

PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

FREE \$100 BILL, FREE \$100 BILL, FREE \$100 BILL ... I hope that gets your attention, but likely not. I have heard of late that fewer and fewer take time to read TWASA and even the Link. Mention an upcoming event that has been in TWASA or the Sunday bulletin and it is not unusual to be met with a perplexed response, "I did not know or hear about that." "But it was in last week's newsletter!" I don't read that! What if I gave away free \$100 bills? How many would indicate reading that news in TWASA!!!! I am not giving away \$100 bills but every week several persons spend considerable time compiling the news worthy and upcoming events that will be formative for St. Andrew's to know in the coming days ... to be informed...to stay involved...to be inspired and challenged! How distressing to hear, "I don't read that!"

But then, Mitch missed something a while back that is worth noting. Last August, this article appeared in the Times Columnist...

Artist Tanya Bub (Victoria Driftwood sculptor) wanted to build a bridge of empathy between the street community and the rest of the city. So she created *Sitting with Grace*, a colourful human figure made from paper, wire and up-cycled garbage that is also a kind of throne. "I am using art as a way of opening doors and breaking down barriers — as a way of connecting," said Bub. "We are all poorer without discovering the warmth and generosity that exists in the [street] community." Bub took the sculpture to various locations in Victoria where people in the un-housed community congregate, and used the sculpture as an ice breaker and conversation starter, encouraging people to sit on the throne and to ask questions at each stop. She made them part of the piece, inviting them to contribute by leaving a message or drawing.

♪ MUSIC NOTES ♪

Prelude: 'Air and Gavotte' by Samuel Wesley

Musical Reflection: 'Like a mighty river flowing' by Healey Willan

Postlude: 'Let us all with gladsome voice' by Healey Willan

Choir Anthem: 'Gracious spirit, dwell with me' by K Lee Scott

Robert Burns
Memorial Concert
21ST JANUARY AT 2:30 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 2:00 PM
KIRK HALL, 680 COURTNEY ST
FOLLOWED BY TEA AND SHORTBREAD

TICKETS \$10
PLEASE PRE-PURCHASE
AT THE WEBSITE
BELOW



PRESENTED BY THE
VICTORIA SCOTTISH
GAELIC CHOIR
AND ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PLEASE BRING A PRINTED OR DIGITAL TICKET.
WWW.EVENTCREATE.COM/E/BURNSCONCERT

LECTIONARY READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:14-20

And then.... Ross Whelan and Eric Hinch, members of Haus of Owl, filmed the interactions of the community with the sculpture and produced a documentary about the process. The powerful unscripted 1-hour documentary has impacted not only the un-housed community but the greater Victoria community as well! The Sitting with Grace sculpture was on display last Fall at the Gage Gallery in August and September. (I must have not been paying attention so I missed it.).

But another opportunity exists to Sit with Grace and hear the story of this amazing gift of empathy and connection. This weekend I heard that the statue, and Tanya and Ross and several from the documentary will be present on Sunday, Jan 21, 6:00 PM–7:30 PM at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 3220 Cedar Hill Road Victoria, BC V8P 3Y3. I secured our free tickets. This is an amazing story worth more than FREE 100\$ bills. It reminds me to pay attention and even when I do not, chances are there will be another opportunity to “sit with grace” and drink deeply of the lessons that grace has to teach us. May it be so for you as well.

Blessings, Mitch



ourplace
Hope and Belonging

PACIFIC CENTRE
family services association

*Coldest
Night of the
Year*

February 24, 2024

Registration begins Thursday, November 2nd.
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

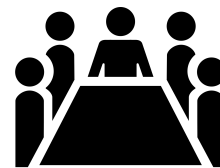
SUNDAY SCHOOL

“The session is responsible for providing for the program of Christian education for persons of all ages in order that they may be confronted by the gospel, may grow in faith, participate in the life of the Christian community, and be active witnesses to Christ in the world.” - Book of Forms

Will you be part of children's Christian Education at St. Andrew's? Do you feel joy for Christ and a desire to share it with children? Each week, in order to staff the Nursery and Sunday School we need a total of 6 people. Ideally, we need 2 teams of 6 so that those providing Christian Education for children do not do it every week without attending Sunday services. Sunday School and nursery will not happen if we do not have a full compliment of teachers and helpers.

All that is required of you is an enthusiasm for Christ, a firm commitment of your time and attendance at a Leading with Care course and an up-to-date Police Record Check (requirements of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and our insurance). Email Sabine Teetzel at steetzel@telus.net if you are willing to be part of spreading God's word.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Sunday, January 21

In the Sanctuary following worship service!

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86240956835>

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.

LENTEN READER

Two brave souls have sent in a submission for the Lenten Reader. One person wrote about the impact of a particular hymn and one wrote about a scripture that came at an important time in life. Perhaps, you have considered something you might share to encourage others.

I, too, have thought about what I would write and then I have moments of doubt and even fear that what I have to share isn't good enough or wouldn't be encouraging to other people. I believe that God asks us to be "Christ to one another," to share the everydayness of our lives.

Frederick Buechner writes that "my story and your story are all part of each other too if only because we have sung together and prayed together and seen each other's faces...all our stories are in the end one story, one vast story about being human, being together, being here."

So, each of our stories do matter. When we share from our experience, we strengthen the body of Christ. 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.

Describe your experience in any way that you choose: a description, an example, a story, a song, poem, or artwork (photo or drawing). 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 by email to lindacoggin@gmail.com or office@standrewsvictoria.ca with "for Lenten Reader" or bring your submission to your 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 or phone.

CURIOUS ABOUT JOY

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. - Psalm 126:6

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, Curious About Joy.

Jan asks, "In a time when the anguish of the world can flatten it right out of us, how might we become intent on joy instead of giving up on it? How might it be to approach joy as a practice - one that does not hinge on ignorance of circumstances but staying present in the midst of them?"

Through this retreat she invites us to contemplate how joy shows up for us or might want to find its way into our life.

This year we will "retreat" in our own homes and come together to share our experience. Are you interested? Go to the link below to download a copy.

<https://sanctuaryofwomen.com/womenschristmas.html>

On Monday February 5th at 7:00 pm we will meet via Zoom and discuss and reflect on the retreat. Stay tuned for more details. Any questions email Sabine at steetzel@telus.net

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

YOUR TOMORROW	KIRK HALL January 17 Wednesday 7:30 pm	Presented by Eowyn Emerald & Dancers. 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 hear a Session report of the collaborative process and amalgamation discussions. Go HERE to join in via Zoom.
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	UVIC MULTIFAITH 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.