

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



Welcome back, Link Team and all reading this. I hope your summer has been restorative. Over the summer months we have continued to undergo several changes and challenges at St. Andrews. We said "Thank you and God be with you" to our long-term Office Administrator, Whitney Hanna who left to take a new position. We said, "Hello" to Office Administrator Temp, Shannon Cummings who is in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-2:30.

Over the summer months we have continued to attempt to understand the steep drop-off in attendance for in-person worship. Summer months usually reflect lower numbers of attendees, but the pre-COVID attendance has never risen to pre-pandemic levels. Where have persons gone? Has the livestream option deterred those who might return to worship? Further research into our membership rolls has revealed many of the reasons for our much lower numbers. We discovered:

Ageing and ill health - now in care homes or homebound	18
No longer living in Victoria; returning to family or career moves. Moves are widespread: Vancouver, Salt spring, Ontario, Halifax, Quebec, California, China, Mexico, and Korea	23
Joined another church to join family or to return to the denomination of their upbringing	5
Age related concerns and likely not returning to in-person worship	6
Health reasons have deterred others from most public venues throughout the pandemic	5
Death	8
Young families who stayed away out of concern for our older vulnerable population	18
Total	83

The number of persons we are no longer seeing tell the story that St. Andrew's is no longer who we once were. The numbers also do not reveal the ministry and care that is happening among us. Since the pandemic began, each week the Elements of Worship including the sermon are delivered to the homebound who request a copy. The human connection with these 14 families has been maintained through these personal visits.

Also, livestreaming continues to be an important source of connection for those who worship at home. One of our members whose family regularly worships via our livestream service shared:

Health issues means that I can no longer attend services. Ambulation is difficult and only one in the family is able to drive, indicating that the health of this member is critical to the overall health of our family.

Having the livestream service means that we can now "participate" in worship, something that was not possible earlier. As well, I am able to worship with our entire family from home. Although our computer is registered as one participant, usually there are two and sometimes three of us taking part during the livestream service. As well, friends of ours who now live elsewhere, often view the service even though they attend another church.

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September 2022

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Victoria, BC

Session Update

Please bear with me for this rather long report. Elders have been busy over the summer and met in both June and July.

June

We are hearing comments that people are 'choosing not to attend Sunday worship in person'. We must consider why some are not in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. (See also Pastor's Parable in TWASA Aug. 9). A preliminary review and discussion led to the following thoughts:

- Some are staying away because of their own or their family's concern for them.
- Some families have stayed away out of concern for bringing COVID to those elderly and vulnerable.
- Some are hesitant to come downtown (media does not present a very safe picture).
- Younger folk have 'left' Victoria and St Andrew's; careers and education make this a transient time in their lives.

What do these figures tell us about our mission moving forward?

- Maybe 60 in the sanctuary on a Sunday is our new reality. We need to invest resources to determine 'how many' and 'who' are worshipping online, and 'what they are looking for'.
- How do we encourage new people through the door?

Rev. Wayne Stretch (Interim Moderator) spoke of the importance of making progress on the four priorities (below) before we start a Pastoral search. Rev. Stretch expressed his respect for Mitch who has 'hung in there' through this long transition process, especially with the challenges presented by COVID.

Priorities:

Explore and pursue Partnerships with our sister Presbyterian congregations in Victoria.

- How can we move forward together? What is our vision for shared ministry?
- Engage in open ended conversations with sister congregations, including lay people.
- We are at a tipping point: currently 3 vacancies (Sooke, Trinity and St. Andrew's). This is urgent.
- What might shared resources/shared leadership look like? How might all church properties be used in a partnership going forward?
- Include Knox, Victoria, Knox Sooke, Trinity, Chinese Presbyterian, Saanich Peninsula.

- We all need each other - a compelling and timely argument.
- Partnership and its outcomes will not be immediate.

The other 3 priorities:

1. Add people resources/encourage and develop new leadership.
 2. Identify a long-term financial plan and resources for future ministry.
 3. Identify and make a plan to address emerging church building issues; determine how/whether our building factors into the church's future ministry.
- Address all issues in tandem. If we do not move forward, we will fall backwards.
 - We have time for the building (25 years) but not for leaders.
 - Can we 'hire' to fill some of the leadership, to leave leaders available for leading the life of the congregation?
 - Create synergy and motivation by working together.
 - Look at different ways to do the job.
 - Remember that recognition and acknowledgement create motivation.

On 1 June, Leona Johns retired from the position of Envelope Secretary after 11 years. We thank her for her diligence and commitment to this important task (accurate recording of money donated to the church through weekly envelopes, Preauthorised Remittance (PAR) and through the church website). This task was

In Loving Memory



Betty Barwise - June 2022

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

added to the responsibilities of the Church Administrator, initially for a period of 6 months.

July

Further to the 4 priorities previously discussed, Pastor Coggin shared the benefits of an Asset Mapping Exercise:

- Can we group congregation's assets to see an emerging pattern?
- Might our assets help us to move forward in a different direction?
- Asset mapping can help empower us to move forward, create energy and excitement.
- Can St. Andrew's use this tool?

Clarification about the conversations that are beginning between congregations:

- Were initiated by congregations, not directed by Presbytery.
- Are an exploration of collaboration in ministry. We are exploring 'shared partnership', not 'amalgamation'.
- Timely - three vacant pulpits and another that may be in a few years.
- Financially makes sense. Our building is both an asset and a liability.
- We need to face reality and consider partnerships.
- Most urgent challenge is the continued challenge of dearth of leadership.
- We need the data about finances and the building to engage in real conversation with other congregations. Map our assets.
- Ask: are we willing to lose our identity as St. Andrew's?
- Could our building be used as an asset for something quite different? Need to be open to something completely different.
- Consider literature from Vancouver School of Theology and St. Andrew's Hall: potential for downtown core ministry led by young graduates.

There are no quick fixes, but we cannot be having the same conversations next year!

Foodsafe Training is recommended for those serving food:

The cheapest and most efficient way to train people is by accessing an online course. The cost is \$25 dollars per person which the church will cover. You will have 30 days from registration to complete the course and the test.

Personnel Policies for Clergy and Employees (See article page 11.)

Session granted elder, Elizabeth Gichimu, a leave of absence from all duties of an elder, effective immediately until June 2024. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Business Administration while continuing to work full time. We will miss her and pray for God's strength and success for the busy months ahead.

Treasurer

- We are still seeking a competent volunteer to be the church treasurer. Those approached to take this role either alone or in partnership have declined.
- PCC confirms that a congregation must have a treasurer from within the congregation to oversee the finances of the church. However, many of the routine processes and tasks could be delegated to a paid employee. The most important responsibility of the treasurer is creating and monitoring a budget and ensuring that bills are paid.
- Perhaps the paid bookkeeper could take on more tasks and reduce the workload for the treasurer?
- Jack has given many years of faithful service and we need to find a treasurer quickly.

As you will now be aware, Whitney Hannah resigned from the position of Church Administrator. Session agreed to:

- Hire a temp to cover the essential office duties. Reduced hours would be sufficient for the duration of the temporary appointment.
- Plan to have a temp in place for at least 6 weeks; take time to review the position of Church Administrator (hours, responsibilities, qualifications). Maybe this is a good opportunity to consider sharing resources with other congregations.

After a very(!) short retirement, Leona kindly offered to temporarily reassume the tasks of Envelope Secretary. We are most grateful.

There is much to consider and pray about. St. Andrew's has a long history. God has a plan for St. Andrew's and the Presbyterian community in Victoria. God needs all of us to be open to 'what next?'

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

Colina Titus
Session Clerk

(Continued from page 1)

Livestream provides our worship beyond the means that St. Andrew's has ever been able to provide in the past. Thank you to all who watch, listen and participate in worship throughout Victoria, from the mainland, California, and even from Korea.

Upcoming: – As most of you know, conversations have begun between the Presbyterian congregations in Victoria. We are asking the question, "How might our congregations form a collaborative ministry, share resources and build a working partnership?" On Sunday, September 11, the ministers from the three congregations of Knox, Trinity and St. Andrews will swap pulpits. Following worship, we invite all three congregations to gather for a **picnic** at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Each family should bring their own food, place settings and another item to share with the rest. Bring your chairs and enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

On Thursday, September 15 representatives from each of the congregations will meet to begin the earnest work of looking deeply at collaborative ministry and what this might mean for our congregations? We do not come to the discussion with our minds made up or with preconceived notions about forming a working partnership between our congregations. Listening to and understanding one another will be paramount.

Your prayers are needed. I hope you will continue to be open to the new things that God is doing among us as well as continuing to work together on the transitional process that will guide us toward a new minister and ministries.

Blessings,
Pastor Mitch

Property Committee

As reported in our July and August updates to Session, the Property Committee has arranged for repair work due to water damage, to be completed on the Kirk Hall eyebrow (the concrete ledge along Courtney Street) and parts of the Kirk Hall roofing (men's washroom, rear hallway, and back room). Also, a new fire department connection and changes to the water supply will be completed. Tentative starting dates for these two projects will be announced by the Property Committee shortly.

Arthur Marcellus

July 10, 2022 Celebration of Baptism

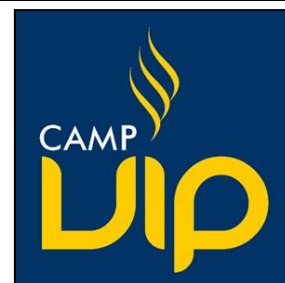
Robert Anthony Roenicke
Sophia Marie Roenicke

Reception of New Members

Robert Anthony Roenicke
Serena Marie Jack Roenicke



Camp VIP - Summer 2022



French Beach

July 2 – July 8

The theme was some of Jesus' Parables which are learning tools for us today.

Cowichan River

July 26 – July 29

The theme was Prayer.

Our speaker was Lydia Collin, who is a Chaplain at Vancouver Island University.



Family Camp

August 25 – August 29

Our speaker was Kelli Berkner, Pastor at Christ Community Church, Nanaimo. Our theme was: "What Rhythms Do You Want To Set at This Time of Year in Work & Service, Sabbath and Worship?"

On Saturday afternoon we had a visit from Vincent and Hee Jee Wan Tan, who brought us hot cobs of corn. Yum!!! Vincent is the upcoming Camp Committee Convenor for Vancouver Island Presbytery.



What is Coding like at standrewsvictoria.ca?

Hi, Martin here.

Summer is about to end, fortunately I would add, as we have been over 30C often here in Port Coquitlam which is where I am currently based. A very narrow river flows nearby, the Coquitlam River, and is surrounded by omnipresent trees, endless trails, and generous parks.

When I was invited to write an article for The Link, I instantly said, "For sure!". Now that I am sitting, ready to write, I realize I really don't know why you would possibly be interested in reading about what someone usually does when working on the website. Interested or not, I hope you find these lines somewhat informative.

The Tools: My Setup

I will start by listing the tools I most frequently use when I am at work:

A Macbook Pro (Retina, 15-inch, late 2013 - yeah, not new at all but still working like the first day I bought it). The Processor is 2GHz which means it can process 2 million instructions per second, it definitely serves my purpose (it wouldn't if I were into video or photography). Additionally, I use an extra screen.

A Dell monitor, in one screen I do the coding and on the other I see how the code is interpreted by the browser (the appearance of the website). And let's not forget:

A Magic Keyboard and Trackpad, these Apple devices are connected via Bluetooth to the laptop, so I am free to place the keyboard wherever I need. the Trackpad works like a mouse.

I also need certain apps (short for 'applications'. In my time they were called 'programs', in the end, they are all pieces of software). These are:

Visual Studio Code: A code editor, like MS Word but for coding.

Browsers: I use Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, sometimes Edge and Opera. Each of these show websites according to their own rules. I need to make sure our website is displayed consistently across all of them. (Which browser do you use?)

A virtual server: a virtual server that simulates the real server (server is a big computer where website files live. They are never turned off!).

A real server: Our website is hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Canada and they give us access to their servers. The files I code live in their servers.

How I work: I will use as an example the sermon page.

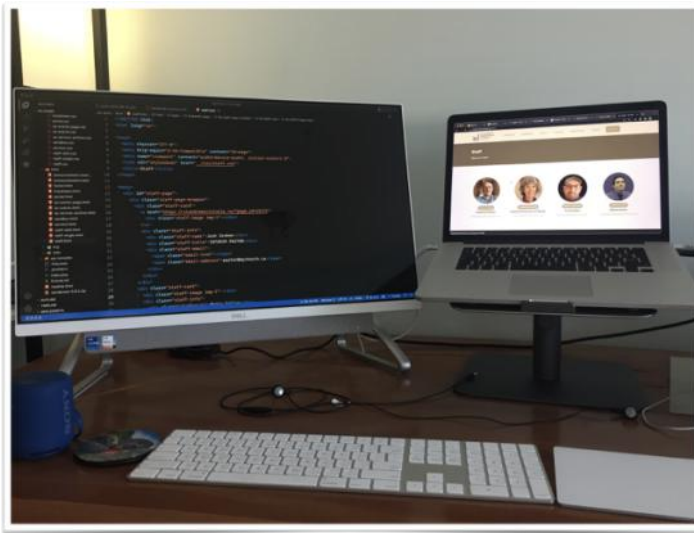


Fig 1 Hardware setup: laptop, monitor, keyboard & trackpad

1. **Design:** I surf the net to see what other designers do for inspiration, and then come up with newer ways of reusing those designs. For the sermon page, I started with a draft like this:

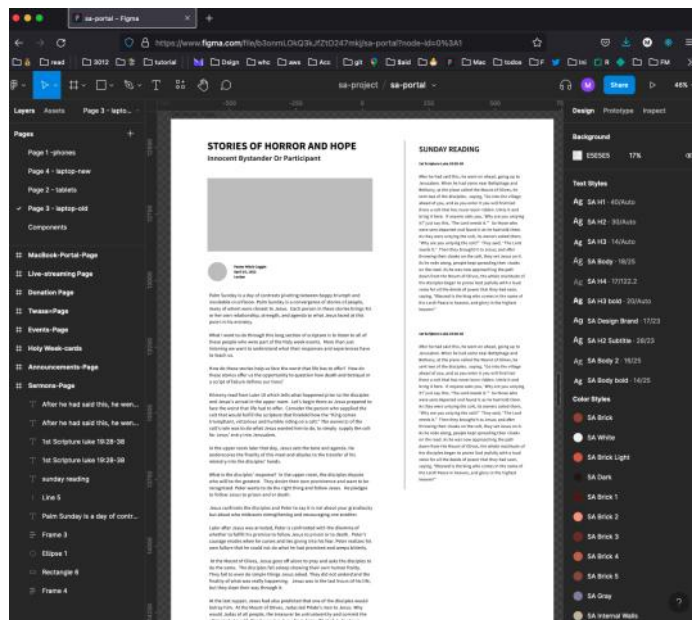


Fig 2 Drafts and prototypes are made in *Figma*, a popular tool used by web designers. What you see above is the draft of the sermon page.

2. **Coding:** Two technologies are needed: HTML and CSS. HyperText Markup Language lets you outline the structure of the page. Here's an example of the HTML page I made for the Staff page.

```

1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3
4 <head>
5   <meta charset="UTF-8">
6   <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
7   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
8   <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/staff.css">
9   <title>Staff</title>
10 </head>
11
12 <body>
13   <div id="staff-page">
14     <div class="staff-page-wrapper">
15       <div class="staff-card">
16         <a href="https://standrewsvictoria.ca/?page_id=15173">
17           <div class="staff-image img-1"></div>
18         </a>
19         <div class="staff-info">
20           <div class="staff-name">Josh Groben</div>
21           <div class="staff-title">INTERIM PASTOR</div>
22           <div class="staff-email">
23             <span class="email-icon"></span>
24             <span class="email-address">pastor@mychurch.ca</span>
25           </div>
26         </div>
27       </div>
28       <div class="staff-card">
29         <div class="staff-image img-2"></div>
30         <div class="staff-info">

```

Fig 3 HTML outlines the structure of the page. As you can see the <head> element is at the top above the <body>, inside the <body> you would place the elements you need.

CSS means **Cascade Style Sheet**, it's a language that lets you manage the colour, size, width, height, position and various other properties of the HTML elements. So, HTML will define which elements will be present, the content, text, image, audio, while CSS will set how these elements will look when displayed.

```

38 /* Main Headers/
39 #masthead {
40   flex-wrap: initial;
41   position: fixed;
42   z-index: 10;
43   background: #0f2b4d;
44   width: 100%;
45   box-shadow: 0 0 7px 2px #ccc99f33;
46   padding: 0 4vw;
47 }
48
49 /* Main Navigation menu */
50 .primary-navigation {
51   width: 100%;
52   margin-left: 3rem;
53   margin-top: 0.5rem;
54 }
55
56 .pagination, .comments-pagination, .site-header, .wide-max-width {
57   max-width: 100%;
58 }
59
60 /* Main menu headings font color, size
61 #primary-menu-list>li>a {
62   font-family: sans-serif, Georgia;
63   font-size: 0.9rem;
64   text-decoration: none;
65   color: #fff;
66   padding: 0.4rem 1.6rem;
67 }

```




Fig. 5 This is how the HTML looks without CSS



Fig 6 ... the very same HTML presented, this time with CSS

3. **Testing & Deploying:** Once the code works as expected, it's time to access the real servers, (PCC servers) and see if it works fine there too. If so, I make the web page available to Jean who will also check everything is working or if there's anything that needs editing or further updating. Finally, the page is made public.

If you are still here, thank you for your company. I would love to hear from you. Send me a shout at webadmin@standrewsvictoria.ca to say hi, and if you are feeling adventurous, you could even take a look at the website (standrewsvictoria.ca) and let me know what you would like to see in it, your impressions or anything you feel like sharing. The design will be changing soon, I will be happy to consider your input to better serve St. Andrew's.

Peace in the virtual and in the real space!

Martin
Web Administrator



"Have you always wanted to join the choir but never did? Now is a perfect time....."

New choir members are welcome. Contact Christine at music@standrewsvictoria.ca

Follow up to the Congregational Meeting - Declaration of Trust

The minutes of this meeting will be presented for approval at the 2022 Annual General Meeting
Following the meeting:

- Five trustees signed the Declaration of Trust document.
- Rev. Wayne Stretch (Interim Moderator) and Colina Titus (Session Clerk) signed the document.
- The original signed document is in safe keeping with Dirk Ryneveld (Church Lawyer) in his law office.
- Colina Titus, as directed by Greg Toll (Commissioner at Presbytery) emailed the Draft Minutes of the meeting and an electronic copy of the signed document to him and Roy Napier (2nd Commissioner).
- Dirk contacted each of the trustees requesting that they provide further particulars required for the registration document..
- Dirk is required to show that the trustees were given notice that their names and details would be registered with the LOTR. (Land Owner Transfer Registry).
- The five St. Andrew's Trustees have signed the Declaration of Trust
- Dirk has registered St. Andrew's property with the LOTR.

Final Step: The St Andrew's trust document (for internal use and future reference) will be signed by Presbytery as soon as the Moderator and Clerk return from vacation.

Who owns our church property?

According to Rev. Don Muir, the Deputy Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, ownership of the property is in the "hands of the congregation as long as the congregation continues to exist".

In an extract from an article from the PCC:

So, whose property is it, anyway? It is a widely held misconception that the denomination owns all Presbyterian property across Canada. This is not the case. The church, manse and any other properties in the hands of the congregation belong to the congregation as long as the congregation continues to exist. If the congregation ceases to exist, in other words, if it is

dissolved by the presbytery, the congregation's assets vest, by law, with the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The current policy states that Presbyteries may apply for up to 70% of the assets to be returned by submitting a mission plan to the Trustee Board explaining how the presbytery would use the funds to further the mission of the church. The remaining 30% is held for new church development. This means the dissolution of one congregation may help another to be planted.

Confirmation: the church property is registered at the LTO in the name of The Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church c/o Trustees.

Colina Titus
Session Clerk



Summer sun, the company of friends - old and new, each Thursday afternoon, in July and August, the lane became a meeting place. A place to chat, share stories, share a laugh and get to know each other. Thursday afternoons in the lane will continue for September. If you haven't had a chance yet to drop in, there's still time. Join us at 2 pm for iced tea and cookies - all are welcome!

Sheelagh



Quartet Fest West was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 3 at 2:00 pm. This was the downtown performance for student musicians from western Canada who had spent 2 weeks at an in-service music program at the UVIC School of Music.

St. Andrew's volunteers supported the event. Patti Jackson, chair of Mission and Outreach, welcomed the audience to St. Andrew's and the concert. Dorothy Reimer liaised with the students and instructors in the Lecture room as they prepared for their performance, David Smith and Dawn McLean welcomed at the Douglas Street and Broughton Street doors, Jack Reimer managed the audience's donations.

Twenty-two student musicians performed in quartets, trios, duets and a group of five. Three UVIC professors attended the concert. They instructed the students during the in-service program at UVIC and are also members of the Lafayette Strings Quartet: Pam Highbough-Aloni, cellist, Ann Elliot-Goldschmid and Sharon Stanis, violinists.

The Fall UVIC student practice schedule in the Sanctuary is confirmed with UVIC and confirmed in St. Andrew's master calendar. Students can practice in the Sanctuary Monday, Tuesday and Sunday afternoons.

Concerts will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoons in November and December. Dates are to be determined with UVIC. The students and staff appreciate the opportunity of live audiences in the Sanctuary and some members of the public and St. Andrew's congregation have expressed their enjoyment of attending the music performances.

Dawn McLean

Journey for Hope - October 1st

Are you a walker, a bike rider, or have another activity that you love to do? On October 1st, **PWS&D** is encouraging folks of all ages to join a team or donate to raise money for its invaluable work across the globe. (Journey for Hope was previously known as Ride for Refuge).

Currently the world is struggling with the climate crisis, COVID-19, and conflicts such as the one in the Ukraine. These issues are resulting in a global food crisis that is getting worse. Donations this year to PWS&D will be directed to food insecurity.

Join or support or cheerlead our very own Victoria Team, **Together in Motion**. For more information on joining, contact Laura Kavanagh lauratodd60@gmail.com or Ruth McGowan pzoom@shaw.ca

Donations can be made at:
WeRespond.ca/support-together-in-motion

Go team!

Patti Jackson,
Mission & Outreach



Thanksgiving Donations -Mustard Seed Street Church

So many of us are fortunate to have a Thanksgiving dinner where food is aplenty. We often have lots to share with our family and friends and leftovers too. Unfortunately, we have folks in our community who find putting food on the table a real struggle. The Mission & Outreach team at St. Andrew's is encouraging our members and adherents to consider donating this Thanksgiving to the invaluable work of the Mustard Seed Street Church in Victoria. As the cost of groceries continues to rise, and the high cost of living continues in Victoria, the demand at The Mustard Seed, and all food banks, continues to increase as well. Those who were struggling a year or two ago with minor food insecurity are struggling even more as prices for housing, food, gas and inflation continue to climb.

Why are food banks encouraging folks to donate funds instead of donating non-perishable items such as pasta, rice, canned goods, etc.?

Did you know that food banks have the resources to turn cash donations into many more meals for folks in need? They have better access to retailers, manufacturers, farmers, etc. and have the ability to pick up donations directly and save on transportation costs.

Did you know that food banks focus on providing their clients with a well rounded diet? In addition to non-perishable items, food banks use cash donations to purchase perishable items such as fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, yogurt, cheese and meat.

Did you know that food banks use donated funds to redirect food waste (Food Rescue) from ending up in landfill sites? They work directly with farmers and grocery stores so that healthy fruits and vegetables and other perishable food items are redirected to families, individuals and other local organizations in need.

How to donate: You can donate by cash donation or cheque, using your church envelopes indicating Mustard Seed on your envelope. Donations can also be made through the church website: standrewsvictoria.ca Remember to indicate that your donation is for Mustard Seed.

Thank you for supporting this ongoing needy cause in our community.

Patti Jackson
Mission & Outreach



Photo is used with permission from the Mustard Seed Street Church

Personnel and Leading with Care

Personnel Policies

As an employer, it is important that St. Andrew's meets BC Employment standards. Session, on behalf of the congregation, assumes the role of employer. To meet requirements as an employer, relevant policies were developed and approved by session. As indicated, where appropriate there are clergy and employee versions.

- Terms of Employment (Employee and Clergy)
- Workplace Code and Ethics (Employee and Clergy)
- Bullying and Harassment
- Health and Safety
- Working Alone
- Communicable Disease Prevention.

Monitoring and implementation of these policies is delegated to the Personnel and Leading with Care Committee. Employees (including clergy) sign off on all personnel policies at the time of hire, and then annually at their performance reviews.

If anyone is interested in reading the policies, copies are available in the church office.

Performance Reviews for Employees

Much delayed, primarily due to COVID, employee performance reviews are currently in process/complete. Employees were invited to seek feedback from 2 or 3 people who are familiar with their work. Feedback is summarized (anonymously), shared with the employee following which there is a meeting to discuss, give feedback, review job descriptions and set goals. Meetings are with the Convenor of Personnel and the Representative elder:

- Church Administrator – Jean, Communications and Administration Committee
- Director Music Ministry – Brian, Worship Committee
- Webmaster- Jean, Communications and Administration Committee
- Church Officer- David and Arthur, Property

It is my privilege to meet with our amazing employees. Christine, Grant, Martin and Whitney all go 'above and beyond' every week. Thank you to each of them. In August, we said goodbye and thank you to Whitney after 12 years in the position of Church Administrator. We welcome Shannon Cummings as our Temporary Church Administrator.

Colina Titus

Personnel and Leading with Care



Each Sunday that our services are broadcast on YouTube, there is a family who joins us from Korea! I am sure you will all remember the **Kim family** who worshipped with us for three years - Grace (and Mark) Kim and their three daughters, June, Juhye and Juliet. We were so blessed to have their friendship and involvement at our church for more than three years. We continue to miss them!

They have now been back in Korea for one year and miss Victoria very much - our church family, the beautiful weather in Victoria and the peaceful life here. I have communicated often with Grace and she keeps me up to date with her family.

South Korea just celebrated their annual National Liberation Day. Grace, Mark and two girls spent this day with Grace's parents as they enjoyed tea time and family visits during this annual celebration.

June has now graduated from University with an Economics Degree and works at Citi-Bank with the Treasury and Trade Solutions department in Seoul.

Juhye is now in third year at UBC doing an Economics Degree. She has come over to Victoria twice this summer and gave us two surprise visits - one with flowers! What a lovely surprise to see her!

Juliet is now 13 and is going into Grade 7. The girls are all doing very well. Grace keeps busy with her family, extended family and church activities

As you attend service at St. Andrew's each week, know that another family in Korea is also worshipping with us! They will also be reading the monthly Link and continue to be with us, half a world away!

Dorothy Reimer



Meandering across northern BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan - June 2022

We are staying in the heart of Saskatoon, at Gordie Howe Campground. We have had an interesting trip so far, visiting a lot of areas along a northern route through BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan...Dawson Creek, Cold Lake, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, and the southern shore of Lesser Slave Lake. Along the road, we have seen two moose, lots of deer (who like to run in front of the truck!), a mother bear and cub, foxes and a lone coyote. Some days we travel 4-6 hours and then we stay in a town or area for several days.

The weather is definitely warmer than when we left Victoria in May. We had a real prairie thunderstorm when we stayed at Fort Saskatchewan...black nimbus clouds, daggers of lightning, deafening thunder, buckets of rain, and, the clincher, hailstones as big as peas! When we were in FS, we had the trailer serviced and bought new tires for the truck.

On the way from Prince George to Chetwynd, our bike rack broke and we ended up dragging it and our two bicycles for miles on the highway before a flag person told us about the debacle. Long story short, the bike rack and Jerry's bike were toast and my bike needs new derailleurs and a pedal. Chetwynd, the chainsaw carving capital of the world, has about 120 of the most wonderful carvings positioned along the highway in and out of the town. We did see about 25 of them but we had to walk along the road to see them. We had planned to use our bikes to see them!

I wish you all a wonderful summer in mosquito-free Victoria. The prize for the biggest mosquitoes so far goes to Cold Lake. The mosquitoes there are as big as helicopters!

Still on the Road...3 Months Later

We are now in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia at the end of August! Early in September we are leaving for Prince Edward Island, our first stop on our way home.

Along the way across Canada we visited many friends and family...our daughter in Saskatoon, Jerry's younger sister in Bracebridge, Ontario and my brother who lives north of Ottawa. Canada Day weekend was spent in Winnipeg followed by trips to Ottawa and Quebec City. The long weekend in August we arrived in Cape Breton where I am from and we have been here since then with my two older sisters. We have been overwhelmed with kindness from friends, family and strangers since we left Victoria. I have attached a few photos of some of the places we have seen on our trip.

We hope that everyone at St. Andrew's is well and enjoying the remaining days of summer 2022!

Deb and Jerry Verwey



Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia



Louisbourg, Nova Scotia



Scenes from Quebec City.

Jerry sitting with his friend, Abraham, near the Plains of Abraham





St. Andrew's/Knox/Trinity Picnic

**When: September 11
following Worship**

Where: Esquimalt Gorge Park

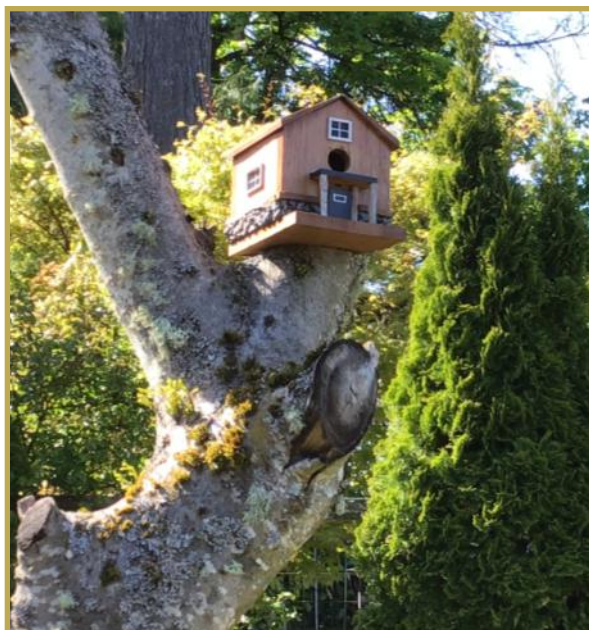
**What to bring:
Something for you,
Something to share,
Plate, utensils, napkin - picnic stuff!**



Happy Birthday Alastair!

Alastair Grant celebrated his 90th birthday in June. Nancy and Bill Duke dropped off his card which many of his friends at St. Andrew's had signed. He is pictured here sitting beside his own little garden patch at Saanich Peninsula Hospital, reading his card.

Submitted by **Bill Duke**



One of the birdhouses made by Stella Higgins' son, Rick.

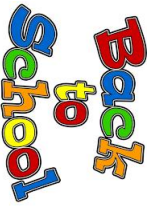


Happy Birthday Elsie and Joyce!

Elsie Maxwell, 94, Joyce Nordwall, 93, having Birthday High Tea with the Queen (the knitted red doll) in late June. Congratulations to both!

Submitted by **Dawn McLean**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Laneway meet-up 2pm	2	3
4 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am	5 Labour Day Office closed	6 	7	8 Laneway meet-up 2pm Choir 7:15	9	10 RCCO Social 2-4pm
11 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am Picnic Esquimalt Gorge Park-following worship	12	13 International Chocolate Day	14	15 Laneway meet-up 2pm Choir 7:15	16 National Guacamole Day	17
18 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am	19	20 Session 7pm	21 International Day of Peace	22 Laneway meet-up 2pm Choir 7:15	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	October 1
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons			Laneway meet-up 2pm Choir 7:15		Together in Motion Journey for Hope PWS&D