

March 2018

Index:	
Session Notes	2
From the Treasurer	5
Worship	6
Christian Education	7
Pancake Lunch	8
Congratulations!	8
Gov't House Tour	10
Ex Libris	11
Property	11

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Holy Week



Palm & Passion Sunday March 25 ~ 10:30 am

The Servant King enters Jerusalem and our lives.

Maundy Thursday March 29 ~ 6 - 7 pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2964 Tillicum Rd.

Commemorating Christ's last supper.

Good Friday March 30 ~ 10:30 am

Remembering Christ's crucifixion.

Victoria, BC

Notes from Session

At the February 20, 2018 meeting session discussed several items of congregational interest.

The Annual General Congregational Meeting will be held at the end of April or beginning of May. Please send your reports to Sabine Teetzel no later than March 18, 2018 (session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca).

Our next Congregational Life Event will be on April 21, in celebration of Earth Day. More details will follow at a later date. On Sunday, June 17, St. Andrew's will be participating in Car Free Day. If you wish to be involved, please contact Jim Ferguson - jpfergus@gmail.com.

The February Session Meeting was the first time that the Session met after the publication of the "St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Review of Ministry Committee Final Report". After much discussion Session has determined that it wishes to respond to the report at the next Presbytery meeting to be held April 3, 2018. The Session's response will be finalized after the March session meeting.

Currently, the Presbytery of Vancouver Island is looking for an interim minister for St. Andrew's Victoria. The Presbytery of Vancouver Island is only considering applicants for the role of Interim Minister at St. Andrew's from outside the bounds of the Presbytery. If you know of someone that you feel would be a good candidate for the role of interim minister, please send the name and the reasons that you think this person would be appropriate to: session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca.

The Settlement Agreement drawn up by Presbytery between Rev. J. Bellsmith and the congregation of St. Andrew's determined that St. Andrew's is to pay to Rev. Bellsmith his stipend, housing, and utilities for a period of up to 1 year commencing January 2018 for a total of approximately \$102,000 which is reflected in the 2018 budget. This figure does not include the travel allowance of up to \$3,600 which was previously paid to him. Rev. Bellsmith has requested that the travel allowance be paid to him in 2018. There is a degree of ambiguity as to whether the travel allowance is part of the stipend. The session, desirous of ending the ministerial relationship with Reverend Bellsmith with grace, agreed to the payment which will be reflected in the 2018 deficit.

To paraphrase Henri J.M. Nouwen: *in this Lenten season let us live attentively and gently, so that Easter will truly be a celebration during which the full proclamation of the risen Christ will reverberate into the deepest place of our being.*

Yours in Christ, David McLean and Sabine Teetzel Clerks of Session



Look at The Link in colour: standrewsvictoria.ca

> Usher Team March

Colina T. Elizabeth B. Miles C.

Family Sunday Service - February 11



Ladies' Saturday Morning Breakfast



First Saturday of every month - 10:00am

Café Bon Appetit

The Bay Downtown

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

If you wish, you can donate \$5 to help raise funds for the development of handicap access from the Church to the Kirk Hall.





Open Church - Many thanks to the volunteers who supported our first three open churches at St. Andrew's this year. We welcomed an average of 82 visitors on each occasion:

Wed. Jan. 3 (63) Wed. Feb. 7 (44) Mon. Feb. 12 - BC Family Day (135)

Doors are opened up on the first Wed. of each month from 11am - 1 pm. For security reasons we need at least 3 volunteers. Please contact the church office if you are available. I hope to see you there to help us continue to share our Christian hospitality to those around us.

Bruce McCowan

Handbell Choir

St. Andrew's has a beautiful set of 3 octave handbells that five of us are



having fun learning to ring melodiously together. We would love more persons to join our choir.

If you can read music and would like to try handbell-ringing, please talk to **Dorothy Reimer** or **Deb Verwey** and we will tell you more.

We have been meeting on alternate Sundays after coffee hour in the Lecture Room for approximately an hour (from 12:15 - 1:15).

March 2018

Our elders invite us to pray together!

If you have items you would like included, please contact Whitney in the church office:

office@standrewsvictoria.ca 250-384-5734



Please pray for...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer" – (attributed to) Martin Luther		All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in March	Climate justice and that we all would care for creation	Those searching for meaningful employment		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents	Those living with confusion or fear that they might find hope and comfort	Ministries that reach out to people with mental illness	Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	Thanksgiving for the wisdom of women who build up their communities (Int'I Women's Day)	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
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	Mission and Outreach committees inspiring their congregations	Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrews	Families of people in the armed forces	Families in Nicaragua planting food with the help of PWS&D	Health for chaplains serving in hospitals and care facilities	The words to invite people to know God in fellowship with believers
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Youth, children and young families	All refugees fleeing violence and oppression	The volunteers in the St. A's thrift shop	Thanksgiving for the gift of diversity (Int'I Day to End Racism)	Those speaking out against hatred and injustice	People in hospital and those who visit them	Churches who are living out UNDRIP* commitments
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	That all people would have access to clean water	Any friends or family who are sick or hurting	Youth and young adults staying at the Out of the Rain shelter	The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	The Canada Youth planning team meeting this month	Changing seasons and the promise that spring will come

*UNDRIP: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

4

A message from your Treasurer

Over the past few months, I have frequently been asked about our financial situation as a result of the disruptions we have encountered in our life at St. Andrew's. I must admit that our financial situation has been negatively affected and that was to be expected. I will take the opportunity to address any aspect of our financial status at the Annual meeting, but in the meantime, it would be appropriate to keep all of you apprised.

There is an old saying.... "<u>When</u> <u>the going gets tough, the tough get</u> <u>going</u>!" While that may sound trite, it's actually true, and as Rev. McCowan reminded us in her sermon of February 11, it's the trials in life that best prepare us for succeeding in the future (probably not her exact words, but you get the drift). And so, with that thought in mind, let me turn to the question asked of me regarding the financial situation at St. Andrew's.

I will take this opportunity to advise you that the Congregation of St. Andrew's was blessed to receive a very generous estate gift in November 2017 in the amount of \$468,905, with the remaining estate to be received in 2018. That estate was set aside in our Funds Accounts and has increased our assets (Equity) under management to approximately \$1,033,000. That's the strongest Equity level I have been privileged to report in the last 15 years. That, plus some future directed givings will keep our balance sheet strong, the strongest in many decades. That breathing room is critical and comes at a much-needed time. Of course, we know that some of these funds will be used to carry out needed work on the roof and potentially other areas, but the good news is that we will be able to undertake this work without

having to call for additional financial support of this repair from the congregation. It's important though to recognize that this gift was directed towards our Capital Funds... the intent being to support capital related projects, while the congregation remains responsible for the day to day operational expenses at St. Andrew's. And addressing the latter and as I mentioned above. we have experienced decreased financial support for the operations budget from the Congregation over the last 6 months, but that decline has now pretty much stopped. To support our budget, which anticipates deficit for this year... we will be forced to draw down the gains and some capital from our equity accounts in order to meet the shortfall. I anticipate the deficit to be less in 2019 as we will have completed our obligations to Rev. J. Bellsmith.

Let me briefly summarize my reasoning for my guarded optimism:

1.We as a congregation understand now or will in a short time, what we are looking for and need in terms of leadership.

2. If we stick to the task of program rebuilding, we will increasingly meet the needs of the larger community we serve.

- 3. St. Andrew's occupies a very strategic location in the heart of downtown Victoria, has a high visibility profile and if we use that wisely it will benefit not only our vitality but also our value back to the community.
- 4. There is a real strength in the lay leadership at St. Andrew's that has a renewed zeal to move forward in our programming, in tackling the opportunity to redevelop the Kirk Hall site if at all possible, and more importantly to serve as a beacon to all wishing to participate in our Presbyterianism.
- 5. And to answer the questions around our financial status, continuing your individual financial commitments to St. Andrew's is most important. It will allow programming and creativity to flourish and take on new life. If we fall off, I will remind you. All it takes is a committed and slight increase from all in the congregation to make a big difference.
- 6. And lastly, support those who are looking after the programs, the kitchen activities, the renewing of our music program, or helping in the areas of Christian Education just to name a few areas that will be the centers of activity.

There is no magic bullet that will help us deal with the challenges ahead, but real grit and participation is the key to moving forward and I see plenty of that in the Congregation of St. Andrew's.

> Sincerely, Jack Reimer Treasurer

Worship Committee

The role of the Worship Committee is:

- 1. To ensure that worship services at St. Andrew's are supported by volunteers and equipment as required.
- 2. To provide a forum for the Minister and the Organist to discuss potential, and ongoing, programs and services at St. Andrew's.
- 3. Under the direction of Session, provide opportunities for the congregation of St. Andrew's to consult regarding new initiatives to enhance worship.

The expression "many hands make light work" was never more true than when it comes to the many people who help with all the services at St Andrew's.

Every week you see the people who help to ensure that our Sunday services run smoothly. Some you see every week, some every few weeks and some you don't see on a Sunday at all because the help they provide is done in an evening or on a week day.

This past year we had more than 40 people, as part of teams, assisting with our various worship and special services. This does not include those that step up on short notice to fill in, or those individuals from other Committees, who work with the Worship Committee to plan, and present the special services, that take place at St. Andrew's

Several months ago Session asked the Worship Committee to review what we had been doing and to make suggestions for a new format that would give more opportunity for congregational input. The result is the revised "Role of the Worship Committee.

We realized that there are two aspects to the Worship Committee. The first part was the "chores" that need to be organized and done week to week and the second part was assisting the Minister and Organist in planning for services.

This may come as a surprise to some of you, but many people do *not* like to attend meetings. With that in mind we decided to create two halves to the Worship Committee.

The first half of the Committee will have specific tasks to do on a regular basis and there will be a coordinator for each group. They are as follows:

Scripture Readers – the church Office Ushers – Jerry Verwey Sound System – Jerry Verwey Sunday Services – Special Church Services – John Mitchell Supplies – John McGill Communion – Laura Richards.. The various people who coordinate or work on these tasks will not need to attend regular meetings. The Coordinators will be in touch frequently with the Chair of the Worship Committee and if needs or concerns arise these can be brought to the Committee.

You will have noticed in recent weeks that there has been a call for assistance on some of the ushering teams. Please consider helping out in this way. The teams have responsibility for Sunday ushering and greeting for one month – approximately twice a year. The tasks are simple and Jerry will be happy to show you what those are.

The other area that will need assistance is Sunday Services Coordinator. Bruce McCowan has stepped down so that he can be more active in a grandparenting role. Talk to Laura R. if you would be interested in helping with that.

The second half of the Committee will work with the Minister and Organist.

As we all know the church calendar has specific events that occur each year but *how, who* and *when* require coordination under the guidance of the Minister, and may also involve Session, other committees or individuals both internal and external.

The committee will probably need to meet 4-5 times a year in order to set out plans several months in advance. Other committees, or individuals, will be brought in for advice and consultation as needed according to the events planned.

Laura Richards is the Chair of the Worship Committee and in the next few months you will be hearing from her as she recruits folk to be part of this committee. It is hoped that the people who join this committee will represent a broad cross-section of our congregation: older & younger, recent arrivals to St. Andrew's & folks who have attended for a while, men & women. This is an opportunity for people to be part of worship service plans.

As with all committees at St. Andrew's we are under the direction of Session who give final approval to our work.

> Sheelagh Garson & Laura Richards

Christian Education News



Nursery - We now have six volunteers (two/Sunday) who are able to staff the nursery once a month. There will, therefore, be one Sunday each month when the nursery is not staffed, but may be used by families as needed. When there are no children in the nursery, the volunteers return to the sanctuary to take part in the worship service. If you and a friend would like to make up the fourth pair of volunteers, we would be able to staff the nursery every Sunday, providing a supportive welcome to newcomers and visitors. Please speak to me if you think that you can help.







Sunday School: - Attendance in the preschool/elementary class is similar to the attendance last year at this time of the year. Generally there are 4 - 6 children attending each Sunday.







The senior class has two students who currently attend regularly, much like last year in the spring.

At present, the preschool/elementary and senior classes start their lesson time together, and then the older students move to the room at the back and further develop their learning in a more age-appropriate way. This gives them the opportunity to take part in a larger class, and then work in a small group with Angus Henderson. We feel that using this method means that the preteen/young teenage group are not working with curricula designed for students who are senior high school age. Angus is able to determine whether or not materials are age-appropriate for his students and has come up with ways to make the lesson topics/Bible passages shared with the younger students more meaningful to the pre-teen/early teenage group.

Dianne Penner C.E. Convener

7

Pancake Lunch - February 11



Those who attended the service on Sunday, February 11 were treated to a fabulous lunch in the Kirk Hall after the service. The lunch was prepared



endeavour since it was enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was a great time of fellowship and of "breaking bread" together. Everyone enjoyed the extra attention to detail, such as placemats with Shrove facts,



by members of the

Congregational Life

Committee (and their

were very significant

the toppings!

husbands and daughters).

Annette and her husband, Ed,

contributors to the success of

sausages and pancakes with all

the lunch that consisted of

Many thanks go to all who



fotosbymitchell

colourful serviettes, candies and spring plants. As you can see from the photos, both young and old had a great time and the general consensus of opinion is that we should have more fellowship (food) times together in the future.

Congratulations!



Congratulations go out to **Vivienne** and **Stu Burnett**, on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary on March 9, 2018!

From Scotland, they immigrated to Canada in 1948, before their children arrived. They are blessed with three children, seven grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren! They will celebrate with their family on March 9th.

As John Mitchell is their Elder, they continue to stay in touch with St. Andrew's.

We wish them love and God's Blessings on this amazing achievement!

Presbytery is actively searching for an Interim Minister to serve the congregation of St. Andrew's, Victoria.

Suggestions can be submitted to the Presbytery committee through the session. The Reverend Laura Kavanagh has agreed to continue as Interim Moderator – supporting the session and congregation and arranging pulpit supply – until an Interim Minister is appointed. If you have pastoral concerns or other questions regarding the future of ministry at St. Andrew's, please address them to the Reverend L. Kavanagh at Knox Church or to one of the elders.



Ministries

St. Andrew's Presbyterian in Victoria and all the other Presbyterian churches on Vancouver Island have been asked to collect non-perishable food for Cedar Tree Ministries in Duncan. The food will be distributed to those in First Nations communities who are in need.

Our Mission and Outreach Committee will co-ordinate this food donation project in our church. There are two baskets (marked Cedar Tree Ministries) in the church narthex each Sunday. Those who wish to donate to this cause can bring non-perishable items to church and deposit them in the baskets.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact **Brian Titus**, 250-382-2387.



We have been successful in the past 2 months in having several families joining us. This experiment will continue over the next few months to help support participation, fellowship and growth in our greater Victoria congregations.



St. Andrew's gym has 3 badminton courts which allows users to have a choice of playing 3 different games. Last month we had adults playing badminton at one end and floor hockey at the other.

We will meet on the 1st Saturdays of March, April and May starting at 6:30pm so that families with younger children will have more time to play before getting their children home for bed. I would be prepared to keep the gym open a bit longer than that if requested.

Bruce McCowan

Men's Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, March 17, 2018

10 - 11am

Café Bon Appetit

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

We will continue using *Daily Bread* for a devotional and prayer towards the end of our fellowship time when everyone has had a chance to order and sit down.

For those who are not able to come on a Saturday morning, we have been invited to 2 other Presbyterian church-hosted Bible studies.

- Rev. Vincent Tan leads an English co-ed Bible Study on the book of Galatians at the Chinese Presbyterian Church, 816 North Park Street (use the wooden stairs for the side door nearest Blanshard Street) on Tuesday evenings from 8 - 9:15 pm. (250-891-8588 or <u>vtan.cpc@gmail.com</u>).
- Rev. Reid Chudley is currently participating in 2 studies on Thursday mornings at 2964 Tillicum Road. (250-388-4525 or trinitypcvictoria@shaw.ca)
 - a. 10 11am Men's Bible Study, using Daily Bread;
 - b. 11:15 noon co-ed study on the Book of Galatians.

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



On Wednesday, February 21, 2018, tour guide extraordinaire, Jim Ferguson, led fifteen persons from St. Andrew's through Government House on Rockland Avenue. This is the residence of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians.

Jim, who is a docent and volunteer tour guide at Government House, explained the difference between Lieutenant Governor, Judith Guichon, who is head of state in BC (as a vice-regal representative for Queen Elizabeth) and Premier John Horgan, who is head of government (as elected by the people) in the province.

We were warmly welcomed by Olive, a beautiful golden retriever, who is the personal pet of Her Honour, LG Guichon.

Besides learning about the roles of the Lieutenant Governor, Jim shed light on the history of the building itself. This is the third Government House in Victoria. The first two burnt down. The only feature of the second building that remained standing after the second fire is the front stone porte cochère where visitors enter the building.

We toured the major public spaces...the Ballroom where the New Year Day Levee is held each year, the Dining Room with a table that seats 40 people, the green and yellow Drawing Room, the Rattenbury Room and the Maclure Room. (Samuel Maclure and Francis Rattenbury designed the second Government House.) For those who missed the tour on Wednesday, you can take a virtual tour by going to the website, <u>http://</u> <u>www.ltgov.bc.ca/gov-house/virtual-tour/vtour.html</u> and enjoying the view.

There are many beautiful stained glass windows to see and a portrait gallery of all 29 British Columbia lieutenant governors.

The Lieutenant Governor from 1906 to 1909, James Dunsmuir, was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Before becoming the 8th LG, he was Premier of British Columbia and a coal magnate in Nanaimo and California, as well as owner of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway.

Jim Ferguson also touched on the coats-of-arms for each of the lieutenant governors. These were displayed in the stairwell and in the portrait gallery. The Canadian Heraldic Authority designed many of these escutcheons. (An escutcheon is a shield that displays a coat-of-arms.) The Authority's principal objective is to ensure that all Canadians who wish to use heraldry will have access to it. You too can have your own coat-of-arms if you have the money to apply for it from the authority (The price starts at \$500!)

What I enjoyed the most about the tour was the wonderful artwork owned by and on loan to Government House. Especially significant to me was the 14-foot Healing Pole carved by Coast Salish artist, Luke Marston. This is located in the main foyer of the building. The pole has elements on it that represent hope, healing and forgiveness, a very important symbol for us all in these days of reconciliation.

You can see part of the Healing Pole in the photo accompanying this article. It is just behind the folks who took part in the tour. It is also included in the virtual tour of Government House.

A very big thank you to Jim Ferguson who gave a great tour and made the opportunity available to us!

Public tours are scheduled one Saturday a month, starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tours are one hour in length. Admission is free and no booking is required. Please note that there is a maximum capacity of 100 people per tour so spaces will be allotted on a first come first serve basis. Saturday, March 10, 2018 is the date of the next public tour.

Debra Verwey



[x Libris [cclesiae

A Lenten Book Review from the Church Library

Patricia and I began this library duty two years ago as Lent was beginning. Back then I featured a good "Lenten Read", Max Lucado's *He Chose the Nails*.

Lent is a good time to introduce the rest of our Lucado collection - eight titles! And that is a small collection; Lucado has written *over one hundred* books of Christian devotion, every one well suited for personal reflection and focus on the work of Christ for us.

Our well-stocked Lucado shelf suggests to me that a number of us have already benefited from reading Lucado and have passed the books along. For those who have not tried this author, I recommend him highly. Here is some of his story.

Max Lucado (1955 –) was for many years a minister in the denomination known as the "churches of Christ" (They use a lower-case "c" in their denominational name). The churches of Christ were one of many "restoration" movements which sprang up in the 19th century, each seeking to recover and restore primitive Biblical Christianity; other examples are the Brethren and the Church of the Nazarene. As an aside, we have a church of Christ on Shelbourne Street in Victoria.

Each restoration movement had its own vision of how a primitive Biblical church operated. The result was some odd rules at times. The churches of Christ vary in how strictly they follow the movement's rules, but for example, the congregation on Shelbourne Street follows the party line in not having a kitchen in the church (1Corinthians 11:22a).

When Lucado's excellent writing went beyond the walls of his local church, and was read by/published for a wider Christian audience, some parishioners thought he was transgressing a really important church-of-Christ doctrine: he had violated his covenant. You see, you join a church of Christ by signing (yes, in ink) a covenant. Among other provisions, it *strictly* binds you to serve the Lord Jesus *only* through the activities and missions of *that* local church. (This is why we never meet members of the Shelbourne Street church of Christ in the course of Christian activities around Victoria: they are excluded from such activities by their covenant.) Many in the churches of Christ supported Lucado's publishing as a legitimate local-church activity, but others were scandalized by the apparent covenant violation. Eventually, Lucado's church solved the hostility by dropping their "church of Christ" affiliation and name, aligning instead with a denomination which encourages interchurch ventures, the Willow Creek Association. And yes, Max Lucado is still there.

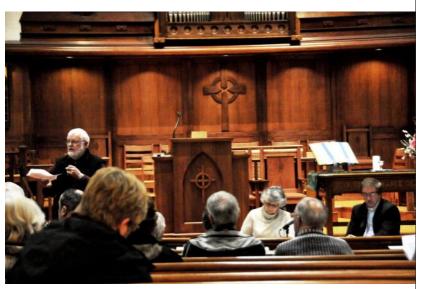
I focus on Lucado's life story rather than on some of his books this time, so you can appreciate the depth behind his writing. He faced ridicule and defamation from church associates for years, yet faithfully proclaimed Christ in his life and in his writing, to this day. Try reading Lucado. He's worth your time.

Dave Rogers

Property RAISE THE ROOF PHASE 2

At the budget meeting, a heads up was given to the congregation that we hope to finish the roof on the Sanctuary building. We did not finish the project 2 years ago as the cost became too prohibitive. As the outside of the building is designated Heritage, we must recreate the original patterns on the tiles. Dave Garson and I have met with the roofing contractors and the Heritage Planner from the city. It is our plan to present a recommendation to consider at the annual general meeting.

David McLean



St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month:

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

Jesus' Triumphant Entry

Jesus' disciples brought a donkey colt to Jesus and some of them laid their coats on the donkey's back. When Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem people saw him coming and came running towards him. Many put their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on, and those without coats cut palm branches and laid them down instead. A crowd surrounded Jesus and started to shout praises to him for all the miracles he had done. They yelled, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Hosanna means "save us".

Some Pharisees, who thought they were important, did not like what the people were doing. They told Jesus to tell the people to stop praising him. They wanted the people to pay more attention to them. Jesus replied, "If they were quiet now, even the rocks would cry out!" Even the rocks knew that Jesus was God! Now Jesus could see Jerusalem and it made him very sad. He came to help people, but no one realized that he was God, and they didn't accept him.

NAMEBDGROADG	BLESSED
	DISCIPLES
LORDREALIZED	NAME
	MIRACLES
S A P S A H S H O U T O	GLORY
	COATS
JPHINOPEMRLN	ROAD
	PRAISE
E E A A C S C C I O Y K	SHOUT
	JESUS
S O R G H A E B R R S E	JERUSALEM
	DONKEY
UPIUENBLAORY	LORD
	CROWD
SLSPSNAECCWL	PEOPLE
	PEACE
GEECOATSLKPD	PALM
	BRANCHES
OLEREBLSESAT	GOD
DISCIPLESPLE	REALIZED
	HOSANNA
PRAISESDMDMR	PHARISEES
	ROCKS