



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 196 JANUARY 9, 2024



PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

Oak Bay Marina is a lesson in contrasts. Ofttimes the Marina Coffee Shop provides an excellent place to relax, watching the busy marina at work below. The view from six stories above the water (zoom lens!!) provided a drastic view of the inherent dangers to the boats safely tucked away in harbour.

The dangers above and around the boats reveal the distinct challenges boaters face to bring their ships safely into harbour. Maneuvering around the rocks demands a steady hand at the captain's wheel. Once safely secured in harbour, the ominous clouds above indicate that storms are nearby with winds and rain that may unsettle the current serenity shown above.

How many of us are facing storms above and dangers below that threaten our sense that "all is well?" Your stories of late indicate a fear that the gathering storm clouds in your life and in our world are too much, causing us to cry, "How long, O Lord!"

During Sundays Renewal of Baptism service, we were challenged to remember Jesus' baptism. As he joined those who were gathered on the bank of the Jordan River, he emphasized that God was and would be with them in the risky business of the life that he was about to undertake. Our baptism provides the same reminder that the storms above and all around are to be expected, but God's partnership promises that whatever storms we are currently experiencing, ultimately God walks beside us and will keep us safe. Just as Jesus spoke to the storms threatening the boat that carried, He and the disciples, Jesus said, "Peace, Be Still." So may it be in your storms that God will assure you as well.

Peace to each of you.
Mitch

♪ MUSIC NOTES ♪

Organ Music:

- "Recit de Tierce en Taille" by Nicholas de Grigny
- "How brightly shines the morning star" by James Woodman
- "Offertoire sur les grands jeux" by Nicolas de Grigny

Choral Anthem:

- "Arise and shine"

The prelude and postlude this Sunday are by Nicholas de Grigny (1672-1703) a french Baroque composer. De Grigny was the organist at Rheims Cathedral in Paris from 1697. His only surviving organ music is his Premier Livre d'orgue. I will be playing "Recit de Tierce en taille" from that collection.. The title means that the tierce, a french organ pipe or in our case a combination of pipes, is in the tenor or the left hand. The postlude will be his Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux. This uses a larger sound with lots of reeds in the french organ tradition. Offertories are often played during the taking up of the Offering but this one works well as a postlude. I am playing a shortened version. The title Offertoire or Offertory is an offering to God.

LECTIONARY READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

LENTEN READER

In Mitch's sermon on Sunday, he asked if it might be more significant for us to see baptism as God's invitation to join in God's venture, to leave our comfort zone and trust God's guidance. Might I suggest that sharing your faith with our church community is a "risky venture."

We encourage and support each other when we share our stories. The last two years, St. Andrews' folk have shared their faith through brief reflections in a Lenten Reader that were a source of inspiration and encouragement for both the writers and readers. They wrote about the promise they saw in an unexpected rainbow, talking with God as they walked, their prayers of gratitude, and favourite scriptures and hymns. These were everyday stories and stories of courage and strength in not so everyday events.

In that spirit, we invite you to share a story, a scripture, an experience that has shaped your life of faith. This might be something you do regularly like taking a walk or gardening or a life changing circumstance that has taught you about God's presence or provision in our everyday lives. We aren't asking for your perfection; we are asking you to take a risk and share a bit of your unique life as a person of faith.

There is not a specific format, just a few guidelines:

- Suggested length for the submission is ½ to 1 typed page (handwritten is accepted!)
- Please submit by Sunday, February 4, 2024.
- Send to lindacoggin@gmail.com or office@standrewsvictoria.ca or drop your submission to the church.

If you have a question or just want to think out-loud about what you might share, Linda Coggin will be honoured to help in any way by email lindacoggin@gmail.com or phone 250-880-0932.

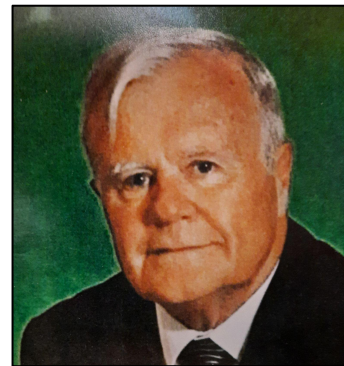
SHARE THE JOY

Thank you to everyone who donated to St. Andrew's Share the Joy of Christmas 2023 campaign! On December 21st, our donation cheque of \$4160.00 was delivered to Mustard Seed Food Bank. This was more than enough money to fund 11 Christmas hampers for financially strapped families this holiday season!

The food hampers are put together by Mustard Seed Street Church, which runs a food bank and has commercial contacts that enable each dollar donated to be stretched to the max, to provide nutritious items for financially struggling families and individuals. Small Christmas gifts are included with each hamper along with enough food to feed a family of 4, at \$360 per hamper. Smaller baskets are also provided to couples and individuals.

So, doing the math (4 X 11), St. Andrew's Share the Joy campaign helped make Christmas brighter for 44 persons in Victoria this year. Thank you all again for your generosity and good will!

FUNERAL FOR REV. DAVID STEWART



Died January 1 2024

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's
Interim Minister from 2003-2004 & 2014*

*Please continue to pray for David's family in the
weeks ahead*

Funeral Service:

Sunday, January 28th at 2:30 pm
at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

SOCIAL ACTION SPOTLIGHT

A Faithful Media Ecosystem—Is It Possible?

Our world is increasingly defined by rapid technological expansion. The media we engage with (beyond the mainstream and including social media platforms) reflects and often shapes our values, beliefs and understanding of the world.

Questions for reflection: As we engage with various forms of media, we need to build in time to reflect on the content we consume and its impact on our worldview.

How does the media we engage with reflect our values and beliefs?

Does it uphold the values of truth, justice and compassion? Does it respect diverse perspectives and promote unity, or sow division?

Reflect on the media you create or support.

Does it amplify the voices of marginalized communities and advocate for their rights? Does it challenge systems of oppression and discrimination, or does it reinforce them?

How can we foster a media ecosystem that reflects our living faith?

Are there media organizations that align with your faith values and deserve your support? Can you actively engage in media literacy efforts to help others critically evaluate media content?

We recognize that media has the power to be a force for social justice and equity, but it can also perpetuate injustice and inequality. By critically assessing the media we consume, we can become more conscious of how it shapes our understanding of the world and make choices that align with our living faith.

As Christians, we are called to be advocates for marginalized and vulnerable individuals and communities in society. Using media as a tool for positive change, we can contribute to a more just and equitable society.

What you can do:

Promote media literacy: Invest time in educating

yourself and others about media literacy. By developing the necessary skills, you can better discern the quality and intent of media content, ensuring that what you engage with aligns with your principles of faith.

Support ethical media: Seek out and support organizations and platforms that prioritize ethical journalism, inclusivity and the promotion of social justice. Your choices as a consumer can shape the media landscape.

Create positive media: If you have the means and skills, consider actively creating media content that promotes your faith values and social justice—whether through writing, filmmaking, or on social media, your voice can and does make a difference in the world.

Read More: The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC)—a global ecumenical association—focuses on advancing greater understanding and participation based on everyone's right to communicate openly and democratically about decisions and events that affect their lives. In strategic alliances, WACC aims to be a catalyst for change for the common good, sharing information, knowledge, and experience in communication.

(The PCC supports the work of WACC)

waccglobal.org

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Sunday, January 21

In the Sanctuary following worship service!

A congregational meeting is called by Session to approve the 2024 church budget and to hear a Session report of the collaborative process and amalgamation discussions with our sister Presbyterian congregations in Victoria.

ST. ANDREW'S EVENT CALENDAR

OPEN CHURCH WED. AT 12:00 PM

MEDITATION HOUR WED. AT 4:30 PM

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN. AT 10:30 AM

VISIONS CONCERT	SANCTUARY January 13 Wednesday 2:00 pm	Presented by Ensemble Laude. Please go HERE for more information and tickets.
SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER	KNOX CHURCH January 14 Sunday 5:00-7:30 pm	This is an opportunity for participants from St. Andrew's, Trinity, and Knox congregations to cook and eat together with students from UVic Multifaith. Plan to be part of this community experience in the Knox kitchen and lounge!
ROBERT BURNS MEMORIAL CONCERT	KIRK HALL January 21 Sunday 2:00 pm	Presented by The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir and St. Andrew's. Join us for Scottish entertainment followed by tea and shortbread! Tickets are \$10 and can only be purchased online HERE.
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	SANCTUARY January 21 Sunday 12:00 pm	A congregational meeting is called by Session to approve the 2024 church budget and to hear a Session report of the collaborative process and amalgamation discussions with our sister Presbyterian congregations in Victoria.
THE BALTIMORE CONSORT CONCERT	SANCTUARY January 27 Saturday 7:30 pm	Presented by The Early Music Society of the Islands. Please go HERE for more information and tickets.
LINK DEADLINE	January 28 Sunday	Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca .
FUNERAL FOR DAVID STEWART	SANCTUARY January 28 Sunday 2:30	It is with sadness that we announce the death of Rev David Stewart on Monday, January 1st. Join his family and our church community in celebrating his life and giving thanks for his for his ministry, gifts, and warm pastoral abilities.
AROUND THE TABLE	KNOX CHURCH January 31 Wednesday 5:00 pm	Presented by UVic's Inclusive Christians, Knox, St. Andrew's, and other local churches. A simple service centered on students but all are welcome to attend. After worship everyone is invited to enjoy a simple meal together. Contact ltknox@telus.net if you can volunteer to help with meal prep for March 13 & 27.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	SANCTUARY February 25 Sunday 12:00 pm	Details to be announced...

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