



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 240 November 26, 2024



Resignation of Transitional Minister

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am profoundly grateful for our work and life together over these six years. St. Andrew's is the Kirk That Faith Built. I have been inspired by your commitment to Jesus Christ and your dedication and leadership at St. Andrew's. The work has been challenging to say the least. Together you have faced the unknown, what might be, and what can be. Together you will continue to face those challenges as you decide, with the help and wisdom of God, what is next for you.

I recognize that the time has come to end my contract with St. Andrew's effective February 28, 2025. I can no longer effectively continue to lead you in the next phase of your discernment.

For now, Linda and I plan to remain in our home in Victoria. I plan to use March and April as a sabbatical to rest and reflect, something I have not experienced in 45 years of ministry. Then I plan to step back from full time ministry and be open for where God leads.

In the time that I have left with you, I want us to celebrate the remarkable people who make up St. Andrew's. I call you to continue the work of the collaborative conversations as they unfold that will be enable you to discern what is next for you. We will continue to try to answer who you are, who is your neighbour and who God calling you to be.

Sincerely,

Mitch

Week at a Glance

Open Church: Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 12:00 pm

Meditation Hour: Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 4:40 pm

Activity Group: Gathering Room

Thursdays at 10:30

Iestyn Davies and Fretwork

Friday, November 29 at 7:30 pm

The Legacy of Lightfoot

Saturday, November 30 at 7:30 pm

Worship Service: Sanctuary

Sundays at 10:30 am

Viola and Chamber Recital

Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 pm

Gerdan Theater Ukrainian Choir

Sunday, December 1 at 7:00 pm

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings:

Lamentations 3:19-26, Habakkuk 1:1 - 2:4, Psalm 37:4-7

Prelude: "Morceau" by Gabriel Fauré

Choral Anthem: "Let there be light" by N R Fairbank

Musical Reflection: "Pastorale" by Germaine Tailleferre

Postlude: "Gavotte" by George Frideric Handel

Resignation of Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

After much thought, prayer, and gratitude to God, I am writing this letter to inform you that I have notified the Clerk of Presbytery of my desire to resign as Interim Moderator of St. Andrew's, effective the end of February 2025.

I'm aware, too, that you are also receiving a letter from Mitch Coggin this evening, expressing his intention to conclude his time of ministry among us. While our decisions are made independently and for our own separate reasons, it has been a very special privilege to have served together with Mitch at St. Andrew's. I am thankful, always, for his personal warmth, his friendship and his spiritual example, just as I have been encouraged in our partnership by his generosity in leadership.

During my 3 plus years as Interim Moderator there have been challenging times - burdens that we all have borne together. There have been times, too, of real blessings and breakthroughs. In our sometimes challenging walk together with our sibling church at Knox, God has been opening doors for us along the journey... and also opening our hearts one to another. I believe He is leading us to a time of decision making regarding our next steps. There is a careful, prayerful urgency to those in our mission-seeking together.

For personal reasons, including some important issues facing our extended family, I must lay my portion of that burden down. In doing so, please know that I have nurtured the special spot in my heart that I have for St. Andrew's. I will watch, listen and pray for your well-being as you venture together... with God... into the future He has planned for you!

Blessings in Christ,

Wayne



Thank you to these three veterans from St Andrew's & Knox: Gary Hall, Doug Guille and Roger Bernard. Photo submitted by Lorraine Whiting

KNOX CAFÉ
Christmas Café
Wednesday, Dec 11, 7pm
Knox Presbyterian Church
2964 Richmond Road
Admission \$10
includes: beverage, snack,
and music
The Café Band
Steve Sturgess - guitar
Corinne Painter - trumpet
Ryan Tandy - bass
Dave Pretty - drums
Daniel Cook - guitar
Donations accepted to support humanitarian work of PWS+D
at the door or by e-transfer to freshknox@telus.net

Share the Joy Update

So far this month we've raised over \$600!

This Christmas, help feed hungry people in Victoria! Our financial donations will help The Mustard Seed Church distribute 1200 Christmas hampers. Please indicate all financial donations are for 'Share the Joy'.

CASH DONATIONS: Put your cash or cheque in a regular donation envelope during Sunday Services.

E-TRANSFER DONATIONS: Please send your donation to treasurer@standrewsvictoria.ca

WARM TOES: This year we are also collecting donations of socks! Please place them in the donation bin in The Gathering Room.

Activity Group Update

Thank You to the many people who generously shared sewing supplies and donated them to the Activity Group. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and will soon take it all to Compassionate Resource Warehouse for transport to individuals, schools and projects around the world.

The Thursday morning Activity Group meetings will change over the Christmas season:

We will meet November 28th & December 5th.

We will not meet December 12th, 19th, 26th or January 2nd.

Join us in the new year, Thursday, January 9th, 10:30am!

Soap for Hope Update

Thanks to all the folks at St. Andrew's and Knox who have donated in October and November! So far I've collected 6 banker boxes full of hygiene products! A number of folks also contributed beautiful handmade washcloths - a final count and pictures will follow soon! I will do another drop off on December 19 if anyone has some last minute things to donate. Thanks again for your kindness!

Christmas Market at Starling Lane Vineyard

November 29, 30 10am till 4pm each day
December 1st

Lovely things to buy in festive surroundings

Featuring

Scottish Baking - bread, scones, shortbread
Fresh Local Greenery, Swags and Wreaths
Handmade Gifts, Cards and Tree Decorations
Jewellery and Local Honey

An exclusive local sale for friends and their friends.. please do invite yours
Payment by cash, cheque or e-transfer, **cash preferred** - bring lots!



Lots of Parking
Free entry!

Joyce
Nordwall
will be
here!

Starling Lane Vineyard Old Winery Building
5271 Old West Saanich Road

ANNUAL RECOVERY CHRISTMAS DINNER

- FREE BUFFET STYLE TURKEY DINNER
- COFFEE AND TREATS FOR DESSERT
- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR ALL

**WED
25
DEC**

SERVING FROM 12:00 - 2:00 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

680 COURTNEY STREET - KIRK HALL ENTRANCE
(RECOVERY MEETING UPSTAIRS FROM 12:00 - 1:00 PM)

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL

recoverychristmasdinner@gmail.com



Community Events Calendar

Taizé Prayer Invite

St. Philip Church

Thursday, November 28 at 7:00 pm

Please join us at St. Philip Oak Bay for a candlelit service of song, silence, prayer and contemplation, in the style of the Taizé Community. For more information go [HERE](#).

Creches of the World

Comox Valley Presbyterian Church

November 29 at 1:00pm - 3:00pm (for seniors and those with mobility considerations) and 3:00pm - 6:30pm & November 30 at 10:00am - 3:30pm

A display of Nativity sets from all around the world. Free admission! Christmas music, children's area, lighted room. For more information go [HERE](#).

Iestyn Davies and Fretwork

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Friday, November 29 at 7:30 pm

Countertenor Iestyn Davies makes his debut performance with EMSI, in the company of the incomparable British viol consort, Fretwork. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

The Legacy of Lightfoot

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Saturday, November 30 at 7:30 pm

The Legacy of Lightfoot was born out of an enduring respect and reverence for the iconic music of Gordon Lightfoot. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

We are One

Dave Dunnet Community Theater

Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 pm

A charitable, fun, uplifting and inspiring live show featuring outstanding performers celebrating human solidarity, diversity and inclusion. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

Gerdan Theater Ukrainian Choir

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Sunday, December 1 at 7:00 pm

An amazing sixteen member folk singing group with authentic Ukrainian music. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

Viola and Chamber Recital - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 pm

Featuring the wonderful Viola students and Chamber groups from the class of Joanna Hood, Associate Professor at UVIC's School of Music, and Lafayette Quartet member. Donations are appreciated and support both the music outreach program and young emerging musicians!

Session Meeting - Hybrid

Monday, December 9 at 7:00 pm

Knox Cafe

Knox Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm

You're Invited to a Magical Christmas Café! Admission is \$10 and includes light refreshments. Donations accepted to support Presbyterian World Service & Development.

The Gift of Christmas Music - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 12 at 12:00 pm

Featuring the talents of organist Christine Purvis and guests. You can also take part in the Christmas carol sing along! Warm drinks and Christmas goodies will be served. Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians!

'Blue Christmas' at Trinity

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 15 at 2:00pm

Members of St. Andrew's and Knox are invited to a special 'Blue Christmas' service at Trinity. This takes place after regular Sunday morning services for everyone at their own churches. Join us in remembering the grief and losses of the year that make this season so difficult for many!

Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm

Details to be announced...

Annual Recovery Christmas Dinner

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall

Wednesday, December 25 at 2:00

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a free buffet style Turkey dinner at St. Andrew's Kirk Hall. For more info please email recoverychristmasdinner@gmail.com.