



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 243 December 17, 2024

NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 7, 2025



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, let's 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](#).

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
On Break until January 9th!

Worship Service: Sanctuary
Sundays at 10:30 am

A Child's Christmas in Wales
St. Andrew's Sanctuary
December 24 at 2:30 pm

Christmas Eve Service
St. Andrew's Sanctuary
December 24 at 7:00 pm

Annual Recovery Christmas Dinner
St. Andrew's Kirk Hall
December 25 at 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 30,
John 22:1--19

Prelude: "Pastorale" (4th movement) by Johann Sebastian Bach

Choral Anthem: #114 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Musical Reflection: "O Sanctissima" by Diane Bish

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

Online Workshop

Hosted by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls this ONLINE ONLY workshop will consider tales of hope from the Bible that lay a foundation for our own stories of hope and possibility. Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern) [Register now!](#)



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.

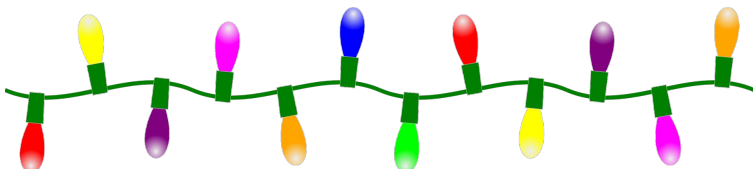
Thanks to Everyone!

Thank you to all St. Andrew's volunteers and staff who made yesterday such a wonderful success! Many people thanked St. Andrew's for hosting this community advent event and said they would be back next year. It's estimated close to 300 attended including several young families!

\$867 was donated by the audience. The donations will support the young performers and the music program at St. Andrew's.

There are a lot of moving pieces/people working together that make a community event like this a success. Many thanks to all. Pictures and a summary of yesterday have been sent this morning to the Link for editing and photo choices. Have a peaceful and joyful Christmas and all the best for 2025.

- Dawn McLean





Around the Table Meals

Thank you to everyone who has prepared food for these meals in the past. Our weekly ecumenical services at UVic Multifaith are continuing in 2025.

The dates that Laura Kavanagh need meals for in the coming term are **January 15, February 12, and March 19**. Please let me know which date you can help with.

We need a vegetarian/vegan soup/chili, buns/bread, and fruit/veggies/salad for 20 people delivered on the day of the service.

You are also welcome to attend any Wednesday at 5pm. Please uphold in prayer students exploring and nurturing their faith.

Thank you for continuing to support students and Inclusive Christians on campus in this way.

- Laura Kavanagh

Walking the Labyrinth

You are invited to drop in to walk the labyrinth at **Knox Church** as part of your Advent preparation for Christmas. This event takes place **Monday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 24, from 10am – 4pm each day.**

We are borrowing the labyrinth from UVic Multifaith for two days and have volunteers to facilitate your experience.

Labyrinths have been used in Christian tradition for centuries, and their use has been revived in recent times. The earliest known Christian use of a labyrinth was in 325 A.D., when one was placed on the floor of a church. However, the origins of labyrinths can be traced back nearly 5,000 years. Christians use labyrinths as a spiritual tool to draw closer to God. Walking the labyrinth is a meditative process that involves:

- Preparing oneself at the threshold
- Following the single path to the center
- Spending time in the center
- Following the same pathway out the threshold
- Responding to the experience

There is no "right" way to pray with a labyrinth. You can pray as you would in other places, such as having a conversation with God, offering praise, or presenting prayer requests. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to pray in a way that might be new to you - to take time to spiritually prepare for the birth of Jesus.

- Laura Kavanagh



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

**WED
25
DEC**

SERVING FROM 12:00 - 2:30 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

680 COURTNEY STREET - KIRK HALL ENTRANCE

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL

recoverychristmasdinner@gmail.com



Community Events Calendar

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

Rainbow Kitchen Christmas Dinner

December 20 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
Rainbow Kitchen
500 Admirals St
(250) 384-2069

Gordy Dodd's Annual Christmas Dinner

December 20 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Our Place at 919 Pandora
(250) 388-7112

A Child's Christmas in Wales

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary
Tuesday, December 24 at 2:30 pm
The Vox Humana Chamber Choir presents a warm and nostalgic Vox Humana Christmas tradition. For tickets and more info please go [HERE](#).

Christmas Soup

December 25 from 8:00 to 10:00 am
The Soup Kitchen
740 View St
(778) 440-7687

Sequentia Ensemble

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary
Saturday January 18 at 7:30 pm
The incomparable Benjamin Bagby, well-known for his virtuosic rendering of Beowulf, returns to the EMSI stage to lead the ensemble Sequentia in an astonishing 12th Century tale of one man's victory over despair (sung in medieval German verse with video titles projected in English). For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

Huehuetenango

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary
Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 pm
Tenor Jonatan Alverado and Ariel Abramovich on vihuela explore a 16th Century Guatemalan manuscript, reflecting early colonial musical influences in South America. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

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.

Robbie Burns Tea

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall
Sunday, January 19 at 2:00 pm
St. Andrew's and The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir presents an afternoon of Scottish entertainment! Light refreshments will be served. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

Community Dinner

Knox Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 19
Gather to prepare a meal (Pasta Bolognese/salad + Fruit Cocktail Cake) and eat together. Please [email](#) Laura to sign up so we can plan to have plenty of food.

Session Meeting - Hybrid

Monday, January 20 at 7:00 pm

The Link - February Deadline

Sunday, January 26
Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca.

Guitar Recital

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary
Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 pm
Featuring guitar students from the class of Simon Fairintosh, Music Performance Instructor at the University of Victoria. Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians!