



CONNEXIONS

APRIL/MAY 2022

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL NEWSLETTER

WALKING
WITH
Jesus

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: DISCOVERY, DESOLATION & DELIGHT



CONNIXIONS APRIL / MAY ISSUE

- PAGE 2 FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER
- PAGE 3 WALKING WITH JESUS
- PAGE 4 OH THE PLACES WE'LL GO!
- PAGE 5 WHAT? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?
- PAGE 6 SPIRITUAL MOMENTS
- PAGE 7 SAYING FAREWELL TO REV. DR. TIM
- PAGE 8 WHAT TIM MEANS TO STAFF / SESSION REPORT
- PAGE 9 MISSION TEAM
- PAGE 10 MONTHLY MOMENTS OF GRATITUDE
- PAGE 11 THECREEK.LIFE / WELLNESS TEAM
- PAGE 12 FINANCE TEAM UPDATE
- PAGE 13 WE WANT YOU! TO PLUNGE IN!
- PAGE 14 CONTACT US

WALKING WITH JESUS

INTERIM *Minister*

I write this article on Day 30 of my appointment as the interim minister of St Andrew's Church, and I have to say that it has been a "back to the future" experience! So much is still the same as it was 9 years ago when I left as your Lead Minister....but so much is so different too. Even though I have "failed" at retirement it is my privilege to serve you again in this role.

So how has that service looked? My first priority is to meet with all the elders individually. To date I have had sit-downs with 16 of the 19 active elders, 1 of the three currently on leave of absence and 2 of the three elders who resigned from Session in recent years. This has certainly been helpful for me and I hope equally so for them. There are two Session issues that are chronically unresolved that we will tackle in the near future. I am so thankful for the elders who lead this congregation because they are all faithful servants of God and all fulfill their role with the best interests of St. Andrew's at heart.

Another priority is congregational direction. I really love the congregation's new mission statement: "Woven into the Neighbourhood, Growing Disciples who Love like Jesus." This statement reflects well the core mission of the Church for the past 2,000 years. An organization's mission represents two things: 1] the organization's core purpose for existing, and 2] the difference the organization wants to make in the world. A Vision describes how things will look as the organization accomplishes its mission. I am glad to see the congregation's enthusiasm about its vision: "Growing. Life. Together. With God." What is needed now is some strategic direction. The question is: as we work at our mission, that will lead to "Growing. Life. Together. With God", what do we want this to look like? What are our first strategic steps in this direction? Part of our consideration will be "ministry south of Fish Creek", which is a Presbytery directive to St. Andrew's as a mission focus we are to have. Efforts to date have been challenged by the real constraints of the pandemic and the departure of Rev. Jared. The Presbytery has approved some help for us in this regard by arranging for a third party review of what the congregation has been about so far (and the Presbytery is paying for this review). This review – that we think will be completed for May – will help us think about how we can move forward with this aspect of St. Andrew's mission. In preparation for this strategic thinking, I strongly encourage the people of St. Andrew's to participate in my "What? So What? Now What?" workshops on Zoom, for three Wednesday nights starting April 13th, 7pm. Also know that after Easter at worship we will be focusing on the idea of congregational mission and the challenges the Church in Canada has in grappling with how the nature of mission is changing.

There are other things I am about as your interim minister....but there will be time for me to report on that in the coming months (one is helping the congregation pivot into its post-pandemic life!). Indeed, as the months pass I intend to keep you abreast of what I am doing to help St. Andrew's prepare for the next chapter in its ongoing story. In the meantime, I invite you to consider how you personally can help us prepare that next chapter through your prayers, your encouragement and hopefulness, your participation and financial support. This is our work and not just mine, after all.

Rev. Peter, Interim Minister

WALKING WITH JESUS



WALKING
WITH
Jesus

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: DISCOVERY, DESOLATION & DELIGHT

03.02	Ash Wednesday Stirring Ourselves Up	Isaiah 43:19 Revelation 21:5 John 5:1-9	Dr. Geoffrey Rev. Peter
03.06	Lent 1 Walking with Jesus: The Good Path	Luke 4:1-13	Dr. Geoffrey Rev. Peter
03.13	Lent 2 Walking with Jesus: Courage & Grace	Luke 13:31-35	Dr. Geoffrey
03.20	Lent 3 Walking with Jesus: Everything in its Own Time	Luke 13: 6-9	Rev. Peter
03.27	Lent 4 Sexuality and Faith Explored	Galatians 3:23-29	Rev. Peter
04.03	Lent 5 Walking with Jesus: Love with All Your Heart	John 12: 1-8	Dr. Geoffrey
04.10	Palm Sunday Walking with Jesus: The Crowds Rejoice	Luke 19: 28-40	Dr. Geoffrey
04.15	Good Friday The Weeping Tree		Rev. Peter Dr. Geoffrey
04.17	Easter Sunday Joy: I Have Seen the Lord	John 20: 1-10	Rev. Peter

Oh The Places We'll Go!
Faith According to Dr. Seuss*
by Lori-Ann Esser
Coordinator Growth and Care

For his Grade Three “graduation,” our son’s teacher, Valerie Chisholm, gave him a Dr. Seuss book, *Oh The Places You’ll Go!* Luke struggled with dyslexia. Miss Chisholm was the first teacher who believed in Luke and saw his gifts, abilities and potential. With her enthusiasm, determination and patience, and Luke’s perseverance and hard work, he soared. What had seemed impossible became possible.

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You’re off to Great Places.
You’re off and away!

You have brains in your head
And feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

These words are just as encouraging for the ministries at St. Andrew’s.

You’ll be on your way up!
You’ll be seeing great sights!
You’ll join the high fliers
who soar to great heights.

The thing is, realities are, well, realities. The challenges of the pandemic, and Rev. Dr. Tim’s recent call to Ontario, have taught us about changing plans.

I’m sorry to say so,
but, sadly, it’s true
that Bang-ups
and Hang-ups
can happen to you.

We all experience slumps and lurches – even churches. (Especially churches?)

And when you’re in a Slump,
you’re not in for much fun.
Un-slumping yourself
is not easily done.

Churches in Canada were experiencing a decline in membership, volunteers and finances long before 2020. The pandemic magnified these troubles and moved us into uncharted territory.

You will come to a place
where the streets are not marked.
Some windows are lighted.
But mostly they’re darked.
A place you could sprain
both your elbow and chin!
Do you dare to stay out?
Do you dare to go in?
How much can you lose?
How much can you win?

You can get so confused
that you’ll start in to race
down long wiggled roads
at a break-necking pace
and grind on for miles across
weirdish wild space,
headed, I fear, toward
a most useless place.

The Waiting Place....

Waiting for the fish to bite
or waiting for wind to fly a kite
or waiting around for Friday night
or waiting, perhaps, for their Uncle Jake
or a pot to boil, or a Better Break
or a string of pearls, or a pair of pants
or a wig with curls, or Another Chance.
Everyone is just waiting.

As a church we are in danger of being stuck in *The Waiting Place*: waiting for the pandemic to end, waiting for a full ministerial team, waiting for people to help, waiting for donations, waiting to go back to “*The Way Things Were.*” (The latter is not going to happen.) Is *The Waiting Place* getting too comfortable? How do we move on? What do we do when some of the “*tried and true*” doesn’t work anymore, but the “*innovative and new*” seems risky, strange and uncomfortable?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 05...

That's where faith comes in. Along with prayer and some imagination, action and humour thrown in, who knows where St. Andrew's could go?

*Somehow you'll escape
All that waiting and staying.
You'll find the bright places
Where Boom Bands are playing.*

Things won't always be rosy. But we are promised that the journey is worth it, especially if we are doing it as a community of faith:

*But on you will go
though the weather be foul.
On you will go
though your enemies prowl.
On you will go
Though the Hakken-Kraks howl.
Onward up many
a frightening creek,
though your arms may get sore
and your sneakers may leak.*

And, continuing in trust and faith:

*And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)*

... YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

Just like Luke overcoming his challenges, we need perseverance. But together, we can move mountains and live out our vision of Growing. LIFE. Together. With God.

Oh The Places We'll Go....

* All quotes are from Seuss, Dr., *Oh the Places You'll Go!* (New York: Random House Inc., 1960).



What? So What? Now What? Changing Times and the Future of the Church Presented by Rev. Peter Coutts

This is a three-evening program that will look at the impact our rapidly changing society is having on Canadian congregations, why it is happening and how congregations are responding. Over the three evenings we will reflect on the question, "What does it mean to be the church in this time and place?"

This program will help participants gain greater insight into the social realities that affect congregations today, be a place for faithful reflection on the nature of the church and perhaps be a moment to hear God's call to what faith communities might be in the future. Each evening will have about a one-hour presentation followed by a time for questions and discussion. It's too early to tell whether this series will be wholly online or a hybrid mix of online and in-person participation. The capstone for this program will be the weekend event April 30 – May 1 with Rev. Dr Tim Dickau from The Centre for Missional Leadership at our St. Andrew's Hall, UBC.

What? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

Session #1: "What?" Wednesday April 13 at 7 pm
Rapid societal change over the past 60 years has left its mark on Canadian congregations. We will look at what is changing, why it is changing and the implications for congregations. This evening we will draw from the observations of the social sciences. Our focusing scriptural text will be the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25.

Session #2: "So What?" Wed. April 20 at 7 pm
For the past 25 years we have heard much discussion about the nature of the church. People are asking, "Does the church have to change if the society around it has changed?" This evening will be more theological as we look at the emerging ideas about church. Our focusing scriptural text will be the Book of Jonah.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14...

Spiritual Moments by Sheri Coutts



There is a saying, “Those who sing, pray twice.” I would like to share the source of some of my deepest faith moments.

When we were called to St. Andrew’s Church here in Calgary 21 years ago, one of the ways this church made it easier to leave our old church was the amazing music program. When Peter came to preach for the call, even before we moved, there was this amazing group called “Musical Friends” who wined and dined us.

They had such open, friendly faces and boy, could they sing! But what really stood out was the obvious joy they felt in their music and fellowship. I was sold; and wanted to be a part of it! I had been in choirs before, but this church was different. Music is part of the soul of this church. The congregation sings with heart every Sunday too, so everyone “prays twice.”

I have been privileged to work with three amazing choir directors, Mel Kirby, Cody Obst and now Evan Mounce. I believe that choir directors are God’s secret weapon! They are so encouraging, and being part of a choir is such an elevating experience. We have tackled some amazing pieces that ring to the heavens, and being a part of that is an amazing faith moment for me.

A choir practice is a very encouraging place to be. There is always a big welcome, especially for new members and folks just testing the waters. When we start a new piece there are words of encouragement such as: “There were some beautiful notes in there! Let’s look at a couple of places we can improve.” No harsh words, just space to do better.

Sometimes we get excited about knowing our notes and really sing out. However, the best sound comes from blending our voices. So, we need to be reminded to listen to those around us. When we do that, the combination of all the voices sounds amazing and the message of the songs come through in a beautiful way.

Don’t you think that a choir is a great metaphor for the whole church? Perhaps singing is not for you, but you could sit in the Bible study section, or a committee section or a prayer group section. Let’s be active participants! Don’t worry, we will give everyone a big welcome with no harsh words, and blend our voices. That way we can all hear God’s message in a beautiful way and find faith moments together.

Oh...and yes, we are always looking for more choir members!



Saying Farewell to the Rev. Dr. Tim By Rhonda Wishart



It was in the fall of 2016 that the Search Team had its first Skype interview with Dr. Tim. It was an interview that afterwards left us all feeling the excitement that comes with knowing you have discovered something rare, something worth working hard to pursue. What will we remember most about Tim and his ministry?

We were treated to Tim's passion for preaching, as he challenged and guided us with his refreshing interpretation of scripture and aided us in the application of scripture to our daily lives – delivered to us with creativity, honesty and good humour. Many of us were led to a richer spiritual life through the sincerity of Tim's sermons and prayers that were spoken from the heart; reminding us how to live with intention, humanity and hope.

Tim taught us all more about discernment, something we perhaps did not previously do consciously or intentionally on a consistent basis. Under Tim's leadership, we began listening together for the will of God, in the sanctuary, in our meetings and in our personal lives. Discernment has now become an integral part of our decision-making and our deepening spirituality.

One of Tim's greatest passions is in leadership development and many of us in the congregation have grown tremendously under Tim's mentorship. He was always ready to help you learn from his personal experience, to support you in reaching beyond what was comfortable for you, to offer compliments on a role well done or to recommend an appropriate book. Tim loved to watch leadership unfold in new people and in new ways. He once said that his greatest joy is in "helping people discover that God's glory shines through them." I am hoping many of you have also felt this gift from God, through Tim.

Perhaps most importantly, and one of the key reasons Tim came to St. Andrew's, his extensive experience as a leader and coach in the field of visioning led us along the path to renewal as we embarked on a journey to determine a new Vision for St. Andrew's. Growing. LIFE. Together. with God. Having such a clear Vision, will help ensure our vitality and our future and we have Tim to thank for that – not for finding our Vision for us, but rather for guiding us in the determined pursuit of that Vision.

When I first spoke to the congregation in support of Tim's call back in 2018, I said this "The Search Team has no doubt that Tim will challenge us in ways we need to be challenged, that he will deepen our spiritual lives and that he will lead us forward together to a place of purpose and vitality." Tim, you have done all three and you have been a blessing to St. Andrew's.

On behalf of Session and the congregation, I also want to thank Joyce for all her support and sacrifice in ensuring Tim's journey at St. Andrew's was as fruitful as it has been. The FF Team certainly very much appreciated Joyce's willingness to step in and lead church school classes when we needed the assistance. We have come to know and appreciate Joyce and Tim's children as well. Noah, David and Laura have all generously shared their musical talents with us on special occasions and we will miss their contributions to our services.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

We will miss you Tim. God bless you and your family!

Who Tim is, and what he means to Staff:
by Debby Dorcas
(On behalf of St. Andrew's office staff.)

When I was asked to speak on behalf of staff members (Dolly – our Office Administrator & Treasurer, Evan – our Minister of Music Ministries, Geoffrey – Interim Pastoral Care Minister, Lori-Ann – Coordinator, Growth & Care, Mikael – Communications Coordinator, and me – Executive Assistant) ~ I realized it would be more meaningful if I did a little survey asking everyone to send one word to me that I could share ~ that would describe who Tim 'is' to each person.

What I quickly found out is that people couldn't just send one word. One word just couldn't capture what Tim means to each of us. So here are the words I received – in alphabetical order, because... you know... Presbyterians do like things decently and in order!

Tim ~ to your staff ~ you are:

Authentic, and Creative at heart

You are Discerning and Empathic,
an Encourager. Faithful and Generous.
You have a Gentle Heart

**You are Godly, with the Heart of a
Servant; and a Heart of Gratitude.**

**You live out your faith; like Mr. Rogers ~
always the helper. You are a Peace Maker,
Passionate, Positive, and Prayerful.**

You are Principled ~ and Real ~ a Spiritual
Seeker, Spiritually led.

You are Wise ~ and ~ You are Worthy.

Quite a list!

And I know it could have been longer!



Your leadership in staff meetings has allowed us to grow in our faith, and to deepen our relationship with God, and with each other. To quote one of your 'faves', Evelyn Underhill "You've helped us develop a bigger, clearer and fuller vision of God."

We are so very grateful.

In closing, I would add one more word to our list. I suspect it is a word that many members of our faith family worshipping in the pews today, or worshipping online ~ would like to say to you as we wish you peace ~ and God's blessings to you and your family on these next steps of your journey...

Tim... YOU ARE BELOVED.



Session Highlights
by Debby Dorcas
Clerk of Session

Session
HIGHLIGHTS

Our session meeting on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 primarily focused on Peter's new work as Interim Minister. We talked about recent history of St. Andrew's and the Session, and engaged in reflection on that.

The Session also discussed Peter's initial plans for accomplishing directions given to him by Presbytery.

Finally, we considered the proposal from the Re-Opening Task Force for returning to in-person activities for the coming weeks.

**Who are the Members of Session
at St. Andrew's?**

We look forward to profiling Members of Session in upcoming ConnXions editions. We will be sharing their profiles with you, our readers! Watch for our first profile coming to the **June / July** edition.

Mission Team

by Judy McKearney, Convenor

Our team is comprised of these hardworking, faithful, dedicated members: **Judy McKearney, Bill Judd, Brian Hawco, Brent Harding, Lauren Cole, Carol Doyle and Lori-Ann Esser.**

On February 26th a small group from the church participated in the "Coldest Night of the Year" fundraiser. This event was to raise awareness and support for those dealing with homelessness and food insecurity in our city. We met at the Haysboro Community Association, walked two km throughout the neighbourhood and returned for fellowship around the firepit. St. Andrew's generously donated \$2,000.00 for this cause. Thank you to Long Grass Studios for allowing us to use the puppet show The Bench to help raise funds.

The Food Bank Depot will continue preparing and offering hampers to those in need each Saturday afternoon throughout the coming year. A roster of dedicated volunteers will be offering their commitment of time to ensure this faithful program continues.

On April 30th Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau will be facilitating a three-hour workshop from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. This important event will be held in Trinity Hall and open to the whole congregation. The purpose of the workshop is to "stir up" the congregation to think about how we want to move forward, and how we want to live out our Vision and Mission Statement.

Lori-Ann and Dr. Tim Archibald met with Ward 11 Councillor Kourtney Penner on February 10th to identify areas of need in our surrounding communities. One of the items discussed was to help people "reconnect" and feel a sense of community. The pandemic has caused feelings of isolation.

One tentative idea the Mission Team has is an event at the Kingsland Community Association like a barbecue or picnic with musical entertainment, welcoming all ages in the area.

We could possibly partner with other churches. If you have ideas or interest in helping with such an event, please let us know.

Our association with Claire House will continue in tangible ways. When the warm temperatures arrive, we're hoping to assist with some beautification projects. These could include rebuilding a fence, yard cleanup, planting a garden, and most importantly connecting with the residents for some fun-filled activities. It would be enriching for the congregation to be more involved; by being present and helping out this community.

We hope to reschedule the postponed Sharing Circle as well as plan other activities to help us better connect with our Indigenous neighbours.

We may be exploring connections in Calgary with Hope Mission and the Mustard Seed for future projects with these two well-known humanitarian agencies.

GOD GAVE US A HEART FOR PEOPLE! COME AND JOIN US ON THIS EXCITING JOURNEY!

God's Blessings to you all.



Mission
TEAM

Monthly Moments of Gratitude and Generosity

by Cathy Millar (Convenor), Elaine Cantlon, Kevin MacFarlane, and Stephanie Werle

You may have noticed that our “Response to God in Thanksgiving” during the Order of Service on the third Sunday of each month has evolved into “Moments of Gratitude and Generosity.”

Our Gratitude and Generosity Team, formerly Stewards by Design, has initiated this offering response to highlight the wonderful work of many in our congregation. These people work faithfully and diligently to fulfill our mission to be “Woven into the Neighbourhood, Growing Disciples who Love like Jesus.” So many activities are made possible through the generous offerings of our members in support of the Ministry and Mission of St. Andrew’s, that the Gratitude and Generosity Team thinks they should be highlighted as we bring our tithes and offerings to God.

The first “Moment” was presented by Elaine Cantlon of our Gratitude and Generosity Team in October. She highlighted the fact that improved video and lighting equipment used in worship has significantly improved the quality of our “Livestreamed” services, and has helped attract new people to our Congregation. Debbie and Paul Draper spoke as newcomers to St. Andrew’s, and shared the story of how they were led to worship at St. Andrew’s by our Livestreams throughout 2020 and 2021.

The second “Moment” was presented in November by Sylvia Shaw of the Ladies’ Guild as part of the missional theme of the service. “No Bazaar, No Problem” and other Guild initiatives support various missional activities. These include brown bag lunches and transit passes for underprivileged youth, meals for families at Ronald McDonald House caring for sick children in hospital, scholarships for students from our own church family, and the gift of hospitality following funerals and celebrations of life at our church.

The third “Moment” in December was presented by Judy McKearney on behalf of the Mission Team to highlight our Food Bank Depot, our Aboriginal Reconciliation initiative and our support of Claire House residents in the community of Kingsland. Claire House is a subsidized development for 32 households and a total of 29 children, creating an opportunity for its residents to live in a safe environment. It is part of the city’s ten-year plan to end homelessness.

In January, the Faith Formation Team warmed our hearts with a story from Pat and Duane Tritter on how the delivery of a “Church School Christmas Goody Bag” to the Blakie family in 2020 created an instant bond between the Tritters and the family of mom, Suzannah, and daughters, Janet and Isabella. If you are not familiar with this story and the special relationship which continues to the present day, please check out our January 16, 2022, YouTube service (at about the 50 minute mark) and get your tissue ready. Suzannah’s expressions of gratitude truly highlight what our family of faith is all about.

In February, a video expression of gratitude from Presbyterians Sharing brought greetings and gratitude from the National Church. Plans are in the works for other groups to host through June 2022, with a break over the summer months.

If you or your team has a gratitude story about the impact of our Growing LIFE Together with God ministry that you would like to share, please reach out to any of the following members of the Gratitude and Generosity team:

Cathy Millar (Convenor), Elaine Cantlon, Kevin MacFarlane, and Stephanie Werle



TheCreek.Life

by Alice Post

On behalf of theCreek Team

Much has happened over the last few months. In this article, we share the latest updates.

New Team Members

We are happy to welcome Shelby Cole and Roger Cole to theCreek leadership team. We look forward to the new perspectives, ideas, gifts, and talents they will bring to the team.

Presbytery Recommendations

Rev. Jean Morris (General Presbyter) and Andrea Perrett (Director of Cyclical Calgary – Macleod) developed a proposed strategy for addressing the outstanding recommendations that were approved by Presbytery over the past year.

The proposed strategy was brought to the Round Table meeting in early February, a meeting that included theCreek leadership team, together with representatives from Session. The proposal was presented at the February 2022 Session meeting, and the March 2022 Presbytery meeting, and received approval to move forward.

Pursuant to the approved strategy, and by approved recommendation of Presbytery, the next step will be development of terms of reference for a contracted consultant to perform an audit assessment of theCreek ministry.

Lenten Book Study

The Lenten book study hosted by theCreek is taking place on Zoom on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 pm. The conversation centres around seven chapters of the book commentary “We Make the Road by Walking” by Brian McLaren.

Easter at theCreek

Via Crucis (the way of the cross) will once again be offered on Good Friday. This is a meaningful interactive journey through the Stations of the Cross. The stations will be set up at the Fish Creek

Provincial Park in the Glennfield area just north of the parking lot (accessed just off the Bannister Road entrance).

We will reconvene at the open-air shelter in the same area to celebrate Easter Sunday morning with an outdoor service.



Advance Care Planning Day - April 16th

by Joyce Archibald
Wellness Team

As a nurse with experience in Acute Care and Long-Term Care I have seen the importance of advance care planning. Advance Care Planning Canada is introducing Canadians to the concept of advance care planning through a campaign “Life happens...Be ready.”

What is Advance Care Planning?

It is a process of expressing your values and wishes to others so that they are aware of your personal care preferences in the event that you are unable to give consent or refuse treatment or other care.

What is a Substitute Decision Maker?

This is the person who will make medical decisions on your behalf in the event you are unable to speak for yourself due to sudden or serious illness, or in the event that you are unable to give consent.

How do you choose a Substitute Decision Maker?

It is important that you choose someone whom you trust and feel will carry out your wishes. It is recommended to be straight forward, explain what matters most, and do proactive planning.

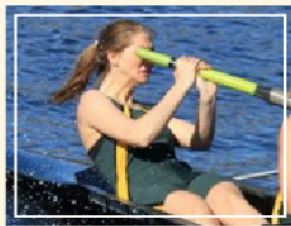
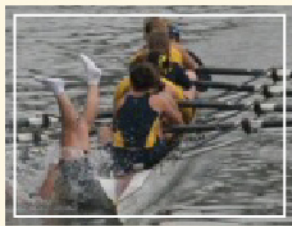
Advance Care Planning Canada has numerous resources at www.advancecareplanning.ca that will aid you in this difficult but valuable process.

Wellness TEAM

Finance Team Update by John Cuthbertson

Have you ever been a member of a team trying to achieve a goal? What does that have to do with our Church finances and our congregation?

At the Annual Meeting on March 6, we talked about “Catching a Crab”. If you were not able to attend, catching a crab is a phrase known to rowers. It happens when a rower loses control of their oar.



As you can see from the pictures, it has a bad outcome. The rower can get launched right out of the boat or injured by the uncontrolled oar or both! In a race situation, the boat is immediately compromised.

Why does this happen?

There are 4 main reasons:

- a. Lack of focus.
- b. Lack of discipline.
- c. Not trusting your teammates.
- d. Failing to listen to the coxswain and trying to do your own things your own way.

Go on YouTube and watch the final of the Women's 8 in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

It is a remarkable demonstration of teamwork. Look closely at the person in the back of the boat. She is the only one facing forward. This 9th person is the cox. Although she doesn't have an oar, the cox is a key team member - calling the stroke count, charting the course, watching each rower carefully and leading the team.

When the rowers work together and follow the cox's directions, as that Canadian Women's 8 team did, great things can happen. Those women showed just how teamwork, striving towards a common goal, and listening to the cox can payoff.

Spoiler alert if you didn't already know - they won the gold medal! The first time in almost thirty years!



Our boat at St. Andrew's is much bigger. All of us can fit in (it's an amazing boat) and all of us are given an oar. Our cox is God. When we choose to pull together and listen to God, we can do wonderful things Growing.Life.Together.With God.

Last year, our St. Andrew's financial boat caught a few crabs early in the year. However, as the year went on, the team started to gel. By December, we were moving more confidently and strongly; and you will know that we finished the year with a \$32,000 surplus! Thank you to all whose incredible stewardship helped us to this result.

Financial PLANNING

Our congregation has now adopted the 2022 financial plan. Not every line item is known with precision - it rarely is. BUT, we have faith that we can replicate our 2021 experience! Will it be challenging? Yes! Will it involve hard work? Yes! Will you pick up an oar and listen to the cox?



**We Want You!
To Plunge In!
by Lori-Ann Esser
Interim Coordinator Growth and Care
On Behalf of the Worship Team**

We are happy to welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau, St. Andrew's Hall, for a congregation-wide workshop.

**When: Saturday, April 30, 2022
from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Where: Trinity Hall, St. Andrew's Church

Why: To consider the exciting future God has planned for St. Andrew's

Rev. Dr. Dickau is a dynamic and motivating leader, who will "stir us up" as we discern what God has in store for us at St. Andrew's.

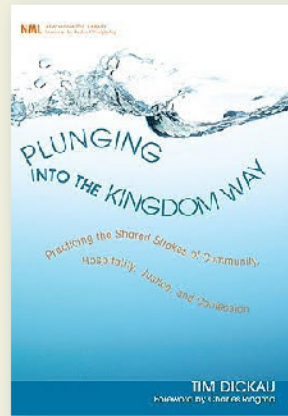
Tim serves as Centre for Missional Leadership (CML) Associate for the Missional Leadership Certificate Program at St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, as well as acting as Director of City Gate Leadership Forum.

Before joining CML, Tim was Pastor of Grandview Church in East Vancouver for thirty years. He is broadly recognized as a decidedly effective missional leader. Tim's congregational work helped establish a strong connection in the neighbourhood, created economic development through social enterprises, built a 28-unit community housing project and cultivated a "thick community" of disciples.

Tim holds a Master of Divinity from Regent College and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Carey Theological College. He is author of *Plunging into the Kingdom Way* and *Forming Christian Communities in a Secular Age: Recovering Humility and Hope*.

Participants are encouraged to read chapters 2, 3 and 5 of *Plunging Into the Kingdom Way* in advance of the workshop. These are available at the church office, or you may wish to purchase Rev. Dr. Dickau's book through **Amazon.ca**.

CONGREGATIONAL Workshop



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for participants to give thought to before the workshop:

1. What **ASSETS, GIFTS** or **CHARISMS** do you see in your congregation now?
2. What do you sense **GOD CALLING** towards in this season?
3. What conversations will you need to have to take the **NEXT STEP** as you follow God's leading?
4. What disappointments will you need to let go of in order to move towards a renewed vision?
5. What obstacles will you need to address in order to take these steps?



Session #3: "Now What?" Wednesday April 27 at 7 pm

We may not be aware of it, but new forms of faith community are all around us. What do they look like? This evening may spark the imagination of participants about what is possible for their own congregation. Our focusing scriptural text will be Isaiah 43.



3 WORKSHOPS
PRESENTED BY REV. PETER COUTTS

**WHAT? SO WHAT?
NOW WHAT?**

CHANGING TIMES AND
THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS
APRIL 13-27 @ 7PM

WHAT? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

GET SOCIAL WITH CONNXIONS



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St. Andrew's COVID-19 Task Force Report
Mark Rowe - Convenor

The COVID-19 Task Force was formed for the duration of COVID-19 to provide guidance in safely conducting St. Andrew's re-opening during COVID-19. The St. Andrew's congregation has been following safe COVID-19 practices and this has allowed our most vulnerable members to safely worship with us. **Thank you!**

The Province has continued to relax its COVID restrictions, and the Calgary COVID-19 count has dropped but COVID is still with us.

To maintain a COVID safe place for worship, The COVID Task force requests the following:

- Vaccination is strongly encouraged
- The use of sanitizers for all worshippers for entry into the church.
- Masking is strongly encouraged while in the building, including during worship.
- No food or beverage consumption.
- We are still maintaining social distanced seating in the sanctuary

We will continue to follow AHS directives and The City of Calgary's guidelines and restrictions as they continue to evolve, so watch for further updates. Thanks for your consideration in these matters, especially the encouragement to mask. It is our desire to create a setting here that is most helpful and encouraging for those who are cautious about returning to gathered activity. In this small way we express Christ's care.