



September
2018

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Victoria, BC

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



I Believe in Interim Ministry and I Believe in St. Andrew's.

While I was in college in the mid-70's, I was asked to serve as the Interim Pastor of four rural congregations near my hometown. Granted in those days, I knew precious little concerning what it means to be a pastor and even less about serving a congregation during interim periods between pastors. My tenure at each of the four congregations averaged less than six months and my duties primarily consisted of preaching and leading worship. I learned even then the primary goals of loving people, helping them to believe in themselves again and never losing sight of God's promise of a future and a hope were the primary tasks that any interim should undertake.

Over the last 30 years, Interim ministry has changed dramatically as the church and culture have both changed. What used to be a focus that majored primarily on keeping the regular church programs and ministries going, from the time the previous pastor left until the time the new, permanent pastor arrived, has shifted dramatically. Interim ministry has by necessity become Transitional Ministry as all churches find themselves facing incredible challenges due to the drastic changes in culture and aging congregations and buildings. Interim ministry that used to focus on maintaining normalcy until the new pastor arrives has by necessity come to not only providing consistency in worship and preaching, pastoral care, Bible Study, administration and leadership but guiding the congregation in claiming and reclaiming identity, values and purpose.

For the last 10 years I have served as Transitional Pastor for three congregations that were radically different but facing similar challenges. How would they adapt to a declining membership, budget shortfalls, and the absence of young families with teenagers and children and aging structures? Serving as a Transitional Pastor has challenged me to learn and grow in the area of adaptive leadership – leadership that doesn't have all the right answers at a given time, but leadership that guides a congregation to question themselves, to explore their deepest resources and to remember as God has led and guided and provided for greater than a century, God has not abandoned and forgotten us now, nor will he.

During the months ahead, as an adaptive leader and transitional pastor, my goal is to guide this congregation in asking at least three questions: "What are your values?" "What is your purpose?" and "What is the process?" In other words, "Do you behave as you say you believe?" Adaptive leadership helps congregations move through change that enables the capacity to thrive.

In my month at St. Andrew's, I observe energy and vitality. During the week I see vast numbers of people serving in a variety of roles. Members show up to volunteer, honor commitments, prepare for Sunday worship and fellowship, visit the sick and homebound, and a host of other loving acts. This reveals a healthy congregation with a promising future. During this interim period, I promise to be a "harbinger of hope and not a prophet of doom." I believe the future is bright but we have important work ahead. In Genesis 12, Abram was called on a journey of transition and told, "Go to a land that I will show you." He was given no clear destination, no implementation plan, no schedule and no guarantee of "success." Nevertheless he responded in faith to God's call. During this period, may we have faith in our future together, knowing only that as God has led, so will God continue to lead. Thanks be to God (and to each of you for your faithfulness!)

Rev. Mitch Coggin

Notes from Session

The June session meeting seems like a long time ago but there are a few items of business that we would like to bring to your attention. The Reverend Laura Kavanagh has resigned as our Interim Moderator. Session expressed its appreciation for her leadership and time given to our congregation over the last few months. The Reverend Vincent Tan, minister of Victoria Chinese Presbyterian Church has been appointed as our interim moderator effective the middle of July 2018.

The clerks of session, Sabine Teetzel and David McLean, are working with session to achieve their desired goal for retirement from “clerking” in June 2019.

Our interim minister, the Reverend Mitch Coggin and his wife Linda have arrived and are now in the process of settling into Victoria and of course Canada. Session is looking forward to our new season of hope and growth at St. Andrew's with the Reverend Coggin.

This summer has been a time of rest, relaxation and renewal for us all. This fall we will be returning to church, work, school, volunteering and a host of other activities. In many ways the New Year starts in September. Will you be here September 16th to help start the 2018-2019 church year and when Sunday School officially starts? The Congregational Life Committee is planning a congregational lunch to kick off our new year. This is a chance to come and meet Mitch and Linda in an informal setting, renew friendships and make new ones. Let us celebrate our community and pray together for God's guiding spirit as we enter a new season at St. Andrew's.

Yours in Christ,
The Session of St. Andrew's

Are YOU Ready? Sunday School Starts



September 16, 2018

Come Celebrate Our New Year



CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH
SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

A Happy Celebration of Anniversaries



June 17th is definitely a special day at St. Andrew's as three couples celebrate their wedding anniversaries on that day. Bill and Nancy Duke celebrated their 57th anniversary, Roger and Diane Penner celebrated their 42nd, and Saul Preston and Paula McHerron celebrated their 25th anniversary. So on July 22nd, at coffee hour following the service, the congregation was treated to a beautifully decorated cake, compliments of the couples in honour of their respective anniversaries. In total that is 124 years! Unfortunately Dianne Penner was unable to join in the festivities due to illness.

The cake was made by *Cakes Etc.* whose owners are personal friends of the Prestons. And guess who did the dishes following coffee hour? - the anniversary couples!



This past month while singing hymns I noticed an elderly couple downstairs **singing every word from every verse but not looking at the hymn book once.** A young lady was standing beside them holding the hymn book for them but she was the only one who looked at it.

After watching them for three weeks I could not believe what I was seeing, so immediately following the service I ran down from the balcony to ask if they were visitors; to welcome them and ask them how is it they know every single word. They were thrilled I came and spoke with them because, yes they were visiting from Scotland and yes they knew every word because they attended St. Andrew's 38 years ago. The young lady beside them was their daughter and she mentioned she went to Sunday school here. It was their last Sunday when I spoke with them. What a delight it was to meet them.

Submitted by
Marilyn Bullock

Lunchtime Recital

September 5, 2018 ~ 12:15 to 12:45 pm

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
925 Douglas Street

Wheelchair access is available at 643 Broughton Street, side entrance

Christine Purvis, organ with Antonia Mahon, flute

Antonia is returning for the third year in a row. Come and enjoy 30 minutes of flute and organ music including the beautiful Canon by Pachelbel.

Usher Teams

September

Dave G.
Sheelagh G.
Helen G.
Don M.
Saul P.

Link Deadline

Next Link Deadline will be Sunday, September 30.

Link Editors

September 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

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer" ~ (attributed to) Martin Luther						1 All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in September
2 Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents	3 PWS&D partners in Malawi helping women to access maternal health care	4 Our families and for being part of the family of God	5 Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	6 Families of people in the armed forces and for the people serving	7 Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	8 Compassion and courage to welcome and care for strangers in need
9 Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	10 Thanks for plentiful harvests and nutritious food	11 Any friends or family who are sick or hurting	12 Those living in famine due to droughts and a changing climate	13 That the UNDRIP* be supported around the world	14 The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	15 The words to invite people to know God in fellowship with believers
16 Youth, children and young families	17 Young people discerning the call to participate in mission	18 Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrews	19 All refugees fleeing violence and oppression	20 Those speaking out against hatred and injustice	21 People in hospital and those who visit them	22 God's healing and restoration for all who need it
23 Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	24 That the church may be a home where everyone feels welcomed as God's children	25 People receiving treatment or recovering from surgery	26 Help to embrace the gifts of those who are differently abled	27 God's help to practice the virtue of love.	28 Thanksgiving for the fellowship found in our congregation	29 Farmers and all people who lack access to clean water
30 Support for Presbyterians Sharing*	*Sep. 13 is the 11th anniversary of UNDRIP - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	*Sep. 30 is Presbyterian Sharing Sunday	Many of the prayer requests come from the Prayer Partnership of the national church. On certain days our prayers are joined by Presbyterians all across Canada.			



Car-Free Day... 2018

We had 890 people recorded as walking through our door and into the Sanctuary. An interesting mix – locals [Victoria & area], Sooke, people visiting on vacation from the US and Europe.

Many people were interested in the history of the Church. The 5 features of Presbyterianism seemed to catch people's interest. There were people who identified themselves as Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and others. Some people entered, poked their head in the Sanctuary and then left. It was

interesting to meet people who had an association with St. Andrew's in previous years, but for whatever reason [work, family, moving] no longer attended.

I had interesting and encouraging conversations with people who were Church shopping. Many people used the opportunity for quiet time in the Sanctuary. As people were leaving they expressed their appreciation of being able to visit and meditate.

The handout sheets didn't appear to be flying off the table. It did give people an opportunity to find out a bit more about the Presbyterian Churches in the Capital Regional District. And we had a 'thankfulness board' which seemed to attract some attention.

A big thank you goes out to Sheelagh & Dave Garson, Rodger & Dianne Penner, Arthur & Jean Marcellus, Roy & Dorothy Napier, Rev. & Mrs. Vincent Tan as well as John Mitchell, Jerry Verwey, David Rogers, Brooklyn Trimble, Peter Lewis, David Mclean, Laura Kavanagh and Nina Neufeld. Sheelagh Garson also prepared and then donated a 'summer basket' for a draw at the end of the day. If I've missed anyone, my apologies.

The Shrine Clowns provided a large tent. Perhaps this is something we might want to consider going forward –to purchase a pop-up tent if/when they go on sale.

I expect we will continue to support the Car-Free Day initiative in 2019 as part of our Community Outreach & Awareness Campaign. It is never too early to volunteer to be a team lead.

Jim Ferguson

Team Lead Car Free Day 2018

CAR-FREE DAY – EVER WONDER?

Ever wonder what people write and then place on our 'thankfulness' board on Car Free Day? After some rather serious review of the slips of paper [see photo] and statistical analysis the research scientists are pleased to report the following:

The most frequent word was [drum roll please]

- ◆ Family [34],
- ◆ followed by Friends [14]
- ◆ with honourable mention going to health, food, mom, dad, life, love, lover, beauty, father & kindness.

- ◆ Other people commented on diversity, community, grandparents and justice.

Do we measure the success of Car-Free Day by: the number of people who complete a "thankfulness slip", visit our Church many for the first time, or is it by offering the opportunity to members of St. Andrew's to participate and become engaged with other Church members in the community at large. Maybe it's a little of all three.

See you next year – mark Sunday, June 16th in your calendar and be part of the day.



Camp VIP Family Camps 2018



Arthur and I attended two of the three Camp VIP Family Camps this summer – French Beach and Rathtrevor. As is always the case, these camping weekends are wonderful – spiritually and socially.

Rev. Elizabeth Forrester was our speaker for French Beach. She selected multiple parables and we studied their words and meaning. We were given a character from the passage and asked to put ourselves in the place of the people in the stories, and expressed how we might have acted, or what we might have thought. Some of the passages were: Jesus Heals a Blind Man; Jesus Changes Water Into Wine; The Death of Lazarus; The Samaritan Woman at the Well. With

each of these stories, we were asked: “What was your reaction (as the assigned character in the story) to the events in the story?” And “What did you think/understand about Jesus afterwards?”

It was an amazing experience trying to put ourselves into the shoes of those from Jesus’ stories.



Rev. Glen Inglis, a former Presbyterian missionary in Malawi, was our speaker for Rathtrevor. He had selected multiple passages with the following questions: “What are the desires of your heart (deepest longings; deepest desires; concern for others, family and community); Who do we say Jesus is? Do the desires of your heart match the desires of Christ’s? Teach us to pray – Ask, Seek, Knock - Jesus wants to be in conversation with us.” The Communion Service following the last theme address was a moving experience.



Camp VIP is such a rich experience for all ages: there are children programs, wonderful crafts, lots of games, sing-a-longs, sand-castle building contest, bonfires, s’mores and more. It’s an opportunity to see our friends in Christ from the other Island Churches. Also, on the Sunday morning, whatever Presbyterian church we are closest to, we attend that Sunday Service – i.e. Sooke and French Creek.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for 2019. June 4 - 7 Gold Camp at Little Qualicum Falls; July 4 - 8 Family Camp at French Beach Group Campsite and July 29 - August 5 Family Camp at Rathtrevor Group Campsite.

Submitted by Jean Marcellus



Oatmeal for Our Place Thanksgiving Sunday - October 7

Each year for Thanksgiving, we give special thanks at St. Andrew’s for God’s many blessings, by helping make a difference in the lives of those who are served faithfully by **Our Place**.

If you are able, please bring a donation of a package of **oatmeal** on October 7. We will deliver your donations to Our Place for their meal program.

Our Place is very grateful for our on-going response to their needs.

Thank you very much!!

Welcome to Mitch and Linda Coggin!

July 22, 2018



On Sunday evening, July 22, 2018 there was a special service of recognition and installation for the interim-ministry of the Reverend Mitch Coggin. Several members of the Vancouver Island Presbytery joined the members and adherents of St. Andrew's for the service.



Mr. Roy Napier welcomed everyone and Reverend Laura Kavanagh led the prayers of approach. Reverend Vincent Tan read from the Holy Scriptures.

One of the verses that we heard was, "Let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." from Matthew 5:16. This laid the foundation for Reverend Cathy Victor's sermon "God Sparks". She encouraged us to look for this light or God sparks in everyone that we meet. Often in life, it is through our hardships and weaknesses that we are most able to shine the light of God on others and help them, just like pieces of pottery that have cracks in them. It is through these cracks that the light shines.

Reverend Gordon Kouwenberg, Clerk of Presbytery, administered the vows of installation to Reverend Coggin. The congregation of St. Andrew's and the Presbytery of Vancouver Island also renewed their commitment to the ministry of St. Andrew's in Victoria, recognizing Mitch's appointment as a beginning of a new partnership in service to God.



Reverend Coggin gave the benediction after receiving the right hand of fellowship from members of the Presbytery and members of Session.

Everyone was invited to meet and welcome Mitch and his wife, Linda, in the Kirk Hall after the service.

Worship - July 22, 2018



fotosbymitchell

Where are They Now?

Congratulations to these two happy families from your St. Andrew's family!



Sheila and John Mitchell welcomed a new grandchild. Ian and his wife Kristin now have a baby girl who was born June 29th. We are all delighted to welcome Samantha Laurretta into our family. Ian and Kristin and their baby live in Calgary AB.



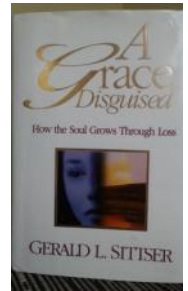
This summer Jerry and Deb Verwey were delighted to learn of the safe arrival of their fourth grandchild, Audrey Victoria Tyan. Audrey, the first child for Michelle Verwey and Anderson Tyan, was born on Friday, the thirteenth of July, in Saskatoon. She is a beautiful girl with dark eyes and dark brown hair and lots of dimples. Her proud grandparents met her in person in August and were there to see one of her first smiles.



Ex Libris Ecclesiae

A Book Review from the St. Andrew's Church Library

A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss, by Gerald Sittser. Harper Collins/Zondervan, 1996.



This book review was easy to write!

When she donated *A Grace Disguised* to our church library, Dorothy Reimer included a ready-made review which she had clipped out of the *Presbyterian Record*. I have left it inside the book's front cover. That reviewer wrote, "This is the best book I have read on the subject of tragedy and loss and how one can deal with them." He also quoted Bill Hybels, the recently-retired pastor of Willow Creek Church in Chicago: "This is the single most reflective and redemptive book on sorrow and loss that I have ever read."

But wait, there's more! An American friend named Charlie has been doing pastoral work for fifty years; he visited us this summer and saw *A Grace Disguised* on our living room table. "Aha! Sittser!" he exclaimed. "This is the best book out there on working through grief." Charlie eagerly showed me some of the chapter titles — "The Silent Scream of Pain"; "The Amputation of the Familiar Self"; "Forgive and Remember"; "Life Has the Final Word".

I'll stop my review there; three expert opinions are sufficient. 15 years have elapsed since my first wife's cancer, and I'm in a new happy space with Patricia, so I did not need to read Sittser for myself. But please note: when you *do* face sudden loss of a loved one... *A Grace Disguised* will be there for you. Don't forget that. And perhaps bring it to the attention of grieving friends.

Reviewed by Dave Rogers.

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

Upcoming gym night will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8
from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

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

Jean and Arthur PEI Vacation

Haslam Family Members Travel to Springfield to Mark 200-Year Anniversary



We had an amazing vacation on PEI in August, wherein we attended my (Jean's) Family Reunion marking the 200 year anniversary since the arrival, of my GGG Grandfather, Thomas Joseph Haslam, and his wife, Elizabeth, to the shores of PEI from Mountmellick, Queens County, Ireland (now known as Laios) in 1818. He arrived on the beach at the end of Locke Shore Road, Summerside, and I just had to put my feet in the water there! Thomas and Elizabeth and their ten children settled in an area Thomas named Springfield.

Springfield was nothing more than a parcel of undeveloped land in Lot 67 when Thomas and Elizabeth first landed on PEI. After Thomas gathered his land for farming, he cleared it and built a saw mill, as his land was covered in tall white pine, and he created ship masts for the British Navy, and floated them over the Dunk River and on to England.



The eastern and western ends of the Island were busy with activity, so Thomas decided to connect them with a highway through his land and built an Inn to attract people to the location.

In 1848, Thomas and his sons built St. Elizabeth's Anglican Church, in memory of his wife, who had passed away the year before. They cut the timber themselves from their forest and used stones from his property.



There were approximately 140 people who came from North America and Europe to attend this wonderful event. I met so many relatives previously unknown to me and shared so many stories.

After the Sunday morning service, the *Haslam Founder's Stone* was unveiled by the Lieutenant Governor of PEI, and Joyce Loo, the matriarch of our family. The inscription reads: *In grateful recognition of our Irish ancestors who founded this community of Springfield in Lot 67 after arriving on PEI in 1818. Unveiled August 12, 2018 by The Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.*

Would all members of St. Andrew's Church be welcomed at St. Elizabeth's Church? Well, when Arthur and I planned a visit to PEI in May 2017, they changed weekends for their Sunday Service so we could attend St. Elizabeth's Church for the first time. As a token of our deep appreciation, we presented the Church with our St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 100th Anniversary Plate (1866-1966). It is now proudly hanging at St. Elizabeth's.

Submitted by Jean Marcellus



St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month: ...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Many women named in the Bible were known for their roles in the lives of others, such as mothers and wives. Others were renowned for heroic acts and some even for treachery. See if you can find the names in the word search of the women listed. Some famous women had the same name. For example Jesus' mother and Mary Magdalen, the first to see the empty tomb and the risen Christ, had the same name. In the puzzle you will find Mary listed just once.

You can find out more about these women by checking in a Bible or borrowing some of the children's Bibles from our library collection.

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

Bathsheba
Deborah
Esther
Hannah
Jezebel
Judith
Miriam
Naomi
Rachel
Rebekah
Rahab
Ruth
Sarah
Hagar
Zipporah
Elizabeth
Mary