



THE LINK

DECEMBER 2017

Advent & Christmas at St. Andrew's

First Sunday in Advent - Hope Candle

DECEMBER 3, 2017 ~ 10:30 AM.

Join us as we mark the beginning of the Season of Advent. Communion will be served. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Second Sunday in Advent - Peace Candle

DECEMBER 10, 2017 ~ 10:30 AM. ~ ST. ANDREW'S

The children will present their pageant. The service will be followed by a congregational lunch. All are most welcome.

Christmas Concert

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017 - 7:00 PM ~ KNOX PRES.

The Balm of Gilead Band (by donation).

Christmas Carol Sing

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017 ~ ST. ANDREW'S

Doors open at 11:30 am ~ Carol Sing - 12 noon - 1:15 pm

Carol singing, vocal, violin presentations

Refreshments, FREE event.

Third Sunday in Advent - Joy Candle

DECEMBER 17, 2017 - 10:30 AM ~ ST. ANDREW'S

Join us as we celebrate the Season of Advent, a time of anticipation.

Blue Christmas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17 7:00 PM TRINITY PRES.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20 12:30 PM ST. ANDREW'S

Join us in finding comfort as we remember our loved ones lost, and celebrate their love in hope.

Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love Candle

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 2017 - 10:30 AM ~ ST. ANDREW'S

Join us for a music and carol filled service.

Christmas Eve - Christ Candle

7:00 PM TRINITY LESSONS AND CAROLS

7:30 PM ST. ANDREW'S LESSONS AND CAROLS

9:00 PM KNOX CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

LOOK INSIDE:

- **Prayer Corner**
- **Prayer Calendar**
- **Session Report**
- **Open Church**

- **Bazaar Pictures**
- **ADVENT**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **And More**

Dear Family of St. Andrew's,

As we enter the season of Advent let us remember the astounding gift that we have all been given: the baby who became the redeemer of us all. To remember and celebrate this gift is extremely poignant for those of us in the St. Andrew's family. As a church that has served Victoria since 1866 we have certainly experienced Christ's redeeming love on many occasions and in so many ways. The advent gifts of joy, love, peace, and hope are what we need to receive and embrace as we start this new church season. Many of us are experiencing pain, sorrow, distrust, estrangement, and anguish over what has happened and about our future together.

We have all become part of the family of Christ at St. Andrew's for many reasons, and we have melded together into a family of faith. Like any family we have our arguments, we are closer to some than others, but ultimately, we are the family of St. Andrew's. We are grieving in different ways and for different reasons. Whatever our differences, let us remember to be kind, to love one another, and respect each other. Through doing so we will strengthen our connections as a community of faith and we will be sharing God's grace and His love with one another.

To paraphrase Robert Fulghum author of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten"; we should share everything, play fair, say sorry when we hurt somebody and as we enter 2018 hold hands and stick together as we cross the road into the future.

Yours in Christ,

The Session of St. Andrew's

IN LOVING MEMORY

Kellie David Shand
October 4, 2017

Louise Turner
November 4, 2017

Alice Kremer
November 14, 2017



And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain....

Revelations 21:4

NOVEMBER SESSION REPORT

Session met on Tuesday, November 28, 2017. The Reverend Jeremy Bellsmith is our stated minister until the end of 2017. Starting January 2018, we will be entering a period of interim ministry. The Reverend Laura Kavanagh, our Moderator in the Interim, has arranged pulpit supply up to and including Easter Sunday. Presbytery will be appointing an interim minister some time in early 2018. Session has extended Christine Purvis's contract as Interim Director of Music until the end of 2018. As she will be on holiday from January 7 - March 19, 2018. Colina Titus, Chair of the Personnel Committee, has found musicians for the weeks that Christine is away.

Two long time elders announced their resignations from Session effective January 1, 2018. Bruce McCowan will be going to Trinity Presbyterian most Sundays to help his daughter and grandchildren attend church. Bruce will be back sporadically over the year to help with open church. We will deeply miss Bruce; he was always there to lend a helping hand with a smile and a cup of tea. Duncan Mackinnon resigned from session and has withdrawn from St. Andrews. He is a beloved Sunday School teacher and fixer of all things. We will profoundly miss him and his generosity of spirit at St. Andrew's.

The Session wishes you God's blessing as together we share our journey of faith, hope, love and joy through this season of Advent and Christmas, celebrating and rejoicing with family and friends. "For Christ the Saviour is Born".

Respectfully Submitted, David Mclean, Sabine Teetzel, Co-Clerks of Session

PRAYER CORNER Prayer is Childish

In a way, "childish" is the very word to describe [prayer]. A child has not made up his mind yet about what is and what is not possible. He has no fixed preconceptions about what reality is; and if someone tells him that the mossy place under the lilac bush is a magic place, he may wait until he thinks that no one is watching him, but then he will very probably crawl in under the lilac bush to see for himself. A child also knows how to accept a gift. He does not worry about losing his dignity or becoming indebted if he accepts it. His conscience does not bother him because the gift is free and he has not earned it and therefore really has no right to it. He just takes it, with joy. In fact, if it is something that he wants very much, he may even ask for it. And lastly, a child knows how to trust. It is late at night and very dark and there is the sound of sirens as his father wakes him. He does not explain anything but just takes him by the hand and gets him up, and the child is scared out of his wits and has no idea what is going on, but he takes his father's hand anyway and lets his father lead him wherever he chooses into the darkness.

In honesty you have to admit to a wise man that prayer is not for the wise, not for the prudent, not for the sophisticated. Instead it is for those who recognize that in face of their deepest needs, all their wisdom is quite helpless. It is for those who are willing to persist in doing something that is both childish and crucial.

- Frederick Buechner, Originally published in [*The Magnificent Defeat*](#)



DECEMBER 2017

Our elders have been inviting us to pray together. If you have items you would like included, please contact the church office:
office@standrewsvictoria.ca
or by talk/text (250)415-2226.



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

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

Please pray for...

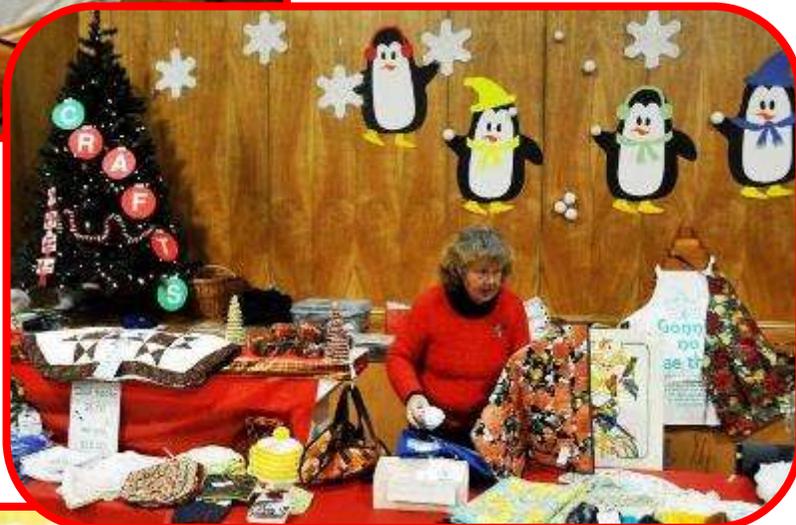
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	Congregations in Victoria who will invite guests to worship this Christmas	Women's Missionary Society as they gather back east	Thanksgiving for the beautiful music of our organ and those who play it	That we have an awareness of "enough" in a consumer-driven time of year	Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	Compassion and courage to welcome and care for strangers in need
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents	All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in December	People in hospital and those who visit them	Open church volunteers welcoming people into our sanctuary	Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	Anyone taking on new roles as they serve their churches	Worship leaders as they help people connect to God this season
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Ministers, church staff and many volunteers.	Members of our armed forces and chaplains who serve them.	Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrews	God's peace for all who have lost loved ones this year	Children who greet this time of year with so much wonder and joy	PWS&D partners helping inspire hope, peace, joy and love.	The words to invite people to know God in fellowship with believers
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Youth, children and young families	Thanksgiving for God who came as a baby to be called the Prince of Peace	All people who feel alone during the holiday season and other times in the year	The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	Newcomers to Canada experiencing cold and wet winters for the first time	All those with health concerns (mental and physical)	Inspiration to share God's love in our communities and around the world in 2018
31						
Thanksgiving for God's presence through joys and trials in 2017						

st. Andrew's Bazaar, 2017

Fotos by Mitchell



THANK YOU!



Congregational Lunch



December 10, 2017

After the Sunday Service come and enjoy fellowship and a soup lunch in the Kirk Hall.

The children will enjoy their traditional Christmas lunch of hot dogs!

**Suggested cost of lunch: \$5 per adult;
youth & children free.**



Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

Thursday December 14th

Doors open at 11:30

Carol Sing 12:00 noon to 1:15

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

Church

In the heart of Victoria
douglass broughton



Free admission
Christmas
refreshments

**Christine Purvis
at the Organ
Vocal and Brass
presentations**



email office@standrews.ca or call (250) 384-5734



Come join your pipes with ours

Thanks from the Jewellery Table Team

The Jewellery Table was successful again at this year's bazaar, thanks to the wonderful donations of jewellery and accessories from members and adherents of St. Andrew's Presbyterian, as well as those from their families, friends and colleagues! The team was made up of numerous volunteers who were involved in sorting, cleaning, bagging and pricing items for the baskets, display cases, and tables. As well, there were many others who assisted with selling the items on November 18, to raise money to support the work of St. Andrew's. The team could not have done it without the support of our church family! **Thank you for your donations.**

Submitted by Dianne Penner and Dawn McLean, co-conveners



JOY TO



The World

BAZAAR SUCCESS

Attic Treasures	\$ 187.25
Auction	606.00
Baking	1661.25
Books	927.20
Crafts	615.90
Jewelry	1495.25
Tea	838.00
Thrift Shop	308.00

TOTAL \$6638.85

NOTE:

*receipt of
some funds
for auction
items are
pending*





ORGAN RECITAL at St. Andrew's!!



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.**

Bring your lunch, bring a friend, enjoy 30 minutes of Christmas organ music.

**Christine Purvis will be performing organ music by
Daquin, Pachelbel and Bach
with carol arrangements by various composers including
Vaughn Williams, Sir David Willcocks and Fred Bock.**

(Wheelchair access is available at 643 Broughton Street, side entrance)

Admission by donation, with proceeds towards the music ministry at St. Andrew's.



OPEN CHURCH

Whitney has put a **sign up sheet** on the bulletin board on the side of the Kirk Hall stairs opposite the church office. Open Church for each day starts at 11 am. You can get in at 10:30 am by entering at the church office if the front doors on Douglas St. are still closed at that time.

Please volunteer and put your name on 1 of the 5 dates:

- 1) **Wednesday Dec. 6** open church from 11 am to noon
followed by Christine Purvis performing a Christmas organ recital from 12:15 to 12:45 pm
- 2) **Wednesday, Dec. 13** open church from 11 am to 1 pm
- 3) **Wednesday, Dec. 20** open church from 11 am to noon
followed by a "Blue Christmas" service at 12:30 pm to remember the passing of loved ones
- 4) **Thursday, Dec. 21** open church from 11 am to 1 pm
- 5) **Friday, Dec. 22** open church from 11 am to 1 pm

Submitted by Bruce McCowan



**The Vancouver Island Presbytery (VIP) Camp
committee has reserved the following
camp dates for 2018:**

**Seniors 'Gold Camp' at Little Qualicum Falls
June 12 - 15**

Two family style camps –

- 1. French Beach (west Sooke) weekend July 5th - 9th**
- 2. Rath Trevor Beach July 30th - August 6th**

Both family camps are at the group campsites.

Place these dates on your family calendars.

More information will follow!!

Everyone is welcome.

Contact me for more information. 250-881-5155

Andrew McCowan, Camp VIP Contact for St. Andrew's

When the Congregation's Away... The Symphony Will Play!

Do you ever wonder what curious things happen in our great downtown space when you're not around? Over the years we have developed some interesting associations with various groups. One example is a local film production company who has utilized our gym as a lunch hall for cast and crew in the past. They already knew us and when they needed a basement staircase to film a scene for an upcoming Hallmark Channel movie, they called St. Andrew's! Filming day was busy but also kind of exciting as the crew prepared one of our staircases for its motion picture debut.

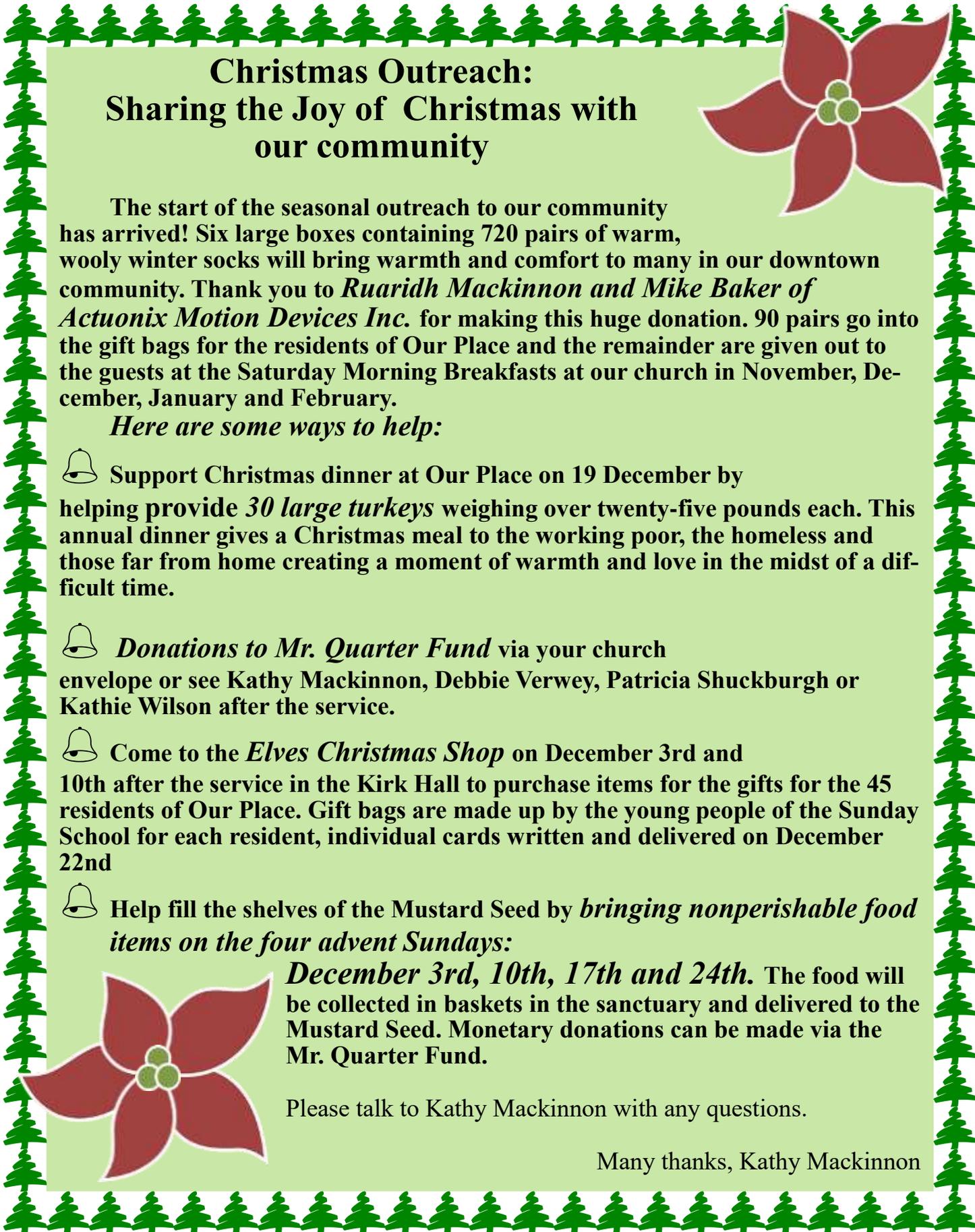
Recently the Victoria Philharmonic Choir and members of the Victoria Symphony used our gymnasium for a rehearsal. The Philharmonic choir used the gym last year for a reception and when it needed to find a rehearsal space that would accommodate its members and the Symphony, they called us! Both groups thought that the gym was just right for their big rehearsal.

There is seldom a dull moment in the Kirk or the Kirk Hall!

-Submitted by Whitney Hanna and Grant Shepard

**Photo credit:
Eric Gallipo**





Christmas Outreach: Sharing the Joy of Christmas with our community

The start of the seasonal outreach to our community has arrived! Six large boxes containing 720 pairs of warm, wooly winter socks will bring warmth and comfort to many in our downtown community. Thank you to *Ruaridh Mackinnon and Mike Baker of Actuonix Motion Devices Inc.* for making this huge donation. 90 pairs go into the gift bags for the residents of Our Place and the remainder are given out to the guests at the Saturday Morning Breakfasts at our church in November, December, January and February.

Here are some ways to help:



Support Christmas dinner at Our Place on 19 December by helping provide *30 large turkeys* weighing over twenty-five pounds each. This annual dinner gives a Christmas meal to the working poor, the homeless and those far from home creating a moment of warmth and love in the midst of a difficult time.



Donations to Mr. Quarter Fund via your church envelope or see Kathy Mackinnon, Debbie Verwey, Patricia Shuckburgh or Kathie Wilson after the service.



Come to the *Elves Christmas Shop* on December 3rd and 10th after the service in the Kirk Hall to purchase items for the gifts for the 45 residents of Our Place. Gift bags are made up by the young people of the Sunday School for each resident, individual cards written and delivered on December 22nd



Help fill the shelves of the Mustard Seed by *bringing nonperishable food items on the four advent Sundays:*

December 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. The food will be collected in baskets in the sanctuary and delivered to the Mustard Seed. Monetary donations can be made via the Mr. Quarter Fund.

Please talk to Kathy Mackinnon with any questions.

Many thanks, Kathy Mackinnon

Rev. James (Jim) Weir (*Our Interim Minister, 2001*)

It is almost impossible to thank all those who made Jim's six-month end-of-life-journey more tolerable. The medical profession comes quickly to mind. Jim appreciated the doctors and nurses in emergency and oncology who were capable and caring.

I want to pay special attention to the more than 50 people who donated blood during the duration of his illness and the team who helped to make Jim's last few weeks at home more comfortable.

Special thanks to the wonderful people in attendance after Jim's death at home November 7th.

The clergy made a difference too. Rev. Kathy Fraser's prayers, visits and phone calls were appreciated. Rev. Bob Geddes and Rev. Dr. Jim Dickey were able to provide the exact funeral service that Jim had prepared because of the flexibility of Wade Gibson and the Session at Knox, Kincardine.

Rev Eric Williams and Branch 183 Legion members conducted their concise and meaningful memorial service for their deceased chaplain.

We also thank those who provided continual prayers over the six-month period.

We appreciated the cards, visits, e-mails, phone calls, drivers for all those trips to Owen Sound, food that was delivered to the home, etc. The white flowers were gorgeous.

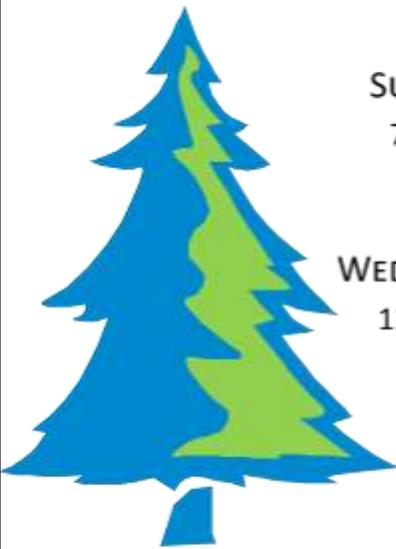
Your memorial donations and attendance at the visitation and/or the funeral service made a big difference.

Thanks to the owner and staff at the Davey-Linklater Funeral Home. I especially appreciate my sister Marion, and her husband Bruce. Their constant and continual help was priceless!

Thank-you everyone. Jim was a true defender of the faith. I will miss him.....Margaret (Weir)



BLUE CHRISTMAS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
7:00 PM ~ TRINITY PRES.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
12:30 PM ~ ST. ANDREW'S

Join us in finding comfort as we remember our loved ones lost, and celebrate their love in hope.

REMEMBERING WITH HOPE

MANY THANKS!

A number of items from Louise Turner's estate including furnishings such as lamps, tables, beds, linens, and kitchenware have been donated to Syrian refugees through the Anglican Diocese.

Surprisingly, they even wanted "odds and ends" like already opened wax paper, kitchen waste bags, disinfecting wipes and lightbulbs to help newcomers set up their kitchens and homes.

Thank you to Louise's family for considering the needs of refugee families.

Thank you to those from St. Andrew's who have connected with the Anglican diocese in order to ensure that nothing of use has gone to waste.

Submitted by Whitney, Church Office

MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST



Saturday, January 20, 2018

10 to 11 a. m.

Café Bon Appetit
5th floor of the downtown Bay
Centre
overlooking the inner harbour.

We will be talking about consolidating both our participants and our resources.

We will be discussing if we should invite those from other congregations. *Trinity has a Men's Study Group and a Ladies Prayer Circle which meet on most Thursday mornings at 10. We have been invited to join with them as able and partake of the free parking at and around their church.*

Bruce McCowan: 250-881-5155 or
 email: bamccowan@shaw.ca

Ladies' Saturday Morning Breakfast



10:00 AM FIRST SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
Café Bon Appetit
The Bay Downtown

Join the ladies for laughter, friendship and fellowship once a month. This is our chance to connect without the distractions of children, spouses and general busyness. Please don't hesitate to bring a friend with you. *The Bay has a full breakfast menu and you can order a full breakfast or just have a cup of coffee.*

If you wish you can add \$5 to the pot and help raise funds for the development of Handicap access from the Church to the Kirk Hall.

Please review your contact information that may appear anywhere in The Link.

To update please email:
thelink@shaw.ca

NOTE: additions, updates and changes to the calendar on the last page should be submitted to the Church Office

Editors' Note:

Reviews and submitted articles are the personal opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the minister, Link editors or the Presbyterian Church in Canada.



Usher Teams

December: John A. P., S. Black, Bill D., Nancy D., David S.

Children's Page: Decorating the Sanctuary During the Advent Season

Advent is the time when we prepare for the One who has come, whom we expect to come, and who will come again. **We decorate our church with the symbols of love, joy, hope and peace.** We do this to tell the story of Jesus' birth and then we proclaim: "*Jesus is born. God is with us!*"

The advent custom of decorating with evergreen branches and wreaths comes to us from the peasants of the Middle Ages who believed that preparations should be made for the coming of Jesus. Each family gathered evergreens and placed them near the hearth of their family home. We continue this tradition by decorating our congregational home, the sanctuary, with evergreens too. The lasting green of the plants reminds us of God's abiding love in Jesus Christ and of our eternal relationship with God. The circle shape of wreaths is a Christian symbol of the eternal God and eternal love, without beginning or end.

The simple circle of the Advent wreath represents everlasting life, and the four candles that encircle the Christ candle signify God's son as the light of the world.

See if you can locate the words in **bold typeface** in the word search. How can you prepare for the coming of Jesus, represented by the Christmas season?

D E C O R A T I N G S E A S O N	abiding	hope
A C W C A Y E V E R G R E E N S	Advent	Jesus
B I R H E N C I R C L E L W L C	again	joy
I R E R C H U R C H H A I O O O	birth	life
D C A I E X P E C T O O G R V M	candles	light
I L T S S E A L H S P E H L E E	Christ	love
N E H T T O E R I C E S T D E A	church	peace
G O E U D A E E T E R N A L S S	circle	peasants
A G A I N C S A N C T U A R Y A	come	prepare
H T R A D I T I O N P E A C E D	decorate	relationship
S Y M B O L S C A N D L E S E V	decorating	sanctuary
P R E P A R E J E S U S E A E E	encircle	season
B I R T H N L I F E J O Y S E N	eternal	symbols
R E L A T I O N S H I P U A O T	evergreens	tradition
D E C O R A T E P E A S A N T S	everlasting	world
E V E R L A S T I N G F O U R A	expect	wreath
	four	

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now you will...bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31