



April 2024

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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May 2016 was to have a significant day...perhaps the most significant day in many years. Margaret and Brad, our daughter and son-in-law to be, were engaged to be married. Margaret lived in Ohio. We lived in South-central Indiana and the wedding was to be near the Ohio River in Louisville where Margaret had graduated from seminary.

Wedding plans filled our conversations for months. Countless phone calls, texts and visits to Louisville were essential. How many reception venues do we still need to visit?

In addition to the wedding planning, Linda and I were planning a move from Indiana to Tennessee for Linda to assume her new role at King University. Our move would happen mere days after Margaret and Brad exchanged their vows.

I cannot imagine deciding upon a caterer, photographer, reception menu, invitations, guest list, and 1000's of other details and not being able to attend and even officiate our daughter's wedding if I was suddenly too ill to travel! It would be comparable to

holding tickets for Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals between Toronto and Vancouver and not being able to attend because you forgot your anniversary (and it was your 50th).

This has been a week of which weeks of prayers and planning, study and preparation has been the focus. A Bible Study specifically designed to help us travel the 40 Day Lenten journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter was planned and completed. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were to help us travel the dark road that Jesus traveled on His way to the cross. Easter would finally arrive to announce "He is not here, He is risen. He is risen indeed!"

But I missed Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter because of a nasty flu. For the first time in my ministry, I was absent during the most significant week in Christendom. You have heard me say that you need to attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to grasp the importance of Easter. The rest of the church year, every prayer, and every sermon hang upon what happened on Easter morning!

"Yes but", as I said on Palm Sunday, the darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and the joy of Easter are still the pivotal moments around which our faith hangs. Frederick Buechner wrote, "the Bible's basic story comes down to: "God made the world – God loses the world – God gets the world back. Here in the messy middle, God in the flesh wades in not to straighten things our but to awaken us to God's reconciling work."

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Victoria, BC

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Session Report

Dawn McLean reported that she has completed an application to the Victoria Foundation asking for another grant to assist with the costs of holding concerts with students from the UVic School of Music. St. Andrew's has been holding these joint concerts since the lifting of the pandemic shutdown in an effort to encourage the public to come back downtown and to revitalize the Douglas Street area.

The renovation group reported the completion of the scheduled painting and installation of the new cabinets in the Lecture Room. Total completion will be set back due to a two-week delay in delivery of the dishwasher. The renovation is expected to be completed by the middle of April.

The Property Committee reported that two grant applications have been made to the City of Victoria's Incentive Program for Heritage Buildings. The money from one grant would be used to secure the parapets on the tower and the front face of the church and comes with a possible maximum allotment of \$200,000. Funds from the second application, if secured, would be used to re-point the bricks of the tower and the east face of the church. This second grant could be in the amount of possibly \$100,000.

Vancouver Island Presbytery approved making available grants for Island Presbyterian youth and young adults to attend UPLIFT (a Canada-wide convention in July for Presbyterian and United Church young people) at Brock University in St. Catherines, Ontario. Presbytery is willing to fund the registration of up to 25 people. For information about this, please contact Jerry Verwey, St. Andrew's Camp representative.

Session viewed a YouTube video called 'The Abilene Paradox' where a situation is portrayed in which a group of people collectively decide on a course of action that is counter to the preferences of most or all individuals in the group, while each individual believes it to be aligned with the preferences of most of the others and they, therefore, consent to the action to avoid conflict. The negative consequences of this kind of situation in an organization includes unexpressed frustration and simmering resentment which can

destabilize the organization. The necessity for honest, direct, heartfelt communication is one of the many ways to avoid the Abilene Paradox. Rev. Mitch led this interesting discussion.

Our collaboration efforts with two other Presbyterian churches in Victoria, Knox and Trinity, are still ongoing. Recently the session members from Knox and St. Andrew's met via Zoom with Dale Woods, a minister from Westminster Presbytery to discuss vision and mission.

Tjeerd Verwey
Session Clerk

SUNDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC

APRIL 7
AT 2:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT
1:30 PM



St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church's Sanctuary
924 Douglas Street

The April 7th performance features students of Anne Elliott-Goldschmidt at UVic's School of Music.

Accessibility entrance is available on Broughton Street.

Free parking on Sundays and holidays at the Library Parkade at 745 Broughton Street.

Admission is by donation.

CONTACT:
250-384-5734
office@standrewsvictoria.ca



Union Gospel Mission - Victoria

The Union Gospel Mission first opened its door in Vancouver more than 80 years ago. It began by offering soup and a few beds on the Eastside of Vancouver, and today they provide services in eight locations across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Their mission is to transform communities to overcome poverty, homelessness and addiction - one life at a time. Unfortunately, the need is even greater with increased homelessness and a toxic drug supply that has led to an overdose crisis.

The Union Gospel Mission recently announced that it is expanding its services and has felt called to provide services in Victoria.

The plan is to open a six-bed women's recovery home in July 2024 and a Mobile Outreach van to connect with people living on the streets in the community. As many of us are aware, Victoria is facing the same issues as Vancouver with a very high rate of homelessness and a large number of deaths related to the toxic drug supply. To learn more about the work of the Union Gospel Mission, you can check out their website: <https://ugm.ca>

Patti Jackson
Mission & Outreach

(continued from page 1)

My bout with flu is inconsequential to the significance of Holy Week capped by the celebration of Easter. The "messy middle" in which we live continues to trip us up, frustrates us beyond belief and even causes us to question the darkness that may surround us, but, rest assured, God is indeed present in each of our messy middles of life! I did not miss our daughter's wedding, "Thanks be to God." I did miss the services of Holy Week but still the truth was proclaimed, "He is not here. He is risen." Now every Sunday, in every prayer and sermon, while you may not hear those exact words, you will encounter their ever-present impact. Happy Easter, Friends.

In Celebration,
Rev. Mitch

HIGH JINX ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



"Great Scot! Moira and Roger having fun being 'Irish' on St. Patrick's Day, which was also Moira's birthday."

L to R: Arthur Marcellus, Moira Bernard, Roger Bernard



Classical Music Concert, March 10th



Cello students from the studio of Pam Highbaugh Aloni, Associate Professor in the UVIC School of Music, performed Sunday afternoon March 10.

The students played beautiful classical music pieces in St. Andrew's Sanctuary and were accompanied by two local concert pianists.

The cello performance is part of the ongoing outreach series sponsored by St. Andrew's and the Victoria Foundation. St. Andrew's offers the Sanctuary as a downtown location for UVIC students to perform and the public is invited to come and enjoy the music.

The next two afternoon concerts in the series are Sunday, April 7 featuring violin students from the classes of Ann Elliott Goldschmidt and Wednesday, April 17 featuring a senior brass quintet, students of Merrie Klazek, both Associate Professors at UVIC. Both concerts start at 12:30 pm. The doors open at 12 noon.

Everyone is welcome. The students appreciate having an audience!

NARTHEX HUMOUR

As relayed by Arthur Marcellus on Sunday, March 3rd

This morning, we welcomed George Smith at the front doors of the church and we asked him if there was any improvement walking to church from James Bay with his sore knees. George answered, "They're OK, but I am sure the church has been moved farther from my home this week!!!"

New Spaces, New Projects

Same Day but New Time

Three years ago, as a result of Covid restrictions, an informal group was formed so that the people of St. Andrew's could continue to meet and "check in" on one another. Known as the Thursday Afternoon Laneway Group, it worked well and many people — young and old — "checked in". St. Andrew's now has a newly renovated room so we've moved inside and given ourselves a new name — "The Activity Group".

A new name was needed because we realized that what we were also doing was planning, and helping to plan, church events and projects. This year we've decided to start on two new projects. For the first one we need your help. We are collecting clean, used, flannelette sheets, any colour and a few holes won't matter. These sheets can be made into diaper pads, and menstrual pads. The pads then become part of much needed supply shipments sent to various countries around the world. Compassionate Resource Warehouse organizes, compiles and loads these shipments and we look forward to being able to help in this small way.

The second project is a booklet of familiar songs. Several months ago the family of one of St. Andrew's members shared a book of songs that they had used when their Mom had been a resident in one of the care facilities. They have permitted us to use their idea, create a songbook and share it with other families at St. Andrew's. The songs will be a variety of old favourites and will be in a loose leaf booklet so that families can

add their own favourites too. If you would like one of these songbooks for yourself, or someone in your family, please let us know and we will be happy to provide one.

Songs are such an important part of our lives from the time we are very small to when we are much older. Whether we are the singers or the listeners, our memories are very much linked to songs. Sometimes the words of a song mean a lot because of what was happening in our lives at that time, sometimes it is the music itself.

As we have begun to look at what songs to include in a booklet a song from our hymn book was brought to mind. It is #641 "One More Step Along the World I Go". If you don't know it, it has a lively tune, and the refrain has a great message. "And it's from the old that I travel to the new. Keep me traveling along with you." Maybe in the weeks to come we'll all have a chance to singalong together and we can all share many favourites.

Submitted by **Sheelagh Garson**



Climate Justice

Each year we are experiencing more and more frequent catastrophic weather events around the world. Climate change has become more evident as global temperatures rise, leading to more disturbances to our ecosystems and biodiversity. As a result there are more and more threats to our water resources, food resources and especially to human lives. Unfortunately those most affected are often those who contribute the least to climate change.

As God's people, it is our responsibility to care for his creation. From the Presbyterian Church **Living Faith**, it states that 'We are not owners, but stewards of all of life, and we welcome the truths and insights of all human skill and science about the world and the universe. Our stewardship calls us to explore ways of love and justice in respecting God's creation and seeking its responsible use for the common good.'

PWS&D's Response to Climate Change

PWS&D is addressing climate change directly by working as good stewards to help vulnerable communities adapt to the changing climate with sustainable solutions. PWS&D works with local partners, communities and coalitions to address immediate effects from climate change and strive towards long term solutions. In Africa, Latin America and Asia, local farmers are being supported through training, thus equipping them with knowledge and skills on 'climate smart' agriculture, soil conservation methods and practices that demand less seed, water and fertilizer.

The following are part of the collaborative team that are addressing climate change. They include ACT Alliance, Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, For the Love of Creation, and World Council of Churches.

Further information at: <https://presbyterian.ca/pws&d>

Climate Change Resources and Advocacy Opportunities

a) PCC Social Action Hub- Ecological Justice

<https://presbyterian.ca>

b) Canadian Foodgrains Bank Resources
<https://foodgrainsbank.ca>

c) For the Love of Creation Resources
<https://forthe loveofcreation.ca>

Patti Jackson
Mission and Outreach



Communion Sundays in 2024

June 2nd

October 6th

December 1st





CAMP VIP 2024

Camp Vancouver Island Presbytery is a program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. For a registration form, or for more information about this year's camps, please visit <https://vipresbytery.net/>

LITTLE QUALICUM FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

June 10 - 14

Please book your own campsite through BC Parks near sites U50 - U51. A senior rate is available if applicable! A \$25 donation towards the program and for supplies is appreciated!

BC PARKS: <https://camping.bcparks.ca>.

GOLDSTREAM PROVINCIAL PARK

July 4 - 8

WEEKEND RATE: \$140 (2 adults 2 children)

DAY RATE: \$40 (2 adults 2 children)

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN UNDER 16: \$2 (per night)

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN OVER 16: \$5 (per night)

E-TRANSFER: campvipa975@gmail.com

CONTACT: andrewmccowan@hotmail.com

RATHREVOR PROVINCIAL PARK

August 5 - 12

Book early! Limited site availability!

WEEKEND RATE: \$250 (2 adults 2 children)

DAY RATE: \$40 (2 adults 2 children)

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN UNDER 16: \$2 (per night)

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN OVER 16: \$5 (per night)

E-TRANSFER: campvipa975@gmail.com

CONTACT: andrewmccowan@hotmail.com

UVIC BRASS QUINTET

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 17

2024

AT 12:30 PM



St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church's Sanctuary
924 Douglas Street

Trumpet, horn, trombone, brass trombone,
trumpet musicians from the studio of Merrie
Klazek, Associate Professor at UVIC

Accessibility entrance is available on Broughton Street.

Parish at the Library Parkade at 745 Broughton Street.

Admission is by donation.

CONTACT:
250-384-5734
office@standrewsvictoria.ca



UPLIFT

We are pleased to announce UPLIFT 2024, a get-together for younger members of our national church. It was previously known as CY (Canada Youth), which happened every three years, before Covid intervened.

This gathering of youth, young adults and church leaders will see three streams at the conference: youth (Grade 9-12), young adults (18-25 years of age), and leaders (age 18 years and older). Each stream will focus on that group's unique needs and faith expression, exploring the theme of "Audacious Hope" through activities, learning, worship, prayer, relationship building and fun. UPLIFT takes place from July 3–7, 2024, at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Save the date!

Brochures are available in the narthex or get soft copies from the Session Clerk at sessionclerk@standrewsvictoria.ca. Some funds are available from the Vancouver Island Presbytery CCYC committee. For more information, please contact Jerry Verwey, St. Andrew's representative to CCYC.



The poster features the UPLIFT logo in blue and yellow, with the text "UPLIFT" in a stylized font. Below the logo, it says "JULY 3-7, 2024". To the right, it lists three streams: "YOUTH STREAM: 14-18 YEARS OLD", "YOUNG ADULT STREAM: 18-25 YEARS OLD", and "LEADERSHIP STREAM: CHURCH LEADERS 18+". Below this, it says "BROCK UNIVERSITY ST. CATHARINES". A yellow button in the center says "REGISTER APRIL 15-MAY 31". Below the button, it says "Partnering with the United Church of Canada to offer this event highlighting Audacious Hope". There is a QR code and the text "Scan for more info" and "uplift@presbyterian.ca". On the right side, there are two logos: "Audacious Hope" with a colorful dove and the tagline "Nothing in this world is task.", and a red and blue flame logo.

I opened the Pantry Door...

I was recently asked to help a group develop a 'strategic plan.' Some people wanted to talk about priority setting, others about organization structure including the way "we have always done it" and a list of why they shouldn't even care about a 'strategic plan.'

The first thing I had to do was to get people to begin thinking about process so I introduced them to the pantry door. Here's the story...

It is time to prepare supper and the choices are to open the pantry door (supply cupboard) and then build the meal around what is available in the cupboard or to open the cookbook and see what elements are required for the first or best choice of meal.

The conversation then went from **historical**: *we have always done it a certain way or we have limited resources* to one of **what do we want the future to look like**: *what do we have to fulfill that vision, what are we missing and what are the shortcomings we have to address.*

How does that describe us at St. Andrew's? Continue as we have or to develop a mission of what we want to look like in the future?

Let's open the pantry door – and rather than limit ourselves to what we have, let's develop a vision of our future and then use what we have to help us move forward.

Food for thought...

Jim Ferguson



“Christ is Risen Indeed!”



“He is not here.”

**Easter Sunday
at
St. Andrew's**



Report from Renovation Task Group

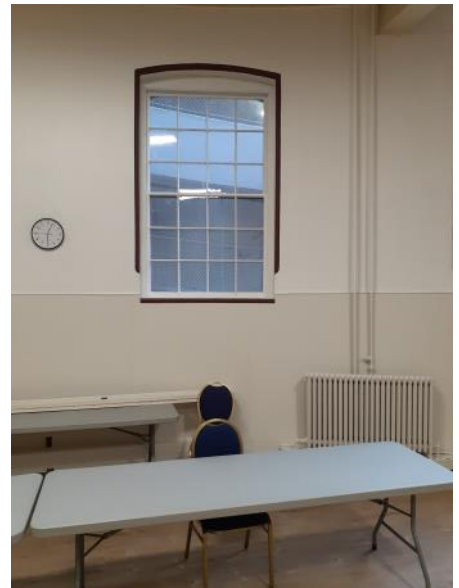
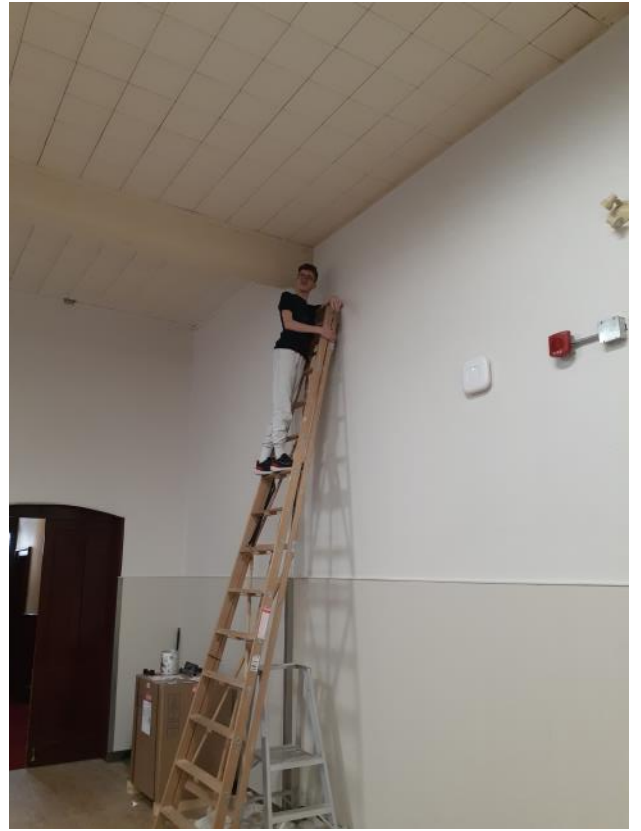
Inch by inch, step by step, the progress continues. The patching and painting is almost complete. With Jerry's hard work and a bit of help from a young man visiting from Calgary, the painting is being completed (see pictures).

The empty space in the middle of the counter will soon see the addition of the dishwasher. The installation of the electrical switches and outlets above the counter will soon be completed. Thank you to Dave G. for his patience and perseverance in creating this panel.

The dishes and basic supplies for the new kitchen are in place and we look forward to using them when the kitchen is fully functional. A thank you to those from our task group who helped with the dish washing and kitchen set up. A second thank you to those from the AA group who helped get the dishes from the upstairs in the hall to the main kitchen and then, when the dishes were clean, transported to the new kitchen.

In recent weeks, there have been a few informal uses by various groups and a "grand opening" is planned for later spring so that, together, we can celebrate our new room.

Submitted by **Sheelagh Garson**



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	1	2	3 Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	4 Activity Group 10:30 Choir 7:15	5	6
7 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Classical Music Concert 2:00	8	9	10 No Open Church No Meditation Hour	11 Activity Group 10:30 Choir 7:15	12 Session Reports Deadline	13
14 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	15	16	17 Open Church 11:30 Brass Concert 12:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	18 Activity Group 10:30 Choir 7:15	19	22
21	22	23	24	25 Activity Group 10:30 Choir 7:15	26	27
28 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	29	30	24 Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	25 Activity Group 10:30 Choir 7:15	26	27



Confidential prayer requests can be sent to ryneveld@relus.net. If you need us, the prayer chain is here, ready and willing to pray with you or for you.

If you would like additions, updates or changes to this calendar, please submit that information to thelink@shaw.ca