

THE LINK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



June 2020

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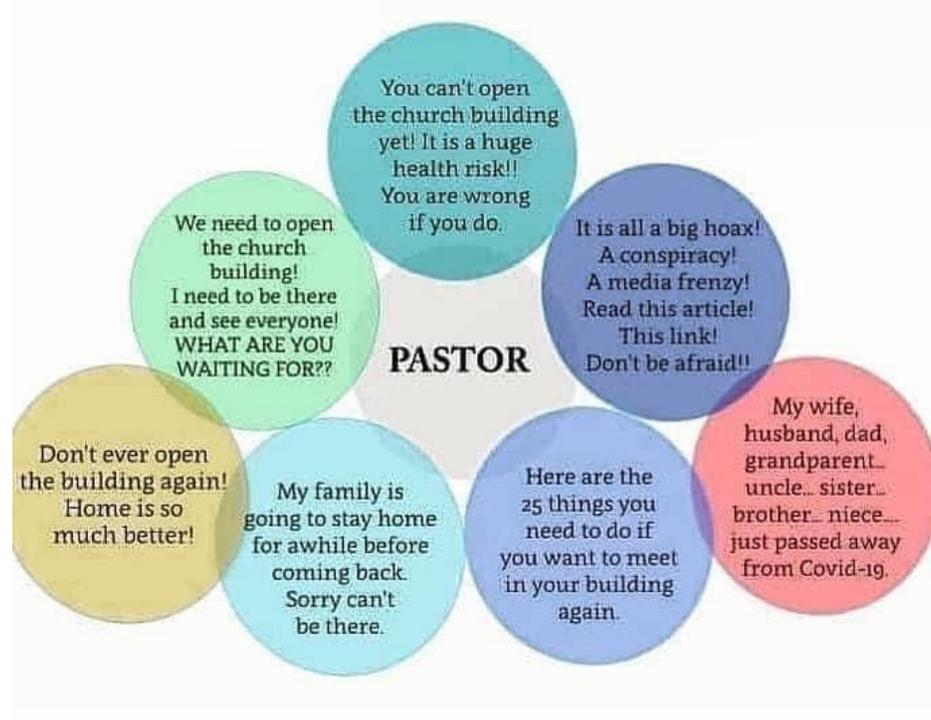
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Victoria, BC



I recently saw an article entitled “Pray for your Pastor.” With the article came the image above which highlights the variety of comments that pastors are hearing as we continue to deal with this pandemic. The comments display a wide range of thoughts and emotions regarding the dilemma of when and how we approach the question of resuming worship within the sanctuary. The exclamations range from “This pandemic is nothing but a big hoax” to “You can’t open the church building yet. It is a huge health risk.” Fortunately, the actual feedback that we are hearing includes caution, rational thought and wisdom as we weigh the options of “when” and “how” we will again gather.

Let it be said that there is no one who wants to be with you in worship more than myself, our musicians, our elders and our ushers! We miss you. Preaching a meditation and singing a hymn in an empty sanctuary is lonely and difficult. Sermons in which you are unable to see the eyes of your listeners and enjoy your smiles is a disconnect and has taken getting accustomed to.

We have been blessed in British Columbia to have been guided by the best health care experts anywhere who have steered us away from the most extreme manifestations of the virus with high casualties. We have paid attention to the Presbyterian Church in Canada that has offered wisdom and caution regarding the proper time to return to active worship. From all who are looking at our best solutions, they are providing the cautious approach that now is not the time to re-engage live worship services within our sanctuary. Due to the number of active worshippers that normally gather (50+), the age of a majority

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Message from Session

Once again, session met via Zoom; it is an interesting way to have a meeting and has proved to be an effective way to have a discussion and make decisions.

Jack Reimer joined us to provide an update on the congregational finances. Income from the congregation is below budget by about \$2,000 as of the end of April. Jack expressed appreciation for the ongoing financial support from the congregation. St. Andrew's, as with all congregations in the Presbytery, has received a onetime \$10,000 gift from Presbytery. St. Andrew's was successful in its application to the federal government for the \$40,000 loan. This amount is currently being invested. As per the terms of the loan, if we repay \$30,000 by the end of 2022, no interest will be due and at that time the balance of \$10,000 becomes a grant.

On June 30, 2020 the current two-year lease with Ballet Victoria (BV) expires. BV has submitted a proposal requesting changes to the terms of the lease. Session determined that one month is insufficient time to make a decision about this request and recommended that the current lease be extended for an additional year (ending June 2021) with the only change being an increase for the Cost of Living Adjustment. This one year extension would give time for St. Andrew's to assess our space needs and to negotiate with BV in regard to which spaces will be delegated exclusive use for St. Andrew's or BV, and which might become shared spaces. A meeting will be scheduled with BV.

A small team of willing volunteers hosted a 'take out breakfast' on Saturday, 9 May. This was a very successful trial: approximately 45 people were served a hot 'take away breakfast'. Session was pleased that this trial was successful and agreed that the breakfast will continue in this new format for the foreseeable future until provincial guidelines permit a sit down breakfast in the Kirk Hall.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to a discussion about Sunday worship, primarily when we might open the sanctuary for communal worship, with reference to the BC 'Restart Plan' and guidelines for faith groups. It was quickly agreed that given the age and vulnerability of the congregation and the desire to be seen as setting an example of care and consideration for the members of the wider community, that the

earliest date we would consider communal worship would be Sunday, 30 August.

When we are closer to considering opening our doors for worship, it is expected that we will survey the congregation through elders and email, to determine how many of the congregation are likely to participate in a service of worship in the sanctuary. Postponing worship services in the sanctuary is not an easy decision to make, we all miss gathering for shared worship each week.

A group of elders will begin planning the details, in preparation for when the time is right for us to gather again. The challenge will be to keep planning as simple as possible, and as complex as necessary. Recognizing that some may choose not to attend or are unable to do so, virtual worship needs to continue in some form, for many months. Maybe there will always be a virtual worship service.

The message that we need to share widely is that in the interests of safety for the congregation and the community, St. Andrew's will not be hosting worship in the sanctuary until at least 30 August and to direct people to virtual services via the St. Andrew's website. Communication will continue through the variety of channels available: The Link, the website, "This week at St. Andrew's" (TWASA) and posters on the church doors.

May we continue to pray for each other; we are the St. Andrew's family of God, loved by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colina Titus
Clerk of Session

Ephesians 3:16-19 - I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



Update on Rose & Dunsmuir Windows

The restoration work on the Dunsmuir windows is nearly complete. Property provided a platform or deck built over the pews at the back of the balcony to support a scaffold for work on these windows. Tom Mercer from Orillia Glass (formerly Mercer & Schaefer Glass Studios) removed each of the four Dunsmuir windows and took them to his shop for restoration.

Each window consists of four individual stained/leaded glass sections. Each section was cleaned and repaired as needed. These restored sections are now being reinstalled in their original position. Tom has also built new framed protective glazing to be installed on the outside of the window frames to protect the Dunsmuir windows from the elements. This resolves the problems caused by the first protective glazing that had been set in front of the stained glass sections causing heat build up and distortion of the sections due to lack of adequate ventilation.

Double A Painting was contracted to restore and repaint the exterior wood frames on the Dunsmuir and Rose windows. This work has improved the appearance from the outside and will prevent further deterioration of the window frames, especially the sills.



In Loving Memory



Don MacEachern - May 21

This project was approved by the congregation and funded in part by a matching grant of \$15,000 from the Victoria Foundation.

Submitted by
Dave Garson

Sheppard's Libera Nos: A Virtual Performance

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=545626672704050>

Submitted by
Anne Bell

Whatcha Upto??

Social Distancing on the Golf Course

Not all is doom and gloom during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all encouraged by Dr. Bonnie Henry to spend time outside and to keep our distance of two metres or six feet. During this difficult time when many are faced with isolation, being housebound and not being able to spend time with friends, some of us are a bit more fortunate and are able to get out and about and enjoy our surroundings.

While out on the golf course recently, Dirk, Mitch and I had a discussion as to what might constitute a 'gimmie'. For those not familiar with the term, 'gimmie' refers to a ball close enough to the flag for it to be considered 'in the hole'. I tried to make the case if I was within two metres of the hole, it should be considered a gimmie. Dirk - ever being the lawyer - asked for the rule book and Mitch's response was "the best I can do is offer you a quick prayer".

I never swore before I played golf. Imagine playing with Dirk - who I think might curse in Dutch, and Mitch who probably says it so quietly even the gods don't hear.

Fortunately we don't play competitive golf, although there are probably some people who have watched us play and came to the conclusion, not only do they not play competitive golf, they don't play golf.

I would like to say when I've played golf with Dirk and Mitch that I have parred every hole. There are many instances where I have parred six of the nine holes, albeit not in the same round. The only time I scored a hole in one, was when I was playing by myself, i.e. no witnesses.

Sometimes I even get lucky and score a birdie such as evidenced by the picture on the 9th hole at Mount Doug. If you think you'd like to have a go at a round of golf, drop me a note and perhaps we can add another foursome to our weekly round.



Jim Ferguson

Finnerty Gardens is a public woodland garden located on and maintained by the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Its main feature is the sizeable collection of rhododendrons artfully arranged throughout the 2.7 hectare site.

For a beautiful virtual walk through Finnerty Gardens check out the following link

<https://youtu.be/t5xpN3IdJ4s>

Submitted by
Stella Higgins

Juliet, a 10-year-old exchange student from Korea, started violin lessons a few months ago. Here are three selections which have been uploaded to YouTube.

Old Folks at Home - <https://youtu.be/f75UUUF0rHU>

Annie Laurie - https://youtu.be/q1N_XHV6PMw

Largo from New World -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjXnP3avnVs>

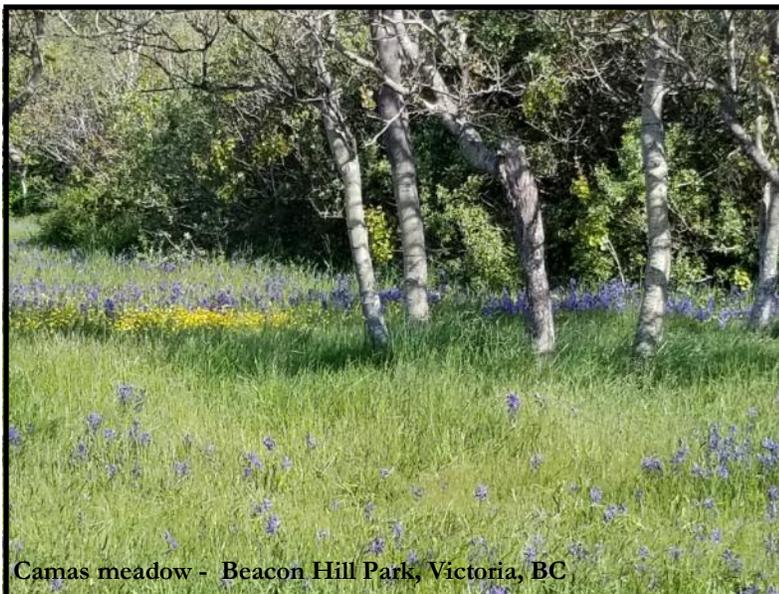
Whatcha Upto??



David and Dawn McLean's granddaughter, **Kaylee McLean McKinnon** has not wasted her time during the enforced isolation these last two months. With her creative juices flowing, she got out her paints and her canvases and started painting. Canvas too small? The closet door in her bedroom beckoned her and these are the results! No time wasted here.



ed.



Camas meadow - Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, BC

I will pass through this world but
once
If therefore, there can be any good
thing I can do,
Or any kindness I can show, let me
do it now.
Let me not neglect it or defer it,
For I will never pass this way again.
Amen

From the Skene Parish
Church Prayer Booklet

(Continued from page 1)

of our congregants, the mandate for carefully sanitizing pews and all surfaces prior to, following, and between gathered events, the restriction on singing or having Bibles or hymnals present that can be touched by a vast number of people, obviously there are a myriad of details and decisions that must be made to assure that a return to worship will not heighten a risk of exposure to our congregants.

Actually, the previous image is not quite accurate. It places the pastor as the decision maker facing the vast array of responses. In fact, the Session is charged to assess when and how we will return to worship. They have named a group of individuals that will explore the challenging facts of how this virus is spread and the best ways to continue to protect one another. They will explore the vast number of steps necessary to safely re-assemble in person.

In the meantime, I hope that you have and will continue to avail yourself of the virtual worship services we are taping weekly from our sanctuary. While it is not the same as being in the sanctuary personally, never has worship been about a building. Even in virtual worship, we are St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and we need you with us present and praying during our weekly services. The comments that we are receiving have indicated an appreciation for those providing music, reading of scripture and the meditations. The format has allowed us to be in worship together and there is no doubt that even when we assemble again for worship in our sanctuary, virtual worship will continue to be provided for those who cannot physically join us.

Please continue to pray for us as we pray for you. We know how difficult this period is for all. We pray for God's healing, blessing and wisdom. God bless us everyone.

Love to you all,
Mitch

The **Board of St. Andrew's Hall** is pleased to announce that the **Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart** will be the next Dean, as of July 1st, 2020.

How has COVID-19 affected you?

The Link asked others in our congregation how their work was being affected by the COVID situation and the challenges and insights that they face.



Most of you will know **Irma Rodriguez**. Irma has been coming to our church this past year and has contributed fun and learning to our weekly ESL program. She is a Montessori teacher in Saanich and tells of the changing role of teachers and

how she foresees the COVID pandemic taking its place in our ever-learning society.

Irma explains that Montessori Education is different from most systems of education, primarily because it is a hands-on learning and therefore autonomous. The children teach themselves through the use of concrete materials whose usage is carefully and meticulously demonstrated by the adult. Needless to say, during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, that form of teaching has had to drastically change in its methodology.

Contributing to the Work of Education

With the onset of the pandemic caused by the CORONA virus, online classes have replaced in-class learning. We are necessarily distanced from the children and the hands-on system that has worked beautifully for more than a hundred years is being challenged.

Personally I have been put to a great test because technology is not within my comfort zone. The children have a different mindset and their brain seems to be wired to the computer world. My initial resistance has only led to frustration and as usual I have to look to the children, their resilience in changing and their courage in facing the unpredictable, for my survival. So here I am conducting courses through distance learning and zoom meetings. Kicking and screaming only made the transition more difficult for me. While most of the children are adjusting beautifully and smoothly to a new learning style, they are now being told of a staggered return to school. Elementary children need social interaction as part of the learning modules, but social distancing will still be in place. The use of concrete Montessori materials can no longer be a shared activity.

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Apparently this will present another form of disruption to the rhythm of the children's newly established routine.

One of the obvious lessons I must learn is to detach from my old ways which is comfortable and instead, welcome change and be open to new experiences. Huh! This is more easily said than done. I must constantly remind myself that what I am learning today will contribute positively to the future as this will help me deal with some of the weaknesses I am now becoming so starkly aware of.

Fortunately from the point of view of Montessori education, the goal of education is, *educare* meaning to *draw out from*. The goal of education has been and will always be, the acquisition of independence. To keep sight of this goal is comforting, a reminder that I, the adult, am not the source of the child's knowledge and learning, for I am merely a facilitator. It is the child who learns from the real teacher within and draws knowledge from there. The adult shows the way, pointing towards the light of the child's own intelligence.

Irma D. Rodriguez



Mail Delivery in Modern Times



My name is Jim Barwise. Some of you know me as a member of the choir at St. Andrew's. Others may know me from my parents Don and Betty who have attended the church for several years. I'd like to share with you some of my experiences as a mailman, or letter carrier as we

are often called, over the last twenty-nine years. It's hard for me to believe it's been that long! This was a career I hadn't always planned, but it did come naturally to me coming from a competitive running background.

I grew up in Victoria since about age five, after my dad was transferred from Calgary to Victoria working for the federal government in forestry. Most of the work, schooling, and events and people that shaped my life have been here. I had done various jobs and had some time at UVic before I ended up at the Post Office. Like

so many of us, what started as an interim job ended up being a lifelong career, although I can say for me it was an easy choice.

Over the years there's always been the perception that our jobs will be extinct at any time, but from the inside I can tell you it's never been a worry for me. While the focus has changed somewhat from letters and magazine to parcels as the primary items of delivery, things remain busy across the board. My time has mainly been spent in Victoria, although I did have two and a half years in Vernon BC, living in nearby Armstrong. Like most travels, this and other travelling not related to work made me appreciate living here on the island.

So what has this line of work meant to me? I've always thought of the mail service as a valuable social part of our history. I don't fool myself that it has the same value as education or health care, but I do believe the loss of it would be missed by many. The physical part of the job came naturally as I said, and the various responsibilities are just a matter of learning, but the thing I remember and value the most are the people I've met and worked with over the years. As a mailman the trust people have shown in sharing their knowledge and the things they are going through is somewhat of an honour. I've learned a great deal from people and I hope I've offered them something of myself in return. This sense of shared community is something I will sorely miss when I do retire.

Which brings us to the present day...and COVID-19. I wonder what will become of the world as a result of this. Will we eventually forget and go completely back to normal? Will it go on much longer than expected? My hope is that we will cherish the value we have to each other and keep the best of what we've learned going forward, while still returning to some sense of normalcy. In regards to my work, I am grateful to be still able to go out and be a part of working society. We take many precautions, as most everyone does, so I don't feel especially at risk. The value of the daily contact with talking to people (at a safe distance) outweighs any sense of danger I may feel. I hope that whatever fears this brings for us will make us stronger and closer afterward.

Jim Barwise

Dancing with the Devil

This is the expression that a lot of the Bus Drivers use when we chat about operating a BC Transit bus during the Covid-19 pandemic. We often say we are driving a germ-tube or a Petri dish and ‘Dancing With The Devil’ because our job involves being around a lot of potentially germ surfaces and potentially germ people.



We have 500+ bus drivers in Greater

Victoria and when things ‘got real’ back in March, we had over 100 drivers off on sick leave. Some drivers could not report because they had a family member going to/returning from the hospital so they could not risk infection, some had to tend to their kids home from school, others felt they could not operate a bus safely with the stress of Covid-19 out there. Personally I developed a sore throat and head cold the first week in April. When I phoned in to take a sick day, the Abilities Management Department requested that I take ten working days off, out of an abundance of caution. I was shocked but looking back, management did the right thing.

At times, bus drivers survive by exchanging dark humour. We all joked, “It’s surreal to drive a bus with only a couple riders, and on streets with very few cars. Best job ever, unless you’re dead in two weeks!”

The people that had to ride with us (to get to work or pharmacy or grocery store) were very appreciative. I got lots of waves, thumbs up, constant thank yous as riders left the bus, and the signs on the bus stop posts were great. For three or four weeks, we seemed to be hauling mostly street people. It would tear at your heart to see them struggle about – so sad. Of course, they could be a handful if they wanted to bring several bags and boxes onboard or started to use foul language but ultimately you just felt sad and wondered why them? That will be one of the things that will stick with me most about the pandemic.

I owe a lot to the many, many people involved in our health care system. This is my chance to say thanks to

Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister Dix. But this is just the tip of the iceberg – from frontline hospital staff to the cleaners who sanitized my bus every day, my heartfelt thanks. Lots of amazing people who helped me stay healthy and behind the wheel!

The photo (left) shows my ‘very clean office’, with the new protective driver’s door that is being installed on all our buses.

Arthur Marcellus



Do you remember how you celebrated your tenth birthday? For most children, it is a significant event (double digits!) accompanied by excitement, balloons, cake and presents.

But for **Juliet**, who is here from Korea for two years to study English, things did not work out quite that way! Juliet’s 10th birthday was this past week and due to COVID, we knew that we couldn’t meet her at a restaurant or invite her to our home so we arranged to meet on the driveway of her home to celebrate for a few minutes as we ‘social distanced’ and got together with Grace, Juhye and Juliet.

As we drove up to the house, Juliet and her family were there along with their landlord, who is a music teacher at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. We were met with smiles (under their masks) and waves as each one approached the car! We all wanted to hug each other but knew that we couldn’t, so we just had a great little visit. Their landlord serenaded Juliet on her violin with the Happy Birthday song and we gave Juliet a cake and a few gifts. We were so happy to see them all looking so well and happy, in spite of how they now have to do their schooling - all at home! This certainly was not something they had anticipated!

Grace said that Juliet had handed in seven assignments the week before. Juhye continues with her UVic studies, on-line. Grace seemed so happy and proud of her girls and we were so happy to see them on this auspicious day for Juliet.

Happy Birthday, Juliet! We all send you our love and hope you have a happy year.

Dorothy and Jack

And you can be sure that those good wishes are seconded by everyone at St. Andrew’s!



Saturday Morning Breakfast for the Needy

Creative planning and willing helpers resulted in 45 people enjoying scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, oranges, bran muffins and coffee served up by St. Andrew's breakfast crew on May 9th. Servers and recipients were blessed with a wonderful sunny morning and the new process for breakfasts was accomplished easily.

May 9th was the trial run of a proposed new serving system to be used until such time as we can return, safely, to a sit down service. Compostable takeaway containers were used so that little "garbage" was created.

Session has now agreed to this new format and our monthly breakfasts for those in need will continue in this adapted format.

Thank you to those from the breakfast crew who helped not only with serving on Saturday but also with the cleaning and prep on Friday.

Many years ago I was informed by an eight-year-old boy that I was wrong to tell him "good job" for a chore that he had done. I was informed that that comment was only for little, wee kids. I, however, disagree and I say to all who helped with this "Good Job"!

Submitted on behalf of
St. Andrew's Breakfast Crew

Holy Humour

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."



A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

Submitted by
Nancy Duke



Link Deadline

Next *Link* deadline will be Sunday, June 28.

St. Andrew's Children's Page

Bible Verse of the Month: Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

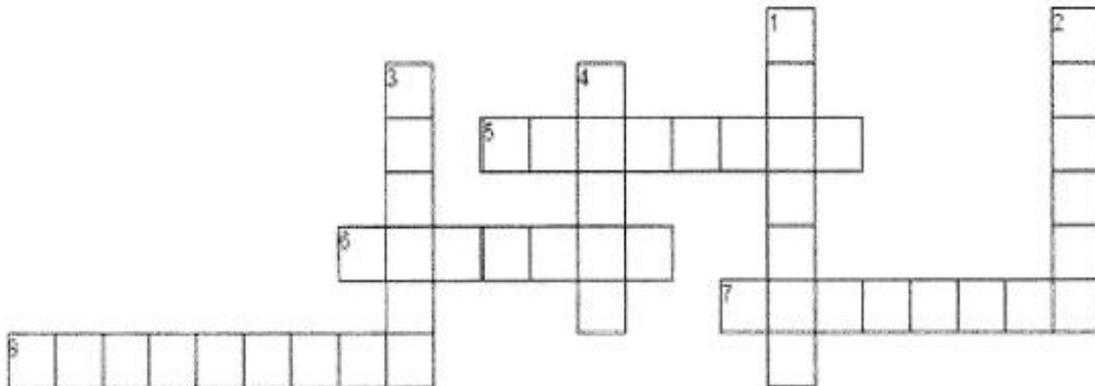
Matthew 10:40-42 (NIV)



The Rewards of Service

Crossword

Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct word in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

5. A person who speaks for God
6. Recognition of someone's good behaviour
7. To gladly receive someone into your own house
8. A follower of Jesus

DOWN

1. Small; not large
2. A fact that has been proven
3. An odourless, colourless, tasteless liquid; H₂O
4. The opposite of hot, having a very low temperature

WELCOME	LITTLE	DISCIPLE	WATER
TRUTH	REWARD	PROPHET	COLD

It Was Very Good

Word Search

And It Was Very Good

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Genesis 1:1-2:4a (NIV).



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

HEAVENS	EARTH	PLANTS	SEAS	CREATED
NIGHT	DAY	WATER	FISH	SKY
TREES	DARKNESS	BIRDS	FEMALE	GOD
LIGHT	ANIMALS	BEGINNING	MALE	LAND