

This Week At St. Andrew's

Parable of the Pastor

Collaborative Ministry. Thursday, September 15, five Presbyterian congregations met at The Cedars to discuss what this concept might potentially mean for Knox, Trinity, Chinese, Knox Sooke and St. Andrew's Presbyterian congregations.

Our first goal was to define what collaborative ministry does not mean. The group offered: Collaborative ministry is not... not necessarily amalgamation, not a mindset of scarcity, not problem centred, not only about finances or buildings or Human Resources and not driven by externals such as time, schedules, governing bodies.

We were then led to suggest what collaborative ministry might mean to five congregations who are more similar than we might imagine. This ministry means: a partnership of shared resources, creative imagining, an opportunity to celebrate abundance, timely and optimistic!

The abundance of ideas generated shared in small groups made up by a mixture from the five congregations left people feeling more energized and more hopeful! Some of those ideas were put elder groups together from different congregations, form cluster groups, sharing administrator, sharing treasurer, sharing office space, sharing a website, with our sister churches all having links, the more we share (Office admin or bible study) = encouragement, create team clusters to do things like going to Our Place and having Fun events - builds relationships - enjoying God and each other feeds into working together, a step towards asking people to assist.

This reflects only a small portion of the conversation and in no way captures the enthusiasm, joy and growing purpose of this and the conversations that are to follow.

What is next? This group will meet again SOON to continue the ideas and formulate next steps. The time is now to continue to build consensus and eradicate isolationism and lethargy.

I left feeling hopeful. I hope you sense that as well. I offer this column today as a prayer that hopefully you will read and receive with grace and joy. I rarely have feedback on any of the Parable of the Pastor columns and wonder as to their usefulness or to your receptivity. My hope is that it will lead to questions and conversations that usually do not happen as a result of this parable. I would love some of you to say, "We are interested in collaborative ministry. Tell us more." "This conversation among our congregations comes at a good time!"

My commitment to you is to bring you along to catch the joy felt and experienced by the group that met last week and has a new belief in and a growing understanding of collaborative ministry. That is my prayer for you as well. Hoping you hear...

- Pastor Mitch

International Day of Prayer for Peace: September 21



Pray for and Support Ukraine



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA IS ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE THROUGH
PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT.
READ A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE AND LEARN HOW TO DONATE HERE: [PRESBYTERIAN.CA/UKRAINE-PRAYER](https://www.presbyterian.ca/ukraine-prayer)

Bulletin Board

Ferron: This concert is September 24 , 7:30 - 10:00pm at St. Andrews. "Ferron writes of love with the relentless introspection of Leonard Cohen, and, as with classic Bob Dylan, her songs' tough, questioning attitude sometimes gives way to an unexpected." – Rolling Stone Magazine Go to www.evenbrite.ca for tickets and more information.

Journey for Hope: Join friends from our sister Presbyterian Churches on 1 October to raise funds that will go directly to PWS&D food security project. Our local team is Together in Motion. We hope you will join us. Colina, Jean and Arthur plan to cycle with Laura. To join the ride contact Laura Kavanagh (lauratodd60@gmail.com) To join the walk contact Ruth McCowan (pzoom@shaw.ca) To contribute, go to [WeRespond.ca/support-together-in-motion](https://www.werespond.ca/support-together-in-motion), or speak to Ruth or Laura.

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: Remember to drop in and join your St. Andrew's friends in the Lane-way on Thursday at 2:00 pm for refreshments and visiting!

The Link: the deadline for September contributors is September 25. Let us know what you have been doing over the summer! Contact: thelink@shaw.ca

Tea For Tutus Volunteers: Tea for Tutus will take place at 2pm on Oct 4th and 5th. Volunteers need to be there an hour before, event is approx. 45 mins in length. If your are able to help, please contact Ballet Victoria so they can organize their volunteers