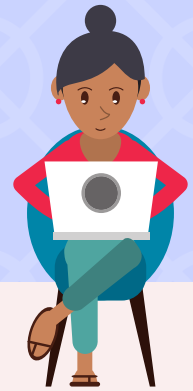




September 21, 2021



## Pastor Mitch Asks "Did You Know?"

Each week the staff provides several ways to inform, inspire, guide, and assist in your weekly worship. Perhaps you are familiar with each of these weekly opportunities but if you have not realized the distinct differences within each, it might lead to new discoveries!

This Week at St. Andrews (TWASA) is a wealth of information about upcoming events within St. Andrew's, the community, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, etc. Also included in TWASA is the registration link and the scripture readings for Sunday worship. The Parable of the Pastor, provided by Pastor Mitch is designed to make you think or laugh, but primarily grow in your faith journey. TWASA is emailed to a significant list of St. Andrew's friends and family each Tuesday and posted on the St. Andrew's website. <https://standrewsvictoria.ca>

Each Friday the companion video to the upcoming Sunday worship is emailed to the same list as TWASA, is posted to our website on Friday and to our St. Andrew's Facebook page as well. The companion video is a brief prequel to worship and contains a hymn sung or played by Christine and a scripture reading recorded by a St. Andrew's volunteer. Hearing the scripture prior to Sunday helps prepare you for worship on Sunday. Finally, Pastor Mitch provides a prayer and a set of Questions to Ponder which emerge from the scripture and from the sermon. The companion video to the Sunday Worship is no more than 8-10 minutes in length and greatly assists in preparing you to attend in-person worship in our sanctuary or worship with us via our livestream each Sunday at 10:30 AM. (Prelude begins at 10:25 AM.)

Our in-person worship resumed services on Sunday, July 11 after an 8-month hiatus due to COVID restrictions. Even though we still cannot sing as a congregation due to COVID precautions, worship is enriched through the musical gifts of our Director of Music, Christine Purvis who brings our Casavant organ to life. Worship is also led by a worship leader who each Sunday offers scripture and prayers meant to focus and enrich. Rev. Mitch's messages are biblically based, positive and encouraging. Worship services are live streamed as the service happens and recorded for later viewing on the St. Andrew's website. Perhaps you heard a music meditation, or a message live that you would like to hear again. The recording allows you to do just that. The livestream is available on Sunday at our St Andrews Presbyterian Victoria Online YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLfaHaoRXnKOF6lvDFc01IA>

Our livestreaming has made possible providing worship to persons who cannot worship with us due to health considerations, distance, travel, or work. St. Andrew's is now ministering to a segment of the St. Andrew's family and friends that we have previously not been able to reach. Whether you worship in sanctuary or via livestream, your presence and participation is valuable to the ministry of our congregation.

Cont'd on next page

You have heard the saying, "It takes a village" which is indeed true for each of those who provide for St. Andrew's to stay informed, involved and worship. The gifts of Whitney who creates TWASA, the digital and the print bulletin, Martin who keeps our website up to date, Jean who does the same with Facebook and our audio/video crew (Jerry, Neil and Adrian) all work long hours behind the scenes to provide St. Andrews with innovative and creative worship. Thanks to each member of the team and to each of you for staying connected.

## Presbyterian Residential Schools on Vancouver Island

The national Truth and Reconciliation Commission brought to light the experiences and impacts of residential schools on indigenous people. September 30th was typically the start of a new residential school year and since 2013 has been a day for marking the need for continued truth and reconciliation. Orange shirts are often worn symbolically as a reminder of one taken from a young girl at the start of her school year – it, like her previous life, was never returned. First Nations speakers and writers commonly say that the first step in reconciliation is becoming educated about our shared history. Consider taking some time to learn more about Presbyterian residential schools in Canada, and on Vancouver Island in Ahousaht and Port Alberni. The archives of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and the Presbyterian and United Churches, are also good resources.

*Click on the various links to learn more*



## 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.

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. 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.

## Deadline for The Link

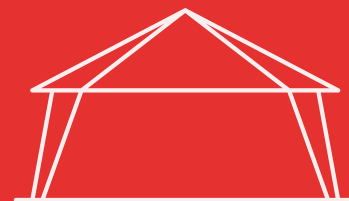


The deadline for submissions to **The Link** (our congregational newsletter) is **Sunday, September 26**. Send your submissions to **thelink@shaw.ca**

## 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

- Esther 7:1–6, 9–10, 9:20–22
- Psalm 124
- James 5:13–20
- Mark 9:38–50

