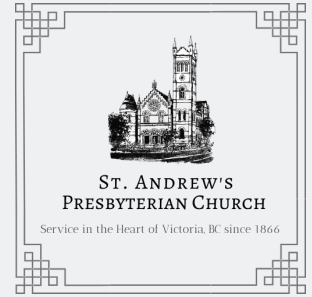


# THIS WEEK AT SAINT ANDREW'S



## PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

by Pastor Mitch Coggin

Collaborative Ministry? What does this mean when we consider the possibilities for our Presbyterian churches in Victoria?

The ministers of Knox, Trinity and St. Andrew's have been meeting, talking, and dreaming for several months to formulate an answer to the above question. What does collaborative ministry mean? So far, we know what it does not mean. Some want to begin the conversation with the only solution, in their mind at least, that each of the other two congregations should sell their buildings and join with St. Andrews at St. Andrews. Foregone conclusions always shut down conversations rather than lead to an honest exploration.

An exploration of collaborative ministry does not begin with a foregone conclusion before we engage in a conversation in which the of sharing ideas, dreams and possibilities is paramount. This is a conversation in which we do more listening than we speak. This is a conversation centered in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The ministers know this is a conversation that must be joined by elders from each of our congregations who are committed to listening first to understand and prayerfully searching for examples of what collaborative ministry could potentially mean for Knox, Trinity, St. Andrews, and the Chinese Presbyterian.

We begin with a pulpit swap on Sunday, September 11 in which the ministers from our three congregations will each fill the pulpit in a congregation different than his/her own. Following worship that day, a picnic at the Esquimalt-Gorge Park will be an opportunity for our congregations to gather socially, to bring a picnic lunch for your family and one item to share. What a perfect opportunity to meet new friends and renew old friendships.

On September 15 our collaborative conversation with elders and ministers from each congregation will occur as we gather to listen to one another, to pray and to begin to look ahead. We are at a formative stage in our transitional work as we begin to explore the possibilities of what it means to be a Presbyterian, and to be Christ-centered in a city that needs our work and our witness more than ever. Thank you for your interest and your prayers.

Blessings  
Pastor Mitch

# RCCO VICTORIA CENTER FALL SOCIAL

Join us for the RCCO Victoria Center Fall 2022 in-Person Social. It's at St. Andrew's on Saturday, September 10, 2:00-4:00 pm - drop in anytime and stay as long as you like! Light refreshments will be available.

Free organ sheet music and choral books will be available. Sort through and take home what you like!

We especially encourage students and working organists to check out music from the estates of 2 late Victoria center members, Douglas Hodgkinson and Tristan Rhodes, as well as music originally collected for the 2020 organ festival.

The 3-manual hybrid organ at St. Andrew's will be available for anyone who wants to test it out,

The Orgelkit will be on display for those who want to learn more about this fantastic teaching and outreach tool.

## REMINDERS AND EVENTS

**Washrooms:** Please be aware that the main floor washrooms in the Kirk Hall will be closed starting August 22nd for renovations. The second floor washrooms will remain in service. This work is expected to take approx three weeks.

**Lane-way Social:** The lane-way meet will resume this Thursday, the 25th. See you then!

**The Link:** the deadline for September contributors is August 28. Let us know what you have been doing over the summer! Contact: [thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca)

**Ballet Victoria Call for Volunteers:** do you have time to help with the production of Tea for Tutu on Tues/Wed/Thu at 2pm, or with their wardrobe department? Contact Ballet Victoria for more information, or to volunteer your time.

**Hungry Hearts 2022:** You are invited to Victoria's favorite culinary fundraiser, Hungry Hearts presented by PwC! Tickets are now on sale for the 2022 gala on Saturday September 10th at [hibid.ca](http://hibid.ca) or call 250-940-5064.

**New Office Hours:** Come say 'hi' to Shannon, our new administrator, on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday from 9:30-2:30pm, or leave her a message at 250 384 5734. If you have an urgent pastoral concern please call your elder or Pastor Coggin at 250-883-4132 or email him at [pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca)