

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



"Let your requests be known to God..."

This will be a challenging month of travel that includes a request for prayer for my family and myself over the coming days. This week we travel to Indiana and Ohio for important family gatherings for which I ask you to keep us in your prayers.

Thursday, we leave for Indiana where Linda grew up and still has family. 12 years ago, Linda's sister died leaving behind 5-year-old Chloe and 15-year-old Aaron. Sunday Chloe will be graduating from high school and Linda and I will be there to encourage Chloe in this momentous step.

We will then travel to Columbus, Ohio to visit our daughter, Margaret, husband, Brad, son, Malachi and daughter, Stella prior to their upcoming move to Texas. Margaret has been a pediatric chaplain for 12 years and recently secured a new position as a hospital chaplain in San Antonio. Please pray for them as they prepare to move, for Brad in his own job search and for Malachi and Stella in the challenges and changes they face. Please pray for them as they relocate to a city and state vastly different than they have known in the Midwest. Pray that God will protect and provide for them as they follow God's guidance in their relocation. Please pray for grandparents, Rusty and Cathy, Mitch, and Linda as we support our children and grandchildren.

While we are away, the Sessions of Knox-Victoria, Trinity, Knox-Sooke and St. Andrew's will meet during a two-day format under the guidance of the Presbyter for Mission and Vision of the Presbytery of Westminister in Vancouver, the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods. Dr. Woods led St. Andrew's Session during the May Session meeting. His timely words prepared Session for the larger conversation to follow with the combined Sessions. He said:

"Clarity of vision is needed. We do not have a clarity of vision, adopted by the majority. A vision needs to speak to people's hearts. We tend to hang on to the important stuff and but fail to enumerate the number one mission of the church. Most do not have an opposition to change, but opposition to loss. We must look to our mission and how to best fulfill that mission. How do we make the greatest impact in the world we are placed in for the sake of the gospel? The book, **The Math of Mission**, noted that the church is good at counting but not at measuring, meaning measuring the difference we are trying to make. Our ultimate goal is Christ and His mission, and we know that that mission is not easy. It is important for the session to acknowledge that we are called to be faithful stewards of what God has given us. Peter Block in his book, **The Answer to How is Yes**, noted that if there is a passion, you will find the answer, and if you are passionate about something you'll find a way to do it even with minimal resources."

Please pray for the conversations of these Sessions as they seek to discover how God is leading them to faithful mission.

Praying for all,
Mitch

June 2023

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Victoria, BC

Session Report

At our May session meeting, our time was wholly devoted to the conversation about preparing for our collaboration meeting with the sessions from the other two Presbyterian churches in Victoria. Under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, from the Westminster Presbytery, we learned that church members come either spirit driven or resource driven. But to work effectively the church needs a clear vision of what the congregation is about. How we intend to work out the great commission where we are. Are we just an insular group or are we both spirit driven and prayerfully physically involved? We learned that although in the past we had a number of programs, now that the congregation is smaller we are more like a family and are unable to continue those programs due to shortage of personnel. Our strengths are thus different and we need to adapt to that. All members of the 'family' need to become involved for the 'family' to flourish. Things can happen if we have a clear and concise vision of our mission, where we are and become involved working out that vision.

Dr. Woods related the story of Nehemiah and the clarity of vision he had to restore the walls of Jerusalem even though he was at the time still in exile in Persia.

Session encourages you to read the 13 small chapters to see how we might get a clarity of vision and the determination to see that vision flourish despite the many setbacks and roadblocks we might encounter. It would help us to get a clear vision of purpose so that we may move forward.

Lastly, he reiterated the four ways that churches grow:

- Numerically - by increasing numbers,
- Spiritually - by becoming more faith-oriented,
- Organizationally - by becoming better at what and how we do things, and lastly
- Missionally - by growing into the mission of the community.

The last growth will greatly impact all the others, hence that is the only one with lasting influence on the life of a congregation.

Are we ready to take up the challenge with perseverance for our mission?

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,
T. Verwey
 Session Clerk

In Loving Memory

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



Nancy Sidaway - May 4

Lorna Nelson - May 12

Prayer is answered before it is asked...

As some of you are aware our family went through a downsizing exercise and closed a small one-bedroom apartment. We had to make some decisions: what to keep, what to donate, what to sell, what to discard. After some time we were left with a few items to sell and/or donate.

Being of Scottish heritage, my first consideration was – what can I get for this and where do I get it? (A rather crass approach.)

I posted on Facebook Marketplace and received a number of inquiries, but nothing of substance. A friend suggested I ask if the consignment shop at James Bay could sell some of the items. They couldn't help me but redirected me to St. Vincent de Paul.

I sauntered off to the St. Vincent de Paul store on Yates Street and joined the line for people waiting for some groceries.

I asked a lady in the line to let me jump the queue as I wanted to speak to someone about donating furniture.

She asked me, "what kind of furniture?" to which I replied "Such things as a bedroom dresser, small tables etc." She then said, "I could use a dresser for my children. Right now they are living out of tote boxes." We arranged to meet at the apartment to pick up the dresser and during the conversation, I asked the mom if there was anything else she needed. She jumped at the chance to take some further pieces of furniture.

I arranged for delivery the following morning.

- The Lord works in strange ways.
- I needed to get rid of stuff.
- A friend suggested the James Bay consignment shop.
- The consignment shop suggested St. Vincent de Paul.
- A lady in need was in the food line up.
- A casual conversation – I had a problem to dispose of furniture, she had a need.
- Problem solved for both of us.

Sometimes prayers are answered even before they are asked.

In gratitude,
Jim Ferguson

Leading with Care Policy Update

Policy Statement:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada states that all persons, and in particular all children, youth and vulnerable adults, who participate in the denomination's programs/ministries and/or use the denomination's facilities will be cared for with Christian compassion and will be safe.

Purpose of the Policy:

- prevent abuse of children/youth/vulnerable adults.
- protect the vulnerable in our midst.
- report incidents of abuse, neglect and harm.
- train and support our teachers and leaders.

We have a number of steps required to achieve compliance with the Presbyterian Church in Canada policy.

Criminal Record Checks:

St. Andrew's is now registered with the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) Applicant Based online service (eCRC). This means that volunteers can receive Criminal Record Checks (youth and vulnerable adults) through an on-line process without having to go to the Police Station.

Who requires this check? Anyone volunteering with children, youth or vulnerable adults either in the church facilities, out in the community or in private homes. Clearly Sunday School teachers and elders are a priority.

We will contact those of you who need to obtain a Criminal Record check due to your current or potential volunteer responsibilities in the church. Be assured that such a check cannot be completed without your permission, which is provided through the completion of a consent form.

Once completed, a check is valid for 5 years.

Training:

Together with completion of a Criminal Record Check, the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) requires orientation and training to safe practices. Preparation for this training is in process and will be shared in the fall.

If you have question or concerns, please contact the Personnel and Leading with Care Committee,

Colina Titus & Dirk Ryneveld



Confidential prayer requests can be sent to ryneveld@telus.net
If you need us, the prayer chain is here, ready and willing to pray with you or for you.

St. Andrew's Church Community in Action!

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPRING MARKET

What do you do when you have a room, but it's awkward to use and sometimes can't be used at all.

What if you want to share space with the community, but the space won't work for them either?

What do we do?

You work with others, and you plan how to create the changes needed to make a space that can be used by many.

Our Spring Market in May raised money to make the necessary renovations to the room, formerly known as the Lecture Room. When renovations are completed, this room will not only be used by St. Andrew's congregants, but also by community groups or individuals in need of a moderately-sized space with a small kitchen facility.

There is an old saying that says 'many hands make light work'. It's true and we've practiced that saying many times at St. Andrew's. This project was no exception and even though we had many hands, there was still a lot of work. That hard work was met with success as more than \$5,000 was raised over the two days of market sales. The money raised was great, and much appreciated, but what was even better, was the opportunity to work together, to laugh together, to visit with people we hadn't seen in a while, to meet new people and welcome them to St. Andrew's

Now, we can begin designing the renovations required to create a new multi-use room.

During the summer the Lecture Room will be used by Ballet Victoria for their summer programs. We'll use the summer months to talk about, and get ideas on what changes need to happen to create the new space. Watch for opportunities to share you ideas, ask questions and make suggestions.



Thank you to all who helped with time, muscle-power, donations, purchases, or spreading the word. We couldn't have done it without you.

Spring Market Planning Committee,
Sheelagh & Dave G,
David & Dawn M,
Kathie W,
Jean W,
Dorothy R,
Debra V,
& Shannon C.



Some of our busy
volunteers!



Open Church

Our Wednesday Open Church has seen a steady number of visitors, usually about 12 - 15 at both the noon hour and afternoon sessions. I was able to open the church during the Victoria Day parade and had oodles of visitors from all over. There were so many, I was unable at times to keep a tally. Some came in to use the bathrooms - as anticipated - but many came in to see the historic building and hear its history and connections. I spoke to a couple of church live-streamers and compared systems and methods, as well as complexities of the individual systems.

Special thanks to the Garsons and to Jim Ferguson who assisted despite the late notice from the pulpit. I deem our contribution to the Victoria parade a resounding success. I was able to speak to many of the visitors, some who are or have faced similar situations to ours, but have thrived and survived by connecting with their community.

My hope is that we will continue to connect not only by use of the building but one on one - a very demanding task for us all.

Jerry Verwey

See you in September!

Summer, for some, is a season of rest, and that is exactly what the editors of The Link are planning - planning a season of rest from producing the church newsletter. There will be no newsletter published in July or August.

However, none of us should take a rest from God. We should take Him with us on vacation whether we are flying, boating, camping or just relaxing in the backyard. Whatever you are planning to do for the summer, please also keep The Link in mind. Take lots of photos so you can share your activities with everyone in September in the newsletter. Hopefully, like you, the Link staff will return in September refreshed and ready to take on the fall activities.

Link Editors



Hello everyone!

You've probably noticed that in recent weeks St. Andrew's has been getting busier. Now that COVID restrictions have lifted this past year, we have been making use of the kitchen facilities for various programs and we realize a "happy kitchen" is a good thing for our church. It shows us that things are getting back to normal!

New bookings are scheduled each week. Some events are organized by St. Andrew's, some by outside groups and some by a combination of organizers.

We have seen this with various programs such as weekly Sunday Coffee hour, monthly muffin making as a result of our Asset Mapping program, occasional UVIC Musical concerts and receptions, funeral teas and other intermittent events. More events are also being planned for the summer.

The kitchen often plays a role in our activities but recently we've learned that many are unsure as to what role that is.

What better way to find out than meeting for coffee on **Wednesday, June 14, 10 am, in the Lecture Room** to talk about what the role of the kitchen (and soon an additional kitchen in the Lecture Room) should be in the coming months and how to make it easier for folks to coordinate with each other as events are planned.

Active participation is key at St. Andrew's, so let's get together to talk about how we might make it better for everyone.

All are welcome! Please bring your questions and ideas. Sheelagh Garson will be there to answer questions and discuss our roles in order to keep things running smoothly.

We hope you will join us for a morning of friendship, conversation and connection as we discuss a bit more planning for the continuing programs at St. Andrew's.

Submitted by
Dorothy Reimer

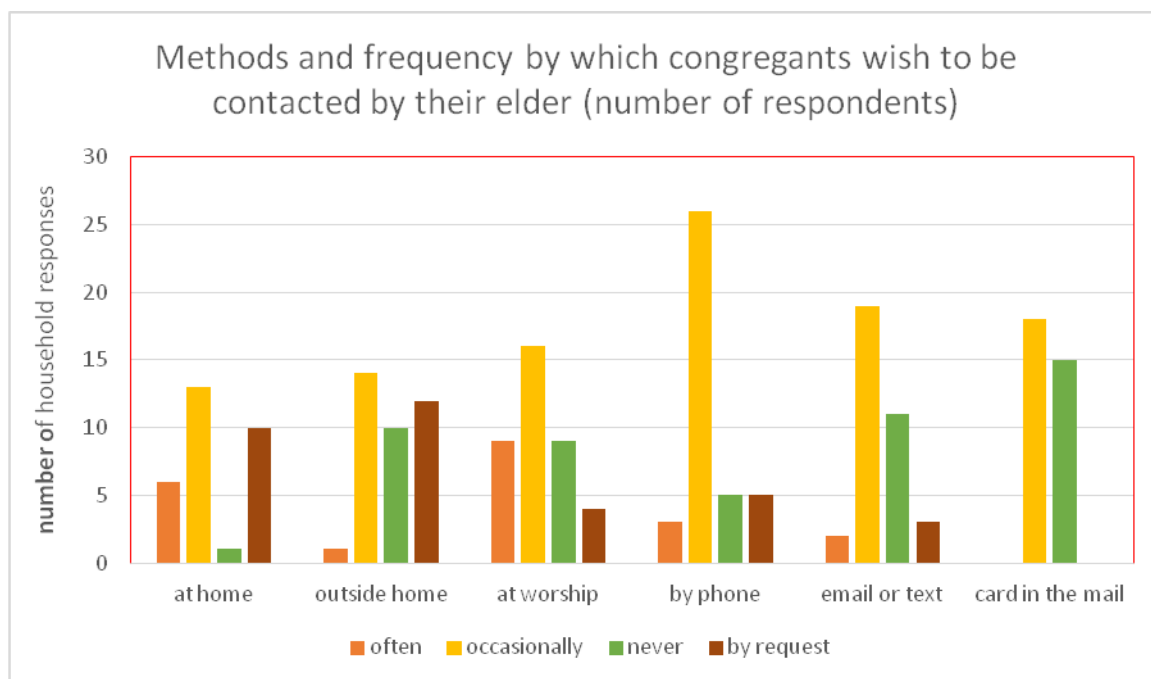
Responses to the Elder Survey

During the month of April, we circulated surveys to every household, asking how your elder could best meet your needs. Thank you to each of you who responded. We received:

- 8 online responses
- 35 paper responses
- At the time of the survey there were a total of 101 households.
- This equates to a 43% response rate.

As you can see from the graph below, the majority of the respondents are requesting occasional phone calls, emails or conversations after worship. This is all valuable information for your elders.

Your own elder will receive the specific feedback you provided, other than in instances where you requested confidentiality. If you asked a question, we will make sure that someone gets back to you with an answer or explanation.



Please be assured that you do not need to wait for a survey. We understand that at any time your needs and situation may change. Please let anyone on the session or Pastor Coggin know how we can most effectively meet your needs.

Colina Titus & Patti Jackson
District Task Group



FEST WEST

WESTERN STRING STUDENTS

FINALLY

STRING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS WESTERN CANADA, INCLUDING LOCAL UVIC STUDENTS, WILL PERFORM SOLOS, DUETS, QUARTETS IN A FINAL PERFORMANCE AS PART OF FEST WEST!

July 2 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Corner of Broughton and Douglas

Broughton Street Accessibility Entrance

Free Parking at Library Parkade

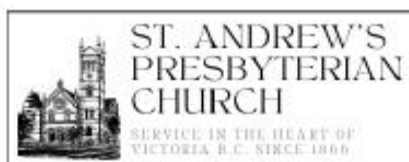
Doors at 1:30pm / Concert at 2:00pm

Donation Boxes

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

PHONE: 250-384-5734

EMAIL: OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA



Save the Date!

Invitation to the VIP Women's Retreat - April 26-28, 2024

Hello friends!

Recently the members of the planning committee for the Vancouver Island Presbyterian Women's Retreat convened to have a chat about the future of our weekend and it was quickly obvious that the time was right to begin planning anew. Interest has already been expressed by many of our attendees and happily, we were able to secure a reservation at Camp Imadene in April of 2024. The next step is the search for our speaker, always an exciting part of the planning and creating our theme for the weekend so save those dates to be sure you don't miss out.

Although the committee has changed a bit over the last few years, we are ready and able to carry out registration for you and we would especially love to hear from you if you might be interested in helping plan the weekend's activities. It's also been evident that many would enjoy a more relaxed atmosphere for our weekend so we'll be looking at how to create that for you, too.

We will meet four to five times over the next year and will keep you up to date and send a registration form to you as soon as they're available. We would love any program input and speaker suggestions you might like to share. Perhaps you'll consider joining the team as we move ahead for April 2024 and please share this good news to friends and family whom we may not have emails for.

With thanks for your interest and support of this ministry and on behalf of the 2024 VIP Women's Retreat,

Lori King, Registrar
250-597-4770
250-732-7270

Email address: mloriking@shaw.ca

Location and Dates - MID WEEK CAMPING - Presbytery Camps

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

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

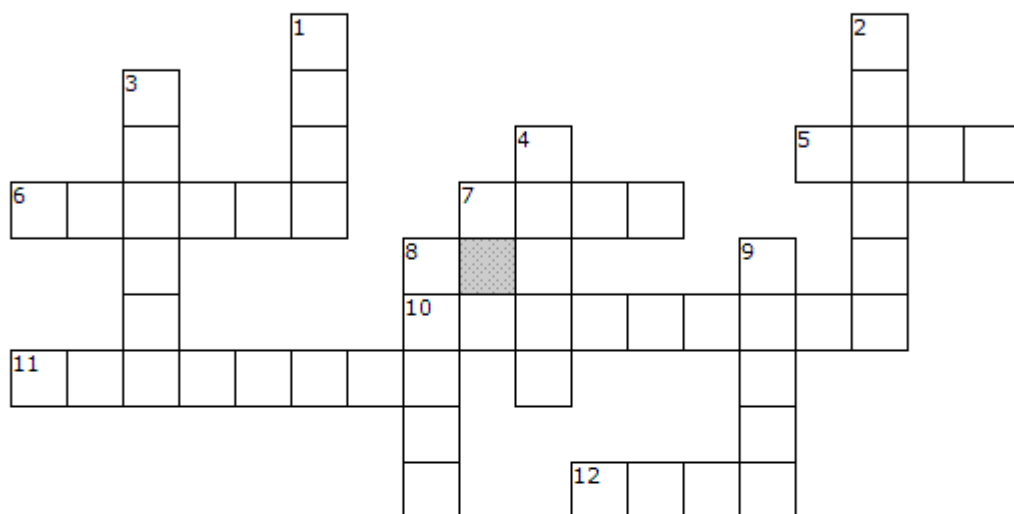
For enquiry Contact Camp VIP Communicator campvip@outlook.com



Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. Make something to be full
6. To be totally surprised
7. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
10. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
11. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
12. A destructive burning

DOWN

1. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
3. The place where God lives
4. Something that can be heard
8. To say words, to use the voice
9. A building which people live in

HEAVEN	SPIRIT	FIRE	HOLY
WIND	PENTECOST	LANGUAGE	SPEAK
SOUND	FILL	HOUSE	AMAZED

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Open Church 12-1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	1	2	3 Music Of Prayer and Hope - First Met
4 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	5	6	7 Open Church 12-1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	8	9	10
Camp VIP - Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park						
11 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	12	13	14 Kitchen Meeting Lecture Room 10am Open Church 12-1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	15 Knox Café Knox Presby. 7pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 Open Church 12-1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	22	23	24
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour		Session 7pm				
25	26	27	28 Open Church 12-1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	29	30	
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour						