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This Week at St. Andrew's

May 27, 2020



Sunday, May 31st is the deadline for submissions to The Link, our monthly newsletter. Please send submissions directly to thelink@shaw.ca



This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost is celebrated the 49th day after Easter Sunday. Pentecost Sunday commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. Some symbols of Pentecost are fire and the pentecost dove.



St. Andrew's own Lisa Jackson sings with The Choirs YYJ. In 2019 they sang this beautiful cover of Gillian Welch's song Hard Times.

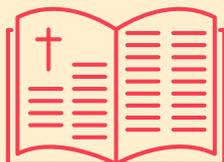
[Here is a link to see them perform](#)

*"Hard times ain't gonna rule my mind, Brother
Hard times ain't gonna rule my mind
Hard times ain't gonna rule my mind no more"*



Read From Your Bible This Week

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23



Where are they now? An Update from our 2018-2019 Choral Scholar, Emma Woo: "While I have missed being able to have more time to make music with everyone, I have been thoroughly enjoying my medical clerkship over the past year. I was on a rural rotation in Inuvik, NWT when isolation started and since coming home I have been working remotely on medical research projects and volunteering with the Victoria Inner City COVID Response Team as well as doing childcare for a two-physician family. While the next steps in my medical education are somewhat uncertain, I will likely be going back to the hospitals in July to start the process of working towards a residency program. I can't wait!" Emma recorded the hymn, 'Spirit of Gentleness' for us to listen to.

[Click here to hear the hymn](#)

Pastor's Parable

Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. The birthday of the church is when the Holy Spirit came to a room of frightened disciples and insecure followers of Jesus who were still trying to figure out what Jesus meant when he said, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". Perhaps they were as confused in their day as we may be in our day.

I have been wondering if we might just cancel Pentecost this year? I suspect that none of us will exchange Pentecost cards, host a Pentecost dinner (socially distanced of course), or put up a Pentecost tree? Why is it that Pentecost has not really taken off quite like Christmas and Easter? Pentecost happened to an unlikely group of people who sat in a room wondering what they were to do next.

They quickly discovered that God would empower them through His Presence when a rushing wind interrupted their meeting. They had been unable to understand the speaker, or one another for that matter, since they all spoke different languages. Suddenly, they understood one another. It was as if they were wearing the earphone used by the United Nations that enables persons from all over the world to be able to perfectly comprehend the message of another. The first birthday of the church instilled within the disciples and guests a desire to connect and communicate with those who had previously been strangers to one another.

The stories of St. Andrew's throughout the years have spoken of connection and communication with those who previously were estranged from one another. Those are the same stories that we are telling even in our quarantine:

You have shared your experiences of calling those who have been hospitalized or undergoing medical tests of late to share words of hope and prayer. We have lost members and family members of St. Andrew's that have died during our time away. While funerals and committals have not been possible, your cards and calls have reminded those families that they have not been forgotten. Virtual hugs have been plentiful.

Others have shared vegetables, flowers, afghans and other signs of friendship that have said loudly, "St. Andrew's cares!"

And to the one(s) who have not been called, or may be lonely, isolated and discouraged, remember, "Pentecost is for you," because with it comes the reminder that indeed, you matter to God. See you on Pentecost!!



Don MacEachern died in Victoria hospice after being admitted to hospital with pneumonia. Many of us knew Don as an usher, as a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee, as an active member of the Friendship club and as a regular helper with coffee. We will miss Don; always interested, kind and a true gentleman. Please remember his family in your prayers. If you would like to send a card to his family, contact Colina or the office for a mailing address.