



# Reaching Out



September 2012



A few words from Michael:

Many of us see September as the beginning of a new year. It is the commencement of the school year. Activities and community organizations start up again after the summer hiatus. Here at St. Aidan's Church we see the launch of the fall programming schedule, the re-opening of the Thrift Shop and committees swing back into action. This fall we also have a new newsletter whose aim is to keep us informed about what is happening at our Church. My sincere thanks to everyone who has been working so hard on this first issue.

In the busyness of the start-up of activities for the fall season, perhaps there remains the need for us to be reminded of what we are about as a congregation. Our four core values of hospitality, inclusiveness, spiritual growth and reaching out and our mission statement, "Life-changing ministry with all through Jesus Christ" remind us of our focus. These are lens through which we see all of our activities at St. Aidan's.

As I interpret these, I envision the activity of St. Aidan's radiating out from a centre, formed of our congregation, reaching into the surrounding community. We see this happening through the activities of the Thrift Shop, the Bazaar and liaisons with community organizations. I like the fact that our mission statement says that our ministry is to "all", not just to those on the inside.

As with any congregation in 2012, there is a big challenge in maintaining our church. We are all so thankful to those who put in hours of time to make the ministry of St. Aidan's possible. However, as our statements point out, we are not just about maintaining, we are also about mission through reaching out to all. The invitation is for all of us to be involved in the church's mission.

There is much current literature on moving from a church focused on maintenance to one which is centred on mission. I have found the following questions helpful in helping me focus on what St. Aidan's is all about as we seek to be a congregation which lives up to our core values. These are the first six of twelve points of being a church focused on mission.

## MAINTENANCE OR MISSION?

1. In measuring the *effectiveness*, the maintenance congregation asks, "How many pastoral visits are being made? The mission congregation asks, "How many disciples are being made?"
2. When contemplating some form of *change*, the maintenance congregation says, "If this proves upsetting to any of our members, we won't do it." The mission congregation says, "If this will help us reach someone on the outside, we will take the risk and do it."
3. When thinking about *change*, the majority of members in a maintenance congregation ask, "How will this affect me?" The majority of members in the mission congregation ask, "Will this increase our ability to reach those outside?"
4. When thinking of its *vision for ministry*, the maintenance congregation says, "We have to be faithful to our past." The mission congregation says, "We have to be faithful to our future."
5. The pastor in the maintenance congregation says to the *newcomer*, "I'd like to introduce you to some of our members." In the mission congregation the members say, "We'd like to introduce you to our pastor."
6. When confronted with a *legitimate pastoral concern*, the pastor in the maintenance congregation asks, "How can I meet this need?" The pastor in the mission congregation asks, "How can this need be met?"

The next Newsletter will contain the final six marks of a missiological church.

## K O F F E E S U N D A Y !

### Kick Off For Fall Energizing Event

**September 9—lots of info about our groups and activities—all the news that counts! Come to the Great Hall after worship. The Youth Groups are hosting a bbq, so plan to stay for lunch.**



## In This Issue:

Evolutionary Christianity and Fall Programming, Find Out About Finances, Meet Our New 'Kids & Youth Booster', Why Music Is Important To Us, Council News, and more ....



### A few words from Betty Anne:

*Do you want to know more about our world and how our faith fits in? We are very excited about the theme of this year's fall programming, centering around the thought-provoking topic of Evolutionary Christianity.*

**“Expode Your Ideas About God”** The weekend of September 28-30 sees St. A's hosting Bruce Sanguin, United Church minister, author and speaker from Vancouver. Bruce is well-known for his careful and inspiring works on Evolutionary Christianity and is the author of “Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Universe”. The weekend begins with a keynote address on Friday night, followed by a two-part workshop on Saturday to create an imaginative, meaningful worship plan, reflecting the ideas and images of Evolutionary Christianity. Saturday evening will continue the theme, including music by Louise Rose. On Sunday, Bruce will be our guest minister at worship, and the service will be the culmination of the thoughts and ideas from the Saturday workshop. Registration is available on-line at the United Church of Canada website: [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca) More information will be available soon.

**Further Exploration of Evolutionary Christianity** - Last fall, about 160 people shared meaningful conversations connecting science, religion and faith: four evening sessions included videoclips, audio interviews and discussions surrounding this intersection of heart and intellect. Because of the positive feedback received from these sessions, an enthusiastic group of us from Victoria Presbytery have gathered and planned another series on this fascinating topic.



St. Aidan's will join four other United Churches for this series, collaborating once again on hosting and presenting. These Monday evening sessions (7-9pm) are October 15 (at St. A's), October 22 (at Cordova Bay), October 29 (at First Met) and November 5 (at Cadboro Bay). Our source reference is Michael Dowd's book, Thank God for Evolution. There will be facilitated discussion groups as well as large group gatherings. Mark your calendars now! More details about registration will be available before the end of September.

**Study Series** - Combining materials from Brian Swimme's “Journey of the Universe” and Bruce Sanguin's “Darwin, Divinity, and the Dance of the Universe”, the Thursday study groups, led by Jack Dayton, will reconvene on October 4, 10:30am for the morning session and 1:30pm for the afternoon session.



### Introducing Jake Autio, our new Sunday School Go-To Guy and Youth Booster!

Jake is pleased to be the Sunday School Coordinator for the upcoming year! He has a passion for teaching children and youth through creating positive community where participants are comfortable to question, create, imagine, and participate. His work as Chaplain at Camp Pringle in 2011 was formative in his own faith journey insofar that it brought him back to questioning and pondering the greater questions of life and faith. Since then, he has found many ‘truths’ in children's stories and through conversation with children and youth. Jake is a student at UVic in music and music education, and is happy to offer his time and talents to St. Aidan's. He is looking forward to being part of the staff team.

## Church Council—what's up?

St. Aidan's Church Council (Tony Smith, Chair) has representation from all areas of the church: Team Leaders, as well as people who have an awareness and knowledge that can contribute to the overall discussions. (This could be you! Just submit your name to the Nomination Committee, and it will be presented to the congregation at next year's AGM.)



At our monthly meetings (except for summer) we discuss many aspects of the life of St. A's, receiving input from our ministers and Team Leaders, and listening to presentations from members with ideas. We are responsible for approving the annual budget, and large capital expenditures. We also approve the formation of sub-committees, as needed—of which there are two recent additions: Capital Assets Committee, chaired by Norm Lewis (management of bequests and surplus funds), and Operational Review Committee, chaired by Roger Hannaford (to assess

congregational vitality and viability).

You may already have been interviewed by this latter committee, and your input is invaluable. Thank you! Council will be reviewing draft recommendations, and final recommendations will be presented by December 31st.

Council has recently approved the expenditure of \$30,000 to cover the completion of capital projects. Some of the work is fairly urgent, and some involves maintenance on an as-needed basis. We are mindful that we need to consider what could be spent on Ministry, not just on the building itself.

There was a Governance Model approved by the congregation in 2010, which is currently undergoing a review, and will be discussed in the fall. Council, working with the Stewardship Team, will be introducing a Planned Giving program in the fall.

As you can see, there's a lot on Council's plate, but everything we do is with one thing in mind—the ministry of St. Aidan's United Church.

## Our Building is Busy!

I thought summer was nice and quiet ... but it's not quiet now! With all our church groups starting up for another season of happenings ... and wonderful renters coming back into the fold, it's happily hopping around here! A warm welcome back, folks!

Concerts, recitals and other sanctuary events have been booked almost a year ahead, especially at Christmas and Springtime. All of our regular renters have returned—did you know we provide space for Highland Dancing, AA Group, Weavers & Spinners Guild, Philatelic Society, Embroiderers Guild, Scouting and Guiding Groups, Bridge, Hospice, Open Heart Society, Mt. Tolmie Community Association, Seniors Exercisers, Victoria Children's Choir, Crystal Singers and more! There are a couple of new groups to enfold, one being a Children's Hospice Bereavement Group, and the other a newly formed choir within the Victoria Children's Choir. Let the fun begin!

If you have questions about renting space, don't hesitate to contact me, Jane Boileau, Rentals Coordinator—250-477-2089 or [rentals@staidansunited.com](mailto:rentals@staidansunited.com)

## How we spent our summer vacation!



## Hop onto our website and scroll on down...

The site is updated regularly—but the whole process could use your help! It's a big site, and there are lots of different sections... if you see something that needs to be changed or deleted (!), contact the office, and Jane or Judy will take it from there.

[www.staidansunited.com](http://www.staidansunited.com)

*Do you have a pastoral care need?  
Is there news you'd like to share?  
Call the office and we'll make things work.*

## Pastoral Care / Membership Team

Our PC/M Team meets at 9:30am on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August). Our mandate includes coordination and support of:

- Pastoral Care visiting
- Connecting with people through greeting cards and phone calls
- Healing Pathways activities and programs
- Casserole Caravan program
- Ongoing assessment of trends in worship attendance, as well as individual needs
- Connecting with new attendees or visitors to our worship service.
- Regular review of our congregation's official Membership Roll
- Short 'worship services' at the Mt. Tolmie Care Facility (monthly)
- Seasonal special Communion Teas for people with decreased mobility
- The recent 'All Congregational Contact' held in late 2011
- Support the St. Aidan's Prayer Chain, coordinated by Phyllis McNaughton

Betty Anne Dempsey is the key clergy liaison for the team, although we also maintain a close communication liaison with both Michael Caveney and Judy Langford.

This team has a very proactive focus and a strong sense of caring and commitment, and we sincerely value and appreciate the support, caring ways and pastoral visits of many other people who are not specifically involved in our monthly meetings.

Like all teams, we welcome the addition of new members to help with these many important areas of pastoral outreach, as well as to facilitate on-going quality improvement opportunities in all that we're doing.

Please contact any PC/M Team member for questions or information: Val Bauld, Puddie Curtis, Dawn Faris, Susan Kurushima, Jean Margison, Helen Pinel, Phyllis McNaughton, Carol Sidhu, Moira Wightman.

## St. A's Thrift Shop

The 'Friendly Octopus' re-opened on Wednesday, August 29, after being closed all summer. We still worked every Wednesday during that time, as we were kept occupied with painting, cleaning, culling, building new display areas as well as keeping up with the constant flow of donations. Our customers are always glad to see us and they also missed the huge bargains! Our new paperback

book shelf section attracts many customers and we are kept busy keeping it stocked (this is why we are always asking you for paperbacks!). Our major weekly donations now go to WIN, who do pickups and to Our Place, picked up and delivered by Susan Kurushima.

Thanks everyone for all your support!



## Music is within all of us!

Music has always been a very important part of worship at St. Aidan's. Over the years we've had many rich musical experiences; winning Music Festival Awards, singing on the CBC and being on television. We have sung oratorios in concert, presented Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, sung cantatas such as "Noye's Floode" (not a spelling error), helped support the "St Aidan's Gala" and raised funds for music, choir gowns, piano tuning and the purchase of our organ. Our choirs enrich activities at St. Aidan's, such as "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Toonie Tuesdays", as well as reaching out to the greater community of Victoria by singing at concerts and seniors' residences throughout the year.



Our Music Director, Nell Howard, is a wonderful musician in her own right. Nell teaches full time at Oak Bay High, and then shares her musical talents by teaching piano and leading various choirs at St Aidan's. Nell is very committed to our music program and we are blessed to have her as our Director.

In this new 'digital' era, when everything we know seems to be changing, our church is changing too, but our passion for music remains a constant! It's a challenge to keep our music relevant and rich, with meaningful text and interesting presentation. It is people who bring the music alive; instrumentalists, singers and congregational input. Our choirs are places of welcome, interaction and spirit. Please consider adding your voice to ours! You can find your niche in any of these choirs; each offers its own unique style.

**Jubilate Choir**- a mixed men's and women's voices choir meeting Thursdays 5:00 – 6:30 pm (an earlier finish than in past years means you still have a free evening!)

**Mirabile Choir** – a women's voices choir meeting Thursdays 3:45 – 5:00 pm (we visit for 15 minutes before we sing!)

**Joyful Sounds Kid's Choir** – children rehearsing Sundays after the service (Nell brings gummy bears to share!)

**Youth Jam** – youth of "youth group" age singing and jamming with instruments (time to be worked out)

**Ted Boulden Singers** – mixed men's and women's voices, led by Kelly Orr meets in the Chapel, Thursdays 6:30-8pm.

How about it? Will you add your voice to ours? Do you know a child who likes gummy bears and singing? Try us out! We guarantee a hearty welcome if you come out to any of our practices! Just bring your voice and your enthusiasm ...absolutely no experience necessary! Blessings and all good wishes for the year before us,

St. Aidan's Music Support Team



The August 26th 'end of summer and prayer flag tree ceremony' went very well. So many people pitched in to help, and I especially wanted to thank Marilyn Smith who helped me all along the way as this was my first official attempt at organizing an event at the church. Most people wrote their personal prayers on the little cloths, and the wind wafting through the tree is carrying them into space. Sometimes, making our wishes known makes the result more likely to occur, and this, I have found, is true in everyday life as well. I was really happy to see the youth involvement, and I hope the older youth share more of the responsibilities that the older members of the church now shoulder. The young people are clever, strong and capable, and as they begin to make the transition towards involvement with the activities of the church, I hope they can be greeters, coffee makers and table putter-uppers. I would love to see them blossom with the encouragement and appreciation of their home congregation. Kate Holmes

## St. Aidan's Annual Bazaar Saturday, November 3



The preparation for Bazaar 2012 started in November 2011! The Thrift Shop crew sorts and collects items for the Silent Auction, the handbag stall, toys, international treasures, jewellery, books, New to You, China and Linen Stalls. The convenors then further sort, clean and price with their teams. A great deal of camaraderie results from all these gatherings.

Donations to all the stalls are needed and appreciated. Be sure to keep in mind the Baking and Plant Stalls. We know the sewers, knitters, crafters and jam makers are producing wonderful things

We now are at the stage of staffing the Bazaar and WE NEED EVERYONE! Please call if you can help. See you there!



**Showing Mercy** Call it Outreach, Social Action, or being a good neighbour; as those who try to follow the way of Jesus, St. Aidan's people are always ready to share time, energy and resources with others. Among other acts, many people (including Betty Anne) volunteer their time at Our Place. Recently, under the direction of the professional cook, they helped prepare and serve a meal on two Monday holidays when the building would normally be closed. Through the further generosity of others in our church as well as Cordova Bay and Cadboro Bay Churches, we were able to finance these meals. Thanks to all!

Luke 10:37 ... Then Jesus said, Go and do likewise.

## Our Ministries — Spiritual

**Men's Breakfast** This group meets on the first Saturday of the month (except from June to August). Breakfast begins at 8am, following by a discussion or presentation. The facilitator is Jim Upright.

**Drop In Bible Study** Every Monday a group gathers in the seminar room at 10:30 for an hour of lively discussion on the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. This study is led by the preacher for that Sunday. A Bible Study sheet is prepared outlining the scriptures, including a commentary and a number of discussion points. Everyone is welcome to join us. No experience necessary. The coffee pot is on!

**Silent Meditation** Happens in the Chapel on Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am. Led by Moira Wightman.

**Healing Pathways** This team is led by Diane Kendall and Val Bauld. The team gathers on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm for Healing Touch practice. To make an appointment for a Healing Touch session, please call Jo Bedford. People can be treated in the St. A's Healing Room, in their own home, care facility or hospital, as arranged.

**Sunday Morning Meditation** Meet in the Chapel before the worship service. Various facilitators lead centering meditation from 9:00 to 9:45am.

**Bookworms** The first book to be discussed this season will be "Embracing Emergence Christianity" by Phyllis Tickle. We will have 6 sessions to study and discuss this fascinating topic. We meet in the afternoons of the first and third Wednesday of the month, starting September 19. Please join us!

**Thursday Study Series** Led by Jack Dayton, combining materials on Evolutionary Christianity, this group meets on Thursdays. Choose the morning session 10:30am or afternoon 1:30pm, beginning October 4.

## Our Ministries, continued.... Social Groups

### Fourth Friday Supper Club

Meet for a casual supper in a restaurant or a potluck in someone's home. Newcomers, old-timers, singles or couples meet on the fourth Friday evening of the month. The only requirement... you must love food and conversation!

### C A M E O (Come And Meet Each Other)

Cameo is a social club for adults at St. Aidan's. We plan outings, speakers, games nights: just being together is the best part! The gatherings are on the second Saturday of the month from September to June. The presidents this year are Roger Hannaford and Elsie & Brian Habbick.

### Women's Circle

A new group, beginning October 2, is aimed at women of all ages. Join us for coffee and treats every Tuesday afternoon (1:30-4:30) for a FUN and FRIENDLY gathering of people who want to know you! Bring along your projects (knitting, sewing, quilting, scrap-booking).. Or just bring yourself!

## Good Works

St. Aidan's Church Library is easy to find ... straight ahead when you come in the door by the church office, or turn right as you enter the Great Hall from the sanctuary. It's just as easy to use. Everyone who is a member or adherent of the congregation is automatically a member, and we also have quite a number of people in the community who use it as well (as soon as they register their contact information with us). The library is open any time the building is open. Also available at any time is access to our collection, as our catalogue is on the church website, or directly at [library.staidansunited.com](http://library.staidansunited.com)

Books and magazines are well-displayed and organized in a way that is easy to understand. The only items not accessible all the time are our CDs and DVDs. Those can be borrowed whenever one of the Library Team is available—on Sunday mornings or by contacting Louise Booth, the head librarian. Teen books are down in the Niche and we or the Church secretary can help you access them.



Everything goes out for 4 weeks except the DVDs, which have a 1 week loan. If no one is staffing the library, sign out your items on the clipboard on the shelving at the entrance to the library, across from the computer. Be sure to fill in every space, and check the due date on the calendar beside the clipboard.

We have some exciting new items for the Fall. We now have all of the books by Bruce Sanguin, who will be our guest in late September.

For those interested in Evolutionary Christianity, we have been adding new authors and titles. If you're interested in Bible Study, we have lots of support materials to enrich your reading. Grandchildren visiting? We have books and movies for you to share with them. Enjoy a good story? Check out our fiction for a "novel approach to faith". And if you're interested in digging deeper in some topics, like meditation, early Christianity, the Bible or science and religion, we have sets of study DVDs to explore. Just ask. And this is just the tip of the iceberg!





## MONEY MATTERS

### From the Treasurer

At our Congregational Meeting of May 27th, I reported that our offerings have been declining over the past few years. To date, this trend appears to be continuing. The amount we budgeted for 'envelope donations' (including PAR—Pre Authorized Remittance) for 2012 is \$220,850. If this is pro-rated to the end of July, one would have hoped to have received about \$128,830 versus what has been donated, \$111,650. This represents a shortfall of \$17,180 or 13%. If this pattern were to continue, we would have a substantial deficit at the end of the year. It is noted that givings usually fall off a bit over the summer months, but even given this, we are behind. Expenses and other income sources are on target.

Our total budget for 2012 is roughly \$400,000, or about \$33,000 per month. To cover this, we are having to borrow from our Reserves. A lot of this will be covered by the Fall Bazaar which (hopefully) will bring in something close to \$30,000.

As was outlined at a meeting of the Congregation on November 27, 2011, we are putting aside \$10,000 this year as per a five-year plan which anticipates capital needs over the next few years (for example, a new roof). For some such projects we have already received funding: Thrifty Foods, through its SmileCard program, will contribute \$1500 and the Garden of Remembrance Team has released \$6700 for the repair of the narthex windows. Also, from the major bequest received in May (\$425,000), Council authorized \$30,000 for needed maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

For 2013, Teams are asked to have their financial requests in by the end of November. A first draft of the 2013 Budget will go to Council in mid-December.

Norm Lewis

### Capital Assets Committee

As reported at the May 27th meeting, a temporary (ad hoc) Committee on Capital Assets has been formed. Its mandate is to determine how best to manage and deploy the capital funds held by the Congregation. These presently amount to about \$500,000. While the Committee is not due to report its recommendations to the Finance Team (and through that Team to Council) until later in the Fall, our present thinking tends to the view that these monies should not be used for day-to-day expenses, namely that they should not be used to sup-

plement the Operational Budget.

As promised at the May 27th meeting, we will be asking the views of the members of St. Aidan's as regards these matters. To this end, there will be a meeting after church on September 16th at which all can ask questions and give their thoughts regarding the management and use of our assets. In addition, at any time you may email me, Norm Lewis (nrlewis@shaw.ca), or speak to one of the Committee members (Jake Autio, Roger Davidson, Jo Jamieson, Heather Nicol, Kelly Orr).

### Stewardship

Towards the end of the congregational gathering on September 16th (see above), the Stewardship Team's plan for the Fall will be outlined. Briefly put, the PAR program will be highlighted; a workshop on Planned Giving (bequests, wills) will be held, and in November we will be asking for an indication of members' commitments for 2013, to enable us to develop a realistic budget. In mid-October, a few of us will attend a Stewardship workshop in Vancouver, arranged by BC Conference. Tentative plans are also in the works regarding some people going to a conference in the U.S. in February which will address issues dealing with trust fund management.



## Property Update from Colin:

Earlier this summer, Council authorized several projects to enhance and maintain our facilities. Projects which have been completed are:

Narthex window frame repairs and repainting—significant funding for this project provided by the Garden of Remembrance Fund; Carpets in the office areas replaced with carpet tiles; Flat screen monitor facing the choir; Automatic door opener for the main sanctuary door.

Projects in the planning stages:

Lift to enable individuals with mobility challenges to access the Chancel; Repainting selected areas—scheduled for late December; New cabinet for audio visual equipment and operators; Handrails for the chancel.

These projects have largely been made possible by the bequest of the late Kay Ormiston. The need for several of these projects was identified during the 2010 Sanctuary Renewal Initiative. For additional information on these projects, contact Colin Booth.

# Explode your ideas about God

## St. Aidan's United Church Presents: Bruce Sanguin

### September 28-30, 2012

*Presentations and workshops for those interested in Evolutionary Christianity and applying these ideas in planning worship*

**Presentations:**  
 Sep 28, 7:00 pm Big Bang Theory  
 Sep 29, 7:00 pm Maybe You want More?  
 with dessert, music, conversation

**Saturday Workshops:**  
 Sep 29, 9:00am Imagining Worship  
 Sep 29, 2:00pm Evolving Worship

**Sunday Worship, Sep 30, 2012**  
 Pulling it Together

For more information go to: <http://staidansunited.com/>

Cost \$10 per session  
 or \$30 for all presentations and workshops

## Art Exhibit in our Sanctuary

### Wonder & Doubt

*"To be part of creativity, art and healing in our community."*

Beginning with the Sanguin event, the Pandora Arts Collective will display works in our sanctuary. The exhibit will run through the month of October.

## Wonder and Doubt

An Exhibition of Art Celebrating the Pandora Arts Collective



Sponsored by St. Aidan's United Church  
 (2 blocks from Shelbourne and Cedar Hill X Rd.)

The show opens September Friday 28th and runs until October 28th

The art can be viewed as a feature of a provincial conference "Explode Your Faith: A Weekend Exploring Evolutionary Christianity" focused on progressive links between science and religion.

Visit the PACS conference information table for unique artist's cards, a silent auction, memberships and more on the collective

The show can also be viewed every Sunday in October between 9 and Noon.



Pandora's mission is to provide a caring and open studio so people may join together around the creative arts as a healing process.

To be part of creativity, art and healing in your community

**Look** for more PACS artwork in the little fernwood gallery  
 1203 Fernwood Road

**Join** PACS: \$10/year makes a difference and will keep you 'in the loop' with info about shows, workshops and other community outreach.

**Participate** The facilitated studio is opened Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 for a nominal drop-in charge as you are able

**Support** PACS is a not for profit group that depends on your donations to operate  
 Please contact us at: <http://pandoraarts.ca>  
 phone: 250-920-7227 (PACS)  
 e-mail: [studio@pandoraarts.ca](mailto:studio@pandoraarts.ca)



What do Thrifty Foods, Villages Pizza and Cobbs Bakery all have in common? Well, for the last couple of years some of you have been using Thrifty Foods Smile Cards (available in the office) to buy your groceries, knowing that a portion of your purchase will be credited as a gift to St. A's. Our first initiative resulted in a gift of \$1000, which was used to fund a portion of the projection system in the sanctuary. This year the goal is \$1500, with the proceeds going towards the installation of the accessibility lift to the chancel area.

If you're a pizza aficionado, consider ordering from Villages Pizza, and by mentioning St. A's a portion of your purchase will be returned to the church. Same goes for Cobbs Bakery (the Shelbourne and Royal Oak outlets only). Everybody needs bread! If you're a regular shopper at any of these stores, this is an easy, convenient way to help your church.



**WE ARE AN AFFIRMING MINISTRY  
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

## Worship Notes

For liturgical purposes, the year is divided into “seasons of the church year” : Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Pentecost is the longest, running from Pentecost Sunday, usually toward the end of May, until Advent, at the beginning of December. More and more churches are beginning to adopt a new church period which occurs in the middle of Pentecost, beginning in September, called “The Season of Creation”. The United Church is using orange as the colour of this new period.

During these four weeks, we consider the actions of God calling forth creation (building on the services in August), affirming that we are inter-connected with all that God has created and is creating. We are also made aware of the importance of our stewardship in the world and are encouraged to live toward a vision of a new heaven and earth.

Each week, check the church website for updates to what is happening in worship; who is leading worship and special events. Sermons as well as the Life & Work page are also on the website. If you would like to be added to the list to receive weekly sermons, please email [michael@staidansunited.com](mailto:michael@staidansunited.com). Copies of sermons and bulletins are also available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary and on the counter outside the office.

## We're going green!

For several years now, the Property Team has been implementing changes to reduce our environmental impact and operating expenses. Fluorescent light fixtures are progressively being converted to use the energy efficient T-8 tubes. The light bulbs in the Sanctuary ceiling are compact fluorescent—much better than

## Operational Review Committee (ORC)

You may have already heard of this committee and perhaps participated in the process of gathering opinions as to the strengths and challenges of St. Aidan's. We have been meeting since June and our task is to provide some clear recommendations to Council that we feel will help shape future decisions. We are interested in finding out trends such as financial, attendance and reviewing previous studies to seek out ways that could make our church even stronger in the future.

One of the most important aspects of our task is to speak with a variety of people who can provide ideas on what we are doing well now, and how we can do even better. We welcome anyone who could meet with us to share their thoughts and ideas in confidence. Please contact a member of our committee if you wish to speak with us.

On Sunday, October 14th, following the church service, we will have an ORC Congregational discussion where we plan to give an update on our work and provide a time for the congregation to give us further input.

ORC members are: Kristine Allison, Colin Booth, Sylvia Campbell, Janis Evans, Brian Habbick, Roger Hannaford (Chair). Contact 250-721-5696 or [salop@shaw.ca](mailto:salop@shaw.ca)

the old 300 watt incandescent bulbs. Sanctuary windows have been caulked and doors weather-stripped. One low-flow toilet has been installed and others will be installed in the coming months. Programmable thermostats for the nine furnaces have been installed; this allows us to only provide heat for occasionally used spaces when needed.

## Victoria Presbytery

St. Aidan's is part of the wider United Church community. Each congregation in the lower part of Vancouver Island is a member of Victoria Presbytery, the next level up of our church organization. Each congregation has a minimum of one lay and one minister as representatives at Presbytery, but this increases as congregations get bigger. From our church both ministers plus Louise Booth and Mandy Wilson attend Presbytery meetings about 9 times a year on your behalf.

Presbyteries meet to discuss affairs relating to the work of the church in the larger area. These can be as varied as Our Place, Gorge View Homes, Camp Pringle, Campus Ministries, the planning of the Revival service in July, and dealing with requests for approval of major building expenses (renovations, re-roofing, etc). Whenever there is a change in ministers with a retirement or moving of a minister, Presbytery is involved. Members have been helping guide congregations through Joint Needs Assessments and other visioning, right through the call process and installation of the new minister. (For example, Michael is the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Fairfield United Church and Betty Anne has served on the Camp Pringle Board) Presbytery helped the birth of the Sing Your Joy Choir with startup grants, and regularly helps youth attend conferences etc. Together we can all do so much more.

Presbyteries are part of a wider structure called a Conference. All 4 of your representatives attended the annual meeting of BC Conference in May and this year we were working on matters to go forward to the highest level of the United Church – General Council. It was at BC Conference that we chose names to put forward for Moderator, and among them was Gary Paterson, who was elected as our new United Church Moderator in August.

## When You Wish.....

You're invited to imagine what might inspire and energize you in your spiritual journey. Do you have ideas of study groups, conversations, meditations, walking and talking with each other? If you have wishes along these lines, or any others, on Sunday, September 9 you'll find a box in the Great Hall - write your wish and slip it in! Email or talk to Betty Anne and maybe .....

## And of course, there's our wonderful Youth Groups:

### We're Here and We're Dear!

The Youth Groups of St. Aidan's United begin another year of "SAYes" (St. Aidan's Youth exploring spirituality)

Our first gathering in the Fall is a fun evening of miniature golf at Mattick's Farm, Friday, September 7 at 7pm.

Watch for us at work and play as we connect with each other, our church community and God!

