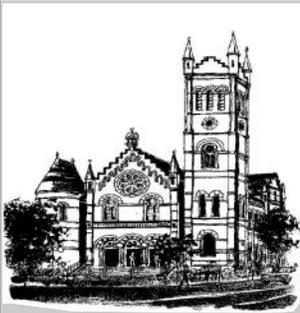


THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



In a recent publication of *TheBanner.org*, a magazine of the Christian Reformed Church, writer Geoff Vandermolten, director of Vocational Formation at Calvin Seminary shares wisdom in his article *Navigating Leadership Transitions in the Church*. “Expectations of the Canadian men’s 4x100 relay competition at the 2012 Olympics were low. It was supposed to be a rebuilding year. A third place finish caused a national celebration. The celebration lasted only a few seconds before it was discovered that a foul had occurred in the third transition zone when the baton was being passed from one runner to the next. The race was lost in the transition zone! Life in the transition zone can be costly. Research shows that the interpersonal costs of failing to navigate the transition zone can include physical or mental illness for church leaders, a climate of alienation and distrust and even betrayal. They can deaden even the most vibrant congregation’s pursuit of God’s mission, giving rise to power plays, coups, and battles for control.”

St. Andrew’s continues our work in the transitional zone. We are approaching our second anniversary. Over the coming Sundays you will hear the call for new elders to step into the transition zone and help. In 2020 you will hear the repeated reminder, “This is a critical year within the transitional process.” New leadership is essential if we intend to meet the needs within our districts, make the critical decisions about our future and continue to use our building to serve the community. This will also be a critical year as we revise our committee structures and communication processes.

Vandermolten stresses in *Transitions*, “refuse to give up any urgency for the mission of God to which we have been called.” Our mission was highlighted in a recent sermon when an ancient prophet stressed “What does the Lord require but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?” Over the coming weeks and months, I challenge us all to reaffirm our commitment to living out God’s mission in this place at this time. The transition zone can be a place of discovery, excitement and clarity as we work together.

The Lenten Season will begin before you receive the March edition of *The Link*. Lent is a period of examination leading up to Easter. The season is rooted in the 40-day fast of Jesus in the wilderness. Catholic Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, spiritual growth, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our relationship with Jesus Christ and our service to him. Thus, it is fitting that the season of Lent begins with a symbol of repentance: placing ashes mixed with oil on one’s forehead. However, we must remember that our Lenten disciplines are supposed to ultimately transform our entire person: body, soul, and spirit, and help us become more like Christ. Eastern Christians call

(Continued on page 2)

February 2020

New Canadians	3
The Salt Path	4
Car Free Day	5
Burns Supper	6-7
New Members	8
PWS&D and Refugee Help	5, 9
Elder Nominations	10-11
Valentine Party	11

In order to respect the privacy of our contributors, no articles or photos may be re-produced without express written consent of the editors of *The Link*.

Victoria, BC

Message from Session

February 2020

At the beginning of our meeting, we were very pleased to welcome guests who will become new members of the St. Andrew's. The elders took time to introduce themselves and to hear a little of the faith journey of each guest. Don and Anne Jones will join by re-affirmation of faith. Chris Lindsay, who grew up in this congregation, has returned to Victoria and will join by transfer of membership.

Over the years, decisions are made at session. We have taken the time to review the motions made in the last 10 years, to determine if they are still relevant and correct for today. The intent is to file these together for easy reference, for ourselves and for new elders.

We are very aware that communication is a challenge. We are a congregation of busy people, spread throughout the city. Many of our congregation have commitments that mean that they are not able to attend every week. This means that we need to have better communication so that we are able to let everyone know what is happening. Elders will be contacting everyone in their districts to collect current contact information. This information will be for the use of the elders, church office and the pastor. If you have concerns about this, please speak to your elder

On January 28, the Presbytery of Vancouver Island will vote regarding the Remits from the General Assembly. There have been references to this in previous *Link* articles. Together with Rev. Coggin, we took time to pray for the Presbytery as they vote, and for all of the leaders in the Presbyterian Church as they prepare to respond to the outcome of the voting by all Presbyteries across the country (as per the Barrier Act) and for all the ministers and delegates as they prepare for the General Assembly. We prayed that all would keep trusting and believing that we are God's church.

In September, we all appreciated the work that went into creating the Timeline for the church. There is a risk that we may lose the history of some of our

artifacts. A team will get together to photograph and document a record of these articles, and may well approach some of you to help with this.

Under the leadership of Rev. Coggin, primary focus for the session in the coming months will be:

- ❖ Improving and streamlining communication.
- ❖ Further developing the committee structure so that there is more collaboration, making decisions more efficient.
- ❖ Seeking new leaders through the election of new elders.
- ❖ Assessing the current mission and, with congregational input, develop a 5-year and 10-year vision for the congregation.

There is a lot to do, and we cannot delay. Please pray for the session, Rev. Coggin and for each other; God has a role for each and every one of us as we move forward in His plan.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Colina Titus,
on behalf of Session

(Continued from page 1)

this process *theosis*, which St. Athanasius describes as "becoming by grace what God is by nature."

Wednesday, February 26 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. We, at St. Andrew's, will provide an **Ash Wednesday service at 12:15pm in the sanctuary**. This will be a brief service of scripture, sacred music, quiet meditation and the imposition of ashes. Following Ash Wednesday, our Lenten Bible Study will be based on the scripture passages that guide us in a holy examination, developing a deeper prayer life and preparing our hearts for the tragedy of Good Friday, so that we might be more prepared for the celebration of Easter. Please make sure **Wednesday, February 26 at 12:15pm is on your calendar!**

Rev. Mitch Coggin

Congratulations to Elizabeth, Sandy and Glenn—New Canadians!

Thursday, January 23rd, 2020 had Elizabeth Gichimu and Glenn and Sandy Gajadhar seeing red. Yes, they were seeing red in the many Canadian flags around the room in the Greek Community Hall. These three individuals took the Oath of Citizenship at a citizenship ceremony held there. This oath is the final step in becoming a Canadian citizen. The hour long ceremony was presided over by Citizenship judge, Carol-Ann Hart, with a clerk of the court and an RCMP officer in red serge also participating. The judge gave a very respectful and impressive speech where she outlined the duties and responsibilities of being a Canadian citizen. Then she led the group in the recitation of the Oath of Citizenship in English and French. She invited the well-wishers in attendance to also participate by joining in on the Oath to declare loyalty to the Canadian monarch, to abide by the laws of Canada and to uphold the duties of a Canadian citizen. The whole room did just that!



Then Judge Hart urged the new Canadians to get involved in the arts, in sports, in their area of interest and in their communities. The ceremony was closed with a rousing rendition of O

Canada. It really was an inspirational ceremony seeing all those people, each with a different story as how they arrived at this point, wanting to become citizens of Canada. I am so glad that I had an opportunity to attend.

On Sunday, January 26th, St. Andrew's congregation honoured Elizabeth at coffee hour for having attained this goal of citizenship with a large cake sporting the Canadian Flag.



Elizabeth, Sandy and Glenn proudly displaying their new citizenship certificates, along with their cheering section.

Since the Finance Committee was the coffee host, our Treasurer, Jack Reimer, said a few words of recognition for this event, and then we all dug into the delicious cake. A big thank you goes out to Moira and Roger Bernard for arranging for the cake as well as to all the other members of the finance committee.

Our church family at St. Andrew's is very fortunate to be able to welcome our elder, Elizabeth, as one of our newest Canadian citizens. We also celebrate that Glenn and Sandy Gajadhar, who frequently attend, have become Canadian citizens too!

Fiona Ryneveld

Happenings at The Friendship Club

Open to all adults in the church and community, as a social get-together. Most programs cost approximately \$10-\$15 per person. (Costs have increased slightly this year.)

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

Saturday, February 15. Valentine's Lunch and afternoon entertainment in the Kirk Hall, starting at 12:30. Guest Speaker: **Marie Ryan-Roberts** followed by live musical entertainment in the Sanctuary, from 3:00 - 4:00pm., with **Martin, Maribel & Friends**. See detailed information on Page 11 of this Link.

Tuesday, March 31 - Seniors Breakfast and Tour: (8:50am-11:30am). Light Breakfast in the Parliamentary Dining Room, a guided Walking Tour of the Legislative Building and a Gallery Session while The Legislature is in Session. We can take 25 people on this tour. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Get your tickets early!

Stay tuned for future events in 2020:

Spring - Soup and Stories: a lunch time program

June - Guest Pharmacist, Norma McLeod, will speak about "The Role of a Pharmacist and Your Health".

July - Meet at Government House, tour the Museum and enjoy Coffee in the unique Rudi's Coffee Shop.

September or October - "Movie Madness" Afternoon with Nancy and Bill Duke.

October - "Peruvian Adventures: Digging for Gold" by Sandra Blitz.

December - Christmas Buffet Luncheon at the Cordova Bay Golf Club.

All above programs are subject to Kirk Hall availability and guest speakers. Many are still in the planning stages. I am always looking for ideas for programs, and helpers to decorate, be table hosts, prep food and set up/clean up. If you can help with anything, please speak to Dorothy. We welcome your suggestions and your help.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Reimer

Mission & Outreach

The Salt Path

I have been helping out, on and off, at the monthly pancake breakfast in the Kirk Hall for several years now. One elderly man reminds me of a BBC children's character I grew up watching on TV. He's a sweet man with a ready smile and has been coming to our pancake breakfasts for years. I asked him his name last week and he told me he's called Patrick. Suddenly he took on a new persona. I knew his name. And it felt like I knew him more personally.

Last month, a friend lent me her copy of the book, 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn. Published in 2018, this amazing and inspirational true story became a Sunday Times Bestseller, calling it 'A tale of triumph of hope over despair; of love over everything'.

Just days after the author Raynor Winn learned that her husband of thirty-two years, was terminally ill, they lost their home and livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they impulsively decided to walk the 630-mile South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall. Living wild and free, at the mercy of sea and sky, they discovered a new, liberating existence.

The Times calls it, 'The most inspirational book of the year'. This couple is completely homeless and completely dependent upon the kindness of others for their very survival.

This book hasn't just changed the way I think about the vulnerability of being homeless, it has also made me so incredibly grateful for every little luxury a home can provide.

Patricia Shuckburgh

Car Free Day 2020



The Greater Victoria Downtown Business Association hosts Car Free Day in Victoria around the middle of June. In years past it has been on Father's Day. St. Andrew's has participated for the last 3 years.

It has been an opportunity for us to "strut our stuff" and welcome people into our Sanctuary. Frequent comments are, "I've lived in Victoria all my life and I often wondered what is behind these doors" and when people enter the Sanctuary, "Do you still have services here on Sunday?"

I was recently chatting with a friend about St. Andrew's. His immediate response was, "Oh, the big Church you notice when you come out of the parkade," to which my response was, "No, the one across from the Sticky Wicket." The reply then was, "You mean the Church which doesn't have any door handles?"

Car Free Day is an opportunity for us to 'open the doors' of St. Andrew's and welcome people to our beautiful building. It will require people to help – and that is the question now: **Can you help?**

If you can help – perhaps by greeting at the display table on the sidewalk, welcoming people in the Narthex as they enter or by answering questions when people are in the Sanctuary. Sometimes we forget there are people who have never been inside a Church, let alone our Church. There are people who may not know what "Presbyterianism" is. This is our opportunity to open our doors and welcome people to our Church home.

Marie Ryan-Roberts has agreed to be the point person for this initiative. If you would like to volunteer to help during Car Free Day, please contact Marie during the coffee hour or send her an email: marie-ryanrobers@hotmail.com

Jim Ferguson

Presbyterian World Service and Development: 2020 Fundraising

February 2nd is recognized across Canada as Presbyterian World Service and Development Sunday, and it marks the beginning of our annual fundraising at St. Andrew's for this international ministry of our national church. We consulted with the national church and this year they identified two priority areas of need, both of which gained much national and international attention at the outset, but are now less in the public eye and hence support has declined. The two areas of need are Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and Syrian refugees.

Donations can be placed in envelopes included with Sunday service programs through February. Adding your regular giving envelope number or your name will ensure that this is included in your annual summary of givings for tax purposes. Our target this year will again be \$2,000, which we successfully reached last year.

To learn more about the work of Presbyterian World Service and Development, please visit the display in the Kirk Hall after services in February, or speak to any member of the Mission and Outreach Committee: Brian Titus, Debra Verwey or Patricia Shuckburgh.

Additional reading:

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/our-work-2/project-map/>
 Syrian Refugees: <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/emergency-relief/conflict-syria/>

Brian Titus

(Further information on how PWS&D is helping with this crisis can be found on Page 9. - ed.)

In Loving Memory



Lilian Jane Hully

Robbie Burns Supper January 25, 2020

Another Burns Supper under our belt – in a manner of speaking. We had close to 80 people attend our Burns Supper in the Kirk Hall on Saturday, January 25th. By all measures, it was a success. We had three pipers from the Saanich Peninsula Pipe Band, Bon Accord Highland Dancers, and volunteers from the United Peninsula Masonic Lodge as servers and clean-up crew. Bill McDowell presented the “Toast to the Lassies” and Naomi Sidaway Sollinger responded with a “Toast to the Laddies”. Both Toasts were insightful, humourous and well done. Our evening closed with a singalong led by Choirmaster - Althea Dawson Sidaway de Algarin.

One of the many highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns by Roger Bryant. Roger enhanced his presentation on the basis of Burns work “To a Mouse” using a more current example for the term ‘mouse’. (See Page 8)

The people who decorated the Hall on Saturday morning did a fantastic job. They turned the Kirk Hall from a ‘hall’ to a place of warmth and comfort, of energy and fun.

Thanks to Angus for the Address to the Haggis, Sam Preston for carrying the Haggis, and Hamish and Finlay Henderson as sword bearers to protect the Haggis.

Thanks go out to: Cathy, Paula, Jean, Dawn, Bill, Nancy, June, Evelyn, Dorothy and many others. If I missed naming you, please accept my apologies, my forgetter is working overtime.

Blessings to all who helped make this a success.

Jim Ferguson

Team Lead - Burns Supper 2020



Pipers from the Saanich Peninsula Pipe Band

fotosbyjmarcellus



Finlay & Hamish Henderson & Sam Preston



Angus Henderson



MC Jim Ferguson



Roger Bryant



Naomi Sidaway Sollinger



Bill McDowell



Bon Accord Dancers

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Helps to Feed Rohingya Refugees

The Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim minority who practice a variation of Sunni Islam. Of the estimated 3.5 million Rohingya worldwide, one million lived in Myanmar (formerly Burma), mostly in Rakhine State. They differ from the country's dominant Buddhist groups ethnically, linguistically and religiously.

Although, the Rohingya have lived in Myanmar for hundreds of years, successive Burmese governments have refuted the group's historical claims and refused to give the Rohingya recognition as one of the country's 135 official ethnic groups.

Since the late 1970's, hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya have fled their homes because of Myanmar's discriminatory policies. The institutionalized discrimination includes restrictions on marriage, family planning, employment, education, religious choice and freedom of movement. The government refuses to grant them citizenship. Most of the Rohingya have no legal documentation and thus are considered stateless. Widespread poverty, poor infrastructure and few employment opportunities in Rakhine State, have widened the gap between Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya.

In August 2017, a new wave of violence, including reported rape, murder and arson by Myanmar's security forces caused a massive exodus of Rohingya. Most crossed by land into Bangladesh, while others have taken to the sea to reach Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Myanmar's government has claimed that its troops were just reinstating stability in the country's western region. However, the atrocities that have been committed have been called ethnic cleansing by many international groups and much pressure has been put on Myanmar's elected leaders to stop the violent campaign. Clear patterns of abuse used by the military include systematic targeting of Rohingya, committing sexual violence, and creating a climate of impunity for security forces.

Bangladesh, the country where more than 900,000 Rohingya have sought refuge, has limited

resources and land. Many of the refugees live in Cox's Bazar, now the world's largest refugee camp. The nearly 400,000 children in this camp have no access to education because teachers are banned from using Bangladeshi and Myanmar curriculum there and Rohingya children cannot enroll in schools outside the camp. Disease outbreaks of measles, tetanus, diphtheria and acute jaundice syndrome are high. Sixty percent of the available water supply is contaminated which increases the chance of spread of communicable and water-borne diseases. Getting enough to eat is a constant struggle for the refugees.

Many countries around the world, including Canada, have imposed sanctions on the government of Myanmar and condemned its ethnic cleansing policies. Most of these countries have upped their humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees. In September 2019 a United Nations fact-finding panel reported that the situation in Myanmar has not improved. The remaining 600,000 Rohingya in Rakhine State are at risk of genocide.

Feeding all these Rohingya refugees in the Bangladesh camps is an on-going struggle. The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through its Service and Development ministry, is making a difference to the lives of many Rohingya.

PWS&D, along with other partners at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, provides food vouchers to over 13,000 Rohingya families (62,000 persons) living in Bangladeshi refugee camps. The families can use these vouchers to buy a variety of nutritious food to complement the rice, oil and lentils that they receive from the World Food Programme.

Your donation to Presbyterian World Service and Development this month will help to meet the urgent food needs of families who have been forced to flee violence in Myanmar.

Submitted by **Debra Verwey**
Mission and Outreach Committee

Election of Elders

Due to the recent retirement of elders, session has determined that we need to add additional elders. The session invites members of the congregation to prayerfully consider who they might nominate to be an elder, and to submit nominations for consideration.

An elder must be a professing member of the congregation and must be “an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

For more details of the roles and responsibilities of an elder, please refer to Articles 105 through 134 in the Book of Forms, downloadable at <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/>

Election of elders, with reference to the Book of Forms

Article 109.3 *The session is responsible for the election and admission of elders. It is the duty of the session to judge the qualifications of those nominated and/or elected by vote of the congregation to the office of elder and, by its own resolution, to admit them to eldership.*

132. *Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ’s Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation, only suitable men and women should be considered. They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character, and either knowledgeable or prepared to learn of the government of the church. (See sections 106–106.2 and 449–449.4).*

132.1 *The right of electing elders is vested in the professing members of the congregation.*

132.2 *When the session has resolved to add to the number of elders, it gives notice to the congregation. A ballot is prepared using one of two procedures:*

Ballot of Nominees or by Ballot of Members (see Articles 132.2.2 to 132.2.2 to 132.4).

Practice at St Andrew’s is by Ballot of Nominees.

132.2.1 Ballot of nominees

- a) *The session, or a nominating committee of the session, as well as professing members of the congregation, nominate members. Nominations from members must be in writing and made by at least two persons, either separately or together.*
- b) *The nominating period must be spread over at least three successive Sundays.*
- c) *The session approves the nominees as to their suitability for eldership (see section 132) and their willingness to serve as an elder if elected.*
- d) *The names of all those deemed suitable and willing to serve are placed on the ballot.*

The process and timeline beginning January 2020:

Session is seeking nominations from the congregation.

- This will be announced in the bulletin on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, and Feb. 9.
- All nominations must be signed by at least one member and submitted to Clerk of session.
- Submission to made in writing, addressed to Clerk of Session and delivered to the church office, or submitted by email to session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca
- Submissions must be received no later than Sunday, February 9, 2020.
- Only names of proposed elders with at least 2 nominations will be considered (Book of Forms Article 132.2.1A).

A list of all nominees will be compiled and the session will:

- Discuss suitability of all nominees who received two or more nominations (see Article 132 and 1 Timothy 4.12).
- Rev Coggin and the Session Clerk will meet with nominees who have been determined to be suitable, discuss with them the role of elders and enquire whether they are willing to be ordained as an elder.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

As we continue in our journey of transition, there is much work to be done and it is important that elders are elected and ordained early this year.

Even if you do not know anyone to nominate, please pray for this important process that is essential if we are to increase the leadership within our congregation. Pray for wisdom for the session in the nomination process and pray for those who are nominated, that God will prepare them to accept the call to eldership.

If you have any questions about the election of elders please speak with an elder or Pastor Mitch.

Colina Titus,
Clerk of Session



Check out what's happening at St. Andrew's Kirk Hall.

St. Andrew's at work in your downtown community...

<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/project-connect-goes-beyond-haircuts-and-foot-care-for-those-living-in-poverty-1.24057119>

Submitted by
Jim Ferguson

A VALENTINE'S Party!

Hosted by The Friendship Club

We have a whole afternoon planned for you! If you cannot come to the lunch and guest speaker's talk in the Kirk Hall, please come to the music concert from 3:00-4:00 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Where and When:

Saturday, February 15th at St. Andrew's
12:30 Doors open
1:00-1:45 Lunch in Kirk Hall

Guest speaker: 1:45-2:40

Major (Retired) Marie Ryan-Roberts

Marie will speak about her 30-year career as an Army Logistics Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. Marie is a familiar face at our St. Andrew's. She sings in the choir, helps with Open Church and Music Recitals. Please come and hear her interesting story. She will have a lot of visual aids to tell her story.

Music Concert: 3:00- 4:00pm

**Magical and Musical Moments by
Martin Perez, Maribel Flores & Friends**

Yes!....Our own Martin and Maribel! You will know them both from our choir and we are all familiar with their Peruvian musical recitals at Christmas time. Please come and enjoy some wonderful music!

The music recital will also be part of an Open Church, from 3:00 - 4:00 pm, when the Sanctuary doors will be open and the outside community is invited to come in for the musical entertainment.

Cost: \$12 per person for the whole afternoon. (lunch and recital) or if you choose to come to the music recital, (3-4 pm) your cost is a donation to the musicians.

Please book your afternoon with us and if you are able to help with any set up, serving, decorations, door greeters and clean up, (and even a bit of baking), it will be most appreciated.

Tickets will be on sale until February 12th. Please speak to Dorothy, Marie, Bill or Nancy at Coffee Hour or phone us to book your spot or to offer ideas for help. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Dorothy Reimer

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month:

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.” Matthew 5:11 (NIV)



The Beatitudes

Did you know that Jesus gave us a recipe for living a happy life? In the book of Matthew, the Bible says, “Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them.” He taught them a lesson we call “The Beatitudes.” Each one of the beatitudes starts with the words, “Blessed are they...” Some translations of the Bible use the word happy instead of blessed. So The Beatitudes are Jesus’ recipe for us to be happy.

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

KINGDOM	MERCY	EARTH	FILLED	MOURN
HUNGER	HEART	SPIRIT	BLESSED	INHERIT
THIRST	MEEK	PURE	POOR	HEAVEN