

# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



As your Interim Moderator for the past two years, I've witnessed the evidence of inner spiritual strength that is at work mightily in St. Andrew's church family... often in ways unseen.

One example of this inner strength is the commitment to prayer by so many of our members. I regularly receive emails from Fiona Ryneveld addressed to this church's chain of prayer-partners. These folks are committed to coming alongside others in our church in prayer. Month after month, now year upon year, the healing, helping presence of Christ works miracles in the lives of those prayed for, and those offering prayers. C.S. Lewis said, Prayer is Mighty. Prayer makes God real to us.

William Willimon tells the story of a man he knew who was sent to Russia in the late seventies, at the height of the Cold War. He was part of a delegation from the World Council of Churches sent to investigate and report on the state of the Christian church under an atheist regime. The man was not impressed.

"The church," he told Willimon dismissively, "is just a bunch of little old ladies praying."

Willimon told that story in the early nineties, when statues of Stalin and Lenin – the patron saints of atheistic Russia – lay toppled, ready to be quarried for stone.

He wrote: *Beware of little old ladies praying! Secretly, they're revolutionaries who make Bolsheviks look like kindergartners. They comprise a veritable bomb-making factory!*

Praying brings our whole life into the presence of God. In taking on the challenges we face as a faith family, we know that our mission is one we share with Christ... and with our Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Victoria. Together with Christ on that mission, our prayers are our greatest resource. They are a fire from heaven that we can light!

**Rev. Wayne Stretch**  
Interim Moderator

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[thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca)

**Victoria, BC**



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

## Session Report

Session met in person on Tuesday, September 26 and received a sobering report from our treasurer, Jack Reimer. Jack indicated that, although we are in the black, we are not in good financial stewardship. He reported that we have paid off the required 33% of the \$60,000 Covid loan provided to us by the federal government in 2020.

Mission and Outreach Committee recommended that the congregation donate generously to the Mustard Seed Street Church as part of their Thanksgiving offering (see P. 4 on ways to donate). The Committee advised that Guy Smagghe, secretary of PWS&D, will make a presentation in our sanctuary on November 30.

The Roll Clerk reported on the deaths of 2 long-time members, Margaret England and Dora Arneil.

Administration and Communication Committee brought a request to session to provide better office equipment for our secretary. The committee also pointed out that the secretary could take on more work to help the Treasurer. Session appointed two members to see what work could be done by our secretary since we do not have volunteers to fill the vacated roles of

envelope secretary and the many tasks of our treasurer. This will put all of our eggs in one basket. Whether this is a good idea or not, only time will tell.

Property Committee is investigating upgrade costs for the lecture room now that the cupboards have been emptied. A multi-year plan for the refurbishment of the lecture room was conceived by the Lecture Room task group made up of interested members of the congregation.

Worship Committee plans to hold a fire drill in the near future, something we have not done for years. All members are encouraged to view all of our evacuation plans mounted throughout the buildings and become aware of the evacuation routes and doors.

Session authorized the Christmas Eve service which will be on Sunday, December 24. There will be a morning service as well as an afternoon Christmas concert - a very busy day for some.

Session also passed a resolution establishing guidelines for office protocol when funeral and wedding bookings are requested.

**Jerry 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



**Dora Arneil - Sept. 15**

## Open Letter to the Congregation

A current examination of our collective support of our congregational commitments and needs, forces us to:

- a) bring this matter to the attention of the congregation, and
- b) address the financial shortfalls we are experiencing.

Without delving into the minutiae of our finances, our financial investigation has focused on a few key measurements, the two primary areas are as follows:

1. That congregational donations through PAR, open plate, envelope givings and donations received electronically, do not cover the costs of those we employ at St. Andrew's for Ministry, Worship, Office and Maintenance. It is in this area that ***we are falling short by at least 10%***. That cannot continue as that is a primary area of responsibility for the congregation, and must be addressed.
2. That our income from rentals and funds from non-congregational sources cover the operational and day-to-day expenses of operating our facilities and doing so relieves the congregation from these burdens. At present these incomes more than pay for the operating costs (light, heat, water sewage, municipal taxes) except for the insurance costs of our buildings. In fact it helps to pay some of our deficit for our employment commitments.

A key third measurement is to meet our PWS&D and Presbyterian Sharing commitments using returns from the congregations' investment accounts. These commitments are being met.

This still leaves us with a total projected deficit of approximately \$60,000 this year and that is a matter we will have to face up to and do so outside of our current needs.

We would also like to use this opportunity to re-engage with those who have reduced their active and financial support for St. Andrew's. This has resulted in the financial and resource burdens falling on fewer and fewer members. Those who claim St. Andrew's as their church home should consider how they can re-engage and participate in the activities at St. Andrew's.

In summary, our most immediate need is ***to increase our congregations' financial support overall by 10%***, thereby meeting our salary commitments to those who work on behalf of this congregation. That is without any question, a primary responsibility of this congregation and we request the participation of all to address this need.

Yours in His Service,  
**Jerry Verwey**  
Session Clerk



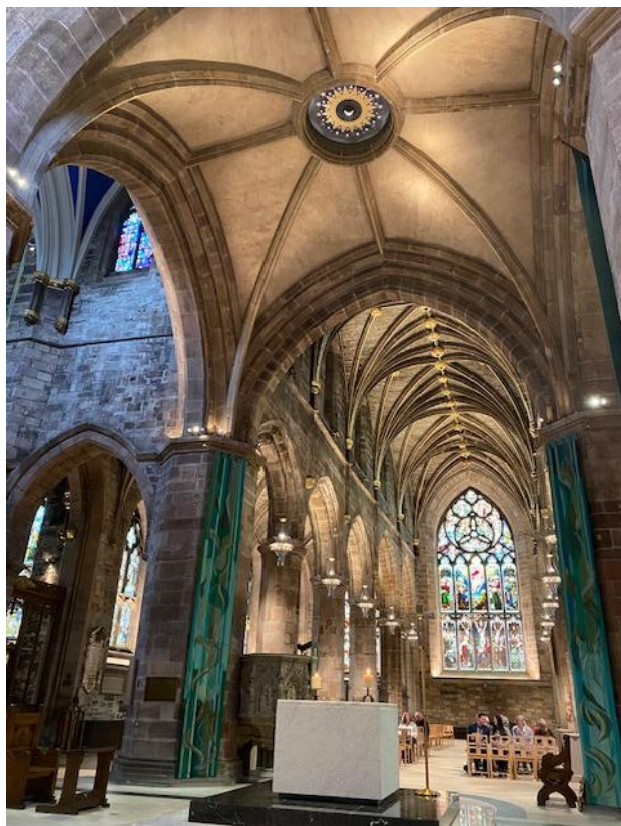




Do you recognize these three St Andrew's members in the departure lounge at the Victoria Airport? Quite coincidentally Patricia, Dawn, and Colina were booked on the same flight to Calgary en route to the UK.



St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland



And another surprise meeting at St. Giles in Edinburgh on Sunday, September 24 - Dawn McLean with Rev. Jenn Geddes (and Mike Wright).

## Lecture Room Renovations Update

For those of you who have been waiting patiently for news regarding changes to the 'Lecture Room', this is what we know now.

At our AGM in March, the congregation agreed to designate 3 specific money sources for the Renovations:

1. money raised at our Spring Market,
2. money already set aside (collected over several years from fund raisers for better congregational access),
3. money from 'reserves'.

These moneys were to be used to renovate the lecture room, in particular the small kitchen so that this room would be more useable for our congregation, and also for outreach, or community use.

Following a very successful Spring Market, which was well supported by our congregation, and the community, a small group of interested people began talking about what was needed, what would be nice to change, what needed to be replaced, what were the priorities, what we can afford to do now and what might need to wait.

As a Task Group of Property Committee, invitations went out over the summer to include all interested persons in the discussions. Ten to twelve people met, talked, and returned with information regarding renovation costs. We looked at what the present budget might cover, what was most important for immediate changes and what might need to be followed up as future funding becomes available.

We all agreed that the first priority was to make the old, small 'kitchen' convenient and useable for all of us.

With that in mind the old cupboards, old dishwasher and the bar fridge will be removed. A new full size fridge, new dishwasher, new cupboards, new sink and long counter top will be installed. Based on the estimates acquired we believe all of this can be done within the allocated moneys.

In addition, if possible, painting the Lecture Room will also be included.

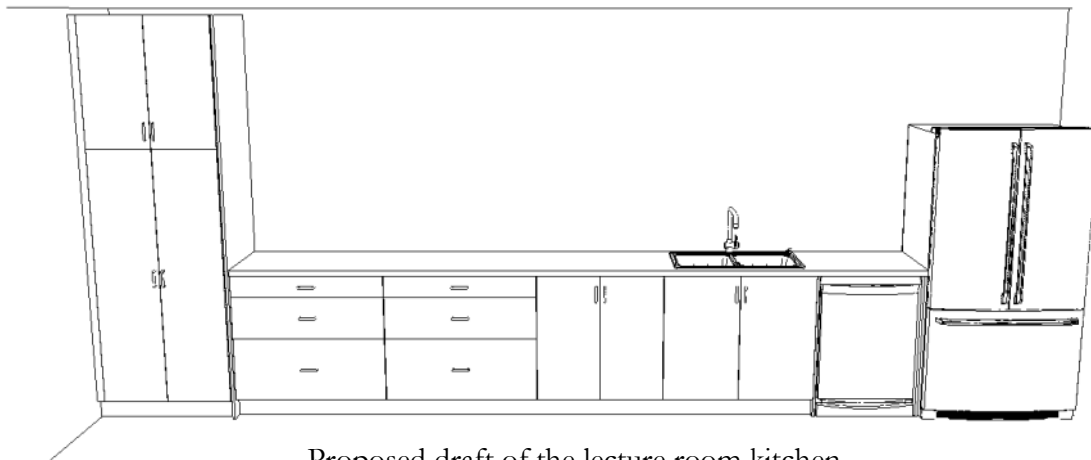
Unfortunately, even with this significant amount of designated money for renovations, we will not be able to do some of the things that are required to fully complete all the renovations needed for this room. What we do will be a great improvement but we still need to replace the flooring, improve the lighting and improve the noise level by doing ceiling insulation. We can't make all the improvements that need to be done or that we would like to do, but we will move ahead with what we can do.

As soon as the budget for this project is finalized, work will begin.

There may be a need for volunteer help to remove what needs to be removed and complete necessary prep work so watch for requests for help, and please help if you are able.

Thank you to all who have participated in this task group. It will be exciting to see the improvements as they are installed and even better as we begin to make use of our new kitchen.

submitted by **S. Garson**  
Task Group member



Proposed draft of the lecture room kitchen.

## Exiting the Sanctuary in an Emergency

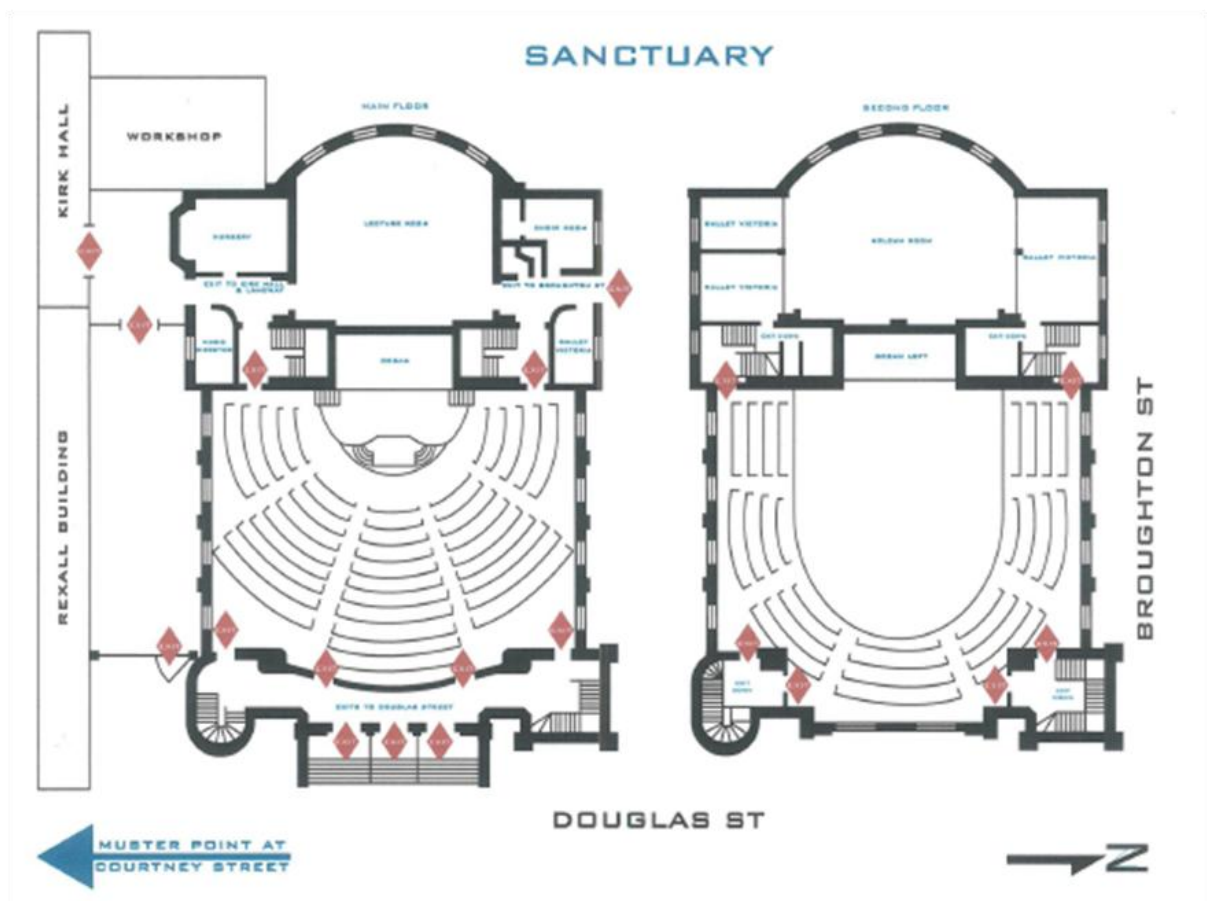
No matter how familiar we are with the Sanctuary, how well do we know the exit routes in case of a fire, an earthquake, or some other form of emergency? The more confident we are of exit routes and procedures, the more quickly we will be able to react to the unexpected.

Emergency procedures are posted on walls near doors at the front and back of the Sanctuary, and in the Kirk Hall entrance – please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with instructions and locations of exits nearest to where you habitually sit. In essence, those seated in the front half exit through either the alley or the Broughton Street exit, and those seated in the back half exit through the Narthex out onto Douglas Street. Mustering at the Courtney Street door (emergency conditions permitting) will help St. Andreans and emergency personnel identify whether any people might remain inside and need assistance.

There will be a practice fire alarm in the coming weeks. Notice of this will be given in advance so that people will be prepared for the loudness of the alarm. Unlike in a real emergency, we can all congregate afterwards in the Kirk Hall for coffee and a chat!

**Brian Titus**

Worship Committee and Session



## Asset Mapping – another example...

St. Andrew's and other Presbyterian Churches in Victoria, recently went through the exercise of Asset Mapping – which is one way to describe what we have to offer to our community.

Merriam Webster describes Asset as: "...a useful or valuable thing, person, or quality..."

Some people when they think of the assets of St. Andrew's look at the building in terms of the Kirk Hall, the Sanctuary, meeting rooms, kitchen, and other physical attributes.

We often (at least I do) overlook the people and/or human side of our assets.

Many years ago (it seems like many years ago) the suggestion of a Saturday morning breakfast was put forward and the people at St. Andrew's stepped up and provided a breakfast which at times had over 300 clients served at two seatings. We sometimes would see the same person at both servings.

Not all the volunteers were St. Andrew's folks. Some were friends of friends and in some cases school students whose parents thought it would be a good learning and life experience for their children.

The rotation was typically:

- 1st Saturday of the month - Central Baptist (Pandora Ave)

- 2nd Saturday - St. Andrew's (Courtney Street)

- 3rd Saturday - Glad Tidings (Quadra Street) and

- 4th Saturday - Christ Church (Quadra Street). (The Christ Church team eventually used our Kirk Hall due to some limitations on the number of the clients amongst other reasons.)

Those months with five Saturdays created a vacuum. I was active in the Saturday breakfast at St. Andrew's and suggested employees of BC Ferries could fill the void. The employees from Head Office, Swartz Bay and other locations chipped in to help offset the cost, helped out on Friday nights with the setup and then on Saturday to serve the clients. It was not a famous BC Ferry sunshine breakfast by any stretch of the imagination!

On one occasion we had the President of BC Ferries, David Hahn, flipping pancakes, and on multiple occasions the Vice Presidents and Senior Managers were pouring coffee and working beside people they probably never talked to in the work environment. There was no concept of hierarchy, rank or 'gold trim'. We were all there for the same purpose, to serve those in need.

One of the outcomes of this opportunity was when employees arrived on a Monday morning and popped into the elevator on the way to their office, the conversation would include comments and observations of the BC Ferry Saturday morning breakfast. Over time, the breakfast moved to Our Place and the Ferry employees continued to fund and serve at the breakfast.

There are other opportunities to reflect on the Asset Mapping experience and share with others in our community the importance of St. Andrew's as a downtown Church and that we are more than 'just a Sunday service'.

In appreciation and gratitude for those who have gone before us.

**Jim Ferguson**





# KIRK HALL CHRISTMAS

ENJOY A PERFORMANCE BY BALLET VICTORIA AND  
TEA & BISCUITS SERVED BY ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

LIMITED SEATING - TICKETS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!  
TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:

PHONE: 250-384-5734  
EMAIL: [OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA](mailto:OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA)

**SATURDAY NOV. 18**  
**AT 2:00 PM**

**TICKETS \$30**



THE KIRK HALL STAGE  
680 COURTNEY STREET



## Seeking Freedom in the Wilderness

On Sunday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, the Rev. Laura Kavanagh preached a sermon to the combined congregations of St. Andrew's, Knox, and Trinity that is particularly germane to the present situation of PCC congregations in Victoria.

*Seeking Freedom in the Wilderness* is based on the lectionary reading Exodus 17:1-7, in which the Israelites struggle with no water to drink. They complain to Moses about him leading them into the wilderness to die, but Moses goes to the heart of the matter by asking why they are questioning God. Moses is then instructed by God to strike a rock, from which water then flows. He then names the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The sermon draws parallels between scriptural wilderness experiences and those of individuals, congregations, and leaders. It calls us to ask deeper rather than superficial questions when the going gets rough; to differentiate between practical and immediate questions and the linked but more important theological questions. Above all, it calls us to openness to God, and to His plans for us.

The sermon opens with a question:

"Is God among us or not? Some of us have been wondering that recently. Is the idea of collaborating and potentially combining our resources the direction that God would have us go? Are our individual congregations struggling so that we can come together as a renewed, stronger and more vital community of faith with a critical mass that will enable us to engage more fully in the ministry to which God calls us? Are we resisting the difficult questions or embracing them? Are we prepared for the wilderness of uncertainty that looms ahead – the loss and fear and sense of failure? Do we trust that God is with us – among us – or not? This provocative question weaves itself through today's readings..."

After expanding on wilderness experiences and the good that can come from them if we know that "the LORD is among us", the sermon concludes,

"What does it do to our faith journey if the path is always groomed, weeded, smooth and comfortable? ... Even our efforts to control everything are ... a type of wilderness. It seems that we must struggle and admit to our need of God. Recognizing that there is wilderness out there that we need to traverse, are we listening for God's word and watching for God's hand? Do we accept that we must be scattered in untamed places, removed from our zones of comfort and placed at dis-ease to be the people God needs us to be? If we manage and confine and contain our faith – if we say "no" to every suggestion of compromise or change – aren't we resisting the very wilderness God calls us to explore – the very wilderness God invites us to journey in preparation for the life of promise offered by divine grace?"

The full sermon is available on the Knox web site as [text](#) or on [YouTube](#). May we find words of encouragement within it as we continue to seek God's will for us at St. Andrew's, as members of a larger community of faith within Victoria.

**Brian Titus**

## 2024 Vancouver Island Presbytery Summer Camps

A PROGRAM OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park	June 10 - 14
Goldstream Provincial Park	July 4 - 8
Rath Trevor Provincial Park	August 5 - 12

For more information contact:  
Camp VIP Communicator [andrewdmccowan@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewdmccowan@hotmail.com)

Camp website <https://vipresbytery.net>



THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS' ANNUAL

# HALLOWE'EN MEMBERS' RECITAL

**OCT. 28**  
**4:00 PM**

**ADMISSION BY DONATION!**

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
924 DOUGLAS STREET  
PARKING AVAILABLE AT  
BROUGHTON STREET PARKADE

A black and white photograph of an organ console with a skeleton sitting on the bench. The organ pipes are visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

**29**  
OCTOBER  
**2:00 PM**

**ADMISSION BY DONATION**

# SUNDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC

**FEATURED PERFORMERS**

- The Vaughan String Quartet
- Graduate Student Quartet at the UVIC School of Music

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
924 DOUGLAS STREET  
ACCESSIBILITY ENTRANCE ON BROUGHTON  
FREE PARKING AT LIBRARY PARKADE

**CONTACT FOR MORE INFO**  
250-384-5734  
[OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA](mailto:OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA)

**UVIC music**

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
SERVICES IN THE HEART OF VICTORIA B.C. SINCE 1861

**VICTORIA FOUNDATION**

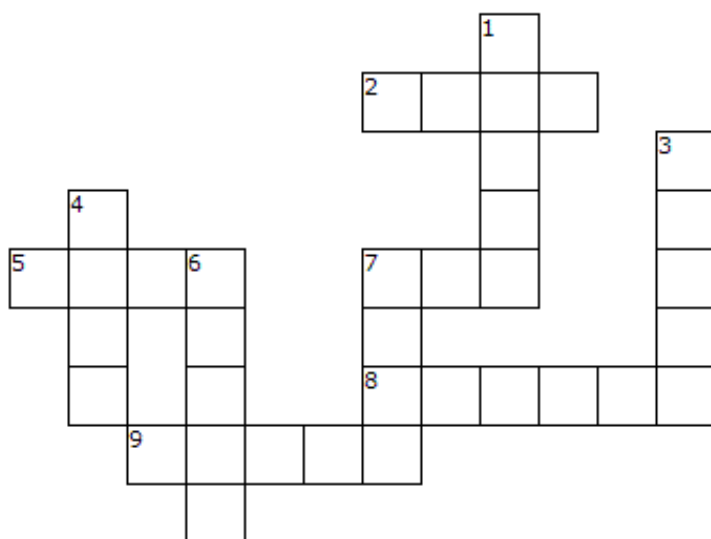
A poster with a white background and a decorative border of autumn leaves on the right side. The text is in various fonts and colors, including orange and black. There are logos for UVIC music, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and the Victoria Foundation.



# The Ten Commandments

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:1-3

Based on Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. You shall not make for yourself an \_\_\_\_\_. (a false god)
5. You shall have no other \_\_\_\_\_ before me.
7. You shall \_\_\_\_\_ commit adultery.
8. You shall not \_\_\_\_\_. (kill)
9. You shall not give \_\_\_\_\_ testimony against your neighbor. (untrue)

## DOWN

1. You shall not \_\_\_\_\_. (to want something that belongs to another)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ your father and your mother.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it \_\_\_\_\_.
6. You shall not \_\_\_\_\_. (to take what does not belong to you)
7. You shall not misuse the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD your God.

FALSE NAME	IDOL COVET	STEAL HOLY	HONOR NOT	MURDER GODS
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# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Shared Worship Service World Communion Sunday Knox Presbyterian 2964 Richmond	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	<b>5</b> Choir 7:15	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Choir 9:30 Thanksgiving Sunday Shared Worship 10:30 St. Andrew's Coffee Hour	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	<b>12</b> Choir 7:15	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Shared Worship Service Trinity Presbyterian 10:30am 2964 Tillicum	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ballet Victoria Tea for Tutu - Oct. 17 - 19 2pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	<b>26</b> Choir 7:15	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> RCCO Hallowe'en Concert 4pm
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour			Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30	<b>Choir 7:15</b>		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>November 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Sunday Classical Music Concert 2pm Nov. Link Deadline			All Saints Day Open Church 12 -1 Meditation 4:30-5:30			Connie Kaldor in Concert 7:30pm <b>November 5</b> FALL BACK 

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