

This Week At St. Andrew's

Parable of the People

It is always good to have persons provide feedback following a Sunday sermon. I was overjoyed earlier this week to receive this note from Jim Ferguson with his reflection on baptism and its significance in our lives in greater ways throughout the week. Thank you Jim for listening beneath the surface to how our baptism impacts our life in community...."

Signed Pastor Mitch

Baptism and Relationships

At our Sunday service on January 8th the Meditation was titled "The Benefit of Baptism". As sometimes happens the message sent is not always the message received. Baptism may be considered by some as a ceremony or a ritual, while for others it may be just part of life.

Reverend Mitch tied the message of Baptism to the being a "member of the family of God" and then went on to share how people participate as a member of the family of faith.

He continued with his message of conversations which take place over coffee after our Sunday Service and/or visits by members to others in the St. Andrew's family. Invariably the conversations are much more than "how's the weather", but more of "how are you doing", "can I do anything for you" and other of interest, and sometimes offers of help and encouragement. Sometimes these conversations are opportunities for people to make suggestions on how to make St. Andrew's better.

As I was listening to Mitch's message I reflected on two recent newspaper articles.

One was in the Globe and Mail and spoke to the importance of ritual [i.e. ceremony] and the ritual we have around Christmas time such as decorating the Christmas tree, dining with family, exchanging gifts and attending Christmas Church service. If we were to do these things at other times of the year it would not have the same meaning.

The hidden element is the “sense of tradition” or another way to describe it would be the “sense of comfort”. We have ritual at our typical Sunday Service whether it be the way we greet people in the Narthex, sing hymns or respond to prayers.

The closing comment in the Globe article reads as:

“In a world that is constantly changing, stability can be comforting. Besides ritual actions themselves are highly structured and repetitive – think of hanging ornaments on the tree or sing the words of a carol. Laboratory and field studies show that they types of repetitive rituals are soothing because they provide a sense of predictability and control.”

The second article was from the January 1st issue of the New York Times and spoke of the importance of friendships. Friendships come in many forms – some through our neighbourhood, school, work, and Church. Studies show people who have friends [not just acquaintances] have a more satisfying and enjoyable life.

At St. Andrew’s we have the best of both – the ceremony of Sunday Service gives us some comfort and predictability while the interaction with others who over time have become more than “just other worshippers” but friends.

We are blessed on both fronts.

In friendship

Jim Ferguson

Soup for the Inclusive Christians

Thank you to those who have offered to support this ecumenical gathering in the coming months! St. Andrew’s will provide a meal in February, Knox will do the two meals in March, and Broadview United will take on the April meal. It is wonderful that you are willing to support students and Inclusive Christians on campus.

Laura Kavanagh
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Hope and Belonging



Pacific Centre
Family Services Association

Coldest Night of the Year 2023

SAVE THE DATES:

WALKATHON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

REGISTRATION BEGINS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. This year, Our Place Society and Pacific Centre Family Services Association are hosting in-person events.

Sign up a team, promote the walk, donate and step up for your neighbours in need. for more info, call 250-940-5064 or go to our website.

www.ourplacesociety.com



february 25, 2023
coldest night of the year
it's cold out there #cnoy23

coldest night
OF THE YEAR

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Team up, fundraise, walk, and gather for good... because it's cold out there.

walk / donate / volunteer / share / cnoy.org



2023 Vancouver Island Presbytery Summer Camps

(A program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada)

Location and Dates:

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park June 5th-9th

French Beach Provincial Park July 6th-10th

Rath Trevor Provincial Park July 31st-August 7th

For Enquiry Contact: Camp VIP Communicator
campvip@outlook.com

Camp Website <https://vipresbytery.net>

THE VICTORIA SCOTTISH GAELIC CHOIR & ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS



*Celebrate Scotland's Bard with an afternoon
of tea and entertainment!*

ENTRANCE BY DONATION

Limited Seating Available
Please RSVP with the Church Office at
778-587-1227

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023 AT 2:00PM
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KIRK HALL | 680 COURTNEY STREET ENTRANCE

Call for Pencils

Calling for leftover pencil stubs to be used in the pews! They can be left either at the church office or sound desk. Clean out your desk and help us out at the same time!

Thank you,

Jerry Verway



Bulletin Board

Congressional Budget Meeting: Please plan to attend this important meeting on Sunday, January 22 (following worship in the Sanctuary,) to approve the church budget for 2023. The proposed budget will be circulated prior to the meeting. While it is hoped that as many as possible will attend in person, provision will be made for those not able to attend to be included in the business of the meeting. Details will follow soon.

Open Church & Meditation Hour : Open Church is from 12:00 - 1:00 pm, and Meditation Hour is 4:30 - 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary every Wednesday.

The Link Deadline: the February Link deadline will be January 29th, 2023. Send your contributions to thelink@shaw.ca.

Jam for Sale: Get some of Anne Lambie's homemade preserves for stocking stuffers! All proceeds go to St. Andrew's. \$5 for one jar, \$20 for 5 jars. Variety of flavours available. Contact the office to place your order!

In the Salon of Mme Brillon Concert: The Early Music Society presents In the Salon of Mme Brillon at St. Andrew's Church on January 7th at 8:00 pm. For tickets go to earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca

The Rabbie (Robert) Burns Tea: Join us for an afternoon celebrating the Great Bard with tea and Scottish entertainment. St. Andrew's Kirk Hall, January 22 2023, door at 2:00, entrance by donation. Limited seating - please RSVP with the church office!

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the Lekwungen People – WSÁNEĆ, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations – on whose traditional land we meet and worship.