

# Reaching Out



## A ministry of St. Aidan's United Church

Our Core Values: Hospitality, Inclusiveness, Spiritual Growth and Reaching Out

Our Mission: Life-changing ministry with all through Jesus Christ

March 2013



### This Holy Season

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are grateful for all we have been gifted, while being acutely aware of the brokenness in the world. This journey to

Easter is a time of meditation and reflection, inviting us into deep relationship with God and each other.

We celebrate right relationship with a "New-Comers and Long-Timers" luncheon following worship on Palm Sunday, March 24 - a time to connect and enjoy our relationships at St. Aidan's. At the Worship service, we ponder the fickleness of the crowds who followed Jesus. How could they welcome him into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, only to turn their backs on him by Good Friday? Music by the Ted Boulden Singers.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a contemplative service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary; we consider Jesus approaching the cross. Led by Michael, music by Mirabile.

Our Good Friday service at 10am will include presentations by our youth. Led by Betty Anne, music by Ted Boulden Singers and Jake Autio.

Five United Churches (St. Aidan's, Fairfield, Centennial, Oak Bay, and First Met) will celebrate Easter Sunrise Service with a walk together from Willows Beach to Cattle Point at 6:45 Easter morning. After the service, everyone (even if you didn't get up early!) is invited to come to the Great Hall to enjoy coffee and hot cross buns (8:30-10:00) prior to our 10am Celebration and Communion Service, as we are led by a mass choir and a brass quartet of music students from UVic. New members will be received.

St. Aidan's and Sylvan United are teaming up to prepare and serve lunch on "Easter" Monday at **Our Place** - another time of connection and new relationship in our community. We are also pleased that St. Aidan's Council approved funds to cover the

cost of lunches on the stat holidays at Our Place for this year.

May the "Life & Work" at St. Aidan's reflect our vision and goals in this season! Betty Anne Dempsey



### Easter: A Running Drama

One of the greatest stories ever told, to me, is of the events of the life of Jesus as they are captured in Holy Week and Easter. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and crowds cheering, "Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" as Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. Over the course of the following week, the mood changes as Jesus is betrayed in the Garden, tried, sentenced and led to the cross where he dies. There is the darkness of Saturday and then the joyous news of the resurrection. Drama doesn't get much better than this.

The rest of the New Testament tells us that this is a story to be told. When the women come to where the disciples are covering with the good news that the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive, there are differing reactions. Some doubt. Some fear. Yet two disciples seize the news and run to the tomb. They have to see the miracle for themselves. Each time the Apostle Paul retold the story, he expected a response from his audience. This Easter, we listen once again to the story. How do we respond in our lives to the news that the tomb is empty? Do we run with excitement at the news that God is alive and afoot in new, creative and daring ways in our world?

Michael Caveney

**Inside this edition:**

**Holy Week Scriptures -2**

**How to become a Member -2**

**Bookworm Study -3**

**Social Action News -4**

## Scripture during Holy Week

Palm Sunday	John 12:12
Holy Monday	John 12:1-23
Holy Tuesday	John 12:23-50
Holy Wednesday	John 13:16-38
Maundy Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31-35
Good Friday	John 18:1, 19:42
Holy Saturday	Matthew 27:57-66
Easter Sunrise	John 20:1-18
Easter	Luke 24:1-12

## Upcoming Worship Services



### March 17

Not only is this St. Patrick's Day, this is the day that our youth choir will be presenting a song as part of the service.

### Tuesday, March 26, 7pm

St. Aidan's hosts the Victoria Presbytery monthly meeting. As part of this gathering there will be a short worship service conducted by Mandy Wilson (St. Aidan's lay presbytery rep) and Michael Caveney, based on "Facing the Darkness".

### April 7 "Kirkin' o' the Tartan"

Once again we will welcome the Joint Scottish Council and Gaelic Choir to remember those in our past who have struggled for social justice and freedom from oppression.

### April 14 "The Only Constant is Change"

What does the resurrection imply for St. Aidan's as a transformational community? Music led by Jubilate.

### April 21 "Love Lifts Up"

How do we build up one another in love? Mirabile will lead music.

### April 28 "Beyond Boundaries"

How do we move beyond our perceived limitations? Music led by Ted Boulden Singers.

### May 5 "Open to Newness"

When God calls us to follow or to change, how do we respond?



## Communication Team

The Communication Team recently met to discuss reformatting the church website as was suggested in the Operational Review report. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see in a new website, email [Michael@staidansunited.com](mailto:Michael@staidansunited.com). The Communication Team would also remind you to friend our church's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/staidansunited>

## Thinking of becoming a Member of St. Aidan's?

### New Members

If you would like to become a Member of St. Aidan's, please see either Betty Anne or Michael. You can become a member through:

1. Transfer from another congregation.
2. Profession of Faith. This usually involves a conversation or class with one of the ministers.
3. Reaffirmation of Faith when you have been a Member previously, but Membership has lapsed.

We will be receiving new Members at the Easter Service on March 31.



## Council News

At our last meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>, Council established two ad hoc committees. The first committee was given a mandate to implement the recommendations of the Operational Review report and monitor their progress. This committee will be working with the appropriate teams to ensure the recommendations are completed. Members: Roger Hannaford, Helen Pinel, Mandy Wilson.

A second committee with a mandate to develop a policy for allocating and managing undesignated bequest funds, including capital and income, will be established in the coming weeks.

Our Annual Meeting was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. After a delicious potluck lunch of sandwiches and goodies, the congregation approved the 2012 Team Reports and Financial Statements. Council was pleased that so many deserving people and Teams were thanked by various individuals. The 2013 Budget was approved. The members accepted resignations of Bob Strother and Doug Pelton from Trustees. The nomination of Ray Evans as Trustee was approved.

Louise Booth and June Coutts were thanked for their service as both are retiring from Council. Two new Council members, Jon Newton and Puddie Curtis, were approved. Puddie will be replacing Louise as one of our Presbytery representatives. Our other Presbytery representative is Mandy Wilson.

Keith Jamieson provided an overview of the organization and provisions of the United Church Mission & Service Fund. The congregation approved \$40,000 as St. Aidan's target for M & S in 2013.

Council appreciates the continuing support it receives from our ministers, staff, congregation, and various Teams.  
Tony Smith, Chair

## Our Building is Busy!

There are lots of spring concerts on our Rentals Calendar on the website. Check it out for a listing of your favourite choirs and performances. You'll find it on the home page on the right hand side.



A special welcome to the Kintara Women's Chorus, who discovered our sanctuary from the new Rentals Calendar. They will be presenting a concert in the sanctuary on May 12, 1pm.

As many of you know, the church building is very well used by a number of community groups. Just a reminder that if you have ANY questions or concerns about scheduling of rental or church groups, or the use of building space, please talk to me first. We do our best to accommodate everyone's needs.

Keep smiling, Jane [rentals@staidansunited.com](mailto:rentals@staidansunited.com)

## Bookworms

Good discussions are happening with the book study "Adult Faith" by Diarmuid O'Murchu. If you would like to visit one of the sessions, you would be most welcome. Bookworms meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in members' homes. Please check the website, the Life & Work page or at the office for more information.

**We have good news to share:**

**St. Aidan's is pleased to host author Diarmuid O'Murchu at a presentation and workshop on June 6. More news to come!**

### **Here is a little fact test from your Thrift Shop:**

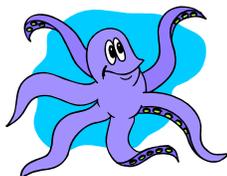
How many volunteers work at the Thrift Shop? (47)

How many volunteers do not belong to St. A's? (18)

How many are women? (38 women, 9 men)

What year did our shop open? (1997)

We donate to various community groups. Can you name them? (7 : Our Place, Big Brothers, The Salvation Army, W.I.N., Diabetes Society, Women's Transition House, Compassionate Warehouse and cash outreach to specific local charities.) **Now you know!**



## St. Aidan's Bazaar

Bazaar 2013 is well underway! We are collecting, sorting, washing and pricing. We can always use your help!!



Remember we have a new stall "Vintage/Retro", convened by Noreen Nash. She would love any donations you might have from the past. Almost every convenor collects items year-long to make their stall a success. Please pass the word along to friends that we need books, toys, linens, jewellery, international treasures, silent auction items, china, handbags, Christmas and New to You items. Thanks to everyone.

### Fabric Sale

We recently received a very generous donation of metres of lovely fabric. A fun work party was held where we measured and priced all the pieces. The Lower Hall was the scene of the sale - lots of Thrift Shop customers and St. Aidan's folk came by. Thank you so much to everyone who came to help and shop. Over \$400 was the result of our effort. We were pleased that so many of our Bazaar sewers were able to choose pieces of fabric for their projects.



**Wanted: 40" thin, flat screen TV or monitor for educational purposes for use in the Seminar Room. Please call Barb Martin 250 472 1942.**

### On-Line Donations now welcome!

Visitors to St. Aidan's website may now make donations on line with their credit card, using PayPal. Visit <http://staidansunited.com>



Something YOU can do to support the United Church inner city minister of Our Place: Are you looking for something satisfying and soul-enriching? Consider spending some time at Our Place on Easter Monday - come and be part of the lunch served to members of the Our Place family. Because of the stat holiday, the regular staff will not be present. A team from St. Aidan's will be preparing, serving and cleaning up - consider being part of it, even just for an hour or two. Sign up sheet on Library counter.

Deadline for our next newsletter: May 1  
Email articles to [scampbell6@shaw.ca](mailto:scampbell6@shaw.ca)



## Social Action Team

One of the key promotional activities of our Team over the years has been Oikocredit – the World Council of Churches founded socially responsible investment organization. Forty-three of St. Aidan’s

members now invest in Oikocredit and their total investments, including that from the Church Capital Funds amounts to \$387,000. When you realize that \$1,000 creates roughly 5 jobs, that means St. Aidan’s is providing close to 2,000 jobs each year to poor people in the developing world. Two thousand families are now able to work their way out of poverty, their children can go to school, there is something put aside for medical bills or to repair the roof if it is blown off in a storm – there is dignity and self respect in the lives of 2,000 more families – each year. These loans, such as those provided to Haitians through the **Fonkoze – Stairway out of Poverty -Project** repay their loans every year and the money is then used for another 2,000 people the following year – it could go to more Haitians or it could go to poor people on the other side of the mountains of Bolivia or Azerbaijan. No-one has lost a cent by investing in Oikocredit and you get a 2% annual return on your investment – it’s a win-win situation! This is one of the best church related **Socially Responsible Investments** available as such investments are used 100% to provide affordable credit to **underserved individuals and communities**. Together we can work towards a Better World.

**Thank you St. Aidan’s for being the number one church in Canada as SRI investors in Oikocredit.**



### Dinner hosted by the Social Action Team

You are invited to a pizza dinner hosted by the Social Action Team on Tuesday April 9 beginning at 6:00 pm. There will be a sign up sheet a couple of weeks prior. The guest speaker is the Rev. Gert Janse Van Rensburg who has been the minister at Esquimalt United Church since coming to Canada last August from South Africa. Gert will be speaking on life in the country in the aftermath of apartheid. Everyone is welcome.

## Behind the scenes in our kitchens

We are fortunate to have a number of St. Aidan’s people who work away on-site and off,

quietly unnoticed and unheralded. These are the people who give this place stability and foundation. Recently there was an occasion to recognize and thank Norma Wilson (and her husband Laurie) for their years of ‘behind the scene’ contributions. It was an opportunity to thank Norma for her faithfulness in keeping our kitchens in order and her always-reliable, careful manner in providing leadership for Memorial teas and receptions. (Laurie could be counted on to set up tables and chairs in preparation for the events.) As part of the recognition gathering, we were able to take notes of all the details to make the reception go smoothly. It’s a telling sign that it looks like 3 people will be required to replace her! The congregation of St. Aidan’s is pleased to honour Norma and Laurie for their devoted dedication.

As part of the ongoing Bazaar Outreach Projects, our Lower Kitchen is now fully stocked with a set of gleaming, matching (!) china, which will

be available for rental groups as well as for church functions. There were a couple of work parties (though it looks like they were having a bit too much fun) to get the kitchen thoroughly cleaned and organized. Thanks to all who helped out in this project. The china was paid for from 10% of the Bazaar income, so another thank you to all those who have been part of the Bazaar effort. Great “in-house in-reach”!

