

September 2019

Book Club	4
Communication	4
Conversation Café	5
Communion Cards	6
Garden Restored	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Friendship Club	11

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12

Women's

Retreat

Victoria, BC

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



STAYING RELEVANT

The picture is of the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras. It was taken right after Hurricane Mitch devastated the Caribbean in 1998. In November of that year, Hurricane Mitch ravaged the Honduras, killing 5600 people. 12,300 were injured and 8600 disappeared. Every bridge in Honduras, 150 of them, were totally destroyed, with the exception of the one above, the Choluteca Bridge which once crossed the Choluteca River. Obviously the bridge no longer crossed the river following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. What changed? The Hurricane changed the course of the Choluteca River so drastically that the river no longer went under the bridge. Following Hurricane Mitch, the bridge no longer served any useful function, although by sight, it remained a perfectly good bridge!

The bridge had been donated to Honduras by Japan and it was the only bridge that withstood the winds and rains of the Hurricane. Japan even used a picture of the bridge following Hurricane Mitch in advertisements to suggest what fantastic bridges they constructed, even surviving devastating weather.

Still the bridge, while in perfect shape, no longer served any worthwhile purpose since the river had changed course. The metaphor is a powerful one for us in the Presbyterian Church. The river (society) has moved and unless we are careful, we too will become obsolete in meeting the changing flow of our community. While the bridge remains strong, it no longer touches the river in the way it once did. In what way(s) do we touch our community in significant ways? How do we need to change in order to meet the changing needs of our community? What programs no longer have any useful function? What ministries need to be added in order to reach a community that no longer comes to us automatically when they move into town?

This continues to be an important focus as we move deeper into this transitional process. Our prayers for our church – present and future must continue for us to be guided during these critical days. How will we remain relevant? One thing is clear and certain. Just as our past years of our history have occurred through God's design, so will the years to come be equally as dependent upon God's plan. The Choluteca Bridge serves as an excellent reminder that we can not—we MUST not sit idle waiting for Victoria to come to us. We must tell our neighbors about this remarkable church that we cannot keep to ourselves. The future belongs to God but it is exciting to see how God will use each of us in the weeks – months – and years to come.

With Thankful Blessings To You,

Pastor Mitch

Notes from Session

The session of St. Andrew's met in June and August. Although previous practice has been to not meet in August, we held a modified meeting as we agreed that the transition process being led by Mitch is too important for us not to meet over the summer. These are the important elements of our discussions in the two meetings:

There needs to be consistency in the use/distribution of communion cards. Session should be offering invitations to communion rather taking a roll call. It was agreed that St. Andrew's will no longer use communion cards. A letter from Rev. Coggin will be distributed explaining the history of communion cards and the reason why communion cards will no longer be in use. You may also read this letter in this edition of *The Link*. (p.6)

After many years of service as an elder, Peter Lewis has requested a sabbatical from his responsibilities as a member of session. We have granted this, expressing our appreciation and wishing him rest and refreshment in his sabbatical.

The Rev. Reid Chudleigh attended Session in his role as the Chair of the Presbytery Administration Committee. Presbytery is aware that the period of transition for St. Andrew's will extend well beyond the 2 years; by definition we are in transition until a new minister is called. Currently Rev. Coggin's work permit and contract with St. Andrew's expires in July 2020. The Rev. Chudleigh came to ascertain that it is the wish of session to extend the contract, with the intent of minimizing the time between the interim ministry of Rev. Coggin, and the beginning of the permanent ministry of the next minister called to St. Andrew's. As it is the wish of session, Presbytery will immediately begin the process to extend the contract for a period not exceeding an additional two years beyond July 2020 (July 2022).

As many will know, this year's General Assembly included further discussion about the inclusion of LGTBQI persons in the leadership of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The decision was remitted to presbyteries under the *Barrier Act*, with responses to be taken to the 2020 General Assembly. Although this is a decision to be made at the Presbytery level it will be a topic for session consideration through the fall. We seek further understanding about the implications of the

Barrier Act (see facing page), and how it pertains to the issue we will share with the congregation.

The current committee structure has been in place for many years, and dates from a time when we were a much larger congregation. As a session, we continue to review the function of our committees and then ask whether there might be a more efficient and effective way of managing the activities and responsibilities of our congregation. We are taking the time to give prayerful consideration before making any changes, if indeed that is the conclusion.

This year the Synod of British Columbia will meet in Kelowna. Session is pleased to send the Rev. Coggin and elder and Presbytery representative, Sheelagh Garson, from St. Andrew's.

A regular item on the session agenda is to review the roll (the list of everyone who attends our church: members and adherents). This is most important so that we can ensure that our friends, adherents and members all feel connected to the church through being included in an elder's district. We will be seeking email addresses from all who are willing to have them used, so that we can better communicate in a timely manner. We are very aware that we are behind the times in our methods of communication. We are working towards simultaneously sharing information about what is happening in and around the church across all of the available communication platforms including the St. Andrew's website, St. Andrew's Facebook page, The Link and email. We want news about the happenings at the church to be accessible to as many people as possible, whatever their preferred method of communication.

The new school year is upon us, and even if we are not directly involved with children returning to school, there is a real sense of beginning a new year. Please pray for our Minister, Rev. Coggin as he leads us in the second year of our transition. Pray for the elders and indeed every one of us that we will work together doing the work of the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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** Clerk of Session

Barrier Act (From the Book of Forms)

293. The Assembly may pass a Declaratory Act affirming what it understands to be the law of the church regarding any particular matter; and such act may be passed without submission to presbyteries. But any action contemplating a change in the law of the church must be dealt with according to the provisions of the Barrier Act (A&P 1877) that are as follows: 293.1 No prepared law or rule relative to matters of doctrine, discipline, government or worship, shall become a permanent enactment until the same has been submitted to presbyteries for consideration. Such consideration shall be given by each presbytery, at an ordinary meeting, or a special meeting held for the purpose; and an extract minute of the presbytery's judgment shall be sent to the clerk of the General Assembly, before the next meeting of that court. 293.2 The Assembly, if it sees cause, may by a majority of two-thirds of those present, pass such proposed law or rule into an Interim Act, which shall possess the force of law, until the presbyteries have, as herein required, reported their judgment upon it to the next General Assembly, 293.3 If a majority of the presbyteries of the church express their approval, the Assembly may pass such proposed law or rule into a standing law of the church. If a majority of the presbyteries express disapproval, the Assembly shall reject such proposed law or rule, or again remit it to the presbyteries. 293.4 If a majority of the presbyteries of the church replying to a remit sent down under the Barrier Act, as specified in section 293.1, express their approval and this majority of presbyteries constitute an actual majority of ministers, members of the Order of Diaconal Ministries, and elders on the constituent rolls of all presbyteries, the Assembly may pass such proposed law or rule into a standing law of the church. (The original Barrier Act is from the Church of Scotland, 1697.) (Declaratory Act: A&P 1946, p. 121, 67)

Where are They Now?



Ian & Kirsten Mitchell, son and daughter-in-law of Sheila & John Mitchell, with their daughter Samantha, visiting from Calgary, AB

Tour of Government House – June 13th

We had about 14 people attend the tour of Government House on Thursday afternoon, June 13th. After a tour of "the House" a number of people visited the "Tea Room" for a cuppa and cakes. Along the way they were able to drop into the Costume Museum and have a look at the collection of gowns, uniforms and other formal attire volunteers have assembled over the years.

Public tours are available for groups. Look at the Government House web site https://ltgov.bc.ca/tours/ for tours of the House, the tea room and the Gardens.

The tour enabled people who attend St. Andrew's on a regular basis to share time, engage in conversation in a rather relaxed and congenial manner. For some folks, unfamiliar faces on a Sunday morning have now become friends.

Jim Ferguson

Mission & Outreach

NEW SHORT-TERM BOOK CLUB FOR ST. ANDREW'S

In the May *Link*, I proposed that members of St. Andrew's start a book club in September that would focus on literature written by Aboriginal authors. Reading one book a month from September 2019 until June 2020, the goal of the venture would be to honour the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada, to promote understanding of our shared history and to guide us on the path to reconciliation and healing, both personally and as a church.

With this in mind, I invite anyone who wants to join the **ST**. Andrew's **R**eading for **R**econciliation book club (STARR Book Club for short) to get in touch with me. My phone number is 250-383-1009 and my email address is tjeerd@telus.net.

We will meet once a month at my house, probably on a Friday morning or afternoon for one or two hours. The exact time of the meeting can be at a time most convenient for us all.

I have borrowed 10 copies of *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King from the Greater Victoria Public Library to start us off.

Thomas King of Cherokee, Greek and German descent, is a bestselling author of five novels, two collections of short stories, several children's stories, and the 2003 CBC Massey Lectures, *The Truth About Stories*. I know him best as a writer and actor on the CBC radio comedy, *The Dead Dog Café*, which ran from 1996 to 2000.

To quote the Toronto Star, "Every Canadian should read [The Inconvenient Indian] ...It's funny, it's readable and it makes you think. If you have any kind of social conscience, [it] will also make you angry."

Please join me as we read for nine months in the STARR Book Club.

Debra Verwey

communications@standrewsvictoria.ca

In order to reach a variety of people both within the congregation and outside of St. Andrew's, we communicate church-related activities and special events through our Sunday bulletin, *The Link*, website and facebook page.

Most people in our congregation have seen the communications e-mail address:

communications@standrewsvictoria.ca in the Sunday bulletin and it is important that all submissions, other than for *The Link*, are sent to that email address. Please include all pertinent details for the event and attach relevant posters or flyers that will enhance our communications, in a PDF format.

We are attempting to reach as many people as possible with events happening in our congregation and our buildings yet protect our individual privacy and confidentiality.

Please note:

- Submissions for the bulletin will continue to be sent to Whitney and
- ◆ submissions for *The Link* will continue to be sent to thelink@shaw.ca

Thank you for your contributions and continued support!

Catherine MacKenzie

The Friendship Club of St. Andrew's A TRAVELOGUE OF RUSSIA

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 24th for our travelogue series.

We will meet in the Kirk Hall for a light sandwich lunch at 11:00 and a Travelogue Series will be presented by David and Dawn McLean at 12:00 about their recent trip to Russia.

All adults welcome and please feel free to bring your friends. The cost will be \$10.00 per person.

More information will be coming in further bulletins and the October *Link*.

We hope to see you there! **Dorothy Reimer**

ESL: The Conversational Café at St. Andrew's

The Conversational Cafe Group has met each Sunday after the coffee hour for 1-2 hrs since mid-June. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us. The purpose of our class is for friendship and to help with English conversation and fun activities for ESL students in our congregation. At the present time, we have been blessed to have the KIM family as our class mates and most of you will know who they are as they have taken an active and keen interest in our church. Grace Kim, is Mom to June, Juhye and Juliet. The Kim family is here for a few years to learn English and they have fit into our congregation with such ease - you will often see them serving coffee and they are always at the Café Table.

Each Sunday, our ESL students gather at our tucked away table and the purpose of our group is always accomplished when we talk about the activities of the past week and plan new activities. Sometimes we play Scrabble or discuss idioms. Another Sunday, we were privileged to be invited to Joyce's home for lunch and then taken to Butchart Gardens for the afternoon. One day, a friend helped us to gain entrance to the BC Museum on her special pass for visitors. Other fun times have been a Sari Party hosted by a friend and that came with a Pot Luck dinner of Indian food. Stella gave some tips on how to discuss everyday conversations, greetings, introductions.....all of which are so useful in their day to day encounters. Each of these outings and activities has then been written up in essays by the students and some grammar help is given. I am always amazed at the wonderful writing that the girls do! One day they will write an article for The Link!

It has been such a privilege to have this friendship with our Korean family and hope you will introduce yourselves to them and enjoy some time with them too. For the next two months, Irma Rodriguez will be teaching/helping at our Conversational Café Table. We

Link Deadline

Link Deadline

Next Link deadline will be Sunday,

September 29.

were so happy to meet Irma who arrived at our Conversational Cafe table one Sunday in August. We learned that it was her first time in the church and that she is a Montessori Teacher Trainer, who has written a book on how to teach grammar to children ages 5 - 12. She gladly accepted the role as ESL teacher when we asked if she would substitute for a little while. Please introduce yourself to her. Irma came to Canada 27 years ago from the Philippines. She was thrilled to be at our church and especially happy to be singing Christmas Carols in August!

Other ESL students from UVIC have joined our group and if you could possibly help us any Sunday, even one time, just for one hour, to present any topic of interest or to help with one-on-one grammar or English, we would gladly accept your help. We plan our classes a week at a time and there are many times we could use extra help and friendship.

Thank you for your support for this program, through Mission & Outreach and I am happy to help with this ongoing program.

Sincerely, **Dorothy Reimer**



The largest cathedral in the Baltics was founded in Riga, Latvia in the 13th century. The famous organ of the Dome cathedral, pictured above, was made in 1884 and was the largest organ in the world comprising of 6,718 pipes, The organist sits upstairs behind the pipes and she is shown playing on several screens set up in the cathedral during organ recitals.

Submitted by **Dawn McLean**

Communion Cards will no longer be used at St. Andrew's!

The Session at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria has determined that communion cards will no longer be necessary to register attendance at services in which communion is celebrated. Once seen as a requirement to maintain active membership through consistent attendance at a certain number of communion services over a two-year period, the practice of registering attendance was long ago abandoned, and these records are no longer maintained.

Today, these kinds of registration requirements are not considered essential in the expression of our faith. We believe and know that God is loving and gracious and our invitation to celebrate the Lord's Table is not constituted by duty but rather by delight in being welcomed to partake.

We at St. Andrew's will continue to emphasize faithful attendance at all worship services, including and especially when communion is celebrated. We will continue to send reminders of upcoming communion services, without the use of "communion cards" or a requirement to register one's attendance at these services.

For future reference, upcoming communion services at St. Andrew's will be celebrated:

October 6, 2019 (World Communion Sunday)
December 1, 2019 (First Sunday of Advent)
March 1, 2020 (First Sunday of Lent)
April 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday)
June 7, 2020 (Trinity Sunday)

Communion Cards were once Communion Tokens

Communion registration, either through communion "tokens" or the later version of communion cards is a historical feature of the early days of Presbyterianism. John Calvin first recommended Communion tokens with the intent that no unworthy person would be admitted to the communion service. They were first used in the Reformed Church of France in the year 1560. The Dutch used tokens in Amsterdam as early as 1586. England and Ireland began to use communion tokens near the end of the 16th century when authorities found it useful to know who did or did not conform to the legal worship of the state church. Even earlier, during the first centuries of the Church, when Christians faced persecution for their faith, the

security of the congregation depended on having some sort of pass or identification that followers of Jesus could bring forth in order to participate in the sacramental services. The use of tokens was adapted in later centuries as a symbol of full membership in the Communion. Christians took seriously the exhortation not "to eat and drink damnation to themselves," and the greatest care was taken to ensure that no unworthy person or unbeliever was admitted to the Holy Communion.

Church of Scotland and Communion Tokens

It was in the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland that communion tokens were most widely used. Many believe that there may have been a second reason for using tokens, and that was to protect communicants from betrayal by spies during periods of religious persecution. In Scotland, following the Reformation, the community might share the bread and wine only once a year. In Glasgow Scotland, it is recorded that in the 28 years between the Restoration and the Revolution, Communion was offered only once. Members of the church took the sacrament very seriously and approached the sacramental season – the most important time of year – with solemn excitement and anticipation. A communion token was given to each member if the session felt that the person was worthy to receive communion. All new members or visitors had to pass an oral exam that was based on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Shorter Catechism.

They carefully prepared themselves for partaking of the bread and wine by attending a series of preparatory services on Saturday afternoon, when metal tokens were given to the people "of the Way," those who were deemed worthy to take communion. On the following day, the minister and elders gathered these tokens, inviting everyone who presented the symbol to come forward and sit at the Lord's Table. Communion tokens were used in the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland until World War I.

Communion Tokens become Communion Cards

By the end of the 19th century in Canada, the communion token or "Ticket of Admission" became merely a symbol of attendance at communion services, and persons without the metal disk were not excluded from the Lord's Table. Indeed, by 1900, most

St. Andrew's welcomed new members on July 21, 2019



St. Andrew's welcomed these new members on July 21:

Betty Cowper - a familiar face to many of us, joined by reaffirmation of faith.

The Jackson family - Patti, Mark, and Lisa who transferred their membership from Knox Church in Waterloo, ON.

Marie Ryan- Roberts, recently retired to Victoria, became a member by re-affirmation of faith.

(Continued from page 6)

congregations had substituted a communion card for the metal coin, and Elders distributed these to members in their respective districts before the Sacramental Sunday. The card usually displayed the name of the communicant and, when collected before the service, formed a useful record of attendance. If a person, lacking sufficient reason, was absent from the Lord's Table for several years, the Session, the congregation's ruling body, had authority to remove such individuals from the communicant roll of the congregation.

The Session at St. Andrew's recognizes the historical significance of underscoring the importance of celebrating communion faithfully. We believe that communion must never become a "duty" to be borne, but a gift to be celebrated graciously, frequently and as the gathered community of the Kirk. Deeming communion cards as an outdated expression of that "duty" requires that we move beyond this practice and instead, encourage one another in regular attendance whenever we are invited to the Table.

Rev. Mitch Coggin



Property Committee was able to accomplish the restoration of the garden this summer. A number of possible options were considered. A final decision was reached to adopt a design provided by Brian Mitchell Landscape and Design. In June, Brian rototilled the area several times in preparation for planting and reconfigured the in-ground watering system to improve the coverage. A work party was organized on Saturday, July 20 and a number of volunteers came to assist with planting of the new plants. Most of the plants were new except for the hostas which

Grant had managed to salvage. Most of the original plants had been lost during the re-roofing project. Many people came to help and the work was accomplished in a few hours. A second work party was held on Saturday, August 10 to spread a layer of leaf mulch over the garden. It is expected that this layer of mulch will nourish the garden well into next year. The pictures, taken by John Mitchell, are from the work party in July and show just some of the

people who donated their time and effort to help Property achieve the task at hand. It may not be true that many hands make "light" y

It may not be true that many hands make "light" work but it certainly makes work more fun.

Broughton Garden Restoration

Many thanks to all who participated. **Dave Garson**



Volunteers include the Garson family: Dave, Sheelagh, daughter Erin and grandson Dylan, along with Brian Titus, Jean Watt & Bruce Wasylik.



Treasurer's Report - August 25, 2019

I am pleased to have an opportunity to present a short summary of St. Andrew's financials for 2019. It's normally about this time of the year when I and my team take an opportunity to assess our financials, look ahead to the year-end, and prepare for the next year.

Before looking at some numbers, I regret to inform you that our dear friend and hard-working member of the finance team, Lawrie Matheson, had a stroke earlier this spring and has been unable to attend to the duties she so willingly and graciously undertook for at least 18 - 20 years. She often reminded me of how long she had responsibility for issuing checks and looking after the associated payment responsibilities but I can't recall the exact length of time. She is doing well, but regrets being confined to her home base for so long. I am sure she would appreciate a call from any in the congregation who may wish to drop in and say hello.

As our congregation continues to regroup and rebuild under the guidance of Rev. Mitch Coggin and our session, I am pleased that we have held our own, relative to the commitments outlined in our 2019 budget. In summary (and remember that I can only report our results to the end of July) our finances are as follows:

Financial support from our Congregation	\$122,776
Other Incomes	41,718
Total Incomes YTD	\$164,494
Committee Expenses YTD	\$207,620
Deficit to Date	\$ 43,126

Note: our expenses to date include a number of onetime expenses (i.e. insurance and repair expenses that inflated our spending to date). I anticipate that we will not exceed the deficit that was projected in the budget, but this deficit continues to be one of our biggest challenges.

It's summer in Victoria, and I am sure that most of us have enjoyed many of the great activities available to us in this great community. The Moss Street Art show, the Symphony Splash, some time picnicking or marketplace shopping...far too many opportunities for fun in the sun to recall here. But it's in the summer time that the

financial needs of our congregation at St. Andrew's are often overlooked. My request to each of you is to look back and make up some of those missed opportunities to help us meet and potentially positively exceed the financial targets we set out last fall. Taking a small step to 'catch up' on your financial support would be greatly appreciated and helpful as we near the year end of 2019.

Should anyone have some concerns or questions, I invite you to seek me out - I would be pleased to spend whatever time is required to answer your questions.

Sincerely

Jack Reimer

Treasurer

~ Our History ~

Town Hall Meeting

Following worship on September 15, we invite you to attend our luncheon in the Kirk Hall. The luncheon will lead to a Town Hall meeting when we will remember and celebrate components of St. Andrew's history (distant and recent past) and that in turn will assist us in clarifying our identity (present and future).

we would ask that you bring a picture, a worship bulletin, or a personal memory.

If you have any questions, please ask your elder for more information.



Car Free Day – June 16th...

The sky was clear, the sun was shining, and we opened our doors after Church Service on Sunday June 16th to over 500 people; who might not otherwise take the time to visit St. Andrew's. We had many visitors from Victoria and other parts of Canada. A common refrain from many locals was "I've lived in Victoria for many years and often wondered what was behind the big doors of this Church." We even have one or two instances of "where is the Church", almost as if we were hiding in plain sight.

The big lesson learned this year was to put our welcome board out on the street [rather than the sidewalk] and encourage people to drop in and have a look around. In previous years we were able to hand out balloons with the St. Andrew's name on it—but due to rules this year — that was a no-no.

This year we had our gratitude board again. People expressed their gratitude in many ways, such as:

I am grateful for the world and the lives that we have	For health and peace		
Thank you God, for the sun. Thank you for this life, this opportunity. IT'S A BLESSING.	Patience and understanding of others		
My lovely city, Victoria	Be yourself		
The queer community	My family [multiple times]		
My wife	For faith & family		
I like food	Don't care about what people thinks of you! Love yourself		
The Ocean, beautiful BC	Everything, no matter how small		
For love	A wonderful dad for our 5 kids & Jesus Christ my Savior		
#lgbtq pride	Good Health and Good Friends		
My boyfriend, the mountains & the Sun	Friends, Family, Health, Love. Kindness is the best gift we can give		
Car Free Day all year	Science & Reason		
Love yourself	My family, my wife and her family		
Be yourself	Living with an open heart. All people		
My honey bunny	The Love of my life		
Travel	My health and family		
Good friends	I am grateful for the cedar trees and being allowed to walk and live on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people.		

Giving thanks can make you happier – Harvard Health

The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, gratitude also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals — whether to other people, nature, or a higher power.

https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier

Mark Sunday June 21st in your calendar for 2020 and join us again for another successful Car Free Day.

Hello friends of St. Andrew's and especially to those of **The Friendship Club**.

I am happy to let you know that I am a "new friend" to you, even though we have known each other for many years. Now I become your friend in a different way. Please let me explain!

The Friendship Club is an adult social group in our congregation. Its main focus is to promote Christian fellowship by holding a variety of social events and activities throughout the year. This group has been operating for many years, and we give special thanks to Bill & Nancy Duke who have given superb leadership and organization keeping the group operating successfully for the past 9 years. Their time of leadership has come to an end and I have taken the next step to follow in their footsteps to become your new friend and leader.

But of course, leaders need help and guidance and so I welcome your advice and participation for our programs and look forward to enjoyable times we will have together. Our group is open to all adults, either within or out of the congregation, but is mainly, although not limited to, a seniors' group. I am sorry to say that children will have to wait until adulthood to join this wonderful group!

In the past, there have been at least 4 (or more) annual social events. We aim to carry on that tradition but

with a few more ideas, some planning, and some willing helpers, I am sure we can increase that to at least 6 activities. We hope to continue events eg travelogues, lectures, luncheons, outings and outside events such as concerts or musical events and of course, a Christmas luncheon!

Please mark your calendars for our first social event—all lined up for Thursday, Oct. 24 from 1l am -2 pm, in the Kirk Hall. A light sandwich lunch will be followed by a Travel Talk on a **Trip to Russia**, presented by David & Dawn McLean. Stories and photos of their trip will be shown as we relax and pretend we are there too. More information will be coming through *The Link* and through bulletin announcements. The cost of the event is \$10.00 per person.

Further events will need to be planned and I would warmly welcome your input and help. I'd like to have a planning meeting sometime this Fall to discuss some of your ideas and make them into a reality. Please contact me if you are willing to help with ideas, set up in the hall, clean up, welcoming people, food ideas and ticket sales. There are lots of ways to make this easy if we all help a bit and it will be fun! The more we work together, the more fun it will be!

On a more personal note, I will just let you know that I will be "immobile" for a little while as I am having ankle surgery and will not be able to walk for several months, but, you will still see me around in mid to late

September and we can start planning these events.

Dorothy Reimer



August 18, 2019

At our Christmas in August service, Maribel Flores, Martin Perez and Brian Titus shared their gift of music.

fotobyjeanmarcellus

Open Church

This summer we entertained visitors from around the globe at our 42 open churches over June - Aug. Most days we received 50 - 100 visitors, all without any advertisement other than our sidewalk board. I have to thank Iris for the constancy with which she attended with me most open churches. During the time I was away, Marie, Dorothy, Dave R., and others stepped in to continue this worthwhile service. We had one unfortunate incident when items were taken from ballet students by a nefarious individual who slipped through via the upper balcony doors. Dave Garson came up with a viable solution and we now have a tonal alarm to alert us in the sanctuary when the doors are opened, enhancing our overall security. This will be used during open church 'religiously'.

An interesting occurrence saw one local come in and explain that two of her uncles are memorialized on our WWI plaques: one who survived, and one who died. Another instance saw an individual explain to me that the national coat of arms displayed on the army memorial window was objected to by Queen Elizabeth and was superseded in 1957 with our present one holding red maple leaves and a stylized harp. An American from California added to our connection by mentioning that Dunsmuir, CA was named at the behest of Robert Dunsmuir's son who ran the family office in San Francisco.

It was a pleasure greeting the many visitors and explaining our faith to them as well as the differences between the Roman Catholic and Protestant faith. I will continue open church during September and October, following the cruise ship schedule, after which Wednesday will be our regular open church day over the winter months.

I would welcome anyone who would like to help with this worthwhile service, just check the bulletin for scheduled times.

Jerry Verwey

Special thanks go to Jerry Verwey for coordinating Open Church which he synced with the cruise ships in port each day.

Thanks also go to David Rogers who kindly stepped in when Jerry was away for two weeks. Marie, Iris, Stella, Debbie, Ann, Laura, and many others were consistently there to meet and greet .

Dorothy Reimer

Where are They Now?



Ryan Marcellus, youngest son of Jean and Arthur Marcellus, graduated from Vancouver Island University June, 2019, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree Majoring in Criminology. Ryan also is on the Dean's Honour List. Currently, Ryan is the Crew Leader of his Initial Attack team for BC Wildfire Service and is stationed in Errington, on Vancouver Island. Once the fire season is over, Ryan and his long time girlfriend, Kelsey, will be moving back to Victoria. Ryan is planning to pursue a career with the Victoria Police Department, and while he waits out the hiring process, he's hoping to volunteer as a Reserve with Vic PD, as well as looking for job opportunities with both the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Vancouver Island Presbyterian Women's Retreat Oct. 4 - 6, 2019

Camp Imadene, Mesachie Lake

Early Bird - \$160, after Sept. 13 - \$180

More information and registration brochures are available on the Christian Education bulletin board in the Kirk Hall.

Speaker: Linda Shaw Linda has served the national church as a missionary both in Lesotho (1980-82) and in Guyana (2005-2008)

The Retreat offers a relaxed and friendly place to meet, talk, sing, eat and grow in our faith together.

June 23rd - Family Service and Presentation of Sunday School Certificates



St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (NIV)



A Lesson in Humility

WORD SEARCH

Ε G S G K D Х K S В S 0 M Ε S Χ Ζ В Ν D В Μ D Ρ С Н L Ν О R G О Χ Ζ Ζ В Α M K L Ε 0 L S D Α Ε Ε Α Т M Н S Q Q R Α Κ Ν Α Ν С Х S Χ Q Ε Ν Χ Α Т W Ε Ζ D R Т В Т K Μ S Т Ε Χ Н F R Н U Т М 0 В G

POOR	EXALT	FEAST	HONOR	DINNER
FRIEND	SEAT	TABLE	HUMBLE	RICH
LAME	IN∨ITE	GUESTS	LEAST	BLIND