggling to grow and decided to move it to a pot in the laneway beside the church. It appears to be thriving under his care. The blooms have a lovely scent.

We have had up to 13 meet in the laneway enjoying coffee/tea and friendship (and sometimes, muffins!). After the long Covid isolation, this meet-up has been described as, "This is so wonderful!" Weather permitting, we'll carry on until the end of September. Those of us who meet weekly in the lane get to appreciate Grant's gardening skills that add to our pleasant get-togethers.

(Continued from page 3)

Alcoholics Anonymous who will move downstairs, **Overeaters Anonymous** which is a small group and will be given a suitable space.

- BV will have storage downstairs (part of the Thrift store space)

There are significant benefits to both parties from this contract:

- BV has more contacts in the arts community and will manage any one-off rentals in the sanctuary as a way to help St. Andrew's bring in additional funds.
- This is an opportunity for St. Andrew's to develop a relationship with the arts community; the sanctuary has good acoustics and is valuable to musicians in the community.
- This proposal has the potential to satisfy both BV with additional space and St. Andrew's with additional revenue.
- BV are good tenants and have been leasing from us for 11 years.

There is a lot of information here, and it represents a lot of work and discussion. If you would like more information about anything in this report, please contact an elder who will be pleased to answer your questions or point you toward someone who can.

As we look ahead, Session has critical tasks and hard work ahead of us. Pastor Coggin will be engaging Session and the congregation in seeking answers to these questions:

Who are we?

Who will we be?

What do we know now that we did not know 16 months ago?

What have we learned?

These are important questions as we continue along the journey of transition and preparation for the search for a new minister for St. Andrew's.

God has a plan for us, and he has provided us with Pastor Coggin, our gifted and wise transitional minister who seeks to guide us as we move forward in this journey. This is a shared journey for all of us at St Andrew's.

We hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3: 5, 6

Colina Titus,
Clerk of Session

Over the Summer 2021



After the record-breaking heat wave in late June and early July of 2021, there were reports in the news about devastating wildfires in Lytton, British Columbia. There were photos of entire communities being destroyed after the fires had swept through the region. Isaac Yu was heartbroken to see the amount of damage that had been inflicted on the people of Lytton and the surrounding communities. Therefore, Isaac and his friends immediately came together and decided to set up a refreshment-stand at Holland Point Park in Victoria in order to join the fundraising efforts for the Canadian Red Cross Disaster Relief Program to help the community of Lytton in their process towards recovery. They brought the little they had to the event, fundraising 9:00am to 3:00pm on Monday

July 12, 2021. Isaac said, "We were so grateful for the many kind people who stopped by to support the initiative. It was incredible and we felt extremely honoured to have been able to fundraise for the Canadian Red Cross and help a community rebuild". One of the most important values that I have kept dear to my heart from going to church was that it was always important to help each other, especially through times of struggle, which was the key to a strong community. We understood that we were just a small part of the larger efforts going towards disaster relief, but we hope that we were able to make a difference in any way we can. Together, Isaac and his friends raised \$400 towards the Canadian Red Cross Disaster Relief Program for the community of Lytton, British Columbia and other communities impacted by the wildfires during the summer of 2021! This fundraising event was a group effort, and it was remarkable to see the support from our community. Isaac said, "we would like to thank everyone who was able to help us support Lytton during our fundraiser."

Scott Yu





Knitted and fabric clothes made for an 18 inch American Girl Doll for a family friend's little girls.

Jean Watt

Summer/Covid Projects



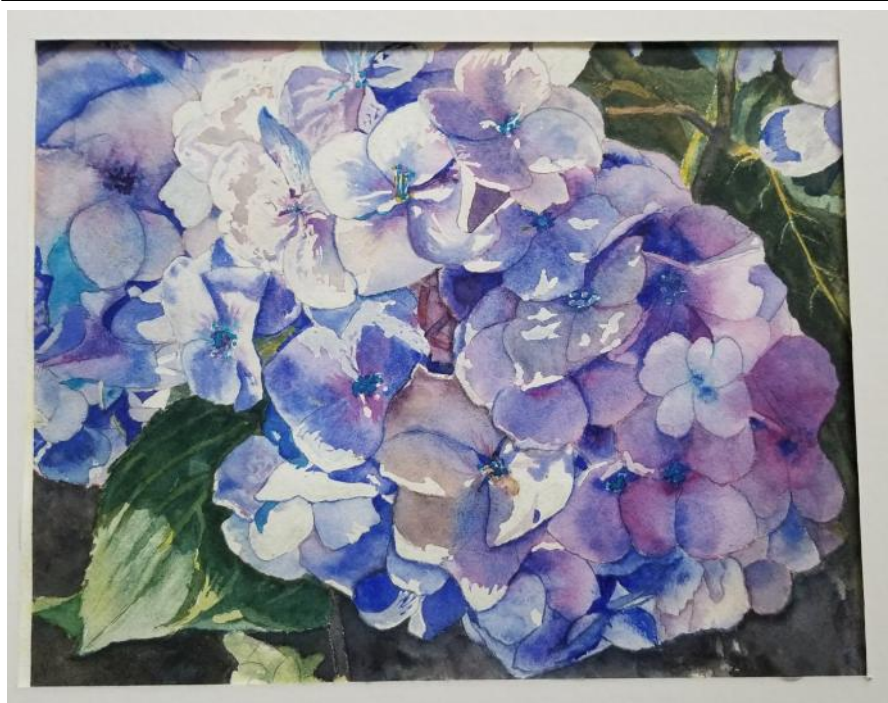
A baby quilt made for the birth of a great niece.

Leona Johns

I thought I should have something to show for being in COVID lockdown, so I crocheted a blanket. It started out as a scarf. Then I finished using all my yarn by crocheting two smaller blankets. This is a picture of the largest one.

Ardath Shand





I started taking watercolour painting classes during the summer of 2014. I love the brilliance of the translucent colours and the magic that happens when the pigment and water merge. I have taken classes at Monterey Centre, Goward House and at the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts. During COVID-19, I had time to finish a lot of pieces that I had started in classes over the years but had never completed (see images near by). I am now back to painting in a studio that a friend generously shares with nine of us. We, jokingly, call ourselves “arteests” because we are still learning and definitely having a lot of fun.

Debra Verwey



Volunteers needed to help clear the Thrift Shop

The two rooms that the Thrift Shop is currently in are being redecorated for new uses. Are you able to help pack up the items in the Thrift Shop, which will then be donated to other charities or suitable causes? If so, please contact Patricia Shuckburgh (250-381-1615) regarding access and scheduling, which we are coordinating to help keep people safe during COVID. We appreciate your help with this task!

With thanks,
Mission and Outreach Committee

Treasurers Report – July 2021

I am pleased to be able to provide you with a brief financial summary as we are now just over half way through a difficult year. And while we take steps and devise ways to work through this pandemic, there continues to be small, disruptive setbacks to the progress that has been gained.

However, as a congregation we have continued to support St. Andrew's and that alone speaks positively to our current and ongoing viability as a congregation. I want to thank every member of this fine congregation for your financial support. Following are a few key metrics re Income and Expenses. Take note that because of a very generous estate bequest, we were able to stay within our projected deficit as planned.

| Income & Expenses to July 31, 2021 | | 2021 |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Income | | |
| Congregational Offerings and Other Income : | | |
| For General Purpose incl Presbyterian Sharing & PWS&D | | \$100,342.33 |
| Other Operating Income | | \$30,096.05 |
| One Time Estate Gifts | | \$70,763.66 |
| Total Year To Date Income | | \$201,202.04 |
| Expenses | | |
| Expenditures by Committee | | |
| Administration | | \$28,127.40 |
| Communication | | \$1,046.51 |
| Finance | | \$67,744.63 |
| Mission and Outreach | | \$22,377.48 |
| Property | | \$83,121.79 |
| Session | | \$6,486.30 |
| Worship | | \$14,838.45 |
| Total Expenses | | \$223,742.56 |
| Net Income & Expenses | | -\$22,540.52 |

Note: As we absorbed some large expenses in January and to the full amounts (insurance etc.) the YTD expenses are somewhat distorted. However, I expect we will finish the year with a smaller deficit than was reflected in the annual plan.

Your financial support on a weekly/monthly basis has continued and allowed for us to maintain as many programs and support as we had planned in 2021.

We have now completed the sale of the Reid Estate property and were able to transfer those proceeds to our investment account. Thus, our balance sheet is much stronger than the last report. Following is a summary of the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2021.

| | Jan 2021 | July 2021 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Liabilities & Equity | \$466,049 | \$744,515 |

Should any of you wish more details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely
J. E. Reimer
 Treasurer

Summer Happenings

Brooklynn Trimble and **Juan Comish** were married at St. Andrew's on July 31, 2021. Before all the changes that Covid created, Brooklynn had helped in our Sunday School and with the kids' projects for our annual bazaar. For Brooklynn and Juan these past months have meant finishing up university, starting new jobs, moving into a new home and planning a much different wedding than first envisioned. Thankfully with the help of technology and fewer restrictions, their families were able to be part of their day, some in person and some on line. We wish them many years of joy, love and God's richest blessings.



Our son, **Brendan**, married his fiancée, **Sacha**, on the second Saturday in August. The wedding had been postponed *twice* due to Covid. We were looking forward to the event as we hadn't seen either of them for over a year and a half. Originally they had planned a big wedding in Montreal, but that was changed to an outdoor wedding at Cleveland Dam in Vancouver. After weeks of sunshine, on Saturday it rained, heavily at times, but by the time the wedding ceremony began, the rain had stopped. A small group of family and friends watched the ceremony. The reception was held at my sister's home.

Christine Purvis



My new grandson, Henry, was born in May. He lives in Belleville, Ontario so I haven't seen him in person yet. I'm hoping to see him at Christmas.

Thanks to FaceTime I have been able to see him growing and enjoying his bath time.

Pat Brown

Summer Vacations 2021

After several years of car camping, we gave backpacking a go for a trip to Strathcona Provincial Park with friends. Everyone was heavy laden with kit and food for a few days in the backcountry. Finlay most enjoyed swimming in Croteau Lake where we camped, while Hamish loved the views of Cruikshank Canyon. Susie and I were relieved nothing went wrong and are already plotting a similar trip for next year.

Angus Henderson





We have enjoyed a wonderful season of RVing. One of our highlights was experiencing different places this year like Hornby Island, Malcolm Island, Holberg and Cole Harbour.

One very special part of our time up-island was our visit to Comox. Rev. Jenn Geddes, Minister of Comox Presbyterian Church, officiated at a Celebration of Life for my beloved Aunt Ruth Dickson, who passed away in February 2021 at the grand age of 102. Aunt Ruth was a well-known artist, writer and storyteller in the Duncan and Comox Valleys.

Rev. Jenn read my favourite passage of scripture Ecclesiastics 3:1-15 and spoke of Aunt Ruth's amazing life and her love for her Lord. Everything Ruth did, she did at a special time of her life.

For those who remember my Aunt Margaret Trowsdale (nee Dickson), Aunt Ruth, Aunt Margaret (who also lived to 102) and my Mum, Rita Dickson, were 'the three amigos'. They became 'instant' best friends and that's pretty amazing for sisters-in-law!

We bring greetings from Rev. John Allan and his wife, Marjorie. As many of you know, John was one of our beloved past ministers. They moved from Nanaimo to the Lower Mainland in 2020 to be closer to family. Every time we chat with them, John always asks, "And how is St. Andrew's?"

The silver lining to COVID, is staying on the Island and RVing in our own back yard.

Jean Marcellus



For our 50th wedding anniversary we planned to have a family vacation. A variety of circumstances resulted in the family get-together being postponed for two years, but plans were in place for this year! Off to Osoyoos just in time for the forest fires to start the day we arrived. Would we be able to stay?

We did and for us all went well. Every day, across the lake we watched the tremendous efforts to fight the fires but in our house we spent our time enjoying each other's company, eating, playing games, doing projects and laughing lots.

Sheelagh & Dave Garson

Good Bye Party for the Kim Family June 26, 2021

On this last weekend of summer 2021, my memory drifts back to a happy afternoon on the very first weekend of this summer.

The warm sunshine and bright blue skies matched our happy excitement as we drove up the long tree-lined driveway to Joyce Nordwall's home. Happy smiles and waving hands welcomed us as we arrived, greetings echoing happily in the air.

Outside her home, Joyce and a few friends were setting up tables and patio umbrellas on the lawn in anticipation of a fun, summer afternoon. Tablecloths, beautiful china and floral bouquets were being assembled. I think we were all aware that this occasion was one of the very first times in 16 months that many of us had been together due to COVID restrictions. But here we were—anticipating a happy social event at Joyce's lovely home to celebrate!

The occasion was a celebration for the Kim family and saying good bye to these dear friends who had been a part of our congregation for the past 2½ years.

A happy feeling permeated the afternoon but undoubtedly, there must have been a few unspoken feelings of sadness as we all knew how much we would miss our friends who had been so much a part of our church family.

The Kim family arrived in Victoria from Seoul, Korea on a Saturday afternoon just after Christmas. They were in St. Andrew's the very next day! That was the day when so many of us met them for the first time and a friendship developed and grew from there. June and Juhye were scheduled to attend UVic and Juliet to

attend Grade 4 and 5 elementary school. The purpose of their student visas was to learn English. Grace's husband and the girls' father, Mark, remained in Korea for work, but we all had the opportunity to meet him on the occasions when he came to Victoria to visit his family. A close association with this Korean family became one of happiness for all of us. Grace and the girls all participated in our church events: worship, ESL classes, coffee time, social programs and personal friendships. Very soon, June was reading the Scriptures from the lectern and the girls became fluent in English. Grace was a busy Mom, driving all three girls to their respective classes each day, to music lessons and church events. Grace had rarely driven before but she became an expert driver navigating her SUV through the streets of Victoria. What a busy time for her, all this in a new country, new car, new life! She was always beaming with happiness at the new discoveries of each day. How we loved to see her smiling face each Sunday. She was certainly enjoying her life in Canada! But soon, their Visas were to expire and they had to go home to Seoul which prompted the occasion to give them a farewell party.

Joyce's expansive property was a pleasant place to walk and Juliet took great delight in running around the property and finding all kinds of nooks and crannies to explore as only an 11 year old girl can do.

Our shared pot-luck meal was delicious and had been all pre-planned by Joyce. Salmon, pork and chicken were accompanied by various salads and three different cakes for desserts. The Kims circulated around the tables and talked to everyone as we extended our love and best wishes, saying our good byes. Rev. Mitch

gathered us all together in a circle and gave a meaningful talk to all present, giving thanks for and stating how much the Kims had enriched our lives. A special prayer of protection and blessing was offered up on behalf of the Kim family as they left our circle.

After the meal, another exciting surprise awaited us. Entertainment was provided by Juliet's violin teacher, Tatiana Kostour, who teaches at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

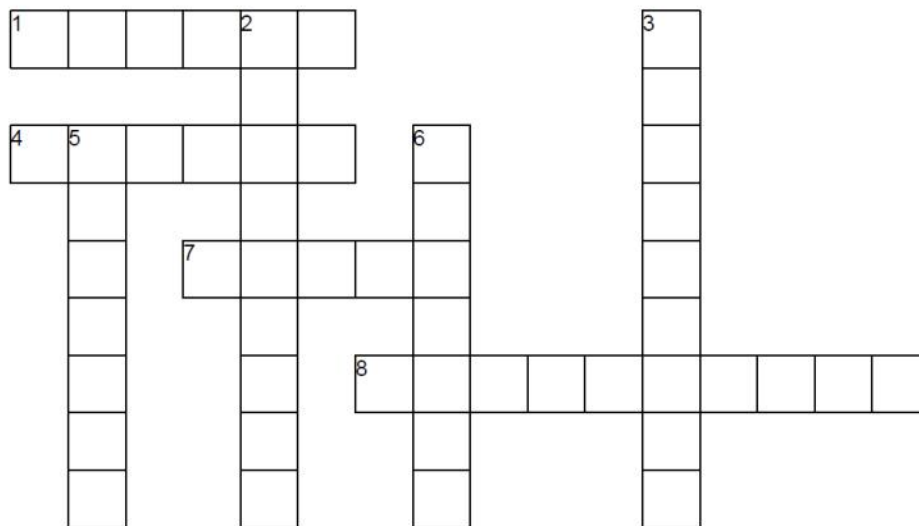
Thank you to Joyce Nordwall for her kind invitation to the many friends of the Kim family, who could participate in this lovely event that will be forever captured in our minds and memories.

Dorothy Reimer



Peter Has a Vision

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. Acts 10:34-35. (NIV)



HORIZONTAL

1. Similar to a dream.
4. Having a desire for food.
7. A disciple of Jesus.
8. To treat one person better than another.

VERTICAL

2. A centurion.
3. An officer in the Roman army.
5. Something that is unpure or dirty.
6. A person who works for another.

CENTURION
FAVORITISM

PETER
UNCLEAN

HUNGRY
CORNELIUS

TRANCE
SERVANT