



# This Week at St. Andrew's

September 14, 2021



## Parable of the Pastor

A well-known pastor/author said it best, "A life of faith and a life of certainty are not the same." The only certainty within living a life of faith, according to Jesus, is the certainty that God has promised to partner with us through thick and thin, through good times and bad, through ups and downs and everything in-between.

Many people who claim to be persons of faith, however, believe and act as if certainty and faith are synonymous. You hear people claim, "God would never allow me to suffer in this way!" "God doesn't want me to go without." When we find ourselves asking, "Why God? Why did this happen to me, to my loved ones, to my business or family or church?" Suddenly we see through the murkiness and realize that the person who verbalizes these concerns is finding themselves in a crisis of faith vs. certainty. When we think that life provides certainty that is guaranteed, you can be assured that we ventured far from the faith that God offers free of charge.

Notice the language of faith and see how it compares to certainty.

**2 Corinthians 5:7** For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Romans 5:1-5** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

The faith is God's gift to us in the midst of the storm. The only certainty is not in what will happen or that something will happen a certain way; the certainty is that God will stay close beside and within us in whatever happens. Be confident in our assurance as Paul writes in **Romans 8:38-39**, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

# Ride for Refuge 2021

Team PWS&D Victoria, with your support and participation, hopes to make a significant contribution to fundraising for Presbyterian World Service and Development's food security programs around the world.

Please be generous in your support. 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. 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.



Colina Titus will join Laura Kavanagh (who leads the Team PWS&D Victoria) and other team members, and would love to have others participate with her. Will you join her on the ride? Will you be one of the donors to help the team reach their fundraising goal?

How can you get involved on October 2? To join the team for a cycle or walk, or to make a secure on-line donation, please [click here](#). Donations go directly from RIDE to PWS&D and cannot be directed through St. Andrew's. RIDE will issue charitable tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

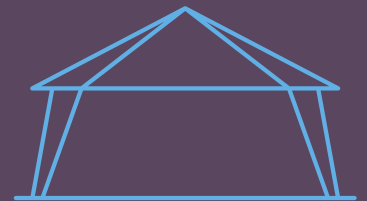
If you are not sure about making an on-line donation, please contact Laura Kavanaugh (250-415-8171) regarding donations by cash or cheque. Not a cyclist or walker? Check out [RIDE Freestyle](#) for other creative ways to join in this fundraising event which, during COVID is not held as a massed cycling event. No matter the activity you choose, your participation and fundraising efforts will have a meaningful impact on the lives of farmers and their families!

Mission and Outreach Committee

## Laneway Get-together in September

Join us Thursday afternoons, between 2 & 4pm, outside in the laneway. All welcome!

Questions? Call Sheelagh - 250 385-5157



## 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

- Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1
- James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
- Mark 9:30-37

