



## **St Andrew's Anglican Church**

### **Warden's Update October 2021**

As we enter the 19<sup>th</sup> month of the Covid 19 global pandemic, we have learned there is no quick solution, and that we have to continue to adapt to this new way of life. For many of us the covid vaccine has meant that we have been able to again see friends and family and feel a bit safer as we go about our daily activities. Unfortunately there are likely several more months before things will return to normal.

After a very successful joining of St Andrew's and St Dunstan's on Sunday mornings for Zoom services, we returned to separate services on September 12. Thanks to the hard work of Rev. David Taylor and Rev. Andrew Halladay, we were able to enjoy interactively getting together for worship. Sharing this difficult time with St Dunstan's congregation was great.

With the current provincial health guidelines in place, we are now able to have regular services in person every week at 8 am and 10 am at St Andrew's. It still feels a bit strange with everyone wearing masks and limited social activity before and after the service, but safety is the primary goal. If you haven't yet come back to church, please feel free to join us on Sunday's. There is lots of space to sit "socially distant" and everyone is wearing masks. If you are uncomfortable or not feeling up to travelling to the church, we will be continuing to offer the service via Zoom at 10 am. Please check the newsletter for sign on instructions.

We are very pleased to welcome Rev. Lorie Martin to our ministry team. Lorie is studying for her Master's degree in Divinity and will be a Transitional Deacon at St Andrews for the next 9 months. (Lorie is also the Associate Director of St Dunstan's Center for Spiritual Renewal.)

In other news, we have now completed re-roofing the flat roofed section on the church. The new roofing material is in place along with new flashing and two new skylights over the entrance. The total cost of the project was \$72,450. Thanks to your support we had the funds in the building account and did not have to borrow any money for this major work. We currently have about \$30,000 left in the building fund which should cover any major issue and allow us to begin to plan for the replacement of our 40-year-old flooring, hopefully starting next year. More details will be provided by the time we get to our Vestry Meeting in February, but all contributions to the Building Fund are certainly welcome.

Financially St Andrew's continues to be in a relatively good position with revenues meeting our expenses so far this year. On the revenue side we have been helped by both the Diocese (reduced assessments) and the Federal Government's Canada Wage Subsidy program. With regard to the outstanding Diocesan loan we are now down to owing \$37,500 – a significant achievement! (The Diocese does not charge us interest on this loan and has not shown any concern with our repayment plan.)

We will soon begin to make plans for 2022. Hopefully it will be a year when we can return to normal, and we will be able to get back together for worship and social gatherings. After sharing services with St Dunstan's for 18 months, we would like to find new ways to work with them to carry out God's ministry here in Langley.

We would ask each of you to continue to be an active participant in whatever way you can and encourage you to invite friends and family to join you at St. Andrew's. Thank-you for your help and may God bless each of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Allan, People's Warden

Cathy Barnes, Vicar's Warden