

## january at the shop

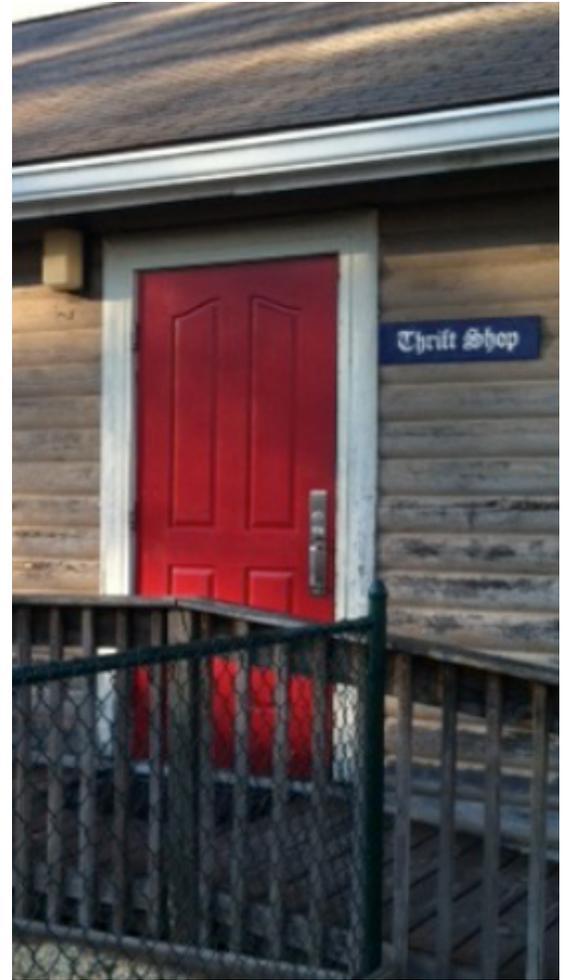
Well, that was interesting—but not bad. Certainly not the Christmas I'd have chosen, but Christmas nonetheless, with time for thought about all the good things I've tended to overlook in the chaos of the last few months.

The yard sale committee is about to meet and plan our next event, which probably will include a Thrift Shop sidewalk sale. And we hope to be able to have our annual silent auction in the spring—I'll let you know.

Wow. What a year we've had. There have been other bizarre years, of course. There was, for example, the one known as the year without a summer (or in some places, Eighteen Hundred and Froze to death) that came up in a story I was fact checking many years ago. It was 1816 and, probably because of volcanic activity, temperatures around the world dropped by nearly one degree. That may not seem like very much, but it was enough to cause a global agricultural disaster. After several years of poor crops, in 1816 harvests failed. People wandered, begging for food. There were food riots. As well, there were floods, cholera and typhus. It's extraordinary what a tiny aberration in temperature can do.

The *Washington Post* recently asked some historians which they considered the worst years. They came up with quite a list. It included, among others, 1348, in the midst of the Black Death which killed about 200 million. There was the infamous Trail of Tears in 1838; in 1929 the stock market crashed, and there was 1862, the grimmest year of the Civil War. All reminders that, while 2020 was difficult, it was by no means the worst year ever.

So, take heart, and look forward to better things from 2021. We're all eager to get back to work, open the shop, and catch up with all our Thrift Shop friends.



***St. Andrew's Thrift Shop***  
***9:00 a.m.—Noon Wednesday and Thursday***  
***10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Saturday***  
***240 925-7445***

