



This Week at St. Andrew's

July 20, 2021



Pastor's Parable

Most of the boxes are packed. The books. The tools, sewing and mud room supplies as well as the porch swing are ready to load into the truck for the move to our new house a week from yesterday. That house is in its final transformation stages with paint and flooring updates being finalized before the Coggins' make their appearance. Hunter, the 14-year-old Weimaraner is tired of hearing about this new home. He wishes moving day were already here and he could begin meeting the dogs on our new street.

Moving is certainly stressful but in many ways exhilarating. We owe a debt of gratitude for our comfortable home on Kingsley since our arrival in Victoria. We are grateful for landlords and homeowners, Peter and Robin for trusting us with their new home they knew they would occupy eventually but were unsure exactly when that would happen. Now is the time. They will be relocating to Victoria a few days after we leave Kingsley. We will leave them signs welcoming them to the space that has temporarily been our home these three exciting years in Victoria. New ventures await us in Oak Bay.

I apologize for the rambling nature of this parable. It is not as much a parable as a testament to God's gracious hand that has guided us these last three years. Unsure of how Canada, Victoria, and St. Andrews would impact our lives, we have constantly been amazed (and often surprised) by the many ways that God has met us on our journey with grace and mercy. Seventeen months of pandemic has altered the transitional process considerably and delayed many of the plans and strategies for keeping us on course to move St. Andrew's toward the goal of renewed mission and new leadership.

As we move into the coming weeks, it is exciting to envision the next phase of our work together. Worshipping in-sanctuary as well as our continued worship online, returning to our offices and renewing relationships there as well as an eventual return to more in-person events such as recitals, coffee hour, and Friendship Club gatherings is exciting to consider.

A new home may be a convoluted way to begin a parable but perhaps a fitting metaphor for many of us. As we continue to emerge from the throws of COVID and its devastating limitations, we will find new life, opportunities and possibilities emerging around us. How will we welcome those opportunities? Jesus concluded many of his parables with the words, "Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear." What he meant is that the meaning is not always readily apparent. So it is, moving into the newness of our life and work together in the coming days. I for one proceed with prayerful hope that all of us will welcome the challenges and changes ahead. Blessings. Pastor Mitch



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.

In-office Hours in August

Whitney will be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm starting August 11th (once Whitney is fully vaccinated).

If you need to speak with someone in the office "in-person", get help with printing or photocopying, pick something up or drop something off at the church- Wednesdays and Thursdays will be the days to do that!

Whitney will continue to work from home on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays for now and is available via phone or email.

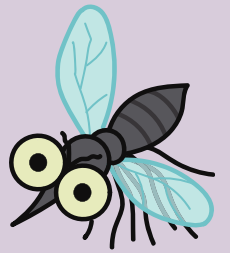


Bugs Bugging You?

Try this recipe for a natural bug spray from Outdoor Living.

You need:

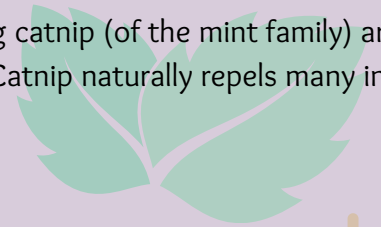
- A one-quart spray bottle
- 2 cups distilled white vinegar
- 2 cups pint water
- 25 drops of tea tree oil
- 25 drops of lavender essential oil



Add the ingredients into a clean spray bottle and shake well. Spray your boots, outdoor furniture or on outer clothes (test to ensure it doesn't cause a stain).

Essential oils shouldn't be used around pets or around people with sensitivities to the smell.

Another option? Try planting catnip (of the mint family) around your outdoor seating area. Catnip naturally repels many insects from mosquitos to wasps.



What do you get when you combine two canopies, a few chairs + sunny weather? You get a perfect spot for St. Andrew's friends to meet for an outdoor visit. Grant has tidied up the laneway and added not only his ongoing plant production but also a few extras. Drop in for a visit Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4 pm. Come to the laneway gate and we'll be happy to open it for you. Iced tea will be available but if that is not to your liking feel free to bring your own beverage. Questions? Call 250 385-5157



See you in the lane!

Reservations for Sunday

[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 Friday afternoon.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- 2 Samuel 11:1-15 and Psalm 14 OR
- 2 Kings 4:42-44 and Psalm 145:10-18
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- John 6:1-21

