

# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



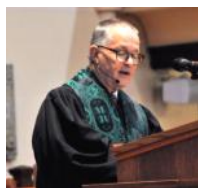
### January 2023

Asset Mapping	2
M &O Request	3
Prayer Chain	3
Music	4-5
2023 Budget Meeting	7
Christmas Photos	8
"Star Thing"	10

In order to respect the privacy of our contributors, no articles or photos may be reproduced without the express written consent of the editors of *The Link*.

[thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca)

Victoria, BC



A Blessing for the New Year and the Epiphany...

Happy New Year. Today is January 1, 2023! A new year is open with fresh opportunities. This is also Sunday, January 1 on which we celebrate the Epiphany. Epiphany Sunday is when we remember the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family. They followed the star that showed them the place where Jesus was and then, they stopped to bring him their gifts.

The Magi were certainly strangers from the East. They were unknown and other than the gifts they carried, the Holy Family had no reason to allow them entry. But the Magi were allowed to enter and once there, they paid homage to the child they came to worship.

What if we welcomed 2023 and each of the months as an open door where we are invited to discover what God has in store for us? Each of the rooms might be places where we encounter safety, health, peace, and love! Might others be blessed as well?

I offer this blessing for you from Jan Richardson, one of my favourite devotional authors.

### The Year as a House: A Blessing

Think of the year as a house: door flung wide in welcome,  
threshold swept and waiting, a graced spaciousness  
opening and offering itself to you.

Let it be blessed in every room.

Let it be hallowed in every corner.

Let every nook be a refuge

and every object set to holy use.

Let it be here that safety will rest.

Let it be here that health will make its home.

Let it be here that peace will show its face.

Let it be here that love will find its way.

Here let the weary come

let the aching come

let the lost come

let the sorrowing come.

Here let them find their rest

and let them find their soothing

and let them find their place

and let them find their delight.

And may it be in this house of a year

that the seasons will spin in beauty,

and may it be in these turning days

that time will spiral with joy.

And may it be that its rooms will fill

with ordinary grace

and light spill from every window

to welcome the stranger home.

Wherever you make your home, may it be blessed, and may you enter this Epiphany and the coming year in peace.

With rich blessings,  
Pastor Mitch

Asset Mapping is an exciting process that allows us to refocus on our gifts and capacities and those of our neighbors, to connect those gifts to one another in creative combinations, and then to activate those connections to strengthen our congregation.

*The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts* by Luther K. Snow

At our recent Session meeting Reverend Mitch introduced us to the process of “asset mapping”. We practiced the process and discovered how it might be used at St. Andrew’s.

In simple terms it means identifying assets and grouping them into different categories. Categories such as physical (church building), relationships (people we know), systems (streaming of church services), individuals (what do we know about people at St. Andrew's) and institutions (UVic). Please note these examples are meant as examples only and are not exclusive or limited.

Pictures may give you some sense as to the relationships of the ideas and how some might have been grouped.

Members of Sessions walked away from the exercise with a better appreciation of what we have to work with and what we have in order to further develop St. Andrew's as a downtown Church.

Comments from the elders attending included:

“Going through the church assets exercise refocused my understanding on what is our most valuable asset: the congregation and our community. How easy it is to become consumed by the importance of all the tasks and the physical assets which exist just to support our mission. We will have achieved our goal when we unite the two.

“We sometimes start a project that in itself has merit, but which is not necessarily considered within our larger context. I was struck by the fact that the asset mapping process encouraged a natural assessment of our entire context. Connecting dots while building a path to a specific action meant consciously considering (and rejecting) the usefulness of other assets - and hence a more holistic approach to starting new initiatives.

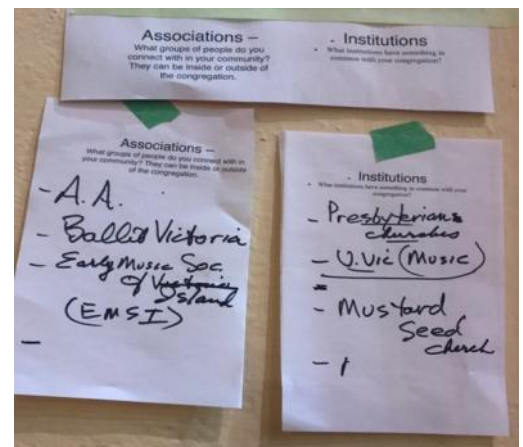
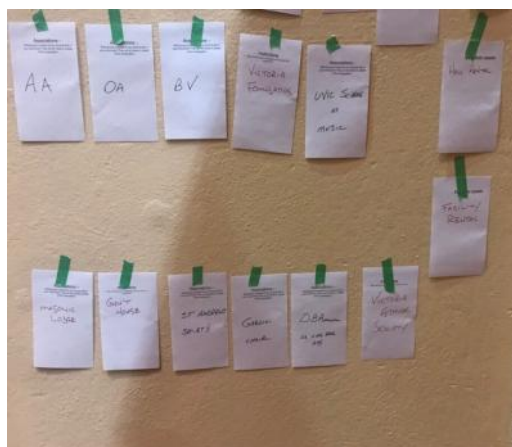
“I found the exercise enlightening and energizing as we recognized the very important value of people resources. These gifts and talents have unlimited potential and possibilities.

"I liked that it fostered a sense of abundance... in contrast to one of scarcity that can accompany our thinking about the resources at St. Andrew's. The visuals of the exercise were tangible ...there are many resources of all types within our church family."

Moving forward, members of the congregation will be invited to participate in a similar exercise of ‘asset mapping’ to give each of us an opportunity to generate ideas, suggestions, and relationships within our community.

It will be an exciting time in the life of St. Andrew's as we move out of the doldrums of COVID into an opportunity to once again become a vibrant downtown Victoria congregation.

In joyous anticipation,  
**Jim Ferguson**



## Mission & Outreach Committee

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be preparing and providing food for the February 1<sup>st</sup> meal (see Laura Kavanagh's article below). If you are able to help with meal preparation or want to make a financial donation for the food, please contact Patricia Shuckburgh at 250-381-1615.

After the February meal, the Mission and Outreach Committee will be considering how often, and if, St. Andrew's could/would/should take a role in this outreach to University of Victoria students. If you would like to help with this project, please contact **Patti Jackson** (Committee Chair), **Rev. Coggin, Debra Verwey** or **Patricia Shuckburgh**.



### SOUP FOR INCLUSIVE CHRISTIANS

As you may know I serve as the Presbyterian Chaplain (Spiritual Care Provider) at the UVic Multi-faith Centre on behalf of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island. One of our key programs is Inclusive Christians – Around the Table.

This is an ecumenical communion service hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United chaplains on Wednesdays at 5:00pm. The simple service focuses on reading and reflecting on the gospel, prayer, song, silence and sharing bread and wine. While this service is centered on students, all are welcome. After worship everyone is invited to enjoy a meal. We usually have 20-30 participants.

I need help providing these meals. If you, or a group from your congregation, would like to help prepare a meal in the coming term, please be in touch with me as soon as possible. The dates I am responsible for are February 1, March 1, March 22 and April 5. The meal is simple – vegetarian/vegan soup or chilli, bread & butter, and salad, fruit or veggies. I can give you all the details to help you in participating.

Thank you for considering supporting students and Inclusive Christians on campus in this way.

**Laura Kavanagh**

## St. Andrew's Prayer Chain

Are you familiar with the St. Andrew's Prayer Chain? Well, we are a group of people who are committed to praying for individuals or families who are in need of prayer whether they are in a state of grief, are struggling with disappointments and discouragements, are ill, or even if they want to give thanks and celebrate joy!

Prayer is something that everyone can do. We simply speak to God in our own voice and lift up our friends and others to God. And it is a privilege and a blessing to be able to pray for others in intercessory prayer. It is a way in which we can carry each other's burdens and share each other's grief and hopefully give comfort in time of need. It is a way in which we can express our love for one another.

We would prefer to have permission from the person for whom we are praying or from a close family member. However if you are in doubt, please speak to Rev. Mitch or their elder.

Confidential prayer requests should be sent to [ryneveld@telus.net](mailto:ryneveld@telus.net). If you need us, the prayer chain is here and ready and willing to pray with you or for you.



### Greetings from Carol and Dave Stewart!

The Stewart Clan is alive, even if you haven't heard from us recently. The past few years have been a strange mixture of celebration and health challenges. Carol and I are much like Humpty Dumpty. We are falling apart and being put back together again. Carol awaits a knee replacement and like others we are grateful to be bionic creatures.

Our faith journey continues, filled with grace sufficient for everything.

The Christian faith does not deny that there is something wrong... doesn't deny there is pain and struggle, it affirms that reality. BUT this is not the end of the story:

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light dawned. Isa.9*

Jesus's birth brought all the HOPE we need.

Blessings to you and yours in the year of our Lord 2023!



## MUSIC OUTREACH IN DECEMBER AT ST. ANDREW'S

Building Community



On Sunday afternoon, December 11, and Thursday mid day, December 15, the public and congregation of St. Andrew's enjoyed seasonal classical music and sang traditional Christmas carols in the Sanctuary.

On December 11, talented music students from Cello and Piano classes at the UVIC School of Music provided a wonderful performance. Student performers were:

Luke Kim (cello), Mahtab Saadatmand (cello), Nicole Phanichphant (cello), Easton Roy (piano) Vannophat 'Tau' Kaploykeo (cello) and Jany Lu, music professor at UVic, who accompanied some of the students on the piano.

Special thank you to Pam Highbaugh Aloni, cello instructor at UVIC, St. Andrew's, the Victoria Foundation and the UVic School of Music who worked together to bring this program to downtown Victoria.





On December 15, talented musicians gave a concert, The Gift of Christmas Music. Musicians performed a variety of Christmas selections and the audience enjoyed singing traditional Christmas carols.

Performers included:

David Barrs (trumpet)

McKenna Jennings (harp)

Jorges Carrizales (piano)

Akina Kishiyama (soloist)

Amanda Steinemann (viola and violin)

Alberta Brown (flute)

The Cantabile Handbell Choir

Christine Purvis (organ and piano)



Thank you to those who attended and provided a live audience for musicians to perform in front of again. Thank you to the many St. Andrew's volunteers who made these two December outreach concerts possible and so successful.



Watch for notices about upcoming UVic student performances in 2023. Concerts will be focused on audiences from senior centres, multicultural groups and the general public. St. Andrew's congregation is encouraged to come, enjoy the Sunday afternoon performances and welcome these community groups.

**Dawn McLean**



## Share the Joy of Christmas 2022

Thank you, everyone, who has donated to St. Andrew's Share the Joy of Christmas 2022 campaign! By December 21st, we had received enough donations to fund 29 Christmas hampers for needy people in the Victoria area this holiday season!

The food hampers are put together by the Mustard Seed Street Church, which runs a food bank and has commercial contacts that enable each dollar donated to be stretched to the max, to provide nutritious items for financially struggling families and individuals. Small Christmas gifts were included with each hamper along with enough food to feed 4 people.

So, doing the math (4 X 29), St. Andrew's Share the Joy campaign helped make Christmas brighter for 116 persons in Victoria this year. Thank you all again for your generosity and good will!

Special thanks to Jack Reimer and Jerry Verwey who braved the snow to make sure that St. Andrew's cheque of \$4940 was delivered on time to the Mustard Seed, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Debra Verwey**  
Mission & Outreach



## New Supplementary Hymn Booklet

Some time ago our music director, Christine Purvis, asked members to please send her lists of their favourite hymns that are not included in our hymnal. The response was very positive, and many were submitted – thank you! She then searched for and compiled hymns that are in the public domain (and hence no longer protected by copyright) and for which music scores were available. Thanks to her work, and with the assistance of Pastor Mitch, Whitney Hanna and Shannon Cummings, words-only supplementary booklets have now been compiled and printed, and will soon be in use.

Why a delay in their distribution and use? Pastor Mitch preaches from the lectionary, and hence Christine chooses music that suits each Sunday's readings. This is done well in advance, and she has already chosen hymns for much of January. Furthermore, it is inevitable that there will be Sundays for which there is no suitable material in the supplement – so a further slight delay is possible.

How will they be distributed? To keep costs down, 150 copies have been made; however, our Sanctuary holds over 500 people, and hence not every seat will have a supplementary booklet. To ensure that the booklets are left in pews that people habitually use, they will be given out at the door on the first Sunday of their use, and people will be asked to leave them in the book rack in front of them, along with the hymnal and Bible. After the service, booklets will be distributed in areas where people normally sit when numbers attending in-person worship have been high. (Some will also be retained for the inevitable situations when people sit in pews without a booklet.)

It is great to see this new supplement in print, and we look forward to its use in worship! Our thanks again to all of those who sent in their list of favourite hymns, and to those involved in the compilation and production of the booklet!

**Worship Committee**



## Congregational Budget Meeting

Please plan to attend this important meeting to approve the church budget for 2023.

**Date:** Sunday 22 January

**When:** immediately following worship

**Where:** in the sanctuary

The proposed budget will be circulated prior to the meeting.

While it is hoped that as many as possible will attend in person, provision will be made for those not able to attend to be included in the business of the meeting. Details will follow soon.

## Open Church & Meditation Hour

During December, I started our Wednesday noon-hour Open Church and Meditation Hour.

We received visitors from Oregon, Washington, Manitoba, Argentina, Philippines, Ukraine, and of course locals who have never been inside the building.

We were open every day, except Tuesday (snow day) during Christmas week and welcomed a few visitors. I welcomed one chap from Congregation Emanu-El Jewish Synagogue, the oldest worshiping site in Victoria. Even though our tally ranged from two to a dozen over this time, I am heartened by our assurance that even one visitor is welcome.

I will be continuing this ministry in the new year every Wednesday from 12 to 1pm and from 4:30 to 5:30pm for meditation.

**Jerry Verwey**

## Building Community...

Prior to COVID when we held coffee hour after Sunday services, we would set up the long trestle tables with a mix of chairs for people to sit and talk. It seemed routine rather than unique.

Post COVID (as post as post can be at the moment) we continue to meet for coffee in the Kirk Hall, albeit with smaller card tables rather than the longer trestle type. The good thing about the current setup is that it creates a more intimate setting. People are able to meet in small groups and perhaps have better conversations. It also created an easier way to sit with strangers and have a quiet conversation.

On Christmas Day Sunday, we didn't host a coffee hour after Church. That Sunday (December 25<sup>th</sup>) the AA group was able to use our kitchen and hall facilities to prepare 'take away' Christmas dinners for people in our community. More than 200 meals were distributed. The AA group has been providing this service out of our Kirk Hall to our downtown community for many years.

We often hear the comment, church is not just the building, but it is also the people. In this sense it is not just the people of St. Andrew's, but the people we are able to serve as part of our downtown community.

We are blessed in many ways: whether it be the buildings, the people from all walks of life, those with many talents as well as other people in our community who call St. Andrew's home.

Looking forward to a New Year – 2023 - as we move to an exciting time at St. Andrew's.

Peace and goodwill to all,  
**Jim Ferguson**

Recently, the *Times Colonist* ran an article on singer, Ian Tyson's life and death.

Both Jim Ferguson (via Bill McColl) and David McLean (via older brothers) confirmed that Ian Tyson attended St. Andrew's, sitting in the balcony with his mother!

Submitted by  
**Dawn McLean**



The Yu Family  
The Second Candle in Advent  
The candle of Peace



The Opoku-Ntiamoah Family  
The Third Candle in Advent  
The candle of Joy



The Henderson Family  
The Fourth Candle in Advent  
The candle of Love



The McLean Family  
The Christ Candle

Welcome to New Members: Ashley & Ashton Bromley with children Flynt & Scarlett,  
and Faye & Marcel Bromley who joined St. Andrew's Presbyterian on December 11, 2022.





### Christmas Eve Service 2022



Soloist - Akina Kishiyama

### Christmas Day Service 2022



David McLean lighting the Christ Candle



Christine Purvis (piano) and Alberta Brown (flute)

### How Does that “Star Thing” Work?

On Epiphany Sunday, Pastor Mitch preached about the passage from the “wise men from the East” (Matt. 2) who, by a combination of following a star, interpretation of scripture, and “dreams” were led to Bethlehem – and then home again by a different route. I understand the general guidance a star can give, but the fine-detailed specifics of following a star until it “stopped over the place where the child was” always struck me as curious. It is one thing for a sailor to use the North Star for general direction, but quite another to navigate the Inside Passage in the dark! However, I was fortunate enough to meet a man who could fill in a few details, from personal experience.

As a student, I met Edward Howell in St. Andrew’s, Scotland, where he and his wife befriended students especially Americans and Canadians. (He was not long retired, after a fascinating life and career.) Although his father was the minister of Paisley Abbey, and his older brother, a member of the Oxford Movement, he himself was a firm non-believer until what he referred to as his “Pauline conversion” in a PoW hospital in Greece. (An RAF squadron leader, he was seriously wounded during the invasion of Crete.) He described going to bed one evening as a man of no faith, and pondering his past, present and future. He made a decision to trust and follow God – and his life was never the same, following a powerful experience of God’s grace that night. This started a life-long habit of spending an hour at the start of each day, waiting on God until he knew how he was to spend that day. Developing a “listening ear” led to a remarkable series of events. Although still injured, and against all advice, he felt God was calling him to escape.

Remarkably, he had a strong sense that he should follow a star for guidance. This repeatedly led him on safe routes, sometimes against his better rational

judgment. Coupled with a strong sense of which doors to knock on, he connected with protective individuals and villages on his route through Greece to Turkey, and then back to the UK to recuperate.

Curious, I quizzed Mr. Howell about “how that star thing worked”. He had no explanation, except that he was never in doubt: he felt so strongly moved by God to trust a specific star and follow it that he just did, even when it made no human sense. He relates in his autobiography how, on the night of his escape, the star led him through a village “for some considerable distance along well-frequented streets. My trail must have been crossed and re-crossed many times and would be quite impossible for dogs to trace. My natural inclination, to keep away from people and take to the hillside quickly, might well have been fatal” because, once out of the village, he could hear troops searching for him in the surrounding hills. Similar “star experiences” continued during his escape.

But the “star stories” didn’t stop there. In what he described to me as a moment of foolish commitment, a partisan asked him to tell Winston Churchill when he got back to Britain that they would be fighting for Churchill until the British liberated Greece – and he promised that he would. Once back in St. Andrew’s, he ignored the commitment until he finally sent a letter to 10 Downing Street, simply to clear his conscience. He was soon as surprised as his commanding officer by a summons to private lunch with the prime minister! He related to me that the visit began with a cup of tea with Lady Churchill, during which she graciously gathered facts about who he was, in preparation for an introduction at the start of lunch. Churchill arrived late in his traditional one-piece suit, obviously distracted, and not at all interested in his guest. His wife gave a précis of Mr. Howell’s story, which Churchill ignored except for an occasional grunt – until the star was mentioned. That triggered an immediate and animated



exchange of experiences, as Churchill himself felt led by a star when escaping from a Boer PoW camp in 1899. They went on to talk about God's intervention in their lives and world events, and Churchill's firm belief that two miracles saved Britain when it should have been defeated: Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain. They parted, with Churchill animated and energized. Mr. Howell said that, in retrospect, the conversation took place during a dark and crucial time during the war. He never met Churchill again, but always wanted to know if the shared "star experience" was a gift from God to lift the prime minister's spirits.

But the interconnectedness of people's lives continued. A couple of years later in Edinburgh, Colina and I met the father of a friend, an RAF fighter pilot who also escaped from a PoW camp, this time in Italy. Our friend's father served in Egypt, and I mentioned Mr. Howell. It turned out that he was preparing to fly to Crete to report to Mr. Howell when news came in of the British defeat, so the mission was cancelled and they never met. (A quick telephone call led to a meeting of the two veterans for a memorable afternoon in St. Andrew's: 40 years late, but better late than never!) What have I learned about stars? If wise men need to know the house where Jesus lies, or Mr. Howell needs to know which village streets to escape along, I have no doubt but that the Holy Spirit can provide the required means of navigation! These "star stories" remind me that God truly is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The miracle of the Epiphany star is not diminished by the shared modern experience of others. The key take-away for me is how we discern guidance and the nudging of the Spirit – rarely dramatic stars, and more often a quiet internal voice arising during quiet contemplation and prayer, or through a word from a friend or something we read or observe, or the alignment of events in our lives. An missionary was once asked about the "secret of his success", and he replied that he waited until he could see what God was

doing, and then he joined in. We are in a time of discernment at St. Andrew's. I don't expect a star to guide us – but I wonder what we see God doing around us, and how and when we might best join in?

**Brian Titus**

Autobiography of Wing Commander Edward Howell  
available for free: [Escape to Live \(1981 edition\)](#)

Obituary (August 2000) [Wing-Commander Edward Howell](#)

### Presbytery Camps Committee

The camp committee has been able to reserve the following dates for our camps:

❖ French Beach Provincial Park  
weekend July 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> - group site.

❖ Rath Trevor Provincial Park  
weekend July 31<sup>st</sup>- Aug 7<sup>th</sup> - group site.

Also scheduled but not yet reserved (individual booking):

❖ Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park  
week of June 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>  
(individual bookings open in March).

Watch for posters as they become available and posted in the church for updated information and costs.

**Jerry Verwey,**  
Camp Representative



# The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



C	U	A	K	I	E	V	G	W	B	Z	F	X	Q	S	R	O	L	P	H	T	D	M	Y	J	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 10-3-19-21-5-11-6 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 9-3-21-6-16 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 22-17-7-6 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 7-17-5-1-6 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 20-6-3-7-6-26 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 20-17-18-24 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 15-17-26 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 18-17-7-6 \_\_\_\_\_

SON  
HOLY

DOVE  
LOVE

BAPTIZE  
VOICE

HEAVEN  
WATER



# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany Sunday Worship 10:30 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 Early Music Society In the Salon of Mme Brilllon
8 Choir 9:30 Baptism of the Lord Sunday Worship 10:30	9	10 *Session 7pm (Pls. note change of date)	11	12 Choir 7:15	13	14
15 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	16	17	18	19 Choir 7:15	20	21
		Annual Presbytery Retreat January 17, 18 - Nanaimo	Jan 18 - 25 World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity			
22 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Budget Meeting 2pm Robbie Burns Tea	23	24	25	26 Choir 7:15	27	28
29 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Link Deadline	30	31	February 1 Inclusive Christians- Around the Table UVic Chapel	2 Choir 7:15	3	4

If you would like additions, updates or changes to this calendar, please submit that information to [thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca)