



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service in the Heart of Victoria, BC since 1866

standrewsvictoria.ca

This Week at St. Andrew's

July 6, 2021



Pastor's Parable

Walter was a retired engineer, Bruce a County Commissioner, Virginia a school principal, Jim a traveling salesman and Margaret taught piano lessons. Together they made up a small part of the congregation that I served over 35 years ago in the Southeastern United States. They formed a myriad of personalities, backgrounds, likes and dislikes but were brought together by a common thread – to love and to serve Jesus Christ to the best of their ability.

The aforementioned group, combined with Nora, a retired city employee who filled the staff's candy dishes with his/her favourite, sweet treats on a weekly basis while having at her ready a litany of complaints based on her assessment of the worship service of the previous week. And Frank the faithful Sunday School Superintendent known for prompting his tardy Sunday School class by roaming the hallways with gentle cooing, "Here Chick, Chick." Then there was Betty, the conscientious Treasurer who kept a close eye on the budget, Myra who assured that the church kitchen was stocked to perfection and Gene whose landscaping of the entryway was a beauty to behold. Board meetings could be long and arduous but generally the outcome was focused on what we needed to do for the community and bound by a common love.

On a prominent wall outside the church office was a quilt containing squares that had been created 30 years prior during a summer youth project. Each square was sewn by a child that had grown up in the church. One square contained a hand drawn image of mom, dad, brother and sister entering the front door of the church. Underneath were the words, "Together we are God's family." Another showed an image of a child's baptism with the words, "Let the children come to me." Each square made up the quilt of those whose faith journeys began in that church long ago. Most of those who had been children growing up in that congregation now had families of their own and lived and worked far away. But their faith stories had been formed there, nurtured by the love of Walter, Bruce, Virginia, Margaret, Nora, Betty, Myra and Gene.

The faith stories of St. Andrew's continue to be told in new ways on Sunday, July 11! Sunday marks a passage when St. Andrew's may again worship in-person in our beautiful sanctuary. The hymns, children's sermons, baptisms, and weddings that have occurred in this this place over the last 132 years have formed our identity and given us a heritage. Sunday is a renewal as we gather in person to worship. While it is important to note that our work and our worship outside the sanctuary these 16 months have been just as life-giving and affirming, we are led to reclaim the truth that indeed, the church is not the building. The church is the people and Sunday, at 10:30 the people of St. Andrews will gather. Again. Thanks be to God!!!

Blessings to all! Pastor Mitch

Companion Video & Digital Bulletin

On Friday evening you will receive a digital bulletin for those attending the service in person to access on their own devices (cutting down on paper and energy consumption as well as limiting handing out items). The digital bulletin might also be used by those watching the livestream at home. You will also receive a link to a short video that will be a companion to the Sunday service. Consider watching this before the service as it will introduce the scripture lesson and provide a question or two to consider. This video will also feature a hymn to sing along with at home. A link to the livestream channel will also be sent on Friday.

Joining us for worship? Here's what you need to know:

- Please do not attend the service if you, or anyone in your group, feels unwell, has a fever, persistent cough or other flu like symptoms.
- Everyone waits in a socially distanced line, outside, until space is available for you to move forward to a seat.
- All those attending the service (12 years and older) must wear a mask – on entering, on exiting and if moving about inside the building.
- Hand sanitizer is available for use at each door.
- Please be seated as quickly as possible so that others may also take their seats.
- Once seated you must remain in that seat until, at the completion of the service, you will exit as directed.
- Please do not sit on the "yellow tapes" in the pews, or move these tapes. Social distancing is achieved by sitting between the tapes.
- If, after being seated, you need assistance, or the use of a washroom, please raise your hand and an usher will come to you to assist.

*The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it,
the world,
and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it
on the waters. - Psalm 24*



A Little Good News Story About Some Big Animals

Two 12-year-old beluga whales that spent years in captivity entertaining humans at an aquarium in Shanghai, China, have found freedom at an open water sanctuary in Iceland.

The four-metre-long whales, which each weigh about 900kg, were flown 6,000 miles for over 30 hours in a 747 aircraft fitted with purpose-built containers from Changfeng Ocean World to a sanctuary in a bay on Iceland's Heimaey Island.

The whales, both females and previously known as Little Grey and Little White, now enjoy open water for the first time since they left a Russian whale research centre in 2011. (From Reader's Digest)

Reservations and Re-entering the Sanctuary

[Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form for this Sunday's service.

Those who do not have a computer are welcome to call Whitney at 778-587-1227 to reserve a spot at the service. Reservations need to be made by Thursday afternoon.

Please read over all the guidelines on the new form including new policies on masks (masks can now be removed while people are seated).

The Presbyterian Connection

The summer edition of our denominational newspaper is available to read online [here](#). You can also sign up to have the Presbyterian Connection mailed right to you or emailed to your inbox. Subscribe online at the link above or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 259 to set up your subscription.



**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
HAVE MEDICAL ISSUES
RELATED TO COVID-19.
MAY THEIR CAREGIVERS
PROVIDE HEALING.**

 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Read From Your Bible This Week

- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24
OR Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Mark 6:14-29

