

This Week at St. Andrew's

September 29, 2020



Parable from the Pastor

March 2020 seems like an eternity ago. No one could have predicted the life-altering consequences that have impacted our lives these last seven months nor estimated our potential for growth, even amid incredible challenges. What have we learned during these unexpected and unwelcome circumstances is what we already knew, "nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." In spite of the difficulties, the obstacles, the pain and the panic, we have survived. We have learned that "with God, all things are possible."

What we learned during these months is that even without worship in our beautiful sanctuary, without the opportunity to hear our magnificent organ, our talented choir, without Sunday School and even without coffee hour, we learned that the church is not the building. Weekly worship has continued. We learned music can be enjoyed through the commitment of Christine to play and record her gifts for our internet services. We learned that Sunday worship can be held in our jammies, drinking coffee and around the kitchen table with our closest loved ones. (Don't get used to this!).

These months have taught us that our church family is knit tightly by shared experiences that cannot be broken by forced distancing. We learned strange new skills called YouTube and Zoom to stay connected, to worship, conduct monthly Session meetings and to pray together. We learned to contribute our offerings differently than placing them in an offering plate. Our children and parents learned that Sunday School lessons still arrived in our inbox faithfully and regularly on a weekly basis. We learned that Pastor Mitch can transition from 12-15 minute sermons to 7-8 minute meditations to emulate the Rev. David Stewart method of preaching!

We learned that we can still provide Saturday breakfast and do it safely. We are still learning as we cautiously emerge from our quarantine. In our first Sunday back in our sanctuary for worship, we learned the numbers of those who attended was fairly low, leaving room for more in coming weeks. We learned that we can (and will) provide live and recorded worship services for those who are not yet comfortable returning to church quite yet. This Sunday we will learn that we can celebrate Holy Communion safely for our first time since January! Thanks be to God. We are learning what we already knew, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." - 1 Corinthians 10:13



September 30th is Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is commemorated across the country on September 30th as this is the time of year that children would be taken from their homes and placed into residential schools. September 30th is a day to remember the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit children who were taken from their families, forced from their culture, and sometimes abused even to the point of death in residential schools in Canada. The orange shirt refers to a shirt that was taken from a six year old residential school student named Phyllis. The shirt had been given to her by her grandmother and was a comforting reminder of home. Phyllis talks of that day saying she remembers "how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

[Click here](#) to read a reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the PCC.

We're Working on a Virtual Tour of the St. Andrew's Sanctuary

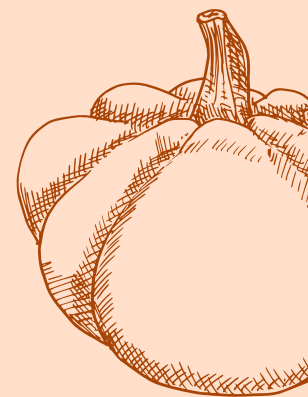
If you have any pictures, audio, documents, stories or any content that can contribute to understanding the history of the sanctuary, you are welcome to email us at tourproject@standrewsvictoria.ca

In Memory...

Please remember the family of Lawrie Matheson in your prayers. Lawrie died on September 24th and will be remembered fondly by many at St. Andrew's for her humour, creativity and dedication.



Join the Bell Choir!



Would you like to join the bell choir? If you are interested in joining the bell choir please contact Christine at music@standrewsvictoria.ca No experience necessary, reading music helps but is not essential. You would be very welcome to join the group. The first practice is on Oct 4th at 11:30 - 12:30.



Support PWS&D with Rev. Kavanagh

The Rev. Laura Kavanagh from Knox PC is participating in Ride for Refuge raising money for Presbyterian World Service and Development Food Security Programs

From her message: "Many families in developing countries rely on small-scale subsistence farming for survival. Soil erosion, prolonged drought and rising prices for seeds and commercial fertilizers make it difficult to increase crop production or purchase a variety of foods to balance their diets, leading to high rates of malnutrition. I have seen and discussed this firsthand on my visits with partners in Malawi. Working with partners in Guatemala, Malawi, and Nicaragua, PWS&D is helping farmers increase crop yields, improve their nutrition and deal with the impacts of climate change.

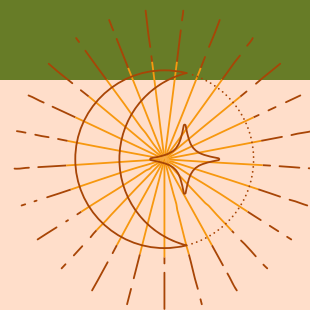
Will you be one of the donors to help me reach my fundraising goal? To make a secure online donation or join the team, please [click this link](#)

If you are not sure about making an online donation, please call me to discuss how you can donate (250-415-8173)."



The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

-Psalm 19:1



Reserve for Sunday



[Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form in order to join the in-person worship this Sunday. For those who don't have a computer, Whitney is available at 778-587-1227 for help filling out the form.

Our Annual Bazaar- Online

Mark your calendar for the third week of November and let us know your ideas for this event. Already we know that preserves and baking will be made available for delivery. We hope to put on an online version of the silent auction and possibly have a virtual tea time.

If you have ideas or would like to join the committee or consider coordinating the electronic aspect of the bazaar, contact David McLean or email the church office.

Reading Ministry

Could you record a scripture reading for our pre-recorded services?

It is wonderful for our community who worships at home to hear different voices and remember each of you! Email Pastor Mitch if you would like to sign up.



Read From Your Bible This Week

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

