

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



The Apostle Paul, while he sat in a prison cell, wrote a letter to a church that he dearly loved and that he desperately wanted to encourage with these words, "Being confident of this very thing, that (God) which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6.

God's good work in us has never wavered since the formation of St. Andrew's in 1866. Throughout these 156 years, the faithful who preceded us met challenge after challenge, trusting God (and one another) each step of the way.

Our current challenges, while daunting, must not be backbreaking. It was December 2021 when St. Andrew's Session received formal letters of resignation from our Envelope Secretary and Treasurer of their intent to retire during 2022 following many years of faithful service. Early in 2022, our Session Clerk, also after many years of service, submitted a letter of resignation effective August. Since these notices were received, several potential candidates have been approached but none have felt called or qualified. Our Envelope Secretary and Treasurer have extended their retirement dates.

The Treasurer, Session Clerk, and Envelope Secretary are the most critical volunteer positions in the Presbyterian Church. The Session Clerk is the constitutional officer of the Presbyterian Church and is the first contact in any congregation by the higher courts. Without persons to fill these vital positions, our basic functions grind to a halt. Imagine your home without working electricity, heat, or water. Imagine the mechanism for paying monthly expenses ceasing to function. How do we address these critical needs? We pray. We continue to stress the importance of finding persons to fill these necessary functions. We remember the words, "God who began a good work in you will (continue to – continuing action verb in Greek) perform it."

Our challenges **may not** be solved by someone under the roof of St. Andrew's. It is time to think beyond our own walls. It is time to move toward a collaborative understanding and practice of ministry with our Presbyterian colleagues.

Recently representatives from Knox, Trinity, Chinese, Knox Sooke and St. Andrew's Presbyterian congregations met to discuss what it might mean to form a more collaborative ministry. Collaborative ministry means: a partnership of shared resources, creative imagining, an opportunity to celebrate abundance! Some of those ideas were to form new elder groups from different congregations, share an administrator, a treasurer, office space, form a website with our sister churches, or create team clusters for mission projects.

The conversation was rich in enthusiasm and joy and the conversations will continue to discern where God is leading us. How will you be involved during this critical time in the life of St. Andrew's? Will you pray for God's wisdom and leadership?

Prayerfully,
Pastor Mitch

October 2022

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Victoria, BC

Important Message from Session

There is currently no elder appointed as session clerk. Duties are being temporarily allocated month by month.

If you need to bring something to the attention of session, or want to request information from session, you can communicate either through your elder or by sending an email to:

session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca

St. Andrew's Session



Happy Birthday to **Stella Higgins** who turns 100 years old on October 17.

Best wishes, Stella, from your friends at St. Andrew's!

St. Andrew's - Building Community Together

Good news! Session has agreed that the congregation can move ahead with a pre-Christmas event.

Every fall, before all our lives changed with COVID, St. Andrew's would have been planning "The Bazaar". However, with changes as a result of COVID, and all the other changes that the last couple of years have brought to all of us, the plan now is to have an event that will be somewhat the same but will also have differences.

In past months, many at St. Andrew's have been working very hard to maintain community in various ways, but we all have missed having opportunities to work together as a church community. Now, as we move ahead with a Fall event we will have an opportunity to work together, and once again have fun together.

At present, plans are still being finalized, but for this year the key will be to keep things simple, to work within the spaces that we have and to offer an exciting new addition to the day.

Our fall event will take place on the afternoon of November 19th. Plans are for a luncheon/tea with entertainment by Ballet Victoria dancers. Reservations will be required for the tea tables so that we can plan appropriately.

There will also be homemade jams and jellies, books and possibly more for sale. Watch for updates.

There will be a planning meeting after worship, at coffee time, on October 2. There will be sign up sheets and we are hoping that folks will step forward to help in whatever way they can. There are many tasks to be accomplished so please join us as we finalize plans and get started.

If you are not attending the in-person services but would like to help in some way please call the office and we can contact you to see how you can help.

As plans move ahead we'll keep you posted. Watch for updates in TWASA, on our website, and in our Sunday bulletins. Plan on attending and invite your families and friends.

Sheelagh Garson

Worship – the transition continues!

Transitions abound! We welcome the choir back to worship, and they are joined by three choral scholars: Jorge, Akina, and Eva. They also help take choir practices – where they gain experience, and the men's and women's sections can practice separately when needed. Jamie Kim has also sung well-known gospel songs before services in the summer and in September, first in Korean and then English.

Ushers also remain hard at work, and with two less people than before the summer. They play an essential role in opening the church, welcoming people, and closing up after services. If you would like to join them, please let them know! – a few more ushers would make a difference to workloads. Similarly, volunteers are always welcomed by our audio/video team, who play an essential role in on-line and in-person worship. (On-line viewings remain typically greater than in-person attendance. A total of over 100 people participate in weekly worship at the moment, including those using paper transcripts of services.)

On Sept. 11th, Rev. Laura Kavanagh (Knox) led worship at St. Andrew's when ministers in three churches (St. Andrew's, Knox, & Trinity) "swapped pulpits". This marked the beginning of what is hoped to be greater active collaboration between these three congregations, plus Chinese Presbyterian and Knox Sooke.

Transitions in worship practices continue as the pandemic wanes (at least for now). The offertory is an important public declaration of our mutual thanksgiving to God for what we have been given – and as a token of gratitude we dedicate a portion of this to furthering the work of the church. To emphasize the intentional and participatory nature of the Offertory, session has agreed that an elder will greet people at the Narthex door, where givings can be left on a plate while entering. These will be brought to the front by two elders during the Doxology. (The white metal boxes in both entrances can continue to be used when entering or exiting.) This is experimental and may be modified as better ways of doing this evolve. The next step is that

session will consider in January whether offerings can be taken up from pews in a COVID-safe manner.

The major change by session is that masks will now be strongly recommended, but will not be mandatory as of Sunday, Oct. 9th. Recognizing that some people will prefer to sit with others that are masked, these will remain mandatory in the south sections of pews on the main floor, where red ribbons continue to help ensure physical distancing. As with the Offertory, increasing levels of infectivity may require changes back to previous protocols.

October 2nd is World Communion Sunday and there is no change in practices: both Broadman cups and in-house cups and bread will be available at the door on the way in, and delivered to those at home. To recognize the international significance of this service, different breads from around the world will be used this year.

Worship services require many volunteers – and we thank all who give of their time so that we can worship together, either in the sanctuary or at home!

Brian Titus,
Worship Committee



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

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

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

Going Home

Today I watched thousands of Canada geese, flying in chevron formations, heading south for the winter. Honking and screeching, wave after wave of them passed overhead. It is the time of year when an inner biological clock tells them that it is time to go.

We are still on the road, on our cross- Canada “adventure”. At the moment we are in New Liskeard, in northern Ontario near the Quebec border.

Everywhere the deciduous trees are changing colour, as if they are putting on their autumnal dresses of brilliant reds, yellows and oranges. We are travelling west, heading home! It will be a few more weeks before we arrive in Victoria but just knowing that we are going home is such a wonderful thought after 4 months travelling!

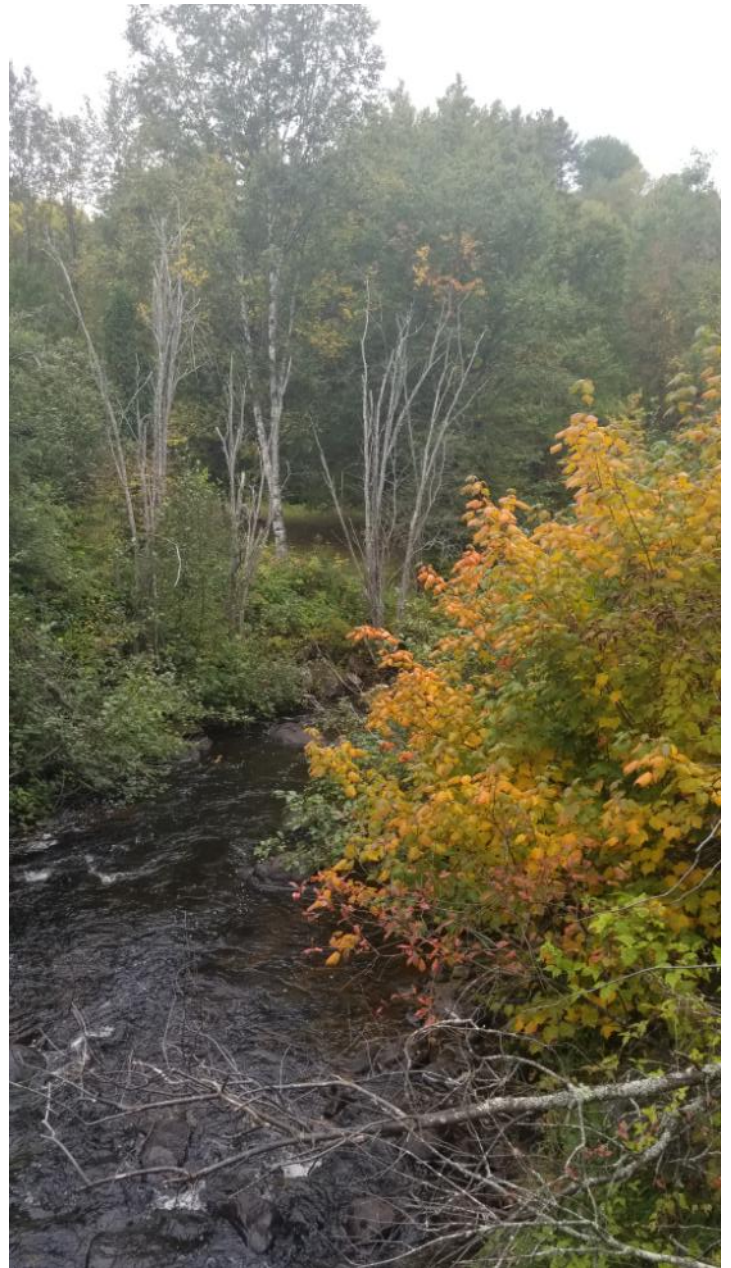
This summer a beloved niece of mine died in Nova Scotia. Ecclesiastes chapter 1 was read at her celebration of life. It gives me great comfort when I think that it was her “time to go home” to heaven. Thank you to St. Andrew’s prayer chain whose members supported my niece and my family over the past months. It was greatly appreciated.

I love that passage in the Bible, Ecclesiastes 1, that says “...To every thing there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die...”

I like to add to the passage in my head...*a time to go home.*

Jerry and I are looking forward to being home at St. Andrew’s in the near future, when we can greet you in person and hear all your news from the summer.

Debra Verwey



The changing colours of fall near Temiscaming, Quebec.

It's a small world after all...

Last June, as I was strong arming Patricia Shuckburgh to help with the Victoria Day Open Church she asked me for my 'elevator talk' which may best describe Presbyterianism when volunteering at the Open Church.

In the course of the conversation, Patricia mentioned she had been raised in the Anglican Church. My response was, "...that's interesting, I have a sister who was a Deacon in the Episcopalian Church at St. Andrew's in Honolulu". To my surprise Patricia mentioned her family members had attended St. Andrew's. A quick email exchange between Patricia and her family, my sister and I, confirmed the connection.

Patricia received the following email:

'Yes, Deacon Pat Reynolds – I do know her. Apparently she has done a stint at St. A since we left. However, she was a Deacon at St. A in our early years there then was moved to other parishes. I knew her primarily through serving with her at various special and annual services at St. A after her time at the Cathedral as she would often be the Deacon of the Mass at those services and I would be her Server. A lovely human being!!'

I received a response from Sister Pat:

'Good to hear from you...thanks for forwarding the message from the Shuckburgh's. Indeed it is a small world.'

The moral of the story or life lesson is: take the time to know your neighbour, the person sitting in the next pew or the person you have coffee with after worship in the Kirk Hall. You never know who they know or who you know somewhere else in God's world.

Jim Ferguson



Forobdawnmdean

Traffic jam at Douglas and Broughton! This chap caused quite a stir in front of St Andrew's this spring!

Thanksgiving Donations - Mustard Seed Church

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, The Mission & Outreach team at St. Andrew's is encouraging our members and adherents to consider donating to the invaluable work of the Mustard Seed Street Church in Victoria. Financial donations are highly recommended as the Mustard Seed is able to stretch and capitalize on each and every dollar donated.

When delivering the sock donations from St. Andrew's in the spring, I arrived around the same time as the food bank opened. I saw first hand that the need is very great in Victoria. Folks of all ages, from university aged to seniors, were patiently waiting their turn to go in.

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

All donations are so greatly appreciated!

Patti Jackson,
Mission & Outreach



Photo reprinted with permission from Mustard Seed.



The RCCO (Royal Canadian College of Organists) held an Open House at St. Andrew's this past month to distribute organ music and organ CDs from two former RCCO members Douglas Hodgkinson and Tristan Rhodes.

As you know, Douglas Hodgkinson served our congregation as choir director and organist for over ten years. Tristan Rhodes was organist at St. John The Divine and following his retirement, was a substitute organist for a short time at St. Andrew's.

Both of these fine musicians passed away in the last two years and left a

large legacy of music and wished to have that music distributed to the organists within the community.

The event was hosted by the RCCO while St. Andrew's provided the facilities for approximately 25 people, most of whom were organists on Vancouver Island and one organist from Vancouver. Also, a recently retired organist, David Palmer, from Toronto, who has been internationally recognized as a concert and church musician. It was an added pleasure to also meet so many young organists, just starting out on their careers and many had a chance to play on the St. Andrew's organ.

There was great camaraderie with the organists, all of whom were delighted to see, touch, and take away many treasured pieces of free organ music for their own music library.

Many thanks to the congregation and Session for participating in this event.

St. Andrew's has been a member of the RCCO for many years, and this participation shows our ongoing support for their music programs.



Dorothy Reimer

BC 55+ Games took place in the Greater Victoria Region the week of September 12, 2022. It is the first time in 36 years that the Games have been held in Victoria. **Bruce Wasylik**, Transport Coordinator, asked Arthur and me to assist him on the Transportation Desk during the two-day Accreditation. We also were down bright and early each morning, outside Capital City Station (CCS) ensuring the athletes got to where they were supposed to be, thanks to Wilson's Transport, Berwick Retirement Community Shuttle and a private fleet of vehicles.

It was such a rewarding experience to see 2,700 athletes so excited to be together again after a two-year break, so excited about their pending participation in their sport, and so motivational for us, behind the table, chatting with these folks. A 98-year 'young' swimmer lit the cauldron at the Opening Ceremonies held at Save On Foods Memorial Centre. The Games comprised of 22 sports and 14 venues throughout Greater Victoria.



Submitted by
Jean Marcellus

Pulpit Swap and Picnic In The Park



The Congregations of St. Andrew's, Trinity and Knox had a pulpit swap on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Rev. Laura Kavanagh led the service at St. Andrew's, Pastor Mitch Coggin at Trinity, and Rev. Cathy Victor at Knox.


After the services, we joined together for a Picnic in the Park at Esquimalt/Gorge Park. It was wonderful to see so many people out, to renew acquaintances and, thanks to Rev. Laura's mixer games, to meet new people. The time went by far too quickly, and before we knew it, it was time to pack up.

Until next time ...

Jean Marcellus



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 PW&D Ride/Walk for Hope
2 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am World Communion Sunday Fall Event Planning Mtg.	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am Harvest Sunday	10 Thanksgiving Day	11	12	13	14	15
16 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18 Session 7pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am				Choir 7:15		
30	31	November 1	2	3	4	5 Daylight Savings Time ends 2am November 6
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30am Reformation Sunday November Link deadline		All Saints Day		Choir 7:15		