



November 2018

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Victoria, BC

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



Over the last three weeks, Linda and I have been away more than we have been present in Victoria. Most of you have been aware of our family struggles of late. Our son has struggled with depression (and a work injury to his face/temple area) which has needed either one or both of us with him constantly these last few weeks.

In the meantime the death of my sister (anticipated for several months) happened and I flew to the States to conduct her funeral last week.

Over these weeks, I have been blessed with the countless expressions of love, support and prayer from our St. Andrew's family. We have been blessed by your kindness, support and patience that I have been away more than I have been present of late. Thank you for understanding and encouragement to "be where you are needed – and right now that is with your family!" There are no words that adequately express our appreciation and love for you during this incredibly difficult time.

My sister's family is doing well, knowing that Amber McLeroy is well and free of the pain and limitations that have plagued her for so long. Her adult children and husband are well cared for by one another and their church families in the States. Our mom, though in the grip of severe dementia, smiled at our unexpected visits and kissed our hands to show her joy. Our son is better and continues to need our prayers for the road to recovery ahead.

I am glad to return to St. Andrew's and a busy fall calendar. Funerals of Desmond Oswell (on Saturday, November 3) and Pamela MacConnachie (on Saturday, November 24); Book/Bible studies of *Start With Why* on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings; the Bazaar; November noontime recital, and Remembrance Day all remind us that our work and our mission is to love/care/support one another in a multitude of ways.

Please know how much the Coggins appreciate your kindness in so many ways. We so deeply appreciate the Welcome Party (with gifts of rain gear), season tickets to Butchart Gardens and the wonderful meals in your homes and favorite restaurants. We are deeply blessed and grateful to work beside you and to call you "family".

Rev. Mitch Coggin

Remembrance 2018

At remembrance services this year special mention will be made that it is one hundred years since a strange silence fell over the battlefields of Europe. The big guns had been ordered to cease firing; the men in the trenches would no longer be ordered to go “over the top” to face them for the end of the Great War had come on November 11, 1918. The word *great* has only one meaning here— the enormous number of casualties suffered by both sides and the destruction of the lands fought over. On land, on the sea and in the air peace had finally come. There would be no more wars – or so they believed.

For many years now there have been no veterans of that war to tell their story. My mother never forgot how her family had suffered in the years from 1914 to 1918. I knew that many of my mother’s family had moved to Canada and that one of her brothers was in the Canadian army and another one returned to Scotland to join a highland regiment. She frequently related experiences they had shared with her when on leave. Some of these I still remember but I cannot recall if I had any night-mares as I was only about five years old. There seems to have been no concern for a child’s sensitivity in those days. Another childhood memory I have was of a sail one summer from the city of Glasgow down the River Clyde. At one point I looked to the south bank where there was a scene I have never forgotten. In the lawn in front of a building were several men wearing similar blue clothing and they were either propped up in beds or in wheelchairs. To my question about this I was told they had been in the war and could never leave this hospital called Erskine House that was for limbless veterans. In retrospect I seem to have learned the meaning of war at a very young age.



Stella Higgins in front of the Vimy Ridge Memorial - 2008

In those years we referred to November 11 as Armistice Day but it was some time before I knew the true meaning of the word was a truce and not a lasting peace.

Through my growing up years in the ‘thirties’ this all became apparent. I remember how Europe seemed to be in constant turmoil with revolutions, civil wars and threats of violence because of some real, or perceived injustice, some of it resulting from the Treaty of Versailles that concluded the Great War. This was apparent in Germany and, with a dictator in power, I remember how the latest news from there gradually increased our fears for the future. Watching newsreels in the local cinemas brought the horrors of aerial bombing as German planes bombed civilian cities in Spain to assist Franco in his quest for power. I vividly remember saying to my mother that this is what is going to happen to us. The days of our island being protected totally by the Royal Navy were now past. We needed to have a larger army and especially an air force. It was a very unsettling time to live. After the meetings between Hitler and our Prime Minister in 1938 I doubt if many people were convinced that there would be “peace in our time” as Prime Minister Chamberlain announced when he came home. And then it happened – war was declared on September 3, 1939 and my life was to change forever. Once there was peace again I had to add more names and memories to my thoughts during the two minutes silence. One of them was a civilian killed in the Blitz in the summer of 1940 – my tennis friend, Helen, who had been pleased to get a civil service job in London about a year earlier.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

From February 1945 I have lived in Victoria the birthplace of my ex- RCAF husband. When our two children were involved in their university education, decided to return to mine. When I had **finished my master's degree in History**, I was approached by a professor to become his research assistant in Military History for a book he had been asked to write about the Canadian army in the Normandy campaign. Here was an entirely different venture for me and I was reluctant at first to take it on. When the book was published in 1984, I realized my years of work on it had made me even more of a supporter of the armed forces and passionate about remembering the sacrifices of our men and women who served our country and never came home. It has been a personal journey all my life - to remember and give thanks.

In 2008 I visited the magnificent Vimy Ridge Memorial in France when I was also touring the beaches of Normandy. I stood in the pouring rain holding, with some difficulty, an umbrella, my bag and a camera to record my **uncle's name carved among so many – R BIRRELL – a Scottish man who died a Canadian in 1916.**

Stella Higgins

Sharing a small part of my life story



Notes from Session

The October Session meeting was led by our interim moderator, the Reverend Vincent Tan. Reverend Mitch Coggin had been called to California on family business and Mr. Tan stepped in at the last minute to provide the necessary leadership required by the Book of Forms for a session meeting to convene.

St. Andrew's is advertised as being wheelchair accessible. And this is true, but once you enter the sanctuary it is very difficult to find a place to put a wheelchair, due to our bowl-like structure. We have a slanted floor and at present really only have one space available for a wheelchair. The property committee has been asked to come up with a plan that allows any wheelchair-bound worshipper at St. Andrew's to fully engage in worship in the midst of the congregation.

Andrew McCowan has been St. Andrew's camp representative to the Vancouver Island Presbytery Camps Committee but he now attends Trinity Presbyterian. Jerry Verwey has been appointed by session as St. Andrew's camp representative.

Please uphold the Coggin family in prayer. It is always hard in difficult times to be far away from those you love. Let us all show the Coggins that they have a caring and loving family here at St. Andrew's.

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

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....

Hope Harwood - October 1

Desmond (Des) Oswell -
October 4

Pamela MacConnachie -
October 15

Revelations 21:4

November 2018

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

“I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer” ~(attributed to) Martin Luther



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Our elders invite us to pray together! If you have items you would like included, please contact Whitney in the church office: 250-384-5734 or office@standrewsvictoria.ca				All those with birthdays and anniversaries in November	Our families and for being part of the family of God	Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
For the Canadian Armed Forces and military chaplains who bring them guidance and support	Compassion and courage to welcome and care for strangers in need	Any friends or family who are sick or hurting	For the courage and clear vision for those currently discerning calls to start new worshipping communities	Families of people in the armed forces and for the people serving	Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	Protection and peace for those without a safe place to sleep around the world
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
All the service men and women who have been lost serving our country	All the service men and women who have served and continue to serve this country	Those who are suffering from depression, that their spirits will be lifted	For stewardship and mission committees as they work to inspire vision and enthusiasm	Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	The words to invite people to know God in fellowship with believers
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Youth, children and young families	All refugees fleeing violence and oppression	Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrew's	PWS&D partners in Syria providing school supplies for children	All Canadians to have access to safe and affordable housing	Those speaking out against hatred and injustice	God's healing and restoration for all who need it
25	26	27	28	29	30	
For a brighter future with peace and security for women in Canada and around the world	For all seniors, that they are provided with homes of dignity and peace and understanding helpers	Young adults serving and participating in our congregations	Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	Help to embrace the gifts of those who are differently abled	Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	

Robbie Burns Supper...

When I was a young boy my father on occasion would say, "I never had an accent before I left Glasgow". I was reminded of this recently when chatting with a number of our long-time members on the correct pronunciation of Robbie Burns - with an emphasis on the second letter of Robbie - it should be with an 'ah' as in **Rabbie Burns**.

A few of us met after worship on Sunday, October 21 to talk about what it would take to have a Robbie Burns supper in the Kirk Hall around the end of January. We focused on the 'what' (as in what do we want to do) rather than the 'how' (what colour should the napkins be) and arrived at the following suggestions.

- ◆ to be held Saturday, January 19;
- ◆ to be a family event - open doors at 4:30pm, meal to be served at 5:00pm;
- ◆ to have a bar (have to research and get an understanding of what is required);
- ◆ to be prepared by ourselves, rather than catered, due to cost;
- ◆ to be inexpensive, in order to not exclude people who might not normally be able to afford attending;
- ◆ to include the other congregations in the event (Trinity, Knox, & Saanich Peninsula);
- ◆ to invite professional chefs to help us put this together (not to do the work but to have him/her be the overseer of what we need and how to do it).

None of these decisions are cast in concrete at the moment.

The question was asked: "Why are we doing this?" to which my response is - it is an opportunity to rebuild the 'community' of St. Andrew's and by inviting other congregations to attend and participate it will help to bring about a further sense of community amongst the Presbyterians in Victoria & area.

To all members of St. Andrew's (and other Presbyterian Churches) if you think you would like to be part of this celebration - please contact me and I will add your name to the list and keep you informed of progress and where we could use your help.

Jim Ferguson

Team Lead - Robbie Burns Supper 2019
jpfergus@gmail.com 250-415-3687

Books, Books, Books!

Are you down-sizing, de-cluttering, clearing out?

If the books have to go, we want them for the bazaar book stall!

Bring them to the Kirk Hall in November or call Debra Verwey for pickup...250-383-1009.

Thank you!



Save the Date -
Thursday, December
13!
Christmas Carol
Singalong

St. Andrews Presbyterian
Church
(Corner of Douglas and
Broughton)

12:00 - 1:15 pm
Traditional Carol Singing Music
Program:
Organ, Flute, Trumpet, Vocal
Presentations

Free Event - Everyone Welcome
Doors open 11:30 am
For more information please call
the church office at
250-384-5734



Emma Woo playing the flute
for the Prelude - October 28

photobymitchell



fotosbygrantshepard

The Story of the Finials

fin.i.al 'fɪnēəl noun

a distinctive ornament at the apex of a roof, pinnacle, canopy, or similar structure in a building.



Some 15 or so years ago a person in a nearby building saw a seagull hit one of the finials and knock it off its base. The second finial came down around the same time. David Buchanan took the two finials and modified them in the hope of reinstalling them via access to the rooftop over the south stairway on Douglas - this did not happen and the pieces gathered dust in Grant's shop until recently.

When we started the roofing project this year we realized this would be an opportune time to reinstall these pieces. Further modifications were made to them, Grant painted them, and the Flynn roofing crew put them back in place for us and also repainted the base of both finials. David Buchanan would very likely be pleased to know that they are finally back in place!

Property Committee



As our facilities age, renewal is warranted. The Property Committee is always looking for ways to enhance our facilities. At present, apart from the much needed roof repair, we are embarking on refreshing parts of our Kirk Hall. Lighting has been replaced in the hallways with brighter and more efficient LED fixtures, which should save us some money in electrical bills. A total of 17 new fixtures have been installed by Dave Garson, which then highlighted the need to repaint the ceilings - this was done by Grant Shepard. Before the Bazaar on November 17, the walls in the main hallway will be repainted. New flooring will be installed later in November/early December. Check it out at coffee hour.

Jerry Verwey

Congratulations!

On October 14, after the service at coffee hour I heard some faint singing of "Happy Birthday". It turns out that Don Barwise was celebrating his 89th birthday that day. I also discovered that he and his wife, Betty, celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on June 8, 2018.

Submitted by Dirk Ryneveld

Belated Congratulations and Best Wishes from your St. Andrew's family go out to Don and Betty on this milestone anniversary.



fotobydryneveld



fotobydryneveld

A Thank-You Note from Jack DeZeeuw

"Many thanks to all my church family who were involved in the celebration of my 90th birthday after the service on Sunday, October 28th. The cake was delicious and I appreciated all the expressions of caring from people at that event. I feel truly blessed to be part of the group responsible for the celebrations."

In Christian Love,
Jack DeZeeuw

Editor's note: Jack also mentioned that he recalled a song by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans (of "Happy Trails to You" fame) where they sang "I'm so glad to be a part of the family of God". Jack and Terry echo that sentiment because we are all part of the "Family of God".

As we have done for many years, over a period of three Sundays ending Thanksgiving Sunday, our congregation generously collected 255 lbs of oatmeal or enough for about 1900 servings of oatmeal for Our Place. I was privileged to deliver this abundance on Thanksgiving Monday and received a heartfelt thanks from the many volunteers working there which I was requested to pass on to the members of the congregation. Not only oatmeal but sweetener in the form of brown sugar was also donated.

On behalf of the Mission and Outreach committee and the entire session, I thank everyone who assisted in this worthwhile endeavour.

Jerry Verwey



fotobymitchell

Book/Bible Study

LED BY PASTOR MITCH

Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone To Take Action

By Simon Sinek

In 2009, Simon Sinek started a movement to help people become more inspired at work, and in turn inspire their colleagues and customers. Since then, millions have been touched by the power of his ideas, including more than 28 million who've watched his TED Talk based on *START WITH WHY* -- the third most popular TED video of all time.

Sinek starts with a fundamental question: Why are some people and organizations more innovative, more influential, and more profitable than others? Why do some command greater loyalty from customers and employees alike? Even among the successful, why are so few able to repeat their success over and over?

People like Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs, and the Wright Brothers had little in common, but they all started with WHY. They realized that people won't truly buy into a product, service, movement, or idea until they understand the WHY behind it.

START WITH WHY shows that the leaders who've had the greatest influence in the world all think, act, and communicate the same way -- and it's the opposite of what everyone else does. Sinek calls this powerful idea The Golden Circle, and it provides a framework upon which organizations can be built, movements can be led, and people can be inspired. And it all starts with WHY.

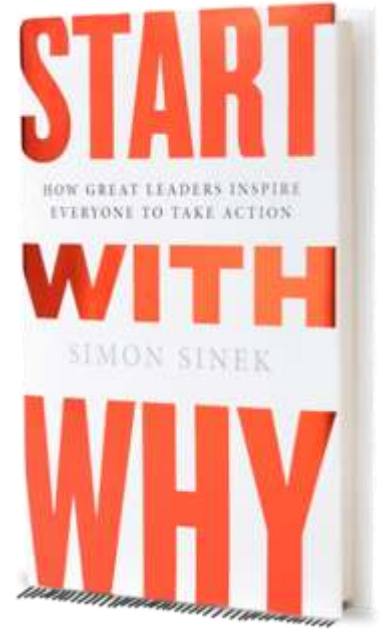
TIMES AND LOCATIONS

All are invited to one of the two formats for this Book Study

Thursdays – 10:45am at St. Andrew's

Monday evenings – 7:00pm in various homes

Thursdays 10:45am - St. Andrew's	Mondays 7:00pm - various homes
Thursday, November 1	Monday, October 29 - Titus'
Thursday, November 8	Monday, November 5 - Reimer's
Thursday, November 15	Monday, November 12 - Reimer's
Thursday, November 29	Monday, November 19 - TBA



Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action

by Simon Sinek

Start With Why can be purchased through Amazon:

Hardcover
CDN\$ 29.95

18 Used from CDN\$ 7.99

24 New from CDN\$ 23.76

Paperback
CDN\$ 13.34

37 Used from CDN\$ 14.99

32 New from CDN\$ 12.46

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★ **Link Deadline** ★

★ Next *Link* deadline will ★

★ be Sunday, November 25. ★

★ Link Editors ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Sunday School

Since Thanksgiving the children have been working on a mission project. They will have a table at our annual bazaar where people of all ages will be able to purchase a hand-made snowman, or make their own with the help of the children, purchase popcorn treats or try the magic Christmas tree, all to help raise funds for World Vision. The children are raising funds to buy farm animals that will provide vital nutrition to children and families, while bringing in extra income. The animals are distributed to families along with feed, training and other support. The children are excited about their project and look forward to your support. Remember to stop by the children's table at the bazaar; let us help the Sunday School help others. Sheelagh Garson, Jean Watt, Brooklyn Trimble, and Tamara Aerts have been instrumental in helping the children with the preparations for this project.

After the bazaar the children will be working on the annual Christmas pageant which will be presented to the congregation on December 9th. The children will be looking for help from all the congregation, and perhaps you too will be part of the pageant.



photobymitchell

The Sunday School continues to miss the guiding hand of Dianne Penner, but under the combined efforts of Angus Henderson, Debra Verwey, Dawn McLean, Jean Watt, and Sabine Teetzel a tentative outline for the rest of the year is being established. Thanks go out to them all for their help, instruction, and care of our children.

Christian Education Committee



Share the Joy of Christmas

As in previous years, the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will have the opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with others in Victoria. We will be supporting Christmas

dinner at Our Place by providing 25 large turkeys (weighing over twenty-five pounds each). This annual dinner gives a Christmas meal to the working poor, the homeless and those far from home, creating a moment of warmth and love in the midst of a difficult time. Our congregation also provides gift bags for the 45 residents of Our Place, 18 women and 27 men. The gift bags are filled with warm socks, toques and gloves and sundry personal items such as soap, toothpaste and shampoo.

To continue this generous tradition, please think about how you can contribute to the Share the Joy campaign which will begin on the first Sunday in Advent. The Mission and Outreach Committee will have a table set up in the Kirk Hall on the Sundays in Advent to accept donations for the Share the Joy Fund. You can also donate via your church envelope. Write "Share the Joy" on the line where you enter the amount of your donation.

The gift bags will be made up by the Sunday School students on Sunday, December 16th. The bags will be delivered to Our Place on December 23rd.

If you have any questions about our Share the Joy of Christmas campaign, please call Debra Verwey at 250-383-1009 or Brian Titus at 250-382-2387.



Lunchtime Recital

November 7, 2018 ~ 12:15 to 12:45 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
925 Douglas Street
Wheelchair access is available at 643 Broughton Street

Christine Purvis, organist

Come and enjoy 30 minutes of organ music including:
Bach ~ *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, Wesley ~ *Holsworth Church Bells*,
Buxtehude ~ *Gigue Fugue*, and Manz ~ *God of Grace and God of Glory*.

Donations to St. Andrew's Music Ministry.

Vancouver Island Presbytery Women's Retreat

Laura Hawkes and I just returned from the Vancouver Island Presbyterian Church's Women's Retreat, which was held October 26 - 28, 2018 at Camp Imadene, Mesachie Lake (near Lake Cowichan). There were fifty-four ladies attending the Retreat, including three from the Mainland. It was an amazing experience being with so many fellow Christians, sharing our faith and stories of our lives, as God works within us. As well as our theme addresses, there is always wonderful food, fun and friendship. God's hand was at work as a rainbow appeared over the lake and the mountains shortly after we finished our Worship and Communion Service on Sunday.

Our theme speaker was the Rev. Dr. Nancy Cocks, recently retired from St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat, Alberta. Dr. Cocks also has a connection to St. Andrew's Victoria, as she was Rev. David Stewart's Intern at St. David's Presbyterian Church in Kelowna, at the beginning of her ordained ministry. She has previously been a professor and served from 2001 - 2005 at Iona Abbey, Scotland. Iona Abbey is considered the point of origin for the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland. The theme was "Woven Into Christ – Weaving In the Spirit – The Celtic Connection".



Dr. Cocks explained that in the Celtic design (as seen in the photos), you will see one continuous line – everything is connected – which binds all creation together. Celts had an early form of the Trinity, raised with three Gods, working together – this was a natural fit for the Trinity that we know.



As an introduction to the early Celts, nomads were impressed by the power and wonder of nature; they believed vulnerability leads to seeking God everywhere; they had a love of hero stories and the storytelling tradition; and a pre-Christian believe in afterlife. Celts today, are dependent on Christ. Jesus is a hero to them delivering the afterlife that they had earlier envisioned. Celts see Christ as a physician for healing rather than a punisher. They also have the 'Gift of Hospitality' – Jesus was always being welcomed into people's homes.

Mark your calendars for 2019 NOW – October 25 - 27! It would be so wonderful to have more St. Andrew's Victoria ladies attend next year. From the photo, you can see this is a Retreat for ALL ages, and the accommodations are second to none, with very easy access.



"It's the spirit of the place and the spirit of the people in the place, that makes this annual Retreat so treasured."

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Marcellus

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 17
11:30am - 3:00pm
680 Courtney Street



2018 Bazaar Convenors: John Mitchell
David McLean

Baking	Ann Lambie
Crafts	Laura Richards Leona Johns
Jewelry	Dawn McLean
Tea	Sheelagh Garson Jean Watt
Attic Treasures	Grant Shepard
Books	Debra Verwey
Silent Auction	David McLean
Thrift Shop	Janette Hennigar



Office - 250 384-7534 office@standrewsvictoria.ca www.standrewsvictoria.ca



Children's Fundraising Project

Join the children at their table to raise funds for World Vision.

Tea Tickets - \$7.00

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month: God told the Israelites: "...if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples." Exodus 19:5

God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments

The nation of Israel set up camp at Mount Sinai. God spoke to Moses from the mountain and three days later the people came to the mountain to meet God. God came down to the mountain in fire and the mountain shook. The people were frightened. Moses entered the darkness and thick cloud on the mountain, where he spoke to God. God gave Moses two tablets made of stone. On them God had written the Ten Commandments.

Can you find the words listed in the word search?

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

MOSES
 NATION
 ISRAEL
 MOUNTAIN
 SINAI
 SPOKE
 MOUNT
 FRIGHTENED
 PEOPLE
 SHOOK
 FIRE
 DARKNESS
 CLOUD
 GOD
 TABLETS
 STONE
 TEN
 COMMANDMENTS