



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 242 December 10, 2024

Parable of the Table Conversations

Sunday was another grand day at St. Andrew's!!! Guesstimates are that worship attendance exceeded 70! Some from Tacoma, others from Arizona and others from Ontario ... and a couple who recently moved to Sooke stopped in as the service was ending to say they were looking for a church and would be back!

Of course, our friend Donald Mitchell celebrated a significant birthday by having a large contingent of the Mitchell family beside him in worship!! Happy belated birthday, Donald!!

Sunday was also significant for all that gathered to participate in the table conversations in which the powerful questions were asked, "What do we do at St. Andrew's?" This question is pivotal to gain clarity and a consensus in completing a church profile so that a new minister can be called.

Some have suggested using the mission statement that has previously been used to call a minister. Nothing could be more harmful to St. Andrew's than relying on old phrases that do not adequately describe the current and future St. Andrew's. You need a new perspective on your current life and work as a congregation in order to adequately call the candidate that God has for you.

"What do we do?" Outreach in the form of Share the Joy and PWS & D. Beautiful music or "pretty good music" and "pretty good preaching" as one person called it! Providing a safe space for AA and OA, and a venue for UVic music students to perform. In all, 29 ideas were shared along the lines of "What we do." Following were 15 core values that are shown by "what we do". Christian faith and belief, hospitality, and an accepting and non-judgmental spirit were among the highest rated.

This is a first step in completing a Church Profile necessary for the Presbytery of Vancouver Island to give St. Andrew's the go-ahead to begin a pastoral search. This is not an easy process but a necessary one. It will require each of you coming together to listen to each other, to dream and pray together. This is difficult work and a pastoral search can often be a long process. "Let us not be weary in well-doing" wrote Paul to the church in Galatia. And to you I say the same. Now is not the time to sit-back and relax. Now is the time to come together and do the necessary work required for this stage in your history. Thank you for Sunday and thank you for the Sunday's that I have left with you. I love you, St Andrew's!

Advent peace and blessings. Mitch

Week at a Glance

Open Church: Sanctuary
Wednesdays at 12:00 pm

Meditation Hour: Sanctuary
Wednesdays at 4:40 pm

Knox Christmas Cafe
Knox Presbyterian Church
December 11 at 7:00 pm

The Gift of Christmas Music
St. Andrew's Sanctuary
December 12 at 12:00 pm

Activity Group: Gathering Room
Thursdays at 10:30
On Break until January 9th!

Worship Service: Sanctuary
Sundays at 10:30 am

'Blue Christmas' at Trinity
Trinity Presbyterian Church
December 15 at 2:00pm

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Philippians 4:1-13

Prelude: "Wachet auf" by Johann Sebastian Bach

Choral Anthem: "Come Lord Jesus" by Oliver Tarney

Musical Reflection: "Creator of the stars of night" by Michael McCabe

Postlude: "Piece d'orgue" by Johann Sebastian Bach

Knox & St. Andrew's Merger Decision

On Monday 2 December, Knox elders approved the following motion: **'that the merger with St Andrew's no longer be pursued'**.

St Andrew's session was informed of this motion on Sunday 8 December, once the congregation of Knox were informed of the recommendation from their session.

The Knox congregation will vote to agree or disagree with this recommendation on Sunday 22 December.

The outcome of the Knox vote will be communicated to St Andrew's elders.

The church office will be closed the week beginning 23 December, there will be no TWASA on 24 December. Further communication will follow once the vote is completed.

Core Values

Core values identify who we are. On Sunday, over coffee We discussed: What is most important to you? And to us, as a congregation? If you could not attend and would like to join a Zoom session, please email the church office. Date and time of this session to be determined.

- Patti and Colina



Warm Toes Update

Thank you so much for filling the Mustard Seed donation box with warm socks (and warm gloves too!) for our Share the Joy project.

- Patti Jackson, Mission & Outreach



The Gift of Christmas Music Concert

Join us this Thursday, December 12 at 12:00 pm (noon) for our annual Christmas carol sing along! This concert is free to enjoy and everyone is welcome!

Eva Smith & Dylan Syrnyk will lead the Christmas carol sing along, which are selected by request from the audience, and Jany Lu will provide accompaniment.

The following pieces will be performed by our guest musicians: organist Christine Purvis, cellist Mahtab Saadatmand, trumpeter David Barss, and vocalist Eva Smith:

- **Est is ein Rose Entsprungen** by Johannes Brahms
- **Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring** by Johann Sebastian Bach
- **O Holy Night** by Adolphe Adam
- **Ave Maria** by Bach / Gounod
- **Sicilienne** by Gabriel Faure
- **Joy to the World** by Fred Bach

Warm drinks and Christmas goodies will be provided by the Garson family and served by volunteers before the concert begins.

Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians.

We hope to see you there!



Coldest Night 2025

On February 22, 2025, join us for Canada's National Walk for Homelessness. Our Place serves Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. As part of our continuum of care, we provide housing to 450 individuals, provide addiction recovery services and second stage housing to the graduates of our recovery program. This Year's walk will support Post graduate services at New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community.

[Our Place](#) will be walking [Downtown](#) and we are excited to continue our partnership with [Pacific Centre Family Services Association](#) for the walk in the [Westshore](#)!

Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk that raises awareness and money for charities serving hungry, homeless, and hurting people in our community. Gather or join a team of friends, family, workmates or congregation together and as a community, lets walk, spread awareness and provide a sense of hope, love and belonging to our neighbours in need.

Credit Card Donations: The Best Option! Simple, secure, automatically tax receipted for gifts of \$20+. Visit the Victoria [Donate page](#) and follow the directions.

Cheque Donations: The Old Faithful - made out to *Coldest Night of the Year* with your name on the Memo line. Mail them to CNOY Head Office along with your completed [pledge form](#).

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 tresknox@telus.net

BLUE CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 2:00 pm

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!

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2964 TILlicum ROAD
250 388 4525

Community Events Calendar

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

Gordy Dodd's Annual Christmas Dinner

December 20 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Our Place

919 Pandora

(250) 388-7112

Rainbow Kitchen Christmas Dinner

December 20 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

Rainbow Kitchen

500 Admirals St

(250) 384-2069

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

Knox Christmas 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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's 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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm

The Christmas story told in Lessons and Carols. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Annual Recovery Christmas Dinner

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall

Wednesday, December 25 at 12:00 - 2:00 pm

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.

The Link - January Deadline

Sunday, December 29

Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca.