

# This Week At St. Andrew's

## Lenton Opportunity

What regular practice or experience in your everyday life connects you to the presence and goodness of God?

Perhaps, reaching out to a friend just when they need you (and you them) most, reading scripture in the quiet of the morning light, noticing the new buds on your rosebushes, or baking for your neighbour connect us to the presence and goodness of our faith in God.

Each of you experience moments that are prayerful reminders of God's presence; sometimes in the midst of difficult circumstances and often in the middle of our daily routines.

Last year, twenty of you shared your faith in our St. Andrew's Lenten Reader. My hope is that, like me, those reflections were a source of inspiration and encouragement in your own life with Christ. We want to create a Lenten Reader for 2023. Each of us both struggle and find joy as we attempt to know God. We aren't asking for your perfection, we are asking you to share your unique experience.

We invite YOU to share:

- A practice or experience that is prayerful, that reminds you regularly that God is here
- A regular routine that connects you to the presence and goodness of God in your everyday life

Describe your experience in any way that you choose: a description, an example, a story, poem, (handwritten or typed) or photograph that can be included in our daily devotional guide for the season of Lent.

Consider this opportunity to share your life of faith. If you have any questions or need encouragement, contact Linda Coggin by phone or email.

[lindacoggin@gmail.com](mailto:lindacoggin@gmail.com)  
250-880-0932

# Refugee Sponsorship

At the end of 2022, you may have read in the Times Colonist and the Globe and Mail, that the federal government has instituted new standards to the refugee sponsorship process which are increasing the costs to Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), those who sponsor refugees coming into Canada. The costs now exceed what can be borne by many groups including the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia. The Diocese is committed to bringing in those people (approximately 300) whose applications have been submitted.

Five of these applications have been flagged as being in urgent need of immediate financial assistance. One of these is a young Ethiopian mom with two children. She has been a refugee since she was 13 years old and is currently in Israel. Her application has been approved, she has been interviewed and is ready to come to Canada but her application is short of funds and needs to be topped up.

This young mom and the others currently waiting are in need of our help. If you would like to learn more, please join us on January 28 at noon in the Nave at Christ Church Cathedral for a presentation and discussion. You will hear about the people waiting to come to Canada, the program that has helped many before them, and stories from people who we have helped and who have become proud members of the Victoria community. There is more to be done but we need to rally together to make it happen. Please come to hear how you can be part of this important work.

## **Saturday, January 28th, 12 noon until 2 p.m., Refugee Sponsorship meeting**

Some of you may be aware that the Anglican Diocese of BC will not be sponsoring new refugees to Canada, but will continue to honour those who have already submitted applications.

Please come to the meeting on January 28th to learn about how to help. A representative from the Synod office will speak about the refugee process, where we're at and what needs to be done. Bring a friend! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

# In the Light of a New Constellation

By now most of us are familiar with Jan Richardson, one of Reverend Coggin's favourite devotional authors. Each year she offers a Women's Christmas Retreat rooted in the Irish custom of celebrating Epiphany as Women's Christmas; women took Epiphany as an occasion to celebrate together at the end of the holidays.

Women's Christmas offers an opportunity to pause and step back from whatever has kept us busy and hurried in the past weeks or months. As the Christmas season ends, this is an occasion both to celebrate with friends and to spend time in reflection before diving into what this new year will hold. This year's retreat is entitled, In the Light of a New Constellation. Within its pages is an invitation to rest, to reflect, and to contemplate where we are in our unfolding paths. It asks questions about our own journey.

This year we will "retreat" in our own homes, and come together to share our experience. Are you interested? Go to <https://sanctuaryofwomen.com/WomensChristmasRetreat2023.pdf> On Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm we will meet via Zoom and discuss and reflect on the retreat. Stay tuned for more details. Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83146801897> Any questions email Sabine at [steetzel@telus.net](mailto:steetzel@telus.net)



## 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

Rathtrevor Provincial Park July 31st-August 7th

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

Camp Website <https://vipresbytery.net>

**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](https://cnoy.org)

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AWARD WINNER

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Punching through the walls of tradition, The McDades' Celtic-rooted music fuses the spontaneity of jazz improvisation and infectious global rhythms. Their cutting edge sound is the perfect complement to their fiery performances!  
[themcdades.com](https://themcdades.com)

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Advance Tickets \$35 + GST & applicable service charges available at:  
Munro's Books, the Royal & McPherson Box Office and Eventbrite.ca • \$45 at the door  
More information at [beaconridgeproductions.com](https://beaconridgeproductions.com) or call 250-812-7978

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# Thank You!

Many thanks to the St. Andrew's Presbyterian community for hosting and supporting the Robbie Burns Tea this past Sunday! Thanks to the many talented performers who provided us with entertainment. Thanks to Paul and Peter from Ballet Victoria for their help with the new Kirk Hall stage and set up. A special thank you to Lianne Hunter, who worked hard to organize the tea for so many years before entrusting the Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir with it this year. It was a lot of fun, a big success, and we hope to see everyone there again next year!

- Shannon Cummings, VSGC President



## Bulletin Board

**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.

**Thursday Social:** Starting this week on January 26! Come for the afternoon or just pop in for a few minutes to say hello. Coffee/tea is on, in the Lecture Room, Thursday afternoons - from 2-4 pm. Meet with friends, bring a friend or make new friends. All are welcome.

**The Link Deadline:** the February Link deadline will be January 26th, 2023. Send your contributions to [thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca).

**The Ascendency of the String Quartet:** Saturday, February 18th, 7:30pm at St. Andrew's. Presented by the Early Music Society. Featuring the Consone Quartet!

**The McDades Concert:** Friday, February 24th, 7:30pm at St. Andrew's. Presented by Beacon Ridge Productions. The McDades' Celtic-rooted music fuses the spontaneity of jazz improvisation and infectious global rhythms.

**Annual General Meeting:** St Andrew's Annual Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday 26 February. Please set aside time to participate in this important meeting.

**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.**