

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



Holy Week 2022 begins only a week after the release of the April edition of the Link. Holy Week 2019 and 2020 were monumental in what we were not able to do to celebrate the most significant day in the church year. We worshipped from home in both years although the video recordings we made of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter were well-received.

April 2022

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thelink@shaw.ca

Victoria, BC

Almost a year following our re-entry for in-person worship, finally we can be together again during Holy Week. Holy Week 2022, beginning the week of April 11 will provide incredible opportunities to worship in a multitude of ways. The three congregations of Trinity Presbyterian, Knox Presbyterian and St. Andrew's will be blending our worship in a variety of ways and locations this year.

Maundy Thursday - April 14, Trinity Presbyterian Church will host Knox and St. Andrew's for Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm. Each congregation is encouraged to attend this service at Trinity Presbyterian at 2964 Tillicum Rd., Victoria, BC V9A 2A8. A service of holy communion will be provided as we begin our march to Easter resurrection.

Good Friday - April 15 at 10:00 am, Knox Presbyterian welcomes Trinity and St. Andrew's at Knox Presbyterian at 2964 Richmond Rd, Victoria, BC V8R 4V1. Please attend each of these two meaningful services within the congregations of our partner Presbyterian congregations in Victoria.

Finally, **Easter Sunday** at 10:30 am, St. Andrew's and Knox Presbyterian will join in Easter worship at St. Andrew's. What a fantastic opportunity to worship together to celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning. Holy communion will be shared on Easter morning. (Trinity will not be joining us for Easter as they only recently resumed in-person worship and coffee hour.)

I encourage you to attend the three services at each location. This will be an important opportunity to celebrate that each congregation is a part of our Presbyterian family, and we have much in common. Join us on Thursday, April 14 at Trinity, Friday, April 15 at Knox, and Easter Sunday, April 17 at St. Andrew's. I pray that each of you will make Holy Week worship a priority this year by attending Holy Week worship in each



location listed. What a blessed opportunity to celebrate Easter as we worship together.

Praying for Peace this Lenten season.

Blessings,
Rev. Mitch Coggin

Session Update

When we began the March session meeting, Pastor Coggin challenged each elder to remember what has given us cause for joy in the past week and to focus on joy through the evening.

Pastor Coggin and Rev. Stretch spoke of the encouragement and enthusiasm experienced in the conversations with the Minister and Interim Moderator of our sister churches in Victoria. These discussions are significant because each congregation faces challenges: the three congregations are rich in resources (the buildings) but also poor in resources (upkeep of the buildings). All have a shortage of people to carry out the work of mission, the business of the church, and the care for each other.

While previous conversations regarding cooperation among our congregations have occurred, the circumstances have changed such that each church is experiencing the same significant challenges going forward. The conversations now are focused on the future and all possibilities for partnership are open for consideration.

St. Andrew's is coming from a place of honesty, owning that we face challenges. What is St. Andrew's ministry? What are we called to do?

All three churches have the same privilege of being called by God to do his work in Victoria. How can we bring our resources together for the same purpose and mission? We start with what we have, with optimism, and help each other.

An outcome of these initial conversations is that churches will share worship through Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday at 7pm at Trinity;

Good Friday at 10 am at Knox;

Easter Sunday at 10.30 am at St. Andrew's;

Links to all three Holy Week livestream services will be shared with all congregations.

We hope the congregations will take these initial steps toward collaboration seriously and demonstrate a willingness to get to know one another in a new way. It is important that everyone who is able attend each of the services.

We continued our discussion about how we might develop more of a partnership with Ballet Victoria, who are not only our tenants but our neighbours. How might we be more engaged?

- Invite members of Ballet Victoria families to join a choir;
- Assist with Tea for Tutu (we are familiar with our kitchen);
- Offer to let parents to come and sit in the sanctuary for quiet, offer a cup of tea, while they wait for kids attending a dance class;
- Worship committee will explore what Ballet Victoria could offer in dance for our worship service.

Earlier this year we received the gift of a Bible from an elderly woman who was part of the junior choir and the Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) through St. Andrew's. The bible has a sterling silver cover See <https://franklin-mint-silver.com/franklin-mint-silver-family-bible.htm>. In her accompanying letter the woman mentioned not only her connection with young people, but also her awareness of the work that St. Andrew's is doing to help those less fortunate or living on the street. She was clear that there was no expectation for St. Andrew's to keep the bible, but rather to use the proceeds as we choose. On the recommendation of the Christian Education Committee, in recognition of the interests expressed by the donor, the proceeds from the sale of this bible will be split between children's education at St. Andrew's and the Chaplaincy program at Our Place.

A joint initiative of the Christian Education Committee and the Worship Committee is to open the church once

(Continued on page 3)

In Loving Memory



Vivienne Burnett

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

(Continued from page 2)

per week for an hour of personal meditation for anyone from the community and the church who would like this opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer. This will happen as soon as an adequate team of volunteers can be found. It requires two volunteers each week to welcome those who come in and to open and close doors. Could you help? (see Page 3)

Session has approved a simple Communicable Disease Prevention Policy to meet employer requirements of WorkSafe BC. It will be written with reference to 'WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention'. The policy will be written to minimize the risks any person, including our employees, while within the premises of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent that can be transmitted from one person to another. Eg COVID 19, norovirus or seasonal influenza. The policy will be implemented by the Personnel and Leading with Care Committee.

The elders are pleased to announce that beginning April 3, we will begin our weekly coffee hour. Details of how this will happen can be read in the Coffee Hour announcement. (see Page 8)

What can we all anticipate through the next while:

Continue to transition out of the pandemic;
Welcome new and returning faces;
Journey together through Lent.

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

Colina Titus,
Session Clerk

SOCK DRIVE

for Mustard Seed Church



Feet work overtime when there is no cozy home and laundry room to return to each night. If you put yourself in someone else's shoes (no pun intended) you can see how warm, clean socks can be a real treasure.

The street outreach program of the Mustard Seed Street Church is in desperate need of new socks to support the needs of this growing community.

Starting in April, the Mission & Outreach Committee will be collecting socks at St. Andrew's. There will be a wicker basket in the narthex for collection.

If you prefer you can make a donation directly to mustardseed.ca.

Thank you in advance for supporting this cause.

Patti Jackson,
Mission & Outreach

Mid-weekly Prayer and Meditation Hosts Needed

Can you assist in making our church home a place of quiet reflection during the mid-week? The Worship and Christian Education Committees would like to offer an opportunity for the public and our St. Andrew's family to pray and meditate in the Sanctuary from 12 to 1 pm on Wednesdays. Elizabeth Gichimu, the inspiration for this joint venture, has offered to be present on Wednesdays at noon.



However, we need a minimum of two people to be available to help open and close the church. Do you feel that you can help? Please contact Sabine Teetzel (steetzel@telus.net) or Brian Titus (bdtitus@gmail.com) if you would like to help, or speak directly to Elizabeth. This opportunity will commence as soon as we have an adequate number of volunteers.

Sabine Teetzel

Worship Committee

Transitions continue at St. Andrew's and more change is afoot in April!

Bruce Wasylik will take over leadership of ushering from Roger Bernard and Sheelagh Garson, who have done this since mid-July. They and the ushering teams have kept us all safe through the pandemic, and we owe them all a debt of gratitude!

The Worship Committee is re-examining the tools for enhancing worship developed through the pandemic, mindful that St. Andrew's must maintain a high degree of connection with those unable to be with us in person. A transition to endemic conditions means balancing the workload of staff and volunteers with the effectiveness of everything we do that is related to worship. To help the Worship Committee make recommendations that are effective for all members, both those able to attend in-person and those worshipping at home, we would welcome comments – especially those that explain “*why* you feel the way that you do”! Specifically:

- Do you look forward to receiving *TWASA*? How could it be improved? What parts of it do you not read or use?
- Do you find the “*Companion to Worship*” video helpful in your spiritual journey and in preparation for Sunday? What is most important to you within it? What parts or aspects of it could be dropped without affecting its value to you? What would you miss if it were discontinued?
- How could we foster dialogue or communication with and amongst those worshipping on-line? What aspects of *live-stream worship* could be improved, or are there any changes that you would recommend? (The AV folks are working on solving the problem with music during live-streaming – and may have new microphones installed soon!)

If you have suggestions for change that would enhance worship, please contact any member of the Worship Committee, or send your thoughts to the Church Office, who will forward them – we look forward to hearing from you!

We are also working with Christian Education to open the Sanctuary mid-week to members and the public for private prayer and meditation (see Page 3) – with thanks to Elizabeth Gichimu. We are in a time of

change, and have much to resolve as a congregation – what could be more important in discerning God's will for us than more time in prayer and spiritual meditation?

The ministers of St. Andrew's, Knox and Trinity are exploring ways in which the three congregations can collaborate more and, as an opening to this, we will be holding joint services in Holy Week: Maundy Thursday at Trinity (7:00 pm) Good Friday at Knox (10:00 am) and Easter Sunday (10:30 am) at St. Andrew's. We have shared Holy Week services in the past, but the circumstances which all local congregations now face adds a greatly increased importance and imperative to working together. Please help demonstrate St. Andrew's commitment to working with our sister churches by joining us at these services, if you are able. The Worship Committee is always happy to hear from people – never hesitate to be in touch!

Brian Titus,
Worship Committee

Breaking News!

- The Presbytery Camp Committee has, after much frustration, secured three Presbytery group camp sites. In spite of the early morning rush and not being able to get our preferred dates and sites, we have reserved the following group camping opportunities:
 - French Beach Provincial camp site - Monday, July 4 - Friday, July 8.
 - Cowichan River Provincial G2- Stoltz Pool site - Monday, July 25 - Friday July 29.
 - Goldstream Provincial G2- Prospector (upper site) Thursday, August 25 - Monday, August 29.
- We have also scheduled our mid-week camp for Tuesday, June 7 - Friday, June 10 at Little Qualicum River Provincial camp site. This camp is an individual camp site reservation. I hope, as in the past, it will be around camp site 50. (This can't be booked until 2 months prior to the date - April 7th.)
- More information will follow in the May *Link*, including registration for the group camping opportunities.

Jerry Verwey,
Presbytery Camp Representative

Mission & Outreach

Refugees who arrive in Canada

When you think of refugees who arrive in Canada what springs to mind? I recently attended a Zoom meeting, Finding Home: Transformative Places where Refugee Claimants Flourish. Perhaps like me, you did not know that refugee claimants are different from resettled refugees. These two groups come to Canada through different immigration streams. All persons who are forced to flee their country of origin because of war, natural disasters or persecution are refugees (asylum seekers). Ukrainians will arrive under a program known as Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET). In addition, Ukrainians can apply for permanent resident status through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

How are refugee claimants different from resettled refugees?

Resettled refugees come to Canada through the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program, either as government sponsored or privately sponsored refugees. They are screened abroad and when resettled refugees arrive in Canada they immediately receive permanent resident status and have housing and settlement support available to them.

Refugee claimants arrive in Canada on their own (or with their immediate family) and are seeking refugee protection. On arrival refugee claimants are screened for security, identity and flight risk. They arrive in Canada with no housing in place and few resources to support themselves. While trying to meet basic needs to survive, refugee claimants enter the detailed and complex refugee protection process that leads towards the refugee hearing, where a determination is made whether they merit protection or not. It can take months or sometimes years to reach this point. If they get protection they will receive the Person in need of Protection Status and can apply for permanent resident status. In 2021, a total of 24,995 refugee claimants arrived in Canada and 3,415 claimants came to B.C.

What's it like when refugee claimants arrive?

Although refugee claimants have left dangerous situations in the countries they have fled, there are many equally difficult challenges they face in Canada. Their option for housing is usually living in a shelter. Most shelters are set up for either moms and children,

or shelters for men, so families will be separated. A very pregnant Middle Eastern mom who arrived in Canada was separated from her husband until they were able to find transitional housing. Another refugee claimant described living in a shelter in the lower East Side of Vancouver as more frightening than living in a refugee camp as a young boy in Gaza. Other challenges involve waiting for documentation, language issues, discrimination, finding employment, trying to live on a very basic income and establishing a credit rating. Although there are good resources available in Canada, refugee claimants find navigating the system very convoluted and complicated. After leaving shelters the next step is finding temporary housing (and the housing is indeed temporary). Obtaining housing in British Columbia is especially difficult and is the biggest need. Those who have found permanent housing describe it as (finally) finding home and belonging to a community.

What resources are available?

On the lower mainland there are a number of agencies that provide assistance specifically for refugee claimants. These include:

- MAP—Multi Agency Partnership BC (mapbc.org);
- Journey Home Community, a faith based, non profit-transitional housing (journeyhomecommunity.ca);
- Kinbrace, refugee housing & support (kinbrace.ca).

These agencies are working together to simplify the process for refugees and they specialize specifically in resources for refugee claimants.

How can we help?

Many who arrive in Canada seeking refugee protection face numerous challenges and vulnerabilities. Although we may not be able to provide access to housing we can provide support in other ways. Church groups can play a vital role in supporting all vulnerable refugees, bridging cultural gaps, and helping refugees to overcome challenges they face in a new country. We can extend our hand of welcome to all whose paths we come across. Refugees are having to overcome trauma, a huge sense of loss and are rebuilding their lives. Worship and religious traditions help uprooted people reconfirm their identity as members of a community.

Patti Jackson,
Mission & Outreach

News from Presbytery

Presbytery meetings consist of many items of business that must be attended to for the smooth running of an organization with responsibility for the ten congregations on the island. Many items have little immediate and/or direct impact on St. Andrew's – but some do! Below are some highlights.

Good news! Presbytery camp programs are going ahead and are now confirmed for July 4 - 8 at French Beach, July 25 - 29 at Cowichan River, and August 25 - 29 at Goldstream.

The Missions committee asked if each congregation can find a PWS&D “champion”. They will meet from time to time to share ideas for fostering support for PWS&D amongst congregations. Patti Jackson has kindly offered to take this on for St. Andrew's.

It is an unusual situation, but we are currently one of four churches with vacancies within 60 km of each other! St. Andrew's (Duncan) and Trinity (Victoria) are currently reviewing and considering applications; and Knox (Sooke) will no doubt soon embark on revising its profile in preparation for issuing a call.

Rev. Laura Kavanaugh continues to contribute to the work of the UVic Multifaith Centre. Thanks to funding from presbytery this enables Knox to hire someone to help her with pastoral visiting. This is an important connection between the Presbyterian Church in Canada and UVic students. (The funding also covers similar pastoral work at Trinity.)

The most relevant news to us is that questions posed by session to presbytery regarding the necessity of earthquake insurance led to two outcomes. First, presbytery is ultimately responsible for all church properties (Book of Forms 200.14) and clarified that they strongly advise earthquake insurance, although it is a congregational choice whether to purchase it or not. However, our heritage status creates a more complex situation, and thus we were asked to retain earthquake insurance until the Administration Committee of presbytery can meet with representatives of St. Andrew's to clarify whether presbytery would be liable for any costs which St. Andrew's cannot cover if the city of Victoria insists on reconstruction of a replica heritage building after an earthquake.

Secondly, our question to presbytery on earthquake insurance opened a very constructive discussion about the direction of Presbyterian witness in Victoria and the

potential for collaborative work (such as the sharing of a pastoral visitor between Knox and Trinity mentioned earlier). In response, session asked our transitional pastor and interim moderator to open discussions with our sister churches – and the first outcome is our joint Holy Week services with Knox and Trinity. We have held these in the past, but attendance at this year's services takes on new and important significance because the willingness of congregations to worship together may be seen as an important indicator of our willingness to work together in future cooperative initiatives.

In closing, discussions at presbytery regarding St. Andrew's have been conducted in a sympathetic and constructive tone. We are undoubtedly entering a time of uncertainty in which a stronger vision of our congregation as part of a national denomination, one of 10 congregations on the island, and one of five in Greater Victoria may become increasingly important. May God grant us clarity in discerning His will for us at this pivotal time in our history.

Brian Titus,

Representative Elder to Presbytery

A Prayer for Peace

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?
 How can words salve and soothe real wounds,
 Assuage real fears, wipe tears from real eyes?
 God of endless compassion, transform our prayers
 From words into bridges, that span the distances
 Between us, uniting our hearts in yours.
 Every time we turn our keys in a lock,
 May we remember all who are losing their homes.
 Every time we step into our cars,
 May we remember all who are having to flee.
 Every time we embrace our children,
 May we remember all who are trying to shield theirs from
 war.
 May our besieged sisters and brothers
 Be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ,
 And may our cry be heard as one voice,
 Ringing out from every corner of the earth:
 God of endless mercy, grant us peace. Amen

Cameron Bellm

Cameron Bellm has a PhD in Russian Literature and she is a Seattle-based writer and speaker.

Submitted by **Anne Bell**

Those of us who have attended St. Andrew's all know how our caretaker, Grant Shepard, has looked after our church property. Perhaps the most obvious thing we note as we approach the church are the beautiful flowers and flower beds at the front and the side of the church. Inside we note that the sanctuary is always clean and welcoming. Grant does a lot of things! We are very fortunate to have him as our caretaker. The following story provides further insight into Grant's care and attention in ensuring that our sanctuary is being cared for. Thank you, Grant!

“It all started when I had my cataract surgery. I had no idea how bad my vision was!

I was chatting with Jack Reimer in the sanctuary and I was looking down at the floor with my new found vision and saw the floors didn't look good. I said to Jack that I would do some research into how the floors could be restored without having them sanded and refinished.

I turned to our supplier of janitorial supplies (Acme Supply) and they recommended a couple of products that are used by many of their customers which are safe and effective for wood floors. I used our floor scrubbing machine with the cleaning product they recommended and after that was completed and dry, I used a microfiber dry mop to pick up the dust and particles. I was then able to apply the recommended coating liquid. It protects the floors and brings back the color of the wood grain. It also provide a very good shine—too much so! I then used our floor burnishing machine to burnish down the very bright shine to a warmer lustre.

It all worked well and I was very pleased with the results. This will make it much easier to keep the floors clean and I can re-apply the coating as needed. It really brightens up the space as it reflects the lighting as well as the natural light through the stained glass windows.



It was a lot of work but I really enjoy doing this work for all the fine people that make up the community that is St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

Thank you,
Grant Shepard

Seen in Passing!



George Smith at the Monterey Center beside the Oak Bay Library. He and I have been running into one another weekly as we participate in our weekly programs.

Photo and write-up submitted by
Mitch Coggin

A Message of Gratitude!

Our Church family does not meet together as it did before the pandemic and I began to realise how many people had given of their time, energy and talents to hold us together in the Love of God, His Son, our Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, by presenting two “Virtual Church” Services *every* week and this informative newsletter, *The Link*, every month.

I thought of the organisation, preparation, practice and time, given by *everyone* involved, to make this virtual church happen on livestream and our website, also for the Link, which brings us up to date with church matters and our church family.

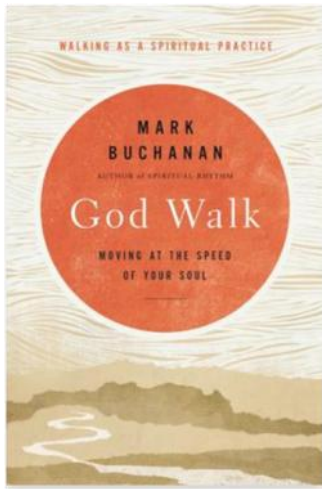
I am so grateful and thankful to everyone, who has allowed me to watch the services from the comfort of my home when I was unable to drive to church.

I am sure they must wonder, sometimes, “How did I do?” So a card, email, or phone call would be a lovely way to say ‘thanks’. Feedback and blessings are so important to our mental health.

My sincere thanks to EVERYONE involved,
Joyce Nordwall

Christian Education

God Walk Book Club



You are invited to participate in a 7-week virtual book club of *God Walk* by Mark Buchanan.

“We often act as if faith is only about the mind. But what about our bodies? What does our physical being have to do with our spiritual life? When the Bible exhorts us to walk in the light, or walk by faith, or walk in truth, it means these things literally as much as figuratively. The Christian faith always involves *walking out*, as again and again we find the holy in the ordinary.”

Each session will involve a group discussion led by one of three facilitators (Sabine Teetzel, Colina Titus, Laura Hawkes) who will be reading and exploring the book at the same pace as the other participants (i.e. we are not experts, just keen readers like you!)

When: Every Wednesday, April 20th to June 1st,
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83419017582>

Where to get the book: The book can be purchased from Indigo (online), Amazon, Apple Books, and Audible (audio book - why not listen while you walk???). To borrow a copy please email Sabine Teetzel steetzel@telus.net (limited number available).

For more information, please email Sabine Teetzel (steetzel@telus.net). For the first week, please read to the end of Mile 1 (page 67).

Submitted by,
Laura Hawkes



COFFEE ON SUNDAY APRIL 3

The greatly missed and long-awaited Coffee Hour!

Join your friends for coffee in the Kirk Hall following the service on April 3.

To make sure everyone feels safe please:

Keep a respectful distance as you make your way to the Kirk Hall

Keep your mask on until you are seated at a table.

Congregational Life Committee

Calendar for April

- April 3 Spring Concert 2pm (see back cover)
- April 14 Worship - Maundy Thursday - Trinity Presbyterian 7pm
- April 15 Worship - Good Friday - Knox Presbyterian 10am
- April 17 Worship Easter Sunday - St. Andrew's 10:30am (Communion)
- April 20 **God Watch** Book Club 7 - 8pm
- April 24 Link Deadline
- April 27 **God Watch** Book Club 7 - 8pm

Sundays Worship 10:30am followed by Coffee Hour
Sock Drive for Mustard Seed Church - Basket in Narthex

St. Andrew's Committees

Listed below is the current list of the members in each of the committees.

You will notice that some of the committees are small. Is there something that you have a particular interest in? God has given each of us talents and skills, and a wide range of life experiences. Are you ready to use those gifts for St Andrew's? As Paul wrote "there are many parts, but one body". We are all a valuable part of the body.

If you would like to know about a committee and how you might be able to contribute, contact the convenor, an elder or myself.

If you would like help to get in touch with one of the convenors, please contact

Colina session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca or phone 250.382.2376

(We avoid including personal contact information as *The Link* is posted on the website)

COMMITTEE	CONVENOR	MEMBERS
Christian Education	Sabine Teetzel	Elizabeth Gichimu Laura Hawkes Linda Coggin <i>ex officio</i>
Communications and Administration	Jean Marcellus	Whitney Hanna <i>ex officio</i> Martin Perez <i>ex officio</i>
Congregational Life	(Co-convenors) Colina Titus & Sabine Teetzel	Moiria Bernard Patti Jackson Cathy Mackenzie Paula McHerron Dorothy Reimer Fiona Ryneveld
Finance	Jack Reimer (Treasurer)	Roger Bernard
Mission and Outreach	Patti Jackson	Patricia Shuckburgh Debra Verwey
Personnel and Leading with Care	Colina Titus	Dirk Ryneveld
Property	Pending	David McLean Dave Garson
Worship	Brian Titus	Laura Richards Christine Purvis <i>ex officio</i>
Roll Clerk	Jean Marcellus	
Session Clerk	Colina Titus	

Pastor Coggin is an *ex officio* member of all committees

Colina Titus, Session Clerk

Mission & Outreach

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Every year Presbyterians across Canada faithfully respond to God's call by supporting mission and ministry through the Presbyterian Church in Canada with gifts of time, money and prayer. PCC helps equip congregations, start new faith communities, support international partners, empower youth, encourage new ministers, equip theological students, support indigenous ministries, respond to emergencies, break cycles of poverty, pursue justice - and so much more.

Here is a look back at 2021:

- Congregations and individuals gave over \$9.9 million dollars to PCC ministries in 2021.
- \$5.7 million was given to support ministry in Canada and around the world through Presbyterian Sharing.
- \$2.6 million was given for international development and relief programs of PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service & Development).
- \$350,000 was given to PWS&D's Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
- \$148,000 was given to special missions and ministry programs.
- \$1.46 million was given in designated and undesignated bequests to PCC.

(St. Andrew's donated \$20,150.00 to Presbyterian sharing and \$3,571.00 to PWS&D)

In 2021, The Presbyterian Church in Canada equipped 32 mission partners in 14 countries with grants, and/or mission staff, focusing on leadership development, Bible translation, Christian education, theological education and evangelism. PCC supported ministries in Canada serving refugees and other newcomers to Canada, as well as people with addictions, mental health issues, disabilities and other barriers to traditional social engagement. They hosted websites for over 300 congregations, camps, presbyteries, synods and specialized ministries. PCC helped congregations take steps towards new directions in ministry and explore ways of sharing faith.

Nine ministries operated in, by, and for indigenous communities in Canada provided care and support for Indigenous people who continue to be impacted by the legacy of Residential schools run by the church. Christian educators explored practical ways to help children, adults and families grow in their faith. The

theological colleges, national committees and staff help equip ministerial candidates and presbyteries to discern calls to ministry. Grants provided seven Presbyterian camps with curriculum and an opportunity for monthly gatherings for their directors to discuss best practices on topics including anti-racism and inclusion of all people. Innovation and technology grants helped congregations run discipleship and public witness programs during COVID-19. Grants were provided for experimental projects, creative work with children and youth and to support rural and remote ministries. More than 240 people served on 34 committees or working groups.

Through a network of partners and relief agencies around the world, and with some government matching funds, PCC helped vulnerable people recover from disasters and access food, shelter and medical care. 52 congregations and 6 presbyteries worked to bring 266 refugees to Canada.

PWS&D's development programs helped people improve human rights, food security, education, and health services. Farmers in Haiti, Malawi, Guatemala and Nicaragua learned how to improve and diversify crop production while protecting water sources, saving seeds and restoring soil fertility. There were programs for vulnerable youth in Nicaragua, Malawi, Afghanistan, and India that helped increase self-esteem, prevent teenage pregnancies, reduce violence and improve nutrition. In Malawi, mothers and their children received immunizations and essential medical care. Food, housing, sanitation and support to rebuild livelihoods was provided to people whose lives were impacted by natural disasters and conflict in places around the world including Indonesia, Guatemala, Malawi, India and Madagascar. Ongoing support from PWS&D continues for those affected by the long-term crisis in Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Haiti and Afghanistan.

The time given and financial and prayerful gifts from people across Canada share a symbol of hope of God in action. It is also a reminder that we serve a living, vibrant and generous God and together we can all make a difference in our local community and around the world.

Patti Jackson,
Mission & Outreach

Spring Classical Music Concerts

Featuring University of Victoria,
School of Music Strings Students

Sunday Afternoons at 2:00 pm (45-60 minutes)

April 3rd

Seven violinists accompanied by multiple pianists from the studio of
Ann Elliott Goldschmid, Associate Professor, UVIC,
First Violinist of the Lafayette String Quartet

May 1st

Solos and duets by: Aline Th  vard, cello and Isabel Stanyer, piano
From the studio of Pam Highbaugh Aloni, Associate Professor, UVIC,
and Cellist, Lafayette String Quartet

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Corner of Broughton and Douglas Streets

Admission by Donation

Current health protocols in place

Accessibility ramp at Broughton Street entrance



Support from the Victoria Foundation's Covid Recovery Program
and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church