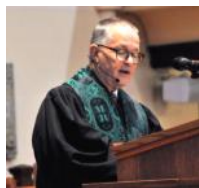


THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



St. Andrew's needs an injection of hope!

Can you believe that it was 1983 when Canadian Anne Murray recorded *A Little Good News* which expresses despair over the violence and suffering in the newspapers and TV news. The song envisions how wonderful it would be if, for just one day, the newspapers and television news anchors had nothing to report, because they had “nothing bad to say”. I think we are all overdue for good news and an injection of hope!

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Over these past weeks, several groups of St. Andrew's faithful have gathered in person and on Zoom to dialogue about their hope for our church. Our past struggles were certainly a part of the conversation. Described was the disappointment we are all feeling over the lack of congregational singing and coffee hour. We are a church with strong and vibrant relationships and our brief gatherings on Douglas Street after worship are just not enough. We need to be together and see one another's faces!! Each of the groups that have met and discussed St. Andrew's were not content to end with our struggles or our difficulties. They ended with the hope expressed that our endurance is producing hope that St. Andrew's has much about which to be hopeful.

Consider in the coming weeks:

Remembrance Day will be commemorated on Sunday, Nov. 7 - David Barss, guest.

Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 28 as we light the First Candle of Advent.

Christmas music concert on Thursday, Dec. 16 – Noon – 1:00 PM

Blue Christmas – TBD with Knox and Trinity

Christmas Eve Service – Friday, Dec. 24 – 7:00 PM And

Music in Worship Services – Guest soloists are being recruited to sing in worship. St. Andrew's choir is warming up its vocal pipes for a return to worship from the balcony ASAP.

Coffee/Tea Resumption – Let's begin the conversation about a limited return to Coffee Hour inside following worship. Coffee/tea only. No food may be served. How hopeful it would be to see your face and enjoy your smile as we gather for a cup of coffee *like we did in the olden days!* There needs to be careful planning of several who will be involved in this discussion and resumption of a coffee hour that allows us to gather safely inside following worship.

“Hope does not disappoint us.” I know many of us have been discouraged of late. It is time to set aside our despair, shake off our frustrations and boast in the hope of better days ahead.

We sure could use a little good news! The Holy Spirit will show us the way.

With renewed hope,
Pastor Mitch

November 2021

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thelink@shaw.ca

Victoria, BC

Remembrance 2021

I was pleasantly surprised to see the heading of a Times Colonist article on June 6 this year entitled “Lessons from D-Day, 77 years ago” and as the Editor/Publisher was the author I knew it would be good. This was not a special anniversary and I wondered if he thought of that day’s momentous event each year as I do. I have a habit of murmuring “D-day” on each year’s June 6 . On one occasion, as I wrote a cheque to pay for my car licence, I said the word somewhat louder and proceeded to give a history lesson to a startled young man.

It was in 2019 that I featured D-Day in my Remembrance article as it was the 75th anniversary of that critical day when the Allies had set foot on the soil of France once more. On that day in Britain many had kept silent thinking of their loved one in a life and death battle not just to free the country from the threat of elimination as an independent power but to save the world from the growth of totalitarianism. Why do I remember this while I whisper the words D-Day? I was at my home in Scotland listening to the calm presentation by the BBC of the latest report from the battleground across the channel. Life had been difficult since September 1939; the whole nation was tired and hoping for an enduring peace for which they longed.

After more months of hard fighting peace did finally come first in Europe on May 7 and in Asia on September 2, 1945. A new and more deadly weapon had been unleashed on the world by an international group of scientists in the United States, a bomb that would eliminate everything. Would this be the ultimate weapon to ensure enduring peace? The United Nations was formed to replace the ineffectual League of Nations as a means of solving disputes between nations. Canada reduced its expenditure for anything of a military nature in favour of social programmes. Quite suddenly a problem arose for the new United Nations with the attack on the democratic Republic of South Korea by the Communist government of the North. The United Nations had to take action. Canada’s contribution to the U.N. force was small, poorly equipped with little training and thus totally unprepared for their expected role. Not surprisingly casualties were high with 516 Canadians dying on the muddy hills of North Korea. Those who survived felt they had been largely ignored by the people at home and later were simply forgotten.

The Korean War provided a lesson to the government in Ottawa. If they were to send troops to participate in any United Nations operation they needed well trained soldiers and officers as well as modern equipment whether they were to act as peacekeepers or in a more traditional role. Since then Canada has been an important part of U.N. forces in many parts of the world. There has been more interest among civilians who could see on television where our troops were serving and the conditions the soldiers had to endure. Who can ever forget the scenes at the Toronto airport when families waited on the tarmac to see their loved one, another casualty, carried from the plane by grieving colleagues. Fortunately nuclear weapons have not been used but there is no enduring peace in the world. There is danger, however, with an increase in nuclear arms especially in unstable countries or those with unstable leaders.

So on Remembrance Day wear the red poppy that celebrates its 100 years as an important symbol to remember with gratitude those who have given their lives in wars or in peace keeping missions and to say a prayer for enduring peace.



Stella Higgins

Session Update

At the beginning of our monthly session meeting, Rev. Vincent Tan and Rev. Wayne Stretch shared words of Scripture and prayer. Rev. Tan relinquished his responsibility as Interim Moderator for St. Andrew's. Rev. Stretch graciously accepted the role. (See Goodbye and Hello on page 14 of this issue of The Link.) Rev. Tan encouraged elders to work together and Rev. Stretch reminded us to approach the future with boldness and support one another in mutual love and good deeds.

The most significant item for discussion related to the revised committee structure proposed by the administrative task group who have been working on this over the last 4 or 5 months. A summary of the Committee structures and a list of convenors can be found on pages 12-13 of this issue of The Link.

We thank those elders who have assumed new positions of leadership. Although each committee has a convenor, most committees need additional members, either as regular members or to join short term task groups. We encourage all of you to pray whether this could be a way in which you might be able to contribute to God's plan for St. Andrew's. Any elder would be happy to speak to you about committee work in general or about specific committees.

The church office is open, just not quite in the same way. Both Pastor Coggin and Whitney are working a part of their regular week in the church office; they have adjusted their schedules to meet the delivery deadlines for TWASA, the Companion Video and the print copy of the worship elements that are being delivered to those without access to a computer. Both Whitney and Pastor Coggin are available throughout the week by phone and email.

Due to the current uncertainty about what we can do, what is safe and who is available to participate in the preparation, it was agreed that there will be no Bazaar this year.

As we engage in the important work of visioning and seeking God's plan for St Andrew's, it is essential we work together as a team, supporting and listening to one another. All of us have a part to play.

From him, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each does its work. Ephesians 4:16

Colina Titus
Session Clerk

Share the Joy of Christmas 2021

As mentioned in the October edition of The Link, the Mission and Outreach Committee has been considering how we can continue to serve people in need in Victoria. A motion was passed by Session in September allowing us to now redirect our **Share the Joy of Christmas** donations from Our Place to the Mustard Seed Street Church Christmas Hamper Drive. We are excited about the prospect of raising funds to support needy families in Victoria this Christmas.

Each year in December, the Mustard Seed expands its programs and services and distributes Christmas hampers to those in need. According to Development Director, Janiene Boice, the Mustard Seed team will be serving 1500 families and 870 children this year. Each hamper costs \$142 which covers turkey and "all the fixings" for a Christmas dinner. Also included in the hamper are Christmas morning breakfast, fresh produce and vegetables for the week, two toys per child and a few stocking stuffers. If there is an abundance of donations such as chocolates or socks, these are added as small gifts for the parents.

Based on St. Andrew's **Share the Joy of Christmas** donations from previous years, we have set a goal of 15 hampers. We will keep you posted in TWASA (after Remembrance Day) how our fundraising is going.

There are many ways that you can donate money to **Share the Joy**:

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 Collection where you can deposit your envelope. (Offering are not being collected because of Covid-19 restrictions.)

To mail in your donation, send it to
c/o Treasurer, St. Andrews 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.

On Harvest Sunday, October 10, 2021, we were taught American Sign Language to the hymn “Rejoice in the Lord Always” by Kilmeny Jones. After one practice run, we signed the hymn three times. It was beautiful in its silence.



Rejoice



in the



Lord



Always



Again



I Say



Rejoice

... — — — ...

Help! HELP!! HELP!!!

The Audio Visual group is in dire need of assistants to help us ensure correct mic application during services. The assistant, paired with an AV operator, would be there to ensure the correct microphone is on/off at the appropriate time. He/she would act as an extra pair of eyes.

If any are interested in the AV operation, this would be excellent opportunity to learn as well.

Please contact **Jerry Verwey**

avstandrewspres@gmail.com or at 778 678 3902

As many of you know, Laura lives in a beautiful float home at Fisherman's Wharf. The wharf is a real close community and Laura is very friendly with her neighbours. Laura would like to help Autumn who has been caring for one of her neighbours. Autumn has been working as a caregiver for her neighbour Susie who has MS but Susie is moving to Vancouver. Even Skipper, Susie's dog, loves Autumn- she would take him to the groomer or the vet on her day-off. Since Susie is moving, now Autumn has decided to develop the housekeeping side only- she is getting many requests.

Laura is making this information available to the people of St. Andrew's as she is aware that is important to find someone who you can trust and who is dependable when you choose a housekeeper and have them in your home. Laura highly recommends Autumn. She writes: "Middle age woman wishes to develop her housekeeping business. She is very reliable and her rates are reasonable. I have known Autumn for several years as a home support worker and highly recommend her since she is very conscientious and cheerful at her job. She is married and they have a 16 year old daughter. On the dock we consider her a real sweetheart. If you would like a meeting with Autumn you may contact her at 778 678 7514."

Submitted by **Laura Richards.**

Thanks to Laura for this information for anyone who is thinking of hiring a housekeeper.

There will *not* be a traditional bazaar this year.

But, Ann Lambie has undertaken the preparation of jams/jellies and relishes again this year. There is an opportunity to support our bazaar fund in two ways:

You can buy some of these preserves for your Christmas stocking stuffers at \$5 per jar or 5 jars for \$20. They can be delivered to you, or you can pick them up at the church office. (A list of available preserves will be available soon.)

Or, you can donate to the bazaar fund, and we will deliver preserves to the Mustard Seed food bank.

David McLean

These St. Andrew's faithful have died during the Pandemic and on All Saint's Sunday we remember their lives and contributions...

2020

Dorothy Barss

Alec Brown

Maureen (Mary) Brown

Ron Burnett

Isabel (Molly) Campbell

Wm. Robin Fitzsimons

Norman Hardwicke

Douglas Hodgkinson

Lilian Hully

Cecil Jury

Donald MacEachern

Betsy Lawrie Matheson

Tom Peet

Margaret Reid

Isabel Richardson

2021

Peter Boldt

May Brown

The Apostle Paul wrote in Hebrews 12:1 of those who preceded us and yet are still cheering us on. Paul writes:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

I wonder how many of you have ever heard of a **Blessing Box**? From the time I was a little girl I had heard about it but I never saw one. However, I knew it existed as sure as I knew that my Grandmother existed.

There would seldom be a day that my Grandmother didn't add something to the blessing box. As she went about her day, she would often be grateful for someone or something and would announce, "Well, that's one for the blessing box."

Over the past month, we at St. Andrew's have been creating our own blessing box as we collected, what in our lives makes us thankful.

It has been easy for many months, to be inundated with what is wrong in our lives. What we can't do, where we can't go, who we can't see. However, over the past few months I, and many others have become aware of the many things, big and small, that have filled our lives with gratitude. As we share what makes us grateful we realize that sharing our gratitude is very powerful.

For all of October I decided to focus St. Andrew's bulletin boards on sharing for what we are thankful. Not only do St. Andrew's people come and go from the sanctuary and the hall but we have many, many others who also enter our buildings each day. We shared what we are thankful for and others who also make use of our facilities throughout the week contributed what they are thankful for.

Here's what people shared - some are very personal, some we can all relate to, and some to bigger issues.

I'm thankful for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ~ sobriety | ~ each day that I am well |
| ~ meetings all through COVID to help me maintain friends & family (×8) | ~ my dog/my cat (×2) |
| ~ God & his many wonderful blessings throughout my life (×4) | ~ Overeaters Anonymous (OA) and a place to meet to maintain weight loss (×2) |
| ~trains | ~ AA and a place to meet |
| ~ my comfy bed (×20) | ~ church staff and volunteers |
| ~ clean water | ~ television, phones, computers |
| ~ good health (×6) | ~ democracy |
| ~ medical staff when needed (×3) | ~ cataract surgery |
| ~ a good mind | ~ laughter |
| ~ a place called St. Andrew's Presbyterian (×3) | ~ love - given & received |
| ~ our streaming service and those who run it | ~ my log cabin |
| ~ the kind, friendly people at St. Andrew's & our Pastor (×4) | ~ books |
| ~ my safe assisted living residence | ~ the kids & their teachers who continued to dance even with restrictions |
| ~ freedom to worship at St. Andrew's | ~ the gardens and planters around the church |
| ~ COVID protocols for our province & country to keep people safe | ~ chatting in the lane over the summer |
| ~ vaccine available (×3) | ~ church volunteers during these changing times |
| ~ a place to rest and food to eat (×4) | ~ vegetables grown (some planned some volunteered) and then shared |
| ~ wonderful fall weather | ~ fruits & vegetables preserved to share & enjoy |
| ~ rains (×2) | ~ prayer, talking to Jesus |
| ~ Sunday service participants | ~ memories |

I hope all of you will create your own blessing box and use it daily. God has provided us with many blessings and He will continue to do so. Let's all become more aware of our blessings.

When finally we return to our Sunday services, which will include songs of praise, I hope that we will sing the following hymn.

Sheelagh Garson

Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving, to God our Creator triumphantly raise
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us onto the end of our days.
His banners are over us, his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished as forward we travel from light into light.
His law he enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.



Mitch and Linda celebrate their notification of Canadian permanent residence status, received on Thursday, Oct. 28. Congratulations!



Five cyclists from Knox and St. Andrew's cycled a combined distance of 280 km on Saturday, Oct. 2, raising \$4,230 for PWS&D. Thank you to all who sponsored them! This is an annual event, and they would welcome new team members to join them in 2022!

Listening to God

What I've heard in the sermons lately is the ongoing importance of strengthening our "inner life" in God. Stories—those we tell about our lives and those we hear about other's lives—are ways, I have learned, to listen to God. My intention is to share some of my struggle and insight on this journey of faith in the hope that my story will help you listen to your own story.

When I was little my bed faced the closet. Alone in my dark room, I would imagine the frightening scenes from my dreams like a movie on that closet door. I repeated the verse, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you," until I fell asleep.

I don't remember when I first encountered Psalm 56:3. Maybe, we read the verse in Sunday school and I took it as my own. I wasn't aware of what it meant to trust God, but, for me, it was enough to take refuge in those words. In the morning light, the night terrors became a dim memory. How did I know, even as a child, that I could use scripture as a way to talk to God?

Over a lifetime, I've expanded my arsenal of scriptures that reassure me of God's presence and provision. The months before and after we moved to Victoria, I took shelter in the verse from Deuteronomy 33:27 (ESV): *The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.* When I felt that all that was familiar was shifting, I was reminded that those arms of God's presence were my true home.

I still wake up in the dark fearing the "what ifs" of my current dilemmas. The Psalmist teaches that trust is the antidote to fear. When I trust, I don't have to figure things out—solve those what-ifs or know the unknowns. I do not know how things will turn out or even if they will. I don't have to be afraid because God will never leave me to face whatever unfolds. When I trust, I *can* rest in God's presence, even if it is just for a few minutes at a time.

Linda Coggin

Deadline for the December *Link* is
November 28.

Remember to send your articles to
thelink@shaw.ca

Sip your Tea Nice and Slow

No one Ever knows when it's Time to Go,
There'll be no Time to enjoy the Glow,
So sip your Tea Nice and Slow.

Life is too Short but feels pretty Long,
There's too Much to do, so much going Wrong,
Some Friends stay, others Go away,
Loved ones are Cherished but not all will Stay.
Kids will Grow up and Fly away.
There's really no Saying how Things will Go,
So sip your Tea Nice and Slow.

In the End it's really all about understanding Love
For this World and in the Stars above,
Appreciate and Value who truly Cares,
Smile and Breathe and let your Worries go,
So Just Sip your Tea Nice and Slow.

When I'm dead. Your tears will flow
But I won't know Cry with me now instead.
You will send flowers, But I won't see
Send them now instead
You'll say words of praise But I won't hear.
Praise me now instead

You'll forget my faults, But I won't know
Forget them now instead.
You'll miss me then, But I won't feel.
Miss me now instead.

You'll wish You could have spent more time with me,
Spend it now instead
When you hear I'm gone, you'll find your way to my
house to pay condolence but we haven't even spoken
in years.
Look for me now.

Spend time with every person around you, and help
them with whatever you have to make them happy—
your families, friends and acquaintances.
Make them feel Special because you never know
when time will take them away from you forever.
Alone I can 'Say' but together we can 'Talk'.
Alone I can 'Enjoy' but together we can 'Celebrate'
Alone I can 'Smile' but together we can 'Laugh'.

That's the BEAUTY of Human Relations.
We are nothing without each other
So Stay Connected!

by Prof. Anne Lee Tzu Pheng
(Singapore Cultural Medallion winner)
Submitted by **Joyce Nordwall**

The Bucket List...

The movie "Bucket List" was released in 2008 and tells the story of two terminally ill men who escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a wish list of to-dos before they die. Another Bucket list definition, "...a list of things a person wants to achieve or experience, before reaching a certain age or dying".



In 1970, I moved from Ontario to Fort McMurray to work for Sun Oil in the 'tar sands' in their computer department. As you can imagine in a town of 10,000 people in the middle of nowhere and nothing better to do, I decided to get my private pilot's license. I completed my training and successfully passed my tests.

On my next visit to Toronto (actually Maple airport) I rented a Cessna 150 and took each of my two brothers up for a flight (separately, the 150 is a 2-seater). As I was going through my logbook recently I found the receipt for one-hour of flight time in the amount of \$23. I'm afraid to ask what it might cost in 2021 dollars.

I got married, became a father, and gave up my MGB and stopped flying. I often felt I would like one last entry in my pilot's logbook. I replaced the MGB with the Miata, so that was struck off the list.

For my most recent birthday, I gifted myself a 'discovery flight' at the Victoria Flying Club and was able to put my "one more entry in my pilot's log". The discovery flight lasted an hour and a half. It brought back some fun times and fond memories.

I have no plans to take up flying again, due to age, health and cost but I have been able to put a line through one of the remaining 'bucket list items'. It's never too late to review your bucket list—things you wanted to do and to find ways to strike them off your list.

Life is full of shoulda's, coulda's and woulda's. We can change these to: can, will and did.

I'm not convinced I should have "jumping out of an airplane" on my list, but who knows?

What's on your bucket list? It's never too late!

Jim Ferguson





Serena Jack, violin and Christine Purvis, organ – Sunday, October 17, 2021

Recognition of the Saints of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church who left us in 2020 and 2021.



All Saints and Reformation Sunday - October 31, 2021

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” with Kilmeny Jones, ASL and Jorge Carrazales, voice.



Halloween Organ Concert

On Saturday, October 30, 2021 the Royal Canadian College of Organists staged a Halloween Organ Concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. This delightful event featured eight Halloween-themed selections of "spooktacular" music, played by organists from Victoria and as far away as Parksville. Our own director of music, Christine Purvis, Donald Hunt from Christ Church Cathedral and David Stratkauskas from St. John the Divine Anglican Church were among the Victoria organists. All the performers wore costumes,



including a scarecrow, a vampire and a vampire-hunter from Castlevania.

Besides the unofficial anthem of Halloween, Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, some of the other ominous and sinister music played had the scary titles: A Diet of Worms (played by Sandra Fletcher) Bloody Tears and Rondo of the Ghouls. The last piece about ghouls dancing on graves was performed by St. Andrew's singing student, Jorge Eduardo.

The concert was very well received and well organized. (Pardon the pun!) Two persons in costume, outside on the steps, checked vaccine cards and photo ID and directed people to the donation boxes. Masks were worn inside, people observed social distancing rules, and some of the audience wore Halloween garb. All donations received at this free event went to the RCCO Victoria Centre Outreach Fund.



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AT ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STANDING COMMITTEES:

Individuals from the congregation and at least one elder representative.
Convenor of Worship and Christian Education required to be an elder.

Committees that provide leadership for the Mission and Vision of St. Andrew's		Committees that have responsibility to provide the required support and resources for the activities of the church	
Worship	Christian Education	Congregational Life	Mission and Outreach
a) Contribute to planning, preparation and delivery of worship activities. Sharing of ideas for worship with Minister and Director of Music Ministry b) Coordinate support: Communion Sound/video Elements Ushers Readers Seasonal Focus	Planning and provision of Christian Education for all ages a) children Sunday School Children's Pageant b) adults - selection of appropriate materials and resources for study including Advent/Lenten studies	Provide activities designed to: provide a welcome to those joining our church family promote & maintain community.	a) Promote Mission and outreach activities within the congregation in: support for people in need support for change within society and institutional structures (social justice). congregational growth (evangelism). b) Provide activities and opportunities for mission and outreach that will increase the spiritual health and faith of the congregation.
Personnel and Leading with Care	Communication & Administration	Finance	Property
Ensures compliance with BC employment standards. Ensure safety of all participants in in church activities and on the church premises.	Coordinates church communication within the church and widely through the community through a wide range of platforms. Coordination of Congregational Business meetings including the AGM. Preparation of the annual report	Allocates financial resources, maintains fiscal responsibilities to support activities of the church. Supported by: Treasurer/Chair Bookkeeper (hired) Counting Team Cheque writer Envelope secretary	Maintains facilities and resources to support all church activities. Manages: Maintenance of all facilities rentals permanent vendors insurance

Rationale for Task groups/teams:

Includes individuals from the congregation and the session

Increase use of task groups within each committee: seasonal & one-off activities etc.
encourages congregational participation without signing up for life

New faces will invigorate and give more people ownership of what happens.

Report to session

EXISTING TASK GROUPS (that have been working throughout the year):

Virtual worship group:	research and planning for presenting worship services via the web.
Administrative task group	revision of church committee structure and leadership
Property redevelopment team	considering possible development options for the Kirk Hall site
Church profile team	preparation of the St. Andrew's Church Profile, required for the Search Process to call a new minister
Recitals team:	stewardship of the sanctuary by offering the space for recitals

PROPOSED TASK GROUPS (not yet in place)

Stewardship	Stewardship is ongoing. How do we think about money, service, individual talents and what we can do with them?
Visioning	Needs to happen regularly and when circumstances change (e.g., new minister). Visioning events and activities to include everyone. It should not be perceived as the minister's visioning, but rather the congregation's.
Search	Conduct a search process on behalf of the congregation following the procedure set out by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES

Christian Education	Sabine Teetzel
Communication and Administration	Jean Marcellus
Congregational Life (co-convenors)	Sabine Teetzel, Colina Titus
Finance	Jack Reimer (Treasurer)
Mission and Outreach	Patti Jackson
Personnel and Leading with Care	Colina Titus
Property	Saul Preston
Worship	Brian Titus
Roll Clerk	Jean Marcellus
Session Clerk	Colina Titus
Elder Representative to Presbytery	Brian Titus

Goodbye & Thank You ~ Hello & Welcome

Rev. Vincent Tan was appointed as Interim Moderator in 2019. Vincent is the Minister for the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Victoria. For more than 3 years he has faithfully supported Pastor Mitch and the elders in the work of the session. Vincent has shared words of scripture to encourage us and has been with us in prayer. Three years is much longer than the usual period for an interim ministry and it is time for Vincent to step down. As we say goodbye to Vincent, we thank him for his commitment and friendship extended to St. Andrew's.

And so it is with pleasure that we welcome Rev. Wayne Stretch as Interim Moderator for St. Andrew's, effective immediately. Wayne is well known to many of the St. Andrew's family, and we asked him to write a little bit about himself...

A Brief Biography for Rev. Wayne Stretch

Wayne grew up in Victoria, one of five siblings, all of whom have lived and retired here in our beautiful city. He attended Monterey Elementary, and Oak Bay Jr. and Sr. High Schools before going to the University of Alberta for undergraduate studies. Wayne met and married Lynn, a Manitoba farm girl, during their university years. Following seminary studies in the U.S., they were blessed with two daughters, Candace and Megan. Wayne has served churches in Kentucky, Indiana, Alberta and B.C., and has also served our B.C. Synod as the Dean of the Presbyterian Leadership Centre. For the 15 years prior to his retirement, Wayne was the Regional Minister for the Synod of B.C.

Wayne delivered the newspaper to St. Andrew's church as a young boy, and he has fond memories of the kindness shown him in those years. Since then, Wayne has enjoyed maintaining a connection with St. Andrew's as a friend and fellow minister in our Synod. As parents, he and Lynn were also appreciative that their daughters were involved in a very active youth ministry as members of the church during their university days.

Wayne has shared in the blessings of the ministry of St. Andrew's church for many years, and he is very pleased to come along side us now and share in ministry as our Interim Moderator.

Wayne will work closely with session and guide the Search Committee in the important work of calling a new minister.

The appointment of Wayne as Interim Moderator of St. Andrews was made official at the September 28 meeting of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island but could not be announced before official approval at that time.

We said "Goodbye" to Vincent and "Hello and Welcome" to Wayne at our session meeting.

Pastor Coggin & Colina Titus

Note regarding the role of an Interim Moderator.

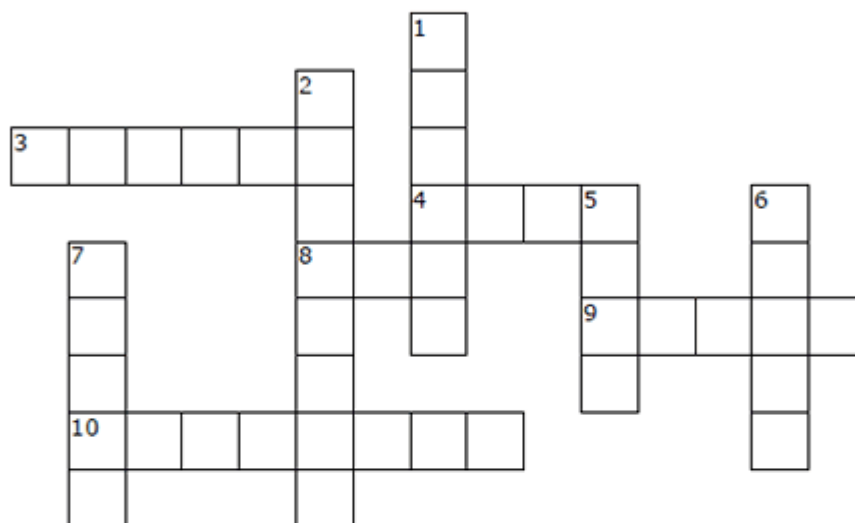
According to the polity of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, when a pulpit becomes vacant, even if an interim minister is appointed by Presbytery (Pastor Coggin was appointed by Presbytery to be Transitional Minister for St Andrew's), an Interim Moderator is appointed who "must conserve the interests of both presbytery and congregation" (Article 213, Book of Forms).

The Interim Moderator has a significant role in the call of a new minister: "The Presbytery usually empowers the interim moderator to proceed to moderation in a call to a minister to fill the vacancy, as soon as the interim moderator has satisfactory evidence that the congregation is ready to make a choice". (Article 213, Book of Forms).

The Widow's Mite

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Mark 12:42

Based on Mark 12:38-44



ACROSS

3. A reddish-brown metal which is sometimes used in making coins
4. Having little or no wealth
8. The entire amount; everything
9. A small piece of flat, circular metal, used for money
10. A contribution or gift made at a religious service

DOWN

1. A building used for worship
2. A place where funds are received, kept, and dispensed
5. Having great material wealth
6. The official currency issued by a government
7. A woman whose husband has died and who has not remarried

POOR
ALL

COINS
WIDOW

TREASURY
OFFERING

COPPER
MONEY

TEMPLE
RICH