



May 2018

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Victoria, BC

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



What is the strange object behind the lovely camellia blossom?
Find out on page 10!

Notes from Session

The April 2018 session meeting signalled the return to “ordinary time” for Session; we were back to the ordinary day-to-day business of being ruling elders of St. Andrew’s. The session was reminded that co-clerks David McLean and Sabine Teetzel had agreed to a term ending June 2018.

The Presbytery Group tasked with finding St. Andrew’s an Interim Minister is contacting possible candidates and the hope is that we will have someone here by early summer.

Car Free Victoria will be held June 17, 2018. St. Andrew’s will be participating for the third time and this year Jim Ferguson is in the “driver’s seat”. Please let Jim know if you are willing to join in the fun. Jim will be contacting other Presbyterian churches in Victoria to see if they would like to participate.

Please mark June 10th on your calendar for the Church Picnic which will be held after the Sunday Service. This year the picnic will take a slightly different

form, but it will still mark the end of the 2017-2018 Sunday School year and we will all have the opportunity to visit, have fun, and enjoy Victoria’s wonderful Beacon Hill Park. Stay tuned for further details.

The Reverend Jeremy Bellsmith has accepted a call to St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Nanaimo. He will be inducted Sunday, June 10, 2018. According to the settlement agreement we will now be responsible for paying him 50% of the total amount of the cost of stipend and housing which would have been provided to him for the balance of the transition period. We wish the Bellsmith family well in their new call.

After Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018, we will be entering the liturgical season of “ordinary time”. The liturgical colour for the season is green, the colour of hope and growth. Let us pray for God’s guiding spirit as we enter a new season at St. Andrew’s.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Session of St. Andrew’s

My thanks dear Lord for everything you’ve given me today.

For all those busy hours spent at labour or at play.

For sticking by me when I moaned that work was far from fun.

For giving me a sense of pride when all my tasks are done.

I thank You for my leisure time, for friends that made me smile.

For wisdom too, that came my way and made me pause a while.

Dear Lord, the hours so quickly pass, both working and at play.

Please guide me through tomorrow, as You’ve helped me through today.

Evening Prayer from the
Skene Parish Church Prayer
Booklet

Baptism is also an act of discipleship that requires commitment and looks towards growth in Christ.

Those baptized in infancy are called in later years to make personal profession of Christ.

What is born may die.
What is grafted may wither.
Congregations and those baptized must strive to nurture life in Christ.
From *Living Faith*

In Loving Memory



Dr. Sheena Guest - April 28

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

Usher Team May

Nancy D.
Bill D.
David S.
Marilyn B.

Thank You...

As many of you will know, the **St. Andrew's Craft Group** was a very active group in the congregation and they contributed much to the life of the church. The group provided a place for members to explore their creativity and to learn new skills. They traditionally made many items to sell at the Church Bazaar as well as making gifts for individuals in the church, new babies being one example. But they also looked outside the church and donated many handmade articles to the local needy through various organizations.

Because the group was in the process of disbanding, **Bev Higgins** and **Margo Morrison** made their final donation of baby sweaters and bonnets, children's sweaters and knitted slippers for adults to Transition House in Victoria. As you can see from the following letter, Transition House was very pleased to receive these articles.

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Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for the knitted items you provided. Your generosity means so much to our clients. The Victoria Women's Transition House has been providing emergency shelter, support, counselling and education to women of all ages, with or without children, so that they can live free from the effects of abuse in intimate relationships.

Community support like yours is critical for us to continue to help those who need us most in our shelter and through our community programs, and the impact is felt and appreciated by the women and children who use our services.

"I wish to thank each and every person that has been so kind to us on our journey of healing. You have been a lifeline for me and my children. Thanks to the supports I received at Victoria Women's Transition House, I feel free now to take better care of myself in all aspects of my life without a feeling of guilt. While I will continue to nurture others, I will also include myself at the same time."

Thank you again so very much for your kind donation and for keeping us in your heart and mind.

Sincerely,
Susan K.E. Howard
Development Director
Victoria Women's Transition House Society

Our Daily Bread

You may have seen them around, the little quarterly "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklets. These booklets seen at churches and care homes come from an international ministry group that started back in 1938. The non-denominational booklets contain a little scripture verse and a short devotional reading on a faith-related topic for every day of the year. Many people find that it is the perfect way to start their morning or end their day with God's word.

In years past, we've had some of these booklets around St. Andrew's for people to pick up. Recently, however, some of our congregation members have asked at the office about how to access these devotionals.

Whitney and Sheelagh have done some research and have two ways for you to access "Our Daily Bread" devotionals.

One is an "environmentally friendly" email version. You can choose an email option and subscribe for free at <https://odb.org/subscription/canada/> Our Daily Bread Ministries will send a daily email to your inbox.

The other option would be to pick up **large print** booklets quarterly at the church. In order to get numbers right, please let Whitney (in the office) know if you are interested in these books. We won't be holding them for you but we will order enough so that everyone who wants one can have one! They will be available in the Narthex and from the church office.

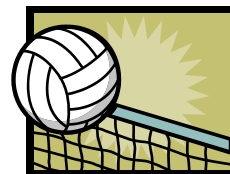
Ok, you might be saying, but I want a Presbyterian devotional! Well if that is the case, you're in luck. Check out <https://www.presbycan.ca/> and subscribe to their email devotional and scripture. PresbyCan is supported by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Whitney Hanna

Inter-Presbyterian Church Gym Games Night in the Kirk Hall at 680 Courtney Street

Upcoming Gym Nights will be held on Saturdays, May 12th and June 16th (instead of the first Saturday of these months) from 6:30 - 8:30pm.

For more information please email vtan.cpc@gmail.com

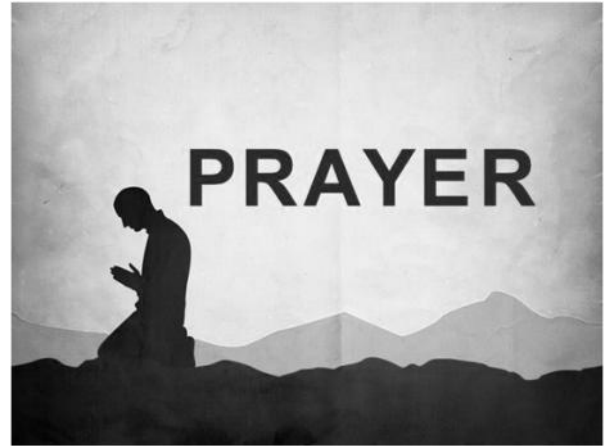


May 2018

Our elders invite us to pray together!

If you have items you would like included, please contact Whitney in the church office:

office@standrewsvictoria.ca
250-384-5734



Please pray for...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		¹ All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in May	² Churches with community garden programs	³ Presbyterian Camps and camping ministries preparing for summer	⁴ Youth in Mission participants in Nicaragua	⁵ Mission partners supported by Presbyterian Sharing
⁶ Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents	⁷ Ballet dancers providing free programs for seniors at Tea for Tutu	⁸ PWS&D partners in Guatemala defending sacred land against mining	⁹ Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	¹⁰ Seminary graduates who are candidates for ministry	¹¹ Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	¹² Compassion and courage to welcome and care for strangers in need
¹³ Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	¹⁴ Our families and for being part of the family of God.	¹⁵ Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrews	¹⁶ Families of people in the armed forces and for the people serving	¹⁷ The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	¹⁸ All refugees fleeing violence and oppression	¹⁹ The words to invite people to know God in fellowship with believers
²⁰ Youth, children and young families	²¹ PCC national staff planning General Assembly	²² Any friends or family who are sick or hurting	²³ Discernment and safety for General Assembly Commissioners	²⁴ Those speaking out against hatred and injustice	²⁵ People in hospital and those who visit them	²⁶ God's healing and restoration for all who need it
²⁷ Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	²⁸ That the church may be a home where everyone feels welcomed as God's children	²⁹ Patience and trust in God for those facing challenging decisions	³⁰ PWS&D partners in Afghanistan helping new mothers access postnatal care	³¹ God's help to practice the virtue of love.		



Car-Free Day... June 17

This year we have invited other Presbyterian Churches in the Capital Region to join us in reaching out to the over 50,000 people who will walk past our door on Sunday, June 17th. We will provide other Presbyterian Churches the opportunity to share their faith with people who may not normally have the chance to talk to someone in their local community. Invitations to participate and become involved have been extended to all.

Presbyterian Churches in the capital region:

- ♦ Chinese Presbyterian
816 N Park St., Victoria
- ♦ Grace Presbyterian
2964 Richmond Rd, Victoria
- ♦ Knox Presbyterian (Sooke)
2010 Church Rd, Sooke
- ♦ Knox Presbyterian (Victoria)
2964 Richmond Rd, Victoria
- ♦ Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian
9296 E Saanich Rd., N Saanich
- ♦ St. Andrew's Presbyterian
924 Douglas Street, Victoria
- ♦ Trinity Presbyterian
2964 Tillicum Rd., Victoria

Five Beliefs That Set Presbyterians Apart from Other Protestant Christians

Presbyterians generally exhibit their faith through acts of generosity, hospitality, the constant pursuit of social justice and reform, as well as proclamation the gospel of Christ. But, so do many other denominations.

Below are five beliefs [copied from the Internet courtesy of Mr. Google, so it must be true?] that set Presbyterians apart from the other Protestant Christians.

1. Governing Body: The Presbyterian Church governing body is based on a system of elders. Teaching and ruling elders, or ministers, are ordained and responsible for the discipline, nurture and mission of the local congregation. The practicalities of buildings, finance and temporal ministry to the needy in the congregation are delegated to a group of officers called deacons.

2. Doctrine: Presbyterianism is historically a "confessional" type tradition. Confessional churches express their faith in the form of "confessions of faith." In confessional churches, theology is not solely an individual matter. While individuals are encouraged to understand scripture, and may challenge the current institutional understanding, theology is carried out by the community as a whole. It is this community understanding of theology that is expressed in confessions.

3. Education: Presbyterians put an emphasis on equal education for all people. In times past when Presbyterians arrived in a new place, they would usually build a church, a school, and a hospital, in that order. Presbyterians see the right to worship of God as paramount, and education as necessary, so that they can serve the world in God's name.

4. Majority Rule: When Presbyterians have a policy or an action to consider, they pray, they talk, and then they vote. In fact, Presbyterians probably take more votes than any other religious group. They believe that the Holy Spirit lives in individuals but works through the community. Because of this lay and clergy votes count the same.

5. Sacraments: Presbyterians traditionally have held the worship position that there are only two sacraments: Baptism and Communion. Presbyterians baptize infants as well as unbaptized adults by sprinkling or pouring water, rather than immersion. Infants are baptized on the biblical belief that because Hebrew infants were circumcised in order to show that they were part of the covenant community, infants of believing parents should likewise be baptized. The ritual of communion, also known as partaking of the Lord's Supper, is based on the belief that Christ is present in the bread and wine through the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to be part of this community outreach and invite people into our Church home, please contact Jim Ferguson at jpfergus@gmail.com or 250-415-3687.

The Property Committee has identified a number of items which are no longer needed at St.

Andrew's and would like to see them find new homes. A couple of local dealers were contacted and a value assigned on a number of these items. We would like to give the congregation the chance to comment on this plan and have the first opportunity to purchase these items before we offer them for sale to the public.

One of the main items is the two-piece book/storage cabinet with glass doors currently sitting at the south end of the Narthex. A dealer valued this unit at \$1000. There is a three-piece sectional wooden stationary/filing cabinet assessed at \$275. There is also another two-piece cabinet with textured glass doors that was assessed at \$600.

Please contact **Dave Garson** if you would like to know more about these pieces. Pictures of all of the items are shown below and will be posted in the Kirk Hall.



3-piece stationary cabinet
estimated to be 1950's vintage



Custom-built storage cabinet



Wardrobe currently stored in
Boiler Room



Old kitchen cabinet from Craft Room



Old kitchen cupboard from Thrift Shop



Wardrobe from Craft Room



Wardrobe from Craft Room



Old kitchen cupboard from Craft Room



2-piece book/storage cupboard in the Narthex



2-piece book/storage cabinet with frosted glass doors

Tours of Government House...

We had a good response to our tour of Government House on Wednesday afternoon, February 21st. The day and time was inconvenient for some people so we are organizing a second tour which will enable folks to visit the Gardens, the Tea Room, the Costume Museum [including the military displays] as well as the House itself.

If you are interested in any [or all] of these events please contact the office and let Whitney know the following:

- ♦ Best day of the week for you [Monday thru Friday]
- ♦ Preferred time [morning or afternoon].

If you would like to:

- ♦ visit the tea room [so reservations can be made]
- ♦ visit the costume museum
- ♦ tour the gardens [with a knowledgeable guide]
- ♦ tour the House

Please give Whitney your contact information – name, phone, email address and how many people will be with you.

Once I have an idea of how many people might be interested in participating I'll pick a day and time [with lots of notice].

I expect there will be two visits – one to the Gardens and the other to the House. Attending the tea room and/or the costume museum would be an option at the end of each tour.

The tour[s] would be planned for the last week in June or the first weeks in July.

There is no charge for any of this, except what you might purchase in the tea room – which has a wonderful assortment of teas, sweet buns and Government Chef specials.

This is not limited only to members of St. Andrew's – so bring along a friend.

Specific details in terms of day and time will be include in the June *Link* – so be sure to pick up a copy.

If for some reason you are not able to make the St. Andrew's organized event, you are reminded – Public tours of the House are available [typically] on the first Saturday of each month. The tea room and costume museum are open Tuesday thru Saturday starting on May 22nd.

Hope to see you there!

Jim Ferguson



www.ourplacesociety.com

With the closure of cold-weather shelters and the continuing wet and inclement weather there is a great need for clean blankets and sleeping bags. Silver “space blankets” are easily packed and carried and help keep out the cold. Boxes and small packages of tissues for people will help people suffering from late winter colds and ‘flu. Donations gratefully accepted at our front reception at 919 Pandora Ave, Victoria.

Presbytery is actively searching for an Interim Minister to serve the congregation of St. Andrew's, Victoria.

Suggestions can be submitted to the Presbytery committee through the session. The Reverend Laura Kavanagh has agreed to continue as Interim Moderator – supporting the session and congregation and arranging pulpit supply – until an Interim Minister is appointed. If you have pastoral concerns or other questions regarding the future of ministry at St. Andrew's, please address them to the Reverend L. Kavanagh at Knox Church or to one of the elders.

Christian Education News

Currently there are 11 children who attend Sunday school regularly, as well as five who attend from time to time with grandparents. Most of the children are aged 5 - 12.

On Easter Sunday, 11 children attended the All Ages service. On arrival, the ushers provided each child with an Activity Pack. The packs contained a pencil, crayons, and a booklet of Easter activities such as a Rebus Easter story, mazes, colouring, crossword puzzles, and word searches.



fotosbydiannepenner



On April 22, the children learned about the parable of the seeds, and planted Marigold seeds.

Dianne Penner
Christian Education Convener

Save the Bees



Plant a Bee Garden

Mason Bees, Earth Day and Sundaes on Saturday

On Saturday, April 22nd the homeless rate for mason bees in Victoria went down drastically. This was the result of several members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church constructing many mason bee condos on the evening of Earth Day.

Mason bees are native pollinators in our Victoria neighbourhoods and they make their nests in long, hollow shelters, roughly the diameter of a pencil. The volunteer builders of St. Andrew's rolled rectangles of paper around pencils (like rolling cigarettes in the olden days!) and stuffed them into small metal cans.

By hanging these condos in bushes or trees in your garden, you provide homes for these busy workers who will fertilize your fruit and vegetable crops and generally make the world a better place for us all to live in. This is certainly showing good stewardship for God's great creation and a fitting thing to do for Earth Day!



fotosbymitchell

A delicious meal was served to attendees of Games Night: spicy chicken wings, several salads and rice. Make-your-own scrumptious Sundae on Saturday was the grand finale to the meal. Bowls of ice-cream turned into deliciously colourful creations, concocted of Smarties, sprinkles, nuts, strawberries and chocolate syrup (to only name a few!) All the children, young and old, had smiles from ear to ear as they decorated and ate their sundaes!

Old and new friends shared news about their lives and happenings at St. Andrew's. Kids played floor hockey and board games. There was a lively game of Mexican Train going on when I left to go home.

Thank you so much to the talented members of the Congregation Life Committee for providing these enjoyable opportunities for fun and fellowship at St. Andrew's.



Donations to Cedar Tree Ministries

PLEASE REMEMBER CEDAR TREE MINISTRIES

This is just a friendly reminder that St. Andrew's is collecting food for Cedar Tree Ministries, a Presbyterian mission to Cowichan Valley First Nations persons in need. Non-perishable foods can be placed in the baskets in the narthex each Sunday morning. The baskets are labelled CEDAR TREE MINISTRIES. Save On Food gift cards for food can be left with Whitney in the church office. Gift cards are great for buying fresh foods and produce.



Open Church

As in past years, apart from the usual first Wednesday Open Church (11am - 1pm) we hope to again have our sanctuary open during the May long weekend Victoria Day Parade, so the public can see our historic sanctuary as well as provide public washrooms. Please see the sign up sheet for this much appreciated activity on the bulletin board by the office.



This is my promise.....

as you pray to me, I will respond to you;

when you seek me you will find me;

when you search for me with all your heart, you will discover me;

and I will bless you.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Travels

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.



We visited St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa, where Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was Archbishop. It was a sanctuary church during the last days of Apartheid. We signed the book of condolence for Winnie Mandela, which was in the Narthex. The day before, we visited Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island.

David & Dawn McLean

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Quilters and Crafters

RETIREMENT SALE

Friday, May 25

6 pm - 8 pm

Saturday May 26

10 am - 2 pm

Kirk Hall

(680 Courtney St, Victoria)

CASH SALE



Quilting Fabrics and more ~ Yarn ~ Quilt Batting & Stuffing ~
Sewing Notions ~ Threads ~ Ribbons ~ Patterns ~
Sewing and Knitting needles ~ Sewing Machines ~
Small Ironing Board and Iron ~ Portable Sewing Machine Table

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You helped us to get started for our craft/quilt sale by carrying everything upstairs from the basement. Now we need your help one more time. The sale will take place in the Kirk Hall on May 25 from 6 - 8pm and May 26 from 10am – 2pm, and we are looking for volunteers to monitor the many tables of sale items.

A big thank you to Jean and Leona, and Bev and Margo for the many hours of sorting and pricing. Now we need your help for the sale.

Please speak to Sheelagh if you can help on either day. If you are not able to help at the sale please let your friends and neighbours know about it, or come and check it out yourself! Thank you!

Grateful Thanks

Marilyn Bullock, a beloved member of our congregation, fell and broke her right shoulder a number of weeks ago. Marilyn is right handed so she is significantly incapacitated by the accident. Since that time, however, many kind-hearted people have come to her assistance. Although it is still early in her recuperation, Marilyn would like to thank everyone who has telephoned her, who has sent her food, or who has shown her other kindnesses. She is very grateful for all the attention and feels very blessed that people have taken time to help her out. It is unfortunate that Marilyn suffered this accident but it is great to know that St. Andrew's members respond to assist with kindness and compassion in another's time of need. Keep up the good work!



fotobymitchell

Happy Birthday Betty!

Betty Cowper turned 95 on April 27 - and we all celebrated with her after worship on April 22, and enjoyed a piece of birthday cake!

Come Camping and Leave Your Troubles Behind

This year Camp VIP is holding three different camps. The first camp is being held at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park from June 12 - 15 (a midweek camp) with Kerry McIntyre as lead speaker. As this is individual site camping BC camping rates apply, including Seniors rates. The second camp will be held at French Beach Provincial Park group camp site over the weekend of July 5 - 9. Four nights at \$35/night or \$125 for the whole camp. The final camp will be a week-long camp at Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park over the August long weekend from July 30 - Aug. 6. The Rev. Glen Inglis is the lead speaker. Come for a week or a weekend. Cost \$35/night or \$220 for the week-long camp. Further information and registration is available from the church office or Camp VIP website /vipresbytery.net/camp-vip-2/

Two Family-Style Camps

CAMP VIP WEEKEND ESCAPE

FRENCH BEACH CAMPING TRIP

JULY 5 TO JULY 9 2018

Experience God's magnificent creation while camping near a beautiful West Coast beach just past Sooke BC. During the day we can relax, explore and learn together. At night the sound of the waves and the rustle of trees will lull you to sleep. There will be bible study for adult campers and activities for young campers.

Cost: **\$35** per camping unit per night or **\$125** for the entire camp

Please register using the online form

at www.vipresbytery.net

Registration will be available online after April 15

CAMP VIP ESCAPE

RATHREVOR BEACH CAMPING TRIP

JULY 30-AUGUST 6 2018

Our annual family camping trip at Rath Trevor Provincial Park. Come and enjoy the huge sandy beach and warm waters. Sandcastles, campfire songs and fellowship have made this camping trip a favourite for many years! The Rev. Glenn Inglis will lead adult campers in a study time and there will be special activities for children.

Cost: **\$35** per camping unit per night or **\$220** for the entire camp (that's a whole week of camping at one of the most popular camp grounds on the island!)

Please register using the online form

at www.vipresbytery.net

Registration will be available online after April 15

Seen in Passing



fotobydgarson

Saul P. seen sweeping the front steps before the service on April 22.

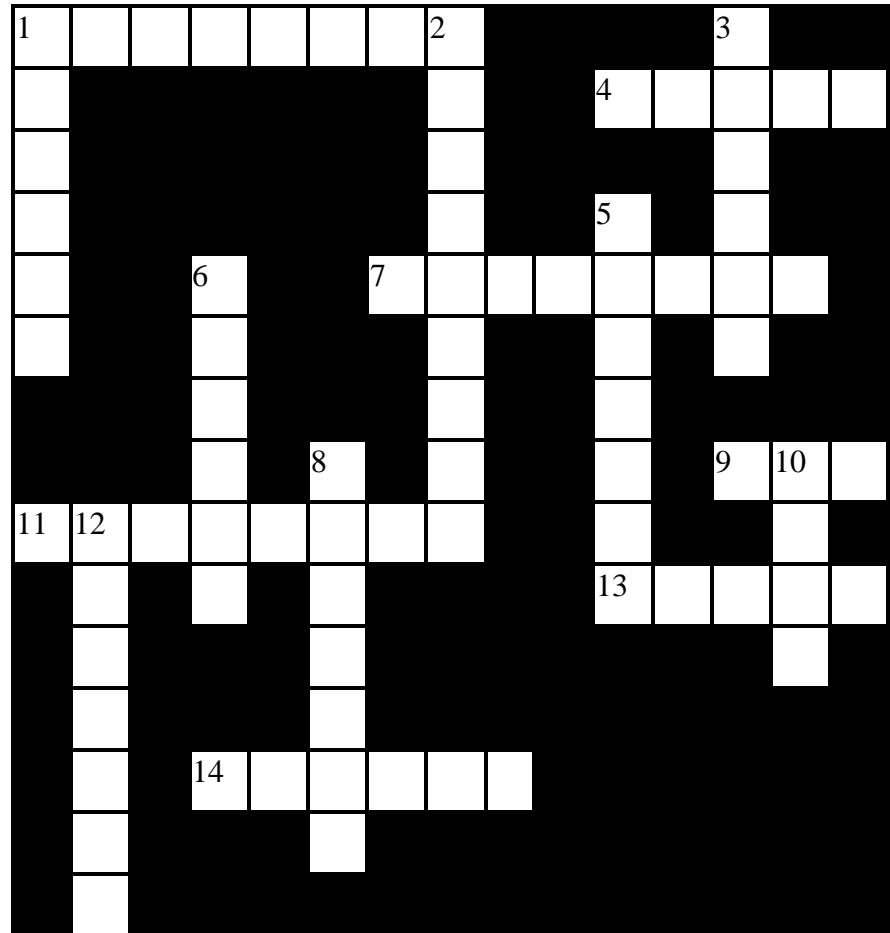
See a job that needs doing, and do it!

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

The Parable of the Seeds

Jesus used the parable of the seeds to teach people about following God's message. The parable tells the story of a farmer sowing seeds. Some of the seeds fell on the path and were eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on some rocks where the seeds sprouted quickly, but because they did not grow good roots to help them stay strong and wet, they withered and died. Some of the seeds fell among the weeds and thorns, and were soon choked out. The seeds that fell into the tilled soil grew into strong plants. Jesus teaches us not to be like the seeds that fell in the path, as just as soon as such people hear God's message it is snatched away by other ideas. The seeds that fell on some rocks are like people who forget all about God's way when it is difficult to do what God wants them to do. The seeds that fell in with the weeds and thorns are like people who believe in God, but then their wanting other things chokes out God's message. The seeds that fell on good soil refer to people who hear God's message, and obey it. They bear abundant fruit to God's glory.



Across

1. germinated, started to grow
4. sharp woody projections on a plant
7. shrivelled
9. plant seeds
11. plentiful
13. ingested
14. cultivated

Down

1. seize something quickly
2. hard to do
3. do not remember
5. a communication
6. not weak
8. story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson
10. follow a demand, direction or request
12. accept something as the truth