



THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

September 2025

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Hello, St. Andrew's Congregation:

For those of you who may not know me, my name is the Reverend Irwin Cunningham, and I have been assigned by the Presbytery of Vancouver Island as your new Interim Moderator. I am looking forward to serving with you.

Although this is my first time in the role of Interim Moderator for this particular congregation, my relationship with St. Andrew's goes back many years. In the early 1980s, I regularly joined the young adult badminton group in Kirk Hall when I was in Victoria. Later, from 1987 to 1992, Diane Attwell (now my wife), and I helped run the combined youth group with Gavin Robertson and the student ministers from St. Andrew's and Knox Presbyterian. That time in youth ministry was certainly instrumental in my decision to enter ordained ministry in later years.

Following those years, I studied to become a minister at Knox College in Toronto. During my studies, I also served for a year as a student minister at Memorial Church in Sylvan Lake, Alberta. In 1996, I was called to Faith Church in Fort McMurray, where Diane and I had our four children: Maximilian, Rebekah, Benjamin, and Peter.

My family and I moved to British Columbia in 2007, and I have served at Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church in North Saanich ever since. I have also previously served as an Interim Moderator at West Shore and at Trinity (twice).

I look forward to working with the session and congregation as you seek to move forward in ministry. As your Interim Moderator, I believe in being accessible, and I plan to spend my office hours at St. Andrew's on most Thursday mornings. I will also be joining you for worship from time to time.

I am excited to see what the future holds for this community.

Rev. Irwin Cunningham



Victoria, BC

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Session Report

Session members have had a welcome break over the summer after a few years of intense meetings. All this resulted in the production of the Church Profile which was presented to Presbytery for approval in June and which was approved unanimously by Presbytery as a whole. Unlike most Profiles, ours did not include a search committee. This will be Session's focus in our upcoming session meeting. The committee must reflect upon the diverse interests of the congregation so that they can adequately search for a candidate compatible with our vision and mission. If you are asked to serve on this committee, please prayerfully consider doing so.

Session also welcomes the opportunity to work with our new interim moderator, the Rev. Irwin Cunningham from Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian. Rev. Cunningham assumed the position of interim moderator at the beginning of August when Rev. Laura Kavanagh took holiday leave before her retirement. We thank Rev. Kavanagh for guiding us through the final stages of compiling our Church Profile. The Profile is available to any member of the congregation by asking the clerk or any member of session.

We have welcomed the Rev. Wes Denyer as partial pulpit supply since March. Rev. Denyer will be continuing in this capacity as he is able. His style and

content of sermon have been very well received by all. We have also been well served by VST students and Rev. R. Lockhart, dean of VST, over the summer months.

As you may have noticed, our order of service has slightly changed. The prelude now precedes the service and call to worship and the postlude occurs at the end of the service. However we encourage you to remain seated to quietly reflect on the service before proceeding to coffee hour.

We were saddened by the death of one of our members of session, Sabine Teetzel, who served diligently on session and was dedicated to Christian Education. She will be missed.

Jerry Verwey
Session Clerk

Thank You

Thank you to **Norma Kobald** and **Steven Benson** who have shared their talents at the organ with us since April. We have enjoyed their gift of music and appreciate how they have worked together with acting choir director, Darby Howard, the choir and choral scholars.

Colina Titus



In Loving Memory

John Mitchell - June 24

Donald John - June 26

Sabine Teetzel - July 22

Over the Summer

Pray for a good harvest but continue to hoe!

In late spring, the Activity Group set out on a new venture: establish a vegetable garden in the laneway to grow a variety of vegetables to be given to a neighbourhood seniors' group to help in their efforts towards food security.

With a variety of containers, many bags of soil, seeds and a whole lot of optimism the garden was planted. Thanks to our "farmers" (Trudy, Kathie, Grant and Dave) the growing plants were watered each week, and harvested as they grew. It was exciting to see all that was produced and wonderful to take fresh produce each week to James Bay New Horizons.

After 17 weeks, we donated more than 100 bags of tomatoes, carrots, peas, onions, Swiss chard, lettuce and potatoes. One cucumber plant produced 10 cucumbers. There are some crops yet to be harvested, more tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and carrots and then we'll see what may continue into the fall.

During the next few weeks, we'll harvest the rest of our crop and take it to James Bay. If you have extras from your own gardens, you are welcome to drop it off at the office, or on a Sunday. We'll deliver any extras brought in.

In September, the Activity Group will once again meet at our usual time -10:30, every Thursday morning in the Gathering Room.

All are welcome to stop in, stay for a coffee, or tea, and share your ideas of what St. Andrew's could work on together for the rest of 2025 and into 2026.

We continue coordinating with Compassionate Resource Warehouse. More dignity bags have been created over the summer. We will continue to assist, where possible, with repurposing projects.

Stay tuned to hear how you too may be able to help.

Submitted by
Sheelagh G.



Bags of Swiss chard, carrots and cucumbers.



Potatoes cleaned and ready for packaging - 18 bags and about 15-20 lbs of the larger potatoes.

Over the Summer continued

Camp VIP for Summer 2025

Our first Camp VIP was at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park, June 9–13. Our hosts were Ruth and Bruce McCowan. There were 15 campers, with several others coming and going throughout the week. The campers were from Trinity, Campbell River; St. Andrew's, Nanaimo; Trinity, Victoria and St. Andrew's, Victoria. Our theme speaker was Eric Kuehnel from St. Andrew's Nanaimo. His Theme was *Loving to Pray and Praying to Love*. He spoke about methods of prayer and specifically *Lectio Divina*:

1. Prepare to pray with quiet time;
2. Read the scripture twice while reflecting on what it says;
3. Reflect – what stood out for you;
4. Respond – talk to God about the scripture;
5. Rest – silent contemplation. Eric started with the Lord's Prayer and ended with the 23rd Psalm.



Camp VIP Goldstream Banner – *God will piece together your life*. Our 2024 banner, on the left, reads *Hands Down WE LOVE JESUS!* We ended with Communion on Sunday afternoon.

Our second Camp VIP was at Goldstream Provincial Park, July 3-7. Our hosts were Jean and Arthur Marcellus. There were 12 campers and two visitors throughout the week, with campers from St. Andrew's Nanaimo; Trinity, Victoria and St. Andrew's Victoria. Our theme speaker was Rev. Elizabeth Forrester from St. Andrew's Nanaimo. Her Theme was *How God Uses Our Body Parts* and our devotional hymn was *Take My Life and Let It Be*. Elizabeth wanted us to consider what we do during those times in our lives when we are waiting on everything from the kettle to boil, to waiting to see our doctor; and then, how we use our hands and feet; how we use our mouth and ears to effect positive changes in our lives and those around us. We also made our second

Our third Camp VIP was at Rattrevor Provincial Park, in Parksville, Aug. 11-18. There were 25 adults and 14 children, with campers from Trinity, Campbell River; St. Andrew's Nanaimo; Trinity, Victoria; St. Andrew's Victoria; Prince George and Saskatoon! Our theme speaker was Meredith Reems, from St. Andrew's Nanaimo. Meredith is studying for her Masters degree in Pastoral Leadership. She spoke to us about 'tables' – what we do at our table, what the Bible says about tables and how tables are used in the Bible. She also spoke about who we invite to our table and who invites us to their table. Meredith ended by talking about loving our enemies and, if possible, inviting them to our table. We ended with Communion on Sunday afternoon.

Jean Marcellus



Joyce was busy this summer!

On Thursday, July 10, on a lovely sunny day I had 15 friends over for a Mad Hatters Tea on my lawn. The hats were amazing and the pot luck Tea was colourful and delicious. I went as *The Queen of Hearts*.



And thena cruise around the UK



House where I was born.



Luncheon with relatives.



Enjoying a huge Orkney ice cream.



St. Magnus Cathedral



House where I lived before emigrating to Canada.



**Hello from Your New
Director of
Music Ministry,
Susanne Reul-Zastre**

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the congregation of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian as your new Director of Music. Here is what you need to know about me: I love playing the organ and leading choirs!

I have been working as an organist at churches since my teenage years in Germany taking organ and piano lessons and finishing a church music diploma there until I immigrated to Victoria, Canada in 1986. My local musical community ties run deep. After a Bachelor’s degree in Music History at the University of Victoria, a Master’s Degree in Organ Performance at the University of Western Ontario, and an Associateship diploma with the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) I taught piano, organ and theory, accompanied school and community choirs, and worked as organist at various churches in the Greater Victoria area for many years. I have also been a member of the Executive of the Victoria Centre of the RCCO off and on for several decades, and just stepped down as Past President.

While raising our 2 sons, I served as the music director at St. Luke Cedar Hill Anglican Church for 20+ years. I am excited to call St. Andrew’s my new church music home and look forward to meeting many of you soon. Feel free to say “hello” after a service or at coffee hour!

Sincerely,
Susanne Reul-Zastre

Do you like to sing? Perhaps this might be a good time to consider joining the choir? Susanne and the choir would give you a warm welcome.
The first choir practice (in the sanctuary) will be on:
Thursday, Sept. 4 from 7:15 – 8:30pm
Susanne, welcome to St. Andrew’s!

Colina Titus,
Personnel Committee

**Jack and Dorothy Reimer
celebrated their
55th Wedding Anniversary
on July 11, 2025.**

“We met in Winnipeg at our church through the Young People’s group ‘College and Careers’.

We are so happy we established a Sunday habit of attending church weekly and this habit has led to one of the best things in our marriage. We feel privileged to have been church members all of our lives and we are especially glad to be part of the congregation of St. Andrew’s Victoria, BC. for the past 32 years.

We wanted to share our happiness with St. Andrew’s with a cake and coffee celebration.”



Mustard Seed Street Church - Helping those in need in our community

After Labour Day, the children in our community will be heading back to school. Families in financial need receive school supplies, runners and healthy snacks through the Mustard Seed's Fair Start program. Your support of the Mustard Seed helps to feed hungry children as one in three food bank recipients are children. The Mustard Seed Street Church, through the Food Security Distribution Centre, partners with the Flourish School Food Society providing meals to 17 schools. Did you know the Food Security Distribution Centre also distributes food through 75 local social services agencies? This helps so many in our community. Local grocery stores also rescue and donate food to the Mustard Seed.

Many people volunteer to provide support to those struggling with food insecurity in our region. Volunteers are currently being recruited by the Mustard Seed Street Church.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is encouraging St. Andrew's members and adherents to donate to the invaluable work of The Mustard Seed this fall throughout Thanksgiving. More and more in our community are in need of food assistance from the Mustard Seed.

To support the wonderful work of the Mustard Seed, we hope you'll consider donating through your church envelopes, by cash or by cheque, indicating Mustard Seed on your envelope.

Each and every donation is greatly appreciated! Every dollar that you donate goes further because of the buying power of Mustard Seed Street Church.



Patti Jackson
Mission & Outreach

Congratulations to Alex & Isobel Murray on their 71st Wedding Anniversary!



Alex and Isobel Murray are a lovely and amazing couple who have been faithful members of St. Andrews for more years than some of us can remember. Imagine being able to celebrate your 71st anniversary!

They were married in Scotland on June 25, 1954 and came to Canada in 1966. After a short stay in Ontario, they settled in Victoria in August of that year. They have been members of St. Andrew's for 59 years.

They faithfully attended our church until COVID closed things down for many of our older folks and have been unable to attend in person since then. They have been and remain an inspiration to the rest of us.

Alex and Isobel celebrated their anniversary with a dinner out with their family.

Congratulations, Alex and Isobel, and we hope and pray that you will celebrate many more years of happiness together!

Music Outreach

Music outreach has deepened and expanded over the past few years. Strings instruments including cello, violin, viola and guitar, and brass and choral performances were featured throughout the year in St. Andrew’s Sanctuary. A partnership has developed between St. Andrew’s and the UVIC School of Music with commitments in place for concerts in Fall 2025.

In late June and early July Quartet Fest West brought strings students from Canada and the US to a 2 week in-service workshop at UVIC. St. Andrew’s provided the downtown performance venue for a Saturday afternoon performance. A second performance featured GAIA, an all women’s quartet, from eastern USA who play modern classics.

Fall Outreach concerts supported by the Victoria Foundation, St. Andrew’s and UVIC include:

- November 23 Guitars
- November 30 Cellos
- December 11 Gift of Christmas Music & Carol Sing A-Long



Mark your calendars! Everyone is welcome!

Dawn McLean

Quartet Fest West - June 28, 2025



GAIA Concert - July 5, 2025



Worship in the Park, July 20

St. Andrew's Victoria, Knox, Trinity, Knox Sooke and Chinese Presbyterian Churches



Canada Day Greeters – June 29th Service - dressed for the occasion!

We know that **Coffee and Conversation** is an important part of our Sunday morning worship and friendship time each week. We are all happy that we can have this social time together.

However, our numbers for the Coffee Teams are getting a bit scarce. Coffee Team #2 is in need of some help for the Fall, especially at Thanksgiving, October 12th. Some of our team members are away and several are in the choir, which puts more of a load on the other team members. We are looking for the occasional helper who could help to set up or serve coffee and help with clean up. If you can even supply us with occasional plates of home-made cookies, that is greatly appreciated.

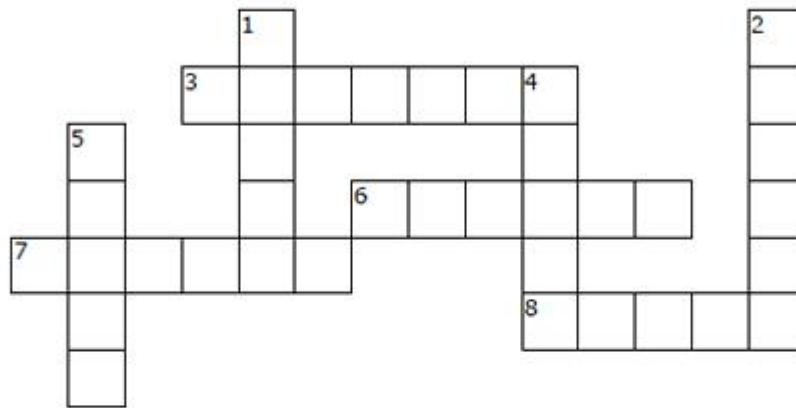
Please notify the church office if you are able to help or contact **Dorothy Reimer (250-592-5051)** for more information.

Your help is greatly appreciated - especially for Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12.

A Lesson in Humility

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 14:7-14 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. A marriage ceremony and any celebrations which follow it
6. A person whom you know well and like a lot
7. To ask someone to go somewhere with you
8. A flat piece of furniture with four legs where we eat our meals

DOWN

1. A large meal for many people
2. Not proud or not believing that you are important
4. A person who has been invited to a social occasion, such as a party or a meal
5. To show great respect for someone, especially in public

GUEST
FRIEND

FEAST
WEDDING

HONOR
HUMBLE

INVITE
TABLE



[PRESBYTERIAN.CA/PWSD/TOGETHER-IN-MOTION-AND-SONG/](https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/together-in-motion-and-song/)



JOURNEY FOR HOPE: TOGETHER IN MOTION & SONG

JOIN US TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR PWS&D'S FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS. OUR GOAL FOR THIS YEAR IS TO RAISE \$2000!

SING FOR HOPE

JOIN US FOR A HYMN SING FUNDRAISER ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 7:00 PM AT TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2964 TILlicum ROAD.

WALK FOR HOPE

JOIN US FOR A 5KM WALK AROUND THE PARK ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 9:30 PM AT ESQUIMALT GORGE PARK PAVILION, 1070 TILlicum ROAD.

CHURCH CONTACTS

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:
KNOX VICTORIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:
KNOX SOOKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

PATTI JACKSON
ANNE KRAUSS
RUTH MCCOWAN
ELEANOR SHAMBROOK

