



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service in the Heart of Victoria, BC since 1866

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This Week at St. Andrew's

September 28 , 2021



Parable of the Pastor

Two years ago this month, we held a Town Hall meeting with 110 St. Andrew's faithful. We listened to one another, laughed, remembered, and discussed our mutual, past, present and future. Most left with a solid sense of purpose that we were on the right path as a church.

It has been many months since our shared memories were expressed with one another. As we move into the coming days, it is time to dust off our memories, revive our hopes for who St. Andrew's is, will continue to be and to clarify our dreams for our congregation moving forward.

The Church Profile which is the necessary first step in a pastoral search begins with a brief congregational history, church and community demographics and a detailed synopsis of the congregation's mission and vision as they face their future. These are necessary first steps before qualifications and competencies of the next desired pastor can be named. First, the congregation needs to look into the mirror and boldly claim, "This is who we are because of who we have been, and what we have done that has made us the people of faith that will continue to be moving forward." These next two months will provide us multiple opportunities to listen to ourselves and to one another as we clarify our mission goals and opportunities.

How do you make significant decisions? What factors help you decide A or B? St. Andrew's is facing the important period in our history of calling a permanent pastor. Do we merely pick the best candidate who teaches like the Apostle Paul, preaches like St. Peter, and prays like Mother Teresa? Of course, like many churches during a pastoral search, it is often thought that a youthful pastor with 2.5 children is of the essence since this seems to jump start the youth program. Or does it? While these characteristics may seem extreme, you might not be surprised to learn that many pastoral searches indeed revolve around these rather superficial parameters.

I welcome each of you to join these conversations in physically distanced places and spaces, and in private meetings that you and I set based on your time and availability and on Zoom in the coming days. Some of the questions that I will ask you to consider is Who is God calling St. Andrew's to be in the coming year(s)? Who is our "neighbour" and what is your idea for how St. Andrew's must care for him/her?

I invite you to a first conversation via a Zoom call on Sunday, October 3 at 3:00 PM. From there we can discuss how best to meet in person – in private conversations and in public (physically distanced) venues. Interested in helping? I hope so because we need to hear from many of you regarding your thoughts and dreams for your church. The Zoom link for October 3 is below. Thank you for your help in this important work. Fondest Blessings. Mitch

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, October 3 at 3:00 PM

The Mission of St. Andrew's: Oct 3, 2021 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86845192924>

Choir Rehearsals

A small group will start meeting this Saturday at 10:30 am to practice singing with Christine. Members must be fully vaccinated, masked and distanced. The rehearsals will only be 3/4 hour and the choir will not sing in church until it is safe to do so.



Remember that
Orange Shirt Day
is September 30th

[Click here for a video reflection](#) from Viv Ketchum, from Wauzhushk Onigum Nation of Northern Ontario, and a member of Place of Hope Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Did you know:

Do You Have a Birthday Coming up?
You Might Live Longer than Most!

A study in the Journal of Aging Research found that babies born during the autumn months are more likely to live to 100 than those born during the rest of the year.

Their study found that 30 % of US centenarians born during 1880-1895 were born in the autumn months.



There will be no TWASA or Friday email the week of October 18th while Whitney has a week off.

If there is something you need to put in our weekly email to communicate to the congregation, it will need to go in the week before or after.

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.

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

- Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26
- Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
- Mark 10:2-16

