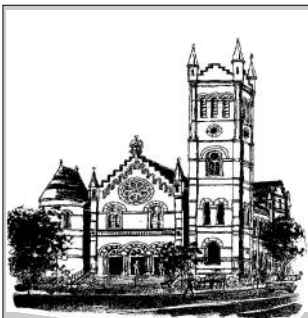


# THE LINK

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



April 2019

Help Needed - 2  
Books

Seder Bible 2  
Study

Seder Table 4

'Great Dying' 6

Recital 7

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Congregational 9  
Lunch

Change 10

May Bible 12  
Study

Victoria, BC



### The Transitional Process

In my initial sermon, "A House Without Walls" preached on the first Sunday in my new role as Transitional Pastor on July 22, 2018, I offered this quote:

*Quaker author Parker Palmer in his new book On the Brink of Everything said, "The God that I am familiar with does not work like a GPS, but accompanies me as I try to grope my way through the darkest of dark places. Offer yourselves to the world – our energies, our gifts, our visions, and our spirits of open-hearted generosity. When we live this way, Palmer says, we will understand how little we know and how easy it is to fail. He encourages, "Be hungry enough to learn, hard-working, courageous enough to keep moving beyond comfort zones."*

Over the last several months, I have seen St. Andrew's moving beyond comfort zones. The transitional work has caused us to ask, "What are the programs, committees and structures that are working well and fulfilling the function for which they were designed? What are the programs, committees and structures that are not working well and how do they need to be challenged and changed to meet the changing scope of our church and its mission?" The transitional period is a critical time to ask the difficult questions and hold the mirror for ourselves so that we can remember who we have been, who we currently are, and who and what God is calling us to be as we lean toward our future.

Each of us has a significant role that St. Andrew's needs us to fulfill. Whether we serve on a committee or Task Force, volunteer to bake for Coffee Hour, serve on Session, sing in the choir, participate as a reader during Sunday services or any other multiple ways of serving the congregation, each of you has something that you can contribute.

As I concluded my initial sermon last summer, what I said then still holds true: *We should never become so enamoured with a building that we lose sight that our true work is more about what happens within and among the church gathered and the church called out and sent into villages or cities or farms, to the sick in the marketplaces, so that Jesus may then touch those who need to be healed and need to be loved and need to be valued in a culture that barely notices. That is our call and will be our focus and I am blessed and honoured to be your partner in this place for the hard work that is ahead of us. For 128 years St. Andrew's has built this church and our work is not finished. Wisely stated in the Kirk that Faith Built is the observation, "When one realizes everything that has taken place since 1889, the heartaches, the trials and the adversity that has been overcome, surely it is by God's will that the Kirk of St. Andrew's flourishes today." This is God's church and we are God's stewards called to be the midwives for what God will continue to birth among us here. It will be challenging and exciting days of discernment and discovery. I hope you have your sneakers laced and your prayers said.*

With much love,  
Pastor Mitch

## HELP NEEDED

### To Collect Books for Bazaar Book Stall

On Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> volunteers are needed to help collect books for our annual November Bazaar book stall. The Times-Colonist Annual Book Sale takes place on the Saturday and Sunday before May 13<sup>th</sup>. The sale has raised \$5 million since it started in 1998. As usual, all the money raised will go to education and literacy programs on Vancouver Island.

On the Monday after the sale, charitable organizations are invited to help themselves to the remaining books before these books are removed from Victoria Curling Club and sent to recycling. Over the last ten years, volunteers from St. Andrew's have collected the bulk of the books that we sell in November from the post-sale piles at the Curling Club.

We usually line up early in the morning (between 8 - 9) and use provided grocery carts to collect the books. There are hundreds of empty boxes that we can use in the carts to hold the books. No heavy lifting is necessary as the boxes can be packed so the weight is not excessive.

When the boxes are filled, we transfer the boxes to my husband's truck. We take the books to St. Andrew's to store them until November.

If you are able and willing to help collect books on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, please let me know and I will add your name to our list. Thank you in advance.

**Debra Verwey**

250-383-1009 or tjeerd@telus.net

## Notes from Session

In March, Session focused on ensuring that all members and adherents have elders. Most of you will continue to have the same elder but a few of you will have an elder change. If you are not sure who your elder is, or indeed if you have one, please contact the Roll Clerk, Jim Ferguson [jpfergus@gmail.com](mailto:jpfergus@gmail.com).

With deep regret Session received the resignation of Dianne Penner, both as a member of Session and as Chair of the Christian Education Committee. We are so thankful for her heartfelt dedication and commitment to all the children of our congregation. We will be hard pressed to fill her shoes and accomplish all that she did, along with her family, for so many years. In the interim, if you have any questions about Christian Education, please direct them to Sabine Teetzel or Angus Henderson. We are pleased to announce that Linda Coggin has agreed to teach Sunday School and Brooklynn Trimble has volunteered to be a Sunday School helper.

Directly following the Palm Sunday Service there will be a congregational lunch in the Kirk Hall. Please come and break bread together as we enter Holy Week.

*Let our Easter celebration be a full proclamation of the risen Christ which will reverberate into the deepest place of our being.*  
(Paraphrase from Henri J.M. Nouwen)

Christ is Risen!

**The Session of St. Andrews**



## Seder Bible Study and Table

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019 - 10 – 12 in Kirk Hall**

Bible Study led by Pastor Mitch at 10:00am

Seder Table led by Dorothy Reimer at 11:00am

Only 3 more days to make reservations  
by speaking to Dorothy  
at Coffee Hour or calling the church office.

*Come experience the powerful story of the Jewish people and Passover as experienced through the Seder Table*

## Pickle Ball in the Hall

Now that Pickleball has been introduced to St. Andrew's, we will have two drop-in times per month for people to come and make use of the Pickleball court.



The court will be available for use on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month, from 5pm to 8pm. We will try this for the next 3 months and then assess how this is working.

When you arrive please sign the clipboard so we will know what the usage has been and if these times and days work for people.

If you have played Pickleball before and want to have an actual game feel free to do so, but on the otherhand if all of this is new to you, you are welcome to come and spend some time just getting used to the paddle and the ball and how to get the ball over the net. Most of us are at this stage.

There will be another opportunity to try this when the Chinese Church hosts games in the Hall on the first Saturday of each month. The time for that is 4:30pm – 6:30pm and they would welcome anyone from St. Andrew's to come and join them. Actually they would be happy to have St. Andrew's folk join them for other games too.

Check the bulletin board in the hall for information sheets on the basic rules of pickleball. Please take one.

If you would like to arrange a separate time for you and friends or family to play on another day, check with Whitney in the office for hall availability and if a time can be arranged, we can help with the court set up for your event.

These are the upcoming dates for court time:

Saturday, April 6, 4:30 – 6:30pm  
 Monday, April 8, 5 – 8pm  
 Monday, April 22, 5 – 8pm  
 Saturday, May 4, 4:30 – 6:30pm  
 Monday, May 13, 5 – 8pm  
 Monday, May 27, 5 – 8pm  
 Saturday, June 1, 4:30 – 6:30pm  
 Monday, June 10, 5 – 8pm  
 Monday, June 24, 5 – 8pm

Questions or comments? please contact the office and/or Sheelagh Garson.



**N**othing catches the eye more than balloons to announce that something special is going on. And as you can see from the photograph, that is exactly what happened at St. Andrew's recently. Blue and white balloons were tied to our sign board outside on Douglas Street announcing the organ recital. The added touch attracted the attention of more than 50 people who listened to the recital and then stayed to view the sanctuary.

We are grateful to **Scott Yu** for donating a box of the balloons that are printed with "St. Andrew's Church Part of Victoria since 1866" along with the emblem of the Burning Bush. What could be a more Presbyterian symbol?

A big thank you goes to Scott Yu for assisting in promoting our downtown lunch-time musical performances with his donation.

The next recital will be held on Wednesday, May 1 from 12:15 - 12:45 pm. Spread the word!

## Welcome to a SEDER at St. Andrew's!

Wednesday, April 10 - Kirk Hall



“Passover” takes place in the spring and is the most important celebration for the Jewish people. It is celebrated by a Passover Seder and this is a time when friends and family come together to celebrate their heritage

and identity around a family table. During the meal the story of their slavery in Egypt and their deliverance by God, through Moses, led them to a new life of freedom, giving them cause to give thanks. And so, for over 3,300 years, Jewish people around the world have come together to observe Passover.

A Seder takes place around a table and with a set order of service. The story is told through prayers, reflections, and food. The most important item on the Seder table is a centre plate on which five symbolic foods are placed. Each food item reminds the group of their past story and their deliverance. It is also a time when one can wrestle with their own experiences and to think how we can each try to make the world a gentler, kinder place.

Why are we at St. Andrew's doing this? A Seder provides Christians with an opportunity to also remember that it was during a Passover celebration that Jesus instituted Holy Communion. However, the Passover clearly predates and is entirely separate from the Eucharist or Last Supper. To be authentic, Christian concepts and expressions are not mixed with the Seder experience. The Seder is a Jewish celebration which helps Christians understand Judaism. Since Passover this year falls within one week of Easter, we thought the Seder experience would be a good way to have a different worship experience. I conclude with a lovely quote from Lauren Winner, author of *Mudhouse Sabbath*: “The table is not only a place where we can become present to God. The table is also a place where He becomes present to us.”

It is a celebration, so come dressed up and be ready to have a good time. We hope you will also

participate with some readings.

We would appreciate it if you let us know that you are coming because part of our Seder table will have individual items for the service and so we need to set a place for each participant at the table. This is a communal experience and we all participate together. If anyone can help with table set up, and table decoration the day before, or help with a few shopping lists, or clean up, that is appreciated. A small snack will take place after the Seder service and we want to set a place for you at the table. Please come!

Please contact the church office to register your place and feel free to call Dorothy if you have questions or queries re this event. I will be happy to answer any questions.

For some background reading: If you wish to add some Bible readings for your understanding of the Exodus story and Passover, here are a few passages which might prove helpful:

Exodus 12-13,  
Deuteronomy 7:6-9,  
Deuteronomy 16,  
2 Chronicles 30,  
2 Chronicles 35:1-19,  
Joshua 5:10-12.

**Dorothy Reimer  
Mitch Coggin**

### References:

*Pesach for the Rest of Us* by Marge Piercy  
*What I wish my Christian Friends knew about Judaism* by Robert Schoen  
*The Sabbath* by Senator Joe Lieberman  
*Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren Winner  
[www.meaningfullife.com](http://www.meaningfullife.com)  
*Passover Seder: Ritual and Menu for an Observance by Christians* by Barbara Balzac Thompson



## Open Church

As we continue to open our doors to visitors and locals alike on a weekly basis for showcasing our sanctuary and its many wonders, I have been privileged to welcome anywhere from 15 to over 35 visitors. Some have passed our regrettably locked doors for many years and some came from far away to find a welcome when they came by.

I have met Canadians from Cape Breton to Prince Rupert, from Poland, Ukraine, India, China, Korea, Brazil, Mexico, The Netherlands, Germany, USA, and parts of Africa. Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Agnostics, Reformed, Quakers, Hindus, Jews and Muslims. Some came to see what was in a church and others asked pertinent faith questions. I hope to continue this worthwhile work, but regrettably I may have to close these doors for a time as I'll be away from May 16<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>. Part of this time I'll be representing our Presbytery at the General Assembly in Waterloo, ON. I would welcome anyone or a couple to take over for that time so that we can continue this outreach. During the upcoming summer I'll again schedule open church to coincide with cruise ship arrivals.

**Jerry Verwey**  
250.383.1009

## Meditation Hour

In conjunction with Open Church on Wednesdays, I have opened our sanctuary for a quiet time after work for those who need time to reflect on the day's occurrences and recharge themselves spiritually and physically. There have as few as one and as many as 10, some who have been before. I have had some interesting discussions with some and some insight in their view of life and concerns. This too will be closed whilst I'm away. If you feel led to assist in this ministry feel free to come and observe/participate.

**Jerry Verwey**



The sidebar poem was written by our late archivist, Dr. Allan Arneil, and printed in the September 2003 *Link*. It is reprinted with permission from Dora Arneil.

## Open Church

Douglas is a busy street  
With noisy trucks and plodding feet  
Sidewalks swarm with pushing crowds  
And choking dust in wind-blown clouds

Is there somewhere one can hide  
From this, the seething, human tide?  
Yes there is I'm glad to say  
St. Andrew's Kirk will make your day

It's nice to find a friendly place  
So quiet and near, with soaring space  
A restful, placid, peaceful spot  
In contrast with the street — that's not!

It welcomes weary travellers in  
To share with them what's here within  
A hundred years and more have passed  
That it's stood here, 'twas built to last

You'll find you're welcomed at the door  
As all our guests have been before  
A guide is there to show you round  
As treasured objects here abound

The windows surely will delight.  
The coloured glass reflects the light  
The organ, huge, cannot be missed  
While plaques and pews are on the list

All who come are free to roam  
And make our kirk their erstwhile home  
And if you choose to sit and rest  
You're welcome, as an honoured guest

If you're troubled, full of care  
Where else is better anywhere  
Than in our pews to come and sit  
And, undisturbed, pray over it?

And all who come soon realize  
That though we are of massive size  
There is sense of holiness  
Serene and peaceful, nonetheless

There is no charge, you come in free  
We do not have an entrance fee  
Your coming to our church domain  
Is our reward, come back again!

**Allan Arneil**

## Mission & Outreach

### DEPOPULATION OF THE AMERICAS AFTER 1492: THE “GREAT DYING”

While most of us are now very aware of the devastating effects that colonisation had on Indigenous peoples in what is now Canada, recent studies show that the loss of life amongst the Indigenous people of the Americas was so massive that resulting effects on the ecosystems that they depended on for food left an indelible mark on the atmosphere, and contributed to the deepest cold of “the Little Ice Age” several centuries ago.

The arrival of Europeans in the Americas in 1492 AD (i.e. “First Contact”) marks the onset of declines in Indigenous populations through armed conquest, famine, and especially epidemics of highly contagious and fatal diseases which resulted in the loss over the next century of the great majority of Indigenous people living in America. These deaths began in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America, and expanded as Europeans began colonising North America.

Based on archaeological evidence, total populations in the Americas in 1492 are estimated by some to have been about 60.5 million (compared to 70 to 88 million people in Europe). Post-contact major disease outbreaks began in the Caribbean (1497) then Mexico (1520) and Central (1520) and South America (late 1520s).

For North America, the first documented contact between Indigenous people and Europeans took place on the east coast in the 1530s, at which time explorers reported finding dense Iroquois

settlements. These settlements had disappeared by the end of the 1600s, twenty years before the first recorded smallpox epidemic in North America would kill 90% of the native population of New England. This is the same as the highest estimates for the earlier death rates in Central and South America.

By 1800, only an estimated one million Indigenous people were left in North America. Some suggest that the lowest point of 490,000 people was reached in the 1930s, although it is assumed that the initial waves of epidemics during the 1600s and 1700s were responsible for most of the depopulation.

The massive decrease in Indigenous populations in the Americas has recently been linked to equally large changes in the environment because about 140 million acres (56 million hectares) of agricultural fields were abandoned (which is 1.3 times the size of California, or equivalent to about one-third of the total area of land currently farmed in Canada). Trees grew back and took up enough carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that its concentration decreased to the bottom of a trough in 1610, after which it climbed again as colonisation expanded and forests were cleared for farms by European settlers. The onset of the deepest cold of the “Little Ice Age” is associated with this depression in carbon dioxide.

Although epidemics did not

affect Indigenous people in the Victoria area until much later, what might we learn from this rather remarkable research? Imagine how many people it would take to farm one-third of Canada’s agricultural land using stone and wood implements, and with no horses or oxen to pull ploughs. Now, imagine them dying within a few decades, usually in waves of up to 90%, and over a matter of days or weeks within a recently infected community. How would their language, culture, and knowledge survive? What would happen to their sense of self, of well-being, of family and community, or of a secure future? How would a society reform and carry on, and for how many generations might these impacts be felt? How might the more recent smallpox outbreak of 1862 in BC still affect local First Nations?

Quite apart from showing the magnitude of the impact of the “Great Dying” on Indigenous people in the Americas and the impact on their land management, the research sets out to define the beginning of the Anthropocene: the start of the geological epoch in which human impacts can be felt and will continue to be felt globally. This is not merely an academic or trivial exercise: defining this using the strict scientific standards by which other geological epochs are dated has the potential to change how we view our place in the world, our impact on it, and our future.

**Brian Titus and  
Patricia Shuckburgh**

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Lunchtime Recital

May 1, 2019 12:15 – 12:45pm

~ MUSIC FOR A SPRING  
AFTERNOON ~

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
corner of Broughton and Douglas  
Streets.

Wheelchair access on Broughton  
Street

**Emma Woo**, St. Andrew's alto  
choral scholar,  
and **Jillian Conway**  
with Christine Purvis, organist

Come and enjoy 30 minutes of  
vocal and keyboard music.

Admission by donation with  
proceeds going to St. Andrew's  
Music Ministry.

(Continued from page 6)

### Further reading:

#### Fiction:

Thomas King 2014. *The Back of the Turtle*. Harper Collins,  
518 p. ISBN 9781443431620

#### Non-fiction:

Koch, Brierly, Maslin and Lewis.  
2019. Earth system impacts of  
the European arrival and Great  
Dying in the Americas after  
1492. *Quaternary Science  
Reviews* 207: 13-36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2018.12.004>

Lewis and Maslin. 2015. Defining  
the Anthropocene. *Nature* 519:  
171-180 doi:10.1038/  
nature14258.

Lewis and Maslin 2018. *The  
Human Planet: How We  
Created the Anthropocene*.  
Pelican Books, 480 p. ISBN  
9780241280881.

Please join the **Friendship Club** in the Kirk Hall on Saturday, April 13 at 2:30pm (doors open 2:00pm) for **High Tea** followed by Joyce Nordwall's talk on **"Nutrition, Dietetics and Mental Health"** which she recently presented at a conference in Beijing. Joyce will also be sharing some of her personal impressions, photos and experiences that she brought back from that immense Chinese city.

The cost of the event is \$10 per person and all members of the congregation and friends are invited. If you bring your car, remember that the first hour is free in the city parkade under the Broughton St. Library.

If you would like more information, or to sign-up for this event, please see or call **Bill Duke** (250-708-0256).



## Camp VIP-2019

Spring has sprung on us gloriously. That means that summer is just around the corner and camping comes to mind. Presbytery has organized three camps:

### Mid Week Escape

June 11 - 14  
Englishman River Provincial Park  
(Please book own site)

### French Beach Escape

July 4 - 8  
French Beach Provincial Park  
(Group Campsite)

### Rathtrevor Family Camp

July 29 - August 5  
Rathtrevor Provincial Park



Please see the posters around the church for contact and registration information.

**Jerry Verwey,**  
St Andrew's Camp Rep

## Shine: Regional Women's Gathering

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Western Regional Gathering of Presbyterian Women on Friday and Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Surrey, BC at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel. The Women's Missionary Society and The Presbyterian Church in Canada gave generous donations and support to provide this event which approximately 100 women attended. There were women there from all three western provinces, Ontario and as far east as Montreal.

The theme of the gathering was based on Jesus' message in the Sermon on the Mount: "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine on others!" In two worship services the Reverend Jennifer Geddes and the Reverend Laura Kavanagh stressed the importance of sharing the transformational Light of God. As we reflect this Light to others, they behold God's light in us and mirror that light back to us. We should respond to the mercy and grace that we have received from God by showing that mercy and grace to others.

The keynote speaker of the gathering was writer, activist and theologian Mary Jo Leddy, who founded Romero House in Toronto, a centre for refugees. She challenged us (and all Canadians) to ask ourselves "Why are we Here?" at this time and in this place called Canada. Seeing through the eyes of newcomers and outsiders, Canadians need to shed their colonial mindset, Leddy asserted, and to take responsibility for the **space inside our borders** that we inhabit. This **space**, this **here**, that we inhabit is the good that we hold in common. "The sense of the common good relies much more on a sense of responsibility than on claims of rights."

By coming together for the common good, Mary Jo Leddy hopes that Canadians would experience a fresh sense of power arising through that interaction which could shine as an example to the world to care for its space. Canada could lead by taking action against climate change and showing responsibility for its economic use of natural resources. This vision is outlined in Leddy's book, ***Why are we Here? A meditation on Canada.***

Another highlight of the gathering was a performance

by the Hummingbird Ministries Star Blanket Dancers. Hummingbird Ministries is a Presbyterian Indigenous

healing ministry located in the lower mainland of BC. It serves children, youth and adults through regular healing circles that help restore hope, instill freedom and justice by engaging youth in sports and healthy alternatives, working in the community in art and celebration and providing educational and healing workshops, Bible studies, children's art and music programs. The Reverend Mary Fontaine is one of the leaders of Hummingbird Ministries. She introduced the performers to us.

The Star Blanket Dancers are a group of children who expressed an interest to learn "pow-wow dancing." The troupe was founded in 2015.

Wearing colourful jiggle-dresses, feathers and beaded outfits, the children danced and sang for us to the beat of Indigenous drums. The gathering participants got a change to join in a circle dance on the stage.

On Saturday, there were five different workshops that the women could select to attend. There was a range from music to knitting, to some on the theme of not hiding your light under a bushel. I attended a workshop led by Rev. Karen McAndless-Davis, which focussed on her work, providing support, advocacy and counselling for women with experiences of abuse. She drew insights from her book, ***When Love Hurts: A Woman's Guide to Understanding Abuse in Relationships***, which helps women recognize signs of abuse and provides practical tools for decision-making.

The gathering was a great time and place to meet other Presbyterian women from across Canada and to make new friendships. I was very glad to have had this opportunity to attend.

**Debra Verwey**

More photos on p. 13.



Rev. Mary Fontaine



photos by Debra Verwey



*The following report was not included in the Annual Reports due to an oversight of the committee which prepared the report...*

### Kitchen Report 2018

2018 was a good year for the kitchen. It continues to be very busy at times with use by St. Andrew's and also by community groups and individuals. I am happy to say that most people do very well at trying to ensure that equipment, recycling and garbage is well cared for. The equipment has, overall, worked well but when needed the Property Committee and Grant have been able to ensure that any small glitches were resolved.

This year our supply of large tablecloths was in desperate need of additions and we were very fortunate that a donation allowed us to purchase new ones. We have a supply of plastic cloths (in several colours) which can be used at various events but having more cloth table covers is very helpful. One of the challenges for the cloth tablecloths is that they must be returned, as quickly as possible after use, in a state for re-use for the next event. This requires that any stains are removed and that the cloths are ironed and folded neatly. Thank you to those who ensure that this happens.

Our kitchen continues to receive excellent reports when inspected and we are blessed to have the use of such wonderful facilities.

Respectfully submitted  
**Sheelagh Garson**

### Palm Sunday Congregational Lunch

**April 14, 2019**

**11:30 am**

**Kirk Hall**



Let us break bread  
together  
as we enter Holy Week.

### Easter Resurrection Cookies

#### Ingredients

1c. whole pecans  
1 tsp. vinegar  
3 egg whites  
a pinch salt  
1c. sugar

#### You will also need

zipper baggie  
wooden spoon  
tape  
Bible

1. Preheat oven to 300°F.
2. Place pecans in zipper baggie and beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. After Jesus was arrested, the Roman soldiers beat him. Read John 19:1-3.
3. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. When Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
4. Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
5. Put the salt in the bowl, this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers. Read Luke 23:27.
6. Add the sugar. The sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. Read Ps. 34:8 & John 3:16.
7. Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. The color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
8. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matt. 27:57-60.
9. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF and seal the oven door. Just like Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66.
10. GO TO BED! Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.
11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.

Submitted by  
**Sabine Teetzel**

## Mission & Outreach

### CHANGE IS IN THE WIND: FOOD BANKS AND MR. QUARTER

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven”. St. Andrew’s is in a time of transition and, while there are many healthy signs of vitality and hope, we are no longer in the place we were when food hampers and the “Mr. Quarter Fund” were established as a means of ministry to those around us. You will thus notice two changes in the Narthex related to donations for mission and outreach: first, the baskets for donations of dried or tinned goods for local foodbanks will no longer be present; secondly, the “Mr. Quarter” tins will now be re-labelled for donations of grocery chain gift cards for the Cedar Tree Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada on Vancouver Island.

There are several reasons for these changes. We are no longer of a size to be able to support all of the programs that we used to support, or all that we would like to currently support: the needs of the world outstrip the depth of our pockets. We are therefore consciously consolidating activities, where reasonable, to support activities that are part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, or with which we have an established history. The “Mr. Quarter” fund has been wound down as part of our continuing consolidation of independent funds within our annual budget process. The change in foodbank recipients is in response to a request for support of Cedar Tree Ministries. Gift cards are the stated preference of the Cedar Tree Ministries because it gives them flexibility in buying items for their foodbank that are most in demand; they are also easy for donors to purchase and send.

So where does this leave us regarding donations by our congregation? **Locally**, we support people in need through Saturday Breakfasts, and the Thanksgiving and Advent programs for Our Place (co-founded by a Presbyterian agency); **nationally**, we support programs through Presbyterian Sharing; **internationally**, we support programs through Presbyterian Sharing and Presbyterian World Service and Development. Redirecting foodbank support to Cedar Tree Ministries moves these donations to a program of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island. Please consider supporting this important outreach to First Nations on Vancouver Island by donating gift cards from Country Grocer, Save-on-Foods or Thrifty Foods. Please deposit them in the tins in the Narthex, include them in your regular donation envelope, or place them in the offering plates.

And what is the context for our congregational giving to others, and its magnitude relative to our annual budget? The 2019 Congregational Budget estimates **donations** of \$243,000 from members; **other income** from rents and other sources brings this to an estimated total income of \$310,315. Not including Cedar Tree ministries, and taking Mission and Outreach line items from the 2019 budget and recent figures from the annual report for Presbyterians Sharing, we support Mission and Outreach programs with 12% of our givings (or 9% of our total income). For givings, this breaks down as 2.9% to local, 7.1% to national and 2.0% to international initiatives; for total income, this is 2.3%, 5.5% and 1.5%, respectively. (Note that this breakdown does not include all the many other things done by the congregation towards mission and outreach for which budget numbers are not readily available, or for which the cost is in time and effort rather than monetary.)

As we work through the transition process, we as a congregation will examine the calling of St. Andrew’s to serve the world. At some point in the process, this will translate into an examination by the congregation of our priorities – which will undoubtedly offer opportunities for a continuing re-examination of how we raise and spend funds to further the Kingdom of God.

**Brian Titus**

Mission and Outreach Committee

#### **Further reading**

The official website for Cedar Tree Ministries is <http://pccweb.ca/cedartreeministries/>.

An excellent article on the Cedar Tree Ministries can be found in *Renewal News!* Vol. No. 23, Issue No. 3, Summer 2018, pp. 4-5 at <http://www.renewal-fellowship.ca/media/RenewalNewsSummer2018.pdf>.

Please see Brian Titus if you wish to see a table with the breakdown of spending. Recent budgets for Presbyterians Sharing can be found on the national church web pages, from which the 14:86 split between international and national (i.e. all that is not international) spending by the national church was determined.

## Worship Committee

The Worship Committee appreciated the response from the congregation requesting a submission of "Favourite Hymns" during the month of March and the following is a summary of the results. The survey was to assess the congregation's enjoyment of learning new hymns. Through discussions and some written notes we conclude that the congregation enjoys the experience of learning new hymns with the suggestion that only one be introduced each Sunday. The conclusion is we are singing many of the old hymns and the congregation is pleased with the music during worship and certainly appreciate our Music Director, Christine Purvis. As a thank-you for those who responded, here is the list of hymns submitted. A quick analysis shows a New Testament theme mainly from Matthew, Luke and John.

135	Christians, awake	634	Will you come and follow me
209	O Love that wilt not let me go	670	Amazing grace
250	I Danced in the morning/Lord of the dance	773	Jesus bids us shine
435	All thing bright and beautiful	794	Abide with me
471	We are one in the Spirit	814	Morning has broken
569	O Jesus, I have promised	826	The day you gave us, Lord, has ended
592	I, the Lord of sea and sky		

Update and reminder for Communion: on communion Sunday, March 3, 2019 there were 115 participants. There will be communion on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019.

Submitted by,  
**Laura Richards**

**A**fter six weeks of Lent, when the church has been devoid of flowers, we are hoping to have a beautiful bouquet of flowers for Easter. The Worship Committee thought this might be a good opportunity for those who would like to make a contribution towards a bouquet of flowers, in memory of loved ones.

If so, please drop off your donation either to the church office, to Laura Richards, or Dorothy Reimer during coffee time, over the next two weeks. Please mark your contribution "Flowers for Easter", along with a short note about your loved one. We will make sure this is acknowledged and displayed.



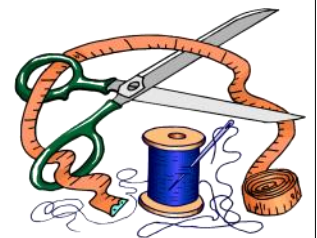
Donations may also be put in the offering plate along with your note, but please mark the envelope "Easter Flower Fund".

Thank you,  
**Dorothy Reimer**

### Thank you ...

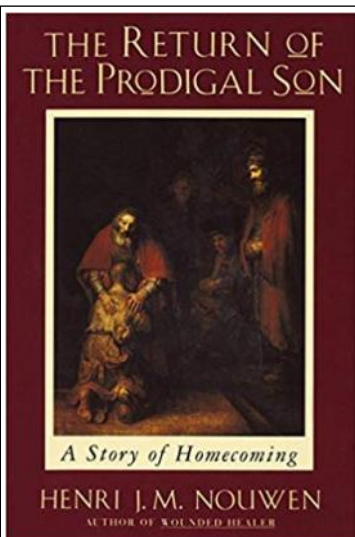
to all those at St Andrew's who donated recently to the Compassionate Warehouse (CW).

The folks there were thrilled with the variety of materials, pins, scissors, pinking shears, trims and even a sewing machine. These types of articles are included in most of their shipments so if anyone finds they have more to donate CW would be happy to get further donations.



This last week, two containers went out – one to Moldova and the other to Cuba. Further shipments will be going to help in other areas in the world as countries work to rebuild after natural or man-made disasters.

**Sheelagh Garson**



### The Return of the Prodigal Son

by Henri J. M. Nouwen | Mar 1 1994

Paperback - CDN\$ 16.24 CDN\$ 19.00 CDN\$19.00

Kindle Edition - CDN\$ 14.99

## May Bible Study

Led by Pastor Mitch

Based on the Luke 15 Parable of the Prodigal Son  
and

the 1669 Rembrandt painting of the Prodigal  
and

a 1994 Book by Dutch Jesuit Priest  
Father Henri Nouwen

*The Return of the Prodigal Son*

Call the Church Office to order your Henri Nouwen book. Daytime Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays and evening Bible Study on Thursdays in May.

## Car Free Day – 2019

There are very few days in the year when a person can walk down the middle of Douglas Street or jaywalk without getting arrested. One is the May long weekend parade – but you must be careful about being caught in the middle of a marching band when crossing the street.

The other is on Car Free Day on June 16<sup>th</sup> this year when we celebrate Car Free Day in Victoria. Douglas Street is closed from Herald Street to the North through to Humboldt in the South. It is a bit of a community celebration, entertainment, food and activities for families of all ages and ability.

The people of St. Andrew's have an opportunity to participate in this Community event by welcoming people through our doors, answering questions, sharing information and serving as gracious hosts and greeters.

If you were to stand on the corner of Broughton & Douglas Street on any afternoon you will find people stopping to look and to take pictures of our amazing Church building. When you reflect on the year of the construction of St. Andrew's and changes which have taken place in downtown Victoria over our city's long history, St. Andrew's is the one constant.

For people who have moved away from Victoria, St. Andrew's is the reference point for many of them. Such comments as "I remember... Marks & Spencer,

T. Eaton's and other businesses" get expressed in relation to "just up the street from St. Andrew's"

We have an opportunity to open our doors to all people – near & far, young & old, downtown Victoria and further afield to share what St. Andrew's is all about. To do this, we need your help. Please let me know if you can spend even a few moments on June 16<sup>th</sup>, to help us celebrate Car Free Day in Victoria and share our beautiful Church with our community. It is an opportunity for St. Andrew's to share "A Beautiful View" and demonstrate "A Friendlier Christianity As A Way of Life". (with all due respect to F. Moran Roberts).

Please contact me if you think you can help

**Jim Ferguson**

250-415-3687

jpfergus@gmail.com



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A Word to the Young and Young at Heart





On Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>, I was privileged, as Presbytery representative to the board, to attend the prayerful dedication and blessing of the housing society's 42 affordable rental units. **Knox Church, Sooke**, a small congregation in our Presbytery, built the units on their property which used to have a manse located on it. Since the inception in 2008, they have tirelessly sought to build and trusting in God all the way, which included many setbacks, finally saw their dreams, prayers, and hopes come alive with the commencement of construction in 2017. These much sought-after units ranging from handicap accessible to one, two, and three bedroom units on five floors are ready for occupancy. Knox Sooke is to be commended for their vision, perseverance, and dedication to the project which will enhance the community of Sooke and be a testament to God at work. For more information check out their website <https://knoxcentre.com/>

**Jerry Verwey**  
Presbytery Representative to Knox Vision



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AGM Fun Mar 1/19 - Volunteering at St Andrew's

#### Volunteer Duties:

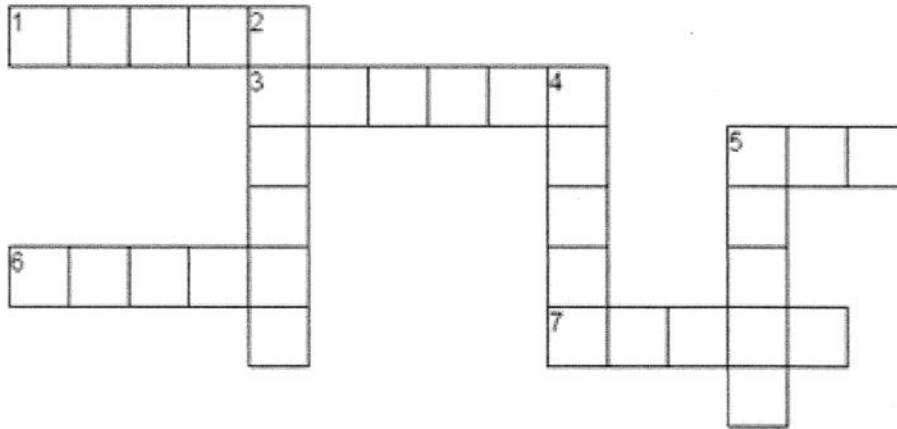
- Ushering
- Sound
- Choir
- Tea and Coffee
- Nursery
- Sunday School
- Fixing and Repairing
- Gardening
- Count Collection
- Open Church
- Oak Bay Lodge
- Event Coordinator

## St. Andrew's Children's Page

### I've Just Seen Jesus

**Bible Verse of the Month:** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20: 16 (NIV)

Complete the activity below. The words in the puzzle are found in John 10: 1-18



#### Across

1. The colour of snow; the opposite of black
3. Messengers from heaven
5. To produce tears; to weep
6. Not dead
7. To have nothing inside

#### Down

2. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
4. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
5. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers

Easter

Cloth

Cry

Empty

Alive

White

Stone

Angels