



February 2018

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Victoria, BC

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



65th Wedding Anniversary

Corinne and Larry Sainsbury, long-time members of St. Andrew's died within two days of each other in early January. After more than 70 years of marriage one might think that God called them home together because he realized they could not live without each other. They were a devoted couple who left three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren behind to grieve their passing.

They were married in Moncton, NB in August 1946 and thereafter lived in various cities in Eastern Canada as well as periods in England and Washington, DC. Larry retired from the position of Director of Engineering at head office of Canada Post in Ottawa in 1985. It was then they decided to retire to Victoria.

Due to their mutual love of books, retirement for Larry and Corinne meant opening "Yesteryear Books" on Fort St. which they operated for more than 10 years. They were also active members of St. Andrew's. They were both regular contributors to and workers at the annual bazaar at our church, working hard to organize and prepare the "treasures" for sale. The photos capture only some of the years that they were regulars at the bazaar.



fotosbymitchell

A meaningful service was held at St. Andrew's on Saturday, January 27 with Rev. Laura Kavanagh officiating. Many people associated with St. Andrew's were in attendance to celebrate their lives.

We will sorely miss them but know that our Heavenly Father has prepared a place for them and that they are now together again.



Chocolate Chimes

This is the name that a team of students from Camosun College Interurban gave their project as they worked on a way to restore life to St. Andrew's chimes. Recently Duncan Mackinnon sent a brochure entitled "Chocolate Chimes" to the Link. The leaflet details the efforts of the four students and tells the history of the chimes and how an upgrade would benefit St. Andrew's Church.

After the death of Charles 'Candy' Rogers, founder of Rogers Chocolates in 1927 (yes, that is where the chocolate connection comes in) his wife Leah had a set of Deagan Church chimes installed at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The chimes were disabled in 1965 because of electrical and mechanical breakdowns.

The Camosun team of Bryce Gammon (Damper/PCB Design), Martin Yong (Coding/Technical Writing), Robert Kirkwood (Circuit Design/Assembly) and Kieran Lauridsen (Pneumatics/Striker Design) wanted to restore functionality to the chimes so Victorians and others could hear again the dulcet tones of the chimes.

By replacing the old electromechanical system, Chocolate Chimes has devised a cheaper, sturdier, and easier way to maintain the system. Utilizing some of the old parts such as the original electromagnet core and introducing newer technologies, the team has made the system easier to use. "Using a computer interface controlled by a micro-controller, you can select any song to play with the click of a button and program your own songs through the MIDI (Musical Instrument

Digital Interface) editor" so you do not need someone to be physically playing the chimes.

The system consists of three parts: the pneumatic striker, the electromagnetic damper and the MIDI control system. The pneumatic system is guaranteed for years. Matching the firing strength and the velocity of the original, the self-lubricating striker rails are contained in a corrosive-resistant housing. "The damper uses springs to press a metal plate against the bells, [and] then the refurbished electromagnet pulls down the plate to let the bell ring."

Thank you, Duncan, for the information on this interesting project. Duncan's accompanying email to the LINK (below) explains how the work done by the Camosun students came about and where things stand at the moment.

... Camosun College students did, as their final project, demonstrate a method that could be used to restore the St. Andrew's Chimes so that they would ring again using new technology. On completion of the project the chimes could be played from software files loaded on our computer and the system would be driven from a small air compressor and simple relays. This project was kindly funded by the college at no cost to St.

Andrew's. Although this was a project to prove the concept, it is hoped that next year a new team will pick up where the first team left off. The full design would be complete with drawings and a bill of material and signed off by a professional Engineer so that tradesmen could easily install the full system.

For a visual presentation of the history of our chimes, Michael Werth uploaded his 11-minute December 2014 video, which can be viewed at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-dBQXI5h0

Debra Verwey

IN LOVING MEMORY

Elma Bodenchuk - January 11



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....

Revelations 21:4

February Session Report

Session met on January 16, 2018. Our primary item of discussion was the budget and the revenue-producing possibilities of hiring a program (property) manager. We need to profile the rental opportunities for both the Church and the Kirk Hall. Do we really know the potential rental possibilities of our space? This pilot project will have an 18-month run and if it isn't a revenue producing or neutral project it will be taken out of the budget. It was felt that this was not a project that can be taken on by volunteers; we need a company or persons that have a clear idea of what charitable organizations/arts groups are looking for in terms of short term rental space. We are very grateful that St. Andrew's has been the beneficiary of several estates that allow us to have some financial stability in this time of transition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call on an elder or the Treasurer for clarification.

We will be participating in Car Free Day on June 17, 2018, marking our third year of participation. Jim Ferguson will be looking for your ideas and participation in the near future. Please mark the date on your calendar.

Session received the resignation of Anais Holdaway from both the session and congregation, with deep regret and sorrow.

Pulpit supply has been secured by our interim moderator, the Rev. Laura Kavanagh, up to and including Easter Sunday, and Colina Titus has found musicians for our Sunday worship until Christine Purvis' return March 18th. The faces leading worship are changing frequently but we the family of St. Andrew's remain the constant at our Sunday worship services. We are looking forward to time for fellowship at the Shrove Tuesday on Sunday Pancake Brunch February 11 following the Sunday Service. We hope to see you there.

The Rev. Laura Kavanagh is on call for any pastoral emergency until presbytery has appointed an Interim Minister who will be with us for 2 years. Please continue to uphold our congregation in prayer as we continue to worship, enjoy a time of fellowship and grow together.

Respectfully Submitted,
David McLean, Sabine Teetzel
Co-Clerks of Session

All members and friends of St. Andrew's are invited to join a tour of Government House in Victoria on Wednesday, February 21 at 1:15pm.

The tour will be led by two well-qualified docents – who will spin you tales of early British Columbia, and share some of the secrets of Government House. You will hear of the association St. Andrew's members had in the early days of the two colonies.

You will learn a bit of the protocol and etiquette when attending an event when the Lieutenant Governor is present and what an *escutcheon* [think of charades – sounds like Saskatchewan] is.

You will learn why people are invited to take photos instead of pictures when on a tour.

The tour only takes an hour – there are stairs, but if you decide not to climb, that's okay we have some nice soft places to sit.

Please let me know if you'd like to attend on Wednesday afternoon February 21 at 1:15 and I'll put your name on the list. We are limited to 30 people for this particular tour. My contact information is jpfergus@gmail.com or 250-415-3687 or speak with me after coffee hour.




Government House Tour – February 21

Jim Ferguson
Tour Guide Extraordinaire

A note about the prayer calendar: Every month Whitney (in the office) puts together a prayer calendar based on events happening at St. Andrew's, prayer requests, church needs and also prayers from the Presbyterian Church in Canada's "Prayer Partnership". The Prayer Partnership prayers are shared by Presbyterians across the country and are a beautiful way to stay engaged with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you have an idea for a prayer for this calendar, please email Whitney. Just remember to keep it to just a few words as the calendar isn't very big.

If you have a private or complex prayer request, please contact our new Prayer Chain coordinator, **Fiona Ryneveld** at 250-386-4142.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2018</h1> <p>Please pray for...</p>				1	2	3
				All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in February	Thanksgiving for faithful support of PWS&D	People of all ages gathering for fun and fellowship at Gym Night
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents	The release of fears and the embrace of hope	That we may be more Christ-like in the example of the Servant King	Thanksgiving for the ministries supported by Presbyterians Sharing	Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	Compassion and courage to welcome and care for strangers in need
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	Thanksgiving for all who gathered to share a pancake meal	Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrew's	Thanksgiving for our brothers and sisters of African decent (Black History Month)	Members of the Listening Committee hearing the experiences of LGBTQI people in the church	Youth and young adults to be led by God into discipleship	The words to invite people to know God in fellowship with believers
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Youth, children and young families	Thanksgiving for our ancestors and the gifts they have passed down to us	Those who build peace, human rights and care for creation (World Day of Social Justice)	The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	Thanksgiving that Ballet Vic. dancers share their talents with the community	People in hospital and those who visit them	People living in long term care- that they feel loved and engaged in life and ministry
25	26	27	28			
Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	Thanks for joy of laughter seen in the young-at-heart	People with PTSD or other trauma related concerns	People to live in peace and harmony			
				<p>"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12</p>		

Christmas Gifts and Turkeys for Our Place 2017

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Outreach so successful in 2017!

Patricia Shuckburgh and I purchased many of the items for the 45 gift bags for Our Place residents. Donations of toques, socks, gloves and scarves were received from Ann Lambie, Laura Richards and other members of the congregation. Many donations were received: \$1920.00 plus envelope donations and lots of help was given with setting up and running the Elves Shoppe during the Advent Sundays.



There were thirty turkeys delivered to Our Place on December 11, which were then pre-cooked by Brian and his kitchen team at Our Place for the Christmas dinner on December 19. Brian sent an email of thanks to St Andrew's congregation

and supporters for this large contribution to Our Place special Christmas dinner. Each year I receive a cheque from David and Pam Vuckson towards the cost of the turkeys and I thank them for their extremely generous donations over many years.



My thanks to Duncan, Kathie W, Patricia S., Cathy M., Donna, Stephanie C. and Diane P, and all the young people from Sunday School who helped put all the gifts together on 17 December. Many thanks everyone for making this happen.

Blessings,

Kathy Mackinnon



Prayer Chain

The Bible is clear that we are to communicate daily with God. According to Paul, we are to "pray without ceasing". Following Jesus' example we are to pray for others with intercessory prayer. We are to "love one another" and to uphold one another. By praying for each other and sharing the concerns and needs of others we are turning the problem over to God. The Prayer Chain is one way for us to share each other's burdens and joys, lifting up our prayers to God and relying on the fact that His Will be done.

Since Ruth McCowan has decided to relinquish her role as Prayer Chain Co-ordinator, Session has asked me to assume this responsibility. I am very honoured to be able to do this.

The prayer team asks that whenever you or someone you know is in need of prayer to



please send the request to me at ryneveld@telus.net or phone me at 250 386-4142. I will then communicate the prayer request to members of the Prayer Chain. We, on the Prayer Chain, find that praying for others is beneficial to us as well. If you wish to be a member of the Prayer Chain please let me know.

Thank you,
Fiona Ryneveld



Car Free Day – 2018 – June 17

Did you know we are closer to Father's Day 2018 than we are to Father's Day 2017?

We have participated in Car Free Day in Downtown Victoria for the last two years and plan to do so again this year. Last year we had well over 2,000 people enter our Sanctuary on Car Free Day - many long-time residents of Victoria who often wondered what is behind those big brown doors on the Church at the corner of Broughton and Douglas Street.

If it is a nice summer day, we can anticipate more than the 50 - 70 thousand people expected who will wander around Douglas Street.

St. Andrew's is in a very enviable placement within the Car Free Day real estate - *Front & Centre*. The only Church in the City on the main thoroughfare.

We will need volunteers to help in a number of ways – act as hosts as people come through the door, and invite people to come in and rest their 'soles'. The gateway to the front door will be one of two spots on Douglas Street to engage people in conversation, remind them of how long we have been in Victoria (over 150 years) and to extend the hand of friendship.

We will be laying claim to our customary two spots - if we don't lay claim to our customary two spots in front of the Church, we run the risk of someone else grabbing this prime piece of real estate.

We will not be providing a children's program this year as last year there were many other options to entertain the children.

We need your HELP. It is an opportunity to engage members of our congregation in a significant public event in Downtown Victoria.

Please contact me at jpfergus@gmail.com or 250-415-3687 if you'd like to help out.

As Thomas Edison was once heard to say "many hands make lights work"!

Jim Ferguson
Car Free Day 2018 Team Lead

Mission & Outreach

Food Donations for Cedar Tree Ministries

St. Andrew's Victoria and all the other Presbyterian churches on Vancouver Island have been asked to collect non-perishable food for Cedar Tree Ministries in Duncan. The food will be distributed to those in First Nations communities who are in need.

"Cedar Tree Ministries reaches out to the Cowichan First Nations people in central Vancouver Island in partnership with Cowichan Grace Church on the Cowichan Reserve.

Along with Sunday worship, adult Bible study and a mid-week children's program, CTM offers a ministry of hospitality. A weekly mid-week Sharing Day is held when free clothing is made available, along with a meal. With cultural sensitivity, CTM focuses on reconciliation, restoration, and renewal in its outreach to First Nations communities and leadership training courses.

Approximately 8,500 Indigenous people live in the Cowichan Region and over 50% are under 25 years old. Communities and families are struggling with the consequences of colonialism, poverty and inadequate housing.

Presbyterians Sharing supports the National Native Ministry Council in this important work."

Our Mission and Outreach Committee will co-ordinate this food donation project in our church. There will be a large grey plastic container (marked Cedar Tree Ministries) in the narthex each Sunday, beginning the first Sunday in February. Those who wish to donate to this cause can bring non-perishable items to church and deposit them in the container.

We are working on the details of how to deliver the food donations to Cedar Tree Ministries in Duncan each month.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Brian Titus: 250-382-2387.

(Quote taken from the Presbyterian Church in Canada's website.)

Debra Verwey

An excerpt from the Sainsbury Memorial Message based on Romans 12: 9-21

The apostle Paul writes to the church in Rome about how the people could and should treat one another – about how they should love one another. He offers a poetic composition on how love reaches for the common good in the church. Paul says we must love authentically and genuinely – seeking to overcome evil with good and to live peaceably with all.

Genuine love is the deepest theme in this text – not just being nice to people but a moral orientation toward good. Paul is reminding us that the Christian life is all about faith working through love – that hospitality is literally love of the stranger – that our example for how to love is Jesus – to love genuinely is to love as Jesus loved.

It is the foretaste of our ultimate union with God, graciously given to us now and shared in community. When we show love toward someone, we are moving them toward God's goodness. Everything but love will pass away because God is love. The scriptures reveal that that love is real, genuine and beyond superficial human fancies. We are invited to embrace this genuine love that has the power to transform – to change lives one by one.

By the power of God's love, we are called to hospitality – to love other members of the community of faith – to love strangers and guests. Mutual love is a fundamental trait of Christian life. Whenever we open ourselves generously to others whom we do not yet know – to strangers – we may entertain angels in disguise, and this reality calls us to treat everyone as an angel in the making.

Imagine living as if the people you encounter are messengers from God, the source of insight and wisdom and the invitation to generosity and care. Each one who gathers within the embrace of our hospitality brings the presence of God with them.

We are invited to empathy – to care for those suffering in prison and those who are being oppressed – it is a call to compassion – to solidarity. There are many contexts in our society both near and far away where violence and exploitation flourish and our efforts can make a difference. We do this as an imitation of Jesus, who entered so fully into the human situation that he can sympathize with our weakness and offer the grace we truly need.

Paul makes it clear that our life is not about judgement but about honour, zeal, service, rejoicing and prayer. He tells us to love and to show that love through actions of service to the most vulnerable among us – a love that is selfless and spiritual.

Rev. Laura Kavanagh

Great News!

Deb Verwey and Fiona Ryneveld, editors of the Link, would like to welcome Leona Johns to the Link team. The mere fact that we are "Publisher-challenged" makes Leona's addition to the group both timely and much appreciated. Leona published the Link along with the late Bill McColl for a number of years in the past, so she is very experienced. We are very grateful for her assistance and look forward to working together.

In addition, we would like to invite all members of the congregation to submit articles/photos to the Link about themselves or about their families, or about something that interests them. We are a church family and families know what is relevant and central to the lives of each member. We all enjoy reading about the anniversaries and the birthdays and the travels and the interests of our members. So please do not hesitate to send items to thelink@shaw.ca so we can all share in each other's lives.





Talk about local!

Follow up on movie: A small scene for the Hallmark Channel mystery movie *Emma Feilding: Past Malice* was filmed in one of our stairwells last year. The film production company also rented our antique organ to help set the mood for one of their scenes.

The made for TV movie was filmed at locations all over Victoria including Hatley Castle and City Hall.

The film (based on a series of novels) is about an archaeologist who finds herself involved in a murder mystery. Hallmark produces movies that they characterize as family friendly and inspirational.

We thought you might be interested to see our little organ in one of the movie stills.

Submitted by
Whitney Hanna

Photo credit: Hallmark Movies and Mysteries

Photo: Actor Adam DiMarco (whose credits include *The Magicians* and CBC's *Arctic Air*) sits at our antique organ in a scene taking place in what is supposed to be the basement of "Chandler Castle" (Hatley Castle).

Our Gym Games Night will be held on the first Saturday of most months from 6:30 - 8:30pm.



We hope to build on our inter-congregational venture of playing gym games together. We will start ½ hour earlier so that parents might bring their younger children with them (to play with others at one end of the gym) and then be able to get home for their early bed time.



Badminton and cross-court floor hockey are very popular as well as ping pong, shuffleboard, basketball and milk jug curling.

Come and see! And bring a friend!

Bruce McCowan

Usher Team for February

Team #4:

Peter. L., Bruce W., John W., Arthur M.

Shrove Tuesday on Sunday

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2018

11:30 AM

\$5.00 PER ADULT

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE

Start the Season of Lent with pancakes, sausages and community. Gluten free options available.



Look at The Link in COLOUR:

<http://standrewsvictoria.ca>

Property

New Doors!

A new set of doors has been installed at the Kirk Hall entrance, replacing the old doors which were in poor condition after 60+ years of usage and were very heavy. The initial start-up problems have been resolved and the doors are now functioning well. An automatic operator has been added to the new doors which makes it easier for those with mobility concerns, or if you have an armful of books for the bazaar or goodies for the coffee hour. These new doors were installed further out towards the street, which increased the lobby space and decreased the space available outside for overnight campers.

New Computer!

It was determined in early December that the office computer was well past its best-before date and needed to be replaced. A new computer was purchased and installed at the beginning of January. Thanks go out to Jim F., Neil K. and Whitney H. for their input on the selection of the new computer.

New Fence!

Property is participating with the owners of the Rexall property and the Broughton Square Parkade to add more security fencing between the parkade and the church. This project should be completed soon. The new gate at the back of our parking area off Broughton was a result of another cost-sharing agreement last year.

New Roof!

We had another water leak from the bell tower roof just before Christmas. This was a result of seagull debris plugging the roof drain. A special stainless steel drain guard was built and installed. It is hoped this will solve the problem. After experiencing a water leak on the south side of the balcony earlier this year, Property is getting estimates on the cost to finish the re-roofing project this year. It is essential that we have a secure roof to prevent further interior damage. Once the roof is secure we can start looking at plans to make further repairs on the interior.

New Sign!

Plans are also moving ahead to install a new church sign in the garden on the north side of the main entrance. This sign will replace all four signs on the front of the church. Those signs will be removed once the new sign is completed.

Help!

Property is also looking for assistance in taking care of recycling materials from the church. If you have any questions or feel you could help out, please contact

Dave Garson
Property Co-convenor

Men's Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, February 17, 2018

10 to 11am

Café Bon Appetit

5th floor of the downtown Bay Centre
overlooking the inner harbour.

- ◆ We will continue using *Daily Bread* as a source for our devotional material. We will also discuss other prayer, devotional and fellowship meetings which are being held on different days at other churches.
- ◆ Bible Studies are currently led by Rev. Reid at Trinity and are held on Thursdays at both 10 and 11:15am. *Daily Bread* is used at 10am and *Galatians* is used at 11:15am (access through the door off the parking lot ramp). Trinity Women's Prayer Circle meets on Thursdays at 10am.
- ◆ At the Chinese Presbyterian Church Rev. Vincent leads prayer on Tuesdays from 8 to 9:15am (unless pre-empted by a Presbytery meeting).

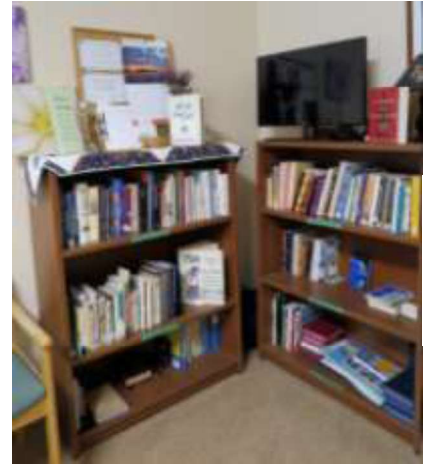


Bruce McCowan: 250-881-5155
email: bamccowan@shaw.ca

Christian Education News

The Nursery:

Three new caregivers have volunteered to work in the nursery! Therefore, we now have a total of six (pending Police Record Checks) sharing this important service to young families. As these volunteers are active in other areas of the church, having a turn in the nursery more than monthly (September to June) can impact their ability to worship with the congregation and to fulfill other volunteer commitments. It would really help if we had *two more volunteers*. If you feel that this would be a good role for you and/or a friend, please contact me and I can explain how to go about obtaining a Police Record Check at no cost. An improved audio-system enables people to hear the service well in the nursery. When no children are present, volunteers are able to return to the sanctuary.



Adult Borrowing Library:

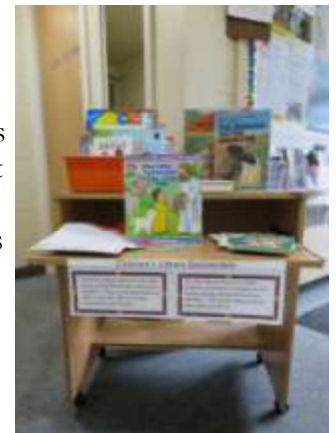
Books for adults to borrow are located in the Study Room, next to the main office in the church hall. Those borrowing books sign them in and out on their own, on the honour system. Dave and Patricia Rogers are the librarians and oversee the collection, helping to keep it organized and advertised. Watch for Dave's book reviews in future issues of the Link.

Children's Borrowing Libraries:



- **Main Collection** - The children's library is located in the large Sunday school classroom (room 201) at the end of the hallway upstairs in the Kirk Hall. Children and adults are welcome to borrow books from all of our collections, on the honour system. For the infant-toddler, children and teens' books, sign-out sheets are provided at each place where books are on display, including in room 201. When returning books, just sign them back in, preferably from the area from which they were borrowed!

- **The Bookmobile** - For convenience, some of the books from the main collection are displayed by the Courtney Street exit. These books are rotated seasonally, and many are tied to the curriculum used in the Sunday school. Some of the books are stories from the Bible. There are also Children's Bibles designed for different ages. Others are secular stories tied to holidays and the Church year. Books about nature and science are included as well.



- **Nursery Library** - Families wishing to borrow books for use in the sanctuary or the nursery also have access to part of the collection in the nursery. Again, these books often are tied to the seasons in the church calendar. Most are aimed at infants and toddlers, but others might appeal to older children for use in the sanctuary or to borrow for home use.

- **Books for Older Children and Teens**—A small collection of books related to the Bible, holidays, Christianity, Canada, and world events, as well as chapter books (fiction) are available in the senior classroom, connected to room 201 by a folding door. A sign-out sheet is located with the books. Some of these books might be of interest to adults as well. *There are several books related to Black History, for example, and February is Black History Month.* The children and youth books are not just for St. Andrew's children! Feel free to borrow books to use yourself, with visiting children, or even to take with you on holidays.

Submitted by **Dianne Penner**
Christian Education Convener

Ladies' Saturday Morning Breakfast



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY
MONTH - 10:00AM

Café Bon Appetit

The Bay Downtown

Join the ladies for laughter, friendship and fellowship once a month. This is our chance to connect without any distractions. Please don't hesitate to bring a friend. The Bay has a full breakfast menu - you can order breakfast or just have a cup of coffee.

If you wish, you can donate \$5 to help raise funds for the development of handicap access from the Church to the Kirk Hall.

Handbell Choir

St. Andrew's has a set of 3 octave handbells that we would like to use.

Do you read music and are you interested in giving it a try? Please talk to Dorothy Reimer or Debbie Verwey and we can tell you more.



Our first Bell Practice will be on Sunday, **February 4** after the Coffee Hour

- approximately 12:15-1:15 in the Lecture Room. We hope future practices will be on alternative Sundays after the Coffee Hour, but we will give you more dates later.

Dorothy Reimer

Youth Night

at Trinity Presbyterian Church

Games

Tacos

Devotional

Friday, Feb 16 at 2964 Tillicum Rd.

630 pm to 830 pm

Bring a friend! Bring two friends!

RSVP to adam.s.hanna@gmail.com

If you are able, consider bringing
\$2-\$5 towards the cost of dinner

Ages 10-16

Food allergies?

Let us know ahead of time!

Trinity Presbyterian **Youth Night**: Young people ages 10-16 are invited to Trinity Presbyterian Church (Tillicum Rd.) on February 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for games, activities, devotional discussion and a "make your own" taco dinner. All are welcome, bring a friend or two!

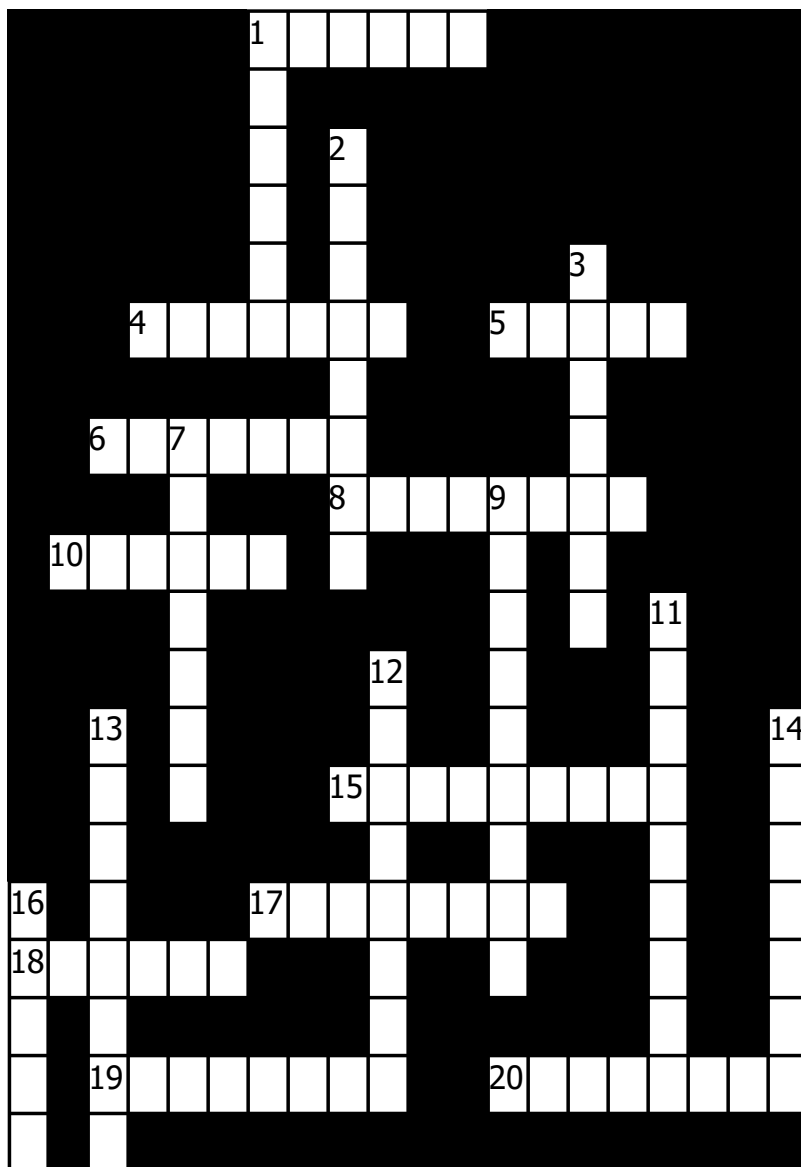
Please RSVP to adam.s.hanna@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Saint Valentine

Valentine was a Christian priest who lived during the third century in Rome, Italy. There are many legends about Valentine's life. One story tells about the time when the Emperor, Claudius II, outlawed marriage for young men. He believed that unmarried men would be more willing to become soldiers. Valentine secretly married young Christian couples who were in love. He was caught for breaking the law, put in prison and sentenced to death. While in custody he spent some of the time teaching the blind daughter of a jailer. One day, when Valentine was praying with the girl, she could suddenly see! Valentine later sent a note to the girl. He signed it, "From your Valentine", a message used on many valentine cards sent today. Valentine was executed on February 14, 278 AD and many people began to celebrate the saint's life on that date each year. Valentine was killed because of his religion and his strong beliefs. Saint Valentine has become associated with romantic love because he strongly supported marriage for people in love. As well, because he sent a note to a friend, we also send special cards to our friends and family on Valentine's Day. Jesus tells us, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Whom will you ask to be your Valentine?

Can you complete the crossword puzzle about Saint Valentine? All of the words are found in the story.



Bible Verse of the Month:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Matthew 22:39

Across

1. Jail
4. Imprisonment
5. Join in marriage
6. Indirect communication, often written
8. Based on a close loving relationship
10. Buddy, pal, chum
15. Honour
17. Outlawed marriage for young men
18. Story from earlier times, based on tradition
19. Made illegal
20. Without others knowing

Down

1. Leader authorized to do religious rituals
2. Fight as part of an army
3. Offering prayers to God
7. Designated
9. Person, associate, friend, lives nearby
11. Priest who lived in the third Century
12. Killed someone as legal punishment
13. Belief in and worship of God
14. One hundred years
16. Unable to see