

# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 3 begins our Advent worship for 2023. How fitting that we begin Advent with communion. It is also fitting that the first Advent hymn we will sing will be the beloved favourite, *O come, O come, Emmanuel!* This 1851 masterpiece was gifted to us by John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, scholar, and hymn writer.

Neale was named after the Puritan cleric and hymn writer John Mason of whom his mother Susanna was a descendant. Neale was quite the musician with special gifts in hymn writing and editing. At the age of 33, Neale became impressed with an ancient hymn from the 12th century, which was the origin of the hymn we know today. It is a translation of a Latin hymn, *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*. The 1861 translation of *O come, O come, Emmanuel* is most prominent in the English-speaking world.

The hymn we sing today was first published in 1916 by Henry Sloane Coffin, president of the Union Theological Seminary, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and one of the most famous ministers in the United States. The final version included only the *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* verse by Neale and Coffin's two "new" verses.

In effect, our singing of this hymn honours the Advent gift to the world over 300 years ago. *O come, O come, Emmanuel* tells the good news that a Saviour is to be expected. It was an ancient story furthered in a hymn from the 1700's, retranslated in 1851 and again in 1916. Each generation "furthered the Advent story". Today our world needs the same news! It is up to us to carry the powerful message that despite what you may have heard, Emmanuel (God with us) will still come to our lives and our world. We can help further the ancient story over the coming weeks. We look forward to Advent worship each Sunday.

Join us over the next four weeks as we sing the songs of Advent and Christmas. Join us also on Mondays during Advent from 1:00-2:30pm at Knox Presbyterian as Knox Sooke, Knox Victoria, Trinity, and St. Andrew's gather to study and sing the hymns and carols of the season.

I am blessed to "further the Christmas message" with you and look forward to the charge that Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin translated in that final verse of this Advent hymn:

*O come, Desire of nations,  
bind All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

Advent Blessings,  
**Rev. Mitch Coggin**

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

**Victoria, BC**



### Welcome Back Mitch!

Mitch returned from his medical leave on November 5. We are glad to have you back and are very grateful for all the work Rev. Wayne Stretch, and others, did in your absence.

**Jean Marcellus**

## Session Report

Session met with the treasurer, Jack Reimer, who presented a budget for next year. This budget was approved by session to be distributed at the end of the year. A congregational budget meeting will be held after the service on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendar for this important meeting.

Session approved the disposal of three old elders' chairs, presently in the Lecture Room. If anyone wishes to acquire them, please contact Brian Titus, convenor of the worship committee.

The branding task group has brought forward the schedule for the implementation of their new logo. The information will be forwarded to the congregation via TWASA and *The Link*.

The renovation task group, which is looking at renovating the Lecture Room for our use, has completed a schedule for flooring, repair/painting, and cabinetry installation. However, the estimated costs will require more funding. We will have to take this request to the congregation. This may be done at the budget meeting.

A long discussion on our way forward in regard to the collaboration/amalgamation of the local Presbyterian churches took up a considerable amount of time with the desire for the sessions to meet together at some date in the future. Some felt that the impetus should not be ignored.

**Tjeerd Verwey**  
Session Clerk

## Sunday Classical Music



On November 19, the Sunday Classical Music series featuring UVic students from the School of Music was held in the Sanctuary.

Students from the studio of Pam Highbaugh Aloni, Associate Professor and Cellist in the Lafayette Quartet, performed solo pieces, some accompanied by pianists or in a string quartet.

St. Andrew's volunteers supported the event as greeters, ushers, organizers of an after-performance reception for students and the public. Patti Jackson, Mission and Outreach convenor, welcomed the audience. Thank you to everyone who made the afternoon a success and to Shannon in the office for pre-event support.



The next Sunday afternoon concert to be held on December 3 at 2:00pm will feature UVic strings students from the class of Associate Professor Joanna Hood, UVic School of Music. Everyone is welcome.

This outreach series is funded by the Victoria Foundation and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

**Dawn McLean**



## Mission and Outreach - Update on Afghanistan Presbyterian World Service & Development Webinar, November 2

It has been two years since the fall of Kabul in Afghanistan. Unfortunately during these 2 years, Canada was not able to send humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. On June 23, 2023, Bill C41, received Royal Assent by the Government of Canada, which amended the Criminal Code so that international humanitarian assistance can now reach vulnerable peoples. This passed legislation will allow Canadian organizations to deliver this much needed assistance while maintaining strong anti-terrorism laws. This was not an easy task to accomplish and it took the tireless effort of many who came together as a group named Aid for Afghanistan Coalition. The Aid for Afghanistan Coalition included the Canadian Red Cross, World Vision, Islamic Relief Canada, Save the Children, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Presbyterian Church of Canada, Presbyterian World Service & Development, Oxfam and others. Across Canada, many people championed this cause by writing emails, letters or calling their elected government officials to advocate for humanitarian aid to be able to be sent to Afghanistan. Presbyterian World Service and Development thanks all who helped in this regard.

### Current situation and emergency food relief

Presbyterian World Service & Development is working with a local partner in Afghanistan to bring food relief

to families in Afghanistan. 97% of Afghans live below the poverty line. This emergency food relief program will provide 4800 families, who have the greatest need, with \$37.00 a month for a total of 3 months. Challenges remain high as programs for development and education are not allowed in Afghanistan, and women are particularly disadvantaged. In addition, the province of Herat was struck by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on October 7<sup>th</sup> affecting 12,000 people. As assessments continue the number of households impacted and casualties is expected to increase.

### Three Calls for Action:

1. **Pray** - Your prayers are needed for the situation in Afghanistan. Pray for the work of PWS&D and their local partners.
2. **Act** - PWS&D will share upcoming opportunities to advocate for longer term development programming, if/when it can be implemented again.
3. **Give** - The need for food assistance in Afghanistan remains very high.

**Patti Jackson**

Mission and Outreach Committee

On a sunny afternoon in November, Arthur and I cycled to the Prospect Lake Community Hall for the annual *Christmas*



*by the Lake Fair* to visit Joyce Nordwall at her Scottish baking stall. Joyce had already sold so much that by the end of the day there was almost nothing left. We thoroughly enjoyed her homemade bread and scones.

**Jean Marcellus**

### Baby Grand Piano Wanted for St. Andrew's Sanctuary

If you or someone you know is downsizing or disposing of a baby grand piano in good working order, please consider lending or giving it to St. Andrew's for use in the sanctuary. The piano will be used during different music events, concerts and services.

If we could have the use of such a piano, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact the church office if you can help.



## Ballet and Tea Fundraiser—Saturday, November 18

*I loved the presentation of Act 2 of the Nutcracker Suite . The dancers were so graceful, the music lovely and costumes just gorgeous. It was a fun afternoon. We were ready for our cup of tea and cookies after the dance was finished.* (Member of the public)



The Nutcracker ballerinas

St. Andrew's and Ballet Victoria partnered (with funds raised going to St. Andrew's) to put on a Ballet and Tea in the Kirk Hall on Saturday, November 18. Ballet Victoria ballerinas beautifully performed the second act of the Nutcracker ballet. St. Andrew's volunteers served tea and treats (supplied by the congregation). It was a nice opportunity to visit with friends and family. Thank you to everyone from St. Andrew's and Ballet Victoria who assisted in making this year's Ballet Tea such a wonderful event. From those who baked cookies and shortbread, sold tickets, served the tea and coffee, to those who ushered, performed the beautiful ballet dances, sold vintage jewelry and donated the door prizes, a heartfelt "Thank you!"



St. Andrew's session member David Smith's granddaughters had a wonderful time. Relina, active in a mixed dance group, won a door prize while her soccer-playing sister looks on.



Deb and Shannon at the jewellery table where some people did some Christmas shopping.



Rev. Mitch Coggin and Sheelagh Garson draw names for the door prizes.



The grand door prize won by a delighted ballerina.

## Share the Joy of Christmas 2023

As is our custom, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a Share the Joy of Christmas fundraising campaign. All donations this year will go to cover the cost of Christmas hampers for families, couples and singles in need in the Greater Victoria area. The hampers are put together by the Mustard Seed Food Bank, a local charity in downtown Victoria. Its Food Distribution Centre, through its wholesale buying power, can triple the value of every dollar donated to help end food insecurity in our region. The Mustard Seed hopes to provide 1200 Christmas hampers in 2023 and we encourage St. Andrew's to help in this campaign.

The need has never been greater. The Hunger Count from March 2023 identified the visits to food banks were up again 32% from 2022 (overall 78% from 2019!) With the inflation that we have seen in 2023, there is more pressure on low-income families and individuals than ever.

A Christmas hamper for a family of four is estimated to be valued at roughly \$360, up from approximately \$170 last year! Each of these hampers include ample food (a combination of food from the food bank and a grocery gift card allows clients to pick items to round out their meals with other necessities) in addition to gifts for children. Parents can choose from larger gifts for their younger children, gift cards for teens plus stocking stuffers. Depending on the level of donations and a clear need, parents are provided with essential winter items, like scarves, stockings, and gloves.



Your generosity to Share the Joy will make Christmas miracles happen in the lives of your neighbours in need. This Christmas give hope, comfort and care by contributing as you can.

Donate through your church envelopes or follow the instructions under the Donate tab on St. Andrew's website, [standrewsvictoria.ca](http://standrewsvictoria.ca). Indicate that your donation is for "Share the Joy".

For more information, call **Debra Verwey** at 250-383-1009.



## New Branding Logo for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria, BC

**LAUNCH DATE: JANUARY 1, 2024**

In June 2022, Session approved the formation of a Branding Task Group. The members of the task group are Jean Marcellus, Colina Titus, Sabine Teetzel, Cathy Mackenzie, and Susie Henderson.

A new logo for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria, BC was approved by Session at their March 2023 meeting. Our Launch Date will be January 1, 2024.

**We present to you:**



### **Rationale for the Chosen Design:**

The design approved by Session will mean different things to different people. Each time the Task Group looked at the design, they saw different things in each segment of the three components.

Here are some of the examples the Task Group saw:

#### **Green Hills at the Bottom:**

- Our journey with Christ as a group
- Walking towards Christ
- The Trinity
- People coming together and growing
- A personal journey towards Christ
- A journey from different backgrounds
- Past, present, future
- Two criminals on either side of Christ
- Represents different places of origin coming together
- In Hebrew, the word 'three', *shelosh*<sup>[f.]</sup>, *sheloshah* <sup>[m.]</sup> means harmony, new life, and completeness.

**Tree:**

- Tree of life
- The Cross
- Continued renewal
- Different seasons
- Growth.

**Leaves on the Tree:**

- A modern symbol or connection to St. Andrew's stained glass windows
- The people within our congregation
- New growth
- New beginnings
- Our community
- We all come from different walks of life.

The best thing about the new branding logo is that it was created by one of our own – **Finlay Henderson**, son of Susie and Angus Henderson. **Thank you, Finlay!**

The new branding logo will be placed on all the following:

- Letterhead
- Envelopes
- Business cards
- Epilogues
- Service bulletin
- Posters & handouts
- *The Link*
- TWASA
- Website
- Facebook
- YouTube channel
- Annual Report
- Sandwich Board for outside the church each Sunday
- Sandwich Board for outside the church for Open Church and Wednesday meditation
- Pew book marks
- Pew offering envelopes
- Parking passes.

**Jean Marcellus**  
Branding Task Group

### The Story of the Travelling Dress

At St. Andrew's Ballet Tea there were many interesting vintage items for sale at the jewellery table. One intriguing thing was a pink caftan with beautiful colourful embroidery. It exuded a sense of the exotic.

Soon after the Nutcracker presentation, two women came to the jewellery table with broad smiles on their faces. One lady, barely able to speak she was laughing so hard, said, "That's my pink caftan. I bought it in Egypt years ago and had donated it to the James Bay United Church Bazaar!" (Both women were members of James Bay United.)

So someone from St. Andrew's had purchased the dress at the James Bay bazaar and had later donated it to the bazaar at St. Andrew's? (Who was this mystery donor?)

"May I buy it back?", she wondered.

Absolutely! She made a good offer and went off home, happy to have her old-new pink dress with her!

Community connections were made and ultimate recycling took place.

**Dawn McLean**

**T**he editors of the Link want to wish the congregation of St. Andrew's a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. The Link has been a very significant contributor to our church family being able to stay in touch with one another, especially for those members who have been unable to attend worship in person. The editors are grateful to the various content contributors over the course of the year who have made it possible for us to provide stories and events and photos that remind us of our church family.

Our hope is that you will continue to contribute interesting articles and other material for us to include in the Link in the coming year. Remember that without your contributions, we would have very little to publish. We also hope that we will see each other in person, hopefully during the worship services on a weekly basis. We recognize that livestream is an essential service for the elderly and those who are physically unable to attend, but we miss the rest of the congregation and look forward to seeing you in person where we can go to coffee hour after the service and enjoy fellowship and tea, coffee and goodies and catch up with one another's lives. We also anticipate that we will continue to interact with the congregations of Knox, Trinity, and Sooke over the coming months and welcome them into our fellowship as well.

Finally, we wish each and every one of you a joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to God's blessings for the congregation in 2024. Some words of Robert Louis Stevenson to ponder during this Advent season:



**Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds  
and the wisdom of the wise men.**

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

**Debra Verwey  
Fiona Ryneveld  
Leona Johns**



DECEMBER

14

12:00PM

ADMISSION  
BY  
DONATION

# THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

WITH CAROL SINGING!

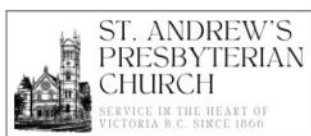
Featuring organ, trumpet, oboe, cello,  
and guitar music! Muffins, coffee, & hot  
chocolate available for everyone!

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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FREE PARKING AT LIBRARY PARKADE

**CONTACT FOR MORE INFO**

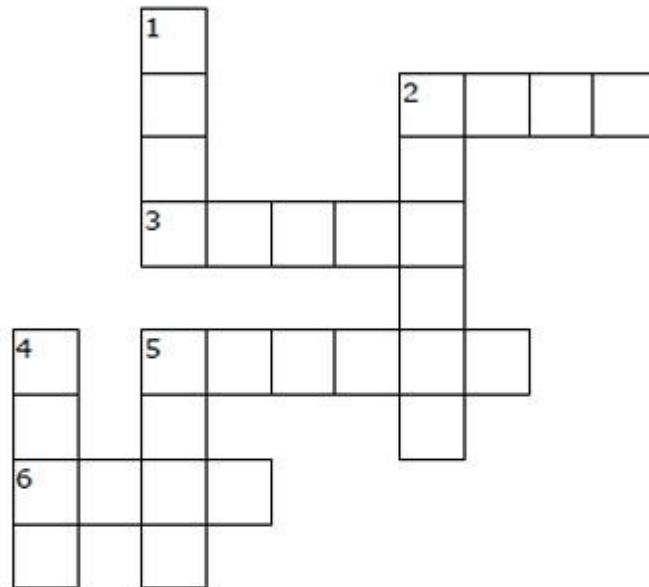
250-384-5734  
OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA



# In the Potter's Hand

Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

Puzzle is based on Isaiah 64:1-9



## ACROSS




2. The part of the body at the end of the arm
3. To be rescued
5. A craftsman who shapes things from clay
6. A very fine-grained soil that is soft when moist but hard when dried or fired

## DOWN

1. Acts of disobeying God's law
2. Something that is difficult to see or find
4. The front of the face where the eyes, nose, and mouth are located
5. To make requests to God

CLAY	FACE	HIDDEN	POTTER
SINS	SAVED	PRAY	HAND

# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Communion Sunday Classical Music 2pm	<b>4</b> Advent Study 1 - 2:30pm Knox Presbyterian 2964 Richmond	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	<b>7</b> Choir 7:15	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Ensemble Laude 'Visions' 2pm St. Andrew's
<b>10</b> Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>11</b> Advent Study 1 - 2:30pm Knox Presbyterian 2964 Richmond	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	<b>14</b> <b>The Gift of Christmas Music</b> 12pm St. Andrew's Choir 7:15	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Early Music Society Gothic Voices Medieval Christmas Celebration - 7:30pm St. Andrew's
<b>17</b> Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>18</b> Advent Study 1 - 2:30pm Knox Presbyterian 2964 Richmond	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	<b>21</b> A Balm in Gilead Christmas Concert Knox - 7pm Choir 7:15	<b>22</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30	<b>23</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Christmas Eve 7pm						
<b>31</b> Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Jan. Link Deadline	<b>Jan. 1, 2024</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Open Church 11:30 - 1:30 Meditation 4:00-5:30		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.	

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