

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



December 2018

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Victoria, BC



FURTHERING THE STORY...

“O come, O come, Emmanuel” will frame our Advent celebration over the next several weeks! This 1851 masterpiece was gifted to us by John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, scholar and hymn writer. It is a translation of a Latin hymn, *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*. The 1861 translation of “O come, O come, Emmanuel” is from *Hymns Ancient and Modern* and is the most prominent by far in the English-speaking world. 2018 is the 200th anniversary of Neale, born in London to a clergy father. Neale was named after the Puritan cleric and hymn writer John Mason of whom his mother Susanna was a descendant. Neale has an impressive lineage for things of the church, including hymn writing and editing. At the age of 33 Neale became impressed with an ancient hymn often linked with the 12th century, with some evidence that it had first been published in Germany in 1710.

It would take until the 20th century for the final two stanzas to receive significant English translations. The final translation of the hymn was first published in 1916 by Henry Sloane Coffin, president of the Union Theological Seminary, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and one of the most famous ministers in the United States, which included only the “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” verse by Neale and Coffin’s two “new” verses - gained the broadest acceptance, with occasional modifications

In effect, our singing of this hymn honors the Advent gift to the world over 300 years ago. “O come, O come, Emmanuel” tells a story *O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.* This is the Advent message that the world may expect good news that a Saviour is to be expected. It was an ancient story furthered in a hymn from the 1700’s, retranslated in 1851 and again in 1916. Each generation “furthered the Advent story”. 2018 is no different in that the world needs the same news! It is up to us to carry the same message that despite what you may have heard, Emmanuel (God with us) will still come to our lives and our world. We can help further the ancient story. The final measure has not yet been sung nor the last curtain pulled on the Christmas message. St. Andrew’s gives each of us multiple opportunities to “further the story” over the coming weeks. We look forward to Advent worship each Sunday, Blue Christmas services, Community Carol Sing, and Christmas Eve worship.

This December is the 39th anniversary of my ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I have conducted Christmas services in hospital chapels, in sanctuaries filled with those who had knew every Christmas carol by heart as well as those who knew very little about the Christmas story. I am blessed to “further the Christmas message” with you in this my 39th year of ordained ministry and take seriously the charge that Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin translated in that final verse of Advent hymn,

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

Rev. Mitch Coggin

Join us for Advent

First Sunday in Advent - Hope Candle

DECEMBER 2, 2018 ~ 10:30 AM.

Recognizing the Sacred Within the Secular - Sacred Time.
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 9, 2018 ~ 10:30 AM.

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

Christmas Carol Sing

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

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 16, 2018 ~ 10:30 AM

Recognizing the Sacred Within the Secular - Sacred Space.
Join us as we celebrate the Season of Advent,
a time of anticipation.

Blue Christmas Service

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19, 2018 ~ NOON & 5:00 PM

A contemplative service for the Advent season. The 5:00 pm service will be a contemplative service without music.

Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love Candle

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23, 2018 ~ 10:30 AM

Recognizing the Sacred Within the Secular - Sacred.
Knowing Join us for a music and carol filled service.

Christmas Eve - Christ Candle

MONDAY DECEMBER 24, 2018 ~ 7:30 PM

Recognizing the Sacred Within the Secular - Sacred Be-ing.
A candle-light family Christmas Eve Service.

The Season of Anticipation

Share the Joy of Christmas

The congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church shares the joy of Christmas with others in Victoria in 2018.

We are supporting the annual Christmas dinner at Our Place, which feeds the working poor, the homeless and those far from home, creating a time of community and warmth at this special time of the year. The order for 25 large turkeys (weighing over twenty-five pounds each) have been placed. It will be delivered to Our Place in time for all the turkeys to be cooked for the festive meal.

Our congregation also provides gift bags for the 45 residents of Our Place, 18 women and 27 men. The gift bags are filled with warm socks, toques and gloves and sundry personal items such as soap, toothpaste and shampoo. Most of the items have been purchased and are ready to be wrapped by the Sunday School children on December 16th.

Beginning the first Sunday in Advent, December 2nd, the Mission and Outreach Committee will have a table set up in the Kirk Hall on the Sundays in Advent to accept donations for the Share the Joy Fund. There will be examples of the articles going into the gift bags on display. Leona Johns, from the Finance Committee, will be on hand to record the specifics of the donations to ensure prompt and precise accounting for tax receipts.

You can also donate via your church envelope. Write "Share the Joy" on the line where you enter the amount of your donation.

The bags will be delivered to Our Place on December 23rd.

If you have any questions about our Share the Joy of Christmas campaign, please call Debra Verwey at 250-383-1009 or Brian Titus at 250-382-2387.



Rides to Church...

We have members who drive others to Church on Sunday morning - to you we say thank you. We have other people who are not able to manoeuvre the bus or taxi system - sometimes because the service has a long lead time (i.e. pickup an hour before the service) and then having to leave the service early because their Handy Dart is waiting to take them back home.

We would like to develop a list of people who are able to give others a ride to and from Church or on occasion. Although the request may be for Sundays, there are other opportunities (special services, Christmas Carols etc.) for people to attend St. Andrew's.

So here is the ask:

If you are able to provide transportation to people who attend St. Andrew's or if you are looking for a ride, please let Whitney know and we will start to develop a list of drivers and passengers.

This venture will not happen overnight but will depend upon everyone chipping in. (The golf reference is not intentional, but I couldn't ignore the use of the words *driving* and *chipping in*.)

Think of this as an opportunity of 'paying it forward' when at some point you may need to call on someone to help you with your transportation to St. Andrew's. If we had Uber in British Columbia, life would be so simple!

Jim Ferguson
Administration, Convenor

Notes from Session

This November the session met with our Treasurer, Jack Reimer, to go over our budget for 2019. We have decided that we will present a 'stand-pat' budget to the congregation for the 2019 year on January 20, 2019.

It was brought to our attention that we have had a request for a ride to church and that there may well be others who find it difficult to get to church on Sunday. The congregation will be asked if they are able to give rides to people who wish to come to church. This doesn't need to be a weekly commitment. Colina Titus is gathering the names of those that will be willing to give rides before we start to offer that option for Sunday morning attendance.

Jerry Verwey has requested that the Church be open for Open Church every day from December 17 to December 24th. If you are able to spare a few hours to come and help host people in our church during the Advent season, please let Jerry know.

The roof is finished !! The scaffolding is still at the church because there has been difficulty removing it to a new home. We can all rest easy that no one will get wet in the sanctuary.

The Session wishes you God's blessing as together we share our journey of faith, hope, love, and joy through this season of anticipation, celebration and rejoicing.

Respectfully Submitted by
The Session of St. Andrews

In Loving Memory



William (Bill) Higgins
November 18

Mary Toft
October

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

December 2018

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

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						All those with Birthdays and anniversaries in December
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Those involved in music ministry who give of their time and talents	(Intl Day of Persons with Disabilities) Thanks that we are all made in the image of our loving God	The Boards of Managers and Property/ Finance Committees in the Presbytery	(World Soil Day) Rain to replenish land affected by drought.	Compassion and courage to welcome and care for strangers in need	Our neighbors in need and the St. A's team serving them breakfast on Saturday	People who have to work over the holidays, missing time with loved ones.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Ministers, church staff and many volunteers	All refugees fleeing violence and oppression	All that is given through PWS&D	Those speaking out against hatred and injustice	That the carol sing would be a gift to the community	Peace for people in Israel and Palestine	Missions all over the world
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Youth, children and young families	Those applying for continuing education grants through the PCC	Wisdom for elders who guide and decide at St. Andrew's	Temporary foreign workers. May they be treated fairly.	Any friends or family who are sick or hurting	Travel blessings for all going to see friends and relatives	The words to invite people to fellowship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Christian Education committee volunteers and all teachers	Thanksgiving for the love of God who sent Jesus into the world	That those who are lonely would feel loved	Thanksgiving for our families and friends	Volunteer treasurers in congregations across Canada	Families of people in the armed forces and for the people serving	Seniors, that they are provided with homes of dignity and peace
30	31					
Peace for all suffering in the midst of conflict	Thanksgiving for 2018 and blessings in the year to come		Our elders invite us to pray together! If you have items you would like included, please contact Whitney in the church office: 250-384-5734 or office@standrewsvictoria.ca			

Medal and Award Honour the Memory of Kellie Shand



On November 1, 2018, I attended the inauguration of an award to honour Kellie Shand's service as a BC Corrections Officer, at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (VIRCC). The ceremony was attended by VIRCC Staff and Management, along with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Director of Corrections, and representatives from the Nanaimo Regional Correctional Centre (NRCC).

Ardath Shand, along with son, Andrew, and daughter, Sara, looked on as the first annual 'Kellie Shand Memorial Award' was presented to the staff member who 'embodies Kellie's spirit, someone who demonstrates exceptional character, dedicated professionalism and unparalleled work ethic in the line of duty, while also being a positive role model in their community and at VIRCC'. This award was presented by the VIRCC Honour Guard, with the nominees being selected by the staff themselves.



Ardath with the first year's recipient, Dimitrios Koulelis.



fotosbyjeanmarcellus

The Warden of the NRCC, who worked with Kellie, presented VIRCC with a memorial bench, made by his staff. A second one will be made for Ardath's home as well.

Ardath was presented with a shadow box containing Kellie's retired badge, epaulettes, and a BC Corrections crest, with the inscription:



A pergola designed and built by staff and inmates of VIRCC was dedicated with a ribbon cutting. Located in the outdoor staff area at VIRCC, the pergola is complete with water features, tables, chairs, fire pit and the memorial bench.

Kellie has also been awarded the Government of Canada Corrections Exemplary Service Medal, which is a national award that recognizes long and outstanding service in corrections. Given Kellie's distinguished career in Corrections and dedicated service to the BC Corrections Branch, his positive example strengthened the reputation of the branch and the valuable work of his co-workers.

Ardath will receive the honour in Kellie's memory at a recognition luncheon and medal presentation ceremony on November 27, 2018 at Government House in Victoria.

Submitted by Jean Marcellus
with additional information by Debra Verwey

Join Us for Lunch



December 9, 2018

11:30 am - Kirk Hall

After the children's pageant we will be gathering for our Annual Congregational Advent Lunch. See you there!



Property Committee

Updates on Kirk Hall upgrades

Special thanks to Neil Kempling, Dave Garson and others for assisting and organizing the lighting and painting in the Kirk Hall hallways. By printing deadline the new carpet and linoleum will be installed.



Be sure to see the work that the Property Committee has completed, when you attend coffee hour.

Jerry Verwey



Missing!

Oh where, oh where have our tablecloths gone.
Oh where, oh where can they be?
They're long and white and fit our tables just right
Oh where, oh where can they be?

Has anyone seen our long tablecloths? For the past few weeks they have been disappearing and we now have none. I am hoping that someone has them and has just forgotten to bring them back.

Please check your cupboards and if you find them bring them back to the kitchen – preferably washed and ironed!

Thank you,
Sheelagh Garson
Kitchen Coordinator

Bazaar 2018



Ready, set



Children's World Vision Project.



Busy tea tables.



fotosbymitchell



Ann and her beautifully made preserves.



Book Stall



Taking a break.



The bake table - ready to go!



Tea Ticket sellers - sharing a laugh.

2018 Bazaar Breakdown

Attic Treasures	\$ 47.45
Baking	1,528.00
Books	719.20
Crafts	845.00
Jewelry	1,443.45
Tea & Sandwiches	1,501.90
Thrift Store	248.45
Silent Auction	1,324.39
Total, net of float, but before all expenses	\$ 7,757.84
Children's World Vision Fundraiser -	\$ 253.95

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month: Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

The Birth of Jesus (based on Matthew 1:20-21, Luke 1: 1-20, & 26-35)

An angel appeared to a young woman named Mary and told her that she was chosen to be the mother of God's son. Mary was filled with joy. Mary was soon to be married to a man named Joseph. An angel came to Joseph and told him that the child Mary was going to have was from the Holy Spirit. Later, Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay taxes. All the homes and inns had no rooms left, so someone let them stay in a stable. Mary gave birth to Jesus that night. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in the animals' manger. Shepherds were watching their flocks in nearby fields. Suddenly an angel appeared to the shepherds. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy." The angel told the shepherds that a saviour, the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem. The shepherds went there and saw the child lying in the manger. The shepherds glorified God for all that they had heard and seen.

Can you find the words listed in the word search?

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

ANGEL
 WOMAN
 MARY
 DREAM
 JOSEPH
 MANGER
 SHEPHERDS
 AFRAID
 JOY
 SAVIOUR
 MESSIAH
 BETHLEHEM
 GLORIFIED
 MOTHER
 GOD
 SON
 TAXES