

CONNECTION



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 18



St. Mary's Church

1973 Cultra Avenue,
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L7

Worship Services

Sundays

9:00 am, Choral Eucharist & Sunday School
1st Sunday, Service of the Word

Third Sunday

7:00 pm Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé

Wednesdays

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Friendship Coffee
11:00 am Bible Study

Office: 250-652-1611 Hall: 250-652-7942
Email: stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca
Web: www.ParishCS.ca



St. Stephen's Church

7921 St. Stephen Road,
Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3

Worship Services

Sundays

11:00 am Holy Eucharist
and Church (Sunday) School
4th Sunday, Praise & Worship in the Hall

Mondays

7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:00 am Prayer Group

Thursdays

Praise & Worship every fourth Thursday

Office: 250-652-4311
Email: ststephens1862@shaw.ca
Web: www.ParishCS.ca

March 2016

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Pastor: The Reverend Robert Szo

Deacon: The Reverend Gil Shoemith

Youth & Family Worker: Kate VanGiesen



www.ParishCS.ca

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary's Church St. Stephen's Church

Dates to Note

Our Parish website – ParishCS.ca – is the best place to keep in touch with what is going on, but here are significant dates to note for the next three months

Easter Events

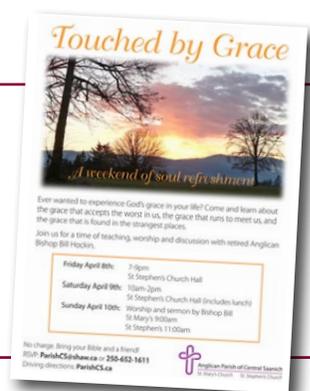
- On **Thursday, March 24**, the Maundy Thursday Service and stripping of the altar will be at St. Mary's at 7:00 pm.
- On **Good Friday, March 25**, the traditional Twelve Stations of the Cross Meditation will start at 9:30 am with a walk from Our Lady of Assumption Church to St. Stephen's. The Meditation will continue from St. Stephen's Hall at 10 am, ending with a service at St. Stephen's Church.
- **Easter Day, March 27th**, will be celebrated at both churches at the usual service times.



Stations of the Cross walk in 2014

Parish Weekend

- The agenda for the Parish Weekend, "Touched by Grace", led by Bishop Bill Hockin, is:
 1. **Friday, April 8th** at St. Stephen's Hall from 7 pm – 9 pm.
 2. **Saturday, April 9th** at St. Stephen's Hall from 10 am – 2 pm.
 3. **Sunday, April 10th**, worship & sermon by Bishop Bill Hockin; St. Mary's at 9 am; St. Stephen's at 11 am.



Other Events

- The St. Stephen's Spring Faire will be on **Saturday, April 16** in the Hall from 9 am to 2 pm.
- The final Sunday Serenade concert of the 2015 – 2016 series will feature the Greater Victoria Police Chorus on **Sunday, April 24** at St. Mary's Church at 2:30 pm. This is a fundraiser for the refugee family being sponsored by the Parish and other Peninsula churches.
- The St. Mary's Spring Fling will take place on **Saturday, May 14** from 9:30 – noon in St. Mary's Hall.
- On **Sunday, May 22**, Soundings Vocal Ensemble will present a concert at St. Mary's at 2:30 pm.

Sunday Serenade
Special Fund-raising Concert for Syrian Refugees
April 24, 2016 @ 2:30 pm
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SAANICHTON
1973 Cultra Ave. @ East Saanich Rd.

Greater Victoria Police Chorus
TICKETS \$25
Tickets will be available at the door
For tickets/information
please call 250-652-5392 or email sueandjohn@shaw.ca or
call 250-652-1611 or email stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca

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*“Let me
help you
with that”*

Several times a week I get an email from a church consultant who sends out helpful bits of wisdom (free!) to his distribution list. One of the most recent was entitled “Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service.” I won’t go over all seven, but will mention a few. I mention these because we’re coming up to Easter Sunday, when we do see a larger number of guests. Plus, these suggestions are helpful on any Sunday when you notice a visitor at either St Mary’s or St Stephen’s. The headings and comments are from Thom S. Rainer, who blogs at ThomRainer.com

1. “Thank you for being here.” It’s just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told “thank you.”
2. “Let me help you with that.” If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses, and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.
3. “Please take my seat.” I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking. It came from a church member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.
4. “Let me introduce you to _____.” The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff, and other members of the church.
5. “Would you join us for lunch?” I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.

I know some of you are already doing some of these things. But, I encourage you in Lent, if you’re not doing any, or only once in a while, to make it a point to put some of them into practice. We never know where a visitor is on their spiritual journey, but we do know that they have come to join us for worship and that’s all that matters. Presumably God has brought them; at that moment it’s up to us to give them a warm Christian welcome to our church community. They may not come back, or they may choose another church to attend. Or, they may come back. Whatever happens, they will remember the way they were welcomed. By being committed to our visitors, God will bless them and us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rob Szo
Pastor

RAPID Program

As most of you know, RAPID stands for “Refugee Action by Peninsula churches ImmeDiately. Under the RAPID Program, Seven Peninsula Churches have joined together to sponsor a refugee family under the auspices of our Anglican Diocese. They are: St. Mary’s, St. Stephen’s, St. Andrew’s, Holy Trinity, Shady Creek United, Saanich Bible Fellowship and Friendship Community Church. The family is a father, mother, daughter and son. At the time of writing this they have not arrived, and we have no news of when that will happen. This is, we are told, normal!

The father has a post-grad education and is (was) a teacher. The mother is listed as a homemaker. The girl is 16, and will go to Stelly’s, and the boy is 12 and will go to Bayside. They are from Syria and are at the moment in Turkey, possibly in a Refugee Camp. They have been cleared by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for entry into Canada, so there is no paperwork standing in the way of their arrival. We have no other information about the family. A lovely home has been found for them – it is the top half of a house right in Saanichton, which is half furnished, and in the process of becoming completely furnished.

Through the generosity of members of the congregations of all the participating churches, we are close to completing the funding needed to look after the family for one year, which is our commitment. Some federal government funding will be provided for six months. Also through the generosity of many, furniture, bedding, towels, kitchenware and clothing have been provided. Has anyone got a good vacuum cleaner they would be able to donate?

The RAPID Steering Committee consists of one or two representatives from each church. They all have attended sessions to acquaint them with practical and cultural issues, and sensitivity training, along with the ubiquitous Police Record Checks! They are an amazing bunch, full of energy and ideas – we have an accountant to deal with the finances, a couple to lead a team of interpreters and ESL teachers, a computer wizard who has set up specialized computer programs, guys with trucks who move furniture (for a while the St. Mary’s organ loft looked like a used furniture store!) and a team to welcome the family and start them on the way to the myriad of details they will need – identity papers, SIN numbers, medical coverage, doctor referrals, school registration, bus passes, etc., etc.

And underlying it all, we have the realization that this is Christian ecumenism in action!





Questers learn to risk, to turn crises into opportunities, and to adapt to changing circumstances. Talking with Lynda in her comfortable Summergate home bursting with memorabilia, you very quickly discover that she is a quester, welcoming challenges with confidence. Asked if she likes living in Summergate, she enigmatically suggests that if she were 85, “it might be OK”.

A baby boomer and cradle Anglican, Lynda, an only child, was baptised at St. John’s, the Church of England church in Margate, Kent. When she was four, the family emigrated from England to Canada, to live in Victoria. Lynda’s father, an electrician, was lured there by family members on Vancouver Island who spoke of the available opportunities here. What he was told turned out to be right, as he soon got employment at Yarrows Shipyard, where he stayed for most of his working life. While there he pretty well single-handedly built the family home in View Royal. Lynda attended St. Saviour’s Church and later All Saints, where she attended, and later taught, Sunday School, and was involved in the Youth Group. The blonde girl in the back row under the candle in the St. Saviours Pageant picture is none other than Lynda!



Upon leaving school, after time in England working at a Dr. Barnardo’s Home in Essex (“they hired me because they liked to listen to how I talked!”) Lynda sought to enter the nursing profession which had been her High School dream. Although her marks prevented this, she wanted to work in a hospital setting, and happily settled for hospital clerical positions. She was a Unit Clerk at the Jubilee, and worked in Emergency and Health Records before moving on to a Doctor’s office. She worked as a Nurse’s Aid at Queen Alexandra Hospital for Children, in the lab at Resthaven Hospital, and finally, of course, at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital (“Saan Pen” as we all call it). Lynda likes to keep connected with that part of her life, staying on the list to be called in to do shifts in Medical Imaging at the Saan Pen.

It was at All Saints that Lynda married her first husband. Their two children, Jennifer and Neal, were baptised at St. Andrew’s in Sidney where Lynda later became involved with Sunday School and the Youth Group. Although that marriage came to an end in 1979, they still see each other at family events. In the early 80’s, by which time Lynda was attending St. Stephen’s, Lynda attended a Sorrento workshop for separated and divorced people, and, recognizing that there was no need to go all the way to Sorrento, worked with Joan Gilbert to present similar workshops at St. Stephen’s. It was through those workshops that Lynda met Garry, and in 1988 they were married at St. Stephen’s by Richard Spencer as part of the Sunday morning service.

In the mid-80’s, and into the 90’s, Lynda and her family took in Japanese students for anything from a weekend to a whole year. A lovely benefit from this was the friendships that she forged with many of the students, resulting in two trips to Japan, one in 1996 and the other in 2008.

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“God is at home – it is we who have gone out for a walk!”

She along with Garry were planning to go again in March 2011, but three days before they were to leave the horrendous earthquake and tsunami happened. But, says Lynda, “Somehow I will see the cherry blossoms again one day.” However, it won’t be immediately, as this year will see a journey to seek the Northern Lights, with Lynda and her daughter Jennifer travelling to Whitehorse and other Yukon destinations.

Two people who are very important to Lynda are her grandchildren, Maddison and Baillee. Both of their parents have jobs that involve shift work, so having Nana available is a blessing. She stays at their home or they come to Summergate to stay with her and watch Hope for Wildlife! They are regularly with her at church events, and were baptised at Easter two years ago..

Lynda left St. Stephen’s when there had been some issues which she felt were not well resolved. It was difficult. “Church family is like any other family – where will I go?” For about ten years she investigated a number of different churches and denominations. She tried the Saanich Bible Fellowship, but missed the Anglican liturgy; she tried another Community Church in Sidney where she missed the leadership of a Minister; and she tried returning to St. Andrew’s. Then, upon encouragement from friends, She tried ANIC (the Anglican Network in Canada), but constantly got the feeling that something was missing. “I was on the lookout for the church with the fullest parking lot!”

She kept on bumping into old St. Stephen’s friends at weddings, funerals and other get-togethers. In 2012 she was doing the drop-off and pick-up for Maddison who was going to Camp in the Community at St. Stephen’s and felt the tug of familiarity as she drove down the lane to the hall. God began nudging things along – Eva Townsend invited her to a tea for Sylvia Richter, and Sharon Butler sent a “great to see you” note, with a photo of the tea-gathering. So one Sunday Lynda came out of an ANIC service and drove with the kids straight to St. Stephen’s to be greeted by Sandra Scarth, and she felt that she had walked back into her family. “I needed those people.”

Garry had been diagnosed with cancer in 2011, and for two years until his death in 2013, Lynda was looking after him. Rob and Gil Shoemith were of great support to both of them. After Garry’s death, Lynda dedicated herself to many activities at St. Stephen’s, including taking on the job of People’s Warden. She has learned a lot from meetings of church wardens, discovering that all churches have similar issues, so that discussions of solutions reveal that “we aren’t alone!” Lynda says it has been good to learn more about Synod and how the Anglican Church operates – “I didn’t understand what happens downtown, and there is so much more to learn!”

For relaxation in her busy life, Lynda likes reading books about different places in the world, but her abiding love is sewing and quilting. Although she will sometimes participate in a group, she is very happy doing this on her own. For years, Lynda and Garry had kept a trailer at a hideaway at St. Mary’s Lake on Salt Spring Island where she still likes to escape for a weekend or



Lynda helping out at last year’s Summer Camp

Parishioner Profile *continued*

longer, sometimes on her own and sometimes with the kids, to read, go to the coffee shops, read the newspaper and “be a Salt Spring Islander”. She is also a Downton Abbey follower, with her TV pretty well stuck on Knowledge Network and PBS.

Lynda likes the saying – “God is at home – it is we who have gone out for a walk!” Lynda’s walk through a full life has brought her home to the Parish of Central Saanich and especially to St. Stephen’s, where her friends are.

Parish Weekend 2016: Touched by Grace

A weekend of soul refreshment

You are warmly invited to all or part of our Parish Weekend, April 8-10.

Using the Bible, retired Anglican Bishop Bill Hockin will speak to us about God’s lavish grace. This is the grace that accepts the worst in us, runs to meet us and is found in the strangest places.

To encourage as many parishioners as possible to hear Bill’s message, we’ll be having our regular Sunday morning worship at both locations on Sunday April 10th: St Mary’s, 9am and St Stephen’s, 11am.

If you can only come for part of the weekend, then please do that. But if you’re able to come for the whole time, you’ll be glad you did. After Bill’s talks, there will be lots of time for questions and small group discussion.

There is no charge, but please let us know if you’re coming for lunch on Saturday April 9th . RSVP to: parishcs@shaw.ca or 250-652-1611. or go to: ParishCS.ca

Finally, you are encouraged to bring a friend and your Bible.

Touched by Grace



Ever wanted to experience God’s grace in your life? Come and learn about the grace that accepts the worst in us, the grace that runs to meet us, and the grace that is found in the strangest places.

Join us for a time of teaching, worship and discussion with retired Anglican Bishop Bill Hockin.

Friday April 8th:	7-9pm St Stephen’s Church Hall
Saturday April 9th:	10am-2pm St Stephen’s Church Hall (includes lunch)
Sunday April 10th:	Worship and sermon by Bishop Bill St Mary’s 9:00am St Stephen’s 11:00am

No charge. Bring your Bible and a friend!
RSVP: ParishCS@shaw.ca or 250-652-1611
Driving directions: ParishCS.ca



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich
St. Mary’s Church St. Stephen’s Church

William Avons and the Pesthouse Saga

William Avons was born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, December 17, 1829 and lost his father John at the age of 12. The 1861 England Census shows William and his mother Mary as licenced victualers: innkeepers, with the help of William's sisters, Fanny, Ann and Harriett. In 1862, at the age of 33, William left England, bound for Canada and the goldfields of British Columbia.

The Cariboo gold rush did not pan out for William or thousands of other prospectors, and by 1870 he had found a job at the Provincial Board of Health in Victoria: the officer in charge of the quarantine pesthouse on Beacon Hill, off Dallas Road. This was a shelter for people infected with a pestilential or contagious disease. Previously, the pesthouse had been a private residence owned by George Nias of Victoria, who in 1863 "built quite a substantial cottage and a cow-shed and stable, fenced in the land to which he laid claim and went there to reside with his family." (D.W. Higgins, *Passing of a Race*, Toronto: William Briggs, 1905). In 1871 the Nias family moved to Australia and the buildings lay vacant. The fenced back garden was soon to become a grave yard and William's job as the officer in charge of the Pesthouse would be the greatest challenge of his lifetime.

"Unhappy passengers groaned and hissed when the Health Officer (Dr. Matthews) appeared onboard the ship...and pelted him with potatoes as he disembarked."

On June 14, 1872 the steamship Prince Alfred, inbound from San Francisco, arrived in Nanaimo to take on coal before proceeding on to Victoria. While berthed at Nanaimo it was discovered that two crew members, second mate Hunter and under steward Hall had contracted smallpox on the voyage. The steamship was at once ordered to leave Nanaimo and after taking on 180 tons of coal, Captain Williams sailed for Victoria and the Esquimalt dockyard. The British Colonist newspaper reported that "Unhappy passengers groaned and hissed when the Health Officer (Dr. Matthews) appeared onboard the ship...and pelted him with potatoes as he disembarked." Hunter, Hall and five year old Bertha Whitney and her parents were taken to "the house formerly occupied by Mr. Nias on Beckley Farm, which is now government property." A yellow flag was hoisted over the house. (British Colonist, June 15, 1872) The rest of the passengers were landed at Macaulay Point to be kept in quarantine while the ship was fumigated.

Smallpox epidemics had devastated native populations in 1782 and 1836 before Fort Victoria was established. Following white settlement, smallpox had hit Victoria in 1853 and again in 1862. By 1872 Victoria had doubled in size as hundreds set up temporary shelters in town on their way to the goldfields. For the residents of Victoria who had to live with a primitive sewage disposal system and an over-extended water service, a major smallpox epidemic would have been a disaster, and they knew it.

Stories From St. Stephen's Cemetery *continued*

William and one assistant were confined to the Pesthouse for the required twenty-one day quarantine period and given the task of caring for six or seven critically-ill patients. A Victoria newspaper article noted that, "... at least four other sick passengers and crew from three ships had been placed in the old Nias house on Holland Point." (British Colonist, June 25, 1872, p.3) A number of them must have died on William's watch, for in his 1954 Annual Report, Parks Administrator W.H. Warren noted that during "brush clearance" on Holland Point, "the graves of smallpox victims who died in the 1870's" were located. Five year old Bertha Whitney died in late June and was buried "in the vicinity" of the Pesthouse. (It should be noted that despite the quarantine restrictions and the very real danger of contracting smallpox, Rev Edward Cridge performed the burial service for the young girl. He had troubles of his own in those days as he had been replaced as bishop for the Colony by George Hills and would soon leave the Church to join the Reformed Episcopal as their bishop.)

In the days following the epidemic, which thanks to people like William had not spread to the general population in Victoria, a "Ratepayer" questioned the City's costs associated with the special constables assigned to guard the three contaminated ships and the cost of setting up both the Macaulay Point quarantine station and the Pesthouse on Beacon Hill. For William this must have been the last straw and his letter, as shown here, to the editor of The Daily Colonist (February 15, 1873, Tuesday Morning edition) was remarkably constrained, given the circumstances.

William Avons died of 'Valvular Heart Trouble' on April 4, 1905. The 'Intimation' of his passing, as shown here, indicates that he was living on Henry Simpson's farm on Mount Newton Crossroad when he died. Frederick Wimberley was the vicar at St. Stephen's that year and during his New Year's Day visit to the Simpson's must have heard William's story of the smallpox epidemic of '72 and read his letter to the editor which he had carefully saved. There had been so many unmarked graves in William's life that Frederick had seen to it that the grave of 'William Avon, PIONEER' was carefully marked and well looked after.

The Quarantine Bills.

VICTORIA, Feb. 15th.

EDITOR COLONIST:--Your correspondent "Ratepayer," in yesterday's issue, seems to be under the impression that all the bills sent in to the Board of Health were so unreasonable that payment has been deferred. Now, as one employed by the Board of Health, I would state that myself and an assistant attended to the Pesthouse, where there were three patients and the father and mother of the child who died. During the whole of the time we were there the expenses per head for living did not exceed \$1 per day. For my services, which were of a most disagreeable nature, including my assistance in burying the poor child, not to mention the danger, I charged \$5 a day; therefore, as far as the Pesthouse is concerned, I think the expenses are very reasonable indeed. Notwithstanding this my demand remains unpaid to my great inconvenience, although I have made repeated applications for payment. Whether the Dominion Government, the Provincial Government, or the Board of Health have to foot the bills, the sooner the matter is settled the better. The responsibility rests somewhere. You will see by this (which I can prove) that \$9½ per diem does not apply to *all* employed.

W. AVONS,

Officer in charge of Pesthouse, Beacon Hill.

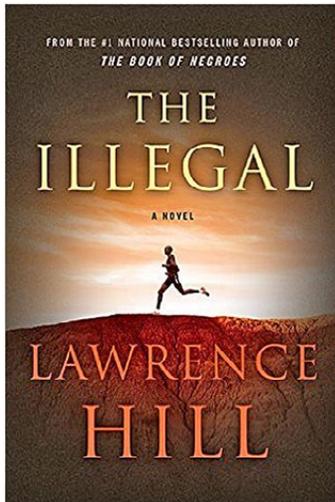
AVONS—At the residence of Mr. H. Simpson, South Saanich, on the 4th instant, William Avons, a native of England; aged 75 years.

The funeral will take place today (Thursday, April 6,) at 2 p. m., from the residence as above, and the Saanich Anglican church, Mount Newton, at 2:30 p. m.

Friends will please accept this intimation.

The Illegal

Author: Lawrence Hill



This is a timely book, given the global refugee crisis. Hill takes on the urgent issues of our times, including race, discrimination, movement of refugees across borders and the political question as to who belongs and who is “an illegal.”

This story is set in two fictional island countries: the small impoverished Zantoroland, “a speck” in the Indian Ocean, and the much larger country 1,500 kilometres to the north, ironically named Freedom State, given that people there had enslaved Zantorolanders for two centuries. Once slavery was abolished and Zantorolanders outlawed, the latter began braving the dangerous crossing between the two countries in fishing boats to re-enter Freedom State, now one of the richest nations in the world.

The plot begins with Keita Ali running a marathon in Freedom State, where his presence is illegal, when a vicious opponent on his left shouts racist slurs. Rather than respond, Keita takes his pace up a bit and begins to sing as he steams by his opponent. “Want to shatter your opponent’s confidence? Just when he starts to hurt, you sing.” The book is called a “fast-paced political thriller.” I found the early chapters were slow going with detailed background information, but I was captivated by Keita’s spirit during the race, and then could not put the book down.

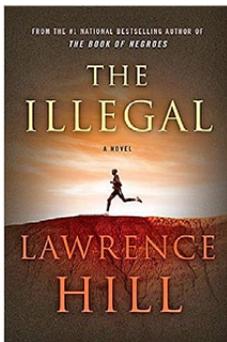
Keita is a gifted runner, whose most precious possessions at age 10 were his Meb Supreme training shoes, “light as slippers, as snug as socks.” His life is relatively carefree in Zantoroland until his family comes under threat after a coup d’état. His father is a dissident journalist and his mother a member of an ethnic minority, two groups that are being tortured and killed by the dictatorship. Eventually, Keita is not just running to win races, but running from the police and criminals to save his and his sister’s life.

Running is the central image for Hill’s story, at both a literal and metaphorical level. In Freedom State, running can give privilege, power and a ticket to citizenship as a member of the Olympic team. Yet, as an illegal, Keita must become anonymous, hiding and moving around in the grey underground shantytown of AfricTown with hundreds of other illegal residents who live in shipping containers.

The plot is fast-paced and Hill creates colourful characters. Keita meets Lulu, the defacto ruler of AfricTown who both exploits and helps those who rent from her. Viola Hill and John Falconer are both interested in his story. Viola is a sportswriter who calls herself “blagaybulled” – black, gay, disabled, but she is also strong and fast in her wheelchair and helps Keita despite her disability. John, “blacker than white, but whiter than black,” is a smart teenager making a documentary about the fate of Zantorolanders in Freedom State. He learns that he, too, must fight for his identity, even at home to “outblack the blacks.”

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Book Review *continued*



Freedom State is fictional, but it stands for wealthy, democratic nations that benefit from global inequality and whose citizens fear hordes at the borders. Is there room in Freedom State, i.e. Western nations for all who want in? In the end, Hill ties up his plot, but we are left to struggle with his moral questions.

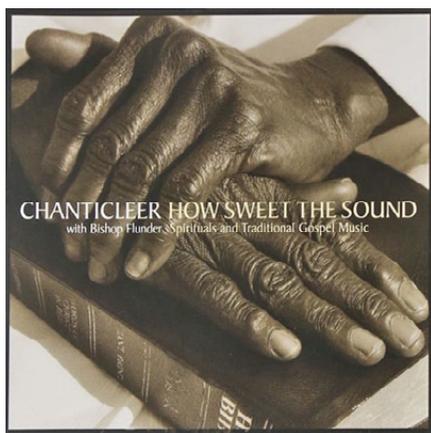
Music Review

by Ruth Lorette Hickling

Chanticleer “How Sweet The Sound”

with Bishop Flunder

Spirituals and Traditional Gospel Music



These dreary months of winter have been a challenge to most of us on our good days and downright depressing on the others. As we march onwards, so much comfort can be found in the beautiful, inspiring signs of growth and renewal appearing in our gardens and forest. We are reminded of God’s promise of hope while we await the blossoming of our world. If you need a little help as we move towards Spring, consider listening to some Gospel.

Gospel in the way of Chanticleer ... So much rhythm and warmth, so much love of God. I guarantee that your feet will be stamping, your heart will be singing and you will forget all about the weather. This album is truly great gospel music, an amazing blend of harmony and faith that will get you through.

Chanticleer is a male a capella choir known for their seamless blend of voices. They have twice been Grammy award recipients. In this album their perfect harmony is powered with the beautiful gospel voice of Bishop Yvette A. Flunder. The combination runs the wide range of sound between gentle and mournful to completely explosive joy. Available on Amazon, this album would be a happy and soulful addition to your collection.

Music is a very important part of our church and congregation. Some days, it just seems to keep one simply alive. If you have any recommendations of beautiful music you would like to share, I would love to hear about it. Please email me at ruthlorette@shaw.ca.

A chronicle of some of the recent events at St. Mary's and St. Stephen's



Sandra and Governor General David Johnston



Action at the CPR Course



Rev. Dr. Brett Cane leads the study series "Perspectives on Life from the Book of Revelation"



At the annual (vestry) meeting David Cooper was presented with a cake hat, as he had promised to eat his hat if St. Mary's was in the black at the end of the year – which it was!

Sandra and David Scarth were treated to a trip to Ottawa and Rideau Hall on Valentine's weekend (!) where Sandra received her Order of Canada for her work with children and youth and on adoption counselling. The Scarth family joined Sandra and David for the occasion, followed by a family trip to Quebec City for a holiday. Congratulations, Sandra!

For those who attend Soup's On, held Fridays at St. Stephen's, you may remember **David Scott**. David lived at Popeye's Campground on the Tsawout Reserve. Unfortunately, David died in January in a fire at his home on the campground. He was referred to as a "lovely gentle soul" by those who joined him for lunch on Fridays.

Two successful CPR courses were held in February (Heart Month). These free classes are provided to parishioners and their friends and families by the Central Saanich Fire Department. This is the second year the Parish has offered this important course. If you missed out, we'll be offering them again next February. Gil Shoesmith, our Deacon attended one of the courses. It was heartening to see his mobility returning almost to normal. He credits relief from the constant pain from the advice of a friend. You'll have to ask Gil what the secret is!

Cheryl Shoesmith, Gil's wife, broke her ankle before Christmas which had her pretty well confined to a wheelchair for getting around, followed by a walking cast! For both Gil and Cheryl to have mobility problems over the holiday season, it must have been a challenging time for all concerned! At the time of writing, Cheryl is now completely independently mobile, walking and driving the car.

John Smith, the Editor of *ConneXion*, managed to make the Peninsula News Review along with a very nice photo, February 5th. He is the Co-Chair with **Sandra Scarth** of RAPID, a Refugee Sponsorship Group, formed by the congregations of seven Peninsula churches including St Stephen's and St Mary's. RAPID is sponsoring a Syrian family of four (two parents, a girl, 16, and a boy, 12). The team has found them accommodation in Saanichton, and has been working at finding furnishings and supplies for their new home. They will also welcome and assist in providing the needed support for them once they arrive. You can talk to John or Sandra if you would like to help.

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Around the Parish *continued*

News from St Mary's



Shrove Tuesday kitchen helpers



Nancy Choat presents Rob with Turkish Delight on his birthday on February 14



Lynn Fallan's retirement as St. Mary's Rector's Warden

St Mary's welcomes new parishioner **Maureen McGuire**. A very warm welcome to you!

Derek and **Betty Osman** welcomed the safe arrival of granddaughter, **Serena Kendall** on January 15. Asher now has a sister! Congratulations to all the Osman family, big and small, old and young!

The **Denroches (Marjorie and Stephen)** celebrated their 62nd anniversary December 26th, with friends and family members! And by the time parishioners read this, Stephen will have celebrated his 90th birthday! How wonderful is that? Congratulations to you both.

Audrey Quackenbush celebrated her 93rd birthday on January 31st with family, and enjoyed hearing the congregation at St Mary's sing Happy Birthday to her.

Congratulations to **Joe and Rita Lott** – they celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on January 31 and Joe's 93rd birthday on February 4th!

Many St Mary's parishioners will recall **Irene and Keith Feir** serving haggis, Scottish scones and shortbread as refreshments on St Andrew's Day in December. While the homemade scones and shortbread were delicious and enjoyed by everyone ... the haggis, not so much, according to some! And of course haggis is famously served on Robbie Burns Day in late January. Irene told me the following regarding her experience with serving haggis on Robbie Burns Day:

"We had haggis tonight at our meeting, there will be haggis tomorrow at a Burns lunch, haggis Saturday night at our house with friends and relations, and haggis again on the 30th. By the time that is over with I will have had more than enough haggis, and will not want to see my kilt again for weeks! This time of year is a lot of Scottish stuff for me – especially since I have found absolutely no Scots on my family tree at all. And it all started with Highland Dance lessons for our daughter 34 years ago. Until then, Keith had never given much thought to his Scottish ancestry at all. But the Highland Dance lessons gave his Mum and him a surge of interest and it all kind of took off from there." Thank you Irene, for that bit of personal history!

Several St Mary's parishioners have been fortunate to escape "winter" here on the Peninsula and enjoy sun and warmth during December, January and February. Included in this group are: **Susan and Roy Pullan, Susan Alexander, Terry and Rick Parent, and Carl and Shirley Schwazer**. Some will have returned by the time you read this. Try not to be too jealous when you see them!

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News from St Stephen's



There was a welcoming reception held for the new parishioners who have recently joined St Stephen's on Sunday February 7th, with two cakes made: one by Della, from St Stephen's Trust in the shape of a church. Very clever. A good time was had by all.



Rainy McLeod and her brother, **Ian** will be moving into their own apartment in late February and or early March. It is located in Saanichton, which means they will be able to walk to St Mary's for the Sunday services along with the other church activities they enjoy attending.

Aurora Beraldin and **Jon Vandall** are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a son, **Paul**, born December 16! Congratulations Aurora and John!

Sue Smith enjoyed an extended holiday over Christmas with her family in England, and rumour has it that she will soon be off to Australia!

We are pleased to have **Jen Buscall** back in the saddle after suffering from a harsh pulmonary infection. Welcome back to the fold, Jen.

Tony and **Margaret Pollard** are recovering nicely from a recent set back with their health.

Doreen Harrison tells us that her son, **Greg**, is doing well after receiving a heart transplant before Christmas. Keep up with the progress, Greg!

And **Elsie**, our Queen of Soup for Soup's On, celebrates her eighth decade this year!!! Congratulations from the entire Parish, Elsie!

I don't know how many readers are aware that **Eva Townsend** has been regularly providing dozens of her famous muffins to a local school's breakfast program. Talk about an unsung hero! You are a treasure, Eva!

William, a grandson for **Gary** and **Tracy Stubbs** was welcomed into the world, early in 2016. How wonderful!

Jane and **Paul Hughes** managed to escape our west coast winter for a few weeks with an enjoyable Caribbean Cruise. Lucky you!

*Easter Sunday is on
Sunday March 27!
Don't forget to wear your
Easter hat!*



Pineapple Chicken



Here is a Pineapple Chicken recipe from the Alpha cookbook which was very popular at the Parish Alpha course. Quantities are for 10. Serve over rice.

- Boneless, skinless chicken breasts – 10 halves (one per person)
- Cornstarch – 1 Tbsp
- Cold water- 1 Tbsp
- Sugar – ½ cup
- Soy sauce – ½ cup
- Vinegar – ¼ cup
- One garlic clove, minced
- Ground ginger – 1 tsp
- Pepper – ½ tsp
- One 14 oz. can Pineapple tidbits
- Rice

Preheat oven to 450.

1. Lay chicken pieces on a baking sheet with sides and partially cook for 10-15 minutes.
2. Mix other ingredients except pineapple and rice in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and stir continuously until thick and bubbly. Pour half over chicken on baking sheet.
3. Cook for 30 minutes, basting with remaining mixture every 10 minutes.
4. Cook rice according to package directions.
5. Sprinkle pineapple over chicken and cook for another minute, then serve over rice.

From the Editors

Welcome to our new format. Some arcane technology mysteries associated with our new printer at St. Mary's have led to the adoption of the new size and look, but the good news is that we think it looks rather nice! Grateful thanks to John Beresford, who master-minded the transformation, and to Leslie whose patience has been really quite Christian! Thanks also to all our regular contributors, especially to Ruth Hickling who will do a regular music review.

*The Editors,
John Smith and Sandra Scarth*

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

Pastor: The Reverend Robert Szo 778-679-8074 robszo@telus.net

Parish Council: Ex Officio

Rob Szo robszo@telus.net
Gil Shoemith gshoemith@telus.net

Rector's Wardens: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Nancy Choat, nchoat2@telus.net
Don Wilson, dwwilson@shaw.ca

People's Wardens: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Derek Osman, derek.osman@shaw.ca
Lynda Clifford, lgcliff@shaw.ca

Treasurers: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

David Cooper, drecooper@shaw.ca
Jen Buscall, jenbuscall@shaw.ca

Members: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Karen McColm, Ken Pedlow, Susan Pullan
Margaret Bedard, Allan Carlson, Greg Robinson

Synod Delegates: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Nancy Choat, Ken Pedlow
Don Wilson

Leslie Pedlow is at the St. Mary's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 12:30

Tracy Stubbs is at the St. Stephen's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00



Rector's and People's Wardens: Nancy Choat, Derek Osman, Lynda Clifford, Don Wilson