

THE



LINK

June, 2013

The Reverend Doctor Ian Victor Retires



(Fotos by Mitchell)

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## May Session Report

This month's session meeting was a time for two farewells.

**David Buchanan**, proud to be 90 years old, and having served as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Canada for more than 50 years, has decided that it is time to resign as an active elder. David has been a fine example to us all in the manner that he cares for people and with his big heart for service. We will miss him at session meetings, and wish to express our thanks and appreciation for his dedication and service to the congregation as an elder. We will continue to see David on Sunday mornings—he assures us that he will continue to wash dishes after coffee time.

By the time that you read this, we, as a congregation, will have said goodbye and thank you to the Reverend Doctor Ian Victor

As a Session, we took the opportunity to thank Ian for his leadership of the session. Ian has moderated our meetings efficiently, while bringing to us a depth of knowledge of church polity that has informed us in our decision making. Ian has shared his great store of theological knowledge and wisdom that has been of great value to the session. Once again, we thanked Ian for so graciously and humbly giving us unprecedented advance notice of his retirement which has been an important step in our transition planning.

Ian constituted our meeting with a reading from Acts, with a message of blessing for the Session:

**“I commend you to God and to the message of His grace”.**

It was time for Ian and the Session to thank each other for the eight years working together and to ask for God's blessing for each other as we move on with God in His will.

Respectfully Submitted, Co-Clerks of Session Colina Titus and Sabine Teetzel



*(Fotos by Mitchell)*





## Words from the Assistant Minister

First, let me say that for the past four years I have had the privilege of serving alongside the Rev. Dr. Ian Victor. Although the Presbyterian Church is fairly small, Ian and I had not worked together or even heard of each other prior to my arrival in Victoria. Nonetheless over these few years Ian has been a great mentor and partner in this ministry. I have learned many important tools from him and am forever grateful for the ways in which he has allowed me to grow. I will miss very much our "check-in" meetings, his leadership and company. I will not, however, miss his awful jokes. I thank Ian for all his great camaraderie, guidance and friendship and I wish him a wonderful retirement!

Second, a year ago on May 18th I married a most wonderful man. Seeing as we are in the midst of celebrating our first anniversary I hope you don't mind me taking the time to gush about my husband. Mike has been an amazing support to me. I don't think he ever thought he would become a minister's "wife" and yet he has done a great job fulfilling that role. There are two programs that he has started that I would like to highlight.

The Wednesday evening Sports Night has been running now for over 6 months. Mike originally thought it would be fun to have a social sports night when he saw all our kids playing floor hockey during coffee time. Sometimes we have a dozen folks and other times it is one-on-one badminton. However, every Wednesday is a lot of fun. People of all ages, skills and interests are invited to this time of fellowship. Whether you are looking to play a competitive game of floor hockey or a fun back and forth with badminton or even just join us for our tea break, you are most welcome. It is a great opportunity to take care of our physical selves as well. Join us Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 in the Kirk Hall. Please keep an eye out for outdoor locations throughout the summer.

Thanks to Mike's computer savvy, St. Andrew's is now 'live streaming' the service! What this means is that when you are on holidays or unable to attend due to illness, you can still be a part of the worship experience (so long as you have access to the internet). The web address is <http://standrewsvictoria.ca/?p=2973>. Although it is still in the test phase, please share this with your friends and family who may otherwise be unable to attend. It is a great way for us to stay connected beyond our church walls!

Thank you to Michael Werth for being an extraordinary husband, support and encourager! Thank you to Ian Victor for being a mentor, colleague and friend!

## Important dates for the Assistant Minister

**June 1-9** International Humanities Congress at UVic (Rev. Jenn leading workshop on June 6)

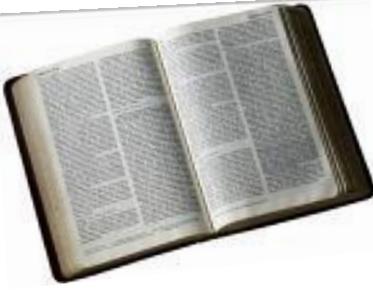
**June 12** Rev. Jenn Giving the Invocation at UVic Convocation

**Please note** that the Assistant Minister will be away, **July 5-7 and August 23-25** assisting with **Camp VIP**. **Spaces are still available.**

*Please speak to Rev. Jenn about registration.*



### “A CATECHISM FOR TODAY”



#### **Question 59. What is the significance of Pentecost?**

Beginning with Pentecost, God’s Spirit came to dwell with the church in a new and everpresent way. All Christians share in the Spirit, “being baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13). By the Holy Spirit, Christ’s Church comes alive, is sustained, and guided. And the Spirit also works freely in the world bringing goodness and justice.

1 Cor 12:13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.

1 Thess 1:5 Because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction.

Acts 9:31 Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

See also: Jn 7:39; Acts 4:8, 6:10, 8:29, 10:19, 13:2-4, 15:28; 1 Cor 3:16, 12:1-31; Gal 3:3-5.

#### **Question 60. What does the Holy Spirit give to the church?**

A variety of gifts is given to individuals in the church. These gifts fall into three main groups: those concerned with preaching and teaching, those concerned with service, and those concerned with leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28). Each Christian has his or her own gift and is called to exercise it in the service of Christ.

1 Cor 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Cor 7:7 But each has a particular gift from God, one having one kind and another a different kind.

1 Pet 4:10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

See also: 1 Cor 12:1-31; Rom 12:4-8; Eph 4:7-16.

#### **Question 61. How should we regard the gift of speaking with tongues and of healing?**

Scripture regards them as gifts of the Spirit and gives instruction for their exercise. The Apostle Paul counselled that their public use be orderly. What is important is that these gifts witness to Jesus Christ, build up the Christian community, and be motivated by and received with love and understanding.

1 Cor 12:8-10 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Cor 14:39-40 So my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

1 Thess 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

See also: Mk 9:29, 16:17; Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6; 1 Cor 12-14; Jas 5:14-16.

#### **Question 62. How can we tell when the Holy Spirit is present?**

The evidence for the presence of the Holy Spirit is seen not only in the spectacular and the unusual but also in what the Bible calls “**the fruit of the Spirit**”: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Acts 19:6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

(continued next page)

1 Cor 14:18-19 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you; nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Cor 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. See also: 1 Cor 12:31; 1 Cor 13-14.

**Question 63. Did the Holy Spirit inspire the Bible?**

Yes. The Bible itself testifies to the Spirit's inspiration of its writings. The Holy Spirit also guided the church in the selection of the canon, and leads us by an inner witness to accept the scriptures as God's written word to us. Holy Scriptures are necessary, sufficient and reliable for our salvation, revealing Jesus Christ, the living Word.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Pet 1:20-21 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

1 Cor 2:11-13 So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

See also: Ps 12:6; Prov 30:5-6; 2 Sam 22:31; Jn 1:1-18; Acts 4:25; Heb 1:1-2, 3:7-11; Rev 1:1-3.

**PRAYER FELLOWSHIP:**

If you have a prayer request or are interested in joining the Prayer Team, please contact me:

**Ruth McCowan**

**250-589-7413**

**ruthmccowan@yahoo.ca**

[www.ruthmccowan.ca](http://www.ruthmccowan.ca)



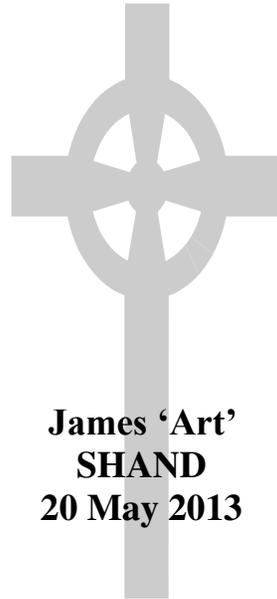
Members of the Prayer Fellowship group meet together once a month to review the prayer requests for additions and updates. The group is fortunate to meet at the Victoria Golf Club, thanks to members Dr. Tom and Kay Peet. Seated around the table on this sunny Friday enjoying lunch are from left to right are Kay Peet, Ruth McCowan, Bruce McCowan, Laura Richards, Tom Peet, Elizabeth Brereton and Hope Harwood. New members are always welcome.

(Photo by Fiona Ryneveld, missing from the picture)

## In Loving Memory

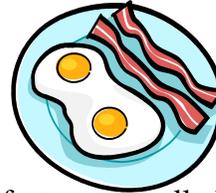
And God shall  
wipe away all  
tears from their  
eyes; and there  
shall be no more  
death, neither  
sorrow, nor  
crying, neither  
shall there be any  
more pain....

Rev. 21:4



**James 'Art'  
SHAND  
20 May 2013**

## MEN'S BREAKFASTS



The Men's Breakfasts are usually held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Come and join us for some fellowship and food in the quaint **Bon Appetit Café**. It is located on the 5th floor of The Bay overlooking Victoria's inner harbor.

**The next scheduled  
Men's Breakfasts @ 10 a.m.:**  
**Sat. June 15**  
**Sat. July 20**  
**Sat. Aug. 17**  
**Sat. Sept. 21**

*This social activity provides a great venue for both members and visitors alike. Be a friend, bring a friend or make a friend. For suggestions or information on parking contact:*  
**Bruce McCowan**  
Phone: **250-881-5155**  
or email: **brucemccowan@ymail.com**

**THRIFT SHOP will be CLOSED**  
during  
**July and August.**

Donations still accepted—please contact Janette or the Church Office.

**THRIFT SHOP WILL REOPEN**  
on **SEPTEMBER 3**



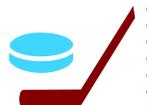
**Every Wednesday 6:30pm - 8pm** the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kirk Hall is host to **Sports Night**.

You are invited to join the Kirk Hall Sports email list for updates and reminders. Your email is only visible to other members of the group. The Hall can accommodate **floor hockey, badminton, basketball, volleyball, and shuffling**. The emphasis is on *safe fun*.

The Kirk Hall is located at **680 Courtney Street, Victoria, BC** just off Douglas Street. For entry, please press the buzzer at the door or call **250-886-4621**.

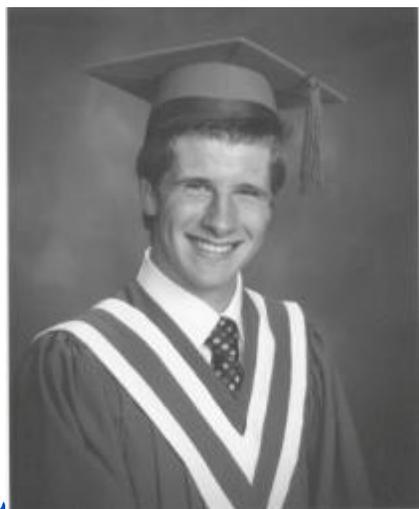
No safety equipment required.

Mike Werth



*Editors' Note: Reviews and submitted articles are the personal opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ministers, Link editors or the Presbyterian Church in Canada.*

# HEARD AROUND THE CHURCH



**Alastair Kierulf** is now a graduate of Reynolds High School. He is graduating with a perfect 5.0 GPA and is **Valedictorian** of his class.

He will be attending Queen's University in the fall and following in his Grandfather's footsteps by studying Chemistry.

## CONGRATULATIONS, Alastair!!

Our prayers and blessings go with you as you embrace adulthood and continue on your life's journey.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to David and Marcie Shand, Estelle and Laurel, on the birth of

**HUGO VINCENT RANDALL SHAND**

born 10 May 2013, weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz.

Proud Grandparents are Ardath and Kellie Shand.



## Book Team Plans Early for the BAZAAR!!

Our faithful servants, as always—**Corinne and Laurence Sainsbury** and **Debra Verwey** scouting the *Times Colonist Book Sale* for the upcoming **Church Bazaar**.

Missing from the picture are the Sainsburys' son, Laurence, granddaughter, Lorna, David Sills, Bruce McCowan and Marilyn Bullock.



*Submitted by Marilyn Bullock*

## Future of Theological Colleges Article

Faithful readers of the Presbyterian Record will likely have read the Article in the February 2013 issue entitled “Bearing Witness to Christ” by Rev. Dr. John Vissers, the current Moderator of General Assembly, and also the Director of Academic Programs of Knox College, Toronto.

In that article, Dr. Vissers raised the controversial issue as to whether the Presbyterian Church in Canada should have only one Theological College. Currently, our Church recognizes three separate theological colleges: Presbyterian College at McGill, Montreal; Knox College, Toronto; and the Vancouver School of Theology at UBC. The issue first arose at General Assembly posing the question as to whether it was “wise stewardship to support three colleges financially”.

Dr. Vissers focussed his article on the future of theological education in terms of the mission of the church. Without suggesting the answer to the question, Dr. Vissers concluded that an even better educated leadership is required and that our seminaries cannot do this job alone. He cited the possibility of creating partnerships with congregations and presbyteries to develop a disciplined program of post-seminary training by establishing an institute for congregational life and renewal. It was hoped that we could thereby provide our future ministers with “best practices” of ministry and in the process consolidate our theological resources and have a more gifted and better educated clergy.

In the March 2013 issue of the Presbyterian Record, perhaps predictably, the heads of the three colleges shared their vision for theological education in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in the article entitled: “The Future of Theological Colleges”.

In response to Dr. Vissers’ article, Stephen Farris, Dean of St. Andrew’s Hall, Vancouver agreed that it was important to ask what kind of leaders will be needed in the church of the future, and how those leaders can be best prepared. He asked “in these days of culture’s increasing rejection of Christian discipleship, can we afford anything other than excellent theological education?” Ultimately, he disagreed with the Moderator’s suggestion that “one big college in one or more sites could be the right path forward”. He maintained that financial savings are largely an illusion and that different people in different places will propose different solutions to the challenges we face.

Dorcas Gordon, Principal of Knox College agrees with Dr. Vissers’ expressed view that we need to consider the way in which we educate and equip leaders, but concludes that she does not know where the primary motive for the concern lies. She states: “...is it a concern for excellent leadership for the church in secular post-Christian Canada, or is it about cost-cutting?” Her hope is that it is the former but her fear is that it is the latter.

Dale Woods, Interim Principal, Presbyterian College, Montreal calls Dr. Vissers’ article “a rallying call” to think about the kind of leaders the Presbyterian Church needs now and in the future. He thinks that “it is only when we have a clear vision of our calling as a church that we can really answer the question, “How can our colleges best serve that vision?” He goes on to indicate that “Presbyterian College has been working on a strategic plan with a focus on equipping leaders for starting new worshipping communities as well as congregational renewal”. He suggests that Presbyterian College has a vision for a leadership institute that could be in partnership with the other colleges and serve the needs of the wider church.

Predictably, each of the heads of the various colleges is of the view that the seminary they lead is well equipped to train our ministers of the future. None of them are able to give persuasive arguments that would definitively determine the issue as to whether the Presbyterian Church should amalgamate the colleges or whether there would indeed be cost savings as well as improved theological training.

The issue of the future of our church’s theological colleges and the training of our future ministers has become highlighted for St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Victoria as well. Last Sunday we learned that our retiring lead minister, Rev. Dr. Ian Victor had accepted the position of Director of Pastoral Studies at Presbyterian College, McGill, Montreal. We, as a congregation, are aware of Dr. Victor’s vast theological knowledge and doctrinal studies. Although the question as to whether it would be advantageous to reduce the number of theological seminaries may remain unanswered, we can be certain that the students at Presbyterian College who have the benefit of the mentorship and teaching of Dr. Victor will be well-equipped to become better and more gifted ministers of our denomination.

*Submitted by Fiona Ryneveld*

**CAN’T MAKE IT TO THE SERVICE??? Listen to it LIVE at 10:30 Sunday Mornings at**

**<http://standrewsvictoria.ca/?p=2973>**

**Talk to Mike Werth for more details**





## George Beverly Shea

Many fond childhood memories are recalled as I think of listening to the beautiful baritone voice of the Gospel Hymn singer George Beverly Shea, who died earlier this month. Whether it was listening to him on a LP record at our home or hearing him in person at several of the Billy Graham Meetings that we attended, his name and voice became a household favorite and all of our family loved hearing him sing some special hymns that I will remember forever. I am sure most of you too, remember him in this way. As I read about him, I find out how very little I knew about him. Here is a little bit of news about him that I did not know so I will share it with you.

George Beverly Shea was born on Feb 1, 1909, in Winchester, Ontario, a village of 36 people, close to Cornwall, Ontario, which is close to Quebec. He learned at an early age from his parents piano, organ and voice and sang for most of his life. He lived in Ontario until moving to New York in 1928 to attend College. He met Billy Graham in 1940 and spent the remainder of his life with the Billy Graham Team. Even two years ago, he presented a musical presentation and his mind was still strong and he had an amazing sense of humor.

In a TV interview, he told the story of how he changed the words in the hymn "How Great Thou Art". He inserted the words "rolling thunder". Once when he was in Washington, DC, he went past a motorbike store called "Rolling Thunder." So, he stopped in at that store and talked to the owner, asking how he came across that name. The owner of the motorbike store said, "That was the name of our bomber in Vietnam. We were 'rolling thunder', and that name was written across both sides of the bomber." When being interviewed in later years by a TV host, Beverly Shea said, "That was the first time I realized that I had named an American bomber!"

He was so full of humor and just sheer good wit, with an enormous twinkle in his eyes, and that wonderful voice that was inherited from his ancestors, the Proud French and the Never To Be Vanquished Brits. He'd have given up everything, if necessary, because, as he said, "I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land."

What an amazing man, with such a sense of good hearted humbleness. He recorded 60 plus albums and didn't even want to know how many he had sold. All he wanted, he said, "was to have Jesus" - then he sang, "I'd rather have Jesus" and asked the studio audience to join him.

I know that my Mom and Dad enjoyed him too and we often played his music in our home in Kenya, when we were home from boarding school for vacation. I remember him from the 1961-62 Billy Graham tour of nine nations in Africa, and their presentation at two stadiums in Nairobi, Kenya. The Billy Graham Team made a special trip to our American Boarding School, the Rift Valley Academy, situated 20 miles from Nairobi,. Later on, I saw him again in Canada on two occasions. Now he is singing for all his worth in heaven, never to grow old, able to enjoy the fabulous secrets of heaven. I imagine him with many lining up to talk to him, and him thanking all those people who came to Jesus through his musical ministry, saying that it was worth it all.

He was nominated nine years in a row at one of the big musical shows in the USA, and given a life achievement award that had many of the pop singers in tears for his humble thanks at being recognized.

Submitted by Dorothy Reimer (and her brother David Phillips, in Toronto)

## Children's Page

### Early Christian Events Word Search

This spring we learned about many people, places, and events through New Testament Bible stories. These stories told how the Good News spread during Bible times. How many of these words can you find in our puzzle?

W	W	P	C	P	U	H	R	O	N	U	S	P	M	T
S	I	R	L	S	L	E	T	I	R	I	P	S	H	D
S	I	N	S	Y	T	E	A	T	S	S	H	G	S	U
U	L	B	D	E	C	I	E	E	L	A	I	U	I	N
R	U	I	P	L	M	K	G	U	C	L	L	I	E	S
R	A	R	O	E	S	A	A	K	H	I	I	S	A	W
B	E	T	D	A	U	P	L	M	R	S	P	U	G	A
L	H	H	B	G	C	E	E	F	I	Y	P	I	I	T
G	U	D	N	U	S	L	D	N	S	U	I	L	H	E
B	N	A	E	N	A	R	R	E	T	I	D	E	M	N
A	L	Y	S	S	M	U	L	J	I	E	I	N	E	R
P	R	U	U	A	A	C	E	S	A	B	C	R	A	C
P	J	R	H	R	D	S	E	A	N	T	I	O	C	H
O	E	L	P	R	U	P	H	C	R	U	H	C	S	U
J	C	E	S	S	U	A	T	L	T	S	I	L	I	T

Jesus  
Light  
Peter  
Pentecost  
Paul  
Birthday  
Silas  
Christian  
Saul  
Church  
Lydia  
Flames  
Jerusalem  
Languages  
Joppa  
Wind  
Damascus  
Cornelius  
Basket  
Shackles  
Purple  
Cloth  
Philippi  
Mediterranean  
Antioch  
Spirit

**B**ut the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**Galatians 5: 22-23**  
New International Version