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## Thank You Saints of God

### The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer &amp; Topic Editor

The Archdeacons and MCs during the Opening Hymn. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The stage during the Opening Hymn. PHOTO Wayne Chose



In her brief welcome message found on page 18 of the Order of Service leaflet for the Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist, Bishop Skelton wrote, “In this liturgy we honour a new group of people who have distinguished themselves in living out their baptismal identity and purpose in an exemplary way through service within their churches and to their broader communities. We do this on the Feast of All Saints in that they, like we, are a part of the Communion of Saints, that great web of relationships between God and God’s own that binds us all together, that lifts us up and that inspires us. And so tonight is a night for celebration and inspiration!”

The evening of November 1, 2015, was quite a night! There were many firsts involved in this version of the annual event. This was the first time the Investiture Eucharist had been held outside of Christ Church Cathedral (notably, not in a church but in a theatre); this was the first time that the event had been held in the evening; this was the first time that the celebratory reception (skillfully catered by Bette Geddes and Associates Catering) had taken place before the service; and this was the first time that Bishop Skelton had preached at the event (previously the preachers had been visiting bishops). The venerable denomination that is the Anglican Church does have a bit of reputation for being resistant to change. However deserved or undeserved this is, that night, more than one thousand people braved a wicked west coast rain and windstorm to fill the Massey Theatre in New Westminster and support the 60 lay members of our diocese receiving the ODNW ribbon and insignia.

Before proceeding with the story of November 1, 2015, we will take a brief look at the ODNW, its history, its eligibility criteria, and the process that takes place to make nominations. After all, it has been seven years since the first Investiture and nine years since the ODNW became part of the official fabric of our diocese.

The ODNW was developed out of the Cathedral Chapter, a diocesan group that is responsible for supporting Christ Church Cathedral in its role as the Mother Church of the diocese. In early 2006, around the same time as the creation of the diocesan badge by then-Chief Herald of Canada, Robb Watt (member of the Chapter and a parishioner of St. Catherine’s, Capilano), Robb and the dean and rector of the cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott suggested that an annual award be developed to honour the laity of the diocese for exceptional service. This concept was already a reality in the Anglican Church of Canada, where, in the Anglican Diocese of Niagara the first Investiture of Members to the Order of Niagara happened in Hamilton in 2000. Using the Order of Niagara as a guide, Dean Elliott worked with Robb Watt (who accepted the title, Warden of the Order) and with then-Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Ronald Harrison to draft terms of reference and eligibility requirements. Upon completion, these were forwarded to the diocesan legal team who subsequently crafted the regulation that was presented to the governing body, Diocesan Council, and in September 2006 were voted on as resolutions, approved and entered into the Canons of the diocese of New Westminster as Regulation 22.

The purpose of the ODNW has already been stated earlier in this piece, however the official wording is as follows:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



LEFT Event co-producer, Thomas Roach positions the St. Alban's, Burnaby altar on the stage of the Massey Theatre. RIGHT The flowers in front of the altar in place. PHOTOS Randy Murray



# Thank You Saints of God

## The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The purpose of the Order is to honour and give special recognition to lay members of the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry.

### What are the eligibility criteria?

1. Member of the laity.
2. Service in a volunteer capacity in the parish, and/or a number of parishes (on committees, parish councils, in special outreach, parish activities), and/or at the diocesan level.
3. Service over a significant period of time.
4. Only one person may be nominated by each parish in each calendar year.
5. Posthumous nominations are not accepted.
6. Nominees must accept their nomination, be willing to have their names recorded in the Register of the Order, and consent to publicity of their investiture including publication of their photograph.

### What is the Process in the Parish?

- 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 \$25 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 the closing date (currently the closing date for Nomination Forms is April 30th).

### Bishop's Nominees

The bishop in consultation with the archdeacons is entitled to propose up to ten recipients of the Order. Typically, such nominees will be persons whose service has been diocesan wide, or if mainly at the parish level, has had an impact in the diocese beyond the parish where the service has been made.

### Honorary Members

In 2011, it was necessary to make a change to Regulation 22. The legal team that had provided exceptional counsel and positive results, defending the bishop and the diocese in the 2009–2011 lawsuit brought by four dissident congregations were invested as Honorary Members of the ODNW. In order to do this, the following paragraph 4.6 was added

and approved by Diocesan Council in September of 2011:

The Bishop may appoint Honorary Members of the Order, provided that there shall be no more than 5 such Members appointed in any given calendar year, that such appointment shall be for meritorious service to the diocese, and that such persons shall not be, at the time of the appointment, members of any parish within the diocese.

### When are Nominees notified of their approval?

Nominees will be notified by the Bishop's Office of their approval after the completion of the process outlined in Synod Regulation 22. This would normally occur in June or July. Rectors, priests-in-charge and wardens will also be notified.

### Why is the Investiture service held in late October early November?

The best answer to this can be found in the words written by the Very Rev. Peter Elliott in the bulletin notes for the 2011 Investiture Eucharist:

This investiture is intentionally scheduled to occur within the octave of the Feast of All Saints — it is a time when the attention of the church is focused on God's call to each baptized person to exercise our ministries in our daily life and work. Recipients of the award are examples to all of us of what the life of a follower of Jesus looks like — they point us to the saints of God who have shown forth the light of Christ for so many generations. In the words of our Lord Christ, "Let your light so shine before others that all may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (*Matthew 5: 16*)

The 2015 version of the Investiture Eucharist could not be held at Christ Church Cathedral. The building at that time was in the final stages of a major renovation that did not allow for occupation of the sanctuary. The Assistant to the Bishop's Office, Bill Siksay was charged with the task of finding another venue, one that would be able to welcome upwards of one thousand people with space in the front (chancel area/stage) of the venue for another one hundred and could also function as a liturgical space. After searching, Bill suggested to diocesan senior staff that the Massey Theatre located on the grounds of New Westminster Senior Secondary might do the job.

A full service performing arts theatre built in 1949; the Massey possesses all the elements necessary to produce the event. It has: a large stage area; lots of seating in the main lower level; a balcony; ample parking; dressing rooms;

Massey Theatre technical director, Mike Cooper supervises the placement of the 85 chairs. PHOTO Randy Murray



Welcoming team leaders attach the reserved signs. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton meeting with the MCs, the Reverend's Jeremy Clark-King and Phillippa Segrave-Pride. PHOTO Randy Murray



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



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**The Bishop of New Westminster**  
The Rt. Rev. Melissa M. Skelton

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**Thank you!**



Doors opened at 6 pm and the lower level filled up quickly. PHOTO Randy Murray



The area where the current members of the ODNW were seated. PHOTO Wayne Chose



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

rehearsal rooms with access to the stage; professional quality sound and lighting; a team of professional consultants in all departments of production and guest services; and a lounge and lobby area. The lobby area is actually part of the entrance hallway to the high school but it is wide and spacious. The cost to rent the 1250 seat theatre was within budget so a deposit was paid and the afternoon of November 1, 2015, was booked.

A site visit by the diocesan production team to the Massey was scheduled for October 1. Upon arrival, the team was greeted by the management staff of the theatre. As the diocesan crew wandered around the space and imagined how a full Celebration of the Eucharist would function there, the theatre manager informed the group that she was mortified to admit that November 1 was double booked. A regular user group, The New Westminster Symphony had assumed that the concert that they annually perform on the

first Sunday afternoon of November was confirmed. The Massey management asked if the diocese would consider changing the date. For a variety of reasons a date change was really not an option, but the diocesan folks did agree to change the time from 4 pm to 7 pm. The theatre management offered additional discounts and the diocesan team urged the Massey staff to ensure that the symphony concert be completed and cleaned up in time to set-up the theatre for the liturgy. Everyone agreed to the terms which meant that diocesan communications and the bishop's office would need to get the word out quickly about the time change. It was also decided that instead of offering a reception following worship, a catered reception with sweet and savoury snacks would be held prior, with the doors opening and allowing access to the lobby area at 5:30 pm.

There were a number of logistical and design challenges with celebrating a Eucharist for more than one thousand people in a place not designed for that purpose. Chalices, patens, linens, flowers, wine, wafers, gluten free wafers, bread, processional crosses, an altar and chairs for the stage area would need to be sourced and delivery arranged. Use of candles was not allowed so theatrical lighting would be relied on to create an environment for worship. The diocesan producers worked with Massey technical staff to obtain a lighting gobo (a metal stencil that fits in the front of a lighting fixture) of the diocesan badge that would be projected on the stage backdrop bathed in blue light. Eighty-five reasonably comfortable chairs were rented. Christ Church Cathedral's director of music, Rupert Lang agreed to assemble a choir consisting of members of Cathedral Choir and the excellent brass quintet *Touch of Brass* to lead the music in worship. The house grand piano would need to be tuned and mic'd, so arrangements were made for that happen.

The Rev. Jeremy Clark-King, rector of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale and regional dean of Point Grey, and the Rev. Phillipa Segrave-Pride, priest associate at Christ Church Cathedral were brought in as liturgical MCs. Archdeacon for Deacons the Ven. Bruce Morris would be deacon of the word; deacon at Holy Trinity, New Westminster, the Rev. Christine Magrega would be deacon of the table, and Kerry Baisley, ODNW agreed to fill the role of bishop's chaplain. Jane Dittrich and Ron Jobe, welcoming team coordinators *par excellence* from Christ Church Cathedral were happy to organize the more than a dozen greeters that would augment the four Massey Theatre front-of-house staff. The Executive Archdeacon and Archdeacon of Burrard, the Ven. Douglas Fenton was on extended study leave and not available so the Dean of the Diocese, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott and the five regional archdeacons of the diocese took on the task of presenting the insignia and ribbon to the recipients. Each archdeacon presented the award to the new members from their archdeaconries with Dean Elliott handling the Archdeaconry of Burrard and the new members from the bishop's list.

The afternoon and evening of November 1 was rainy and windy in Metro Vancouver. There were estimates of 40–60 millimetres of rain in parts of the region. One of the jobs that needed to be done was to move the full-sized wooden altar from St. Alban's, Burnaby to the Massey Theatre, a distance of about 3 kilometres. The Rev. Faun Harriman and warden, Marilyn Chambers of St. Alban's went above and beyond to make arrangements for the diocesan production team and their rented panel van to arrive at the church, load the altar and then return the altar to its place in the St. Alban's chancel after the event.

The worship, greeting, catering and production teams arrived at the theatre about 4 pm to find the Massey staff cleaning up after the orchestra concert. The members of the orchestra were still exiting the venue and running to their

respective modes of transport in the fall downpour. The set-up went smoothly, as did the rehearsal for the procession and the walk-through that served to firm up the logistics for the administration of the Eucharist and the location of the communion stations.

By 5:30 pm the lobby and lounge of the Massey Theatre were packed with folks from all over the diocese. The nominees were directed to one of the rooms adjacent to the stage (this room is used by the New Westminster Secondary School music faculty) where their attendance was registered. Current members of the ODNW had reserved seating near the front of the theatre's lower level as did the clergy of the diocese who were directed to robe in the school's secondary gymnasium located about 40 metres from the theatre entrance. The doors were scheduled to open at 6:15 pm, but with the huge early turnout and the efficiency of Bette Geddes and the catering team it was decided to open the doors just before 6. The general seating in the lower level filled up very quickly.

The two hour liturgy went very smoothly except for one incident. During the Gradual Hymn, a person sitting three rows from the top of the lower level on the right side of the theatre facing the stage fainted. Those sitting near the fainting victim notified greeting team personnel who halted the reading of the Gospel to request medical assistance. The person recovered sufficiently to be taken into the lobby, 911 was called and paramedics arrived within ten minutes. The patient protested and wanted to stay but the medical personnel decided that it would be in everyone's best interests to take her to the hospital at least for observation. The person in question does have numerous ongoing medical conditions, but as of this writing in late November there has not been any additional information communicated about her current condition.

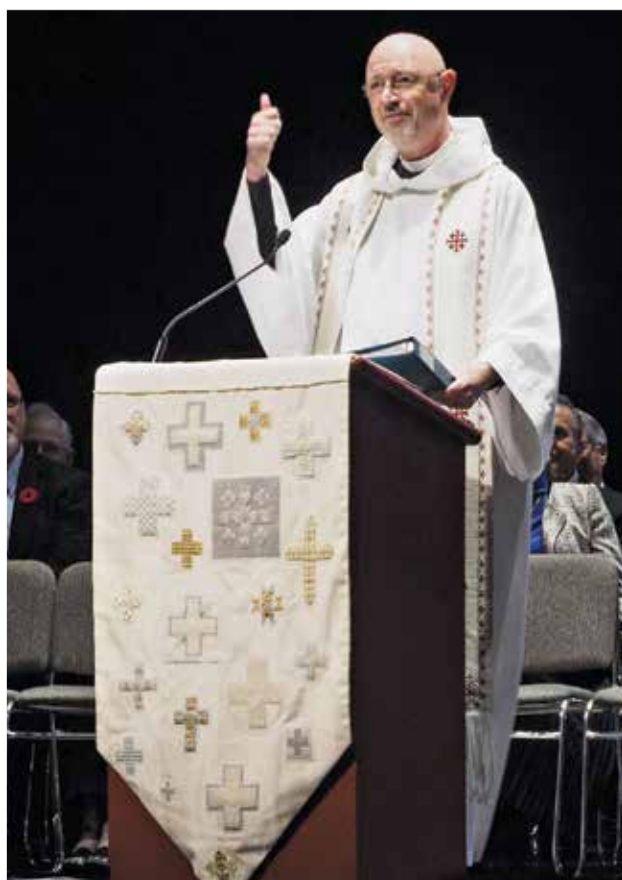
There were a number of highlights in the liturgy, among them: the seamless flow of the Eucharist; the scripture readings by Justice Bentayen (a relative of new ODNW member James Baldo of St. Michael's Multicultural Church, Vancouver) and George Shimizu, ODNW of Holy Cross Japanese Canadian Anglican Church who read *Revelation 21: 1–6a* in Japanese; the music in worship lead by members of Cathedral Choir, Rupert Lang and *Touch of Brass*; the quality of the sound and lighting was topnotch; Bishop Skelton's homily taking the Gospel, *John 11: 32–44* for her text (an audio recording is available online at <http://bit.ly/1jqacw>); Warden of the Order Robb Watt receiving the ODNW insignia from the dean and the bishop; and the investing of Marion Burnett of All Saints', Ladner who at 94 still sings in the All Saint's choir almost every Sunday morning.

Prior to the beginning of worship, the lone Massey Theatre management person still on site came up to the production team to report that he had never seen so many parking infractions as had occurred in the parking lot that evening. In order for him to begin getting cars towed, he would have to remain on site, go outside and meet each tow truck driver, point out the offending vehicle and authorize the tow. The diocesan production team was delighted that he decided to give the towing plan a miss and go home, having spent a very long day at work supervising two major events.

So what's next for the ODNW? Where will the 2016 event be held? Diocesan leadership hopes that the ODNW will evolve into an active organization in our diocese. The combined wisdom, skill, character and commitment of this group of nearly 350 members could be a powerful force for mission and ministry. Stay tuned for more information as this idea develops.

You are now invited to turn to page 4 of this issue of *Topic* and meet the ODNW members for 2015. ♦

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott shows "thumbs up" and it is time for the Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist to begin. PHOTO Wayne Chose



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

**50 years • 1966** Holy Trinity, Vancouver's parish hall roof collapse not covered by insurance because the insurance company deems the weight of the snow which collapsed it to be an "act of God."

**25 years • 1991** St. Martin's hosts an AIDS conference to both inform the public and support those affected. The conference receives both local and provincial media coverage.

**10 years • 2006** Diocese of New Westminster launches challenge to artists and designers to submit ideas for a logo (what would become our Diocesan Badge).



# Thank You Saints of God

## The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

CITATIONS COMPILED & EDITED BY BILL SIKSAY  
*Administrative Assistant to the Bishop's Office*

*Citations as Read by the Warden of the Order, Mr. Robert Watt, ODNW*

The investiture process was slightly different for 2015. With the executive archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton on study leave it was proposed to Bishop Skelton that all the archdeacons participate in the ceremony by investing the new members from their archdeaconries.

The warden of the Order of the diocese of New Westminster, Robert Watt, nominated in 2014, was presented with his insignia at the beginning of the Investiture Ceremony. The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, dean of the diocese and rector of Christ Church Cathedral read the citation and Bishop Skelton presented the medallion.

**Mr. Robert Douglas Watt**  
*St. Catherine, Capilano • Bishop's Nominee*

Robb has served as an intercessor and Eucharistic administrator, people's warden, and member of the Cathedral Chapter. He organized the celebration of St. Catherine's 60th Anniversary. As Warden of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, Robb has been present at every Investiture Service save one, and his usual task is reading the citations of those being invested. As the former Chief Herald of Canada, Robb created heraldry for cathedral churches and parishes across Canada, including this diocese. ✦

**CAPILANO ARCHDEACONRY**  
• The Ven. Lynne McNaughton

**Mrs. Julie Boardman**  
*St. Clement, North Vancouver*

Julie coordinates the parish prayer chain. Prayerful and an excellent listener, she is a trusted spiritual companion. Julie is a reader in worship and a member of the Bible Study. She has been Sunday School superintendent, Synod delegate, Synod alternate, people's warden and rector's warden. A hard-working team player, Julie works quietly. She has a wry sense of humour, and can "hit the nail right on the head" in a way that builds community and puts things in perspective. ✦

**Ms. Katherine Helena Campbell**  
*St. Agnes, North Vancouver*

Kathy started her ministry by delivering mail to parishioners. This led to teaching and coordinating the Sunday School, Cursillo, two terms as warden, three canonical committees, and overseeing a major renovation. Her diocesan service includes being a Synod delegate, Diocesan Council, the Stewards in Action Ministries Committee, and the North Vancouver Regional Council. Kathy and her husband operate an innovative parish winemaking system. She is on the Board of Sharing Abundance, a non-profit community meal programme. ✦

**Mr. Christopher John Funston**  
*St. Stephen, West Vancouver*

On Parish Council for 22 years, Chris was been a long-serving warden and treasurer who facilitated the purchase of a rectory. He now works on Buildings and Properties and the Pastoral Care Committees, visits shut-ins, cooks the men's breakfast, sets up tables and chairs, clears garbage, recycles, and prepares the Memorial Garden. Chris has led worship when no priest is available to preside at a monthly service at adult day care and has served on Diocesan Council and the Cathedral Chapter. ✦

**Ms. Carolyn Eva Iker**  
*St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver*

Carolyn's faith, rooted in contemplative prayer, guides her as a liturgical deacon, Eucharistic administrator, intercessor, guest preacher and prayer warrior. Carolyn has mentored others through silent retreats, a meditation and spirituality group, and major conferences on women's leadership and spirituality and health care. Throughout her nursing career, Carolyn has bridged the health sciences and spirituality using her gift for prayerful insight for healing those in spiritual and physical need. ✦

**Mrs. Mary Magdalen Kerr-Wilson**  
*St. Catherine, Capilano*

Moving here in 1970, Maggie and her late husband Keith opened their home with prairie hospitality for bible studies, supper clubs, and the parish youth. She has worked in the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and the Altar Guild, on outreach, pastoral care, stewardship, Christian education, Friendship Teas, and as a lay administrant. Maggie is known for her faith, kindness, humility, sense of humour, and her optimistic view of the Church. ✦

The gobo is up and the backdrop is lit. There were a few chuckles as the way the gobo was cut makes the martlets look like they are wearing caps. PHOTO Randy Murray



The stage during the procession and Opening Hymn. PHOTO Wayne Chose

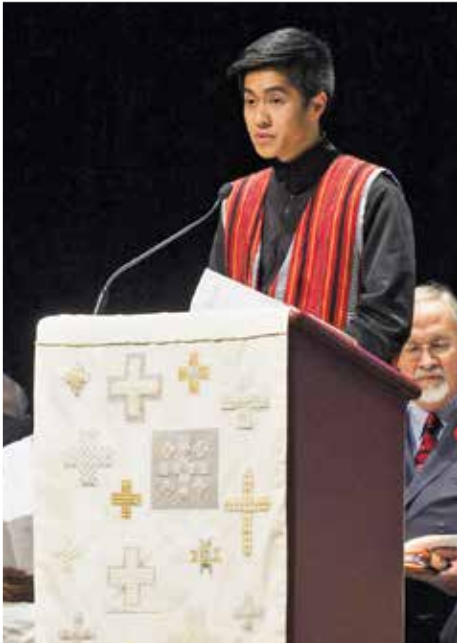


A close up of the Sanctuary Party during the Opening Hymn. PHOTO Wayne Chose





LEFT Justice Bentayen, a relative of the soon to be invested James Baldo, ODNW offered the first reading, *Isaiah 25: 6 – 9*. MIDDLE George Shimizu (soon to be ODNW) of Holy Cross Japanese Canadian Anglican Church read *Revelation 21: 1 – 6a* in Japanese. RIGHT All eyes are toward the back as Archdeacon Bruce Morris pauses in the reading of the Gospel while the medical concern is addressed. PHOTOS Wayne Chose



**Mrs. Veronica Doreen Pewsey**  
*St. Christopher, West Vancouver*

Welcomed by the parish in the 1980s, Doreen joined the choir, ACW and taught Sunday School. As a member of the Church Committee, Doreen's love of the church and many skills were quickly utilized. Doreen served as rector's warden for 13 years, and only retired when she could welcome a new rector after an interim period. When Doreen had to give up singing in the choir ten years ago, she joined the Altar Guild and currently serves as President. ✦

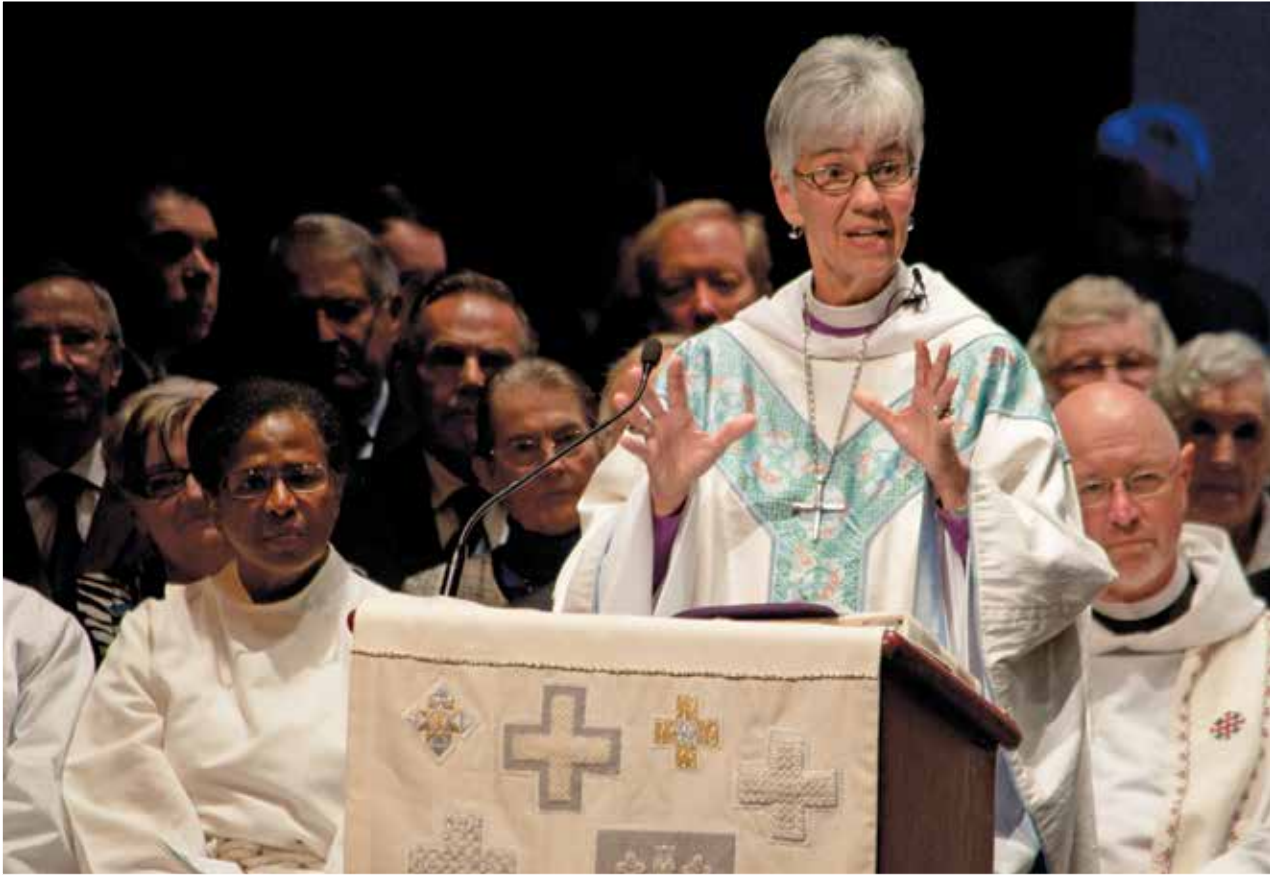
**Mr. Keith Barnard Stevens**  
*St. Hilda, Sechelt*

Soon after arriving at the church, Keith noticed a problem with water ingress and was soon working to repair it. He continues to advise on needed maintenance. He has a gift for woodworking and has built innovative altar rails, small tables and a large cemetery cross. Keith designed and built a back-saving pew mover and wheeled chair stackers, and designed and worked long days on much needed kitchen improvements. Additionally, Keith has been a Church Committee member, and is a greeter, counter, and trustee. ✦

**Ms. Mary E. Tassell**  
*St. Martin, North Vancouver*

Continuously for over 91 years Mary has been a member of All Saints, Burnaby; St. John, Shaughnessy; and St. Martin, North Vancouver. She joined an Altar Guild at age 12, and has served in this capacity at St. Martin's for over 50 years. Mary has also been a Brown Owl and Guider for the Brownies and Girl Guides and a member of Little Helpers. She has done mincemeat, stained-glass window notecards and calendar fundraisers with the ACW and Women's Guild, created the first official parish list, and sent many cards to children and shut-ins. And Mary has been a greeter and pastoral care visitor, always with a ready smile. ✦

Bishop Skelton preaching. PHOTO Randy Murray



**BURRARD ARCHDEACONRY**  
• The Very Rev. Peter Elliott

**Mrs. Carreen Adams**  
*St. Thomas, Vancouver*

Carreen has been active in the parish since she was ten, when, with her mother, she participated in the Chinese Mission and taught Sunday School around a pot-bellied stove. After 30 years in Oregon, Carreen rejoined St. Thomas. Her ministry includes being president of the ACW, visiting and driving the sick and shut-ins, outreach to Royal Arch Masonic Home, and every hospitality event at the church. When things are mysteriously taken care of at St. Thomas, it is assumed that Carreen has been at work. ✦

**Mr. James Baldo**  
*St. Michael, Vancouver*

James' first role in the parish was on the Fellowship and Planning Group where he demonstrated his commitment to cooperation and to growing multiculturalism. Later he became associate warden, a member of Canonical Committee and was elected as people's warden in 2010, a role he continues in today. James is key to implementing the parish's Vision 2021 Plan and he hopes that St. Michael's becomes a centre of worship and fellowship for Filipino immigrants, especially Anglicans. ✦

**Ms. Moira Morgan**  
*Christ Church Cathedral*

Moira glorifies God with music including 30 years with the Cathedral Choir. She served on Parish Council and as rector's warden, bringing her human resources management skills and passion for blessing same-sex unions. She has served on the Bishop's Advisory Council, participated in the Sandwich Project, been a human resources consultant and a fundraising ambassador for the *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* campaign and taken a leadership role in the Cathedral's 125th Anniversary Choral Evensong. ✦

We Wish  
You and Yours  
a  
Happy New Year  
and  
Many Blessings  
in 2016

Randy Murray, *Topic Editor*  
Jennifer Ewing, *Topic Designer*

**Ms. Cathryn Schultz**  
*St. Paul, Vancouver*

Cathryn began her involvement with the *Kid's Church* and the Coffee Hour, and her coffee hour hosting has continued for 21 years. In 2005, she volunteered at the Advocacy Office and became kitchen supervisor. That also continues, and she caters innumerable parish events. While living for a time in the church, she regularly prepared food for street-involved people. Cathryn has organized donations for the Our House addiction recovery programme and supports parishioners with visits and shopping, cooking meals and cutting hair. ✦

**Mr. George Shiyozo Shimizu**  
*Holy Cross Japanese Canadian, Vancouver*

George embodies the history of his church. Despite his hardships during World War II, George has been a faithful member, now one of longest-serving members, of Holy Cross. George contributed enormous time and energy rebuilding a Japanese Canadian Anglican Church after Japanese Canadians were allowed to come back to the West Coast in April 1949. George served as people's warden in the 1960s and rector's warden through the 1980s and was warden when St. Peter's proposed to transfer the title of their property to Holy Cross. ✦

**Mr. Peter John William Symons**  
*St. James, Vancouver*

A member of the parish for 36 years, Peter has been a member of the Servers Guild since 1980. He has taught Sunday School and Adult Bible Study, and served as a trustee and on the Boards of St. James' Community Service Society and the Wilberforce Cooper Care Society. A member of the Altar Guild, Peter takes special care of brass items. Peter has assisted at numerous Newcomers' Dinners and other social events and is a valued Pastoral Care Guild member. ✦



# Thank You Saints of God

## The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

LEFT The Warden of the Order, Robb Watt, nominated in the previous year is about to receive his insignia from Bishop Skelton.  
RIGHT Robb Watt, ODNW is congratulated by the bishop. PHOTOS Wayne Chose



Robb Watt reads the citations. PHOTO Randy Murray



### FRASER ARCHDEACONRY

• The Ven. Stephen Rowe

**Mrs. Jackie Betts**  
*St. Dunstan, Aldergrove*

For over 24 years Jackie's ministry has focussed on hospitality through the Social Committee, organizing coffee hour and helping with the Choir's Spaghetti Dinner, the *Nearly Neil* Dinner Concert, the Harvest Dinner, Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners, and special receptions. A long-time member of both the Friday Women's Fellowship and the choir, Jackie helps knit "prayer" shawls, does outreach at Jackman Manor, and is instrumental in the Christmas Choral Fest. ✦

**Mr. Lesley Lee Foulds**  
*St. Helen, Surrey*

From childhood, Les was a vocal church member, even debating with the clergy during the sermon! He has been a lay administrant of the chalice, a member of Church Council, a delegate to Synod, people's warden and then rector's warden. Always involved in the building and maintenance aspect of parish life, Les was parish custodian and has helped fundraise to replace the church and rectory roofs and spearheaded renovations to the hall and the rectory. ✦

**Mr. Bryan Everett Haas**  
*St. John the Baptist, Sardis*

Bryan has brought energy and imagination to numerous Council positions and his duties as rector's warden. For 20 years he has been the Director of Music, and leads the *Praise Group*. He helped develop a songbook of contemporary hymns for use at Sunday services. Bryan was the parish point person for the Eastern Fraser Valley Ministry Assessment Process (MAP). He helped revamp Parish Council resulting in a more effective Council and has implemented new approaches to holistic stewardship. ✦

**Mrs. Barbara Joan Harris**  
*Church of the Epiphany, Surrey*

Joan has had a 30 year ministry with the Altar Guild and has been a warden, greeter, sidesperson, lay administrator, and server, on the Prayer and Praise group, and taught Sunday School. A member of the Prayer Circle, Healing Prayer team, and the Pastoral Care group, she is also the building manager. Through the two committees, Joan works with the Chaldean Christians who now worship at Epiphany. ✦

**Mrs. Sylvia Joyce Laughlin**  
*All Saints, Agassiz*

Sylvia and her sister-in-law Marion were mainstays of St. Peter, Rosedale. They raised funds by selling quilts, planted gardens, mowed the lawn, sewed banners, and even painted the interior of the church and the hall by themselves. When membership fell off leading to St. Peter's closing, Sylvia worked hard to encourage people to move to All Saints, Agassiz, building bridges for a smooth transition. ✦

**Mrs. Letitia Whiteside Lewis**  
*Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock*

Described as Holy Trinity's "go-to" person, Letta has helped coordinate social events and fundraisers since the 1990s. From pub nights to potlucks, tea parties to harvest suppers, flower outreach to bazaars, she has done it all with passion and integrity. Letta is a trustee and former treasurer and president of the parish ACW. Never seeking personal recognition, Letta epitomizes parish ministry for her fellow parishioners. ✦

**Ms. Kerri Onken**  
*St. Matthew, Abbotsford*

Kerri has served as warden (2010 to 2012) and treasurer (2010 to current) of the parish as it re-established Anglican Church of Canada worship and structures. She provided steady and cheerful guidance through the financial aspects of the transition and during major renovations. On Mission Council and its Executive, she was well prepared and she initiated narrative budgets. Her willingness to innovate has moved the church administration into best practice models of accounting. Dependably positive in the midst of tumult and controversy, Kerri is admired and appreciated by the parish. ✦

**Mrs. Nancy Fay Paulin**  
*St. George, Fort Langley*

Nancy has worked in the Sunday School, with those preparing for Confirmation, and with older siblings of infants being baptized. She has served as both liturgist and verger, and on Parish Council. She has led worship planning, compiled special services, trained people for lay ministries, and developed advertising pamphlets to inform people about the historic church. Her banners decorate St. George's. In the 1990s Nancy was a member of the Diocesan Christian Formation Committee and worked on Children's Festivals at Christ Church Cathedral. ✦

**Mrs. Olive Pociwuschek**  
*St. Mark, Ocean Park*

Olive's ministry began as Coffee Hour Coordinator and 23 years later she acts as the scheduler. Olive was involved with the Area Links Ministry, coordinating it from 1994 to 2001. She created the Visiting Ministry and has led it since 1995, making visits and calls herself and encouraging others to do the same. She also supports the Eucharistic Home Servers Ministry. Olive planned the first Christmas Tea, which evolved into a Seniors' Christmas Lunch, and 20 years later she is still organizing this event. ✦

**Mrs. Alberta Lee Rudolf**  
*St. Michael, Surrey*

Alberta served many years as president of the parish ACW and as a rector's warden, associate warden, and people's warden. She has been on two Canonical Committees, sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, chaired parish committees, negotiated rental contracts, and was the liaison between the Church Council and rector. In her time she was the first responder to security alarms and rectified a severe rodent problem. Currently she is a trustee and the recording secretary of the diocesan ACW. ✦

**Mr. Edward Tisdale**  
*St. Thomas, Chilliwack*

Ted has been active and involved at St. Thomas for many years, as warden, treasurer or council member. Ted's business knowledge, grasp of financial matters, wide experience in municipal issues, and administrative talents have been invaluable to the parish. Ted's considerable strategic planning skills have provided the parish with fresh insights, and evolving strategic goals. ✦

**Mr. Peter Barrett Whaites**  
*St. Andrew, Langley*

Barry sees to the parish's maintenance needs from light bulbs to leaks, washroom remodelling to kitchen upgrades, and signage to painting. He's been a faithful sidesperson for 35 years. In 2014, when the music director exited just two weeks before Easter, Barry came forward to make sure there was a choir and anthem for those celebrations. Barry built the strength and confidence of the choir almost overnight, and he is now the choir director, ensuring that anthems are prepared for special occasions. ✦

### LOUGHEED ARCHDEANERY

• The Ven. Grant Rodgers

**Mrs. Celia Barone**  
*St. Timothy, Burnaby*

Celia was a founding member of the parish in 1954. In 1972, she worked at the parish house for Project Back Door, which provided counselling for child victims of abuse. For over 23 years she was parish secretary, guiding clergy with loyalty and a wealth of knowledge. A reassuring presence during the amalgamation of Christ the King and St. Nicholas and the transition to St. Timothy, Celia has held every possible parish position, including being named Altar Guild Member Emeritus. ✦



LEFT James Baldo, ODNW of St. Michael's Multicultural Church in East Vancouver. PHOTO Wayne Chose  
RIGHT Bishop Skelton and Ken Thompson of St. Laurence, Coquitlam pose for their photo (every recipient moved to their right to pose for an individual photo with the bishop taken by Wayne Chose). PHOTO Randy Murray



**Mrs. Dorina Margaret Hjørleifson**  
*Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Whonnock*

Dorina and her husband came to St. John the Evangelist, Whonnock, to be close to a nephew at Ferndale Institution, but she then became very involved in the parish. At Holy Spirit she has served on the Church Council and as ACW president. She has organized numerous bake sales, helped at countless bazaars, packed Christmas hampers, and coordinated the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. A lay administrator and a sidesperson, Dorina helps with greeting, gathering the offering, counting, and banking. ✦



**Mr. Gerald Kozol**  
*St. George, Maple Ridge*

Gerry joined the Anglican Church as an adult and over the past 35 years has served as people's rector's and bishop's warden, choir member, envelope secretary, MAP Committee chair, stewardship coordinator, Synod delegate, and Canonical Committee chair. Integral to every worship service and the daily parish operations, Gerry is also on the Street Ministry Leadership Team, making sandwiches every Saturday and serving meals once a month. ✦

The Metropolitan of Rupert's Land, the Most Rev. Greg Keir-Wilson was present to see his mum, Mrs. Maggie Kerr-Wilson invested into the ODNW. PHOTO Wayne Chose



**Mrs. Mary Louise McIntyre**  
*All Saints, Mission*



Mary has served her parish in the ACW and Altar Guild and as a Sunday School teacher, Synod delegate and treasurer. Her diocesan positions have been as Yale Deanery representative on Diocesan Council and as vice president and then president of the diocesan ACW. She guided the ACW through the sale of Women's Auxiliary (WA) Memorial House in Vancouver and the move to ACW Place in Burnaby. Mary participated in the National ACW Presidents' Conferences from 2007 to 2010. ✦

**Mrs. Janet Lynn Pavlakovic**  
*St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby*


For 25 years Janet has been a tireless volunteer. Janet is a member of Parish Council, organizer of the Phoning Committee, Pastoral Care Committee member, Prayer Chain member, lay administrator, counter and sidesperson, and a leader of the Thrift Shop team. She held the positions of rector's warden, Synod delegate and alternate, and Sunday School teacher. Since 2004 Janet has coordinated the Spring Tea and Fall Fair, two of the parish's largest fundraising initiatives. ✦

**Mrs. Elizabeth Annette Scott**  
*St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge*

Beth served as Parish Secretary from 1988 until her retirement in December 2011. Since retiring she has undertaken leadership with the Strawberry and Holly Teas, special dinners, funeral receptions, fundraising events, and gardening. Beth often coordinates general maintenance of the church and grounds. She is on the Church Committee and Altar Guild and works with the other groups that use the building. Beth is always on call for anything that needs done in the church. ✦



**January 23, 2016**  
Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver  
10 am–12:30 pm • \$25.00 registration



**VST and Christ Church Cathedral presents**  
**THE JOY OF PREACHING**  
**a workshop with Bishop Willimon**

"Christian preaching is that joyful vocation whereby we are called to talk about Jesus Christ rather than ourselves, our assumed needs, or even our congregations." (from **Will Willimon's** new book **'How Odd of God: Called to the Vocation of Preaching'**, Westminster / John Knox, Fall, 2015) This workshop will focus upon sustaining the peculiar qualities required for Christian preaching as a theological task.

**To register visit the News & Events page at [www.vst.edu](http://www.vst.edu)**

**January 24, 2016**

**Bishop Willimon will preach at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver at both Sunday morning services.**

*William Henry Willimon is an American theologian and bishop in the United Methodist Church, who served the North Alabama Conference. He is currently Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School. He is former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University and is considered by many as one of America's best-known and most influential preachers. A Pulpit & Pew Research on Pastoral Leadership survey determined that he was one of the two most frequently read writers by pastors in mainline Protestantism alongside Henri Nouwen. His books have sold over a million copies. He is also Editor-At-Large of The Christian Century.*



Photo taken from the balcony during the Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



# Thank You Saints of God

## The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

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**Mr. Kenneth Thomson**  
*St. Laurence, Coquitlam*

Ken served as a warden and a Synod delegate, and is currently a trustee. Ken has sung in the choir since 1968, and is a long-time chalice administrator and greeter. He served on the parish's 40th and 50th Anniversary Committees and headed the new organ committee. In 1991, he formed the Auction Committee, which organizes the annual Dinner and Auction, a major and continuing parish fundraiser. As a member of the Men's Club, Ken helped with parish maintenance. He was parish representative for to the *Dialogue on Same-Sex Unions*. Ken now ministers on the pastoral care team. ✦

**Mr. Terence Wilfred Walton**  
*St. John the Apostle, Port Moody*

Terry has served in the Anglicans in Mission programme, on Parish Council, on the Daycare Board, as stewardship coordinator, on Canonical Committees and as warden. Terry was a Cursillista and is an Education for Ministry (EfM) graduate. He is a member of the Men's Group, work party volunteer, Parish Bazaar waiter, lay communion assistant, sidesperson, and coordinated the successful *Raise the Roof* campaign. Through his participation in the golf group, Terry has revealed aspects of his personality not seen in church. ✦

**VANCOUVER ARCHDEANERY**  
• The Ven. John Stephens

**Mrs. Diana Alice Shirley Bragg**  
*St. Philip, Vancouver*

Active at St. Philip's since she was four, Diana has taught Sunday School, been vestry clerk, people's warden, and trustee, and served on committees for endowments, communications, conference planning, fellowship and pastoral care. Leading prayer and singing in the choir, acting as captain of the award-winning Relay for Life Team the St. Philip's Flyers, convening rummage sales and Christmas Fairs are all part of her ministry. Diana has helped organize Synods and *Women and Spirituality* conferences, and was active with the Anglican Community at the University of British Columbia (UBC). ✦

Marion Burnett, ODNW. PHOTO Wayne Chose



**Mrs. Jennifer Cheung**  
*St. Matthias—St. Luke, Vancouver*

Jennifer is a lifelong Anglican, starting in her native Malaysia. Arriving in Canada in 1988 and here since 1991 she became a member and business administrator at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Part of that parish's church planting ministry, she started worshipping at St. Luke's, and was twice elected rector's warden. Then, as now at St. Matthias—St. Luke, Jennifer has bridged cultures by supporting Mandarin ministries. In summer Jennifer opens her garden for bible studies, sharing her talents of cooking and gardening. ✦

**Ms. Heather Jane Hamilton**  
*St. Faith, Vancouver*

Heather has been Sunday School coordinator, people's warden, Outreach Committee Chair, co-chair of the *Honouring Our Commitment* Campaign, Stewardship Committee member, Synod delegate and chaired the Parenting Programme, supporting parents of teen-aged children. She has helped with rummage and bake sales and Homelessness Action Week. Heather has undertaken five overseas missions with *Kindness in Action* providing free dental care and education, and is a member of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. ✦

**Mr. Alfred George Lam**  
*St. Helen, West Point Grey*

For 40 years Alf's "maintenance" ministry has used his abilities in organizational setup, service delivery, and technical support. A team player with a welcoming spirit, Alf's knowledge of what needs to be done and how to get it done, showcase his leadership talents. Alf is central to a St. Helen's supported homelessness project at Kitsilano Community Centre. Alf credits his "family of volunteers" for supporting and sustaining him. ✦

**Ms. Patricia Anne Martin**  
*St. Mark, Vancouver*

One of the first female altar servers in the diocese, Pam continues her ministry today with special interest in the look and feel of the worship space, fabric art, contemplative worship, centering prayer, paperless music, and Healing Touch. Music has always been a large part of her contribution, whether it is singing, playing instruments, arranging, composing, researching, and teaching. Around the parish Pam is often the person you go to with questions, and if she doesn't know she will know who does. ✦

**Mrs. Brita Owen**  
*St. John, Shaughnessy*

In 1972, Brita joined the Sanctuary Guild and she was a dedicated member for the next 36 years. She held every position and speaks lovingly of the wonderful women she met and worked with over the years, who taught her everything and were like mothers to her. Since 2011, Brita is back in the Sacristy. Not a week goes by that she is not busy washing and ironing the linens, polishing the chalices or mentoring to newcomers to the Sanctuary Guild team. ✦



**Ms. Shelagh Smith**

*St. Anselm, Vancouver*

As well as mentoring many young people as a Professor of Nursing and District Commissioner of the Girl Guides, Shelagh served on the Parish Council for 11 years and as a trustee for six years. She organized many fundraising events over the past 23 years. Shelagh brings wisdom to her ongoing involvement in the Pastoral Visitation Team, Homeless Ministry Team, Student Ministry Discernment Team and the Parish Prayer Team, which form a testament to her commitment to live “Christ Life.” ✦

**Dr. Priscilla Diana Maryon Turner**

*Holy Trinity, Vancouver*

When Priscilla joined the parish in the 1986, she and her late husband Christopher, saw themselves as among its youngest members. They began work on parish renewal, including building a complete programme of adult education. Always interested in matters of policy and doctrine, Priscilla has been a Synod delegate and Canonical Committee member. She has offered counselling and organized Sunday lunches. Priscilla is a published biblical scholar and personal memorist, read all over the world. ✦

**WESTMINSTER ARCHDEACONRY**

• *The Ven. Elizabeth Northcott*

**Ms. Judy Barteluk**

*St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton*

Judy has held many leadership positions including: Sunday School teacher, Church Committee member, rector’s warden, Altar Guild president, Tri-Parish Pastoral Care Team Ministry chair and New Westminster Reachout Society Chair. She is currently an Altar Guild member, sidesperson, Hospitality Ministry coordinator, Prayer Shawl Ministry member and co-chair of the Events Committee. An enthusiastic event planner, Judy coordinated the annual Women’s Retreat to Yellowpoint Lodge on Vancouver Island for the last four years. ✦

**Mrs. Marion Burnett**

*All Saints, Ladner*

Marion has had a lifelong ministry in church choirs. She has a great love for the work of the Altar Guild where she has quietly and faithfully served behind the scenes caring for the “fabric” of the church. Her ministry has also included serving Communion and meals for the community. Marion always lends a hand whenever there is a need. Marion describes her church family as an essential part of her life and her celebration of daily living. ✦

**Mr. James Harry Claydon**

*St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby*

Jim has worn many hats over 35 years including people’s warden, property manager, and music and worship leader. A self-taught guitarist, his passion has been children’s ministry, where he teaches and leads that music ministry. Jim has written excellent Christmas pageants and “end of Sunday School” productions, bringing joy and life to the parish. Although his boyhood dream to be a school-teacher was never realized, Jim says that he is “a teacher for God.” ✦

**The Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett.** PHOTO Randy Murray



**The Eucharist in the lower level and stage.** PHOTO Randy Murray



**The Rev. Stephanie Shepard.** PHOTO Randy Murray



**Ms. Patricia Doreen Dempsey**

*St. David, Delta*

Pat experienced an awakening in her faith empowering her for ministry during a Vancouver School of Theology (VST) pastoral care course in the 1970s. She has been involved in the choir, AGLOW, the Order of St. Luke, as a communion assistant, pastoral visitor, administrative assistant, warden, Synod delegate, and on the Canonical and Finance Committees. She has organized parish healing services and Sunday School conferences, and for 16 years served as the diocesan accountant. Pat has been pastor to the pastors at St. David’s. ✦

**Ms. Florence Ferguson**

*St. Barnabas, New Westminster*

As a young girl Flo made her own way to church and she has never left. Today Flo’s ministries are hospitality and singing. She has been the main, and usually only, greeter and usher, arriving early, rain or shine, and is the first to offer a welcome. Flo’s great love has been music. When the parish had a choir she was a member, and today she leads the singing using her lovely strong soprano voice to guide less sure singers. ✦

**Mr. Douglas Kenneth McRae**

*Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster*

Doug has been a greeter and sidesperson, a member of Church Council, and people’s warden. Since 1990, he has been the roster scheduler for lay people participating in worship services. Doug has been a gentle and caring volunteer at the Community Breakfast Programme and an ex-officio member of the Altar Guild for 20 years. For many years he was the property manager, and as a result is known as “Mr. Fix It” because he gets so many jobs done. ✦

**Episcopal Blessing from the balcony.** PHOTO Wayne Chose



**Mr. James Smith Riley**

*St. Anne, Steveston*

In the late 1980s, a casual request for help led Jim to a ministry of caring for the physical plant of the parish. Jim repairs everything and anything. No job is beyond his reach or knowledge including fixing roofs, repairing stairs, patching a leaky water line, repairing asphalt in the parking lot, returning recycling or removing leaves — nothing is too much for Jim. Jim gives generously, caring for the building that is his spiritual home. ✦

**Mr. Larry Scherban**

*St. Alban, Richmond*

For over 20 years, the parish has rarely had to pay tradespeople for repairs, restoration, renovations, or rebuilding because Larry Scherban can fix anything. Larry has built elaborate sets for the St. Alban Players theatre group and for concerts and pageants, restored the house on church property, painted parking stalls, planted trees and installed sprinkler systems. He is responsible for sound systems, furnaces, water tanks, solar panels, roofs and lighting. It is no wonder he’s been called “God’s handyman.” ✦

**Ms. Norma Gwendolyn Stephenson**

*All Saints, South Burnaby*

Norma has been people’s warden and active in outreach, coordinating the Day of Prayer and donations to Aunt Leah’s, Maywood School, and the Seafarers. A leader during MAP, Norma was instrumental in the decision to keep the parish open. For 16 years Norma has chaired the Worship Committee and Intercessor Team. Several years ago, Norma gave a presentation on Black History in the Caribbean and worked on a Canonical Committee. Norma has sung in the choir since 1973 and she is a noted fundraiser. ✦



# Thank You Saints of God

## The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

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The Dismissal — the Ven. Bruce Morris. PHOTO Randy Murray



### BISHOP'S NOMINEES

• The Very Rev. Peter Elliott

#### Mr. William Betts

*St. Dunstan, Aldergrove • Bishop's Nominee*

Bill is the long-serving parish Director of Maintenance and Facilities, including at the time of the disastrous Halloween 2000 fire. He continued this work when the new building was completed, working through the challenges of getting it up and running. A choir member, he has been key to the Christmas Choral Fest. He also cooks for the Community Salmon BBQ and Men's Breakfast, and is a chalice administrator and lesson reader. Bill has served on Parish Council and at the Stewardship Committee he innovated the budget line, "Time and Talents." ✦

#### Mr. Peter John Goodwin

*St. James, Vancouver • Bishop's Nominee*

Peter gives his time and energy to two major diocesan and global ministries — the Mission to Seafarers and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). At the Mission he does monetary transactions for seafarers and for the Mission itself, and he does the shopping. Active for over 20 years with the PWRDF, Peter has been the diocesan representative and chair for nine years. Peter has brought the PWRDF to the diocese's attention through education and animation, using his passion and drive. ✦

#### Mrs. Denise Colvill Hambidge

*All Saints, Ladner • Bishop's Nominee*

A member of the ACW since 1956, Denise became Honorary President of the Diocesan Board. During her time in Tanzania in the 1990s, Denise received unsolicited donations from people of this diocese, which she used for the health needs of college personnel and to start a nursery — Kindergarten School. Returning to Canada, she worked with the PWRDF and was elected a National Director and later, vice-president. Denise has been active with the VST Auxiliary, the All Saint's Health Team, and is a Spiritual Care volunteer at Delta Hospital. ✦

#### Mrs. Karol Eva Henrotte

*All Saints, Agassiz • Bishop's Nominee*

Arriving at the parish in 2003, Karol was asked to head the MAP Committee. All Saints was one of the first parishes to engage the process, and four years later, after many meetings, the parish grew and began to thrive. Karol has been a long-time Synod delegate, a delegate to the BC and Yukon Provincial Synod, and an assessor on the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO). Her parish work has included many workshops on stewardship. Karol is proud to be the unofficial resident parish nurse. ✦

#### Mr. Douglas Ibbott

*St. James, Vancouver • Bishop's Nominee*

In 2010, Doug cycled across Canada and across Europe to raise awareness and funds for the Hope International Clean Water for Ethiopia project. This odyssey was supported by his parish and the diocese. While on tour Doug saw a church redevelopment in Moncton that piqued his interest. Thinking this could be applied at St. James, Doug led a Building Viability Working Group to explore the idea. Doug has also been very active in stewardship and outreach and as a member of the Diocesan Refugee Unit. ✦

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The Rev. Clarence Li and Peter Goodwin, ODNW administer Holy Communion. PHOTO Randy Murray



Getting in position on the stage to pose for the 2015 photo. PHOTO Randy Murray





# Thank You Saints of God

## The Seventh Annual Investiture Eucharist of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW)

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The 2015 group shot. PHOTO Wayne Chose



**Mr. Gary Kenwood**  
*Christ Church Cathedral • Bishop's Nominee*

Gary has been a leader in three parishes over 43 years. Initially at St. Faith, Vancouver, he served as a member of the Property Committee. Then at St. Dunstan, Aldergrove, he was treasurer during a period of expansion and building. In retirement he moved to Christ Church Cathedral, serving as treasurer, rector's warden, and most recently, associate warden for Building Restoration and Renewal. His calm confidence, business acumen and managerial experience have proven to be greatly valued gifts offered to the life of the Church. ✦

**Mrs. Dorothy Alice Mash**  
*St. Mark, Ocean Park • Bishop's Nominee*

Dorothy has a love of the Liturgical Arts and has produced numerous banners, paraments, and vestments. Her diocesan service includes the Christian Education Committee, the Synod Planning Committee, the Ordained Ministry Division, and workshops on the Ministry of the Prayers of the People. Dorothy was a member of the Provincial Synod Committee on Ministry when she convened the Seedtime and Harvest Conference and assisted drafting instruments and policy. An experienced ACPO Assessor, Dorothy served nine years as ACPO secretary for the Ecclesiastical Province. Currently Dorothy and her husband John are diocesan chaplains to retired clergy and spouses. ✦

**Miss Elizabeth Breeze Murray**  
*St. James, Vancouver & St. David, Delta • Bishop's Nominee*

A good communicator and organizer, Elizabeth has edited newsletters at St. James and St. David, and worked on Topic and a Synod Press Committee. She promoted nine Canterbury Fayres starting in 1971 and three Church Flower Festivals marking special parish anniversaries at St. James and the Vancouver Centennial. Elizabeth gathered photographs, newsletters and other historical parish documents for deposit in the Diocesan Archives. At St. David's she volunteers in the church office and on the newsletter and has organized four annual Big Lunch Events for parishioners and the St. James Advent Boutique. ✦

*Congratulations  
to All the Recipients  
of the  
Order of the Diocese  
of New Westminster!*

## Children & Youth Ministry Appeal

Begin 2016 with a new gift to the Children and Youth Ministry of the diocese. Much has happened as the diocesan Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator, Caitlin Reilley Beck, Diocesan Youth Movement leaders, and others implemented this ministry last year. Among many others, here are the highlights of two particularly exciting developments.

*Godly Play*, a program of spiritual formation for children, is being embraced across the diocese. In 2014, there were about five parishes using *Godly Play* or elements from it. Now, there are a total of 14 parishes either using, beginning to use, or seriously exploring using *Godly Play* with their children. More than simply a new Sunday School curriculum, *Godly Play* uses storytelling, prayer, art, silence, and liturgy to support children's innate sense of the presence of the Creator. It builds in children a theological vocabulary that will support a lifetime of active, engaged Christian faith. The significant increase in parishes embracing *Godly Play* has led Caitlin to begin a monthly *enrichment group* for anyone using the program. These evenings build skills,

address questions, and allow people to connect across parishes to share resources and experiences.

Another highlight for 2015 in Children and Youth Ministries within our diocese was September's *Equip, Empower, Engage* junior youth event. A first of its kind for us, this event brought 24 young people, 9 to 13 years old, together to learn about parish development. Exploring something much of the diocesan community is also working on was intentional and reflects the Diocesan Youth Movement's commitment to seeing children and youth as full members of the Body of Christ, potential partners and leaders in their own contexts. See November's *Topic* for a story.

Having a fulltime Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator at the diocesan level is allowing us to support and extend ministries with young people at the diocesan and parish levels. In that role, Caitlin's ministry is to equip and empower all of the rest of us (lay and clergy alike) to embrace the next generation of Anglicans. This key diocesan strategy in the Bishop's drive to develop and renew parishes needs your financial support. ✦



### Welcome Families, Children & Youth with your Legacy Gift

*A legacy in your will is one way to help your parish community to welcome families with children and youth into God's family. As an ultimate act of stewardship, support the diocese or your parish in your will. Consider tithing the value of your estate to support our growing Children & Youth & Family ministry.*

*For Assistance with your Legacy Gift, contact:*  
Glen Mitchell, Director, Stewardship & Gift Planning  
Call: (604) 684-6306, Ext. 218  
Email: [gmitchell@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:gmitchell@vancouver.anglican.ca)







## Life in the Midst of Brokenness • 1

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Fraser Valley is a region of southern British Columbia that boasts a rich history and the Anglican Church of Canada as a national expression of the Church of England throughout the world also has a rich history. These two elements blended together on the morning of November 15, 2015, at St. Thomas', Chilliwack to mark the parish's 142nd anniversary with a "heritage" celebration of Holy Communion, using the service contained in the 1918 version of the Church of England Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The 1918 Edition was the first Prayer Book to be published in Canada. In his notes found on the inside front page of the November 15 Order of Service leaflet, St. Thomas's rector, the Rev. John Sovereign says, "The Canadian Edition was most welcome."

There was a good-sized congregation gathered at St. Thomas', for the heritage worship. There were a number of people in attendance from the Chilliwack Historical Society and some others who had made a special point of attending this worship event in order to be present for the homily that would be given by the Anglican Archivist for the diocese of New Westminster and the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon, Ms. Melanie Delva. For the past 10 years and continuing currently, much of Melanie's work and ministry have involved researching and sharing information about the Indian Residential Schools programs that took place in the geographical areas of the two Anglican entities that she serves. The primary recipients of information were and are the Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in 2005, and the student/victims of that horrific system, their relatives, friends and descendants. During her work, Melanie's entire perspective regarding the Church, the Government, faith, racism, justice and humanity underwent a profound transformation. She is considered one of the leading non-aboriginal spokespersons in the Church on the subject of reconciliation and is a much in-demand speaker.

A person of faith, Melanie looks very carefully at the scriptures of the Gospel in order to communicate her story and wish that we come to experience "the face of Christ" in people and never again treat others as "less than ourself."

There were a number of anachronisms apparent during the heritage Holy Communion liturgy. I suppose the most obvious being the fact that a woman would not be a homilist, but there were also microphones, the blessed chalice, the recently installed air conditioning system, and a Puresse dispenser placed in the middle of the main aisle following the Eucharistic Prayer. But of course these historical inconsistencies had nothing to do with the purpose of the worship event. In his *Thank You!* on the back page of the leaflet, rector, the Rev. John Sovereign wrote, "We are grateful that this very-changed-within-our-life-time service of the Church of England in the Dominion of Canada may have brought back some memories. It was the authorized service used through 1962. It reminds us of the vast changes in culture, language, thinking and Christian faith that have taken place and have been experienced through the last century of life at St. Thomas'."

*(I must admit that I really enjoyed singing the Memorial Supper service and was delighted that I could sing from memory all of the Creed and the Gloria. There is a reason for this material written and composed in the mid-16th century. It remains for many a part of spiritual practice, it is especially prayerful and actually quite beautiful. I used to have Amy Pie by Don McLean memorized and I don't think I'd be able to sing that from memory. • Editor)*

Prior to worship, Rev. Sovereign stood in the narthex in front of the chancel entrance and shared information regarding the different practices of worshipers attending Holy Communion in the first half of the last century compared to what is both acceptable







# The Heritage Service at St. Thomas', Chilliwack

appropriate today. Although parts of the 1918 service were not included, most of the worship content was authentic, complete with the Rev. Sovereign as officiant offering the prayers to the high altar with his back to the congregation.

After an opening invocation, Melanie Delva began her homily saying, "I would like to start by acknowledging that we are a church worshipping on traditional territories taken from the Sto:lo people. I am profoundly grateful for their continued presence and their traditional and spiritual witness to those of us who inhabit their lands."

Melanie congratulated the parish of St. Thomas' on 142 years of mission and ministry in Chilliwack and the surrounding area and spoke to those gathered about their parish and its first rector:

"Obviously, I love history, so being in this place at this time is meaningful for me. I have seen many images of this building, some with finely hatted women on the steps, some with the church on massive timber rollers ready to be moved, some with images of early rectors eerily superimposed onto the photo over the church, as if their spectres still held sway over the direction and decisions of the church — as if the living were somehow accountable to the dead.

And maybe they are...?

In preparation for today, I have spent a lot of time thinking about the Rev. George Ditcham, St. Thomas' s first fulltime rector. Now, here's a quintessential colonial clergyman — educated in the old country in St. Augustine's Missionary College at Canterbury, one could say he was born for a position such as this — a church posting in the centre of a vast and as yet un-"civilized" pocket of colonial presence in the untamed West. In fact, he seemed to revel in the hardship the new outposts threw at him. He wrote in 1878:

*"I have [been visiting] three times under difficulties which we get so used to in this country that to write about them would cause the feeling in myself that I was boasting and delighting*

*in vain glory. There is such a great amount of pleasure when one is in full health in the difficulties of travel in a new country that I for one think it capital fun!"*

His passion and energy for his work bore much fruit, starting in Yale, Hope and Chilliwack, going on to be Vicar at St. James', Vancouver which still goes strong today."

Melanie went on to summarize Ditcham's career in ministry in the Fraser Valley including the information that following a return to the UK he returned as the Superintendent of the New England Company and secured a site for the St. George's Indian Residential School in Lytton.

"He purchased 696 acres of land in two parcels, and in 1902, the Industrial School for Indian Boys at Lytton opened, with our very own Rev. Ditcham as its first principal. This school would go on to house and 'educate' thousands of First Nations children as young as three years old and as old as 19... Make no mistake — the Rev. Ditcham was a brave and stalwart missionary who sacrificed much comfort to come to the unfettered West to serve the communities here in the name of Christ. He did some very good work establishing some of our earliest parishes and he also truly believed that educating First Nations children would help to advance them in a growingly settler-controlled culture.

He was also a man who failed to see the face of Christ in the First Nations people he encountered, and instead founded an institution hell bent on making sure that if any face was to be seen in those of these small children, it would be a mirror image of his own. His tenure at St. George's was the beginning of eight decades of cultural genocide. I say this not to disgrace Ditcham or his important role in the history of this parish, but to demonstrate that history is always complex. It is not as black and white as we often want things to be. And the road of reconciliation is equally complex."

Then Melanie went on to share her own story and how her work led her to a new understanding of the world, her own upbringing, her core beliefs and the message of the Gospels. After sharing the very moving and personal account of discoveries made that changed her forever she took a look at the Gospel for the day, *Matthew 9: 18*, Jesus' healing of the bleeding woman.

"In the midst of that journey towards the resurrection of the girl, a woman interrupts the scene. In her desperation to be healed from a condition that left her not only physically weak and ill, but also ceremonially and spiritually unclean and therefore cast off from society, this woman reaches out her hand to touch just the hem of Jesus' garment — with a faith that believes that even just the brush of her fingertip on the dusty, scratchily-woven garment will make her whole. What a faith THAT is!

Christ heals the woman. Christ raises the girl.

I see a parallel between this story-within-a-story and my own healing, and where we are now in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. There is the larger story of the 'rulers' humbling themselves — the government apologies for the residential schools system, the high-level institutional church apologies for the same, the various institutions and systems realizing their culpability. In the same way that I wonder if the ruler in the story would have worshipped Christ had he not needed something from him, I wonder if the 'rulers' in our current story would have humbled themselves had they not been so unequivocally forced to confront the awful Truth that they were in the midst of a systemic Death."

Melanie Delva does believe that "healing is available for all" but it will not come without the experience and profound awareness of our "brokenness and shame." As she spoke the

final sentence of the penultimate paragraph of her homily there was a reaction in the room; shallow intakes of breath; some shifting on pew cushions, for some there was a slight exhalation as they processed the following words:

"We need to pursue reconciliation not because Indigenous people need us to help *them*, but because we are in need of help."

Following the sermon, the liturgy continued with the Offertory, Intercession, and the various sections of the old BCP Holy Communion service concluding with the two prayers that most modern Anglicans know, the Prayer of Humble Access and the Prayer of Consecration. At this point the liturgy transformed into a Eucharist certainly not out of place in a modern Anglican church. Placing the Eucharist into the context of the 1918 Administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Rev. Sovereign wrote this in his leaflet notes, "A century ago, to receive Communion without proper preparation and true repentance was to create a real threat to the church you belonged too. Modern understandings of the Eucharist, and the love of God encourage us to eat and drink precisely because we need the Lord's sustenance to live holy and healthy lives, physically and spiritually..."

On that cloudy, dark, mid-fall morning in Chilliwack, BC, 75 people gathered in an old church to share an experience. What they shared was more than a guided tour of the past offering a possible reprieve from the sameness of Sunday worship. What they heard and experienced were messages of healing, hope, compassion, new life, new understanding and also the opportunity to gather together as the Body of Christ, and in Melanie's words in reference to the woman in the Gospel story, "long — for a chance at real Life in the midst of brokenness." ✠



1. Melanie arrives at the entrance door.
2. Prior to worship, the rector, Rev. John Sovereign provided some context for the 1918 Prayer Book Holy Communion service.
3. The procession is concluding as the choir on the Cantoris side and the Sanctuary Party sing the final verse of *On this Day of Celebration*.
4. With his back to the congregation and facing the altar, the Rev. John Sovereign offers the Lord's Prayer.
5. Alex Angioli reads *Colossians 1: 3 – 12* from the King James Version of the Bible. When he was finished he said, "here endeth the epistle."
6. St. Thomas', Chilliwack on a dark fall morning, November 15, 2015.
7. The rector reads the Gospel, *Matthew 9: 18*.
8. Melanie Delva preaching.
9. Now wearing a chasuble, the rector offers the "Comfortable Words."
10. The Rev. John Sovereign gestures to the congregation to come forward for Holy Communion.
11. The Eucharist.
12. As the winds began to blow, signaling the beginning of a Fraser Valley storm, the preacher and the rector greet the congregation after worship.

PHOTOS Randy Murray



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Deacon's Day •

Saturday, November 21, 2015, from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm was *Deacon's Day* at the Synod Offices of the diocese of New Westminster at 1410 Nanton Street. There are now more than 40 vocational deacons in the diocese and Bishop Skelton's goal is to have an ordained deacon in every parish in the diocese. The great turn-out for the November 7, Vocations Day two weeks earlier was very successful and indicated that there are folks that are listening to the call of ministry and perhaps the bishop's vision for diaconal ministry may become a reality in the near future.

On November 21, 22 deacons of the diocese gathered along with Bishop Skelton and Director for Diaconal Formation, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King. Archdeacon for Deacons, the Ven. Bruce Morris had taken leadership in organizing the event but it was a collaborative effort with individual deacons given responsibility for various aspects of the day.

Things got underway with an introduction from the Ven. Bruce Morris who informed the group that the original 3:30 pm end time was being changed to 2:30 pm as he and the Rev. Stuart Isto both residents of the Sunshine Coast would need to board a ferry home to Sechelt and Powell River. He thanked the group for taking the time out from their schedules to attend the event. Next Bishop Skelton welcomed the deacons and also thanked them for their commitment and their devotion to ministry.

The day proceeded with Morning

Prayer, led by the Rev. Helen Lingham of St. Andrew's, Langley, a "Surprised by Joy" check-in with everybody in attendance sharing a recent bright moment in their ministry either in their parish or elsewhere followed the worship.

Two of the principal reasons for gathering were to review a draft of *The Deacon's Handbook*, a 12 page original work that will provide a holistic profile of the Order of Deacons. Subjects covered include: A brief introduction about the Order of Deacons written by Bishop Skelton; The History and Nature of the Diaconate; Description and Stories of Ministry; How to Enter the Order; Best Practices and more. The second key agenda item was a presentation given by Bishop Skelton titled, *What's ahead for the Order of Deacons* involving a flipchart response discussion about the criteria for Holy Orders using the material from the November 7 Vocations Day and some instruction on "watching for vocations."

The Deacons Day was also a bit of a business meeting with some administration being accomplished regarding diocesan involvement in the international organizations: Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC), the 14th DOTAC conference that is being planned now and will take place in Vancouver in 2019, and the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED).

The day ended with Closing Prayers offered by the Rev. 2nd Lieutenant Gordon Barrett. ✚

• Vocations Day 2015 •

SUBMISSION Bruce Morris

Beyond our greatest dreams! That is how Vocations Day shaped up on November 7. People from all over the diocese came to hear about God's call to a vocation of ordained ministry in the Church, and what the path to ordination looks like. The organizers had hoped for a dozen or so interested people, and were amazed (and still are) when 40 attended. Together with 25 enquirers (10 for the diaconate, 15 for

the priesthood), 15 other clergy gathered to present the material and support the enquirers.

The highlight of the day was the presentation by six panelists who told of their own calls and their "nuggets of wisdom" for the enquirers. Vocations Day shows the immense enthusiasm for ministry, and the hope and promise for a strong and healthy church in our diocese. ✚

Bishop Skelton presenting the qualities that the diocese looks for in those seeking ordination. PHOTO Bruce Morris



• Provincial House of Bishops Meeting •

Wednesday, November 25, 2015, Provincial House of Bishops—the Ecclesiastical Province of the BC/Yukon meeting took place at the new offices of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster at 1410 Nanton Avenue.

The meetings were chaired by the metropolitan, the Most Rev. John Privett (Kootenay) and were held in the Trendell Lounge, a shared facility of the Parish of St. John's, Shaughnessy and the Synod Office. All the Bishops were in attendance at the daylong gathering; the Rt. Rev. Barbara

Andrews, suffragan, Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior; the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton, New Westminster; the Rt. Rev. William Anderson, Caledonia; the Rt. Rev. Logan McMenamie, BC; the Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson, Yukon; and the Rev. Greg Mohr, Bishop of the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

It was wonderful to host the House of Bishops and it is hoped that they return to 1410 Nanton Avenue in the near future. ✚

PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Helen Lingham of St. Andrew's, Langley, the Rev. Dixie Black of Christ Church Cathedral, Bishop Skelton and Archdeacon Morris. PHOTO Randy Murray

The chairs were moved into a circle for Morning Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Deacons gathered in the Conference Room at the Synod Offices. RIGHT The Reverend's Wally Shea, Steve Bailey, Kim Prokopchuk, Connie Wilks and the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Archdeacon Bruce Morris offers words of welcome. PHOTO Randy Murray





## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### • Christ Church Cathedral Bids Farewell to the Ballroom •

Cathedral parishioners bid an enthusiastic farewell to the ballroom at Century Plaza Hotel on Sunday, November 22. To the tune of *Farewell to Nova Scotia*, they sang words composed for the occasion by the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Cathedral Vicar.

"The kitchen now is all in place,  
The roof still needs some more work!  
This is true,  
But we will relish our own space,  
and soon the bells will ring out too.  
Farewell to Century Plaza, you hot! ballroom,  
With your ceilings low and crowded rows!  
For we are going back to our dear  
Cathedral home  
Where beauty will surround us  
and coffee flows."

The parish was exiled to the literally hot hotel ballroom on Burrard Street at Comox when construction began on the Cathedral roof, kitchen and bell spire in May 2015.

The first Sunday of Advent, November 29 marked the parish's return to Sunday worship in the renovated Cathedral. The scaffolding and hoarding were still in place, and will remain until near the end of the job, but the Cathedral community is back, and the building is open to the public. The kitchen expansion and renovation is complete, and the parish has resumed soup and sandwich food programs for the hungry. Work continues on the new zinc roof, but tasks that generated dust and dirt in the Cathedral interior are finished. Construction on the bell spire, clad in stained glass is scheduled to begin at the end of March, beginning of April 2016 and it is hoped that it will be completed in late spring/early summer.

On November 29, the sanctuary looked great, however, the organ is still wrapped to prevent any dust from invading the pipes and tracker mechanisms. Associate Warden, Ian Birtwell, ODNW who is the Cathedral's point person on the project pointed out that the Cathedral property is still a construction site. He hoped that the organ would be unwrapped and ready to use by Christmas.

The work is part of *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry!* capital project. For more information, visit [www.raisetheroofthecathedral.ca](http://www.raisetheroofthecathedral.ca) or contact Emily Pritchard, Director of Stewardship and Capital Development at Christ Church Cathedral by telephone at 604.682.6545. ✠

LEFT Cathedral deacon, the Rev. Liz Hamel stands by the stairs to the main entrance to welcome folks to worship, November 29, 2015. RIGHT The Cathedral's Children, Youth and Families Ministry Coordinator, Colin Houston introduces the lighting of the first Advent candle. Colin who is relatively new to staff was experiencing his first Eucharist in the Cathedral. PHOTOS Randy Murray



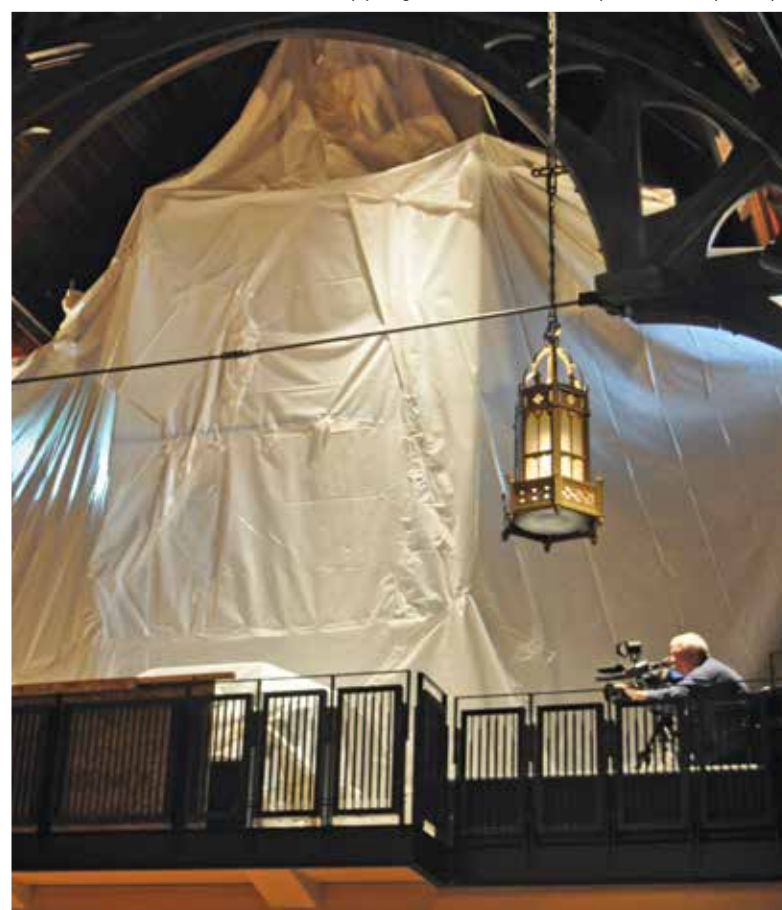
A full church. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Eucharistic Prayer on Advent I, November 29. PHOTO Randy Murray



The custom built Kenneth Jones tracker action pipe organ (circa 2004) under wraps. PHOTO Randy Murray





## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### • Point Grey Parish Sponsoring Syrian Family •

SUBMISSION Scott Gould

The refugees, who come from a small farming village in Syria, are known to a parishioner of St. Helen's who became acquainted with them through archaeological research in Syria before 2011.

The group consists of three brothers and a sister from one family, along with three of their spouses, and a 2-year-old daughter of one of the couples. The group is currently living in a two-roomed canvas-sided shack outside of Beirut (*see photo*). The family members try to manage on a very modest monthly stipend they receive from the World Food Program and whatever odd jobs they can find.

In Vancouver, sponsorship efforts have been ongoing, filling out and completing

the lengthy sponsorship forms required by the Canadian government, raising the necessary funds to support the family for their first year in Canada, and working out a viable settlement plan upon their arrival (housing, ESL classes, employment training, etc...).

Fundraising is the biggest challenge of sponsorship given the cost of living in Vancouver and the large size of the refugee group. St. Helen's is being helped along by the generous fundraising enterprises of other Anglican parishes (e.g. the Parish of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Rosemont, Ontario; and a dedicated student group from the University of British Columbia, UBC Refugee Relief). ✚



### • Theology for Non-Theologians •

At Holy Trinity Vancouver

Holy Trinity Vancouver (HTV) will host *Theology for Non-Theologians*, Saturday, February 6 at 9:30 am with the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett, rector of St. Faith, Vancouver and regional dean of Granville. The second presentation in our series will discuss Anglican liturgy to inform and explain the ways in which we worship. Lively discussion and refreshments included. The event will end at 12:30 pm. More information is available on the website, [www.holytrinityvancouver.org](http://www.holytrinityvancouver.org) or by contacting 604.731.3221. ✚

The Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Charles Balfour. PHOTO Wayne Chose



### Deadline for Topic Submissions

January 29 for the March issue;  
February 26 for the April issue

### • Anglicans at the Vancouver Climate March •

Anglicans joined thousands of others in Vancouver November 29, 2015, in support of creative and positive change for the well being of God's creation as the leaders of many nations gather in Paris, France in December 2015.

In the photo we see the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit and the eyes of Sheila Patterson, a member of the Unit and parishioner at St. James'. ✚



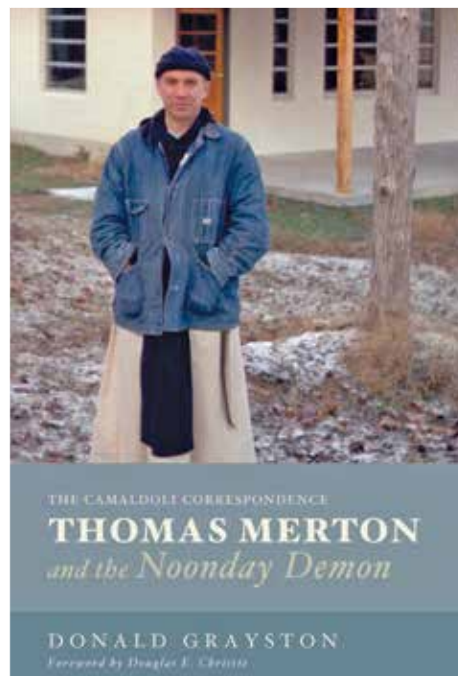
### • Book Launch •

The Rev. Dr. Don Grayston's New Book

The Rev. Dr. Don Grayston's new book, *Thomas Merton and the Noonday Demon: The Camaldoli Correspondence* will be available for purchase at the author's price (\$30 Canadian, cash or cheque only please) during his book launch on January 10.

Merton, the outstanding Christian spiritual writer of the 20th century, was one of the four great Americans mentioned by the pope when he spoke to the US Congress in September.

DATE Sunday, January 10  
TIME 9:15am – 9:55am  
LOCATION Park Room,  
Christ Church Cathedral  
(Burrard and Georgia) enter by  
lower door on Burrard ✚



### • Spring 2016 Research Colloquium Series •

Vancouver School of Theology

All colloquia (academic conference or seminar) are on Wednesdays. Times and locations noted. Participants are invited to bring a lunch.

The first event on November 25 was very well attended; the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) leadership is excited about this series. Mark your calendars and make some time available to attend the following:

#### Lunchtime Organ Concert

Dr. Hsin-Hung (Tony) Liu, *Visiting Scholar at VST, Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Church Music at the Tainan Theological College and Seminary, Taiwan*

DATE January 27, 2016  
TIME 12:45pm – 1:45pm  
LOCATION Epiphany Chapel

#### Playing With God

Emily Jarrett, *Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) student*

DATE February 24, 2016  
TIME 1pm – 1:50pm  
LOCATION Room 218, VST

An examination of how video games are written to engage players in creating and exploring alternate theologies through narrative decision making.

#### Rethinking the Power of Almighty God

Cecelia Pampanico, *Master of Theology (ThM) student*

DATE March 23, 2016  
TIME 1pm – 1:50pm  
LOCATION Room 218, VST

This presentation will examine the meaning of the power of Almighty God through postcolonial and queer theological perspectives and bring those understandings into dialogue with John D. Caputo's arguments in his *The Weakness of God*. ✚



# Anglican Church Women of the Diocese Challenge Council with \$12,000 Donation

Following opening worship, a brief greeting from Bishop Skelton and a reminder of the Meeting Norms, Diocesan Council got down to business at the November 4, 2015 meeting. The first item on the agenda was a visit from the Anglican Church Women (ACW) diocesan president, Margaret Warwick and past-president Sheila Puls.

Sharing the spokesperson duties, Margaret and Sheila presented a summary of the ACW's ministry in the diocese and beyond. The selling of the Women's Auxiliary (WA) Memorial House three years ago has allowed the diocesan ACW to expand their focus to include:

- Sponsorship of individuals from the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) to attend the diocese of New Westminster's School for Parish Development
- Contributing toward travel expenses and/or course fees for educational opportunities for both clergy and lay
- Contributions towards travel expenses for individuals representing the diocese at Truth and Reconciliation Commission events
- A commitment to help fund the construction of archival display cabinets at the new Synod offices.
- Encouragement and support of ACW branches in both the Yukon and APCI, helping them build to a level where they can participate regularly at the regional and national level.

After listing these ministry activities Margaret said, "Despite all of this we continue to look for ways to ensure that we are doing are best to follow our mission of *feeding the hungry, clothing the indigent, supporting the weak and honouring all life* and to this end we were very concerned when we recently heard that the chaplaincy at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH)—which is a major referral hospital for our whole diocese, would not be funded after December 31 of this year." The three years of funding supplied by a grant from St. John's, Shaughnessy does conclude at the end of 2015.

Margaret and Sheila went on to say that they and the ACW membership of our diocese believe that it is fortunate that VGH continues to allow an Anglican chaplaincy position to exist and they revealed their true purpose for appearing before Council. "We are here today to put forward a proposal that would enable the chaplaincy to

LEFT Sheila Puls (right) listens as Margaret (left) presents the challenge to Diocesan Council.

RIGHT Margaret opens the folder to withdraw the two cheques for presentation to Bishop Skelton. PHOTOS Randy Murray



continue into the new year. The ACW of the diocese are prepared to fund this position in the amount of \$12,000 which we understand will cover the costs for six months and we challenge Diocesan Council to match this amount in order to guarantee the ministry for 2016." Margaret drew two cheques out of a file folder; one in the amount of \$4,000 dated January 1, 2016 and the second for \$8,000 dated March 1, 2016. Margaret went on to explain that although awareness of the need for funds to continue the Anglican chaplaincy at VGH happened after the ACW AGM they were able to undertake an email poll of the various branches which produced immediate and positive support for the ministry funding proposal.

In the discussion that opened up after Margaret and Sheila's presentation, the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett said that St. Faith's Parish Council had agreed at a recent meeting to contribute \$4,000 to the VGH chaplaincy and the Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver said that there are ongoing discussions in the archdeaconry to come up with

a short range plan for immediate support of this ministry but more importantly a long range plan is being developed that will sustain Anglican chaplaincy at VGH.

Margaret Warwick and Sheila Puls on behalf of the ACW of the diocese urged Council to "make every effort to ensure it (chaplaincy funding) becomes a line item in upcoming budgets." Bishop Skelton asked Council if they would like to discuss the challenge the ACW have proposed at this meeting or defer the conversation and the decision for another meeting, as the November 4 agenda was extremely full. The chancellor, George Cadman, QC suggested that the long view discussion on funding be deferred to the January meeting but the challenge by the ACW to match the 2016 funding of \$12,000 be decided prior to the end of the year.

Future issues of *Topic* will contain information about chaplaincy funding in the diocese as that information becomes available. ✚

## Indigenous Justice Circle for the Diocese

Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator for the diocese of New Westminster, Brander Raven McDonald with encouragement and collaboration from Bishop Skelton is pleased to announce a plan for the creation of the diocese of New Westminster Indigenous Justice Circle.

So far, two five hours sessions are planned for 2016. The first Circle, January 13, 2016, will take place in the Trendell Lounge, the shared facility of St. John's, Shaughnessy and the Synod Offices at 1410 Nanton Avenue from 10 am until 3 pm.

At this first Circle, a principal component will be discussions regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations pertaining to the Church. All those participating will need to be familiar with the summary report of the TRC, particularly relating to reconciliation work with church groups. This material is available in the TRC Calls to Action document available online at, [www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf).

In the Circle, calls to action in the categories of: education, awareness raising, relational development strategies and First Nations world view basics will be explored.

The next scheduled Circle is May 25, 2016, in the same location. The Circle will gather from 10:30 am to 3:30 and work on strategies toward developing a network for the work of Indigenous Justice as it pertains to the diocesan mandate for Aboriginal engagement.

Brander hopes that these Circles will be fertile grounds for: networking, relationship building with local First Nations leadership, the establishment of an Aboriginal Elders advisory, increased cultural awareness, increased awareness and knowledge of local First Nations events and activities that are taking place around the diocese with the goal of establishing some partnerships and cooperative events.

Out of these Circles a number of possible education and learning opportunities might develop, including training on basic cross cultural First Nations world view understandings of Indigenous protocols. Brander would

TRC Box. PHOTO Christine Rowe



like to encourage the intentional visioning of a physical cultural space located on a diocesan site where local First Nations events can take place, with the goal of building community and providing opportunities for local First Nations engagement.

It is important that this process be evaluated in order to determine that we are all journeying in the same direction on the same road, or do we need to make some

course corrections? With that in mind the development and implementation of evaluation tools regarding First Nations engagement with each of our parishes would be an important component of the Circle's first year.

If you would like to participate in the first gathering please register online at <http://conta.cc/1Q8KL2a> or contact Brander at [bmcdonald@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:bmcdonald@vancouver.anglican.ca). ✚



# Permissive Tax Exemption Elimination • Defeated!

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

At 7 pm the chamber was filled to capacity, standing room only. PHOTO Randy Murray



A significant event in the world of not-for-profits (NFPs) took place in the Council Chambers of Langley City Hall the evening of November 23, 2015. On the agenda for that evening's regularly scheduled meeting would be the follow up to this resolution passed at the City Council meeting of September 28, 2015:

"THAT staff be directed to prepare a tax exemption reduction/elimination strategy for those properties that are currently being exempted, for Council consideration and that the approved strategy be implemented for the 2017 taxation year."

In the October 23 letter written to the 20 NFPs who are eligible for and did receive 2016 property tax exemptions in the City of Langley by Langley's Director of Corporate Services, Darrin Leite, the recipients were invited to comment on the Council motion and forward any comments to his attention by November 18. This would provide sufficient time to include the comments in the November 23 meeting agenda.

Darrin Leite's October 23 letter did indeed produce some comments. Many of the letter's recipients sent correspondence to the Director of Corporate Services office voicing their strong opposition to the plan. Stuart Allan, People's Warden and Cathy Barnes, Rector's Warden of St. Andrew's, Langley sent a letter outlining the significant contributions that the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's provides at no cost to the community, and the consequences for the parish if the permissive tax exemption is removed. In their November 17 letter they wrote:

"St. Andrew's provides a spiritual home where people of all generations come together to worship God and share community and reach out with hope. We provide spiritual support for both members of our congregation and anyone else in the community who has a need. Our priest and members of our congregation regularly provide outreach to the sick and elderly both at home and in four local care homes. In addition, we supply space at a nominal cost to nonprofit groups like Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Scouts, Cubs, Valley Fuchsia and Geranium Club and the Bee Club. Also Parkview Academy Day Care and Preschool use our facilities, which we provide at a rent below market rates."

In the second half of the letter the wardens explained the consequences of the proposed action:

"Without exaggeration, if the City of Langley were to move forward with the proposal to reduce or eliminate St. Andrew's property tax exemption (\$13,124 in 2016) the additional tax burden would force us to close our doors and cease operation. This would result in the elimination of the Anglican Church in the City of Langley, all the services it provides and the nonprofit groups who rely on us would have to find other space, likely at a cost that they would have difficulty managing."

The Business Administrator of the diocese of New Westminster, Rob Dickson also wrote to Langley's Mayor Ted Schaffer and City Council on behalf of St. Andrew's and on behalf of the diocese. In his letter he said that he and members of St. Andrew's would be attending the November 23 meeting to explain in-person the services the Parish

provides to the greater community in support of their objection to reduction and elimination of the Permissive Property Tax Exemption. In the penultimate paragraph of his letter, Mr. Dickson wrote the following:

"Our understanding is that total revenue from property taxes in 2017 is predicted to be \$24, 975,925. The exemption represents approximately 1.57% of the total property tax revenues generated, and only 0.91% of the total revenue to be generated by the City as a whole. We feel that our exemption represents only a small part of the budget, given the service we provide the community on a daily basis. If the City had to pay entirely for the services we provide, the costs would be much greater than the permissive tax exemption."

These are excerpts from the two letters sent on behalf of the Anglican presence in Langley, the mayor and council and the Director of Corporate Service office received many more all containing a similar message.

On the evening of Monday, November 23, the Langley City Hall council chambers began to fill at 6 pm for the 7 pm meeting. The gallery consists of 60 theatre style seats. By 6:40 pm the seats were filled and by 6:55 pm the chamber was full with over 120 people standing, lining the walls and spilling out on to the second floor mezzanine. From 7:15 pm until 8:45 pm speakers who had signed up to address council moved to the dais and spoke, each person expressing their opposition. One speaker said that people who have made a commitment to support the less fortunate, the lonely, the broken, the spiritually seeking should "be commended, not taxed."

There was a large contingent present from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic parish and school, a faith community that has 2,500 families and an aggregate total of 6,000 on the parish roles. The Director of Finance for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, Francis Wong was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

City department heads listen to the speakers. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Paula Porter Leggett addresses Langley City Council. PHOTO Randy Murray



Langley mayor, Ted Schaffer. PHOTO Randy Murray



Rob Dickson, Business Administrator of the diocese of New Westminster. PHOTO Randy Murray



Francis Wong, Director of Finance for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. PHOTO Randy Murray





# Refugee Unit Urges Diocese to Partner with Community Sponsors to Support Refugees

The Rev. Michael McGee, rector of St. Christopher's, West Vancouver and chair of the Refugee Unit of the diocese attended the November 4, 2015 meeting of Diocesan Council to request that Council consider a motion to "go off pattern" and have the diocese enter into partnerships with other groups to sponsor refugees.

The Refugee Unit is the primary group that works on behalf of the diocese managing the dioceses status as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the Government of Canada therefore facilitating and assisting parishes and/or parish groups of the diocese to sponsor refugees.

In the Precis prepared for Diocesan Council by the Director for Mission and Ministry Development, the Rev. Ruth Monette the following information was shared:

"In the last decade or so, refugee sponsorship has not been a high priority among many parishes in the diocese. There have been usually less than 6 applications pending at any given time. In the last five years or so, the Unit has seen applications from parishes where someone known to the parish has asked for support in sponsoring a family member as a refugee. In such cases, the person known to the parish has often been a government sponsored refugee.

Since the media interest in the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, an increased interest in sponsoring refugees has arisen within the diocese.

The Unit's process for assisting parishes continues to be manageable. However, in light of the increased attention around refugee resettlement, the Unit is being asked by groups other than parishes to co-sponsor refugees. These requests reflect a government policy that prefers partnerships with SAH organizations (such as the diocese of New Westminster) for Community Sponsors and Groups of Five.

- A **Community Sponsor (CS)** can be any Canadian organization, association or corporation. A Community Sponsor can sponsor up to two refugee families per year without a sponsorship agreement.
- A **Group of Five (G5)** is a group of five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Group of Five are usually one-time groups formed in response to special situations that arise.

The Refugee Unit would like to enter into sponsorships with these groups but understands that there needs to be assurance that the CS or G5 have the financial capacity to raise the funds to support refugees for the required 12 months in keeping with the requirements of SAH. The Precis document contained the following four points outlining the CS's or G5's financial capacity:

1. This may take the form of establishing a trust fund or a letter of credit or another legal instrument determined satisfactory by diocesan legal officers.
2. It may also take the form of a demonstrated capacity to

The Rev. Michael McGee, November 4 at Diocesan Council.



raise the funds as needed. The demonstrated capacity of our parishes to raise funds has generally been the assurance we have relied on when parishes have sponsored refugees. CS organizations may have an equally sound track record of fundraising, which is deemed satisfactory by diocesan leadership.

3. A combination of the two forms of demonstrating financial capacity.
4. Diocesan Council should specify to whom the G5 or CS organization needs to demonstrate its financial capacity. Rather than bringing each of these back to Diocesan Council, the Unit suggests delegating this responsibility to the Unit along with the Bishop with the support of one or more legal officers and senior staff members.

In this way, G5's or CS's would be asked to complete the same paperwork and have the same conversations with Unit members as parishes wishing to sponsor. This includes completing a Self Assessment Tool (provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to help a group determine its capacity for refugee sponsorship) and an Expanded Settlement Tool (also provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which outlines the plans the group has for the settlement of a refugee individual or family).

A Memorandum of Understanding be drawn up between the diocese and any Group of Five or Community Sponsor organization.

Such a letter would not replace the existing Sponsorship Agreement we have between the diocese of New Westminster and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. It would, however, outline the relationship between the Group of Five/Community Sponsor

and the diocese. Each Memorandum of Understanding developed would need to be approved by diocesan legal officers.

The Unit suggests that Diocesan Council set a timeframe during which time, these partnerships may be formed — such as through the end of 2017. This would not require that all refugees sponsored through partnerships be settled by then, only that the establishment of the partnership be done by that point. It may be that Diocesan Council will want to extend the opportunity for these partnerships to be formed after 2017, but it may also be that the need for such partnerships will have lessened.

After the Rev. McGee had concluded his address, Chancellor George Cadman informed Council that this agenda item was discussed for an hour at the most recent Steering Committee (Executive Committee of the diocese consisting of: the bishop {chair}, the chancellor, the treasurer who is also chair of the Management, Finance and Property Committee {MFP} and the chair of the Mission and Ministry Development Committee {MMD}) meeting. There is a proposed CS partnership in the works with the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. They would like to sponsor refugees supported by the diocese as the Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH). The local Jewish Federation office can demonstrate financial capacity therefore it would make sense to move ahead and structure this agreement with the Unit supported by the signature of the bishop. It was agreed that Council vote on a motion approving in principle the recommendations of the Refugee Unit and authorizing the Unit to move forward with this partnership subsequent to the approval of the bishop.

The recording secretary drafted the following motion moved by Maureen Simons and seconded by Elizabeth Northcott:

THAT Diocesan Council approve in principle the recommendations of the Refugee Unit and authorize the Refugee Unit to move forward with this, subject to the Bishop's approval and review by the Steering Committee.

Going into partnership with the diocese will allow CS's and G5's with financial capacity to sponsor more families and individuals than previously. Partnerships (CS's and G5's linking up) may create the capacity to source revenue on a larger scale through donations and other initiatives accessing a much broader section of the population who would like to contribute and participate in refugee aid.

More information about the diocese and refugee sponsorship will be made available in future issues of *Topic*. At the November 4 meeting after the motion was approved and discussions concluded, Council thanked the Rev. McGee with enthusiastic and sustained applause for the work that he and the Unit have done this past fall and for their ongoing commitment to the ministry of refugee aid and support. ✦

## Permissive Tax Exemption Elimination • Defeated!

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present and briefly addressed council as did Rob Dickson. The Rev. Paula Porter Leggett, incumbent of St. Andrew's spoke with passion and clarity on behalf of the Anglican congregation. Council also heard from representatives of: Langley Hospice Society, Langley Association for Community Living (children and adults with developmental disabilities), Langley Seniors Resource Society and a number of reformed Christian communities. The messages communicated to council were similar in content to the quotes from the letters in the preceding paragraphs, at the core of each person's address was this question: *Why jeopardize the existence of organizations in the community that serve without charge a substantial portion of the population not being served for an insignificant amount of money, given the overall revenue collected by the city?*

The line-up of speakers led up to the business portion of the meeting. The motion to reduce the current permissive tax exemption for the group of 20 not-for-profits was "put" and not one councilor present at the meeting that evening would second the motion. The motion and therefore the action died.

Later, in a letter to interested parties in the diocese, Rob Dickson reinforced why it was important that he and Francis Wong be present at the meeting and their voices heard:

"This is not an action that was only for the City of Langley. If this motion had passed in Langley November 23, there would have been a roll out of this action across BC municipalities. The NFP

sector must continue to be vigilant and we must alert all our various constituents and work together to ensure that churches, NFPs, compassionate service organizations are not taxed by the

local, provincial or federal governments for the very good reason that they provide community services not provided by others and at no charge." ✦

Two Councilors, Martin and Van Der Boek listen to Paula's address. PHOTO Randy Murray





Bishop Skelton addressing those in attendance at the Parish Dinner, October 31. RIGHT Bishop Skelton and the Rev. Stroo enjoying some dinner conversation with Karol Henrotte, ODNW. PHOTOS Anthea Lewis



# The Little Church That Could

## Bishop Skelton & Reverend Eric Stroo at All Saints', Agassiz

CAROL TAYLOR  
All Saints', Agassiz

Gifts of handmade pens were presented to the guests. PHOTO Anthea Lewis



The weekend, of Oct 31 and Nov 1, 2015, was very exciting for the parish of All Saints', Agassiz as we were honored with a visitation from the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton, 9th bishop of the diocese of New Westminster. The bishop's visit coincided with the celebration of All Saints' Day and the kick-off of the 120th Anniversary of the founding of All Saints' Parish. All Saints' was built and opened in August 1896 on land (where the church now stands) donated by Mrs. C. Agassiz (founding family of the town of Agassiz). The weekend began with the arrival of Bishop Skelton and her husband the Rev. Eric Stroo (from the Episcopal diocese of Olympia, Washington) on Saturday afternoon. Upon arrival they were treated, by All Saints' vicar's warden and people's warden, to a tour of the area (Agassiz, Kent, Seabird Island Sto:lo First Nations and Harrison Hot Springs), before they retired to the Harrison Beach Hotel to prepare for the evening events.

On Saturday evening, a beautiful roast beef dinner catered by local caterer *Cabin Fever Junction*, was held at All Saints' Hall in the bishop's honor, and attended by many of the congregation. Bishop Skelton said Grace before the meal and also made a toast to the 120th Anniversary of All Saints'. The Rev. David Price, vicar of All Saints, did an excellent job as MC. A speech given by the vicar's warden (assisted by the people's warden) covered the improvements to the parish over the past five years and the presentation of handmade pens, crafted by one of the parishioners, were gifted to the bishop and Eric.

Early Sunday morning, November 1, Bishop Skelton met with Parish Council to discuss plans for the parish over the next five years (which is a work in progress). At this meeting the Bishop was also given an account of the last five years and the physical resurrection of All Saints' — *The*  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Prior to worship on the morning of November 1, the congregation participated in a run-through of the service music. PHOTO Randy Murray



A lengthy and enthusiastic exchange of the Peace. PHOTO Randy Murray



Deacon, bishop and vicar singing the Benedictus during the Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Eileen Nurse receives a blessing from the bishop prior to reading the Gospel. RIGHT Some big smiles following the laying on of hands, sacrament of Confirmation. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Cutting the cake at coffee hour. PHOTO Randy Murray





# Women Invited to Spend Year in 'God's Rhythm'

STUART MANN

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine is inviting young women to spend a year living in "God's rhythm."

The Sisters are inviting up to 10 women, age 22 to 40, to live with them at St. John's Convent in Toronto, where they will experience the Benedictine life of prayer, study, recreation and service to others.

"It's an opportunity to take a year off to deepen their spiritual lives, their walk with God," says the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, one of the organizers.

The initiative, called *Spend a Year Living in God's Rhythm: Companions on the Way* will begin next September. The women will live in the convent's guesthouse and take part in the Sisters' daily life, which includes four worship services a day.

In addition to daily devotions, the women will spend part of each day in study, either at the convent or at Wycliffe College, where they will attend classes on a wide variety of subjects, including contemplative prayer, the monastic tradition and the missional church.

Sister Constance Joanna is hoping that the initiative will raise up a new group of leaders in the church, women who are grounded in monastic values and practices and equipped to bring the Gospel to a rapidly changing society.

"We feel this program answers a need that is expressed by young people in our church—how to be more grounded in their spiritual life and also to develop skills that will be useful in pioneering ministries that they may be involved in."

Part of each week will be devoted to serving others in the wider community, possibly at a FaithWorks ministry or St. John's Rehab Hospital. The women will also help out at the convent, assisting the Sisters with their ministry of hospitality and with basic housekeeping duties.

Each woman will meet with a spiritual mentor once a month and also with the Sisters on a regular basis, to discuss how things are going. They will have four weeks off for vacation and another week for a retreat. The sisterhood will pay for their room, board and daily expenses. Mondays will be a day off.

Sister Constance Joanna says one of the most important aspects of the year is to help the women discern where God is calling them. "We want to help them find where their joy, gifts and passion meet a need in the world, as Frederick Buechner would say," she says.

Molly Finlay, an associate member of the sisterhood and one of the organizers of the program, said the year is ideal for young women who are searching for "authentic spirituality" and have a passion for renewing the church.

"I think it's an opportunity for women who have been

The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert (left), Molly Finlay (middle) and Karen Isaacs (right). PHOTO Michael Hudson



searching and wondering about their vocation—wondering about why their spiritual lives feel a bit hollow," she says. "It's taking a time out of your usual schedule to grow in Christ and be transformed, and in turn transform the church. The church is at a crossroads. It's not going to look the way it did. And we have an opportunity here to find some women who are hungry to follow Christ and to form them in an orthodox spirituality, and then allow them to go out and be change-agents for our church and to be missionaries to our culture."

Ms. Finlay has been an associate of the sisterhood for several years, an experience that has changed her life. A former communications professional, she is now a divinity student at Wycliffe College. "The convent has been transformational for my life, and it has made me a much more brave and dynamic leader within my own church. It has given me an opportunity to do a real about-face and

follow Christ in a way that I could not have imagined. Life has become so much richer than it ever would have been if I hadn't had this time of formation with the Sisters."

Sister Constance Joanna says the initiative has generated a lot of interest in the church. She has been asked to speak about it at gatherings across Canada. "It's very exciting," she says.

A small committee is steering the program. The group is made up of Sister Constance Joanna, Ms. Finlay and Karen Isaacs of the diocese of Toronto, Barbara Jenkins, who is the registrar of Wycliffe College, and Sister Elizabeth Rolfe Thomas, the Rev. Mother of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine.

For more information about *Spend a Year Living in God's Rhythm: Companions on the Way*, visit [www.ssjdcompanions.org](http://www.ssjdcompanions.org). ✠

## The Little Church That Could

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

*Little Church That Could.* "Like Lazarus, we have risen from the dead and remain His faithful servants."

In 2009–2010, All Saints' had sufficient funds to reroof both the church and hall and install new storm gutters.

In 2011, the parish of St. Agnes', North Vancouver, donated \$1,500 to start the repainting of the building, and St. Agnes' parishioners attended several work parties. Also in 2011, All Saints presented a Ministry Plan to the diocese that resulted in the offer of a sum of \$60,000 (2/3 grant and 1/3 loan). The grant kick-started many of the early improvements and thankfully, All Saints' did not need the loan. Most of the work has been done by members of the parish.

The bishop congratulated the council on their leadership in the work to bring about the many improvements to the church and hall and also the sense of vitality and openness she sensed there. She then attended a "Meet & Greet" coffee hour with members of the parish before the Sunday service. At 10 am Bishop Melissa presided over the service, assisted by the Rev. Eileen Nurse, deacon of St. George, Fort Langley. Bishop Skelton has made a point of making sure she is always accompanied by a vocational deacon during a visitation liturgy.

During the service the bishop confirmed four of our parishioners and a fifth parishioner was received into the Anglican Communion. After the service, everyone proceeded to the Hall where coffee, tea and cake were served in honor of those who were confirmed and received. The cake was cut by Bishop Skelton with help from the newly confirmed and received members. Following coffee, the bishop took her leave, to head back to Vancouver to prepare for the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster award ceremony on Sunday evening, in which two of All Saints', Agassiz, parishioners were invested into the order.

All in all, "the little parish" in Agassiz will fondly remember the weekend. ✠

Bishop and vicar with the newly confirmed and received. PHOTO Anthea Lewis





Kids and the Kingdom

HOWIE ADAN

Priest with permission to officiate, diocese of New Westminster, Church of the Holy Spirit, Whonnock

Last fall, about a week ahead of the arrival of our daughter and son-in-law and their two small children for an extended visit, I could be found busily cleaning the house, polishing every surface and making the place sparkle.

I don't know why I bothered. Honestly. How could I have forgotten, having had four of my own? Young children, cute as buttons and oh so delightful, are also inexhaustible instruments of chaos waging unflagging guerrilla warfare with the household Gods of Order and Cleanliness.

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not

receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

There's a pattern going on in the Gospel of Mark, chapters nine and ten. Three times now Jesus has had some consequential things to say to his students and then his teaching is immediately followed up by references to small children.

To begin with the writer of Mark ties Jesus' short discourse about expecting to suffer and be killed to a private debate among his students about which of them

is the greatest. It's obvious, even in the face of Jesus' clear suggestion that "this will not end well, my friends," that the students themselves still believe they are on some kind of glory road (cue *Jesus Christ Superstar*, "Always hoped that I'd be an apostle..."). In response Jesus tells them that whoever wants to be first among them must be the servant of all, and he brings a child into their circle to emphasize the point.

Next, one of the students named John complains that they have seen other religious teachers in the area who don't belong to their group but who none-the-less have

co-opted the name of Jesus to do miracles. In reply Jesus takes the opposite tack from that made famous by George W. Bush; "Whoever is not against us is for us," Jesus says. And again he moves the conversation to focus on the little ones (presumably still standing there), warning the students not to "put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me."

The narrative moves on and, in chapter ten, Jesus is queried about his view of marital divorce. He makes it clear that marital relations were always meant to be honourable and enduring. And again the writer of Mark moves us right back to the subject of children: people were bringing children to Jesus so he could bless them; the students didn't like this and tried to stop them; Jesus rebukes them and says, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

*"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."*

Here & Now

A retreat for youth and young adults

- Q: What is my rank, my position in the group?  
A: Consider the children.
- Q: What do we do about competition from those who do not belong to our group?  
A: Consider the children.
- Q: What about abuse in an unequal relationship?  
A: Consider the children.

What was that old Arabic proverb in Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*? "Everything that happens once can never happen again. But everything that happens twice will surely happen a third time." In other words, this weaving that Mark does of adult social issues with the acceptance of and goodwill toward children is not a mistake; it is purposed.

Throughout the Gospel of Mark we find Jesus interacting with children and making the case that the reign of God is linked to something about them. In the first world culture in which they lived children had no status, no property, no "rights" as we know them. They were vulnerable and inferior. Like the unclean, the poor and women in general, they are in a position of powerlessness, dominated by those in their environment who have status and authority.

It is from their position of weakness that children are an example to us of participation in the reign of God. It is in our weakness that God's reign can be made evident within us.

A prayer, by Joy Cowley:

Dear God, I would like to become a little child and rest my soul in you. I'm tired of the loneliness, tired of the struggle, I want to surrender but I don't know how. You see, I have this problem of being an adult. I belong to the generation which makes decisions, plans, works, accepts responsibility, takes pride in being independent. Adults are supposed to manage their lives. They are concerned with owning things and making things happen, and they don't like to look small or foolish. Dear God, for a long time I have been living in the centre of a world which has prevented me from entering the Kingdom of Heaven.

Father God, Mother God, show me how to become your child. I am aware of the advice that Jesus gives. He does not say that we should remain in infancy. He says that we should become as little children. This tells me that I need to know the futility of independence before I can let go of it. It is the letting go which is difficult. I know you are there, waiting to give yourself to me, but I'm afraid to commit myself. Please help me to loosen the grip on my pride so that I can hold out my arms to you and be enfolded in your love. ✠

February 5-8, 2016

\$150 for accommodation, meals and program

Register online at [www.dymwinterretreat.wordpress.com](http://www.dymwinterretreat.wordpress.com)

A DYM event, hosted by Sorrento Centre in partnership with BCYAYM





## Diocesan Youth Movement

### YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

#### youth groups •

For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://tinyurl.com/DNW-Youth>

**contact •** Caitlin Reilley Beck,  
Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry  
[cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
604.684.6306 ext. 225

First Nations elders welcome young Lutherans and Anglicans to Kamloops for the 2014 CLAY gathering.



## CLAY 2016

Saskatchewan Synod.



Young Anglicans and Lutherans join in singing with the CLAY band during the 2014 Kamloops gathering.



Have you heard about CLAY? The Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering is the Anglican Church's national youth gathering for young adults ages 14–19. Our next gathering takes place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, August 17–21, 2016 and young people

*“At the very heart of it,  
we are children of God,  
and we want to affirm  
and respond to God’s grace  
and faithfulness in ways that  
are intentional, practical  
and meaningful.”*

from all Anglican congregations are invited!

CLAY was created in 2010 as an expression of joint ministry between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. CLAY builds on the traditions of the Canadian Lutheran Youth Gatherings to create a youth-centred program that empowers young people and builds Christian leadership. At CLAY young people encounter scripture in meaningful ways, experience ancient and modern ways of worship, learn together in special interest forums, enjoy fantastic social events, explore Charlottetown, make connections with youth from all over Canada and celebrate our life together.

Our upcoming CLAY gathering will give young people the opportunity to work through the theme of *Not For Sale*, with a focus on three areas: salvation not for sale, human beings not for sale, and creation not for sale. After CLAY, they will share what they experienced and learned with others in their home communities. At the very heart of it, we are children of God, and we want to affirm and respond to God's grace and faithfulness in ways that are intentional, practical and meaningful.

Young people from our diocese can attend as part of our diocesan home team. This is a group of young people from around the diocese who will prepare for and experience CLAY together, with the support of Home Team Leaders; adult companions and guides, mature in their faith, with a heart for the spiritual journeys of teenagers. An information meeting for young people interested in going to CLAY and their parents was held on November 26th and our group is already beginning to make plans for fundraising, team building and travel. But it is not too late to join the team if you are interested as registration is open until June 30, 2016!

General registration and fee information can be found on the CLAY gathering website, [www.claygathering.ca](http://www.claygathering.ca) but for more detailed information on the costs for those from our diocese and a list of pre-gathering activities that have already been planned, please get in touch with Caitlin Reilley Beck, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator for the diocese at [cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca). You can also like CLAY on Facebook (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering), or follow them on Twitter (@claygathering). We're looking forward to seeing you in Charlottetown! ✠




# Opportunities For New Learning

CAITLIN REILLEY BECK

Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, diocese of New Westminster

Children's ministry leaders practicing *Godly Play* together. PHOTO Caitlin Reilley Beck





## Diocesan Youth Movement

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### YOUTH CONNECTIONS

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News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

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**youth groups •**  
For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://tinyurl.com/DNW-Youth>

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**contact •** Caitlin Reilley Beck,  
*Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry*  
[cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
604.684.6306 ext. 225

One of my favourite parts of being the Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator for the diocese has been hearing stories from youth workers, Sunday School teachers, clergy, parents, and anyone ministering with young people, of how rewarding, inspiring and spiritually nourishing they find this ministry. The stories I hear are of those moments when adults get a real sense of why Jesus wanted to hang out with kids and told us we need to be like them to receive the kingdom of God. The more I hear them, the better I feel because I believe they are signs that we are moving in the right direction.

So it is only logical that I would devote a good chunk of my time to figuring out how more people can experience moments like this in their ministry — it is really a very self-ish plan of mine to increase the chances of hearing about them so that I feel good!

Opportunities for professional development, continuing education, new learning — whatever term you prefer — in children's and youth ministry, are an important part of this plan. They are an investment both in the devoted, paid and volunteer leaders who minister with children and young people and in this ministry itself. So in the interests of feeding my desire for feel-good children's ministry stories, I am going to tell you about two such opportunities.

### Godly Play Enrichment

*Godly Play*, a Montessori style approach to spiritual formation with children, is now being used or seriously explored by 17 parishes in our diocese. Many people have been signing up for training to become leaders, reading *Godly Play* books and working together to discover how this approach can be a part of their ministry.

*Godly Play Enrichment* invites any of these people, no matter their level of training or experience, to gather in order to deepen their knowledge and understanding of

*Godly Play* and its underlying philosophy. Together we can support one another's growth as ministry leaders, by sharing our experiences of success, inspiration, frustration and failure. This is also an opportunity to share practical tools, tricks and tips that we have learned along the way.

There have been two enrichment sessions so far and both of them have been a joy to lead. We met for two hours on a Wednesday evening at Christ the Redeemer in Surrey — if you haven't had the pleasure of attending an evening meeting in this Church and gathering around their cozy fireplace with a cup of tea and some colleagues, I highly recommend it. During each of our sessions we took time for prayer and community building activities to bring us closer to God and one another. Then we explored different aspects of our ministries with children and how *Godly Play* is a part of it. If you want to develop your ministry with children with the help and support of others in the church who have the same goal but a wide variety of different experiences and skills, *Godly Play Enrichment* offers an opportunity for you to do this.

### Inspire Conference

If your parish isn't using *Godly Play* or if you want to develop another aspect of your ministry with young people, the Inspire Conference, which will be held in Vancouver March 4–6, 2016, might just be the opportunity you are looking for.

This conference is being organized by an ecumenical group including the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada, the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, St. Andrew's Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, Vancouver School of Theology and our own diocese of New Westminster. It is for anyone who ministers with children, youth, young adults and families in the church, so basically anyone who ministers in the

Cameron Gutjahr of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale tells the story of the Great Family. PHOTO Bee Kapitan



church. With international keynote speakers, a wide variety of workshops ranging from *One Room Sunday School* to *Youth ministry 101* to *Empowering young leaders in the Church*, and an opportunity to gather with ministry leaders from all over BC and beyond — this conference is a big deal. Anglican workshop leaders include Bishop Mark MacDonald, our National Indigenous Bishop; Phil Colvin, former Diocesan Youth Coordinator; and Melissa Green, Associate Director of Sorrento Centre.

This conference also comes with an affordable price tag. Early bird rates for registration before January 15th are \$185 for the whole conference, \$100 for Friday only and \$120 for Saturday only, which includes a banquet dinner. And if this cost is still beyond your reach, bursaries for continuing education for clergy, and paid and volunteer lay people are available through different diocesan funds.

So for all you children, youth, young adult and family ministers out there (and again, that basically means any kind of minister, because "family" ministry includes everyone from infants to elders), mark these dates in your calendar. If you want to improve your ministry, this is the way to do it.

### Dates for Godly Play Enrichment in 2016

- January 27
- February 24
- March 30
- April 27
- May 25

Registration and Information about the Inspire Conference is available at [www.inspireconference.ca](http://www.inspireconference.ca).

Contact Caitlin by email if you are interested in either of these opportunities [cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca). ☘

"The story of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is at the centre of *Godly Play*." PHOTO Caitlin Reilley Beck

