



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 241 December 3, 2024



Nicolas Kilhoffer's Final Recital

Dear friends,

I am delighted to invite you to my final organ recital in Victoria before my return to France. This special concert will take place on Friday, December 6, at 12:30 pm at Christ Church Cathedral (930 Burdett Avenue).

The program highlights works from the North German and Baroque traditions, featuring compositions by Bach, Buxtehude, and Bruhns, and concludes with an improvisation. More information:

<https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/events/lunchtime-organ-music-nicolas-kilhoffer/2024-12-06>

Admission by donation.

It has been a unique experience for me to spend these months in Victoria, I have truly enjoyed meeting each and every one of you during my time here!

I hope to see many of you there for this final concert time.

Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone who may enjoy or even discover organ music.

Warm regards,

Nicolas Kilhoffer
www.nicolaskilhoffer.com

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

Worship Service: Sanctuary

Sundays at 10:30 am

Special Coffee Time Discussion:

December 8 after worship services in The Gathering Room.

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings: Micah

4:1-5, Isaiah 2:1-5, John 14:23-29

Prelude: Prelude on Hark the Glad Sound by Healey Willan

Choral Anthem: "Jesus Christ the apple tree" by Alan Bullard

Musical Reflection: "Soul adorn thyself with gladness" by G Merkel

Postlude: "Saviour of the nations, come" by Johann Pachelbel



What I Learned from the 'Bomb Cyclone' Storm

Dear St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,

The weather the past few days has caused a lot of hardship for our community. Our homes were battered by the 'bomb cyclone' storm- tens of thousands lost power, ferries were cancelled, roads closed, and so many are now facing the aftermath of fallen trees and debris.

One of the things your donations make possible is for [Our Place](#) to respond quickly when extreme weather hits. The team has been working tirelessly to make sure every family member we serve was taken care of.

I admit, I got very lucky. In contrast to the excellent team at Our Place, my plan for myself left much to be desired. My "plan" consisted of setting my phone alarm in case the power went out and Alexa couldn't wake me up as scheduled. Beyond that? Nothing. No go-bag, no emergency stash of water or food. And yes—I should be better prepared, especially living on Vancouver Island.

As it turned out, the power did go out, and my street was left topsy turvy with a few battered branches. But what stopped me in my tracks as I rushed through my dark house in the morning? I couldn't have a shower – mine doesn't work without power. I threw my messy hair into a ponytail and raced to work. When I arrived at the community centre, I was so grateful that our incredible facilities team ensures all of our buildings are equipped with generators. One day without a shower wasn't going to harm me much. But, I had professional meetings to attend and a nagging feeling that I just wasn't at my best – I'll admit I wasn't feeling like myself at all. So, I headed downstairs to the Our Place community hygiene area.

There, I was warmly greeted by our amazing hygiene team and handed a donated towel (thank you, donors!). It was breakfast time, so all of our family members were upstairs enjoying hot breakfasts in the dining room and I knew I wasn't taking space from anyone. As I stood in the shower area—a space used by hundreds of people every month—it struck me how welcoming the experience was.

After my shower, I felt human again. You know that feeling—the refreshed, renewed sense of starting the day off right. Yet, as I got dressed, standing where so many of our family members stand every day, I was hit

with a deeper realization: **a shower is about so much more than cleanliness. It's about confidence, dignity, and well-being.**

For many of us, starting the day with a shower is a given—a luxury we don't even think about. But for those we serve, it can be a transformative moment. Many of our family members come in wet, cold, and exhausted. Imagine how much that warm shower and clean, dry towel means to them.

At Our Place, we provide more than **950** showers every month. These showers are open to everyone, every day. They're more than just a hygiene service; they're a source of hope, safety, and belonging.

Keeping showers open and lights on wasn't the only thing your support of Our Place made possible this week, though.

- The facilities team works tirelessly to make sure all Our Place buildings are weather-safe and prepared for anything. During the storm, every generator was ready, and all the hatches were battened down.
- Housing support workers personally spoke with each resident, reminding them about the impending storm and encouraging them to stay safe indoors.
- Meanwhile, Our Place street outreach workers were moving through the area, proactively signing everyone up for shelter beds at 919 Pandora and My Place housing.
- With waitlists for Our Place shelters every night, the list was soon full. So, the outreach team went the extra mile, escorting family members to our wonderful partner, the Salvation Army, which offers emergency weather shelter spaces. Thanks to their efforts, we ensured that everyone was offered shelter.

As I was leaving the hygiene area, I saw that family members coming down from breakfast were greeted with the same warmth and support that I had just experienced. It's a testament to the incredible work of the entire team, the strong relationships we've fostered, and the sense of community we've built at Our Place.

Experiences like this remind me to never take the little things for granted. Because for someone else, those "little things" can mean the world. Thank you for making them possible.

Janice Kalin,
Director of Philanthropy, Our Place Society



Share the Joy

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 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

[Soap for Hope](#), has put out a call for handmade washcloths:

"Attention knitting enthusiasts! We are on a mission to knit 1,500 washcloths of hope for Senior Packages before Christmas - and we need your help! Each one should be 9x9 inches and made of cotton yarn. Let's stitch community together!"

Every year, we're proud to distribute 20,000 washcloths to vulnerable people, each one lovingly made by our community. These small, handmade items bring comfort and dignity, showing the power of a simple gesture."

A big thank you to the wonderful knitters and crocheters at St. Andrew's and Knox: I was able to drop off **44 handmade washcloths** last week! I also dropped off three banker boxes full of hygiene products. Amazing!

I will do one more drop off before Christmas, on Thursday, December 19th!

Thank You

Dorothy would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, visits, and kindness for her while she recuperated from a fall. She says it was heartwarming for her to feel such support and love and she thanks everyone for their caring and love to her during her recovery time. She is making very good progress and hopes to be back with us in a week. Thank you so much!

Community Events Calendar

Victoria Gaelic Christmas

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 pm

Join The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir for our annual Christmas concert! Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance [HERE](#).

Senior's Christmas Dinner - Tickets \$15

December 8 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Oaklands Community Association

#1-2827 Belmont Ave

(250) 370-9101 ext 1

A Christmas Carol

First Met United Church

Friday, December 13 at 7:00 pm

Featuring the vocal talents of CBC Radio personalities, Reach Choir and some very special guests. CBC and Our Place present a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. All proceeds go to Our Place Society! For more info and tickets go [HERE](#).

Oksana Mukha Concert

Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Society of Vancouver Island

Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 pm

A charity Christmas concert featuring the famous Ukrainian singer Oksana Mukha! For tickets and more info please go [HERE](#).

Community Holiday Dinner - No Registration Required!

December 16 from 11:30 - 6:45 pm

Fernwood Community Center

1240 Gladstone St.

(250) 381-1552.

Our Place Christmas Lunch

December 17 from 11:30 - 1:30 pm

Our Place

919 Pandora

(250) 388-7112

Youth Christmas Dinner - Ages 13 to 19

December 19 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Alliance Club Youth Empowerment Society

533 Yates St, Back-Alley Entrance

(250) 383-3514

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

Coffee Time Discussion

December 8 after worship services

Core values identify who we are. Join Patti, Jean and Colina and help answer these questions. We will discuss: What is most important to you? And to us, as a congregation? If you cannot attend and would like to join a Zoom session, please email the church office. Date and time of this session to be determined.

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.