

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



What Do You Want for Easter



What do you want for Easter? Easter Sunday is April 9. Holy Week begins a week before on Palm Sunday, April 2 that serves as our final preparation for the joy of Easter. We cannot truly experience the celebration of Easter Sunday unless and until we understand the deep agony that Jesus experienced during Holy Week. Again, I ask. What do you want for Easter in 2023?

This is not a question about a clothing choice or an Easter egg hunt with the grandchildren. This is not even a question about having the family over for Easter dinner. This question challenges us at a deeper level that began on Ash Wednesday and has continued during these 40 days of Lent. How has our Lenten journey challenged us to examine our faith more deeply?

Walter Brueggemann offers in his Advent devotional *A Way Other Than Our Own*, "So here is my bid to you for Holy Week. As we walk the walk from Palm Sunday to Easter through the Thursday arrest and the Friday execution and the long Saturday wait in the void, imagine all of us, in the wake of Jesus, changing our minds, renewing our minds, altering our opinions concerning self and neighbor and world. The clue to the new mind of Christ is emptying of our need to control and our anxious passion for security."

How are we changing and renewing our minds or altering our opinions about self and others of late? Following the final meal Jesus celebrated with his disciples, he took a basin of water and one by one washed the disciples' feet. At first, Peter balked at such an act of selfless devotion offered by Jesus. Jesus challenged Peter's resistance, but more significantly, challenged Peter's lack of understanding about what it means to follow Jesus. Jesus needed Peter to change his mind about what it truly means to become a servant.

When Jesus had finished washing the feet of the disciples, he explained, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By that we will all know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." Love is about service. We love when we serve others.

Every aspect of Holy Week is an example of how much we are truly loved. What do you want for Easter? I hope you will pay attention to your Easter preparation this year for it will truly impact what you experience on Easter Sunday. It is my hope that we will emerge from Easter more confident that we have been called to serve one another in the same way that we have been served.

Easter Blessings,
Mitch

April 2023

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thelink@shaw.ca

Victoria, BC

Session Report March 2023

Session met via Zoom and was informed of the successful completion of the organ repairs.

The branding task group presented a new logo designed by Finlay Henderson, and session approved the new logo which will be used in all our correspondence.

Session has received a few nominations for elders, not as many as we had hoped, and will shortly be meeting with the nominees. Presently we have 11 serving elders for a church family of 118 families.

Session has appointed Dave Garson and David McLean as co-convenors for the Property Committee. Both have served in this capacity ad hoc but have now been session designated.

McKenzie, our interim office administrator, has resigned to take up another position full time and a replacement has been trained in the past week (the name is unknown at the writing of the report).

The perception of the lack of communication again came up, and though frustrating, it was noted that it appears to be more of a technological and motivational divide than lack of availability. Remember, a lot of information you may seek is on our website <https://standrewsvictoria.ca/>. A lot of posters for upcoming events are routinely placed on our 4 bulletin boards, two in the narthex, one at the Broughton St. entrance and one in the Kirk hall entrance. Of course The Link is our monthly newsletter along with our weekly TWASA e-mailed to everyone and available at the front door. Ask your elder or any of the ushers if you seek any information.

Our interim moderator reported that he has contacted a number of qualified individuals to guide our sessions in the collaborative journey that the sessions of St. Andrew's, Trinity and Knox have pledged to undertake. No date has been set for this meeting, but it

is hoped to be held sometime in April.

We received word that Dr. John Allan, a long time minister in this congregation, is in deteriorating health. Prayers are requested for his well being as well as strength for Marjorie Allan, his wife and his family..

The Rev. Geoff Jay, a long time associate minister in this congregation, is facing challenges in caring for his mother at a distance. Prayers for strength to sustain him are also requested.

Remember if a need for prayer is perceived, call Fiona Ryneveld, our prayer chain coordinator

Rev. Mitch Coggin will away on presbytery business April 23rd.

Members are reminded that communion will be served on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Verwey
Session Clerk

In Loving Memory



David Sills - March 15

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain....

Revelations 21:4

Mission and Outreach Committee

Thank you to the members and adherents of St. Andrew's who generously donated to Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) during the month of February. A total of \$985.00 was donated with \$685.00 directed to Pakistan and \$300.00 was donated to Türkiye-Syria.

It has been a month and a half since the devastating earthquake in Türkiye-Syria and folks are facing widespread displacement due to damage to homes and loss of livelihoods. PWS&D is responding through their partners at ACT Alliance. Since the quake, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) has offered 232 sites such as churches, mosques, and municipal buildings as shelters in Aleppo. As well as providing shelter with their buildings, MECC is providing mattresses, blankets and hot meals to affected families, and this support is definitely needed. In addition, they are working on obtaining further supplies.

For those impacted by the floods in Pakistan, Community World Service Asia, PWS&D's partner in Asia, has been providing assistance. Cash transfers, with the last one being made in February, have been directed to families most impacted by the flooding.



The long range goal is for retraining and growing crops that are more resistant to climate change.

Your prayers and generosity make a difference to our global sisters and brothers.

Patti Jackson



Open Church

As I continue to engage in our mission downtown, to be available to all by opening our church for a few hours on Wednesday every week, I am amazed at the variety of people coming through our doors. I have welcomed visitors from China, Sweden, Mexico, Idaho, Oregon, California, India, Vietnam and of course from BC, Alberta and Manitoba. Some come for the historical part of the building, some come to meditate. I have met persons from PCC USA and their offshoot, Jewish visitors, Roman Catholics and from other reformed traditions as well as Hindus, and Muslims.

Sometimes we have only 2 or 3 people, at other times well over 15. Some interesting and thought provoking exchanges occur. Some indicate that they have been passed by the building and it always seems to be closed. I wonder if our thoughts on our perceived mission is as closed as well. It would be great if we could open more often to welcome those outside. What is your calling?

Jerry Verwey

Beautiful Music filled St. Andrew's Sanctuary on March 15, Courtesy of UVic Strings Students!

On March 5, senior strings students from the UVIC School of Music played selections on the cello, with accompaniment on the baby grand piano.

Over 80 people attended this Sunday afternoon concert series. The concert is part of St. Andrew's music outreach project funded by the Victoria Foundation and in collaboration with the UVIC School of Music.

A reception was held in the Lecture Room meeting space. It was an opportunity to talk with the student performers and other colleagues from UVIC. It was well received by those attending.

St. Andrew's volunteers welcome the audience, greet people at the door, hand out program brochures, usher and direct people to their seats. An excellent team has supported this outreach project. Donations go to the music program at St. Andrew's.

The next concert in the series will be Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 pm featuring violins, viola, cello and piano. Parking is free at the Library parkade.



Aline Thevard, UVic student

Dawn McLean



Tau Kaploykeo, Strings student at University of Victoria



Visit From Martin Perez and Maribel Flores



Many in St. Andrew's congregation will remember our Peruvian friends, Martin Perez and Maribel Flores, who were choir members for several years.

They moved to Vancouver two years ago but Martin continues to be St. Andrew's webmaster. In that capacity, he facilitates ongoing contact between the congregation, the community and the visitors on our website. He also provides online security by protecting email accounts, content and communications against unauthorized access or loss.

Martin and Maribel continue to stay in touch with us and occasionally come to Victoria. Recently they came for a weekend visit. Dorothy and Jack Reimer arranged a lovely luncheon so choir members could spend time with Maribel and Martin and learn how life was treating them in Vancouver. The next day our friends were in church for the Sunday service.

Jean Marcellus

SPRING CLEANING?

The Jewelry stall is looking for
JEWELRY, SCARVES and PURSES

in good condition for St. Andrew's Spring Market May 12 and 13.

Please bring your donations to the church office or to coffee hour. Contact: **Dawn McLean.**



Property Committee Report

Session has agreed with the committee's request to appoint Dave Garson and David McLean as co-conveners of the Property committee.

The committee reports the completion of the 'pony' wall on the south side of the gym which has been covered with cladding to prevent further deterioration of the front facing.

A new sign has been installed above the door at the Courtney St. entrance so it is more visible from the street. (The old sign, inside the 'new vestibule', was not visible from street.)

The lights in the kitchen have been changed to LED at a cost of \$250.

The committee has installed a programmable timer for the AA coffee machine, which was left on continually and is now set at 8am-2pm Mon -Sat.

Due to vandalism break-in at the laneway gate, new larger steel plates have been purchased and installed to prevent access to the gate door knob.

We are testing LED bulbs for the exit signs to reduce electrical costs.

To prevent further graffiti intrusion via the parkade, more fencing has been installed in collaboration with Rexall and the Parkade in cost sharing.

We are pursuing the parapet earthquake safety program through Heritage Victoria as approved at the AGM. Our architect of record is Charles Kierulf.

Submitted by **Jerry Verwey**

COFFEE TEAMS

Coffee and Conversation following the Sunday service is an important time in the social life of our church as it further extends our time of Worship together. Friendships and social connections add to the vibrancy and life of St. Andrew's.

We extend special thanks to the Coffee Team # 1 who hosted coffee time for one full year. We started coffee time in March 2022 and we have seen the benefit of this special time together, especially after we recovered from the close down of Covid.

We now have two Coffee Teams in place for our weekly Sunday Coffee and Conversation.

Team #1 will host the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Team #2 will host the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all of those who stepped forward to volunteer to fill the empty spots. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Although we have enough people to serve at this time, we continue to need occasional volunteers who might be able to help during the summer months and for those months when we have a 5th Sunday. We guarantee that you will enjoy camaraderie with others. If you would like to help, please contact one of the coffee teams and we will put you down on a list. Please contact Dorothy.

We hope that everyone knows they are welcome at coffee time and we hope to see you soon!

Dorothy Reimer



2023 VANCOUVER ISLAND PRESBYTERY SUMMER CAMPS



Location and Dates

MID WEEK CAMPING

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park June 5th-9th
(self campsite registration - BC provincial parks)

Group campsite fees for 2 adults and 2 children

French Beach Provincial Park July 6th-10th
\$140.00 weekend

Rathtrevor Provincial Park July 31st- August 7th
\$250.00 week

For enquiry contact Camp VIP Communicator

Camp Website
<https://vipresbytery.net>

Communion Sunday, March 5



Linda Coggin with Scarlett and Flynt Bromley
snuffing two Lenten candles

Third Sunday in Lent, March 12



Angus Henderson extinguishing three candles



Reverend Doctor Harold McNabb
Visiting Pastor

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 17



Dorothy Reimer, extinguishing candles

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26



Sheelagh Garson, leading in prayer

Upcoming events at St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Sunday Classical Music

April 2 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Strings students from the classes of the Lafayette String Quartet at Uvic will present works for violin, viola, cello and piano. Donation boxes. Reception to follow concert.

California Choir Concert

Sunday, April 16 at 12 noon in the Sanctuary

The visiting choir, hosted by St. Andrew's, will perform after the Sunday service.

Changing Course: A River's Journey of Reconnection

Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 pm. EARTH DAY

St. Andrew's Kirk Hall, 570 Courtney Street

A special film premiere with the Lafayette String Quartet and Ballet Victoria Dance in performance.

Spring Music Recital

Thursday, April 27 at 12 noon in the Sanctuary

Presented by St. Andrew's Music Program featuring:

Two Flutes and the Organ. Music by Bach, Pachelbel, Berlioz and more.

Spring Market

Friday, May 12 from 11:00 - 4:00 pm

Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 - 4:00 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Douglas and Broughton

Entrance on BROUGHTON STREET

Proceeds to the Lecture Hall meeting space renovations

Jewelry, Handicrafts, Attic Treasures, Silent Auction,

Coffee and tea, soup and a bun, muffins and handmade bars for dessert.

924 Douglas St, Victoria, BC · (250) 384-5734

St. Andrew's Spring Market

It's getting closer! No matter how you calculate it - 39 days, or 38 sleeps, or about 5 weeks - our Spring Market is coming!



Thanks to our team of Jean W, David M, Dave G, Kathie W, Deb V, Dawn M, Jack R and Dorothy R and our office staff, first Shannon and now McKenzie, the Spring Market is almost ready to welcome people on May 12th and 13th.

Thank you to those from our congregation, and beyond, who have stepped forward to help in the many ways needed. There are still ways for you to help, so please, let us know if you can help.

One of the areas needing more help is monitoring the doors and passageways. If you help with this, your role is to greet people and direct folks to the sale areas. Contact Dave Garson to volunteer, or for more info.

Donations have been coming in and they are much appreciated but if you think that you might have the perfect addition for the sale please contact one of the planning team, or the office, and they can help you contact the appropriate person to discuss if your possible donation can be accommodated. We want to have a good variety of articles but we are also limited by our space for the sale.

Dawn McLean - Jewelry
Jean Watt - Attic Treasures
David McLean - Silent Auction
Sheelagh Garson - Food Sales

Food sales needs pans of homemade uncut squares. You may have been contacted about this, but if not and you can donate squares, please let us know.

Lastly, be sure to come to the sale. Bring your friends and families, enjoy a visit and support this initiative to facilitate making the necessary changes to our "Lecture Room".

Spring Market Team

Attic Treasures

Downsizing? Spring Cleaning?

Or just plain getting rid of 'STUFF'?

The Spring Market at St. Andrew's would welcome your gently-used items, small appliances or anything you think might still be useful to others.

Please leave your articles in the Cloak Room located near the Kirk Hall entrance.

Questions? Please contact the church office.



SILENT AUCTION!

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPRING MARKET



PROCEEDS TOWARDS LECTURE HALL RENOVATIONS!

MAY 12 FRIDAY 11- 4 PM

MAY 13 SATURDAY 10 - 4 PM

CURIOSITIES FOR SALE	REFRESHMENTS FOR SALE
JEWELRY	COFFEE AND TEA
HANDICRAFTS	MUFFINS AND BARS
ATTIC TREASURES	SOUP AND A BUN

 **BROUGHTON STREET ENTRANCE
AT THE LECTURE HALL** 

The Triumphal Entry

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:1-11



C L O A K S N J T E M K I N G
 E E Y S Y E J E R U S A L E M
 P X K H K N H B K D K F K D J
 H D D O M P X L B I E F P Q L
 M O P W O E L E S S P H J A Y
 O S S R N I X S L C H X O R U
 U C P A F N A S E I Y F N I U
 N U O L N P E E E P A C H D F
 T X U L J N Y D X L J P B I V
 U F Y R I E A K B E K W M N C
 F L E A K V R X R S C X V G O
 A S O N G N E C L J E S U S L
 U E O R M I A S G E N T L E T
 Z D C Y D G V I L L A G E K P
 E M D B R A N C H E S L U I U

RIDING
 BRANCHES
 CLOAKS
 VILLAGE

SPOKEN
 BLESSED
 LORD
 DISCIPLES

JESUS
 JERUSALEM
 FULFILL
 OLIVES

PROPHET
 HOSANNA
 DONKEY
 GENTLE

MOUNT
 KING
 FOAL
 COLT

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10:30 Sunday Classical Music Violin, Viola & Cello 2pm	Zoom Lenten Bible Study 7pm		Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	Maundy Thursday Knox Presbyterian 3pm Choir 7:15	Good Friday Trinity Presbyterian 10:30am	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Choir 9:30 Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour			Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	Choir 7:15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Choir Concert 12pm		Session 7pm	Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	Choir 7:15		Concert of the Birds 7:30
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour		Tea for Tutu April 25, 26, 27 2 pm Kirk Hall	Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	Spring Concert 12pm Two Flutes & Organ Choir 7:15		
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Link Deadline			Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	Choir 7:15		

If you would like additions, updates or changes to this calendar, please submit that information to thelink@shaw.ca