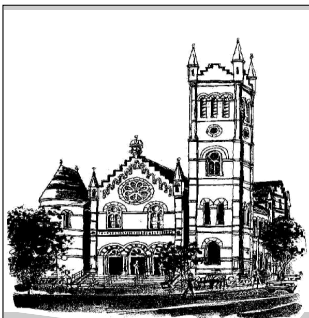


THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



February 2019

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Within a few days we will celebrate our 7th anniversary! The middle of February marks the 7th month since beginning my tenure as Transitional Pastor at St. Andrews. There are no other words other than “Thank you! Blessings to each of you for your gracious acceptance, kindness and support.” Unfortunately, the anniversary will come and go while I am away teaching Transitional Ministry Education at a Presbyterian Retreat

Center in New Mexico from February 14 - 23. During the 9 days that I am away, I will have the opportunity of serving on the transitional ministry faculty at one of the sites where Interim Ministry is taught to ministers considering adding that specialty to their skill-set. Recently another minister who works with churches that are between pastors indicated that a church had told him they were reluctant to name an interim pastor because too many felt that the role was nothing more than a place-holder type ministry until a permanent pastor could be called. A “place holder minister” is one that preaches on Sunday, moderates the Session, offers pastoral care and other weekly and regular activities. Many Presbyterian clergy nearing retirement who have this concept of interim ministry are greatly disappointed to discover that interim ministry most often is made up of 100% of the ministry functions of the previous minister and 80% more “transitional” tasks.

St. Andrew's has been a faithful partner these 7 months in understanding and committing to the critical work of the transitional process. As I have mentioned in this place before, over the coming interim period, our work will center upon The Five Focus Points of Transitional Ministry which includes:

Heritage
Mission
Leadership
Connections
Future

Perhaps they appear as mere words or random descriptors, yet over the coming months, they will begin to take focus and direct our work. Heritage is synonymous with birthright, inheritance, legacy, and tradition. We have been shaped by our history, and we need to know, appreciate and celebrate that heritage. On the other hand, we must recognize those parts of the past that are best not to carry into the future. The interim period offers an opportunity to establish clarity about what will move forward and what will be left behind. It also vital that we have a chance to experience grieving and healing. We must work on discarding old expectations, wounds, patterns, and baggage of the past.

I am guiding Session in beginning the process of looking for new and more effective ways to communicate among themselves and with the congregation as a whole. We will focus on rebuilding trust among ourselves, within Session and with the Presbytery. These are crucial components in stabilizing our faith community and the relationships that are the bedrock of God's work within us as together we clarify our future. I covet your prayers for myself as your Transitional Minister and for us as a congregation as we do the difficult work in becoming introspective and reflective and asking the most basic of questions: “Who are we?” and “Who do we believe God wants us to be?” Together we trust God's work within us.

Victoria, BC

Love and Blessings,
Pastor Mitch

Regional Gathering Shine

March 29-30, 2019

Come together with about 200 Presbyterian women to pray, learn, play, and celebrate together.

The theme is SHINE based on Matthew 5:14-16. It can be a reminder that we must all shine in our lives for Christ but also that Christ came to bring us Light!

Key Note Speaker:

Dr. Mary Jo Leddy

Gathering Host:

Rev. Dr. Nancy Cocks

Praise Leader:

Lydia Collin

Preacher:

Rev. Laura Kavanagh

Preacher:

Rev. Jenn Geddes

The gathering will be held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey, BC. Registration Fee: \$275 (before Feb. 15)

For complete information:

www.womensgathering.ca

For Registration information:

<http://www.womensgathering.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/registration-book-web.pdf>



Notes from Session

On January 15, session held its first meeting for 2019. Guided by Reverend Coggin we spent time ascertaining what we determined were the top priorities for 2019. We will continue to work on this in February.

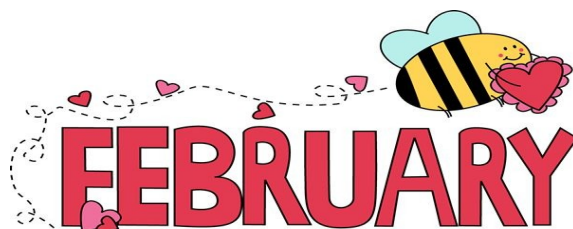
As you know, every year two churches in the Presbytery of Vancouver Island are invited to send a Commissioner to General Assembly. This year we have been asked to appoint a member of session to be a Commissioner. Jerry Verwey has been appointed to attend General Assembly held June 2 - 6, 2019, at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, ON.

You will have noticed over the past few months that the friendly and smiling face of Grant Shepard has been missing around the church. Unfortunately, Grant sustained a shoulder injury around the time of the 2018 Bazaar and has been unable to work. He is at present covered under Work Safe by the Province of BC. Grant has been a valued employee of St. Andrew's for close to 20 years and we are working with him to ensure that he receives the proper care and coverage during his recovery. We pray that he will once again be tending to St. Andrew's "old bones". Many thanks go to David Garson and Jerry Verwey who are attempting to fill Grant's shoes in his absence.

Now that the roof project has been finished it is time for us to turn to other capital projects. The stained-glass windows are starting to slump and will need some attention. It was suggested that at the cost of no more than \$5,000 someone be commissioned to look at the windows and determine which ones are at risk and what needs to be done to stabilize the windows. If you wish to find out more please contact David McLean.

We will soon be entering February the month of L♥ve and St. Valentine's Day. In the midst of the chocolates, flowers and cards let us remember John 15:12. *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Respectfully Submitted,
The Session of St. Andrew's



The Robbie Burns Supper on Saturday, January 19th was by most accounts a success. There were a couple of burps and speed bumps along the way, but rather than focus on them as problems, I prefer to look at them as learning opportunities. The meal was catered by Connoisseur Catering and served by 'volunteers' of the Masonic Lodge in Central Saanich. The piper and the pianist are also members of United Peninsula Lodge – of which I am secretary. I mention this in that the Burns supper was a win/win for everyone. We were able to keep the costs down with volunteer help and the people and guests of St. Andrew's were able to enjoy the supper, without having to clean up or sing for their supper. For the members of the Lodge it was a team-building opportunity and very satisfying for them as well.

The Kirk Hall was decorated by a team from St. Andrew's. Special thanks to Paula McHerron, Cathy MacKenzie, Dawn Mclean, Donna McKenzie, Jean Watt, Moira Bernard, and Evelyn Houston. We are blessed to have such talented people amongst us.

We had the pleasure of the Bon Accord Highland Dancers demonstrate a series of dances. I can only dream of standing on my toes on both feet, let alone on one foot.

A Burns Supper would not be complete without the piper leading in the Haggis carried by Sam Preston, in the full colored kilt, protected by Hamish Henderson carrying the sword to ward off all potential attackers. The address to the Haggis was suitably presented by Angus Henderson. To Saul Preston for the toast to the Lassies, Susie Henderson for the response to the Laddies and David McLean for the Immortal Memory and some interesting facts around the life and times of Robbie Burns, we say Thank You!

To all who supported this year's supper – a hearty thanks.

Mark your calendar for January 18th for our next Robbie Burns. Tickets will be on sale on November 1st and limited to 80 tickets.

PS – if you see opportunities on how to do it better in 2020 -please let me know and we can add your name to the planning committee.

Jim Ferguson

(Photos on pages 6 - 7)

Ushering Teams

The ushers that you meet each Sunday are doing extraordinary work greeting everyone. Our teams are somewhat depleted and are looking to add to their numbers. Each team greets for a month at a time and usually only two months a year. With five teams each team does not get the same month each year but rotates through the calendar. If you are drawn to this type of service within our congregational family, please approach any of the ushers or myself and we would gladly have you on any of our teams.

Jerry Verwey
Ushering coordinator

Compassionate Resource Warehouse

Shipping Compassion Around the World
www.crwarehouse.ca



The Compassionate Resource Warehouse (CRW) needs sewing notions, especially **sewing pins!**

If you have extra or would like to go to thrift stores or garage sales., CRW would love to be able to continue making sewing kits.

CRW has several loads that are being prepared and would like to complete the loads with the sewing kits. Large pieces of fabric are also needed.

CRW would be happy to take any 220V or treadle sewing machines.

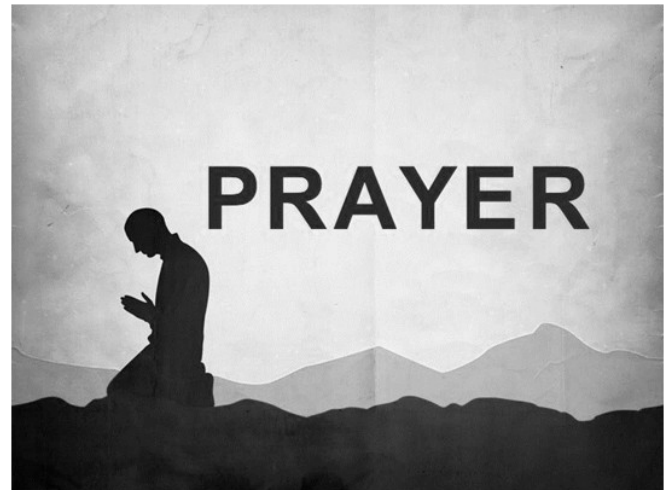
To drop off any of these donations, please contact **Sheelagh Garson**
250-385-5157

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **Link Deadline** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ Next *Link* deadline will ★
★ be Sunday, February 24. ★
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February 2019

“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
					All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in February	All who are sick or hurting
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Those involved in music ministry	For all those suffering from the war in Syria	For the special committee meeting to seek a way forward on the topic of LGBTQI Presbyterians	That churches and seminaries all over the world would have the wisdom and resources they need.	For Leading with Care committees thinking about the safety of vulnerable people	Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	For volunteer partners and Palestinian farmers as they plant olive trees in the occupied West Bank
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	For interim moderators across the country	For an end to racism and a celebration of black history (Black History Month)	Students at Presbyterian colleges, especially international students who are homesick	Seniors and others in care homes, group homes and hospitals	Anyone grieving or feeling lonely	That Myanmar would build peace with the Rohingya minority people
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Youth, children and young families	Those trying to create peace, health and security for all	Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrew's	(World Day of Social Justice) For our partners in Ghana providing support to people living with disabilities	All refugees fleeing violence and poverty	That Presbyterians would seek reconciliation with the Indigenous people of Canada	That our congregations would be caring communities sharing support and love
24	25	26	27	28		
Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	Presbyterian Sharing mission partners helping people in Canada	Those in the Order of Diaconal Ministries	Caregivers who provide compassion to those they care for	For the people of Yemen living in war and famine.		



The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) has designated February 3 as “Presbyterian World Service & Development Sunday” – a day when churches across Canada are invited to celebrate some of the work carried out by our denomination around the world. In St. Andrew's, this Sunday will mark the beginning of a month of educating ourselves on the work of PWS&D, and of responding to what we have learned.

What is PWS&D?

It is the development and relief agency of the PCC through which we have actively worked to serve marginalized and vulnerable people around the world for over 70 years. In doing this, we demonstrate our commitment to Christ's message of love through justice, poverty reduction and support in times of disaster. Funds are raised directly through donations from congregations/individuals, and through government grants.

How is it different from Presbyterians Sharing?

Presbyterians Sharing supports the overall mission and ministry of the PCC in Canada and abroad. At St. Andrew's, we commit an allocation through our annual budget, recommended by the PCC based on our annual income from donations. Together, the two programs support the one mission of The PCC.

Where do PWS&D funds go?

Projects support food security, livelihoods, health, human rights, refugees and emergency relief around the world. In 2017, \$3.8 million went to supporting 56 projects in 24 countries through 33 long-term development projects (62% of total funds) and 23 emergency response projects (24%), with the balance used for involvement with networks and coalitions with the same objectives as us (4%). A further 7% was used for education about the work of PWS&D, and only 3% was used for administration costs.

How can I help?

As in the recent past, we are aiming to raise \$2,000 through February for the important work of this branch of our national church. As recommended by PWS&D, our givings will not be designated to any specific project so that they can be allocated by PWS&D to the greatest need (such as an unexpected natural disaster). If you are able to donate, please make this incremental to your regular givings and mark it as such on your weekly envelope; if you use PAR, please use the special envelopes in the pews, or pick one up in the narthex.

How can I learn more about PWS&D?

We will spend a few minutes in each service through February to hear about a specific program. There is also an excellent PWS&D web page with information (<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>), including a monthly newsletter (<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/category/newsletters/>). If you do not have a computer and would like regular information on the work of PWS&D, please contact **Brian Titus** for information on how to subscribe to a quarterly print newsletter.



In response to the Toast to the Lassies, Susie Henderson toasts the Laddies with her delightful poem.

A Toast to the Laddies

A toast to the laddies gathered here tonight
Their stomachs filled with haggis are something of a sight

There's a chap in the corner snoozing on his plate
And a group over yonder who want to be home by eight

The laddies of St. Andrew's are a dedicated crew
Carrying out their duties as best as they can do

There's Mitch, the pastor with a drawl
Whose every sentence ends in "y'all"

And Jerry, our tireless sound master
Trying to fix that microphone faster

Jack's in charge of all the money
More roof repairs? That's not funny!

David keeps us on our toes
The lovely Dawn is his red rose

Brian is our tenor section
His "Amens" bring us to attention

Angus teaches Sunday School
Hoping the kids think he's quite cool

Those Sunday School lads, they love to play
You'll be bashed with a ball if you get in the way

And should the church laddies ever get things wrong
The St. Andrew's lassies are on hand, for they're what
makes us strong



Michael Denton played the piano for the Scottish sing along and Jim Ferguson – the man behind the night.



Paul Mundt piped in the Haggis which was carried by Sam Preston and protected by sword carrier, Hamish Henderson.



Special thanks were extended to the decorating team.



The Address to the Haggis was eloquently given by Angus Henderson in true "Scots dialect".



Sam Preston looked very dashing in his kilt.

fotosbyjeanmarcellus



The stage was decorated with thistles and St. Andrew's Cross – the flag of Scotland.

CALLED TO BE... A SPRING BREAK HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

March 19th -21st, 2019 at St Andrew's Hall

Catch sight of where God is calling you

This Spring Break join other high school students from around BC to explore where God is leading you. Hear from leaders in our church about the ways that God's Spirit is on the move and explore practices to help glimpse where you are being called. All while having some fun and adventure exploring the UBC campus.



Requirements: currently in Grade 8-12, live in British Columbia, and must be able to arrange for own transportation to/from UBC.

Shared accommodations will be provided on campus.

Application deadline: February 15th



For more information or to request an application contact:

Andrea Perrett
pastor.perrett@gmail.com
778-872-0849

Hosted by the Centre for Missional Leadership at St Andrew's Hall

Pearson College - *One World*

Pearson College continues to use our Kirk Hall for supper between their *One World* shows at the McPherson. Saturday, March 16 they will be here between 2:00pm and 6:00pm. We provide the facility, they take care of the setup, clean up and take down. Typically, courtesy tickets are available to the Minister and two people who help in the afternoon. If you are able to help in the afternoon – the two tickets could be yours!

Please contact **Jim Ferguson** if you are interested in volunteering .

Open Church and Meditation Hour

Since the fall we have had, and continue to have, a weekly open church and meditation hour every Wednesday.

During open church, over the lunch hour, I have welcomed locals and visitors alike into our historic building. Sometimes there are 30 or more and sometimes only ten. I kind of feel like Abraham sometimes as he is questioning the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, and so for the sake of the ten, I soldier on. I always receive thanks for opening our doors.

Meditation hour occurs at day's end 4 - 5:30pm, to allow those that seek it, a quiet time of reflection. This was instituted by Jenn Geddes when she was serving as assistant Minister during her time with us, though I didn't know of it until it was mentioned that we should restart it last fall. It has seen from none to more than ten, some being regulars, to sit quietly to reflect on the day's happenings and blessings. Consistency is important so they know we are there for them.

I welcome any who feel the call for this unique ministry to help out. You'll learn history in this place as the only church on Douglas Street and in the downtown core and our connection to the many past citizens of the city. As the second oldest church building in Victoria (proper) we beat our namesake by one year in the laying of the cornerstone and three for its opening.

Jerry Verwey

VST's second annual Explorer's Weekend happens March 14 – 16 at the school.

For those seriously discerning a call to theological education.

From 11am Thursday to noon on Saturday each explorer will experience VST first hand by staying on campus, meeting faculty, students and graduates, attending class and so much more. Additionally, explorers receive free registration into John Bell's music workshop.

If you would like to know more about this weekend please don't hesitate to contact Julie Lees, 604-822-6502 or jlees@vst.edu



Lunchtime Recital

March 13, 2019 ~ 12:15 to 12:45 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
925 Douglas Street

Wheelchair access is available at 643 Broughton Street

Jennifer Mitchell, organist

Come and enjoy 30 minutes of organ music including:

Sweelinck ~ *Ionian Toccata*

Buxtehude ~ *Praeludium in G Minor BuxWV149*

Denis Bédard ~ *Variations sur Ubi Caritas*

Vierne ~ *Carillon de Westminster*

Donations to St. Andrew's Music Ministry.

Jennifer Mitchell began learning piano at the age of seven and pipe organ at fourteen. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Victoria and a Master of Music degree from the University of Western Ontario. Currently employed at the Victoria Conservatory of Music as the collaborative pianist for the Collegium Strings Program, she was the organist at Holy Angels Catholic Church in St. Thomas for five years. Her favourite music to play is German Baroque and French Late Romantic.

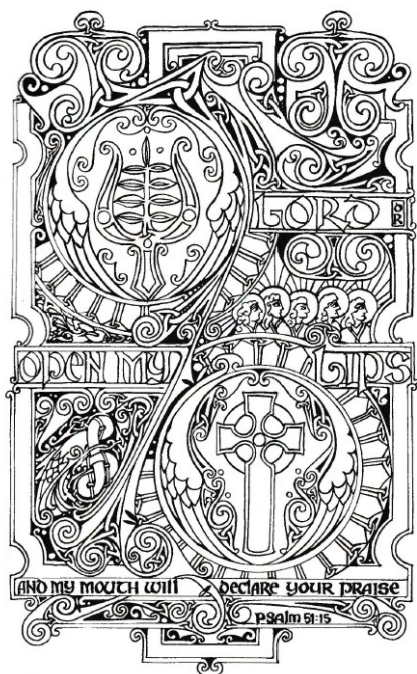


A Blast from the Past

Dick and Stella Higgins and Dick's brother, Bill, pictured on 10 February 1945. This was Stella's first full day in Victoria having arrived by air from Halifax the previous day. She had left her home on 9 January never dreaming it would be a month before she reached her new home. She had spent 19 days on a small former freighter with her 8 month old baby daughter in the middle of a convoy on its way to New York. With so many women and small children jammed in a small space it was not long before viruses were spread resulting in the baby's illness. The last few days at sea in the approach to Halifax were unaccompanied by any naval vessel. The day following the ship's docking everyone was disembarked and glad to be on dry land again. Stella had to take her ill baby to the Children's Hospital while she was accommodated by Canada's Immigration Dept. Desperate to get away from there she tried to get to Victoria by some faster method than by train. After ten days she was allowed to sign the baby out of the hospital. Having made the necessary arrangements, she flew all the way across the country (with a few stops) to be met by Dick in Vancouver where he was being discharged from the RCAF.

The bag in her hand contained some tangerines spotted in a shop and eagerly purchased after so many years of no such luxury.

St Andrew's Favourite Hymns

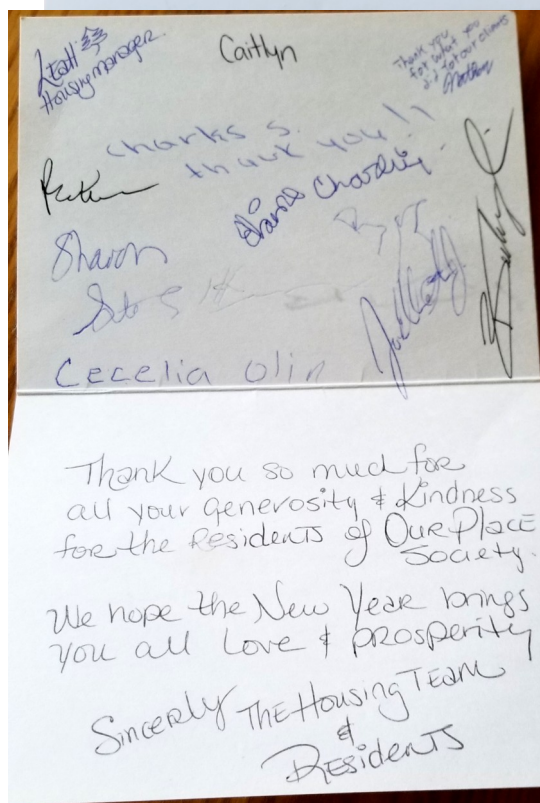


In the January *Link* article "A Word from Pastor Mitch about Worship and Music" Mitch discusses the important aspect music has in weekly worship. The Worship Committee would like to hear your suggestions about which hymns and spiritual songs you would like to sing which you feel enhance your worship experience. This is an on-going process with a changing congregation and our last survey was in 2017.

During February members of the worship committee would like to hear from you, or you may also contact the church office with your opinions and suggestions. The church office can be reached at 250-384-5734 or email office@standrewsvictoria.ca

Laura Richards

A Card of Thanks from Our Place for Share the Joy



The card reads:

Thank you so much for all your generosity & kindness for the residents of Our Place Society.

We hope the New Year brings you all love & prosperity!

Sincerely
The Housing Team &
Residents

Our Place Society is an inner city ministry which provides a place where all who enter can find inspiration, hope and belonging. This portrait is one in a series created and donated by Elfrida Schragen to support Our Place's mission of providing a "hand up" out of poverty and homelessness. You too can make a difference. For information on other ways to help please visit www.ourplacesociety.com.

© 2007 Elfrida Schragen



Car Free Day

We have participated in the Victoria Car Free Day for 4 years. We have another opportunity to participate again this year. We are at a prime location – the only downtown Church on the main drag (Douglas Street). Two spaces have been reserved in front of the Church on Douglas Street. As in all cases of real-estate it is location, location and location. The last thing we need is some other Downtown Church claiming our stake in front of our Sanctuary.

Last year, the doors to the Sanctuary were open from about 10:30 to 5:00PM and we had approx.890 people walk through our front doors. That is 890 people through our door who may have never had the opportunity before.

Here is what we need to make this another St. Andrew's success story:

- ♦Team Lead to liaise with DVBA (Downtown Victoria Business Association)
- ♦Team Lead for the store front – street tent
- ♦Team Lead for the Open Church

If you can help with this project please send me an email jpfergus@gmail.com

It is not a burdensome task, we have done it often enough to work out the bugs. You won't be stuck behind a table for 8 hours – perhaps 2-hour stints. It is an opportunity for St. Andrew's to show leadership to the Presbytery of Vancouver Island by inviting and including other congregations to be part of this public celebration.

Administration Committee

We survived the Christmas/New Year's tsunami of bulletins. For the most part things have settled down from the Christmas season and we will soon move into the Easter season.

If you think you'd like to help with the Administration Committee, please contact me and we will put you to work.

The reports to be included in the Annual General Meeting are to be sent to me (not the office) where they will be organized and then produced by Whitney. Please send your reports for 2018 to jpfergus@gmail.com by February 3.

**For God so loVed the world
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
TThat whoever
Believeth IIn Him
Should NNot perish
But have EEverlasting life.
John 3:16**

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12

Love One another

God asks us to love each another—that means to be kind to each other, to be a good friend, to treat each other as you would like to be treated. There are lots of things that we can do to show our love for each other—how many things can you think of?



G	Q	R	J	N	I	L	D	R	Z	G	F	U	R	G
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	D	I	M	Y	T	E	Z	I
G	F	S	Y	J	F	W	J	O	K	H	N	Y	O	J
Q	W	F	L	F	R	U	I	T	W	S	C	P	M	I
C	H	M	E	R	B	W	Q	J	F	N	R	U	P	O
T	L	D	R	I	K	O	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S
Q	X	S	X	E	J	U	O	E	R	N	L	A	Y	R
O	A	P	R	N	E	N	B	A	I	F	L	I	S	R
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FRIENDS
DOWN
LAY
SERVANTS

OBEY
BUSINESS
FATHER
GREATER

LOVE
BEAR
LIFE
COMMAND

FRUIT
MASTER
REMAIN
CHOSE