



May 2026

# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

### In This Issue

<b>Kirk Hall Roof</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Church Security</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Farewell to Jaime &amp; Alex</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Choirburst</b>	<b>7, 9</b>
<b>Sequoia</b>	<b>8</b>

As St. Andrew's continues its search for a new minister to lead our congregation into the future, I'm glad to continue serving by leading worship and providing pastoral care. I'm currently signing a new contract to remain in these roles until the end of 2026, or until a new minister is called, whichever comes first.

At St. Andrew's I've encountered an engaged community, made new friendships, and enjoyed thoughtful conversations about the intersection of life and faith, and about the church's evolving role in our city.

In any given week, people of all ages and walks of life find St. Andrew's a welcoming place for social activities, community events, musical concerts, twelve-step recovery programmes, and ballet - as well as a space to grapple with life's questions and matters of faith.

On Sunday mornings we gather for worship to encounter and experience God, whom we understand to be the ground of all being - leading us ever more deeply into the opportunity to live and learn as people of faith in a complex world.

St. Andrew's is a place to explore what it means to be Christian in the 21st century - not superficially or by offering easy answers, but in ways that foster spiritual maturity and engage the issues confronting our city, our nation, and our planet.

The traditions of compassion, generosity, and hospitality are deeply embedded in this church. They include concerns about global poverty and hunger; war and conflict; climate change; and the growing disparity between rich and poor - concerns rooted in our understanding of the life and mission of Jesus of Nazareth. These priorities are made real through our work with Cedar Tree Ministries, Compassionate Resource Warehouse, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, Presbyterians Sharing, and Presbyterian World Service and Development.

Developing the spiritual dimension of life is just as important as developing our physical and emotional well-being. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church remains a place of hope, community, and worship, where growth in faith and spiritual maturity takes place every day.

**Rev. Wes Denyer**



Victoria, BC

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## Session Report

One hundred and three people took Communion at St. Andrew's on Easter Sunday. Our next Communion will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Property and Finance Committees are evaluating the quotes for the repair of the gymnasium roof where we have experienced numerous leaks this past winter.

Property is pursuing the use of a 'tap' donation system for visitors, and we hope to have it in place soon. This could be very useful for concerts etc.

Colina Titus has resigned as chair for the Leading With Care Committee effective May 31<sup>st</sup>. David McLean has taken on the task of this committee to ensure we remain in compliance with the Church's policies. Colina continues as Personnel Committee chair.

The Search Committee continues its search and evaluating the merits of the candidates.

At present we have extended Rev. Denyer's tenure for both pulpit supply and pastoral visitation. Session also agreed to change the contract to half time which will increase our costs somewhat but not significantly.

**Jerry Verwey**  
Session Clerk



## Property Committee Report



Photo: D. Garson

### Kirk Hall Roof

We are all grateful for the rain, but rain over the past few months has resulted in dripping water and collection buckets in the Kirk Hall. We thank our staff and volunteers, as well as Ballet Victoria, for their patience while we try to resolve this problem.

The roof which was installed when the Kirk Hall was built in 1957 has, over the years, seen many repairs and ongoing maintenance. With further investigation it has become obvious that patching will not stop the leaks.

The Property Committee has obtained quotes from four companies and is finalizing all the necessary information. A decision will be made regarding replacement costs and this will be submitted to session. Session will then bring its recommendation to the congregation.

**Dave Garson,**  
Property Committee Co-Chair

## Presbyterians Sharing

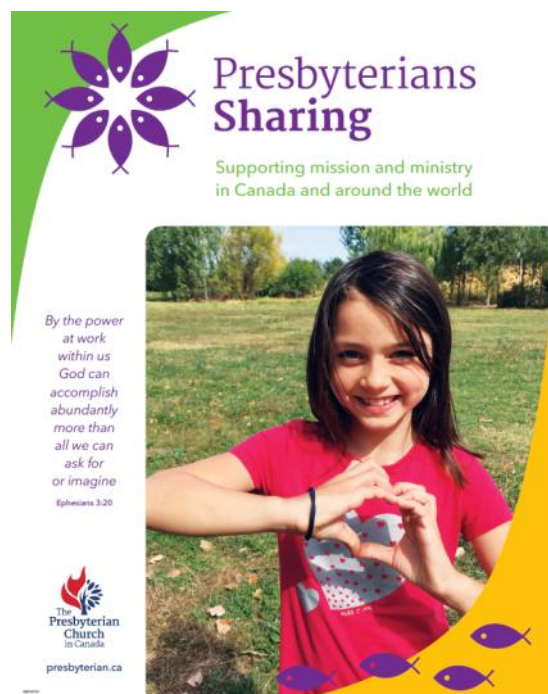
### What is Presbyterians Sharing?

Presbyterians Sharing is part of the Mission & Outreach budget. Presbyterians Sharing funds the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

### How is this implemented?

Some of the ways this fund expresses our faith in action is by:

- Accompany presbyteries as they **launch new and renew established** faith communities.
- **Equip congregational leaders** in evangelism, stewardship, outreach, renewal and theological reflection.
- **Accompany international partners** through grants and mission staff as they share the good news of Christ.
- Develop resources to **help all the levels of the church to foster safe, welcoming and inclusive faith** communities.
- **Fund regional** staff, camps and equipping events.
- **Host and support websites** for 309 congregations, camps, presbyteries and other ministries.
- **Address causes and consequences** of poverty, racism, oppression, conflict and violence.
- Support ministries with Indigenous people, **meeting the physical and spiritual needs** of generations harmed by the residential school system.
- Mentor and coach congregations **discovering new strategic directions and exploring how to redevelop buildings** to better serve mission and ministry.
- Provide spaces and fund projects for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to **work together on truth, reconciliation, healing and reparation.**
- Implement practices and advocate governments and communities to **protect and restore God's creation** amid the current climate crisis.



- **Support the faith journey of young people** through national conferences, learning opportunities and international experiences.
- **Provide educational pathways** to ordained ministry for presbytery-certified ministry candidates.
- **Accompany international partners** through grants and mission staff as they share the good news of Christ.
- Bring people together to **prayerfully seek God's direction** through the General Assembly and its committees and working groups.
- **Create and update policies and guidelines** for the church and provide ongoing assistance in their application and use.

To learn more about Presbyterians Sharing you can read the Presbyterian Connection newspaper, PCCConnect E-News and mission blogs.

**Patti Jackson,**  
Mission & Outreach

## Next Steps in Re-Purposing

GIVING EXISTING ITEMS A SECOND LIFE

The next few months will see the Activity Group organize and plan for a sale of items which are presently in St. Andrew's storerooms—items which are no longer used or needed. This sale will take place in the Gathering Room on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and will be called **St. Andrew's Jumble and Jewelry Sale**.

We have started to collect potential items for sale and what we have learned so far, is that St. Andrew's already has many things that need to be repurposed. This means that we must really limit any additional items.

The space in the Gathering Room defines what can be accommodated for our sale. If you have a few small items that you think would be perfect for the sale please contact Dawn McLean, for Jewelry or Sheelagh for Jumble items, and we can advise if there is room for more items.

We know that the folks of St.. Andrew's have always been most generous with donations but we hope that for this event you will donate your time and attendance.

Please keep this sale in mind over the summer. If you can help for an hour or two on September 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>, let us know and be sure to share the information about the sale with friends, family and neighbours. Proceeds from this sale will go towards St. Andrew's Laneway Container Garden.

As you are aware, last year the Activity Group started a container vegetable garden, in the laneway. We were able to share many bags of fresh vegetables with James Bay New Horizons for their food security program. This summer we will be growing vegetables to share again.

The income from our Jumble and Jewelry Sale will be 'repurposed' for further garden supplies and containers.

Submitted by  
**Sheelagh Garson**

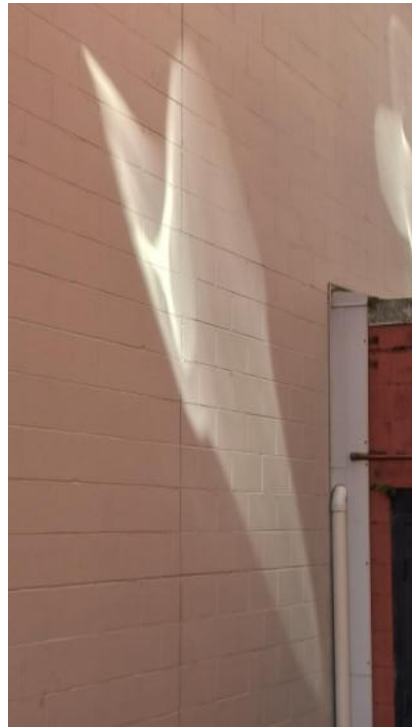


Photo by G. Shepard

One of the three 'angels' (reflections) watching over the laneway garden

## Church Security

One of the aspects of being an inner city church is dealing with social issues such as graffiti, persons sheltering on our property, garbage including drug paraphernalia left behind and at times people using our property as a washroom. Another issue has been trespassers on the Kirk Hall roof tops. Following a meeting with a VicPD Community Resources Officer, their recommendation was to call the VicPD non-emergency line 250-995-7654 and request a foot patrol to deal with the trespassers. The same applies if you encounter trespassers on our property and have concerns about your safety. If you call, please make sure they know how to return your call and to which entrance they should come.

The Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) has a website called the Neighbour Network [downtownvictoria.ca/neighbour-network](http://downtownvictoria.ca/neighbour-network). This is a comprehensive resource for knowing **who to call** in Victoria, BC, based on the issue you're facing—whether it's bylaw concerns, public works, or safety matters.

**David Garson**  
Property Committee

## Choosing Hymns Or Why are we singing This Dirge – again? (Part 2)

Here are some special musical considerations when choosing hymns for a worship service: the hymn with the highest note should not be sung at the beginning but is best suited during the Offertory or as Closing Hymn. And it would be ever so boring to have all 4 hymns in the same key signature, mode (major or minor), time signature (think waltz or march), rhythm (only quarter and half notes), meter (same number of syllables for each line of each hymn), mood (up-lifting, dreamy or dismal), or accompaniment style (organ, piano or guitar chords?) etc.

Although it's important to regularly introduce new hymns and songs in different styles, it's equally valuable to keep some of the traditional hymns alive which have stood the test of time (Imagine Christmas Eve without Silent Night, or not singing Jesus Christ is risen today on Easter morning!). However, it's best to only introduce one new hymn or liturgical song at one time as to not overwhelm the congregation. When teaching a new song, various housekeeping issues need to be addressed: Is it easy to be picked up when the choir leads it in unison? How many times do we have to sing it during the year to have it become a standard? Does it fit with a traditional or more contemporary worship style? Will we use it again if it's based closely on a very specific reading?

If you thumb through our hymnbook, you will notice that it is structured by theme. First, we have hymns based on the Psalms; followed by the Church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost); covering different topics (e.g. creation, praise, trust, penitence, spirit, discipleship), and lastly service music. There are helpful indices at the back of the book, including the first line of each hymn in alphabetical order, all the hymn tunes (each tune has a different name), meters (the number of syllables in each line of a hymn – this allows us to choose a different hymn tune to a set text), suggestions of hymns which correspond to certain bible passages, hymns grouped into different topics etc.

So, the next time you wonder why your favourite hymn didn't make it into Sunday's line-up, or why we are singing this (in your very personal opinion) funeral dirge again: consider what today's readings are, the placement, mood, style and musical properties of each hymn, and most importantly the impact of the hymn will have on you, which might be very unique to each individual parishioner depending on many different factors.

If you have a hymn "request", do talk to me! Unfortunately, my hands are tied if the words or music of your favourite hymn is not in public domain and/or not covered by our live-streaming license!

**Susanne Reul-Zastre**



## Goodbye to Jaime and Alex Kim—April 2026



I first met Jaime and Alex on a sunny Sunday afternoon after a worship service. It was during the COVID pandemic. We had only just returned to in-person worship. We all wore masks. There was no choir. We couldn't even stay inside the building—we had to visit one another out on the street. Do you remember those days? That was five years ago, on a July afternoon.

I noticed this dashing couple and introduced myself. After greeting them, one of the first things Jaime said to me were these three questions:

- How can we become members of this church?
- Can I sing in the choir?
- Are there envelopes for offerings?

Those three questions were music to my ears. And from that moment, they became part of us. Jaime joined the choir. Alex found his place helping with audio/video and recordings. Together, they became faithful and active members of this church community.

Jaime also volunteered at the BC Museum and generously invited members of our congregation to visit with complimentary passes on Tuesday afternoons—an invitation many of us happily accepted.

Over the past five years, I have come to know Jaime as a woman of purpose. Jaime and Alex came to Canada from Korea with a clear sense of mission. Their journey began in Nunavut, where they served for a year. They then moved to Winnipeg for 12 years, where they established a Korean restaurant. After that, they spent 14 years here in Victoria.

And now, their next chapter begins in Campbell River. Wherever they go, they live out their calling—to share love, to live faithfully, and to serve God. When Jaime told us about the move, she shared what she was looking for:

- A good church.
- A swimming pool and a gym—because every day, at 5:30 a.m., Jaime and Alex are swimming. That is dedication.
- A home that could be shared with others—visiting pastors from Korea, or anyone in need of care and community.

And wonderfully, they have found all of these things. Jaime lives what she believes. She lives what she dreams. She walks the talk. In Campbell River, they have already found a Presbyterian church, a pool and gym—and most importantly, a renewed sense of mission. They envision a home of hospitality: a place to welcome visiting Koreans and pastors, to open their doors for coffee and conversation, and to offer care to those who need it most. A place where love and the Good News are shared freely.

Jaime and Alex, we are so happy for you. At the same time, we will miss you deeply. Thankfully, you are not too far away—and we fully intend to visit.

May God go with you, be near to you, and bless you in this new chapter of your lives and ministry. You will always be remembered here. You will always be loved.

**Dorothy Reimer**

## Choirburst...Podium at St. Andrew's

Podium, Canada's national bilingual choral Conference and Festival, is taking place at the University of Victoria from May 14-17, 2026. It is presented by Choral Canada and the British Columbia Choral Federation as a multi-day celebration to showcase new music, bold ideas and exciting opportunities for collective singing, through participatory workshops and massed singing events. Hundreds of delegates and thousands of singers and audience members from across the country who are passionate about group singing will be in Victoria.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is delighted to be one of the hosts of Podium's 2026 special free event, "Choirburst". Building on the success of the first edition in Montreal in 2024, we are thrilled to welcome 35 local and visiting choirs from all over Canada to the heart of downtown Victoria and our fantastic performance space! The Choirburst two-day choral marathon is sponsored by the St. Andrew's Music Outreach program which regularly presents recitals throughout the year, not only featuring music students from the University of Victoria, but also encouraging concerts by local as well as international instrumental and community singing groups. We are excited to offer a free, accessible, inclusive and resonant gathering place for all who wish to participate in choral singing on both Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, from 10am-6pm, thus creating a vibrant showcase of voices throughout the day.

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### Easter Sunday—April 5, 2026





**Sequoia** is a twelve-voice treble ensemble directed by St. Andrew's choral scholar, Eva Smith. The group re-formed this year after a hiatus of several years, and were thrilled to share their concert with everyone at St. Andrew's on April 19th. They are greatly looking forward to participating in the Choirburst event at the Podium Festival in May.



**Upcoming**  
**Quartet Fest West: UVIC School of Music**  
Featuring String Quartets from across Canada  
**Sunday, July 5 - 3pm**  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S  
MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM PRESENTS**

# CHOIRBURST



**FRI & SAT**  
**MAY 15 & 16**  
**10 AM - 6 PM**

*Local and visiting choirs & singing groups will share their music with the Victoria community! Each group will sing for 20 minutes in St. Andrew's Sanctuary, creating a vibrant showcase of voices throughout the day. A performance schedule is available at [podium2026.ca](http://podium2026.ca)*

**ST. ANDREW'S  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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**DONATIONS  
APPRECIATED**

Support our music program  
and young musicians!

**NEARBY PARKING**

745 Broughton Parkade  
next to the Greater  
Victoria Public Library.

