



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 244 January 7, 2025



Delightful Days

Linda and I relished our time away over the holidays spent with our daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. There were belated birthdays celebrated, and more games of soccer, basketball and roller skating than one can count!

Malachi is relishing his new status as a 6-year-old and Stella is a bubbly, sweet 3-year-old! What a wonderful beginning to the new year.

Home again, we return to begin the good work ahead for us. Please make sure the following is on your calendar in the coming weeks...

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Annual Budget Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 12:00 pm. (Following worship.) This is the first glance at the 2025 budget that Jack has been working diligently to prepare. Your presence and participation are essential!

An Altar in the World Study by Barbara Brown Taylor

Weekly on Wednesdays, January 15 - February 4 5:30 - 7:00 at 982 Linkleas Ave (in-person and Zoom option available)

Women's Book Discussion: An Altar in the World

Hosted by Linda Coggin. Have you signed up? Please connect with Linda at lindacoggin@gmail.com or 250-880-0932

Finally, the last few weeks of my ministry with you will be focused on visiting with some of our homebound and taking care of the details of wrapping up my ministry at St. Andrews. Wayne, Jerry and I will be attending the Presbytery Retreat in Nanaimo on Tuesday – Wednesday, January 21 – 22.

These are important times to say, "Thank you," and to remember that God promises both St. Andrew's and the Coggins a "future and a hope." Let us never doubt that for a second.

Blessings
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

Worship Service: Sanctuary
Sundays at 10:30 am

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 29:1-11, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Prelude: Noel #10 by Louis-Claude Daquin

Choral Anthem: "A Gaelic Blessing" by John Rutter

Musical Reflection: "Christ came to the Jordan" by Dietrich Buxtehude

Postlude: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Came" by Johann Sebastian Bach

*Wishing you a
New Year
overflowing
with love, faith,
and peace!*

Knox & St. Andrew's Merger Decision

Hello All;

The Session of Knox Presbyterian, the congregation we have been in discussions with about the collaboration process as approved by St Andrew's congregational meeting last January, had recommended to their congregation "**that the Session of Knox Church recommends to the congregation that the merger with St. Andrews not be further pursued**".

This motion was presented for a vote on December 22nd. The outcome of that vote is that congregation of Knox Presbyterian agreed with their session and as such, **the "merger" talks have ceased between St Andrew's and Knox.**

If you require further information please contact your elder.

Jerry Verwey
Session Clerk at St Andrew's Presbyterian

Advanced Notice

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - OUR BUDGET 2025 MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2025 AT 12:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the budget for 2025. There are copies of the Budget available for circulation and will be available each Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL BE HELD MARCH 9, 2025 AT 12:00 P.M.

Camp Vip 2025

This year's VIP camp dates are as follows:

- Little Qualicum Falls June 9 - 13
- Goldstream July 3-7
- Rathrevor August 11 - 18

More details will be available [HERE](#) soon!



The Christmas Rabbit

A few days before Christmas, a kind employee at my neighbourhood garden centre posted a Facebook story about a pet rabbit hanging around at her workplace. No one in the community recognized the rabbit or came forward to claim it. The dedicated folks at [Broken Promises Rescue](#) and [Amy's Bunny Barn](#) dropped their family Christmas preparations and rushed over to help capture the rabbit. There was only one problem - there was 'no room at the inn', so to speak! Because the bunny barn was full I volunteered to foster the rabbit.

The world is a cold and scary place for an abandoned pet rabbit - this one already had a few scars from escaping predators! I spent the next few days learning how to be a good caretaker, adding extra salad greens to my Christmas dinner shopping list, and of course, deciding on a good name: I settled on 'Peanut'. I even spent Christmas Eve making rabbit toys for Peanut! Who knew that an unexpected foster rabbit would bring so much joy and love into our home at Christmas?

Peanut will soon be available for adoption through Amy's Bunny Barn, along with many other bunnies currently looking for a new home in the new year. If you would like to adopt, learn more about pet rabbits, or want to support the rescue, please go here: <https://www.amysbunnybarn.org/>.

- Shannon Cummings



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](#).

THERE IS ROOM
PRESENTS
Encounters
A CONCERT OF HIDDEN GEMS CURATED JUST FOR YOU.
WELCOME!
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025
8:00 PM

ELIZABETH CLARKE, PIANO
LINDSEY HERLE, VIOLIN

PHILIP T. YOUNG RECITAL HALL
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
WWW.THEREISROOMDUO.COM

Robert Burns
Memorial Concert
JANUARY 19 AT 2:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 2:00 PM
KIRK HALL, 680 COURTNEY ST
FOLLOWED BY TEA AND SHORTBREAD

TICKETS \$12
PLEASE PRE-PURCHASE
USING THE LINK
BELOW

PRESENTED BY THE
VICTORIA SCOTTISH
GAELIC CHOIR
AND ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

LINKTR.EE/VICGAELICCHOIR

Community Events Calendar

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](#).

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.

Community Dinner

Knox Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 9

Gather to prepare a meal (Super Soups + Heart-shaped Biscuits with jam;) and eat together. Please [email](#) Laura to sign up so we can plan to have plenty of food.

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](#).

Beyond Neoclassical

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary
Saturday, February 22 at 7:00 pm

An amazing musical journey beyond space and time with internationally acclaimed cellist, composer and multilingual vocalist Ian Maksin! For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

Coldest Night

Saturday, February 22 from 4 - 7 pm

The popular walkathon campaign will return to Victoria [Downtown](#) and [Westshore](#). For more info and to sign up, please follow those links!

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

Robert Burns Memorial Concert

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall
Sunday, January 19 at 2:00 pm

The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church present the Robert Burns Memorial Concert. Enjoy an afternoon of music and prose of Robert Burns, dancing, and other Scottish cultural entertainment. Tea and shortbread will follow the concert. For more info and tickets: <https://linktr.ee/vicgaelicchoir>

Session Meeting - Hybrid

Monday, January 20 at 7:00 pm

Congregational Annual Budget Meeting

Sunday, January 26 at 12:00 pm

The purpose of this meeting is to approve the budget for 2025. There are copies of the Budget available for review.

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!

Session Meeting - Hybrid

Monday, February 17 at 7:00 pm

The Link - March Deadline

Sunday, February 23

Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca.

Special 'Farewell' Coffee Service

Sunday, March 2 at 12:00 pm (after worship)

Join us in saying thank you and goodbye to Pastor Mitch Coggin and Rev. Wayne Stretch at this special coffee hour!

Congregational Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 pm