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*"In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born
in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East
came to Jerusalem, asking,
'Where is the child
who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.'
When King Herod heard this,
he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him;
and calling together
all the chief priests
and scribes of the people,
he inquired of them
where the Messiah was to be born.
They told him,
'In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:
And you, Bethlehem,
in the land of Judah,
are by no means least
among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"*

Matthew 2: 1 – 6

Youth Concert Raises \$2,500

WILMER TOYOKEN

Vicar, St. Michael's Multicultural Church, Vancouver

Twenty-one youth members of the St. Michael's Multicultural (SMM) faith community participated in a concert on the evening of Saturday, November 18. The following morning at the 10 am Celebration of the Eucharist the youth were thanked for their accomplishments: raising \$2,500; their hard work consisting of 50 hours of practice; the inspiration they brought to the 176 in attendance, artistically and spiritually.

In addition to the youth from SMM, the SMM Adult Choir also performed, as did a youth group from the Free Believers Church International in Surrey. The SMM Adult Choir and guests sang three cultural songs to conclude the event.

Clearly, the highlight was the youth group, offering inspiring spiritual songs, and provoking a surprising number of tears! The dedicated, hardworking leaders, Cecilia and Jose Pampanico, were very pleased with the concert. Cecilia and Jose are SMM members who have been working with the youth over the last year in part thanks to a Diocesan Parish Development Grant.

The objective of the concert was to raise funds for musical instruments (drum set, keyboard, bass guitar) and to attend the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) Multi-ethnic Consultation in Hawaii next October.

Of the \$2,500 that was raised, \$1,500 will go towards the purchase of musical instruments for the youth group and \$1,000 will be set aside as the beginning of a fund to get all 21 of the SMM youth to Hawaii in 11 months.

Please pray for our inspiring youth group in their endeavor to get to this international Anglican Communion event next year. ✠



St. David’s Invited Community to Sea Sunday

ELIZABETH MURRAY, ODNW
St. David’s, Delta

A sailing dinghy in the sanctuary of St. David’s Anglican Church on October 22 proclaimed Sea Sunday in a parish where its very location, Tsawwassen, stems from the early Coast Salish depiction “facing the sea.”

From the church narthex to the sanctuary, a maritime theme served to remind parishioners and visitors of the vital place the sea and those who sail it have in our lives.

The Rev. Peter Smyth, Senior Port Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers (Vancouver and Delta Port) was guest preacher at 8 am and 10 am, where the Order of Service included the reading of *In Waters Deep* by St. David parishioner, Captain John Horton, and a haunting solo tribute by parish director of music ministries, Sara Ciantar.

It is widely recognized that 90% of everything in shops today is imported by sea, in 60,000 vessels, constantly sailing the world’s shipping lanes. Global trade is dependent on this industry and any disruption in the delivery of food and raw materials, be it storm or other peril of the sea, directly affects one and all. It is the best possible reason to recognize and give thanks to mariners and those who work in the many supporting industries.

Here in Ladner/Tsawwassen, local dependence on seafarers is fairly obvious given the area’s proximity to BC Ferries, Seaspan’s barge/ferry terminals on the Fraser River in Delta and Surrey, tugs and barges hauling wood products, rock, gravel and cement, not forgetting the fishing fleet that provides fare for the table, nor the container ships carrying cargos from afar.

The recently re-dedicated Delta Lifeboat, now based in



LEFT Parishioner John Horton, Rev. Peter Smyth, Rev. Tim Dutcher-Walls and Rev. Steve Thompson. RIGHT *Ocean in a Jar*, displayed by Ravel Desnoyers, was Youth Creation Zone’s nod to Sea Sunday. PHOTOS Mary Horton

Ladner Harbour, plays a pivotal role in providing search and rescue support for commercial and native fisheries, along with other duties related to a Canadian Lifeboat Institute vessel.

Following the 10 am service, a light lunch was served to enable parishioners to mingle with guest mariners and those of related industries of which “Some went to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters...”

Later that day, a wreath in memory of souls lost at sea was cast afloat in the main channel of the Fraser River. The ceremony took place from the upper deck of the Delta Lifeboat “to the sound of the Bosun’s call” and prayers by the Rev. Tim Dutcher-Walls.

For more information about St. David’s please visit their website at www.stdavidsdelta.com. ✦



Blessing at St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill

FELLY FARINAS
St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill

It was one glorious Saturday afternoon on November 4, 2017, in the Parish of Bishop Hills’ Memorial Church of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill (St. Mary’s, South Hill),

Vancouver when the Rev. Expedito Farinas blessed the relationship of two lovely people, Edith and Romelyn, following their civil marriage.

Edith Ayon-ayon and Romelyn Basilio were both born in the Philippines. They are now living in Vancouver and are faithful members of St. Mary’s. This service of

Blessing served as an “ice-breaker” for our Filipino culture. Relationships of same gender are open in our community but have never been accepted in the church.

“We regard no one from a human point of view (2 Corinthians 5: 16),” and “This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15: 13),” these were the lines that Rev. Farinas shared in his message to the family and friends who came to witness the vows of these two lovely human beings made on that day. “I consider that I am truly honored that Edith and Romelyn asked me if I would officiate at the blessing of their relationship after their civil marriage, and I will never forget this day.” He continued saying to Edith and Romelyn, “Your union is a gift, it is a gift of your life, far more precious than the rings you’ve exchanged! And it is not just for today. It is for everyday from this day forward. Congratulations!” Rev. Farinas concluded his message by reminding everyone of St. Mary’s mission statement: Open and Welcoming, Celebrating the Diversity of All People.

The congregation of the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill, Vancouver wished the couple a happy life with open arms and prayed for them that they enjoy a long and lasting relationship. ✦



LEFT The author, the Rev. Expedito Farinas, Edith Ayon-ayon and Romelyn Basilio, the young boy is Francis (Romelyn’s son) and standing behind is Romualdo (Romelyn’s Dad), the Rev. Margaret Marquardt. RIGHT The Happy Couple: Edith and Romelyn. PHOTOS Felly Farinas



Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God’s mission in the world.



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The diocese of New Westminster

The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 69 worshipping communities.



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Thank you!

50th Anniversary of Ordination for Reverend Major Art Turnbull

(PREPARED WITH FILES FROM GORDON SHIELDS)

On October 29, 2017, the Rev. Major (Retired) Art Turnbull, retired priest of the diocese of Ontario with permission to officiate in the diocese of New Westminster marked 50 years of ordination by celebrating the Eucharist at St. Oswald, Port Kells.

Vicar of St. Oswald's, the Rev. Gordon Shields supplied diocesan communications with the following account of this Golden Celebration:

"The number 50 appears 154 times in the Bible. Pentecost is 50 days before Lent. 50 years together mark a Golden Anniversary. So Rev. Art Turnbull marked his 50 years of Ordination, his Golden Celebration, at St. Oswald's where he had so often done Sunday Supply. Art and I shared time together in the Regular Force Chaplaincy, so the day was a homecoming for everyone, the congregation and Art's family together.

Dressed in red to honour St. Stephen and St. Jude, the Sanctuary marked the day on which Art was ordained. Because of prior parish commitments, the celebration instead of being on October 29 was moved to October 22.

Art proudly wore a multicoloured Stole made by his daughter, Terri Elverson. During the children's talk he explained the various colours and their meaning. In his sermon he discussed the many changes in the church since his Ordination in 1967.

A highlight of the Service was when Art presented his wife, Gordi, with a gold medal for sharing the journey with him along the way.

The celebration continued in the Hall with an Anniversary cake, and a reunion of old friends.

Come back anytime, Art, you are family."

Art is an active supporter of diocesan communications and a regular contributor to the Opinion pages of *Topic*. He is also an Honorary Associate Priest at St. Matthew's, Abbotsford and following worship on November 5 the Sunday following the official anniversary date, the Parish of St. Matthew also presented Art with a cake in recognition of this milestone anniversary. ✠



Art with the cake at St. Matthew's. PHOTO Paulette Farquhar

This list of Mission Priorities document was circulated by Bishop Skelton in October of 2017, and published in the November issue of *Topic* on page 3. As these priorities are key to the goals that Bishop Skelton is working toward in her shared ministry with everyone in the diocese of New Westminster it would be a good idea to publish them again, and what better time than at the beginning of new calendar year. • Editor

The Diocese of New Westminster's Mission & Priorities

Our Diocesan Mission

Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world.

Our Priorities

Our God is a relational God. We seek to foster, build and strengthen our relationships with one another in all we do in diocesan, parish and community circles.

Through the action of the Holy Spirit, our God creates the Church as Christ's continuing presence in and for the world. We seek to focus diocesan energy and resources on parish development: assisting parishes in focusing on and building their excellence around their core purpose of gathering, transforming and sending; encouraging parishes to express the best of their Anglican identity; and assisting parishes in creatively engaging the real challenges and opportunities before them.

Our God seeks justice for the oppressed. We seek to assist diocesan leaders and parishes in learning about the culture and history of Canada's Indigenous peoples, in engaging with Indigenous peoples in their neighbourhood and regions, and in advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Our God delights in the diversity of humanity and yearns for all humanity to be one. We seek to increase the diversity of the leadership in our diocese and to strengthen the ability of our parishes to engage the diversity of the people in our parishes, in our neighbourhoods and in our region. We seek the transformation of our minds, our hearts and our practice as we increase our diversity and seek the oneness that God invites us to embrace.

Our God entrusts us with the stewardship of our lives and our communities. We seek to work on the overall sustainability of our diocese and of our parishes by attending to the fit between all the elements of diocesan or parish life (finances, property, priorities, processes, organizational structures, organizational culture, external relationships, etc.) We seek to nurture a diocesan culture that is more transparent, collaborative, consultative, courageous, and in which people have greater choice. ✠



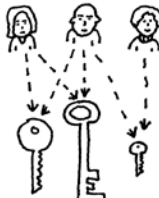
Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

THE TEN WEEK COURSE

FOR NEW CHURCHGOERS



WEEK 1: BASICS OF CHURCH KITCHEN ETIQUETTE



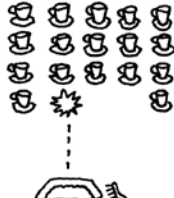
WEEK 2: KEYS. WHO HAS WHICH ONE?



WEEK 3: STANDING/ SITTING/ KNEELING MASTERCLASS



WEEK 4: A GUIDE TO HOLDING MULTIPLE BOOKS AND SHEETS OF PAPER



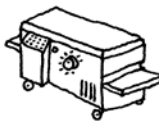
WEEK 5: WASHING UP FOR CHURCH FUNCTIONS (LEVEL 1)



WEEK 6: HOW TO USE THE DEVICE THAT FOLDS THE TABLE LEGS



WEEK 7: STAYING WARM - HINTS AND TIPS



WEEK 8: THE PHOTOCOPIER



WEEK 9: STACKING THE CHAIRS- AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 'SHIGH' RULE



WEEK 10: VASES AND PEDESTALS ORIENTATION

Cartoonchurch.com

THIS MONTH IN TOPIC HISTORY

From the Diocesan Archives

20 years • 1997 Church voices support for the Nisga'a tentative treaty agreement at a two-day public hearing.

30 years • 1987 *Topic* Editorial Board thanks readers for their generosity in its first ever fundraising campaign.

50 years • 1967 It is reported that "many church members have been seriously disturbed" by a "Psychedelic Worship" service put on jointly between University Hill United and St. Anselm's parish.



The Choir of Royal Holloway. PHOTO Submitted

St. James' Music Series 2017 – 2018

MICHELLE HERREWYNEN

St. James'

Some time ago St. James' parishioners were asked two basic questions:

1. What brought you to St. James'?
2. Why do you stay?

A recurrent theme in their answers was — music:

- "The music, the beautiful building."
- "The music; I love the music and hope it will never disappear."
- "Liturgy, music, architecture, and service."

And that is just on a Sunday. Come to St. James' on a weekday afternoon, and the church is teeming with children from Canada's lowest income urban neighbourhood who, through the St. James' Music Academy, receive music lessons at no cost.

Early in the fall of 2017, we added a new element to our vibrant music tradition by launching a new music series. These concerts feature quality performances and allow our audience to appreciate the marvelous architecture, the superb acoustics, and wonderful instruments of our church—including the fine Casavant Frères pipe organ, installed at St. James' nearly 80 years ago.

Two concerts have already taken place and two more

are scheduled February 18 and April 11, 2018. Here are the details of past and future events...

The first concert on the evening of September 29 featured organist Donald Hunt. Donald Hunt grew up in Halifax and received his musical education in Montréal, where he studied organ with John Grew and Jonathan Oldengarm, among others. In addition, he was Organ Scholar and Assistant to Patrick Wedd at Christ Church Cathedral, Montréal. He holds a Master's degree in Music from McGill University, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Donald has lived and worked in the UK since 2009. He was Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and for the past five years he has been Assistant Organist at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, as well as College Organist at Fettes College—both in Edinburgh.

Just two months ago, Donald Hunt assumed the position of Director of Music of Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, BC. His appointment is the culmination of an extensive international search that took place over ten months. Over 50 impressive applications were received from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

At his inaugural recital on the West Coast, Donald Hunt

performed works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Marcel Dupré, Olivier Messiaen, and others.

The second concert held on the afternoon of October 29 featured mezzo soprano, Fabiana Katz and pianist Stephen Smith. The praise for the concert was effusive:

- "A fabulous afternoon of music — passionate, and sad, and lyrical, and funny. I enjoyed myself enormously, as, clearly, did the rest of [the] audience."
- "That was an AMAZING experience. The entire audience was bubbling with excitement and awe. I have never heard such beautiful singing in all my life. Such life and clarity... was just kind of overwhelmed. Stunning."

These are just some of the comments about Fabiana's artistry.

Fabiana Katz grew up in Argentina, and moved to Canada at the age of 14. She earned her Bachelor of Music at the University of Calgary and holds a Master's degree in Music in choral conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Fabiana has appeared as a soloist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra, the Berkshire Choral Festival, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, and the CBC Radio Orchestra, to name a few.

Stephen Smith is one of Vancouver's most well respected collaborative pianists. He obtained his doctoral degree in piano performance from the University of BC, and is a strong contributor to the musical life of the city as a performer, teacher, conductor, composer and arranger. Central to Stephen's career is his long-standing relationship with some of Vancouver's finest choral groups such as Elektra, Vancouver Men's Chorus, Vancouver Bach Choir, Chor Leoni Men's Choir, and the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

Stephen is also a published composer and arranger of choral music with a long and growing list of commissions from individual choirs across North America, and from such entities as the British Columbia Choral Federation, the Women's Commissioning Consortium of the American Choral Directors Association, and the CBC. Stephen's work as both composer and pianist can be heard on dozens of CDs in commercial release.

The Sunday matinée performance entitled *Where Truest Pleasure Lies* featured Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*, as well as songs by Britten, Bernstein, Quilter and Bolcom—an all-English programme that was brought to life by Fabiana's rich lyrical voice and Stephen's impeccable work on the piano.

AND NOW FOR 2018

Alto Modo featuring Vancouver Viols

Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 7:30 pm

Vancouver Viols is a consortium of musicians in and around Vancouver, BC who are dedicated to exploring music for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Donald Hunt. PHOTO J. Cooper



Fabiana Katz. PHOTO Submitted

Bridge Builders to Share God's Love with New People

MARION WONG

Mandarin Minister, St. Matthias—St. Luke, Oakridge

On October 26, 2017, a group of 16 Mandarin-speaking people, who are new to Canada, gathered in the church hall of St. Matthias—St. Luke. Lillian Sheng, one of our parishioners, came to teach them how to make gingerbread men cookies, and Allison came to help. As this was something quite new to many of them, they were very interested in participating and making the cookies. They had a lot of fun. Many joined in, from making the dough to cutting out the cookies to decorating the cookies. In this session, not only did they learn how to make the gingerbread men which is something “Canadian,” but also learned some more English.

At St. Matthias—St. Luke, we have been running English conversation groups to reach out to the Mandarin-speaking people. After building a base of participants, we are now actively bridging the new people into the parish. One of the things that we are doing now is having parishioners serve as bridge builders, and go to the outreach programs to build relationships with the new people to share God's love with them. Both Lillian and Allison enjoyed this session. Lillian said afterwards, “I found great pleasure in seeing the newcomers awesome smiles as they cut out the gingerbread men cookies and decorated them beautifully.”

After this session, some of the new people stayed for Bible study. Somehow in the discussion, we talked about the cookie making session, and they were impressed by what happened. We came to the conclusion that this amazing piece of work was done out of love. Love is the very thing that touches people's hearts. There is no barrier to love. Language is not a barrier to sharing love with others. Lillian and Allison do not speak Mandarin, but they are able to

*“This is so cute.
I have never seen a gingerbread men
cookie before.”*



Decorating their first Gingerbread Men cookies. PHOTO Marion Wong

share God's love with these Mandarin speaking people. We will continue this important ministry, to have more bridge



The group applauds Lillian and Allison. PHOTO Vivian Lam

*“I do not want to eat this very first
gingerbread men cookie that I made.
I will take it home
and show it to my child.”*

builders sharing God's love with the new people, building relationships with them and inviting them to church. ✠

2018 Spiritual Retreat Weekend

Pro Mundi Vita: Prayer Beyond Words

February 23–25 | Loon Lake Lodge & Retreat Centre | Maple Ridge, BC

Project Lead • The Reverend Eric Mason

Project Co-ordinator • Pamela McElheran

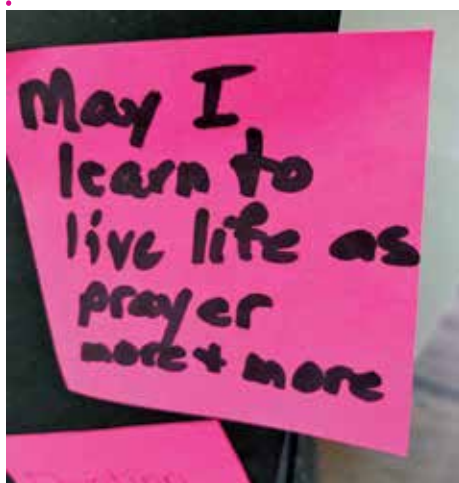
Anglicans are shaped by words. Our prayers and liturgies form us theologically and spiritually. So one might expect that a distinctly Anglican spiritual retreat would have lots of spoken words. *Pro Mundi Vita* does. The Daily Office—Morning, Mid-Day, and Evening Prayer plus Compline—undergirds this retreat. During the first two pilot weekends, several participants discovered the Daily Office to be new and refreshing. One remarked, “I’ve never done Compline before. I like it.” And at both retreats, participants found Morning Prayer to be particularly resonant and powerful.

But this retreat is also about Prayer Beyond Words. It uses the Ignatian practice of *lectio divina* as its paradigm. Through creative structured exercises, music, poetry and art, retreat participants experienced prayer as a way of listening to and resting in the presence of God.

The experience was deepened by small group dis-

cussion. Participants were given space to share their experience of prayer—where it's been meaningful or felt empty—and what their experience of God is like. One participant wrote, “That was the best part. I never get to talk about these things in my daily life.”

Participant Sharon McElroy wrote, “I came to the retreat hoping to deepen my spiritual experience with the Holy Spirit. From the first moments of the weekend to the final ringing of the bell, I felt safe, welcome and enriched. The material content of this retreat was well researched and presented. There were more ways to pray than I knew were possible through music, poetry, art, meditation and scripture. Each activity drew me deeper into my personal experience of prayer. I went home feeling renewed and enriched with many tools to move forward into a spiritual life and into life itself.” ✠



LEFT A personal reflection from a participant on the Retreat “Prayer Walk.” MIDDLE Group Reflections on an Icon of Jesus. RIGHT Retreat participants work silently on their prayer beads. PHOTOS Pamela McElheran

If you would like to participate in the final pilot project Retreat Weekend on February 23–25, 2018, please register by February 9 online at <https://tinyurl.com/formation-feb>.

Your subsidized \$30 fee includes all accommodation/meals/snacks. Our project sponsors—the Anglican Foundation of Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada and the diocese of New Westminster—generously subsidized retreat costs.

St. James' Music Series 2017 – 2018

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

viola da gamba: a Renaissance instrument with a rich, clear, and expressive sound.

While the viol originated hundreds of years ago, it remains part of a vibrant living tradition of professional and amateur players, composers, and enthusiasts. In this distinctive programme, five local musicians come together to explore the full potential of the instrument—from the rich relentlessness of J. S. Bach's *Passacaglia in C minor* and the playfulness of Christopher Tye's *In Nomine: Crye*, in which the instruments imitate the shouts of a street vendor, to the sheer joy of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Agnus Dei*, heard here in a new arrangement by local organist David Poon.

One possible translation of “*alio modo*” is “in another style.” The music presented in this concert casts a broad net, but the fundamental effect is sonorous, moving, and timeless.

The Choir of Royal Holloway, University of London

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 • 7:30 pm

The Choir of Royal Holloway is considered to be one of the finest mixed-voice collegiate choirs in Britain. The choir performs more than 50 concerts a year, and their recordings have attracted top reviews from major music publications.

The choir comprises 24 choral scholars whose schedule includes weekly services, concerts, international tours, recordings, and broadcasts. In addition, the Choir of Royal Holloway is the only university choir that still maintains the tradition of daily sung morning services.

The choir has toured most European countries, and has been broadcast on regional and national radio, and television all over the world. In the UK, BBC Radio 3 has produced live broadcasts of both liturgies and concerts. Last year, the choir toured the USA and Canada, including performances in the cathedrals of Toronto and Chicago, Cornell University and Grace Church, New York City.

The choir has sung at a number of high-profile events, including the 2014 Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall (live on BBC TV), an awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace, and they performed a new John Rutter commission for the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta in front of Her Majesty The Queen, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

St. James' is proud to present the Choir of Royal Holloway as they perform their first tour here on the West Coast.

Tickets are available for upcoming performances and can be found online at <https://stjames.bc.ca/st-james-music-series>. ✠

Unabashedly Embracing Joy

In Thanksgiving for the Life of the Reverend Dr. Donald Edward Grayston

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

*“To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?
They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘
We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.’*

*For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine,
and you say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking,
and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’
Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”*

Luke 7: 31–35

At 2 pm on the afternoon of November 15, 2017, the nave of Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) in downtown Vancouver was filling up quickly. The occasion was a public funeral service in Thanksgiving for the Life of the Reverend Dr. Donald Grayston.

Don grew up in Vancouver. He was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop William Coleman of the diocese of Kootenay on September 8, 1963, and to the priesthood, also by Bishop Coleman, on April 7, 1964. He served as Chaplain at Selkirk College in Castlegar and later as Rector of St. George, Rossland.

Don’s canonical residence was transferred to the diocese of New Westminster in 1977. Don served as rector of All Saints, Burnaby, from 1977 to 1985; priest-in-charge of St. Oswald, Port Kells, from 1999 to 2005; and priest-in-charge of St. Thomas, Vancouver, from 2006 to 2007. He was honorary assistant at a number of parishes including St. Philip, Dunbar; St. Agnes, North Vancouver; St. Margaret, Cedar Cottage; and St. Paul, Vancouver.

Don was also the Executive Director of the Shalom Institute and Coordinator of the Jubilee Community for Justice and Peace. He taught religious studies in the Department of Humanities at Simon Fraser University from 1989 to 2004, where he became the Director of the Institute for the Humanities. Until 2011, he was director or co-director of the Pacific Jubilee Program in Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction, which he co-founded.

Don had been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in 2000 and he knew that this illness would have a significant impact on his life and longevity. He died in hospice care on October 23, 2017, from causes related to the disease. Although the last year of his life was difficult he never succumbed to despair and in the words of one of his friends, Nan Goodship, “Don enjoyed and participated in almost every last lick of life.” In his final months, Donald’s son Jonathan lived with his father, cared for his needs and contributed to the management of a rota of 40 friends and relatives providing round the clock care and company (It was during one of these visit and care sessions in the early spring of 2017 that Cliff Caprani conducted the interview that was published in the Summer/June issue of *Topic* beginning on page 24). Don is survived by his daughter Megan and her husband Rick; his daughter Rebekah and her partner Mark; and his son Jonathan.

Nearing the scheduled start time of 2:30 pm, the church nave was nearing capacity, the casket had been escorted by pall bearers into the space connecting the narthex to the nave and the procession of cross, candles, and sanctuary party had gathered at the crossing. People continued to arrive and quietly stood in no particularly order in the narthex and the doorway as the procession began with the singing of the hymn, *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*.

Following the hymn, Christ Church Cathedral’s Dean and Rector, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott looked out at the standing room only crowd and said, “Donald loved a party.” This was met by a ripple of chuckles, and smiles appearing on the faces of people perhaps reliving a personal memory brought to the surface by the dean’s words. Dean Elliott then informed the congregation that the liturgy to follow would contain exactly what the Rev. Dr. Grayston had instructed in the nine page document that he had personally prepared.

Earlier in the day at 10:30 am a Funeral Mass was celebrated also at Christ Church Cathedral attended by Don’s family and close friends. As the public funeral was not a Eucharist, the central parts of the liturgy were The

Remembering and Honouring Don section, and the homily, participated in by his friends: Nan Goodship, Lois Huey-Heck, Douglas Christie and the preacher, the Rev. Martin Elfert, each sharing personal reflections about Don. Don’s younger sister, Helen Williams read a letter from a former student, Aurora Ratcliffe who was unable to attend. These rich stories painted the picture of a deeply spiritual person who lived life fully, was a committed friend and mentor and very much enjoyed his time here on the planet. Here are some selected paraphrases from the remembrances:

- At his funeral he didn’t want eulogies he wanted remembrances.
- When one was with Don one didn’t underestimate the energy of serious fun.
- He would openly tell his own stories of suffering, as well as joy.
- He loved his children and was very interested in their lives.
- When he believed in someone’s ability to do something his enthusiasm was infectious and that person would believe that “they can do it.”
- With all his giftedness, training and experience he was never superior.
- Don spoke and lived in superlatives.
- A beautiful, gentle man who listened and opened himself even if there was no chance of movement toward resolution... deep reciprocity.
- Unabashedly embracing joy.
- A priest through and through, a giver of the sacred.

The Rev. Martin Elfert, rector of Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in Portland, Oregon was the homilist for the funeral liturgy. His address, presented extemporaneously from the chancel platform included warm remembrances of Rev. Grayston and a thoughtful examination of the Gospel text, *Luke 7: 31–35 (printed above under the title and byline)*.

Rev. Elfert came to faith as an adult and subsequently began his path to ordination during his years attending Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. Prior to his conversion he met Donald Grayston and this is what he had to say about their meeting:

“I met Donald Grayston for the first time at a party almost a quarter of a century ago. And I remember it vividly. Don had this generous, playful, wise energy. And he had a wide smile to match it. You remember that smile: when Don smiled, he opened up his mouth to show an inch or more of gap between his upper and lower teeth. It was a smile that suggested he was on the verge of laughter, a smile the suggested he was about to let you in on a joke, a smile that suggested he was drinking in the beauty of the world. And while Don was appreciably older than most of the people at the party — I suppose he would’ve been in his early or mid fifties back then, eight or ten years older than I am now — he seemed entirely at home in the youthful spirit of that room.

I don’t know if it was that night at the party or shortly thereafter that I learned that Don was a priest. And that knowledge was an instance of cognitive dissonance for me, of confusion. I didn’t have anything to do with church back then, and on the rare occasion when I did think about faith, I reckoned that church was anti-intellectual, judgmental, humourless, and variously obsessed with and terrified of sex. When I read the news or turned on the TV, I constantly saw churches on the wrong side of the great moral issues of our time. What did it mean that someone like Don — who was fun and smart and compassionate — was a part of church? I started to wonder if there was more to faith than I had allowed.

Don Grayston engaged in evangelism, in other words, by being



The Order of Service, and the printed handout containing insights that Donald gathered, September 2013 in celebration of his 50th anniversary of ordination. He wanted to share these with those attending the service. The cover of the Order of Service bulletin is a semi-abstract portrait owned by Donald entitled *The Holy Man*. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Nan Goodship with the first address *Remembering and Honouring Don*. RIGHT Douglas E. Christie, PhD presents the fourth of the four *Remembering and Honouring Don* reflections. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Preacher, the Rev. Martin Elfert. PHOTO Randy Murray



Anna Baignoche singing *There is Love in the River*. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Prayers led by the Rev. Beth Hayward. RIGHT A Thomas Merton reading from the Rev. Dr. Angus Stuart. PHOTOS Randy Murray

out of the closet as a Christian and by being Don Grayston. He never handed me a pamphlet, never knocked on my door wearing a suit and tie, never gave me a lecture, never asked if I had found Jesus, never threatened me with hell. What he did was to live with

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IN MEMORIAM

Donna Lita Kirkpatrick, Priest

September 18, 1953 – November 11, 2017

The Reverend Donna Lita Kirkpatrick died on Saturday, November 11 at Vancouver General Hospital. Donna had been hospitalized prior, but her death was unexpected.

Donna was a cradle Anglican, who was raised in Montréal. Her home parish was St. Columba, Montréal. She was a very active lay person and lay reader in her parish and in the diocese.

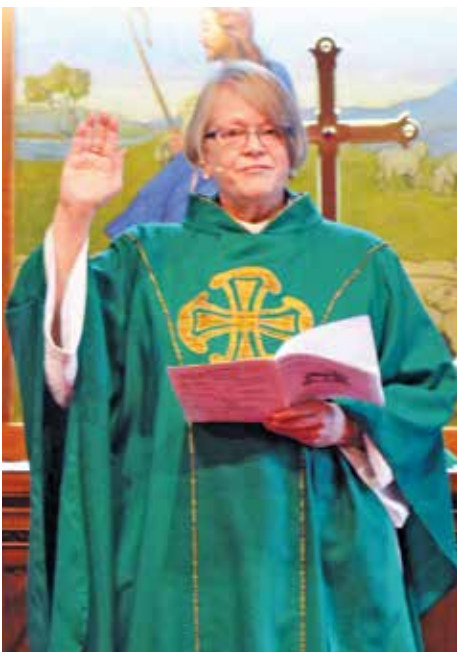
Prior to ordination, Donna served as a lay chaplain at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montréal; the Montréal Children's Hospital, Montréal; the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton; and the Alberta Hospital, Edmonton.

Donna received an Honours BA in Theological Studies, with a major in New Testament, from Concordia University, Montreal. She also had advanced standing in Pastoral Care and Counselling from the Canadian Association for Pastoral Care and Education.

Donna was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Ken Genge in the diocese of Edmonton on October 28, 1995, and to the priesthood, also by Bishop Genge, on October 18, 1996.

In the diocese of Edmonton, Donna served as curate at St. Timothy, Edmonton from 1995 to 1996; as rector of St. Catherine, Edson from 1996 to 2000; and on the Interim Ministry Team and as an itinerant priest. She also led the Alpha Course and was active in Cursillo. She was transferred from the diocese of Edmonton to the diocese of New Westminster in June 2006.

In the diocese of New Westminster, Donna served as honorary assistant at Holy



The Rev. Donna Lita Kirkpatrick shares the Peace of Christ at St. Augustine, Marpole during the Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist in 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray

Trinity, Vancouver, from 2006 to 2007; Priest-in-Charge at St. Edward, Bridgeport from 2008 to 2010; honorary assistant at St. Cuthbert, Delta from 2013 to 2014; and an assisting priest at St. Augustine, Vancouver. As a very active priest, Donna served as Sunday supply in many parishes in the diocese since 2005. Donna was also priest-associate of the Sisters of St. John the Divine.

At the time of her death, Donna held the Bishop's License as Anglican Chaplain, Vancouver General Hospital. She was

appointed there in May 2017. Donna was committed to chaplaincy throughout her lay and priestly ministry, and was active in the International Order of St. Luke the Physician. She also served as a chaplain to the Royal Canadian Legion, to Alcoholics Anonymous, and to various community mental health organizations.

Donna is survived by: her sisters Nancy and Kathryn; her brother Richard; Donald, her father; and stepmother, Lupe.

A Requiem Eucharist was celebrated at St. Augustine's, Marpole on Wednesday,

November 29. Bishop Skelton was the presider and the Rev. Al Carson was the preacher.

The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Anglican Chaplaincy at Vancouver General Hospital. Cheques may be made payable to "The Diocese of New Westminster" with "VGH Chaplaincy" in the memo line. A donation can also be made online at <https://pushpay.com/g/vancouveranglican?src=hpp>. On the Choose Giving Type tab choose "Anglican Chaplaincy to VGH." ✚

Russell Arnold Ferrie, Priest

February 5, 1927 – November 2, 2017

The Reverend Russ Ferrie died on November 2, 2017, in Vernon, BC.

Russ was raised in Saskatchewan and prior to his ordination he worked in farming and the hotel industry.

He received his Testamur, from Emmanuel College, University of Saskatchewan, in 1961 and was ordained later that year in the diocese of Saskatchewan.

Russ served as priest-in-charge at Loon Lake, Saskatchewan from 1961 to 1963; Shellbrook, Saskatchewan from 1963 to 1969; and Yellowknife from 1969 to 1973. He was also a chaplain at Yellowknife Correctional Institute.

In the former diocese of Cariboo Russ was rector of St. Peter, Williams Lake from 1973 to 1975.

Having transferred from diocese of

Cariboo to diocese of New Westminster in December 1975, Russ was appointed to the clergy team of Four Saints, Langley. In 1987 he was appointed rector of St. Andrew, Langley, continuing there until his retirement in 1992. He again served as a prison chaplain from 1990 to 1992. In 1985, Russ was appointed the Regional Dean, Yale Deanery.

Russ and Leona moved to Lumby, BC in 1992. He served as honorary assistant at All Saints, Vernon until his death.

Russ was predeceased by his wife Leona (2014). He is survived by his children Allyson, Jean, Kimberly, and Warren.

The funeral service took place Saturday, November 11, at All Saints Anglican Church in Vernon. ✚

Unabashedly Embracing Joy

In Thanksgiving for the Life of the Reverend Dr. Donald Edward Grayston

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

enough curiosity and generosity and compassion and joy that, like the woman at the next table in *When Harry Met Sally*, I looked at him and said: 'I want what he's having.'

Rev. Elfert went on to talk about his last in-person visit just after Christmas 2016, during a time when Don was in hospital:

"What I noticed in the hospital room — maybe you noticed this as well if you had the gift of visiting with Don over the last year or so — was that Donald Grayston, even deep into illness, was without bitterness. His focus was on compassion, on generosity, on kindness. Speaking with him, sitting with him, I was reminded of the poet Hayden Caruth who, late in his own life, said: 'Now I am almost entirely love.'"

Following the homily, Don's friend Anna Baignoche led the singing of *There is Love in the River*, encouraging all those in attendance to join her in a number of repetitions of the refrain.

As the liturgy moved into the commendation, prayers were led by Don's United Church Minister, the Rev. Beth Hayward (although he was an Anglican priest, Don often attended the United Church and divided his time during his last few years between the two churches). The prayers were followed by Frances Somerville's and Rupert Lang's *Affirmation of Faith*, the *Lord's Prayer*, the singing of the hymn *Guide Me O thou Great Jehovah*, and *The General Dance*, which is the final page of Thomas Merton's *New Seeds of Contemplation* (New York: New Directions, 1962: pp. 296–297) read by Merton scholar, the Rev. Dr. Angus Stuart, rector of St. Francis-in-the-Wood.

Prior to the Prayer of Commendation given by Bishop Melissa Skelton, Rupert Lang's *The Kontakion* was sung by members of Cathedral Choir, with the congregation joining in on the refrain:

Give rest unto your servant with your saints O God,
give rest, give rest,
Where there is neither pain nor sorrow,
neither sighing but life everlasting.

The Order of Service bulletin and a handout on cardstock



Bishop Skelton censes the casket. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Prayer of Commendation. PHOTO Randy Murray

were given to each person attending the funeral. The second handout shows a photo of Don on the cover, his arms outstretched, with a joyful smile on his face against the backdrop of Hollyhock on Cortes Island, one of British Columbia's Discovery Islands, which lies beyond the northern end of the Gulf of Georgia. Inside the handout are "some insights" that he'd gathered in September 2013 at the time of his celebration of 50 years of ordained ministry and wanted to share with those who attended the "Thanksgiving for Life" service. On the back is an excerpt from Sir Walter Raleigh's *The Passionate Man's Pilgrimage*. While on a pilgrimage in the UK Donald read these following lines on "most mornings" before setting out for a day's travel by foot:

Give me my scallop shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of glory, hope's true gage,
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

Blood must be my body's balmer,
No other balm will there be given,
Whilst my soul, like a white palmer,
Travels to the land of heaven;
Over the silver mountains,
Where spring the nectar fountains;
And there I'll kiss
The bowl of bliss,
And drink my eternal fill
On every milken hill.
My soul will be a-dry before
But after it will ne'er thirst more... ✚

.....
An audio recording and the text of the homily by the Rev. Martin Elfert is available online at <https://thecathedral.ca/sermons/rev-martin-elfert-donald-grayston-memorial>. It is highly recommended

A 45-minute film made by Cliff Caprani consisting of excerpts from the November 15, 2017 service is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/5oGlt78NZM>.

One Day I Walk

Fundraising Concert in Powell River for Mezgin’s Family

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The Rev. Ron Berezan and John Reilly open the show with three Cockburn tunes covering his 35 albums and 47 years of music making: *Lord of the Starfields*, *40 Years in the Wilderness*, and *Stolen Lands*. PHOTO Randy Murray

At 6:45 pm on Sunday, November 12, 2017, the sanctuary of St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church on Sycamore Street in the old town site section of Powell River, BC was packed to the walls and rafters. The scheduled concert wasn’t supposed to begin for more than half an hour and event organizers were bustling about with printer paper and Sharpies making “Sold Out” signs to attach to the church’s exterior. More than 200 people filled every seat in the nave, chancel and even in the glassed in quiet room, with more standing against the windowed walls of the church’s interior.

One Day I Walk was a tribute concert celebrating the music of Canadian artist, Bruce Cockburn, who recently released his 35th album, *Bone on Bone* and will soon be marking his 48th year in the music business. The concert concept was the idea of the Rev. Ron Berezan, deacon at St. David and St. Paul. Ron, who at his day job is the principal operator of *The Urban Farmer*— a company that designs permaculture and other environmentally friendly, responsible and sustainable gardens — is a singer, musician and a huge fan of Bruce Cockburn. Ron, with the support of his parish, his partner, Laura, his good friend from Victoria, John Reilly and local singer/guitarist/music producer Pat Buckna put together a first class event.

Ron’s entire life has been focused on the social justice messages of the gospels. This opportunity to do something that he loves; honour the career of an admired artist, and create an experience for the community that would not only delight and entertain but also raise much needed capital for the Kurdish/Syrian family who will be supported in their new lives in Powell River by members of the Parish of St. David and St. Paul was one that he entered into with energy and joy.

The concert was scheduled to begin between 7:20 pm and 7:30 pm but with the huge turnout, Ron greeted the audience at about 7:10 pm. He began by saying that this concert would be a fundraiser for “a family from across the world, offering them a safe haven and a new start” in Powell River. He spoke of how he was inspired to choose the music of Bruce Cockburn as the focus of the evening. Cockburn, in his music and in how he lives his life displays, “deep engagement and love for the world... Bruce urges us to be awake and to pay attention.” The messages in his music establish him as both “mystic and prophet.” To the uninitiated, Bruce Cockburn could be thought of as a folk artist, finger-picking or strumming an acoustic guitar while singing tunes over harmonically simple chord collations, however this is not entirely true, for Bruce Cockburn is a very good guitarist. Ron shared the oft repeated story of an interview with virtuoso guitarist Edward Van Halen who when asked by a reporter sometime in the 1980s “How does it feel to be the best guitarist in the world?” Eddie Van Halen replied, “I don’t know, you’ll have to ask Bruce Cockburn.”

After Ron’s greeting to the standing room only audience he introduced Lee Coulter, Outreach Chair of the Parish of St. David and St. Paul. In a direct and well-organized

“Part of the job of being human is just to try to spread light, at whatever level you can do it.”
Bruce Cockburn



Lee Coulter, Outreach Chair for St. David and St. Paul thanks the crowd for their support and generosity. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Mother/daughter vocal duo, Karin and Claudia Westland sing the concert title number, *One Day I Walk* supported by Geoff Allan. RIGHT Pat Buckna performed three Cockburn tunes and did a magnificent job patching his mics and mixer into the St. David and St. Paul sound system. The show sounded great. PHOTOS Randy Murray



After the half hour break for sweets and hot drinks the second set got underway with SoSiDo, a stylistically eclectic band in a polka/zydeco/folk/skiffle vein. They performed their renditions of two of the best-known Cockburn tunes: *Lovers in a Dangerous Time* and *If I Had a Rocket Launcher*. PHOTO Randy Murray

address he gave some background on the history of refugee sponsorship in Powell River. “In response to the Syrian crisis of 2015, an umbrella group, *Welcome Refugee Powell River* was formed and various churches began fundraising and working through their respective Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) credentials. As a result, two Syrian families came to Powell River in 2016 with the support of the local Catholic and Evangelical/Baptist churches. Following a recommendation from the Outreach Committee,

St. David and St. Paul’s Parish Council passed a motion in September 2015 to sponsor a refugee family. After various unsuccessful attempts to either partner locally or in the Lower Mainland, an application was made in December 2016 through the diocese of New Westminster as an SAH to sponsor Mezgin’s family. Special thanks goes to our diocese’s Dr. Shakuntala Soden and Shannon Muir, and to MOSAIC’s, Mustafa Ahmad.” He then read a note

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Embracing Jazz Vespers

New York Sets the Pace

PETER VANDERHORST

St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

Over the years Jazz Vespers services have enjoyed a great deal of interest and considerable support from church worshippers and

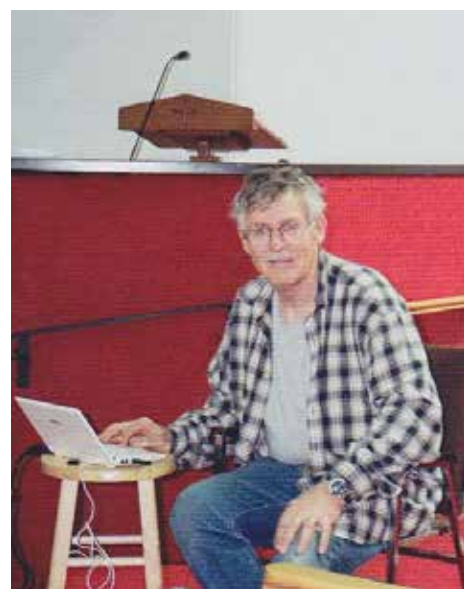
jazz aficionados alike.

They have taken root throughout the United States and are now also established



Well-known Vancouver singer, Don Stewart participates in Jazz Vespers at St. Stephen's at least once a year, usually in the spring. He will be back at St. Stephen's on February 25, to help celebrate Black History Month.

"...some church members were concerned that jazz music would attract a wayward, nightclubbing crowd to church. Pastor Gensel wasn't fazed. 'That's the kind we want,' he said. 'The good ones can stay home.'"



LEFT A scanned photo from a few years ago of the Rev. Ed Schmitt with his laptop getting the PowerPoint organized. RIGHT Peter Vanderhorst and his former choral music student, vocalist Sally Kemp on November 27, 2011. The tartans were in recognition of St. Andrew's Day. PHOTOS Courtesy of Janice Harvey and the Parish of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver



in many Canadian communities including Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, West Vancouver and Surrey.

It all began in New York City.

Upon noticing a connection between the spirituality of the church and of jazz improvisation, the late Rev. John Garcia Gensel started an evening service of prayer and jazz at 5 pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York in 1965. It was designed for musicians of his growing night ministry who found it difficult to attend Sunday morning services after playing late night engagements the evening before. Accordingly, he invited them to participate in *A Worship Service By and For Jazz Musicians... The Public Is Invited*. An interesting note has it that some church members were concerned that jazz music would attract a wayward, nightclubbing crowd to church. Pastor Gensel wasn't fazed. "That's the kind we want," he said. "The good ones can stay home."

St. Peter's Church, located on Lexington Avenue in midtown Manhattan, quickly became known as the *Jazz Church* when it turned into a church home for many musicians and their families. The legendary Duke Ellington was a frequent worshipper there, as were the likes of John Coltrane, Coleman Hawkins, Thelonious Monk, Billy Strayhorn, Charlie Haden and countless other jazz legends. Even today, after the passage of more than 50 years, the church continues to play host to a variety of musicians at their weekly services.

Duke Ellington, pianist Dave Brubeck, jazz singer Joe Williams and other renowned musicians even took it upon themselves to compose music specifically designed to support these services. Still other musicians had successfully started to adapt secular music to spiritual ends.

Vespers is a late afternoon or early evening prayer. As one of the nine "daily offices"

of the Benedictine monasteries, Vespers celebrates the lighting of the candles as evening approaches. It is a social gathering, probably a descendant of the ancient lighting of fires at the onset of darkness.

The great jazz pianist Bill Evans aptly called jazz "a social institution," a gathering of musicians to create, and contemplate the entity we call jazz. Jazz and Vespers, by their natures, call for us to be open and receptive, so it is natural for the two to be joined, to reflect and to soothe us. There is no teaching in a Jazz Vespers, only listening and perhaps some learning. But one impression never fails to make its mark—the darkness is held back for a while.

News of the poignancy and popularity of these services quickly spread throughout the city. It didn't take long for other churches in the country to incorporate them as part of their liturgical offerings.

At St. Stephen's, West Vancouver we introduced the service nine years ago at the suggestion of the Rev. Ed Schmitt, a fan of jazz music. When he learned that I had a jazz piano background he put me to work on hiring the musicians on a monthly basis. Strengthened by the Jazz Vespers ministry at St. Andrews-Wesley United Church in Vancouver that had been initiated by Rev. Gordon Turner, a musician friend from Lions Bay, back in 1992, I spread the word among jazz musicians and friends in the Lower Mainland. The rest, as they say, is history. We at St. Stephen's remain confident that our Jazz Vespers, appropriately promoted as *Worship and all That Jazz*, will continue to have far-reaching effects among music lovers and worshippers alike.

The first Jazz Vespers at St. Stephen's for 2018, will take place January 28 at 4 pm and will feature *Company B Jazz Band*, Vancouver's premiere vintage three-part vocal harmony group with instrumental accompaniment. ♣

One Day I Walk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

from Mezgin who is the principal applicant and the wife and mother of the Kurdish/Syrian family originally from the city of Qamishli (which shares the Turkish border with Nusaybin) destined to spend the next chapter of their lives as residents of Powell River. In that note she gave some recent history, paraphrased here in point form by Lee Coulter:

- Following increasing ISIS and sectarian fighting in the Qamishli area, fearing for their security, in February 2015, the family fled east to Iraq and settled in Erbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous area of Kurdistan where they applied for and received UNHCR refugee status and became part of the 5+ million Syrians who have fled their country and part of the ¼ million Syrians now living in Iraq.
- They are now caught up in the increasing tension between the Kurdistan and Iraqi governments, the former having conducted an overwhelmingly successful independence vote in September of this year. In retaliation the Iraqi government has closed the Erbil airport to all international

flights. The usual route for Mezgin and her family would have been from Erbil to Istanbul to Toronto to Vancouver and on to Powell River. For Kurds, flying out via Baghdad is very dangerous and access is restricted.

- Because of the Kurdish/Iraqi tension, the Canadian delegation in Amman Jordan is having difficulty making contact with Mezgin and family to complete the final health and security checks before issuing their flight tickets.

This challenging information, however, did not dampen the

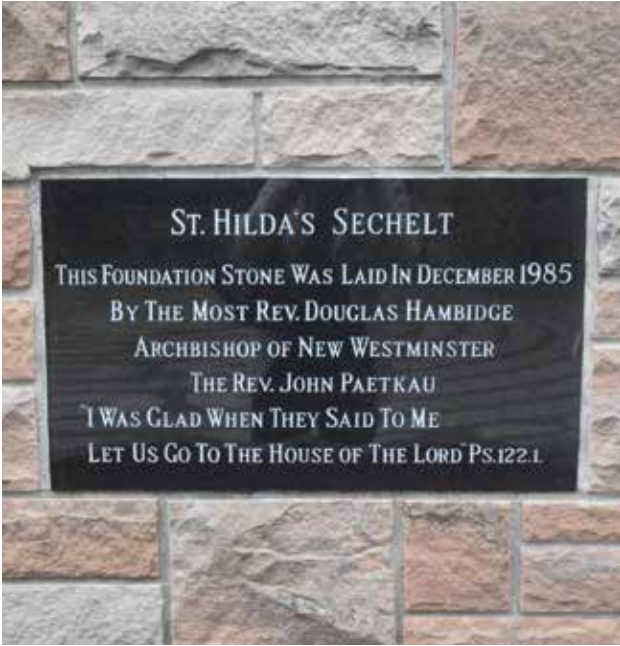
enthusiasm of the audience and the artists who performed. The concert raised \$3,400 for the soon to be arriving family.

The concert was divided up into two 45 minute sets with a half hour break for goodies and hot drinks downstairs in the church hall. A portion of the sweets were prepared by members of the two Syrian newcomer families now living in Powell River. Everything flowed perfectly from the opening numbers through to the finale, which featured every participant on stage leading the audience in a community singing rendition of *Wondering Where the Lions Are*. ♣



LEFT Ben Bouchard performed three Cockburn tunes; one of them was *Waiting for a Miracle* a song made popular by The Grateful Dead's, Jerry Garcia. RIGHT The Punk Rock Choir performs *Pacing the Cage*. PHOTOS Randy Murray





The Dedication Plaque. PHOTO Randy Murray



The west wall where the problem was discovered. PHOTO Randy Murray



Inside the sanctuary the scaffolding goes up to the top of the roof.



The entrance to St. Hilda's with the labyrinth, October 15, 2017. PHOTO Randy Murray

A Concrete Lesson of

Remediation of St. Hilda's By-the-Sea, Sechelt

RANDY MURRAY (WITH FILES FROM BRUCE MORRIS)
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Following some renovation work done to the exterior of the north facing wall last summer, it was discovered that the main walls of the church building that houses the Parish of St. Hilda's By-the-Sea, Sechelt were beginning to move outward and needed to be stabilized in order to prevent a catastrophic failure of the structure. According to the Ven. Bruce Morris, deacon of St. Hilda's and Archdeacon for Deacons of the Diocese of New Westminster, "One wall needed repairs due to water damage originating from the original 1980s design (no overhangs, inadequate gutters). When the contractor was finishing the repair, they noticed the wall was not plumb. An engineer was called in who identified the structural problem and recommended a non-occupancy order. The walls, where they meet the roof, had spread about 3.5 inches from plumb."

The ordained and lay leaders of St. Hilda's were informed on a Thursday that the building was not fit for public gathering and an emergency plan to worship in the hall that Sunday was put in place. Parish email, word of mouth, the St. Hilda's greeting team and a front-page article in the local paper served to quickly communicate the story about the church and the temporary worship location.

The discovery of the building's flaws was quite a surprise. Since the initial construction in the mid 1980s, there had not been any major concerns about structural flaws apart from the lack of rainwater management (a common problem for the west coast of British Columbia where many structures have been built in what is essentially a rainforest). The Building Committee of St. Hilda's engaged a General Contactor (GC), *Spani Developments* (a local builder) and site superintendent Ken Rushworth to do some investigation. The Building Committee appointed Archdeacon



Clarence shares the Peace of Christ. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Singing the Gradual Hymn during the Eucharist in the hall. RIGHT The Offertory. PHOTOS Randy Murray

The com



Top of the 30-foot ceiling peak. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Rector of St. Hilda's, the Rev. Clarence Li stands in the chancel beside the insulation removed from the ceiling. RIGHT An exterior view of the large north window. PHOTOS Randy Murray



f God's Protection elt

Morris as Project Manager because of his experience with commercial buildings and his large circle of commercial contacts.

The initial investigation involved emptying the sanctuary, installing scaffolding and removing drywall in strategic points to expose the main trusses and do accurate measurements. The scaffolding was extensive as it was necessary for the GC to reach the 30-foot high peak of the ceiling.

After the hard facts had been gathered, a number of ideas were considered to complete a temporary remediation until a permanent solution could be found. These included: installing temporary structural rods across the sanctuary to hold the walls together, to be replaced eventually by internal buttresses. After the engineering study, this proved to be impractical and very costly. As Ven. Morris reports, "...it became apparent that the costs of mobilization were so high and the disruption too great for this to make sense. Instead we decided to search for a permanent solution that could be achieved at this time."

And what is that solution? Ven. Morris continues, "We are using permanent cables strung from side to side and suspended from the peak. We are using stainless steel sailboat rigging, which is trim and attractive (especially to a sailor!). There are yacht services companies and metal fabricators from the lower mainland who will do the work."

Soon after the problem was discovered and the reality had become apparent that substantial work would need to be done to insure the integrity of the building, concerns were raised about the sight lines and the general ambience of the sanctuary. Ven. Morris agreed that this was an issue, however the cables will have an angle of 22.5 degrees above horizontal (the ceiling is 45 degrees) with a connection

point well above the sight lines to the north window, a large round window that looks out into the trees and is very much the focal point of the sanctuary. No matter where one sits they will have a clear view of the window. According to the rector, the Rev. Clarence Li this solution did not come about quickly or easily, "It took us four whole months and many meetings to come up with a remediation plan that would stabilize the building and be aesthetically pleasing."

At approximately noon, October 15, 2017, following a very well-attended Celebration of the Eucharist in the parish hall, there was a Special Vestry Meeting held to present motions that would propose access to St. Hilda's funds from the diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) in order to do the work. St. Hilda's holdings in the CTF are unrestricted so there was no need to make a request to Diocesan Council to free up the funds. The October 15 motions were carried, although there were some concerns voiced from Vestry members about the parish's ability to pay back the money needed to do the work to the parish coffers. When asked about this concern, Ven. Morris responded, "There is a large degree of confidence that the parish can handle the financial aspects of the project. Certainly having the money made available makes a big difference, but parishioners are also determined to replenish the funds so that St. Hilda's programs are not impaired going into the future."

St. Hilda's holds a special place in the Sechelt/Sunshine Coast community. There has been an outpouring of community support in the wake of this problem. During the Special Vestry Meeting, parish officers told the story of the architect who had been contracted for the project waiving his fee in memory of his mother who had just died. She had been aware of the issue and was very sympathetic to

the parish's plight. According to Ven. Morris there have been numerous examples of generosity from the greater community, "Various of the consultants have reduced their fees or donated their time to the project. The GC has donated the use of the scaffolding for the duration. St. John's United Church is lending space for our concert series *Musing Arising!* and many others from the community have asked how they can contribute."

When asked the question, "Where is God and the ministry of the church in this experience?" Rev. Li answered, "To begin with, the saints and the holy angels must have been carrying the load of our roof for some 30 years, since we now believe the structural issues may have existed since Day 1. It is really a moment of radical gratitude to realize that same church, which so many have taken so much enjoyment celebrating important passages of their lives, could have collapsed at any given point over the last 30 years. This is a concrete lesson of God's protection and an invitation for all of us to experience sanctuary and hospitality."

The work began on November 14, 2017. As of this writing in late November, the drywall has been removed and the work of installing wiring, and building a plywood ceiling are underway. When asked about a completion date, Ven. Morris replied, "I wish I knew. Completion is probably sometime in February."

Even with the amazing amount of support coming from those working on the project, early predictions are that the price tag could be well into six figures. With that in mind Rev. Li has asked that, "Our friends in the diocese of New Westminster consider supporting the cost of our remediation. Please visit our website for regular updates of the status of remediation at www.sthilda.ca." ✠

"...the saints and the holy angels must have been carrying the load of our roof for some 30 years, since we now believe the structural issues may have existed since Day 1. It is really a moment of radical gratitude to realize that same church, which so many have taken so much enjoyment celebrating important passages of their lives, could have collapsed at any given point over the last 30 years. This is a concrete lesson of God's protection and an invitation for all of us to experience sanctuary and hospitality."



The Special Vestry Meeting. PHOTO Randy Murray



Community shares the Peace of Christ. PHOTO Randy Murray



Moving the altar out of the hall in preparation for the Special Vestry Meeting. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Motion is carried. PHOTO Randy Murray

Islam 101 at 1410

RANDY MURRAY (WITH FILES FROM DONNA WONG-JULIANI & THOMAS ESAKIN)
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Approximately 80 clergy and postulants of the diocese of New Westminster joined Bishop Melissa Skelton and the Diocesan Ecumenical and Multifaith Unit (EMU) team consisting of: co-chairs, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz & Thomas Esakin and program coordinators, Donna Wong-Juliani and the Rev. Chris Magrega for the November 9 Clergy Day—*Islam 101*. The event took place from 9:30 am to 2:15 pm in the Conference Room at the Synod Office.

This *Islam 101* Clergy Day of learning, sharing, journaling and dialogue welcomed Dr. Seemi Yasmin Ghazi as the special guest facilitator, supported by the EMU Team. Seemi is a local Sufi teacher of Islam whose professional life is as a lecturer in Classical Arabic at the University of BC, with special interest in Islamic literature, culture and spirituality, and Islam and Gender. Seemi's life experience and professional knowledge bridges Islam from the east to the west. The focal point of Seemi's morning address to the diocesan clergy was a candid telling of her personal story and the role her faith has played in her life. Later, Seemi addressed a number of the issues shared by people of faith—from climate justice to gender equality to the full inclusion of all who seek the divine in faith communities. Unfortunately time was short and she was not able to cover as much material as she'd hoped, but the good news is that this is a first step and there could be more opportunities in the future. There were a number of Q&A sections and Seemi upheld her pre-conference promise that "all questions are acceptable—no questions are off limits!"

The experiential part of the conference included participation in the *salat*, the Muslim practice of ritual prayer performed five times a day. *Salat* is the most widely known Muslim practice by those who are not adherents to the faith.

A halal lunch consisting of delicious lentil soup, vegetarian and chicken dishes with rice was served to almost 100 people thanks to Imam Mohammad Shujaath Ali Nadwi and members of the Masjid ul Haqq of Vancouver. At lunch, a number of mosque members joined several of the table groups for discussion and sharing of ideas creating a Christian-Muslim dialogue experience. The visitors from the mosque were the *Lunch Hosts* and each table group discussed these three questions:

1. Please describe the role of religion in your life and its effects in the formation of your personality?
2. How do you see the role of your religion in inspiring its followers to work with other faith communities, especially in this age of pluralistic societies?
3. While children and youth are important to religious traditions, their presence is often less felt in religious places within our secular society. Do you have any reflections to share about this or ideas about how to address it?

The day included four intentional "Journaling Moments" enabling participants to write down their thoughts and reflections. An evaluation form was distributed which will be further studied by the EMU team and Bishop Skelton in order to plan future events and multifaith programming. Prior to a question period that included both Bishop Skelton and Dr. Ghazi, members of the EMU team handed out printed sheets containing lists of Sunni mosques, Shia mosques and Sufi meditation centres in the Lower Mainland as a way of guiding the clergy present toward future connections within their neighbourhoods.

At the end of the time with Seemi there was another experiential opportunity as the clergy formed a circle and chanted while Seemi offered a prayer song and a Sufi Dervish played a drum and practiced Sufi whirling, more specifically known by

the Turkish word *Semazen* a form of *Sama* (ceremony)—active prayer or meditation.

In the days that followed EMU member, Donna Wong-Juliani processed the evaluation forms that were filled out by 40 of the 75+ clergy in attendance and supplied *Topic*

with the following results:

First, over half of those who responded said the day "exceeded expectations," and more than half were particularly complimentary about Seemi's morning "storytelling" session. Comments like:

- "Seemi's presence, education, her wonderful storytelling and gracious response to questions."
- "Incredible sense of the holy in the incredible birth story."
- "...it was so much more meaningful than a lecture."

The other strong, positive theme was appreciation for the experiential nature of the day:

- "An opportunity to do the *salat*. Doing it was very different than simply reading about it."
- "The prayers and the dervish. Powerful."

And these kinds of comments were typical:
CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Dr. Seemi Yasmin Ghazi (Seemi) prepares for her presentations to the plenary. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Seemi tells her story. RIGHT The lunch was fantastic! Best spicy chicken ever! Here we see the skilled chef who prepared lunch for 100 people. He had begun cooking at 8 am and halfway through the process went to a doctor's appointment but still arrived with many large containers of delicious food in time for a 12:30 pm meal. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Christian-Muslim dialogues over lunch. MIDDLE EMU member, the Rev. Chris Magrega hands out the listings to the diocesan clergy. RIGHT Seemi and Bishop Skelton during the final Q&A. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The final Sama. PHOTO Randy Murray

care share

Recipients 2018 – 2019



Mary Lymburmer. PHOTO Don Lymburmer



A car full of Mobile Care Unit supplies is readied for distribution to homeless and vulnerable people on Vancouver's Westside. PHOTO Vicki Potter, ODNW

For more information about opportunities to give to *care + share* please contact diocesan Administrative Assistant, Rachel Taylor by email at rtaylor@vancouver.anglican.ca or call, 604.684.5306, ext. 220.

One time and recurring gifts credit card donations may also be made through the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca (please click either "GIVE" button found at the top and bottom of each page of the website) and select *care + share* from the "Giving Type" drop down menu. ✦

Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship and the Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry's Mobile Care Unit are the two organizations chosen by the Synod of the diocese of New Westminster on May 27, 2017, to receive proceeds from the diocesan flow-through-giving funding initiative, care + share from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. For this January 2018 issue of TOPIC we are grateful to Vicki Potter, ODNW for submitting this piece.

Humble Service with the Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry

WRITTEN BY Vicki Potter, ODNW
INTERVIEW BY Beth Vondette

The Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry serves homeless and vulnerable people on Vancouver's Westside, and is a new *care + share* recipient in the diocese of New Westminster. Recently, we sat down with a longtime volunteer with the Neighbourhood Ministry, Mary Lymburmer, a member of the St. Philip, Dunbar, who spoke with us about her role, some of the best moments she's had volunteering with the Neighbourhood Ministry, and what inspires her.

Mary is a nine year veteran with the Neighbourhood Ministry, serving in a variety of ways. She is the coordinator of the indoor and outdoor teams—about 30 volunteers who prepare and deliver care packets and fresh food weekly to our homeless neighbours. She is also the captain of one of these outdoor teams, so goes out to the streets once per month to offer care and companionship with a carload of teammates. Mary serves as an *Angel*, meaning she offers one-on-one assistance to individuals she meets. She helps them complete forms for housing, income assistance, bus passes etc., links them with medical services and accompanies them to appointments. One of her most rewarding jobs as an *Angel* is to support clients on move-in day, when someone is offered a home. She loves watching clients open the door of their home for

the first time.

Mary confides that she didn't jump into all of these roles at once. "My intention was to be involved with the paperwork or administrative side. I'm fairly good at not letting things fall through the cracks. I'm quite good at navigating bureaucracy and don't get daunted easily." Which is where her service began. Then, says Mary, "I guess I thought I wanted to meet with people and see how teams functioned, how our clients lived." Her motivation expanded when she began serving on an outdoor team. "To see how the same people look forward to seeing us every week. They congregate and wait for us at specific locations. It's increased my awareness of how many people are on the street and I'm pleasantly surprised at how friendly they are."

Some of the most poignant moments Mary has had over her years of service with the Neighbourhood Ministry? "Moving people forward into housing was what appealed to me," recalls Mary. "I began to attend a few breakfast events, where housing interviews were being held and final touches of the paperwork for housing applications were being completed. It was so inspiring to see city employees, BC Housing employees and the Neighbourhood Ministry team working together.

What was particularly striking was that if the team needed to locate an individual, a police officer would respond with, "I know where that person is," and go out to find them. The officer returned a short time later and was treating the individual with respect and kindness." More recently, in her role as an *Angel*, she helped a middle-aged homeless woman through the process of paperwork, interviews and moving indoors. She continues to visit her regularly as a source of support and friendship.

What inspires Mary to serve the homeless? Says Mary, "I stay motivated because I have the schedule. I've made the commitment to the Team, so I'd better go. And our clients are expecting and counting on us. Particularly on rainy, unpleasant days, I check myself—what might be a mild inconvenience for me, compared to living in the weather extremes without chance of shelter. There is no contest." She goes on to say, "My service, it's a matter of faith. Being called by the Gospel to help *all*. I've had a relatively easy ride in life with sufficient material circumstances, great education and wonderful parents. The Gospels call 'for those who have been given much, much is expected.'"

Mary gives much and experiences great reward in return. ✦

Islam 101 at 1410

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

- "It was very different from expectations, so I still have lots of questions about Islam, but I also have deeper understanding of a Muslim faithful life."
- "How we can help ourselves and our own parishioners with their engagement in observances and rituals in their Monday to Saturday lives?"
- "The sense of immersion in the life of Muslim followers was a wonderful experience that spoke to me in ways academic learning hasn't."

Bishop Melissa Skelton had this to say about the day:

"I found the Clergy Day on Islam to be both enlightening and refreshing—enlightening because we got to learn about Islam through a more experiential approach (to include our Halal Lunch), and refreshing in that the day was led by the Ecumenical Multifaith Unit of the diocese. We all got to see the capacity and creativity of our own in planning and hosting an important event for our clergy."

When asked to contribute a reflection for this article, EMU co-chair Tom Esakin provided the following words:

"While Christianity speaks of the 'workings of the Holy Spirit,' Islamic Sufism too understands the importance of our actions being guided by Spirit (Allah) and that we deeply apply this in practice. Thus, organizational plans operate more as guidelines; present until a Sufi teacher discerns the Spirit's direct promptings in their life at each moment. This approach opens the door to the unexpected, like the gift of a Sufi semazen (whirling dervish) finding his way in to our program to serve as a sacred prayerful close to the day. This way also opens the door to deepening in Holy acceptance, as what was expected is forgotten and what wasn't known suddenly is.

Trust in God. For some people these are words of make-believe, for many these are words of hope, and for a fewer souls this is a lived way of life. Trust in God becomes an embracing practice for EMU and others when working with people of faith from diverse religious traditions, whose ways and words differ from our own." ✦



Sufi semazen and Seemi singing. PHOTO Randy Murray




**Happy
New Year**
to all our donors.

Thank you
for making a difference!

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Book Launch • The Reverend Emilie Smith • SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt



Emilie's books on display at the Co-op Bookstore. PHOTO Margaret Marquardt

Speaking to a crowd of about 40 in Spanish and English at the Co-op Bookstore on Commercial Drive in Vancouver on the evening of Thursday, October 26, the Rev. Emilie Smith spoke tenderly and clearly about the people who are defending the land in the Chocó Region of Northern Colombia. This is the subject of her new book, *Bienaventuradxs—lxs que hacen la paz* currently only available in Spanish.

Emily is the rector of St. Barnabas, New Westminster and has been extensively involved in justice and peace work in Guatemala and throughout South and Central

America. She holds the honour of being the Chair of the Oscar Romero international liberation theology network. This is an international body of people working for justice and peace in their own communities in their Christian commitment.

Emilie also has extensive knowledge of the practices of Canadian mining companies throughout South and Central America and indeed throughout the world.

Emilie also travelled to Toronto this past November to promote the publication and distribution of the book in Eastern Canada. ✦

• St. James' in the Heart of the City • SUBMISSION Lucy Price

St. James' Anglican Church has participated in the *Heart of the City Festival* (HOTCF) for at least the last ten years, and 2017 was no exception. Between October 25 and November 5, the Downtown Eastside

(DTES) was buzzing with cultural events, community gatherings, and a sense of energy that permeated the entire neighbourhood. This year's theme was *Honouring Women of the Downtown Eastside*.



LEFT Honouring Women of the Downtown Eastside March by LJ Throstle. RIGHT Members of the St. James' Music Academy perform with members of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. PHOTOS Lucy Price



Artist Jeff Wilson with his painting *Shawl Dancer*. PHOTO Lucy Price

• Memorial Garden Blessed & Rededicated at St. Agnes' • SUBMISSION Stephen Muir

There was a lot going on Sunday morning, October 29 at the Parish of St. Agnes', located (since 1910) in the Grand Boulevard neighbourhood of North Vancouver.

The Feast of All Saints was transferred and celebrated, the newly renovated and upgraded commercial grade kitchen was blessed by the bishop, the Memorial Garden

was rededicated and also blessed by Bishop Skelton, the names of those whose ashes are interred in the St. Agnes Memorial Garden were read aloud as flower petals were cast into the garden as a sign of remembrance, and things got off to a delicious start with *Breakfast with the Bishop* featuring Shannon Muir's *Baked Eggs*. ✦



St. Agnes' assistant curate, the Rev Sharon Smith (left), and deacon, the Rev. Lizz Lindsay (right), assist Bishop Melissa at the St. Agnes altar during the Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Wayne Chose

St. James' own Pat McSherry spoke at the festival opening, and on Friday the Bargain Sale—run by the Women's Guild and volunteers—began at 10:30 am with a frenzied crowd queuing at the door in search of bargains. Everything from coats to slow cookers was sold in the hour and a half stint. Thanks to some generously low prices. Hundreds of people from the local DTES community came into the church in search of a bargain.

On the Friday evening the church was opened for a *pop up* art show for two days, showcasing local artists and works honouring the women of the DTES. This is the second time St. James' have run the art show as part of HOTC and it is a great way for people to come into the church, take a self-guided tour and connect with the clergy and lay leadership.

Worship and Music also featured heavily, with the St. James Music Academy (SJMA) playing alongside members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) and the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra on the evening of November 1. The SJMA had the opportunity to play with NAC as part of their 150 Cross Canada Tour, and it was a joyful occasion to see the children perform with pride and confidence to a packed church with these dedicated musicians.

Fabiana Katz (mezzo soprano) and Stephen Smith (piano) performed as part of the St. James' music series on October 29 and at the All Souls Mass on November 2, which brought the community together to pray for the dead. This was a particularly moving evening of music and prayer, given the many deaths the DTES community has suffered as a result of the opioid crisis.

The HOTC reminds us that there is hope and a real sense of community here in Canada's poorest postal code, and it is good for us to be here. If you haven't come across the HOTC Festival before you can learn about it at www.heartofthecityfestival.com. Maybe we'll see you there next year! ✦



The Rev. Sharon Smith (left), Katy Dobyns (with cross), and server Kathy Campbell, ODNW assist Bishop Skelton as she rededicates and blesses the St. Agnes Memorial Garden. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Folks at Breakfast with the Bishop. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Archdeacon Stephen Muir holds an Anglican Foundation plaque to commemorate their funding assistance for the renovated kitchen project at St. Agnes. Bishop Melissa blessed the new kitchen during her All Saints Day visit to St. Agnes on October 29, 2017. The bishop is joined by her friend, Katy Dobyns. PHOTO Wayne Chose

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Happenings at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

Last fall was a busy season for the members of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, West Vancouver. The highlight was the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the opening

• Remembrance Day Observance • at St. Michael's Care Home

SUBMISSION Lilian Elliott

During the afternoon of Wednesday, November 8, the Rev. Capt. Gordon Barrett, deacon at All Saints', Burnaby and Regional Dean of Royal City/Burnaby was the guest speaker for a Remembrance Day Observance at St. Michael's Care Home and Hospice. ✦



The Rev. Elliott, the Rev. Capt. Barrett and Angie Martinez, Senior Operations Leader of St. Michael's. PHOTO Judy Finch (St. Paul's Foundation)

of the "new" church on June 11, 1967. Over 75 people attended and focussed on the memories of their time in the old church, and the excitement of being part of the design of the new one. A table filled with historic photos was a central attraction that became a place to recognize members who were at the original dedication. During the service, the rector, Rev. Jonathan Lloyd asked these people to surround the table and to be acknowledged by the congregation. After prayers were said in thanksgiving, luncheon was served in the lounge.

Later that week Jazz Vespers featured Nick Apivor & Re-Vibe band on October 29. This very popular feature of Sunday worship at 4 pm takes place once a month and is organized by Peter Vanderhorst. On November 19, Laura Crema and the Kris-

tian Braathen Trio led the music beginning with *Without a Song*, which led into the worship service of a scripture reading, a reflection led by Rev. Lloyd, and prayers. *He's got the Whole World in His Hands* was the vesper song, in which the entire congregation joined in. It was led by Peter Vanderhorst at the grand piano. As this report is written in late November we can't share details of the upcoming performance on December 10 of the very popular, Mighty Fraser Big Band. More to come on that in future.

The church choir, under the leadership of Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, had its weekly Thursday rehearsals and performances at Sunday services amply rewarded by the invitation of John and Ruth Brock for lunch after the Sunday service on October 29. As

the couple live on Eagle Island (a 5 minute small boat ride from the mainland) the luncheon became a travel experience with a holiday atmosphere.

The St. Stephen's Community Choir was initiated last year under the team of Dr. Paetsch as the accompanist and Douglas Lau as the conductor. There are no membership fees. The choir meets once a week on Thursday afternoons at 4:30 pm, and so far has performed at the Remembrance Day service on November 12. The members have varied skills, but the ability to read music is not required. As of this writing the choir is scheduled to perform at care homes during the Advent season. ✦

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An article by Peter about the roots of Jazz Vespers is published on page 9 of this issue of Topic.

• Interim Ministry Training •

Prepared with files from Tasha Carrothers

edge to delve deeply into the "seven tasks of the interim." Bishop Skelton's goal was to equip the 14 participants with the skills needed to engage these tasks, as follows:

1. Increase parishioners' sense of predictability
 - a) Goal setting
 - b) Vision for interim: Biblical story or story from the tradition or history of the parish
 - c) Shared expectations between interim and wardens/parish council
2. Build relationships between interim and parish and among parishioners with each other
3. Bringing practices into alignment — where important and essential — when it

comes to Diocesan policy and practice (also called "norming")

4. Assist the parish in getting in touch with its "data" and story
5. Activate participation
6. Increase transparency
7. Maintain or build the quality of the total Sunday morning experience

Bishop Skelton, Tasha and the participants enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to implementing these "tasks" and seeing positive results in faith communities where interim ministry is currently part of the parish's reality. ✦



The Rev. Stephanie Shepard, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John's, Port Moody, Regional Dean of Tri-Cities/Burnaby; the Rev. April Stanley, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby; the Rev. James Duckett, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's; the Rev. Ruth Monette, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Timothy; and the Rev. Sharon Salomons, Assistant Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Catherine, Capilano, Director for Diaconal Formation, diocese of New Westminster. PHOTO John Sovereign



The Rev. Grant Rodgers, Vicar, Christ the Redeemer, Director for Anglican Formation, Vancouver School of Theology (VST); the Rev. Allen Doerksen, Vicar, St. Matthew and St. Thomas, Chilliwack; and standing at the easel, the Rev. Karen Urquhart, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Christopher's. PHOTO John Sovereign

DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT



Registration is now open for the Week-long Program

The Week-long Program will return to the Vancouver School of Theology with accommodation in Walter Gage Tower at the University of BC. The 2018 dates for this program are June 10–16.

Tuition is \$800 for participants from our diocese.

Lay participants can apply for bursaries of up to half of the tuition costs.

Registration for the 2018 Weekend Program taking place January 26–27, May 11–12, September 7–8, and November 16–17 at the Synod Office closed on December 29, 2017.

The 2019 Weekend Program dates will be circulated as they become available.

Visit the school's pages on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/parish-development/school-for-parish-development for current program, registration and contact information.



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord •

The Rev. Scott Gould, rector of St. Helen's, West Point Grey holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of BC (UBC). During his time at UBC he studied guitar, voice and composition. As a youngster he was a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria and has been very active in choral music for most of his life. He is also a skilled guitarist/singer/songwriter and performs both as a solo artist and currently as a member of *The Story Men*.

In the fall of 2016, he began working on a version of *Magnificat*, Mary's Song of Praise, *Luke 1: 46–55*. He was intrigued with the idea of writing a piece for a soprano solo and acoustic guitar that would contain components of contemporary folk combined with traditional sacred music. The text he used is from the King James' version of the Bible with some minor tweaks, and Scott admits that he is quite happy with how the King James' language blends with the folk idiom. He also began developing a choir score to accompany the solo voice and guitar. The piece was largely completed but still unfinished at the time that St. Helen's director of music, Kevin Zakresky suggested that Scott write something special for the very popular St. Helen's *Family Christmas Carol Sing-along Concert*. Kevin has enjoyed the liturgical music that Scott has composed in the past and often encourages him to do more.

Luckily the parish of St. Helen's counts as one of its members 17 year old Ali Powell. Ali is a student at Crofton House School where her mother Anne Bonnycastle is the Senior High School's music instructor. Ali is very involved in dance as a major part of her extracurricular activities and has no formal voice training, although admits to some



LEFT Ali Powell and Rev. Scott Gould take some time from rehearsal to smile for a photo. RIGHT Ali, Dr. Kevin Zakresky and Rev. Gould during rehearsal. PHOTOS Randy Murray

coaching from her mother. We at *Topic* were fortunate to be invited to attend a rehearsal on November 21 to hear Ali and Scott preparing the piece. Ali is a fabulous soprano, possessing a full rich voice, excellent pitch and an understanding of phrasing and dynamics that belies her young age.

With Ali on board, and the support of the director of music, Scott completed the choral score and added organ accompaniment.

As this article was written in late November the performances have not yet occurred, however the plan is that the



solo voice and guitar version will be offered as part of the music in worship at the 10 am, December 3, Advent I Celebration of the Eucharist. The full version—soprano solo, guitar, choir and organ—will be performed at the *Family Christmas Carol Sing-along Concert* on Sunday, December 17 at 7 pm. And, at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, worshippers will hear the soprano solo and guitar, with the choir joining in on the *Gloria* version.

More coverage of the premier of this composition will be available on the news pages of the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican/news. ✦

• Clergy & Staff News •

Caitlin Reilley Beck, formerly the Diocesan Missioner for Children, Youth and Families, resigned her position effective December 31, 2017. Caitlin began her position with the diocese on December 1, 2014. She will continue to work as a consultant while pursuing other passions and interests. Due to vacation time owing, her last day in the Synod Office was December 5. We wish Caitlin well in her "next chapter."

The Rev. Clare Morgan has been appointed as Chaplain to St. Jude's Home effective November 22, 2017. Clare succeeds the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo.

The Bishop has contracted with the Rev. Andrew Halladay to be the new Leader of the Diocesan School for Parish Development. Andrew will continue in his ministry as vicar of St. Augustine's, Marpole and took up this additional role effective January 1. He succeeds the Rev. Marnie Peterson who leaves the Synod Office in order to focus more fully on her ministry at St. Brigid's congregation (Christ Church Cathedral) and to spend more time with her family. Marnie has asked that we let all of you know how grateful she has been for the opportunity to work with so many of

the people and the parishes in this diocese over the years.

On December 31, 2017, Director for Stewardship and Planned Giving for the diocese of New Westminster, Glen Mitchell retired after 14 years of service. Glen will stay active in his parish of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, and also in the diocese, province and national church as a consultant, delegate to the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon and delegate to General Synod 2019. You will find an in depth feature interview with Glen on page 19 and the back page of this issue of *Topic*. ✦



LEFT Caitlin Reilley Beck. MIDDLE LEFT The Rev. Clare Morgan. MIDDLE RIGHT The Rev. Marnie Peterson. RIGHT Glen Mitchell. PHOTOS Wayne Chose



The Rev. Andrew Halladay. PHOTO Randy Murray

• New Director for Mission & Ministry •

The Bishop has appointed the Rev. Tellison Glover, DMin, as Director of Mission and Ministry Development for the diocese effective January 16, 2018. Fr. Glover comes to us



The Rev. Dr. Tellison Glover. PHOTO Courtesy of Tellison Glover

from the diocese of the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fr. Glover was born in Nassau, Bahamas. From humble beginnings he grew up in the St. Cecilia constituency in Nassau, Bahamas, more commonly known as "The Grove." Up until his young adult life he attended St. Barnabas Church where he served as an altar server until he left for seminary at the age of 19.

In 2006, Fr. Glover graduated from the University of the West Indies where he read for the Bachelor of Arts in Theology. He was ordained a deacon in 2006 and priested the subsequent year. Holding to two diplomas, one in Education and the other in Pastoral Studies, he saw the need to pursue further studies and in May 2013 completed a doctorate in Leadership and Congregational Development at Nashotah House Theological Seminary.

He has served three parishes—as the assistant curate at the Pro-Cathedral of Christ the King, Freeport in the north and as rector of St. Philip's Parish, Great Inagua, and now as the rector of the Church of St. Monica.

Fr. Glover's personal purpose statement is, "to seize life with passion and drive; to make a difference in the world and to empty oneself of every God given 'gift and vision' before leaving this world." His personal creed is, "Informed by history, transformed by destiny, conformed to His will." ✦



Many thanks to Paulette Farquhar of St. Matthew's, Abbotsford for sending this photo from Bishop Skelton's episcopal visit to the parish on November 19. During Bishop Skelton's children's talk a young member of the parish (who had been sitting with her twin in front of the bishop) got up and went and sat on the bishop's lap. PHOTO Erica Thiessen

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• ODNW Information & Nomination Forms for 2018 Now Available •

In May 2016, Diocesan Council passed a motion amending Canon 22, the Canon relating to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW). Beginning in 2016, new members to the ODNW will be nominated and invested every two years. The next Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster will take place Saturday, November 3, 2018, at 10:30 am at the Massey Theatre in New Westminster.

The *Parish Nomination Information for 2018* document and the *ODNW Parish Nomination Form for 2018* are now available on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/the-odnw.

Details regarding eligibility criteria are available in the documents and nominations may be made by any member in good standing of a parish to the rector or priest-in-charge. All nominations are reviewed and approved by the rector or priest-in-charge who, in consultation with the wardens, will choose not more than one nominee, and forward that name to the Bishop. The nomination form must be completed in full, and must be accompanied by the \$35 processing fee and a photograph of the nominee. The completed form, fee and photo must be received in the Bishop's Office not later than

April 30, 2018. Nominees will be notified by the Bishop's Office after the completion of the nomination process in June or July. Rector, priests-in-charge and wardens will also be notified.

Each parish may nominate one person in 2018.

Please contact Bill Siksay, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop's Office at bsiksay@vancouver.anglican.ca or call 604.684.6306, ext. 228 with questions or for more information. ✚



• Music that Makes Community •

On February 23 and 24, 2018, *Music that Makes Community* is coming to our diocese courtesy of Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and Bishop Skelton.

The evening of Friday, February 23, will feature a community sing at St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) and on Saturday, February 24, 2018, you are invited to a day-long workshop to equip clergy, musicians and others involved in the planning and leading of music in the use of paperless music (music for the human voice that is not dependent on books, inserts, etc.). This

is an important opportunity for anyone wanting to develop the musical life of their parish.

The Friday Night Sing at SJS is free admission.

Admission is also free for the Saturday workshop but registration is required. Please visit the following link to register online: www.musicthatmakescommunity.org/mmc_in_vancouver.

There is a lot more information about the events on the registration site. ✚



All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration as content for Topic.

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca.

All contributions are appreciated • Editor

Deadline for Topic Submissions

January 19 for the March issue

& February 23 for the April issue

spirit(us)

Exploring pathways to art, earth, and us

An evening with
Kiya Tabassian
from Ensemble Constantinople

Saturday, Feb. 24
8pm

An intimate hour of conversation and music, followed by a reception and chance to meet the artist. This evening is made possible by the generosity of Dr. Stephen Drance & family.

• Kiya Tabassian/Ensemble Constantinople Concert •

SUBMISSION Alex Wilson

The Parish of St. Anselm's are proud and pleased to announce a new concert series in partnership with Early Music Vancouver called *Spirit(us): Exploring the pathways to art, earth, and us*.

Founded in the vision and generosity of Dr. Stephen Drance and his family, the program seeks to engage in the creative development, or "spirit" that drives the craft associated with world-renowned artists, and our own role in that work in our lives. Our evenings include conversation and performance in our intimate setting at St. Anselm's (5210 University Boulevard, across

from the University of BC Golf Course), which is followed by a reception and chance to meet the artists directly.

The second concert in the series features Kiya Tabassian — composer and performer of Persian music, *Ensemble Constantinople* — on Saturday, February 24 at 8 pm (doors open at 7 pm).

Concert admission is by donation with tax receipts available for donations of \$20 and more.

Reservations are necessary so please email office@stanselms.ca to confirm attendance. ✚

• Mission Conference • Keynote Speaker •

The diocese of New Westminster has contracted with Lillian Daniel (*photo right*) to be keynote speaker for the second bi-annual diocesan-wide mission conference scheduled for May 26, 2018, at the Musqueam Cultural Centre in southwest Vancouver.

More information will be posted as it becomes available on the Mission Conference 2018 pages of the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/mission-conference-2018-may-26.

Lillian Daniel is a preacher, teacher, writer, and speaker whose honesty and wit have taken her from the National Cathedral in Washington, DC to the Festival of Homiletics in Denmark. Wherever she goes, Lillian brings a deep understanding of scripture and how it can be practically applied to everyday life.

Featured in the *New York Times* and on PBS, her words have been described as biting, hilarious, pitch perfect, tender, and often stunningly beautiful.

Her most recent book, *When Spiritual But Religious Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church* (Jericho, 2014), makes a provocative case for why religious community matters. Earlier books further explore Lillian's commitment to making religious life real. *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of two Ministers* shares stories about ministry from the inside. And *Tell it Like it is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony* tells the story of one church's attempt to get people to talk to each other about, of all things, God.

As an editor at large for *The Christian Century Magazine*, and a contributing edi-



tor at *Leadership Journal*, Lillian's words and work can be found in *The Huffington Post*, *Christianity Today*, *Relevant Magazine*, *Books and Culture*, *The Journal for Preachers*, as well as in the United Church of Christ's daily email devotionals that boast over 20,000 subscribers.

She has taught preaching the University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago Theological Seminary, and Yale Divinity School, where she received the 2010 distinguished alumni award for "Distinction in Congregational Ministry." Equally comfortable in convention centers, classrooms, lecture halls and church pulpits, Lillian has spoken at: Duke Chapel, Princeton; Seminary King's College, London; and Queen's University, Ontario.

After leading three churches, most recently as Senior Minister of a 1,400 member church outside Chicago, Illinois, Lillian is currently devoting herself full time to writing, speaking and procrastination. ✚

Once Upon a Time & Always

Scripture for Reflection • Matthew 2: 13 – 23

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; Former Rector of Christ Church Cathedral & Dean of the diocese of New Westminster

One of the Primate's Fund Christmas cards for 2017 shows a line of refugees. One of the archetypal images of the last few years has been of men, woman, and children moving across borders — even across oceans — in a desperate search for a livable life, even for life itself.

It's easy to forget that the decent, faithful man we know as Joseph had to make the searing decision to trust his family to a dangerous journey if their new born son was to survive the death squads of Herod. Joseph had only to look east from Bethlehem to the Herodium, the great looming fortress of Herod only four miles away. They had no choice. They had to become refugees.

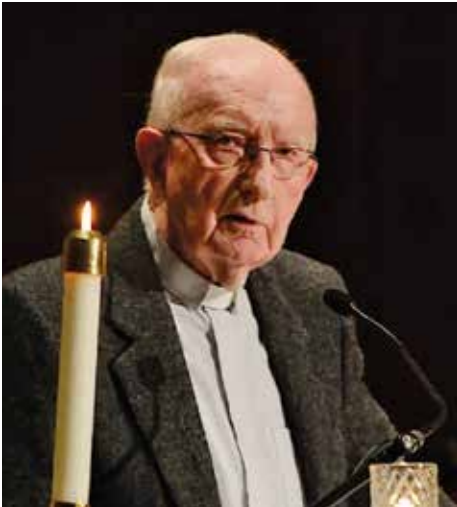
We know a great deal about Herod. He was an immensely significant and powerful force far beyond the borders of his small country. Because he had married

into one of the vast fortunes of the time he had resources. He financially backed Mark Antony in the struggle for the Empire after the assassination of Julius Caesar.

So let's imagine something in that long ago world. Let's imagine that somewhere on

the northern Sinai border with Gaza there was an Egyptian custom post on the north/south highway known as the Way of the Sea. Suppose the local custom officer has just had a letter from headquarters in Alexandria about a couple with a child who had come

through some weeks before. Suppose this custom officer, like many minor officials in a distant posting, feels that head office has no idea of the realities out on the edge of empire. Suppose he sits down to write a letter. Might it have been like this...



The Rev. Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll. PHOTO Randy Murray

*To Amen Ho Tep,
Chief Commissioner of Immigration*

Greetings, Your Excellency,

Many refugees move through this post. Most are on their way to Alexandria where, as you know, there is a large Jewish community. Most are fleeing what is a vicious regimen. It survives only because of some grim realities.

There is a large underclass that is becoming more and more impoverished, and a rich mercantile and landowning class that supports the regime of Herod. He survives by the presence of an occupying Roman force.

A series of megaprojects across the country, mainly defence installations, provides jobs in a purely artificial way. A well-paid Herodian para-police force has infiltrated the population and stifles any signs of dissent. Because Herod is aging and ill, he is paranoid about the possibility of a claimant for power. He has already killed more than once even in his own family circle.

The family you write about were interviewed, as are all who arrive here at the border. They had fled their village just in time to escape a massacre of children. The father would not say how he had been warned. They had come south over the hills, then, to avoid possible pursuit, they skirted carefully along the edge of the desert.

When interviewed it was obvious they had brought almost nothing with them. The woman was in her late teens or

early twenties, the man about ten years older. Their child was just a few weeks old.

They had no documents and almost no money. They were fortunate that your new immigration policies had not yet reached us here to be implemented. Those changes, had we known about them, would have meant this family would have been denied entry. In this case they were allowed to proceed.

They said that they were heading for Alexandria where they had extended family and so would get help in settling. The man hoped to get a job with his carpentry skills. They said that like many in their situation they would check out conditions at home from time to time by questioning later arrivals or risking the odd careful letter. When questioned about their length of stay in Egypt they said that if conditions in their own country improved, or if the regime changed, they would probably try to return.

My overall impression was of decent honest people who will make good citizens if they decide to settle in Egypt.

*With respect, Your Excellency,
Sinube, customs officer in Northern Sinai ✠*

May You Be Blessed On This Great Day

GILLI MCLAREN

All Saints' Mission

Uncle Joel (Dr. Joel Isaacs) was a brilliant surgeon, and his many patients at the Leprosy Hospital revered him, as second only to God. But he was a humble man, a faithful follower of Christ. He committed his life to serve people suffering from a debilitating disease as dreadful now as it was in Biblical Times. He learned his surgical skills at the feet of the legendary Dr. Paul Brand, a gifted missionary surgeon, whose bequest to the medical world was the "tendon transfer" technique he developed to correct the locked tendons in the hands and feet of those suffering from leprosy.

He and his gracious wife, also a physician (Aunty Mona to us), managed and cared for the Leprosy Mission hospital located at a small town, across the river, on the outskirts of the holy city Allahabad in Northern India. This city stood at the confluence of two scared rivers, the Ganga and the Jumna, and had therefore acquired an aura of holiness and a place of pilgrimage for the devotees. But the leprosy asylum, as per compulsions of the society had to be situated far away.

Christmas season at the Naini Hospital, a home for the homeless, the rejects of the family and society was a time of great joy and happiness. The patients made their own buntings with colored tissue paper, not an easy task, when one's fingers, or hands, or toes and even feet may be missing; things that we take for granted without giving it a second thought.

There was carol singing, loud and almost Bollywood style. But the highlight of these Christmas festivities was the nativity play, they had scripted, and was presented in a

serialized format for three long evenings—I think they made up parts of the narrative

as their play unfolded, their creativity only limited by their imagination.

*"Baraa Din Mubarak...
May you be blessed on the BIG day."*



Gilli McLaren. PHOTO Harold Vos

One of their presentations involved the fictitious *Fourth Wise Man* who never quite made it to Bethlehem in time! Throughout the duration of the play hot Chai and Samosas were enjoyed by all, so welcome when it was very cold.

On Christmas Day Uncle and Aunty would go from room to room, exchanging gifts and some of the leprosy patients would offer handicrafts and woven baskets on which they had labored painstakingly for many months. Christmas greeting and gifts were exchanged with so much love and affection

A word about the Christmas greetings: It was not the casual sterile "Happy Christmas" or the more animated "Merry Christmas;" rather it was a greeting in Urdu "Baraa Din Mubarak;" literally translated, it would mean, "May you be blessed on the BIG day." Does not make sense because December 25 is amongst the shortest days in the year, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. Perhaps a better translation would be "May you be blessed on this Great Day." Why "Great?" Because the reference is to the Incarnation that it is a "great day" to remind us that God became flesh and dwelt amongst us.

It was a powerful moment to go from one room to the other, to be greeted with the salutation, "Baraa Din Mubarak" hands, some mere stumps raised in affirmation and smiles sometimes toothless reflecting the lasting joy in their eyes.

It was a happy time.

And so at this Epiphany time, "Baraa Din Mubarak," may you, and all those you love be blessed on this Great Day. ✠

Sharing God’s Abundance

Interview with Glen Mitchell

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On December 31, 2017, Glen Mitchell, Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving for the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster will retire after 14 years of service. When he came to the diocese to begin work he brought with him skills in: fundraising, campaign management, not-for-profit management and process, wills and estate planning—to name a few.

Glen was and remains a committed person of faith. At St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale he has been a member of that community for 42 years and during those years has often served in leadership roles like being a warden, a member of parish council, an Eucharistic Minister, intercessor, reader and greeter. He participated in two capital campaigns at St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale.

In recent years he has dedicated himself to that parish’s continuing ministry of compassionate service bringing aid and support to the people of the Northern Triangle, including El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Glen has become deeply involved in this ministry and is now on the Board of Directors of Cristosal, a collaboration born in the year 2000 between Episcopalian clergy in the US and El Salvador as a way for individuals and churches from North America to share relationships and resources with the Anglican Episcopal Church of El Salvador. These resources were focused on the pressing need for justice and human rights in that country after the civil war ended in 1992, and is still reeling from that conflict and from exploitation by corporations and foreign governments. He has asked that if any parish wants to make a gift to mark Glen’s retirement, a cheque marked for Cristosal, made out to St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale will be appreciated.

Before he worked for the diocese he was a volunteer there. He served on the Diocesan Council for many years, the Communications Committee and the SIA (Stewards in Action) Committee.

During his years at the diocese he has continued to improve his skills, pursuing professional development opportunities by attending workshops and seminars and also participated in the studies of theology and parish development, receiving a Masters of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) from Vancouver School of Theology (VST) in 2010 and a diploma from the Diocesan School for Parish Development in 2013.

Glen is also a skilled sailor and shared his skills during many summers with campers at Camp Artaban. He plays the piano and enjoys walking and bicycling around the city of Vancouver where he lives.

Glen has been a regular contributor to Topic and diocesan communications over the years and he agreed to participate in this interview and share some of his thoughts on the Church, fundraising, strategic planning... and the future.

Q. Looking back on your education, training and experience what do you think best prepared you for working in the church?

A. Being patient is the right answer. I learned to be patient, taking my first degree by distance education. In those days the Internet did not exist so you’d have to wait for assignments to return by Canada Post after sending them off to the professor. Sometimes, I waited a long time. The reason patience is important is because the church is a ponderous beast that takes a long time to change anything. Certainly, where stewardship and planned giving are concerned, you have a plan and work it, but patience is absolutely essential.

Q. Does your faith guide you in your work?

A. Absolutely. My belief is that if you are baptized, then you have a covenant with God and should work hard at being a disciple in all aspects of your life. When people are asked to go back to the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) and read it again (pages 158–159) the word that comes to mind for me is radical. I know that “radical” is a word that people don’t like because it makes them think of terrorists or something, but there is so much literature around about being a radical disciple for Jesus. It is all about being a loving person—loving justice, loving your neighbour, loving God.

Q. Do you have a favourite passage or passages from scripture?

A. There are two. The first is in *1 Peter 2: 4–5* which reads: “Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” The second is in *James 2: 14–17* and it reads: “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says

to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” These two passages really drive me in my Christian faith and I suppose make me a radical disciple.

Q. What is the best “tool” to be equipped with in a “Fundraiser’s Toolbox?”

A. It is listening skills. It is so important to listen to the donor about what their passion is—what gets them really excited about sharing God’s abundance.

Q. What prompted your decision to pursue a Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) degree? And what was the subject of your thesis?

A. I had always wanted to extend my studies and I realized I needed to learn more about scripture’s lessons and the church’s teachings, both for myself and for my work for the diocese. It was very intense work because I worked fulltime and pretty much studied fulltime too. My spouse was a MATS widow for at least three years. One of the things I discovered at VST was that most theological seminaries in North America don’t teach stewardship or anything financial or administrative. These are big parts of a priest’s job in a parish and it is not taught at all. So I decided to investigate what priests discovered they needed to know after they graduated from the seminary. It makes for very interesting reading. There is now a Facebook group called *Things they didn’t teach us in Seminary!* that delves into many of the topics my thesis wrote about.

Q. Is it accurate to say that in the past few years your role in the diocese has moved closer toward assisting parishes implement Stewardship and fundraising initiatives than in the past where you were more focused on Planned Giving?

A. That is really true. When I came to work for the diocese in 2004, it was entirely a planned giving job. But soon after, the



Glen Mitchell takes his regular early afternoon walk. PHOTO Randy Murray

“I know that “radical” is a word that people don’t like because it makes them think of terrorists or something, but there is so much literature around about being a radical disciple for Jesus. It is all about being a loving person—loving justice, loving your neighbour, loving God.”

specific stewardship role was eliminated and eventually I realized that put planned giving in jeopardy too. If we didn’t teach stewardship and have an expectation that gifts would be received from God’s abundance, who would leave a legacy to the church? “No one,” was the likely answer.

Q. Over the years you worked with Financial Planner/Academic Dr. Eduard Fidler on various kinds of investment vehicles that also contained a charitable gift component, how would you evaluate those programs?

A. Yes, we have worked together to place insurance policies for the diocese and some parishes and there are more than \$2 million that will return to the diocese and parishes. Some Gift+ Annuities have also been placed, mostly for parishes and PWRDF. These work by a portion of the capital committed is a gift to the church now, rather than later; and the donor receives income until they die. One of the best tools is Gifts of Appreciated Publicly Traded Securities (shares, bonds, mutual funds). Since the Federal Government stopped capital gains taxes for these gifts, we’ve processed several millions worth of these gifts.

Q. Would you like to see them continue to be promoted after you retire?

A. Well, being a “greying” church the potential for planned gifts is quite high in my opinion. I am contracted by the Bishop to do three “Final Affairs Fairs” in three Archdeaconries (Vancouver, February 3 at St. John’s, Shaughnessy; Capilano, April 14 at St. Martin, North Vancouver; and Fraser, date and location TBC) in 2018, so I’ll certainly talk it up then. And the diocese should also create a process for awareness using the new “Sharing God’s Abundant Gifts” brochure for planned giving. Also, when parishes create their pledge cards and ask letters, they should mention gifts in wills and planned giving generally.

Q. Would you please explain endowments and bequests and the differences between the two (if there are any)?

A. Bequests are gifts in wills, either to a charity or some other beneficiary like a family member or friend. It is the main way of distributing your assets when you die, because then, you are the most generous person in the world—giving away

CONTINUED ON THE BACK PAGE

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?
Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them,
‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?
So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”*

James 2: 14–17

Sharing God’s Abundance • Interview with Glen Mitchell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

everything! Sometimes a bequest sets up an endowment, as was the case in the W. G. Murrin Fund at the diocese (I’m grateful to the Murrin Fund because it provided funding to assist with my tuition costs at VST for my MATS degree). Endowments are a place to park your money and distribute the interest or annual proceeds. Most endowments have restricted capital which means the capital is never spent; some endowments can loan capital or distribute the capital and are eventually wound up.

Q. What do you think the future holds for bequests and endowments?

A. The future for bequests is good—people of faith can leave a bequest to the parish or diocese and their estate will receive a tax receipt to offset taxes owing. We need to get more people to do that and we’ll try to do that in the Final Affairs Fairs. I’m not sure about endowments. Above I mentioned a study we did but less than half of the respondents preferred endowments over giving now. So there is some prospect for endowments but it is less so than in an earlier generation.

Q. What has been your greatest joy in your work?

A. Asking for gifts and hearing people say “yes.” That means that you’ve really nailed the research (so important) about what they want to give to and the amount of the gift. I think capital campaigns are a favourite of mine because it is so intense; there is so much research and you are asking all the time. I’ve worked on two for St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale and a few when I had my consulting business.

Q. What has been the greatest challenge in your work?

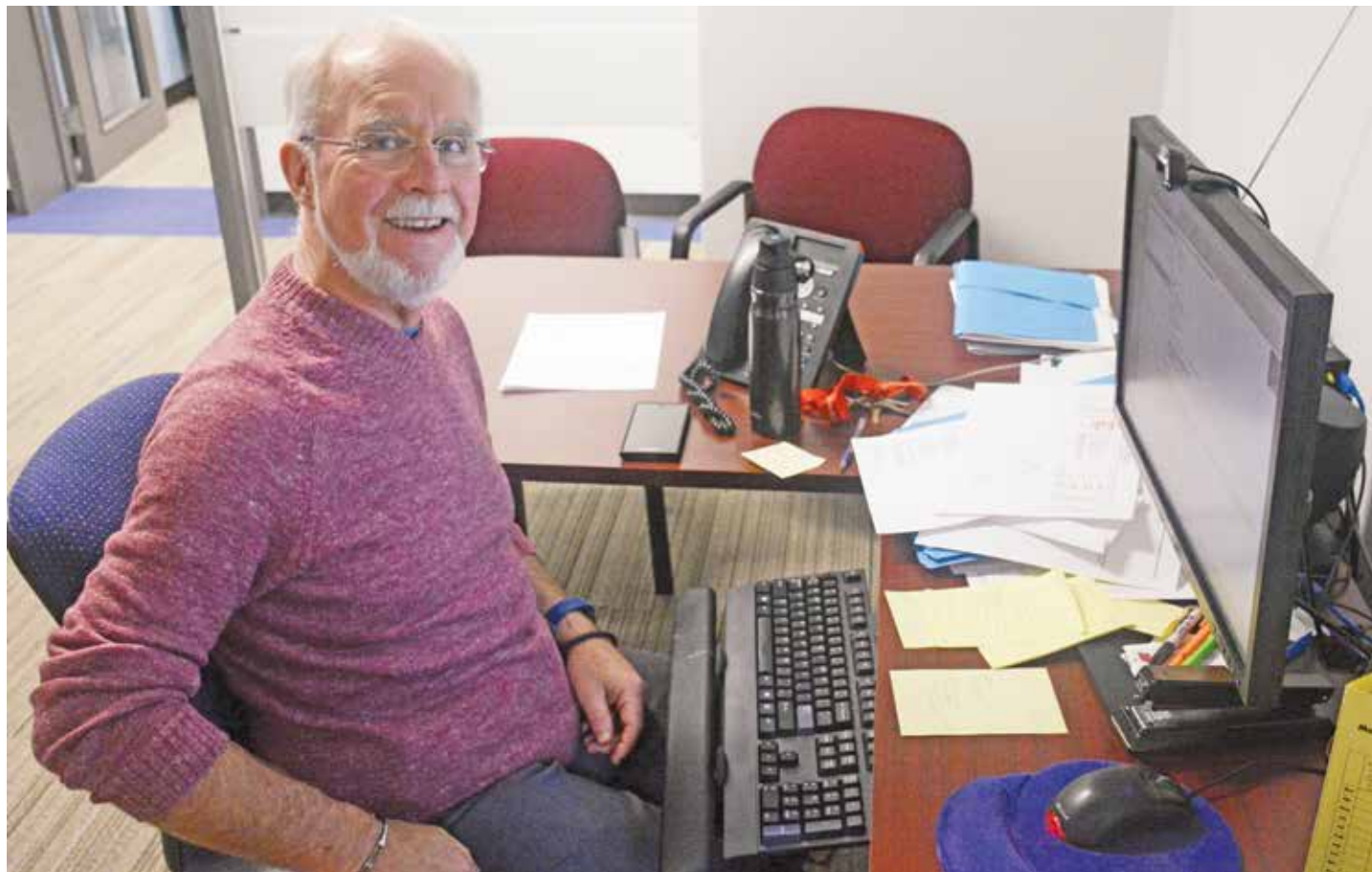
A. Getting parishes interested in stewardship work is the greatest challenge for me. The diocese has many parishes that are very small and that means that the leadership is always the same people, or at least doesn’t change very much. Finding someone in the parish to take on the challenging role of stewardship leader is very hard, especially if the priest-in-charge or rector isn’t very supportive. It really needs to be a team approach for stewardship and discipleship to work effectively for the faith community.

Q. What surprised you in your career with the diocese?

A. I’ve come to believe that people were more generous with their gifts in the past, than they are now. Years ago, people gave large gifts to the diocese for: the Anglican Initiatives Fund, Stewards in Action, Honouring Our Commitment, Anglicans in Mission at the national level.

Q. You had some health concerns 12–18 months ago, what did you do to address them and where are you at now?

A. Yes I did. One morning I woke up and I really couldn’t walk. I spent eight days in the hospital and I was highly medicated during two months off work, basically learning to walk again. I’m back with no more drugs! I walk about eight or nine kilometres a day and the doctors, physio-therapists and the chiropractor taught me how important stretching after exercise is—which I do



Glen in his former location, a southsiV6H 2E2de office at 1410 Nanton Avenue. PHOTO Randy Murray

*“Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight,
and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

Peter 2: 4–5

religiously!

Q. How do you approach your charity work and giving outside of the diocese?

A. It will change as I retire because we’ll not have as much money to give away. I’m actually re-evaluating every charity that I give to now, and deciding whether they are off the list or not. I don’t think it is different, so much as a re-focus to make sure my passion for social justice and human rights are where I put my donations.

Q. Do you intend to continue your ministry with Cristosal and your paid work perhaps as a consultant?

A. Yes, definitely with Cristosal—it is growing into the premier human rights organization in Central America. I’m Secretary on the Board of Directors and the leader of the Cristosal Team at St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale and those tasks will continue and grow. And “yes” to the consultant role. I operated my own consulting business for nine years before I came to work for the diocese in 2004, and I’ll continue with that for a while, hopefully working with parishes, consulting and teaching on stewardship and planned giving gifts. There are some other irons in the fire too but it is too soon to say what they might be.

Q. What do you see for the future for the Anglican Church in terms of sourcing revenue for mission for ministry?

A. If we tell our story in the right way about

our dedication to mission for ministries that matter to our faithful, then the money should flow to support these ministries. It will always be hard to find money to run the institution called the Church and I think it will be harder in the future. We did a study a few years ago and asked people about giving to endowments or giving to needs. Most people preferred giving to needs so I think we’ll need to focus on that—the needs of the community and the world, then the money will flow. Recently we had a Bishop’s Friends dinner and for the first time, the diocese asked for corporate sponsors to be involved. The prospective sponsors we asked agreed to participate because they want to be associated with the Bishop’s ministry. A few more might be interested but that will never be the main focus. Like always, individuals in parishes give vastly more amounts of money to support the church than foundations or corporations ever will.

Q. What are some of your retirement goals (I will avoid the cliché and not say “bucket-list.”)

A. Well, I intend to have a wonderful retirement focused on photography and model railroading (a passion of mine since

I was a youngster). I’ll continue to work for Cristosal and certainly some consulting work as I’ve indicated previously. I may build a kayak because we live very close to the North Arm of the Fraser River and it is a great place to kayak. We’re planning to travel a little and visit family and friends.

Q. Is there anything you would like to share with our readers?

A. I’ve been involved in the national church Resources for Mission Committee and its successor, the Coordinating Committee for a long while. That has given me a perspective on the church that others may not have. As you go across the country, each diocese is different and has different interests. I cherish the time I’ve spent being involved in the national church because it has taught me much and I think it has made me a better Anglican. Also, I’ve been instrumental, along with other colleagues in western and northern Canada in creating a new network—SEND: Stewardship Education Network for Development. We’ve had our first conference in Saskatoon in September 2017 and it is good to see so many people focused on stewardship and discipleship as they work in their dioceses and parishes. ✚

*Thank you Glen for 14 years of service at the
diocese of New Westminster and your dedication to your call!*